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MODI ARRIVES TO A WONDERFUL SUCCESS

An elated and euphoric Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced that August 23 will be celebrated as a 'National Space Day and Chandrayaan3's landing spot on the Moon will be named as 'Shiv Shakti' point and the place where the Chandrayaan-2 lander crashlanded on the Moon's surface in 2019 and left its imprints will be known as 'Tiranga point'.

Effusively congratulating the scientists in Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Prime Minister said "you have brought the country to the front row in the comity of the nation"

He pointed to the ISRO scientists sitting on the front row and said in Hindi "aap desh ko isrow main le aaye".

Modi, who was presented framed pictures of the lander on the moon by ISRO head S Somnath, made the sign of a salute in recognition of the "achievement and hard work of the organisation as he proceeded with his address to the scientists.

The scientists received his speech enthusiastically and clapped repeatedly as the Prime Minister turned teary-eyed while pointing to the "momentous achievement" of the soft landing which he said "has made each Indian proud" and see it as "his own achievement", feeling "as if he has passed a big

Modi, who flew down to Bengaluru to ISRO morning directly from the Greek capital of Athens after summit talks, made the announcement that August 23 will be celebrated as "National Space Day" and "Chandrayaan3's landing spot on the Moon to be named as

"Shiv Shakti" point. India did the soft landing on August 23 and thus achieved the recognition as the first country in the world to successfully go to the southern side of the lunar surface which is yet not explored by the

Chandrayaan-3 mission as an Minister said while addressing Chandrayaan is resonating period of the 21st century, the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at success of Chandrayaan-3 Mission, at ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru on Saturday. ISRO Chief S Somanath is also seen

'extraordinary moment' in the history of India's space programme, he also declared that place where the Chandrayaan-2 lander crashlanded on the Moon's surface in 2019 and left its imprints would be known as "Tiranga point."

There is a scientific tradition of naming the location of a touchdown. India has decided to name the lunar where Chandrayaan-3 landed. The place where Vikram lander descended will be known as Shiv Shakti point," announced the Prime Minister as the scientific community, along with the ISRO chief, clapped on.

"In Shiv, there is resolution for the welfare of humanity and Shakti gives us strength to fulfil those resolutions. This Shiv Shakti point of the Moon also with Himalayas to
Terming the success of the Kanyakumari," the Prime to

Team ISRO at the space agency's Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC). The Prime Minister took the occasion to convey the hard work of ISRO to the countrymen.

"From Southern India to the South of the Moon, this was not an easy journey," Modi said and added that ISRO even created an artificial Moon in its research facility.

The Prime Minister credited the zeal for innovation and science among the youth of India to the successes of such space missions.

"Successes of Mangalyaan and Chandrayaan and preparation for Gaganyaan have given a new attitude to the young generation of the country. Your big achievement is awakening a generation of roisino them Modi said.

among children of India and every child is seeing his or her future in the scientists, he said.

'Space technology is also the basis of our PM Gatishakti National Master Plan. This is helping a lot in the planning, execution and monitoring of projects. This scope of space application, which is increasing with time, is also increasing opportunities for our youth,

the Prime Minister added. He requested ISRO to organise national hackathons on 'Space Technology in Governance' in collaboration with various departments of Center and State Governments. "I am confident that this National Hackathon will make our governance more effective and provide modern solutions to the countrymen," the Prime

Emphasising tance of taking the lead in sci-Today, the name of ence and technology in this

Minister said.

lighted opportunities ranging from 'Deep Earth' to 'Deep Sea,' and the next generation computer to genetic engineering. New opportunities are constantly opening up for you in India," he added.

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RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

The Prime Minister under-lined that guidance for future generations is a necessity and it is them who will further the important missions of today.

He said scientists are their role models and their research and years of hard work have proved that anything can be accomplished if you set your mind to it.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister said the people of the country have faith in the scientists, and when the blessings of the people are bestowed, India will become a global leader in science and technology with the dedication shown towards the country.

"Our same spirit of innovation will make the dream of a developed India come true in 2047," Modi said.

After reaching the national Capital, the Prime Minister said the excitement generated by the success of Chandrayaanhas to be channelised to power scientific temper among youngsters to realise the dream of a developed India by 2047.

Addressing a function organised at the airport by the BJP to celebrate the success of Chandrayaan-3 and welcome the Prime Minister on his return from his two-nation tour, Modi said at the BRICS Summit in South Africa and

during his visit to Greece, he received several congratulatory messages over the success of the lunar mission. Modi was welcomed at the

Delhi airport by BJP president JP Nadda and Lok Sabha members from the national Capital, while scores of people had gathered at the function to celebrate the Chandrayaan-3 landing on the Moon.

The Prime Minister also spoke about his meeting with ISRO scientists and the decision to name the landing point of the spacecraft as 'Shiv Shakti'. He also said the point where Chandrayaan-2 had crash landed on the Moon has been named as 'Tiranga'.

The excitement generated by the success of Chandrayaan-3 has to be channelised to power scientific temper among youngsters, Modi said.
"We have to attract the new

generation to science. The 21st century is technology driven and only that nation will move forward which has mastered science and technology," he

said.
"The need of the hour is to walk the path of science and technology with greater strength if we have to realise the dream of a developed India by 2047," said Modi, adding that the new generation has to be encouraged to imbibe scientific temper early in their lives

He said technology needs to be used to deliver good governance, last-mile delivery of services and for improving the quality of life of the common

people. "I have directed different departments to use space sciences, power of satellites for quick response delivery of services with transparency and perfection," he said.

Earlier, welcoming Modi on his return, BJP president Nadda said the Prime Minister's guidance and direction had made Chandrayaan-3 a successful project. "It was a reflection of your

commitment and dedication that you went to Bengaluru directly and met the ISRO scientists who achieved a landmark for India with their hard work," Nadda said. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the

announcement by the Prime

Minister to celebrate August 23

as National Space Day will

remind future generations of India's success in the lunar mission and inspire scientists to achieve new heights. Shah said a true leader stands by his people through every circumstance, and this was reflected when the Prime Minister who flew directly to

Bengaluru from Greece this morning to meet the ISRO scientists behind Chandrayaan 3. The Prime Minister's inspiring address to the scientists in Bengaluru was an ode to India's stupendous achieve-

ment that reached the skies. Shah said in a statement. He said with the historic success of India's lunar mission, the country's scientists have imprinted an indelible mark on



Prime Minister said India has

become the youngest talent

ocean to the heights of the sky,

to the depths of space, there's

a lot for the young generations to do," Modi said as he high-

"From the depths of the

factory in the world.





the sands of time.

The Chandrayaan created history by landing at the South Pole of the Moon

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Mahabali is in new avatar

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

As Kerala is getting ready to celebrate Onam — the national festival of the State the legend of Mahabali based on whom the festival is centred has collapsed like a pack of cards thanks to scientific temper and what is mentioned in Bhagawatam, an epic composed by Veda Vvasa

The name Mahabali finds mention only in Bhagawatam and that too as a small character, according to poet Akkitham Achyuthan Namboodiri, who was honoured with Jnanapeetham as well as Padma Shri by the President of India This has been further sub-

stantiated by K Unnikrishnan Namboodiri, vedic scholar and revered as an authority on Kerala's heritage Rest of the country cele-

brate Onam as Vamana Javanthi while in Kerala, Vamana, one of the reincarnation of Lord Vishnu is portraved as a villain who defeated Mahabali in a war of nerves. The proponents of Onam in Kerala claim that Mahabali

was a ruler par excellence and his tenure was marked as an era of honesty and strict administrative regime. "But what derails this legend is the fact that there was no

Kerala when Mahabali was exiled to the nether world by Vamana "According to historians,

Kerala was created by Parashurama, one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu. "Parasurama was born cen-

turies after Mahabali was

despatched to the nether



world," said Namboodiri while addressing the delegates of Sreemad Bhagawath Sapthaha Jnana Yagjam, a week long integrated programme in Sanskrit on science and technology being held at

Thiruvananthapuram. Both Akkitham and Namboodiri quotes Bhagawatam to prove their

arguments. Mahabali had been defeated and killed by Lord Indra in

the battle for heaven and was

brought back to life by Sage Sukacharya Bhagawatam said Mahabali

wanted to conquer heaven and he was blessed in this pursuit by Sukacharya

"Since Mahabali was blessed by Sukacharya in his bid to conquer the heaven, the only person who could stop from that mission was Lord

The Lord disguised himself as a Bramachari named

Vamana and appeared before

Mahabali seeking alms. Bali who was blinded with pride and arrogance told the Brahmachari that he could ask for anything under the Sun and it would be granted immediately. Vamana requested the King for just three measures of land and the latter asked him to take the required land. Vamana measured earth and heaven with the first two steps and found himself without any place to acquire the third measure," said Namboodiri.

The vedic scholar quoting Bhagawatam said Bali, as an atonement for the arrogance offered the Brahmachari his own head to keep the feet for third measure of land. Vamana before placing his feet on the head Bali gave him salvation and the chapter on Bali concludes with it.

Professor MG Sasibhushan, eminent historian, is of the view that Mahabali and his story are mere myths.
"But there are evidences in

historical records that Onam was celebrated as Vamana Jayanthi. By 15th century agriculturists who belonged to the Nair and Eezhava community started to celebrate Onam as a harvest festival. There is no proof of the existence of Mahabali and the general belief is that he is a manufactured character," said Prof Sashibhushan. Onam has become the

State's biggest shopping festival while Mahabali is being portrayed as a comic character identifiable with his pot-belly and handle-bar moustache. Instead of reverence, what comes to mind is a kind of sympathy for Maha Bali," says Namboodiri.

What could not happen in 60 years, Modi did it in 8 years, says Thakur

Union minister Anurag Thakur said on Saturday that what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accomplished in 8 years could not happen in 60 years before him, referring to India's historic lunar exploration mission Chandrayaan-3 and many central schemes.

He said Modi pulled the country out of the clutches of dynasticism and appeasement, which prevailed for a long time, and put it on the course of development. "We are the first country in

the world to land a spacecraft on the Moon's south pole. It is a glorious moment for us. What could not happen in 60 years has been done in just 8 years by Modiji," said the minister for information and broadcasting and youth affairs



Thakur was addressing a function here organised for the release of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', a book volume based on a collection of select speeches of PM

"A peep into the country's history of the last 75 years shows that it was beset with dynasticism and appeasement but prime minister Modi pulled the country out of it and put the

nation on the developmental course," he said.

The minister said 4 crore eople have got pucca houses in the country and 12 crore women and families have been provided with toilets. Electricity has reached every village, he said.

Thakur said 80 crore poor (DBT) system. people received double ration Highlighting the pivotal for two and a half years during the COVID-19 pandemic. role of youth, Thakur said that the youth of India have now

become job givers. "India has more than one lakh startups in comparison to the world," he said. The minister said the cheapest data in the world is now available in India. "The nation has made its own 5G technology and is going to come up with 6G technology in future," he said.

The minister said India has become the fifth largest economy in the world in its 75th year of Amrit Mahotsav.

Lauding the progress made by Madhya Pradesh, Thakur said earlier it was called a 'bimaru' (laggard) state, but after the "formation of the (BJP) government", it has turned into one of the leading and progressive states in the country. He said, "We have progressed a lot in education in our mother tongue and only in Madhya Pradesh the syllabus for medical studies has been prepared in Hindi."

'Will ensure flow of essential commodities to Manipur' Shah assures civil society group

peace-building, according to a

statement released by the group.

pursued that there will be no

allowance for separate adminis-

emphasised a firm stance against

all forms of infiltration into

Manipur's territory. Measures

are being implemented to reg-

ister immigrants using biomet-

rics, including retina scans.

Stringent action will be taken

against all forms of infiltration

into Manipur's territory," the

statement said. To address con-

cerns about mass infiltration, the

government is expediting border fencing in the Manipur sector, it

trations in Manipur.

The COCOMI strongly

"The union home minister

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured an influential civil society group in Manipur that proper security will be ensured along the nation al highway connecting the Imphal valley to ensure uninterrupted flow of essential commodities.

Shah has also assured a delegation of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) that a firm stand will be taken against all kinds of infiltration into Manipur's territory.

A delegation of influential Meitei civil society group COCOMI met the home minister as well as top officials of the Intelligence Bureau here on Friday where they had long discussions on various issues concerning the state.

COCOMI was encouraged to initiate dialogues with responsible Kuki leaders and groups to facilitate problem-solving and

COCOMI strongly pursued that there will be no allowance for separate administrations in Manipur and the home minister appealed for peace in the state and requested COCOMI to convey this message to the peo-ple, the statement said.

"Ensuring the movement and distribution of commodities in the state can be possibly realised with the support from both side of the communities. And necessary deployment of convoys to secure the highways shall be ensured in few days," it

In its meeting with Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka and Security Advisor Northeast A K Mishra, COCOMI presented the complexities of issues affecting Manipur, including illegal immigration, cross-border narco-terrorism, exploitation of forest resources, and violations of the Suspension of the Operations

'Shobha yatra will be taken out in Mewat on August 28'

No need to obtain administration's permission: VHP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Weeks after its procession came under attack and was stopped in Haryana's Nuh, the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Saturday said a "shobha yatra" would be taken out in the area on August 28 and asserted there was no need to obtain permission from the administration for such reli-

The organisation, however, said it would inform the administration about the procession and was open to discussion on its form and size as "we do not want to cast a shadow on a G20 event", scheduled in Nuh in the first week of September.

The Haryana government on Saturday ordered the sus-



pension of mobile Internet and bulk SMS services in Nuh district till August 28 in view of the call for the procession.

Six people, including two home guards and a cleric, were killed in the communal clashes that erupted in Nuh and its adjoining areas when the VHP procession was attacked by a mob on July 31.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, VHP

joint general secretary Surendra Jain said the yatra would be taken out by the Sarva Hindu Samaj of Mewat, not the VHP.

'Sarva Hindu Samaj has decided to take out and complete the yatra.... We also do not want to cast a shadow on G20 event in any way. We are ready to discuss with the administration about the size and form of the yatra to be taken out on August 28," he said.

He also appealed to people of other areas of Haryana to take out similar yatras in their respective localities and not join the one in Mewat.

"We have given a call to people to ensure that no one from outside Mewat come and join the yatra there on August 28," he said.

Life disrupted in Jammu due to day long bandh

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

been given access to piped water in just three years, he

"The work of giving free treatment worth Rs 5 lakh to 60

crore people under Ayushman Bharat Yojana has been done by

Modji in the last nine years," he

Referring to UPI (Unified Payments Interface) and apps

like BHIM (Bharat Interface for

Money), the Union minister

said that in the world of digi-

tal payments, now 46 per cent

of the "maximum transactions"

earlier, over 45 crore bank

accounts have been opened,

with amounts now efficiently

reaching beneficiaries through

the Direct Benefit Transfer

He noted that compared to

take place in India.

Normal life was disrupted in many parts of Jammu during complete shutdown on Saturday in response to the day-long bandh called by the Chamber of Commerce and Industries seeking suspension of toll plaza at Sarore and installation of Smart Electricity meters. The bandh call was sup

ported by the members of the Bar Association, Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Jammu wing and several other political parties and socio-political organisations. BJP's stronghold in

Jammu witnessed complete shutdown much to the chagrin of the senior party lead-

The lawyers too abstained



from work in all the courts including Tribunals, all Revenue courts, commissions and Forums.

Members of the Bar Association, Jammu also took out a protest march and disrupted the traffic over Tawi bridge in Jammu while demanding immediate suspension of toll plaza at Sarore. Similar protest demonstrations were organised by lawyers in Udhampur, Samba and Kathua in support of the bandh call. In Jammu, members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries also raised slogans during a protest outside the chamber office in Jammu.

Since morning the city markets wore a deserted look barring a few localities where shopkeepers refused to down their shutters. Some of the city schools remained open while public transport was seen plying smoothly during the

According to police, no major untoward incident took place during the bandh. Elaborate security arrangements were made across Jammu to maintain law and order at vulnerable places.

News portal Editor arrested in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Shajan Scaria, chief editor of a popular news portal was arrested by Kerala Police on Saturday in connection with a fake document case.

Scaria, an eye sore of the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Kerala Government for his relentless fights against corruption in high places, had reached Nilambur Police Station in Malappuram district to be interrogated by the Station House Officer in a case in which he is alleged to have played a role in causing hatred between two communities.

While he was coming out of the police station, a team from Ernakulam district which had driven all the way

to Nilambur arrested and bundled him into a waiting vehicle and drove away. Sources close to Scaria told The Pioneer that it was an act of vengeance carried out by the Government of Kerala against journalists who are critical of the CPI-M and its

Nanda Kumar, chief edior of Crime, a political weekly is also on the run to escape from arrest for publishing corruption charges against chief minister Vijayan.

Earlier, the Kerala Police team had raided and seized all electronic gadgets from the office and residences of Scaria. His arrest on Saturday means Scaria ahs to be in orison for six days as the Courts in the state have been shut

'Red diary' hides black deeds, corruption of Rajasthan Govt: Shah

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday demanded the resignation of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot over a "red diary" which, he alleged, contained details of corruption and black deeds of the state government.

Addressing a "Sahakar Kisan Sammelan" in Gangapur City in the poll-bound state, Shah said the BJP-led central government raised the agriculture budget by six times and formed a separate ministry for cooperatives, whereas the Congress had done nothing for farmers.

Pointing to a few people who raised slogans during the event, the home minister said, "I want to tell Gehlot saab that you will achieve nothing by sending some people to shout slogans. If there is any shame left in him, he should resign over the 'red diary' issue and enter the election fray."

"Nowadays Gehlot saab is very afraid of the colour red. The colour of the diary is red, but black deeds are hidden in it. The red diary has details of multi-crore corruption," he said. Sacked Rajasthan minister Rajendra Gudha had claimed that the red diary which he had secured from the residence of Congress leader Dharmendra Rathore during an income tax raid in July 2020 on the directions of the chief minister had details of Gehlot's financial transactions. Assembly polls in Rajasthan is slated for later this year.

Addressing the event, Shah said the BJP government at the Centre has done a lot for farmers and initiated several schemes for them.

He said that during the erstwhile Congress regime, the



agriculture budget was Rs 22,000 crore and the Narendra Modi government raised it by six times in nine years to Rs 1,25,000 crore.

Shah, who also holds the Cooperation portfolio, said the BJP government fulfilled the long-pending demand of farmers and constituted a separate ministry for cooperative soci-

"Ever since Modi ji became the prime minister, he is doing works that had not been done before," he said

At the beginning of Shah's address, some people were seen raising slogans.

Referring to it, Shah later said, "I want to tell those who were raising slogans that if the Chandrayaan mission had been taken forward instead of raising slogans, today circumstances would not have arisen to shout slogans. If the Ministry of Cooperatives had been created, if the welfare of farmers had been done, then there would have been no need to raise slogans today."

On the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon, he said, "A few days ago, our Chandrayaan reached the south pole of the Moon waving the tricolour. In a way, new energy, new faith has been infused in the entire country. The south pole of the Moon remained a mystery. India has become the first country to reach the south pole. It is a matter of pride for the entire coun-

CRPF head constable's hand chopped off by

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

CRPF head constable's Ahand was allegedly chopped off by her husband at a hotel in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar following an argument between them, police said on Saturday.

The couple hails from Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. They had checked in at the hotel on Friday around 3 pm. The woman was in the city for giving a departmental examina-

According to police, it is suspected that the accused might have given something to his 28-year-old wife following which she became unconscious and he later chopped off her hand from the wrist on Friday evening. When the woman became conscious, she called the hotel staff who later informed the police.

"We are verifying the details," a senior officer said.

India a laboratory for global good, says Pradhan

PTI NEW DELHI

ndia is a laboratory for globlal good and carries a reservoir of talent, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on

Saturday. Addressing the B20 Summit India on the theme "Aligning Education to Emerging Imperatives", Pradhan said education is the mothership that will drive all growth.

"India is a laboratory for global good which comes from our civilisational values of Vasudhaiv Kutumbukam .. India's aspirations are for achieving global good and wellbeing. Education is the mothership that will drive all growth and, as a knowledge civilisation, India carries a reservoir of talent," Pradhan

Speaking about initiatives

official order.

in the education sector, Pradhan said the National Education Policy, 2020, which is rooted both in Indian values and is futuristic, is preparing students for the 21st century.

He spoke about the various initiatives such as integration of education and skill, learning in the mother tongue and efforts to achieve 100 per cent enrolment in the knowledge ecosystem in schools, skill sector and higher educa-

tion institutions. "India's strength is its democracy, demography and diversity. India is making rapid progress in the dynamic sectors of energy, agriculture and food security and digitisation," the education minister said Calling it a "Modi guarantee", Pradhan said India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers unprecedented stability and certainty for busi-

Yogi Govt implements self-assessment system in all urban bodies

L ernment has decided to implement a self-assessment system in every urban body of the state in line with its commitment towards the Swachh Bharat Mission and to achieve the objective of making cities of Uttar Pradesh garbage-

The self-assessment will be done in every urban body till August 30 while a meeting to review the progress will be held on September 4.

