OPINION 6

POLITICISATION OF ARMY:

NO PROS, ONLY CONS

MONEY 10

MARKETS SNAP 2-DAY

GAIN; SETTLE LOWER

Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

> Late City Vol.33 Issue 302 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RACE TO SEMIS: NEW ZEALAND TAKES ON SOUTH AFRICA

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

WORLD 8

ISRAELI DRAFTS WARTIME PROPOSAL

TO TRANSFER GAZA CIVILIANS TO SINAI

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PM Modi Unveils Bharat's Iron Strength

Warns the nation against perils of appeasement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KEVADIA (GUJARAT)/NEW DELHI

Marking the culmination of Azadi Ka Amrit **IVI** Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Kartavya Path in Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the celebration of about 1000 days became a people's movement and saw India notch up several achievements such as becoming the fifth largest economy and the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill.

He also reiterated the resolve to make India a developed country by 2047 and urged the youth to work towards it. Modi said the Dandi Yatra brought people together, and similarly the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav made new history with the scale of people's participation. Highlighting how every citizen is deeply rooted in the soil of the motherland, he said, "What is life if it is not repaying the debts of the soil of India."

This will remind everyone of the sentiment of Kartavva or duty and inspire each one to accomplish the resolve of a "Viksit Bharat", he added.

Earlier in the day, in an apparent reference to the Opposition's grand alliance, INDIA, Modi cautioned against those who engage in appeasement politics, asserting that such methods run counter to the interests of the country.

Modi emphasised that the politics of appeasement poses the biggest obstacle to the country's development journey, and he warned about "a very large political class" that seems unable to engage in positive politics, often compromising the country's unity for their own selfish goals.

This message was an obvious reference to certain States governed by the Opposition parties, such as Bihar, Rajasthan, and others, undertaking a caste census survey based on the Congress' theory of "Jitni Abadi Utna Haq". 'The biggest hindrance in our

development journey is the politics of appeasement. The last many decades in India bear witness to the fact that appeasers turn a blind eye to terrorism, its horrors, and its monstrosity. They do not hesitate to stand side by side with the enemies of humanity," said the PM, addressing a gathering at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat's Narmada district, after paying floral tribute to Sardar Patel on his birth anniversary, celebrated as National Unity Day.

Modi said people have to remain cautious of such thinking which puts the unity at risk at every moment and in every



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an event marking the culmination of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign, in New Delhi on Tuesday

corner of the country. and avoid taking strict action against anti-national elements. "They (appeasers) neglect against anti-national elements. court to save the terrorists. The appeasement mindset is so Such thinking cannot benefit

and avoid taking strict action dangerous that it reaches the

any community. This can never be of any benefit to the coun-

"In the last nine years, India's internal security has been get-ting challenges from multiple

fronts, but because of the hard work of security forces, the enemies of the country are not being able to succeed like they did in the past," Modi said Modi said there is a "very large political class" in the

country which does not see any way of doing positive politics. "Unfortunately, this political class is adopting such tactics which are against the society and the country. For this political class, their selfishness is paramount even if it means that the unity of the country breaks," he said.

Such a political class is trying to achieve its political goals "by hurting the unity of the country," the Prime Minister said. "Ónly if the country remains alert about these will it be able to achieve its development goals. Efforts to maintain the unity of the country should not be abandoned even for a moment. We have to continuously live the mantra of unity, and contribute continuously to realise it," Modi said.

People have still not forgotten those periods when they were filled with doubt when enter-ing crowded markets, public places and places of economic activities, he said.

"There were conspiracies to halt the country's development by targeting them. People have for which he also coined as seen the destruction caused by bomb blasts and also the slug-

gishness of the then government in the name of investiga-tion," he said, adding that people should not let the country slide to that period. The people of the country need to know, recognise and understand, and be cautious of those who are attacking the country's unity, PM Modi said. Modi also referred to the abro-

gation of Article 370, which

accorded special status to the

erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir. "The world is sur-

prised to see India's ability in the G20. We are proud that we are taking the world's largest democracy to a new height. We are proud that amidst various global crises, our borders are safe, and in the next few years we will become the third largest economic power," he said. The PM said in the Amrit Kaal India has taken a pledge to move ahead by shedding the mindset of slavery. "Due to the chaos in the world and the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation in some countries is at the

ment. In such circumstances, India's flag continues to fly high," said Modi. The PM also laid the foundation stone of a sub-district hospital with a trauma centre and a solar panel at Ekta Nagar

highest point in 30-40 years

and there is also unemploy-

iPhone hack alert sparks row

Amassive row erupted on Tuesday after several Opposition leaders claimed they received an alert from Apple, warning them of "stateremotely compromise" their iPhones. They alleged hacking by the government, a charge rejected by Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who assured a thorough probe.

Vaishnaw said the "compulsive critics" are engaging in the politics of "distraction" because they could not tolerate the country's progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State for IT, pointed out that similar "threat notifications" were sent to people in over 150 countries by Apple. "Our government is committed and duty-bound to protect the privacy of our citizens, and we take this responsibility very seriously. The government will investigate these threat notifications as well as Apple's claims of being secure and privacy-compliant devices," he posted

Those who received such notifications included Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge,

Pawan Khera, KC Venugopal, Supriya Shrinate, and T S Singhdeo; Trinamool Congress Privanka Chaturvedi, Aam Aadmi Party's Raghav Chadha, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, and some aides of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi also received the notification. Additionally, reports suggest that the list included some journalists, which comes as a shock and serves as a stark reminder of the Pegasus snooping row. Chaturvedi and Moitra, who

were among the first to flag the issue, have demanded a

Responding to the development, iPhone-maker Apple said it is possible that some threat notifications may be false alarms and that some attacks may not be detected. However, the company refused to disclose what triggered the warnings received by the Opposition leaders.

"Apple believes you are being targeted by state-sponsored attackers who are trying to remotely compromise the

Apple ID. These attackers are likely targeting you individually because of who you are or what you do. If your device is MP Mahua Moitra, CPI(M) compromised by a state-spongeneral secretary Sitaram sored attacker, they may be able Yechury, and Samajwadi Party to remotely access your sensichief Akhilesh Yadav. Shiv Sena tive data, communications, or phone. While it is possible this is a false alarm, please take this

warning seriously," it stated. Addressing a press conference on the issue in Bhopal, Vaishnaw said the government takes its role of protecting the privacy and security of all citizens very seriously and "will investigate to get to the bottom

of these notifications." "In light of such information and widespread speculation, we have also asked Apple to join the investigation with real, accurate information on the alleged state-sponsored attacks," Vaishnaw said.

Raising the issue at a press conference at AICC headquarters, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi attacked the Modi Government. "We are not scared. You can do as much phone tapping as you want, I don't care. If you want to take my phone, I will give it to you...," he said.

Rahul accused the Government of indulging in "distraction iPhone associated with your politics" on the Adani issue,

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

which the Opposition has accused of creating monopolies in various sectors in the coun-

Moitra stated in a social media post that she will write to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, "requesting he follow Raj MPs and summon Home Ministry officials on the issue of phones/email being hacked. Privileges Committee needs to take this up. Vaishnaw (IT Minister), this is a real breach

you need to worry about." Chaturvedi also shared a similar screenshot which she claimed to have received from

Tharoor and Khera also stated that they received the same cautionary emails from Apple. Sharing the same screenshot, Khera said, "Dear Modi Sarkar, why are you doing this?

Yechury commented that this kind of hacking and the surveillance state being set up is, in fact, a surveillance state under the Modi Government, which is part of the ongoing erosion of democracy. Akhilesh Yadav described it as

a matter of regret in a democracy, where freedom and privacy are being compromised. The AAP alleged that the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has also received the purported warning from Apple. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti alleged targeting AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal and TMC MP Mahua Moitra are signs of the BJP's nervousness about the 2024 Lok Sabha

The ruling BJP rejected Opposition leaders' allegations against the government as 'baseless and false" and stated that it is up to the mobile company to explain the issue.

Former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad criticised the Opposition for targeting the government without taking up the matter with Apple and challenged its leaders, who have received it, to file a crim-

inal case (FIR). In response to the company's statement, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya noted that Rahul Gandhi made a "complete joke" of himself on the issue.

Prasad brought up the controversy over the alleged use of the Pegasus malware to hack into phones of certain including individuals, opposition leaders, and mentioned that Rahul had refused to submit his iPhone before a committee appointed by the Supreme Court to investigate

Gaza ceasefire matter of life and death: UN

The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees has told a UN emergency meeting ian ceasefire has become a matter of life and death for millions," accusing Israel of "collecpunishment" Palestinians and the forced displacement of civilians.

Philippe Lazzarini warned that a further breakdown of civil order following the looting of the agency's warehouses by Palestinians searching for food and other aid "will make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the largest UN agency in Gaza to continue

operating." Briefings to the Security Council by Lazzarini, the head of the UN children's agency UNICEF and a senior UN humanitarian official painted a dire picture of the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza 23 days after Hamas' surprise October 7 attacks in Israel, and its ongoing retaliatory military action aimed at "obliterating" the militant group, which controls Gaza. According to the latest figures from Gaza's Ministry of Health,



Palestinians look for survivors after an Israeli strike in Rafah in Gaza Strip on Tuesday

more than 8,300 people have been killed — 66 per cent of them women and children and tens of thousands injured, the UN humanitarian office

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell that toll includes over 3,400 children killed and more than 6,300 injured. "This means that more than 420 children are being killed or injured in Gaza each day, a number which should shake each of us to our core," she said.

Lazzarini said, "This surpasses the number of children killed annually across the world's conflict zones since 2019." And he stressed, "This cannot be 'collateral damage'. Many speakers at the council meeting denounced Hamas' October 7 surprise attacks on Israel that killed over 1,400 people, and urged the release of some 230 hostages taken to Gaza by the militants. But virtually every speaker also stressed that Israel is obligated under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and their essentials for life including hospitals, schools and other infrastructure, and Israel was criticised for cutting off food, water, fuel and medicine to Gaza and cutting communications for several days.

Jehovah's Witnesses 19 die on road every hour in India keep mum on blasts

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In keeping with their tradi Itional image as a silent religious group, the Jehovah's Witnesses chose not to react to Sunday's bomb blast at Kalamassery where the annual regional convention of the congregation was in progress. The tiffin box bomb powered with IED killed 3 persons and injured 60 others.

"Jehovah's Witnesses are deeply saddened by a horrific attack on our peaceful community in Kerala. On Sunday, October 29, 2023, at least two bombs exploded at an annual regional convention of Jehovah's Witnesses. Sadly, we can confirm that two attendees were killed and at least 59 were injured. Over 2,200 people were in attendance at the event, including families and members of the public. All had gathered simply to benefit from free education about the Bible. Jehovah's Witnesses are very grateful for the authorities who are investigating this crime and providing protection for our places of worship. At this time, it is unwise for us to speculate about the perpetrator(s) or the

motive," said Joshua David national spokesman, JW. The JW also thanked the emergency medical personnel who promptly arrived on the scene to render aid, as well as hospital staff who are caring for the critically injured.

The number of road accidents in India surged by 12 per cent to 4.6 lakh in 2022, resulting in the death of 19 persons every hour. Additionally, 16,715 people lost their lives in road accidents last year due to not wearing seat belts, while 50,029 individuals met their demise in accidents where helmets were not worn. Out of these casualties, 35,692, or 71.3

wheelers.

Among the States, Tamil Nadu registered the highest number of road accidents on National Highways in 2022. Conversely, the highest number of fatalities in road accidents occurred in Uttar Pradesh. The report points out that

per cent, were riding two-

from a road safety standpoint, violations like overspeeding and driving on the wrong side are not solely attributable to human error, but may also be attributed to a lack of education and enforcement.

Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, running red lights, and using mobile phones collectively accounted for 7.4 per cent of total accidents and 8.3 per cent of total deaths, according to the report. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has set a target to halve the number of accidents and resulting deaths in the country by 2024.

basis, following standardised

The annual report is based on data and information received from the police departments of States and 72.8 per cent of total injuries. Union Territories on a yearly Among the casualties, 8,384



formats provided by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) as part of the Asia Pacific Road Accident

Data (APRAD) base project. In 2022, a total of 4,61,312 road accidents occurred, resulting in 1,68,491 fatalities and 4,43,366 injuries. According to the report titled "Road accidents in India 2022", "over speeding" accounted for 72.3 per cent of the road accidents, 71.2 per cent of the deaths, and

8,331 were passengers.
The report revealed that 53

road accidents took place every hour in the country. It further mentioned, "A total of 4,61,312 road accidents have been reported by States and Union Territories (UTs) during the calendar year 2022, which claimed 1,68,491 lives and caused injuries to 4,43,366 persons. This marks an increase of 11.9 per cent in accidents, 9.4 per cent in fatalities, and 15.3 per cent in injuries compared to the previous year," as stated in the report.

For the fourth consecutive year in 2022, the victims of fatal road accidents were predominantly young people in the productive age groups. The report stated, "Young adults in the age group of 18-45 years accountwere drivers, the remaining ed for 66.5 per cent of victims

during 2022," and added that individuals in the workingage group of 18 - 60 years constituted 83.4 per cent of total road accident fatalities. According to the report, in

2022, a total of 4,61,312 accidents were recorded in the country. Out of these, 1,51,997 (32.9 per cent) took place on National Highways (NH), including expressways, 1,06,682 (23.1 per cent) on State highways, and the remaining 2,02,633 (43.9 per cent) on other roads.

The report said, "Out of the total of 1,68,491 fatalities reported in 2022, 61,038 (36.2 per cent) were on national highways, 41,012 (24.3 per cent) were on state highways, and 66,441 (39.4 per cent) were on other roads

Regarding the vehicle cat-

dents, two-wheelers, for the second consecutive year, accounted for the highest share in total accidents and fatalities during 2022. The report indicated that light vehicles, including cars, jeeps, and taxis, collectively came in a distant second place.

egories involved in road acci

In terms of road-user categories, it was reported that the share of two-wheeler riders in total fatalities was the highest (44.5 per cent) during 2022, followed by pedestrian roadusers, accounting for 19.5 per cent of individuals killed in road accidents. The report stated. "Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of road accidents in 2022 with 64,105 cases (13.9 per cent), followed by Madhya Pradesh with 54,432 cases (11.8 per cent).

Maharashtra accepts Shinde panel quota report

As a first step towards finding a workable solution to the vexed Maratha reservation issue, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday accepted the interim report submitted by the Justice (retd) Sandeep Shinde Committee, recommending issuance of "Maratha-Kunbi and Kunbi-Maratha certificates" to Marathas to facilitate them get reservations in education and jobs.

On the third consecutive day when protests over the Maratha reservations continued in several parts of the state the hunger agitation by Shivba Sanghatana President Manoj Jarange-Patil entered the seventh day, the State Cabinet accepted the recommendation made by the Justice Shinde Committee to issue "Maratha-Kunbi and Kunbi-Maratha certificates" to the Marathas con-

The Justice Shinde committee, which in all perused 1.75 crore caste documents of people from eight districts of Marathwada, found 13,498 registered cases with the Nizamera proof of Kunbi antecedents of Marathas from Marathwada

'The examination of caste documents is going on a day-today basis. At its meeting held today, the State Cabinet decided to start issuing the Kunbi certificates immediately," a statement issued by the state government said.

'During the course of the examination of caste documents, the committee found documents in Modi (a script used to write the Marathi language) and Urdu languages. At today's Cabinet meeting, it was decided to translate these doc-

them on the public domain. On the basis of these digitised documents to issue the kunbi certificates to the Marathas," the statement added.

The State Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde decided to adopt the procedure recommended by the Justice Shinde Committee to issue Maratha-Kunbi and Kunbi-Maratha certificates to the beneficiaries. The State Cabinet formalised the appointment of a three member committee comprising Justice Dilip Bhosale (Retd), Justice M G Gaikwad (Retd) and Justice Sandeep Shinde (Retd) to to look into and advise the state government on reservation issue

tors from all political parties The State Cabinet asked the staged a protest near the Justice Dilip Bhosale (Retd) Gandhi statue outside Mantralaya at Nariman Point in south Mumbai.

Economically Backward Class (SEBC) people across the state. Meanwhile, as part of the ongoing protests over Maratha reservations, Maratha legisla-

In an effort to take the Opposition MVA into confidence over the ongoing Maratha reservation agitation, Chief Minister Shinde has convened an all-party meeting on Wednesday to discuss and resolve the situation arising out the hunger agitation by

lage panchayat office was set on fire in Jalna district, hundreds of Maratha activists staged a "rail roko" at Solapur. The protesters blocked the passage of one long-distance train before they were quelled by the police. The state transport bus services remained suspended for the second consecutive day in parts of Parbhani district and at Malkapur in Buldhana dis-

A BJP office was set ablaze at Naiknagar in Hingoli district, while a large number of Maratha activists jumped into the stream in Pune as part of their 'jal-samadhi' protest. Scores of Marathas launched

Chunabhatti in north-central Mumbai and Mungse village in Nashik district demanding Maratha reservations. Schools and colleges remained

relay hunger agitation at

Ahmednagar district, protesters staged "rasta rook" on the Pune-Bengaluru Highway. Among other things, they threw burning truck tyres on the Navale Bridge and squatted on the road, causing 10 km-long traffic snarls on both sides of the highway. Some activists took out a

symbolic 'funeral' procession of the state government at Tembhurni in Solapur district, while half a dozen bus services of Nagpur-Pune remained suspended for the day.

Meanwhile, a day after the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MCA) made a similar demand, Jarange-Patil urged Governor Ramesh Bais to convene a special session of the Maharashtra Legislature. Jarange-Patil rooted for the convening of a special session

of the State Legislature, after he

Shinde for half an hour. He told the chief minister that Maratha would not accept "partial and half-hearted" reservations for Marathas. He appealed to his supporters not to indulge in

Uneasy calm prevailed in Beed -where the bungalows of two NCP (Ajit Pawar) Prakash Salunke and Sandeep Kshirsagar were attacked on Monday, while no fresh was reported from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (known earlier as Aurangabad), where BJP MLA Prashant Bamb's office

was set on fire. Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray spoke to Jarange-Patil over telephone and assured the latter that his party would stood by the Maratha leader in his ongoing agitation over Maratha reser-

Dilbagh retires as J&K DGP after 3 decades of service



MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

The Director General of Jammu and Kashmir police, Dilbagh Singh, a 1987 batch IPS officer, hanged his boots after serving the Jammu and Kashmir police for over three long decades on Tuesday. Singh handed over the baton to one of his subordinate officers, Rashmi Ranjan Swain, currently serving as the Special DG (CID).

Before the senior officers exchanged the ceremonial

baton Dilbagh Singh was given a warm sendoff at the police headquarters in Srinagar.

Several senior IPS officers along with Special DG (CID) Rashmi Ranjan Swain, escorted the outgoing DGP by pulling a ceremonial rope tied to the vehicle. His family members were also present on the

Dilbagh Singh was appointed police chief in the first week of September 2018. He remained the police chief for the longest term so far.Meanwhile, on his

arrival at the PHQ, a 1991 batch IPS officer R.R Swain inspect-

ed the guard of honour. Before taking over as DGP Jammu and Kashmir Swain remained posted at various important and key positions of Jammu and Police. In November 2006 he went on deputation to Govt of India where he held very prestigious posts. In June 2020, RR Swain joined the J&K Police as head of the CID wing and today took over the charge of the 17th DGP J&K Police.

SNGP finds 3 new bird species during bird count

In a bird count conducted at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Mumbai, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has found three new species — the Indian Roller, Mongolian Short-toed Lark, and Eurasian Hobby. The BNHS is documenting the

Avian Diversity of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (Mumbai).

In the Bird Count conducted at the SGNP and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, the BNHS team recorded 101 bird species Our endeavour reaffirmed the

paradises. We found three new species-- the Indian Roller, Mongolian Short-toed Lark, and Eurasian Hobby – during our bird count", a BNHS spokesperson said.

"These new discoveries now join the esteemed company of 219 other recorded avian species in the region, enriching the sanctuaries ecological heritage," a BNHS spokesperson added. The Bird Count was conducted and coordinated by Dr Raiu Kasambe, Assistant Director Conservation and Asif Khan from the Programmes Department, at 12 different sites



in SGNP and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. The SGNP has been monitoring birds in Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary since February 2021, through a citizen science programme called the "SGNP Bird Monitoring Programme or SGNP Bird Count" for short. Under this programme, BNHS conducts a Bird Count every month at various locations of the SGNP and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. The count takes place every month with the help of BNHS Members, bird watchers and other volunteers

Tatas getting back money while we lost all: Singur villagers



SAUGAR SENGUPTA

 $E^{\text{veryone has milked}}_{\text{Singur, and left us villagers}}$ with begging bowls ... Mamata Banerjee got her chair ... now Tatas are getting their money back ... only we the hapless villagers have lost everything ... our lands, our prospects ... and we have only the Rs 2-a-kg rice tossed at us by the Government to fall back on ... we have been renback on ... we have been rendered into beggers," says Haradhan Baag, an "unwilling" farmer who had "at the instance of the Trinamool Congress" resisted tooth-andnail the Tata Nano plant about 17 years ago.

17 years ago. Baag was venting his woes in the wake of the Singur land Arbitral award directing the Bengal Government to pay ing 11 percent interest to the Tatas Motors which was forced to quit Bengal in the wake of a fierce land movement led by Banerjee the then Opposition Leader.

Land movements at Singur and Nandigram --- both against acquisition of land for industry had catapulted her to power dislodging the 34-yearlong Marxist government from the State.

Banamali Samanta a graduate, who had completed an indus-

trial training and was scheduled to get a job in the botched Tata Nano plant --- but today has ended up as a food delivery boy who has to come to Kolkata some 45 km away everyday --- says: "my father was a willing farmer who had given his 15 bighas of land for the construction of the car plant which could have been a veritable alternative to the now shut Hind Motors ... but the politicians killed our dreams." The LF Government had acquired 900 acres of lands for the Tata Nano plant in 2006 post which Banerjee, fighting for her political survival started a land movement which later led to a court case

While the Calcutta High Court ruled in favour of the acquisition by the Left Government the Supreme Court in 2016 termed the acquisition illegal on technical grounds setting grounds for return of the lands to the

besides leading Banerjee to

Subsequent developments saw a mammoth plant by the Kolkata-Delhi National Highway being pulled down and the land which had been cast in concrete by then --and unfit for cultivation --being returned to the farmers. Meena Malik a homemaker whose son has been anti-Nano activist ready to die for "Didi's ideals" says how "were befooled into joining the movement which gave nothand the riff-raffs have risen up the political ladder to make millions ... I am disgusted ... I cannot look at the eyes of the local people who joined the movement at our instance but ended up getting their lands which is nothing more than a barren land worse than the Thar desert... The only person who has benefit-

the movement and got our villagers to join it ... but at the end of the day we got neither a factory not a farm land the it is today filled with wild

lagers on the other hand are getting Rs 2 a kg rice as doll ... now we realize how Singur could have changed the fate of Bengal ... but just to satisfy her ego the Chief Minister

blasted off a fully constructed factory house with dynamites after the Supreme Court

Singur acres and after the Apex Court verdict ordering return of land to the farmers not a sinle crop has grown in the past several years. The vil-lagers who had visualized a bustling industrial complex coming up by the National Highway are today left with

"Local TMC MLA and former minister in State Cabinet Rabindranath Bhattacharya who had alongwith Banerjee spearheaded the Singur movement rues too: "it would have been better if the Tatas had built a factory on 700 acres which was very much possible ... it was only due to the unnecessary obduracy of the Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee Government which refused to return (400 of the acquired 900 acres) some of the land

how "in her lust for power Mamata Banerjee misled the people of Singur into driving away the Tatas ... remember how she used to abuse Ratan Tata in public in those days ... and after that when the industry captain leaves a State how can lesser industrialists come here ... the Arbitral award

"no one will come in Bengal

Chemists miffed over pharma firms' bid to directly supply medicines to hospitals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

¬he pharma firms' bid to directly supply medicines to doctors and hospitals has not gone down well with the Delhi Chemists and Druggists Association (CDA), which has called it a violation of the guidelines and standards set forth for distribution of pharmaceutical products.

