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WORLD 5

SOLDIERS FREED IN RUSSIA. **UKRAINE PRISONER SWAP**

MONEY 6

INDIA WILL GET INTO GLOBAL BOND INDICES ON OWN TERMS: OFFICIAL

SPORT 8 UAE SET TO HOST ASIA CUP

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Govt keeps pledge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

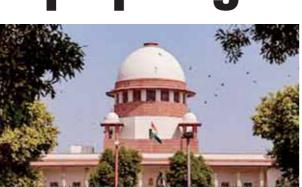
Aday after promising the Supreme Court that the Collegium's pending recommendations for the elevation of five High Court judges to the apex court will be cleared soon, the Centre on Saturday notified the appointments. The five judges elevated to the apex court are Justices Pankaj Mithal, Sanjay Karol, PV Sanjay Kumar, Manoj Misra and Ahsanuddin Amanullah.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju tweeted to announce the appointment of the judges.

Justices Pankaj Mithal Sanjay Karol and PV Sanjay Kumar are Chief Justices of Rajasthan, Patna and Manipur High Courts respectively Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah is a judge of the Patna High Court and Justice Manoj Misra is a judge of Allahabad High

On Friday, the Supreme Court had expressed displea-sure and pulled up the Central Government for delaying the appointments of the five judges who were recommended by Collegium on December 13, last year. A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Abhay S Oka had given the Centre an ultimatum to process the appointments within ten days, after Attorney General N Venkataramani had submitted that they would be done "soon".

When the Bench insisted for a specific timeline, the AG said that appointment warrant



Justice Pankaj Mithal, currently serving as the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court, was Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court. His parent High Court is the Allahabad High Court. Justice Sanjay Karol is currently the Chief Justice of Patna High Court and was Chief Justice of Tripura High Court. His parent High Court is the Himachal Pradesh High

Justice PV Sanjay Kumar is Chief Justice of Manipur High Court and served as a judge of Punjab & Haryana High Court. His parent High Court is Telangana. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah is presently a judge of the Patna High Court and was a judge at Andhra Pradesh High Court before being transferred back to Patna, his parent High Court. Justice Manoj Misra has been a judge of the Allahabad High Court for the past 12 years.

Currently, the Supreme Court has 34 judges and there

five new judges, its strength will up go to 32, with just 2 vacancies. On January 31, the SC Collegium had recommended the names of Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Aravind Kumar for elevation to the Supreme

Public is 'malik', nobody can give warning: Rijiju

Prayagraj: A day after the Supreme Court warned of action for any delay in clearing transfer and appointment of judges. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said, "Public is 'malik' (master) of this country and we are servants. We all are here for service and the Constitution is our guide.... The country will be governed under the guidance of the Constitution and wishes of the public Nobody can give warning to

SC gets 5 judges as India's image unaffected by Adani's FPO pullout: FM

ndia's economic image is not ▲affected due to Adani Group's recent decision to pull out ₹20,000 crore FPO amid allegations of financial wrongdoings, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

The Finance Minister said there has been an accretion of USD 8 billion to the forex reserves in the last two days alone. "...Our macroeconomic fundamentals or our economy's image, none of which has been affected. Yes, FPOs (follow-on public offers) come in, and FIIs (foreign institutional investors) get out," Sitharaman told reporters here.

The Minister said there are "fluctuations" in every market but the accretion over the last few days establishes the fact that the perception of both India and its inherent strengths is intact.

Answering a broader question on the allegations against Adani Group, she said the country's independent financial sector regulators will be looking into the aspect and added that capital markets watchdog Securities and Exchange Board of India has the wherewithal to ensure stability in markets. ...For keeping the market

and the markets regulated in prime condition, the Sebi is the authority. And it has the wherewithal to keep that prime condition," she said. The FM also said that the

RBI has already spoken out on

the issue, referring to Friday's

statement, which said the bank-

managing subscriptions to it. Finance Secretary TV Somanathan on Saturday stood by his comment on the controversy where he called it a

ing sector is resilient and sta-

based short seller Hindenberg

Research made a slew of alle-

gations on the corporate gov-

ernance front against Adani

Group. The Ahmedabad-based

group has denied all the alle-

gations and termed it as a cal-

culated attack on India. It has

cancelled the FPO even after

About ten days ago, US-

storm in a teacup, clarifying that this is in the context of macroeconomic terms and the stability of India's public financial institutions. Meanwhile, on the decision

to convert outstanding dues into equity at Vodafone Idea, Somanathan said the transaction is being done as a package

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with MoS for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary addresses a press conference in Mumbai on Saturday He said the Government share will be held by the

> (DIPAM) where the stake will be considered as a public shareholder. DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the price has been taken at ₹10 despite the Vodafone Idea shares trading lower on bourses because, as

Department of Investment and

Public Asset Management

per laws, preferential allotments have to happen at the face value of a share The Finance Ministry officials present at the meet also made it clear that the tweaks on taxation in the insurance front

will not impact the policy agenda of deepening penetration and clarified that there was sufficient data to suggest that investments were masquerading as insurance premiums due to which a decision was taken to tax the

Steps in place to address excess volatility: Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a raging controversy over a meltdown in Adani Group stocks, regulator Sebi on Saturday said it is committed to ensuring the stock market's integrity and all necessary surveillance measures are in place to address any excessive volatility in individual shares.

Without naming Adani Group specifically, the capital markets watchdog said in a statement that unusual price movement in the stocks of a business conglomerate has been observed in the past week. Officials confirmed that the statement has been issued in the wake of the Adani matter only.

"As part of its mandate, Sebi seeks to maintain orderly and efficient functioning of the market and has put in place a set of well-defined, publicly available surveillance measures (including the ASM framework) to address excessive volatility in specific stocks. This mechanism gets automatically triggered under certain conditions of price volatility in any stock," Sebi said.

BSE and NSE have put three Adani group companies under their short-term additional surveillance measure

PT Usha on Saturday broke that illegal constructions were being carried out at her academy campus in Kozhikode district and strangers were trespassing into the property posing a security threat to the

INDIA'S 1ST TRANSMAN GETS PREGNANT



Transgender couple Ziya and Zahad at their home in Kozhikode on Saturday. Ziya and Zahad are expecting their haby in March while claiming this to be the first pregnancy case for a transman in India PTI

INJURED IN EXPLOSION Kolkata: One person was killed

and two others were injured when they were allegedly manufacturing crude bombs in an explosion at Basanti in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on Saturday.

SATELLITE TO BE SHIPPED TO INDIA FOR LAUNCH

Washington: An satellite meant for earth observation jointly developed by NASA and ISRO that will help study Earth's land and ice surfaces in greater detail is all set to be shipped to India later this month for a possible

TN firm linked to vision loss, death in US told to stop making eye drops

PNS NEW DELHI

¬amil Nadu-based Global Pharma Healthcare, which is facing allegations that its eye drop was linked to vision loss of five people and death of a person in the US, has been asked to stop manufacturing all ophthalmic products till the inquiry is completed in the matter, officials said on Saturday.

Officials in the Union Health Ministry said the direc-tion came after the manufacturing plant of the Global Health Pharma was inspected by Indian drug regulatory bod-A three-member team each from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the State Drug Controller visited the plant in Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram, 40 km from Chennai, on Friday after the company recalled the eye drop.

The teams have also collected samples of eye drop — Artificial Tears — which were exported. The eye drops are



not sold in India. According to an official

report, the joint investigation at the firm's manufacturing site at Thiruporur in Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram was conducted on February 3 by the team of senior central and state drugs officials, under the supervision of Tamil Nadu's Director of Drugs Control and CDSCO's Assistant Drugs Controller (South Zone).

During investigation, it was found that the firm has exported two consignments of 24 batches of Artificial Tears to the USA which were manufactured in 2021 and 2022.

Sharjeel among 11 'scapegoats' freed in **Okhla violence case**

Acourt here on Saturday discharged 11 people, including student activists Sharjeel Imam and Asif Iqbal Tanha, in the Jamia Nagar violence case, saying as the Delhi Police was unable to apprehend the actual perpetrators, it booked the accused as "scape-

The court, however, ordered framing of charges against one of the accused, Mohammad Ilyas.

"Marshalling the facts as brought forth from a perusal of the chargesheet and three supplementary chargesheets, this court cannot but arrive at the conclusion that the police were unable to apprehend the actual perpetrators behind the commission of the offence, but surely managed to rope the persons herein as scapegoats," Additional Sessions Judge Arul Varma said

An FIR was lodged in



connection with the violence that erupted after a clash between police and people protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in the Jamia Nagar area here December 2019.

The judge said there were admittedly scores of protesters at the site and some antisocial elements within the crowd could have created an environment of disruption and havoc.

"However, the moot question remains — whether the accused persons herein were even prima facie complicit in taking part in that mayhem? The answer is an unequivocal no," he added.

Modi to open India's largest copter making unit in K'taka tomorrow

PNS NEW DELHI

With the objective of rapid indigenisation in defence manufacturing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday will dedicate a helicopter manufacturing factory in Karnataka. It will produce light utility helicopters designed

within the country.
Giving details here on Saturday, Defence Ministry officials said Modi will dedi-Hindustan the Aeronautics Limited (HAL) factory at Tumakuru. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and senior officials of the Ministry of Defence will be present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone of the plant in 2016. The Greenfield Helicopter

Factory, spread across 615 acres, is planned with a vision to become a one-stop solution for all helicopter requirements of the country



ready for unveiling.



It is India's largest helicopter manufacturing facility and will initially produce Light

Utility Helicopters (LUHs).
The LUH is an indige nously designed and developed 3-tonne class, single engine multipurpose utility helicopter with unique features of high maneuverability. Initially, this factory will produce around 30 helicopters per year and can be enhanced to 60 and then 90 per year in a phased manner. The first LUH has been flight tested and is

ED seizes heroin, arms in 10 raids on **Punjab border dist**

PNS NEW DELHI

Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case linked to a Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act case on 10 different premises in different villages of Tarn Taran district in Punjab led to the recovery and seizure of 2.2 kg of heroin and other contraband items weighing about 14 kg of narcotics.

In addition, the ED also recovered documents of properties besides two rifles, three pistols and live ammunition from the premises of the suspects.

The ED had launched the search operations on Friday at 10 premises in Sheron, Naushera Pannuan and Bugha villages of Tarn Taran district. The agency searched the

business and residential premises of Skattar Singh, alias Laddi, Gajjan Singh, Makhan Singh, other members of their family and some other associates under the



Prevention of Laundering Act, officials said.

"During the course of search, various incriminating evidence was recovered and seized relating to numerous immovable properties worth crores of rupees in the names of these accused persons, members of their family and their associates," the agency said in a statement.

A few packets of psy-chotropic substance appearing to be opium and its derivative products, including heroin, were also recovered from the residential premises of Skattar Singh and his family at Sheron village.

Orphans will study free of cost in DU: VC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Saturday stated that thousands of orphan children, including those who lost their parents to COVID-19, will get an opportunity to pursue higher education free of cost with the university's new initiative to reserve seats for them. The vice chancellor said

the university has been responsible for providing education to the students seeking higher education without any discrimination on any grounds. The varsity decided to reserve seats in its UG and PG

programmes for orphans under supernumerary quota from the next academic year.

Veteran singer Vani found dead at Chennai home **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**

Vani Jairam, the versatile V playback singer who strode over the South Indian film industry for more than five decades, is no more.

Chennai on Saturday morning by her maid servant Kalaivani. Chennai Police, who rushed to her home on being informed about her death, held a preliminary inquiry and shifted the mortal remains to Government Hospital for





istered by the police. Last weel the Government of India had honoured Vani Jairam with Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award of the A case under sections of country.

'Al could help deliver personalised cancer treatment'

In good news in the cancer care segment, a team of researchers have leveraged artificial intelligence (AI) technology to the care care and artificial care and artificial care artificial care and artificial care are also artificial care and artificial care are also also are also also are als nology to identify genes critical to a cancer cell's survival, and could help deliver personalised cancer patient treat-

types of cancer cells to understand different gene dependencies for identifying the genes, the study said. Researchers at University of Sussex, UK, have

They analysed different

done this by developing a prediction algorithm that works out which genes are essential in the cell, by analysing the genetic changes in the tumour. This can be used to identify actionable targets that in

time could guide oncologists to

personalise cancer patient

treatments, the study said.
"Our vision is to take advantage of the decreasing to both of DNA sequencing and to both of the power of AL to harness the power of AI to understand cancer cell differences and what they mean for the individual patient's treatment. "Through our research, we were able to identify cellspecific gene dependencies using only the DNA sequence and RNA levels in that cell, which are easily and cheaply obtainable from tumour biopsy samples," said Dr Frances Pearl, Senior Lecturer in Bioinformatics at the University of Sussex.

"This is an incredibly exciting step in our research which means that we can now work to improve the technology so that it can be offered to oncologists and help in the treatment pathapproach to guide treatment ways for their patients," said could improve life expectancy,



unnecessary side effects of canmarily prescribed on the basis of the location and type of cancer patients, the study said. cer. Genetic differences in In each cell, there are around 20,000 genes that contumours can make standard cancer treatments ineffective. Using a personalised

Cancer treatments are pri-

tain the information needed to make proteins. Around 1,000 of those genes are essential, meaning they are required for the cell When normal cells become

cancer cells, oncogenes, or genes with the potential to cause cancer, become activated and tumour suppressor genes become inactivated, causing a rewiring of the cell. This causes the cell to

become dependent on a new set of genes to survive, and this can then be exploited to kill the cancer cells. By using this new AI technology to target protein products of tumour-specific dependent genes, cancer cells can be killed, leaving the normal cells which are not dependent on these genes relatively unharmed, the study said. Although dependencies

can be determined using intensive laboratory techniques, it is costly and time consuming and would not be feasible to analyse all tumour samples in this way, the study said.

Adityapur Toll Bridge goes chashless



PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

Adityapur Toll Bridge Company Limited (ATBCL) is a limited company incorporated in 1996 with the participation of State Government and Tata Steel Ltd. along with other industries in Jamshedpur &

ATBCL was created to implement the project for second road bridge, connecting the industrial towns of Jamshedpur and Adityapur on FASTag is a rechargeable

tag that is fixed on the windshield of a vehicle. It uses Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to make toll payments cashless. This Fastag system has three major entities, Toll Plaza, Acquirer Bank and (National Payment Corporation of India). Vehicle FASTag stickers are read by RFID readers which are installed near ATBCL toll

booths. The RFID reader

sends the FASTag ID to the ATBCL server to check the balance of the tag. If sufficient balance is available in the tag, the barrier will open and let the vehicle pass

After that this transaction sent to the Acquirer bank HDFC by server in the encrypted file format. The acquirer bank after processing sends this file to the NPCI system and then sends the acknowledgment data to ATBCL server for matching that transaction. This backend

process is working 24 x 7 to provide a hassle-free toll experience. In the presence of esteemed guests flagged off the official inauguration of FASTag and successfully tested FASTag transactions.Prem Ranjan, RD JIADA, Chairman ATBCL, Pranay Sinha, MD, Ashok Das, Chief Engineer, WRD, Dhananjay Singh, CO Rajnagar, S.N. Thakur, Director ATBCL, and Vijay Anand Moonka, Director ATBCL were among those

24-hour mega ticket checking drive in all divisions of ECR

A 24-hour special ticket checking campaign was conducted at stations and trains by forming separate teams of officers in all the five divisions of East Central Railway, 57 stations and 378 trains were covered in this mega ticket checking drive. During this, a total of 14 thousand 145 passengers were caught without ticket or without proper authorization from which more than 80 lakhs were recovered as fine. About 900 TTEs, 60 RPF personnel and 21 commercial officers were deployed in this campaign. 09 officers and 18 commercial inspectors were also posted from the headquarters. It may be noted that in all the five divisions of East Central Railway, ticket checking is being done continuously to arrest the passengers traveling without ticket and without proper authority and such mega drives will continue to be organized in future also.

Bokaro Steel Plant takes another step towards digitization

Moving towards digitization, Bokaro Steel Plant has implemented a QR code system to identify different types of material in MW-26 Depot of Central Store. It was inaugurated on February 4 by Amarendu Prakash, Director (BPSCL) Thakur, ED(Works) ED(Projects) CR Mohapatra, ED(Finance & Accounts) S Rangani, ED(MM Amitabh Srivastava, Executive Director (Mines) J. Das Gupta, Chief General Managers. Heads Departments and other senior officers and personnel of Management

Department were present. Notably with the launch of QR code in the MW-26 depot of Central Store, the depart-ments of the plant will be able to easily identify different types of materials for their use, which will also reduce inventory. It may be noted that the initiative to use QR code to identify materials in the entire cell has been taken by the Material Management Division of Bokaro Steel Plant for the first time.

While addressing the officers and personnel on this occasion, DIC Prakash congratulated the Material Management Department on Material this achievement and gave a message to implement this system in all the stores of the



plant. It is worth mentioning that as a result of the untiring efforts of the personnel of the Central store during the last one and a half years, success has been achieved in developing the QR code. During the programme, DIC Amarendu Prakash congratulated the

CCS, RGBS and Electronics and Telecom Department for their remarkable contribution in the field of inventory in the month of October-December

by conferring the Inventory Champion award in heavy. medium and light categories



/ATIVE EDUCATION:

DEO

IT IS NECESSARY TO PRO-

VIDE ENJOYABLE AND

VINOD PRASAD

TLM Mela was organat Chiri on Saturday as per the direction of JCERT. In the said fair, models were presented by different schools on the subjects of Mathematics,

Language, Environment, Science, Social Science. As the chief guest in the program, District Education Officer Das Sunanda Chandramouleshwar said that information technology has changed the entire scenario in the field of education. It is necessary to provide educational, enjoyable and innovative education to children through TLM. In his address. the Sub-Divisional Education Officer motivated the teachers towards the use of TLM. Also created awareness about innovation in TLM. Rashmi Khes, Barchandra Yaday and Kumari Archana got first, second and third place respectively for model in language by the jury. In environment science, Bhajan Chakraborty stood first, Rahul Kumar second and Rahul Kumar third, Nutan Pushpa Devi first in mathematics, Navneet Kumar Gaur second and Vijay Lakshmi third and in social science Soni Smita Ekka first, Pratibha Tirkey. Second and third prize was given to Premdani Kujur.

ICSI organises soft skill and stress management programme



PNS: RANCHI

ICSI Ranchi chapter together with Dhanbad and Jamshedpur Chapter had organised a full day programme on soft skill and stress management at Latratu Dam Khunti Jharkhand on Saturday. The Managing Committee of all the three chapters congratulated Chief Guest CS Satish Kumar with

Special guest at the event was DPRO, Khunti District, Aman Kumar, Chairman, greeted CS B Parui Company Secretary BCCL, Amrendra Pradhan, Company Secretary CCL and Nimesh Anand and Amit Mishra, Company Secretary Electricity Board and past chairmen of Ranchi Chapter. started the event with his welcome speech followed by giving honour to the chief guest present there. The

programme started with a speech of S Satish Kumar Followed with breakfast and some recreational activities over soft skill. Post lunch CS Satish Kumar rendered special thanks to D.C. Khunti for Supporting the TEAM ICSI for organising this grand occasion, he has also thanked the organising team CS Aman Kumar, CS Arun Kumar Sinha, CS Vinod Bakshi, CS Suman Jee, CS Reshu Agarwal of Ranchi Chapter, CS Ankit Singh, CS Ankit Majumdaar from Jamshedpur Chapter, CS Kanan Bansal, CS Abhinav Chinmay, CS Roshan Lal from Dhanbad Chapter. It was the first event ever organised by ICSI in Jharkhand with a huge number of members and students present. DPRO Khunti greeted all the i and expressed his gratitude for selecting the place for organising the

GOOD LIFESTYLE, **AWARENESS KEY** TO PREVENT **CANCER: AJMERA**

AVINASH ANJAN: HAZARIBAG

On World Cancer Day, Director of Hazaribag Arogyam Hospital, Harsh Aimera said that every year a new theme is released on Cancer Day.Its purpose is to inform people about the symptoms and prevention of cancer.The theme of World Cancer Day 2023 is "Close the Care Gap" which focuses on closing the gap in access to cancer care services across the country based on income, age, gender, ethnicity etc.According to WHO, there ethnicity are about 45,9000 deaths from inside every year in the Mediterranean Region.Cancer has become a burden to society that places physical, emotional and financial stress on individuals, families and communities.He said that every year on 4th February, we all cele-brate Cancer Day to promote awareness about cancer as a public health issue and to strengthen quality care, screening, early diagnosis and treatment.Cancer can be if detected in time.Ajmera said that during the treatment at Arogyam Hospital, the doctor definitely conducts a checkup on any kind of doubt related to cancer.He also said that cancer screening camp will also be organized soon Hazaribag.Be aware of cancer, as well as we all need to take a pledge to make people aware and educated about this disease. He also said that controlling lifestyle and awareness is the only way to



HCDSH organises free dental checkup camp

71 patients were examined, doctors gave proper advice to the patients

Under the joint aegis of Hazaribag College of Dental Sciences and Hospital and NSS unit, a free dental camp was organized at Kushwaha Bhawan, Mandai Khurd on Free medicine and tooth

brushing kit were distributed at free of cost.A total of 71 patients were benefited in the camp.Oral health awareness and education program was organized for the vil-

doctors.Secretary Hazaribag College of Dental Sciences and Hospital, Dr.

