OPINION 6

THE HAMAS ATTACK:

LESSONS FOR INDIA

WORLD 8

FRANCE VOWS FIGHT

AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

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RED-HOT INDIA TAKE ON LANKA IN WC BATTLE OF UNEQUALS

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IDF pounds relief camp in Gaza

AP ■ RAFAH

irstrikes by the Israeli Alestrikes by the local ADefence Forces (IDF) hit apartment buildings in a refugee camp near Gaza City for a second day in a row on Wednesday, causing many deaths and injuries.

Al-Jazeera television, one of the few media outlets still reporting from northern Gaza, aired footage of devastation in the Jabaliya refugee camp near Gaza City and of several wounded people, including children, being brought to a nearby hospital. The strikes killed and wounded many people, but the exact toll was not vet known.

The Al-Jazeera footage showed nearly identical scenes as the day before, with dozens of men digging through the gray rubble of demolished multistory buildings in search of survivors. The toll from Tuesday's strikes was also unknown, though the director of a near-by hospital said hundreds were killed or wounded.

Israel said those strikes killed dozens of militants, including a senior Hamas commander who was involved in the militants' bloody October 7 rampage that ignited the war, and destroyed militant tunnels

beneath the buildings. Meanwhile, after more than three weeks of siege, the first Palestinians — dozens of dual passport holders and seriouslv iniured — were allowed to

Even as bombings have driven tens of thousands from their homes and food, water and fuel run low, no one has been allowed to leave the embattled enclave, except for four Israeli hostages released by Hamas. Another captive was rescued by Israeli forces earlier this week But a limited agreement appeared to have been reached on Wednesday.

Communications and internet services were gradually being restored after the second major cut in five days, according to Paltel, the main service provider. Humanitarian aid agencies have warned that such blackouts severely disrupt their work in an already dire situation in Gaza.

The Palestinian death toll in the Israel-Hamas war has reached 8,525. More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed, most of them civilians slain in the initial October 7 Hamas rampage that started the fighting. In addition, around 240 hostages were taken from Israel into Gaza by the militant group. One of the captives, a female Israeli soldier, was rescued in a special forces operation.

In a sign of increasing alarm over the war among Arab countries, Jordan on Wednesday recalled its ambassador from Israel and told Israel's ambassador to remain out of the country. Jordan, a key US ally, signed a peace deal with Israel in 1994, the second Arab country after Egypt to do



Palestinians inspect the damage of buildings destroyed by Israeli airstrikes on Jabaliya refugee camp on the outskirts of Gaza City

Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister, Ayman al-Safadi, who is also the foreign minister, said the return of the ambassadors is linked to Israel "stopping its war on Gaza... and the humanitarian catastrophe it is causing." He warned of the potential of the conflict to spread, threatening "the security of the entire region."

Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister said on Wednesday that time is of the essence in

stopping the Hamas-Israel war from "going out of control" and affecting Lebanon and the

wider region. Najib Mikati has been scrambling with international governments to keep Lebanon clashes so far have mostly been

away from the war, as militants from the Hezbollah group and Israeli troops have been clashing along the tense Lebanon-Israel border since the onset of the war on October 7. The

limited to areas along the bor-

His comments come days before Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is scheduled to give his first speech since the start of the war. Lebanon is experiencing political paralysis and economic turmoil, leaving many worried of the consequences of a fully fledged war in the crisis-hit country. He condemned both Israeli

strikes in southern Lebanon and attacks in the blockaded Palestinian Gaza Strip.

"A humanitarian cease-fire for five days is necessary, where there can be active international talks to secure prisoner swaps and reach a permanent truce in order to reach an agreement on the conditions for regional peace," Mikati said before a government meeting. Israel and Hezbollah fought a monthlong war in 2006 that ended in a draw. Israel sees Hezbollah as its most immediate threat, estimating that it has some 150,000 precision-guided missiles pointed at it.

"Enough war in Lebanon, for we are with the choice of peace," Mikati said.

Heads of Israeli universities sent a letter to colleagues around the world expressing deep concern over anti-Israel and antisemitic discourse at some universities following Hamas's deadly attack on Israel and the war it triggered in the Gaza Strip.

The Association of University Heads in Israel also criticized what it sees as the inadequate response of some academic leaders. 'It's unsettling to note that

many college campuses have become breeding grounds for anti-Israel and antisemitic sentiments, largely fueled by a naïve and biased understanding of the conflict," the letter

"Freedom of speech is a cornerstone of academic freedom, but it should not be manipulated to legitimize hate speech or to justify violence." Tensions on campuses in the

US and Europe have been inflamed since the Hamas attack. Some students and faculty have expressed support for the militant group and its attack. At Harvard, a coalition of more

than 30 student groups said Israel was "entirely responsible" for the Hamas attack that killed more than 1,400 people. At Cornell University, police

were sent to guard the Center for Jewish Living over intimidating posts.

The comments have raised fundamental questions regarding free speech and its limits. 'Just as it would be unthinkable for an academic institution to extend free speech protections to groups targeting other protected classes, so too should demonstrations that call for our destruction and glorify violence against Jews be explicitly prohibited and condemned," the Israeli university heads said in

INDIA bloc in disarray

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

The five months old alliance of Opposition parties, INDIA, seems to be in tatters. with major stakeholders' top leaders, including Sharad Pawar, Sitaram Yechury, Omar Abdullah and Akhiles all voicing concerns about

"problems in the alliance".

While the largest Opposition party, the Congress, seems to be taking it slow and preparing to assert itself if it performs well in the Assembly polls in five States this month, two other major parties, the AAP and the TMC, have found themselves in trouble.

Arvind Kejriwal and his close confidants are under scrutiny by investigative agencies in connection with an excise scam, while Mamata Baneriee's party is mired in allegations against her Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra, who is accused of asking questions in exchange for money in Parliament.

Kejriwal will undergo ED questioning on Thursday, and Moitra is scheduled to appear before the Lok Sabha Éthics committee on the same day. Both the AAP and the TMC have characterised these actions as political vendettas, with Mamata maintaining a stoic silence regarding the cash

for query episode and leaving the decision to the people.

Mamata accused the BJP of

conspiring to arrest all Opposition leaders before next year's Lok Sabha polls and manipulate votes in their favour in what she described as an "empty country".

tioned that with no upcoming meeting of the INDIA alliance scheduled there is a sense that it would have been beneficial to establish a common understanding among the bloc partners for the upcoming State elections. However, the public airing of

differences between the Congress and Samajwadi Party, along with the recent Moitra episode, followed by Kejriwal's summons to the ED, have shaken the confidence that had been building since the first meeting in Patna, followed by Bengaluru, and the last one in August in Mumbai. NCP chief Sharad Pawar last Saturday said while members of the ÍNDIA alliance might have differences at the State level, there is also a feeling that all must fight the Lok Sabha

polls together. The next meeting was to be over discussing the rationalisation of seats for the general

"It is not so easy in State polls the way it is in the Lok Sabha elections. Among our colleagues, there is definitely a

feeling we have to come together for the LS polls. There is difficulty in some State elections. But for the LS, there is a feeling we should work together," rar said, pointing out there were States where the Congress alliance partners have menas well as regional parties were equally important and differences in such cases should be resolved by dialogue.

In the case of West Bengal, where TMC was considered strong, neither the Left nor the Congress could be "bypassed," according to Pawar. Similarly CPI(M) general sec-

retary Sitaram Yechury said the opinion of the majority in the grouping has been that the alliance is for the Lok Sabha polls but fighting State polls together would have been good for the alliance.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said the situation within the Opposition alliance is not good.

The remarks by Pawar and other leaders come against the backdrop of the Congress and other INDIA bloc parties contesting against each other in the upcoming Assembly elections in five States.

Akhilesh had recently expressed his unhappiness with the Congress on the seat-sharing issue and the Congress leaders also engaged in verbal

In response to a question about Abdullah's comments regarding internal strife within the INDIA bloc as five State Assemblies go to polls, Yechury stated the ing opinion within the INDIA bloc is that the alliance is primarily aimed at the 2024 Parliamentary elections and ensuring that the BJP does not gain control over state power. We wish it could have

happened in the States (polls) as well. There should have been greater coordination, cooperation in the Assembly polls, it would have been helpful in 2024," Yechury

"All is not well with the INDIA alliance. Squabbles, which should not have been there, can be seen, especially in the four five States where elections are being held. We have seen how the Samajwadi Party and the Congress are fighting each other. Both are saying they will contest all the seats in Uttar Pradesh. This is not good for the INDIA alliance. Maybe after upcoming State Assembly elections, we will meet again and will try to work together," Abdullah said

early this week.