The association has alleged that by approaching the doctors and hospitals, the Indian pharma companies are sidelining the authorised distributors.

In a strongly worded letter to all the pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, Sandeep Nangia, president of the Delhi CDA, said that such an act would collapse the existing distribution system. He wanted the manufacturers to support the pharma traders by sticking to the guidelines and standards that continue in the business sector for long. Nangia has alleged that

some manufacturing companies engage in certain distribution practices that include overlapping of proper channels, supplying stocks directly to doctors, nursing homes and private institutions, and offering billing at reduced rates. He said there have been instances of pharmaceutical products being supplied directly from company depots without the involvement of authorised distributors.

Stating that the two sectors are like the two side of the same coin, Nangia, who is a national leader of the chemist community, said the joint efforts between the industry and the trade will streamline the distribution channel all around and they will in turn help for the growth and success of the pharma sector to ensure availability of authentic and reliable medicines in the market.

Major terminated from service for breaching SECURITY PROTOCOL PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Major has been terminated from service by President ADroupadi Murmu for allegedly breaching security protocol. The President terminated his services on the recommendation

He was posted with the Strategic Forces Command when he was suspended last year.

It was also learnt nearly 20 defence personnel are separately undergoing an investigation after they were allegedly found to be part of a WhatsApp group called "Patiala Peg." The Major was also part of this group where unauthorised conversation allegedly is believed to have taken place.

Sources said more officers, including a Brigadier-rank officer, will face action in the coming weeks as the probe is complete, but underlined that this is not based on any leaks of classified information outside the Army.

They also said the Major was found guilty of keeping classified information on his phone which is a violation of the Strategic Forces Command and Army protocols. He was also found to be guilty of being in touch with a Pakistani Intelligence operative through social media

The Major came under the suspicion of the Strategic Forces Command, which carried out its own probe.

'Bill to revamp FSSAI functioning, jurisdiction in Parliament soon'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

he Government will soon The Government was conan amendment bill that aims to revamp the functioning and jurisdiction of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Health Secretary Sudhansh Pant said on Tuesday.

The Union Health Ministry has proposed several amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act of 2006. The Ministry had sought public comments on the draft amendments in September

"We hope we will very soon be able to introduce the food safety and standards (amendment) bill (in Parliament), Pant, who is also chairperson of FSSAI, told the media on the sidelines of the 'Eat Right' Summit here. The proposed bill will bring reforms in the functioning of the FSSAI, he

The Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act was passed in 2006 but the regulations were notified only in

Botanical Tapestry: Threads of Nature exhibition held

New Delhi: Contemporary artist Gunjan Shrivastava unveiled 'Botanical Tapestry: Threads of Nature' a captivating solo exhibition to delve into the diverse roles of flowers in the human experience, portrayed through symbolism, on Tuesday at Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi. "The exhibition encourages us to recognise the hidden qualities of flowers - as silent narrators, bearers of emotions, and symbols of the human experience," said Satish Gupta, Celebrated artist and

Head constable killed by terrorists in Baramulla

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

Hours after RR Swain took over the charge of the office of the Director General of Police, 'unidentified' terrorists barged inside the residence of a police head constable in the Wailoo Kralpora area of Baramulla and killed him in cold blood late Tuesday

evening.
This is the third incident of a targeted strike in a row since Sunday afternoon. According to Kashmir Zone

police, critically wounded Head Constable Ghulam Mohd Dar, a resident of Wailoo Kralpora, Baramulla was rushed to the Sub-divisional hospital, Tangmarg but he succumbed to his injuries. According to police, the head constable was targeted at his residence late Tuesday evening. Kashmir Zone police posted a message on X (earlier Twitter), "Injured Police Personnel succumbed to his injuries & attained martyrdom. We pay our rich tributes to the martyr

& stand by his family at this critical juncture. The area has been cordoned off. Search operation going on". On Sunday a police inspector Masroor Ahmad was targeted from a close range by unidentified terrorists in the Eidgah area when he was playing a game of cricket with local boys. A day later, a brick kiln worker, Mukesh Kumar, hailing from the Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh, was killed in

cold blood in the Nowpora area

of Pulwama on Monday.

Antibiotics losing punch to increasing resistance from superbugs: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Once known as silver bullets for treating childhood threatening infections such as sepsis and meningitis and pneumonia and bloodstream infections in babies and children, antibiotics including Ceftriaxone, Gentamicin and aminopenicillins seems to have lost their punch to the increasing resistance from superbugs. In what should be a wakeup call for India as for the world, a study has found that, in fact, antibiotics resistance has become so strong that these drugs meant to treat common life threatening infections in children and babies are no longer much effective.

The most seriously affected regions are in Southeast Asia and the Pacific where thousands of unnecessary deaths in children resulting from antibiotic resistance occur each year, the study published in the Lancet regional Health-Southeast Asia journal said. The researchers had analysed 6,648 bacterial isolates from 11 countries across 86 publications to review antibiotic susceptibility for common bacteria causing childhood infections. The data collated largely arose from urban tertiary hospital settings with overrepresentation from particular countries, especially India and

The analysis found that many antibiotics recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) had less than 50 per cent effectiveness in treating childhood infections. Thus there is a need for WHO to update its guidelines on antibiotics. The most recent guidelines from the WHO were published in 2013.

The WHO has declared that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. In newborns, an estimated three million cases of sepsis occur globally each year, with up to 570,000 (5.7 lakh)

Many of these are due to lack of effective antibiotics to treat resistant superbugs. The research shows the urgent need for global antibiotic guidelines to be updated, to reflect the rapidly evolving rates of

The study found that ceftriaxone, was likely to be effective in treating only one in three cases of sepsis or meningitis in newborn babies. Another antibiotic, gentamicin, was found likely to be effective in treating fewer than half of all sepsis and meningitis cases in children, according to the researchers. Gentamicin is commonly pre-

scribed alongside aminopenicillins, which the study showed also has low effectiveness in combating bloodstream infections in babies and children. "Antibiotic resistance is rising more rapidly than we realize, said study lead author Phoebe Williams from the University

of Sydney. "We urgently need new solutions to stop invasive multidrug-resistant infections and the needless deaths of thousands of children each vear," Williams said. She said that the best way to

tackle antibiotic resistance in childhood infections is to make funding to investigate new antibiotic treatments for children and newborns a pri-

ted from the Singur land movement is our Chief Her party mate Tapan Koyal says, "out of 10,000 farmers 8-9000 wanted a factory but we thought that Didi would bring us a better deal so we joined the movement and get our

growth ... some of it is being used as fishery by some powerful TMC leader ... the vil-

True, after the Tatas left the shattered dreams.

that led to the trouble." Former Left Minister Ashok Bhattacharya however says

proves that we were right. Says BJP leader Dilip Ğhosh,

till Mamata Banerjee is here ... firstly because her government is fully corrupt and secondly no one believes in her and this means that the peo-



Capital air poorest in season so far

Haze enveloped Delhi and its suburbs on Tuesday, with the capital recording its air quality index (AQI)in the very poor category for the fourth day on the trot. The city's average AQI was recorded at 359, the highest this season so far. Rohini (410) and Mundka (433) recorded their air quality in the severe zone (AQI above 400). According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, the capital recorded an AQI of 210 in October this year was the worst since 2020, compared to 210 in October last year and 173 in October 2021 due to the lack of

The AQI recorded 347 on Monday, 325 on Sunday, 304 on Saturday and 261 on Friday, 256 on Thursday, 243 on Wednesday and 220 on 232 in neighbouring Ghaziabad, 313 in Faridabad, 233 in Gurugram, 313 in Noida and 356 in Greater Noida.

Starting from Wednesday, only electric, CNG and BS VI-compliant diesel buses will be allowed to operate between Delhi and the cities and towns of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan falling within the national capital region. Delhi metro and buses under the DTC will increase their trips so that passengers can use public transport for their journey requirement.

A data from the Union ministry of earth sciences has showed that vehicular emissions and pollution from the neighbouring regions were the major reasons behind Delhi's deteriorating air quality on Tuesday. According to a numerical model-based sys-

tem developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, vehicular emissions (11 percent to 15 percent) and stubble burning (seven percent to 15 percent) currently stand as the two major contributors to the city's very poor air quality. It also shows that pollution sources in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, are responsible for up to 14 percent of the air pollu-

tion in the capital.
The CPCD data shows the daily average AQI for Delhi during the above noted period during the current year has been recorded as 172 against 187 in 2022, 179 in 2021, 156 in 2020, 193 in 2019 and 201 in 2018 respectively, during the corresponding period. Delhi saw just one rainy day (5.4 mm of precipitation) in October 2023, in contrast to six in October 2022 (129 mm) and



The Commission of Air Quality Managemnt (CAQM) said the average wind speed during October 2023 was relatively low and spells of absolutely "still" conditions were also observed during the month. According to CPCB data, the capital did not record even a single day with 'good' air quality, whereas there were two such days in 2022 and one

The CAQM, however, reported that Delhi registered an AQI of 172 from January 1 to October 31 this year, the second-best for the corresponding

recorded better air quality during this period only during the COVID-19 pandémic-affected 2020. In 2022, 2021, 2019 and 2018, the average AQI during this period ranged from 179 to 201, the CPCB said in a statement. Delhi recorded a single day scant rainfall of only 5.4 mm in the month of October, 2023 as against 6 and 7 days of rainfall during the month of October, 2022 and October 2021, with a cumulative rainfall of approximately 129 and 123 mm respectively

The average wind speed during the month of October, 2023 was also relatively slower and spells of absolute "still" conditions were also witnessed during the month. Despite this heavy rainfall deficit and low wind speeds, the daily avg. AQI during the month of October, slightly higher than the daily avg. AQI of 210 during October, 2022.

"Delhi has also witnessed highest number of days (206) with "Good" to "Moderate" air qual-"Good" to "Moderate" air quality (Daily Average AQI<200) during January – October 2023 as compared to the corresponding period in the previous years (barring the COVID affected 2020). "Good" to "Moderate" air quality days during this period in the previous years were only 160 in vious years were only 160 in 2022, 197 in 2021, 175 in 2019 and 157 in 2018 respectively. This period in 2023 has also witnessed a remarkable reduction in daily average. PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations over the last 6 years.

The period during January-October in 2023 recorded a daily average PM2.5 concenagainst ranging from 81-95 $\mu gm/m3$ during the corresponding periods from 2017 to 2022 (barring the COVID affected 2020). Likewise, the daily average PM10 concentration in Delhi has been about 173 µgm/m3, which is much lower than a range of 182-220 μgm/m3 during the corresponding periods from 2017 to 2022 (barring the COVID

affected 2020). Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai has demanded that the Centre impose a strict ban on buses operating with poorquality diesel in the National Capital Region (NCR) areas of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

In an effort to reduce pollution levels, the Centre announced in April 2020 that all vehicles sold in India must comply with the Bharat Stage VI (BS-

As ED summons Kejriwal, AAP alleges Centre trying to finish off party

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming that Modi gov-ernment was trying to finish it off by putting its top leaders behind bars, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday claimed there are apprehensions that the Enforcement Directorate will arrest Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on November 2 after questioning him in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. Kejriwal has been issued the summons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and will record his statement once agency's Delhi office at 11 am on November 2. This is the first time that Kejriwal has been summoned by the ED. He was questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation in the case in April.

In a series of press conferences the AAP leaders – Delhi Cabinet Ministers Atishi, Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak have claimed the BJP-led central government's "only aim" is to finish the AAP.

Delhi Cabinet Minister Atishi claimed the BJP was using

these tactics to target the AAP as it knows that it cannot defeat Kejriwal in elections. "There are reports that Kejriwal will be arrested on November 2. If he is arrested, it won't be because of corruption (charges) but because he has spoken against the BJP," she said.

The AAP defeated the BJP in Delhi Assembly polls twice and also in MCD polls. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scared of AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal. The BJP knows they cannot defeat the AAP in elections."

Referring to the arrest of the AAP's top leadership, including Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and Satyendar Jain, Atishi claimed it only means that the BJP wants to finish off the AAP. Satyendar Jain has been granted bail in a money laundering

the INDIA alliance and its chief ministers using the CBI and ED. "Next they will target Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren since they have been unable to defeat him. Then they will target Tejashwi Yadav since they have not been able to break the alliance in Bihar. Then Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin will be targeted," she claimed.

Atishi reiterated that AAP leaders are not scared of going to jail and will keep fighting to save the Constitution till their last breath. AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj echoed Atishi's views and asserted that the party has only grown stronger in the face of opposition. "The BJP is trying to put

Arvind Kejriwal and other top leaders of the AAP behind bars. Whenever attempts have been made to suppress and finish off the Aam Aadmi Party, it has only emerged stronger, he said. The AAP's Delhi state convener

Gopal Rai also addressed a press conference and said that the party will keep working for the common man. "There have been attacks in the past "After Kejriwal is arrested, the BJP will target other leaders of stronger. They want to arrest

Arvind Kejriwal since they want to finish off the Aam Aadmi Party. They tried to break AAP MLAs by lodging more than 170 cases against them but failed. The AAP is not working for itself but for the common man," he asserted. Rai said, "If that were not the

case, there wouldn't have been raids on the CM's Office (CMO) in 2014 just after Narendra Modi Ji became the PM, and the Shunglu Committee wouldn't have scrutinized each file. We wouldn't have more than 170 cases against AAP to defect our MLAs. Back then, there was no alcohol policy."

"BJP was also proud of being

the largest party in the world. Still, in the 2020 legislative assembly elections, BJP only managed to get 8 seats. The people of Delhi gave 62 out of 70 seats to the AAP, electing Arvind Kejriwal as their CM once again. Delhi's people bid farewell to the BJP even from the Delhi Municipal Corporation, so the BJP used all kinds of tricks. In March 2022, the term of the MCD was ending," he added. AAP MLA Dilip Pandey said they are dis-

ciples of Bhagat Singh and are

ready to sacrifice their lives but

will not bow before the BIP.

Kejriwal reaping what he sowed, BJP hits back at AAP allegations

Hours after the AAP accused the BJP of trying to finish it off by misusing central probe agencies, the Delhi BJP on Tuesday hit back, claiming that it was Arvind Kejriwal who was finishing off his own party by his "sins" and claimed that such a "massive scam" could not have taken place without his clear approval.

"Jaisi karni waisi bharni (you reap what you sow)," former Union Minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad told a press conference, a day after the Enforcement Directorate summoned Kejriwal on November 2 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. Dismissing the AAP's allega-tions that the Central government was trying to finish it off, he said it was the Kejriwal-led party which was finishing itself off with its "misdeeds, corruption and scams". Prasad claimed the BJP has

nothing to do with central probe agencies' action against the AAP and that the legal process was following its own course in the matter. "What agencies do is none of our concern. It is for them to decide.' He rhetorically asked did the BJP tell them to frame such an excise policy that "gives them commission and monopoly to select firms". "Such a massive scam could not have taken place without Kejriwal's clear approval," the former Union minister claimed.

He reiterated the charges that the AAP allowed a "southern lobby" to dictate its excise policy so that the party could use the money for election purposes in Goa to fulfil its aspiration of becoming a national party. What the lobby dictated was accepted by the Delhi government as its excise policy and the one earlier formed by a group of ministers was sought to be changed, he alleged. Prasad claimed that the AAP has been the "biggest letdown" in India's

political history, noting that its rise was marked by a lot of hope as many non-political people also got associated with it along with the "baba", a reference to Anna Hazare.

They all withdrew, he said, and asked why the likes of Prashant Bhushan, Yogendra Yadav, Shazia Ilmi and Kiran Bedi, the last two of them now with the BJP, left the party after being closely associated with its rise. The AAP has given people a big betrayal as they turned out to be entirely different from what they promised, he claimed.

BJP MP and former chief of the party's Delhi unit Manoj Tiwari claimed that Kejriwal himself was finishing off the AAP by his

"Kejriwal is facing the curse of the mothers and sisters of Delhi whose families were destroyed as liquor stores were opened in every nook and corner of the city under the Kejriwal government's new liquor policy," he alleged. He further claimed that Kejriwal had vowed to fight corruption but was now himself involved in it.

"The ED summoning him for questioning is very important since the Supreme Court, while denying bail to Manish Sisodia, has observed that a money trail is established in the excise policy case," Tiwari said.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said in a democratic state like India no Party can destroy another party, it is the people of the country who decide the fortune of political parties and in this case AAP leaders know they have lost all connect with the people.

"AAP leaders have been themselves saying that Kejriwal will be arrested. This is a propaganda to get some sympathy, he

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal on November 2 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy

NCRTC completes installation of steel spans to cross Gazipur drain, Kondli roundabout

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

¬he National Capital Region Transport (NCRTC) has completed the installation of all six special steel spans to cross the Gazipur drain and Kondli roundabout from New Ashok Nagar towards Anand Vihar for the Delhi section of the Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) corridor. These steel spans have been installed one after the other, making it the only place on the entire RRTS corridor where such a long viaduct is being constructed with special steel spans.
The combined length of these

six special steel spans is around 360 meters. RRTS corridor coming from Sarai Kale Khan and moving parallelly towards Gazipur Drain, has now crossed over the drain with the installation of these six steel spans. Out of these 6 special steel spans, the length of 3 spans is approximately 70



meters long each with each weighing 540 tonnes and the remaining 3 are 50 meters long each with each weighing 540 tonnes. These special steel spans are about 14 meters

wide. "The installation of the steel span near the Ghazipur drain, which is about 40 to 50 meters wide was a challenging task because it flows diagonal to the alignment of the RRTS corridor. Due to the flowing drain, the deep foundation for the pillars had to be made in the

drain. Moreover, existing structures of PWD roads and large DJB pipelines created hindrances and high-capacity cranes had to be used for the construction of the foundation. The site was also in the close vicinity of the high-tention EHT lines, adding to the chal-

Despite these difficult situations, Team NCRTC completed it successfully following all the norms and taking all the precautions," the NCRTC said

Commuters face harrowing experience due to traffic curbs in Central Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

ommuters faced a harrow-✓ing time on Tuesday owing to traffic restrictions imposed in central Delhi due to the 'Run For Unity and 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' mega finale events. In the morning, the Delhi Traffic Police imposed restrictions in view of the 'Run For Unity' event, which started at 6:45 am and ended at 9 am. "I was unaware of traffic restrictions. When I reached the C-Hexagon, I was asked to return," said a commuter.

The India Gate C-Hexagon remained closed during the event held to commemorate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.

Another commuter claimed this was the second time in over a month that traffic restrictions were forced on the common people all of a

"Central Delhi is an impor-



tant area. A large section of labourers who work here commute daily either on their motorcycle or bicycle. We do not access social media. From where will we get to know about such restrictions," a labourer who was asked to leave his bicycle and reach his destination on foot said. However, a Delhi Traffic police official said an advisory was issued well in advance. "We issued a traffic advi-

sory well in advance so that commuters ... Do not face any

kind of difficulty," he said. In the evening, the mega finale of the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign was held in Kartavya Path which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi.
"Our dedicated teams are available round the clock to help commuters at every point if they face difficulty. We had posted traffic plans well in advance on every social media handle. We are assuming that very less people will face any trouble," said the official.

"undermined the constitution-

al process" in the Municipal

Corporation by approving the proposals and "bypassing" the

laid down procedure as man-

dated by a standing committee. Reacting to it, Delhi BJP

Spokesperson Praveen Shankar

Kapoor said it has become clear to the people of Delhi that

2 arrested for trying to extort ₹10 lakh from businessman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrest-**⊥** ed two people for allegedly trying to extort Rs 10 lakh from a south Delhi-based businessman by threatening him to convert his daughter's marriage into a mourning.
The accused had delivered a

letter of extortion to the businessman and asked him to write 'Yes' on the boundary wall of the house, as the sign of consent of giving them the money, police said.

The police said the accused have been identified as Pushpendra Kumar (34) and Deepak (32) from south Delhi's Sangam Vihar area.

"A few days ago, Kumar was employed as a driver by the businessman. But the family did not like his work, therefore he was asked to quit the job,' said a police officer. In grudge, Kumar decided to

of the proposals were passed

take revenge from his employ-

With the help of Deepak, who is a plumber by profession and lives in his neighbourhood, Kumar hatched the conspiracy. On October 26, Deepak handed over a letter to the gate-man of the businessman asking him to pass it to his employer.

'On reading the letter, the businessman got shocked and scared. The letter stated that accused knew about the marriage of the businessman's daughter scheduled on October 28. The accused demanded Rs 10 lakh, otherwise the marriage will be converted into a mourn-

ing," said another officer. Initially, the businessman's family did not tell about it to anyone. But later, they consulted with their relatives and contacted the local police. A team led by the station house

officer (SHO) of C R Park was tasked to crack the case.

Amid ruckus, MCD house gives nod to 54 proposals

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

mid ruckus, the House of Amid ruckus, the Flouse of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Tuesday gave its nod to 54 proposals including a policy to provide Rs 1,100 per child to students in MCD schools, principals' training in foreign institutions, and a meat shop licence policy allowing a minimum distance of 150 metres between a meat shop and a religious place. The new meat shop policy has led to a political slugfest with the BJP claiming that the Congress is the B team of the

ruling AAP. After the meeting, Mayor Dr Shelly Oberai said the House has approved the proposal to regularise 5,000 sanitisation workers and promote 3,100

domestic breeding checkers (DBC) to Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) and a meat shop licence policy. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind took to X to congratulate the regularised sanitation workers. In a post in Hindi, he said, "Today, Âam Aadmi Party has passed the proposal to appoint 5000 sanitation work-

ers in Delhi Municipal Corporation. We fulfilled what we promised. Many congratulations to all the confirmed sanitation workers and their families for this wonderful gift received on Diwali. Serve the people of Delhi wholeheartedly, together we will make Delhi a clean and beautiful city."

BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor and BJP councillor and Leader of Opposition Raja Iqbal Singh alleged that the AAP has "undermined the constitutional process" by "bypassing" the laid down pro-Later in a press conference,

Mayor Oberoi said the House, which was adjourned for the day, passed 54 proposals, postponed three while it rejected one proposal. "We tabled several policies today for the benefit of the people of Delhi. However, the opposition created hindrance in the working of the House and did not allow the proceedings to begin. As a result, the House passed some of the agendas listed today," the Mayor told reporters.

The meat shop licence policy approved by the House mandates a minimum distance of 150 metres between a meat shop and a religious place for



granting new or renewed licenses for meat shops, meat processing units, and packaging or storage plants, among other such establishments. versities. As part of the approved pro-

posal for principals' training,

the head of MCD schools will

be able to take part in training programmes at esteemed foreign universities such as Cambridge and Oxford uni-

The Leader of Opposition Raja

Congress has now openly become the B team of AAP. Kapoor said the friendship between Congress and AAP is now well known and it would be better if Congress leaders like Ajay Maken do not speak on liquor scam and Bungalow corruption of Kejriwal.

