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Real life Halloween horror in Seoul: 120 dead, 150 hurt

Large crowd pushing forward on narrow street results in crush

AP ■ SEOUL

At least 120 people were killed and 150 more were injured after being crushed by a large crowd pushing forward on a narrow street during Halloween festivities in the capital of Seoul, South Korean officials said. Choi Seong-beom, chief of Seoul's Yongsan fire department, said the death toll could rise as emergency workers were continuing to transport the injured to hospitals across Seoul following the stampede in the leisure district of Itaewon on Saturday night. He said many of the dead have been sent to hospitals while the bodies of 46 were still on the streets.

Officials say it was believed that people were crushed to death after a large crowd began pushing forward in a narrow alley near Hamilton Hotel, a major party spot in Seoul. More than 400 emergency workers



Injured people are helped at the street near the scene in Seoul, South Korea on early Sunday

AP | PTI

and 140 vehicles from around the nation, including all available personnel in Seoul, were deployed to the streets to treat the injured. The National Fire Agency separately said in a statement that officials were still trying to determine the exact number of emergency patients. TV footage and photos from the scene showed ambulance vehicles lined up in the streets amid a heavy police

presence and emergency workers moving the injured in stretchers. Emergency workers and pedestrians were also seen performing CPR on people lying in the streets. In one section, paramedics were seen checking the status of a dozen or more people who lied motionless under blue blankets.

Police, which were restricting traffic in nearby areas to speed up the transportation of

the injured to hospitals across the city, also confirmed that dozens of people were being given CPR on Itaewon streets. The Seoul Metropolitan Government issued emergency text messages urging people in the area to swiftly return home.

A local police officer said he was also informed that a stampede occurred on Itaewon's streets where a crowd of people gathered for Halloween festivities. The officer requested anonymity, saying the details of the incident was still under investigation.

Some local media reports earlier said the crush happened after a large number of people rushed to an Itaewon bar after hearing an unidentified celebrity visited there.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol issued a statement calling for officials to ensure swift treatment for those injured and review the safety of the festivity sites. He also instructed the Health Ministry to swiftly deploy disaster medical assistance teams and secure beds in nearby hospital to treat the injured. Local media said around 100,000 people flocked to Itaewon streets for the Halloween festivities.

Net, social media new toolkits of terrorists: India

In Delhi Declaration, UNSC body calls for 'zero tolerance' towards terror

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Terrorism is one of the "gravest threats to humanity" and the internet and social media now have emerged as an important "toolkit" of militants, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Saturday.

He also said the counter-terror sanction regime of the UN has been effective to put countries on notice that turned terrorism into a State-funded enterprise, in an apparent reference to Pakistan. Making this assertion while addressing a special meeting of the UN-Counter-Terrorism Committee on the growing use of technology and digitisation for terrorism purposes, Jaishankar also noted that despite several measures by the UN, the threat of terrorism had grown in Asia and Africa. The Special Meeting later adopted the Delhi Declaration citing 'zero tolerance' for terrorism in all its forms.

The chief of the UN Counter Terrorism unit David Scharia said, "What we are



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addresses a Special Meeting of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee in Delhi on Saturday

PTI

already seeing is the United Nations Security Council's engagement at a very high level on the issue of the threat of new and emerging technologies used by terrorists. **Contd on Page 2**

Russia, West clash in UN-CTC meet

New Delhi: Russia and the West on Saturday clashed at the UN-CTC meeting over a drone attack on Russia's Black Sea Fleet in the Crimean port city of Sevastopol by Ukraine, damaging one warship. The Russian delegation said that the "Sevastopol terror attack" was "concocted by a British Civil engineer" and slammed the West for it.

Delhi's air quality worsens to 'severe' as AQL nears 400

CAQM stops non-essential construction, demolition work under GRAP-III

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Saturday directed authorities in the Delhi/NCR to ban "with immediate effect" all construction and demolition activities — except essential projects concerning national security, Defence, Railways and Metro rail among others — after the Air Quality Index (AQI) in the national Capital turned 'severe' for the first time this season.

Data showed that out of 35 monitoring stations for which 24-hour average data was available, 20 stations recorded AQI in the 'severe' category, while 14 stations registered AQI in the 'very poor' category. The move comes even as the AAP and BJP continue to indulge in a blame game over Delhi's pol-



A man walks in the smog, at Kartavya Path as the city's air quality entered the 'severe' zone in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

lution. Delhi's 24-hour average AQI stood at 397 at 4 PM, the worst since January. It was 354 on Thursday, 271 on Wednesday, 302 on Tuesday and 312 on Monday (Diwali).

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai will chair a high-level meeting on Sunday to discuss measures to be implemented under stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

A layer of pungent smog enveloped Delhi-NCR on Saturday as air pollution in the region neared the 'severe' zone amid adverse meteorological conditions.

Continued on Page 2

Sisodia seeks Shah's arrest in TRS, AAP MLAs' poaching row

Releases purported audio clip of BJP 'broker', demands probe by ED

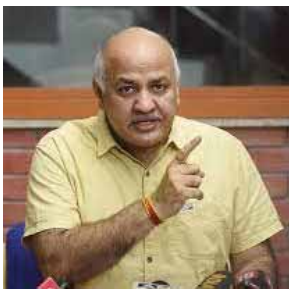
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday demanded the arrest of Home Minister Amit Shah, "if he is involved", for attempting to poach Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and AAP MLAs and released an audio tape with a purported conversation of an alleged BJP "broker" discussing the party's bid to poach MLAs.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP or Shah. In a separate press conference, AAP MP Sanjay Singh demanded derecognition of the BJP by the Election Commission saying that the saffron party has turned into a gang of kidnappers trying to overthrow Governments.

At a press conference, Sisodia played the audio clip and identified the BJP "broker" as one of the three people detained in Telangana for allegedly trying to poach the State's ruling TRS MLAs.

The AAP leader claimed



that poaching attempts were made by the BJP earlier in Delhi, Punjab and eight other States and demanded a probe by the Enforcement Directorate. He said that a "dirty game" played by the BJP has once again come to the fore, this time in Telangana.

"In this audio, the BJP's dalal (broker) can be heard luring a (TRS) MLA to the BJP, saying they were also trying to poach 43 Delhi MLAs and that the money had been kept aside for this purpose. He is also saying that he has spoken with Shah and BL Santosh," Sisodia said.

"If it is Home Minister Amit Shah the BJP's dalal is referring to, he should immediately be arrested and questioned," the Delhi Deputy Chief Minister demanded.

Continued on Page 2

'Indian Def Min world's biggest employer with 2.92 mn staff'

ANI ■ NEW DELHI/HAMBURG

India's Ministry of Defence is the world's biggest employer. With 2.92 million people, it includes combined active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff, a report by Statista has said. A close second is the US Department of Defense which employs 2.91 million people, according to the report on employers with the largest workforces worldwide in 2022.

Statista is a Germany-based private organisation that provides data and statistics about various issues worldwide. In China, the People's Liberation Army, which doesn't include civilian positions, employs around 2.5 million people, the Hamburg-based firm specialising in market and consumer data said. **Continued on P2**

Sugar export curbs till Oct 2023 now

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has extended restrictions on sugar exports till October 31, 2023, in order to increase the availability of the commodity in the domestic market. Earlier, the restrictions were imposed till October 31 this year.

"Restriction on export of sugar (raw, refined, and white sugar) is extended beyond October 31, 2022 till October 31, 2023, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Other conditions will remain unchanged," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated October 28.

However, it said these restrictions will not be applicable on sugar being exported to the EU and the US under CXL and tariff rate quota (TRQ) duty concession quotas.



India has been the highest producer and the second-largest exporter of sugar in the world in the current year. An exporter would require a licence or permission from the Government to export sugar, which is under the restricted category.

The country's sugar production is projected to be 36.5 million tonnes in the 2022-23 marketing season, an increase of 2 per cent compared to the year-ago period, industry body ISMA has said.

Continued on Page 2

Eye on Assembly polls, Guj mulling UCC implementation

Govt to form panel headed by ex-SC/HC Judge to get code draft ready

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, another BJP-ruled State, Gujarat, on Saturday, moved towards implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The decision on the politically-sensitive UCC assumes significance ahead of the Assembly polls in the State as also the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The UCC is aimed at bringing uniformity in civil laws across all communities regardless of religion, gender and sexual orientation.

"An important decision has been taken today in the State Cabinet meeting to form a high-level committee under the chairmanship of a retired Supreme Court/HC judge to examine the need for a UCC and prepare a draft for this code," Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel tweeted.

Announcing the move, Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Singhvi said the State Cabinet cleared the proposal to constitute the committee during its meeting held during the day. This is likely to be the last

Cabinet meeting of the Patel Government as the dates for the Gujarat Assembly elections, earlier expected to be announced together with Himachal Pradesh, could also be made known by the Election Commission by next week.


Polling will take place in a single phase in Himachal on November 12 and the votes will be counted on December 8.

On Gujarat's decision to form the UCC committee, Union Minister Parshottam Rupala said, "The committee will be headed by a retired High Court judge and will have three to four members."

Reacting to the statement, the Gujarat Congress said people would not be misled by the BJP Government's decision to form a committee for the implementation of the UCC. Calling it a "gimmick" ahead of Assembly elections, senior Congress leader Arjun Modhwadia said the State Legislature has no power to make such laws.

Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat apart, the Chief Ministers of other BJP-ruled States like Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Madhya Pradesh are also mulling implementation of the UCC in their respective States. In fact, the UP Government is already working on a pilot project to implement the UCC.

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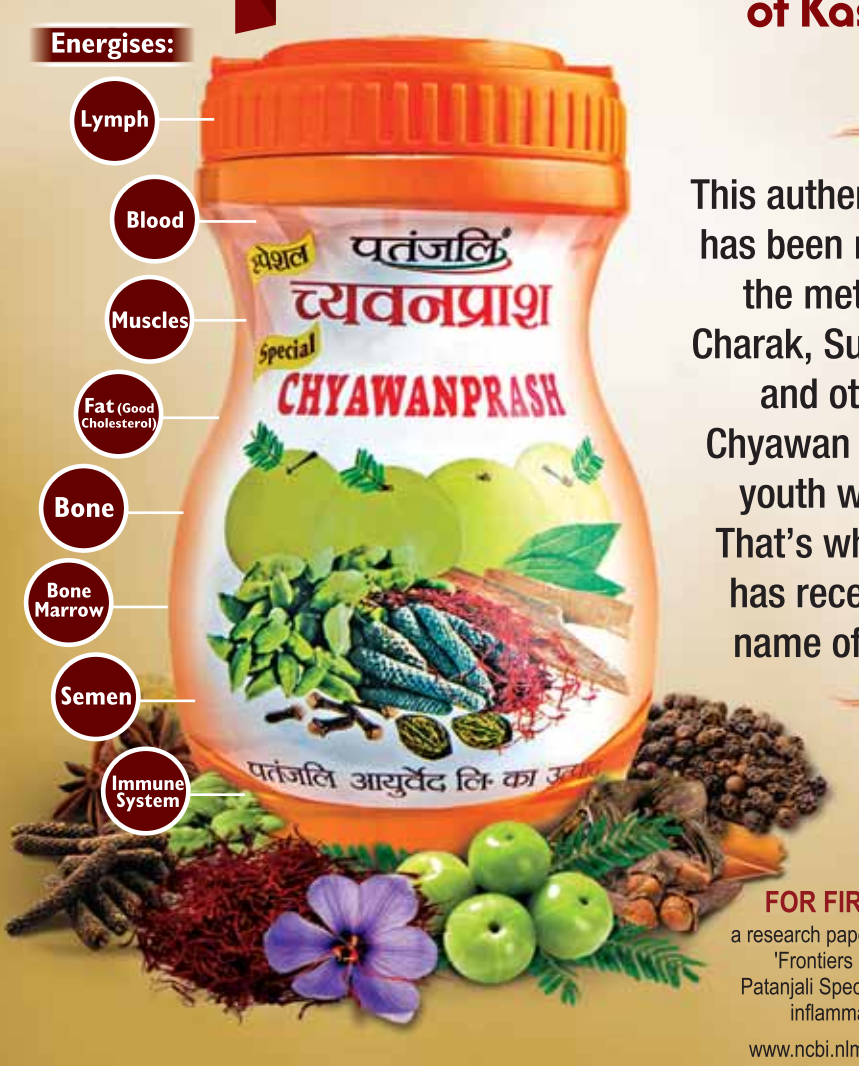
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Driver killed, six trapped in landslide at J&K project site

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A driver was killed while a six member team of rescue workers were trapped after a massive landslide hit the under construction project site of Ratle hydroelectric Plant near Drabshalla in Kishtwar district late Saturday evening.

Till the time of filing the report the fate of six rescue workers including a police cop was not known even as efforts were on to retrieve them safely.

An Official source said, a JCB driver died on the spot in the landslide while efforts were on to retrieve the trapped team of rescue workers.

Dr Jitendra Singh, MoS PMO also spoke to Deputy

Commissioner, Kishtwar to take stock of the rescue work going on in the hilly district.

“Just now spoke to DC Kishtwar, Dr Devansh Yadav on receiving the report of a fatal landslide at the site of the under construction Ratle Power Project.

The JCB driver unfortunately died on the spot. The rescue team of about 6 persons, deputed to the site after the incident, has also got unfortunately trapped under the debris.

All efforts being made to retrieve and save the trapped persons. Further assistance, as required, being provided. I am in constant touch with the District administration”, tweeted Dr Singh.

T’gana Min barred from campaign for violating poll code of conduct

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday barred Telangana energy minister Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy from campaigning in Munugode Assembly by-election for 48 hours for violating the poll code after he allegedly threatened to stop welfare schemes if people do not vote for the ruling TRS candidate.

The poll panel deplored the minister’s statement and censured him for the violation. Though Reddy denied the charge, the EC said the tone and tenor of his speech “is in the nature of intimidation of voters”. “Commission orders under Article 324 of the Constitution ... To prohibit him from holding any public meetings, public processions, public rallies, road shows and



interviews ... In connection with or having an impact on ongoing by-election ... For 48 hours from 7:00 pm,” it said. The by-election is on November 3.

In its show cause notice to Reddy on Friday, the EC had cited a complaint submitted by a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader. The notice quotes the English translation of the minister’s speech made on October 25 in which he said, “The election is not between Kusukuntla Prabhakar Reddy and Rajgopal Reddy, it is the election for whether to continue the pension of Rs

2,000 or not, it is for whether to continue Rythu Bandhu or not, whether to continue free 24-hour electricity or not...”

“ If anyone is not interested in pension, he can vote for (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi, if anyone wants schemes, vote for KCR (Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao),” he had said.

In his reply, the minister said he has never delivered any speech stating that all welfare schemes will be stopped if people do not vote for the contesting candidate. He claimed that it was an attempt by him to explain the welfare schemes provided by the state government.

But EC said it is convinced that the tone and tenor of the speech made by Reddy “is in the nature of intimidation of voters” and thus is a violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

State has no power to make such laws: Cong on Guj’s decision on UCC

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Congress on Saturday said people would not be misled by the BJP government’s decision to form a committee for the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code.

Calling it a “gimmick” ahead of Assembly elections, senior Congress leader Arjun Modhwadia said the state legislature has no power to make such laws.

The Bhopendra Patel government earlier in the day announced that a committee headed by a retired High Court judge would be formed to study the modalities of implementing the UCC.

“This gimmick is aimed at misleading the public who are suffering due to inflation and joblessness and a host of other problems because of the failure

of the government.

The power to implement the Uniform Civil Code lies with the Centre.

Personal laws were passed by Parliament, and the Gujarat Assembly does not have the power to make this law,” Modhwadia said at a press conference.

“The BJP has been in power in Gujarat for the last 27 years and it has been in power at the Centre for eight years. Now that the Assembly elections are round the corner, the decision regarding the Uniform Civil Code does not make sense,” he added.

The BJP was using this “trick” as the people are determined to throw out the state government which has left the youth, farmers, cattle herders and all other segments of society frustrated, the Congress leader claimed.

‘Indian Def...

From Page 1

“At the top of the ranking for the world’s largest employers is India’s Ministry of Defence. Combining active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff, the total headcount comes to 2.92 million - a touch ahead of the United States equivalent, the Department of Defense,” the report said.

“The Chinese equivalent of the US Department of Defense, the Central Military Commission may have as many as 6.8 million people in its employment, though that figure was not deemed sufficiently reliable to be included in this list,” the report adds.

According to the report, no company in the world has more employees than Walmart. “The latest information from the US retail giant put the figure at a massive 2.3 million. Not even the behemoth that is Amazon comes close, despite being in second place with a 1.6 million-strong workforce,” cites Statista

This latest infographic by Statista doesn’t come as surprise after total global military expenditure reached \$2113 billion in 2021.

According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the five largest spenders in 2021 were the US, China, India, the UK and Russia, together accounting for 62 per cent of expenditure. India’s military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world.

Case against 20 unknown people for making video of blood-soaked girl

PTI ■ KANNAUJ

Police on Saturday registered a case against 20 unknown people for recording videos on their mobile phones instead of helping a 12-year-old girl who was found soaked in blood and writhing in pain at a government guest house here.

Gursahaiganj SHO

Rajkumar Singh said due to the video, the identity of the minor girl became public, as a result, a case has been registered under the POCSO Act and IT Act. According to police, when police outpost in-charge Manoj Pandey reached the spot on October 23 and saw the blood-soaked girl, he asked people gathered there to stop making

videos but they continued with it. In the video, a policeman is seen carrying the injured girl to an autorickshaw to take her to the hospital while bystanders keep recording videos on their mobile phones.

Police said efforts are on to identify those who were making the video.

The girl is currently

undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kanpur. She is opening her eyes but is not saying anything. Owing to serious injuries on her head, there are several stitches and injuries on her body as well. Superintendent of Police Kunwar Anupam Singh said he had spoken to the doctors and she will recover soon.

Sugar export...

From Page 1

The production in India stood at 35.8 million tonnes during the 2021-22 marketing season. The season is from October-September. With an estimated increase in production despite higher

diversion for ethanol, ISMA expects export to be around 9 million tonnes this season.

Releasing the first estimate, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said, “After accounting for the reduction of 45 lakh tonnes in sugar production due to diversion of cane juice/ syrup and B-molasses to ethanol, ISMA estimates sugar production in 2022-23 at around 36.5 million tonnes of sugar.”

On exports, the industry body has said that the window for exports appears to be quite short for Indian sugar this year as Brazilian sugar will hit the global market by May 2023.

Further, most mills have already contracted sugar for export supplies in the current season. So, an early announcement of sugar export policy by the Government should be highly appreciated, it added.

Sisodia seeks Shah’s...

From Page 1

He also demanded that Shah be sacked as the Home Minister if he was involved in the conspiracy under “Operation Lotus”.

Sisodia said: “Today, a huge example has come to the fore of Operation Lotus, which is being carried out by the BJP. The way they buy legislators, they topple the elected Governments... Such links have been found in Delhi and Telangana.”