India, Bangladesh ties on the rail PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/AGARTALA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on

Wednesday jointly inaugurated three India assisted projects via virtual mode. These include Nischintapur and Gangasagar in the neighbouring country. Modi described the rail link a "historic moment."

The other two projects inaugurated by Modi and Hasina are the 65 km Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line, and Unit 2 of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant in Bangladesh's Rampal. Modi said inauguration of the India-Bangladesh rail project — the Agartala-Akhaura Cross Border Rail Link — was a

"historic" moment. This is the first rail link between the northeast and

Bangladesh," he said. The 12.24 km rail project (6.78 km dual gauge line in Bangladesh and 5.46 km in Tripura) between Nischintapur and Gangasagar is expected to boost cross-border trade and significantly reduce the travel time between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka. The trial run of the rail project was completed on Monday, after a train from Gangasagar railway station in Brahmanbaria district of



have connected once again to celebrate the success of the India-Bangladesh cooperation. In the past nine years, the work we have done together has not happened in decades," Modi said in an interaction with Hasina.

He also said, "In last nine years, our internal trade has tripled... Today, the inauguration of the Akhaura-Agartala rail link is a historic moment... This is the first rail link between Bangladesh and the North Eastern States of India... Tripura has had a strong bond with Bangladesh since the days of its Liberation struggle." Hasina said the three projects

would further strengthen the infrastructure development collaboration between the two

The joint inauguration of these important projects shows that we have a strong bond of friendship and collaboration... I also thank Modi for the warm hospitality during my visit in September for the G20 Summit," she said.

"I think it is an instance for the world. We have proved that good relations with the neighbour accelerate the country's development. It is a demonstration of having rare friendly relations and mutual cooperation. Bangladesh and India will attain many successes in the days to come through mutual cooperation, which will strengthen the relationship between the two countries, Hasina said.

She also said mutual efforts have helped ensure peace and stability in the northeast region

of India, and establish connectivity between many Indian States with its northeast part through Chattogram and Mongla Ports. India had extended ₹392.52 crore as grant assistance to Bangladesh for the Agartala-Akhaura Cross Border Rail Link, officials said

As part of the Khulna-Mongla

Port Rail Line, a 65 km broad

gauge route was constructed

between Bangladesh's Mongla

Port and the existing rail network in Khulna. The 1,320 MW Maitree Super Thermal Power Project was implemented by the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd, a 50:50 joint venture between India's NTPC and the Bangladesh Power Development Board. The plant is located at Rampal Khulna division of

India shines bright in UNESCO Creative Cities Network

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

walior in Madhya Pradesh Grecognised for its rich musical heritage, and Kozhikode in Kerala, distinguished for its literary excellence, India's both nominations have earned a presti-gious spot in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

These historic cities are among the 55 new cities that have joined the UCCN. UNESCO made the announcement on its official website on Tuesday. The UNESCO designation will not only provide global recognition to these identified cities but also facilitate international funding, collaborations with relevant institutes, and promote their respective creative fields as products.

can now boast a total of seven cities on the coveted UCCN list. The Indian cities already on the UCCN list include Srinagar for Crafts and Folk Arts (2021), Mumbai for Film (2019), Hyderabad for Gastronomy (2019), Chennai for Music (2017), Jaipur for Crafts and Folk Arts (2015), and Varanasi for Music (2015)

With this latest addition, India

UNESCO's Following announcement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated the inclusion, saying that India's cultural vibrancy "shines brighter on the global stage". These cities have been acknowledged for "their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and displaying innovative pracplanning," the world body said in a statement.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah joined the PM in applauding the development, emphasising that the global recognition will strengthen India's cultural identity.
In a post on X, Shah said, "It is

another moment of elation for our nation as Gwalior and Kozhikode have been included in @UNESCO's Creative Cities Network. Recognising Gwalior's glorious heritage of music, the city has been designated as the 'City of Music,' and Kozhikode in Kerala as the

UNESCO? The global recognition of our creative spirit will invigorate the creative pursuits of our poets, authors, and musicians with a tices in human-centered urban renewed zest while strengthen-

'City of Literature' by

ing our cultural identity," he Echoing similar sentiments, G

Kishan Reddy, Union Culture and Tourism Minister, called it "A proud moment for India. "These cities get acknowledged and recognised for their strong commitment to harnessing cul-

and creativity. Congratulations to all stakeholders!" tweeted the Union Minister. Meanwhile, the UNESCO statement added that on World Cities Day, designated by the

United Nations on October 31, a total of 55 cities have joined the UCCN New cities were acknowledged for their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and for display-

ing innovative practices in

human-centred urban planning. With the latest additions, the

UCCN have 350 cities in over 100 countries, representing seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music. Bukhara for Crafts and Folk

Art, Casablanca for Media Arts, Chongqing for Design, Kathmandu for Film, Rio de Janeiro for Literature, and Ulaanbaatar for Crafts and Folk Art are among the 55 new cities designated by UNESCO. 'The cities in our Creative Cities Network are leading the way when it comes to enhancing access to culture and galvanizing the power of creativity for urban resilience and development," said Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General.

An upcoming policy paper titled "The Added Value of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network at Local, National, and International Levels" will attest to the leading role played by cities towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda while demonstrating ways in which UNESCO supports the UCCN members by fostering dialogue, peer-to-peer learning, and col-

laboration, it said. The newly designated Creative Cities will participate in next year's UCCN annual meeting to be held in July 2024 in Braga, Portugal, under the theme Bringing Youth to the Table for the Next Decade," the statement said. Every year, UNESCO seeks applications from various cities across the globe to include them in its UCCN project.

ED seizes assets of **Jet Airways founder**

PTI NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has attached in London Dubai and India assets worth ₹538.05 crore of Jet Airways founder Naresh Goval, his family members and companies as part of a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged bank loan fraud. The attached properties include

17 residential flats, bungalows and commercial premises.

Located in London, Dubai and various cities in India, these properties are in the name of various companies like Jetair Private Limited and Jet Enterprises Private Limited, Goyal, his wife Anita, and son

Nivaan, the federal agency said in a statement. Goyal, 74, was arrested by the

Bangladesh.

ED on September 1 and the agency filed a chargesheet against him on Tuesday before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai. He is in judicial custody and lodged in Mumbai's Arthur Road jail. Jet Airways, a full-service carrier, shut its operations in April 2019 after running out of cash. Later, Goyal stepped

airline. The money laundering case against Goyal stems from a CBI FIR that was registered on the

down as the chairperson of the

basis of a complaint by Canara Bank, Mumbai.

SP hints at fighting on 65 of Maratha quota stir sees violence, 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP

⊣he Samajwadi Party on Wednesday indicated that it will contest on 65 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2024

SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who attended a meeting of the party's State executive committee here, called upon party workers to make full preparations to remove the BJP from power in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

This election will decide the future of coming generations. It will be the last election to save democracy and Constitution. Party workers should make full preparations to remove the BJP from power in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," Yadav was quoted as having told the state executive meet at the party headquarters

The Samajwadi Party, which is the main constituent of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) of opposition parties, also indicated that it will contest on 65 seats leaving the remaining to



spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary, while confirming that the party president has given indications of the party contesting on 65 seats, said that he has asked for making preparations for all the 80 seats.

'Yadav has asked party workers to remain vigilant at the booth level to prevent the BJP from coming to power," Chaudhary told PTI.

Asked whether the Samajwadi Party will be a part of the INDIA bloc in the parliamentary elections amid the strained relations between it and the Congress over seat sharing for the Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, Chaudhary said, "There is an alliance for the Lok Sabha elections, that is certain.

According to party spokesman Faqrul Hasan Chand, Yadav told the party cadre that the SP is the biggest party in the state and had got 35 per cent vote share in the recent assembly elections and is also a part of the INDIA alliance. Therefore, the SP will contest on 65 of the 80 seats while leaving the rest for its allies

During the last Lok Sabha elections, the SP, which had entered into an alliance with the BSP, also left three seats for the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). The RLD had contested the recent assembly elections with the SP and is still a part of the SP-led

alliance. Just before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the SP and the BSP had cobbled together an alliance in which the BSP contested 38 seats and the SP 37 The alliance had left two seats for the Congress -- Rae Bareli and Amethi -- and did not field their candidates there.