The standing committee is the highest decision-making body tion is still pending. Iqbal Singh in a press conference alleged that the AAP has

in the MCD and its constitu-The Delhi mayor said some

while three others have been postponed for further discussion. The rejected proposal was on temporary use of vacant or abandoned MCD primary school at the GB Road for educating sex workers and their children, Oberoi said, adding that the proposals to construct a multi-level car parking facility in New Friends Colony, Kalkaji, and Jangpura were among the proposals postponed for discussion. She said the MCD will do its

"homework" to present before a standing committee a proposal to hire an agency each for the clearance of landfill sites at

Okhla and Ghazipur. The MCD's House was adjourned for the day on

on the issue of dengue data and the listed agenda. As the House met around 11:20 am, Congress members, some of them holding placards and posters, raised slogans in the House, alleging a lack of transparency in issuing data related to dengue cases reported in the national capital and also on the issue of pollution. When the Mayor entered the chamber of the House, she

Tuesday amid protests by Congress and BJP councillors

faced protests from Congress councillors on the two issues. Some of the Congress councillors also climbed on the benches to protest. BJP councillors later protested on the listed agenda. The mayor adjourned the proceedings amid the protests, a senior official said.

Nation indebted to Sardar Patel: Modi

NEW DELHI

ed by President Draupadi Minister Narendra Modi, the nation paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar, Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge too paid tributes to the Iron Man and several functions were held across the country with Union Ministers participating across in the National Unity day.

Modi also remembered former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 39th death anniversary and posted on media X:"Remembering former PM Indira Gandhi Ji on her death anniversary." Indira Gandhi, India's first and only woman prime minister, was assassinated by her bodyguards on this day in 1984.

"On the Jayanti of Sardar Patel, we remember his indomitable spirit, visionary statesmanship and the extraordinary dedication with which he shaped the destiny of our nation," the Prime Minister said. "His commit-



ment to national integration continues to guide us. We are forever indebted to his service," he added.

Dhankhar lauded contributions of the Iron Man of India and said successful integrations of all states was a great feat achieved by Sardar Patel. In Kevadia (Gujarat), Modi paid floral tribute to Patel at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat on the birth anniversary of India's first home minister, which is celebrated as National Unity Day.

The Prime Minister administered the oath of unity to the gathering at a function held at table contribution of Sardar

Kevadia. Born in Gujarat in 1875, Sardar Patel was a lawyer and emerged as a leading Congress leader and associate of Mahatma Gandhi during the independence struggle. As the first home minister of the independent India, he is credited with uniting hundreds of princely states into the Union with his mix of persuasion and firm-

In his tributes, Home Minister Amit Shah said the country -- from Kashmir to Kanyakumari -- has been united due to the unforgetVallabhbhai Patel. Addressing an event Shah asked all citizens to take a pledge to put the nation in the top position in the world in all sectors by 2047 when it will celebrate the centenary Independence.

On the occasion, Shah flagged

off a 'Run for Unity' which began from the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in the national capital. The flagging-off ceremony

also saw the presence of Union ministers Anurag Thakur, Meenakashi Lekhi, Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar Mishra, Nisith Pramanik,



besides Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and

The central government has been observing October 31 as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' or National Unity Day since 2014 to foster and reinforce its dedication to preserving and strengthening the unity, integrity and security of the

Congress paid rich tributes with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge hailing his contribution in uniting the country. In a post on X, Kharge said, "Tributes to the man who united the entire country, the

try's first deputy prime minister, former Congress president and our source of inspiration, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ji, on his birth anniver-

The grand old party also paid rich tributes to former prime minister Indira Gandhi with Kharge hailing her for playing an important role in building a strong and progressive

Kharge and former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to the ex-prime minister at her memorial 'Shakti Sthal' here. Rahul said his grandmother Indira Gandhi was a source of strength for him and asserted that he will always protect the India for which she "sacrificed everything". BJP MP Varun Gandhi also paid tributes to Indira Gandhi saying, "Hundreds of salutations to my grandmother, late Indira Gandhi ji, who was a symbol of unmatched courage and struggle and the pioneer of democratic socialism, on her martyrdom day." While Rahul is the son of Indira Gandhi's elder son Rajiv, Varun Gandhi is the son of her younger son Sanjay.

INBRIEF



MUST INCULCATE IN US SARDAR PATEL VALUES: MP

Delhi: To truly feel Indian and live by the values/ideals established by Sardar Patel, we must incorporate the values of great legend into our personalities, Prof. Rakesh Sinha, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha said on Tuesday at the 10th Sardar Patel Memorial Lecture here organized by Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi Sinha who was the chief guest at the event also mentioned the Marathi novel on Shivaji penned by Ranjit Desai and stated that to understand and emulate a great personality, one needs to be at least twenty-five percent like them. Prof Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, Principal of the college, shed light on the life of Iron Man of India and his relevance in the present scenario. Prof Pankaj Arora, Dean of Student Welfare, University of Delhi, presided over the event.

CYCLOTHON 2023 FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Noida: A cycle rally, "Cyclothon 2023" for breast cancer awarenes campaign was organised by Hotel Crown Plaza here recently in collaboration with the Fortis Hospital Greater Noida, a healthcare service providers in the district and NCR. "As breast cancer is becoming a common disease in India for women, it is important to raise awareness about it, focusing on the importance of early detection and treatment. Our hospital provided ambulance and medication, free medical test setup and test vouchers for the event, said Lalit Pandey, Corporate Marketing Head, Fortis Hospital Greater Noida. Around 250 participants took part in the cyclothon, covering

Will appear before Ethics Committee tomorrow, demolish all lies: Mahua

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

TMC leader and Lok Sabha
MP Mahua Moitra on Tuesday said she would appear before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee on Thursday and demolish all lies

propagated in an attempt to silence her in Moitra also sought to delete as parties several media houses from her plea before the Delhi High Court against circulation of alleged fake and

defamatory content against her. The dropped parties also include social media platforms X, Google The panel probing allegations of 'cash for ques-

tions' against Moitra has asked her to appear before it on November 2 and turned down her request to give time till November 5. "I will be attending the Ethics Committee meeting on November 2. I have the right to cross examine the fake complainant...This complaint is utter rubbish and I am going to demolish it," Moutra

Moitra said the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee is yet to frame it's model code of conduct. "The committee didn't have any meeting since 2021. It is yet to frame it's model code of conduct. No parliamentary standing com-

mittee has criminal jurisdiction. If there is any allegations of criminality, then law enforcement agencies need to investigate it," she said.

The counsel for Moitra, while maintaining that he was not pressing for any interim relief in the matter at this stage in the High Court, told Justice Sachin Datta that the lawsuit will continue only against two defendants -- BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai.

Dubey has accused Moitra of taking bribe from Hiranandani Group CEO Darshan Hiranandani to ask questions in Parliament and urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to constitute an inquiry committee to look into the charges against her. Citing a letter he received from advocate Dehadrai, Dubey has said the lawyer shared "irrefutable" evidence of bribes allegedly being given to the TMC leader by the businessman.

ICG delegation in Tokyo for 3rd Coast Guard Global Summit



GURU ANGAD DEV VETERINARY AND ANIMAL

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the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Atwo-member Indian Coast Guard delegation led by its chief Rakesh Pal is on official visit to Tokyo from 30 October-November 2 to participate in the 3 rd Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS). The summit is aimed to enhance the collaboration and cooperation among Coast Guards world-

During the inaugural summit on October 30, Indian Coast

any will be issued on the University website only.

Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number

Shiksha and Khel Samiti (Borrower), Dharmpal

Co-Borrower), Vikram

Singh (Co-Borrower), Jyoti Kumari (Co-Borrower), Virender

LHSNP00001298425.

Shiksha and Khel Samiti

(Borrower), Dharmpal (Co-Borrower), Vikram

Singh (Co-Borrower),

Jyoti Kumari (Co-Borrower), Virender Singh (Co-Borrower), LHSNP00001358366.

Shiksha And Khel Samiti

Borrower), Dharmpal

(Co-Borrower), Vikram

Singh (Co-Borrower), Jyoti Kumari (Co-Borrower), Virender

Singh (Co-Borrower) LHRWI00001294899

Rao Phool Chand

Rao Phool Chand

Rao Phool Chand

NA/12/19952/2023/29380 Dated CHD :- 10/31/2023

interacted with the Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida, officials said here on Tuesday.

Considering the need to tackle growing ocean issues at global level, Japan Coast Guard and Nippon Foundation co-hosted the first CGGS in 2017. The purpose of the CGGS is to share fundamental perspectives and strengthen multilateral cooperation around the world on issues of human resource development and protection of the global ocean environ-

Registrar

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the

Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and ir

exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement)

rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that

the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on

him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The

borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings

Description of property/ Date of Possession

Na Property No. 1, Khewat No. 151, Khatoni No. 165 and Khewat No 65 Khatoni No. 70, Killa No. 14//5/1, 43//8, 48//7/1, 14/2, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25, 49//11, 20, 21, 51//4/2, 5, 6, 7, 8 And Khewat No. 104, Khatoni No. 110,& Killa No. 38//18/2, 23/2, 24, 25,43//3/2, 4/1, 50//1, 2, 3/1,51//2, 3, 4/1, Village Salooni Tehsil Narnaul-123001/

Na Property No. 1, Khewat No. 151, Khatoni No. 165 And Khewat No 65 Khatoni No. 70, Killa No. 14//5/1, 43//8, 48//7/1, 14/2, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25, 49//1, 20, 21, 51//4/2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and Khewat No. 104, Khatoni No. 110,&

Killa No. 38//18/2, 23/2, 24, 25,43//3/2, 4/1, 50//1, 2, 3/1,51//2, 3, 4/1, Village Salooni Tehsil Narnaul- 123001/

Na Property No. 1, Khewat No. 151, Khatoni

No. 165 And Khewat No. 65 Khatoni No. 70, Killa No. 14//5/1, 43//8, 48//7/1, 14/2, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25, 49//11, 20, 21, 51//4/2, 5, 6, 7, 8 And Khewat No. 104, Khatoni No. 110, 8 Killa No. 38//18/2, 23/2, 24, 25,43//3/2, 4/1, 50//1, 2, 3/1,51//2, 3, 4/1, Village Salooni Tehsii Namaul.

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount

else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this

Date of Possession- 27-Oct-23

Date of Possession-27-oct-23

Tehsil Narnaul-123001/

Date of Possession-27-Oct-23

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059 Branch Office: 1st Floor, No.159/20, Sudha Complex, Atlas Road, Near Subhash Chowk, Sonipat- 131001

Manipur DGP among 204 cops to get MHA special operation medal PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

More than 204 police personnel, including Director General of Manipur Police Rajiv Singh, were on Tuesday chosen for the Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal for the year

Senior IPS officer Amit Kumar, who has served in different capacities in Jammu and Kashmir and is currently posted in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), is also in the list approved by Union Home Minister Amit

Rajiv Singh, who was given the responsibility of the chief of Manipur Police after ethnic violence hit the northeastern state in May, was chosen for the award for his exemplary performance in his previous role as inspector general of the CRPE.

The 204 police personnel belong to three central organisations — CRPF, National Investigation Agency and the Narcotics Control Bureau —

Public Notice
KNOW ALL MEN THAT, we Mukesh Kumar
Gupta and Mrs. Sapna Gupta do, hereby
declare that we are the joint and absolute

Owners in respect of property i.e. Apartment No. 401, situated in the Group Housing Tower no 9 (Marigold Tower), known as Sushant Estate Project, Sushant Lok-1, situated at Village

Kanhai, Tehsii & Distt. Gurgram, Haryana. We further declare that we have lost/misplaced original General Power of Attorney dated 04/05/2009

executed by Mrs. Jayashree Jayanand in favour

of K Jayanand,in respect of our said property. If anyone finds the said document please contact the undersigned. **Mukesh Kumar Gupta** S/o Mr.

Krishan Lal Gupta R/o T9/301 Sushant Estate

Sector 52 Gurgaon. Mob: +917042138884

Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)

25-03-2022

76,00,820/-

25-03-2022

Rs. 49,61,803/-

25-03-2022

2,27,08,517/-

Name

Sonepat

Gurgaon'



official statement.

The states are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, West Bengal and Uttarakhand.

The medal was constituted in 2018 with the objective of recognising operations, which have a high degree of planning, high significance for the security of the country, state and Union Territory and have significant impact on the security of larger sections of

The award is conferred for special operations in areas such as counter terrorism, border action, arms control, prevention of narcotics smuggling and rescue operations, the statement said.

It is announced on October 31 every year.

In a year, normally three special operations are considered for the award and in extraordinary circumstances, the award may be given up to five special operations to encourage state and UT

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Notice is being issued in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between Bank of Rajasthan Ltd (hereinafter referred as "eBOR") and the borrower and co borrower mentioned below. As per the order dated August 12, 2010 the Reserve Bank of India has approved the schemation of amalgamation of eBOR with the ICICI Bank Ltd. (herein after referred as "the Bank") are provided to the product of the Bank and the Bank an as going concern so as to become the properties, estates, assets, rights title, interest and authorities of the Bank The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the rrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receip

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	er/ Loan of Property/ Date of		Name of Branch
1.	Shakuntala Devi/ Sandeep Dutt Sharma/ RBDEL00001865448	Flat No. WZ-190, Lajwanti Garden, Plot No. 15 (With Roof Rights), Khasra No. 212, Village Nangal Raya, New Delhi/ October 27, 2023	August 29,2022 Rs. 4,19,907/-	Delhi & NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: November 01, 2023 Authorized Officer



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, Plot no. 23,

New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET [See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest

(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder

Si No	. Name of b. Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1	M/s. Rajshree Trading Co. (Borrower), Raj Kamal Sharma (Co- Borrower/Guarantor/ Mortgagor), Rajshree Sharma (Guarantor) Lan No. 739005000009, & 739055000002	Property Bearing No MC no 596 (Old) and (New) no MC no 437, First floor, without roof rights, Situated at Gali Mandir Wali, Naya Bans, Khari baoli, Delhi- 110006 Area: 100.34 Sq Mtrs. (120 Sq yard)		Rs. 92,34,000/- Rs. 9,23,400/-	November 18, 2023, From 03:00 PM to 05:00 PM	November 28, 2023, From 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited** (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com) The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till November 24, 2023 before 05:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, Plot no. 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before November 24, 2023 before 05:00 P.M and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before November 24, 2023 before 05:00 P.M along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, Plot no. 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before November 24, 2023 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit I Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi DD/PO should be from a

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited On 8928935040/8584874809

Please note that Marketing agencies 1.Ms NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Managemen Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: November 01, 2023 **Authorised Officer ICICI Bank Limited**

Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: November 01, 2023

Authorized Officer ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

8-year-old girl gets complex pulmonary valve implantation



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

An eight-year-old girl has become the "youngest and smallest child in the country" to have undergone non-surgical pulmonary valve implantation, in a government hospital. The complex advanced intervention was performed on October 28 at Army Hospital (Research & Referral).

"The girl, weighing a mere 28 kg, is the youngest and smallest child in the country to have undergone this nonsurgical valve implantation, particularly in the govern-ment sector," army officials said in a statement. The Army Hospital (R&R)

team has so far performed 13 cases of pulmonary valve implantation in the last one year, which is the highest among the two government institutes in the country that have one such cases, officials added.

Till this procedure (transcatheter implantation of cardiac (pulmonary) valve) was introduced in the AFMS (Armed Forces Medical Services) by the team at Army

Hospital (R&R) on October 7, 2022, the cardiac (pulmonary) valve used to be replaced through an open heart bypass surgery, which is not only extremely painful and cumbersome but also carries significant risk of morbidity and mortality as well as prolonged hospital stay, they explained. With this novel non-surgical

procedure, a patient is discharged within two-three days post-intervention, without any scar on the body. The introduction of this path-breaking highly specialised non-surgical inter-

vention in the armed forces and government sector of the country is "game-chang-er" and has opened up fresh avenues for many such children requiring valve replacement, with significantly improved quality of life, the defence officials said.

It is a "quantum leap" towards providing advanced cardiac care in children. It ushers a new era not only

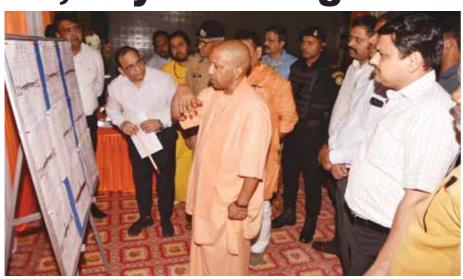
for the AFMS but also for other government hospitals of the country, taking them to a new higher platform, they said in the statement.

Finish Phulwaria construction Vigilance oath administered work soon, says CM Yogi

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted onsite inspection of the construction work of Phulwaria Four Lane during his two-day visit to the city here on Tuesday evening and directed the con-cerned officers to complete the work at the earliest by running a campaign on war footing. During the inspection, he laid special emphasis on expediting the work. The CM came here in view of the likely visit of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his parliamentary constituency next month.

Prior to this, Yogi inaugu rated the Anna Kshetra at Shri Hanuman Prasad Poddar Blind School in Durgakund. He said that Sanatan Dharma always inspires us to express our gratitude towards our ancestors, our tradition and all the great men who have contributed to the society. The CM landed at the helipad of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and then reached Durgakund located blind school by road and inaugurat-

ed the Anna Kshetra there. He said that the inauguration of Anna Kshetra in the memory of Bhai Ji (Hanuman Prasad Poddar) is a pleasant moment. On this occasion, while paying tribute to the memories of Bhai Ji, he paid a humble tribute and expressed his heartfelt thanks to the entire trust. "We all know that in the Sanatan Dharma tradition of India, food donation is seen as a sacred donation and



CM Yogi Adityanath inspecting Phulwaria construction work in Varanasi on Tuesday evening

it has been given utmost importance in the Vedic tradition of India by calling it 'Anna Brahma'. By keeping the food in the form of Brahma, this donation is considered a sacred donation," he said.

He further said that the examples of the same can be found in Ramayana and many other grants (texts). "A person who has never made any donation in his life and no matter how many good deeds he has done after his life, never develops a sense of self-satisfaction in his life, even if he gets the kingdom of heaven," he said, adding that no one can understand the importance of the name Anna more than an Indian and praised the opening of Anna Kshetra saying it a sacred work has been done for the school students and the

needy people who come to visit

"The PM has given a new vision to the lives and society of those whom we earlier called disabled by giving a name of Divyang to them and many programmes are going on at the central and state government level for the overall welfare of such people.

"If our charitable institutions and social organisations start discharging their respon-sibilities towards the society and the nation honestly, then there will be no room for deprivation anywhere in the society. There will be an atmosphere of happiness everywhere, there will be a situation of Ram Rajya. Gita Press's Kalyan magazine worked to reach Sanatan Dharma and moral values in

every home," the CM said, adding that many welfare schemes are being run for the disabled by the central and state Governments.

UP Minister Ravindra

Jaiswal, MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, Mayor Ashok Kumar Tiwari, Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, District President Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, Krishna Kumar Jalan, Akhilesh Khemka, Rakesh Goyal, Mahamandaleshwar Mahant Santosh Das Satua Baba, Divisional Commissioner

Kaushal Raj Sharma, District

Magistrate S Rajalingam and many others were also present. In his speech he focused on After the programme, the CM reached Durga Mandir and

one to follow complete integri-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Vigilance Awareness ■ Week 2023 commenced at North Central Railway (NCR). A walkathon was organised at NCR headquarters while general manager administered oath to the officers and staff.

Vigilance Awareness Week

is being observed by NCR from October 30 to November 5. The Central Vigilance Commission has set theme for the year for vigilance awareness as "Say no to corruption; commit to the nation." The Vigilance Awareness Week commenced with a walkathon led by General Manager Satish Kumar at the NCR headquarter. It started from the NCR headquarters and concluded at Railgaon Stadium. The GM also administered vigilance oath to the officers and staff to eradicate corruption.

ty in their work area and said that this integrity and vigilance is not for a week but every officer and employee should follow it throughout the year and during their tenure. Senior Deputy General

Manager DK Singh, principal heads of departments along with other officers and staff were present. Similar programmes were organised in Prayagraj, Jhansi

and Agra divisions of NCR. The team of Vigilance Department is also widely pub-licising about circulars and rules related to vigilance in headquarters and divisions.

MAHAKUMBH: Preparations are going on to complete the projects of Mahakumbh-2025 on time. The PDA is also completing the tender process for widening and beautification of roads in

ly. The widening work is going on fast on both sides of the road from old Rewa Road to Arail. Preparations are being made to develop greenery on the divider from the old Yamuna bridge to the Leprosy intersection. Dividers are to be built from Leprosy Square to the Naini railway station. Also, the work of developing greenery on the divider from Leprosy Square to United College Naini is to be done.

Under the Mahakumbh 2025 Project, the facilities of Colvin, Beli, Dufferin, TB Hospitals besides the Medical College and its affiliated Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital (SRN), Manohar Das Eye Hospital, Sarojini Naidu Children's Hospital are also to be expanded. A total of 12 works are to be done. The cost of the project is Rs 6 crore. The tender process has also been

proposal from the government. Now work will be started soon after the budget is released from the Mela authority.

The works which are be done including the works of OPD and waiting room in SRN Hospital besides establishment of Central Diagnosis Center, Modern Blood Bank, user counter at SRN Hospital, renewal and beautification of Pritamdas auditorium located in Medical College campus besides installation of modular kitchen in SRN Hospital etc. Dr SP Singh, Principal, Moti Lal Nehru Medical College (MNLMC) said facilities provided to the patients in MNLMC and all related hospitals are to be expanded under the Mahakumbh project. With the approval from the government, the tender process has also been completed. Work

Light shed on cyber hygiene

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

week-long vigilance aware-A week-long vigilance aware-ness programme as per the instruction of the Central Vigilance Commission began at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad (IIIT-A) here on

Monday.
CVO Prof Tapobrat Lahari administered the pledge to all in the administrative block auditorium for corrupt free functioning of the

the procedural details to lodge whistle blower complaints under Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of

(current year theme of CVC) without disclosing the identity of the complainant. He said several programmes will be ogranised during the week to generate awareness about vigilance matters.

Joint Registrar (Finance) Om Prakash Srivastava spoke on financial discipline during procurement of goods. He outlined several legal points to avoid malpractices.

Chief Information Security Officer Dr Venkateseshan threw light on cyber hygiene narrating several examples. Earlier the week started with lighting of the lamp and garlanding of the idol of Goddess

SPECIAL TRAIN: In view Informer (PIDPI) Resolution of Chhath festival, preparations are also being made by the Railways. The Chhath special train will run from November 20 to 28. It will run from Malda Town to Anand Vihar Terminal via Prayagraj and then from Anand Vihar to Malda Town. The train No 03435 will run from Malda Town to Anand Vihar and train No 03436 from Anand Vihar Terminal to Malda Town. Chief Public Relations Officer of NCR Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay said in view of large crowd of devotees on Chhath

convenience. The train No 03435 will leave Malda Town at 9.30 am. From here after a stoppage of 2 minutes at various stations, it

festival it has been decided to

run special trains for their

will reach Prayagraj Junction at 1.40 pm.