Sisodia said the audio tape was a “proof” of the BJP’s failed attempt to poach AAP MLAs in Delhi and Punjab and demanded a probe by the

Enforcement Directorate into the matter. “It is very dangerous for a country if its Home Minister is involved in such a conspiracy,” he said.

He also showed their pictures with a senior RSS leader and two Union Ministers and said their connection with the BJP rank and file was evident. Ramachandra Bharati aka Satish Sharma, Nanda Kumar and Simhayaji Swamy were arrested by Telangana Police earlier this week for allegedly trying to coax four TRS legislators into defecting to the BJP.

When asked how the clip substantiated the involvement of the two senior BJP leaders, he said, “If the ED and the CBI find some time, they will come to know who those being referred to as B L Santhosh and Shah in the conversation are.” “Everybody knows B L Santhosh. The BJP’s broker

has named Amit Shah ji, the country’s Home Minister, as the number two in the recorded conversation,” he added.

After playing a clip, the Delhi deputy CM told reporters: “You would be able to recall how offers were made to me and other AAP MLAs in Delhi (by the BJP). Now this audio reveals that touts are operating in Delhi in the same way as in Telangana. To buy 43 MLAs in Delhi, Rs 1,075 crore has been arranged. Where has this money come from? All this should be investigated.”

Referring to the October 27 raids in Telangana’s Cyberabad, when three men were held, Sisodia said that an amount worth Rs 100 crore was seized. “All three men are linked to the BJP. There were attempts to poach four TRS MLAs. On October 28 (Friday), audio clips surfaced, which further gave details of the conspiracy,”

the AAP leader said.

“They (BJP) tried to do this in Delhi and Punjab but they were unsuccessful. Similar attempts have been made in eight States. In Telangana, Op Lotus has been exposed,” Sisodia -- who is on the radar of the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate in the excise policy case -- further shared.

In a separate press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh demanded that the Election Commission immediately de-recognise the BJP as a political party. “The BJP has become a kidnapping gang. It is no more a political party as it poaches other party MLAs to topple their Government. It has become a group which murders democracy. I demand that the Election Commission immediately de-recognise the BJP,” he said.

Teen stabbed to death by...

From Page 1

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Shweta Chauhan said the victim Manoj belonged to Kumau Gali in Baljeet Nagar and was taken to Sardar Patel Hospital where he was declared dead. Both the juvenile assailants have been apprehended and the weapon of offence recovered, the police said. A purported CCTV footage of the incident circulating on social media shows a scuffle between the teenagers. The footage showed two juvenile boys attacking Manoj with knives and stabbing him multiple times.

Seconds later, Manoj, stabbed from behind, is seen with a knife stuck near his spinal cord. After the two

assailants flee, a visibly faltering victim is seen taking out his mobile phone and ostensibly calling someone for help. He then collapses near a bike with the knife stuck in his back. The video also shows people watching the youth lying there but no one tries to help him.

Based on a statement from Manoj’s father, a case under Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered, Chauhan said.

Complainant Chandan Singh Negi alleged that while he was taking his son to the hospital, Manoj revealed that the two juveniles had passed lewd comments at his sister often. Manoj warned the two juveniles and he had slapped one of them a few days ago. The angry juveniles stabbed Manoj multiple times when he was returning from computer class as revenge, Chauhan said.

The officer said no complaint from the girl or her family members regarding molestation or sexual harassment had been received at Patel Nagar police station.

Investigation is going on and legal action will be taken if any conspiracy by any other person is found, she added. Following the murder, Negi’s family and friends staged a protest outside Patel Nagar police station.

Deepak Singh Bisht, who used to live in Negi’s neighbourhood, also alleged that the accused had earlier harassed the victim’s sister. “Before Diwali, the accused had passed lewd remarks at her and harassed her. Negi asked them to refrain from doing this, following which an argument ensued between them and they threatened to teach him a lesson after Diwali.

“This was a pre-planned

attack. They knew that Negi went to computer class every evening at 8 pm and returned around 9 pm. They attacked him while he was returning home and fled,” Bisht said. Another family friend alleged that passersby saw him bleeding but no one helped him. The incident happened hardly 15 to 20 metres away from his home, he said.

Bhagwat Rawat, Negi’s neighbour, said, “When we got to know about the incident, we immediately rushed to the spot and took him to the hospital where he was declared dead. He was pursuing a technical course from Pusa Institute.” He is survived by his father, mother and a younger sister. His father works as a Xerox machine mechanic and belongs to a very humble background. They live in a rented accommodation and are natives of Almora district in Uttarakhand,” he said.

Eye on Assembly polls...

From Page 1

A discussion on the UCC in the coming winter session of the Parliament is also on the cards, which may be a precursor to the Centre itself making a move on the issue, said sources. The BJP had in its 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto promised to implement

UCC if voted to power.

The UCC decision in the poll-bound state also comes close on the heels of AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal’s high-pitched demand from the Centre that country’s currency notes carry images of Indian Gods and Goddesses. The demand of AAP, which besides the Congress is the third political party in the Gujarat poll fray, is seen by the BJP as Kejriwal’s “Hindu stunt” to woo the voters in the state.

The Centre has already proposed its UCC idea to the Supreme Court underlining that the Constitution obligates the State to have UCC for its citizens. The Centre has told the Supreme Court

that the matter will now be placed before the 22nd Law Commission.

Part IV of the Constitution’s Article 44 dealing with Directive Principles of the state make it obligatory on the state to implement UCC on various Civil issues including those relating to marriage, divorce, succession, guardianship, adoption and inheritance.

While a section in the country has always opposed the UCC maintaining that it would do away with the ‘vast diversity’ of local laws and traditions, B R Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution was, however, of view that India could not call itself a modern nation unless the UCC was in the place in the country.

The Uttarakhand government was the first to act on the UCC as it formed an expert committee in May, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge for implementing UCC and to check all the relevant laws that control personal matters for those living in Uttarakhand.

In the same month Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the state will bring UCC soon. “We will do it (UCC) soon. The situation in Himachal is different from other states and it will not harm Muslim society. I think everyone especially Muslim women will welcome this step. They will have a healthy family life to live and it will be beneficial for them,” Thakur had said.

Net, social media new toolkits of...

From Page 1

That, in itself, is a huge accomplishment of this meeting (in New Delhi).”

He said the most important takeaway from the counter-terrorism meeting was the fact that the issue of new and emerging technology is the point of main concern and focus of attention.

British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly called for “starving” the terrorists of funds to stop destruction around the world and fighting terrorist ideologies online. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken also took part in the high-profile event.

The two-day Special Meeting later unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration saying terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is a serious threat and unjustifiable.

The Delhi Declaration expressed deep concern that terrorism has become more diffused, with an increase, in various regions of the world, notably aided by terrorists’ adaptation to, and the use of new and emerging technologies, for nefarious purposes, while recognising that innovations in technology may offer significant counter-terrorism opportunities.

The Special Meeting also flagged the issue of increased use, in a globalised society, by terrorists and their supporters, of the Internet and other information and communications technologies, including social media platforms for recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as for the financing, planning and preparation of their activities.

The Declaration said it recognises

that innovations in financial technologies, products and services, such as virtual assets and new financial instruments, including, but not limited to, crowdfunding platforms, may offer economic opportunities but also present a risk of being misused, including for terrorist-financing. It also expressed concern over the use of UAVs.

Focussing on technology as it was the main agenda of the meet, Jaishankar said advancements in this field had transformed the world. “However, there is a flip side especially where terrorism is concerned.

These very technologies have also thrown up new challenges for the Governments and regulatory bodies due to their potential vulnerability for misuse by non-state actors, given the very nature of some of these technologies and the nascent regulatory environment,” the Minister said.

In recent years, terrorist groups, their ideological fellow-travelers, particularly in open and liberal societies and ‘lone wolf’ attackers have significantly enhanced their capabilities by gaining access to these technologies, he said. The Minister referred to misuse of cryptocurrency and encrypted messaging.

“They use technology and money, and most importantly, the ethos of open societies, to attack freedom, tolerance and progress. Internet and social media platforms have turned into potent instruments in the toolkit of terrorist and militant groups for spreading propaganda, radicalisation and conspiracy theories aimed at destabilising societies,” Jaishankar said.

Highlighting the other threat, he said the Governments the world over were now concerned over the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) or drones by terrorist groups and organised criminal networks.

Being a relatively low-cost option and with an increasing ease of accessibility, misuse of these

unmanned aerial platforms for nefarious purposes by terrorist groups such as weapons and explosives delivery and targeted attacks have become an imminent danger, he said.

Jaishankar announced that India will be making a voluntary contribution of half a million dollars to the UN Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism this year to augment the efforts of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in providing capacity building support to member states in preventing and countering the threat of terrorism.

The international community must work together to “starve” terrorists of finance and emerging technologies to stop destruction around the world, Cleverly said.

Stressing this point, he called on countries to fight “online” terrorism including global terror recruitment campaigns.

“Within the space of two decades, terrorists have gone from circulating crackly voice recordings from the depths of Tora Bora, to global online recruitment and incitement campaigns, to live-streaming attacks,” he said.

“Online incitement has radicalised vulnerable people in far-off countries who have gone on to use rental vans as weapons of terror,” Cleverly said adding countries will have to fight terrorist ideologies online.

The UK’s Counter Daesh Communication Cell, in partnership with the US and UAE governments, works to challenge Daesh propaganda, according to the British High Commission.

It said the UK is also working to stop terrorists exploiting online platforms and to push technology companies to crack down harder on extremist online content through the G7 and the Global Internet Forum to counter terrorism.

Around the world, unmanned aerial systems are being used to inflict terror. The UK is funding new technology to tackle these drones and stop terrorists from misusing them, the high commission said.

Public Notice

This is to inform General Public that Mr. Sandeep Walia has acquired the Property Bearing No. 20-B, Land area measuring 328.09 Sq. mtrs. in Block-A-1, Situated in the Layout plan of Paschim Vihar, New Delhi by way of Sale Deed dated 02.04.2004 Doc. no. 6153. Now, Mr. Sandeep Walia is mortgaging the above said property with HDFC Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Vaa Venets North, Unit no. 907, 9th Floor, GD-TITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9067071712/ 9818228836 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the share certificates No(s) 100582 for 2345 shares bearing distinctive No(s) 15429160 to 15431504 standing in the name(s) of Pramode Chandra Puri in the books of M/s Dalmia Bharat Sugar Limited (DBSL), has/ have been lost/ misplaced/ destroyed and the advertiser has/ have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu thereof. Any person(s) who has/ have claim(s) on the said shares should lodge such claim(s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer Agents viz KFin Technologies Ltd., SELENIUM TOWER B, PLOT NO 31 & 32, GACHIBOWLI, FINANCIAL DISTRICT, NANAKRAMGUDA, SERILINGAMPALLY, HYDERABAD - 500032, TELENGANA, Toll Free No: 1800-309-4001 within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares.

Name(s) of the shareholder(s)
Pramode Chandra Puri

Date: 30 October 2022
Place: New Delhi

LG visits Bhalswa Lake to take stock of ghats' cleaning for Chhath



'RED LIGHT ON GAADI OFF' CAMPAIGN

LG advises Kejriwal to reconsider proposal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The controversy over the "Red light on Gaadi off" campaign refused to end as Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has advised Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to reconsider the proposal in light of observations made by him (LG) on the file and resubmitted.

Sources at Raj Niwas said that Kejriwal sat on the file for 10 days from 11.10.2022 to 21.10.2022, before sending it to LG. The Raj Niwas received the file on October 21 and after that Chief Minister's office and Minister started putting pressure on the Lt Governor office to approve the proposal immediately (read without consideration).

According to sources, Raj Niwas has received several calls from CMO and Minister to clear the file immediately. The Raj Niwas sources further pointed out that the proposed date of commencement of the project was October 31, 2022, and not 28th October, 2022, as being wrongly told by Environment Minister Gopal Rai.

"The basic premise of the campaign which seeks to risk



the health of 'few individuals' on the assumption of protecting the 'health of many' is faulty and does not appear to have any parallel in any other civilized metropolitan city," the Sources said.

In a note to Kejriwal, Raj Niwas said that the Outcome of the previous campaigns is not reflected in the proposal and there is no impact assessment report provided to support the effectiveness of the earlier campaigns in improving air quality in the city.

In a stern note, the L-G termed the allegation levelled against him by the Environment Minister Gopal Rai and Kejriwal as 'lies' and advised them to refrain from such antics. The L-G has questioned the effectiveness of such an "ad-hoc" measure as the

national Capital reels under high air pollution level. The AAP government in Delhi had earlier attacked the LG, alleging that delay in approving the proposal had forced it to postpone the October 28 launch of the campaign.

In a related development, several leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday staged a protest outside the residence of Lieutenant Governor for not approving the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign.

The protesters gathered at Raj Niwas Marg with placards and raised slogans against Saxena. Later addressing a press conference, Rai said that L-G is making frivolous excuses to stop Red Light On Gaadi Off campaign." The Delhi Government to resubmit file to LG seeking clearance," he said.

In the note, Saxena pointed out the inhuman and exploitative use of Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs) at extremely polluted traffic intersections and sites, and also highlighted that "the basic premise of the campaign which seeks to risk the health of 'few individuals' on the assumption of protecting the 'health of many' is faulty and does not

appear to have any parallel in any other civilized metropolitan city.

Saxena said that the deployment of CDVs under the proposed campaign seems to reinforce and perpetuate the inequality, which is unfortunate and in contravention of the basic right to life and equality.

The multiple risks posed to the safety and health of the volunteers proposed to be deployed at the traffic cross sections under the campaign, merits serious attention, L-G has observed. The LG has observed that "the people of Delhi who suffer the most due to air pollution, are aware and alert citizens who are conscious of their duties and will undertake any measure on their own, to mitigate such pollution".

"The Minister's reference to the Civil Defence Act, 1968 read with section of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 to allow the engagement of CDVs for the proposed campaign, and the LG has instructed for it to be examined in consultation with the Law Department and Revenue Department," the L-G note said. Saxena expressed serious concerns over the allegations made against him by CM and

his ministers. He mentioned that such frivolous behaviour entailing baseless allegations, false accusations and political insinuations, on part of a minister is unbecoming, to say the least.

It was done against a Constitutional Authority, solely for political oneupmanship and publicity is extremely improper and unfortunate. This type of publicity must be avoided and the Hon'ble Minister should be advised to be cautious in such issues of public importance.

The L-G advised CM and his Ministers to refrain from such antics, and noted that such acts on part of CM and Ministers, of publicizing issues prematurely and making political allegations even before the matter is submitted to me or while it is under my consideration, violates the basic principles of governance and at the same time restricts / obstructs my constitutional right of formulating an independent opinion on the subject.

Saxena once again advised to refrain from such acts in larger public interest and for ensuring harmonious and constitutional functioning of the system of governance.

Act against those making false claims about new landfill sites: LG to MCD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the allegations made by the AAP against the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) that the civic body is planning to build 16 new landfill sites in the national Capital while failing to clear "mountains" of filth at existing three landfills, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday asked the civic body to take strict legal action against "elements" misleading people.

In a series of tweets, Saxena said the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has cleared 26.1 lakh metric ton of legacy waste in the last four months and the height of garbage mounds came down by 10-15 metres.

He also said "not a single" new dumping site is planned in the city. "Contrary to false claims by some people with partisan vested interests, NOT A SINGLE NEW DUMPING SITE IS PLANNED by MCD in the City," LG Saxena tweeted. "Have instructed MCD to take strict legal action against elements who mislead Delhi," the LG said in another tweet. According to statistics provided by LG Secretariat, legacy

waste at landfill sites in the capital has come down from 22.91 million metric tonnes (MMT) in May to 20.3 MMT in September, reduction of 2.61 MMT over the past four months and about 652,000 MMT legacy waste being disposed of every month.

The AAP ahead of the MCD polls expected around December, has sharpened attack on the MCD and the BJP over "lack of sanitation" in Delhi and "garbage mountains" at landfill sites in Bhalswa, Okhla and Ghazipur.

AAP supreme and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday visited Ghazipur landfill site and claimed that the MCD was planning to develop 16 more landfill sites in the city. Technically known as legacy waste, the three

garbage landfill sites have been increasing in height over the years, with no agency being able to address the solid waste management problem. With MCD elections due after the delimitation exercise, solid waste management has become an easy stick to beat the BJP with.

The MCD also on Friday said there was no plan to create any new landfill sites in the city. It also said that 77 lakh metric ton legacy waste has been processed so far from the city's three landfills, which have assumed the size of small mountains over the years.

Delhi generates around 11,000 metric tons of garbage, a significant part of which is dumped in the three landfill sites at Ghazipur, Bhalswa, and Okhla.



Gahlot inspects ghats on Chhath eve



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot on Saturday visited several ghats in the city ahead of the Chhath festival to ensure preparations were in place for the devotees. Accompanied by revenue officials, the Minister took stock of readiness for Chhath, starting Sunday, at Bhalswa Jheel and Keshavpuram ghats. "Delhi Government led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is monitoring the preparations for

Chhath at the ghats to ensure devotees face no inconvenience," Gahlot said. The minister had visited a Chhath ghat at Yamuna near ITO on Friday. The minister has directed the concerned officials to ensure all the arrangements at the ghats are to be completed before the festival and the devotees should not face any inconvenience.

Gahlot went to Bhalswa Lake and then inspected the ghats at Keshav Puram in Wazirpur constituency, Bajrangi Ghat, and Ghats at

Parshuram Enclave in Burari constituency and ghats at Aya Nagar in Chhatrapur constituency.

During his visit at the Bhalswa lake in North Delhi, Gahlot interacted with the members of puja samitis and devotees there. Gahlot also took it to Twitter and commented "Today, inspected the Chhath Puja Ghats located at Bhalswa Lake and interacted with the local people and members of the Puja Committee there. Under the

guidance of Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal, we have made elaborate arrangements for Chhath Puja all over Delhi. With the blessings of Chhathi Maiyya, Chhath Puja will be celebrated with great pomp across Delhi."

Following his visit to the Bhalswa lake, Gehlot went to Keshav Puram in the Wazirpur constituency and took stock of the preparation there. Issuing directions to expedite the arrangement works at the ghats, he checked the sanitation, lighting, and water supply arrangements.

He instructed the officers to expedite the preparation work. Talking about the visits and meetings, Gahlot said "I have inspected Chhath Ghats at many locations in Delhi. I have met the devotees and members of Chhath Puja Committees, everyone seems very satisfied with the arrangements made by the Delhi Government."

He further said "I have held several meetings with MLAs, committees and officials in this regard. Today, I inspected the Ghats and took stock of the arrangements. I have instructed the officials that the devotees should not face any inconvenience."

Police file FIR against The Wire on Malviya's plaints

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Saturday filed a first information report against "The Wire" on a complaint by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s IT cell chief Amit Malviya for the fake Meta story that has been retracted. Malviya, in his complaint, accused the news website of forgery, defamation and criminal conspiracy for publishing articles claiming that social media website Instagram took down posts that he had flagged without review.