In his address, Yadav cautioned the BJP government

will try to influence the elections by misusing the administration.

Stressing that his party will expose the anti-people policies of the BJP, he said the Samajwadi Party is not afraid of BJP's conspiracies and malicious actions.

"People are looking at the Samajwadi Party as an alternative. BJP is implicating Samajwadi Party workers in false cases. The public is watching everything, they will remove BJP from power in 2024," he said.

The Samajwadi Party has been fighting for social justice for a long time and the conduct of a caste census is very important to take this fight forward, he

Only through this census will everyone get their rights and respect, he said, adding that the BJP was against holding a caste

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Privileges Committee of Rajya Sabha will deliberate on pending cases of complaints of breach against MPs Raghav Chadha, Sanjay Singh and Derek O'Brien during its meeting on

Sources said the meeting is

being held to "secure expeditious

The release said that in the state executive meeting of Samajwadi Party Uttar Pradesh, the political situation of the state, party organization and election strategy were dis-

Patil refuses to call off agitation

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBA

mid stray incidents of vio-Allence reported from different parts of the State, Shivba Sanghatana president Manoj Jarange-Patil on Wednesday refused to call off his eight-day-old agitation demanding reservations for Marathas, even after leaders present at an all-party meeting called by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde appealed to him to end his

At an all-meeting called by the chief minister, leaders from all political parties discussed the ways to grant reservations in jobs and education to Maratha community members.

The leaders of all political hues requested Jarange-Patil to withdraw his fast as the government was working towards reservations to the community.
In a resolution adopted at the

all-party meeting, the leaders present were unanimous about granting reservations to Marathas.

"The reservations (to Marahas) can be done only after completing all the legal formalities and ensuring that reservation would stand legal scrutiny. For this all political parties are

of privilege cases for consider-

ation of its recommendations by

In a notification, the Rajva

Sabha Secretariat said,

"Members are informed that the

next meeting of the Committee

of Privileges will be held at 11

AM on Friday, November 3,

2023, in the Committee room

no 4 in Parliament House

annexe extension building." The

the Council of States".



ready to work together," a resolution adopted at the allparty meeting said.

The legal formalities shall be completed as soon as possible. However, the government must be given sufficient time to deal with various issues," the resolution added.

Deploring the violence that has broken out over Maratha reservations in various parts of the state, the leaders said: "The situation we are witnessing in the state is not good. The violence is projecting the Marathas quota agitation in a bad light. We are strongly against such violence. Nobody should take the law into their hands. We appeal to all maintain the law and order situation in the state".

RS panel meet on Friday to discuss breach

The sources said complaints of

breach of privilege of Parliament

are pending against AAP MPs

Chadha and Singh and TMC's

O'Brien, after Chairman Jagdeep

Dhankhar referred them to the

Incidentally, both Chadha and

Singh are currently suspended from the house. Chadha is

Privileges Committee.

of privilege by Chadha, Sanjay, O'Brien

culated later.

Talking to media persons after the all-party meeting, Shinde said: "The leaders present at the meeting felt that Maratha reservation should be within the ambit of law. While giving reservation to Marathas, we should not do any injustice to other communities. For this we need some time, we need to

have some patience".

to pass the scrutiny of law...you need to trust the sincere efforts being made by the state government and also when it comes to the question of reservation to the Marathas, all the political parties are together," he said. Shinde said the state govern-

"Whatever we do would need

ment would pursue the route of

of adding their names to a

motion without their consent.

The motion sought constitution

of a select committee to exam-

ine the contentious Delhi

Services Bill. The panel meeting

assumes significance as it comes

in the backdrop of recent

Supreme Court observations in

the Chadha case. During the

hearing on the suspension of

Supreme Court sincerely.

The all-meeting was attended by more than 30 leaders including Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar. Congress state President Nana Patole, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Leader of Opposition (Council) Ambadas Danve, Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Vijay Wadettiwar, and others.

Meanwhile, rejecting the appeal made by the all-party meeting, Jarange-Patil indicated that he would not withdraw his hunger agitation but intensify it.
"There is a lot of anger among

the people against the state government. The question of withdrawing my agitation does not arise. I will not even drink water till the state government takes a formal decision on the Maratha reservations," he said. Jarange-Patil — whose hunger agitation entered the eighth day on Wednesday — said, "What is the state government seeking time for? ... I have been fasting for the past eight days and now the government says it wants more time. Why does it need time and for what? The government should specify," he said.

repercussions for people's right

to be represented by a person of

It also asked whether the

Privileges Committee could

order Chadha's suspension from

Rajya Sabha for an unspecified

duration. The top court said the

exclusion of a member of the

opposition from the House just

because of a perspective which

their choice.



4 LeT ultra aides held in J&K

PTI SRINAGAR

Security forces arrested four militant associates linked with the Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla, police said on Wednesday.

At a checkpoint established at Naradhiri Dangerpora junction on Monday, security forces intercepted two suspicious persons who on seeing the joint party of the forces ly apprehended, a police spokesperson said. The militant associates were

identified as Ghulam Hassan Mir and Mukhtar Ahmad Khan, both residents of Baramulla's Chandoosa, he

During the search, a Chinese pistol, a pistol magazine, 12 live rounds, 2 hand grenades and other incriminating material were recovered from their possession, the spokesperson

Saima nominated as next regional director of WHO's SEARO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Saima Wazed, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daugh ter and a well known mental

inated by Nepal.



E-TENDER NOTICE

Corrigendum-1 for e-Tende Providing Catering Housekeeping and Hospitality
Management Services at IIIV Ranchi, has been published on IIM Ranchi website. Bids can be submitted till 15:00 or 07.11.2023

Any further information and tender details will be available

India, UAE sign MoU to boost cooperation in education sector



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $U_{\text{Development}}^{\text{nion Education and Skill}} \&$ Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday met Minister of Education UAE, Dr. Ahmad Al Falasi in Abu Dhabi.

According to the Press Information Bureau statement, the Ministers signed an educational cooperation facilitating student and faculty mobility and various other initiatives. The Minister also visited 42 Abu Dhabi, a School for Disruptive Learning. Pradhan is on a 3-day visit to

The visit will be fostering collaboration, participation and synergy in critical areas of mutual interest in the education and the skill domain. During his meeting with his UAE counterpart, Pradhan said that UAE being a Global Economic hotspot and India being a Global Talent hotspot, both sides should work together to build a knowledge bridge to cement our civilizational connect.

The Ministers reviewed the as a part of the G2 with respect to mutual recognition of academic and skill work in this area.

The Ministers expressed their commitment to strengthen institutional mechanisms and speed up processes for smooth student and workforce mobil-

2 dead as boat capsizes in Saryu River

Saran: Two persons died and seven others were missing after a boat carrying them capsized in the Saryu River in Bihar's Saran district on Wednesday, officials said. Nine people managed to swim to the bank, while the bodies of two women were fished out, they said.

Officials said they fear that the seven missing persons may also have drowned. However,

rescue efforts will continue throughout the night. Saran District Magistrate Aman Samir told PTI, "The incident took place around 6.30 pm when a boat carrying 18 peo-ple drowned in Saryu River near Matiyar Ghat in Manjhi

"A rescue operation has been launched and we are trying to identify the deceased," he said.

bilateral engagements in education and skill development, particularly the progress on points discussed during our meeting on the sidelines of the India. They expressed satisfaction on the progress made qualifications, recognition of Indian institutes in the UAE among others and underscored the need for continued

processing and finalisation of the notification also said the agencommittee report in the breach da for the meeting would be cir-Mob tries to gherao police office to get arms; curfew relaxation withdrawn in Imphal

Amob on Wednesday tried to gherao a Manipur Police office complex demanding arms in Imphal, the capital of the restive state, prompting the authorities to order firing withdraw curfew relaxations in two districts, officials said

The Manipur government has withdrawn the daily curfew relaxation from 5 am to 10 pm in Imphal East and West districts "with immediate effect owing to developing law and order situation", according to an official order.

The decision came following the attempt by a group of peo-ple to gherao the 1st Manipur Rifles complex, close to Raj Bhavan and Chief Minister's Office in Imphal West district, demanding weapons.

Security forces fired several rounds in the air to disperse the mob, officials said.