A mock assessment was conducted in the urban bodies in April this year, which underlined the need to continue the efforts being made towards achieving the target of a garbage-free city under

the Swachh Sarvekshan 2023.
Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Amrit Abhijat, said that the selfassessment would be done through a dedicated Google form, which would define the standard of each parame-



ter for the evaluation of a garbage-free city.

This form will be filled by the urban body. The last date for submission of the complete self-assessment report is August 30 by 5 pm.

The principal secretary directed all the executive officers to ensure submission of the report within the prescribed time limit.

Self-assessment will be reviewed on September 4 (Monday) at 11 am. The process of completing the self-assessment report correctly and submitting it within the prescribed time limit will be ensured compulsorily. Abhijat said that in order to achieve this objective of nagar palika parishad/nagar panchayat, a proactive step had been taken by the Uttar

Pradesh government by start-

ing the self-assessment sys-

It aims to empower urban bodies to actively participate in evaluating their progress and identify areas that need more attention, he added.

This system of evaluation, started in April, will help in effective implementation of the government's strategies

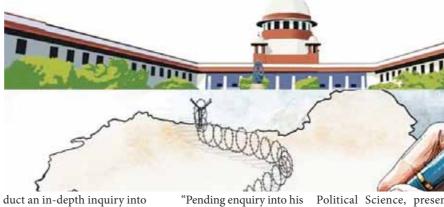
J&K lecturer suspended for appearing in SC against abrogation of Article 370

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has placed a lecturer in the education department under suspension with immediate effect, days after he appeared in the Supreme Court as a party against the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.

Senior Lecturer Zahoor Ahmad Bhat was removed from his place of posting in Srinagar and was attached to the office of Director School Education, Jammu, while a

senior officer was appointed

as an inquiry officer to con-



"Pending enquiry into his Political Science, presently conduct, Mr Zahoor Ahmad his conduct, according to an Bhat, Senior Lecturer,

posted at Government Higher Secondary School Jawahar

placed under suspension with immediate effect for violation of provisions of J&K CSR, Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules 1971, J&K Leave Rules," School Education Department Principal Secretary Alok Kumar said in an order.

During the period of suspension, the delinquent officer shall remain attached in the office of Director School Education, Jammu.

"Further, it is hereby ordered that Ms Subah Mehta, Joint Director, School Education, Jammu is appointshall conduct an in-depth inquiry in the conduct of the delinquent officer," the order issued on Friday read. Hailing from central Kashmir's Budgam district,

Bhat who holds a law degree,

personally appeared before the Supreme Court which is currently hearing a bunch of petitions challenging the scrapping of Article 370 that granted special status to the erstwhile state. The central government

abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

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IGIA OPERATIONS TO BE HIT DUE TO G20

Government asks airlines to reduce flight frequency by 25 per cent

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Normal flight operations at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport are likely to take a hit due to the G20 Summit scheduled in the national Capital. With over 250 flights bound to be cancelled daily, between September

Reacting on the flight can-cellation, a DIAL spokesperson said it has received requests from airlines for cancellation of 80 departing and as many arriving domestic flights during three days from September 8 in connection with the G20 Summit.

The government has made it mandatory for airlines to reduce their flight frequency by 25 per cent during the G20 Summit in Delhi. This decision stems from limitations in park-

ing space at the Delhi airport.
Additionally, the government has appealed to airlines to temporarily move certain aircraft to airports in other cities to accommodate the Summit. The Ministry of Civil Aviation is expected to release official guidelines in the coming days to address these concerns and coordinate the airline operations effectively.

Reacting on the flight cancellation, a DIAL spokesperson said it has received requests from airlines for cancellation of 80 departing and as many arriving domestic flights during three days from September 8 in connection with the G20

"We take immense pride in India's role as the host of the G20 Summit 2023. Current news on cancellations of flights has no linkage to the parking of aircraft. We have already provided required parking," it said in a statement

Further, it noted that the decision on cancellations of flights has been taken by airlines possibly in light of traffic restrictions due to the G20

"So far, we have received requests for cancellation of approximately 80 departing and three days, which is a mere 6 per cent of the normal domestic operations at Delhi Airport. The restrictions will not cause any impact on international flights.

"While we recognise that approximately 80 arrivals and 80 departures may be affected due to these cancellations, we are committed to working closely with airlines to minimize any inconvenience caused to passengers," the statement said. IGIA, which is also the country's largest airport, is esti-



400 cops trained in soft skills will be deployed at 21 tourist hubs

As many as 400 police personnel especially trained in soft skills will be deployed at 21 prominent tourist hubs including airport, railway stations and ISBTs to help delegates and other visitors during next month's G20 Summit.

These personnel, moving in multipurpose vehicles labelled 'Tourist Police', will be deployed at 21 location such as monuments, popular markets, memorials, airport terminals, interstate bus terminals (ISBTs) and railway stations, the officials at the Lt Governor's

The prominent locations where the Tourist Police units will be deployed include the Paharganj and the Ajmeri Gate sides of New Delhi railway station, Hauz Khas Village, Palika Bazar, Red Fort, Janpath and Connaught Place, Rajghat, Humayun's Tomb, Jama Masjid, Akshardham, Lotus Temple, Qutub Minar, India Gate and Aerocity Mahipalpur, among others. Each team comprising one Indo-Tibetan Border Police commando, a gunman and a driver will be accompanied by probationer subinspectors as in-charges, they said. "For every member of the

mated to have around 200 parking slots for aircraft. Some of the slots are occupied by planes that are grounded due to engine and other issues.

According to sources, parking slots for up to 55 VVIP planes will be made available at the Delhi airport and four nearby airports have been idenadditional parking slots during the G20 summit.

While these slots would cater to the aircraft parking requirement during the summit, the sources said that as a back up plan, four airports have been identified where the VVIP planes can be parked in case there is a need.

In this regard, the airports at Jaipur, Indore, Lucknow and Amritsar have been identified by the authorities concerned, the sources said.

Tourist Police Unit, a task-oriented training program in asso-ciation with Delhi Tourism and other stakeholders has been carried out.

The Police personnel manning these Tourist Police vehicles have been trained in soft skill and effective communication including topography of Delhi and its Tourist Places, shopping malls, hotels, transport hubs, routes and venues of G-20 Summit, english speaking course, and firing practices,"

According to the officials, the units have also been provided with booklets on do's and don'ts for tourists, physical and digital maps of Delhi and NCR, the latest fare and distance charts for taxis, list of locations of important com-

and malls, Metro route charts, directory of emergency services and drinking water and sani-

In April, Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Ŝaxena, in one of the preliminary meetings on the preparedness for the G20 Summit, directed the Delhi Police to put in place specially tasked and trained personnel for assisting visitors, tourists and delegates during the event, the officials said. A special helpline — 8750871111 — has been made functional to assist the tourists, the officials said.

In May, the Delhi Police Tuesday released a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for tourist police vans ahead of the G-20 summit in the nation-



Pragati Maidan to get uninterrupted power supply

STAFF REPORTER MINEW DELHI

To ensure uninterrupted power supply for the G20 Summit, authorities are leveraging the latest technology and have installed multiple backups at the venue, Pragati Maidan.

Power discom BSES has enhanced the supply to Pragati Maidan by establishing three separate power sources to ensure reliability. Cables measuring three km have been laid to connect to the ITPO grid, offering greater flexibili-ty, official said.

Additionally, the compa-has installed three 1,600 KVA distribution transformers to serve as a power supply backup. All three power sources for the Pragati Maidan grid now feature changeover systems or multiple levels of automatic backup, said a BSES

"This means that in the highly unlikely event of one cable failing, the power supply will automatically and seamlessly switch to the second cable. If the second cable also fails, the system will switch to the third source," he said.

In addition to these measures, BSES is establishing a 24x7 control room at Pragati Maidan, staffed by 20 experienced personnel at any given time. They will continuously monitor the power supply at the venue, leveraging advanced technology for reliable power supply during the two-day G20

"The discom has also deployed some of the most advanced technology in India's power distribution sector. Systems such as supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA), distribution management system (DMS) and GIS to facilitate real-time monitoring of power supply in the



city, including at G20 venues, and allow for swift restoration in case of faults," said the BSES official. Through GIS mapping, BSES has catalogued all of its distribution assets and consumer locations, including the G20 venues. This will aid the discom in the quick identification of faults and affected consumers, enabling prompt action, he said.

BSES is pulling out all the stops to ensure a reliable and seamless power supply during the upcoming G20 Summit. Many of the venues, including the main venue at Pragati Maidan, are in BSES area," he said. It has spruced up its infra-structure at several venues, including Pragati Maidan, and select roads. This includes sprucing up of over 5,000 poles, over 260 distribution transformers, and around 250 feed er pillars on 55 roads.

A dedicated workforce of 250 BSES personnel has been working tirelessly since January 2023 to complete the network improvements, he stated. In order to deal with any unforeseen contingencies, Quick Response Teams (QRTs) will be strategically deployed at various locations. These teams are designed to be mobile and agile, ensuring swift action in the event of any electrical interruptions.

For reliability of the power supply, apart from preventive maintenance, BSES has done extensive predictive checks to identify hotspots or to predetermine potential faults on its network and to take remedial

Despite sexual complaints, how WCD official allowed to work in department: Min **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Citing media reports on sex-ual harassment complaints, Delhi Minister Atishi has written a letter to Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar questioning how the Women and Child Development (WCD) depart-ment official accused of raping and impregnating a minor was allowed to work in the department despite previous sexual harassment complaints against

Atishi has pointed out that if there were repeated complaints of sexual harassment against the officer, the lack of action taken raises concerns. She sought a detailed report on the issue, including the timeline of receipt of complaints of harassment by the officer along with details of the person who handled them, by 5 pm on August 28.

In the ongoing investiga-tion into the rape case of a minor girl by now-suspended senior Delhi government official, it has now emerged that at least four women previously lodged sexual harassment complaints against him.

The complainants were working at a mental health unit at Sewa Kutir complex at Kingsway Camp where Khakha was posted as superintendent.

Premoday Khakha — a deputy director in the city gov-ernment's Women and Child Development (WCD) department — allegedly raped the girl several times between November 2020 and January 2021, according to the Delhi

His wife Semma Rani allegedly gave the girl medicine to terminate her pregnancy. Khaka was recently placed under arrest for allegedly raping a minor daughter of his deceased friend. "Several media reports

have highlighted that the officer from the WCD Department, who has been arrested for the alleged repeated rape of a minor, had previously faced complaints about



This is an incredibly serious matter. Failing to take timely action only emboldens wrong-

A system that doesn't treat sexual harassment complaints seriously becomes complicit crimes against women.Offenders start to believe that their actions have no consequences and become more audacious. "This puts women and girls around them at even greater risk," read her

Taking a dig at Atishi, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said her letter has exposed the hypocrisy of the Arvind Kejriwal government.

The WCD minister should ask these questions to her cabinet colleague Kailash Gahlot and why he by name sought the services of Prem Uday Khakha as his OSD in March 2022. The Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri termed her letter to get media attention.

Atishi stated that this situation raises serious questions about how complaints are handled and the process of disciplinary action against officers. Which senior officers were aware of the repeated offences by this WCD Officer?" Atishi has inquired.

Atishi emphasised that if complaints of sexual harassment against this particular official were known to senior officers in the Government of NCT of Delhi, it raises very serious questions about how the complaints were managed, inquiries conducted, and disciplinary actions taken.

Delhi Police to hold rehearsal ahead of G20

STAFF REPORTER ■

to Pragati Maidan ahead of the G20 Summit scheduled in the national Capital next month.

Traffic will be regulated at several places from 9 am to 12.30 pm to facilitate the rehearsals, the police said. The summit is scheduled to be held in Delhi on September 9-

Now, due to the rehearsals, traffic will remain impacted on certain roads. Delhi traffic police has advised people to plan accordingly.

The roads where traffic will be regulated are Sardar Patel Marg-Panchsheel Marg, The Delhi Police will on Teen Murti Marg, Sunday hold a 'carcade' Barakhamba Road traffic sig-Murti Marg, Vivekanand Marg, under the Lodhi Road flyover, Shanti Van Chowk, Joseph Tito Marg-Siri Fort Road, Press Enclave Road-Lal Bahadur Shashtri Marg, C-Hexagon, Mathura Road and Saleem Garh Bypass, they said.

The police have asked commuters to plan their journeys accordingly. Commuters may experience congestion on these roads and junctions. Motorists are requested to have patience, observe traffic



Rehearsal for the upcoming G20 Summit 2023, in New Delhi on Saturday

rules and road discipline and police personnel deployed at follow the directions of traffic all intersections, they added.

23-year-old stabs two schoolchildren

New Delhi: A 23-year-old man, suspected to be mentally challenged, allegedly stabbed two school boys in the national Capital. also thrashed by the locals. The injured students identified as Chaman received injuries on the left shoulder and back while Rajesh received multiple injuries on his head, face and hand.

According to a preliminary inquiry, Vinay attacked Chaman (11), a student of SKV School, all of a sudden and without any provocation, a senior police officer said.

Upon seeing the child being attacked, passerby Rajesh intervened and tried to save him but he was also assaulted by the accused and received multiple injuries on his head, face and hand,

Chaman received an injury near his left shoulder in the back. The duo was shifted to Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandar Hospital where Rajesh is still undergoing treatment while the student is out of danger, police said. Meanwhile, locals and passersby caught hold of Vinay and thrashed him.

City zoo celebrates first

birthday of Avni, Vyom

Country will only become developed when every youth is skilled: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Technical Education Minister Atishi inspected the Jija-bai Women's ITI (Industrial Training Institute). The Minister examined facilities such as the Fashion Design and Technology Lab, Textile Designing Lab, Hospitality Management Lab, and Information and Technology Lab. Additionally, she interacted with the students and discussed the range of courses available at the institute.

On this occasion, the Technical Education Minister Atishi said, "Students who are receiving training from the ITIs under the Kejriwal government will script a new chapter in the future.

She emphasised that our country will only become developed when every youth in the country is skilled. Therefore, alongside obtaining degrees, the youth must also become skilled.

The Technical Education Minister added that women's participation in technical education is a positive step towards making them economically independent and self-reliant. She expressed her delight in



was once considered exclusively for men is now witnessing remarkable participation of female students, showcasing their talents.

The Minister directed officials to design outreach plans for the upcoming session and visit Delhi government schools to educate students about the modern courses offered by

She pointed out the lower participation of women in both technical education and technical professions compared to

Therefore, there is a need to enhance the enrollment of girls in these institutions. During the interaction, stuconfidence than their 11th-12th or graduation studies.

They mentioned that when they were in 11th-12th grade, they lacked self-confidence and clarity about their future. However, since joining the ITI, they have gained a clearer vision of their future and their

self-confidence has increased. According to officials, students who have completed ITI courses under the Kejriwal government's Skill University receive recognition equivalent to 11th-12th standard.

This allows them to directly enroll in degree or diploma courses, dispelling their fear of the consequences of choosing ITIs immediately after 10th dents shared that their ITI



tificate. Lal said the committee has issued "multiple notices" to Rajasekhar but he did not appear before it.

The committee then

sought information from services and vigilance departments but their respective secretaries did not provide any information nor appeared before the panel, he said."The committee visited Vishakhapatnam where it learnt that Ankapalli, to which Rajasekhar belonged to, was now a separate district in Andhra Pradesh.

House panel visits YVVJ hometown to verify OBC certificate

The officers at Ankapalli did not co-operate with the sub committee and did not furnish any information on the matter,"

The committee will now

decide its future course of action in the next meeting, he said. AAP MLAs Sahi Ram and Naresh Yadav are other members of the sub committee. As per details available AAP MLAs along with Delhi assemofficer visited Vishakhapatnam by air on August 21. On August 22, they met collector and state magis-

On August 23, they visited Anakapalli by road to meet collect and district magistrate. In June, a complaint was filed against Rajasekhar by suspended DANICS officer

trate, Vishakhapatnam.

while giving the Civil Service Examination in 1994. It was alleged by the complainant that Rajasekhar did not belong to this category.
The OBC welfare committee of the Delhi Assembly, tak-

Premnath that he had submitted a "fake" OBC certificate

Rajasekhar to appear before it to present his stand. Rajasekhar did not appear before the committee, but communicated to the panel that it

ing cognizance of the complaint, issued a notice to

has no jurisdiction in services matters as per the extant rules.

2 minor girls sexual assault case: DCW issues notice to police

New Delhi: Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Saturday issued a notice to city police in connection with two separate incidents of alleged sexual assault with two minor girls in Jagatpuri area of Shahdara.

mittee of the assembly's OBC

welfare committee, headed by

AAP MLA Madan Lal, earlier

Ankapalli to check the authen-

visited

and

week

Vishakhapatnam

certificate.

The panel said it has been informed that two persons in two separate incidents sexually assaulted two 15-year-old girls several times in a hotel. In both these cases, FIRs have been registered at PS Jagatpuri, it said. The panel through its letter

Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) to provide details of action taken against the hotel where the incidents took place. It has sought to know

the

asked

whether the accused as well as the owner/manager of the hotel have been arrested. It has asked the police to provide a list of all FIRs registered in the district since January 2018 till date in which minors and women were sexually assaulted in hotels. "Please inform the status of each

Deputy of these cases. Please inform the details of steps taken by Delhi Police against hotels wherein cases of sexual assault against minors are registered, (sic)," it

The DCW has also asked for a copy of rules and guide-lines issued by the Delhi Police regarding booking or stay of minors in hotels and guest houses along with details of steps taken by it to ensure safety of women and minors staying at such places in the city.

New Delhi: The Delhi zoo on Saturday celebrated the first birthday of Avni and Vyom, the

twin cubs of white tigress Sita. The celebrations witnessed a symbolic cake-cutting cere-

mony, signifying the cubs' role in connecting citizens with wildlife.Senior Union Environment Ministry officials and schoolchildren took part in the celebrations. The event served as an opportunity for the students to gain insight into tigers' importance

the Delhi zoo said in a statement. The children engaged in discussions with ministry officials, sharing their views on the pivotal role of tigers in maintaining the ecological balance, it said. The zoo is currently home to seven Bengal and five white tigers.

in biodiversity preservation,

White tigers are white as they lack the pigment pheomelanin, which gives Royal Bengal tigers their distinctive orange Staff Reporter

9 pilgrims killed in Tamil Nadu train fire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

At least nine pilgrims bound for Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu met with a tragic end on Saturday when a fire broke out inside a stationary train compartment at the railway station.

While various angles including a possible gas leak having triggered the blaze are being probed, railways Officials said a gas cylinder was "illegally" taken inside the coach which could have been the caused of fire. Six of the nine deceased have been identified. They were three men and women each. According to one of the survivors, only after a locked door was broken open could many even run towards safety, possibly avoiding a bigger tragedy.

Droupadi President Murmu and Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee condoled the deaths and wished speedy recovery for those under treatment. Tamil Nadu, Uttar



Flames rise after a fire broke out in a coach of a train at Madurai railway station on Saturday. At least 9 people were killed, according to officials

Pradesh and the Railways announced ex-gratia to the families of the victims. "Deeply pained to learn about the tragic loss of lives in a fire accident in a stationary train near Madurai junction, Tamil Nadu. I express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," Murmu

While the Southern Railway initially put the toll at 10, it later revised it to nine. About 20 people were undergoing medical treatment at a local hospital. The victims embarked on the pilgrimage from Lucknow last week in a private party coach, and most of them hailed from the Uttar Pradesh capital and its nearby

areas. The fire broke out at 5.15 am on Saturday and Fire service personnel who arrived at the spot half an hour later put down the blaze by 7.15 am, a Southern Railway release said. 'This is a private party coach that was attached at Nagercoil Junction yesterday (Aug 25) by train no. 16730 (Punalur-Madurai Exp). The party coach

was detached and kept at Madurai Stabling line. The passengers in the private party coach have...Smuggled gas cylinder and this has caused the fire," the release said. The party coach had started the journey from Lucknow on August 17, scheduled to return to Chennai on Sunday and proceed to the UP capital from there on, it added.

"While the coach was stabled/parked, some members of the party in the private party coach were using the illegally smuggled cooking gas cylinder unauthorisedly for preparing tea/snacks, which caused the fire in the stabled/ parked coach. Most of the passengers could get out of the coach on noticing the fire.

Some passengers had already got down at the platform also before detachment of the coach," it said. The private party had illegally carried gas cylinder, stove and other inflammable articles "which led to the freak fire accident," it said. Among the items found at the spot was an LPG cylinder, bag of potatoes, utensils and wooden logs, giving ample

indications of attempts to cook

Tamil Nadu Commercial Taxes minister P Moorthy, deputed by Chief Minister M K Stalin to oversee relief efforts, said five men and 4 women perished in the incident. The others have been accommodated in temporary shelters and arrangements were on to send them back home, he told reporters.