Praveen Srinivas said that basic treatment like dental cleaning of the patients in the camp is free and patients was given 30 to 70 percent discount in other treat-ments.He also told about important rules for maintaining oral health and side effects of tobacco consumption.Dr. Soumya Raj from the Department of Public Health Dentistry gave necessary advice on various diseases and their treatment.Many dignituries including the local Panchayat Samiti member were greatly impressed by the camp and thanked the Hazaribag Dental College for organizing the free camp.Dr. Souvik Chandra, Dr. Kaushar Khan, Dr. Atish Ghosh, Dr. Ankika Anand, Dr. Pihu Priyanka, Dr. Sheeba Khan rendered their services durthe camp.Public Relations Officer Raj Kumar Das made good arrange-

TMH launches Wellness Health Check-up for all citizens

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

In an effort towards promoting wellness and early diagnosis of common diseases, Tata Main Hospital started the Wellness Health Check-up of all citizens of Jamshedpur at the TMH Health Check-up Centre, Sonari, from January 27. The centre, which started conducting Health Check-up for all Tata Steel employees and spouses in Jamshedpur 6 months ago, is now extending its facilities for all citizens of Jamshedpur.

Addressing a press meet Sudhir Rai, general manager, TMH said that the bookings for the new facility started from January 27, 2023 and can be done through the TMH Vishwas app/portal which also allows online payment and online slot reservation. Bookings can also be done for walk-in citizens on cash payment at the OPD Counter, Individuals can contact +91 9040089571 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, except Sundays for query clarification. There are 6 packages that will be on offer ranging from Rs 3500 to Rs 5500. Each package will have around 16-17 tests on the basis of the age

The tests will be done as per the latest recommended clinical guidelines from International Agencies for the screening of cardiac disease, diabetes, and the common cancers like colorectal cancers, breast cancer screening with Mammography and cervical cancer screening with Pap Smear. After the recommended lab tests, the individual will be examined by a specialist Physician, Surgeon, Ophthalmologist (Eye), Otorhinolaryngologist (ENT) and Gynaecologist (for women). Dietician advice will be available for all.

All citizens willing to undergo Wellness Health Check-up can prebook their slots up to 2 days in advance and give their fasting blood, urine, and stool samples at TMH or any of the TMH Clinics collecting blood samples. During the Wellness Health Check-up, ECG, Pulmonary Function Test and X-Ray chest will



INTER STEEL PLANT CHAMPIONSHIP BEGINS

The Inter Steel Plant Cricket

PNS: BOKARO

Championship, hosted by BSL and organized under the aegis of Steel Plant Sports Board, was inaugurated by Executive Director (Materials Management) and Additional (Personnel Incharge Amitabh Administration) Srivastava on February 4. During this, other senior officials of BSL were also present. A total of 11 teams from Tata Steel, RINL, JSW, Bellary along with various units of SAIL are participating in this champi-onship which will continue till February 8. In the matches held on the first day, Rourkela defeated ASP Durgapur by 8 wickets, ISP Burnpur defeated JSW by 2 wickets, BSL won by 60 runs against Salem Steel team while Bhilai team defeated Durgapur by 2 wickets.

SAIL RSP and NIT, Rourkela sign MoU for promoting Joint Research & Development Projects



PNS: BOKARO

SAIL Furthering the cause of industry-academia interface so as to catalyze innovation and growth in technology, a Memorandum Understanding (MoU) was between SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela on 1st February 2023. S R Suryawanshi, ED(Works) and Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao. Director, NIT, Rourkela signed the document on behalf of their respective organisations, in a ceremony organised at the Office of ED(Works) of RSP. Many senior officers of RSP as well as the Registrar and Professors of NIT were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion Suryawanshi said, "With this MoU, RSP shall gain work-ready talent with specialist knowledge and practical training, and NIT shall benefit by having opportunities to work on relevant

technologies and challenging problems. This industry-academia collaboration shall be a defining moment for the progress of both these elite institutions and shall contribute handsomely to the vision of a Digital India. Expressing his happiness over inking of the MoU, Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao said that although RSP and NIT used to have many collaborative projects earlier, this new partnership will be instrumental in further advancing research and creating a skilled workforce. "Let the combination yield major breakthroughs in research and innovation and become an example for others," he said, S. Pal Chowdhury, CGM (Automation & Instrumentation) proposed a vote of thanks. It is worth mentioning here that the objective of the MoU is to pursue joint research & development projects leading to publi-

cations, patents, copyrights

social security schemes in Garhwa NITYANAND DUBEY: Deputy Commissioner,

Garhwa Ramesh Gholap linked two orphan girls and one orphan boy to Government assistance on Saturday. The DC connected them under the schemes of Jharkhand government's public welfare scheme Women, Child Development and Social Security Department, Mission Vatsalya under child purpose (sponsorship) and linked to Child

Protective Services Jasmatiya Devi, grandmother of orphan girls, a resident of Salga village of Bardiha block under Garhwa district, submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner in the Janata Darbar worrying about the upbringing of the girls and told that Babita Kumari, 14 years and Anshu Kumari, 12 years, both daughters of Late Naresh Rajwar and late Meena Devi mother are orphans after death of their parents. These children are taken care of with the help of an old grandmother. Along with bringing up both, there are problems in their studies. Therefore, a request was made for better education of orphan girls.

They were given approval to provide a supplementary



Orphan children connected with

amount for education, health and nutrition for 3 years at the rate of 2-2 thousand rupees per month under Mission Vatsalva Child Protection Services.

Apart from this, another orphan child Neeraj Thakur, age 12 years, class 5, resident of Chironjia of Sadar Block, son of- Late Yogendra Thakur and Mother- Late Baby Devi, were also linked with Mission Vatsalya Child Protection Services at the rate of Rs 2000 per month for 3 years, Approval was given to provide a supplementary amount for education, health and mutrition. Orphan child Neeraj Thakur. along with his aunt Sheela Devi, met the Deputy Commissioner, narrated her problems and apprised him about the difficulties she was facing in his studies.

This assistance amount received for assistance can

be given to the children in future as per the requirement till they turn 18 years old. Apart from this, Babita Kumari, age 14 years, in class 6th, has been approved to give Rs 2.5 thousand per year and Anshu Kumari, age 12 years, class 5, Rs 1.5 thousand per year, under the pre-matric scholarship scheme. Along with this, elder sister Babita Kumari was told to enroll in Kasturba Gandhi Residential School. On being asked by the Deputy Commissioner about the education of Usha Kumari, the eldest sister of the orphan girls, it was found that she had left her studies after studying up to class VIII. When Usha Kumari expressed her desire to study further, the Deputy Commissioner directed to enroll her in the school as

Being aware of the prob-

of the grandmother of the girls, Jasmatiya Devi was given a golden card for free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh for her treatment. Along with this, all the above mentioned orphan boys/girls were also directed to make golden cards.

In order to solve the problem related to the housing of orphan girls, the Deputy Development Commissioner Gadhwa was directed to allot the house in the name of the grandmother

of the orphan girls. The Deputy Commissioner asked the grandmother who came with the orphan girls and her aunt who came with the child to make them study regularly and everyone was advised to study diligently. The reason for the death of the parents of the orphans was that the Deputy Commissioner was asked to take care of them like his own children.

Deputy Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Rai, District Welfare Officer, Nilesh Kumar Murmu, District Public Relations Officer Saket Kumar Pandey, District Child Protection Officer Ashok Kumar Nayak, Salaga Panchavat chief Umesh Prajapati and others were present on the occa-

Cancer Survivor meet at BNMH



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

On the occasion of World Cancer Day, a Cancer Survivors meet program was organised Chemotherapy Ward of Brahmananda Narayana Multispeciality Hospital.

The program was inaugurated by Facility Director Vinit Raj, cancer specialist Dr. Amit Kumar, cancer surgeon Dr. Ashish Kumar by lighting the lamp. The main theme of the program was to interact with cancer survivors.

The chief guest of the program was Ritu Rungta who herself is a cancer survivor. certified yoga trainer and a social reformer. She conducted a yoga session for cancer survivors, cancer patients and trainees. She explained the role of yoga, pranayama and meditation in cancer recovery and said that for any disease it is very important to have mental balance of the patient to get rid of the disease.

If the power of the patient is strong, then a deadly dis-

ease like cancer can be defeated.

Facility Director Mr Vinit Raj said Cancer is the leading cause of death and its burden is continuously increasing.We at NH Brahmananda provide comprehensive Medical and surgical oncology services to the patients and provide all necessary support services for the patients mental and physical well being. On this World Cancer Day,

we should all join hands to raise awareness for early detection, educate ourselves about the disease, help patients and their family and above all lead a healthy lifestyle so that we can reduce the burden of cancer on society. Cancer surgeon Dr Ashish Kumar said that awareness is very important in Cancer prevention.We all should bridge the gap between cancer and care. Cancer Specialist Dr Amit Kumar said that Don't be afraid of cancer, fight cancer, and the main weapon to fight with cancer is

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RANCHI I SUNDAY I FEBRUARY 5 2023

UNION HOME MINISTER LAYS FOUNDATION OF IFFCO NANO UREA PLANT IN DEOGHAR

LIQUID UREA PLANT TO PRODUCE 6 CRORE UREA BOTTLES EVERY YEAR

Prime Home and **Cooperation Minister** Amit Shah today performed Bhumi Pujan and laid the foundation stone of the fifth plant of the world's first IFFCO Nano Urea Plant at Deoghar. Shah offered prayers at Baba Baidyanath Temple and prayed for the progress and prosperity of the country. On the occasion of IFFCO's Nano Urea Plant foundation stone laying ceremony, MP from Nishikant Dubey, Godda sufficient in this sector. Chairman Dilip Sanghani and many dignitaries were also The Union Minister said

present Amit Shah said in his address that today the foundation stone of the production plant of Nano Urea Plant of IFFCO has been laid here. Liquid urea is very important for the conservation of the

Minister Narendra Modi made land conservation a major issue and gave priority to all land conservation works, be it natural farming, organic farming or speeding up the process from research to production of Nano Urea. Shah said that with the formation of Nano Urea's Deoghar unit, about 6 crore liquid urea bottles will be manufactured here every vear, which will reduce our dependence on its imports and India will become self-

that this one small bottle of 500 grams would be a substitute for a full bag of urea. In many places in the country, farmers spray urea as well as liquid urea, which damages not only the crop but also the land. He said that the production would probably



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with his wife Sonal Shah offers prayers at Baba Baidyanath Dham Temple in Deoghar on Saturday. PNS

increase if farmers sprayed liquid urea. Shah said that the research of nano liquid urea has been done for the

protection of Mother Earth. Chemical fertilizer kills the earthworms present in the tilizers, while the spraying of liquid urea will not make the

soil toxic in any way. Amit Shah said that if the use of chemical and urea fertilizers is not eliminated from agriculture soon, then like in many countries of the world, the productivity of the land will be negatively affected. He said that IFFCO, a farmers' cooperative, has made liquid nano urea for the first time in the world and is now moving towards DAP (D-Ammonium Phosphate). It is a matter of pride for India and the entire cooperative sector. Shah said that Prime Minister Modi announced several schemes in the budget to promote cooperatives. Under this, the rate of income tax has been reduced from 26 per cent to 15 per cent for new cooperative units in the field of produc-

The Union Minister said

that after the formation of the Ministry of Cooperatives, work has been done to create a data bank of cooperatives across India. In the next 5 years, the government will facilitate the establishment of new multipurpose cooperative societies, primary fisheries societies and dairy cooperative societies in every panchayat. He said that such storage procedures are going on in the country for years which are not favorable to our country. The farmer's produce is first brought to godowns and then taken back to the village for distribution. Due to this, 50 per cent of the benefit that the government wants to give to the poor is spent on transportation. But now modern godowns with storage capacity of two to five thousand tonnes will be built in every tehsil, so that the farmer's

tehsil center itself and from there the mid-day meal and free food grains will be distributed to the poor in the same tehsil, so that transportation of food grains will be done. Expenses will come down by about 80 per cent.

Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Modi has announced the world's largest cooperative food storage scheme in the budget, it is a matter of pride for the whole country. This will make packs multidimensional and their income will increase. He said that the Ministry of Cooperation has also recognized PACS as community centers with the support of the IT Ministry. Now 300 services of Government of India and State Government will be available through Pax, such as birth-death registration, air-train ticket booking,

banking etc. The Union Home and

Cooperation Minister said that today liquid urea is being exported to about 5 countries. He said that this liquid urea made by IFFCO would not only help the farmers of India but also of the world. India used to import urea once but many urea factories were revived by the Prime Minister and today this small liquid urea factory built on 30 acres will create an alternative to imported 60 million urea fertilizer bags, making India self-sufficient in this field. Due to this, the land of the farmer will also be protected and production will also increase. Extending his best wishes to the farmers of entire Eastern India, Shah said that this liquid nano urea factory would prove useful in increasing the production in the fields of farmers not only in Jharkhand but also in Bihar, Orissa and Bengal.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh lauds Budget as 'Futuristic'



PNS: RANCHI

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation of a stable Indian Economy, which could withstand all domestic and global upheavals and still earn the IMF title as a "bright spot" among major economies of the world.

Briefing the media in Ranchi, about the presented to "futuristic budget" Parliament on Wednesday, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the revolutionary measures and transformative reforms since May, 2014 made India's Macro-Economic Outlook rock solid. The Minister said, on this "rock" foundation, the budget of 2023-24 promises to build the invincible

future India over the next 25 years. World

todav looks up to India as it jumps 40 positions higher on Global Innovation Index,

Describing it as a budget which addresses the aspirations of every section of society, Dr Jitendra Singh said, from middle class to big industry, from women to youth, from farmer to StartUps, it is an inclusive budget for all. At the same time, priorities like Green Growth target the global benchmarks of the 21st century, he said. Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the first major economic reform of the Goods and Services Tax rolled out on the midnight of 1st July, 2017 was a Pathbreaking legislation for New India, which led to One-Nation, One-Tax and One-Market and in fact was the realization of dream of Sardar Patel to make "Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat". Dr Jitendra Singh said, apart from this, several probusiness reforms unleashed by Modi in the last Nine Years like reduction in compliance requirements, removal of retrospective taxation, simplification of the corporate tax rate structure, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) have improved India's "rank in ease of doing business from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2022, as per World Bank report.

Dwelling on the overall Budget outlook for entire country and all the States, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it has specific provisions for the State of Jharkhand and pointed out that 75 out of 705 Schedule Tribes identified as PM Particularly Vulnerable

Tribal Groups, 9 belong to Jharkhand. He said, Rs 15,000 crore allocated to provide these families with basic facilities such as housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrients.

Referring to 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Dr Jitendra Singh said, 7 such schools are operational in Jharkhand and pointed out the General Budget has proposed to recruit 38.800 teachers and supporting staff for Eklavya Model Schools serving 3.5 lakh tribal students. He also underlined that out of total 500 Blocks selected as aspirational blocks, 34 belong to Jharkhand.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, for saturation of essential services across multiple domains such as health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure. Referring to the first budget in the Amrit Kaal of India, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this budget is for all sections of society and addresses the concerns of all sectors, but overall it gives priority to the deprived and un privileged sections in Paraphrasing Prime Minister Modi, Dr

Jitendra Singh said, "From women living in the cities to villages, employed to homemakers, the government has taken significant steps such as Jal Jeevan Mission, Ujjwala Ŷojna and PM Awas Yojana etc. that will further empower the welfare of



Chief Minister Hemant Soren and JMM Chief Shibu Soren being garlanded by party workers during the Foundation Day ceremony of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Bokaro on Saturday, PNS



FOUNDATION DAY

The anniversary and foundation day of Ascot International School will be celebrated on 5th February (Sunday). Regarding which a press conference was held on Saturday. During this, the director of the school, Kunal Kashyap, said that due to the Corona epidemic, our education system has been greatly affected. Willingly or unwittingly, we all have become mobile and other devices etc. The program will show how modernization dominates us and how to reconcile with it. The fragrance and culture of Mari of Jharkhand will also he seen in the programm

Bajrang Mahto to be Congress candidate from Ramgarh



PNS: RANCHI

Congress has opened its cards for the Ramgarh by-election and Bajrang Mahto will be the party candidate from the seat. Bajrang Mahto is the husband of former MLA Mamta Mamta Devi. He will file nomination on February 7 along with his supporters. The nomination for the bye-election has started from January 31. The nomination process will continue till February 7. Scrutiny will be on February 8. Along with this, the date of withdrawal of nominations is till February 10. Polling on this seat will be held on February 27. The result will be announced on March 2.

Ramgarh's Congress MLA Mamta Devi was sentenced to 5 years in the IPL firing case. She was disqualified by the state assembly after being convicted in a criminal case. The matter is of the year 2016. In which there was a movement against the IPL management for the demands under the banner of Nagrik Chetna Manch.

Jharkhand Meanwhile. Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC), on Saturday, attacked Prime Minister, Narndra Modi for ongoing Gautam Adani Addressing a imbroglio. press meet at the party headquarter JPCC Chief, Rajesh

Thakur said that Modi's hard work of 20 years, when he was the Chief Minister. The hard work of when he became the Prime Minister and by working so hard, Modi inflated a balloon, puffed up, the air ran out. He said that keeping all the rules, regulations and laws in mind, Modi brought up a man and what happened today. He said that if this was a matter between Modi and Adani then what would be our objection, we would have kept quiet, you

would have kept quiet.
The JPCC Chief said that now even one cannot remain silent, we also cannot remain silent because this matter is now the hard -earned money of each and every Indian which is now in danger through LIC. He said that we have been listening to the advertisement of LIC since childhood. Now the tagline of 'Zindagi Saath Bhi, Zindagi Ke Baad Bhi' will also have to be changed. 'Life was with you, now it is with Adani'. This is the condition of LIC. At the same time, he said that the PM is the prime mentor, Adani's prime mentor is the Prime Minister who is very silent. At the same time, he said in this regard that you will not hear a word from the mouth of Prime Minister.

DC asks officials to keep city clean and tidy ahead of G20 meetings

An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ranchi Rahul Kumar here on Saturday regarding preparations related to "G20". In the meeting SSP, Ranchi, Kishor Kaushal, City SP, Ranchi, Naushad Alam, SDO, Ranchi (Sadar) Deepak Kumar Dubey, and ADM (Law and Order), Rajeshwar Nath Alok and NDC Ranchi, Kewal Krishna Agarwal Municipal Additional Commissioner, Kunwar Singh Building Construction

Department, Ranchi, Executive Engineer, Suresh Executive Engineer, and concerned district level officers and officials were present.

The places falling on the proposed route in which delegates from 120 countries are coming. In view of this, instructions were given by the DC regarding the preparation. In which instructions were given to run the "Incroachment Right" campaign for a week for beautification, painting, road construction and repair. cable shifting, furnishing, removal of encroachment from the proposed The DC directed to fill a huge pit

at the airport entry gate from where vehicles get parking slips and was asked to repair it as soon as possible. The board on the airport road (near the parking gate) is broken. Instructions were given to fix it by the DC. The DC directed to clean the bushes from the airport entry gate to Hotel Green Acres (Airport Road).

The DC directed to free the front of the shop near Hinoo Chowk and its surroundings from encroachment. Instructions were given by the DC to arrange the cables of power cable and telecom companies near Hinoo Chowk. He instructed to paint the airport boundary from Hinoo Chowk to Birsa Chowk

The DC directed to clean and paint the entire proposed route from the airport, arrange cables and electric wires of telecom companies and remove encroachments. He instructed them to remove the fish and chicken shop around Kailash Pati Mishra square inside the main gate and to remove vehicle parking from there and to get it cleaned as soon as

The DC instructed to clean the

garage in front of the DPS School Ranchi (VIP road) and the shop in and around it. He asked to clean Argora Chowk (around Sulabh toilets) and arrange cables of telecom companies and make encroachments free.