Tension had been brewing in the state capital after an onduty sub-divisional police officer at Moreh town was shot dead by tribal militants on Tuesday morning.

In another incident, three police personnel suffered bullet injuries when militants ambushed a convoy of the state force at Sinam in Tengnoupal district on Tuesday afternoon. The convoy was sent to Moreh as reinforcement



to assist in conducting opera-

The state has remained gripped by recurring bouts of violence since ethnic clashes first erupted in May. More than 180 people have been killed since then. The clashes have occurred over a number of grievances that both sides have against the other however the flashpoint of the crisis has been a move to give Meiteis scheduled tribe status, which has since been rolled back and an attempt to turf out tribals living in protected forest areas

ed forest areas.

Meiteis account for about 53
per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the
Imphal Valley, while tribals,
which include Nagas and
Kukis, constitute 40 per cent
and reside mainly in the hill
districts

under suspension since August Chadha, the court had observed may not be consistent with the 11 after some MPs, a majority from the ruling BJP, accused him that indefinite suspension of an viewpoint of the government is MP could have very serious Mamata breaks silence on

ED summons to Kejriwal SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

mid growing apprehensions in the Trinamool Congress regarding Mamata Banerjee's fate post the Enforcement Directorate sum-Arvind Kejriwal, the Bengal Chief Minister on Wednesday preferred to maintain "golden silence" and advised "tolerance till things could be toler-

Mamata's reaction looked measured yet a bit evasive when she was asked about the looming danger on Kejriwal even as she said, "Arvind has got a notice like many others ... then there are leaders whose mobile phones are being hacked ... I personally feel very sad and ashamed about whatever is going on in our country." Then she quickly said,

country is my pride and I will not make any statement that will paint my country in a bad light abroad ... I often wonder what the people around the world are tĥinking about us ... I do not want to speak much

about this ... as it is time to maintain golden silence which is sometimes good ... I will better not react to this question and only say that we will have to tolerate whatever is going on till we can tolerate

Earlier much in the lines of what Aam Aadmi Party leader Atishi said early on Wednesday about Kejriwal's possible arrest on Thursday a senior leader and minister in the Trinamol Congress said he would not be surprised if the ED too summoned Mamata in days to

For this the TMC minister from Kolkata quoted two statements: one from Bengal BJP president Sukanto Majumdar and the other from Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari.

Majumdar quoting the Comptroller and Auditor General said that, "CAG had on several occasions demanded reports from the State Food Department ... it had even asked for reports from the then State Chief Secretary but was not provided with the

takes instructions only from the Chief Minister ... it is mandatory that he and after him the Chief Minister be summoned for questioning ... it is imperative in the backdrop go into several thousand

crores. Subsequently Adhikari too said that at least 70 MLAs were in the radar of the ED and they may soon be called for questioning on their possible links with the ration scam. The BJP presently has 70 MLAs and needs another 78 MLAs to form a Government in the

State. "It is based upon these dirty realities that many of us are apprehensive of the BJP's designs in Bengal ... having lost in the elections they may now try to bully our leaders into submission ... this goal can best be achieved if our supremo can be subjugated," the minister said adding "one will not be surprised if ED follows the Kejriwal formula in Bengal..."

BIP Government Banerjee said,

"the media has sold itself to a

particular party ... they are

beating drums for a particular

party which has gone on an

arresting spree just for political

vendetta ... I observed how the

media was peddling negative

stories (apparently about the

arrest of minister Jyoti Priya

Bengal CM raps Centre for not clearing State's dues

Bengal Chief Minister
Mamata Banerjee on
Wednesday hit out at the and Prime Minister's rural housing schemes. Resuming office at Nabanna

after about eight weeks Banerjee said, her party would wait till November 16 and "if they do not clear our State's dues for the payment of MNREGA wages then we will launch a bigger movement." Banerjee said that the Centre had withheld Rs 7,000 crore on account of the MNREGA

Centre would collect the taxes,

the rest ... but here the Centre is not giving back our lawful dues while taking away the GST from our State ... the money belongs to the people of Bengal and no one can stop that ... they have stopped funds for MNREGA, rural housing with the intention to harass us ... but after Kali Puja and Diwali we will assemble at the Netaji Indoor Stadium and decide on a bigger movement

Alleging that the Centre was harassing all the opposition ruled States she said "we fight it out because this for our right and we will fight it... we will fight against the noncooperation going on in what should have ideally have been a cooperative federalism."

Mallick) and skipping the Durga Puja carnival which is a big achievement for the State." Banerjee was however appreciative of the Election Commission of India saying she was happy to see that the ECI had not struck down the acronym INDIA which stands for the inclusive opposition alliance. 'I am happy with the ECI's role

in this regard ... they have not rejected the name INDIA ... anyone who is a citizen of this country can use this name as

Congress: Poll code violation by airline in announcements by cabin crew PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW

ongress on Wednesday Calleged a Model Code of Conduct violation by private airline IndiGo, claiming that an announcement on two of its flights hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "something routine" and then immediately segued into an appeal to passengers to vote during the upcom-

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh pointed out that there was no mention of the Election Commission in the vote appeal announcement, which, he said, was a "clear violation of the Model Code of Conduct". "Last week, I took flights to Aizawl and back to Delhi on

Indigo. Both ways there was an announcement by the cabin crew that hailed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for something routine and inconsequential. One of these announcements immediately

announcement — a clear violation of the Model Code of Conduct," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications alleged. There was however no immedi-

ate response from the airline to Ramesh's claims. "Never before has any prime minister gone to these lengths to

stay in the public eye to shore up his own flailing image, especially in the run-up to crucial elecline concerned," Ramesh said.

flight he took on Wednesday to Raipur of another airline did not stoop to the same level. "Good to see that some corporates are still resisting pressure from the Modi government and are following fair practices," Ramesh Elections are taking place in five states — Rajasthan, Madhya

Pradesh,

Telangana and Mizoram — and on October 9.

Centre for refusing to clear the State's dues, particularly on account of the 100 days' work Small mercies, he said, that the

Chhattisgarh,

if the Centre does not clear our dues immediately."

Attacking the media for allow-

ing it to be subjugated by the a proud Indian."

their results will be declared on wages. "We had agreed on the issue of tions. Clearly, there is no limit to ing state elections. segued into a vote appeal asking December 3. The Model Code passengers to vote during the man's insecurities, the civil upcoming state elections. Note aviation minister's sycophancy of Conduct has been in place GST because the scheme looked simple where the and the spinelessness of the air that there was no mention of since the announcement of polls Election Commission in this

Row over civil defence volunteers job termination

¬he issue of termination of L civil defence volunteers services has become a fresh point of controversy between the Raj Niwas and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. A day after the Directorate of

Civil Defence issued an order ending the services of 10,000 civil defence volunteers with immediate effect, Kejriwal has directed his Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot that Home Guards are to be deployed as Bus Marshals and initiate proceedings and actions against Principal Secretary-cum-Commissioner Transport, Ashish Kundra and Principal Secretary (Finance) Ashish Verma who caused

The CM directed to release all payment to bus marshal by Diwali. Amid a tussle between the LG office and the Delhi government, hundreds of civil defence volunteers are currently on an indefinite sit-in

at the Delhi Secretariat, demanding the payment of

their pending wages.