The Southern Railway announced holding a statutoinquiry the Commissioner of Railway Safety into the matter on Sunday. Alka Prajapati, a survivor undergoing treatment at a government hospital, said those sleeping were woken up by cries of "fire, fire." "We were sleeping when we heard the cries and tried to escape.

The door was locked so we could not escape immediately. Someone broke the lock and we came out. There was thick smoke and I couldn't breathe properly and just took God's name," she said. Railway employees arrived there 15-20 minutes after all efforts to put out the flames were taken.

"But it (the coach) was blazing," she said, still recovering from the shock. Some survivors who spoke to the media said they were proceeding to Rameswaram. In moving scenes at the spot, women were seen wailing, possibly over the loss of a dear one, while a child recalled the tense moments before fleeing to safety.

A local evewitness, autodriver Mannan Prakash, said the people in the vicinity rushed to the accident spot soon after hearing a "sound", but could not get near due to the fire. "Some got stuck inside. They could not get down (quickly) since it was a sleeper coach," he said. Chief Minister Stalin said the victims were proceeding towards Rameswaram for pilgrimage and expressed anguish over the fatal incident.

In a statement, he said he immediately directed Madurai district collector MS Sangeetha to rush to the spot. Arrangements were being made for the transportation of the bodies to their native places, he said. The CM announced a cash relief of Rs 3 lakh each to the families of the victims. "The loss

of lives in the unfortunate train accident in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, is extremely sad and heart-wrenching. My condo-lences are with the bereaved families," Adityanath said and announced Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia to the victims' kin.

Adityanath also said that instructions have been given to authorities to ensure that the injured receive proper treatment. A toll-free number 1070 has also been issued for quick

assistance, he said. The Uttar Pradesh government also mentioned 9454441081 and 9454441075 as helpline numbers. Southern Railway also announced two help line numbers for information related to the fire incident and causalities -9360552608, 8015681915. It announced Rs 10 lakh cash relief to families of victims.

Any individual can book party coach using IRCTC portal. They are not allowed to carry any inflammable material like gas cylinder. The coach is to used only for transportation purpose, the release said, adding senior officials were rushing to the spot.

Requested K'taka CM, Guv not to take trouble to receive me in morning: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday he had requested the Karnataka Governor, Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister not to come to the airport to receive him as he did not want them to take the trouble of coming early in the morning as he was not sure of his arrival time after a long flight.

The Prime Minister had asked dignitaries, including the state governor and the Chief Minister, to not to trouble themselves by reaching the airport to receive him a the Benguluru airport in line with the requirement of the official protocol.

Modi flew down to Bengaluru around 6 am directly from the Greek capital of Athens to interact with ISRO scientists involved in the Chandrayaan-3 mission to the Moon. Addressing a large number of people gathered outside the HAL airport, Modi



said since he was coming from a far-off place (Athens) he did not know what time he would reach here, and he requested Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D Shivakumar not to take the trouble of coming to receive him as he would return soon after paying tributes to ISRO

"So, I had requested them that when I pay a formal visit, they definitely follow protocol", Modi said. "They cooperated and I am thankful and grateful to them," he said. Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra oured," Siddaramaiah said.

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath during a

Command Network (ISTRAC), in

Bengaluru, on Saturday

ing larger sums.

visit to the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and

3 mission historic. The paper

said this particular feat deserves

appreciation as India achieved

on a lesser budget what richer

nations accomplished by spend-

cess of India's space programme,

apart from sustained state sup-

port, is the quality and dedica-

tion of its engineers and scien-

tists who helped make these dif-

ficult missions possible, it com-

mented. "Comparisons are

indeed odious, but there may be

plenty for Pakistan to learn

from India's space success. Pakistan's space programme was launched before India's and

Perhaps the key to the suc-

Modi's Bengaluru visit to meet ISRO scientists, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday alleged that he purportedly barred Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar from receiving him at the HAL Airport.

Ramesh alleged that the Prime Minister was irritated with Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for felicitating the ISRO scientists before him, and termed Modi barring the Chief Minister and his deputy as "petulant petty politics". Siddaramaiah on Thursday

visited the Missions Operations Complex at ISTRAC) and felicitated ISRO chief S Somanath and his team on the successful touch down of Chandrayaan-3 mission's lander on the Lunar The government will offi-

cially honour them by organising a special programme at the Banquet hall at Vidhana Soudha. About 500 scientists from Karnataka were part of it. ISRO Chairman S Somanath and his team will be hon-

SEBI's inconclusive finding on Adani Group deeply worrying: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Saturday upped the ante against Modi Government by attacking its alleged "cronyism" with the Adani Group and said stock market regulator SEBI's inability to reach a conclusive finding on the allegations of roundtripping and money laundering by the Adani Group was "deeply worrying". The party also levelled charges of loot of resources and money laundering between the BJP ruled Gujarat Government and the Adani Group.

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has admitted this in its status report to the Supreme Court and added only a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) can examine how the government flouted norms and procedures to help Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "favourite business group". "The inability of the SEBI to reach a conclusive finding on allegations of roundtripping and money laundering by the Adani Group, as it has admitted in its 25th August 2023 status report to the Supreme Court, is deeply troubling," Ramesh said in a state-

Sharing the statement Ramesh said "SEBI's inability to reach a final conclusion in the matter of round-tripping and money-laundering allegations against the Adani Group is deeply worrying." Congress said the country

is paying a heavy price for the SEBI's decision in 2018 to dilute and in 2019 to delete the reporting requirements relating to the ultimate beneficial ownership of foreign funds. The Congress leader noted

no less than the Supreme Court's Expert Committee pointed out that the reason the SEBI has failed to identify beneficial ownership of overseas investors in Adani companies was that "the securities market regulator suspects wrongdoing' but is "drawing a blank worldwide" due to its "piquant" decision to remove these stipula-

'The reintroduction of strict reporting rules following



No provision in CrPC requires probe agency

the SEBI board's 28 June 2023 meeting represents a public admission of guilt by the regulatory body, even though the horse has bolted the stable," Ramesh claimed.

Final reports on these critical questions are awaited. Will the SEBI do its fiduciary duty and identify the source of the ?20,000 crore of benami overseas funds that have flowed into the Adani Group?" he asked.

The Congress leader said only a JPC can examine how the Modi government "flouted rules, norms and procedures to help the PM's favourite business group..." The SEBI on Friday informed the apex court that it

has completed the probe in all but two allegations against the Adani Group and is still awaiting information from five tax havens on actual owners behind foreign investors investing in the conglomerate.

Addressing a Press conference, AICC General Secretary Shaktisinh Gohil said the grand old party has consistently said that the Narendra Modi government represents the worst kind of cronyism in the coun-

"It's a government of the cronies, for the cronies and by the cronies. No government in the past ever facilitated corporate cronvism the way this the most corrupt government has been doing since 2014," Gohil said."Today, we are presenting some documents to show the classic case of corruption, loot of public resources and money laundering by the Modi's government in Gujarat and Adani Power. Under BJP, Gujarat government is the epitome of cronyism with the blessings of the Prime Minister.

As a former minister of Gujarat, it pains me to say that the Prime Minister Modi and BJP have reduced the Government of Gujarat (GoG) to the Government of Gautam Adani (GoG)," said Gohil.

The party shared a letter written by Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd dated May 15, 2023 to Adani Power Mundra seeking recovery of Rs 3802 crore, excess payment made by the GUVNL towards energy charges for the two Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) the GUNVL and Adani Power had signed.

The excess payment of whopping Rs 3900 crore has been made by the GUVNL from 15-10-2018 to 31-03-2023, for five years.

Chandrayaan-3 a great scientific achievement: Pak



PIONEER NEWS **SERVICE/AGENCIES** NEW

Pakistan has lauded India's Chandrayaan mission and termed its success as a "great scientific achievement." This congratulatory note, though belated, also said the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) deserved appreciation. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch during her briefing on Friday was asked to comment on the successful softlanding of the Chandrayaan-3 mission on the Moon.

"I can only say that it is a great scientific achievement, for which ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) scientists deserve appreciation," she said in her brief response. Incidentally, Pakistan's leading dailies praised India for achieving the feat on a lesser budget than rich nations. Pakistan had so far officially ignored the landmark success of India.

The media, however, gave front-page coverage to the historic event on Wednesday. The Dawn newspaper in its editorial headlined 'India's space quest' called success of Chandrayaan-

TB Mukt Bharat: IAF joins fight

As part of the Indian Air Force's endeavour to contribute towards social causes that foster nation building, the service has committed its involvement in the "Ni-kshay Mitra" scheme.

This is an initiative under the "Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA), implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that seeks to eliminate TB by 2025 - five years ahead of the global goal of 2030. Towards this, an event was organised at the Central TB Division, Ministry of Health Family Welfare on August 23 where the IAF team, lead by Air Marshal RK Anand, Air Officer-in-charge Administration, handed over

lakhs, collected through voluntary contribution, to L S Additional Changsan, Secretary and Mission Director, National Health Mission, IAF officials said here on Saturday.

Through this contribution, the IAF has committed to support 765 patients undergoing treatment in the state of Delhi for a duration of six months. The support will be in the form of food baskets, as per prescribed norms of the central government and will be implemented through a govern-ment-approved NGO.



to file chargesheet in language of court: SC

he Supreme Court has held The supreme court has here there is no specific provi-sion under the Code of

Criminal Procedure (CrPC) which requires the investigating agency to file a charge sheet in the language of the court. Section 272 of the CrPC, which deals with language of courts, says the State Government may determine what shall be, for purposes of this Code, the language of each Court within the State other than the High

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Rajesh Bindal gave the ruling while allowing the CBI's appeal challenging the Madhya Pradesh High Court order, which asked the probe agency to provide a copy of the



scam accused in Hindi. The Vyapam or Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board scam broke out in 2013, wherein candidates had bribed officials and rigged exams by deploying imposters to write their answer sheets.

The probe into the scam that began in 1995 was taken over by the central agency following an order of the Supreme Court in 2015. The racket involved politicians, senior officials and businessmen. The

bench said, "Coming to the issue of the language of the final report/charge sheet under Section 173, there is no specific provision in CrPC which requires the investigating agency/officer to file it in the language of the Court deter-mined in accordance with Section 272 of CrPC.

Even if such a requirement is read into Section 173, per se, the proceedings will not

be vitiated if the report is not in the language of the Court."

It said in a given case, if something which CrPC specifications are the done in the ically requires to be done in the language of the Court is done in any other language, per se, the proceedings will not be vitiated unless it is established that the omission has resulted in failure of justice. bench said while deciding the

ure of justice, the Court will have to consider whether the objection was raised at the earliest available opportunity. 'Thus, the power of the State Government is to determine for the purposes of CrPC what

shall be the language of the Courts within the State other than the High Court. The power under Section 272 is not a power to decide which language shall be used by the investigation.

by the investigating agencies or the police for the purposes of maintaining the record of the investigation," it said. The bench dealt with relevant provisions of CrPC and

said that under Section 207, it is the obligation of the Judicial Magistrate to supply a copy of

India, Australia hold biennial maritime exercise in Sydney

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The fifth edition of biennial The fifth edition of calculation and AUSINDEX maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was conducted from 22-25 August at Sydney, Australia.

Indian warships INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata parmanaged modest success," it The Express Tribune news-paper in its editorial titled 'India's lunar laurel' said India's ambiticipated in the exercise along with HMAS Choules and HMAS Brisbane from RAN. Besides ships and their integral tious flight actually accomplished something that the US, helicopters, the exercise also wit-Soviet-Russian, and Chinese nessed participation of fighter space programmes have all failed aircraft and maritime patrol aircraft, navy officials said here to do — land on moon's southon Saturday. Conducted over



INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata during the 5th edition of biennial AUSINDEX maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy conducted from Aug 22 to Aug 25, in Sydney

four days, AUSINDEX included a series of complex exercises in all three domains of maritime operations. The exercise ended on a high note revalidating the common procedures and reaffirming the close linkages and interoperability between Indian Navy and RAN,

Paper cups' thin plastic film can harm organisms: Study New Delhi: The tea/coffee you

take with you from the kiosk on the corner now comes in paper cups, sometimes even with paper lids. But that cup can also harm living organisms if it ends up in nature.

Researchers at the University of Gothenburg show this in a study testing the effect of disposable cups made of different materials on the larvae of the butterfly mosquito. "We left paper cups and plastic cups in wet sediment and water for a few weeks and followed how the leached chemicals affected the larvae. All of the mugs negatively affected the growth of mosquito larvae," said Bethanie

Environmental Science at the Department of Biology and Environmental Science at the University of Gothenburg.
The culprit is the thin plas-

tic film that lines paper cups. For, paper is neither fat nor water resistant, so paper that is used in food packaging material needs to be treated with a

surface coating.
This plastic protects the aper from the coffee in your hand. Nowadays, the plastic film is often made of polylactide, PLA, a type of bioplastic. Bioplastics are produced from renewable resources (PLA is commonly produced from rather than fossil-fuels as is the case for 99% of plastics on the market today.

PLA is often regarded as biodegradable, meaning that it can break down faster than oilbased plastics under right conditions, but the researchers' study shows that it can still be

"Bioplastics does not break down effectively when they end up in environment, in water. There may be a risk that plastic remains in nature and resulting microplastics can be ingested by animals and humans, just as other plastics

Russian shelling kills 2 near Kupiansk

 $R^{\hbox{\it ussian}}$ forces struck a cafe in a key front-line area in northeastern Ukraine Saturday, killing two civilians and wounding a third, regional

of Kupiansk came as UK officials said that Russia may try to retake the area, which was captured by Kyiv in a lightning counteroffensive September after more than six months of Russian occupa-

er this month prompted mandatory evacuations and fears of a second Russian

Oleh Syniehubov said in a Telegram post. He added that rescue teams were working at the site. UK military intelligence on Saturday assessed that Russia may "increase the intensity of its offensive efforts" around Kupiansk and nearby Lyman in an attempt to take pressure off its forces near Bakhmut and in the Zaporizhzhia region, where a Ukrainian counteroffensive has

nearly 12,000 civilians from 37

Syria to the deserts of sub-Saharan

Africa, projecting the Kremlin's global

influence with mercenaries accused of

using brutal force and profiting on min-

But that was under Yevgeny

Prigozhin, who in what could have been

his final video released earlier this week

a belated response, has termed

the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission as a "great scientific achievement"

for which ISRO scientists

deserved appreciation while

the country's leading dailies

heaped praises on India for

achieving the feat on a lesser

Pakistan has tried to down-

BRICS, saying it has not yet

made a formal request to join

it after the bloc ignored

Islamabad when it announced

of the BRICS nations decided

to admit Argentina, Egypt,

Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia

and the United Arab Emirates

as the new members of the

grouping, sealing a long-drawn

son Mumtaz Zahra Baloch

issued the details of her week-

ly briefing on Friday night, a day after the bloc of develop-

ing countries added new coun-

tries. "We will examine the lat-

est developments and make a

determination about our future

engagement with BRICS,

ignored by the bloc, she said

Pakistan followed BRICS'devel-

To a query, if Pakistan was

Foreign Office spokesper-

process.

Baloch said.

On August 24, The leaders

its major expansion in years.

play the snub from the

Pak: Yet to make formal

request to join BRICS

budget than rich nations.

eral riches they seized.

Kupiansk, citing a concerted effort by Russian troops to punch through the front line.

After the Russian occupiers left Kupiansk last year, Ukrainian authorities said they found torture chambers and mass graves in the region.

Ukrainian officials have so far reported limited advances in Kyiv's large-scale counteroffensive launched in early June, including in the southern Zaporizhzhia region and on the outskirts of Bakhmut, the eastern city that became the site of the war's longest and bloodiest battle before falling to Moscow

A Washington-based think tank said late on Friday that Ukrainian forces were pushing forward in Zaporizhzhia after taking the village of Robotyne earlier this week.

The Institute for the Study of War in its latest assessment cited pro-Kremlin military bloggers expressing concern over a lack of reinforcements and troop locations in the area, while the Ukrainian General Staff that same day claimed unspecified successes south and southeast of Robotyne.

On Saturday morning, the Ukrainian regional administration of Zaporizhzhia reported that Russian shelling the previous day of Mala Tokmachka, one of the villages near which Kyiv's troops were reportedly advancing, killed one resident

Also on Saturday, a new drone attack on Moscow forced an early-morning temporary shutdown of all three major airports serving the city, Russian state media reported.

Officials blamed Ukraine for what appeared to be the latest of near-daily strikes on the Russian capital and the surrounding region.

Kyiv has since early this year sought to take the 18month-war into the heart of Russia, also saying recently that it was behind strikes on Russian military assets far behind the front lines.

Russia's defence ministry and Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said that a drone was shot down over the Istra district of the Moscow region, some 50 kilometres west of Red Square. Sobyanin said in a Telegram post that there were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage.

According to Russia's state Tass agency, the Sheremetevo, Domodedovo and Vnukovo airports all suspended flights for over an hour early on Saturday.

Russian Telegram channels on Saturday posted videos, some of them apparently from home security cameras, of what they claimed was Russian air defence downing the drone.

One video shows a car parked outside what appears to be suburban home, its alarm beginning to blare seconds after two loud blasts sound in

the distance. Russia's defence ministry that same day blamed Ukraine for the attack. As of Saturday morning, Ukrainian authorities had not said whether Kyiv had any involvement.

Russia and Ukraine traded multiple drone attacks earlier this week, with Kyiv apparently targeting Moscow and the Kremlin's forces launching another bombardment of Ukrainian grain storage depots in what have recently become signature tactics.

Also this week, Kyiv claimed it had destroyed a key Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile defence system in occupied Crimea. Ukrainian media also claimed that Ukrainian saboteurs coordinated by Kyiv's military intelligence services carried out a pair of recent drone attacks that destroyed and damaged bomber aircraft at air bases deep inside Russia.

Later on Saturday, Russia's defense ministry said in a separate statement that another drone was brought down as it approached the Russian city of Belgorod, some 45 kilometres from the Ukrainian border. It did not mention any casualties or damage.

Belgorod regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov accused Ukrainian forces of shelling a border village using cluster munitions, wounding six civilaircraft, vessels toward Taiwan

Gladkov did not provide visual evidence for the use of the controversial and widely banned weapons, which contain dozens of small bomblets that scatter shrapnel over a wide area.

Kyiv last month began receiving cluster bombs from the US, but has pledged to use them only to dislodge groups of enemy soldiers.

Ukrainian officials have regularly accused Moscow of firing cluster munitions at residential areas, while Russian regional authorities have reported on Ukrainian crossborder attacks in which civilians were hurt.

Ukraine's air force, meanwhile, reported early on Saturday that two Iranianmade "Shahed" drones fired by Russian troops were shot down during the night over the country's northeast.

In Ukraine's front-line Kherson region in the south, local Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin reported that an 83-year-old woman died in the hospital after suffering burn wounds as Russian forces overnight shelled the riverside village of Olhivka. Also on Saturday, the Kherson regional administration reported that Russian shelling damaged a hospital in the province's namesake capital, blowing out doors and windows but causing no casu-

The State Department said Wednesday it had signed off on the sale of infrared search and track systems for F-16 fighter jets and other related equipment to Taiwan worth half a billion dollars. built deep, personal connections that Moscow could find challenging to

China sends

Taiwan's defence ministry

■ said Saturday that China

sent dozens of aircraft and

vessels toward the island, just

days after the United States

approved a USD 500-million

in a statement that 32 aircraft

from the People's Liberation

Army and nine vessels from the

navy were detected in the 24

hours between 6 am Friday and

crossed the median line of the

Taiwan Strait or breached

Taiwan's air defense identifica-

tion zone. In response, Taiwan

tasked its own aircraft, vessels

and missile systems to respond

to the activities, the defense

Taiwan as a renegade province

sary. In the past year, Beijing

has stepped up military drills

around the island in reaction to

launched drills around Taiwan

last week as a "stern warning"

after Taiwan's vice president

stopped over in the US

while on an official trip to

The Chinese military

Taiwan's political activities.

to be taken by force if neces-

China sees self-ruled

Of these, 20 aircraft either

The defence ministry said

arms sale to Taiwan.

6 am Saturday.

military said.

Paraguay.

AP ■ BEIJING

Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said Friday that China opposed Africa is vitally important to Russia the arms sale, calling it a "gross interference" in China's internal affairs and describing it as a "heinous act" that violates its "One China" principle, as well as three Sino-US joint communiques. Zhang also said that China urged the US to fulfil its commitment of not supporting the independence of Taiwan.