In order to remove the encroachment from the proposed route, instructions were given to deploy magistrates as per the requirement by the DC. He directed a special encroachment right for 7 days to remove the encroachment, so that the proposed route can be made

Shah attacks coalition Govt on corruption, infiltration in Santhal

Calls upon people of State to give all 14 Lok Sabha seats to BJP

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah today termed the coalition government in Jharkhand as the most corrupt government in the country. Addressing the Vijay Sankalp Maha Rally organized by the BJP at the Industrial Ground of Jasidih, Deoghar on Saturday, Shah said that the Hemant government is deeply immersed in corruption.

Deoghar resounded with deafening slogans as soon as Amit Shah came on the stage. The Union Home Minister was welcomed on the stage by State BJP President cum Rajya Sabha MP Deepak Prakash by presenting him the emblem of Baidhnath Baba's temple. Babulal Marandi welcomed him with a symbol of Jain Tirthankara Lord Mahavira Godda MP Nishinkant Dubey welcomed Amit Shah by giving him the symbol of Baba Baijnath Kamnalinga. State President Deepak Prakash presided over the programme and the stage was conducted by District President and MLA Narayan Das.

Describing the Hemant

He said that due to the policies of Congress and JMM, this area has lagged behind on the path of development. He said that in the Jharkhand of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's dreams, the BJP government worked in all areas including education, roads, electricity, water, employment, but the Hemant government ruined Jharkhand. Hemant Sarkar does corruption with tractors

government as anti-tribal,

Union Home Minister Amit

nothing for the development

and upliftment of the tribal

Minister of the state does not

want the development of the

tribal society of the state. The

state government has kept

this society only as a vote

bank.

society. In fact, the Chief

Shah said that the Chief

Minister of the State did

Expressing concern over the decreasing population of tribals and Dalits, he said that today the number of tribal communities in the State is decreasing under Hemant Soren government. Here the demography is being changed due to the infiltrators

and water ships, he said.



He said, "Hemant Bhai, listen with open ears, now vote bank politics will not work, the tribal society understands your cleverness very well. BJP will not allow the demography here to change. It is the resolution of the BJP that Jharkhand will remain to whom it belongs. He expressed serious con-

cern over increasing atrocities on sisters and daughters in Jharkhand and said that the safety of daughters is the responsibility of the state government. Speaking on the murder of Rubika Paharia and Ankita, he said that the Chief Minister is responsible

for the murder of tribal and Dalit daughters

Describing the BJP government as synonymous with development, he said that the BJP has done the work of writing a new saga of development during its tenure. Challenging the Hemant Soren government, he said that Hemant Soren ji, this crowd from Santhal Pargana in this rally is a trailer, its effect will be seen in the

2024 Lok Sabha elections. Shah called for the Rajmahal Lok Sabha seat to go to the BJP. He said that the BJP could not win this seat, as a result of which this

area has been away from development. To make this area as developed as the Godda Lok Sabha, it will have to be put in the hands of the

Addressing the gathering, BJP Legislature Party leader cum former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi said that the present Hemant Soren government is not concerned about the people here but is concerned about himself and his family. There is a need to identify them. Hemant Soren formed the government in the state by taking votes in the name of tribals and at present this government is being run by looters and middlemen. The exploitation of mineral wealth and sand is going on continuously. The situation is that sand is not available even to build houses in the village. The law and order situation is from bad to worse. Cow smuggling is happening openly.

Marandi accused Hemant Soren of doing politics on 1932 based local policy and said that Hemant Soren is firing by keeping a gun on the other's shoulder. He said that Hemant Soren toppled the government in the name

of making local policy based on 1932, but after that when Hemant Soren's government was formed in the state with the help of Congress and the Congress government was at the center, at that time Hemant Soren made local policy based on 1932. Why it was not sent to the Central Government to be included in the 9th Schedule?

State BJP president Deepak Prakash, MLA Amit Mandal, Rajmahal MP Sunil Soren, MLA Randhir Singh, Mistry Soren, Satyanand Jha, Batul, Louis Marandi also addressed the meeting.

State President cum Rajya Sabha MP Deepak Prakash, Legislature Party leader Babulal Marandi, former Chief Minister and National Vice President Raghubar Das, Union Ministers Annapurna Devi, Karmaveer Singh, Nishikant Dubey among those who welcomed Union Home Minister cum Cooperation Minister Amit Shah at Deoghar airport Dubey, Sunil Soren, Narayan Das. Randhir Singh, Amit Mandal, Abhaykant Prasad, Bajrangi Yadav, Krishna Mahato were included

Agniveer recruitment through e-test

Given the rapidly changing nature of warfighting with stress on technology, the Army has decided to conduct written examination for all the aspiring Agniveers. Once they clear the examination, the candidates will have to undergo physical endurance test followed by the medical test. The Navy and the IAF are already following the process in the same order

The new tweaking in selection by the Army will commence mid February, sources said here on Saturday. Prospective candidates will first be required to take an admission examination online.



The physical and medical examinations will take place

Previously, the Army would undertake a physical and medical examination first. Only after passing the first two tests were candidates permitted to take the written examination. They said the new method will also help is easing screening process and the the same procedure as regular

logistics involved. For the first time in 2022, the Indian Army recruited soldiers under Agniveer programme. Agniveer recruitment followed

A large number of candi-

dates are said to congregate at army recruitment rallies, which occasionally causes law and order issues. Additionally, it consumes a lot of resources. The written examination

in the first step will screen out candidates. Those who pass the written exam will be authorised to take the physical and medical exams.

"The changed methodology will ensure increased focus on cognitive aspect during selection. It will have wider outreach across the country and also reduce the large crowds seen during recruitment rallies to make them more manageable and easier to conduct," sources said.

The recruiting examination will be conducted online, and students will be assigned to the appropriate test locations for the written test. The examination will last 60 minutes. Following the written test, a merit list will be made public, after which the candidates will be contacted for a physical and medical exam. Physical testing is part of the second round of the examination, while the medical is part of the third and

final round. The army recruited 40,000 Agniveers last year, and they are currently undergoing training. Around 10,000 Agniveers will be given permanent commission after four years. 40,000 Agniveers will be recruited again this year.

LG seeks active

involvement of

PTI ■ JAMMU

NCC in anti-drugs

campaigns in J&K

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Saturday

sought the active involvement

of the National Cadet Corps

(NCC) in the anti-drugs cam-

paigns in Jammu & Kashmir.

NCC cadets to contribute

towards a successful conduct of

a G20 event scheduled to take

with the NCC cadets who took

part in the Republic Day

parade in New Delhi on

January 26. He congratulated

the contingent from Jammu

and Kashmir and Ladakh for

securing the fourth position among the 17 NCC direc-

cadets for the march on

Kartavya Path in New Delhi, as

part of a combined contingent

of the NCC at the national

level, and that of seven cadets

for the Guard of Honour was

indeed a great feat, Sinha

said. Hosting the cadets at the

Raj Bhawan here, the LG said,

The selection of 17 NCC

place in Srinagar.

He also encouraged the

The LG was interacting

says Rijiju

Public 'malik',

Min says after SC's strong remarks over judges' transfers



PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Aday after the Supreme Court warned of action for any delay in clearing transfer and appointment of judges, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said the country will be governed according to the Constitution and wishes of the people and nobody can give warning to anyone.

"Public is 'malik' (master) of this country and we are servants. We all are here for service and the Constitution is our guide.... The country will be governed under the guidance of the Constitution and wishes of the public. Nobody can give warning to anyone," Rijiju

"Sometimes discussions are held in the country on some matters and in a democracy everyone has the right to express their opinion. But people sitting in responsible positions have to think before saying anything, whether it will benefit the country or not," he said, referring to reported remarks of a Supreme Court

The minister was addressing an event on the 150th anniversary of the Allahabad High Court Bar Association here as the chief guest.

His remarks came a day after a bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka expressed displeasure over the delay in clearing recommendations for transfer of high court judges, calling it a "very serious issue", and warned that any delay in this matter may result in both administrative and judicial actions which might not be palatable. On Saturday, the Supreme Court also questioned the government over the delay in clearing the names of five high court judges who had been recommended for elevation to the Supreme Court. The judges were elevated to the Supreme Court on Sunday.

The remarks are the latest in a tug of war between the judiciary and the executive over the process of appointment of judges of the Supreme Court and high courts.

On the pendency of cases, Minister Rijiju said, "At present, 4 crore 90 lakh cases are pending in various courts across the country. We are solving this problem." He said that in view of the huge number of pending cases, the government has made preparations to implement the Legal Information Management System so that a person will be able to get information about the status of the case in any high court on

"Being the largest high court of the country, I wish that the Allahabad High Court should play a leading role in implementing the e-courts project. The government has abolished 1,486 old and outdated laws and the process of removing 65 such laws is going on in the current Parliament ses-

The minister also said the Arbitration Bill is in the final stages of preparation and after its passage, a parallel judicial system will be established in the country. With the system of arbitration, small cases will be settled outside the court and the burden on courts will be reduced, he said.

sion," he said.

ED questions Rahul's aide in money laundering case against TMC functionary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has questioned and recorded the statement of Alankar Sawai, a close aide of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in a money laundering case in which TMC spokesperson Saket Gokhale was recently arrested by the agency in Gujarat, officials said.

Sawai was questioned and also confronted with Gokhale in Ahmedabad over three days earlier this week, they said.

A former banker, Sawai is considered to be a close aide of Rahul, a former Congress president, and is stated to be heading his research team.

The federal probe agency

Mumbai civic body's budget for 2023-24 is procontractor and will pave the way for Mumbai's financial bankruptcy, said Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya

Thackeray on Saturday, while

the Bharatiya Janata Party called it "truly for

the Congress also criticised the

Rs 52,619-crore budget, which

Brihanmumbai Municipal

Corporation (BMC) chief and

administrator Iqbal Singh

Govt and the BMC governed

by the administrator has been

showing moral and legal bank-

ruptcy for 6 months. Today's

BMC budget shows that it

has begun to pave way for

Mumbai's financial bankrupt-

tweeted Aaditya

Until the term of the cor-

porators got over last March,

the Shiv Sena had ruled the

BMC for more than two

decades. The Uddhav

Thackeray-led party split in

June 2022 following a rebellion

by Eknath Shinde, who joined hands with the BJP to form the

government in the state. BMC

elections are expected to be

"The unconstitutional state

The Aam Admi Party and

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbaikars".

Chahal.

Thackeray.

BMC budget pro-contractor,

bankruptcy, alleges Aaditya

it will spell Mumbai's financial

summoned Sawai after it arrested 35-year-old Gokhale on January 25 while he was in the Gujarat Police's custody in connection with alleged finan-

ing platform. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), while seeking Gokhale's remand on that day, had informed a Ahmedabad court that when he was asked about Rs 23.54 lakh deposited in his bank account in cash over a year, Gokhale had told the agency that "this amount was given in cash by Alankar Sawai of the India National Congress for social media work and other

Demanding the BMC to

explain "hiked expenses" in its "pro contractor" budget,

Aaditya Thackeray said,

ly see contractor friends of this

unconstitutional State Govt

benefitting, the MC's

(Chahal's) speech finds a men-

tion of curbing expenses,

which should be told to the

bosses in Govt rather than

BMC over utilisation of funds.

party, which is trying to

expand its footprints in

Mumbai, said the budget is "an

annual ritual" aimed at throw-

ing big numbers but utilisation

of funds year after year reveals

a "sordid saga of ineptitude

crore for education is a mere

6.36 per cent of the overall

outlay, while healthcare saw a

9 per cent dip to Rs 6,309 crore

and is 12 per cent of the over-

all figures, said AAP.

The allocation of Rs 3,347

and incompetence".

The AAP targeted the

The Arvind Kejriwal-led

Mumbaikars.

cial irregularities in raising

funds through a crowd fund-

India, UAE, France to speed up trilateral bid on climate

ndia, France and the United Arab Emirates on Saturday discussed the way to hasten up a trilateral initiative among the three countries on issues like climate change, protection of biodiversity and joint training and joint production of weapon systems.

These issues were reviewed during a telephonic conversation between the foreign ministers of the three countries on Saturday, ministry of externa affairs(MEA) said here later. A joint statement was also issued.

Giving details of the initiative, MEA said on 19

Attempts underway

 $T^{\text{MC general secretary}}_{\text{Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday slammed the Centre}}$

for sending central teams to West Bengal, and said attempts

are on to malign the state gov-ernment as Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee had not

He also dubbed the state BJP leaders "anti-Bengal", as

they have also "played a role in

BJP-led central government

has halted funds for Bengal. It

is doing this out of vengeance,

because the party could not win

the assembly elections in 2021,"

he said, while addressing a

TMC leadership would never

surrender before the "corrupt'

the answer to BIP's injustice. "BIP leaders are sending

central teams... However, they

couldn't find even one case of

fraud. The teams were sent to malign the people of the state,"

Abhishek Banerjee said the

mega rally at Keshpur.

BJP regime.

he alleged.

"People here know how the

by Centre to

malign Bengal,

says Abhishek

PTI ■ KESHPUR

bowed before it.



gins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Foreign Ministers of India, France and the UAE met for the first time in a trilaterformat.

In acknowledgement of their shared desire to promote international stability and prosperity, and to further build upon the constructive and collaborative ties that exist between the three countries, the Foreign Ministers of India,

cooperation initiative, with the aim of expanding cooperation in various fields of mutual interest. It is in this context that a phone call between the three Ministers was held on Saturday to adopt a roadmap for the implementation of this initiative

The three sides agreed that the trilateral initiative will serve as a forum to promote the design and execution of cooperation projects in the fields of energy, with a focus on solar and nuclear energy, as well as in the fight against climate change and the protection of biodiversity, particularly in the Indian Ocean

Doctors welcome FM's call to increase NCCD on cigarettes

Doctors and activists have welcomed the Union Finance Minister's announcement to increase national calamity contingent duty (NCCD) on cigarettes to 16 per cent in the annual Budget of 2023-24, asserting that the move would strengthen varreduce cancer causing tobacco use in India.

However, at the same time

Bhavna Mukhopadhyay, "Mamata Banerjee has never bowed her head in front of these dishonest BJP politicians, and she will never do it. She has the love and affection of the people, and they will give

PNS ■ DEOGARH

"Drug addiction has emerged as the biggest challenge for the increase in taxation and society. The NCC cadets, along decrease in the affordability of all tobacco products to match with the youth clubs, need to the message that has been sent so strongly in this budactively participate in the campaigns against the drug men-

The present GST rates on tobacco products combined with the compensation cess much lower than the World at least 75% of retail price for

The total tax burden is currently only about 53% for cigarettes, 22% for bidis and 60% for smokeless tobacco. According to international experts, raising the price of tobacco products through tax increases is the most effective policy to reduce tobacco use. Higher tobacco prices decrease affordability, encourage quitting among users, prevent initiation among non-users, and reduce the quantity consumed among continuing users.

MP: Body of baby who died after 'hot iron' treatment exhumed

PTI ■ SHAHDOL

The body of a two-and-a-half-month-old girl ▲ has been exhumed in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district following her death after allegedly being branded with a hot iron rod more than 50 times by an exorcist, an official said on

District Collector Vandana Vaidya said the baby's body was exhumed on Friday and a postmortem will be conducted on Saturday.

Initial investigation has shown that she died due to pneumonia but the real reasons behind the death could be known after the post-mortem report, she said. The child's mother, a resident of Kathotia under Sinhpur police station limits in the tribal-dominated district, said her family first took her ailing daughter to a quack but



her condition didn't improve.

The family then approached a woman faith healer who poked the child's body with a hot iron rod 51 times in a bid to treat her, the moth-

However, the baby's condition deteriorated and she was taken to the district hospital, which referred her to Shahdol Medical College. The baby died during treatment on Wednesday, she

Shah hails Naga group ENPO's decision to withdraw poll boycott call

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

held this year.

Peoples Organisation (ENPO) to withdraw its assembly election boycott call, saying it is an expression of trust in the Modi government.

The ENPO, which has been demanding separate statehood - Frontier Nagaland - comprising six districts of Mon, Tuensang, Longleng, Kiphire, Shamatore and Noklak, had given the poll boycott call to press for their demand.

"It is heartening that in an expression of trust in the Modi government, the Eastern Nagaland Peoples Organisation (ENPO) in Nagaland has withdrawn its call to boycott the assembly elections. The decision will help in keeping the ongoing process of peace and development unhindered," Shah said in tweets.

The home minister said he was grateful to the group for the positive gesture reaffirming ENPO's commitment to democratic processes.

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made untiring efforts to assure the people of Northeast India that the government is with them and the ENPO's move is an approval of

According to an ENPP release, the decision was taken during its executive meeting



ies and frontal organisations to abstain in any election process.

The ENPO also requested all citizens to cooperate with the government in the conduct of the election and not create any law and order

In a release, the ENPO said the meeting discussed the assurance given by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ENPO office bearers on February 2 and after due consultation with its constituent tribal bodies and frontal organisa-

Shah said the BJP will win all 14 Lok Sabha seats in the state in the elections next

Referring to the killing of class 12 student, who was burnt alive by her stalker in Dumka last year, Shah said, "Adivasi girls are being murdered while the Hemant Soren government is indulging in politics of appeasement.

Earlier in the day, the Cooperation Minister said the Union government has decided to provide 300 services of the Centre as well as the state governments through the Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS).

Shah said PACS would now function as Common Service Centres (CSC) and farmers can avail benefits of 300 services including nodues certificates, birth and death registration, and many

"The decision was taken on Friday. The IT Ministry has supported the Cooperative Ministry in this regard," he said, while laying the foundation stone of a Rs 450-crore IFFCO nano urea

plant in Jasidih in Deogarh

district. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Friday to enable the PACS to provide services offered by Common Service

According to the agreement, more than 300 services will be made available to the rural population, including 13 crore farmer members of PACS, a statement said.



HM lays foundation stone of ₹450-cr nano urea plant in J'khand

PTI ■ DEOGARH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday laid the foundation stone of a Rs 450-crore nano urea plant and township of the Indian Fertiliser Farmers Cooperative (IFFCO) in

Jharkhand's Deoghar. Shah said it will help in reducing the dependence on import of urea and usher in development of the eastern region, particularly the Santhal Paraganas.

"Nano urea will benefit farmers, and it is already being exported to five countries," he said. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi had inaugurated the world's first nano urea plant in Gujarat last year, according to IFFCO. This will be India's fifth such plant.

"PM Modi has given priority to all works related to land conservation across the

Many urea factories were revived by Modi, and this on 30 acres will manufacture about six crore bottles every year, which will make India self-sufficient by reducing imports in this sector," Shah The facility will prove to

small liquid urea factory built

duction not only in Jharkhand but also in Bihar, Odisha and Bengal, he said. Nano urea improves crop

be useful in increasing pro-

productivity, soil health and nutritional quality of the produce, IFFCO said.

$U_{ m lauded}^{ m nion\,Home\,Minister\,Amit\,Shah\,on\,Saturday}$

held in Dimapur on Saturday following the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to review the August 26, 2022 resolution of ENPO and its constituent tribal bod-

tions relaxed its resolution with immediate effect.

for all tobacco products is all tobacco products.

they have urged the Government to augment these efforts increasing taxes on bidis and smokeless products that are becoming health as well as fiscal burden in the country. The NCCD on specified cigarettes was last revised three years ago.

Chief Executive, Voluntary Health Association of India hailed the decision but felt that the percentage increase is minimal. "We hope that in future, the Finance Minister

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday

claimed that demographic

change in Jharkhand has seen

the percentage of the 'Adivasi'

(tribal) population declining

during the Hemant Soren

government's tenure in power.

Addressing the BJP's 'Vijay Sankalp Maha Rally'

here, the senior party leader

claimed that the population of

Adivasis has declined from 35

per cent to 24 per cent due to

massive infiltration from

across the international bor-

der, which has been "encour-

aged by the Hemant Soren

government for vote bank

were grabbing land in the

state after marrying tribal

ernment is the most corrupt

in the country. Resources are

being looted using railway

wagons and tractors. People

will unseat this government

from power in the state as it

failed to fulfil the 'aspira-

tions of development' for

which the separate state was

He alleged that infiltrators

"The Hemant Soren gov-

politics'

women.

recommended tax burden of

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT Soldiers freed in Russia. Ukraine prisoner swap

Dozens of Russian and Ukrainian prisoners of war have returned home following a prisoner swap, officials on both sides said Saturday. Top Ukrainian presidential aide Andriy Yermak said in a

Telegram post that 116 Ukrainians were freed.

He said the released POWs include troops who held out in Mariupol during Moscow's monthslong siege that reduced the southern port city to ruins, as well as guerrilla fighters from the Kherson region and snipers captured during the ongoing fierce battles for the eastern city of Bakhmut.

Russian defence officials meanwhile, announced that 63 Russian troops had returned from Ukraine following the swap, including some "special category" prisoners whose release was secured following mediation by the United Arab

A statement issued Saturday by the Russian Defence Ministry did not provide details about these "special category" captives.