"Till the engagement and deployment of Home Guards as bus marshals is done, the current bus marshals are to be continued so that women's safety is not compromised", Kejriwal said in a note to Gahlot. "The LG has not invoked the proviso to Article 239AA (4) of the Constitution and has not referred the matter to the President. Therefore, the decisions of the Transport are to be continued so that the

Transport Minister may initiate the process of suspension of and disciplinary action against Ashish Kundra (Pr. Secy. -cum- Commissioner Transport) and Ashish Verma (Pr Secretary Finance) who have caused the delay in payment to bus marshals, as per extant statutory provisions". 'With regard to the bus marshals, all pending payments to bus marshals to be released immediately not later than Diwali, home guards to be deployed as bus marshals expeditiously, there should be

no reduction in the number of

bus marshals and till the

engagement and deployment

of home guards as bus mar-

shals, the current bus marshals

safety and security of women is not compromised," he said. Earlier, the Directorate of Civil Defence said civil defence volunteers are to be called on duty only for dealing with "disaster management and hostile attack" and issued order ending the service of CDVs with immediate

effect. "Director Civil Divisional Defence/ Commissioner is pleased to end the call out duty of all the members of Civil Defence Corps (Civil Defence Volunteers) deployed in any department/office with effect from 31' October, 2023," read

Civil Defence Volunteers have ious departments of GNCTD which is contrary to the provisions of the Civil Defence Act, 1968 and the rules & regulations made thereunder; And whereas, it has been noted that the aforesaid call out was also not done in fair and transparent manner by following the due process; And whereas, it has been decided that the aforesaid call out of Civil Defence Volunteers needs to be ended with immediate effect," the order said. Last month, Raj Niwas offi-

cials, had stated it was the L-G who, while approving the CM's proposal to terminate the services of all existing

livelihood and directed the CM that those who lose their jobs in the process be considered for appointment as home guards. The L-G recently approved the appointment of about 10,000 home guards. He has also flagged issues of pending salaries of civil defence volunteers, the Raj Niwas officials added. In a related development, the

Congress Wednesday joined the protest of DTC marshals outside Delhi Secretariat, demanding pending wages and regularisation of their services. Several Congress leaders and workers led by party's state unit president Arvinder Singh Lovely gathered outside the

Cluster Bus marshals have been agitating for a long time for their wages and regularisation of their jobs, but their pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Addressing the bus marshals, Lovely said that Congress will strive to find a solution to the demands of the marshals for the regularisation of their jobs

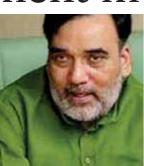
and getting back wages. The Congress leader appealed to the BJP and the AAP to join hands with the Congress to find a satisfactory solution to the problems of the marshals. Other leaders who were present at the protest were former Congress MLAs Mukesh Sharma and Hari Shanker

Government mulls construction ban in areas with AQI over 400

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

the delay in payment to bus

fter banning diesel buses Afrom neighbouring states, the Delhi government may ban construction work in areas recording an air quality index (AQI) above the 400 mark for five consecutive days. Presently, around dozen of areas have recorded the air quality index (AQI) over 400 which include Anand Vihar (423), Mundka (430), Rohini (405), Nehru Nagar (403), Wazirpur (422), Bawana (404) Sonia Vihar (413) Shadipur (413) on Wednesday. The average AQI was stood at 372, the highest so far this season. Data showed that the city's transport sector and emissions from other parts of the NCR have contributed the most to PM 2.5 levels. The concentration of PM2.5 -- fine particulate matter which can penetrate deep



when inhaled and trigger respiratory problems -- at these places was six to seven times the safe limit of 60 microgrammes per cubic metre. According to experts, Delhi's Air is noxious and dangerous especially for the people with respiratory ailments.

layer of haze hung over Delhi and its surrounding areas on Wednesday, with the capital's air quality slipping deeper into the 'very poor' category primarily due to a dip in

temperature and calm winds during the night. The AQI was 280 in neighbouring Ghaziabad, 318 in Faridabad, 254 in Gurugram, 333 in Noida and 372 in Greater Noida. Delhi's air quality is expected to remain 'very poor' for a few more days, according to the Centre's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi. Environment Minister Gopal Rai chaired a review meeting at

the Delhi Secretariat on Wednesday on the rising pollution level and implementation of Graded Response Action Plan-II. Taking account of the poor air quality situation of the national capital, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that the next 15-20 days from November 1 onwards would be critical in the context of the air quality index. Rai said the Delhi government will ban construcair quality index (AQI) above the 400 mark for five consecutive days. "A decision was taken to stop construction work within a one-kilometer radius in hot spots where the AQI level continuously remains close to 400, he said. "The entry of diesel buses into Delhi has been stopped from today as per the directions by CAQM (Commission for Air Quality Management). 18 teams have been formed for this...It is my request to the state govern-ments to ply only CNG, Electric or BS-VI buses from their depots so that passengers do not face any trouble," the

Rai stated that instructions have been given to closely monitor the hotspots. If the AQI level remains above 400 on hotspots continues for the next one week then all construction work within a kilo-

Delhi environment minister

meter area of that hotspot can be directed to be stopped. The government has already banned diesel buses and allowed only electric, CNG and BS VI-compliant diesel buses to operate between Delhi and the cities and towns of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan falling within the

NĆR from Wednesday. According to a numerical model-based system developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune, vehicular emissions (11 per cent to 16 per cent) and stubble burning (seven per cent to 16 per cent) currently stand as the two major contributors to the city's air quality. The IITM's Decision Support System (DSS) also showed that pollution sources in Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, are responsible for up to 14 per cent of the air pollu-

MCD allocates ₹20 lakh per zone to combat air pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $\Gamma_{ ext{of Delhi}}^{ ext{he Municipal Corporation}}$ Wednesday said it has allocated Rs 20 lakh per zone for tak-ing measures to combat air pollution in the city, which has been witnessing deteriorating air quality for a week now. The capital's air quality has remained 'very poor' for five days on the trot, moving further towards the upper end of the category on Wednesday. The MCD has allocated an amount of Rs 20 lakh per zone for taking steps to augment efforts towards air quality management in the city. The funds will be provided to all 12 zones



so that the air quality improves over the next three days by taking dust mitigation measures, the civic body said in a state-

CThe amount will be utilised for strengthening the machinery and manpower to mitigate dust pollution. The funds will be used to make sprinklers functional and hire drivers... By using these funds,

all zones will ensure the operation of anti-smog guns with full efficiency, along with manpower in their respective jurisdiction," it said.

As part of its efforts, the MCD will also focus on the deployment of machinery and manpower for clearing garbage along railway tracks, officials

It will purchase dust suppressants that will be sprayed using anti-smog guns and water sprinklers at least every alternate day during non-peak hours, they said.

The MCD has decided to take strict measures for regulating construction and dumping of demolition waste, they said.

NGT miffed over non-submission of report on violations in Kejriwal bungalow matter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal I has expressed disappointment over a panel not submitting its report on alleged violation of environmental norms in constructing some structures at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence. Noting that the panel which was constituted in May this year to ascertain the factual position had failed to comply with the NGT's direction, the weeks for filing the report, and warned that the failure to do so will lead to issuance of summons to the state's chief secretary to appear before it. A joint committee comprising the chief secretary, principal secretary (Environment & Forest) of the Delhi government, a nominee of the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC), and the district magistrate of north Delhi was constituted to go into the matter pursuant to the tribunal's order

The NGT was dealing with a petition which has alleged that permanent and semi-permanent constructions were raised and more than 20 trees cut by the Public Works Department (PWD) in the course of developing 6, Flag Staff Road (CM's residence) and 45-47 Rajpur

dated May 9,



the eye of a political storm, with the ĆBI registering a preliminary enquiry (PE) in September to look into alleged "irregularities and misconduct" in the construction of a new official residence for the CM. BJP and Congress leaders have alleged over Rs 40 crore public money was spent on renovating and constructing the lavish quarters. The ruling AAP has rejected allegations of any wrongdoing. In an order passed on October

30, a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said after the tribunal's direction in May, the matter has been adjourned twice but the report was still awaited.

"We grant a further four weeks' time to the joint committee to file the report, failing which the

Road (properties adjoining it). Chief Secretary, Delhi will per-The official bungalow of Chief sonally appear by virtual mode January 15)," the bench said.

During the proceedings, the

tribunal noted a report filed by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central Delhi) said the CBI has started a preliminary enquiry in the matter. It also noted that PWD had sought two weeks to submit the requisite documents, including those regarding permission and compensatory plantation. According to the petition, the constructions were made illegally, without the approval of the DUAC, and in contravention of the commission's observation about increasing the green area. Section 12 of the Delhi Urban Art Commission Act says the municipal corporation concerned cannot approve development proposals without getting the go-

LG gives nod for enquiry against sub registrar over bribery charges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has given a go-ahead for an enquiry under the Prevention of Corruption Act against a Revenue Department sub-reg-istrar who allegedly demanded bribes from applicants for official work. According to Raj Niwas officials, the complaints against the sub-registrar, Janakpuri, were lodged in 2019 and 2020. T

est of justice, there is a need to conduct an inquiry into the allegations against the official and the Directorate of Vigilance should be directed to process the request received from the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) to do the same after due diligence," an official

Saxena noted that there is "irrefutable evidence" of acts of omission and commission against the officer concerned. The Directorate of Vigilance recommended the investigation under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act after finding that the Department of Revenue did not give a clarification regarding the allegations levelled by the complainant, the official The Directorate of Vigilance

to probe the matter under the Prevention of Corruption Act as the accused officer had been demanding and obtaining bribes through his agents from applicants coming for various purposes. It was alleged that the accused officer kept documents pending and cleared them only after bribes were paid to him. Two complaints were filed by the same person

in 2019 and 2020. The first complaint alleged that the official withheld documents without any reason. The second complaint alleged that the complainant had paid a bribe of Rs 30,000 through the accused person's agent for registering the mortgage deed of his Gulab Bagh property in Uttam Nagar, the officials said. The bribe amount was collected for not affixing the stamp of

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) due to unauthorised construction.