WORLD BRIEFS

4 PEOPLE SHOT AT OKLAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL

Choctaw: Four people were shot during a high school football game Friday night in Oklahoma where a police officer also fired a weapon, authorities said. Officers responded to a report of a shooting around 10:30 pm at a game in Choctaw between Choctaw High School and Del City High School, Choctaw Police Chief Kelly Marshall said. The victims were transported to a hospital with gunshot wounds. One was treated for a wound to her thigh before being released, but Marshall did not immediately know the conditions of the three remaining victims. Other than the shooting victims, Marshall said one person was treated for a possible broken leg. At least one of those shot was a student, but the ages of the victims and whether any of the others were students was not known at the outset of the investigation, Marshall

THIEF STEALS FORMER GOVERNOR'S SUV

Fargo: Former North Dakota Governor Ed Schafer learned a lesson about his car keys after his vehicle was stolen as he hosted a Fargo radio show. Schafer was guest hosting KFGO's "News and Views" program Friday morning when police called the station to ask if he owned a 2020 GMC Yukon, the station reported. It turns out that the SUV had been stolen out of the station's parking lot. The thief apparently drove it to a probation office and surrendered to authorities, Schafer said. The vehicle has a push-button start feature and requires a key fob to be in the vehicle before it can be operated. But Schafer had left a spare fob inside, enabling the thief to start it up and drive off. The former governor and U.S. agriculture secretary says he's been warned about being more careful. "My wife for 31 years has said, Why don't

12 DEAD, 11 INJURED IN STADIUM CRUSH IN MADAGASCAR

Antananarivo: At least 12 people died in a crush at a stadium in Madagascar on Friday as sports fans gathered for the opening ceremony of the Indian Ocean Island Games, local media reported. The reports said Prime Minister Christian Ntsay announced the deaths. He said around 80 others had been injured, 11 of them critically. Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina was at the ceremony at Mahamasina Stadium in the capital, Antananarivo, and asked the crowd to observe a few moments of silence for the dead, the reports said. The stadium, which is built to hold around 41,000 people, has been the site of deadly crushes before. One person died and at least 37 were injured in a crush ahead of a qualifying game for the African Cup of Nations soccer tournament between Madagascar and Senegal in 2018. In 2019, at least 15 people died in a stampede at a music concert at the stadium.

LOSING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FILES FRAUD CLAIM

Guatemala City: The party of former first lady Sandra Torres, who lost Guatemala's presidential elections this week, filed a complaint Friday alleging fraud in the way the votes were counted. Torres, a candidate who came to exemplify the political establishment in a country that's grown tired of endemic corruption, has remained silent since her Sunday loss. She has refused to accept the results announced by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which recognised progressive Bernardo Arévalo, of the Semilla Movement party, as the winner of one of the most tumultuous elections in the Central American nation's recent history. Carlos López, a lawyer for Torres' National Unity of Hope party, filed the complaint on behalf of the party, citing irregularities in the vote counting and saying they amounted to fraud.

INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN JAILED FOR SMUGGLING DRUGS

London: An Indian-origin man and his accomplice have been sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment each after pleading guilty to conspiracy to smuggle banned drugs into Britain after an investigation led by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA). Sundeep Singh Rai, 37, and accomplice Billy Hayre, 43, belonged to an organised crime group (OCG) responsible for 30 kilos of cocaine and 30 kilos of amphetamine being smuggled to the UK on a cargo plane from Mexico.

RAM GOPAL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY Sultanpur, Tehsil-Farrukhnagar, Near Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana Affiliated to Pt. B.D.Sharma University of Health & Sciences, Rohtak & **ADMISSION NOTICE FOR SESSION 2023-24 BACHELOR OF PHARMACY (4 Year)** Admission Procedure: Candidates shall have passed 10+2 examina PCM or PCB with English as one of the subjects.

Website - www.ramgopalcollege.com Mob. No - 8920418745

PUBLIC NOTICE LOST AND FOUND Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Sunita W/o Mr. Sukhlal is the owner o This Public at large is hereby notify that my client Mrs. Asha Mehta W/o ate Dr. Kulbhushan Mehta R/o G-Sunita W/o Mr. Sukmar to the behold residential plot, admeasuring 60 sq. yar and of Khasra No. 38/ e. 50.16 sq. meter, out of Khasra No. 382 lituated at Village Haldauni, Pargana, Tehsil Dad 08 Preet Vihar Delhi-110092 and Dist. Gautambudh Nagar, vide registered sale dee lated 04.04.2016. All persons are hereby informe hat Mrs. Sunita & Mr. Sukhlal have approache

that Mrs. Sunita & Mr. Sukhlal have approached Satya Micro Housing Finance Pvt Limited to take a Loan. If anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present. Mrs. Prason Lata, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm) FF 18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Valbhav Khand, Indirapuram Ghaziabad 201014.E-mail: sgassociatespi@mail.com Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd

71. Rajor Road Dehradun — 248001 Ph. No 0135-27458171 Mob. No. 75000399997
CN U31101UR1976SGC00429 E-Mail: gmm@sanchamet.in. gmm@gamil.in GMVN Ltd (A Govt. of U.K. undertaking) intends to provide ts (G+5) institutional building Total Area 20495.00 Sqft. situated at C-50 sector-62 Noida, U.P. pin code 201301 on ong term lease/ rental basis. Proposals are invited from MNC/Govt/Semi Govt. Commercial organization for all separate floors. Interested parties may submit their proposal on www.uktenders.gov.in through on line mode upto 11.09.2023. Tender documents & detailed Terms & Conditions may be downloaded from above website from 28.08.2023 at 5.00 PM. Managing Director, GMVN reserves the right to cancel any or

all proposal.

108, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092 and is the absolute and lawful owner of the entire property bearing No. G-108, Measuring Area 230.11 Sq. Yards., situated at Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092. That the Original Perpetual Sub Lease Deed duly executed by The President of India through Delhi Development Authority in the name of Smt. Savita Wio Late Bahadur Chand duly Authority in the name of Smt. Savita W/o Late Bahadur Chand duly registered as Document No.2484 in Additional Book No.1, Volume No.1203 on pages 144 to 154, Dated: 20.06.1979 in the office of S.R., Delhi along with General Power of Attorney and Agreement to Sell dated: 10.11.1983 in the name of Dr. Kulbhushan Mehta S/o Late Dr. Iqbal Narain Mehta R/o G-108, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092 duly registered/attested by Notary Public registered/attested by Notary Public has been all original documents lost/misplaced by me and it is not traceable by my best efforts and for the same I have filed NCR videL.R. No.776829/2023, Dated: 15/08/2023 If anyone found or have any objection/Claim for any type such as any Loan, Mortgage, Surety, Security etc. over the said property regarding the above said original documents, then contact to the undersigned within 15 days of this Notice. Thereafter no body have any right on the said property. any right on the said property.

> SAHIL ARORA (ADVOCATE) Office No.107, F/F, M.S. Chambers, Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delh-110092

used an encrypted messaging opments in its latest summit in application to facilitate his travchallenge due to the presence South Africa and also noted its of India which enjoys veto el overseas to join a terrorist Moghbeli, a Marine pilot serving as commander, said openness to inclusive multilatpower to reject its request.

Washington/London (PTI): Vivek Ramaswamy, an Indian-American 2024 US presidential aspirant, has hinted that he may run on a joint ticket with former president Donald Trump as his running mate if he does not win the Republican nomination, according

to a media report. The remarks by Ramaswamy came days after the 38-year-old multimillionaire biotech entrepreneur-turnedpolitician said he was "not interested" in any job other than president.

Ramaswamy said he believed he could only "reunite this country" as president, but did not rule out running with 77-year-old Trump as vice president if the former president and frontrunner wins the nomination for

Asked on Britain's GB News whether he would be "happy to be

"Pakistan is an ardent supporter of multilateralism and as a member of several multilateral organisations it has always played an important role in global peace and development," The spokesperson termed

son Mumtaz Zahra Baloch

during her briefing on Friday

was asked to comment on the

successful soft-landing of the

Chandrayaan-3 mission on the

great scientific achievement, for which ISRO (Indian Space

Research Organisation) scien-

"I can only say that it is a

Pakistan as an important developing country that has made "important contributions to promote peace, solidarity and cooperation among countries of the South". "We shall continue our

efforts at the international fora for fostering the spirit of inter-national cooperation and revitalisation of inclusive multilateralism," she said.

BRICS initially composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa has undertaken major expansion taking its members to eleven, making it more representative of the

Global South. Reportedly several countries are queuing up to join the group but Pakistan may face a

ly ignored the landmark success of India. The media, however, gave front-page coverage to the historic event on Wednesday.

tists deserve appreciation," she

Pakistan had so far official-

said in her brief response.

The Dawn newspaper in its editorial headlined 'India's space quest' called the success

Pak doctor gets

18 years in jail

for 'lone wolf'

attacks in US

New York (PTI): A Pakistani

doctor, who worked in the US

on an H1-B visa, has been sen-

tenced to 18 years in prison for

attempting to provide material

support to terror organisation

ISIS and conduct 'lone wolf' ter-

rorist attacks in the United

States. Muhammad Masood,

31, was sentenced on Friday to

18 years in prison followed by

five years of supervised release

for attempting to provide mate-

rial support to ISIS, a

Department of Justice state-

ment said. He pleaded guilty in

August last year and was sen-

tenced before Senior Judge Paul

A Magnuson. According to court documents, Masood was

a licensed medical doctor in

Pakistan and was formerly

employed as a research coordi-

nator at a medical clinic in

Rochester, Minnesota, under

an H-1B visa. Between January

2020 and March 2020, Masood

of the Chandrayaan-3 mission historic. The paper said this partic-

ular feat deserves appreciation as India achieved on a lesser budget what richer nations accomplished by spending larger sums.

Perhaps the key to the success of İndia's space programme, apart from sustained

state support, is the quality and dedication of its engineers and scientists who helped make these difficult missions possible, it commented.

"Comparisons are indeed odious, but there may be plenty for Pakistan to learn from India's space success. Pakistan's space programme was launched before India's and

managed modest success," it said.

Chinese space programmes have all failed to do — land on the moon's southern pole.

4 astronauts sent to space station

AP ■ CAPE CANAVERAL

 $F_{\rm countries\ rocketed\ toward}^{\rm our\ astronauts\ from\ four}$ the International Space Station on Saturday.

They should reach the orbiting lab in their SpaceX capsule on Sunday, replacing four astronauts living up there since March.

A NASA astronaut was joined on the predawn liftoff from Kennedy Space Center by fliers from Denmark, Japan and Russia. They clasped one another's gloved hands upon reaching orbit.

It was the first US launch where every spacecraft seat was occupied by a different country - until now, NASA had always included two or three of its own on its SpaceX taxi flights. A fluke in timing led to the assignments, officials said.

"We're a united team with a common mission," NASA's from orbit.

Jasmin Moghbeli radioed

her crew's makeup demonstrates "what we can do when we work together in harmony." With her on the sixmonth mission are the European Space Agency's Andreas Mogensen, Japan's Satoshi Furukawa and Russia's Konstantin Borisov.

"To explore space, we need to do it together," the European Space Agency's director general, Josef Aschbacher, said minutes before liftoff. "Space is really global, and international cooperation is kev."

The astronauts' paths to space couldn't be more differ-

Moghbeli's parents fled Iran during the 1979 revolution. Born in Germany and raised on New York's Long Island, she joined the Marines and flew attack helicopters in Afghanistan. The first-time space traveler hopes to show Iranian girls that they, too, can aim high. "Belief in yourself is something really powerful," she said before

No job other than President for Vivek Ramaswamy the debate said that 28 per cent of the

try and I can only reunite this country if I'm doing it from the White House as the leader and the face of our movement." He added that he had "fresh legs" and was "almost half [Trump's] age", but

(Trump's) VP", Ramaswamy replied:

"See, this isn't about me. If this were

This is about reviving our coun-

about me, sure. That's a fine position

for someone to have at my age.

would ask him to serve as "my most valued adviser" in the White House. Rumours of a joint ticket between

the two men in the 2024 race were fanned by the Trump campaign's praise for Ramaswamy after the first Republican primary debate on Wednesday, in which he emerged as a breakout star.

A self-declared "outsider" who has no experience as an elected official

has pledged to pardon Trump for any federal convictions on "day one" of his presidency and continue his legacy in the White House with an "America First 2.0" agenda, The Telegraph newspaper said. In previous interviews, Ramaswamy had denied becoming the former president's running mate, insisting that he could only change the country if he won the top job.

"I'm not interested in a different position in the government. Frankly, I'd drive change through the private sector sooner than becoming number two or three in the federal government," he told Fox News on Saturday.

His popularity rating and online fundraising have surged after his impressive performance at the first Republican presidential primary debate on Wednesday.

The first poll that came out after

504 respondents said Ramaswamy performed the best. He was followed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis with 27 per cent, and Pence (13 per cent). Indian-American Nikki Haley received the vote of seven per cent. According to Fox News,

Ramaswamy was the most Googlesearched Republican candidate after the debate. He was followed by fellow Indian-American Haley.

Both the Indian-Americans were standing next to each other on the debate stage. Politico, a Washington metropolitan area-based politicsfocused newspaper company, said that Ramaswamy, the brash and uberwealthy entrepreneur, got under the skin of his rivals and praised Trump, calling him "the best president of the

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to public at large that my client Gurmeet Singh purchased a property bearing number 29/2 measuring area of plot 41.80-sq MTRS, (50-SQ,YDS) ANARKALI MAIN now Known as Old ANARKALI DELHI 110051 by the sale deed

NARKALI DELHI 110051 by the sale deed tention here Below.

Sale deed dated 28.04.2023 executed by Mrs Raj Kumari in favour of Mr. Gurmeet Singh in respect of the property area measuring 50 Sq. Yds, and same was duly registered with the sub registrar-VIII, as Doc No. 3830, Vol No. 10652, Book No.-1, page no 19-25, on 02.05.2023

Mrs Susheel Verma in favour of Mr. Raj Wrs Susheel Verma in favour of Mr. Raj

Sale deed dated 30.11.2021 executed by Mrs Susheel Verma in favour of Mr. Raj Kumari in respect of the property area measuring 50 Sq. Yds, and same was duly registered with the sub registrar-VIII, as Doc No. 9580, Vol No. 10035, Book No.-l, page no 26-34, on 01.12.2021.

Sale deed dated 05.10.2016 executed by Mrs Brahma Devi alias Birma devi in favour of Mr. Susheel Verma in respect of the property area measuring 50 Sq. Yds, and same was duly registered with the sub registrar-VIII, as Doc No. 6012, Vol No.8539, Book No.-l, page no 17-23, on 14.10.2016.

voi No.8539, BOOK NO.-1, page no 17-23, on 14.10.2016.

f any perons(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect of right, title or interest in the above said property then contact us with in 7 days from the date of publication of this notice on the number mentioned here in below.

Sd/-

Nishant Bhardwa Advocate Ch. NO. E-404, 4th Floor Karkardooma Courts, Delhi Mob. 9990212818

E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL(PIN 263139) Letter No.: 2253/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/215 **E-Tender Notice**

General Manager (T)

Name of the work:- Construction of Proposed Taxi Parking

at Bhikiyasain (Under Declaration of Honourable Chief Minister of Uttarakhand-793/2021).

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM

Estimated Cost: - Rs. 76.42 Lakh (with G.S.T.) Period of Completion: - 12 Months Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 21-08-2023(11.00 hrs)

Online Bid submission: End date: -04-09-2023 (17.00 hrs) 6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 06-09-2023 (11.00 hrs)

Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place

25-08-2023 (11:00 hrs) Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction

documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement **GENERAL MANAGER**

portalwww.uktenders.gov.in

officials said. The shelling near the city

tion. Fierce fighting there earli-

takeover. Russian shells on Saturday morning struck the cafe in Podoly, an eastern suburb of Kupiansk, regional governor

reportedly made gradual gains. Earlier this month, Ukrainian authorities ordered a mandatory evacuation of

Wagner mercenaries face uncertainty after the death of Prigozhin an assault rifle from an unidentified dry The Wagner Group's presence extends from the ancient battlegrounds of

appeared in military fatigues and held tion that Prigozhin, who is presumed

lenged the authority of President Vladimir Putin. There is wide specula-

ing Prigozhin and his top lieutenants northwest of Moscow, two months after he led an armed rebellion that chal-

and dusty plain as he boasted that Wagner is "making Russia even greater on all continents and Africa even more

On Wednesday, a private jet carrythe mercenary group crashed dead, was targeted for his uprising, although the Kremlin has denied involvement. That crash has raised questions

about the future of the Wagner Group. In African countries where Wagner provided security against groups like al-Qaida and the Islamic State, officials and commentators predict Russia will likely maintain its presence, placing the forces under new

Pakistan terms Chandrayaan-3 success as 'great scientific achievement'

Others, however, say Prigozhin lowing a coup.

economically and politically. This summer, Wagner helped

replace quickly.

secure a national referendum in the Central African Republic that cemented presidential power; it is a key partner for Mali's army in battling armed rebels; and it contacted the military junta in Niger that wants its services fol-

The Express Tribune newspaper in its editorial titled India's lunar laurel' said India's ambitious flight actually accomplished something that the US, Soviet-Russian, and

No. 1942. Thurs. Vol. of Kriasra No. 1942. The Situated at Buddh Vihar Colony, Village Akbarpur, Bhrampur, Pargana Lori, Tehsil and Distt. Gnaziabad U.P.Mr. Tilak Chand as GPA of Mr. Prakash sold the said property toMrs. Meera Devi videSale deed dated 28.12.2003 doc no. 9116. Thereafter, Mrs. Meera Devi sold said property to Mr. Vijendra Singhvide Sale Deed 19.05.2006 doc. No. 3713. Thereafter, Mr. Vijendra Singh Sold the said property to Mr. Sunil Kumar and Mr. Ajay Kumar vide dated 28.02.2011 doc. No. 770. Now Mr. Sunil Kumar and Mr. Ajay Kumar armortgaging the said property with SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.) & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawani Mr. Sudhir Jain (Acvocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

9818228636 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Hermant Kandpal who is the owner of Property No. 5383, area measuring 100 sq. yards fout of total area measuring 200 sq. yards) out of Khasra No. 106/11. Situated in the area of Wilage Burari, Dalih 11084 through Sale Deed dated 17.06. 2022 executed by Smt. Dhani Devi. Whereas, Sh. Ram Avtar executed GPA, ATS dated 18.04.1988 and Will in favour of Smt. Shardha Saxena who further executed GPA, ATS & detted 19.07 in favour of Sh. Hem Chander Anand who further executed GPA, ATS.

nner whatsoever. Mohd Khairul Hussain (Advocate) A-38, Kailash Colony, Khaitan & Khaitan New Delhi-48, Mob. 8810391672

India is future, says BP CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is the future, British energy major BP chief executive Bernard Looney said on Saturday as he lauded the country for becoming the first to land a spacecraft near the moon's south pole.

Speaking with reporters on the sidelines of B20 Summit India organised by CII, Looney said India is "taking incredible steps and doing things in a very innovative and creative way".

"We watched it back in London. Everyone around the world, I think, is excited about the country," he said. "India is the future.

BP has invested billions of dollars in an oil and gas field in the Bay of Bengal and is fast expanding a fuel retailing network that also comprises electric vehicle (EV) charging sta-

Both ventures are in alliance with Reliance Industries Ltd.

India is the world's thirdlargest energy consumer and the fastest-growing major econ-



omy in the world. While other competing economies like China slow down, India continues to grow and is eyed by investors across sectors.

"India is hugely exciting us," he said.

The company in partnership with Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd, is now producing a third of India's gas production after a third set of discoveries in the KG-D6 block was brought to production.

We are now producing approximately one billion cubic feet (BCF) a day of natural gas, that is approximately one-third

of India's domestic gas production today," he said.

Besides interest in the field, BP also has a gas retailing venture and a network of 1,625 petrol pumps in the country. It also has outlets to

charge EVs. "So if we can get the twowheelers, three-wheelers, and overtime passenger vehicles converted to electric,

I think that's going to be hugely important," he said adding the joint venture is also investing in CNG and firms in EV charging and battery busi-

Sebi penalises two entities for | CBDT launches violating insider trading norms revamped website

apital markets regulator Sebi has levied penalties totalling Rs 20 lakh on two entities for flouting insider trading norms in the shares of Rupa and Company Ltd (RCL).

The regulator imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh each on Sushil Patwari (Independent Director of RCL) and Nagreeka Capital and Infrastructure Ltd (NCIL).

The order came after Sebi conducted an investigation in the scrip of RCL, to ascertain as to whether certain entities have traded in the company during February-June, 2021, while in the possession of unpublished price sensitive information (ÛPSI).

The unpublished price sensitive information related to the announcement of financial results for the quarter and year ended March 2021. The period of UPSI was May 1-31,

In its 28-page order on Friday, Sebi said Sushil Patwari has been a member on the audit committee of Rupa and Company since June 2004, and the same was confirmed by NCIL, Rupa as well as the annual report for financial year 2020-21 of the RCL.



Therefore, it is quite evident that Sushil Patwari was an insider and connected to Rupa, it added.

The regulator also noted that RCL's manager - finance, had shared the financial and related papers with Rupa's whole-time directors and independent directors, including Sushil Patwari.