Meanwhile the semi -high speed train Vande Bharat Express will be operated as a special train this time on Diwali and Chhath. This journey between New Delhi and Patna will be completed in about 11.35 hours. The 02252 Vande Bharat

Special will run at 7.25 am from New Delhi on November 11, 14 NCR CPRO Himanshu

Shekhar Upadhyay said that special Vande Bharat will take 4.50 hours to reach Patna from

Similarly, the journey between Prayagraj and New Delhi will be completed in

Unity races taken out at many places

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The birth anniversary of 'Iron Man' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was celebrated as a symbol of national unity and integrity and on the occasion, at several places, the unity races were taken out here on Tuesday. Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Stamp and Court Registration Fees (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal flagged off the 'Run for Unity' and he along with the District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Development

Officer Himanshu Nagpal, ADM (City) Alok Kumar Verma, Regional Cultural Officer Subhash Chandra Yadav and many others paid tributes to Patel by garlanding his

Addressing the people present on the occasion, Jaiswal said that the role of Sardar Patel has been most important in national integration. "Sardar Patel was the first Union Home Minister of India, who is fondly called Sardar for his courage and amazing leadership. He is known for the creation of united India. After independence, he travelled across the country and united all the princely states to make India a nation," he said, adding that since 2014, his birth anniversary is celebrated as National Unity Day. On this occasion, he also administered the oath of nationalism and integrity to the people and then flagged off the unity race, which reached the statue of Sardar Patel at Maldahiya crossing.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers took out the Unity Bike Rally from the same place under the leadership of regional party president Dilip



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal flagging off 'Run for Unity' in Varanasi on Tuesday

Singh Patel. Various programmes were also organised at different places. In Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), various programmes were organised. General Manager (GM) Basudev Panda paid floral tributes to the portrait of Sardar Patel along with Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Sushil Kumar Srivastav, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Shishir Dutt, Principal Chief Materials Manager Rajneesh Gupta, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Ranvijay, Principal Financial Advisor Neeraj Verma, Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr Devesh Kumar, Principal Chief Engineer Vinod Bampal, IGcum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner Ranveer Singh Chauhan, Chief Vigilance Officer PK Chowdhary, Senior DGM Vijay, Joint Secretary of Staff Council Srikant Yadav and

On the occasion, the GM also took the salute and Deputy

inspected the parade in which personnel of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and volunteers of St John's Ambulance Brigade, Civil Defence, Scouts and Guides etc participated. After this, the oath of national unity was administered by the GM and the programme was conducted by senior translator Amlesh Srivastava, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Assistant Personnel Officer Piyush Minj.

A National Unity Run was also organised from the camp office of 95 Battalion CRPF located in Pahadia in which the CRPF officers and personnel participated. The race was flagged off by the Commandant Anil Kumar Briksh. After passing through different areas including Pahadia Mandi, Sarnath and Ashapur, the race returned to the CRPF camp via Gate Number 1. Umakant Ojha, Commandant,

Abhishek Kumar Singh, Assistant Commandant, and a large number of CRPF personnel participated enthusiastically in this programme.

Besides, a seminar was organised at Madan Mohan Malviya Hindi Patrakarita Sansthan in Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) in association with Akhil Bharitaya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). Dr Nagendra Singh, associate professor highlighted the historical significance and impacts of the Kheda and Bardoli Satyagrahas during the freedom struggle which were led by Sardar Patel. Presiding over the seminar, the Director of the institute Dr Anurag Kumar said that it is the duty of the youth to bring out and honour the forgotten historical figures.

The vote of thanks was given by Priya Rai, ABVP's Varanasi joint secretary. Ashutosh Tiwari and Vidushi Verma conducted the function.

Woman held for killing daughter gation that she had asked her tion the police reached the spot,

PTI KAUSHAMBI

woman has been arrested Ahere for allegedly hacking her minor daughter to death as she was opposed to her relationship with a boy, police said on Monday.

After allegedly killing her 15-year-old daughter with an axe and dumping her body in a well with the help of other family members, Shivpett lodged a complaint at the Manjhanpur police station here saying her daughter had been kidnapped, SP Brijesh Kumar Meera is absconding and Srivastava said. Shivpati efforts are on to nab her, they reported to the police on added. On information providwho had gone to the fields for some work on October 2 had not returned home since then. Based on her complaint, a case of abduction was registered against unknown persons and a probe was launched, the SP

said. On October 26 villagers informed the police that they had spotted the body of a girl in a well in a field outside Tejvapur village. Shivpati identified the body, following which Section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code was added to the case, the police said. However, certain evidence indicated Shivpati as the prime suspect and she was arrested for the murder on Monday, while her another minor daughter was apprehended. Her daughter-in-law which were used in the murder have been recovered, the SP said, adding that a sack was also recovered, which was used to hide the body, the police said.

Srivastava said the accused told the police during interro-

daughter to not continue her relationship with a boy from the same village, however she did not agree. Shivpati confessed that on the midnight of October 2, she, her other daughter and Meera allegedly killed the victim by hitting her with an axe and a stick. After the murder, they stuffed the body in a jute sack and dumped it in a well located on a field outside their village, the SP said. To avoid suspicion from the police and people, the accused lodged a case of kidnapping, he added.

woman's body

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): The body of an 85-year-old woman was found in a pond in Madaripur village in Uthao area here. On getting informa-

took the body into possession and sent it for the post-mortem examination. Raj Bahadur Yadav of Madaripur police station area, is a farmer. His mother Sukh Raji Devi went to the pond at 4 am on Monday morning where she fell into the pond. When Raj Bahadur did not find his mother he started searching for her at several places but failed to find her anywhere. Raj Bahadur had lodged his mother's missing report at the police station. The police is investigating the matter. SHO Pankai Tripathi said that the woman was mentally ly members, she went for defecation and her body was found in the pond. However, the exact cause of her death can be known only after the postmortem report, the SHO

Ganga ghats to be repaired ahead of Dev Deepawali

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The repair work of the damlaged ghat stairs of river Ganga will be completed before the forthcoming Dev Deepawali, one of the biggest festivals of this holy city.

This information was given by the Additional Municipal Commissioner. According to the senior

Nagar Nigam officer, like every year, the work of silt cleaning through pressure Department (Provincial pumps is progressing at a fast Division), while giving infor-

Regarding the damaged stairs, he said that all the ghats will be inspected to list them for ghat-wise repair He said that after the com-

pletion of cleaning work, the repair work of the ghat stairs will be completed before the festival of Dev Deepawali.

Meanwhile, Executive Engineer, Public Works

mation regarding the Riverfront Development Project, said that the matter has been sent to the government for determining the tender for the work and after receiving the instruc-tions, the tender process will

be started. Besides, the Executive Engineer of Jal Nigam (Urban) said that the sewer lines for sewage disposal constructed on the ghats located on the banks of river Ganga get submerged every year during the flood of the river

this, silt and sand enter the sewer lines and block the sewer flow.

He said that after the rainy season, when the water level of river Ganga decreases, extensive cleaning of these sewer lines is done.

At present the water level of river Ganga has reduced and cleaning of sewer lines has been started, which is likely to take about 20 days. After cleaning, the sewerage problem of all the ghats will end, he claimed.

Surat-Chhapra Superfast gets stoppage at Kerakat station

convenience of the passengers, the Railway Administration has given stoppage to train numbers 09065/09066 Surat-Chhapra-Surat Weekly Superfast (SF) Express on experimental basis at Kerakat station in Jaunpur district till further notice. In a programme organised at Kerakat station on Tuesday, 09065 Surat-Chhapra Weekly SF Express was flagged off from Kerakat station by MP Machhlishahr BP Saroj. An assembly constituency of Varanasi district, Pindra, is a segment of Machhlishahr parliamentary seat. In his address, Saroj expressed his gratitude to the Railway Minister and Railway Administration for

giving stoppage to Surat-Chhapra Express at Kerakat station and said that Indian Railways is the most accessible Kerakat railway station.

and economical means of transport which is very useful for the poor people. He said that the people of the Kerakat area had been demanding a stoppage of the Surat-Chhapra-Surat weekly express train at Kerakat station for a long time. In this direction, he said that he had written a letter to the Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and as a result of continuous efforts, the Railway Administration has given a stoppage of Surat-Chhapra-Surat Weekly SF Express at

According to him, from and Dhobi stations from

Surat-Chhapra Express will reach Kerakat station at 9.15 am and will depart for Chhapra at 9.17 am with a halt of two minutes. Similarly, from November 1, 09066 Chhapra-Surat Express will reach Kerakat station at 12.05 pm and will depart for Surat at 12.07 pm with a halt of two minutes.

He further informed that apart from this, on the demand of the people of Machhlishahr Lok Sabha constituency, the stoppage of train numbers 14611/14612 Ghazipur City-Shri Mata Devi Vaishno Katra-Ghazipur City Weekly Express has also been approved by the Railway Minister at Kerakat

November 3. As a result, 14611 Ghazipur City-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Weekly Express will reach Dobhi station at 9.35 am and depart at 9.37 am and then reach Kerakat station at 9.48 am and depart at 9.50 am. Similarly, 14612 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi- Ghazipur City Weekly Express will arrive at Kerakat station at 4.45 am and depart at 4.47 am and then reach Shobhi station at 4.56 am and depart at 4.58 am. Earlier, Chief Project

Manager (Gati Shakti) Kaushalesh Singh, said that Varanasi Division of NER is a passenger-oriented division which is continuously striving to provide advanced comfort facilities to its passengers.

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner Dr Muthukumarasamy B while reviewing works costing more than Rs 50 lakh in the district on Monday said all the ongoing works should be completed without inordinate delay and by following norms and ensuring quality. Seeking the progress reports project wise he expressed discontent over the working of UPPCL for not completing the work of 39th Battalion PAC within the stipulated time. He asked the working agency to intensify the work within the month of December. He reviewed the progress in the construction of PHCs and CHCs. He was apprised that the work at Mudpeli was in progress. The working agency was asked to complete the work of Mudpeli

within the month of November.



Divisional Commissioner Dr Muthukumarasamy B holding the meeting on Monday

Reviewing the progress in the construction of ghat near Adalpura temple on Ganga he was apprised that the work has been completed but the formality of handing over and taking over was to be done. The DC directed the working agency to conduct the joint inspection with SE irrigation and submit the status report. Reviewing the progress in ongoing works at Vindhyachal the DC was

apprised that the construction of Deevan Ghat and Pakka Ghat had been completed. He expressed discontent when assistant tourism officer failed to report about progress in works under Vindhya Corridor and directed him to monitor works of each agency involved in the project. About a fire station at Vindhyachal the working agency UPRNN was taken to task for not searching a place

for tube well. About the construction of new block having 300 bed facility he was apprised that 70 per cent work has been completed. The DC directed to complete it within time and report regularly on the progress. The meeting was conducted by Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mishra and was attended by all officials www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Tell-all

The A-G's contention that poll bonds are not for public purview is anathema to democracy

emocracy dies in darkness' is a popular phrase but India's Attorney General does not seem to believe it. In an affidavit to the Supreme Court in a case concerning public revelation of electoral bond details, A-G R Venkataramani has contended that citizens are not entitled to access information about financial support by an individual or an entity to a political party under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. He countered the argument presented by the petitioners challenging the electoral bonds scheme, asserting that citizens do "not possess a general unrestricted right to know" every detail. He emphasised that the right to information, when essential for expression, must serve specific purposes or ends, rather than being absolute. The funding of political campaigns and elections enables parties and candidates to reach voters, spread their message and compete on a level playing field. However, the source of funding can significantly impact the integrity



of the political process. To understand the gravity of the situation, savour this: Between March 2018 and July 2023, an approximate sum of Rs 13,000 crore was funnelled to various political parties. From 2018 to 2022, electoral bonds totalling Rs 9,208 crore were issued, with the BJP claiming 58 per cent of the total amount.

As reported by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) in March 2023, over 66 per cent of the total revenue for the seven national parties was derived from electoral bonds and undisclosed sources. There is strong reason to believe that most funding comes from the black money stacked with

the individuals. So, while the political class would like to know about how a common citizen spends each of his pennies, they would not like to divulge the funding they receive, neither the source nor the amount. All you have is a total figure which tells nothing about the donors or the donations to the political party. Knowing the sources of funding allows voters to hold candidates and parties accountable. If large sums of money come from special interest groups or corporations, it raises concerns about whether those entities will have undue influence over elected representatives. If some big corporate funding is in public domain and that party after returning to power acts to promote its interest, a quid pro quo can be established and that is what the political parties will desist tooth and nail. The A-G's contention runs counter to the principles of transparency and accountability in a democracy. While there are arguments in favour of privacy in certain contexts, political funding is not one of them. The argument often made in favour of non-disclosure is the protection of free speech and preventing donor harassment. However, this stance assumes that disclosure necessarily leads to harassment, and it neglects the greater principles of transparency and accountability.



BSF personnel during 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' celebrations on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, in Kevadia PTI

Politicisation of army: No pros, only cons



The politicisation of armed forces would erode its core competence of being a professional defence force and reduce it to a crass unit obeying political masters

s a senior military veteran, I can say without hesitation that the Indian armed forces have undergone their most sustained spell of politicisation under the ruling establishment since 2014 with the apparent consent of the armed forces hierarchy. The Indian military has stood out for not yielding to its enduring principles of being apolitical, secular and professional. It has shone as a beacon of sound civilmilitary relations with the military under civilian control though more bureaucratic than political. When political authority is weak – civilian services predominate and vice versa. Unfortunately, the Indian political class largely due to its ignorance, intellectual lethargy and absence of strategic vision has let the bureaucracy call the shots though ultimate accountability lies with them. A strategic doctrine for the armed forces was ready thrice but the political leadership evaded its publication and the bureaucracy could not/did not persuade it to approve it. Only last week the frontline

paper carried pictures of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in his stiffly starched dhoti performing Shastra Pooja in an Army unit near Tawang. It is not the first time he has applied vermilion on weapons and painted swastikas on aircraft. It is a gross violation of regimental practices and procedures where it is the prerogative of the Unit Commander and the priest to perform the ritual during Dussehra. Successive Army and Air chiefs have failed to tell him about it. He is the first defence minister to do so. This is not a colonial legacy but a recognised unit military practice. The Nepal Army does a grand parade in Tundikhel, Kathmandu where the Army Chief performs the Shastra Pooja in Tundikhel, Kathmandu while the President and Prime Minister watch the ceremony. In the guise of dismantling colonial practices, recruitment of Gorknas from Nepal is suspended. This has upset Nepal and will eventually become another cause for anti-India sen-



Bipin Rawat, whom this government has glorified on a scale no previous government has commemorated any other soldier, was made superseding two of his seniors, depicted merit trumping seniority. But that was only part of the scheme. On 6 December 2017, Rawat announced that "somehow military must be kept out of politics" adding that "in earlier days, women and politics were taboo in discussions". But later he was tempted to let his guard slip by indulging in activities that were political like going to Gorakhnath for a public event. Further, the Army was asked to spread mats for yoga and build bridges in Mumbai while RSS leaders pontificated on fighting in J&K, their mobilisation drills and castigated Muslims though many soldiers have won valour in battle. The government added the name of former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar to IDSA without consulting the Executive Committee of a registered public institute and for the first time, a defence institution was named after a

The Defence Expo, which was always held in Delhi, was first shifted to Chennai when Nirmala Sitharaman became defence minister, then to Goa after Parrikar and finally to Rajnath Singh's constituency Lucknow, where it has remained. Rawat was appoint-

RESTORE UNITY IN KERALA

Sir—The state is currently grappling with a multitude of challenges, all of which pose significant threats to its stability and social

fabric. The Kalamassery blasts, which



AS STATE AND

NATIONAL **ELECTIONS** APPROACH, THE **MILITARY WAS** ORDERED TO ASK SOLDIERS ON LEAVE TO **PUBLICISE ITS** DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. LAST MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT **ASKED ITS BABUS** JOINT SECRETARY AND BELOW - TO PUBLICISE THE

ed the first CDS. He was followed as COAS by Gen Narvane who announced at his first press conference, that the Army will be guided by its allegiance to the constitution and its core values in the preamble of justice liberty, equality and fraternity. Why Narvane was not made CDS following Rawat's tragic death seems to have been part of the government's grand plan of deep selection, a euphemism for appointing individuals of the government's choice. For the appointment of retired Lt Gen Anil Chauhan who was being groomed for his future appointment as CDS in the NSC Secretariat, the Army, Navy and Air Force Acts had to be amended to make retired Lt Gens and equivalents eligible for the post. In all democracies, CDS/CJS is one of the service chiefs, never a re-mustered three-star.

Most of the government's unpopular schemes like Agniveer and the revision of disability pension, were endorsed by the CDS. Military budgets that have never crossed 2 per cent of the GDP (Minus pensions) have been deemed adequate by the service Chiefs while one of the government's ministers, a former COAS, leaked to the media that there were gaping noies in inventories. In 2018, Rawat called the budget 'adequate' adding 'it is merely a management problem'. But BJP's own former Minister

BC Khanduri, head of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence said an inadequate budget has severe implications for national security. He was sacked. The litmus test is defence allocation for modernisation and utilising it. As state and national elections approached, the military was ordered to ask soldiers on leave to publicise its development projects. Last month, the government asked its babus -Joint Secretary and below – to publicise the projects. MoD was asked to create 822 selfie points at war museums and war memorials with pictures of PM Modi to publicise government achievements.

There has been widespread opposition to this by the Association for Democratic Rights and retired bureaucrats. Abundant is goodwill and good ideas but in symbolism- rakhi tying at Siachen, presenting Diwali sweets to troops, 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' and 'Shastra Pooja.' But veterans are still battling imperfect OROP, missing NFU and disability pension in court. Politicisation can only stop if Generals will end sycophancy, put their feet down and remain secular and professional.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander. IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and jounaer member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)sonal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROJECTS

Gaming attracts Consumer attention



GAURAV AGARWAL

By leverage interactive gaming, comapanies can secure an advantage over rivals as it is very effective in engaging consumers

¬he problem of plenty affects consumers today like never before. They are presented with a buffet of entertainment options, accessible across personal devices, such as phones and laptops, to shared platforms like smart TVs. Streaming services have overhauled the entertainment landscape, reshaping the way we engage with content. Take Amazon, for instance. Beyond shopping, its app offers a distinct viewing experience with Prime Mini TV, a standalone from its main OTT platform. And then there's the podcast evolution. While Spotify caters to audio podcasts, YouTube delivers podcast videos, providing a dual-sensory experience for

Amidst this content evolution, one industry seamlessly bridges platforms and engages consumers across diverse domains: gaming. With a staggering revenue of \$185 billion in 2022, gaming has surpassed the combined earnings of movies and music, firmly establishing itself as the sovereign of content.

Active participation Gaming offers an immersive content experience that transforms users from passive observers into active participants. It establishes virtual realms where consumers can engage fully.

This engagement extends to the exploration of intricately crafted worlds and forging connections with characters, often represented by players from different corners of the

Certain games even grant players the ability to shape their worlds, mirroring the sandbox creativity evident in titles like Minecraft.

A similar dynamic exists in games such as Among Us, where real-time play is accompanied by voice chat interactions with fellow players. Essentially, consumers are presented with interactive gameplay that effortlessly sustains their interest over extended periods.

Unlike other content, gaming offers limitless experiences, with new possibilities each time. Yet, there's a comforting familiarity that beckons players to return. Nir Eyal, in Hooked: How to Build Habit-Forming Products, highlights that products with sticky experiences are most likely to get user recommendations. Consequently, engaging gaming experiences spread from one user to another. This attachment not only prolongs gameplay but fuels positive word-of-mouth, as players eagerly share their immersive

Continuous re-discovery

Consumers across sectors Gaming's allure spans demographics, uniting over 3 billion players globally, tran-scending age, gender, and location. This diverse potpourri obliterates language barriers, enabling connections between individuals, be they friends or strangers. Gaming's influence extends

beyond its domain, venturing into various content types, even within news portals or streaming platforms. Gaming's impact prompts these content platforms to integrate gaming sections,

encounters.

catalyzed by players like GameStop, known for seamlessly introducing games to non-gaming products. A recent Gamezop survey unveils that integrating games into non-gaming apps and websites can elevate engagement by 15-40%. Striking examples include products like Tata Play Binge, The Tribune, Samsung Internet, Amazon, and Royal Challengers Bangalore - all of which have dedicated gaming sections within their apps. These instances underscore gaming's potential to captivate audiences spanning a diverse spectrum.

The way forward

If comapnies leverage the interactive and sticky experiences of gaming, they secure an advantage over rivals. Gaming will continue to shape the way we consume content and interact with digital products. With its unmatched ability to create memorable and engaging experiences, gaming is set to transform the entire content business. It's an exciting time to be a part of this rapidly evolving industry.

(The author is a co-founder of gamezop, views are personal)

claimed innocent lives and left several individuals injured, have not only caused immense grief but have also raised serious questions regarding the adequacy of our safety and security measures. The tragic incident involving the unfortunate demise of a 12-year-old girl serves as a stark reminder of the urgency to promptly address these concerns.

The recent political tensions, exemplified by the Bharatiya Janata Party's siege of the State Secretariat and the government's allparty meeting convened by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, signify the growing unrest and dissatisfaction among various stakeholders. Amidst these pressing matters, the need for unity, collaboration, and swift, coordinated actions becomes paramount. It is essential for all political factions, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders to come together, setting aside their differences to address the critical issues at hand.

While the Sabarimala-related cases before the Kerala High Court signify broader societal concerns, it is imperative to navigate these issues with a sense of balance, respecting diverse sentiments while upholding the rule of law and fundamen-

The gesture of solidarity for Palestine is noteworthy and showcases Kerala's commitment to global issues and international harmony. Initiatives that advocate for peace and solidarity are essential in a world troubled by conflicts. In this time of distress and political tension, it is crucial for all stakeholders to display maturity, restraint, and a collective will to resolve issues through dialogue, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people of Kerala.Let us collectively strive to restore peace, harmony, and stability in our beloved state, Kerala.

Maimul Safui | Howrah

Role of the UN in keeping the peace



he primary role of any global organisation established through consensus is to halt ongoing violence against innocent civilians. It is unnecessary to scrutinise the reasons behind the violence or its justifications; any violence involving innocent children is unequivocally wrong. In this context, if the UN Secretary-General requested Israel to cease the violence. it was a just and necessary action. However, the Israeli representative's demand for the Secretary-General's resignation in response is concern-

The United Nations relies on the economic support of America, which, in turn, supports Israel. Consequently, the Secretary-General may not receive assistance from many countries worldwide. Nevertheless, democratic and peace-loving nations, including America, must now consider the effectiveness of the United Nations in dealing with issues such as war. Over the past several decades, major powers have gradually eroded the global organisation for their own interests. Questioning the United Nations is, in essence, questioning the peaceful nature of the entire world, and Israel must reconsider its stance. The international community should take this matter seriously

N Mateeni | Mumbai

REFORMING EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Sir—The education system in most countries is primarily designed to produce workers rather than thinkers. It places a greater emphasis on rote memorisation than on understanding and critical thinking, hindering the development of prob-lem-solving skills. The outdated curriculum often lags behind changing societal needs, including global and technological advancements and industrial enhancements. Educational institutions should focus more on practical knowledge that learners can apply in the real world.