As per the complaint submitted to the Special Commissioner of Police, Crime, the Wire - an online news portal, Siddharth Varadarajan - Founding Editor of The Wire, Sidharth Bhatia - Founding Editor of The Wire, MK Venu - Founding Editor of The Wire, Jahnavi Sen - the Deputy Editor and Executive News Producer at The Wire, Foundation for Independent Journalism the company that owns and publishes The Wire and other unknown persons for the offence punishable u/s 420, 468, 469, 471, 500 r/w 120B and 34 of the IPC, 1860.

Interestingly, Amit Malviya has not named Devesh Kumar



in the complaint, who was The Wire's tech expert in both the Meta and Tek Fog stories, and who has been blamed by The Wire for the fake reports accusing him of misleading it.

In his complaint addressed to the special commissioner of police (crime) Delhi, Malviya said, "I am filing the present complaint against The Wire - an online news portal, Mr. Siddharth Varadarajan Founding Editor of The Wire, Mr. Sidharth Bhatia Founding Editor of The Wire, Mr. MK Venu Founding Editor of The Wire, Ms. Jahnavi Sen - the Deputy Editor and Executive News Producer at The Wire, Foundation for Independent Journalism the company that owns and publishes The Wire and other unknown persons.

I am filing the present complaint for the offences of cheating, forgery for the purpose of cheating, forgery for the purpose of harming the reputation, using a genuine a



forged document or electronic record, and defamation amongst other provisions of IPC". Earlier on October 28, "It is clear that The Wire and some unknown persons entered into a criminal conspiracy with intent to malign and tarnish my reputation, deliberately inserted my name into a story, and fabricated evidence to implicate me. I am left with no option other than to seek legal remedies," said Malviya, while addressing the media.

Malviya on October 27, said he will file criminal and civil proceedings against 'The Wire', as he accused the news portal of using "forged documents with a view to malign and tarnish" his reputation.

The Wire in a series of news reports, now retracted, had alleged that Meta, the parent company of social media giants -- WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram -- has accorded special privileges to Malviya that enable him to get posts

removed from its platforms.

The reports had insinuated that the BJP leader was behind removal of some posts from Instagram. "After consultation with my lawyers and seeking their advice, I have decided to file criminal and civil proceedings against 'The Wire'.

Not only will I be setting the criminal process in motion but I will also sue them in civil court seeking damages as they forged documents with a view to malign and tarnish my reputation," Malviya said in a statement.

Under scrutiny, including from some experts, over the reports, The Wire last week formally retracted its Meta stories after conducting an internal review of the technical source material used, with the help of external experts.

The news portal also apologised to its readers for slippage in its editorial assessment. "This combination of not fully grasping the complexities of technology and a slippage in editorial assessment of tech-related matter resulted in the publication of stories which did not eventually hold up. For this we owe an apology to our readers," the news portal said.

BJP leaders meet CAQM head, raise Delhi's toxic air issue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A BJP delegation led by chief Adesh Gupta on Saturday submitted a memorandum to Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Chairperson MM Kutty and expressed concern over the polluted and toxic air in Delhi.

BJP MP Parvesh Singh, senior leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa, media relations in-

charge Harish Khurana, spokespersons Yasir Jilani and Ajay Sehrawat were part of the delegation.

The pollution situation in Delhi is becoming very serious year after year, the BJP alleged in the memorandum. Speaking to reporters later, Gupta said the air in Delhi had become so toxic and polluted that it was bound to cause lung disease. "This is a serious matter. Despite this, instead of taking

any concrete steps for prevention, (Delhi Chief Minister Arvind) Kejriwal is running away from his responsibilities. "Since the beginning, the Kejriwal government has been making rhetoric about pollution, but even today the situation remains the same," Gupta said. The BJP leader added, "It will not be an exaggeration if it is said that the Kejriwal government has proved to be a complete failure in preventing

pollution."

Gupta said the Kejriwal government earlier blamed stubble burning in Punjab for pollution in the national capital. He added that since his party (AAP) came to power in Punjab, it had proved unsuccessful in stopping stubble burning. Recent reports suggest that stubble burning had taken place at more than 10,000 places since September 15, the BJP's Delhi unit chief said.

Traffic advisory issued ahead of 'Run for Unity'

New Delhi: The India Gate C-Hexagon will remain closed from 6.45 am-9 am on Monday to facilitate "Run for Unity", which is being held in commemoration of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, the Delhi Police has said. The run, held as part of the Rashtriya Ekta Divas, will be flagged off from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium.

Traffic will be diverted at Tilak Marg-Bhagwan Dass

Road, Purana Quila Road-Mathura Road, Shershah Road-Mathura Road, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg-Subramanian Bharti Marg, Pandara Road-Subramanian Bharti Marg, Q-Point, and the roundabouts at Mansingh Road, Jaswant Singh Road, KG Marg-Firozshah Road crossing and Mandi House, it stated. Commuters travelling to and from south-north have been asked to take Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan

- IP Flyover - Rajghat, Lala Lajpat Rai Marg - Mathura Road - W-Point - A-Point.

Those moving from east to west and vice versa can opt IP Marg - A-Point - W-Point - Sikandra Road - Mandi House - Firozshah Road round about Windsor Place - Ashok Road - Gole Dak Khana - RML - Shankar Road, NH-09 - Ring Road-Bhairon Marg - Mathura Road - SBM - Q-Point - Abdul Kalam Marg.

Similarly, people travelling from south to Central Secretariat and Connaught Place can take Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - round about RML - Pandit Pant Marg for Central Secretariat and Park Street - Baba Kharak Singh Marg/Mandir Marg for Connaught Place, Mathura Road - W-Point - Sikandra Road - round about Mandi House - Barakhamba Road, the advisory read.

Jaishankar, Cleverly discuss FTA, Ukraine

British Foreign Secretary James attended special meeting of UN Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India and the United Kingdom on Saturday reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral ties and the ongoing negotiations for the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries during the talks here between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart James Cleverly.

In the backdrop of the FTA facing stumbling blocks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his telephonic talks on Thursday had urged his counterpart Rishi Sunak for an early conclusion of the negotiations. Earlier, they were supposed to end on Diwali.

The Ukraine conflict and the situation in the Indo-Pacific figured prominently in talks with Cleverly, Jaishankar said in a tweet message later.

The British Foreign Secretary arrived in India on Friday on a two-day visit primarily to attend a special meeting of the UN Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee.

"Delighted to welcome UK Foreign Secretary @JamesCleverly on his first India visit; shortly after our meeting in New York last month," Jaishankar tweeted. It is the first visit by a top-ranking Minister from Britain after Sunak took charge as the UK's first Indian-origin prime minister on Tuesday.

"Noted the progress in our Roadmap 2030. Also discussed the Ukraine conflict and the Indo-Pacific," he added. The FTA is part of the RoadMap 2030 as envisaged by Prime



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly during a meeting on the sidelines of the UNSC Special Meeting in New Delhi on Saturday PTI Photo

Minister Modi and the then UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in May last year. Negotiations for the FTA began in January this year.

During the visit, the British Foreign Secretary announced further collaboration between the UK and India through British International Investment.

This included 11 million Pound of UK funding invested in Kinara Capital, a woman-led fintech company, according

to the British High Commission.

British International Investment is designed to strengthen trade ties with the UK's partners and generate economic growth.

The High Commission said Cleverly also announced a 22 million pounds investment by the UK-backed Neev II Fund into Hygenic which will help India's green energy transition by pioneering green hydrogen.

China's aggression to figure in Navy conference

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific and strategically important Indian Ocean will figure prominently during the Indian Navy commanders' conference here for four days commencing next Monday.

The naval top echelon will take stock of the operational readiness to deal with this emerging challenge from China and review the progress of warship building schedule.

The conference held twice a year serves as a platform for naval commanders to discuss important maritime matters and the military-strategic level through an institutionalised forum, officials said here on Saturday.

Due to the dynamic and fast-paced developments in security imperatives in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as well as in other parts of the world, the Conference has its own significance and relevance. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the

top brass.

Amongst many issues to be discussed, the Chief of the Naval Staff, along with other Naval Commanders will review major Operational, Materiel, Logistics, Human Resource Development, Training and Administrative activities undertaken by the Indian Navy in the last few months and further deliberate upon future plans for important activities and initiatives, they said. The conference will also dwell upon the dynamics of the geostrategic situation of the region and

the Navy's readiness to deal with the same.

The Navy has focused on being a combat ready, credible and cohesive force with a future-ready outlook and continues to assiduously execute its mandate. The Indian Navy has witnessed significant growth in its operational tasking over the years in consonance with India's rising maritime interests. Indian Navy's standing as the 'Preferred Security Partner' has also grown concomitantly in recent times. Indian Navy is poised to counter all maritime

security challenges emerging due to uncertain geo-strategic situations in IOR and beyond.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and Chiefs of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force will also interact with the Naval Commanders to address the convergence of the three Services vis-à-vis the common operational environment, and avenues of augmenting Tri-Service synergy and readiness towards the defence of the nation and India's national interests.

Intermediaries' platforms cannot be misused to upload inciteful content, says IT Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday justified the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2022 saying it is to address the gaps that existed earlier and to make internet safe for Indians.

Intermediaries' platforms cannot be misused to upload criminal, illegal, inciteful content and any misinformation, Union Minister of State for Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said.

"These Rules mark new partnership between the Government & Intermediaries in making & keeping our internet safe and trusted for all Indians," he said adding the formation of a government panel "is a signal to them (social media companies) that they need to up their game."

He, however, said India as a nation continues to favour a self-regulatory body for social media content disputes despite a lack of consensus among Big Tech companies to form a joint appeals panel.

Former Union IT Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal attacked the Centre saying, "Safe for the Government

and unsafe for others, that's what the policy of this Government always has been. First, they captured the TV networks and now, they are going to capture social media platforms.

It's the comprehensive capture of media. The only platform left for ordinary citizens was social media. When statements defamatory are made... people will be prosecuted."

Sibal said, "We are moving towards one code of conduct, one political party, one system of governance and no answerability to anyone."

While Twitter's new owner Elon Musk announced that the company will form a new committee to test on the public opinions, Chandrasekhar reiterated that India will stick to the point on adhering that social media platforms must ensure the laws in India.

Facebook, WhatsApp and other companies had adhered to Government of India's new norms for the past one year, but Twitter challenged it in the Court. At present, Twitter India is contesting the new IT Rules in Karnataka High Court.

"New amended IT rules are next step to realizing our govts duty to #DigitalNagriks of Open, Safe&Trusted, Accountable Internet. Also

marks a new partnership btwn Govt and Intermediaries in making n keeping our Internet safe & trusted for all Indians," he had tweeted earlier citing the new notification. As per the new notification, the Government's Grievance Appellate Committee's decision will be binding on the social media companies.

"Every order passed by the Grievance Appellate Committee shall be complied with the intermediary (social media firms) and a report to that effect shall be uploaded on its website," said the notification, adding that any appeal has to be settled within 30 days.

The notification also says in serious matters like violence, crimes against women and children, issues related to security, sovereignty, public order, the social media firms have to take action in 72 hours on receiving the complaint.

The new Rules also say the social media firms through their grievance officers must acknowledge a complaint within 24 hours and resolve within a period of 15 days.

If the complaint is on very serious nature matter (listed six specific categories) the social media firms must act expeditiously and shall be resolved in 72 hours, says the notification.

Legacy of Modi Govt after 8 years — no jobs: Chidambaram

Kharge questions Centre on lowest spending on R&D

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday attacked the Centre over the cut down of expenses and recognitions in the field of science research and development and on the issue of ever-rising unemployment.

While the newly appointed Congress president M Mallikarjun Kharge questioned the Modi Government on the lowest spending on R&D, his party colleague former Finance Minister P Chidambaram said eight years of Modi-led BJP Government has failed to deliver employment.

"Modi Government has the lowest spending on R&D in the world and now they plan to scrap nearly 300 science awards. These awards are not only for recognition, but also helps funding the scien-



tific community. Why is the BJP Govt so averse to groom scientific temperament," Kharge said on Twitter.

Chidambaram attacked the Centre over the issue of unemployment, alleging that the legacy of the Modi Government after eight years is "no jobs". The Congress has been attacking the government over alleged lack of jobs for the youth and rising unemployment."After 37 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh applying for Grade 'C' jobs, we have 35 lakh applicants for 40,000 Agniveer jobs. Is the government listening to the anguished voices of the young men: 'we are desperate, we have no choice'," Chidambaram said in a tweet. "That is the legacy of the Modi government after 8 years: NO JOBS," the senior Congress leader posted.

Kejriwal symbol of anarchy, says Min Anurag

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/SHIMLA

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday lashed out at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, calling him "a symbol of anarchy". He was responding to a query during his Press conference regarding Kejriwal's appeal to incorporate images of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha on curren-



cy notes. "Arvind Kejriwal who used to oppose (construction of a grand) Ram temple is a symbol of anarchy. He does fake talking. He does new propaganda to divert attention of the people from his fakeness," said Thakur.

The Union Minister further asked AAP supremo Kejriwal that will his Government also provide Rs 18,000 to temple priests, gurudwara granthis

and church priests on the pattern of maulvis in Delhi. "Regarding 'chargesheet' of Congress against Jai Ram Thakur-led BJP government in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh, Thakur said "Those whose national leadership is on bail have no moral right to issue 'chargesheet' against others."

He further said that the "double engine government" has taken all necessary steps for

the all-round development of Himachal Pradesh and it is necessary for the BJP government to come to power again to carry forward the pace of development. Thakur said that power of double engine government is visible in every sector.

To the questions on Congress party's 'chargesheet' against Jai Ram Thakur-led BJP Government in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh,

Thakur on Saturday said, "those whose national leadership is on bail have no moral right to issue chargesheet against others."

Thakur added that the "double engine Government" has taken all necessary steps for the all-round development of Himachal Pradesh and it is necessary for the BJP Government to come to power again to carry forward pace of development.

Cong seeks probe into cash gifts to scribes on Diwali in Karnataka

Bommai said he was unaware that cash was given to scribes: CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Congress on Saturday demanded a judicial inquiry into allegations that some journalists were given "cash gifts" along with sweet boxes on Diwali.

"The #40PercentSarkar seeks to bribe the journalists with ?1 Lakh cash! Will Mr. Bommai answer- 1. Isn't it 'bribe' being offered by CM? 2. What is the source of

?1,00,000? Has it come from Public Exchequer or from CM himself? 3. Will ED/IT take note?", Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted. The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee demanded a judicial inquiry into what it called "Chief Minister's Office (CMO) sweet box bribe" to journalists.

"The people of the State should know how much money was given as bribe, how much was received, how much was returned," it said. Sources in the CMO said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said he was unaware that "cash" was given to journalists.

Vande Bharat rams into cattle in Guj, 3rd since Sep 30



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/AHEMDABAD

Accidents involving Vande Bharat trains and cattle continue. On Saturday, the Mumbai-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Superfast Express rammed into cattle near Atul railway station in Gujarat, damaging its front panel. This was the third such incident since the Vande Bharat train service started on this route from September 30.

"The train halted for 15 minutes after hitting a bull that had strayed on the track around 8.20 am but all the passengers were safe," said Sumit Thakur, chief public relations officer of Western Railway.

The train's front panel was damaged and the underbelly equipment of its first coach was also dented. "There is no damage to the train, except to the Nose Cone Cover of the front

coach, that is the driver's coach. The train is running smoothly," Thakur added. The damaged panel will be replaced once the train reaches Mumbai, he said. On October 6, the train, which has a maximum speed of 130 kmph, ran over four buffaloes between Vatva and Maninagar stations in Gujarat on its way to Gandhinagar from Mumbai. Its nose panel had to be replaced overnight.

The next day (October 7), the train hit a cow near Anand in Gujarat while on its way to Mumbai. The indigenously designed and manufactured semi-high speed train, a third under the Vande Bharat series, was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 30. Similarly the Varanasi Vande Bharat train has also met with similar fate few occasions with damages to the indigenous super fast train.

SC-URBM can stop major damage to buildings from quakes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Buildings that are technically called unreinforced masonry (URM) are much more likely to experience damage or collapse during an earthquake. URM buildings have traditionally been widely adopted worldwide due to inexpensive and locally available construction materials.

Researchers have now found a solution for retrofitting old non-earthquake-resistant buildings with a technology namely semi-confined unreinforced brick masonry (SC-URBM) that can prevent major damage to such structures from earthquakes without compromising on their



strength. The results have been published in the ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering. The SC-URBM can resolve the problem of spread of settlements in earthquake-prone areas with constructions that

have been built without following earthquake-preventive building codes.

"Just like in most developing countries located in earthquake-prone regions, unreinforced brick masonry (URBM) has been a common practice in urban, semi-urban, and rural areas of India.

Considering that major parts of India are under seismic zone III or above and most of the URBM buildings are old and structurally deficient, strengthening of URBM buildings located in earthquake-prone areas is extremely important," said an official from the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The project was under the Fund for Improvement of S&T

Infrastructure (FIST) programme of the DST. Researchers have explored the extent to which retrofitting old buildings with SC-URBM technology can solve the problem.

They found that SC-URBM can significantly enhance the energy dissipation capacity and ductility of the retrofitted building without compromising its strength. Hence such buildings would have superior performance in comparison to URBM buildings during earthquakes.

The idea of the technology emerged from confined masonry, an earthquake-resistant construction system where the masonry walls are built first, and the concrete columns

and beams are poured in afterward to enclose (confine) the wall.

SC-URBM technology has a similar concept but does not need to be implemented at the construction stage. It involves embedding of reinforced concrete (RC) bands through the partial thickness of the wall and can be implemented or retrofitted in old buildings, said the official.

Researchers, Lakshmi Latha, Samit Ray-Chaudhuri, Suparno Mukhopadhyay, and Kunwar Bajpai, had conducted experiments on two identical full-scale single-story brick masonry buildings — a completely unreinforced (URBM), and the other retrofitted with semiconfining horizontal and

vertical reinforced concrete (RC) elements (SC-URBM).

The two buildings were subjected to a test called reverse slow-cyclic quasi-static loading protocol to quantify the improved seismic performance of the SC-URBM building compared to the URBM building.

A Pseudo Dynamic Testing Facility (PDTF) for affordable experimental evaluation of earthquake resistance of full prototype structural systems was developed with the guidance of Professor Durgesh C Rai. They proved that the technology provides better integral action of the confining elements and load-bearing walls to achieve enhanced seismic performance.