Also, the observed that the UPSI was passed on to NCIL by Patwari, who was the chairman in executive capacity of NCIL and had reasonable influence on the trading decisions of the firm.

Thereafter, NCIL during the UPSI period bought shares of the Rupa, one day prior to disclosure of financials results by RCL and the same were subsequently sold on the very next day after disclosure of the UPSI, Sebi said in the order.

The amount of disproportionate gain or unfair advantage by NCIL while trading in the shares of Rupa was to the tune of Rs 2.37 lakh.

The insider trading rules prohibits the trading in the shares of the company by the insiders while in possession of UPSI, the order said.

Through such acts, Sushil Patwari violated the Prohibition of Insider Trading (PIT) rules by communicating the UPSI to Nagreeka and NCIL has flouted the norms by trading while in possession of UPSI, Sebi said.

Meanwhile, in four separate orders on Friday, the capital markets watchdog imposed fines totalling Rs 20 lakh on four entities for indulging in non-genuine trades in the illiquid stock options segment on

of I-T department

The income tax depart-ment on Saturday launched a revamped website with a user-friendly interface, value-added features, and new modules.

The newly revamped website was launched by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Nitin Gupta at the 'Chintan Shivir', organised by the Directorate of Income Tax (Systems), at

"In order to enhance taxpayer experience and keep pace with new technology, the Income Tax Department has revamped its National website 'www.Incometaxindia.Gov.In' with a user-friendly interface, value-added features, and new modules," the CBDT said in a statement.

The revamped website has been redesigned with a mobile-responsive layout.

The website also has a 'Mega Menu' for content, with new features, and functional-

For the convenience of the visitors to the website, all

these new additions are explained through a guided virtual tour and new button

indicators. The new functionalities allow users to compare different Acts, sections, rules, and tax treaties.

All relevant content on the site is now tagged with Income Tax sections for easy navigation. Further, dynamic due

date alerts functionality provides reverse countdowns, tool tips, and links to relevant portals to help taxpayers to comply easily.

The revamped website is another initiative in providing enhanced taxpayer services and will continue to educate taxpayers and facilitate tax compliance, the CBDT added.

Govt imposes 20 per cent export duty on parboiled rice

The government has imposed a 20 per cent duty on the export of parboiled rice, a move aimed at maintaining adequate local stock and keep domestic prices under check.

The export duty, imposed on August 25, will remain effective till October 16, 2023, the Finance Ministry said in a notification.

Duty exemption would be available on parboiled rice lying in customs ports which have not been granted LEO (let export order) and are backed by valid LCs (Letter of Credit) before August 25,



With these curbs, India has now imposed restrictions on all varieties on non-bas-

Non-basmati white rice constitutes about 25 per cent domestic supply and keep

of the total rice exported from the country.

Last month, the government banned exports of nonbasmati white rice to boost

retail prices under check during the upcoming festive season. In September last year, exports of broken rice were prohibited.

In the April-June period of this fiscal, about 15.54 lakh tonnes of non-basmati against only 11.55 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period.

The ban on exports of non-basmati white rice was imposed due to the rise in prices of the foodgrain and higher exports.

The annual retail or consumer price inflation has touched a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, against 4.87 per cent in June, amid a sharp spike in food prices.

A week back, India had imposed 40 per cent export duty on onion to increase domestic availability.

India's total exports of basmati rice stood at USD 4.8 billion in 2022-23 in terms of price, while in volume terms was at 45.6 lakh tonnes.

Exports of non-basmati stood at USD 6.36 billion in the last fiscal. In volume terms, it was 177.9 lakh

India's rice production is estimated to have risen to 135.54 million tonnes in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) from 129.47 million tonnes in the previous year, according to the agriculture ministry

Bharat Electronics bags orders worth ₹3,289 cr

PTI ■ BENGALURU

avratna defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has received new defence and non-defence orders worth Rs 3,289 crore during July and August 2023 (till date). The orders are for supply of

Low Level Light Weight Radars, SONARS, IFF Systems, SATCOM Systems, EO/IR Payloads, TRM/DTRMs, Jammers, Encryptors, Data Link Systems, Fire Control Systems, Radars for Directed Energy Systems, Semi Rugged Telephone Exchanges, Software Defined Radios and various



others types of radios, Electronic Voting Machines, AMC and Spares, the company said.

These also include the LoI / order worth Rs 1,075 crore received on Friday from

Hindustan Shipyards Limited for supply Communication Systems, EW Systems and other sensors for Fleet Support Ships, the Bengaluru-headquartered BEL

Medi Assist files IPO papers with Sebi again; public issue entirely an OFS

IVIServices has filed preliminary papers with the capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial

This is the company's second attempt to go public. Earlier, it had filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in May 2011, for floating an IPO but deferred the maiden public issue amid pandemic-induced rough market conditions.

According to the fresh draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed on Friday, the initial public offering (IPO) is entirely an offer for sale of up to 2.8 crore equity shares of Medi Assist by promoters and existing shareholders.

Those selling shares in the offer for sale include Vikram Jit Singh Chhatwal, Medimatter Health Management, Bessemer India



Capital Holdings II Ltd, Bessemer Health Capital LLC, and Investcorp Private Equity Fund I. Since the issue is completely an OFS, the company will not receive any proceeds and all the funds will go to the selling shareholders.

Explaining the reason for going public, the company said it is aimed at achieving the benefit of listing equishares on the stock exchanges and carrying out OFS for the selling share-

Bengaluru-based Medi Assist is a health-tech and insurtech company focused on administering health benefits across employers, retail members, and public health schemes.

Axis Capital, Nuvama Wealth Management, IIFL Securities, and SBI Capital Markets have been appointed as merchant bankers to advise the company on the IPO.

The equity shares of the company will be listed on the BSE and NSE.

NCCF procures 2,826 tonnes onion from farmers for buffer stock

The National Cooperative 1 Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) on Saturday said it has purchased 2,826 tonnes of onion at Rs 2,410 per quintal directly from farmers in the last four days mostly from Maharashtra as it resumed procurement of the bulb for a nigher buffer stock.

The government enhanced the onion buffer stock target from 3 lakh tonnes to 5 lakh tonnes this year.

Two cooperatives, NCCF and NAFED, have been mandated to procure 1 lakh tonnes each directly from farmers at Rs 2,410 per quintal to avoid panic selling amid the imposition of an export curb to control domestic prices.

The two cooperatives are also disposing of the government's buffer stock of onion in both wholesale and retail markets to control the rising retail



prices of onion, which at present are ruling up to Rs 60 per kg depending on the quality in Delhi and other cities.

Speaking with PTI, NCCF Managing Director Anice Joseph Chandra said the cooperative commenced the procurement directly from farmers on August 22 in both Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Around 12-13 procurement centres have been opened in Maharashtra and more will be set up depending on the demand.

"In the last four days, we purchased about 2,826 tonnes

Maharashtra. The target is to buy 1 lakh tonnes and we may procure more," she said.

NCCF is procuring onion directly from farmers at Rs 2410 per quintal, which is higher than the prevailing wholesale rate of Rs 1900-2000 per quintal, she added.

In order to boost domestic availability and check rising retail prices, Joseph Chandra said NCCF is also selling the buffer onion stock in 11 states and union territory where prices are increasing and so far 6,450 tonnes of onion has been sold in the wholesale markets onion mostly from at the current mandi rates.

Mia by Tanishq strengthens retail footprint in Chennai

PTI ■ CHENNAI

rewellery brand Mia by Tanishq from the diversified conglomerate Tata Group has stepped up its retail presence in Tamil Nadu with the setting up of four stores in the

Each store spread across 3,350 sq ft offers a wide range of jewellery pieces of Mia in gold, diamond, and colour stones among others.

The exclusive stores of Mia in Chennai have an exquisite range of trendy and contemporary 14kt and 18 kt jewellery designs and they were inaugurated commemorating the auspicious Varamahalakshmi festival, a press release said. "Mia by Tanishq is an

important part of Titan's jewellery portfolio that caters to the GenZ. Today, we proudly open the doors to four new



stores in Chennai, Company Ltd, jewellery division, CEO, Ajoy Chawla said.

Chennai is a key market for Mia, thriving with many modern, young, financially independent \ women. Doubling Mia's retail foot-print in Chennai is our commitment to making the brand more accessible in this very trendy city," he added.

Commemorating the inauguration of new stores, a discount of up to 20 per cent has been offered to customers purchasing Mia jewellery, the company said.

'Tata Motors committed to migrate facilities to zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045'

¬ata Motors is committed to **⊥** migrate its facilities to become net zero in greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and is working on multiple technologies to achieve this including electric and hydrogen fuel technology, its Executive Director Girish Wagh said.

The USD 37 billion organisation which is the country's leading player in the commercial vehicle segment will continue to invest annually over Rs 2,000 crore in the commercial vehicle business, the official said.

"As a part of sustainable transition which is an irreversible megatrend, Tata Motors is committed to become net zero in greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. As a part of that, we have to work towards zero-emission vehicle technologies for our

entire portfolio as also ensuring that our facilities emit no Co2 or they become net zero co2 emission...We are working on multiple vehicle technologies," Wagh told PTI in an interview here. "Today if you see we have

five plants at five locations where we have commercial vehicle plants ... In two locations we have passenger vehicle plants. As I said most of the facilities will have to be eventually zero-emission technologies so gradually each of these facilities will start migrating....We have committed to net zero greenhouse gas emission by 2045 so by then you will see our entire facilities being

migrated," Wagh said. He said technologies include battery electric, hydrogen in fuel which can be used in two technologies whether it is internal combustion engine or fuel cell electric.

actually working on all these technologies on our products and we signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Jharkhand to put up a manufacturing facility for all these technologies. Our first priority here is going to be hydrogen internal combustion engine, but post that we will also come up with battery electric or fuel cell electric as the technology roadmap takes us," Wagh elaborated. TCPL Green Energy

Solutions plans on Friday inked a pact with Jharkhand government to set up a manufacturing facility in the state wherein it will invest over Rs 350 crore over the next few years to produce fuel-agnostic powertrain solutions including hydrogen Internal Combustion engine (ICE), battery and fuel cell electric vehicle systems as



TCPL GES is a whollyowned subsidiary of Tata Cummins Pvt Ltd. TCPL is a 50:50 joint venture between Tata Motors and the global power technology major,

Cummins Inc Wagh said as far as Tata Motor's heavy commercial vehicle business is concerned more than 80 per cent of the vehicles get manufactured in Jharkhand at the Jamshedpur

Cummins Joint venture plant which produces engines for this plant here also. 'You can imagine the bulk

of our heavy commercial vehicles and engine production happens in the state of Jharkhand. As we move ahead gradually the penetration of zero-emission vehicles will go on increasing and as a first step are enabling the Jamshedpur facility to make

these technologies as we are able to increase the penetration by working even in the ecosystem development ...We are looking forward to good penetration of these zero-emission technologies and will ensure that the plant is fully enabled to meet all these requirements," he He said in terms of num-

bers there will be an investment of more than Rs 350 crore in hydrogen facility in Jharkhand in the first phase which will be towards enabling the plant for manufacturing the hydrogen internal combustion engines wherein the capacity will be around 10,000 per annum.

"As the ecosystem matures in the country and the penetration of zero emission technologies increase we are fully geared up to meet all those requirements and eventually of course the entire facility will migrate to zero emission technology," he said.

On the project timeline, he said: "We are working on a very tight timeline and we would see the first engine to roll out during the next calendar year."

About employment opportunities, he said: "If we employ one in original equipment manufacturer because of its extensive value chain the employment generated in the entire supply chain is almost 10 times. Initially, we will generate the employment of 350 numbers in our engine manufacturing plant but you can imagine the kind of impact multiplier effect it will have on the supply chain for addition-

al employment generation." "We have a more than 100year history and rich association with the state of Jharkhand. ..This (project) will create several employment opportunities... Our initiative will be to make Jharkhand the

technologies. It will become one of the first states in India to open its door for manufacturing of advanced, technology solutions and contribute to reducing the nation's carbon footprint," Wagh said. Wagh said the project is also an endorsement of the

company's confidence and

commitment to make the

hub for green and next-gen

'Make in India' initiative a national priority. On capex, he said generally in the commercial vehicle business the company's annual capex has been in the area of over Rs 2,000 crore and it will continue to be in the same

range in the next fiscal. Tata Motors had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,300.65 crore in the first quarter that ended June 30 while consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs

1,01,528.49 crore.

Martino hints Messi may be rested for Red Bulls game

nter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino has hinted Lithat Lionel Messi may not start Saturday's Major Léague Soccer clash at the New York Red Bulls.

Messi has played eight games inside a month for Miami in their triumphant Leagues Cup campaign and Wednesday's US Open Cup semi-final win at Cincinnati.

Asked at a press conference whether Messi will play in what will be Miami's first regular season MLS game since the arrival of the Argentine, Martino said no decision had yet been

"We will see after training (Friday night), after we talk to the players. They have been resting since the Cincinnati game, with just a light training session at the hotel," he said.

With tickets selling at a premium for Saturday's game at Red Bull Arena in New Jersey, the absence of Messi would be a major disappointment for thousands of fans.

But Martino said he cannot allow himself to be influenced by such factors.

"I understand the expectations the rest of the world has to watch him, that is undeniable,' he said

"But I cannot act based on that because if I do I would risk doing things wrong. The only thing I am concerned about if is he is able to play," he added.



However Martino suggested that if he did try to rest Messi, who has 10 goals for Miami already, he may well face resistance from the World Cup win-

"Throughout his career, he has always wanted to play every game and sometimes you have to convince him to stop so he can recover, but I don't pay attention to external pressures when it comes to deciding if he should play or not," said Martino, who coached Messi at Barcelona and with the Argentine national

Messi played all 120 minutes in the extra-time and penalty shoot-out win at Cincinnati on Wednesday and showed signs of tiredness -- as did former Barca team-mates Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba.

The rhythm of two games a week continues for Miami with a home game against Nashville to follow on Wednesday.

"I understand we have a big load with the re-start of the league schedule coming off all the cup games we played, reaching the Leagues Cup final and playing the U.S. Open Cup semifinal," Martino said.

"We have to take that seriously, but we have had a lot to handle the past month and a half, and we must see how the players feel. Some ended the Cincinnati game with minor injuries, and tired, so that will factor in my decision on Saturday's squad," he added.

Tottenham beat Bournemouth to go top of the Premier League

AFP LONDON

Tottenham's bright start under Ange Postecoglou continued as James Maddison and Dejan Kulusevski struck in a 2-0 win at Bournemouth to go top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Postecoglou's men have so far shrugged off the departure of the club's all-time record goalscorer Harry Kane to Bayern Munich with new signing Maddison at the heart of most of their good work.

The England international's first Tottenham goal on 17 minutes was just reward for the visitor's dominance of the first

But Bournemouth looked the more likely to score in the second period before Kulusevski steered Destiny Udogie's cross into the far corner just after the hour mark.

Maddison had been a doubt after leaving the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium after last weekend's 2-0 win over Manchester United in a protective boot.

But the £40 million (\$50 million) signing from Leicester was passed fit and is already appearing a bargain as he thrives in Postecoglou's sys-

However, he was fortunate for his goal as scuffed finish from Pape Sarr's defence-splitting pass did enough to wrongfoot Neto in the Bournemouth

As Maddison shines, Richarlison is struggling to fill the boots of Kane. The

Brazilian striker had another frustrating afternoon before being replaced after an hour.

Richarlison should have doubled Tottenham's advantage before the break when he tried to cut inside when clean through, allowing Lloyd Kelly to get just enough of a touch with a last-ditch tackle to divert the ball to safety.

Spurs could have paid for their failure to put the game to bed as Bournemouth started brightly after the break.

Antoine Semenyo came closest to an equaliser with a curling effort from outside the box that hit the side-net-Instead it was Tottenham

who got the all-important second goal thanks to another fresh face making a strong start to the new season.

Udogie was signed last summer when Italian coach Antonio Conte and sporting director Fabio Paratici were at the club but was then loaned back to Udinese for the 2022/23 season.

The left-back could turn out to be one of the few positive legacies of the Conte and Paratici era for Spurs.

Udogie surged forward, exchanging a one-two with Son Heung-min, before pulling the ball back for Kulusevski to finish.

Victory takes Spurs a point clear of Arsenal, Brighton and Manchester City at the top of the table, having played one

Dyche keen to change 'negative' narrative at Everton



AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Sean Dyche said negativity surrounding Everton is nothing new as he aims to kickstart the Toffees' season after losing their first two Premier League games.

Dyche's men were thrashed 4-0 at Aston Villa last weekend following their 1-0 home defeat against Fulham.

Everton have narrowly avoided relegation in each of the past two seasons to extend their proud record of staying in the English top-flight to 70

Dyche was brought in mid-way through last season to avoid the drop and believes it is up to him and his players to change the narrative when they host Wolves on Saturday.

"To be honest ever since I

got here, everybody's talked about us 'needing a lift' and words get thrown around like 'crisis', all these bad noises and negatives," said the former Burnley boss.

"It's just the way Everton's been for a number of months, years even. So it's our job to change the story. It always starts on the pitch, with me and the team changing the rhetoric.
"We haven't done that yet

this season but we're two games in. You can't measure a season on two games, particularly after playing so well against Fulham, but you don't get the win and it changes the story yet

The opening day defeat to Fulham could have been very different had Dominic Calvert-Lewin been fit.

The injury-hit striker returned against Villa but was forced off in the first half after a collision with Argentina goalkeeper Emi Martinez saw him nursing a swollen face around his cheekbone. Calvert-Lewin will defi-

nitely be missing against Wolves and the extent of his lat-est injury is still to be deter-

"He's seeing a specialist tomorrow," Dyche added on Thursday. "The specialist advice before he checked it properly was he needed the swelling to settle down.

"Unfortunately he will miss the weekend, but that's part of him hopefully getting the right answer and the protocols we

Novak Djokovic is back for the first time in 2 years

AP ■ NEW YORK

 $N^{
m ovak}$ Djokovic is back in the United States, back in New York - and back at the U.S. Open for the first time in two

Unable to compete at Flushing Meadows in 2022 because he was not allowed to fly to the country as a foreign citizen who is not vaccinated against COVID-19, the 23time Grand Slam champion will be back in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday as play begins in the season's final major tournament.

He was asked Friday whether he harbored some

resentment over the way things happened; Djokovic sat out tournaments in California and Florida in addition to the U.S. Open because of a federal rule related to the pandemic that was lifted in May.

"No, there was no anger. It was last year during the Open that I felt it's a pity that I'm not there. I felt sad for not being able to participate," Djokovic said with a shrug of his shoulders, draped in a gray hoodie. "But this year, I mean, is this year. I don't think about what happened in the last year or last couple of years. Just focusing my attention to this year's tournament."



The last match the 36year-old from Serbia played in Daniil Medvedev. Not only Ashe was the 2021 U.S. Open did that drop Djokovic's record

final, a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 loss to

Meadows to 3-6 but, of more significance, it left him one victory shy of completing the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since Rod Laver's in 1969. Djokovic wept at the end of

that match, something he attributed that day to a mix of relief at his pursuit of the milestone no longer hanging over him and of appreciation for the way the thousands of spectators saluted his effort.

"What I felt from the crowd that kind of connection and love and support that they gave me throughout the entire match, and also in the closing that I carry still in my heart," he said Friday. "I still feel vibes from that night of the finals, two years ago. I'll try to use that for this year's tournament." While that bit of history

went by the wayside, Djokovic is still winning and chasing more achievements. He already has won more

major singles championships than any other man in tennis history, one more than Rafael Nadal and three more than Roger Federer. But that's not to say he wouldn't love to get No. 24, which would put him one ahead of Serena Williams for

the most in the Open era.

FIFA suspend Spanish football chief Rubiales over Hermoso kiss to be part of Asian Games

AFP BARCELONA

 $F^{ ext{IFA}}$ suspended Luis Rubiales as president of Spain's football federation on Saturday for kissing Women's World Cup player Jenni Hermoso on the lips, and banned him from making contact with her.

The move by world foot-ball's governing body was the latest development in a deepening row between Rubiales and the federation (RFEF) and Hermoso and her Spain teammates which the players say has tarnished the glory of winning the World Cup in Australia last Sunday.

"(We) decided today to provisionally suspend Mr. Luis Rubiales from all football-related activities at national and international level," FIFA said. FIFA's suspension of

Rubiales will last 90 days while they undertake disciplinary proceedings against the 46-year-old. They added that both prohibited from contacting Hermoso and those close to

Hermoso and 80 other Spain players, including the entire World Cup squad, have announced a strike in protest at Rubiales' behaviour and said they will not play for the national team until the "leadership"

The RFEF responded to FIFA's suspension, saying Rubiales has "full confidence in Rubiales and the RFEF are the FIFA bodies" and will defend himself "so the truth prevails and his complete innocence is proven".