At least three civilians have been killed in Ukraine over the past 24 hours as Russian forces struck nine regions in the country's south, north and east, according to reports on Ukrainian TV by regional gov-



ernors on Saturday morning. Two people were killed and 14 others wounded in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region by Russian shelling and missile strikes, local Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said in a Telegram

update on Saturday morning.
The casualty toll included a man who was killed and seven others who were wounded Friday after Russian missiles slammed into Toretsk, a town in the Donetsk region.

Kyrylenko said that 34 houses, two kindergartens, an outpatient clinic, a library, a cultural centre and other buildings were damaged in the

Seven teenagers received shrapnel wounds after an anti-

personnel mine exploded late on Friday in the northeastern city of Izium, local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said on Telegram.

He said they were all hospitalised but their lives were not in danger.

Elsewhere, regional Ukrainian officials reported overnight shelling by Russia of border settlements in the northern Sumy region, as well as the town of Marhanets, which neighbours the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Kyiv has long accused Moscow of using the plant, which Russian forces seized early in the war, as a base for launching attacks on Ukrainian-held territory across the Dnieper river.

China plays down Blinken's cancelled visit over balloon

hina played down the can-Cellation of a visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken after a large Chinese balloon suspected of conduct-ing surveillance on US military sites roiled diplomatic relations, saying that neither side had formally announced any such plan.

"În actuality, the U.S. And China have never announced any visit, the US making any such announcement is their own business, and we respect that," China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement Saturday morning.

Blinken was due to visit Beijing on Sunday for talks aimed at reducing US-China tensions, the first such highprofile trip after the countries' leaders met last November in

But the US abruptly cancelled the trip after the discovery of the huge balloon despite China's claim that it was mere-

ly a weather research "airship' that had blown off course.

The Pentagon rejected that out of hand — as well as China's contention that the balloon was not being used for surveillance and had only limited navigational ability.

Uncensored reactions on the Chinese internet mirrored the official government stance that the US was hyping up the

Many users made jokes about the balloon. Some said that since the U.S. Had put restrictions on the technology that China is able to buy to weaken the Chinese tech industry, they couldn't control the

Others called it the "wandering balloon" in a pun that refers to the newly released Chinese sci-fi film called "The

50-car train derailment causes big fire, evacuations in Ohio

AP ■ EAST PALESTINE

Atrain derailment and resulting large fire prompted an evacuation order in an Ohio village near the Pennsylvania State line on Friday night, covering the area in billows of smoke lit orange by the flames below.

About 50 cars derailed in East Palestine as a train was carrying a variety of freight from Madison, Illinois, to Conway, Pennsylvania, rail operator Norfolk Southern said in a statement Saturday.

There was no immediate information about what caused the derailment. No injuries were reported.

National Transportation Safety Board said Saturday that it was "launching a go-team to investigate" the derailment, and board member Michael Graham would "serve as spokesperson on scene."

Firefighters have been pulled from the immediate area and unmanned stream devices are being used protectively while crews try to determine which cars are still actively burning, village officials said in a separate statement Saturday.

They said they hoped to use drones to assess the scene in daylight, and warned that residents might hear more explosions as the fire burns.

The village notified residents that an evacuation order remained in place Saturday morning for people within a mile of the scene.

A high school and community center were opened to shelter dozens of people, while residents beyond that radius were urged to stay inside.

The few dozen residents sheltering at the high school included Ann McAnlis, who said a neighbor had texted her

ASEAN vows to conclude pact with China on disputed territory

Southeast Asian foreign ministers vowed to finalise negotiations with China over a proposed pact aimed at preventing conflicts in the disputed South China Sea in their annual retreat on Saturday Indonesia's capital.

In the final session of their that seeks to end that country's two-day meeting, the ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations also agreed to unite in their approach to implement a fivestep agreement made in 2021 between ASEAN leaders and Myanmar's military leader, Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing,

worsening crisis.

China and the ASEAN member states, which include four rival claimants to territories in the South China Sea, have been holding sporadic talks for years on a "code of conduct," a set of regional norms and rules aimed at preventing a clash the disputed waters.

Foreign Indonesian Minister Retno Marsudi said that Indonesia, this year's ASEAN chair, is ready to host more rounds of negotiations over the proposed pact, the first of which will be held in March. She said ASEAN members are committed to concluding the

discussions "as soon as possible." "Members are also committed to promote implementation of a declaration of conduct," Marsudi added.

Marsudi did not elaborate, but in the past, China has accused Washington of meddling in what it calls an Asian dispute.

Israeli army besieges homes of fugitives in West Bank raid

AP ■ AQABAT JABR REFUGEE

The Israeli army raided a

I refugee camp near the Palestinian city of Jericho on Saturday, besieging houses it said were being used as hideouts for Palestinian attackers and shooting at residents who The fightopened fire. ing wounded six Palestinians, two seriously, said the Palestinian Health Ministry, and jolted a generally quiet oasis town that has seen less violence than other West Bank

occupied West Bank to search for suspects involved in a shooting attack last week at a

nearby Israeli settlement.

Last Saturday, with the West Bank on edge after the deadliest Israeli military raid in two decades and two subsequent Palestinian attacks in east Jerusalem that killed seven people, the army said a Palestinian gunman had opened fire in a restaurant at a settlement near Jericho. After firing one bullet, the gunman



No one was wounded.

The army said several Palestinians had holed up in their homes after the shooting with the help of family and were planning future attacks.

To force the fugitives to The army said it entered surrender, a military bulldozthe Aqabat Jabr refugee camp er clawed at the walls of one of mander shouted threats over a Camp residents reported

receiving text messages urging families to keep their children inside and avoid clashing with Israeli troops. The suspects and family

members trickled out of one of the homes and turned themselves in, the military said. Security forces had leveled much of the house, leaving a pile of rubble and twisted

Qatar boosts influence in Lebanon amid crises

 $M^{\rm ost}$ wealthy Gulf Arab nations followed Saudi Arabia's lead in recent years and ostracised crisis-hit Lebanon because of the growing influence of the Iranianbacked militant group Hezbollah. The exception was

Doha has been silently expanding its influence in Lebanon. It continued receiving Lebanese leaders and pumped tens millions of dollars into helping the country's armed forces amid a historic economic meltdown. The small, gas-rich nation

in late January began seeing the state-owned Qatar Energy replaced a Russian firm in an international consortium that will search for gas in the Mediterranean Sea off Lebanon's coast. And on Monday, Qatar

will for the first time join a meeting in Paris along with officials from France, Saudi Arabia and the US for discussions focusing on Lebanon's political and economic crises.

Qatar portrays itself as a more neutral force in a coun-



try where for decades outside powers have used Lebanon's sectarian divisions to fight their proxy battles. Saudi Arabia long backed Lebanon's Sunni Muslim factions and tried to push out Iran's influence through Shiite Hezbollah. The rivalry repeatedly pushed Lebanon to the brink of armed

Qatar, which has good ties with Iran, has been trying to advance negotiations between Tehran and Gulf nations. Its inclusion in the upcoming talks "is a signal that Iran will not be completely left out of that meeting and a recognition of the influence that Tehran has over Lebanon," said Mohamad Bazzi, a professor and director of the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University.

"With Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states less heavily involved in Lebanon, Qatar is trying to revive its mediator role in the country," he said.

Pope encourages South Sudanese, will raise plight of women

AP ■ JUBA

Pope Francis sought Saturday to console the long-suffering people of South Sudan as he opened his first full day in a country beset by conflict, poverty and humanitarian crises, encouraging priests and nuns to serve their flocks by joining in their tears.

After arriving in the world's newest country on the first-ever papal visit Friday, Francis was spending Saturday ministering first to church personnel and then to South Sudanese who have been forced by fighting, flooding and other

Francis was highlighting in articular the plight of South Sudanese women, half of whom are married before age 18, are subject to rampant sexual violence and then face the world's highest maternal mortality rate.

"Let us ask ourselves what it means for us to be ministers of God in a land scarred by war, hatred, violence, and poverty," Francis said in St. Theresa Cathedral in the capital, Juba.

"How can we exercise our



ministry in this land, along the banks of a river bathed in so much innocent blood, among the tear-stained faces of the people entrusted to us?"

ural resources but beset by years of civil war and conflict, South Sudan is one of the world's poorest countries and is responsible for Africa's worst refugee crisis: More than 2 million people have fled the country and another 2 million are displaced within its borders.

Joined by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Presbyterian head of the Church of Scotland, Francis is seeking to draw global attention to the country's plight.

Wikipedia blocked for not removing blasphemous content in Pak

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has blocked Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, for its failure to remove offensive or blasphemous material, the country's telecommuni-cation authority said on Saturday.

The blacklisting of Wikipedia comes days after the Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) degraded Wikipedia services for 48 hours, threatening to block it if the content deemed 'blasphemous' was not

Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia, created and edited by volunteers around the world and hosted by the

PTA spokesperson Malahat Obaid said the ban had primarily been imposed for non-

compliance with the orders. "The decision can be reviewed once Wikipedia removes sacrilegious content that has been identified by the regulatory authority," the spokesperson added.

The PTA spokesperson earlier stated that Wikipedia was approached for blocking/removal of the said content by issuing a notice.

Sudan demands United

Nations immediately lift

13 dead in Chile amid struggle to contain raging wildfires

AP ■ SANTIAGO

At least 13 people were reported dead as of Friday night as a result of the more than 150 wildfires burning across Chile that have destroyed homes and thousands of acres of forest while the South American country is in the midst of a scorching heat

Four of the deaths involved two separate vehicles in the Biobío region, around 560 kilometers (348 miles) south of the capital of Santiago.

"In one case they were burned because they were hit by the fire," Interior Minister Carolina Tohá said. In the other case, she said, the victims died in a crash, "probably try ing to escape the fire."

The fifth victim was a fire-

fighter who was run over by a fire truck while combatting a blaze in the area.

Later in the afternoon, a helicopter that was helping combat the flames crashed in the Araucanía region, killing the pilot, a Bolivian national and a mechanic, who was

Democrats set to shake up start of 2024 presidential primary

AP ■ PHILADELPHIA

Democrats are poised to reorder their presidential primary schedule beginning next year, replacing Iowa with South Carolina in the leadoff spot as part of a major overhaul meant to empower Black and other minority voters critical to the party's base of support. The Democratic National

Committee has worked for months to revamp the start of its voting calendar, and the full membership is set to vote on the plan on Saturday. Although changes are still

possible throughout the summer and beyond, the formal endorsement during the party's meeting in Philadelphia is acknowledgement that the start of 2024's primary will look very different than the one in 2020.

The proposal has been championed by President Joe Biden and would have South Carolina hold its primary on Feb. 3. That would be followed three days later by New Hampshire and Nevada, the latter of which is swapping the caucus it used to hold in favour of a primary. Georgia would vote fourth on Feb. 13, followed



by Michigan on Feb. 27, with much of the rest of the nation set to vote on Super Tuesday in

This isn't just about us," Trev Robertson, president of the South Carolina Democratic Party, told a gathering of the DNC Southern caucus earlier this week. "This is a regional thing, and it's making us all look good."

States voting early in the primary have major influence since White House hopefuls struggling to raise money or gain political traction often drop out before visiting areas outside the first five. The move marks a major shift from the current calendar, which had started with Iowa's caucuses for the last five decades, followed by New Hampshire's primary and subsequent contests in Nevada and South Carolina.

Iranian director freed on bail after going on hunger strike

AP ■ DUBAI

cclaimed Iranian director A Jafar Panahi was released on bail Friday, two days after going on hunger strike to protest his imprisonment last summer, his supporters said.

Panahi was arrested last July and later ordered to serve six years on charges of propagandising against the government, a sentence dating back to 2011 that had never been enforced.

He is among a number of Iranian artists, sports figures and other celebrities who have been detained after speaking out against the theocracy. Such arrests have become more frequent since nationwide protests broke out in September over the death of a young woman in

police custody.
Panahi, 62, had continued making award-winning films for over a decade despite being legally barred from travel and filmmaking. His latest film, "No Bears," was released to widespread praise in September while he was behind bars, a week before the protests

Pak to seek Af Taliban leader's help to control TTP

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Adesperate Pakistan has sought Afghan Taliban chief Haibuttallah Akhundzada's help to rein in the outlawed Pakistani Taliban outfit responsible for a wave of terror attacks in the country, including the recent Peshawar mosque carnage that killed

over 100 people, according to

a media report on Saturday. Pakistan has been hit by a wave of terrorism, mostly in the country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, but also in Balochistan and the Punjab town of Mianwali, which borders the restive Pakhtunkhwa Khvber province.

In the Peshawar mosque attack on Monday, a Taliban suicide bomber blew himself up during the afternoon prayers, killing 101 people and injuring more than 200 others.

During the Apex Committee meeting here on Friday, Pakistan's civil and military leadership decided to seek Afghan Taliban chief Haibuttallah Akhundzada's intervention to control the



Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), according to The

Express Tribune newspaper. Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, who attended Friday' meeting, said the masterminds of the Peshawar Mosque attack could be in Afghanistan, and added that the federal government would raise this issue with their Afghan counterparts, the report said.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday acknowledged the failure to avert the Peshawar carnage that killed over 100 people and called for "national unity" to tackle the menace.

There is a need for unity

across the political spectrum This act of terrorism managed to breach the security check post and reach the mosque. We should not feel hesitant in admitting the facts," Sharif said at the meeting.



AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Cudan is demanding the UN Security Council immediately lift an arms embargo and other sanctions imposed during violence in the western Darfur region in 2005, saying the punishment did not include conditions or require the military government to meet UN benchmarks. Sudan's UN ambassador,

Al-Harith Idriss Mohamed, said in a letter to the council circulated Friday that the sanctions "are no longer relevant to the magnificent reality on the ground in Darfur today compared to the situation in 2005." "Darfur has, for the most

part, overcome the state of war, as well as previous security and political challenges," he

Mohamed said Sudan's transitional government is committed to addressing the remaining social and security issues in Darfur, including sporadic tribal clashes. He added that efforts are being made to form and deploy a Joint

Security-Keeping Force to pro-

tect civilians. The Sudanese government

has repeatedly urged the Security Council to lift sanctions but this letter was much stronger. It said that "Sudan will accept nothing less than the immediate lifting of these sanctions without conditions or benchmarks". The Darfur conflict began

in 2003 when rebels took up

arms against the authoritarian government in Khartoum then led by Omar al-Bashir, accusing it of discrimination and neglect. The UN previously estimated 00,000 people died in the conflict and 2.7 million fled their homes.

Al-Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged atrocities in Darfur.

India will get into global bond indices on own terms: Official

India will not bend over backwards to get included in the global bond indices, a top finance ministry official said on Saturday.

Deploying a sartorial analogy, Finance Secretary TV Somanathan said the indices are an exclusive club or gymkhana, which insists on entry only for those wearing

"...If we get into this club, it will be with our dhoti and saree. We will not change our domestic policies to suit for-eign investors," he said, addressing a post-budget interaction with industry players in the financial capital.

He said there are both positives and negatives of such an inclusion, which was spoken about in a previous budget announcement, and India will not "bend over backwards" to gain entry.

India's policies will be



based on domestic requirements, and there will not be any change to the stance to suit the fancy of global bond investors, he said.

The global indices should allow entry for India only if such a stance is acceptable to them, he said.

Positives of gaining entry include higher fund flows, but the same also exposes us to risks of volatility and pullouts due to non-domestic factors, Somanathan said, pointing to the experience of "destabilisation" in some east-Asian

Ajay Seth, the economic affairs secretary, hinted that there is no immediate plan of joining the indices.

"At the moment, there is quite a bit of uncertainty at the lobal level both in terms of he exchange rate and interest rate etc. It is not the right time to press the pedal on that

"When the global markets are a little bit more uniform, then at that point of time this piece will have to be picked up again," he said.

inputs of PCBA, inputs of con-

nectors and inputs of camera

tain parts of the chargers is also

required. While we have built

a huge charger manufacturing

industry, these changes would

have helped us to become

more competitive," Mohindroo

the 2021-22 manufacturing target of Rs 2,75,000 crore but

we may fall short of the man-

ufacturing target of FY 2022-23

because of domestic demand

formance in exports which will cross Rs 70,000 crore in

2022-23 (versus Rs 45,000 crore

in 2021-22 plus 50 per cent increase), the 50 per cent

increase in GST from 12 per

kept the nation's economy

moving during the pandemic,

According to the Internet

said the ICEA.

In spite of a glorious per-

shrinking in 2022-23.

The Indian industry met

"Removal of duty on cer-

Govt to push primary steel producers to use 50% of input from recycled steel by 2047: Scindia

Union Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday said his ministry will push primary steel producers to use 50 per cent of their input from scrapped/recycled steel by 2047 to help achieve the government target of moving into a circular economy

Currently, the level of recycled steel usage in primary steel production is only around 10 per cent even though recycled steel contributes to 22.5 per cent of the domestic total steel production of 140 million tonnes, the minister said while addressing the last day of the three-day international conference of material recycling

The 10th conference is being organised by the Material Recycling Association of India and is attended by over 2,000 delegates from 38 countries.

Noting that recycling is the key cog in the wheel of manufacturing as economies move

opment, he said, "Going forward the industry should focus on the 6Rs philosophy of reduce (exploitation of natural resources), recycle, reuse, recover, re-design and reinforce".

He said the government is committed to reducing CO2 emissions in the steel sector by 5 per cent by 2030 from the current 2.85 to 1.4 CO2/tonne of crude steel, and to achieve this recycling scrap steel is an extremely important source.

"Today, scrap usage is only 15 per cent in primary steel production. We will push the steel industry to increase this to 25 per cent in the next five years, and by 2047, this should double to 50 per cent. This means that the primary steel producers consume only 50 per cent of iron ore by then," Scindia said.

This is needed as the natural resources are finite and the demand looks infinite, he said, adding the steel industry has the biggest role to play in the whole process.

The country currently produces 25 million tonne of scrap steel and annually imports 5 million tonne of scrap steel with

zero import duty, he added. The recycling industry is highly unorganised and is worth about USD 50 billion now. There are over 25,000 recycling units in the country. However, in the metals space almost 95 per cent are organised, Material Recycling Association president Sanjay

He also urged the minister to extend the duty-free

imports of other scraps such as copper, aluminium, zinc and other metals as many countries are adopting no export of

scrap policies now. For

instance last month, the

European Union imposed a

ban on scrap exports, and so

did the UAE Domestic recyclers used to import 25 per cent of their shipments from the EU markets. Similarly, the UAE is also a large source market for the country. Counties are discouraging exports of scraps as they move into the circular economy.

Godrej Properties sales bookings rise 77%: Pirojsha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Godrej Properties sales bookings The Properties sales bookings rose 77 per cent year-on-year to Rs 8,181 crore in the April-December period on strong housing demand, and will cross the target of Rs 10,000 crore for the full fiscal, its Executive Chairman Pirojsha Codrei said Godrej said.

The company's sales bookings stood at Rs 4,613 crore in the first nine months of the last financial year.

In an interview with PTI, Pirojsha Godrej said: "We are very happy with the quarter gone by. Operationally, it has been a very strong quarter".

Sales booking during the October-December period jumped over two-fold to Rs 3,252 crore from Rs 1,541 crore in the year-ago period.

Not Enough: Tech industry seeks more from FM to bridge digital divide and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), there have

IANS NEW DELHI

Hailed as a progressive and forward-looking one by the IT and technology honchos, the Union Budget 2023-24 did fall short on some expectations by the industry, especially around consumer electronics manufacturing and bridging the digital divide in

According to the India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA), the latest steps will have no significant impact on the final product price but are generally in the right direction

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman mentioned that the mobile manufacturing sector crossed Rs 2,75,000 crore in 2021-22. The targeted number for 2022-23 is Rs 3,50,000 crore and Rs 4,40,000 crore in

She also proposed the removal of 2.75 per cent basic customs duty (BCD) on camera lens; removal of duty on inputs to parts of connectors -- Palladium Tetra Amine Sulphate; reduction of BCD on parts of open cell of TV panel from 5.5 per cent to 2.75 per cent; continuation of custom exemption notifications which were facing a sunset on March 31, 2023 for another one year.

Mohindroo, Chairman, ICEA, a high-performing sector's gen-



These could have provida significant impact on competitiveness leading to better exports, arresting the grey market and boosting revenue," he said in a statement.

For example, capping of basic customs duty (BCD) on import of high-end mobile phones is required to arrest the burgeoning smuggled market which has crossed Rs 12,000 crore in 2023. "This measure would have

boosted government revenue, reduced smuggling, ensured fair trade and helped build legal businesses in India," said Mohindroo.

Also required is the removal of input duties on resin, mesh, sponge, film, gasket, logo, cover tape, adhesive tape from 8.25 per cent to 16.5 per cent to zero level.