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS VINOD, CS No. 389/2018	Vehicle No. UP16DT5090, Make and Model- TATA MOTORS LTD SUPPER ACE, Manu Year- 2014
ICICI BANK LTD VS VIPUL VOHRA, CS SCJ No. 151/19	Vehicle No. DL1RTA6383, Make and Model- WAGON R LXI CNG, Manu Year - 2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS SARVJEET., CS (COMM) No. 959/2021	Vehicle No. DL1ZC7097, Make and Model- HYUNDAIGRAND I10, Manu Year- 2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS SUNDER., CS- 3033/17	Vehicle No. HR55W0272, Make and Model- TATA ACE, Manu Year- 2015
ICICI BANK LTD VS ISHAR KHAN, CS (COMM) No. 2441/21	Vehicle No. DL8CAF8216, Make and Model- RENAULT Duster, Manu Year-2014
ICICI BANK LTD VS JOGENDRA SINGH., CS (Comm) No. 1166/21	Vehicle No. DL8CAT4335, Make and Model- MARUTI UDYOG LTD CIAZ, Manu Year- 2017
ICICI BANK LTD VS ANURAAG CHANDRA , CS(Comm) No. 4315/2021	Vehicle No. DL8CAV8375, Make and Model – VOLKSWAGEN POLO, Manu Year-2018

Auction Date: November 10, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

ICICI BANK LTD VS DINESH KHANDURI, CS No. 3325/18	Vehicle No. DL14C1131, Make and Model- VOLKSWAGENPOLO, Manu Year- 2013.
ICICI BANK LTD VS JAGDISH KUMAR, CS (COMM) No. 1992/2021	Vehicle No. UP16ET9417, Make and Model- HYUNDAIXCENT, Manu Year-2017. Reserve Price: Rs.1,80,000/- EMD Amount: Rs.18,000/-

Auction Date: November 16, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS ASLAM KHA, CS (Comm) No.3444 of 2021	Vehicle No. UP14HT7751, Make and Model- ASHOK LEYLAND LTD PARTNER, Manu Year-2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS RASHID ALI, CS No.1695/2022.	Vehicle No. UP14JT1112, Make and Model- TATA MOTORS LTD LPT 909, Manu Year- 2019

Auction Date: Nov 10, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking yard,Khasra No 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad-UP- 201102
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

ICICI BANK LTD VS AKSHAY GIRI, OA 494/2019, IA 2240/2019	Vehicle No.- UP14GT8288, Make and Model- SWARAJ MAZDA LTD SAMRAT, Manu Year- 2017 Reserve Price Rs. 2,50,000/- EMD Rs. 25,000/-
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Auction Date: Nov 16, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: SHRIRAM AUTOMALL INDIA LTD, PIO MANIYAARI ROAD, OPPOSITE KANYA GURUKUL SCHOOL, NARELA, NEW DELHI 110040
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and EMD(wherain applicable) to participate in the auction.DD/PO of EMD amount is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited payable at Delhi.

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the payment of remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount(wherain applicable) will be forfeited.

The intending bidders may visit **ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005** for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

Trump loses ground, Biden closes gap ahead of midterms

■ WASHINGTON

With just 11 days left for the November 8 midterm polls in the US, former President Donald Trump has gone from bad to worse in approval ratings, while incumbent President Joe Biden shows only marginal improvement as voters are divided on important issues like inflation and abortion rights, while swing ballots hold the key in at least eight battleground states.

In the upcoming election, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate will be contested.

Thirty-nine state and territorial gubernatorial elections, as well as numerous other state and local elections, will be contested.

The results will determine the 118th US Congress.

In the Senate, the Democrats and Republicans split 50:50 with Vice President Kamala Harris holding the edge for the Democrats with her tie breaking vote.

In the House, Democrats have a wafer-thin majority of 220 seats and Republicans 212, with three seats vacant.

The two parties want to retain their numbers and the Republicans appear set to increase it.

Using the average of race ratings from the Cook Political Report, the American encyclopedia of politics, Ballotpedia identified 13 battleground states of Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire,



Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

These are the states on which an electoral victory hinged in the 2020 elections and the scenario remains much the same in 2022.

Previously, Trump had in Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, Ohio and Texas, while Biden emerged victorious in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Biden is no exception to the rule that an incumbent President has lost the midterms referendum as he battles a powerful rhetoric from Republicans led by Trump who are constantly harping on 'Bidenomics' going bad causing inflation to peak to the highest level in 40 years, job losses and unemployment peaking. But all of this is not really true.

Actually, Biden has inherited a legacy of bad economic management from Trump who refused to close down establishments and work spaces during the Covid-19 pandemic causing loss of lives and livelihood.

A BBC investigation showed that Biden succeeded in increasing the employment situation by adding 60,000 jobs a month in 2021 against both former President Bill Clinton and Trump, both of whom added only 30,000 jobs a month during their presidency, economic analysts say.

Biden is very strong on restoration of women's abortion rights overturned by the Supreme Court some months ago as it scrapped the 1973 Roe vs Wade judgement that upheld abortion rights of women for a good 39 years.

Russians said to be clearing Ukrainian region's hospitals

■ KYIV

Russian troops moved large numbers of sick and wounded comrades from hospitals in southern Ukraine's Kherson region, Ukrainian military officials reported on Saturday as their forces fought to retake a province overrun by invading soldiers early in the war.

Kremlin-installed authorities in the mostly Russian-occupied region previously urged civilians to leave the city of Kherson, the region's capital.

The Moscow-appointed authorities in Kherson also were reported this week to have rejected tens of thousands of residents who fled to other Russia-held areas ahead of an expected Ukrainian advance.

"The so-called evacuation of invaders from the temporarily occupied territory of the Kherson region, including from medical institutions, continues," the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said in a morning update.

"All equipment and medicines are being removed from Kherson hospitals."

The military's claims could not be independently verified. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a nightly video address Friday that the Russians were "dismantling the entire health care system" in Kherson and other occupied areas.

"The occupiers have decided to close medical institutions



in the cities, take away equipment, ambulances. Just everything," Zelenskyy said.

"They put pressure on the doctors who still remained in the occupied areas for them to move to the territory of Russia."

Kherson is one of four regions of Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed last month and where he subsequently declared martial law. The others are Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.

Elsewhere on Saturday, at least two Russian ships suffered damage in a major port in Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Moscow in 2014.

Ukraine and Russia offered different versions of what happened and who was to blame.

The Russian Defence Ministry said two ships received "minor damage" during an alleged Ukrainian drone attack on navy and civilian vessels

docked in Sevastopol at 4.20 am. The city, Crimea's largest, hosts the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

The ministry said 16 drones were used in the attack and that Russian forces had "repelled" them.

Earlier Saturday, the Kremlin-installed governor of Sevastopol reported an "ongoing" drone attack.

An adviser to Ukraine's Interior Ministry gave a conflicting account, claiming that that "careless handling of explosives" had caused blasts on four warships in Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

Anton Gerashchenko wrote on Telegram that the vessels included a frigate, a landing ship and a ship that carried cruise missiles used in a deadly July attack on a western Ukrainian city.

Neither side's claim could be immediately verified.

Brazil's Bolsonaro, Lula face off in last debate before vote

■ SAO PAULO (BRAZIL)

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva faced off in a final debate before their runoff election on Sunday, focusing mainly on economic hardships.

It is an issue that could sway some of the few undecided voters in the tight race between the far-right incumbent and the leftist challenger who clashed Friday night in a broadcast on the nation's biggest TV network.

Da Silva, who leads in opinion polls as he seeks to return to the job he held from 2003 to 2010, once more pledged to boost spending on the poor, though he did not outline a clear plan on how he would achieve that. He also highlighted that Bolsonaro's government hasn't yet provided an increase to the minimum wage above inflation.

"This man governed for four years and there was not 1



per cent of a real increase," da Silva said at the TV Globo debate in Rio de Janeiro, which lasted 2½ hours. He said the minimum wage is now worth less than when Bolsonaro was inaugurated.

Bolsonaro quickly promised to lift the minimum wage from USD 229 a month to USD 265 next year, though that wasn't included in his 2023 budget proposal sent to Congress. He said the economic downturn that accompanied the COVID-19 pandemic prevented a minimum wage boost, but pointed to firming economic activity.

"We did better than you would have done," the president said to da Silva. "We are ready to take off. We have one of the world's best economies now."

Mario Sérgio Lima, a senior Brazil analyst for Medley Global Advisors, said the final debate probably would not sway many voters to cast their votes for either candidate.

"Bolsonaro needed to score a big win ... He didn't do very well among focus groups of undecided voters nor in online mentions," Lima said, referring to surveys published online in real-time by pollsters.

6 kids killed in apparent murder-suicide in US



■ WASHINGTON

Six children aged one to 13 were killed in an apparent murder-suicide in the US state of Oklahoma, police said.

The bodies were recovered from a residence in Broken Arrow, a suburban city about 15 miles southeast of downtown Tulsa, reports Xinhua news agency.

Two adult suspects were also found deceased in the home, Broken Arrow Police Chief Brandon Berryhill said at a news conference on Friday, adding that guns have also

been recovered.

"At this time we do not believe that any of the victims died from the fire, however the final determination for the cause of death will be made by the medical examiner," Broken Arrow Fire Chief Jeremy Moore said.

A blaze erupted on Thursday afternoon in the rear of the home, and fire crews responded within minutes and found the bodies inside, said Moore.

The victims have not been identified and a probe is underway to determine the exact cause of death.

Pelosi attack highlights rising threats to lawmakers

■ WASHINGTON

It's something that goes along with being a member of Congress, no matter your party or your status: constant threats to your life, and the unshakable feeling that they're only getting worse.

In the almost two years since the Capitol insurrection, in which supporters of former President Donald Trump broke into the Capitol and hunted House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and members of Congress, threats to lawmakers and their families have increased sharply.

Early Friday, an assailant looking for Pelosi broke into her San Francisco home and used a hammer to attack her husband Paul, who suffered blunt-force injuries and was hospitalised.

It is, in fact, getting worse: The U.S. Capitol Police investigated almost 10,000 threats to members last year, more than twice the number from four years earlier.



We are 100%, completely vulnerable and the risks are increasing," says Illinois Rep. Mike Quigley, a Chicago-area Democrat. "If someone wants to harm you, they know where you live, they know where you work."

Lawmakers have pressured congressional leaders and the Capitol Police for better security, especially for their families and their homes outside of Washington. They have made some progress, with security officials promising to pay for upgrades to certain security systems and an increased Capitol Police presence outside Washington.



2 explosions rock Somalia's capital, leaving 'scores' dead

■ MOGADISHU

Two car bombs exploded Saturday at a busy junction in Somalia's capital near key government offices, leaving "scores of civilian casualties," police told state media. The attack came five years after a massive blast at the same location.

The Somalia National News Agency cited national police spokesman Sadiq Dodishe on the toll. The attack in Mogadishu occurred on a day when the president, prime minister and other senior officials were meeting to discuss combating violent extremism, especially by the al-Qaida-affiliated al-Shabab group that often targets the capital.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

An Associated Press journalist at the scene saw "many" bodies and said they appeared to be civilians traveling on public transport. He said the second blast occurred in front of a busy restaurant. Images from the scene showed crushed tuk-tuks and other vehicles.

The director of the Aamin ambulance service told the AP they had collected many wounded or killed. One of the ambulances responding to the attack was destroyed by the second blast, Abdulkadir Adan said in a tweet.

The attack occurred at Zobe junction, which was the scene of a huge al-Shabab truck bombing in 2017 that killed more than 500 people.

Al-Shabab often targets high-profile locations. Saturday's blast occurred near the education ministry, which the extremists stormed in 2015, and the foreign ministry.

Somalia's government has been engaged in a high-profile new offensive against the extremist group that the United States has described as one of al-Qaida's deadliest organizations. Somalia's president has described it as "total war" against the extremists, who control large parts of central and southern Somalia and have been the target of scores of U.S. airstrikes in recent years.

The extremists have responded by killing prominent clan leaders in an apparent effort to dissuade support for that government offensive.

Gunman who attacked Iran shrine dies; guard warns protesters

■ DUBAI

The gunman who killed 15 people at a major Shiite holy site in southern Iran earlier this week has died, Iranian media said on Saturday.

The report came as Tehran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard issued a new warning to Iranians joining the protests that have roiled the country since last month.

Iranian authorities have not disclosed details about the assailant, who died in a hospital in the southern city of Shiraz from injuries sustained

during his arrest, according to Iran's semiofficial Fars and Tasnim news agencies.

Wednesday's attack on Shah Cheragh in Shiraz, Iran's second-holiest Shiite shrine, was claimed by the militant Islamic State group. Iran's government has sought to blame the attack on the largely peaceful protests engulfing the country, without offering evidence.

The unrest — sparked by the September 16 death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of the country's morality police — has rocked the Islamic Republic for over a month. Amini died



after being detained for allegedly violating the country's strict Islamic dress code for women.

At the funeral for victims

of the shooting in Shiraz, the chief of the Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Hossein Salami, called on Iranians to stop

protesting. His threat came as the Guard and other security forces have violently cracked down on demonstrations with live ammunition, anti-riot pellets and tear gas.

"Today is the end of the riots. Do not go to the streets anymore!" Salami said on Saturday. "We are telling our youth, the minority of you who have been deceived, stop the evil acts."

He added in the same harsh tone: "This ominous sedition will bring no happy ending to you. Do not ruin your future!"

Canada confirms 21,810 new Covid cases in a week

■ OTTAWA

Canada confirmed 21,810 new Covid-19 cases in the week ending October 22, according to health authorities.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) said on Friday that the number of total cases and deaths in the country now stood at 4,336,860 and 46,389, respectively, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to the PHAC, the cumulative people who had received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine was 83 per cent as of October 9.

However, those who had in the last six months completed the primary series or received a booster dose with a vaccine was only 17.2 per cent as of



October 9. The country's chief public health officer Theresa Tam said last week the PHAC was keeping a careful eye on the evolution of Omicron variants, which are the most common sub-variants in the country.

Health Canada said previously vaccination continued to be one of the most effective tools to protect against Covid-19 and that getting booster doses as recommended will help protect individuals against serious illness and other complications from the infection.

Sunak overtakes Labour's Starmer in latest popularity poll

■ LONDON

In a poll conducted on the UK's new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's first two days in office, 39 per cent of respondents picked the Indian-origin leader over Keir Starmer, chief of the opposition Labour Party.

The poll, conducted by Redfield and Wilton, asked 1,500 people who they thought would be a better Prime Minister. Some 39 per cent of respondents picked Sunak, up 6 per cent from the start of September, and 38 per cent said they would prefer Starmer, down 4 per cent, the Daily Express reported.

Another weekly tracker poll by Techne UK showed Labour's lead over the Conservatives was down from 31 to 24 points.

Oldest prisoner freed from Guantanamo, back home

■ ISLAMABAD

A 74-year-old from Pakistan who was the oldest prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay detention centre was released and returned to Pakistan on Saturday, the foreign ministry in Islamabad said.

Saifullah Paracha was reunited with his family after more than 17 years in custody in the US base in Cuba, the ministry added.

Paracha had been held on suspicion of ties to al-Qaida since 2003, but was never charged with a crime.

Last year in May, he was notified that he had been approved for release. He was cleared by the prisoner review board, along with two other men in November 2020.

As is customary, the notifi-

cation did not provide detailed reasoning for the decision and concluded only that Paracha is "not a continuing threat" to the United States, according to Shelby Sullivan-Bennis, who represented him at his hearing at the time. In Pakistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said it had completed an extensive inter-agency process to facilitate Paracha's repatriation.

"We are glad that a Pakistani citizen detained abroad is finally reunited with his family," the ministry said.

Paracha, who lived in the United States and owned property in New York City, was a wealthy businessman in Pakistan. Authorities alleged he was an al-Qaida "facilitator" who helped two of the conspirators in the September 11 plot with a financial transaction.



He has maintained that he didn't know they were al-Qaida and denied any involvement in terrorism.

The US captured Paracha in Thailand in 2003 and held him at Guantanamo since September 2004. Washington has long asserted that it can hold detainees indefinitely without charge under the international laws of war.

In November 2020, Paracha, who suffers from a number of ailments, including diabetes and

104 L MT paddy procured in Punjab, 52 L MT in Haryana

IAN S ■ CHANDIGARH

More than 105 lakh metric tonnes (MT) paddy arrived in marketing yards in Punjab, out of which 104 lakh MT paddy was procured till Saturday.

In neighbouring Haryana, a record 52 lakh MT paddy has been procured and Rs 10,000 crore paid to farmers.

Punjab Food Civil Supplies Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak said timely purchase, payment and lifting is going on smoothly in each 'mandi'. All arrangements of 'bardana', labour and transportation have been made.

As of now, the marketing yards are witnessing an arrival of nearly 7.5 lakh MT in a day, and almost all paddy is purchased by the end of the day.

About the minimum support price (MSP) payment, Kataruchak said nearly Rs 15,400 crore has been released directly into the accounts of farmers and another Rs 2,000



crore has been approved and would be released on Monday. Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said the government had set a target of making payment to the

farmers in just 48 hours.

Chairing a review meeting here, Chautala directed the officers to submit a report regarding the compensation of the crops damaged by the

recent heavy rains so that the farmers could get their compensation at the earliest.

He said 46 lakh MT paddy was procured till this date last year, whereas this time 52,47,111 MT paddy has been procured, which is 13 per cent more.

In Kurukshetra, Karnal and Kaithal districts, there has been more procurement than normal, he said.

Regarding procurement of bajra, Chautala said 81,313 MT has been procured by HAFED at the MSP. The highest purchase of 22,223 MT was done in Bhiwani. Similarly, 15,710.45 MT has been procured in Jhajjar and 14,757 MT in Mahendragarh.

The procurement of groundnut will start on November 1. For this, seven marketing yards have been set up in Fatehabad, Hisar and Sirsa districts. The groundnut would be procured at Rs 5,850 per quintal.

‘Indian housing market will continue to remain buoyant’



PTI ■ CHENNAI

The housing market will continue to remain buoyant in the second half of the year on the back of end-user demand, a top official of Sundaram Home Finance Ltd said on Saturday.

The city-based company has drawn up plans to expand into tier II and III cities in the south with the opening of 10 new branches by March 2023 to disburse business loans to small entrepreneurs, managing director Lakshminarayanan Duraiswamy said.

Sundaram Home Finance recorded a 26.7 per cent rise in

its net profits for the quarter ending September 30, 2022 at Rs 50.3 crore as compared to Rs 39.7 crore registered same period last year.

Disbursements during the quarter under review went up to Rs 940 crore from Rs 797 crore registered in the corresponding period last year.

The Assets Under Management (AUM) grew to Rs 10,176 crore breaching Rs 10,000 crore from Rs 9,134 crore registered corresponding quarter previous year.

"We registered record disbursements in the first half of over Rs 1,700 crore driven by

continued growth in tier II and III towns and the strong appetite for home ownership," he said. "The continued momentum from the previous quarters helped sustain disbursements at higher levels this quarter."

Sundaram Home Finance has forayed into small business loan segment where it plans to disburse loans of up to Rs 20 lakh to small shop owners in Tier III and IV towns to help small entrepreneurs expand their business.

Three exclusive small business loan branches were opened in Madurai, Tenkasi and also in Theni recently.

On the outlook for the year, Duraiswamy said, "we believe that the housing market will continue to remain buoyant in the second half primarily on the back of end-user demand."

"There is potential to expand in Tier II and III towns in the South and we plan to open 10 new branches by March 2023. We will also be hiring about 75 people in the second half to strengthen our strong customer presence," he said.