The federation also said Pedro Rocha would take over as interim president during Rubiales' suspension.

Hermoso said in a statement on Friday that Rubiales and the federation put "continuous pressure" on her and her family and friends to make her appear alongside Rubiales in a video in which he apologised for his

Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Asian Games-bound Indian men's chess team, which includes World Cup silver medallist GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa along with three other quarter-finalists, will undergo a four-day tactical camp here from August 30. Grandmasters Vidit

Gujarathi, Arjun Erigaisi and D Gukesh, along with veteran Pentala Harikrishna are the other member as part of the Hangzhou-bound men's squad.

The women's coaching camp, currently underway from August 25 to 29, includes participants Savitha Shri B and Vankita Agarwal.

The team is led by head coach legendary GM Boris Gelfand and includes coach Srinath Narayanan, assistant coaches Vaibhav Suri and Arjun

"AICF's commitment is etched in unwavering support



and cutting-edge facilities for our players," AICF president Sanjay Kapoor stated in a release.

"This coaching camp stands as a testament to that commitment, providing an immersive experience that delves deep into strategy and finesse, enriching players' abilities in anticipation of the Asian Games scheduled in Hangzhou."

The camp will be held on

the sidelines of the fifth edition of Tata Steel Chess India rapid and blitz tournament slated here

from August 31-September 9.
All the members of the Asian Games-bound Indian squad will compete in the tournament which will also see participation from former World Blitz champion Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and reigning World Champion Wenjun Ju.

Verstappen soaks up pressure to claim pole at home

AFP ■ ZANDVOORT (NETHERLANDS)

 $M^{\rm ax}$ Verstappen claimed pole position for his home Dutch Grand Prix on Saturday to the delight of his orange army of fans packing the stands at Zandvoort.

McLaren's Lando Norris will start alongside the Red Bull double world champion on the front row of Sunday's race. A runaway leader by 125 points

in the championship Verstappen has a perfect record since his home event returned to the F1 calendar in 2021, starting from the front of the grid and winning both races.

In tricky changeable conditions at the unforgiving seaside circuit two

red flags led to a frantic closing couple of minutes - just time to nail one final flying lap.

And not for the first time Verstappen produced the goods. "It was a very tricky qualifying,

all about staying out of trouble," said Verstappen who is on a quest for a ninth successive win on Sunday to draw him level with Sebastian Vettel's record set in 2013. He added: "I had to risk it a bit

but that last lap was very enjoyable. The pressure is always there to perform (at his home race) but when you can pull it off it's incred-

Norris described 'P2' as "a good result in these conditions.



"Every now and then you hope Max will make a mistake but he doesn't," the Briton added.

Mercedes' George Russell took third to start on the second row of Sunday's race with Alex Albon's Williams alongside him.

Qualifying began with a mix of sun and threatening clouds over the tight and twisty circuit carved into the dunes following earlier storms that caused chaos in third practice.

On a slippery track with spray flying Verstappen was in good company when sliding onto the safety gravel at turn one as qualifying start-

"What's going on with the car, I have no grip, I'm spinning every-

where," he exclaimed over the team Daniel Ricciardo. As Oscar Piastri's McLaren and

the Ferrari of Carlos Sainz came close to contact with visibility low Albon's Williams shot to the top of

the pile from Verstappen.

Rain began to fall with two minutes left of the first qualifying segment, putting pressure on Charles

Leclerc to scrape into the top 15 and the man from Monaco threw everything at it in his Ferrari slithering thing at it in his Ferrari, slithering around to nip through to the mid-

dle session. Among the group of five going out was Liam Lawson, AlphaTauri's reserve driver called up on Friday night to stand in for the injured With the track drying, the sun

shining, the times tumbled and it was Verstappen who led the way into the top 10 shoot-out as Lewis Hamilton was knocked out in a shock for the Mercedes seven-time champion. "It's not an easy track to move

forwards on but tomorrow is a new day, so I will give it my best" said Hamilton. This was hugely disappointing

for Hamilton, even more so when Logan Sargeant, the American rookie at the wheel of the Williams, scraped into the final qualifying session for the first time in his fledg-

ASIA CUP 2023: TOP IPL STARS BOWLING AT INDIA NETS IN ALUR

→he Indian management is leaving no stone unturned as they have reportedly hired 13-15 'high quality' net bowlers at the ongoing preparatory camp in Alur ahead of the Asia Cup 2023. The Indian batting has been one of the talking points recently after their lackluster show in the Caribbean both in ODIs and T20Is.

That was more so because injuries to KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer forced the management to try different combinations, which ultimately failed. However, with both players returning from injury, things have started to look good for the Indian team with the players currently doing match simulation in the preparatory camp ahead of the Asia Cup that starts later in the month.

Based on a Star Sports report, a plethora of Indian Premier League stars are throwing down at the Indian batters in the match simulation, something that was unseen before. Apart from the likes of Jasprit

Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj, who are in India's Asia Cup squad, the BCCI has also hired Aniket Chowdhury, Kuldeep Sen, Umran Malik, Sai Kishore, Yash Dayal, Rahul Chahar and Tushar Deshpande among few IPL stars who are preparing the batters ahead of the continental show-

Notably, Deshpande was Chennai Super Kings's highest wicket-taker in IPL 2023 with 21 scalps from 16 matches and played a big role in CSK's title-winning campaign. The development comes after India captain Rohit Sharma admitted that



pace will play a big part for India in the Asia Cup and ICC World Cup at home.

Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar opined that it's a win-win for all (India and domestic players). "It an offseason in the BCCI domestic circuit and the availability of these players was easy. The Indian management is making the right use of these bowlers. For these domestic bowlers, it helps them to bowl at some of the best batters in the country," Bangar said

It is understood that batters are coming to bat in pairs with Shubman Gil and Rohit Sharma coming as openers. Then Virat Kohli and Iyer came, giving a hint at India's top four. Iyer, as Rohit said, has been passed fit by the NCA doctors and is really looking good.

Rahul Once Again Talking Point The main talking point will be Rahul, who is carrying a small niggle that he got a few days ago. Although it is noth-

ing major, reports suggest that he may miss a few initial matches in the Asia Cup 2023. That means Rahul will miss the Asia Cup 2023 opener against Pakistan on September 2. Ishan Kishan becomes an automatic choice in the absence of

The Star Sports report also suggests that Kishan did wicketkeeping practice in Alur on Friday while Rahul was seen warming up a bit before heading to the

Virat Kohli is perfect for No. 4 spot: AB de Villiers

Virat Kohli would be the perfect answer for India's No.4 conundrum at the World Cup as he can put the innings together and play any kind of role in the middle order, feels South Africa great AB de Villiers.

India have struggled to find a suitable No.4 ever since Vivrai Singh retired from cricket. With

ever since Yuvraj Singh retired from cricket. With the 50-over World Cup less than two months away, there has been a lot of discussion around who will bat at the spot.

"We're still talking about who will be the No. 4 batter for India. I've heard some rumours about Virat possibly taking up that position. I would be a big supporter of that," de Villiers said on his Youtube channel.

"I think Virat is perfect for No. 4. He can put the innings together, play any kind of role in that middle order. I don't know if he would like to

"We know he loves his No. 3 position; he's scored all his runs there, but at the end of the day, if the team needs you to do something, play a certain role, you have got to put your hand up and got for it," de Villiers added.

While Kohli prefers to bat one down, he has

a decent record coming in at No. 4. In 39 innings, he has scored 1,767 runs at an average of 55.21 and strike rate of 90.66.

However, it has been over three years since Kohli batted in the No. 4 position in January 2020 when he played against Australia in Mumbai. Both Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul have recov-

ered from their injuries and are a part of the 17member Asia Cup squad.

Iyer has done 20 matches at No. 4, scoring 805 runs at 47.35 with two centuries and five fifties. He is most likely to reclaim the spot. Earlier this week, skipper Rohit Sharma stressed on the need to have flexibility in the batting order.

DISAPPOINTED TO SEE CHAHAL BEING

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal failed to make the India squad for the Asia Cup as the selectors gave preference to wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav and spin all-rounder Axar Patel.

"Chahal has been dropped, selectors making their intentions clear who they will be picking. It's a bit of disappointing drop for me, Yuzi is always very handy and it's great to have the leg-spinning option in your team. We know how skilful he is," de Villiers said.

Indian women's blind cricket team win historic gold

scripted history as it won a gold medal after defeating Australia in the rain-curtailed final of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023 on the back of their scintillating show here.

The Indian women's blind cricket team has won everyone's hearts with their spectacular show at the World Games. The Women In Blue remain undefeated, having won all their league games in the tournament. India restricted Australia to 114/8 in the allotted 20 overs and then chased down the revised target of 42 in the fourth over. Blind cricket made its debut

This was the first final in the World Games and India won the ultimate showdown beating Australia by 9 wickets. Opting to bat first, Australia

got off to a poor start as the side lost the first wicket in the 4th over. Feeling the pressure of finals, Australia carried their innings slowly, scoring 29 runs in the Power-play. India picked two wickets in

the eighth and ninth over as Australia were left reeling at 39/3. C. Lewis and C. Webeck then carried Australia's innings stitching a 54-run partnership. However, India came back into the game picking wickets at reg-ular intervals reducing Australia

in IBSA World Games last week with England and Australia from Down Under was just ted 20 overs.

Chasing a paltry target of 42 runs, India came all guns blazing against the Australian bowlers. The Women In Blue never looked out of form as the side chased down the target in just 3.3 overs. In another thrilling encounter, the Indian men's blind cricket team will meet archrivals Pakistan in the final of the IBSA World Games. Pakistan had defeated India by 18 runs when the two teams began their World Games campaign last

India will now look to take revenge on arch-rivals Pakistan as the two teams meet for the second time in the tournament.

Shakib Al Hasan in no mood to consider continental event



PNS DHAKA

Newly-appointed Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan is in no mood to accept the Asia Cup 2023 as a preparation ahead of the ICC World Cup in India, stating both are two different tournaments completely.

Shakib, who last led Bangladesh in an ODI in 2017, has been given the reins after regular captain Tamim Iqbal stepped down due to a back injury. Bangladesh play their first Asia Cup 2023 match against Sri Lanka in Palekelle on August 31.

"You cannot think of World Cup with the Asia Cup because

they are two different tournaments," Shakib told reporters on Saturday with Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha alongside him.

Yes if we can do well and develop as a good team in Asia Cup, in that case we have some good chance to do well in the World Cup and from that point of view Asia Cup is important," he added.

"But it is not like if we do badly in Asia Cup will imply that there is no chance for us in the World Cup nor if we do great will suggest that our chances in World Cup will increase to sub-

Netherlands bank on camps, practice matches in India

Netherlands might be entering the ICC World Cup 2023 as rank outsiders, but their coach Ryan Cook is banking on camps in India and practice matches to make an impact in the quadrennial extravaganza.

Netherlands will arrive in India mid-September to have an acclimatization camp in Bengaluru, where they will play a couple of local sides. Following that, they will face India and Australia in the pre-tournament warm-up matches at Thiruvananthapuram.

Cook hoped that the time spent in India would blend with his team's inherent desire to win

"We are preparing as hard as we can. There will be a couple of camps and practice matches in India. We hope they will serve us well in the tournament proper. Once you enter the tournament, it will be inspirational for on Saturday while addressing a select media gathering.

The Dutchmen qualified for the World Cup earlier in July ahead of teams like two-time champions West Indies.

However, since that day they have not played any international matches, leaving them a tad raw ahead of the big-ticket event to be played in India across October and November. The furrows on Dutch faces

will grow long as they are yet to win a World Cup match in India despite playing in two editions — 1996 and 2011.

But Netherlands captain Scott Edwards did not read much into the history.



at it from that point of view of Players like Edwards, Logan the team. You know, we feel like we've put a lot of decent performances on the board over the past two years," said Edwards. Netherlands will face India,

Sri Lanka and Pakistan in the World Cup league stage. The Orange Army has

Pakistan in the last one year, bringing in a bit of familiarity Cup.
"We send a lot of guys out factor. Cook said while the past experience will stand them in good stead, the team will have to be more clinical in the big tournament, especially against spinners.

"Obviously, they've got quality spinners, and we didn't play that well (in the past). So, for us, we've just got to be more clinical when we get those chances. We've just got to make sure we capitalise on them. We've put processes in place for that. We've been speaking in training for those situations.

Hopefully, you will make them count and win those

Van Beek and Bas de Leede have shown that there is abundance of talent in the Netherlands, and many of them ply their trade in English league cricket as well.

Several of the Dutch players like Paul Van Meekeran have also played in T20 leagues across on those positives in the World

to different places over the winter, which I think develops them. I think previously, probably having, you know, sessions out here in the winter hasn't produced some of the results that the guys might see.

"So a lot of the guys going out and playing. That will make a big difference (in the World Cup). I'm really excited about

the squad.

"We've got a lot of young players, especially the local Dutch (cricketers), we're all producing at the international level already," added Cook.

Deadlock persists over PCB's new contracts ahead of Asia Cup

The deadlock between the ■ Pakistan Cricket Board and the national team players over the signing of new central contracts is yet to be resolved ahead of the all-important Asia Cup in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

A well-informed insider in the board on Saturday confirmed that there were still a number of issues to be sorted out and at one stage senior pacer, Shaheen Shah Afridi had refused to sign the new central contract after the PCB denied him an NOC for the Emirates T20 International League.

"Shaheen got so frustrated at the board's refusal to issue him an NOC that he made it clear it would be best if he didn't sign any contract with the board and played as a freelancer," the insider said.

The board then averted a similar situation with some other players by agreeing to issue NOCs for the Emirates League to be held in January-February.

Shaheen has secured an USD 400,000 contract for two or three years and an additional USD 150,000 for the league by marketing his NFTs online.



The insider said the deadlock was continuing even after Zaka Ashraf, the chairman of the board's cricket management committee, visited Sri Lanka to meet with the players before the start of the series with

Afghanistan. "The senior players are adamant they should get a proper share from the revenues the PCB gets annually from the ICC them big enhancements in their

secondly they want a bigger share or say in the digital rights sale of their NFT's including images, clips and sound bites," the insider said.

He said another contentious issue was the players wanting more freedom in signing of individual endorsement deals. The board has promised

the players are insistent on getting a proper share from the ICC revenues and also from NFTs and individual endorsements." The PCB is guaranteed USD

33.4 million as its share from ICC events in the new financial

have become more aware and

ers and match fees/bonuses but

"The problem is that players

sharper now of their opportunities to earn good money which is why the board has even relented to allow them to play in two foreign leagues every year besides the Pakistan Super League," the insider said. He said the PCB was trying

to find a middle road so that contracts can be announced before or during the Asia Cup. The problem for the board

is that if a top player decides to go freelance, the PCB will not be able to bind him to any clauses of their contracts and he will be free to do or sign contracts as he likes on other platforms."

The senior players have even informed the board that in future they would not be endorsing any products or even surrogate advertising for betting, alcohol or tobacco products.

In the last PSL and international home series the PCB and some of the franchises in the PSL accepted a number of sponsorship and kit logo deals with betting companies using surrogate advertising methods.

The players apparently have also informed the league organisers about their decision to abstain from promoting these

Ashraf calls emergency meeting to 'save chair'

n a desperate attempt to save his chair, head of the Pakistan Cricket Board management committee has called an emergency meeting on Sunday on the eve of his hearing in Lahore High Court.

Zaka, who was appointed in June by the previous government to hold elections of affiliated units, has moved the High Court to obtain a stay order against any decision by the government and election commission of Pakistan to remove him.

Although the PCB has made no official announcement about the meeting, insiders say all the CMC members were called and told about the meeting.

The interesting part is that the meeting has been called in Karachi one day before the Lahore High Court hearing at which the PCB has assured the judge they would submit an election schedule for the post of



The caveat is that even if the CMC forms a Board of Governors on Sunday it has to be ratified by the ministry of sports and also by the election commissioner and secondly only the patron in chief (sitting Prime Minister) can nominate two candidates for the BOG which has to elect one of them

as chairman. "I don't understand what this set-up is doing because even if a BOG is announced on Sunday to tell the court legally there are so many lacunas still

to be resolved," former chairman Khalid Mahmood said. More problems have arisen

as at least two members of the CMC have informed the secretary to the chairman in the board that they would not attend the meeting as they do not agree with the way it is being convened.

Zaka Ashraf finds himself

in the unusual position of perhaps becoming the third chairman since last December to be removed from the board. The reason is that the min-

istry of sports recently wrote a note to the principal secretary of the PM pointing out that the election commission wanted all those heads of institutions removed who were appointed on political basis with Zaka mentioned as a front runner.

Insiders say that Zaka Ashraf might get the newly formed BOG to elect him as chairman which Mahmood said would only create more chaos in Pakistan cricket and cause it embarrassment interNew Delhi, August 27, 2023

the pioneer

Life is very interesting... the end, some of your greatest pains, become your greatest strengths'



TOUGH CALL FOR SAMAJWADI

The Samajwadi Party leads the INDIA coalition against the ruling NDA, vying for a dominant Opposition role. But divergent opinions reverberate on various fronts. The RLD leaders have voiced concerns that national parties frequently seek support from smaller parties before elections but tend to renege on commitments afterward. This criticism is directed at the Samajwadi Party, with RLD leaders contending that Akhilesh Yadav's leadership failed to provide sufficient opportunities to RLD candidates in the Legislative Council elections, writes BISWAJEET BANERJEE

s the nation prepares for the high-stakes clash of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, all eyes are on Uttar Pradesh, where the chessboard of new political alliances is rapidly taking shape. The battleground State is not only pivotal due to the sheer number of Members of Parliament (MPs) it sends to the Lok Sabha, but also due to the intriguing dynamics that promise an electrifying showdown.

At the forefront of this clash stands the Samajwadi Party, a key player in the INDIA coalition, which is meticulously positioning itself as the chief contender against the ruling NDA. Led by Akhilesh Yadav, the party is setting the stage for an enthralling face-off by seeking to establish its dominance as the leader of the Opposition alliance in the State.

In a significant development, Opposition parties in India have come together to form a formidable coalition known as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). The primary objective of this alliance is to unite India's fragmented Opposition forces in preparation for the eagerly anticipated 2024 parliamentary elections, with the ultimate goal of unseating Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"The emergence of the INDIA coalition has injected a sense of hope into India's democratic landscape, as it presents a viable alternative to the incumbent ruling party. However, this alliance is not without its challenges, with one of the foremost hurdles being the creation of a cohesive platform capable of mobilising voters from diverse backgrounds," Nomita P Kumar, of Giri Institute of Development Studies (GIDS) in Lucknow, said.

The success of coalition INDIA depends on its performance in Uttar Pradesh, which has always been considered the crucible of Indian politics. The importance of this vast State, home to 23 crore people, stems from the fact that it is generally said that the road to Delhi passes through Lucknow.

In this background, the role of coalition partners in India assumes importance. This all depends on who will lead the alliance in Uttar Pradesh. With the Samajwadi Party being the main Opposition party, Akhilesh Yadav, the national President of SP, is the obvious choice to lead the coalition in Uttar Pradesh. Yet, Akhilesh Yadav's journey to leadership is strewn with challenges. In the absence of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) from the coalition, the Samajwadi Party finds itself as the primary Opposition force within the INDIA alliance in Uttar Pradesh. This situation not only heightens the spotlight on Yadav's leadership but also magnifies the intricacies of coalition politics in the State. With the Congress maintaining a limited presence in Uttar Pradesh, the task of forging a formidable Opposition front becomes even more demanding.

The recent game-changing verdict from the Supreme Court, reinstating Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership, has breathed new life into the Congress party cadre. However, while this development invigorates the Congress ranks, it is clear that more than just legal victories are required to disrupt the entrenched political spectrum of the



The Congress realised this and therefore made organisational changes in its Uttar Pradesh unit of the party. Former MLA Ajay Rai was appointed as president of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC). He joined his new assignment on August 24 where he declared that Rahul Gandhi would be the next Prime Minister. He also advocated that Rahul should contest the election from Amethi because the people of that region want him to contest the next

"If not Rahul, who else?" he asked in a press conference in Lucknow on Thursday.

This Rai's query raises further questions about the leadership issue within coalition INDIA, because Uttar Pradesh's political landscape is a complex tapestry where electoral strategies, alliances, and ground-level connect intricately blend to create a narrative that can either challenge the status quo or fortify it.

All the big contenders in coalition INDIA have started moving their pawns in the political chessboard meticulously. Behind a closed-door meeting in Lucknow, the SP leadership has voiced its eagerness to play a pivotal role in seatsharing discussions among the alliance partners in UP. Akhilesh Yadav has hinted at his party's inclination to take the lead in steering the Opposition alliance in the State and if the coalition wins, want a lion's share in the government.

The numerical strength of the ■ Samajwadi Party lends credibility to its aspirations. Out of Uttar Pradesh's 80 Lok Sabha seats, the BSP holds 9, the SP has 3 (after losing two in by-elections), and the Congress possesses the sole seat of Rae Bareli. With 111 MLAs in the Vidhan Sabha, the SP leads the alliance in terms of legislative support.