Our current system heavily relies on highstakes exams for assessment, which can stifle creativity in scholars. Adequate career counseling and guidance are often limited, resulting in students making uninformed choices. True education should be based on morality, practicality, and truism for students so that India can regain its status as a 'Vishwa Guru.'

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain

RISING ONION PRICES

Sir—Onion prices have once again surged in many states, with some exceeding Rs 50 per kilogram. It is disheartening to witness the government's leniency in addressing this matter. High onion prices, juxtaposed with the dire situation of farmers in an agricultural country like ours, are truly shameful. This is not the first time onion prices have surged, and political disputes have arisen as a result. The common man has, time and again, shed tears over the escalating costs of onions. It is imperative for agricultural experts to develop innovative technology that boosts onion production in every state of our country. The government's policies, which have contributed to rising onion prices, should be revisited and improved to alleviate this

Ashraf | Mumbai

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THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR **BACKPAIN RELIEF**

Make an informed decision about the backpain therapy and therapist



NISHANT GEMINI

hysiotherapists and chiropractors are skilled professionals who play a crucial role in supporting your musculoskeletal health. Though both techniques focus on managing pain, they differ in their approaches. While Chiropractors primarily target the musculoskeletal system through manual manipulation techniques, Physiotherapists addresses physical impairments and disabilities via exercises and manual therapy to enhance physical function.

Understanding the Unique Approaches

Physiotherapists excel in optimising physical movement, employing tailored exercises and manual therapy to address impairments and disabilities. Their expertise extends beyond treating pain, encompassing various domains like cardiac rehabilitation, respiratory conditions, and elder care. On the other hand, chiropractors specialise in diagnosing and treating neuromuscular problems, primarily focusing on manual manipulation techniques to alleviate pain and correct misalignments.

Physiotherapy and chiropractic care have similar objectives: easing pain, enhancing movement, and boosting overall health. The decision between the two depends on your specific condition and treatment preferences. Physiotherapy offers numerous benefits, such as:

Customised Exercise Programs: Physiotherapists offer tailored exercises to improve strength and flexibility

Postural Correction: Physiotherapy can address and correct poor posture, which is often a result of habits or imbalances. Through exercises and techniques, physiotherapists can help individuals improve their posture, relieving associated discomfort and preventing long-term muscu-

Manual Therapy: Manual physical therapy is ideal for addressing soft tissue issues and enhancing the mobility of joints, nerves, and soft tis-

Recovery from Stroke: Physiotherapists also assist stroke patients in strengthening affected body parts, enhancing balance, and refining movement to aid recovery



Manage Lifestyle Disorders: Targeted physiotherapy exercises and education can help manage lifestyle disorders, such as diabetes and osteoporosis besides helping prevent further complications

Likewise, Chiropractic care also offers several advantages, such as: Posture Correction: Chiropractic treatment may help correct poor posture, especially due to prolonged sitting

Spinal and Joint Manipulation: It helps correct misalignments and relieves pain through targeted adjustments

Nervous System Enhancement: It promotes overall health by optimis-

ing nervous system function Non-invasive Treatment: It is the safest non-surgical option for treating

musculoskeletal conditions.

Factors to Consider Before Choosing the Right Therapy

"Identify the Condition: Firstly, it is crucial to identify the nature of your condition. Musculoskeletal disorders may find relief through chiropractic care, as well as physiotherapy while physiotherapy proves beneficial in post-surgery recovery and movement enhancement

Preferences: Individual treatment preferences play a crucial role. Those comfortable with manual manipulation may opt for chiropractic care, whereas individuals seeking a diverse range of treatment techniques may favour physiotherapy. When the chances of injuries relatively less.

Consultation: Seeking professional advice is essential to determine the most suitable therapy, as healthcare professionals can provide personalised insights tailored to individual health needs. Most important thing is to find the right professional and right approach.

(The writer is HOD-Physiotherapy, Primus Super Speciality Hospital,

New Delhi, views are personal)

How credible is the Global Hunger Report?



Once again India is ranked rather low in the Global Hunger Report, but how credible are the criteria and methods employed in evaluation?



ike previous years, once again a German organisation named Welt Hungerhilfe has released its 'Hunger Index' and the hunger ranking of the countries of the world based on the same, in their so-called Global Hunger Report 2023. In this ranking, India has once again been placed very low at 111th position. It is noteworthy that this year 125 countries have been included in this ranking. Last year in 2022, India was ranked 107th in the list of 121 countries and 2021, India was ranked 101st in the ranking of 116 countries.

What they mean by this hunger index is that not only, there is a huge problem of hunger prevalent in India, but the performance of other countries is far better than India. If we believe the report, the performance of countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka etc., which are dependent on food supplies from India, is much better than India. In such a situation, it is natural to raise questions on this report. Let us try to understand the reality of hunger and its indices in India.

Welt Hungerhilfe's Hunger Index?

There are 4 parameters to measure this Hunger Index - malnutrition, stunting in children, underweight in children, wasting (low weight for height) and child mortality (mortality rate in children under 5 years of age). The hunger index based on all these parameters is estimated. Welt Hungerhilfe says that in India this index is 28.7, which is considered very serious, whereas in Pakistan it is 26.6, due to which Pakistan is ranked at 102nd position, which is above India. Similarly, Bangladesh is ranked at 81st position with 19.0 points and Sri Lanka is ranked at 60th position with 13.3 points. If we see the parameters and scales used in constructing this Hunger Index, there are question marks on the data on one hand and the methodology on the other. Not only the Indian government, but many other experts have summarily rejected this report. **Child Mortality**

According to of Welt Hungerhilfe's methodology, child mortality has been a major determinant of the hunger index. While



AS FAR AS DATA **MALNUTRITION** IS CONCERNED. WELT HUNGERHILFE DOES NOT HAVE ANY FACTUAL DATA, AS THE HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION SURVEY BY THE **CONCERNED OFFICIAL AGENCY HAS NOT BEEN**

(The author is a Professor, at PGDAV College, University of

CONDUCTED

SINCE 2011

estimating, the hunger index for the year 2023, surprisingly the child mortality rate data of 2020-21 has been taken. The report puts India's child mortality rate at 31 per thou-

According to the data published by the Sample Registration System of India, the child mortality rate decreased from 35 per thousand in 2019 to 32 per thousand in the year 2020. If this rate of decline in child mortality is considered, then it is expected to reach 24.4 by the year 2023. In such a situation, there is no reason why the outdated data on the child mortality rate in India should be taken at 31 per thousand, to estimate the hunger index in India in 2023. According to the latest data, the infant mortality rate in Pakistan is 55.8 per thousand and the child mortality rate is higher than that. Despite this, India is placed at 111th position in terms of hunger and Pakistan is shown at 102nd position. The reason for this is that wrong data has been used in other scales of the hunger index too. There are some errors in the data of other international agencies as well. While figures published by the Indian government were showing the infant mortality rate at 28 per thousand in 2020, international agencies are putting it at 29.848. It is noteworthy that it's not ethical or

even legitimate to use any data other

than the official data, by any foreign

or Indian agency. But this World

Hunger Report openly says that the

data reported by the governments

to the United Nations don't need to

only be used in this report. The

rapidly improving conditions in

India may not be pleasing to the

organisations working with their malafide intentions. Malnutrition

not have any factual data, as the

the concerned official agency has not been conducted since 2011. Therefore, malnutrition figures have been prepared based on a 'Gallup Survey' with a sample of 3000 people, the methodology of which is also questionable, which shows malnutrition at 16.6 per cent. It is worth noting that in reality, based on real-time health data of more than 7 crore children, the Poshan Tracker, published that only 7.7 per cent of children in the country were malnourished in February 2023. If we talk about production and availability of food, India ranks 35th in the world in the latest global ranking (2020) of 188 countries. The continuously increasing per capita production of food grains, milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables, fish etc. confirms that India is today producing surplus food, compared to

household consumption survey by

demand. **Stunting and Wasting**

IIII recently, data on stunting and wasting assessed by only the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) was available in the country. However, due to the small sample size, the NFHS data was often questioned. Notably, a comprehensive nutrition campaign has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Children, Government of India, to tackle the problem of malnutrition in the country. While NFHS used to draw conclusions based on a relatively small sample, Poshan Tracker is publishing figures based on real-time data from more than 7 crore children, with wasting data consistently showing that only 7.2% of India's children were wasted, whereas Welt Hungerhilfe's Hunger Report (2023) used the wasting figure of NFHS 2019-21, that is, 18.7 per cent.

As far as data on malnutrition is As far as stunting is concerned, concerned, Welt Hungerhilfe does experts believe that there cannot be a single standard of height for the

entire country. Not only stunting but wasting depends on many factors including geography, environment and genetics, apart from nutrition. If we see, the height of Punjabi children is several inches more than the children of the North-East. The World Health Organisation has also accepted this. Not only this, the Indian

Government's Nutrition Campaign

(Poshan Abhiyan) is working hard to address the problem of malnutrition in the country, and assessing the outcome periodically, recognising the same, and the World Health Organisation has also started using the data published by Poshan Tracker. Though there are many objections to the methodology of the Welt Hungerhilfe report, even if the formula used by the agency is followed, to calculate the hunger index, and if the correct data is fed i.e. child mortality rate (under 5 mortality rate) of 24.4 per thousand; if wasting and undernourishmen are considered to be 7.2 per cent and 7.7 per cent respectively (assuming other age groups too have similar nutrition outcome), as per the data collected by Poshan Tracker, and if stunting figures are discarded since they are not comparable, then hunger index estimated by the author of this article, comes out to be 9.528. Accordingly, as per the formula of Welt Hungerhilfe, India's ranking in the hunger index is not 111th but 48th.

It is natural that after the report of Welt Hungerhilfe, has been published, many opposition political parties have made hunger, an issue, based on this report. In such a situation, it is clear that this agency has consistently been trying to defame India by using questionable data and methodology, which is far from the reality. Strict action should be taken against all such agencies trying to

Parenthood and surrogacy: Ethical and societal issues

The societal impact of surrogacy is very complex and needs to be addressed seriously

⊣he recent Supreme Court ruling striking down the rule banning the use of donor gametes for women affected by the rare medical condition of Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome, though bringing cheers to the affected couple is bound to have far-reaching consequences in society. Across the globe, the number of people having infertility issues is increasing. According to the recent WHO report Around 17.5% of the adult population - roughly 1 in 6 worldwide experience infertility. This necessitates the need for the advancement of assisted reproductive techniques (ART), which includes in vitro fertilization and surrogacy.

Surrogacy is sometimes perceived as a potential solution



(The writer is a science communicator and an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, views are personal)

for infertility or as an alternative to adoption. Consequently, it is typically regarded as a cause for celebration, since it helps individuals accomplish their aspirations of becoming parents. Nevertheless, surrogacy entails a plethora of intricate ethical concerns about gender, employment, compensation, exploitation, and inequality. There are two main types of surrogacy, traditional surrogacy and gestational surrogacy. Traditional surrogacy involves artificially impregnating the surrogate mother with the intended father's sperm, resulting in her becoming both the genetic and gestational mother. In traditional surrogacy, the surrogate's eggs are used. This means the surrogate is genetically related to the child she

Gestational surrogacy involves the transfer of an embryo, created by in vitro fertilisation, into the uterus of a surrogate mother who then carries and gives birth to the baby. In gestational surrogacy, the surrogate is not genetically related to the child. An embryo created from the genetic material of the intended parents or donors is implanted into the surrogate's uterus. Surrogacy can be categorised as either commercial or altruistic, based on whether the surrogate receives financial compensation for her pregnancy. Only very few countries in the world like India and Ukraine allow commercial surrogacy. Because of the low cost India has emerged as a popular hub for fertility tourism, drawing couples from overseas for



niques.

The societal impact of surrogacy is very complex and needs to be addressed seriously. It encompasses a wide range of perspectives, including ethical, legal, emotional, and cultural considerations. Surrogacy can be viewed as an extension of reproductive rights, allowing individuals and couples to have children when they oth-

with infertility, same-sex couples, and individuals who are physically unable to carry a pregnancy. Critics argue that surrogacy can lead to the commodification of women's bodies, particularly in commercial surrogacy arrangements where the surrogate is compensated.Concerns about exploitation, coercion, and unequal power dynamics erwise couldn't. It can provide between surrogates and

intended parents are raised. Surrogacy can have significant emotional and psychological consequences for all parties involved. This includes the surrogate, intended parents, and potentially the child.

The dynamics of parent-child relationships in surrogacy can be complex. Questions about genetic connection, gestational connection, and the psychological bond between the child and the surrogate may arise. Surrogacy challenges traditional notions of family by involving multiple parties in the reproductive process.

Usually, it is the women in the lower strata of society that fall at the receiving end. They have to sacrifice their life for fulfilling the desires of wealthy couples. During the period of surrogacy, they are made to stay isolated from their family members to avoid the social stigma. More than that, carrying

someone else's child in their body creates lots of psychological issues for the surrogate mother. Often there is an unhealthy nexus between the fertility clinics and middlemen, who exploit poor women, luring them with money, most of which will go to the middlemen. In case of any untoward health issues due to pregnancy neither the hospital nor the donor couple takes care of these poor women. Instead of considering poor women as breeding factories, we have to look for alternative methods like adoption or using technologies like artificial wombs to fulfil the parental needs of prospective couples.

Braverman hits out at 'hate marches'

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman has hit out at the mass protests on the streets of the country in reaction to the Israel-Gaza conflict as "hate marches" and said she will not hesitate to change terror legislation if needed to tackle "utterly odious" bad actors operating beneath the criminality threshold.The Indian-origin minister was speaking after an emergency Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms A (COBRA) security meeting chaired by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at 10 Downing Street on Monday.

She confirmed that it has been agreed with the UK's Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) to keep the country's threat level from international terrorism at "substantial," which means an attack is likely and reiterated her call for the police to take a "zero-tolerance approach to anti-semitism." To my mind, there is only one way to describe those marches: they are hate marches," said Braverman, when asked about the massive pro-Palestinian other cities over the past few

'What we've seen over the last few weekends, we've seen now tens of thousands of people take to the streets following the massacre of Jewish people, the single largest loss of Jewish life since the Holocaust, chanting for the erasure of Israel from the map," she said.

The Cabinet minister in charge of domestic security warned of a "large number of bad actors who are deliberately operating beneath the criminal threshold in a way which you or I, or the vast majority of the British people, would consider to be utterly odious."

"We keep our laws under review. If there is a need to change the law, just as we did in relation to Just Stop Oil protests, I will not hesitate to act," she said.

It came as the Metropolitan Police updated that 41-year-old Atif Shafiq has been sentenced to six months in prison for assaulting one of its officers during a protest in London on

Israeli ministry drafts wartime proposal to transfer Gaza civilians to Sinai

An Israeli government min-istry has drafted a wartime proposal to transfer the Gaza Strip's 2.3 million people to Egypt's Sinai peninsula, drawing condemnation from the Palestinians and worsening tensions with Cairo.Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office played down the report compiled by the Intelligence Ministry as a hypothetical exercise — a "concept paper". But its conclusions deepened longstanding Egyptian fears that Israel wants to make Gaza into Egypt's problem, and revived for Palestinians memories of their greatest trauma — the uprooting of hundreds of thousands of people who fled or were forced from their homes during the fighting surrounding Israel's creation in 1948. "We are against transfer to any place, in any

line that we will not allow to be crossed," Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said of the report. "What happened in 1948 will not be allowed to happen again."

A mass displacement, Rudeineh said, would be "tantamount to declaring a new war". So far more than 8,000 Palestinians, the vast majority of them civilians, have been killed since Israel went to war against Hamas after its Oct 7 attack. The document is dated Oct 13, six days after Hamas militants killed more than 1,400 people in southern Israel and took over 240 hostage in an attack that provoked a devastating Israeli war in Gaza. It was first published by Sicha Mekomit, a In its report, the Intelligence

Ministry — a junior ministry

that conducts research but does not set policy — offered three alternatives "to effect a significant change in the civilian reality in the Gaza Strip in light of the Hamas crimes that led to the Sword of Iron war".

The document's authors deem this alternative to be the most desirable for Israel's secu-

The document proposes moving Gaza's civilian population to tent cities in northern Sinai, then building permanent cities and an undefined humanitarian corridor.

A security zone would be established inside Israel to block the displaced Palestinians from entering. The report did not say what would become of Gaza once its population is cleared out. Egypt's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the



People look at photographs of hostages. mostly Israeli civilians who were abducted during the Oct. 7, unprecedented Hamas attack on Israel, in Tel Aviv, Israel Monday,

Regd. Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi - 110025 Ph.: 011-41686169, Fax: 011-26941984, Email: investorgrievance@arotile.com, Website: www.arotile.com

		Quarter Ended	Year Ended	Quarter Ende
SI. No	Particulars	30.09.2023	31.03.2023	30.09.2022
No		(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from operations	3,871.78	16,444.83	3,850.06
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	43.92	(590.69)	30.40
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	43.92	(590.69)	30.40
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	38.75	(578.81)	68.48
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	38.75	(578.81)	68.48
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,530.00	1,530.00	1,530.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	17,531.43		
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)-			
	1. Basic:	0.28	(3.84)	0.45
	2. Diluted:	0.28	(3.84)	0.45

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial results is websites of the Stock Exchange(s), www.bseindia.com, and www.nseindia.com and the Company's website www.arotile.com

Sunil Kumar Arora

Place: HOSUR

Subhash Place Branch) Vijay Nanda

LC No. 25500001115 of Netaji

Subhash Place Branch) Moulik

LC No. 13000001906 of Gurgaor

Branch) R R Fashions (Borrower)

LC No. 27900001576 of Greater

Noida Branch) Amar Dutt Sharma

LC No. 198PTM30788 of Delhi -

Pitampura Branch) Amit Malhotra

(LC No. 19700044390 of Gurgaon

Sohna Road Branch) Yogesh Kuma

Rashmi Seth (Co Borrower 1)

Borrower)

Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramala Amiti Building, Pirama Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West),

Piramal CIN::L65910MH1984PLC032639, Web Side:- www.piramalfinance.com Branch Address: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West)- 400602.

DEMAND NOTICE Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited(PCHFL) [formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL)] under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demar Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of ment and/or realization, navable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by

the said Borrower(s) respectively.	, ,	
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 01400005127 of New Delhi Branch) Rishi Pal Ghelot (Borrower)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 7,67,268/- (Seven lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Only) NPA (08-10-2021)	Flat No. M-102, 1st Floor Flat Svaran Residency-2, Wazirabad Road Vill- Brahmpu Bhopura Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh:- 201011
(LC No. 13000000406 of Gurgaon Branch) Trilochan Singh Bhatia (Borrower)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 4,27,985/- (Four lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five Only) NPA (08-08-2023)	Flat No 301, Third Floor Tower A Cosmos City 1 Sector 103 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana:- 122001
(LC No. 19600041522 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Anurag Bhaskar (Borrower)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 38,21,655/- (Thirty Eight lakh Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five Only) NPA (05-04-2019)	Flat No A 2204 22nd Floor Block Aqua Gayatri Life Plot 1 F Sec 16 Greater Noida West Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh:- 201301
(LC No. 28200000010 of Lajpat Nagar Branch) Vikas Kumar (Borrower)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 43,27,134/- (Forty Three lakh Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty Four Only) NPA (04-01-2019)	Flat No-1403, 13th Floor, Tower-c Oasis Venitia Heights, Plot No. Hra 12a Sec- surajpur Site-c Ext. Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh:- 201308
(LC No. 11900001253 of Noida Branch) Lavisha Dhingra (Borrower)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 40,44,048/- (Forty lakh Forty Four Thousand Forty Eight Only) NPA (03-09-2019)	Flat No: G-708 Seventh Floor Block- G, Future Estate Plot No: Gh-16 E, Sec-1 Grater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh:- 201308
(LC No. 26600000430 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Anand Kishore Singh (Borrower)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 51,87,266/- (Fifty One lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Six Only) NPA (04-01-2019)	Flat No. A-204, Second Floor Venetia Heights Hra-12, A, Site-c Suraj Pur Housing Complex Greater Noida Gautambudh Naga Uttar Pradesh:- 201306
(LC No. 01400004153 of New Delhi Branch) Vivhan Radhu (Borrower) Vivek Radhu (Co Borrower 1) Anjana Radhu (Co Borrower 2) Paramaah Syndicate Pvt Ltd (Guarantor 1)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 58,90,142/- (Fifty Eight lakh Ninety Thousand One Hundred Forty Two Only) NPA (03-09-2017)	Flat No- S1-009 Ground Floor Studio Services Aarogyam, Haridwar Haridwar Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh:- 247663
(LC No. 01400004154 of New Delhi Branch) Vivek Radhu (Borrower) Shivaji Radhu (Co Borrower 1) Vivhan Radhu (Co Borrower 2) Paramaah Syndicate Pvt Ltd (Guarantor 1)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 58,91,146/- (Fifty Eight lakh Ninety One Thousand One Hundred Forty Six Only) NPA (03-09-2017)	Flat No S1-012, Ground Floor, Aarogyam, Opp. Cryatal World Vill.badhedi Rajputana Pargana Roorkee Haridwar Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh:- 247663
(LC No. 19800041451 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Kamal Jit Jain (Borrower) Amit Jain (Co Borrower 1)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 55,77,507/- (Fifty Five lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Five Hundred Seven Only) NPA (03-11-2019)	Unit T-3/0502, 5th Floor, Lake Side Heights, Lake Grove City Kundli Sonepat Haryana Sonipat Haryana:- 131028
(LC No. 19800041473 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Abhishek Johri (Borrower)	25-09-2023/ Rs. 81,84,537/- (Eighty One lakh Eighty Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Seven Only) NPA (04-10-2019)	Unit - T-01/1303, 13th Floor 3rd Flat, Lake Side Heights Lake Grove Kundli Sonepat Sonipat Haryana:- 131028
(LC No. 25500000991 of Netaji	25-09-2023/ Rs. 52,23,816/- (Fifty Two	Unit No. T-134, Third Floor Tuscan Floor In

lakh Twenty Three Thousand Eight

25-09-2023/ Rs. 34,78,388/- (Thirty

Four lakh Seventy Eight Thousand

Three Hundred Eighty Eight Only) NPA

(03-11-2019)

lakh Eleven Thousand One Hundred

Eighty Four Only) NPA (09-07-2023)

Only) NPA (10-03-2023)

Thirteen Only) NPA (05-04-2019)

Hundred Sixteen Only) NPA (03-11-2019) Haryana:- 131001

25-09-2023/ Rs. 68,11,184/- (Sixty Eight | Prop No- A-8/15A, Flat Pvt. No-201 Sf

25-09-2023/ Rs. 9.76.027/- (Nine lakh Flat No-sf-3 Second Floor Rear L.h.s, Plot No

25-09-2023/ Rs. 39,43,113/- (Thirty Nine H/flat No.D08/09/02 , Sushant Aquapolis

25-09-2023/ Rs. 32,33,403/- (Thirty Two Plot No. 43C, Kh No. 15/12, Upper Ground

akh Forty Three Thousand One Hundred Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh:- 201001

Hundred Three Only) NPA (11-03-2023) Park, Uttam Nagar New Delhi:- 110059 If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secure assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way o sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)

Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limite

Tdi Tuscan City Kundli Sonepat Sonipat

T-17/0904, Tower-17, 9th Floor, 4th Flat,

Without Roof (Front Rhs Flat) Block-A-8

Rana Pratap Bagh New Delhi - 110007

46 Block-b, Ganga Vihar Village, Sadullabad

Floor, Village Matiala, Block-E, Mansa Ram

Loni Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh:- 201206

|Sonipat Sonipat Haryana:- 131001

Lake Side Heights, lake Grove City, Kundali

Israeli tech CEOs call for Netanyahu's ouster

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Negating the notion of "you do not switch (leadership) during war", several leading Israeli tech company leaders have called for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ouster as soon as possible "to cut down losses'

Dan Adika, the CEO and Co-Founder of tech firm WalkMe, on Tuesday joined Amnon Shashua, the founder of self-driving auto technologies firm Mobileye, in calling for Netanyahu to step down following his government's failures after the unprecedented attack by Hamas militants from Gaza on October 7.