Global tablet market down 16%, Apple maintains lead

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Despite the global tablet market declining by 16 per cent (year-on-year) in the third quarter this year, Apple maintained the lead with 39 per cent market share and shipped 14.7 million units.

According to Strategy Analytics, Apple shipments fell by 14 per cent (on-year) but still gained market share as its higher tier portfolio benefits from wealthier customers shrugging off inflation.

While the overall market fell, Samsung (19 per cent market share) and Amazon (10 per cent market share) led top vendors with low single-digit declines credited to their unique strategies in the market.

Samsung got the closest to positive territory this quarter thanks to its diversified Android portfolio spanning the premium tier with the Galaxy Tab S8 series down to lower tiers with the Galaxy Tab A series," said Eric Smith, Director, Connected Computing.

Samsung shipments were better than expected at 7.2 million units, falling only 4 per cent year-on-year, while Amazon's shipments fell 5 per cent at 3.7 million units.

This was a tough comparison quarter for Apple because many new products were launched in September 2021. Unlike the Mac results, there was minimal carry-over demand from last quarter's supply disruption in iPad.

Apple's diverse portfolio stretching all the way to iPad Pros and iPad Airs running on M1 processors has boosted Apple's ASP to \$483 as users seek to do more on their tablets, including work, school, and play," explained Chirag Upadhyay, industry analyst.

Despite 33 per cent year-on-year shipment decline, Huawei maintained its top 5 position in the tablet market.

Lenovo shipments fell 37 per cent as it faced fierce competition in EMEA and North America and demand in the Windows segment is slowing post-pandemic, the report mentioned.

Date of SIP investment doesn't matter: Study



IAN S ■ CHENNAI

There is nothing calling a beneficial date for investors in the case of systematic investment plan (SIP) of mutual funds, said WhiteOak Capital AMC on Saturday.

According to a study made by the company, the date of

investment does not make any difference as regards returns.

"The study of the last 26 years' index data reveals no meaningful difference between the average return of different dates' 10 years SIPs," WhiteOak AMC said.

In the long term it hardly matters if the investor invests via Daily, Weekly, or Monthly SIP Frequency, as per the company.

All three frequencies end up generating somewhat similar returns. What is important is to focus on investing a small amount regularly for the long term.

According to the fund house, the mid-cap segment is a good investment option for investors seeking to invest via the long-term SIP route.

It added that small and midcap (SMID) segments may offer many opportunities for potential higher growth.

Twitter will form content moderation council: Musk

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Twitter's new owner billionaire Elon Musk has said the social media company will form a "content moderation council" and any major content decisions or account reinstatements will happen after such a body has convened.

Musk's comments came a day after he completed the USD 44 billion acquisition of the social media giant.

"Twitter will be forming a content moderation council with widely diverse viewpoints. No major content decisions or account reinstatements will happen before that council convenes," Musk, 51, tweeted on Friday. "To be super clear, we have not yet made any changes to Twitter's content moderation policies," he added.

Musk has not yet offered details about how his content moderation council will work.

Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal, legal executive Vijaya Gadde, Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal and General Counsel Sean Edgett were ousted as Musk's acquisition was completed.

Within hours of taking over the reins at Twitter, the Tesla CEO posted a series of tweets. "The bird is freed", "Spoiler Alert. Let the good times roll", "Living the Dream. Comedy is now legal on Twitter".

After initially agreeing to buy the company in April, Musk spent months attempting to get out of the deal, first citing concerns about the number of bots on the platform and later allegations raised by a company whistleblower.



Agrawal, 38, was appointed Twitter CEO in November last year after the social media site's co-founder Jack Dorsey had stepped down.

As the Twitter account of former US President Donald Trump was permanently suspended in January last year, Hyderabad-born Gadde was at the forefront of this dramatic decision undertaken within days of the attempted insurrection by pro-Trump supporters at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Twitter co-founder Biz Stone thanked Agrawal, Segal and Gadde for their "massive contribution" to the business.

"Thank you to @paraga, @vijaya, and @nedsegal for the collective contribution to Twitter. Massive talents, all, and beautiful humans each!" Stone tweeted.

Musk arrived at the company's headquarters in San Francisco on Wednesday and had been meeting with engi-

neers and advertising executives. Musk also updated his Twitter description to "Chief Twit."

Musk has promised to transform Twitter by loosening the service's content moderation rules, making its algorithm more transparent and nurturing subscription businesses, as well as laying off employees.

In April, Twitter accepted Musk's proposal to buy the social media service and take it private.

However, Musk soon began sowing doubt about his intentions to follow through with the agreement, alleging that the company failed to adequately disclose the number of spam and fake accounts on the service.

When Musk said he was terminating the deal, Twitter sued the billionaire, alleging he "refuses to honour his obligations to Twitter and its stockholders because the deal he signed no longer serves his personal interests."

Earlier in October, Musk said he wanted to pursue his acquisition of Twitter at the original price of USD 54.20 a share if the social messaging service dropped its litigation.

Twitter's lawyers said that the Tesla CEO's "proposal is an invitation to further mischief and delay"

A Delaware Chancery Court judge eventually ruled that Musk had until October 28 to cement the Twitter deal or head to trial. On Thursday, Musk wrote a message to reassure advertisers that social messaging services wouldn't devolve into "a free-for-all hellscape, where anything can be said with no consequences!"



UJVN LIMITED
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Telephone: 0135 - 2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं. 790

TENDER NOTICE


दिनांक: 28.10.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), UJVN Ltd., Lohiahead Khatima, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. : 08/EE(Civil)/Lohiahead/Khatima/2022-23.
Name of Work: "M&R work of residential buildings of Lohiahead colony for the year 2022-23".
Estimated Cost: Rs. 19,84,419.00.
Date of availability of bid document on website: From 17:00 hrs of 29.10.2022.
Last Date for submission of Tender: Up to 13:00 hrs of 23.11.2022.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website, the tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com
Executive Engineer (Civil)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"



कार्यालय उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिविल), निर्माण खण्ड-सुतीया
उपरो राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
एटिडस सिटी, गाजियाबाद। E-Mail: cd3@upsidc.com

पूर्ण कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
एनद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में सिविल कार्य, विकास एवं अनुसंधान रख-रखाव के कार्य हेतु सरकारी/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/उत्केदारों से पूर्ण कालीन ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
उपरोक्त निविदा 30.10.2022 से 13.11.2022 को 18.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है जिसके दिनांक 14.11.2022 को 11.00 बजे या इसके पश्चात खोला जायेगा निविदादाताओं द्वारा शायपपत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ दिनांक 17.11.2022 को 17.00 बजे तक पंजीकृत डाक/व्यक्तिगत रूप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। नोट:- 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जीएसटी सहित देय अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट www.upsidc.com पर स्थापित लिंक यूएलएस की वेबसाइट <http://tender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।
उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिविल), उपरोक्त औद्योगिक विकास, निरुद्धा-3, गाजियाबाद।



JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F), email-sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

Hue and Cry Notice
Rule No. 712/191
SHO P/S Bagh-e-Bahu intimated that accused namely **Mohd Asgar @ Ashu S/O Manzor Ahmed R/O Chak Rakhwala Udhampur** is evading his arrest in case FIR No. 84/2022 U/S 457/380 IPC, of P/S Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu since the commission of crime.
It is therefore requested that Hue and Cry Notice of above mentioned accused is being published for the information of Police establishments / Public in general having any clue related to the whereabouts / present location of above named accused, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact / Telephone numbers.
Description Roll :-
Name : Mohd Asgar @ Ashu
S/O : Manzor Ahmed
Address : Chak Rakhwala Udhampur
Age : 28 Years
Complexion : Blackish
Height : 5'6"
Eyes : Black
Face : Oval
Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-
1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : ssjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP City South : 0191-2433778
5. SDPO City East : 01912474700
6. Landline of P/S Bagh-e-Bahu : 0191-24559777
DIP/J-10797/22 **For Sr. Superintendent of Police Jammu**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T.No.	S.N.	22-A, B, D & 21-F-2022-23-W-V
1	Name of work with its location	22-A Providing LHS alongwith bridge no. 77 at km. 50/9-51/0 between PT-JSKA stations by providing LHS (size 4.0x4.0 m.) on DEE-RE section under ADEN/DEE. Similar nature of work: Construction of bridges/ Limited high subway with box pushing/pipe pushing method. 22-B Development of green belt at Delhi area under Sr.DEN-V/DLI. 22-D Provision of additional passenger shelter to fill open area gaps on all platforms i.e. platform 1,2,3-4,5, and 6-7 at HNZM station under ADEN/HNZM. Similar nature of work: Any work of steel fabrication or fabrication and erection of FOB or PF shelter or industrial shed or steel/composite girder bridge or Microwave/HT tower of channel Sleepers. 21-F Improvements at sick-line complex including elimination of makeshift shelters & other structures etc. Similar nature of work: Any work of steel fabrication or fabrication and erection of FOB or PF shelter or industrial shed or steel/composite girder bridge or Microwave/HT tower of channel Sleepers.
2	Approx. Cost of work	22-A Rs. 33610436.45 22-B Rs. 2711741.54 22-D Rs. 39875798.72 21-F Rs. 8986888.11
3	Earnest Money Deposit	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) 22-A Rs. 318100.00 22-B Rs. 54200.00 22-D Rs. 349400.00 21-F Rs. 179700.00
4	Completion period of Work	22-A 6 Months 22-B 4 Months 22-D 6 Months 21-F 6 Months
5	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 22.11.2022 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 22.11.2022
6	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. 128-W/280/OET/2021-22-W/V-NIT-22-A, B, D & 21-F-2022-23-W-V Dated: 28.10.2022 2887/2022		
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‘Sumangala Steel eyes ₹1,000 crore revenue this fiscal’

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Steel manufacturer Suman-Sgala Steel Pvt Ltd is looking to garner revenue of Rs 1,000 crore during the current financial year, a senior company official said here on Saturday.

The company reported revenue of Rs 679 crore in the last financial year, the steel firm's chairman and managing director Rajendran Sabanayagam said here.

Talking to reporters, Sabanayagam said the company spearheaded the use of large induction furnaces in 1994 to produce steel belts and it has been the only supplier of steel billets in south India between 2002 and 2012.

The company also forayed into the production of high-quality TMT bars, he said and added that the company installed a 30 tonne induction furnace in 2019 to increase capacity to about two lakh tonne per year.

Sumangala Steel has over 600 employees and manufactures different grades of TMT such as 500D, 550 and 550D across all sizes from 8 mm to



32 mm, he said.

On future plans, the company's president Ashwin Sabanayagam said Sumangala Steel is aiming to enter the readymade steel segment with imported equipment from Italy and is also in the process to set up a modern scrap shredder to process end-of-life vehicles and white goods.

Towards this goal, an investment of about Rs 50 crore has been planned to enable the company report higher profitability, higher EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) and achieve sales of Rs 1,500 crore over the next 24 months, he added.

Upset over poor returns, Guj farmers distribute garlic for free

IAN S ■ GANDHINAGAR

Upset over a sharp fall in garlic prices in the open market as well as in the Agriculture Producer Market Committee (APMC), the farmers are distributing their produce for free among the poor.

On Saturday, Gujarat Kisan Sangathan will distribute 4000 kilogram of garlic in Gandhinagar. Gujarat Kisan Sangathan state president Gajendrasinh Zala told IANS that per acre garlic production cost comes to Rs 37,100 and the per acre garlic yield is 3000 kilogram. Today, the market rate of garlic has crashed with 20 kilogram costing just Rs 150. So, the farmer is hardly earning Rs 22.50 for crops harvested on one acre of land.

His grievances are that farmers are making a net loss of Rs 14,600 per acre. The farmers' long-pending demand that the state and central government announce MSP for horticulture crops too, also have fallen on deaf ears. Sadly, even when the market prices are crashing, the governments are not stepping in to help.

If in this season, the farmers



don't fetch good prices, the cultivation in December will be comparatively less, this will lead to shortage in next year, creating other problems, he said.

According to the State Horticulture Director's official data in the year 2021-22, farmers had cultivated garlic on 26,013 hectares of land and the production was 2,02,828 Metric ton. Reacting to the crisis, Agriculture Minister Raghavji Patel told mediapersons in Rajkot that as it is a central government's subject, he will take up the matter with the Centre to fix MSP for garlic.

Expressing shock over the protest, Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation (GujCOMasol) chairman Dilip Sanghani assured the farmers of finding out a solution by producing value added products and manufacturing it so that the farmers don't have to sell their produce at a throw away price.

PHILLIPS, BOULT POWER NEW ZEALAND TO BIG WIN OVER SRI LANKA

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Glenn Phillips rode his luck to smash a special hundred as New Zealand put their poor start behind to register a crucial 65-run win over Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup, here on Saturday.

New Zealand found themselves tottering at 15 for three inside the powerplay before Phillips (104 off 64) shared an 84-run stand with Daryl Mitchell (22 off 24) to stabilise the innings.

The 25-year-old, who was dropped twice including early on in his innings, played some sensational strokes en route to his second T20 hundred. His knock comprised four sixes and 10 boundaries.

Sri Lanka too lost early wickets but, unlike New Zealand, could not recover from there to end at 102 all out in 19.2 overs.

Trent Boult caused the maximum damage with the new ball and ended up with career-best figures of four for 13 in four overs.

It was New Zealand's second win in three games, with their previous game against Afghanistan being a total washout. The semifinal passage gets a lot tougher for Asia Cup champions Sri Lanka, who suffered their second loss in three games.

The game was as good as over with Sri Lanka slipping to 24 for five in the seventh over.

The veteran pace of duo of Boult and Tim Southee ran through Sri Lanka's top-order with the former picking up three wickets in his opening spell. Left-arm spinner Mitchell



Santer (2/21) and Ish Sodhi (2/21) also chipped in with couple of wickets.

Barring Bhanuka Rajapaksa's breezy 34 off 22 balls, none of the Sri Lankan batters could get going against a formidable Kiwi attack.

Skipper Dasun Shanaka (35 off 32), who has bailed his team out of tough situations, could not do so on Saturday.

It was New Zealand's first game since their win over Australia a week

ago but it did not take long for them to operate at their optimal best.

Earlier, Phillips flat batted forehand shots off both the spinners and pacers stood out in his memorable innings. His first six off Chamika Karunaratne, a pick up shot that went flying over long leg, gave him the confidence to go ballistic and lift the team from a precarious start.

Phillips reached the three figure mark with a pull off mystery spinner

Maheesh Theekshana, prompting roaring celebrations from the belligerent batter.

Theekshana, who impressed with the new ball, was too short in the death overs and Phillips took full advantage of that. The New Zealander smashed him for two successive sixes in the 18th over that went for 16.

The last five overs yielded 67 runs for New Zealand. Sri Lanka's catching and ground fielding on the day left a lot

to be desired.

The only positive for Sri Lanka was their performance in the first six overs in which they removed the dangerous Finn Allen, Devon Conway and New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson.

Theekshana removed Finn with an inswinger, pretty unusual for a spinner, that was too close to cut. Williamson was caught behind as he tried to drive wide ball off pacer Kasun Rajitha on the up.

Stern Proteas test awaits India's top-order in Perth



PTI ■ PERTH

Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje are expected to spit fire on a track that will offer steep bounce as India's top-order gears up for its toughest test in adverse conditions against a top-notch South African side in T20 World Cup on Sunday.

The match in all likelihood will decide the Group 2 topper and India's probable semi-final venue.

The WACA has been the traditional venue for many decades but now the newly-built concrete jungle called Optus Stadium hosts the international games.

While it looks like any other modern cricket stadium devoid of WACA's old world charm, what is similar to both grounds is spicy nature of its track and the good bounce on offer that could make life difficult for batters.

In this backdrop, Rabada and Nortje, two of world's most fearsome speed merchants are expected to pose some tough questions for Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav.

While Rabada will bowl full and get the bowl to seam and swing at 145 clicks, expect Nortje to mix it up with either back of length or the hard lengths at 150 plus speed.

Both Rohit and Virat are fabulous horizontal bat players and the Powerplay overs will be all about how well the hand-eye co-ordination of the top-order works.

The extra pace off the track will give batters that split second less time to react and it will be interesting to see what will be the approach of the Indian batters.

Will they start to attack from the word 'go' or like it has been a trend in this T20 World Cup, play the first 10 overs cautiously and take the attack back to the opposition during the back-10.

While left-handed Rishabh

Pant with his audacious stroke-play would have been a good foil for Rohit at the top of the order, it is understood that head coach Rahul Dravid for the time being does not want to look beyond an out-of-form Rahul.

The other alternative to include Pant is to drop Dinesh Karthik, whose keeping in the two matches has been below par.

The Netherlands game isn't a good enough indication to provide how well Indian team is ready for the Proteas Test.

The last series between the two sides was played on low bounce Indian belters, on which, hitting through the line and plonking one's front-foot was meat and drink for batters.

As far as South Africa's bowling combination is concerned, it will not be surprising if they drop left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi and include an extra seamer in either Marco Jansen or Lungi Ngidi.

The Indian team has played Shamsi comfortably in the past and two spinners at the Optus could be a luxury unless they are looking to speed up over-rate.

Tinkering with the winning combination isn't advisable but with three in-form left-handers in Quinton de Kock, Rilee Rossouw and David Miller in South Africa's top six, Axar Patel's recent match-ups will certainly be in focus while discussing the team combination.

Axar's economy rate while bowling to left-handers in close to 9 runs per over and with Ravichandran Ashwin in the playing XI, it will be a cover for the Gujarat left-arm spinner.

Also Hardik Pandya in that case might bowl his full quota unless India think of playing Yuzvendra Chahal instead of Axar.

But in that case, they will have to somehow get a left-hander Pant in the side in place of Rahul.

Bowler should be credited: Chappell calls for review of dead ball rule

PTI ■ PERTH

Australian great Greg Chappell has called for a review of the laws of cricket, saying if the ball beats the bat and hits the stumps during a free-hit it should be declared dead to credit the bowlers as the game is already tilted in the favour of batters.

An over-the-waist no ball and three byes off the subsequent free hit in the final over had helped India claim a memorable victory against Pakistan in the ongoing T20 World Cup last week.

However, there has been a lot of discussion around why the free-hit ball was not called dead immediately after it hit the stumps.

Former cricketers have objected that a batter bowled off a free-hit would result in a dead ball that prevents further scoring from the same delivery.

"I would review that rule to give the bowler credit for the dead ball if he is good enough to beat the bat and hit the stumps," Chappell wrote in his column for "The Sydney Morning Herald".

With India needing 13 off three balls, Virat Kohli hit a six off a waist-high full toss which was adjudged a no ball.

"There is no doubt that the umpires got their calls right in the glare of the spotlight, but one must ask: is a ball that is hit for six really a no-ball?"

The height of a delivery is monitored



closely, especially in late overs, because it was often been used as a run saving delivery. But it can't be argued on this occasion that that was the outcome."