In the 2019 elections, the SP joined hands with the BSP and the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) to forge the "Mahagathbandhan". The SP contested 37 seats, while the BSP and the RLD contested 38 and three seats, respectively. The Congress was allocated two seats. Although the Samajwadi Party secured victories in just five of the 37 seats it contested, it claimed the second position in 31 seats. Akhilesh Yadav himself

emerged victorious from the Azamgarh parliamentary seat but later vacated it following the 2022 Assembly elections, in which the SP faced defeat in the Azamgarh by-election.

Maintaining political supremacy in Uttar Pradesh poses a daunting challenge for the Samajwadi Party due to the State's intricate political dynamics. Forming alliances may be facile, but sustaining them post-elections often proves intricate, with smaller parties inclined to shift loyalties based on their political calculations.

Within the INDIA alliance in Uttar Pradesh, significant political players include the Samajwadi Party, the Congress, the Rashtriya Lok Dal, and the Apna Dal (Kamerawadi). Although they acknowledge the paramount need to present a united front to effectively counter the ruling BJP, differences exist among these constituents

Divergent opinions reverberate on various fronts. The RLD leaders have voiced concerns that national parties frequently seek support from smaller parties before elections but tend to renege on commitments afterward. This criticism is directed at the Samajwadi Party, with RLD leaders contending that Akhilesh Yadav's leadership failed to provide sufficient opportunities to RLD candidates in the Legislative Council Elections.

On the flip side, Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) emphasises the significance of addressing the aspirations of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) within the INDIA coalition.

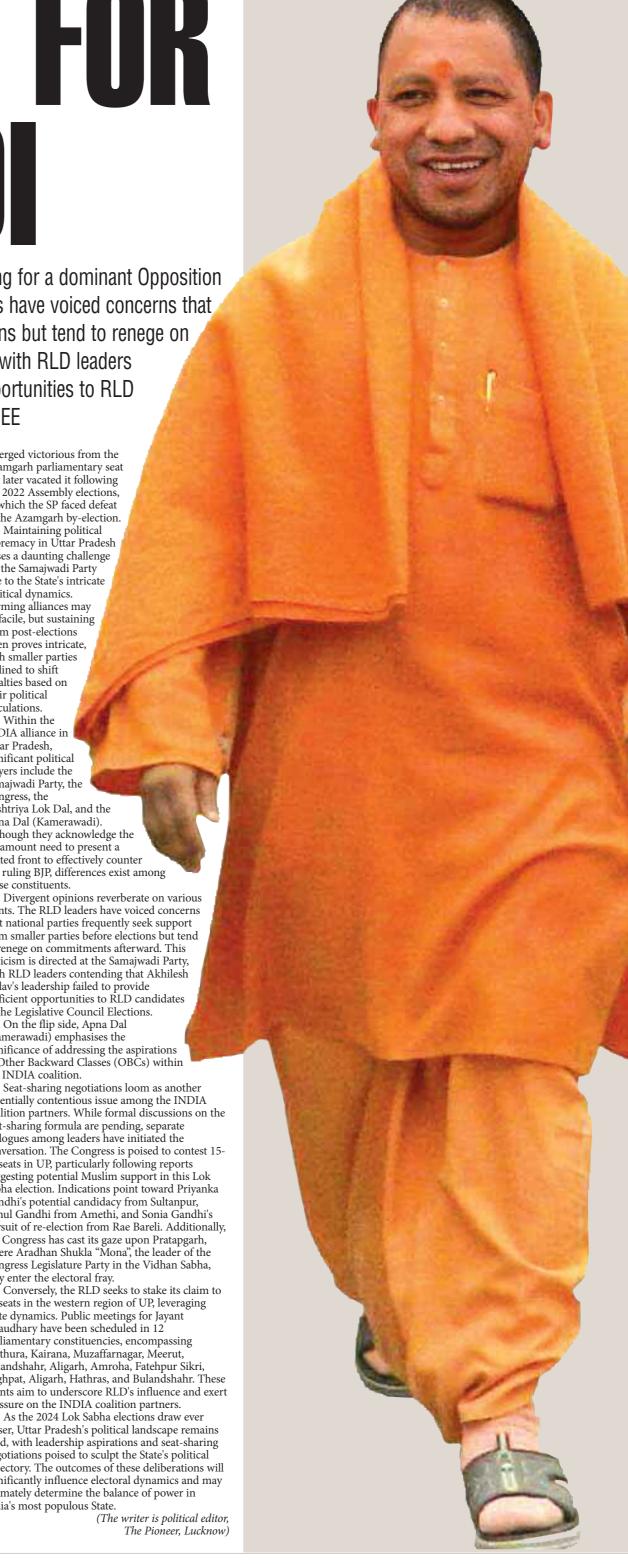
Seat-sharing negotiations loom as another potentially contentious issue among the INDIA coalition partners. While formal discussions on the seat-sharing formula are pending, separate dialogues among leaders have initiated the conversation. The Congress is poised to contest 15-20 seats in UP, particularly following reports suggesting potential Muslim support in this Lok Sabha election. Indications point toward Priyanka Gandhi's potential candidacy from Sultanpur, Rahul Gandhi from Amethi, and Sonia Gandhi's pursuit of re-election from Rae Bareli. Additionally, the Congress has cast its gaze upon Pratapgarh, where Aradhan Shukla "Mona", the leader of the Congress Legislature Party in the Vidhan Sabha, may enter the electoral fray.

12 seats in the western region of UP, leveraging caste dynamics. Public meetings for Jayant Chaudhary have been scheduled in 12 parliamentary constituencies, encompassing Mathura, Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Amroha, Fatehpur Sikri, Baghpat, Aligarh, Hathras, and Bulandshahr. These events aim to underscore RLD's influence and exert pressure on the INDIA coalition partners.

As the 2024 Lok Sabha elections draw ever closer, Uttar Pradesh's political landscape remains fluid, with leadership aspirations and seat-sharing negotiations poised to sculpt the State's political trajectory. The outcomes of these deliberations will significantly influence electoral dynamics and may ultimately determine the balance of power in India's most populous State.

(The writer is political editor,





New Delhi, August 27, 2023

ARE HEALTH DRINKS HEALTHY FOR YOUR KIDS?

With attractive packaging and scientific claims of growth and brain development and immunity booster, health drinks have been a favourite among parents. But the question is how healthy are these health-worthy drinks for children? Needless to say, it's important to read labels and choose health drinks that are low in sugar, free of artificial sweeteners, and high in essential nutrients. But are the labels really so clear? THE HEALTH PIONEER talks to the stakeholders

ikas Soni, father of two teenagers finds it difficult to choose the right health drink for his children as most of them have high sugar content. "The attractive packaging on one hand talks of growth and brain development but it does not highlight the true nature of the product's high sugar content. This is misleading for consumers who do not have time or understanding to read the nutrition labels," he says matter-of-factly



VIKAS SONI



NILANJANA BOSE

Nilanjana Bose, mother of a teenager echoes similar views as she complains at a is no information on the lems from an early age. unhealthiness of the product on the packet.

"I was giving my child a popular health drink thinking it would help him in his growth only to be stopped timely by a pediatrician saying that this is extremely harmful for a growing child and could lead to complications because of its high sugar content."

With the huge surge in the popularity of so called 'health drinks' that claims to provide a range of health benefits for children, parents like Vikas Soni and Nilanjana Bose are a confused lot. They are voicing concern over lack of a clear and interpretive Front of Pack Warning Labels (FOPL) on such packaged foods that can help them choose best for their wards.



time consuming, points out Nilanjana Bose. In fact, the industry positions these health drinks as a quick and easy way to get all the vitamins, minerals, and nutrients that the body needs.

often fail to read the nutrition

labels as they are complex and

Kavita Devgan, noted nutritionist and author, opines that ""Some so-called health drinks for children actually fall under the dangerous HFSS (High Fat Salt Sugar) category and can lead to obesity, dia-



KAVITA DEVGAN

"Parents often introduce these sugary drinks to children as early as 2 years thinking that they will supplement the missing nutrition from their children's diet, But these sugarladen drinks can add a lot of these through their diet.

extra sugar to their diet and may increase the risk of lifestyle diseases among children. So read the labels carefully before introducing any new packaged food in your child's diet."

She knows better. These products though advertised as vitamin and energy rich drinks are very high in added sugar content. They may also contain excessive amounts of malt which is categorized as added sugar. Presence of vitamin and other added nutrients does not neutralize/negate the harm caused by such excessive sugar content, which according to experts should be strictly avoided for growing children as it can lead to devastating health consequences in their adulhood.

these brands of health drinks with their advertisements on the packaged products. Parents often fail to read the nutrition labels as they are complex and time consuming. As per the recommendation of the nutritionists or pediatricians, depending on the condition or deficiency of a particular nutrient which otherwise is unavailable to the child through dietary intake, one may be recommended the supplements (through energy

Parents should look out for high sugar content in the drink. Proteins, vitamins, minerals, DHA etc are certain ingredients which help in overall growth of the child, and should be used only for a short while until the child starts taking



DR PRADEEP AGGARWAL

Dr Pradeep Aggarwal Additional Professor, AIIMS Rishikesh, too maintains that "health drinks usually have a very high content of sugar in them. Excessive consumption of these unhealthy sugar laden the key causes of childhood obesity and increases a child's risk of cancer, heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes as an adult. It should become mandatory for health drinks producers to warn consumers about high sugar content. Not only will it help consumer choice but also encourage companies to reformulate according to globally agreed thresh-

Doctors also warn that some health drinks may contain artificial sweeteners to reduce sugar content, but these sweeteners have been linked to potential health risks, including disrupting gut microbiome and metabolic function.

Needless to say, everybody wants the best for their children and these food manufac-

as one goes deep into the

treatment process with cost

escalations, hidden costs,

addons, additional tests and

emergency procedures crop-

ping up substantially adding

to your final bill.

turers use smart tactics to hide NCDs affecting individuals the true nature of the product because of lack of regulations. Several scientific studies in India and abroad have shown that having a clear and interpretive FOPL on unhealthy packaged foods will help consumers identify unhealthy foods, especially given to chil-

"Consumers have a right to make informed choices on the foods they eat. Having a simple Warning Label on packaged foods will help con-sumers identify foods that are high in fat, sugar and salt," says Ashim Sanyal, CEO of Consumer VOICE, a consumer rights organization working in the field of cardio-



ASHIM SANYAL

He maintains that consumers need to be more aware of the ingredients of the foods they or their families are consuming on a daily basis. These ultra-processed HFSS rich foods are root causes for

A RED FLAG

- Health drinks falsely marketing nutritious benefits to children
- These drinks are dangerously high in sugar and can lead to obesity and elevate risk of diabetes in Lack of clear warning and
- information regarding ingredients confuse consumers Scientific research and consumer
- studies have proved that a 'high in' style warning FOP label will help consumers make the right choice An observation study conducted by
- the AIIMS has established warning label as the best tool to warn Indian consumers and safeguard health of India has more than 100 million
- people living with diabetes compared to 70 million people in 2019; 136 million people are prediabetic.
- India is likely to be home to 27 million obese kids by 2030

across all age groups and

"Risk factors linked to NCDs, such as unhealthy diets and physical inactivity, impact individuals throughout their lives, spanning from children to adults and the elderly. Adoption of a FOPL will be an important step in improving the health of the nation. Delay in this direction has already started posing threat to the health of people as well as burden on the country's health infrastructure." Data speaks.

India has more than 100 million people living with diabetes compared to 70 million people in 2019, according in the Lancet recently. The study also revealed that 136 million people are pre-diabetic. The report also warns that 'there are serious implications for the nation, warranting urgent state-specific policies and interventions to arrest the rapidly rising epidemic of metabolic NCDs in

As per Unicef's World Obesity Atlas for 2022, India is likely to be home to 27 million obese kids by 2030. It currently ranks 99 out

of 183 countries in terms of handling the economic impact of obesity. Possible explanations for increasing trends of obesity among children are consumption of HFSS foods and lack of physical

HEALTH BRIEFS



SBI Foundation, Indian Head Injury Foundation set up neuro-rehabilitation centre for poor

NOIDA: SBI Foundation's healthcare vertical SBIF Jivanam has partnered with Indian Head Injury Foundation (IHIF) to implement "Project Sahyog", wherein a charitable physiotherapy and neuro-rehabilitation centre has been set up for providing support to victims of traumatic brain and spine injuries in Delhi NCR.

The IHIF Physiotherapy & Neuro Rehabilitation Centre at Sector 11, Noida was inaugurated jointly by Sanjay Prakash, Managing Director, SBI Foundation and Maharaja GajSingh of Marwar-Jodhpur, Chairman, IHIF.

The centre caters to the requirements of victims of traumatic brain and spine injuries, Persons with Disabilities, and patients with ortho and other neurological deficits through the provision of post-hospital care and neuro-rehabilitation. Though the centre is open to all, it is primarily set up for the benefit of PwDs from the weaker sections who will be provided with top class rehabilitation free of cost, said Sanjay Prakash, MD, SBI Foundation.

"Whilst the well-off patients have options, the common man has nowhere to go and that is where Project Sahyog chips in," added Maharaja GajSingh.

It is estimated that in India nearly 10 lakh people are injured, 2 lakh die in accidents and nearly 10 lakh require rehabilitation services every year. Among various injuries, Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs) are a leading cause of morbidity, mortality, disability, socioeconomic losses and poor quality of life among

Study calls for raising age limit for smoking

NEW DELHI: Researchers have urged governments to raise the legal age to buy cigarettes to 22 years or higher. A study has found it becomes less addictive and easier to quit as people get older.

The legal age to purchase tobacco is 18 years old in many countries but in some nations, there are no age restrictions. It is estimated that nearly 9 out of 10 adults who smoke cigarettes daily first try smoking by age 18, and 99 per

cent first try smoking by age 26. Results showed that starting smoking early is linked

with higher nicotine dependency, even in young adulthood, and early starters were 30 per cent less likely to quit the habit compared with late starters. "The study indicates that

increasing the legal age to buy tobacco to 22 years or older could lead to a reduction in the number of people addicted to nicotine and at risk of adverse health consequences," said study author Dr Koji Hasegawa of the National Hospital Organisation Kyoto Medical Center, Kyoto, Japan.

50 more MBBS seats in NEIGRIHMS: Union MoS Health

NEW DELHI: The Centre has decided to increase 50 more MBBS seats in the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) here, Union Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said here.

she said the Centre will provide all necessary support to Meghalaya for setting up its own medical colleges.

"We are going to increase 50 more seats from next year so it will then be 100 seats in NEIGRIHMS," the Union Minister said.

The Centre has been focusing on strengthening tertiary care including primary and secondary as the Prime Minister's vision is to strengthen the healthcare system



through central government schemes, she said. "Last year, the budget was Rs 480 crore and this year, the budget is Rs 528 crore. So we are constantly increasing (the budget)," she said, lauding the achievements of the NEIGRIHMS which include the radiotherapy treatment.

Financial Burden Makes IVF Difficult Choice For Couples

Couples looking towards the IVF option for starting a family need to prepare themselves financially also other than physically and mentally. This is where on-demand credit or embedded finance in healthcare is set to support the parenthood journey by offering monthly installment plans for availing such treatments, JITIN BHASIN, CEO of SaveIN, a healthcare-fintech platform tells ARCHANA JYOTI

ccording to estimates, India has nearly 28 million couples who are actively trying to become parents but are suffering from infertility. Not even 1% of these couples are opting for IVF, presenting a significant growth opportunity for the industry. India's IVF market was pegged at USD750 million in 2020 and is set to reach USD 4 billion by 2030. These estimates can change significantly if the biggest impediment to the adoption of IVFaccess and affordability is addressed.

What is causing a rise in fertility issues?

Rapid change in lifestyles sedentary habits, intake of junk food, smoking, alcohol, environmental deterioration,

and stress are known to be the biggest contributors towards fertility issues. It is also a known fact that along with advancements in education, work opportunities and prioritizing financial independence, delayed marriages and parenthood are becoming a norm especially in urban areas of the country, leading to growing rates of infertility. Given that some of these trends are nearly irreversible and commensurate with the growth of our economy, it is imperative that we find solutions to support the dreams of new India, while managing associated impediments towards the journey of parenthood. That impediment is the financial burden an IVF procedure



The Financial burden of IVF Couples looking to take

the IVF option for starting a family need to prepare themselves financially also other than physically and mentally. Simply put IVF option is a heavy financial strain which can intensify further in case a



Each IVF cycle constitutes multiple consultations with the doctors, diagnostics check-ups, hormonal therapies, egg retrieval, embryo culture and transfer costing between Rs 1.25 lac to Rs 2 lacs on an average, over a three to five weeks

couple. Moreover, these treatments are not covered under health insurance schemes, making it a completely out-ofpocket expense. Even those with credit

process, making it extremely

expensive for an average Indian

cards find it expensive, since repaying Rs 2 lacs within 30 days of a credit card cycle is not feasible since eighty percent of urban Indians make less than Rs 40,000 per month.

The solution

This is where on-demand credit or embedded finance in healthcare is set to disrupt the adoption and penetration of assisted reproduction techniques like IVF by offering monthly instalment plans for availing such treatments.

By seamlessly integrating

experience, embedded finance provides convenient payment options and personalized financing plans at the point of check-out, thereby supporting the journeys and needs of each couple. This innovation effectively

financial services into the IVF

mitigates the financial burden associated with IVF and simplifies the payment process.

ltimately, availability of on-demand finance holds immense potential to empower more couples to pursue IVF treatments and fulfil their dreams of starting a family.

Increased social acceptance India as a society used to place immense value on biological parenthood but is now witnessing fast-evolving soci-

etal attitudes and reduced

to the acceptance of IVF to achieve parenthood. As conversations around infertility become more open

stigma around infertility,

which in turn has contributed

and celebrities, and public figures share their own experiences with IVF, the social barriers and taboos surrounding the treatment are gradually being dismantled, making it easier for couples to adopt assisted techniques in attaining parenthood. With further research,

increased awareness, and expansion of accessible healthcare, IVF is likely to play an even more prominent role in improving India's fertility landscape in the years to come and embedded finance is the perfect fit to drive this much needed surge in adoption.

BRICS: Alternative model of global governance

 $T^{
m he\ recent\ BRICS\ (Brazil,\ Russia,\ India,\ China,\ and}$ South Africa) conference in Johannesburg, South Africa (Aug 22-24, 2023), reaffirms the formation of an alternative global governance system. Way back in 2001, an economist for Goldman Sachs named Jim O'Neill coined the original acronym 'BRIC' to refer to Brazil, Russia, India, and China. He also predicted that all these emerging economies might dominate the global economy by the year 2050. However, it hardly garnered attention in global discussion forums and among intellectuals as the US was then the supremely dominating unipolar power. Nevertheless, with the global economic crisis in 2008, the international community came to realise that there are other nations in the Global South like India, China, etc, which can easily stabilise and further dictate terms in the international financial system in the long run.

It was the first time in 2008 when the BRIC came into discussion with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the G-8 Summit in St Petersburg, Russia. But before that, the foreign ministers of the BRIC nations met on the margins of the 61st UN General Assembly in New York City in 2006 and outlined the main objectives of the future group. These high-level meetings finally led to the crystallisation of the intergovernmental organisation on June 16, 2009, in Yekaterinburg, Russia, when the heads of the four founding members gathered for its first summit. The main objectives and goals set by the BRIC were: to promote economic cooperation, trade, and investment flows among the members and with other developing countries; to advocate for a more legitimate and representative international system, including reforming the UN Security Council; to strengthen people-to-people exchanges and cultural, educational, and sports cooperation; to act as a bridge and voice for the interests of the Global South, and finally to use the economic strengths of each member to



inal objectives have undergone massive changes with the sharp rise of China since 2012 with the beginning of the Xi Jinping regime in Beijing. Additionally, what has tremendously affected the intergovernmental relationship between India and China is the ongoing border clashes on the Line of Actual Control and over the McMahon Line, covering more than 3,488 km and dividing into three sectors: Eastern, Western, and Middle Sectors. Apart from China's much-talked-about and controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the String of Pearl Strategy, and finally, the Wolf Warrior Diplomacy tactics are fast becoming potential threats to its neighbour India. Under Xi, China has revived its imperialistic agenda and is reclaiming its global status by using money, muscle power, and

Furthermore, within the BRICS, the current concern is the Russia-Ukraine war continuing since February 2021. Putin's aggressive agenda and

tional norms, including the UN Charter, while forcefully occupying the eastern flanks of Ukraine, are making geopolitical equations worse every single day. In fact, Putin could not travel to a BRICS member nation, ie, South Africa, this time for the latest summit, fearing his arrest as the International Criminal Court (ICC) has already issued an arrest warrant against him. South Africa is an ICC member and would be compelled to arrest Putin if he enters its territory. Therefore, the spymaster has avoided attending the latest BRICS summit and has deputed his Foreign Minister and confidant Sergey Lavrov instead. On March 17, 2023, after conducting an investigation of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, the ICC issued arrest warrants for Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, the Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights. The ICC indictment alleges that both are responsible for war crimes involving the unlawful deportation and transfer of children from Ukraine to Russia. Meanwhile, Moscow has denied the alle-

as completely outrageous. The biggest irony is that the ICC has no power to arrest such suspects and can exercise its jurisdiction only within its member nations. The Russian Federation is not a member of the ICC at present. Besides, Putin's war game in Ukraine and NATO's constant supply of lethal weapons to the latter are creating an environment of almost a Third World War in Europe, putting the whole world at risk of another catastrophe immediately after the harrowing COVID-19.