Several other tech leaders also harshly criticised the prime minister for refusing to accept responsibility." Netanyahu needs to go as soon as possible, despite the idea that 'you don't switch [leaders] during a war' and 'we shouldn't talk about this now," Adika told Israeli

business newspaper 'Calclalist', accusing the government of failing to operate in the wake of the deadly assault."He's not fit to lead and needs to go," the tech leader said.

Several security chiefs have accepted responsibility for the massive failure, but Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister who has been at the helm of affairs since 2009 except for a brief 13-month gap, has desisted from taking any blame for it.

More than 1,400 Israelis were killed and around 230 were taken hostage when Hamas carried out a dastardly attack infiltrating several communities in the south of

Shashua, who heads the self-driving car company Mobileye, earlier this week called for the Premier's ouster, saying that his government was guilty of "failures, dissonance and incompetence".

Israeli families of hostages taken to Gaza caught between grief and hope

AP TEL AVIV

As the weeks wear on and new horrors from the Israel-Hamas war dominate TV screens, families whose loved ones were killed or abducted by militants in the terrifying October 7 raids on southern Israel say it is their mission to ensure the hostages are not forgotten.

Those whose relatives remain in Hamas captivity, hidden in Gaza's tunnels or exposed to the threat of Israel's unprecedented bombardment of the besieged strip, have become tireless advocates for securing the hostages' release.

"My whole life stopped," said Keren Scharf Schem, whose 21-year-old daughter Mia, a French-Israeli citizen, was seized by Hamas gunmen during the assault on a freewheeling outdoor music and dance festival in southern Israel.

Over 260 attendees were killed. "My every waking hour is spent going, going, doing

everything and anything I can to bring her back," Scharf Schem told The Associated Press. "When I stop or sit down, I cannot breathe. At night, I take some pills to sleep a few hours and then I wake up and force myself to go through it all again? As public outrage mount-

ed over the government's failure to protect its citizens, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the appointment of Gal Hirsch, a retired general, as coordinator for the captives and missing. The country's security forces opened a center for families to register missing relatives, asking them to bring photographs and items from which authorities can gather samples of DNA. Photographs of hostages are everywhere: on billboards,

on street lamps, on empty walls. Hamas militants have released four Israeli captives following negotiations mediated by

Egypt and Qatar. And Israel said Monday it had rescued a 19year-old abducted Israeli soldier, Pvt. Ori Megidish, during a ground operation in Gaza — the first such rescue since the war began. News of the rescue left the families of hostages caught in a paradox: in continuing pain while grasping onto hope.

That contradiction tore right through members of the Goldstein Almog family, who evacuated to a Tel Aviv hotel after their Kfar Aza kibbutz was devastated in the raids. Hamas gunmen killed triathlon athlete Nadav Goldstein Almog and his 20-year-old daughter, Yam. The family said their remains were identified only because of Goldstein Almog's crutches from a recent injury - and Yam's unique tattoos.

COVID-19 inquiry

Johnson's

enemy set

to testify

Police reportedly capture gunman who held post-office staff hostage

a gunman who holed up at a post office and have rescued a member of staff who was held hostage, NHK television reported Tuesday.

It followed a more than eight-hour standoff with the man, who entered the post office with a gun in Warabi, north of Tokyo, an hour after a hospital shooting in which two people were wounded in the nearby city of Toda.

Police said they were investigating the two cases together because of a possibility they are related. They are also looking into a fire that broke out in a building near the hospital around the time of the shoot-

Hundreds of police had surrounded the building housing the post office. Television footage showed officers wear-

III in Kenya



ing helmets and bulletproof vests squatting behind the doors of a patrol vehicle parked outside. The video also showed the suspect — an older-looking man wearing a cap and hold-ing a gun — when he showed up briefly at the entrance. Earlier on Tuesday, Saitama

Prefectural Police said two men — a doctor in his 40s and a patient in his 60s — were wounded after blasts resembling gunfire were heard outside a general hospital in the

1 throne, Princess Leonor, is

to swear allegiance to the

Constitution on her 18th birth-

day Tuesday, in a gala event that

lays the groundwork for her

eventual succession as queen

when the time comes. The

nationally televised ceremony

in the lower house of

Parliament is understood to

symbolize the continuity of

Spain's parliamentary monarchy

and the institution's allegiance

same oath as her father did

when, as prince, he turned 18

became crown princess when

Felipe VI was proclaimed king

on June 19, 2014. Her face has

been in the media a lot lately

and already the term

"Leonormania" is being used,

She is expected to use the

Leonor de Borbón Ortiz

to the chamber.

in 1986.

city of Toda, just north of Tokyo.

The victims were both conscious and their wounds are not life-threatening, police said. Kyodo News agency said the two were believed to be inside a consultation room on the first floor when they were attacked, and that cracks were found in the window.

Police said the attacker apparently fired his gun from the street and then fled on a motorcycle.

In a third suspicious case, police are also investigating a ment building near the hospital in Toda around the time of the shooting.

Most of the post office

staff were able to leave at the beginning of the standoff, but two remained inside. One was seen to leave after about five hours.

Police had urged residents near the post office to take shelter at a facility set up by the authorities. About 300 children from a nearby school who usually walk home were taken home by bus as a precaution, local media reported.

Japan has strict gun control laws, but in recent years, there has been a growing concern about handmade weapons, such as the one allegedly used in the July 2022 assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

ed a by a mounted squadron of the Royal Guard. By the early hours of former good name in Spanish society and make up for the scandals involving several fam-

tapestries for the ceremony, which was to be shown on national TV and on several giant screens set up in the cap-

The royal family is to arrive at parliament at 11 a.m., escort-

Tuesday morning, crowds had begun lining the sidewalks along the royal route. Representatives from leftist political parties, including three government ministers, and lawmakers from Basque, Catalan and Galician regional and separatists parties boycotted the event, as they favor a republic, not a monarchy. The royal family is still trying to recover its

ily members, most notably for-

mer King Juan Carlos, Leonor's

grandfather.

aide who has accused ex-Prime Minister Boris Johnson of being unfit for office is scheduled to testify on Tuesday at Britain's public inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic. Dominic Cummings, who

London (AP): A former top

was the prime minister's chief adviser during the first months of the pandemic in 2020, follows other aides who have painted a picture of Johnson as a leader who was distracted and indecisive during the country's biggest peacetime crisis. On Monday, former principal private secretary Martin Reynolds acknowledged there had been a "systemic failure" to prepare for the pandemic and said Johnson blew "hot and cold" on key issues and hesitated to make important decisions.

Another ex-aide, Imran Shafi, alleged that Johnson had asked at a meeting before lockdown was imposed in March 2020, why the economy was being destroyed "for people who will die anyway soon." Cummings has also

claimed Johnson was reluctant

to impose lockdowns because he said the virus was primarily killing the elderly. Johnson is due to testify at the inquiry later in the year. Cummings, a self-styled political disruptor, was hired by Johnson after helping to mastermind the victorious "leave" campaign in Britain's 2016 European Union membership referendum. He went to work in Downing Street when Johnson became prime minister in 2019, filling a loosely defined but powerful role that saw him dubbed "Boris's brain." In May 2020 it was revealed that Cummings had driven 400 km across England to his parents' house while the country was under a "stay-at-home" order and while he was ill with coronavirus. Cummings made a later journey to a scenic town

Spain's Princess takes another King Charles step towards becoming queen AP MADRID

underlining her growing pop-

ularity as the modern face of the

necessary for her to be able to

succeed to the crown and

become queen, if and when

needs be. Banners with her pic-

ture decorated lampposts along

several of Madrid's main streets.

Many official buildings were

festooned with drapes and

The ceremony Tuesday was

future monarchy.

for state visit The heir to the Spanish

AP NAIROBI (KENYA)

✓ ing Charles III is in Kenya for his first state visit to a Commonwealth country as monarch. He will acknowledge the "painful aspects" of the countries' shared history while underscoring his commitment to an organization that's been central to Britain's global power since World War II. The fourday visit is full of symbolism. Charles' mother, the late Queen Elizabeth II, learned that she had become the UK monarch while visiting a game preserve in the East African nation, at the time a British colony, in

The king and Queen Camilla touched down in the capital, Nairobi, late Monday and were given a ceremonial welcome on Tuesday.

BANGLADESH 3-DAY TRANSPORT BLOCKADE

2 die in clashes

At least two people were killed and dozens injured in sporadic clashes in Bangladesh on the first day of a three-day transport blockade called by the opposition BNP to demand Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the transfer of power to a non-partisan caretaker government to oversee general elections early

The paramilitary troops were deployed to guard highways and maintain law and order in major cities while armed police and other law enforcement agencies enforced a countrywide vigil.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) protestors clashed with police, torched and stoned vehicles, including ambulances, and tried to disrupt traffic by placing burning tyres on highways or regional roads, police

Police confirmed the deaths of two BNP activists in Kishoreganj while three policemen were critically injured in suburban Narayanganj in clashes with the protestors. BNP leaders in Kishoreganj

said that two party workers were "shot dead by police" during a rally. One of them died on the spot while another succumbed to his injuries at a hospital, they said, adding that the clashes left over 100 activists injured

In Dhaka, the protestors set on fire several buses and clashed with police and supporters of the ruling Awami

Most transport operators suspended inter-district services. The traffic was thin in the national capital and other cities though the railways and ferry services were operational throughout the country.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Hasina in a press conference called BNP a "terrorist" organisation and ruled out talks with the opposition party led by former prime minister Khaleda Zia. She warned the opposition of the consequences if they continued the blockade.

At least four people, including a policeman, were killed over the weekend in Dhaka and elsewhere during violent protests by the opposition sup-



in their wages at Mirpur in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The violence forced the BNP to abruptly end their rally. The party and its far-right ally Jamaat-e-Islami called a nationwide general strike on Sunday.

Dozens of BNP leaders and activists including the party's secretary general or de facto leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir were arrested for "instigating" violence or on charges like sabotage. UN Secretary-General

Antonio Guterres has expressed concern over political violence in Bangladesh. "We obviously are concerned," UN chief's spokesman Stéphane Dujarric quoted Guterres as saying on

He said it was important that "there be calm and respect for all people's freedom to express themselves in advance of the elections" also stressing the need to "respect the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly". Seven countries, including the US, the UK and Canada, on Monday, condemned the political violence in

Condoling the deaths of those killed in the violence over the weekend, Australia, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, the UK and the UK called on all stakeholders to work together to "create conditions for free, fair, participatory, and peaceful elections. The diplomatic missions of the seven countries expressed concern at the violence, urging all parties to "exercise restraint"

and "eschew violence", in the joint statement issued on

The US said it would take action if necessary to support democracy in Bangladesh while TV footage showed several hundred pro-Awami League Bangladeshi Americans staging protest rallies in Washington and elsewhere in the US.

"We have made clear that we will take actions if necessary to support democracy in Bangladesh, and I would never preview those from the podium," US Department of State Spokesperson Matthew Miller said while responding to a question on Monday.He also condemned the political violence particularly in Dhaka, saying "The reported killing of a police officer, a political activist, and the burning of a hospital and buses are unacceptable, as is violence against civilians, including journalists".US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas on Tuesday said that he hoped that all sides would engage in a "dialogue" without preconditions to de-escalate tensions and find a path forward to free, fair and peaceful

"Political violence by any side has no place in democra-tic elections," he said, emerging from an exclusive meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal at the EC

His comments annoyed Hasina who said, "What dialogue will we hold with killers?"

HK leader defends new election rules

Hong Kong (AP): Hong Kong's leader defended the rules for upcoming local elections as open and fair Tuesday after an electoral overhaul effectively barred the city's remaining pro-democracy activists from joining the race.

The city's largest prodemocracy party, the Democratic Party, will be absent in December's district council election for the first time since its establishment in 1994. Party chair Lo Kin-hei said he and other members could not secure enough nominations under the new rules authorities introduced to ensure that "patriots administer Hong Kong." Other smaller groups from the camp had the same problem.

Chief Executive John Lee said at a weekly news briefing that candidates have to respect the decisions of the people they sought nomination from.

Court adjourns hearing against Imran, Qureshi until Nov 7 in Cipher case

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A special court in Pakistan on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of the cipher case until November 7 against jailed former prime minister Imran Khan without recording statements of any of the 10 witnesses. Khan, 71, was arrested in August after a case was filed against him for disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington in March last year. A special court in Pakistan last week indicted him along with his close ally ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in

Ten witnesses had come to record statements against Khan and co-accused Qureshi in the case. They were brought by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) which had registered the case against Khan and Qureshi in August for violating the secret laws of the country by



official diplomatic communica

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, who heard the case, ordered his staff to mark the attendance of the witnesses and the accused. Later, he decided to adjourn the hearing and summoned the witnesses again on

The hearing was held in the high-security Adiala jail in

Rawalpindi where Khan and Qureshi were present with their lawyers. Prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi was also present to lead the government side in the

The two accused have pleaded not guilty.

Khan, the chairman of the

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, challenged his indict-ment in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) which rejected his petition. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq,

however, directed that Khan be provided a "fair trial".

The FIA on September 30 filed the charge sheet against Khan and Qureshi who signed its copies. The FIA invoked in the charge sheet sections 5 and 9 of the Official Secrets Act which may lead to a death sentence, or two to 14 years' imprisonment if convicted.Khan, who served as prime minister of Pakistan from August 2018 to April 2022, is accused of "misuse the contents of the cipher" to build a narrative that his government was ousted due to a foreign conspiracy hatched by the US, a charge denied by

Washington. The charge sheet added that Qureshi "aided and abetted" Khan and therefore was liable

for the act in the same manner. Khan and several of his party leaders have been facing numerous cases since the ouster of the party from power in April 2022 and later in the wake of the May 9 violence.

More than 150 cases have been registered against Khan since his ouster from power in April last year. Khan was ousted through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022. He was incarcerated on August 5 this year, after an Islamabad court sentenced him to three years in prison in the Toshakhana case. He was lodged in the Attock District Jail to serve his prison

5 killed in attack on police station in Balochistan tions during the night until the

At least five people, including a policeman, were killed and two others injured on Tuesday in an attack on a police station by the militants in Pakistan's restive southwestern Balochistan province.

Police said that about 20 militants attacked the Naseerabad Police Station in the Turbat area of the volatile province in the early morning. District Police Officer

Muhammad Baloch confirmed

the attack, saying constables Essa and Hassan tried to engage the attackers but the former was killed while Hassan was overpowered. The attacker took possession of the weapons of the two policemen. The other four killed in the attack were labourers who had come to spend the night at the

police station due to fear of

attack by the militants after

gunmen had killed six workers in an attack on October 14 in Satellite Town of Turbat. After the attack, the local authorities had asked the work-

ers coming from outside of the

province to stay at police sta-

security situation improved. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Such attacks are carried out by the Baloch nationalists against the poor workers mostly belonging to the neighbouring Punjab province who come to the Balochistan province in search of work. The Baloch extremists allege that the outsiders, especially from the Punjab, steal local jobs and

ources and target them.

Balochistan caretaker Chief Minister Ali Mardan Khan Domki expressed regret over the deaths, terming the attack "condemnable and intolerable"."No religion in the world allows terrorism," he said. "The killing of labourers is a sad incident and the involved elements will be brought to justice." Balochistan, bordering Iran

and Afghanistan, is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insurgent groups have previously carried out several attacks targeting the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects in the region.

Imran Khan loyalists allowed to contest polls: Pak PM

PTI ■ LAHORE

Dakistan's caretaker Prime ${f P}$ Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said on Tuesday that the lovalists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan would be allowed to contest the upcoming polls. Since the unprecedented

attack on military installations by the supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on May 9 following the arrest of their leader Khan, there was speculation that members of the party might not be allowed to contest the general elections in January 2024. Asserting that the govern-

ment has no plan to place any ban on the PTI, Kakar told reporters here, "How can the government commit any such illegality? All the loyalists of Imran will be allowed to take part in the elections." He also pledged to ensure

a level playing field for all par-

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced the last week of



January 2024 for general elections. However, it has yet to give any specific date.

Both the PTI and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had long been demanding the ECP to give a specific date for the polls. They even raised doubts about the ECP's intentions, alleging that it might announce the date once the legal hurdles of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif were resolved.

Sharif returned to the country after four years of selfimposed exile in the UK, after what his rivals called, "reaching an understanding with the

military establishment." Khan has been in jail since

August 15. Currently, he is detained at Adiala Jail Rawalpindi in the Cipher case. On Tuesday he claimed through his counsel that he is being given "slow poison."

Kakar also dispelled the impression that the PML-N is

being given preferential treatment being the party of the establishment. "We are ensuring a level playing field for all parties and will ensure free and fair polls," the premier said. Meanwhile, the Punjab

caretaker government said that the army troops and paramilitary Rangers personnel will be deployed for the elections in the province to perform secu-

"The army and Rangers will be deployed in Punjab for the upcoming polls. As many as 147,000 army and paramilitary personnel will perform election security duties. Some 7,000 of 50,000 polling stations in Puniab have been declared sensitive," the government said in a statement.

Ex-Chinese premier to be cremated

Beijing (PTI): The cremation of former Chinese premier Li Keqiang will take place here on Thursday, an official announcement said on Tuesday, days after the acclaimed reformminded economist died suddenly

Li, 68 who was a contender for power against Chinese President Xi Jinping a decade ago, died of a heart attack on October 27 in Shanghai, just months after stepping down.

He was in Shanghai for rest after retiring from active politics in March this year, the state media reported."The remains of Comrade Li Keqiang will be cremated in Beijing on Thursday," the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Afghans in droves head to border to leave Pak

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

arge numbers of Afghans crammed into trucks and buses in Pakistan on Tuesday, heading to the border to return home hours before the expiration of a Pakistani government deadline for those who are in the country illegally to leave or face deportation. The deadline is part of a new anti-migrant crackdown that targets all undocumented or unregistered foreigners, according to Islamabad. But it mostly affects Afghans, who make up the bulk of migrants in Pakistan. The expulsion campaign

has drawn widespread criticism from UN agencies, rights groups and the Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan.

Pakistani officials warn that people who are in the country illegally face arrest and deportation after October

31. U.N. agencies say there are borders Afghanistan. mented Afghans in Pakistan, at least 6,00,000 of whom fled after the Taliban takeover in

Although the government insists it isn't targeting Afghans, the campaign comes amid strained relations between Pakistan and the Taliban rulers next door. Islamabad accuses Kabul of turning a blind eye to Taliban-allied militants, who find shelter in Afghanistan, from where they go back and forth across the two countries' shared 2,611-kilometre border to stage attacks in Pakistan. The Taliban deny the accusa-

"My father came to Pakistan 40 years ago," said 52vear-old Mohammad Amin, speaking in Peshawar, the capital of the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that

er also died here and their graves are in Pakistan," said Amin, originally from eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province. "We are going back today as we never tried to register ourselves as refugees with the U.N. refugee agency.""I am going back with good memories," he told The Associated Press, adding that he would head to the Torkham border crossing later Tuesday. Nasrullah Khan, 62, said

he'd heard the Taliban are considering helping Afghans on their return from Pakistan. He said he was not worried by the prospect of Taliban rule but that it was still "better to go back to Afghanistan instead of getting arrested here." More than 2,00,000 Afghans have returned home since the crackdown was launched, according

international humanitarian

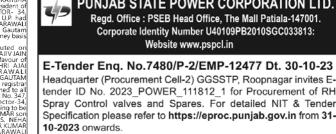
law, the report said.

to Pakistani officials. UN agenincrease in Afghans leaving Pakistan ahead of the deadline.

Pakistan has insisted the deportations would be carried out in a "phased and orderly"

Afghanistan is going through a severe humanitarian crisis, particularly for women and girls, who are banned by the Taliban from getting an education beyond the sixth grade, most public spaces and jobs.

There are also restrictions on media, activists, and civil society organizations. Jan Achakzai, a government spokesman in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province. said on Tuesday that anyone who is detained under the new policy will be well treated and receive transport to the Chaman border crossing point.



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Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Etender ID No. 2023_POWER_111812_1 for Procurement of RH Spray Control valves and Spares. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 31-10-2023 onwards. Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any, will be published online at

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

76155/12/2351/2023/29392 Dated CHD :- 10/31/2023

UN urges Russia to investigate Ukrainian village attack

UN investigators on Tuesday urged Russia to acknowledge responsibility for a missile strike on a Ukrainian village that killed 59 civilians, conduct a transparent investigation into what happened, provide reparations for victims and hold those responsible to account. The strike on a cafe in the village of Hroza on Oct. 5 was one of the deadliest strikes since the Kremlin's forces launched a full-scale invasion 20 months ago. Whole families perished while attending a wake for a local soldier who died fighting Russian troops. The blast killed 36 women, 22 men and an 8-year-old boy. Numerous bodies were found torn to pieces, and it took nearly a week to identify all the dead.

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said in a report published Tuesday it "has reasonable grounds to believe" that a



short-range precision-guided ballistic weapon — probably caused the blast in Hroza.

The extensive damage and weapon debris at the scene led investigators to that conclusion, the report said.

failed to undertake all feasible measures to verify that the intended target was a military objective rather than civilians or civilian objects, or deliberately targeted civilians or a civilian object."

UN mission in Ukraine, said in a statement The Kremlin did not directly address the strike in Hroza at the time, but contin-

holding perpetrators account-

at legitimate military targets in Ukraine. Russia's UN ambassador, however, told the U.N. Security Council, that "a high-ranking Ukrainian nationalist" and "a lot of neo-Nazi accomplices'

were at the wake.

Neither Moscow nor Kyiv officials made any immediate comment on Tuesday's report. Repeated civilian deaths

that it doesn't target civilians. Ukraine's presidential office said early Tuesday that one civilian was killed and at least 17 others were injured

The incident "serves as a The death was a woman stark reminder of the human visiting a cemetery and among cost of the war in Ukraine and the injured were five people underscores the necessity of traveling on a bus, it said.

over the previous 24 hours.

verka

www.verka.coop items:-Period/Tentative Qty For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh

a) Manual tender for Hiring of Professional agency for Trademark search & submission of feasibility report regarding registration of b) Job Contract for Housekeeping & Upkeep (Including pest Control) Annual of Milkfed Head Office.

For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy

a) Hiring of Car (Swift Dzire or its equivalent). Annual extendable for another one year/01No. Two year extendable for b) Allotment of Milk Bars at Civil Hospital, Gurdaspu another one year /01No. For Verka Bathinda Dairy Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of paneer manufacturing set up. Road Milk Tankers for transportation of milk within/outside Punjab. able," Danielle Bell, head of the Refrigerated Vehicles for Supply of Ice Cream Agency for providing security personnel (Ex-serviceman) Supply of Rice Husk for Boilers. For Verka Ludhiana Dairy
Hiring of insulated vehicles for supply of packed milk and fresh milk
products in Ludhiana city and adjoining towns. Annual with extension up to one For Verka Amritsar Dairy ued to insist that it aims only Deep Freezer (Cold Store) for storage of White Butter at Annual /01 -18°C or below.