This was essential to pro- cent to 18 per cent "has dealt a mote the manufacturing of a very cruel hand to this highics. The government should also remove input duties of 2.75 per cent duty imposed in the previous budget on the many

been two critical concerns for the digital industry.

"First, the growth rate of

digital penetration has slowed down and secondly, there is a clearly identifiable digital divide in India with some sections getting marginalised as they are not onboarded digitally," said the IAMAI.
"While the budget announcement marks the cor-

rect intention and fiscal incen-

tives, other ministries need to

complement the Finance Minister's grand vision to help realise her vision," said the industry body. `According to Sandip Patel Managing Director, IBM India/South Asia, it is a progressive budget that under-scores technology-driven

growth. "The investment in core infrastructure will require significant thrust on digital infrastructure including digitization and automation. The budget has outlined measures to provide impetus for technology-driven accelerated change and technology will also work as a key deflationary measure,'

"India is all set for leading the change and usher in green growth which is aptly visible in gy to green mobility to green farming, which has found its place in the budget this year,'

said Patel.

Revival of rural economy to take time in absence of specific triggers



IANS NEW DELHI

 $F^{
m ocus}$ on the rural economy in the budget has been waning over the years and in such a scenario a revival of the rural economy would take time, JM Financial said in a

In the absence of a specific focus on the rural economy in the Union Budget for 2023-24, analysts don't see immediate triggers for revival in the rural economy. Moreover in the absence of specific or enhancement of allocation towards the rural economy, we believe that the rural environment would have to revive on its own. Hence we would view businesses dealing with price senlikely to benefit, JM Financial

An attempt is made to make the new tax regime more

attractive after getting a low response in FY23, however we believe the benefits in the form of tax saving on enhanced notax limit (INR 0.2mn) is unlikely to spur demand in a meaningful manner, JM Financial said in a report.

Unlike the anticipation by a section of the market, rural focus was missing in the budget announcements. The expectations of a populist budget was linked to 9 state elections in 2023, moreover with FY24 being the last full year budget before the general elections in CY24. However, we believe that the schemes relating to empowerment of women Self Help Groups, artisans and setting up of digital centric solutions would provide opportunities in the rural economy to improve their livelihood, JM Financial said.

Educationists say more funds are required to meet NEP targets



IANS NEW DELHI

Tn Budget 2023-24, the LEducation Ministry has been allocated Rs 1,12,899.47 crore the highest ever. Due to this, the share of higher and school education has also gone up.

An amount of Rs 44,094.62 crore has been allocated for higher education, which was around 8 per cent higher than the previous year's allocation of Rs 40,828.35 crore. However, some educationists believe that the higher education need even more funds to meet the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) targets.

Professor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC said, "his is to overcome the learning losses of the Covid-19 pandemic and inject more digital technology into higher education for more access and equity. Increased fund allocamentation of NEP 2020, bringing further dividends to the students to make them employable and strengthen our efforts in

making India a knowledgebased economy, Kumar added.

Arvind Chaturvedi Pro Vice Chancellor, IILM University, Gurugram said that an 8 per cent increase in allocation to education sector is not sufficient. "A higher allocation was expected.

"Educationists were expecting a higher allocation to meet the NEP target of 6 per cent of GDP. In that sense, it is disappointing. However, the focus of budget proposals has been on IT education and skill development, which is a welcome move," he added.

Shishir Jaipuria, Chairman, Seth Anandram Jaipuria Group of Educational Institutions, and Chairman of FICCI Arise have a different opinion. He said, "The Union Budget 2023-24 spells out progressive initiatives and reforms for the Indian education sector in many areas, teacher training, future-readiness of learners, and greater accessibility of learning con-

कार्यालय : निदेशक उत्तराखण्ड चाय विकास बोर्ड, अल्मोड़ा जिला पंचायत परिसर, धारानौला, अल्मोडा-263601

पत्रांक : 849/4-स्टोर/निविदा सूचना/2022-23

दिनाक: 04 फरवरी, 2023

अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तराखण्ड चाय विकास बोर्ड, अल्मोड़ा द्वारा अपने चाय बागानों में उपयोग हेतू क्रय की जाने वाली, जैविक खाद व नर्सरी सामग्री की आपूर्ति हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से ई-निविदायें दिनांक 06-02-2023 से ऑनलाइन Website www.uktenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 15-02-2023 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित निविदावार अलग–अलग विवरण (निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा शर्तें, सामग्री का विवरण इत्यादि) ऑनलाइन अवलोकन / डाउनलोडिंग हेत् Website www.uktenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

निदेशक

उत्तराखण्ड चाय विकास बोर्ड,

जिला पंचायत परिसर, धारानौला, अल्मोड़ा (उत्तराखण्ड)

RATHI STEEL AND POWER LIMITED

CIN: L27109DL1971PLC005905 Regd. Off.: 24/1, Block A, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi- 110044 Email ID: investors@rathisteelandpower.com, Website: www.rathisteelandpower.com

This is to inform you that pursuant to the Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations And Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors of M/s Rathi Steel and Power Limited is to be held on Monday the 13th Day of February 2023 at the Registered office of the Company at 4.00 PM to consider and approve following businesses

ITEM NO. | AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION Take note and confirm the following:-

To Ensure Quorum of the Meeting To grant leave of absence, if any To take note and confirm the minutes of previous meeting of board of directors of the Company. Consider and Approve following:-

To appoint Chairman of the meeting to call the meeting to order

To consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results for the nine month ended and Quarter ended on December 31, 2022

Any other businesses with permission of the Chair. For and on behalf of Board

(PREM NARAIN VARSHNEY) MANAGING DIRECTOR

FM's bullishness on millets must translate into benefits for farmers

IANS HYDERABAD

1 once, albeit tangentially, in the February 1 Union Budget speech by Finance Nirmala Sitharaman when she announced that the

conditions will remain unchanged

http://uktenders.gov.in

is hereby extended as follow

Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Millets Research Telangana figured just (IIMR), an affiliate of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (IČAR), will be transformed into a centre of excellence to make India a global millets

UJVN LIMITED

e- Procurement Corrigendum No. -02

Due to unavoidable circumstances, e-Tender Notice Reference

NCB/17/EE(E&M)/MB-II/Barrage/2022-23 (Tender ID

2022 UJWB2_52260_1) Name of work: Design, Manufacturing, Supply.

Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Trashrack panels & one no

Hydraulically Operated Movable Trash Rack Cleaning Machine (TRCM)

to safely handle rake capacity of 2.0 Tonne as well as log grapple

capacity of 2.0 Tonne including dismantling of existing Trash rack panels

& TRCM at Joshiyara Barrage, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, India, is

amended and Corrigendum No.02 has been uploaded on the e

procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in. Other terms and

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement porta

E-Tender Time Extension Notice-4

Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission and opening

of NIT No - NCB/17/EE(E&M)/MB-II/Barrage/2022-23: "Design

Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning o

Trashrack panels & one no. Hydraulically Operated Movable Trash

Rack Cleaning Machine (TRCM) to safely handle rake capacity of 2.0

Tonne as well as log grappler capacity of 2.0 Tonne including

dismantling of existing Trash rack panels & TRCM at Joshiyara Barrage, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, India" invited by the office of

Executive Engineer (E&M), Joshiyara Barrage, Joshiyara, Uttarkash

Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal - 10.02.2023 up to 16:00 Hrs

Last Date of receipt of hard copy of bid - 13.02.2023 upto 11:30 hrs

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may

"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

Date of opening of bid on the website-13.02.2023 at 11:30 Hrs.

Executive Engineer E&M)

Date: 04.02.2023

Executive Engineer

share best practices, research and technologies at the international level, the Minister announced but made no financial allocation for the proposal. This was the only

announcement which brought some cheers for Telangana in what many termed as a disappointing

> ilomena Lal (wife) Late Mr. Daniel M.LalR/o M.No.-38 Gali No. 5 A-2 Block, West Sant Nagar Burari, No. Delhi-110084, Evicting from her all property, house bank balance to his son and his family ..Respectively lathaniel Lal (Son), Premlata Lal (daughter in law) Prin granddaughter)being fed up of their ill-behavior ar nisbehaviour, and being out of their complete cont We have severed our relationship with them , in futur r client will not be responsible for any act or transactio these people, he himself will be responsible for it.
>
> SATYENDRA KUMAR SHARMA (Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Enrl. No. D-9-B/03 Chamber No F-716, 7th Floor, Karkardooma Court, Delhi- 110032

नगर निगम फ़रीदाबाद के भवन का रिकॉर्ड में युनिट प्रॉपर्टी आइडी नं. 1B9FB379 व मकान[ै]नं 2H-22/2 एन. एच 2 फरीदाबाद श्रीमान नवीन क्मार दुर्ज़ हैं। श्रीमान आनंद प्रकाश कालरा पुत्र | श्रीमान खेमचंद कालरा की मृत्यु दिनांक 8.02.2017 के पश्चात जो कि इस भवन के रजिस्ट्री शुदा मालिकों में से एक थे,के बारे में प्रार्थी श्रीमान नवीन कुमार कालरा, श्रीमती राज रानी(पत्नी) व श्रीमान भूवन कुमा कालरा(पुत्र) ने आवेदन किया है कि यूनिट प्रॉपर्टी आइडी नं. 1B9FB379 व मकान नं. 2H-22/2 एन ह्यु 2 फ़रीदाबाद के क़ानूनी मालिक हैं और इस की मिल्कियत श्रीमती राज रानी व श्रीमान नवीन कमार कालरा के नाम दर्ज की जाए। यदि इस मिल्कियर जिसका यनिट प्रॉपर्टी आइही नं. 1B9FB379 व मकान . 2H-22/2 एन. एच 2 फ़रीदाबाद को प्रार्थीगण श्रीमती राज रानी कालरा व नवीन कुमार कालरा व नाम पर दर्ज होने हेतु किसी भी व्यक्ति को कोई एतराज़ है तो यह दैनिक राष्ट्रीय समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिन (1 माह) के भीतर अपना एतराज़ अघोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में दे सकता है। समयाविध समाप्त उपरांत भवन कर रिकॉर्ड में प्रस्तृत दस्तावेजों के आधार कर दिया जाएगा। नगर निगम फरीदाबाद इसका उत्तरदाई नहीं होगा। सूचित रहे। क्षेत्रीय एवं

नगर निगम फरीदाबाट

Budget. In tune with its focus on millets, the Centre made the key announcement in the Únion Budget for 2023-24. However, the roadmap to achieve the goal of boosting production and procurement of millets was

not mentioned.

Calling millets 'Shree Anna' or mother of all grains, Sitharaman quoted

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to say that India is at the forefront of popularising millets, whose consumption improved food security and the well being of farmers.

The Finance Minister pointed out

ducer and second largest exporter of millets. "We grow several types of Shree Anna, such as

Iowar, Raagi, Bajra, Ramdana, Cheena and Saama. These have a number of health benefits and have been an integral part of our food for centuries," she said. The UN has declared 2023 as the International

Year of Millets (IYM) at the request of the Indian government to raise awareness and increase the production and consumption of millets. The declaration has

allowed the Centre to take the lead in celebrating IYM 2023. As part of this, Central Ministries, state governwill hold events throughout the year to promote and spread awareness about the benefits of millets.

Support will be provid-

ed for post-harvest value addition, enhancing domestic consumption, and for branding millet products nationally and internationally. As per the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), India is the largest producer of mil-

let in the world with a share of 41 per cent in 2020 Nine types of millets

are grown as Kharif crops in over 20 states. Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are the leading producers.

Exposition to promote clean fuels inaugurated

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

I Jnion Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey on Saturday inaugurated a conference and exposition here on schemes for promotion of cleaner fuels in the automotive sector. The event, named 'Towards

Panchamrit', is being organised at the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), Manesar.

To drive India towards cleaner mobility, the government is giving a major push to clean fuels. "Towards Panchamrit" event is an effort in this direction to promote adoption of 'Panchamrit" or five clean fuels -Hydrogen, Ethanol, Bio Diesel, Gas and

Electric Vehicles. Pandey said in line with Prime

Saugat", five commitments to achieve the vision of becoming a carbon neutral country by 2070, ministries are taking comprehensive efforts to move towards fulfilling this goal. The government is also working to achieve self-reliance in the automotive

Minister Narendra Modi's announce-

ments at COP 26 - "Panchamrit Ki

industry, he added. Minister of State for Heavy Industries

Krishan Pal Gurjar highlighted the initiatives taken by the ministry to promote clean and green mobility. He said these initiatives will give a

boost to domestic manufacturing, help in employment generation, reduce dependence on exports and thereby help in achieving the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat

Place: New Delhi Date: 04-02-2023 DIN: 00012709

ARSENAL'S PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE CHARGE HALTED BY STRUGGLING EVERTON

ikel Arteta said Arsenal must now show the resolve of champions after a shock 1-0 defeat to Everton dented the Gunners bid to land a first Premier League title in 19 years. Arsenal still lead Manches-

ter City by five points at the top of the table, but blew the chance to extend that advantage as they suffered just a second league defeat of the season.

James Tarkowski headed in the winning goal for the Toffees on the hour mark as Everton made a perfect start to life under new manager Sean Dyche to climb out of the relegation zone.

"This is not going to be a rose pathway," said Arteta of Arsenal's road to the title. "This is going to be tricky and we will have to dig in and play much better than we did today.'

Everton came into the game on a run of four league defeats at Goodison for the first time since 1958.

That disastrous form cost Frank Lampard his job and Dyche's appointment got the desired bounce with a first win in 11 games.
"The minimum require-

ment is maximum effort and we saw that today," said Dyche.

Everton's board again stayed away due to rising tensions



between the club's hierarchy and supporters.

Protests were planned for before and after the game for fans to voice their anger at the running of the club.

The Toffees were the only Premier League club to not make any signings in the January transfer window despite their perilous position in the table.

But the home side showed there is still enough talent available to Dyche to dig themselves

out of trouble if they can harness the same level of energy and intensity on a more regular

GOODISON 'ROCKING'

A first victory since October was no more than Everton deserved and it was two of Dyche's former Burnley players who combined for the only goal of the game on the hour mark as Tarkwoski headed in Dwight McNeil's cor-

"The fans are going to be massive for us. I have been here when it has been rocking. It was rocking today. But we have to give the fans something," added

"Of course I'm going to drive home and think what a great start but I'm not naive. We have to keep working and improving."

Keeping Dominic Calvert-Lewin fit will be critical to Everton's survival hopes, but the

England international showed his rustiness in front of goal in a second consecutive injuryimpacted season.

Amadou Onana's surging run and ball across the face of goal just needed a finishing touch that Calvert-Lewin could not stretch to make.

Moments later Abdoulave Doucoure, who had been frozen out by Lampard, headed a glorious chance wide when unmarked inside the box.

It took Arsenal half an hour to even threaten Jordan Pickford's goal, but they should have led when Eddie Nketiah fired high and wide with just the goalkeeper to beat.

Conor Coady then had to react quickly to turn Bukayo Saka's volley off the line as the visitors began to find their

Arsenal were brighter at the start of the second period and Martin Odegaard will feel he should have hit the target when teed up by Nketiah.

But just as the Gunners were beginning to turn the screw, their luck at the back ran

Tarkowski was fundamental to Dyche overachievements in keeping Burnley in the Premier League for six consecutive seasons between 2016 and 2022 and the centre-back rose highest to power home



Arsenal lacked composure in shock Everton defeat: Arteta

Mikel Arteta admitted Premier League leaders Arsenal lacked composure in their shock 1-0 defeat at struggling Everton on Saturday.

James Tarkowski's second half header condemned Arsenal to just their second league loss this term. It was a frustrating blow for Gunners boss Arteta, who had hoped to open

up an eight-point lead over sec-ond placed Manchester City. For the first time since los-ing at Manchester United in September, Arsenal tasted defeat and Arteta claimed his players weren't composed enough to cope with Everton's aggresSean Dyche.

"We had loads of the ball but we lacked that purpose and quality in the final third, we generated many chances. But then we conceded and they slowed the game down and we struggled," Arteta said.

Everton do this to every team that is their strength with the height, the physicality is their strength, if you want to control the game against them you have to control this. We did not do that today.

"We needed more composure and to control emotionally the game better. We gave away so many unnecessary free-kicks and that's what they

close the gap on Arsenal to two points if they win at Tottenham on Sunday

But, despite his criticism of their tepid performance at Everton, Arteta backed his players to survive the tense title

"Today I love them much better than the week before or a month ago. It is easy to be next to someone when they are winning well. I am still so proud of all of these players, they deserve it," he said.
"This is not going to be a

rose pathway. This is going to be tricky and we will have to dig in and play much better than

Bopanna-Bhambri lose in Davis Cup



PTI ■ HILLEROD (DENMARK)

Indian duo Rohan Bopanna and Yuki Bhambri lost to world number 9 Holger Rune and Johannes Ingildsen in straight sets to hand hosts Denmark a 2-1 lead after the doubles tie in the Davis Cup World Group Play-Off on Saturday. The Danish pair made short work of the Indians winas Rune's presence proved to be a decisive factor.

Earlier on Friday, India's number one Sumit Nagal had erased a one-set deficit to pip August Holmgren 4-6 6-3 6-4 in two hours and 27 minutes. Nagal restored the parity after

Bhambri had a forgettable opening singles losing 2-6 2-6 to the rising teen sensation Rune.

Bhambri has quit singles and now plays only doubles on tour. The 25-year-old Nagal, ranked 506, dropped serve in the very first game of the match but once he got hold of his nerves, he was his usual fighting self.

squandered the chances when Holmgren offered them. The Danish player, ranked 484, eventually sealed the set.

He got the break back but

In the second set, it was Nagal who drew the first blood and went up 5-2. He served out the set in the ninth game to force Nagal had a chance to get

the first break when he made a forehand return sailed over the baseline at 30-all but the home player served well to save the chance. Nagal got another chance when Holmgren netted a forehand at deuce point in the third game but he himself made a forehand error on the break-

While Nagal preferred to hit from the baseline, Holmgren charged the net often to create chances for volley winners.

Holmgren handed Nagal another break chance when he tried to pick a low volley but could not keep the ball in the court and followed that up with and converted the first one on

Zverev storms to Davis Cup win after being cleared of abuse



AFP PARIS

lexander Zverev defeated Athree-time major winner Stan Wawrinka in the Davis Cup on Friday as the German star returned to the courts for cleared of domestic abuse.

The 25-year-old Zverev swept past Wawrinka 6-4, 6-1 in Trier to bring Germany level with Switzerland after the opening day of their qualifier. On Tuesday, Zverev was told by the ATP that there was

a double fault, allowing the Indian to take a mini 3-2 lead.

That lead stayed with Nagal

meetings by Zverev. home team player's unforced

"insufficient evidence" to sub-

stantiate allegations against

him of abusing a former girl-

friend. Former world number

two Zverev always denied the

claims, describing them as

who helped his country win

the 2014 Davis Cup, was

returning to the team compe-

tition for the first time in eight

years. Now ranked 135 in the

world, he was comfortably

beaten for the fifth time in five

"baseless"

In the opening singles, Rune and he came out serving for the broke Bhambri twice in each set. match in the 10th game. The 19-year-old converted four Holmgren's forehand error gave of the seven break chances while the Indian did not get a single the Indian three match points chance to break his opponent.

Dipa Karmakar handed 21-month ban after failing dope test PTI NEW DELHI

Star gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been handed a 21-month ban for failing a dope test conducted by the International Testing Agency, contrary to claims made by Indian officials that her "suspension" last year was not related to doping offence.

Karmakar's dope sample collected out-of-competition by the ITA, an independent organisation that manages the antidoping programme of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), was found to contain Higenamine, which is a prohibited substance under World Anti-Doping Agency Code.

Her ban period will, however, end on July 10 this year as it was counted from the day (October 11, 2011) the sample was collected.

Dipa Karmakar has been suspended for a 21-month period, effective until 10 July 2023 after testing positive for higenamine (S3. Beta-2 Agonists as per the World Anti-Doping Agency prohibited list)," the ITA said in a statement late on Friday.

"The positive sample was collected on behalf of the FIG in the scope of an out-of-competition control on 11 October 2021," it added.

The Switzerland based nonprofit organisation works under the supervision of WADA and International Olympic Committee to implement anti-doping



provision in the WADA. "The athlete's results have been disqualified from October 11, 2021 onwards."

Karmakar, who shot to fame after finishing fourth in the 2016 Rio Olympics in the vault event, has been struggling with injuries ever since she underwent a surgery to treat an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury in 2017.

Her last FIG event was the 2019 World Cup in Baku.

The ban on Karmakar flies on her face as well as on the Gymnastic Federation of India officials who have been claiming ignorance after she was put in the "suspended" category by the FIG in February last year.