As far as complaint dated November 4, 2019 is concerned, the allegation of the complainant that Gaur withholds documents without reason stands corroborated by the finding of theCommittee constituted by the District West under Chairmanship of SDM (Rajouri Garden).

A committee constituted by the West Delhi district magistrate (DM) observed that the accused officer was found in possession of a large number of registered documents without bonafide reason, which shows his malafide intention. The DM was also of the view that permission for investigation should be accorded, according to the officials.

INBRIEF

'CHANDRAWAL WTP TO REMAIN SHUT FOR 2 DAYS' New Delhi: The Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant (WTP) will remain shut for two days beginning Thursday due to work for the installation of a flowmeter, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said. "The Chandrawal WTP will remain under shutdown on November 2 from 10 am onwards and thus, the water supply will not be available in several areas in the evening of November 2 and the morning of November 3," the water utility said in a post on X on Wednesday. Water supply will be affected in the Civil Lines, Hindu Rao Hospital, Kamla Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Karol Bagh, Pahar Ganj and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) areas. "Water supply will also be affected in Old and New Rajinder Nagar, Patel Nagar (east and west), Baljeet Nagar, Prem Nagar, Inderpuri adjoining areas, and parts of Cantonment area and South Delhi." the DJB said.

LG NOD TO CREATION OF 10 POSTS IN IT CADRE

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has approved the creation of 10 additional posts in the information technology cadre to strengthen IT-enabled services in jails in the national capital, the Raj those of senior system analyst, system analyst and eight assistant programmers, will help ease the workload in the process of modernisation of prisons and digitisation of prisoner records, it said. The additional posts created will incur an expenditure of Rs 1.02 crore annually, the Raj Niwas said in a statement.

DELHI SWIMMERS SHINE IN NATIONAL GAMES



New Delhi: At the ongoing national games in Goa, Delhi team comprising of Vishal Grewal, Tanmay Das, Pratham Sharma and Kushagra Rawat won silver in 4 x 200 mtr Freestlye Relay. All four swimmers of Delhi went below the timing of 2 minutes. In the same event, the team from karnataka won gold while team services won bronze. Earlier, Bhavya Sachdeva and Kushagra Rawat of Delhi won gold in 800mtr and 1500mtr respectively.

Congress joins DTC marshals protest



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on I Wednesday joined the protest of DTC marshals outside Delhi Secretariat, demanding pending wages and regularisation of their services.

Several Congress leaders and workers led by party's state unit president Arvinder Singh Lovely gathered outside the secretariat at ITO here and extended support to the bus marshals. The DTC and Cluster Bus marshals have

for their wages and regularisation of their jobs, but their pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Addressing the bus marshals, Lovely said that Congress will strive to find a solution to the demands of the marshals for the regularisation of their jobs and getting back wages. The Congress leader appealed to the BJP and the AAP to join hands with the Congress to find a satisfactory solution to the problems of the mar-

DMRC 'Momentum 2.0' launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

ahead from the DUAC.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)on Wednesday achieved a significant milestone with the launch of "Momentum 2.0," an innovative app platform set to redefine the daily commuting experience for millions in the National Capital Region (NCR). It aims at ensuring hassle free seamless journeys. The app provides instant and direct access to services such as Integrated QR Ticketing (mainline and airport line), a wide array of e-shopping choices, digital lockers for quick and safe deliveries, Smart Utility Payments and last-mile con-

nectivity options. The 'Momentum 2.0' platform was formally launched DMRC's Managing Director Vikas Kumar at the Shivaji Stadium Metro station. Delhi Metro is the first mass transport provider in the country to introduce such unique facilities for commuters.



'Momentum 2.0' aims to convert commute time into quality, productive time blocks for

travelers by adding a bouquet of services for hassle-free seamless journeys. Now Riding in Metro will not just be a journey anymore, it will be an experience that starts before you reach the station and continues even after de-boarding, officials said here.

The new app, a joint initiative of Delhi Metro and AutoPe Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd., will provide seamless access to

Metro rides while making the commute time count. The users of existing DMRC App will be automatically advised to migrate to this newer version i.e. Momentum 2.0. Among a host of solutions, the app offers key value additions to the

Delhi Metro experience: Streamlined QR Ticketing: 'Momentum 2.0' simplifies your Metro entry with QR Ticketing, providing a seamless experience. It offers integrated QR tickets for all Metro lines, including the Airport Line, eliminating the need of multiple apps in turn enhancing user

experience, they said.
In addition, DMRC card recharge as well as transaction details of the card are also available on App, thus enabling commuters to go through their travel and recharge history. There is also an option for commuters to give standing instructions in the App for "Auto Top Up" in case the balance falls below a minimum defined value.

AAP will regularise staff wherever in power: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $E_{\text{polls in five states, Delhi}}^{\text{yeing upcoming assembly}}$ Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will regularise temporary employees wherever it comes to power. "The AAP government in

Delhi has regularized 5,000 sanitation workers in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). These workers had been demanding job security for a long time, but the BJP government, which ruled for 15 years, never took their demands seriously," Kejriwal said at a press conference here. 'We have fulfilled our promise by making the sanitation workers permanent. So far, we have made 6494 sanitation workers permanent," he said, adding that in Punjab too, its Government has regularized around 30,000 non-permanent

employees.

Wherever we get a chance to come to power, we will regularise temporary employees,' he said. AAP MLAs Kuldeep Kumar (Kondli), Rohit Mehroliya (Trilokpuri) and Ajay Dutt (Ambedkar Nagar) too joined their party Supremo in patting their back saying says that sanitation workers demand for regularisation has been fulfilled while the BJP has been misleading and exploiting them. AAP's senior leader and MLA from Kondli, Kuldeep Kumar, along with Trilokpuri MLA Rohit Mehrolia and Ambedkar Nagar MLA Ajay Dutt, jointly addressed an important press conference at the party headquarters on Wednesday.

Dutt said that the AAP's government in the MCD has been in power for a few months but have already taken initiative to make at least 6,494 sanitation workers permanent.

LLB student arrested for molesting classmate

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A first-year LLB student was arrested here on Wednesday for allegedly molesting and assaulting his classmate after barging into her house in a group housing society with his associates, officials

The incident took place in the housing society in Sector 137, under Sector 142 police station limits, on October 30, a day after an argument broke out between them, the police

Both the key accused as well as the complainant study in the same college in Noida, Additional DCP (Central Noida) Hridhesh Katheria said.

An FIR was lodged at the local police station after a written complaint.

More rain in Western Ghats, **N-E river basins likely: Study**

 $F^{
m requency}$ of extreme rainfall is likely to increase over the Western Ghats and Northeast river basins, while an increase in heavy rainfall intensity is projected over the Upper Ganga and Indus basins, a study by the scientists from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has warned.

The research led by Prof RK Mall, Coordinator of the Department of Science & Technology-Mahamana Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Research (DST-MCECCR) at BHU, including Pawan Kumar Chaubey, used high-resolution simulated precipitation from Coupled Model Intercomparison Project-6 (CMIP6) experiments to examine the future hydroclimate extremes over the different River Basins of India.



The work supported under the Climate Change Programme of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), projected intense precipitation specially over the Western Ghats and Northeast river basins, and an increase in heavy rainfall intensity (14.3%) over the upper Ganga and Indus basins as well as intensification of severe

The study highlighting an agri-

cultural drought in the lower Ganga basin due to a decline in mean rainfall was published in the journal Earth's Future, American Geophysical Union

It urged policymakers to devise strategies to cope with water surplus or scarcity.

The research elaborated that approximately 4% to 10% of the heavy rainfall is projected to increase over the western part

mid-future, under certain carbon emission scenarios, a significant increasing change of about 30% precipitation per day was likely over the West flowing River Kutch & Saurashtra, including Luni, Indus, and Upper Ganga River Basins.