Vehicles for supply of Fresh Milk and Milk Products. 02 No's b) Purchase of Total Mixed Ration Machine (TMR). Annual b) Purchase of I otal Mixed Ration Machine (IMR).

For Verka Patiala Dairy

a) Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Automatic High Speed Pio Glass Bottle Linear Filling Line (PLC Based) that includes Turn Table, Rinsing Machine, Filling Machine & Capping Machine having Capacity of 120 BPM.

b) Hiring of 4.0 MT vehicles for transportation of Fresh Milk and Milk products for Samana. Pattran and Ambala Cantt. area. Annual/ 02 No's products for Samana, Pattran and Ambala Cantt. area For Verka Faridkot Dairy
Hiring of insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from MCC's to various Milk plants in Punjab etc. 04 No. 01 No. Cap.10000 Kg. Cap.20000 Kg.

For Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy Hiring of passenger vehicle equivalent to SUV Vehicle for daily activities 01 No have weakened Russia's claim For Verka Jalandhar Dairy
a) Steam Coal having Calorific Value not less than 5500 Kcal/Kg 1500 MT (200 MT per month) Annual b) Hiring of insulated vehicles for supply of packed milk and fresh milk products in Jalandhar, Kapurthala and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar District.

For Verka CFP Ghania-Ke-Banger.

Hiring of Tankers for Transportation of Molasses For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.

2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

Incharge (Purchase)

4500 Mts(approx)

Renewable energy sources can meet 65% of world's power supply by 2030: Union Minister

As much as 90 per cent by 2050, he says

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

nion Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh on Tuesday said renewable energy sources can supply 65 per cent of the world's total electricity by 2030 and as much as 90 per cent by 2050.

Addressing the inauguration of the Sixth Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA), Singh said "Renewable energy sources have the potential to supply 65 per cent of the world's total electricity by 2030 and decarbonise 90 per cent of the power sector by 2050."

Currently, he informed that around 80 per cent of the

countries that depend on fossil fuel imports, totalling a staggering 6 billion people. Singh, who is also president of ISA, stated that the recent G20 Summit in New Delhi also underscored the urgent need for a transition to clean

Singh also invited all member countries, ISA Partner Organisations and other organisations present to partner with ISA in making it a catalyst for the transformative

"Our vision in mind when the ISA came into being was to create a sustainable world through the adoption of solar energy solutions," he stated. He stressed that the objective is to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030, aligning with the countries' established targets and policies and expanding aspirations to include zero and low emission technologies, adopting more blended finance and



risk-sharing facilities in the renewable energy sector. So, he said, "let us approach this Assembly Session with a sense of duty, purpose, and

optimism. I am confident that together, we can rise to the challenges of climate change before us.'

The Co-President of the

for the financial year 2021-22.

Transfer Pricing refers to the

pricing of cross-border trans-

actions between two related

Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, France's Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships

fight climate change, the International Solar Alliance has made progress towards being an efficient and resultsoriented organisation that is actively engaged in implementing its programmes on a global scale, significantly impacting the worldwide solar energy landscape."

Ajay Mathur, Director General, ISA said, "Encouragingly, investment in clean energy has seen a commendable 12 per cent annual growth rate since 2020, driven largely by solar and wind power projects."

However, he said that this surge in investment is primarily concentrated in a handful of countries, leaving many developing economies, particularly in Africa.

Ministers from 20 countries and delegates from across 116 Member and Signatory countries and 18 prospective countries joined the inaugural ceremony of the sixth ISA Assembly.

Credit growth to industry decelerated, improved for agriculture in Sept: RBI

The credit growth to industry decelerated in September while it improved in case of agriculture and services sectors, showed a Reserve Bank data released on Tuesday.

Personal loan growth too decelerated to 18.2 per cent year-onyear in September 2023 (19.4 per cent a year ago), due to moderation in credit growth to housing, the central bank said. The credit to industry grew 6.5 per cent (y-o-y) in September 2023 as compared with 12.6 per cent in the year-ago month. Among major industries, annu-

al credit growth to 'basic metal & metal products', 'food processing' and 'textiles' accelerated in September 2023 while that to 'all engineering', 'chemicals & chemical products' and 'infrastructure decelerated.

Growth in advances to agriculture and allied activities improved to 16.8 per cent (y-oy) in September 2023 from 13.4



er cent a year ago The Reserve Bank data showed

credit to services sector grew by 21.3 per cent (y-o-y) in September 2023 from 20.2 per cent a year ago with 'non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)' and 'trade' being the major contributors.

Data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for September 2023 has been collected from 40 select banks, accounting for about 93 per cent of the total non-food credit deployed by all scheduled commercial banks.



Significant increase in demand for AI, blockchain, cyber security talent in India: Report

PTI NEW DELHI

 $I^{\text{ndia's tech industry is going}}_{\text{through a transformative}}$ stage and the growing demand for automation and technical skills like big data analytics and artificial intelligence has created the need for skilled talent in the industry, says a report. According to global recruitment firm Michael Page India, there was 28-30 per cent growth in the demand for Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, Machine Learning (ML) and Cyber Security talent in the third quarter of 2023.

"As AI continues to transform various sectors, companies are seeking top talent to harness the potential of this technolofor experienced talent at mid to senior levels," said Pranshu Upadhyay, Regional Director of

Michael Page India. Demand remains high for experienced talent at mid to senior level. Observing the job postings volume on the Michael Page India website, a ranging from 28-30 per cent, was seen in Q3 2023 compared to Q1 and Q2.

"A noticeable shift is observed in the definition of a Chief Technology Officer (CTO), emphasizing visionary qualities and forward-thinking per-spectives. A modern day CTO is not expected to just execute but ideate as much," Upadhyay Upadhyay further said that even

at mid/junior level apart from hard skill sets in IT, soft skills such as good communication and interpersonal abilities are gaining prominence, underscoring the holistic approach required in the tech industry. Michael Page is a leading globin permanent, contract, and temporary recruitment.

Michael Page launched its India business in 2011 and has over 200+ specialist recruiters working on mid to senior level roles in 11 disciplines across offices in Mumbai, Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru.

Colgate Palmolive gets ₹170 cr Transfer Pricing Order from Income Tax

Leading oral care products maker Colgate-Palmolive (India) has received a Rs 170 crore Transfer Pricing Order from Income Tax authorities disallowing 'certain' international transactions. The Transfer Pricing Order is

entities.

The company will take this before the 'Dispute Resolution Panel' and is awaiting completion of the assessment proceedings, Colgate-Palmolive



(India) Ltd said in regulatory updates on Monday evening. The company is awaiting completion of the Draft Assessment proceedings and post the same, an application will be made before the Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP)," it said.

The Assessing Authority has disallowed certain international transactions of the company, it added.

However, Colgate-Palmolive (India) also added that there is no impact on the financial, operation or other activities of the company due to this Transfer Pricing Order.

The DRP is an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

mechanism for resolving disputes related to Transfer Pricing in international transactions. Last week, Colgate-Palmolive India reported a 22.31 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 340.05 crore for the September quarter. Its sales were up 6.09 per cent to Rs 1,462.38 crore.

Markets snap 2 days gain; settle lower



TOP GAINERS

PTI MUMBAI

 $E^{\text{quity benchmark indices}}_{\text{snapped two days of rally}}$ to settle lower on Tuesday amid unabated foreign fund outflows and escalating tensions in the Middle East.

tious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate deci-

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 237.72 points or 0.37 per cent to settle at 63,874.93. During the day, it fell 300.12 points or 0.46 per cent to

The Nifty dipped 61.30 points or 0.32 per cent to 19,079.60. Among the Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank and HDFC Bank were among the major lag-

Ťitan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Paints, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, Nestle and Power Grid were the major gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul,

Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Tokyo ended in the green.

European markets were trading in the positive territory. The US markets ended significantly higher on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.93 per cent to USD 88.31 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors worth Rs 1,761.86 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark jumped 329.85 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 64,112.65 on Monday. The Nifty advanced 93.65 points or 0.49 per cent

Government fiscal deficit rises to 39.3 pc of annual target in first half of FY24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

¬entral government's fiscal deficit touched 39.3 per cent of the full year target in the first half of the current financial year, slightly higher than 37.3 per cent recorded in

the year-ago period.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit or the gap between expenditure and revenue worked out at Rs 7.02 lakh crore at the end of September 2023, showed data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). In the Union Budget, the

bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2023-24 financial

The fiscal deficit was 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 against the earlier estimate of 6.71 per cent.



The tax revenue was at Rs 11.60 lakh crore or 49.8 per cent of the annual target. 2022-23, the net tax collection was 52.3 per cent of that year's annual Budget Estimate Centre's total expenditure was

Rs 21.19 lakh crore or 47.1 per cent of BE of 2023-24, marginally higher than 46.2 per cent of BE 2022-23.

Key infra sector growth slows

down to 8.1 pc

in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The growth of eight key infra-structure sectors slowed down to 8.1 per cent in September 2023 against 8.3 per cent recorded a year ago, according to the official data released on Tuesday.

Crude oil output dipped by 0.4 a contraction of 2.3 per cent in the same month last year. The core sector growth in August was 12.5 per cent. The output growth of the eight

sectors was also lower at 7.8 per cent in April-September 2023-24 against 9.8 per cent in the year-ago period.

Bharti Airtel Q2 net profit falls 37.5 per cent to ₹1,341 crore

Telecom company Bharti Airtel on Tuesday reported a 37.5 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,341 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The net profit stood at Rs 2,145 crore a year ago. For the just-ended quarter, the

consolidated net income (before exceptional items) came in at Rs 2,960 crore, up by 44.2 per cent year-on-year. The quarterly revenue rose 7.3 per cent to Rs 37,044 crore, backed by strong and con-

 $B^{\text{razil has offered to share its}}_{\text{ethanol production tech-}}$

nology with India as part of

efforts to resolve a sugar relat-

ed dispute between the two

countries at WTO (World Trade

Organisation), an official said.

The South American nation in

its proposal has stated that the

ethanol production technology would help India to use surplus

The offer can help India utilise

its excess sugar output and ease

competition for Brazil in the

Brazil is the largest producer of

sugarcane and ethanol in the

world. It is a leader in the tech-

nology used for ethanol pro-

duction. It is also the largest

exporter of sugar in the world.

India is the world's second-

international sugar market.

sugar in making ethanol.

PTI NEW DELHI

sistent performance in India ter with an "industry-leading operations", according to the company statement.

"This has been yet another quarter of solid revenue growth and improved margins. Our India revenue continues to gain momentum and grew sequentially by 2.4 per cent. Our consolidated revenue, however, was impacted by the devaluation of the Nigerian Naira," Bharti Airtel managing director Gopal Vittal said.

The company recorded 7.7 million 4Ĝ/5Ġ net subscribers addition and exited the quar-

ARPU of 203", he added. Our Postpaid and Homes businesses continued their strong growth trajectory as we added the highest ever net adds in both these segments in any single quarter. Our performance is underpinned by a simple and consistent strate-

gy of focusing on quality cus-

tomers and delivering the best

experience to them in a seam-

less digital way," Vittal further

Mobile ARPU increased to Rs 203 in Q2 2024 against Rs 190 in Q2 2023, Bharti Airtel said.

CARS24 narrows loss to ₹468 cr; expects business to turn profitable in coming years

Pre-owned vehicle sale, pur-chase and financing platform CARS24 has reported narrowing of loss at Rs 468 crore for the 2022-23 financial year.

The company had reported a loss of Rs 1,093 crore in 2021-22 fiscal.

Revenue from operations rose to Rs 5,535 crore in 2022-23 fiscal, as compared to Rs 5,136 crore in FY22, it said in its latest annual report. The company stated that with narrowing of losses in FY23, it expects to turn profitable in the coming years

"We are committed to seizing the dominant position in India's used-car market and will persistently invest in cutting-edge technology and innovative solutions to deliver an unparalleled user experience," it noted.

The company said it has substantially reduced advertising expenses even as it maintains consistent growth. "In the used-car category, we've

attained the highest level of brand awareness, powered by strong word-of-mouth that has enabled us to cut down on our marketing expenditure," CARS24 said. By solving for

process efficiency, automation and implementing these changes across the organisation, the company has achieved substantial cost reductions, it added. These cost savings, in turn, have

allowed us to reallocate resources to areas such as technology development, ensuring we're well-positioned for the long-term and can continue to provide exceptional value to our customers," the company

CARS24 total operating expense in FY23 stood at Rs 947 crore, as compared to Rs 1,155 crore in

BUSINESS BRIEF

RESOLUTION UNDER INSOLVENCY LAW New Delhi: More than 42,000 cases have been brought for

resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which has led to a behavioural change in the business landscape, encouraging companies to prioritise financial stability and sustainable practices, according to an official. At an event in Delhi on Tuesday, IBBI Whole Time Member Sudhaker Shukla also said that while competition and innovation are two things that drive a company, resolvability is a goal to cherish. "It ensures that companies remain sustainable and adaptable," he added.

LUXURYCO.CLUB STARTS NETWORKING PLATFORM New Delhi: Luxury Consultant

Madhavi Advani introduced the LuxuryCo. Club, a premium networking platform, and celebrated excellence with the Luxury Awards. The event featured esteemed guests like



H.E. Raunaq Yar Khan and singer Padamshree Penaz Masani, along with other notable personalities from various fields

POWERGRID HOLDS VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK Gurugram: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited is organizing

activities across its establishments in the country during Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) 2023. CMD, Directors and CVO led a

Gurugram participated



IMMERSIVE METAVERSE PLATFORM

New Delhi: With the urge to break boundaries, go beyond just

music, and embrace new technologies, Bickram Ghosh and Metastar Media are set to launch their collaboration. PLANETBICKRAM.IN, a first-of-its-kind fully immersive Metaverse platform for music lovers to engage and interact with Bickram's art and legacy. "This is a fantastic breakthrough in fan engagement for all artists and for me in particular... Music lovers can take a deep dive into my music, life & artistic journey, including stories and anecdotes relating to every single award, album, and concert, which I've never shared before," said Bickram.

Brazil offers to share ethanol production tech with India to resolve sugar-related dispute at WTO (FRP) to sugarcane farmers are Several disputes are already

The proposal could benefit India as it aims to gradually increase the percentage of blending of ethanol in petroleum auto fuels and reduce dependence on imported crude oil. "Brazil has a flex technology.

They do ethanol blending. That technology is good for India also. Brazil has argued that India can use its surplus sugar for ethanol production and through that India can deal with its fuel issue also and that surplus sugar would not enter into the global markets and not impact world prices," the official



"They have given a proposal. Discussions are happening," the official added.

Ethanol is used to blend with oil to power vehicles. Use of

cane as well as broken rice and other agri produce, will help the world's third largest oil consumer and importing country cut its reliance on overseas shipments. Also, it cuts carbon emissions. India is dependent on imports

for meeting 85 per cent of its oil needs. There is a target of 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol by 2025.

În 2019, Brazil, Australia and Guatemala dragged India into the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism alleging that New Delhi's support measures like Fair and Remunerative Price inconsistent with global trade A WTO dispute settlement

panel on December 14, 2021, ruled that India's support measures for the sugar sector are inconsistent with the global trade norms. In January 2022, India appealed

against the panel's ruling at the WTO's appellate body, which is the final authority to pass rulings against such disputes. The appellate body, however, is not functioning due to differences among the countries on appointments of members of the

pending with the appellate body. The US has been blocking the appointment of the members. The bilateral trade between India and Brazil increased to USD 16.6 billion in 2022-23 as against USD 12.2 billion in 2021-22. Trade gap is in favour of India. According to reports, Brazil is a

leader in ethanol-blended gasoline and has achieved 25 per cent blending levels. Flex-fuel vehicles can run on either gasoline or ethanol now have cornered a big market in Brazil, accounting for over 80 per cent of new light vehicle sales in 2022.

MESSI WINS BALLON D'OR FOR RECORD 8TH TIME

The list reads 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, and now 2023.

Lionel Messi won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record-extending eighth time on Monday after fulfilling his life's ambition by leading Argentina to the World Cup title in Qatar last

Adding to his silverware the one major trophy that eluded him in his storied career was the decisive factor in an otherwise quite mundane season — for his standards — at Paris Saint-Germain. The 36-year-old Messi won ahead of Manchester City forward Erling Haaland and his former PSG teammate Kylian

Messi thanked his Argentina coach, teammates and staff for making his victory possible.

"Tonight I'm enjoying myself. It's a pleasure that will never leave me, and I hope to be able to enjoy it for many years to come,' Messi said through a translator. "Becoming world champion was the title we were missing. I'd like to thank everyone who helped make Argentina the world champion team.

Messi also paid tribute to the late Diego Maradona, who also helped Argentina win the World Cup, back in 1986

Messi said, "I share them with you and all our Argentina com-

ne pioneer

Aitana Bonmati won the women's award for guiding Spain to victory at the Women's World Cup in August. She also helped Barcelona win the Women's Champions League and Spanish league.

A year after missing out on the shortlist for the 2022 Ballon d'Or, and despite leaving toplevel European soccer behind, Messi has recovered his crown. He won the sport's biggest individual prize due to his tremendous World Cup. In Qatar, Messi was involved in 10 goals for Argentina, scoring seven and assisting three. He scored twice in the final against

His final season with PSG was less shiny. Although PSG won a record-extending 11th French league, it again exited the Champions League in the round

Nobody else has won more than five Ballon d'Or. Cristiano Ronaldo has five, and Michel Platini, Johan Cruyff and Marco van Basten each won it three

Since moving to Inter Miami in the United States, Messi has already picked up his first silverware there by inspiring the team



Cup.
Messi's latest win marked the first time a Major League Soccer-based player got such recognition. Messi received the trophy from former Manchester United star David Beckham, who is one of the owners of his new club.

"I'm very happy with the decisions I've made and to be with Miami," Messi said. He succeeded Karim Benzema.

Mbappe hoped another Frenchman could win the Ballon d'Or after he scored a hat trick in the World Cup final, though France lost in a penalty shootout. Haaland led City to a treble of trophies last season - Champions League, English Premier League, FA Cup - while scoring 52

Bonmati had already been awarded UEFA best women's player and the Golden Ball for the top Women's World Cup player. She scored three times and assisted twice at the tourna-She followed in the footsteps of

her teammate Alexia Putellas, who took the past two awards. Bonmati won ahead of Sam Kerr and Salma Paralluelo.

We are a country that lives football, intensely," Bonmati said. "We have a unique talent in

trophy awarded by France Football magazine was based on achievements from the past season. It was previously awarded based on performances through a calendar year. Stanley Matthews won the first Ballon

d'Or in 1956. The women's trophy was created in 2018, and both were cancelled in 2020 because of the

pandemic. In other awards, the best under-21 player was Jude Bellingham, while Haaland won the Gerd

Müller award for the best striker of the year. The Lev Yashin award for best goalkeeper went to Emiliano Martinez. In addition to his tro-

phy, the Argentina goalkeeper collected boos and whistles from the audience at the Theatre du Chatelet that included Mbappe and France coach Didier Deschamps.

Martinez was criticized for the excessive tone of his World Cup celebrations. He carried a doll with Mbappe's face on it while standing alongside teammate Messi as Argentina paraded the trophy back home. Martinez, who also made a crude gesture after winning the Golden Glove award for best goalkeeper, was filmed mocking Mbappe in the team dressing room after the



Coco Gauff and Iga Swiatek win their WTA Finals opening matches in straight sets

AP ■ CANCUN (MEXICO)

U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff earned the first WTA Finals win of her career on Monday night, breezing past three-time major runner-up Ons Jabeur 6-0, 6-1 in a round robin match interrupted for a little more than an hour by rain. Gauff, a 19-year-old from Florida, went 0-3 in singles at the season-ending championship in 2022.

She quickly grabbed the first using a 9-0 advantage in winners to help accumulate a 29-10 edge in points - before play was halted because of the weather. When they resumed, Jabeur held serve to claim her first game and make it 1-all in the second set.

But she wouldn't gain another. After one shanked forehand in the second set, labeur spiked her racket off the temporary outdoor hard court that has drawn so much criticism from the players in Cancun. Later, she dumped a backhand return into the net and bounced her racket again. It wasn't until the last game that Iabeur finally earned a break point - three in all. Gauff saved each of those and then converted her fourth match point when Jabeur sent a forehand wide.

Earlier Monday, Iga Swiatek climbed out of a deep hole against Marketa Vondrousova and dominated the second set for a 7-6 (3), 6-0 victory. Both women then added their voices to the chorus of complaints about the playing conditions. "For sure," Swiatek said, "it's not comfortable."

Swiatek, who won the French Open in June for her third Grand Slam title, is ranked No. 2 and has a chance to overtake Aryna Sabalenka at No. 1 depending on their results this

Sabalenka is also among the players who have said the court built for the event is not satisfactory. Vondrousova called it "honestly very bad.'

The WTA said the court meets its standards.

the reigning Wimbledon champion, broke in three of Swiatek's initial four service games en route to a 5-2 edge at the outset. Swiatek had trouble finding her range and was responsible for 13 of the match's first 16 unforced errors. Vondrousova served for that set at 5-2 and 5-4, but Swiatek began turning things around and grabbed 13 of 17 points in one stretch. What became a four-game run put Swiatek ahead 6-5.

"I just wanted to be more precise and more solid and not play risky," Swiatek said.

At 3-all in the tiebreaker, Swiatek took over for good. She smacked a big forehand winner, collected a service winner and hit her first ace of the evening to get to set point, before Vondrousova double-faulted to end it.

That set took 64 minutes. The second lasted just 35, with Swiatek holding a 27-9 edge in points.

"She was playing amazing," Vondrousova said, "and there was nothing much to do.

Australia says it won't bid for 2034 FIFA World Cup; Saudi Arabia likely to host

 $F^{ootball\ Australia\ on\ Tuesday\ said\ it}_{won't\ bid\ for\ the\ 2034\ FIFA\ World}$ Cup, clearing the way for Saudi Arabia to host the men's marquee tournament. The chances of Australia hosting the 2034 event appeared unlikely after the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) backed the Saudi bid on October 5. Indonesia's football association initially showed interest in a joint bid with Australia, potentially alongside Malaysia and Singapore, but that faded when Indonesia instead backed Saudi Arabia. "We have explored the opportunity to bid to host the FIFA World Cup and having taken all factors into consideration - we have reached the conclusion not to do so for the 2034 competition," Football Australia said in a statement. Australia will instead attempt to secure hosting rights for the 2029 Club World Cup and the 2026 Women's Asian Cup. We believe we are in a strong position to host the oldest women's internation-



al competition in the world, the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026, and then welcome the greatest teams in world football for the 2029 FIFA Club World Cup," the FA statement said.