GFI president Sudhir Mittal had then said that he had not received any communication from the FIG regarding her suspension.

Karmakar herself and her coach Bisheshwar Nandi kept quiet at that time.

Other GFI officials went to the extent of saying that the "suspended" status could be due to other issues, like ethical or disciplinary, not related to doping violation.

Chelsea can't buy a goal in Fulham stalemate

AFP ■ LONDON

helsea manager Graham Potter Cpleaded for time to gel his expensive collection of new stars after the Blues were held 0-0 at home by Fulham on Friday.

Enzo Fernandez made his Chelsea debut after becoming the most expensive player in British football history with a £107 million move (\$132 million) from Benfica on transfer deadline day.

Mykhailo Mudryk was also given his Stamford Bridge bow, while Noni Madueke and David Datro Fofana came off the bench for their Premier League debuts.

Chelsea's record investment of over £300 million in the January window took the total spend on players in their first season under new ownership to over half a billion.

Co-owners Todd Boehly and Behdad Eghbali were in attendance, but will not have been impressed as another chance to close on the top

four slipped by. Potter's men sit ninth in the table, still nine points adrift of the

Champions League places. "New players are adapting to a new country and a new league. It's not straightforward. When the price tag is what it is questions will be asked, it's the nature of the business,"

"The decision we took in the window you can see the profile in terms of age. We feel we have a very strong group of players. We have to gel and become a really good team. That's where the work is

Fulham had secured a first victory in the west London derby since 2006 when the teams met just three weeks ago.

Marco Silva's men sit two points and three places above their local rivals in the table in their first season back in the top flight.

HAVERTZ'S HAT-TRICK OF

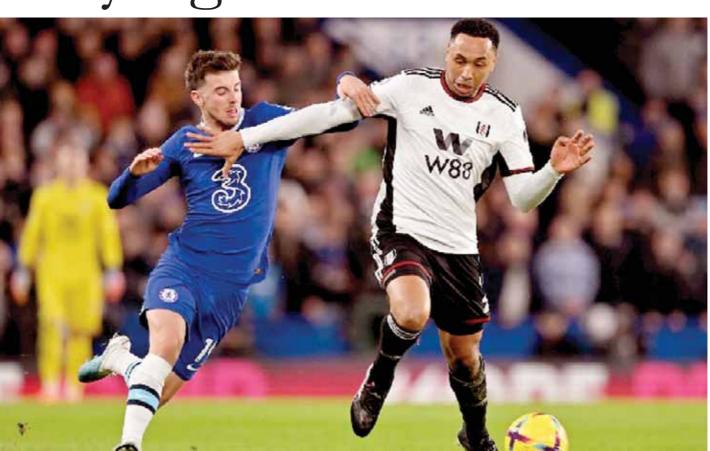
Fulham were seeking a first ever league double over Chelsea and came close to achieving it as Andreas Pereira forced Kepa Arrizabalaga into a flying save low to his right.

For the enormous sums spent by Chelsea's new owners, their lack of a clinical goalscorer was exposed once more.

Kai Havertz had a hat-trick of big chances to break the deadlock before half-time.

The German international failed to get enough contact on Thiago Silva's brilliant pass to divert the ball beyond Bernd Leno.

Havertz then could not stretch to turn Mason Mount's dangerous



But his best opening came when he hit the post with a lob over Leno from Hakim Ziyech's defence-split-

Żiyech would have been a Paris Saint-Germain player this week had Chelsea not submitted the wrong paperwork in the minutes before Tuesday's transfer deadline.

wealth of wide options now available to Potter and he wasted no time in hooking Mudryk despite his price tag after a disappointing first 45 minutes.

The Moroccan is just one of a

The Ukrainian joined from Shakhtar Donetsk lasť month for a fee that could rise to 100 million euros (\$110 million).

Madueke was introduced in his place and Potter also threw on Raheem Sterling from the bench on the hour mark in the search for a winner. Fernandez was inches away

from the perfect debut as the Argentine World Cup winner flashed a shot wide from distance 20 minutes from time. Connor Gallagher came even

closer as he hit the side-netting from the edge of the box. But the best chance fell to Fofana

as the Ivorian rounded the stranded Leno, but failed to beat the covering Tim Ream on the line.

WE'VE PLENTY OF OPTIONS IN SPIN DEPARTMENT: CUMMINS

ustralia captain Pat Cummins on Saturday said his team is not fretting over its spin combination as it has enough options to support veteran off-spinner Nathan Lyon in the high-profile four-match Test series against India beginning in Nagpur on Thursday.

The touring Australians have named Mitchell Swepson along

with finger spinner Ashton Agar to team up with Lyon.

"We've got plenty of options here (with) finger spin, wrist spin, left arm (pace) when (Mitchell) Starcy comes back," Cummins told reporters in his first media interaction after arriving in India. "We'll obviously pick the

bowlers that we think are going to take 20 wickets. But how we split that up, we're not 100 per Asked if it would be a twopronged spin attack, he said: "I

wouldn't say it's a given. Obviously it's very conditions dependent. Particularly in the first test, once we get to Nagpur we will see that.'

The Australians are here for a training camp before heading to

The good thing is someone like Agar was in our last team, Swepson played the last two overseas tour, so a bit of experi-

"Murphy played in the last tour. We feel that we got a lot of support in that department for

The 29-year-old Cummins pointed out that middle-order batter Travis Head also offers offspin option.

"Travis Head also bowls really good offspin. We have to balance things. We have got a plenty of variety there to choose from. We have not locked in any bowling line-up so far."

While there is so much talk about spin bowling, Cummins said his side should not forget about their intimidating pace bowling attack. "I think sometimes, talking

about a couple of spinners, you forget how good a lot of our fast bowlers have been in all condi-

"Even some of the SCG wickets, there haven't been a lot in them for quick bowlers, but the quick bowlers have found a way,'



way since he made a Test comeback after six years in Ranchi during the last tour of India in 2017.

An injury-prone Cummins then dished out a hostile spell to dismiss the star Indian trio of KL Rahul, Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane en route to figures of

4/106. "It was my first test in six years. I just wanted to reaffirm that's where I wanted to be in Test cricket. I really enjoyed that spell, you can't be worried about your body or different things. You just got to go all out. I really enjoyed

that.
"Test cricket can be really, really harsh. You have got to accept that it's going to be grinding times, and you got to be out for it and embrace that challenge. Coming here to India when a lot of the talks are around, big spinning wicket, it's not always the

"You need to get into the grind at times. That role of the fast bowler, bowling a lot of overs for not a heap of reward but doing your job for your team. I really enjoy that aspect of the last tour. Much to play for this time,'

at home this time: Greg Chappell

PTI MELBOURNE

Batting great Greg Chappell believes Australia can win the upcoming high-profile fourmatch Test series as India are "vulnerable" this time with injuries to key players like Rishabh Pant and Jasprit

While the swashbuckling keeper-batter Pant is ruled out for most part of the year as he continues to recover from injuries sustained during a horrific car crash, Indian pace ace Bumrah (back injury) does not figure in the Indian squad for the first two Tests. "Australia can win this

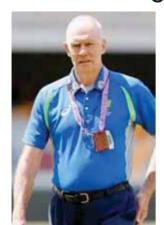
series. India are more vulnerable at home than they have been for some time due to injuries to key players like Rishbah Pant, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah. They will rely heavily on Virat Kohli," Chappell wrote in an opinion il" Morning Herald'.

Premier spin-bowling allrounder Ravindra Jadeja, who recovered from a knee injury and made a comeback in the Ranji Trophy last month, is in the Indian squad for the Test Thursday.

"Visiting teams are often fooled by a game that seems to be going nowhere but suddenly changes at a frenetic pace. The Indians are used to this, so Australia will need to adapt quickly with mind, bat and ball," said the former India

Finger spinner Ashton Agar, who is Australia's only lef-tarm tweaker in the squad, should be preferred to partner Nathan Lyon on turning tracks,

Chappell said.
"Should the pitches favour spin, which is more likely, I expect Ashton Agar to get the nod because finger spin is con-



sidered to be more accurate," said the 74-year-old Chappell who scored 7110 runs from 87 Tests with an impressive average of 53.86 between 1970 and

"Anil Kumble who took 619 wickets in Test cricket, rarely strayed off the straight and narrow. His stock in trade were fast, flat leg breaks which were always threatening the stumps. Batters knew if they missed, they were in trouble. Jadeja's stock in trade is similarly unerring.

"Agar has got to emulate their roles. One bowler leaking tight contest."

Recollecting his conversation with Erapalli Prasanna, he wrote the Indian legend would spin the ball hard, try to hit the batter on the pads often, get him thinking about the spinning ball, and then trap him on the crease with a straight one.

"Line, he (Prasanna) said, was optional, length was mandatory. He explained to me that he would lay the seam a bit flatter than for the traditional off spinner and then impart a higher number of rotations on the ball that would make the ball drift like an off spinner but, once it landed on the leather, it would skid on with the arm giving the

impression that it had gone 'the other way'.

"As the leader of the spin attack, Nathan Lyon will need to take pages out of his book and

Chappell, however, said that Australia will also have issues to "David Warner is in patchy

form and needs to improve his Test record in India; Usman Khawaja, Alex Carey, Travis Head and Cameron Green will be tested against better quality spin than they encountered in Pakistan and Śri Lanka. "Marcus Labuschagne will

be facing his first big test in the subcontinent; and Steve Smith's recent batting tweaks will be examined more keenly than against the West Indies, South Africa and in the BBL," he

The series will be like a 'final frontier' for the Pat Cumminsled No. 1 Test side who have been on a roll after the pacer took over from Tim Paine.

Australia have had a fine run recently, winning the Ashes and then the series against Pakistan, West Indies and South Africa. They will be in search of

In their last tour of India in 2017, they began with a big win in the Pune Test but went on to lose the series 1-2. India, on the other hand, have not lost at home for more than a decade and have a record streak of winning 15 series.

The Australians will have to summon every ounce of their talent and experience during the next month to succeed. India is no longer the mystery it once was. Tours are more regular and the IPL offers valuable exposure.

"Attrition takes a huge toll on touring teams. If India are in the contest on day five, they will win," Chappell said.

OZ can win, India more vulnerable Green might have an 'outside chance' of playing Nagpur Test: McDonald

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Dashing all-rounder Cameron Green is making a quick recovery from his index finger injury and has an "outside chance" of making it to Australia's playing eleven for the opening Test against India starting in Nagpur on February 9.

The 23-year-old seam bowling all-rounder, who is recovering from a surgery on his index finger in his right hand, had a bowl at the nets in Alur. "We haven't put a clear line

through him on the team sheet. So, I wouldn't say he was in discomfort when he was bowling, McDonald told reporters here on the sidelines of their four-day training camp.

However there are still some concerns when he is batting, admitted the head coach.

"I would say one of the deliveries jarred the bottom of the bat and that can create discomfort for anyone, but there is a little bit of awareness around that finger. He has made some significant steps forward in the last couple of days, probably to

my surprise. "So, there is still an outside chance, everything going well, he might be on the team sheet," McDonald kept the options open.

Skipper Pat Cummins had earlier ruled out Green from bowling in the Test should he play, but McDonald said he has made significant progress.

Green's inclusion would provide Australia with an opportunity to include an extra specialist spinner in their bid to win their first Border-Gavaskar Trophy in India since 2004.

McDonald further said their explosive opener David Warner is fully "recharged" and looking forward to make amends for his

poor runs in some of the previous tours in the upcoming Test The 36-year-old, who has a

poor record of averaging 24.25 in eights Tests in India, had complained of exhaustion and said he would have preferred the night off from the Cricket Australia awards to recover

from a busy home summer. "I haven't noticed any

fatigue in David Warner since I got here," McDonald said. "I would probably dispel

that as a bit of a myth. He has had a couple of days off... He has been there (at training) for one of the two days, and he is not there today."

"We are managing each individual coming in around their specific preparation and where they have been and there is no doubt it was a demanding summer into BBL, and it creates a challenge back into Test match

"But we feel the preparation we have him on he will be recharged and ready to go. It has been well documented he hasn't had the series that he would

like. It's always challenging.
"I think the way he is applying himself in his downtime to really land on a method to take on the Indian spinners and also the quicks and to have a successful tour, I think you will see him fully invigorated and invested and fully charged for the chal-

lenge ahead.'

I will only comment (on perfor-

day and seeing the focus of play-

ers." Raina is very happy that

there is so much competition for

places in the national team

"It is an achievement (that

across formats.

PTI NEW DELHI

ormer India batter Suresh Raina is baffled by Australian team's decision to opt for simulation training rather than play warm-up games ahead of the first Border-Gavaskar Test, starting February 9 in Nagpur.

The Australian team are currently training in Bengaluru and are practising on rank turners, having summoned little known Baroda spinner Mahesh Pithiya, whose bowling action resembles Ravichandran Ashwin. But Raina, one of India's finest white ball players, feels that Australia might have missed a

"I have played practice matches (ahead of Tests) and

Raina surprised with Aus decision to not play warm-up games

they are really important. They (Australia) can understand the quality of pitches in India only if they play on them," Raina told PTI on the sidelines of Mission Olympics Annual Day Meet, organised by Police Families Welfare Society.

Raina is confident that India will do well in the four-Test series and Ravindra Jadeja's comeback will add fine balance to the squad. "I am happy with Jadeja's comeback after a long time," said the southpaw.
"Our spinners R Ashwin,



Axar Patel are doing well. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have been in good form and I think we will get to watch an interest-

ing series in the coming days." While visiting teams are always welcomed on rank turners during Test matches in the sub-continent, Raina would like to see a track that would hold on for five days.

He however didn't want to predict the outcome of the

"Let it begin first. A Test match should be five-day long. many are worthy of a place in the Indian team). When there is such a competition we will get the best performance from the

He also welcomed BCCI's decision to organise the inaugural Women's Premier League

"WPL is going to be very beneficial for women cricketers of our country. And it is great that the (women) U-19 team won the World Cup.'

UAE set to host Asia Cup, venue to be finalised in March



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{he\,Asian\,Cricket\,Council\,will\,decide}_{\,\,on\,\,an\,\,alternate\,\,venue\,\,for\,\,the\,\,Asia}$ Cup ODI tournament in March after BCCI secretary Jay Shah and PCB chairman Najam Sethi had their first formal meeting in Bahrain on Saturday.
The Asia Cup was initially allotted

Abu Dhabi and Sharjah -- are favourites to host the tournament but the decision

to Pakistan and was scheduled in September this year but Shah, who is also the ACC chairman, had announced last October that India will not travel to It is understood that United Arab

Emirates with three venues -- Dubai,

has been withheld for the time being. All heads of ACC member nations attended the emergent meeting which was called at the behest of PCB chairman Sethi after ACC under chairmanship of Shah released the continental body's itinerary where Pakistan wasn't named the hosts. "The ACC affiliates met today and there were a lot of constructive discussions. But the shift of venue has been postponed till March. But be rest assured that with India not going to Pakistan, the tournament will have to be shifted. A tournament without Virat Kohlis, Rohit Sharmas and Shubman Gills will have the sponsors back out," a senior BCCI official privy to the development told PTI. One ACC insider said Sethi has just

taken over PCB and if he would have ceded ground on the hosting rights in the first meeting itself, then it would have led to a bad impression at home.

Pakistan is currently going through an economic crisis and inflation has hit the country very hard with the country's currency (PKR) plummeting to Rs 277 against 1 US Dollar. Organising a high profile tournament like Asia Cup, even if ACC pays a grant could burn a hole in PCB coffers. So strategically, if the tournament is held in the UAE, there is every possibility that all the member nations will also get to earn apart from the broadcast revenues.

In another decision, the ACC has decided to increase the annual budget allocated for Afghanistan Cricket Association to 15 percent from six.

The ACC has assured that it will help the Afghanistan board in all possible ways so that women's cricket can be revived in the country. Women are banned from playing sport under

Carey reminds OZ of Indian pacers' reverse-swing threat

Australia wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carey has reminded his team how damaging the Indian pacers could be with their reverse swing even as countering the threat from hosts spinners was the main focus in the build-up to their high profile four-match Test series starting on Thursday.

Australia abandoned the idea of "irrelevant" tour games in India and instead trained with SG balls on specially-prepared spinning pitches in Sydney before coming to India.

"Going to Pakistan it was a lot of spin talk and I found the reverse swinging ball difficult," Carey told reporters here on the sidelines of their four-day training camp.

He recalled their tour game in Bengaluru in 2018 when pacers were equally making impact as the spinners and Mohammed Siraj returned with a match haul of 11 wickets.

"I played a four-day game



(for Australia A against India A) in 2018 and a lot of the talk was about spin and probably forget a bit how damaging both team's fast bowlers are with the reverseswinging ball, with a wicket that might be a bit up and down," said the 31-year-old.

Carey also recalled their

drawn Test series in Sri Lanka in July last year where the Australians had to adapt to different pitch conditions.

We went to Galle for two Tests and they were two different wickets. So be open-minded about what we are going to come up against, what team they put on the park and what scenario I come in at," he said.

"Having the game ebb and flow between spin and fast bowling, dry periods, periods where it will score quickly... Think that's great about this team, the experience we do

Carey said the visiting team understands the capability of the Indian side, and will plan accordingly.

"We'll speak to the guys who have played (in India) in the past and we'll have our batters' meeting soon. We'll face a lot of different spinners throughout the next few days, our spinners (are) bowling well as well, so for everyone it's getting our feet on the ground.

We haven't really spoken about the way we are going to play, it's the individual basis. For Travis it might be exploring that (attacking) game a bit, Renners (Matthew Renshaw) is a bit taller and can get to the pitch of the ball — he has been here and succeeded — so it's up to the individual to own their game then we back them in to do that". February 5, 2023

the pioneer

/ "I never thought \ being famous would





THE CITY OF FLOWERS NOW AN EPICENTER OF VIOLENCE

Peshawar was a peaceful place until the early 1980s when Pakistan's then-dictator Ziaul Haq decided to become part of Washington's cold war with Moscow, joining the fight against the 1979 Soviet invasion of neighboring Afghanistan. Write RIAZ KHAN and MUNIR AHMED

akistan's Peshawar was once known as "the city of flowers," surrounded by orchards of pear, quince and pomegranate trees. It was a trading city, situated at the gates of a key mountain valley connecting South and Central Asia.

But for the past four decades, it has borne the brunt of rising militancy in the region, fueled by the conflicts in neighboring Afghanistan and the geopolitical games of great powers.

On Tuesday, the city with a population of about 2 million was reeling after one of Pakistan's most devastating militant attacks in years. A day earlier, a suicide bomber unleashed a blast in a mosque inside the city's main police compound, killing at least 101 people and wounding at least 225, mostly police.

Analysts say the carnage is the legacy of decades of flawed policies by Pakistan and the United States.

"What you sow, so shall you reap," said Abdullah Khan, a senior security analyst.

Peshawar was a peaceful place, he said, until the early 1980s when Pakistan's then-dictator Ziaul Haq decided to become part of Washington's cold war with Moscow, joining the fight against the 1979 Soviet invasion of neighboring Afghanistan.

Peshawar — less than 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the Afghan border — became the center where the American CIA and Pakistani military helped train, arm and fund the Afghan mujahedeen fighting the Soviets. The city was flooded by weapons and fighters, many of them hard-line Islamic militants, as well as with hundreds of thousands of Afghan

Arab militants were also drawn there by the fight against the Soviets, including the scion of a wealthy Saudi family, Osama bin Laden. It was in Peshawar that bin Laden founded al-Qaida in the late 1980s, joining forces with veteran Egyptian militant Ayman al-Zawahri.

The Soviets finally withdrew in defeat from Afghanistan in 1989. But the legacy of militancy and armed resistance that the U.S. and Pakistan fueled against them remained.

"After the Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1980s, Americans abandoned mujahedeen, Americans even abandoned us, and since then we are paying a price for it," said Mahmood Shah, a former Pakistani army brigadier and a senior security analyst.

The mujahedeen plunged Afghanistan into civil war in a bloody fight for power. Meanwhile, in Peshawar and another Pakistani city, Quetta, the Afghan Taliban began to organize, with backing from the Pakistani government. Eventually, the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in the late 1990s, ruling until they were ousted by the 2001 American-led invasion following al-Qaida's 9/11 attacks in the U.S.

During the nearly 20-year U.S. war against the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, militant groups blossomed in the tribal regions of Pakistan along the border and around Peshawar. Like the Taliban, they found root among the ethnic Pashtuns who make up a majority in the region and in the city.

Some groups were encouraged by the Pakistani intelligence agencies. But others turned their guns against the government, angered by heavy security crackdowns and by frequent U.S. airstrikes in the border region targeting al-Qaida and other militants.