Furthermore, Brazil and South Africa, two other members of the BRICS community, are undergoing significant economic and political upheavals recently. Especially the chaos brought by Jair Bolsonaro, the outgoing President, and currently, Lula's populist political agenda may once again herald disaster for Brazil. With all these in mind, the future of BRICS and its new members will face turbulent times in the days to come.

For Delhi, it would be challenging to balance its growing relationship with the US and the West while spear-

is the most dominant power. Beijing's agenda for de-dollarisation and creating an economic spectacle for dethroning the Bretton-Woods institutions would not augur well for the rest of the BRICS community, including the newly inducted ones. The reason is that BRICS is a relatively new platform, while the US-led global liberal order is an old and experienced system, so to say. Indeed, the US and the West-led institutions have already witnessed multipronged crises and have learned the art of survival. So only with the assurance of China, the largest economic giant in the world, a dwindling Russia under Putin, and a fastemerging global power like India under strongman Narendra Modi, bracing for its own identity, power, and influence with a strong tilt towards the US, could possibly create a serious push-and-pull game within BRICS in the coming days. And the game has already begun; India displayed its power and branding at the Johannesburg summit with the announcement of its rare space science marvel, successfully landing the Chandrayaan-3 mission at the South Pole of the Moon. Frankly speaking, Prime Minister Modi is a highly ambitious statesman who has already committed his country to a five-trillion-dollar economy and developed country status in the coming days. Equally ambitious is Xi, who is already on the road to acquiring the status of China's lifetime president and ruling until his death, similar to the country's founder Mao Zedong. Remember, these two leaders are running the two most populous countries in the world, and they are neighbours intensely competing for global power and position. Therefore, BRICS is setting a new power game that will be sharper and tougher in the years to come.

It's time for India to take sides instead of playing double roles, as many strategic experts suggest. However, it is a challenging game to be on one side of the spectrum, as the world has become increasingly interdependent today, unlike the pre-Cold War days.

This summit is historically significant in the sense that it has paved the way for the expansion of the group from

new members joining the grouping are Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In fact, it is the second expansion of the organization after a gap of 13 years, when South Africa was welcomed in 2010. The addition of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE is of great significance as they are oil-rich nations of the world. With the entry of Argentina, another member from the South American region has come, following Brazil. Now, the two big nations and powers from South America can well represent the priorities for the rest of the Latin American countries. All these new members will formally join the forum by January 1, 2024.

mere five to eleven now. The

Despite all the intricacies of the global governance system and within BRICS itself, the latter is certainly redefining a new system for emerging economies and developing nations, especially for the Global South.

Finally, the BRICS turning the tide against the US will once again divide the world at a time when many developing nations are either confused or have not been able to decide which side to take. The BRICS has already been branded as an anti-Western global platform. The smearing of BRICS as anti-American group needs to be minimized in the global media.

On the other hand, the advocates of the longstanding global liberal order must understand that their system is declining, and people are rapidly losing trust in it. Hence, an Asian order spearheaded by China could be an alternative framework for many, but it has its limitations due to its neglect of universal human rights and purely authoritarian style. It is time to reinvent a new global order wherein multipolar identities and interests are accommodated. Possibly, BRICS could be an alternative system that can guide the world into a new order, despite the serious problems and growth prospects within the organization's members. Let's wait and watch how BRICS takes the world forward.

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research

The BRICS turning the tide against the US will once again divide the world at a time when many of the developing nations are either confused or have not been able to decide which side to take. Already, the BRICS has been branded as an anti-Western global platform. The smearing of BRICS as an anti-American group needs to be minimised in the global media



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

build relations and avoid com-

Mystery behind demise of Wagner Group boss

Two months after challenging Vladimir Putin's leadership in an apparent but abortive "mutiny", Yevgeny Prigozhin — the former owner of the mercenary private military company Wagner Group — has joined a long list of prominent Russians to die in mysterious circumstances.

Prigozhin's private jet apparently crashed on a routine flight from Moscow to St Petersburg just after 3pm local time. Confirmation of Prigozhin's likely demise came in the form of announcements by Russia's authorities and a Telegram channel linked to the Wagner group. Conveniently, there was also video footage of the plane falling out of the sky and burning on the ground.

With him on the aircraft was Dmitry Utkin, widely considered to be his second in command at the Wagner Group. Other passengers are reported to have included Valery Chekalov, the head of Wagner security, Yevgeny Makaryan, who has been described as Prigozhin's bodyguard and other Wagner Group personnel.

While it is unlikely that we will ever know for sure how, why and on whose orders Prigozhin might have been killed, it is far less difficult to imagine that he finally paid the price for his march on Moscow at the head of a column of his Wagner Group troops at the

end of June 2023. The deaths of other top Wagner personnel in the crash spell the likely end of the group in its current form.

At the time, Prigozhin went to great lengths to paint his mutiny as directed against the top brass in the Russian ministry of defence and not as a direct challenge to the Russian President, Vladimir Putin. Yet the brief episode exposed cracks in the regime. Unopposed by local and regional security forces, Prigozhin's troops were able to take Rostov-on-Don and the headquarters of Russia's southern military district and command centre of the war in Ukraine. They also marched to within 200 km (125 miles) of the Russian capital, again mostly unopposed.

Following a deal brokered by Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko, Prigozhin called off his rebellion, agreeing to relocate his men and himself to Belarus and Wagner's overseas bases mostly in Africa.

Despite some concerns over an increasing Wagner presence closer to Nato members Poland and Lithuania, little of the agreed relocation seems to have happened. Prigozhin himself appears to have enjoyed significant freedom of movement in Russia in the weeks after his abortive mutiny, including making an appearance on the sidelines of the Russia-Africa summit at the end of July.



Putin's purges

Though abrupt, his death is not unexpected. Under Putin, a former KGB operative himself, Russia has carried out several high-profile assassinations and assassination attempts, including in the UK and Germany, to go after alleged traitors and Putin critics.

Many opposition figures in Russia have either died myste-

riously or been assassinated. The list includes figures such as Alexei Navalny (who survived novichok poisoning), former deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov, anti-corruption lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, and journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

Meanwhile some regime

Meanwhile, some regime critics may have thought themselves to be beyond his reach in the UK or other countries, have also been disposed of.

These include oligarch and former friend turned critic, Boris Berezovsky, and former spies Alexander Litvinenko and Sergei Skripal, who were both poisoned (although Skripal survived) have been targeted.

Putin's message here has been clear for two decades: opposition will not be tolerated and will probably have fatal consequences.

Prigozhin's likely assassination reaffirms this message spectacularly. But it is not the only step that Putin has taken to reassert control. On the day of Prigozhin's death, one of his presumptive allies in the military establishment, Sergei Surovikin — a former commander of Russian forces in Ukraine — was apparently dismissed as head of the Russian aerospace forces. This

followed weeks of speculation following his disappearance after the Prigozhin mutiny.

Other top military officials critical of Russia's conduct of the war in Ukraine, including the commander of the Russia 58th Combined Arms Army, Ivan Popov, were dismissed. Other officials, considered close to Prigozhin, including the deputy head of military intelligence, Vladimir Alexeyev, are still unaccounted for.

Outside the military, alleged critics of Putin's war in Ukraine have not been safe either. A series of mysterious deaths struck fear into Russian oligarchs in the months after the full-scale Russian aggression against Ukraine began in February 2022. Since then, criticism from the Russian business elite has been muted.

The apparent assassination of Prigozhin would therefore seem to be business as usual for Putin. It was foreshadowed in the Russian president's speech on June 24, the morning after Prigozhin's mutiny began, when he vowed to punish the "traitors", as he described them.

Back to business as usual?

Prigozhin's demise also draws a line under the apparent power struggle within the Russian military. As the chief architects of the war in Ukraine, Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu and chief of

general staff Valery Gerasimov are the most obvious beneficiaries of Prigozhin's death and the wider purges of critics inside and outside the military.

Putin, and his inner circle, clearly have prevailed on this occasion. This is not surprising, given how little direct and public support Prigozhin received over the course of his mutiny. In this sense, Putin's regime is still highly effective and has demonstrated its capacity to survive domestic challenges.

But the underlying problem — a disastrous military campaign in Ukraine — has not gone away with the death of Prigozhin. Putin may have silenced one of the most outspoken critics of the conduct of the war, and have others arrested or murdered, like prominent pro-war bloggers Igor Girkin and Vladen Tatarsky. But many who share Prigozhin's misgivings without backing him publicly will have survived Putin's clean-up operation.

Putin can be sure that they will now be extra careful not to stand too close to high windows or accept cups of tea from anyone connected with Russia's security services. But this may not be the only lesson they have learned from Prigozhin's demise — and that will likely worry the Kremlin and increase the paranoia of Putin and those around him.

(The Conversation)



























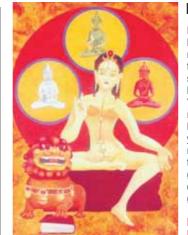




ARIES March 21-April 19

Watch as the larger aspects of your life effortlessly align. A focus on financial matters emerges. Anticipate an imminent inflow of finances; its source could vary, spanning a salary increase, a fortuitous lottery victory, or an unexpected legacy. Adherence to established frameworks while meeting expectations becomes pivotal. Should an upcoming interview loom, brace for an interviewer marked by incisiveness and rigour. Be vigilant about your well-being: rest, physical activity, and nutritious nourishment warrant consideration. Rectify any deficits to pave the path to enhanced living. Midweek, brace for a delightful surprise, signifying swift developments. International voyages or distant expeditions may beckon, heralding a momentous life episode. Progress will extend beyond material realms, incorporating spiritual enrichment and prosperity.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Ocean Blue Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Pay attention to the small stuff, and see how the big things fall into place: This week, get ready for more work ahead. You're good at your job and take things seriously. Your talents and past successes will bring you good results. You'll feel like you have more responsibility and new ideas. Your finances will improve. If have got married recently, there are chances of conception of a baby. Around the middle of the week, a decision you've been waiting for will finally come. You might also get some advice about your health. By the end of the week, you'll be caring, smart, and a good example for others. You'll feel energetic, excited, and confident, enjoying time with fun and generous people

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Lavender



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Attend to the details, and watch as the larger pieces of your life fall harmoniously into position. A radiant smile is in store for you this week. The days ahead hold the promise of enduring financial stability and material abundance. Fortunes take a favorable turn, ushering in prosperity. An unexpected windfall, possibly through a gift or inheritance, could grace your path. However, daydreaming must yield to diligence; your energy should be channeled into industrious effort. Success will only blossom through hard work. Your intuitive wisdom will be your beacon. In the midst of the week, maintaining a focused mindset becomes essential for emotional balance. Unchecked feelings might surge, endangering equilibrium. Be cautious of rivals seeking to exploit your vulnerabilities.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Mustard Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Amidst the cosmic currents, remember: Tend to the small fragments, and watch as destiny weaves its design flawlessly. Safeguard your possessions, for a hint of beguilement resides nearby. Nonetheless, within this week's constellation, a cherished yow awaits fulfillment. Your vitality shines, charisma enchants, and innovation thrives. The allure of exploration and conquest courses through your veins. A juncture approaches wherein you'll quell not only your trepidations but also those of kindred spirits. Admirably, you'll marshal your authority for productivity, reaping gains both vocational and emotional. Prepare to embrace new duties in the days ahead. With aspirations reaching for the heavens, dreams of adorning this legacy emerge, as new ventures or substantial investments beckon. An old companion extends an invitation—a sojourn through nostalgia's alleys sparks elation.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Sunshine Yellow Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Taking heed of the finer details will pave the way for harmony in significant matters. Your rapport with superiors is set to flourish. Progress aligns with your aspirations. A favorable outlook shines on endeavors of a creative nature. The present juncture holds immense promise. Endurance becomes vour strong suit. Although deceit looms, plots by rivals to undermine you shall falter. Your exceptional foresight and patience shine through. Serenity and joy grace vour home life. Plans for a new abode or home construction will crystalize this week. Upcoming celebrations will bless your household. Both material and spiritual realms overflow with abundance. Empowerment will enable you to be a pillar of

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Ruby Red Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Look into the finer details, and the bigger picture will align seamlessly. This week, your emotions and passions may take a negative form, so aim for serenity and balance. You possess innate diplomacy, exude romanticism, and thrive as an engaging conversationalist and partner. Material security and joy prevail, potentially accompanied by financial gains from hard work or external sources like inheritance or investments. As the week concludes, equilibrium is achieved. Work-related travel is imminent, with emotional engagement in your professional duties. Your optimistic creativity and vigor pave the path for success in both career and emotional spheres. An uplifting message is anticipated. Reject greed and self-centeredness to nurture personal growth.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Pearl White Lucky day Sunday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

During the upcoming week, your creative essence will radiate, guiding you towards artistic ventures such as crafting poems. immersing in romantic melodies, relishing theatrical performances, and partaking in social gatherings. Quality time with your partner is on the horizon, intensifying your connections and fostering stronger bonds. However, as the week progresses, you might feel more assertive and demanding about fulfilling your desires, potentially leading to clashes at home and in your workplace. You could encounter hurtful words, but remember, this is a passing phase. Your innate balance and composure will help you regain control effortlessly. Towards the week's end, an auspicious message emerges. A possible journey or a leisurely trip promises rejuvenation and revitalization. Themes of shopping, socializing, giving, and receiving gifts will prevail throughout the week.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

In the upcoming week, your creativity will shine, drawing you toward artistic ventures like poems, love songs, movies, theatre, and parties. Quality time with your partner lies ahead, intensifying and solidifying your bond. Around midweek, you'll assert your desires more forcefully, which might lead to conflicts at home and work. Hurtful words may arise, but remember, this is a passing phase. Your innate balance and composure will help you manage these situations. As the week concludes, a positive message emerges from the cards. A journey or pleasurable trip is on the horizon, offering relaxation and rejuvenation. The week's theme centers around shopping, socializing, giving, and receiving gifts. Focus on the small details, and harmony will naturally

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Focus on the little things, and watch as the bigger picture falls into place. Right now, your path leans towards spirituality and dedicating time to religious practices. Your spiritual journey takes precedence, with acts of generosity, charity, mantras, and meditation becoming essential. Financial transactions should flow smoothly. An important deal or business contract will require your foresight; take your time in making decisions. A kind gesture and a friendly word could lead to a new friendship. Beware of potentially hurtful humor. Guard against feelings of sadness or dissatisfaction, or be ready to face challenging experiences. An opportunity to delve into Occult subjects like past lives, life after death, the Universe's enigmas. astrology, numerology, and other metaphysical fields will arise. This inward journey will enrich your understanding of the

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Violet Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Attend to the finer details, and watch as the larger pieces of your life effortlessly align. The week's outset embarks with iourneys and abundant commitments of positivity. An enterprising and daring spirit envelops you, placing your objectives ahead of your sentiments and fervors. Conque interviews and competitive exams with the stance of a victor Novel career prospects and openings present themselves. Children become founts of joy. Mothers bask in their week's accomplishments. Family discord dissipates, supplanted by an affirmative ambiance. The week concludes with substantial triumphs, exuding potency. Expect promotion or elevated status. You are the weaver of your destiny. Cancer mothers emanate enhanced care and possessiveness. Potential conception or birth looms. Novel inspiration, inventiveness, and innovation hallmark this phase. You are truly in a state of bliss!

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Emerald Green Lucky day Sunday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Pay attention to the little things, and watch as the bigger aspects fall into place effortlessly. This week, your hard work and commitment bring rewards. You're drawn to a career that satisfies both your emotions and your wallet pushing you to excel. Adhere to schedules and rules. As the week progresses, you'll feel daring and enthusiastic, ready to conquer challenges. Your determination will inspire others. Anticipate sudden changes in living arrangements or travel due to work, and a desired transfer could be on the horizon. Financial gains are likely this week, even if significant money hasn't arrived yet. Towards the week's end, a mix of positive and negative emotions will influence you. Remember, channelling positive emotions accelerates your progress toward your goals—everything becomes achievable

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Chocolate Brown

Dhyana – a mental therapy



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Pay heed to the finer points, and witness the alignment of major elements with ease. The forthcoming week holds the potential for favorable and encouraging transformations in your life. This phase is the epitome of upliftment and contentment. You'll find joy, satisfaction, and a steady framework for your future endeavors. A serene sense of spiritual fulfillment, coupled with abundant physical pleasures, will nurture inner harmony and tranquility. You will function as a wellspring of inspiration and a driving force for your family and children. Your unwavering determination and organizational acumen within your professional domain will add grace to your role; anticipate the possibility of promotions and an elevated stature this week. Immerse yourself in this positive aura! The number 9 holds a special allure for you, bringing auspicious energy.

ucky number 6 | Lucky colour Midnight Black ucky day Wednesday

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tothing happens without making efforts. And no movement can come about without meeting resistance in the way. In a similar vein, no initiative could reach its logical end without facing challenges in the way. Ordinarily challenges are posed by two factors. First, competing interests of others. Second, problems excited by our preconditioned mind, coming as it may as Karmic carryover from the past - inherent habit tendencies and attitudes. Despite this, we wish to negotiate the callings of life with relative ease and comfort. Now, how to achieve this

The process calls for first securing mind's sense of purity. That implies rising over all limitations of mind and emotions and thereby its usual flirtations. Following which, full landscape of mind becomes accessible. Mind then regains its sense of order as mandated by nature, with all its functional coordinates working in support of each other as a unified organism. Consequently, the thought process becomes easy and simple. It needs to be appreciated here that simplicity is clarity, directness, and purity. It is free from complications, clutter, and confusion. Simplicity paves the way to peace of peace of mind, which offers the ground to become better focussed. That makes success and happiness more probable. One would then be in full control of the self, when wholesome powers of mind shall be available. Following which, one's integrated self spontaneously moves in consonance with the callings of larger orderliness of nature. Consequently, one would use mind as an instrument, which it is, rather than playing second fiddle to its vagaries. Mind then comes out with its creative best. Mind, however, could be raised to the above status when one attains the state of "Yoga". That, in applied terms means unitary mind being fully in tune with the fundamental element of consciousness. Having arrived at this stage, mind begins to spontaneously steer our lives towards the right course due and help turn life into a pleasant experience, individually and collectively.

Now, how to go about? The process suggested by sage Patanjali, the proponent of the concept, is "Dhyana". Going by its literal

paying attention. To what? It is on none other than one's own self, which holds the key to how we usually conduct in life. It, in the first place calls for observing and becoming aware of one's limitations of mind. Second, the workable part of one's indwelling

wholesome latent potential, unexplored and untapped thus far out of ignorance, which when unfolded in full would know no limits.

The method involved is to first disengage one's attention from external distractions, and then look within to

explore and scan what lies in store at the various levels of the inner realms of mind. Having become aware thus, consciously deliberate upon and accordingly redefine the thought process, with the intent to come out with one's best.

In English lingua franca, 'Meditation', is the word commonly used to give a sense of 'Dhyana'. Although, it doesn't reflect true spirit and essence of "Dhyana", it however, stands close by. For, the word meditation, seemingly hints at deeply reflecting upon some idea, thought, or concept. *Dhyana*, on the contrary, is a process directed towards attaining a state of being, when mind gets riveted to the root of all thoughts - the fundamental element of consciousness. It becomes possible only when flirtation of mind is almost contained. Evidently, therefore, mind gets quietened and relaxed, when it comes out with its wholesome creative potential. Meditation, of course, remains a necessary part of the process, and so contextually remains relevant.

for paying attention to the self. The process as such first lets you discover your own nature - the vulnerabilities, the virtues and attributes, in and out. Following which, one gets the opportunity to address one's fault lines through fresh educative inputs. In the process, sufficient mind-space gets created by clearing off the clutters, making way for absorption of fresh educative inputs. Second, one is able to identify and acknowledge one's workable part of indwelling potential, which when honed, augments one's creative abilities. Finally, one realises true nature of mind, covering both its micro and macro aspects. Following which, body, mind, and consciousness, begin operating in a coordinated way as a unified whole. Mind, thus, comes out with its wholesome powers that would know no limits. *Dhyana*, therefore, is a holistic programme, in fact a mental therapy, directed towards integrated development of the self from the base level.

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Dhyana is a time-tested selfempowerment mechanism, which calls