The next ball was a wide. Kohli was then bowled off the free-hit but as the ball ricocheted off the stumps towards the third-man fielder Kohli and Dinesh Karthik collected three bye runs.

"As for the three byes off the stumps, one must ask: is that really what the tour conditions are trying to achieve? In a game where the balance is already well in favour of the batsman, what more is a bowler meant to do? "If a bowler is good enough to bowl the perfect yorker, as Nawaz did, why does he need to be punished any further? (It is much like NZ being punished for accidental overthrows from the opponents but which cost them the 50-over World Cup Final at The Oval in 2019)," he wrote.

KOHLI'S INNINGS AGAINST PAK WAS 'SONG OF GOD', LEGITIMISED T20 CRICKET AS ART: GREG CHAPPELL

PTI ■ PERTH

Virat Kohli's innings against Pakistan was close to being a 'song of god', the literal translation of 'Bhagvad Gita', and has legitimised T20 cricket as an "art form", feels Australian legend Greg Chappell.

Kohli's knock floored Pakistan in India's T20 World Cup opener and Chappell had no hesitation in avowing that the former skipper is the "most complete Indian batsman" of his time. "The Bhagavad Gita is the holy book which is the synthesis of Hinduism. Literally translated, it means "the song by God". Kohli played an innings that was as close to a 'song by god' as has ever been played in T20 cricket," Chappell wrote in his column for the 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

The 74-year-old pointed out that Kohli's aggressive knock took the art of batting to another level and has actually legitimised the T20 cricket as an art form.

The purists love Test cricket while the T20 format is considered and promoted as the slam-bang style of the game where the batters throw their willow at every ball.

Buttler confident of making semis despite rain woes

PTI ■ MELBOURNE



A washout against Ashes rival Australia and a DLS defeat to Ireland may have made their knockout qualification tougher but England captain Jos Buttler said they are not worried unless it goes "completely out of control" in the T20 World Cup.

The 2010 champions, who have just one win against minnows Afghanistan in the Super 12 stage, now face two tough must win contests against New Zealand (Tuesday) and Sri Lanka (Saturday).

Australia, on the other hand, have relatively easier tasks facing Ireland (Monday) and Afghanistan (Friday) in their remaining Group 1 fixtures. Top two teams qualify for the semi-finals.

"Listen, until something's completely out of our control, we won't worry about that. We know we've got two games left to play. We want to win those two games, give ourselves the best chance to get through to the next round," Buttler said after their match against Australia was abandoned due to persistent showers at the MCG here on Friday.

As of now, all the six teams of Group 1 are in the fray for a semifinal berth. New Zealand, England, Ireland and Australia have three points each. Sri Lanka and Afghanistan have two apiece with the former having a match in hand.

"Yeah, we'd do well to live up

to that one, wouldn't it? For us, we knew, having lost the game against Ireland with three -- the way the format is anyway, every game is pretty much a must win," Buttler said.

"Look, we know we need to turn up and play our best cricket, give ourselves the best chance to win the games and give ourselves the best chance to go through to the next round."

Melbourne is witnessing the wettest October since 1975, forcing cancellation of T20 World Cup matches, but Buttler had no complaints about the situation they find themselves now.

"I don't really have any frustrations. We all want to play full games of cricket. We all do. Naturally, we play a sport that's in the open air, and the elements are a huge part of our game. They affect surfaces we play on. They affect conditions. They're an intriguing bit of what makes the sport really unique," he said.

Vengsarkar, Kulkarni elected ICA representatives on BCCI council

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captains Dilip Vengsarkar and Shubhangi Kulkarni were on Saturday elected to represent Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) on the BCCI Apex Council.

While Kulkarni was elected unopposed as the female ICA representative on the BCCI Apex Council, Vengsarkar defeated outgoing ICA president and former India cricketer Ashok Malhotra. In e-voting held over three days, Vengsarkar received 402 votes compared to Malhotra's 230.

Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy were the first ever ICA representatives in

the BCCI with their tenure lasting from October 2019 to October 2022. The Lodha reforms led to the inclusion of ICA representatives on the BCCI Apex Council.

Former India spinner Pragyan Ojha retained his place on the IPL Governing Council. He beat Vijay Mohan Raj by 396 to 234 votes. Vengsarkar, 66, has administrative experience as he has served as the director of the National Cricket Academy and was also a chief selector of the national team.

"The role is not very different to what I have done before (in sports administration). I want thank to all the former cricketers who voted for me," Vengsarkar told PTI.

hurlled 95mph thunderbolts with an awkward slinging action in the '70s and '80s, wants Bumrah to decide which of the three formats he would like to let go.

"Bumrah puts too much weight on his body and because he plays all formats, he is bound to get injured. It is now upon him to decide what he wants to do," Thomson told PTI during an interaction.

Call it being politically correct, no player worth his salt would ever say that he wouldn't play Test cricket and opt for shorter versions.

Thomson, who himself

CAN'T DROP RAHUL ON BASIS OF TWO BAD INNINGS: BATTLING COACH RATHOUR

PTI ■ PERTH

KL Rahul might have failed in a couple of games but that's not a big enough "sample size" to drop him and include Rishabh Pant at the top of the order, batting coach Vikram Rathour said on eve of the T20 World Cup match against South Africa on Sunday.

Rahul scored 1 off 4 balls against Pakistan while a touch and go leg before decision saw him get dismissed for 9 off 12 balls against the Netherlands.

While Pant has shown a lot of intent as Rohit Sharma's opening partner in the brief chances that he has got, Rathour made it clear that the talented Rourkee man will have to wait for now.

"No. We aren't really not thinking about that," Rathour dismissed the idea of Pant's inclusion for the time being.

"I don't think that's a good enough sample size anyway. He's been batting really well and also batted well in practice games. So we aren't changing anything," he was categorical in his reply.



While Pant is an absolute match winner, it is difficult to fit in both Dinesh Karthik and him in same playing XI. Also with team roping in Karthik for a specific role, there is no chance that the 37 year old will be kept out of the playing XI.

"Only 11 can play unfortunately and I know and understand Rishabh is a fantastic player and we know he can be destructive against any opposition," said Rathour.

While Rathour wanted to soften the blow but it was clear they are not even thinking about Pant.

Pooran vows to bounce back strongly, use T20WC debacle as motivation

PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN (TRINIDAD & TOBAGO)

West Indies white-ball captain Nicholas Pooran is in no mood to quit in the aftermath of their T20 World Cup debacle, and vowed to bounce back strongly by taking the first round ouster as "motivation".

Two-time champions West Indies were eliminated in the qualifiers for the first time in the history of the ongoing showpiece.

West Indies, the most successful T20 World Cup team, failed to qualify for the Super 12 stage, following which head coach Phil Simmons has decided to step down, with the two-

Test series in Australia, starting November 30 in Perth set to be his last assignment.

"Playing cricket is my dream and obviously I have had my test in life as well and this is another test for me," Pooran said ahead of leading defending champions Trinidad and Tobago in the Super50 Cup, a regional List A tournament.

"I am a person that embraces challenges and this was just another one for me. It is not going to stop me. I am going to continue to learn from my experiences and again, I am happy I can wake up in the morning and see that I have an opportunity to play cricket again," he added.



Pooran was forced into captaincy after Kieron Pollard's surprise retirement in May this year and his next big challenge would be the ODI World Cup in India next year.

As of now, the West Indies

have no international white-ball assignment till the tour of South Africa in February-March next year.

"Obviously, we don't know what the future holds but we will take it day by day. Again, it was a learning experience for all of us and this is our journey and our story," Pooran said.

"Time will tell what will happen but for now it is just about focusing on ourselves and how we can get better as individuals.

"Rest is the ultimate (way to heal) and every player needs that but inside it is still hurting as well. I want to use that hurt as motivation and obviously come back strong."



"The crowd wants him to play white ball cricket and comes to the stadium to see him bowl in white ball cricket. It is just 60

balls (ODI) or 24 balls (T20) depending on which format he plays.

"In Test cricket, he needs to

bowl 15 overs in a day. You can well understand which formats he needs to play to prolong his career. And with World Cups every year, white ball formats are no less important," he explained.

But with one ICC tournament pencilled in the FTP for the next seven years, the pace ace wants Bumrah to weigh in all practical possibilities.

"In a player's career, it is only a decade that you can bowl at the top. So more than emotion, it is about what works for you. What makes your career work better and what helps you serve your country for longer," said

Thomson, who took 200 Tests wickets in 51 games.

But does that mean that Bumrah has to opt for white ball formats because that is more popularity in today's time and age.

"It is about what the crowd wants and what he wants. If people love to see him bowl for India in white ball cricket and he can help India win World Cups, why should he give up on white ball for other formats?"

"That he can't play all formats is evident to everyone because of the number of times he is getting injured."

INDIA BEAT AUSTRALIA 5-4 IN SHOOTOUT, CLAIM 3RD SULTAN OF JOHAR CUP CROWN

PTI ■ JOHOR BAHRU (MALAYSIA)

Two-time champions India defeated Australia 5-4 in a nail-biting penalty shootout to reclaim the Sultan of Johor Cup crown, breaking their five-year-old title jinx here on Saturday.

The teams were level at 1-1 after regulation time in the title encounter.

In the shootout, both teams ended with 3-3 scoreline, forcing the match into sudden death.

As many as nine penalty shots were needed to decide the winner and it was Australia who had the first crack with Cooper Burns but India goalkeeper Mohith Shashikumar kept him out.

India started off with Vishnukant Singh, who calmly lifted it over the keeper and into the back of the net. Liam

Hart then scored Australia's first goal in the shootout, after which Sudeep shot wide, and the tie-breaker was locked at 1-1 after the first two shots.

Mohith foiled Jayden Atkinson's attempt, before captain Uttam Singh won a penalty stroke, which Sharda Nand Tiwari promptly put away, giving India a 2-1 lead.

Up next for Australia was Joshua Brooks and he made it 2-2, but Bobby Singh Dhama could not put India ahead. Australia won a penalty stroke off the next attempt as Brodee Foster was checked by the keeper and Joshua scored without much ado.

Ankit Pal then walked up to the spot for India, and he equalised, to make it 3-3, taking the game into sudden death.

In sudden death, Vishnukant stepped up for India, but he missed, after



which Hart was denied by the post. Uttam then gave India a 4-3 lead with the next attempt, and Burns made it 4-4.

Bobby cut a disappointed

figure on missing his attempt, before Brodee put it wide, and the two teams remained tied at 4-4 in what was turning out to be a dramatic finish.

Sudeep then held his nerve and made it 5-4, while Joshua missed as Indian players ran amok in celebration.

Earlier, both sides looked to play at a high tempo, with Mohith Shashikumar pulling off a fine save early on.

Australia controlled proceedings in the early exchanges, while Uttam and Bobby tried to push India forward. The efforts paid off as India broke the deadlock through Sudeep (14') and went into the first break leading 1-0, much to the joy of fans at the stadium.

Looking to build on the lead in the second quarter, India began on the front foot, with most of the contest being played in Australia's half.

As the quarter progressed, Australia's hunt for the equaliser intensified, and even though India were absorbing the pressure well, Jack Holland (29') scored. India and Australia

went into the half-time break with the score reading 1-1.

Both sides looked cautious in the second half and midway through the quarter, India almost edged ahead with Sudeep but neither side were able to outsmart the other, as the quarter ended with the score at 1-1.

In the final quarter, both India and Australia turned up the heat by a few notches but as the final six minutes began, the score still read 1-1. Both sides gave it their all, but weren't able to find the winner in regulation time, as the final went into a penalty shootout.

The Indians have won the age group tournament twice - 2013 and 2014 — and finished second best four times in 2012, 2015, 2018 and the last edition of the event in 2019.

The tournament was not held in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Satwik-Chirag duo enters French Open doubles final



PTI ■ PARIS

Commonwealth Games champion Satwiksai Raj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty progressed to the men's doubles final of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament with a commanding straight-game win over Korean pair of Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho, here on Saturday.

The world number 8 Indian pair dished out an attacking game and also controlled the net well to outwit the Korean combination, ranked 18th, 21-18 21-14 in the semifinals that lasted 45 minutes.

The Indian pair, seeded seventh, thus reached its second final of a BWF world tour event in 2022, having won the India Open Super 500 tournament in January earlier this year.

Satwik and Chirag, who had won a bronze medal at the World Championships in August, will play the winner of the other semifinal between England's Ben Lane and Sean Vandy and Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han.

Up against opponents whom they have never played before, Chirag was relentless at the front court, while Satwik unleashed his booming smashes from the back as the Indians put up a clinical show at Stade Pierre de Coubertin.

Satwik and Chirag, the 2019 edition's runner-up pair, never looked in trouble as they kept things in their grip right from the start.

The Indians came up with an all-out attack and were up 2-0 early on and despite the Koreans managing to claw back at 7-7, Satwik and Chirag ensured they were four points ahead at the mid game interval.

After the break, the Koreans briefly tried to dictate the pace of the rallies with their returns getting steeper. Soon they were 16-13 up, but an alert Chirag produced a precise return to keep moving ahead.

With the Indians hitting the net and out of the court on a number of occasions, the Koreans brought the equation down to 18-19 but Choi then committed an unforced error to hand two game points to their opponents.

Chirag then sealed the opening game with a precise smash. The Indian combination continued with their aggressive game plan in the second game which saw some good rallies early on. After 3-3, Satwik and Chirag moved to a 7-4 lead.

The Koreans, however, rallied their way back to 9-10 after a slew of exchanges but Chirag unleashed a smash to give themselves a two-point cushion at the interval.

Sankar Muthusamy seals final spot at BWF World Junior Championships

PTI ■ SANTANDER (SPAIN)

India's Sankar Muthusamy on Saturday booked his place in the men's U-19 singles final with a clinical straight-game win over Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeratsakul at the BWF World Junior Championships here.

Seeded fourth in the tournament, Muthusamy showed great athleticism and tactical acumen to outwit Teeratsakul 21-13 21-15 in a 40-minute semifinal.

He will take on the winner of the other semifinal between Chinese Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin and Korea's Byung Jae Kim in the summit clash on Sunday.

In the tournament history, India has so far won a gold, 3 silver and five bronze medals



with Lakshya Sen bagging the last medal, a bronze, in 2018.

London Olympics bronze medalist Saina Nehwal is the only Indian to win the junior world championship title in 2008. She had also reached the finals in 2006 but settled for sil-

ver.

Siril Verma also came close to claiming the title in 2015 but lost the final against Chinese Taipei's Chia Hung Lu, while Aparna Popat (1996) is another Indian to reach the world junior finals in the past.

Marin beats Yamaguchi to reach women's singles French Open final

IAN S ■ PARIS

Rio 2016 Olympic gold medalist Carolina Marin defeated reigning two-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi 21-14, 21-18 to reach the women's singles final at the French Open 2022 badminton tournament, here on Saturday.

Marin, who needed 47 minutes to defeat Japan's Yamaguchi in the semifinal, will face the winner between China's He Bing Jiao and Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying, in the final.

After recovering from an ACL injury that prevented her from defending her Olympic title in Tokyo, the Spaniard won the European Championships crown in April. On Sunday, she will seek title number 35 of her career.

It will be for the first time in two years that the 29-year-



old will play a final of a World Tour Super 750 tournament. The last time she played a final of a BWF World Tour Super 750 tournament was in Odense, Denmark, in October 2020.

In her best victory since returning to the circuit, Marin dominated throughout, varying

direction and pace of play toward an increasingly exhausted opponent.

Yamaguchi had halted Marin's progress to the podium at recent tournaments, including August's World Cup in Tokyo, but this time she beat the circuit's form player.

Tough day for Indian trio at Asia Pacific, Australian Crowe takes lead by two

PTI ■ CHONBURI (THAILAND)

Indian golfers Krishnav Nikhil Chopra, Aryan Roopa Anand and Shaurya Bhattacharya endured by far the toughest day at the 13th Asia Pacific Amateur Championship as but managed to stay inside the top 50.

Chopra and Aryan carded 2-over 74 each while Shaurya Bhattacharya shot 75.

Krishnav remains the top-ranked Indian at 1-over 217 and was Tied 39th, while Aryan was 2-over 218 and tied 44th.

Shaurya, on the other hand, was 3-over 219 and tied 46th.

The field was led by the 21-year-old Australian Harrison Crowe, a first timer at the Asia Pacific Amateurs.

He shot a bogey free 5-under 67 even as some of the other favoured stars, including overnight leader Bo Jin (71) and the second placed duo of Ratchanon "TK" Chantanu-



wat (76) and Wooyoung Cho (74), dropped a lot of shots.

Bo, trying to emulate his brother who won this title in 2015, slipped to tied second.

China's 17-year-old Wenyi Ding, the reigning US Junior Amateur champion, took a strong step towards getting two Major berths as he put himself in contention for the

AAC, which gives the winner a passage to the Masters and the Open.

Cho, tied second last night, had three bogeys and a double in his first 10 holes. He is tied seventh.

Also tied second after 36 holes is Chantanuwat, who had the biggest fall to tied 19th as he had two bogeys and two

doubles in his last seven holes.

Krishnav had a rough start from the 10th, as he bogeyed the 11th, 13th, 15th and 18th holes against one birdie on the Par-3 Island Green 17th. He had two birdies and a bogey on front nine.

Aryan, also starting from 10th, was 4-over after first seven holes, but recovered slightly with three birdies and one bogey in the remaining 11 holes.

"I just got off to a bad start, but tried to recover as much as I could on the second stretch," said Aryan, the two-time All India Amateur Champion.

Shaurya birdied 11th, bogeyed 14th and 15th and then on the second nine, he parred only the first and ninth. In between he had three birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey.

Crowe with two birdies on the front nine and three more on the back nine was 3-under and leader by two.

Three Challenger events for Indian tennis players early next year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The cities of Chennai, Bengaluru and Pune will host back-to-back ATP 100 Challenger events early next year, the AITA announced on Saturday. The All India Tennis Association (AITA) did not specify the dates but it is understood that all the tournaments will be held in February after the Indian team's Davis Cup World Group Play-off tie.

"The dates have not been sanctioned as yet by the ATP to us. We will know soon. This time, UP also wanted a Challenger in Lucknow but mutually we decided that Bengaluru hosts one of the events," AITA Secretary General Anil Dhupar said.

"UP will now host three ITF Futures, one USD 25,000 and two USD 15,000 level events," he added. It has been learnt that Chennai will host the first event



and the second tournament will be held in Bengaluru and finally Pune, which has hosted ATP50 events in the past.

The fourth Challenger, an ATP 50 event, is being contemplated in Nagpur, provided ATP gives a green signal.

"Pune will be back on Challenger calendar after a gap of three years. We are also making efforts to put a challenger in Nagpur but the venue needs to be approved by ATP. However we are hopeful that this will happen," said Sunder Iyer, who is MSLTA Secretary.

The AITA will organise a total of 21 men's and women's ITF and ATP Challenger events, worth Rs 5 crore prize money,

Haaland out of Man City's game at Leicester with ankle knock



AP ■ LEICESTER

Striker Erling Haaland was left out of Manchester City's squad for Saturday's Premier League game at Leicester after picking up an ankle problem.