Chief among the anti-government groups was the Pakistani Taliban, or Tahreek-e Taliban-Pakistani, or TTP. In the late 2000s and early 2010s, it waged a brutal campaign of violence around the country. Peshawar was scene of one of the bloodiest TTP attacks in 2014, on an army-run public school that killed nearly 150 people, most of them schoolboys.

Peshawar's location has for centuries made it a key juncture between Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent. One of the oldest cities

DURING THE NEARLY 20-YEAR U.S. WAR AGAINST THE TALIBAN **INSURGENCY IN** AFGHANISTAN, MILITANT GROUPS **BLOSSOMED IN THE** TRIBAL REGIONS OF PAKISTAN ALONG THE **BORDER AND AROUND** PESHAWAR. LIKE THE TALIBAN, THEY FOUND **ROOT AMONG THE** ETHNIC PASHTUNS WHO MAKE UP A MAJORITY IN THE REGION AND IN THE CITY. SOME **GROUPS WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE** PAKISTANI INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. BUT OTHERS TURNED THEIR GUNS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, ANGERED BY HEAVY **SECURITY** CRACKDOWNS AND BY

FREQUENT U.S.

AIRSTRIKES IN THE

TARGETING AL-QAIDA

AND OTHER MILITANTS

BORDER REGION

in Asia, it stands at the entrance to the Khyber Pass, the main route between the two regions. That was a source of its prosperity in trade and put it on the path of armies going both directions, from Moghul emperors to British imperialists.

A heavy military offensive largely put down the TTP for several years and the government and the militants eventually reached an uneasy truce. Peshawar came under heavy security control, with checkpoints dotting the main roads, and a heavy presence of police and paramilitary troops.

TTP attacks, however, have grown once more since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in Kabul in August 2021 amid the U.S. and NATO withdrawal from that country. The Pakistani Taliban are distinct from but allied to the Afghan group, and Pakistani officials regularly accuse the Afghan Taliban of giving the TTP free rein to operate from Afghan territory.

On Wednesday, several police officers joined a peace march organized by the members of civil society groups in Peshawar, denouncing militant attacks and demanding peace in the country. Police said they made some arrest in connection with Monday's mosque bombing but did not provide details.

Ahead of Monday's suicide bombing, Peshawar had seen increasing small-scale attacks targeting police. In another spillover from Afghanistan's conflict, the regional affiliate of the Islamic State group attacked Peshawar's main Shiite mosque in March 2022, killing more than 60 people.

Shah, the former officer, warned that more TTP attacks could follow and said that Pakistan needs to engage the Afghan Taliban and pressure them to either evict the TTP or ensure it doesn't launch attacks from Afghan territory.

"If we are to have peace in Pakistan, we should talk to TTP from the position of strength with help from the Afghan Taliban," he said. "This is the best and viable solution to avoid more violence."

Pakistan reaches out to Taliban supremo

 $P^{\text{akistan has decided to seek the}}_{\text{intervention of Taliban supreme}}$ leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada to control the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group, according to official sources.

During an Apex Committee meeting in Peshawar, the civil and military leadership held the banned TTP responsible for the carnage in the city this week, and decided to take up the matter with the interim Afghan government at the highest level, with a clear message that Pakistan would no longer tolerate cross-border terrorism, The Express Tribune reported.

Although the TTP has denied its involvement in Monday's suicide blast at a mosque in the Peshawar Police Lines, a briefing given to the Apex Committee suggested that the banned outfit was indeed the mastermind of the attack.

The meeting at the Governor House in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) capital was held in the wake of a deadly terrorist attack in the Police Lines in which more than 100 people, mostly policemen, were killed.

The meeting was presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The participants of the meeting included Army chief Gen Syed Asim Munir, DG ISI Lt-Gen Nadeem Anjum, Peshawar Corps Commander, DGMO and other military officials as well as senior cabinet members, chief ministers of the four provinces, Gilgilt-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was invited to the all-impor-



tant meeting but it did not attend. The marathon meeting discussed how the suicide bomber managed to enter the high security zone, who the perpetrator was and how the government would respond to the renewed threat posed by the TTP.

The meeting was informed that the TTP, indeed, carried out the attack but because of fear of backlash from the Afghan Taliban, it did not own it, publicly.
Insiders told The Express

Tribune that Pakistan would seek the intervention of Akhundzada to control the banned terror outfit.

The meeting noted that despite the resurgence of terrorism in the country, terrorists did not hold any specific area, therefore there was no need for a full-scale military opera-

Instead, according to Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, the intelligence-based operations would (IANS) continue.

NIP CANCER IN THE BUD

Usually, the word cancer is equated with death. However, busting the common myth, health experts say that most cancers may be cured fully if diagnosed early. Late detection is one of the highest reasons behind poor survival rates. On the World Cancer Day on February 4, THE HEALTH PIONEER sheds light on some most common types of cancer in India and the causes behind them.

TYPES OF CANCERS

* Gall Bladder Cancer

Bladder cancer risk factors include smoking, genetic mutations, and exposure to certain chemicals. Speaking on the rise in gallbladder-related illness, Dr Sushma Bhatnagar, the head of National Cancer Institute of India said, "Cases of gallbladder cases in women have been on the rise especially in the north-eastern parts of the country and settlements beside rivers.'

*Cervical Cancer

Screening tests and the HPV vaccine can help prevent cervical cancer.

*Colorectal Cancer

If you are 45 years old or older, get screened. Screening tests can help prevent colorectal cancer or find it early, when treatment works best.

*Gynecologic Cancers

Five main types of cancer affect a woman's reproductive organs: breast, cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulvar. As a group, they are called gynecologic cancers.

*Breast Cancer

Regular mammograms are the best tests doctors have to find breast cancer early. Talk to your doctor about when to start and how often to get a screening mammogram.

*Ovarian Cancer

Ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system. But when ovarian cancer is found early, treatment works best.

*Uterine Cancer

Uterine cancer is the most common cancer of the female reproductive system.

*Vaginal and Vulvar Cancers

Vaginal and vulvar cancers are rare, but all women are at risk for these cancers.



*Head and Neck Cancers

Cancers of the head and neck include cancers that start in several places in the head and throat, not including brain cancers or cancers of

To lower your risk of kidney and renal pelvis cancers, keep a healthy weight. Don't smoke, or quit if you do.

*Liver Cancer

To lower your risk for liver cancer, get vaccinated against hepatitis B, get tested for hepatitis C, and avoid drinking too

PREVENTABLE CANCERS

No cancer is 100% preventable. However,

- *Lung cancer *Ovarian cancer
- *Skin cancer *Testicular cancer

ed for radon.

*Lung Cancer

Lymphoma is a general term for cancers that start in the lymph system. The two main kinds are Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of

cancer death in the United States. To

lower your risk, quit smoking, avoid sec-

ondhand smoke, and get your home test-

Myeloma is a cancer of the plasma

*Prostate Cancer

Most prostate cancers grow slowly and don't cause any health problems. Learn more and talk to your doctor before you decide to get tested or treated for prostate cancer.

*Skin Cancer To lower your skin cancer risk, pro-

tect your skin from the sun and avoid indoor tanning.

The thyroid gland is located in front of the neck. It sends out hormones that help control many activities in the

MOST COMMON CAUSES FOR CANCER

Tobacco use is a leading cause of cancer and of death from cancer. People who use tobacco products have an increased risk of cancer because tobacco products and sec-ondhand smoke have many chemicals that damage DNA.

Tobacco use causes many types of cancer, including cancer of the lung, larynx (voice box), mouth, esophagus, throat, bladder, kidney, liver, stomach, pancreas, colon and rectum, and cervix, as well as acute myeloid leukemia. People who use smokeless tobacco (snuff or chewing tobacco) have increased risks of cancers of the mouth, esophagus, and pancreas.

Dr SVS Deo, Professor of Surgical Oncology at AIIMS Delhi says, "Smoking and consumption of alcohol account for 30 per cent of total cancer cases. If we can somehow curb the usage of these deadly items, cancer cases will go down."

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Environmental pollutants like arsenic, chromium, nickel, asbestos, dioxins besides tobacco are the major cause for lung cancer and gall bladder in India.

Dr Bhatnagar said, a major chunk of cancer cases are a result of air pollution, water pollution and an unhealthy lifestyle. Air pollution has also led an increase in the cases of cervical cancer. Delhi NCR witnessed 22000 cases of cancer last year of which 50 per cent of cases were treated at the National Cancer Institute, AIIMS.'

Breast cancer Early detection key

Oncologists recommend breast self-examination every month around five days after the periods are over startthem, for postmenopausal women, it can be done on a certain day/date of every month. Annual breast examination by a trained doctor after the age of 20 is also strongly recommended. Finally, regular mammograms after the age of 40-45 is also recommended for early detection of Breast Cancers and timely treatment.

With the emergence of advanced surgeries including oncoplastic breast surgery, oncologists/surgeons are now able to offer breast conservation to most patients with a good cosmetic outcome that boosts confidence and creates a positive impact on the psychological state of the patient. According to the experts, newer techniques like Sentinel lymph node biopsy and Lymphovenous anastomosis help in reducing the lymphedema rates to less than 5 percent. Chemotherapy usually consists of 6-8 cycles administered in daycare at an interval of 15-21 days.

It's not just a woman who has cancer, suffers. It has a devastating impact for the next generation. According to a study by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, an estimated 4.4 million women died of cancer in 2020, leaving nearly 1 million children orphaned. At least 25% were due to

DOCTORSPEAK

Dr. Bhawana Awasthy, Chief-Medical & Clinical Oncology, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre

"Cancer that develops in breast glands or ducts is called breast cancer. A lump in the breast, bloody or strawcoloured nipple discharge, recent nipple inversion, ulceration or destruction of the nipple, dimpling of skin and thickening of skin to give an appearance of orange peel are some of the symptoms of breast cancer. While identifying these signs is important, regular mammography picks up cancers even before these symptoms. Meet your doctor for a breast examination and screening advice before the disease becomes apparent. Remember, breast cancer is curable if detected

Dr. Suman Mallik, Clinical Director - Senior Consultant & HOD Radiation Oncology, Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Howrah

"Confirmation of diagnosis of breast cancer usually requires a needle biopsy, which can be performed at the



WHO Roadmap on breast cancer launched recently

recommends:

Countries to focus on breast cancer early-detection programmes so that at least 60% of the breast cancers are diagnosed and treated as earlystage disease.

Diagnosing breast cancer within 60 days of initial presentation can improve breast cancer outcomes. Treatment should start within three months of the first presenta-

Managing breast cancer so that at least 80% of patients complete their recommended treatment.

OPD 10-15 minutes after the mammogram is done. We initially go for ultrasound, mammogram and sometimes MRI in special situations to detect early disease. Patients with larger lumps, those having enlarged glands in the armpit or symptoms suggestive of distant organ involvement (bone pain, breathlessness, headache, enlarged liver etc.) need additional tests like PET-CT scan to rule out the spread of disease to other organs."

Dr. Ronak Vyas, Surgical Oncologist at Narayana Multi Speciality Hospital, Ahmedabad

People need to be aware of advanced treatment and facilities available in the country now. For example, our hospital has best-in-class treatment and care for breast cancer patients. It is very disappointing for us that a large number of patients come to us at advanced stages. Early Cancer or Stages I &II are usually treated by surgeries first. Locally advanced stage III requires chemotherapy first followed by surgery and radiation. Hormone and other targeted therapy are needed in the select group of patients who have certain markers present on their tumours. Stage IV (Distant organ spread) is treated either with chemotherapy or hormone therapy or both."

managing certain controllable risk factors such as your diet, physical activity and other lifestyle choices - can lower your chances of developing cancer. This is especially true for 9 specific cancer types, which include:

- *Breast cancer *Cervical cancer
- *Colorectal cancer
- *Head and neck cancer
- *Prostate cancer

cells. In myeloma, the cells grow too much, forming a mass or tumor in the body.

Thyroid Cancer

Though the study was conducted in 2016, its observation still holds true keeping in mind no let up in the breast cancer

The authors have called for an awareness regarding breast cancer and BSE among rural women by exploring various mechanisms of community engagement, including involving grassroots-

records awareness of symptoms and risk factors of breast cancer and awareness and practice regarding BSE. It was translated into the local language Kannada for use in rural areas for study

Rural women caught unaware

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $E^{\text{ven as breast self-examination}}_{(\text{BSE}) \text{ remains a feasible}}$ screening method in resourcepoor settings like India, yet diaga cause of concern. This is mainly because the majority of women particularly from rural India have poor awareness regarding breast cancer and poor practice of BSE.

This was found by a group of researchers while assessing the awareness of breast cancer and the practice of BSE among women in a rural area of Karnataka in South India. This speaks volumes of the awareness status among rural women across the country.

Published in the Indian Journal of Cancer, the study revealed that less than one in ten women knew that a lump in the breast is a symptom of breast cancer. Majority 338 (81.2%) were not able to state even a single symptom of breast cancer and 365 (87.7%) not able to state even one risk factor of breast cancer.

Majority 354 (85.1%) of the heard of BSE. None of the women in the study performed monthly BSE. Only 40 (9.6%) of the women actually performed BSE within the last 6 months. Women with higher education and those who reported a history of a lump in the breast in self or family were significantly more likely to state at least one symptom of breast cancer and were more likely to practice BSE, noted the authors of the study led by Avita R, Department of Community Health, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore.

Awareness of at least one symptom of breast cancer was associated with an 18 fold increase in the practice of BSE,

"Evidence points out that early detection and treatment can improve breast cancer survival rates. For rural Indian women, the lack of a mammogram and breast examination by an experienced clinician makes BSE the only feasible screening method available. The poor awareness and practice of BSE could lead to delayed diagnosis and adversely affect the outcome of breast cancer. However, there are several socio-cultural barriers that continue to exist in Indian society such as negative attitude to BSE, poor health-seeking behaviour and lack of priority to the health of women as they reach the end of their child-bearing years."

study said, revealing an urgent need to focus on health awareness among rural women.

level health workers. The study tool used was the Breast Cancer Awareness Measure (Breast-CAM), developed by Cancer Research UK, King's College London and University College London in 2009, and it

CANCER: Close the care gap

On World Cancer Day, WHO is calling for intensified action across the South-East Asia Region to strengthen health systems to prevent and detect cancers early, to provide prompt treatment referral, to enhance access to palliative care, and to close the gap in access to quality cancer services - the theme of this year's commemoration.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally, accounting for an estimated 9.9 million deaths in 2020. Between 2010 and 2019, global cancer incidence increased by 26%, alongside a 21% increase in cancer deaths. An estimated one third of cancer deaths globally are due to tobacco use, high body mass index, alcohol use, low fruit and vegetable intake, and lack of physical activity.

In the WHO South-East Asia Region, an estimated 2.3 million people developed cancer in 2020, and 1.4 million died of the disease. Cancer is estimated to account for more than 20% of premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the Region, which stand at around 4.7 million deaths every year. In 2020, cancer of the lungs, breast and cervix accounted for 400 000 of the total number of cancer-related deaths in the Region, and almost two-thirds of people

diagnosed with cancer succumbed to the disease, highlighting the urgent need for improved early diagnosis and treatment.

Since 2014, the Region has accelerated action to prevent, detect, treat and control cancer, with increased focus on eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem. Eight countries of the Region now have in place population-based cancer registries (PCBRs), and three countries - Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka - are focus countries for addressing childhood cancer. Ten of the Region's 11 Member States provide tertiary care services for cancer diagnosis and treatment including surgical and chemotherapy services - and nine also offer radiotherapy services.

WHO continues to support countries of the Region to implement its new Regional Action Plan on Oral Health 2022-2030, including oral cancers, which in 2020 were among the top five most common cancers, accounting for 7.4% of new cancers. Five countries of the Region

- Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand – now have in place national cancer control plans, which Maldives and Nepal are in the process of finalizing. The Region is currently on track to achieve the WHO NCD Global Action Plan tar-



DR POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

get of a 30% relative reduction in tobacco use prevalence between 2010 and 2025

On cervical cancer, the Region is achieving rapid, life-saving progress. Five Member States – Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand - have introduced nation-wide HPV vaccination, which Bangladesh, India and Timor-Leste are set to also introduce. Indonesia has introduced HPV vaccination in several provinces, covering tens of millions of girls. New evidence shows that a single dose of HPV vaccine delivers protection comparable to the 2-dose schedule, which alongside additional cost reductions, should enable countries to reach every woman and

To accelerate progress and high-burden cancers with high close the care gap, the Region has potential for cure. They must be several priorities. First, introducing and/or expanding HPV vaccination in routine immunization to prevent cervical cancer, covering at least 90% of adolescent girls. At the same time, the Region must continue to facilitate healthy lifestyles, including by not just legislating but enforcing key tobacco control measures such as health warnings and bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, as well as by raising taxes on tobacco products.

Second, increasing capacity at the primary health care (PHC) level to detect cancers early, with a focus on intensified health workforce training, improved infra-structure and resources, and streamlined referral pathways for prompt initiation of treatment. In all countries, PHC physicians and nurses must be equipped to provide palliative and end-of-life care close to patients' homes and families, within the community.

Third, rapidly - and systematically – advancing the capacity of tertiary care facilities to provide comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services, which is critical to reduce cancer mortality. Interventions should be aimed at

potential for cure. They must be accessible to all. Existing PBCRs should be improved, and where appropriate, new registries established, ensuring that policy makers can access good quality information to plan, monitor and evaluate interventions, and adjust accordingly. Fourth, including cancer ser-

vices in risk pooling or pre-payment schemes and health benefit packages. For this, national health budgets should enhance the quality and accessibility of public sector services and strengthen financial protection, with a focus on ending catastrophic health expenditure. Action cannot and must not

wait. In the last two decades, the world has made significant progress in the science of cancer control. However, much more work is needed to close the care gap, improve cancer survival, and accelerate towards the NCD 2025 and Sustainable Development Goal targets 2030. On World Cancer Day, WHO reiterates its commitment to support all countries of the Region to prevent, detect, treat and control cancer, ensuring equitable access to quality cancer services for everyone, everywhere.



Yemenis' wait for war crimes justice lingers

The Yemen crisis continues. It has completed eight years. The country's internal political factions and Saudi-led military intervention have spawned the catastrophe. The intractable civil war initially has gradually transformed into a full-blown tragedy leading to the deaths of millions, especially children and women. And it has added more numbers to the international refugee

The real tragedy lies in blatant violation of all universal norms set by the UN and prescribed by the international humanitarian laws. The rules and principles of the global humanitarian framework provide full protection to all civilians and others who are not participating in the war. In fact, all sets of international humanitarian law demands and normally ensures from the conflicting groups the greatest possible measures to reduce human suffering during the conduct of fighting. Therefore, these laws clearly distinguish between military objectives and civilian objectives. The final objective is to minimise harm to civil society. What has been observed in Yemen is flouting all humanitarian restrictions while pursuing military objectives. It has led to disproportionate attacks over civilian targets. Thus, many civil society organisations and global human right agencies are claiming that indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks carried out by the warring parties in Yemen are akin to war crimes

As long as there have been conflicts and wars, attempts have been made by international jurists and other experts to define "war crimes". However, only by the 20th century, the very concept of war crime was defined in the legal sense of the term. According to the UN, a war crime is a serious breach of international law committed against civilians or enemy combatants during an international or domestic armed conflict. So to have a war crime, there must be an armed conflict. An armed conflict, international or non-international or



Assault rifles and missiles seized by the French Navy lay on the deck of a ship at an undisclosed location on Wednesday. French naval forces in January seized thousands of assault rifles, machine guns and anti-tank missiles in the Gulf of Oman coming from Iran heading to Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said on Thursday, the latest such interdiction amid West Asian nation's long-running war

involving an armed international group is a prerequisite to war crimes and grave breaches (Gary D Solis 2018). In contrast to genocide and crimes against humanity, war crimes have to take place in the context of armed conflict.

Further the meaning of war crimes is clarified in four Geneva Conventions of 1949. Article 147 of the fourth Geneva Convention defines war crimes as "wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, including... wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement of a protected person...taking of hostages and extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly". So the war crime as per this land-

mark article has been recorded in many corners of the world. The International Criminal Court established by the Rome Statute is the first international criminal court when it first started in the year 2002 with 123 member nations. This court has the authority to prosecute individuals heads of state, military members and others — under three broad frameworks of international criminal acts: crime against humanity, war crimes and genocide. Again, the three main pillars of humanitarian law are the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution. And if any one of these is violated, it could be established that a war crime has been

Now the reality in Yemen is grim. In the year 2019, the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) released a devastating

report on Yemen. The report was prepared by a panel of independent experts empowered by the UNHRC to find out violations of human rights in Yemen during this war. The report clearly established the fact that though it was ostensibly a civil war, the outside powers are both direct and indirect belligerents and are responsible for war crimes. And here the main lead is taken by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The report found a litany of crimes committed by the Saudi-led coalition that has targeted civilian sites a number of times. The report strongly suggested that Saudi Arabia's western backers, including the US, the UK and France, bear responsibility for war crimes. These global powers are consistently supplying arms and ammunition to Saudi Arabia for carrying out the war

offered technical assistance to Saudi Arabian forces while conducting massive bombing raids over enemy targets all across Yemen.