The results also showed that the significant changes in the frequency of hydro-climate extreme events may have a considerable impact on agriculture health, and other socio-economic conditions of the soci-

The major hotspots of highly populated cities identified for future urban flooding could help policymakers design appropriate basin-wise climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, including water and emergency services policies to minimise risk due to extremes in the basins.

Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya

Pradesh, Punjab, Lakshadweep

and Puducherry on their for-

mation day. Union Home

Minister Amit Shah greeted

the people of Madhya Pradesh,

Chhattisgarh and Haryana on

the occasion of the three states'

Andhra Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and

Lakshadweep came into being

in 1956. Punjab and Haryana

were formed in 1966 while

Chhattisgarh was carved out of

All these states and the Union

Territory of Puducherry cele-

brate their formation day on

"Greetings to the people of

Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh,

Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala,

Madhya Pradesh, Punjab,

Lakshadweep and Puducherry

"I wish that all these states and

the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the

Borrower/ Loan Account Number

Devendra Pratap Singh/
Deepmala Singh/

LBSUL00002091257

on their formation day!

Madhya Pradesh in 2000.

foundation day.

November 1.

Centre generates ₹1,100 crore from disposing office scrap from 2021-23

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Centre has earned core by disposing of office he Centre has earned ₹500 scrap during the recently concluded cleanliness campaign, according to a statement issued by the Department of Personnel Ministry on Wednesday. During the campaigns conducted by the Government from 2021 to 2023, ₹1,100 crore revenue has been generated by disposing of office scrap, it said.

The third special campaign generated revenue of ₹500 crore in the October 2-31 period this year. "The special campaign 3.0 has seen Swachhata campaigns being undertaken in more than 2.53 lakh sites and has resulted in freeing 154 lakh square feet of space for effective office use,"

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said



size and scale of the special campaign was increasing with more than 2.53 lakh sites covered in 2023 as against 1.01 lakh sites in 2022. He announced the successful conclusion of the special campaign 3.0 on October 31.

Singh said it was India's largest campaign for institutionalising cleanliness and reducing pen-

Murmu, Modi, Shah greet people

dency in government offices. It has witnessed many best practices and milestones, he

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions, a saturation approach was adopted in the Special Campaign 3.0 that covered more than 2.53 lakh offices even in the remotest parts of



officials to continue the momentum of the Special Campaign 3.0 throughout the year and make it a way of life. Special campaign 3.0 concluded on October 31, 2023, with outstanding results and after collating all the data, the evaluation phase will start from November 10, 2023," he

Army Chief visits Siachen, reviews operational preparedness of troops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Army Chief General Manoj Pande on Wednesday reviewed the operational preparedness of the troops during his visit to the Siachen base camp and forward posts. Siachen glacier is the world's highest battlefield. Pande reached Leh on Tuesday,

sources said here on Wednesday adding the Army chief visited the Siachen Glacier, at a height of around 20,000 ft in the Karakoram range, is known as the highest militarised zone in the world. Avalanches and landslides are common at the glacier during the winters and temperatures can drop to as low as minus 60 degrees Celsius.

The glacier extends to 76 kilometres in the Karakoram ranges, and the sub-zero temperatures and frequent avalanches are the greatest challenges for human survival here. More than 800 Indian troops have died since Operation Meghdoot commenced in 1984. The Indian army was deployed there as part of Operation Meghdoot on April 13, 1984 to secure the Siachen Glacier, which was important from a strategic point of view since the Pakistan and China. The Indian Army is guarding the key passes and ridges along the Glacier, the frozen frontier, in a high state of operational preparedness with highly determined and motivated troops and state-of-the-art equipment to deal with the challenges posed by extreme weather.

Incidentally, the Indian Army celebrated the 39th Siachen Day this year and on the occasion the commander of Siachen Brigade laid a wreath on behalf of the General Officer Commanding (GOC), Fire and Fury Corps, and paid rich tributes to the war heroes at the Siachen War Memorial, Base Camp, to commemorate the courage and fortitude of the

Moreover, last month, the Indian army with the help of the

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL)achieved a rare feat of establishing a mobile tower and base transceiver station(BT)at the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield. It provides mobile connectivity to the soldiers posted there at an altitude of over 15,000 feet.

The setting up of a mobile tower on the Siachen Glacier is a significant achievement, given the harsh conditions. The tower will provide soldiers with a much-needed lifeline to their families and loved ones, and it will also improve their ability to communicate with each other and with their commanders. A base transceiver station is a

radio transceiver that connects brave-hearts guarding Siachen. mobile devices to a cellular Every year on April 13, the network. It sends and receives Siachen Warriors celebrate radio signals to mobile devices nals that are then routed to other devices in the network or to the Internet.

of States on their formation day President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday greeted the people Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana,

the residents," Murmu said in a

În his message, Prime Minister Modi lauded the contribution of these states to the country on the occasion of their formation day and congratulated the people living there. Modi posted on X his wishes for these states. of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

"On this Kannada Rajyotsava, we celebrate the spirit of Karnataka - a cradle of ancient innovation and modern enterprise. Its people, a blend of warmth and wisdom, fuel the state's relentless march towards greatness. May Karnataka continue to thrive, innovate and inspire," Modi said.

"On the momentous occasion of Andhra Pradesh Formation Day, my heartfelt felicitations to move forward on the path of With their exceptional talent, development. I pray for the unwavering resolve and steadhappiness and prosperity of all fast perseverance, the people of

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited 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 borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from

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 Symbolic 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

Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession

House No.116 A, Abhay Khand- III, Indrapuram Ghaziabad/ Oct 30, 2023

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

with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

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

AP have etched their mark across diverse domains of excellence. I pray for their continued prosperity and success," he

With Kerala celebrating the day as 'Kerala Piravi', Modi said Keralites are known for their diligence and the rich tapestry of their cultural heritage, embodying resilience and determination. "May they always be touched by success and continue to inspire with their accomplishments," Modi said.

Harvana, the prime minister said, has always made significant contributions to the country in sectors like agriculture and defence, and its youths are leading in innovation.

Madhya Pradesh is reaching new heights of development and making a significant contribution to the country by Kaal', he said, while also lauding the rich culture of Chhattisgarh. In separate messages, Shah said

in Demand Notice (Rs.)

July 26, 2016

32,48,054/-

Branch

Sultanpur/

Ghaziabad

natural beauty and cultural heritage, Chhattisgarh is full of rich culture and mineral wealth and India. Haryana has always worked to increase the pride of India -- be it in war zones or on the play-

the unique distinction of being a land where tradition and modernity fuse seamlessly, Andhra Pradesh has contributed profusely to the nation's cultural arena and made it more diverse and vibrant and Kerala is gifted with a rich cultural heritage and a vibrant society. "Hearty greetings to the sisters

He said Karnataka has earned

and brothers of Madhya Pradesh on the state's Foundation Day. "This state, full of natural beauty and cultural heritage, is setting new standards of development and welfare of the poor every day. I wish that the state reaches the pinnacle of development and progress in the times to come," he wrote on 'X' in Hindi.

Extending hearty greetings to the people of Chhattisgarh, the home minister said it is full of rich culture and mineral wealth. Extending greetings to the people of Haryana on the state's foundation day, Shah said in the unprecedented achievements in every field such as sports, education and health.

ground, Haryana has always worked to increase the pride of

The entire country is proud of the bravery, culture and talented players of Haryana," he said. While wishing the people of Karnataka on their 'Rajyotsav', the home minister said the state has earned the unique distinction of being a land where tradition and modernity fuse seamlessly. "Praying for the continued progress of the state and the prosperity of its people,' he said.

To the people of Andhra

Pradesh on their Statehood Day,

Shah said over the years, the state has contributed profusely to the nation's cultural arena and made it more diverse and vibrant. "May the state achieve new heights in development in the times to come," he said. To the people of Kerala, Shah said: "My heartfelt greetings to the people of Kerala on Piravi. Gifted with a rich cultural heritage and a vibrant society Kerala has always been our pillar of strength. My best wishes to

progress". Kerala Day or the foundation of the state is usually referred to as the Malayalam word 'piravi' which means birth and it implies

them in their efforts for

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the

under noted work Name of Work with its location: Part-A: Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE in connection with "Opening of new passenger halt station Jiwana between Kasimpur Kheri and Baoli stations on DSA-SMQL-SRE section". Part-B: Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE modification work in connection with "Raising of platform to High level from Low level at Gokulpur Saboli (GPSL) halt 1 PF (single line) under ADEN/GZB on DSA-SMQL-TPZ section.