Haaland has started every game this season following his off-season move, scoring 22 goals in all competitions, but was taken off at halftime of City's midweek Champions League game against Borussia Dortmund and was seen limping the day after the match.

Julian Alvarez came in for his second league start of the season at Leicester to replace the Norwegian forward.

Upbeat India look to continue winning momentum against Spain in Pro League

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

An upbeat Indian men's hockey team will aim for a disciplined effort and avoid unnecessary cards when it takes on Spain in the FIH Pro League here on Sunday.

The Indians produced a great fightback in the opener against New Zealand on Friday, rallying from 1-3 deficit to eke out a close 4-3 win at the Kalinga Stadium. The hosts will be eager to carry forward the momentum.

Down 1-3, skipper Harmanpreet Singh (42nd) and Mandeep Singh (52nd, 57th) found the net to hand India a morale-boosting win. Mandeep Mor (14th) was the other goal scorer for the hosts.

But it won't be easy against Spain as in the previous season, India lost 3-5 to the same opponents in the second match of the double-leg tie after registering a 5-4 victory in the opening game.



The Indians will have to be little disciplined at the back and avoid conceding penalty corners and foul inside the circle, resulting in cards — the way Summit received on Friday — forcing the hosts to play the last seven minutes of the match with 10 men.

India's chief coach Graham Reid knows the potential of the Spanish players and said his team can't afford a drop in momentum in the entire 60 minutes of the match.

"Spain is a strong side and has the ability to bounce back from any situation. It's important for us to keep up the tempo in all quarters and not drop the momentum at any point in the match," Reid said.

"I like how we finished the game (against New Zealand) and the team's self-belief coming to the fore. It's never easy to bounce back from a situation that we were in against New Zealand but it shows the team's fighting spirit.



Palmeiras beat Boca Juniors to win women's Copa Libertadores

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazil's Palmeiras won its first women's Copa Libertadores title after beating Argentina's Boca Juniors 4-1 in the decider at the Casa Blanca Stadium in Quito, Ecuador.

Ary Borges opened the scoring for the Brazilians in the fifth minute on Friday but Brisa Priori levelled eight minutes later. Palmeiras controlled the match after the break and scored with Byanca (48th), Poliana (57th) and Bia Zaneratto (88th minute).

Palmeiras won all its six matches in the tournament. The team from Sao Paulo scored 19 goals and conceded only three.

Brazilian teams have won 11 out of 14 editions of the women's Copa Libertadores. Corinthians and Sao Jose have won it three times each and Ferroviaria and Santos twice each. Two Brazilian teams will play on Saturday for the men's Copa Libertadores title, also in Ecuador. Flamengo and underdogs Athletico will take part in the third consecutive all-Brazilian decider of the tournament.

FIFA REPORT SHOWS GROWTH IN WOMEN'S SOCCER

AP ■ ZURICH

Women's soccer is seeing growing revenues globally from sponsorships, broadcast deals and merchandising, while also seeing greater interest from fans, according to a new survey by the game's governing body.

FIFA released its second benchmarking report on women's soccer on Friday as the sport gains momentum ahead of next summer's Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

The organisation surveyed 30 of the top leagues and 294 clubs, building on the first benchmarking report released last year.

While COVID-19 impacted club revenue in the prior report, the latest survey found growth across the board from matchday, broadcast, commercial and prize money sources. Clubs reported year-on-year commercial revenue growth of 33 per cent — indicating growing interest from sponsors. It



found that 77 per cent of leagues had a title sponsor, up from 11 per cent in 2021.

Year-on-year broadcast revenue grew 22 per cent. Ten leagues reported broadcast revenue compared to nine in the previous survey.

But there's also room for growth. The report found that just 7 per cent of clubs globally reported more than \$1 million in revenue from matches, broadcast, commercial and prize money.

Sarai Bareman, FIFA's chief

women's football officer, said the report underscores women's soccer is a wise investment.

"The changes are clear in the second edition of the report. We know it, we feel it," she said.

"And for me, it's just getting those people that are involved, particularly in the highest levels of our game all around the world, to see and understand the opportunity that sits in front of them. It's facts and data that are often the things that appeal to those people. ... It's not anecdotal anymore. It's here on paper."



Konrad Lorenz (1903-1989), the author of the best-selling book *On Aggression*, wrote in *Man Meets Dog*, "The whole charm of the dog lies in the depth of the friendship and the strength of the spiritual ties with which he has bound himself to man," writes HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

MAN'S BEST FRIEND UNDER SCANNER



Why do stray dogs bite humans? It is important to find out in the light of several recent reports of their attacking humans. Three foremost questions arise at the beginning: Are dogs by nature aggressive and hostile to humans? Is the aggression they sometimes show a response to human oppression and provocation? How does one reduce the incidence of stray dog bites? Konrad Lorenz (1903-1989), the author of the best-selling book *On Aggression*, wrote in *Man Meets Dog*, "The whole charm of the dog lies in the depth of the friendship and the strength of the spiritual ties with which he has bound himself to man." Lorenz should know. An Austrian zoologist, ethnologist and ornithologist, and recipient of the 1973 Nobel Prize in Physiology of Medicine along with Nikolaas Tinbergen and Karl Von Frisch, he is regarded as one of the founders of modern ethnology as well as the study of animal behaviour.

To find the reasons for stray dogs biting humans, one must delve into the history and nature of human-dog relationship from the earliest times. According to Lorenz in *Man Meets Dog*, dogs had already become domesticated at the beginning of the later Stone Age when humans seem to have established their first settlements. The later Stone Age, also known as the Neolithic age, began around 10,000 BCE, which is 12,000 years ago. The period since then has witnessed the evolution of a relationship which has led dogs to be called "man's best friend" and the expression, "dog-like devotion."

DEVOTION AND LOYALTY

Epics, mythology and history offer many examples of dogs' deep devotion and loyalty to humans. In Homer's *Odyssey*, Argus, Odysseus' dog, was the only one who instantly recognized him as he returned home in disguise after 19 years of warfare and travel. Even his wife, Penelope, son Telemachus, and loyal servant Eumaeus, could not do that. The fact that in the *Mahabharata*, Dharma assumed the form of a little brown dog while following the Pandavas in their final journey, is not without significance. Krittibas Ojha's Bengali translation of the *Ramayana*, relates how Ram, ruling in Ayodhya following his return from his victory over Ravana, punished, on the complaint of a street dog, a *sanyasin* for hitting it on the head with a stick. More, the punishment was what the dog had wanted. In comparatively recent history, Shivaji's dog, Waghya, who was by his side in every battle he fought, jumped on to his funeral pyre as he was being cremated following his death. Two memorials stand next to each other in Raigad fort—the larger one for Shivaji and the smaller for Waghya. Dogs are often prepared to die for humans they love. JN Gupta, a member of the Indian Civil Service, was commissioner of Burdwan division in Bengal in the early 1920s. His official residence was at a place called Chinsurah on the Ganges, in which he bathed every day. One evening, a crocodile moved to attack him. While the others

watched in horror from the shore, a stray dog, whom he fed occasionally, jumped on the head of the crocodile. This disoriented the latter so much that Gupta could wade ashore, where the stray dog joined him with a leap. Thenceforward, he became a much-loved member of the Gupta family. In *Drawing the Line: Science and the Case for Animal Rights*, Steven M Wise, founder and president of the United States-based Nonhuman Rights Project, and one of the world's foremost scholar of jurisprudence pertaining to animal issues, cited the instance of the primatologist, Roger Fout's dog, Brownie, diving under the family's backing pick-up truck which was about to hit his nine-year-old brother Ed. He quotes Fout, who was then four years old, as writing subsequently that not a family member "doubted for a while that Brownie had sacrificed her own life to save my brother."

PROTECTING CHILDREN

Protecting children and babies is an instinct with dogs. On 25 May, 1996, the Bengali daily, *Aajkaal*, published from Kolkata, carried on its front page a report, by Pinaki Majumdar, along with a photograph by Tapan Mukherjee, of three stray dogs guarding an abandoned new-born baby—a girl—near a dustbin in a Kolkata street. They remained there from May 23 night to May 24 morning when they followed her to a local police station to which she was taken by some local people, returning to their own turf only after the baby was taken to a home by car. They had not even gone to look for food in the interim. In Tumkur, Karnataka, three dogs saved the life of a new-born baby abandoned by its mother in Devarayanadurga reserved forest. According to a report in the Bangalore edition of *The New Indian Express* of March 10, 2007, a forest department employee had refused to marry the mother, a young girl, whom he had made pregnant. Fearing social ostracization, the mother, accompanied by a person whom the report described as a "care-taker", went into the forest and delivered the baby. She and the "caretaker", came away but three dogs from the village, who had accompanied them into the forest, stayed back guarding the baby. Next morning, their barks attracted the attention of a man who had gone to the forest to gather tamarind. He brought the baby back to the village and returned it to the mother after finding her. The episode had a happy ending. The villagers patted the dogs profusely for saving the baby's life and resolved to get the woman married to the man who had made her pregnant.

WHY DO STRAY DOGS BITE?

These are just a few examples from the long narrative of warm human-dog ties. Why then do stray dogs bite? The search for an answer takes one to human settlements—cities, towns, villages—in which humans and stray dogs interact and where human and animal psyches evolve. While many stray dogs have referral homes in these that feed and care for them or have animal welfare organisations doing the same, the large—if not overwhelming—majority have to fend for themselves. The search for food takes them to

EPICS, MYTHOLOGY AND HISTORY OFFER MANY EXAMPLES OF DOGS' DEEP DEVOTION AND LOYALTY TO HUMANS. IN HOMER'S ODYSSEY, ARGUS, ODYSSEUS' DOG, WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO INSTANTLY RECOGNIZED HIM AS HE RETURNED HOME IN DISGUISE AFTER 19 YEARS OF WARFARE AND TRAVEL. EVEN HIS WIFE, PENELOPE, SON TELEMACHUS, AND LOYAL SERVANT EUMAEUS, COULD NOT DO THAT



restaurants, roadside vendors of food, shops, homes, and dustbins for left-overs thrown in the latter. They are shooed off, hit or threatened with sticks, or have stones thrown at them at most places. They are left hungry and resentful. Besides, when bitches have puppies, these are often killed or taken away and abandoned somewhere else by people who don't want them around. Stray dogs react to such acts, sometimes in the form of biting. More, as victims of such aggression they become aggressive not only against the perpetrators but humans as a species. Hence, attacks on people who have in no way harmed them but are humans. It is, as in the case of most other animals, reactive and not instinctive aggression.

AGGRESSIVE HUMANS

On the other hand, attacks on stray dogs reflect the intense aggressiveness inherent in the human psyche. Erich Fromm, one of the most significant social philosophers and psychologists of our time, says in his *The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness*, "Man is the only mammal who is a large-scale killer and sadist." He says elsewhere in the same book, "If human aggression were more or less at the same level as that of other mammals—particularly that of our nearest relative, the chimpanzee—human society would be rather peaceful and non-violent. But that is not so. Man's history is a record of extraordinary destructiveness and cruelty and human aggression, it seems, far surpasses that of man's animal ancestors and man is, in contrast to most animals, a real killer." According to Fromm, indulgence in destruction and cruelty can always cause "intense satisfaction" to men, masses of whom can suddenly be "seized by the lust for blood. Individuals and groups may have a character structure that makes them eagerly wait for—or create—situations that permit the expression of destructiveness." Anyone who knows about the behaviour patterns of German Nazis and Italian Fascists or any communally or racially charged mob, would agree. Animals, on the other hand, says Fromm, "...do not enjoy inflicting pain or suffering on other animals, nor do they kill for nothing." No dog has committed genocide, which humans done repeatedly in history. If dogs bite humans, infinitely more numerous humans strike and hurt other humans, not to speak of the innumerable cases when they hit and/or kill dogs. Choruses of alarm go up in the rarest of rare cases in which a dog-bite causes a person's death. No call for killing all humans is heard when a person kills another. Murder is treated as an aberrant act by an individual and not caused by a human proneness. This is because humans have created the moral and juridical order prevailing in the world. Dogs and other animals may have a very different view.

Let that be. One way of reducing the incidence of stray dog bites will be for most humans to cease treating stray dogs savagely. Simultaneously, their population should be reduced to minimise the scope of their interaction with humans. The answer lies in implementing the sterilization and vaccination programme as laid down by the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules. It provides for the removal of stray dogs for sterilization and vaccination against rabies and their return to the places from which they had been taken. The latter is important. Dogs being territorial, neutered and vaccinated dogs keep un-neutered and unvaccinated dogs away from the area and those carrying out the programme can forget about it and carry on with neutering and vaccinating stray dogs at other areas.

THE ONLY EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE WAY

The ABC programme constitutes the only effective and humane method of controlling stray dog populations. In its report, *Technical Report Series 931*, the World Health Organisation's Expert Consultation on Rabies, which met in Geneva from October 5 to 8, 2004, states: "Since the 1960s, ABC programmes coupled with rabies vaccination have been advocated as a method to control urban street male and female dog populations and ultimately human rabies in Asia." The killing of stray dogs serves no purpose. Dr K.Bogel, Chief Veterinary, Public Health, Division of Communicable diseases, WHO, and John Hoyt, then President, World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), as well as the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), made this clear in their joint preface to the *Guidelines for Dog Population Management* released by the WHO and WSPA in May 1990. They stated, "All too often, authorities confronted by problems caused by these [stray] dogs have turned to mass destruction in the hope of finding a quick solution, only to find that the destruction had to continue, year after year, with no end in sight." The birth control programme for stray dogs has not taken off in India because municipal and government authorities have done little to implement it.

(The writer is a senior journalists and author)

DON'T LET THAT STROKE STRIKE YOU



Work-related stress, low physical activity, and long working hours are taking toll on our youth, leaving them more at the risk of stroke than heart attack. The HEALTH PIONEER shares findings from a study published in the journal JAMA on the 'World Stroke Day 2022' on October 29.

A team of researchers has found a sharp increase in the incidence of stroke in young adults, especially among the working professionals. Among young people who had a stroke, there was a significant increase in the proportion who were in more skilled occupations, particularly for professional or managerial jobs.

The findings analysed the rate of new stroke cases in Oxfordshire in the UK over the last 20 years, reflect emerging evidence that young stroke is a growing problem in high-income countries.

"Establishing the importance of known risk factors in young stroke will help to raise general awareness of the need for better control. We also need better ways of identifying young people at high risk of stroke, as current risk models are based on predictors of stroke in older people," said Medical Research Foundation Fellow, Dr Linxin Li, from the University of Oxford.

Stroke is a major health problem that can have devastating consequences. It happens when the blood supply to the brain is cut off, causing the death of brain cells and dysfunction in one or more parts of the brain.

The restricted blood supply can be the result of an artery supplying blood to brain becoming blocked, a blood vessel rupturing causing a bleed inside the brain, or a brief reduction in the blood supply to the brain.

The traditional view is that vascular risk factors, such as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity, play a minor



"Stroke is the second most common cause of death and the third-leading cause of death and disability combined in the world. Typically, stroke is considered to be a disease of the elderly. However, recent data suggest that stroke is occurring commonly in the younger population as well.

"Other than traditional risk factors like hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and hyperlipidemia, some other risk factors are said to be unique to the young Indian population, according to reports. Cardioembolic stroke secondary to rheumatic heart disease is the most common cause of stroke in young in India."

DR SANJAY PANDEY
Head, Department of Neurology,
Amrita Hospital, Faridabad

role in young stroke, but recent studies have begun to contradict this view.

Dr Li's research focuses on multiple types of stroke, such as ischaemic



"This is to be expected given the changing lifestyle worsen by low physical activity and consuming junk food. Cases of stroke have grown four times in the past 30 years. So, if a person adopts a healthy lifestyle, they will reduce the chances of such health complications. Besides, habits such as consuming good food and taking adequate rest also result in a healthier body and a healthier brain, thereby reducing the risk of stroke."

DR RAJINDER K DHAMIJA
Neurologist and Director of Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, Delhi

A stroke, also known as a brain attack, occurs when the blood supply to the brain gets blocked or a blood vessel in the brain bursts. According to doctors, strokes lead to damage or death of parts of the brain and this condition can cause lasting brain damage, long-term disability, or even death.

According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a stroke is a serious medical condition that requires emergency care. The CDC also stresses that when the flow of blood to the brain gets blocked, due to the absence of oxygen the brain cells start to die within minutes.

strokes, caused by a blockage of arteries, 'mini-strokes' (transient ischaemic attacks) and bleeding in the brain (intracerebral haemorrhage and sub-arachnoid haemorrhage).

The researchers found that between 2002-2010 and 2010-2018, there was a 67 per cent increase in stroke incidence among younger adults (under 55 years), and a 15 per cent decrease among older adults (55 years or older).

A similar divergence in incidence was not found for other vascular events, such as heart attacks. "Historically,

we've thought of stroke as only affecting older adults, but studies like this suggest a growing problem in young adults," said Dr Angela Hind, Chief Executive of the Medical Research Foundation.

"Stroke in young adults can have a huge impact, often occurring when they are starting a family or already have young children to look after, and have yet to reach the peak of their careers. The economic, social and personal consequences can be devastating," Hind added.

Feeling Chirpy: Being Around Birds is Linked to Lasting Mental Health Benefits



New research from King's College London has found that seeing or hearing birds is associated with an improvement in mental wellbeing that can last up to eight hours.

This improvement was also evident in people with a diagnosis of depression – the most common mental illness worldwide – indicating the potential role of birdlife in helping those with mental health conditions.

Published in Scientific Reports, the study used smartphone application Urban Mind to collect people's real-time reports of mental wellbeing alongside their reports of seeing or hearing birdsong.

Lead author Ryan Hammoud, Research Assistant at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN), King's College London, said:

"There is growing evidence on the mental health benefits of being around nature and we intuitively think that the presence of birdsong and birds would help lift our mood. However, there is little research that has actually investigated the impact of birds on mental health in real-time and in a real environment. By using the Urban Mind app we have for the first time shown the direct link between seeing or hearing birds and positive mood. We hope this evidence can demonstrate the

importance of protecting and providing environments to encourage birds, not only for biodiversity but for our mental health."

The study took place between April 2018 and October 2021, with 1,292 participants completing 26,856 assessments using the Urban Mind app, developed by King's College London, landscape architects J&L Gibbons and arts foundation Nomad Projects.

Participants were recruited worldwide, with the majority being based in the United Kingdom, the European Union and United States of America.

The app asked participants three times a day whether they could see or hear birds, followed by questions on mental wellbeing to enable researchers to establish an association between the two and to estimate how long this association lasted.

The study also collected information on existing diagnoses of mental health conditions and found hearing or seeing birdlife was associated with improvements in mental wellbeing in both healthy people and those with depression. Researchers showed that the links between birds and mental wellbeing were not explained by co-occurring environmental factors such as the presence of trees, plants, or waterways.