Yemen, a small nation located in the Arabian Peninsula has become a permanent war theatre today. The country has turned out to be a grievous site of human suffering particularly of children, women and ageing population. All global gover-nance institutions, including the UN, except delivering peace sermons and urges, have simply become mute spectators, failing to stop the human carnage. And sadly, it is led indirectly by the world's most powerful nation, the US, on one side and the Islamic Republic of Iran by supporting Houthi Rebels on the other side. Who will be stopping them? Probably, no one until they withdraw on their own from the war field. And Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, popularly known as MBS globally, simply wants to showcase his prowess by demolishing the Iran-backed rebels which are unstoppable for now. At home, MBS remains popular for his innovative strategies to recast the regimes economic and techno visions, but internationally he has been unable to shake off the veil of suspicion for his alleged role in the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey in the year 2018. He is finding it too difficult either to withdraw or to outrightly declare his country as the winner of

the Yemen War. It is well known that the Saudis did not start the conflict. It is the Houthis who did it by marching to the historic capital city of Sanaa and overthrew the legitimate Yemeni Government in late 2014. Nevertheless, the conflict has its roots in the Arab Spring of 2011. Then an uprising of the public forced the country's long-time authoritarian President Ali Abdullah Saleh to hand over power to his Deputy Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi. The transition, as expected by international political analysts, was supposed to bring peace and stability to Yemen, one of the poorest nations in the West Asian region.

However, unfortunately Hadi had to subsequently handle militancy, Islamic jihadists, military officers having continued loyalty to former President Saleh and most importantly an economic downturn propelled by massive corruption

When the Houthi Shi rebels took over the capital city of Sanaa, President Hadi had to flee and the real existential crisis of the legitimate government of Iran began. Again, the conflict took a turn of a regional war in March 2015, when Saudi Arabia and eight other, mostly Sunni Arab nations, backed by the US, France, and the UK began strikes against the Houthis to restore the Hadi Government in Yemen. This has given the war an international angle too and the Islamic Republic of Iran openly supported the Houthi rebels. In fact, the Saudis are seriously concerned about the continued success and rampage of the Houthi militants as it would open a stronghold for its rival Iran in its southern backyard for Truly, there has been disaster for

everyone whosoever has been involved in the war. But for the most part, it is no other than Yemen's impoverished and malnourished population who have become the central target of the war. The Yemenis are killing the Yemenis by taking global support for arms and ammunition from warmongering nations. And at the same time, the regional warring parties like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the rival Iran are bleeding their own coffers simply to re-establish their superiority in West Asia. And the final sufferers are no other than the ordinary Yemenis. It's time to stop this war crime. Enough is enough.

(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University, Panipat)

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MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE •

Budget ensures economy's | Budget ignores 90% fundamentals remain solid of India's population

The 2023-24 Budget has **I** proved all pundits wrong as they had predicted it to be a political Budget before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The last full-fledged Budget before the general elections is not populist on any parameter. It takes confidence and commitment to stick to the fundamentals of prudent fiscal management, when it makes complete sense to go all-out political. This attribute which was also visible during the handling of the Covid-19 crisis will keep the economy resilient.

The highlight of the Budget has to be the increased allocation for capital expenditure, which was hiked by 33 per cent to Rs 10 lakh crore and the total capex is expected to be around 13 lakh crore. After two consecutive years of blistering growth in Government capex, there was an expectation that the Centre would step off the accelerator and make more direct cash transfers under various social sector schemes. The increase in capex under this context is indeed a pleasant surprise.

The Budget continues to focus on the smooth functioning of the economy. Capital allocation for collateral-free lending to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector has been increased to Rs 9,000 crore. This will lead to an incremental lending of Rs 2 lakh crore to this sector. Customs duties have been reduced on a number of commodities to make manufacturing in India more competitive, with raw material availability at lower costs. These steps, together with the continued work on the ease-of-doingbusiness, will help the micro, small and medium enterprise sector in a major way.

Relief in personal income tax was widely demanded and the Budget has lived up to the expectation of the taxpayers. An individual can now earn up to Rs 7 lakh per annum and not pay any income tax. This is a 40 per cent increase over the current exemption limit of Rs 5 lakh per annum and has led to considerable rejoicing in the middle class. The relief has also been extended with people with very high levels of income. The surcharge on income above Rs 5 crore per annum has also been reduced and the highest marginal rate of taxation will come down from 42.75 per cent to 39 per cent. The Government has thus shown that it is not afraid to provide relief even to the rich if it believed that the rate was too high and political considerations did not come in the

document for the future. The Government has listed seven priorities that will guide policy making on the road to 2047. These have elements of green growth and energy transition while not losing sight of inclusive development and reaching the last mile. The focus and commitment to sustainable growth can be seen from schemes like Mishti, for Mangrove plantation, along the coastline and Amrit Dharohar, for preserving biodiversity in wetlands. Scrapping of old vehicles also finds a detailed mention in the Budget. Establishing a centre of excellence for Artificial the year 2025-26. Intelligence (AI) shows that the Budget has ambition. The Skill India scheme will, henceforth, include AI, robotics, 3D printing and so on. The

Government plans to set up

5G services.

The Government's support to the agricultural sector and its commitment to the rural economy are evident from the setting up of the Agriculture Accelerator Fund and the millet development programme. Schemes such as GOBARdhan yojana and facilitating natural farming are a case in point. The target for credit to the agriculture sector has been fixed at Rs 20 lakh crore. It will ensure that the agriculture sector continues to grow at a healthy rate.

A major achievement has

been the management of fiscal affairs. Several challenges on the macroeconomic front that stemmed from external factors, and were unseen at the time of the presentation of the Budget last year, unfolded as the year rolled by. The actual expenditure on food and fertiliser subsidy for the current year is This year's Budget is also a much more than what was initially budgeted, while the excise tax collected dipped due to excise duty cut on petrol and diesel by the Central Government. Despite this, the Narendra Modi Government has managed to achieve the budgeted target of 6.4 per cent for fiscal deficit for the year 2022-23. The fiscal deficit target for the coming financial year has been put at 5.9 per cent of GDP. Thus, the march on the path of fiscal consolidation continues and while there is an absence of a glide path, the Government has committed to bringing it down to the range of 4.5 per cent by

A Budget that is not swayed by considerations of politics shows the maturity of the Government and the confidence it has in the ability of Indian voters' judgement to 100 labs for the development of reward performance over

Point-counterpoint



rhetoric. This Budget is, therefore, a historic document and shows the nature of changing politics unleashed by the Modi Government. This Budget will ensure that the fundamentals of the economy remain solid and the next Government will be able to build upon it.

(The writer is a Supreme Court advocate)



SAMBHRANT KRISHNA

The last full Budget before **1** the 2024 general elections is not only an exercise in futility but is also tone-deaf to the realities of the society and India's neighbourhood. Like always, the Government cheerleaders claim that the Budget is historic, but if one looks beyond the surfeit of terms like Amrit kaal, Shri Anna, Karmayogi, etc, one finds that

it is neither for the masses nor

for long-term growth potential

of the economy. The biggest failure is the refusal of the Government to increase defence expenditure in any meaningful manner. For the first time in decades India's defence allocations have dropped below two per cent of the nominal GDP. The growth even failed to keep pace with the rise in nominal GDP. The capital expenditure for defence has seen a very small increase 2022-23 to Rs 1,62,000 (BE) for

that loves to claim its nationalist credentials at the drop of a hat, it is not surprising at all that the subject of defence was not mentioned in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister at all. The UPA Government under the Congress devoted more than 2 per cent of the GDP to defence and the BJP at that time used to shout that the allocation was not adequate and it will increase defence allocation when it came to power.

It must also be reminded that the India-China border was largely peaceful during that period and now that the possibility of a border clash between the two countries is a real possibility, the defence sector has been given a short shrift. It is also very likely that the subject of defence was not mentioned in the Budget so that it does not antagonise China and if that's the case then it's indeed shameful.

A lot of noise is being made by the Government on its target to reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of GDP next year. If one looks beyond the headlines, one can easily see that the fertilizer subsidy in the coming year will come down drastically as the global prices, which had spiked after the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, have cooled down. Moreover, the Government has also stopped the free food grain distribution that it had started in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic and therefore the food subsidy will also come in defence expenditure has down. The planned reduction on the fiscal deficit therefore is not a result of sound fiscal management by the Government but is a result of

from Rs 1,50,000 crore (RE) in factors beyond its control. Another aspect of the 2023-24. For a Government Budget is that the numbers pre-

sented are not honest. While the budgeted increase in capital expenditure is hogging the limelight, revenue expenditure has not been subjected to the scrutiny it deserves. The budget for 2023-24 has projected only a marginal increase in revenue expenditure over the revised estimate for the current year. In fact, if the interest payment is subtracted from the revenue expenditure, the amount is lower than revised estimates for the current year. This is clearly unrealistic and it is very likely that the actual revenue expenditure will exceed the Budget estimates. Moreover, it does not take much to puncture the claim of the Government on achieving very high Central Government capital expenditure as a percentage of GDP. The Government in its last 10 year period has raided the retained earnings of the public sector enterprises as a result of which the capital expenditure by PSUs has come down. The Government's only

objective seems to win praise from business newspapers and industry bodies. These people dominate any post budget discussion and the concerns of rural and the poor masses are always relegated to the background. The allocation to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MNREGA) has been reduced dramatically and the overall allocation to rural areas has come down. The Government likes to pretend that the country has fully recovered from the economic effects of Covid-19 but that is far from the truth. There is still widespread suffering in the rural areas and the Budget should have made increased allocation for the rural sector.

Unemployment is the biggest challenge facing our country but the Budget has nothing substantial for it. It seems that the youth will have no future to look forward to under the Modi Government. There was a lot of discussion on tourism in the Budget. It was projected as a magic pill to address the issue of unemployment in the country. However if one looks at the total allocation to the sector, it remains unchanged from what was allocated to it in the 2022-

23 at Rs 2,300 crore. The Budget is an all-round failure because it fails to prioritise its spending to areas that deserve urgent and continued attention of the Government. It criminally ignores 90 per cent of India's population and Indian voters will pay back in the coming State elections and the general election in the coming year.

(The writer is spokesperson, Uttarakhand Committee)



DEEPAK BALUTIA







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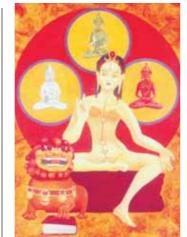




ARIES March 21-April 19

Your anxiety is evident in all your efforts. When it comes to your health, trust your instincts. Get a second opinion if a diagnosis doesn't feel right. Individuals who consume alcohol or drugs should avoid or take a break from intoxication at this time. You need to be a more caring and generous person at work. People turn to you for assistance; your buddy or colleague may want financial assistance from you. This is the moment to make long-term investments. Your generosity and kindness will make you a good name. There is anguish and grief in the connection. For the relationship to survive, both sides must be willing to work on and discuss it. This is the time to reflect and contemplate.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

It will be beneficial if you pay attention to your health this week. The week begins with creative energy that makes you feel lively, nimble, and joyful. However, as the week develops, various health concerns may arise that require your quick treatment. There is a cure for everything. Be optimistic; everything will work out. Professionally, if you are not committed to your work, you may have to pay for it. People are observing you and providing up-to-the-minute information to higher authorities. You may be questioned about your irregularities in tasks and funds. This is a very emotional phase in your relationship. Things can rapidly turn sour and awkward. Take a rest if necessary. Pick your battles wisely, and always treat your partner as a friend.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week will be difficult for you in terms of your health. Panicking at this point will just make matters worse. Every crisis is followed by the promise of a good time. It all relies on what you do about it. Be upbeat about it and seek assistance from others. Meditation will be quite beneficial. Things may not be going so well in your job. You are nearing the end of a project or assignment when you are confronted with another problem or task at work. You must be resilient and not be frightened by those who want to bring you down. On the personal front, you will have disagreements with people. You must recognize that honest communication with your partner may help you settle all of your disagreements.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, your health and vitality should be excellent. If you need to change your behaviors to safeguard your health, now is an excellent moment to do so. Starting with minor objectives, such as a daily walk, might lead to a healthier and stronger you. Spend time balancing your body, mind, and soul. On the job front, there might be a monetary loss or a condition of unemployment. Your anxieties, addictions, and other unpleasant impulses may be causing a negative atmosphere around you. You are depressed and have a negative outlook on life. Be optimistic; now is the time to learn from your blunders. On the personal front, your situation is favorable, particularly in light of an ongoing romance. Your relationship will enter a lighter, more balanced phase in which you will respect each other as equals.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Pastel Blue Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, focus on health and follow-up workouts for people with serious illnesses. You could finally find it within yourself to give up certain unhealthy behaviors that you are aware are harmful. Take care of yourself first; only then will you be able to properly care for others. This week, you may receive some excellent news at work. You could get a call about a job with a better viewpoint, benefits, and facilities. Those who are waiting for posting may be able to travel to their selected location. This week brings monetary rewards for businesspeople. Relationships are not going as well as you imagined. You must work hard. Put your thoughts and opinions to your loved ones in a way that they will be easily accepted; else, they will be rejected.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week has some excellent news for you. Even if you are dealing with major health issues, a cheerful attitude may do miracles. If you believe something is amiss with your physical being, make sure you have access to medical care. Believe your intuition. On the job front, there is joy and celebration. You are going to see the fruits of your labor and efforts. If you are seeking for work, you'll find something greater than you could have imagined. Your contributions are recognized and respected. In terms of your relationship, your spouse's attitude may irritate you, and you may feel unhappy and lonely. You may have a sense of isolation. Try to broaden your horizons and think optimistically.

Lucky number 2 Lucky colour Grey **Lucky day** Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Despite the strain and stress this week, you stay calm and composed. Your support system is your boundless energy and stamina. You must channel your enthusiasm into something productive. Your health is still fine, and you have control over your sensory delights. On the professional front, your dedication and willpower will help you reach your goals; otherwise, you will face several obstacles and delays in your job. In times of crisis, your tough decisions will give you the strength to proceed and set out the plan. Follow the advice of a senior person who understands your boundaries and is close to you. This week, you may confront pushback from close friends and family members. Family rifts and disagreements are probable. Be a little softer and more kind.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Off-white Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you are constrained in terms of your health. Fear, worry, and negative thoughts are interfering with your ability to live a normal life. You must strike a balance between your body, mind, and soul. When one's thoughts are negative or filled with anxiety, one's health suffers. If you meditate and listen to your body's voice, 50% of your issues will solve themselves. On the job front, you may experience an unexpected setback or unfairness. The post you have been eyeing may be filled by another candidate of comparable caliber. The dilemma of whether to stay in the current one or join the new one will prevail. On the relationship front, make an effort to stay connected in order to keep the flame alive.

Lucky number 31 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, your health may make you feel good. You should be full of energy and optimism for the future. Consider your regular frame of thought, and keep in mind that your attitude impacts your health. Maintain an optimistic mindset. You are now able to mentor others and share your spiritual insights. On the professional front, you are approaching the point where professional achievement and recognition are firmly within your reach. Make every effort to be orderly and productive. This will compensate you. Now is not the time to gamble or take chances. On the personal front, good fortune will accompany you in matters of the heart. If you are already in a relationship, it could deepen and improve. You are emotionally satisfied.

Lucky number 1 Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You are feeling down and gloomy this week since things aren't going your way. There are several additional health conditions that have you concerned Do not be too tense; this is only a passing phase. All tests will pass. The strain is the most serious sickness You are likely to advance professionally. There will be money, status, and honor on the line. Business owners may make a lot of money. You schedule time for healing and massage therapy. This has been a decent emotional week. Romance is on the cards for the new love. Married partners must be concerned about and comprehend one other's sentiments. There is a communication gap that must be addressed since it is the primary cause of distance and isolation.

Lucky number 9 Lucky colour Orange Laucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, your health is likely to be good. You will be full of energy and excitement. However, exercise should be done with caution because minor sprains or injuries can occur. If you've been slacking on your health, it's time to get back on track. On the job, you may come across a man of influence and leadership abilities who would like to mentor you. His presence is required to point you in the proper route. If you've been dealing with difficulties, now is the moment to take command of the issue. You will be incredibly goal-oriented and visionary. This week will be spectacular in terms of relationships. This is a moment to follow your intuition.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week, your health difficulties will be resolved. You are probably aware that health is extremely essential and requires special care and attention. The phrase "prevention is better than cure" applies to you well. You attend healing therapy sessions and seminars and put them into practice in your life. On the professional front, you must break free from the self-imposed constraints that are impeding your career advancement. In some situations, you must be fluent and quick-witted, yet your mental confusion and dualism prevent you from doing so. Reduce your spending. Keep your eyes and ears open for chances that come your way. On the personal front, commitments are not made to be broken; if you do, you may suffer in terms of relationships.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday

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n Saraswati puja day last week, a visitor asked: "Vedanta, the founding stone of Indian philosophy hypothesises a singular formless and attribute-less Primordial-Source where from the creation chain took off. But at the same time we worship various form-gods, seeking boons for fulfilment of desires. Are the two concepts not in conflict?'

Well, there is none. Vedanta talks of eternal reality to which the whole manifest world is rooted. The form-God concept, on the other hand, has a purposeful contextual relevance. They carry valuable educative import, each identified with a particular attribute, vital to orderly human conduct. Goddess Saraswati in this sense offers lessons on how to pursue the learning process to acquire wisdom. These imageries were accorded the status of a deity to draw immediate attention of the seekers.

Complex dynamics of man and the universe calls for necessary awareness. That alone would help us relate well with the world around individually and collectively. But our egotistical mind, bound by its preconditioning and habit tendencies, restricts our scope of vision, making it difficult to holistically understand the dynamics of life. That makes it incumbent upon us to expand our vision to explore existential truths with an open mind. Meditation on the imagery of Mother Goddess Saraswati is the way forward.

First the word: "Saraswati". It is made from the root-syllable, "Sarasa", which means spontaneous flow. Saraswati, thus, offers lessons in how ensure smooth run of life. She is visualised clad in spotless white apparel, also mounted on white Swan. Transparent white is the colour of purity, Buddhi (discriminate intelligence) and Space. It hints out at the pure, unsullied, truths, as laid down in nature. Only pureminds, free from any preconditioning whatsoever, could explore such truths. Otherwise, with our minds driven by a sense of relative perception, it will be difficult to identify the thin dividing line between truth and untruth. It is something like milk diluted with water, which looks no different from its pure from. However, when served to a Swan, it consumes the pure milk, leaving aside the adulterated water, and hence the relevance of Her mount.

Educative import of Saraswati



The Mother is armed with Veena (a stringed musical instrument). We are all aware that pleasing sound emanating from the musical instrument comes into

effect through harmony and symphony of varied sound notes excited by differ ent strings. In an implied sense, She remains the beholder of all Sabdas- the

meaning. And the word carries meaning only when the letters are placed in an orderly fashion. It also points to the fact that pleasing mannerism alone could help relate well and be in harmony with all and sundry, for a smooth run of life. Veena, the musical instrument of Mother thus metaphorically symbolises the beholder of words.

spoken as well as written words carrying

The mother is shown holding a book (the Veda) in one of her hands, meaning that scriptures provide us with the right lead. She is shown having a rosary in another hand. It implies that repeated reflection over knowledge acquired would be needed for realisation of the true import underlying the writeup. She is shown moving freely in a water body, having beautiful Lotus flower around, growing out of the mud lying in its womb. This is in acknowledgment of the fact that the earthly matter acquired its form-existence when aided by water element, and which acquired its dynamism out of the Sakti provided by the consciousness element, contextually symbolised by Mother. The Lotus flower here symbolises both creativity and lustre evident with knowledge. Though born in muddy water, not even a drop of water or mud particle can stick to the lotus flower leaves, thus implying a sense of detachment. So, true wisdom can be acquired only when explored with a sense of detachment.

A peacock is also shown around the Mother, which she uses as a carrier while moving up above in the sky. We cannot afford to lose sight of the forces routed through the infinite, inaccessible and indestructible space either. And, obviously tracking down the information laid down there is no easy task. It needs to be noted that the prized feed of a peacock is poisonous snake. When the peacock digests the snake's poison, it leads to a change in its body chemistry, which results in the beautiful colour its plumage reflects. Similarly, knowledge acquisition cannot be an easy task. It implies that only those who take on the pains associated with learning process kindly, would be able to acquire the knowledge and wisdom.

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