Australia and New Zealand successfully co-hosted the Women's World Cup in July and August. Brisbane, Queensland state, is due to become the third Australian city to host the Olympics when it stages the 2032 Summer



the 25-year-old Chopra said at a promotional event here.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

blocking' technique to breach 90m mark cent legs and 40 per cent upper body. So leg work is very important. I have Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Tuesday made it clear that his best is to do a lot of improvement in leg work," said the superstar javelin thrower. "I do a lot of things good. My flexibility is quite good, but personally I feel because of my arm speed, I am doing

Neeraj Chopra aims to work on his 'leg

yet to come and indicated that the elusive 90m mark could be breached next year if he makes improvement in his technique, especially concerning the leg-blocking. Chopra became world champion ear-lier this year, adding to his historic gold in the Tokyo Olympics, and then defended his Asian Games title in the

Hangzhou recently. "I want to say this very clearly that my best is yet to come. I have not felt in a competition for a long time that I have done my best or done near my best,

"6 cm is left to be achieved. It was 89.94m at Stockholm Diamond League (in June 2022). I was a bit behind the line that time. Had I thrown my javelin by moving a bit ahead, it would have been 90m," said Chopra at the event announcing his association



Nutrition'

His top-class flexibility and arm speed made him Olympic and world champion but Chopra wants to perfect his leg-blocking technique.
"My coach always says that it 60 per

with top supplements brand 'Optimum

work was not that good, my blocking leg was bending. It was not that great but the important thing was that my arm was giving very good throw, my arm speed was very good." He also said that "in some way or the

"Next year, I feel I will improve on my

technique, will work more on my strength and flexibility. If everything is

all right, 100 per cent fit and my groin is all right, I will do very well in Paris

He admitted that his technique while winning the Hangzhou Asian Games

"My technique was not going well dur-ing Hangzhou Asian Games. My leg-

gold was not up to the mark.

other," his preparations for Paris Olympics will be different, though he

Shooter Shriyanka wins Olympic quota for | Vidit crushes Niemann India, finishes 4th in Asian Shooting C'ship

Shriyanka Sadangi grabbed India's 13th Paris Olympics quota when she finished fourth in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event at the ongoing Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea on Tuesday.

Shriyanka shot 440.5, to bow out after the 43rd shot of the 45-shot final, equally distributed between the kneeling, prone and standing positions. Experienced Korean Lee Eunseo clinched

the gold while reigning air rifle world champion Han Jiayu of China won silver. China also took the bronze through Xia Siyu. All Indian women shooters in the 3P competition were on top of their mark from the qualification stage itself. Sift Kaur Samra, the India number one, shot 592 playing for ranking points only (RPO) to soar to the top of

Ashi Chouksey shot 591 to take the first qualifying spot among contenders and second overall. Shriyanka and Ayushi Podder made the top-eight with scores of 588 and 587 respectively.



10th overall with a tally of 586. Shriyanka was the hottest off the blocks

among the three Indians in the final beginning with a 10.9. She was second with 51.3 after the first five kneeling shots, while Ayushi and Ashi were lying sixth and seventh respectively.

After 10-shots, Han and Lee were already 1-2 and at the end of it Shriyanka had replaced Ayushi in fourth, a position she would hold till the end.

The prone position saw Ashi begin her move up while Shriyanka consolidated her fourth spot. Ayushi fell behind to seventh. Lee had

taken over the lead from Han. The fourth shot in the standing position was telling for both Shriyanka and Ashi as the former shot a 10.8 while the latter an 8.7.

An Indian quota was confirmed after the first 10-shots in the standing position when Korean Bae Sanghee and Ayushi bowed out in eighth and seventh respectively.

Going into the final five single-shots in fifth and sixth positions, Shriyanka shot 10.1 to Ashi's 9.8 as the former confirmed the quota in her name. Arina Altukhova of Kazakhstan was out next, but she too had picked up one of the two available Paris quotas. With 1.6 between her and China's Xia, Shriyanka shot a 10.0 for her 43rd to finish a creditable

to join pack of leaders

very well.

Olympics.'



PTI ISLE OF MAN (UK)

Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi crashed through the defences of Hans Moke Niemann of the United States to join the leaders' pack on 4.5 points after the end of the sixth round of FIDE Grand Swiss, a part of the world championship cycle,

Having lost the first round itself, it has been a remarkable turnaround for Vidit, who recorded his fourth victory in last five games displaying some immaculate technique.

Arjun Erigaisi is the other Indian in the eight-way lead that includes American duo of Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura, Russian Andrey Esipenkov, Serb Alexandr Predke, Javokhir SIndarov of Uzbekistan and Yu Yangti of China.

The next best Indians are a full point behind and need a lot of hard work in the last five rounds of USD 460000 prize money tournament. They are Aravindh Chithamba-

ram, S L Narayanan and Nihal Sarin In the sixth round Chithamba-

ram held higher ranked Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan to a draw while Nihal could not break the ice with his Kerala state-mate Narayanan.

After a stupendous run in the past few months, R Pragnanandhaa needs to get the steam back post the only rest day in the event. The Indian star is still looking for an elusive first victory here as he split points for the sixth time in a row here, this time against Shant Sargasyan of

Armenia. Also settling for a draw was P Harikrishna against Aryan Chopra but in another shocker. D Gukesh succumbed to yet another defeat in the event as Azerbaijan's Aydin Suleymanli

proved stronger. Gukesh, who is clearly struggling with his form here, is completely out of contention and will look forward to some damage control in the remaining part of the

Coming back to winning ways was the Indian trio of Abhijeet Gupta, Raunak Sadhwani and B Adhiban Gupta and Sadhwani reached a

respectable 50 per cent post their victories while Adhiban inched himself up to 2.5 points.

Vidit opened with the Ruy Lopez as white and quickly exchanged off both the rooks to reach ı queen and minor pieces mid-

dle game. The position was riddled with a lot of complexities but Vidit navigated them in sheer style.

Walking his Bishop to the base rank and Queen to the seventh to knock down a couple of pawns, the Indian ensured his King's safety at the same time and romped home in 53 moves. Arjun chose the Petroff defence to hold Yangyi easily. The pieces changed hands at a regular intervals and in less than thirty moves the players arrived at a drawn rook and pawns endgame. The draw was a just result. In the women's section, R Vaishali had another good result as she played out a draw with top seed Alexandra Goryachkins of Russia. Vaishali moved to 4.5 points and remains in joint second position behind Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine, who defeated overnight leader

Bibisara Assaubuyeva of

Kazakhstan to take her tally to

five out of a possible six.

Dribbling Past Odds: Hockey star Vandana Katariya wins battles on and off the field toric fourth in Tokyo. She scored She rose steadily and soon dis-

 $B^{\text{orn to Dalit parents, Vandana Katariya had to endure}$ snide remarks about her caste since childhood but even then it was hard to imagine that people would burst crackers in-front of her home in Roshnabad area of Uttarakhand's Haridwar district after India lost Olympics semi-final to Argentina

Vandana was still in Tokyo but a man called Vijay Pal and his friends were dancing in-front of her house and hurling casteist abuses at her family members. The man was arrested but she showed one and all, how difficult it is to rise through the ranks and wear national colours where deft stick work to outwit the opposition isn't the only criteria

One also needs to learn to dribble past racism, casteism, poverty and social taboos that never quite stops chasing the shadows. On Wednesday, Vandana did that imaginary spadework past all hindrances for the 300th time when she took the field against Japan in the women's Asian Champions Trophy. Vandana always dreamt of

becoming a hockey player since childhood. But she had to beat social stereotypes like grandmother's wish to learn household chores and get settled. Every rising star needs a hero and for Vandana, it was her father Nahar Singh Katariya

her pillar of strength. Nahar, who was a wrestler himself, fully backed her daughter would ever be good enough to

and went against the society and his family to help Vandana pursue her career in sports.

> 'My father used to run here and there to arrange money so that I can continue to play hockey. I don't have any idea from where he got the money for my stay in sports hostel. There were seeds of doubt at times whether I

support my family but my father never stopped believing in me,' Vandana had told PTI earlier. Her father, her biggest support system passed away just before the Tokyo Olympics and at that time it was her teammates who came in her support.

al duty, helping India finish a his-

Vandana overcame the adversities and performed her nationfour goals, including a hat-trick against South Africa during the group stage. But as she fought personal tragedy, those casteist slurs were

bleeding her thousand cuts. She bled but never stopped from doing her duty for the flag. In her initial days, Vandana did not even have proper equipments to train.

But life changed when she came under the wings of her first coach Pradeep Chinyoti, who spotted her at a school tourna-Chinyoti soon asked her to shift her base to Meerut in 2004 and

later in 2006.

played her skills and helped India to clinch a bronze medal at the 2013 Junior World Cup in Monchengladbach, Germany and also emerged as the country's top goal scorer with five strikes. Vandana is a true blue striker. A

package of speed, skills and ability to break into the opposition defence makes her different from others Her gradual progression also

saw her lead the Indian women's team in the 2016 Asian Champions Trophy, where her under leadership the country won the title, defeating China 2-1 in the the hard work finally paid off final. Vandana Katariya is one of when she was selected in the the finest ever to have donned junior women's team two years the India blues and her best is yet to come.

PAKISTAN PACERS RUN THROUGH BANGLADESH

he express pace battery, led by Shaheen Shah Afridi, helped Pakistan bundle out Bangladesh for a below-par 204 in the World Cup here on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old rattled the Bangladeshi top-order and became the fastest Pakistani to reach 100 ODI wickets before ending with figures of 9-1-23-3. Mohammad Wasim Jr. Then cleaned up the tail returning with figures of 8.1-1-31-3 as Bangladesh failed to last the distance yet again to be bowled out in 45.1 overs

Shaheen may have lost his pace a bit after recovering from a knee injury, but the 23-year-old bowled with clever variations and extracted swing on a flat Eden wicket.

Shaheen straightway got into the action, trapping Tanzid Hasan leg before wicket with extra bounce and late swing. That happened to be his 100th wicket in ODIs. He became the fastest Pakistani to do so beating Saqlain Mushtaq's mark by a couple of innings.

A brilliant low diving catch by Usama Mir at forward short leg made it two in two overs for Shaheen

It would have been worse for Bangladesh but Mahmudullah made a responsible 56 off 70 balls (6x4, 1x6) in a 79-run part-



nership with Litton Das (45;

From 6/2 in 2.4 overs, Bangladesh were looking at yet another capitulation when Haris Rauf dismissed Mushfigur Rahim to reduce them to 23/3 before Mahmudullah came to his team's rescue.

The intent was clear from the Bangladesh perspective as they promoted Mahmudullah to No

After Shaheen was taken off the attack, Pakistan also failed to build pressure from both ends, giving Litton and Mahmudullah enough opportunity to make a quick recovery

The likes of Wasim Jr and Mir, who impressed with their tidy show against South Africa, gave a lot of freebies and the Bangladeshi duo was happy to pierce

They welcomed Wasim Jr with a couple of boundaries while Mir too was hit for a four in his first

Bangladesh were looking in no trouble before off-spinner Iftikhar Ahmed (1/44) provided the crucial breakthrough

dismissing Litton.

Shaheen was recalled and bowling around the wicket, he produced a gem of a delivery to end Mahmudullah's stay in the mid-

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan then tried to forge a partnership but frittered away his start and was done in by a short ball from by Haris Raul (2/36).

For New Zealand (8 points from 6 games), the Dharamsala-leg after four straight victories didn't pan out on expected lines and another loss would give the likes of Afghanistan (6 points) and Pakistan (4 points) a shot at semi-final qualification.

One side endured the agony of a close defeat and other

felt the ecstacy of victory in a rip-roaring game but when

New Zealand and South Africa

clash in a World Cup game here

on Wednesday both will start

The current edition of World

Cup has featured mostly lop-

sided games but if the two

games stood out, one certainly

was South Africa's one-wicket

win against Pakistan in Chennai

and New Zealand nearly pulled

off a sensational chase of 388

against Australia before finish-

With both teams firmly in con-

tention for semi-final berths,

one can expect good game of

cricket where batters of both

sides are expected to set the

ing five runs short.

tone of the match.

on an even keel

On the other hand, if South Africa (10 points from 6 games) win, the 12 points will almost put them in the last-four bracket alongside India.

Hence, it would be one of the most high-stakes game of the league stage and a team like Pakistan wouldn't mind if New Zealand suffer a hat-trick of defeats.

Both teams have put up more than impressive bating performances in most of the games but the track at the Maharashtra Cricket Association ground in Gahunje hasn't exactly been a belter with spinners getting sufficient help like Afghanistan spinners did against Šri Lanka

OLD VS NEW

takes on South Africa

The most interesting aspect of the contest is the form of batters from both sides which has been the reason of their success so far Quinton de Kock (431), with three hundreds so far, has had perfect swansong tourney and would be determined to leave the ODI platform on a high.

Race to Semis: New Zealand

As destructive as anyone on his day, De Kock has been rolling back years and showing what he is capable of. If De Kock has pulverised the

opposition with his game of power and timing, on the other end young Rachin Ravindra (406), with more of Sachin Tendulkar's flair and a bit of Rahul Dravid's grit, is setting the world stage on fire. The left-hander has announced

his arrival as New Zealand cricket's next batting sensation and the manner in which he plays the aerial shots is a visual delight. Add to it, his steady but unspectacular slow left-arm orthodox bowling, makes him a complete package What makes it difficult to choose

between the sides is the performance of the batters — if Heinrich Klaasen (300 runs) is the power-hitting cum finisher for South Africa, New Zealand have their match in Jimmy Neesham, who nearly pulled off an improbable heist in fading lights at Dharamsala.

If David Miller's brute power gives an x-factor to Proteas, Daryl Mitchell's (322 runs) ability to take the game deep is an advantage for the Black Caps. Aiden Markram's skills could be countered by Glenn Phillips' talent as both bring another facet of their game — spin bowling to the table.

In fact, the batting similarities do not end there. Even the rival captains have similar batting styles. Both Temba Bayuma and Tom

injured Kane Williamson, are dogged accumulators, who once set, can be a thorn in the opposition flesh.

BOWLING UNIT

South Africa will expect that pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada is fit and raring to go after missing out on the Pakistan game in Chennai. Rabada has that aura which can always worry opposition and his presence certainly helps youngsters like Gerald Coetzee and Marco Jansen to up their game.

One department where South Africa hold a distinct advantage is having both Keshav Maharaj's orthodox left-arm spin and Tabraiz Shamsi's left-arm wrist

While Shamsi won the 'Player of the Match' award against Pakistan, New Zealanders will not be too worried as they played Kuldeep Yadav comfortably in the opening game. New Zealand have Mitchell

Santner in their ranks but Phillips after his stellar under four runs in a 10-over spell has come up well as the second spinner with Ish Sodhi being confined to reserve bench.

TEAMS FROM: South Africa: Temba Bavuma

(c), Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Andile Phehlukwayo, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen and Lizaad Williams.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (c), Trent Boult, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Tom Latham (vc & wk), Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee and Will

Latham counts on world-class bowling attack to tame in-form SA

PTI PUNE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

On the verge of equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record

number of ODI centuries, star

India batter Virat Kohli on

Tuesday said he had never

thought of accumulating so

many runs and hundreds when

he began his career. Kohli has

been in terrific form with the bat

in the ongoing ODI World Cup

with one century and three half

centuries in six matches. He sco-

red 103 not out against Bangla-

desh in Pune on October 19 for

his 48th ODI hundred, one sh-

ort of Tendulkar's world record.

He made 95 against New

Zealand in Dharamsala on

October 22, five runs short of

matching Tendulkar's record 49

"If we talk about cricket, I had

never thought of achieving all,

as in where my career is and how

god has blessed me (with) such

a career span and performances," Kohli told Star Sports.

"I had always dreamt I'd do this,

but I had never thought things

would pan out this way exactly.

Nobody can plan these things,

the way your journey is going,

and the way things unfold in

"I hadn't thought that I'd score

front of you.

tons in ODI cricket.

Stand-in New Zealand skipper Tom Latham on Tuesday called on his world-class bowlers to be proactive and understand the match-ups ahead of their crucial World Cup clash against a rampaging South Africa here.

It will be a battle between two formidable batting units when South Africa and New Zealand, who are currently at the second and third spots respectively, face off at the MCA stadium here on Wednesday

"Yeah, I think it's just recognising situations as best you can and trying to be proactive as much as we can as well from a bowling point of view and I guess from a field placement point of view as well," Latham said during the pre-match press

Hadn't thought that I'd score so

many hundreds and runs: Virat

so many hundreds and so many runs in these 12 years." He said he had to change his "discipline and lifestyle" as he found him-

self lacking in professionalism at

win games for the team from dif-

ficult situations. For that, I made

quite a few changes along the

way regarding discipline and

"I always had the drive in me, but

I lacked the professionalism.

Now, I have a single-minded

focus on how I want to play the

game, and after that, the results

I've achieved are from playing

nised by the sport.

some point in his career. "My only focus was that I should perform well for the team and

"Like every team we do our scouting, trying to find weaknesses from a batting point of view from South Africa, they're a team that's running pretty hot at the moment. "They've got some guys in form from a batting point of view. So again, it's going to be another great challenge. And we have come to a different venue and we've got to adapt as quick as we can to this ground here in Pune.

South Africa have posted three of the six highest scores in this edition of the ODI World Cup and Latham said they will need to strike regularly to stop the Protea batters.

"Wickets are really important. That's the way to stem the run rate as best you can by taking wickets and that's not just at the top, that's through the middle as well. We've seen South Africa, they're running really hot at the moment. An



a lot of power throughout the whole lineup. "I guess it's just trying to understand the match-ups as best you can. And we certainly know we've got a world-class bowling attack as well and when they're on song there and that's certainly very threatening.

ity then we'll certainly give ourselves a good chance and be it as I said on the back of that. South Africa has a lot of batters that are in form and it's going to be a great contest tomorrow.

Giving an update on the injuries to their key players, Latham said: "There's Lockie, Kane and Mark Chapman. We'll obviously get through hopefully a bit of work today and then we'll see how they pull up from a selection point of view.

But yeah, obviously, Lockie went off in the last game with a bit of achilles' niggle, so fingers crossed he'll be fine for tomorrow

While Lockie Ferguson suffered an achilles injury in the last game against Australia, Kane Williamson had fractured his thumb and couldn't take part in their last two matches. Mark Chapman too remains in doubt due to a cal

specialists in the session that

While he did face some local net bowlers to begin with, the focus him by India's throwdown spe-

few others. To his credit, Iyer responded deftly with powerful strikes, sending the ball into the stands or clearing the ropes mostly. Towards the end, Iyer also had India head coach Rahul Dravid feeding him throwdowns and for a change, the batting great also fed a few deliveries to Iyer to drive while the bowling coach Paras Mhambrey watched

lasted for nearly two hours under the sun.

point of the session soon turned into having Iyer facing innumerable short balls hurled at cialists D Raghavendra, the lefthanded Sri Lankan Nuwan Seneviratne and batting coach Vikram Rathour along with a

from a distance.

Bowling without Hasaranga has been challenging, says Theekshana



PTI ■ PUNE

Sri Lanka spinner Maheesh Theekshana says bowling in the absence of injured allrounder Wanindu Hasaranag has made his job tougher since the onus is on him to be the strike bowler.

Sri Lanka's star spinner Hasaranga was ruled out of the tournament due to a hamstring injury. He and Theekshana have formed a dynamic partnership in the ODI format.

"It is a challenge because he is the main wicket-taking bowler we had. So, then we both had a partnership that some days I had to be the strike bowler, some days he will be the strike bowler. The other guy will keep pressure on the batsman," Theekshana said after Sri Lanka's seven wicket loss to Afghanistan on Monday "So, with our combination right now, there's only one spinner can play, the wickets are really good. So, there's no turn. So, it's actually a good challenge for me and I think it's an opportunity Theekshana would help, the 23-year-old said, "We failed a lot in our middle order, so we cannot reduce it from the batting side. We cannot add spinners because the wicket is good." "We only have Wellalage and Dushmantha. Although they have good experience, if the wicket is good, then it will neg-

for me as well," he added. Asked if a change in combina-

tion, bringing in another spin-

ner to bowl in tandem with

just bring and add a player. As a team we cannot give a big responsibility to one such player because the wicket is good. "If the other team collects about seventy runs for six to seven wickets, his confidence will be lost. It is difficult for us to take that kind of risk.

atively affect their confidence. In

this kind of tournament, we can't

Sri Lanka's middle order has buckled under pressure in the ongoing showpiece, resulting in batting collapses.

The main area that requires enhancement is our batting, particularly in the middle order. We have the resources, and we are determined to make those improvements in our upcoming matches. I do believe our fielding has shown considerable improvement.

'Our inability to secure the middle overs played a significant role in our inability to win (against Afghanistan). On the bowling front, we did create opportunities to take more wickets, but we couldn't capitalise on them as effectively as desired." he

Shreyas Iyer's short ball troubles focal point in India nets

With his vulnerability against the short ball coming to the fore once again, India number four Shreyas Iyer trained with the aim of overcoming his longstanding struggles ahead of the World Cup game against Sri Lanka here on Γhursday.

None of the top-order guns -captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill - were in attendance for the optional session. Iver versus the short ball was the focal point. The team's famed bowling

attack, which delivered a fabu-



England last Sunday, also opted

Perched at the top of the World Cup points table and with a spot in the semifinals virtually sealed for Rohit and Co, it is only

er want to overcome and it was evident as far as his approach to the session on Tuesday was concerned. The right-handed batter, who is

along the way

back to his homeground that he shares with skipper Rohit, Suryakumar Yadav and Shardul Thakur in this Indian squad for the World Cup, faced plenty of short balls from throwdown

imperative that the team keeps ironing out the areas of concern

Iyer's troubles against the short

ball, combined with the lack of

big scores as the preferred No 4, is certainly something that the

team management and the play-

Trott wants Afghanistan batters to score centuries in World Cup has. "The middle order is in form, 3-4-5-6,

that way itself," he added. Kohli, who made his India The calm and collective batting effort of the Afghanistan team has found its own debut in 2008, said the effort put in by a cricketer is always recogset of admirers in the ongoing World Cup and head coach Jonathan Trott has set the The game recognises effort. next target for his players — someone needs Honestly, that's what I have to bat deep and score a hundred in remainlearnt from my career. ing three games. Enjoying their best ever "I've played cricket by giving my performance, Afghanistan have been on a hundred per cent on the field, giant killing run in the ongoing 50-over and the blessings I have got from it have been given to me by God, showpiece with comprehensive wins over defending champions England, rivals Pakistan and 1996 winners Sri Lanka, proand I had never thought things would have unfolded this way, ving that they can no longer be termed as he said. Kohli will have the minnows. "Nobody has got a hundred so far yet, so that's the next challenge. Someone chance to equal Tendulkar's feat in India's next match against Sri accepts responsibility and batting for a longer Lanka in Mumbai on Thursday. period of time and make sure we get a hun-



dred," Trott said at the press conference after Afghanistan's seven-wicket win over Sri

Lanka on Monday. The likes of opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmat Shah have come close but haven't been able to reach the magical three figure mark in the ongoing event. "You see, a lot of hundreds are scored in the tournament. That's the next frontier, the next barrier. Gurbaz has scored a few hundreds recently, you know Ibrahim as well. That's the next challenge and I have got no doubt that the players will be able to (get hundred) in the future. Hopefully, it starts with the next game," Trott added. Armed with a potent bowling attack, Afghanistan initially felt more comfortable defending totals but their batters have shown maturity as they have taken the side to back-to-back victories, chasing totals.

'I think we've been working really hard at our batting and doing the basics. I know it's very cliche, but the way that we train, the way we think about our cricket, certainly with batting, the way that we accept responsibility at times as well, I think you're starting to see hopefully not the penny drop, but we're starting to see also the confidence in the players, in their own ability," Trott said.

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