Senior author, Andrea Mechelli, Professor of Early

Intervention in Mental Health at IoPPN, King's College London said: "The term ecosystem services is often used to describe the benefits of certain aspects of the natural environment on our physical and mental health. However, it can be difficult to prove these benefits scientifically. Our study provides an evidence base for creating and supporting bio-diverse spaces that harbor birdlife, since this is strongly linked with our mental health. In addition, the findings support the implementation of measures to increase opportunities for people to come across birdlife, particularly for those living with mental health conditions such as depression."

Research partner & Landscape Architect Jo Gibbons, of J & L Gibbons said: "Who hasn't tuned into the melodic complexities of the dawn chorus early on a spring morning? A multi-sensory experience that seems to enrich everyday life, whatever our mood or whereabouts. This exciting research underpins just how much the sight and sound of birdsong lifts the spirits. It captures intriguing evidence that a biodiverse environment is restorative in terms of mental wellbeing. That the sensual stimulation of birdsong, part of those daily 'doses' of nature, is precious and time-lasting."

Secret Tips for Flawless Skin

Anybody can have great skin. Just like anybody can have bad skin. And anybody can have bad skin days, just like bad hair days. Only, bad skin days last longer. Sometimes for weeks, which seem with no ending?

A few problems are related to the weather. Let's understand them and deal accordingly!

ACNE

It is an inflammatory condition of the skin partially caused by increased sebum production and an abnormality of the bacteria found normally on the skin. The result can be red and enlarged patches on the skin, whiteheads or blackheads in monsoon. The oily activity on skin is more and can produce rash and pimples. Use some homemade facepacks to remove excessive oils from the surface and keep face glowing and smooth: fuller earth based packs with curd shall be best for oily and combinations skin types. Also, applying antibacterial creams like Benzoyl Peroxide 2.5%-5%, Nadiifloxacin etc shall also help. But avoid the condition with a few tips like washing the face 4-5 times a day with a gentle soap free cleanser, drinking 3-4 Liters of water during monsoons will definitely help. Also, switch to a non comedogenic, gel-based sunscreen during this season to maintain your flawless beauty. A mild face wash is good for the face. You can also opt for some home remedy like a mixture of gram flour, rose water and milk. Apply evenly on the face and wash off after 15 -20 minutes. Always follow your cleansing, toning and moisturizing routine to keep your skin youthful and bright. Cleansing should be followed by toning



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Senior Dermatologist
Centre for Skin & Hair Pvt Ltd

using an alcohol-free toner. This is helpful since increased humidity could open up your pores.

HAIR CARE

Never let your hair get wet in the rain. Pollution, suspended particles in the air especially few dangerous acids which are suspected to be there in the rain now at certain times can settle on your scalp. Hence, the itchy feeling, after getting wet in the rain. Always cover your hair with cheerful and colourful umbrellas or raincoats. Combined effect of sun heats and humidity can damage your hair. Keep your hairstyles simple and easy. Elaborate hairstyles are more difficult to manage. Using bangs and layered hairstyles are best. Using an Anti Dandruff shampoo once a week will also help. Do not comb wet hair. Also do not tie your hair tightly as it may lead to breakage.

FUNGAL INFECTIONS

A fungus thrives in humidity -- wet skin folds rubbing against each other get macerated easily, providing easy entry to fungi and yeast. As a result, you develop itchy, circular, reddish, flaking patches on the body, especially in skin folds at the groin (Jock

Itch), underarms and around the breast in women.

Fungal infections can also affect your feet, especially if closed shoes are worn all day. Staying dry is the best way to avoid them. Carry a set of dry clothes and footwear to the office and change immediately if you've gotten drenched on your way.

Once you are at your desk, take your shoes and socks off to allow air circulation around your feet. Wear sandals or floaters as far as possible. Use plenty of dusting talc to prevent accumulation of sweat and moisture in skin folds. Those prone to repeated fungal infections can use medicated powders like Absorb, Tyza, Mycoderm C, Candid, etc.

Athlete's Foot is a combined bacterial and fungal infection. Starting from the toes, the skin turns whitish or greenish itches terribly and may even be a foul-smelling discharge or pus seeing the state of our city with exposure to a lot of grime and muck Athlete's foot is quite common. Prevent this by keeping feet as dry as possible. If the water is dirty, it's advisable to soak your feet for a few minutes in a tub of warm water with three or four cups-full of betadine solution in it. Also a visit to a dermatologist is required as an antibiotic is needed.

THERE'S MORE

- From hot cup in the morning, switch to a cool, mint based green-tea.
- Flavor your food with green herbs and tomatoes instead of garlic, onions and red chilli.
- Switch to loads of salads and greens in your diet. Drink lots of water even in the winters.

NTDs: High R&D Investment Need of the Hour

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) like Lymphatic Filariasis, Dengue and Malaria affect one in five people in the world. Globally, the number stands at a staggering 1.7 billion, mostly from the poorest communities. Given the severity of the problem, experts from world over converged at the five-day 20th International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria (ICTMM), 2020, in Bangkok to discuss threadbare the issue at hand. ARCHANA JYOTI, who covered the event, reports.

The ICTMM event (October 24-28) saw the attendance of around 1000 participants from 60 countries, an indicator of their commitment towards helping end the NTDs scourge. The underlining call was for higher investment in Research and Development (R&D) to bring in new vaccines and drugs in the sector.

The event provided the key players in the sector an opportunity to discuss and debate tropical medicine and Malaria including communicable and non-communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases, emerging and re-emerging diseases, Covid 19, Smallpox, drug resistance, parasitology, zoonosis, food-borne and water-borne diseases, travel medicine and other public health issues.

Hosted by the Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Association and Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Thailand, the mega event at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC) was declared opened by Dr Yongyuth Yuthawong, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and the former Minister of Science and Technology. It was themed 'Stamping out Tropical Diseases: The Countdown Begins.'

The participants also focused on opportunities in the post-Covid-19 scenario and the need for more investment in the R&D arena to tackle the neglected diseases caused by vectors like mosquitoes which are rearing their ugly head helped by climate change-induced surging temperatures.

NTDs are a group of diseases affecting the poorest and



most vulnerable, causing permanent disabilities, impacting mental and emotional health and well-being.

As per the World Health Organisation, NTDs include: Buruli ulcer, Chagas Disease, Dengue and Chikungunya, Dracunculiasis (Guinea-worm disease), Echinococcosis, Foodborne Trematodiasis, Human African Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Leishmaniasis, Leprosy (Hansen's disease), Lymphatic Filariasis, Mycetoma, Chromoblastomycosis and other Deep Mycoses, Onchocerciasis (river blindness), Rabies, Scabies and other Ectoparasitoses, Schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted Helminthiasis, snakebite Envenoming, Taeniasis/Cysticercosis, Trachoma, and Yaws and other endemic Treponematoses.

Formally welcoming all the attendees, Associate Prof Pratap Singhasivanon, Chairman and Secretary, ICTMM2020, highlighted the need to improve the current preventive measures

and treatment regimen. One out of 5 people are suffering with the NTDs worldwide.

Later, talking to reporters from the South-East Asia attending the conference, Singhasivanon stressed on higher investment in the healthcare sector, pointing out that of all the neglected diseases, Dengue is the most neglected one, despite its high rate of infections.

Up to 50-100 million infections are now estimated to occur annually in over 100 endemic countries, putting almost half of the world's population at risk.

"The vector-borne mosquito is highly adaptable. It is predicted that the rise in Earth's temperature, linked to climate change, will fasten viral amplification of the disease. In fact, the mosquito is spreading its wings now even in the USA, European and many other countries. More people are likely to come into its grip," he said in the backdrop of reports of recent Dengue cases emerging from France.

On the sidelines of the event, Kavita Singh, Director, DNDi South Asia, shared the status of Dengue in India with The Pioneer. In India too, the situation is grim. Last year, India reported 1,64,103 cases of Dengue, she said, adding that every year, hundreds of people die due to this mosquito infection in the country.

"As there is no specific treatment that can prevent progression of the infection to severe Dengue, it is critical to find therapeutic solutions to this climate-sensitive disease that spreads at a rapid pace," she said. The DNDi has developed and registered nine new treatments for neglected diseases such as sleeping sickness, visceral and cutaneous leishmaniasis, Chagas, and pediatric HIV since 2003.

The research on cost-effective treatment for Dengue is done by the Transitional Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology

in the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. We are also part of the research," Singh said, adding, "However, more needs to be done in the sector."

Prof Dr Prasit Watanapa, former Dean and Consultant at the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, which is working with global bodies to tackle NTDs, especially Dengue fever, echoed similar sentiments. He lamented that NTDs are largely ignored by mainstream medical science because they do not represent clear viable commercial markets for the private sector. "This continues to hinder the progress in medical research and development, and therapeutic solutions."

Filaria disease head (DNDi) Dr Sabine Specht talked about drug development in the Filariasis sector. "New drugs enabling reversal of lymphoedema would be highly beneficial. This has also become imperative in view of SDG goal 3.8, which targets individual wellbeing and thus calls for individual cure and not merely epidemiological "control as a public health problem," she said.

The second generation of Covid 19 vaccine Dengue vaccines as well as novel drug development was also discussed at the Congress. Another focus was on the discussion on Malaria elimination in Thailand by 2029.

The ICTMM brings together every four years thousands of researchers, experts, like vaccinologists, social scientists, tropical medicine infectious diseases and policy makers in the field of tropical medicine and Malaria. The next ICTMM will be held in Malaysia in 2024.

India's green energy goals: Pragmatic way forward

Of late, discussions around the greenhouse gases have become very important in the context of climate change and global warming. Several developed and developing nations have already declared or are in the process of firming up the timelines to achieve “net zero” emission with regard to the greenhouse gases.

The term “net zero” indicates a scenario where a balance between the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere and that removed from the atmosphere by various means (including capture) is achieved. Although such a situation is highly idealistic, wholehearted efforts are needed from all the advanced countries to make meaningful progress. At the same time, it is imperative that different countries firm up different timelines in this regard, based on the current level of preparedness and more importantly the access to the necessary resources.

In the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) held between October 31 and November 12 in Glasgow last year, India promised to reduce its emissions to net zero by 2070. China announced plans to attain carbon neutrality by 2060, while the US and the EU declared their goals aiming to reach net zero by 2050.

India recently updated the first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under Paris Agreement (2021-2030) declared earlier in 2015, and communicated the revised NDCs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in August 2022. The revised version clearly articulates India's key internal goals towards achieving “net zero”. The country aims “to adopt a climate friendly and a cleaner path than the one followed hitherto by others at corresponding



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel at the launch of Mission Life, where “life” is an acronym for “lifestyle for environment,” in Kevadia, Gujarat, on October 20, 2022

level of economic development”. India also has committed “to reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030, from 2005 level”. Further, the country aspires to achieve “about 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030”, which will involve transfer of technology from the advanced nations and assistance of low-cost international finance, including Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Since attaining the goal of a global transition such as the net zero is going to be gigantic and will have large-scale impact on the global economy, the sustainable pathways towards achieving the overarching targets need to be

charted out.

Such a transition has many dimensions involving technological, environmental as well as socio-economic nuances which pan out differently in a country-specific manner. Therefore, any country should be cautious and pragmatic before envisaging a disruptive change in the incumbent infrastructure, and a system view approach needs to be adopted to understand the impact of the changes in an integrated manner.

From the latest NDC, it is quite evident that India's approach towards addressing “net zero” is heavily reliant on the “Green Energy”, aimed primarily at reducing the CO2 emissions. It is noteworthy that in 2021 the power sector

alone accounted for 49 per cent of the total CO2 emissions in India.

On the other hand, India's transport sector contributes to 13.2 per cent of the country's total CO2 emissions, of which more 90 per cent emissions can be attributed to the road transport sector alone (comprising both passenger and freight transport).

Thus, the country is looking for measures to reduce CO2 emissions from these two sectors. While the renewable energy sources such as solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind energy are being high priority among the various non-fossil energy sources, the electric vehicles (EVs) have been enjoying strong push through several government support schemes

and e-mobility is often touted as the mainstay towards achieving a green and sustainable transport sector.

The key issue that is often overlooked while creating the aspiration-driven larger pictures is the availability of resources. To be more context-specific, the availability of the critical raw materials that go into the manufacture of the critical components for the key “green energy” systems and “green mobility” products needs to be identified as the priorities. The intermittencies in variable renewable energy (VRE) sources necessitate the use of grid-scale storages (batteries).

Batteries are also needed for the EVs. Critical materials that are used in the batteries are

lithium, cobalt and nickel. The price of cobalt increased from approximately \$32,000 per ton to \$70,000 per tonne during January-December in 2021, while the price of lithium increased by more than five times in 2021. The price hikes are expected to continue in the near future.

Therefore, the aspiration for the large-scale green transition needs to be revisited periodically to have relook at the priorities and to chart out the most viable trajectory for the transition to a cleaner future.

Further, the new norms brought forth by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) have enforced the heavy consumer durables to become energy-efficient. Two “white goods”

that have great market potential in India are the room air conditioners (RACs) and the laundry washing machines (LWMs), since both of them have a much lower level of market penetration as compared to the refrigerators.

The energy-efficient RACs and LWMs necessitate the use of Rare Earth (RE) permanent magnets in their motor architecture because of their superior performance as compared to the ferrite counterparts. Currently, all the motors and magnets used in the air conditioners, washing machines, and EVs are imported.

The industrial capabilities related to manufacture of RE permanent magnets and customised motors for the “white goods” and EVs are currently absent in India. Creation and sustenance of an industrial ecosystem would require right incentives, uninterrupted availability of the critical RE materials used in the magnets, and demand for the indigenous products.

Availability of critical materials, smooth technology transfer, creation of industry are intricately linked facets of the green energy aspiration of the country. Integration of all these elements will need active intervention from the government and suitable financial arrangements need to be arrived at through close interactions with the industry.

Once the priorities are decided, it would be pragmatic to adopt a business-oriented hybrid model that combines both top-down and bottom-up approaches involving company-level information from relevant segments. Only then the true spirit of “AtmaNirbhar Bharat” and “Make in India” can be realised in a synergistic manner.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)

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RUDRODIP MAJUMDAR

OUTLOOK

Alps in peril! Water woes loom amid climate change

With global warming causing a worrying shrinkage in Alpine glaciers this year, the issue of water frozen up in the mountains, or showered and snowed on them, is growing in importance. Environmental advocates say jockeying for water isn't being addressed with enough urgency; they want the Alpine countries to do more to secure the future of the resource that's been bountiful for centuries

A battle is brewing around Europe's rooftop over the planet's most precious resource.

The crystal-clear waters issuing from the Alps could become increasingly contested as the effects of climate change and glacier melt become more apparent. Italy wants them for crop irrigation in the spring and summer. Swiss authorities want to hold up flows to help hydroelectric plants rev up, when needed.

For the first time in four years, government envoys from eight Alpine countries — big, small and tiny — were meeting under a grouping known as the Alpine Convention, which was set up 30 years ago to help coordinate life, leisure and the limited resources from Europe's most celebrated peaks.

The envoys in Brig, Switzerland, representing pint-sized principality Monaco and small Slovenia as well as powerhouses like France, Germany and Italy, focused attention on October 27 on what's known as the Simplon Alliance. Named after an Alpine pass between Italy and Switzerland, it aims to make transportation in the mountains more eco-friendly, such as by favouring rail over roads, electric vehicles and public transportation over private cars.

But with global warming causing a worrying shrinkage in Alpine glaciers this year, the issue of water frozen up in the mountains, or showered and snowed on them, is growing in importance. Environmental advocates say jockeying for water isn't being addressed with enough urgency; they want the Alpine countries to do more to secure the future of the resource that's been bountiful for centuries.

While many parts of the world have grappled with water woes, well-irrigated and relatively rich Europe has been largely spared so far. Droughts



A man stands in a glacier cave at the Sardona glacier on July 27, 2022, in Vaettis, Switzerland

AP

and wildfires raise seasonal worries, but there typically is enough water for agriculture, hydropower, ski resorts, and human consumption. Swiss children were once taught their country was home to the continent's “water tower,” according to Maria Lezzi, head of Switzerland's territorial development office.

However, factors like global warming, the fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine on energy supplies and economic demands have made the issue more pressing.

Last month, Swiss author-

ities authorised a seven-month increase in the amount of water available for electricity generation from 45 of Switzerland's 1,500 hydraulic plants — hoping to churn out up to 150 gigawatts more power. Alluding to the possible knock-on effect, the Swiss said the move could temporarily affect fish migration, “which could make replenishing fish populations more difficult in 2023.”

Meanwhile, sparse summer rainfall and a punishing heat wave in northern Italy — which melted snowfields and glaciers in the area — dried up

the Po River, jeopardised drinking water and threatened irrigation in what's known as the Italian food valley.

The “9th report on the State of the Alps” — drafted by the Swiss hosts — notes that water supply is a “particularly pressing issue” because the Alps are a huge reservoir of water, which ultimately flows to the benefit of some 170 million people along some of Europe's most famous rivers, including the Danube, Po, Rhine and Rhone.

A draft of the report, obtained by *The Associated*

Press, noted the need for “consistent availability of Alpine water” for industry, agriculture, hydropower and other uses, adding, “Climate change puts these functions under pressure, as glaciers are receding and precipitation regimes are constantly changing.”

“Reduced quantities of water and limited reliability of water supply will be a major issue in the coming decades,” it added.

Kaspar Schuler, director of CIPRA International, a commission devoted to protecting the Alps based in tiny

Liechtenstein, said governments have done well to put water on the agenda but stopped short of steps to tackle the issue — by setting up working groups, expanding research, or coming up with ways that water can be better shared in the future.

“The description of the difficulties is well done by the Swiss, but they have still no courage to really address the elephant in the room,” said Schuler added.

While Alpine resorts and villages rely on water, the major upstream users are

Switzerland's hydropower plants, which want to hold onto the water until it's most needed to power turbines that provide some 60 per cent of the country's electricity.

But the biggest consumers of the water are downstream — industrial areas like Grenoble and Annecy in France, Austria's capital Vienna, and areas around Bolzano in Italy's South Tyrol are likely to feel an impact. The southern Alpine towns, especially in France and Italy with their drier climates, are more likely to undergo water shortage than the northern towns, the report said. “This is particularly true of inner-Alpine dry valleys such as the Aosta Valley in northwestern Italy, already affected by significant water stress.”

CIPRA's Schuler suggested that many have become too complacent about the Alps' bountiful waters — and those days may be over soon.

“Until now, all the non-Alpine countries — the lowlands — were happy that the Alps have been providing so much: landscape for leisure and sports, ski resorts, and the water as much as everybody needs,” he said. “So far, everybody was happy and the Alps delivered.”

“In future it will be a battle... about these resources because especially the lack of water can really harm a lot of people,” he said.

Environment Minister Uros Brezan of Slovenia, which is set to take over the Alpine Convention's presidency, said regional authorities were not taking the issue lightly. “I think the member states of the EU and also members of the Alpine Convention are well aware that water scarcity problem cannot be solved only within the national borders, but has to be addressed internationally,” he said. *AP*