2 Approx. cost of work: Rs. 42,39,422.33/

28.11.2023 (15:00 Hrs.)

5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time 28.11.2023 (15:00 Hrs.) 6 Fund Allocation: PH-53 Capita

7 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be

| | seen: www.ireps.gov.in | | No.: 34-TRD-NDLS-2023-24 | Dt.: 31.10.2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO be known to all, Ravinder Kumar Shukla S/o Sh.Dwarka Prasad Shukla R/o House No.4, Noor Nagar, Baghiche Ke Quarter, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, Oelhi-110025 Allottee/owner of DDA Janta Flat No.218, First Floor, Pocket-1, Sector A-5, Narela, Delhi, have applied for certified copies & conversion from leasehold to freehold in DDA. The original documents i.e. Demand-cum-allotment Letter, Possession Letter, NOC for Water & Electricity Connection, Site Possession Slip & Other Documents of the above said fait has been lodged in Ps. Crime Branch. Delhi. Any per son (s) claiming any right interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above hamed person at above Address/Phone 99905-5582 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director(LBA-Housing) Janta, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.



Place: Ghaziabad (Gurgaon)

Branch Office: ICICI Bank 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)]

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

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 Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and

ı	"Wh	Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;									
	Sr. No.	Name of 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				
l	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)				
	1.	Rajeev Kumar (Borrower), LAN no. LBDEL00003000725	Apartment Number 1106, 11th Floor, Tower K, Godrej Summit, Sector 104 Gurgoan. Area: 171.31 Sq.Mt.	Rs. 1,57,55,309/- as on October 17, 2023.	Rs. 94,40, 000/- Rs. 9,44,000/-	November 13, 2023 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	November 29, 2023, From 11:00 AM Onwards				

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com) of our auction agency M/S NexXen Solution Private Limited. The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **November 28, 2023** before **05:00 PM** 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- 110005on or before November 28, 2023 before 05:00 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before November 28, 2023 before 05:00 PM 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 28, 2023 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited"

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. NexXen Solution Private limited 2. Augeo Asset Management

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 Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited Date: November 02, 2023

Notice for sale of immovable assets

the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 **ICICI Bank Limited** Place: Ghaziabad

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

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited 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 borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in genera that the undersigned has taken Symbolic 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 with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rajesh Chowdhary/ Radha Chowdhary/ LBDEL00001981243	Flat No- A 1802,18th Floor, Avj Heightss Situated At Plot No Gh-12/2 Sector Zeta- 1, Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh Noida- 201307/ October 26, 2023	May 17, 2023 Rs. 70,91,044/-	Delhi & NCR
2.	Rahul Gupta/ Dinesh Kumar Gupta/ LBGHZ00004308675/ LBGHZ00005389938	Unit No 30 (Shop), Ground Floor, Kaveri City Center, Situated at Plot No. C 06 Sector Delta- 1 UP Greater Noida- 201307/ October 26, 2023	May 23, 2023 Rs. 42,35,562/-	Delhi & NCR
3.	Devesh Pratap Singh/ Amrita Singh/ LBDEL00002474247	rita Singh/ Mahagun, Mantra 2, Plot No Gh 01 A, Sector 10,		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 02, 2023 Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

India, Singapore review bilateral ties during defence policy dialogue



NEW DELHI

Tndia and Singapore on ■ Wednesday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties in the 15th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue here. The dialogue was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Chan Heng Kee.

Giving details of the meeting, officials said both sides reviewed the existing defence cooperation between the two countries and agreed to enhance collaboration in Service-to-Service interactions and bilateral exercises. They also articulated steps to take forward cooperation in emerging areas like cyber security. Both sides identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration, especially in the field of maritime security and multilateral cooperation.

The Defence Secretary appre-

ciated Singapore's efforts for coordinating and co-hosting the maiden ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise in May

He highlighted the potential of the domestic defence industry with capacity and capability to meet the requirement of Singapore.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement the 'Strategic Partnership' based on mutual trust and understanding, common interests and shared values of democracy and rule of law.

This was the first physical meeting at the level of Defence Secretary between India and Singapore post the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier, the Permanent

Secretary (Defence) called on the Chief of Defence Staff and discussed issues of mutual interest. The Singapore delegation also visited various cultural places, including Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi.

Yogi discusses poll strategy Woman's murder worked out with BJP leaders

Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath discussed poll strategy with the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the second day of his visit at Circuit House here on Wednesday morning. He also tried to know about the party preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha election in which the development work of the central and state government would play an important role. Apart from discussing development work with party workers, Yogi also inquired about the well-being of the people.

After this brief meeting, the CM left for Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Babatpur around 9 am. UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi also met the CM at Circuit House. During the meeting with the CM, UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal, MLAs Awadhesh Singh, Saurabh Srivastava and Sushil Singh and district BJP chief and MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma were present.

Earlier, the CM also held a review meeting regarding development works and law and order situations. He directed the officials to ensure proper implementation of public welfare schemes of the government and complete the construction projects with quality within the stipulated time by running the campaign on war footing. While reviewing the preparations for the upcoming festival of Dev Deepawali, he laid special emphasis on celebrating the same in a grand manner, ensuring effective security arrangements. The appointed Vice Chairman of



the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) and Municipal Commissioner to understand the entire system and settle the pending works with immediate effect by deciding on the basis of immediate

and long term. Directing the officers further, Yogi said that the Setu Nigam (Bridge Corporation) should pay special attention to the standards while making fly-overs and carry out the finishovers and carry out the finishing work in all Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) and flyovers properly. He asked the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) to fix the responsibilities of the contractors and engineers to remove the negligence of the department. He also directed the PWD engineers not to raise the height of the roads unnecessarily while constructing the same

development work in the city should be in accordance with the glory of Kashi," he said.

The CM instructed the officers of Power Corporation to ensure adequate power supply during the upcoming festivals and other programmes and unnecessary vigilance raids as well as over-billing should be stopped with immediate effect. He also sought information Divisional from the Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma about the Govardhan Scheme and progress of the construction works for the international cricket stadium being built at Ganjari. In the review of Jal Jeevan Mission, when the District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam informed the CM that the work being done by the concerned agency lacks human resources so its pace of work is so that rain water does not slow, the CM instructed the enter the roadside houses. "The former to file an FIR against the

non-working agencies apart from blacklisting them.

During the review of the medical system, Yogi first took information about dengue and viral fever Chikungunya etc and then laid emphasis on ensuring availability of doctors and essential medicines in every hospital. He also reviewed the progress of underconstruction works of Amul Dairy Plant at Karkhiyaon and new Divisional Office Building. UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, MLAs Neelkanth Tiwari and Saurabh Srivastava, Commissioner of Police Ashok Mutha Jain and many others were also present. Later, during the late night hours Yogi visited Shri Kashi Vishwanath and Kal Bhairav temples and offered prayers

Feeding data of all services relating to FP programme mandatory for pvt hospitals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

To feed the data of all the permanent and temporary services relating to family planning programme on the state-level Health Management Information System (HMIS) among the from 21st to 25th of each month has been made mandatory for the private hospitals so that all the datas could be uploaded.

Aiming at consolidating gramme under National Health Mission, a meeting was held at the auditorium in the office of the CMO on Tuesday in which the Dy CMO (RCH) Dr HC Maurya and District Programme Manager (DPM) Santosh Kumar Singh said to the representatives of the pri-

vate hospitals that to feed the data of all the permanent and temporary services relating to family planning programme on the state-level Health Management Information System (HMIS) from 21st to 25th of each month has been made mandatory for the pridatas could be uploaded. The meeting emphasised

on the coordination and enhancing capacity with all providers of the private sector. The meeting also laid emphasis on seeking consent of the beneficiaries before providing

Maurya and Singh said role in attaching the middle and nutrition day once in a

class families to the family planning programme and added that if the private hospitals make cent per cent reporting and data feeding of the beneficiaries taking the service of family planning on the HMIS portal on time, the qualitative services could be provided to vate hospitals so that all the beneficiaries and there would also be an improvement in the ranking of the district in this direction.

They said to the represenhospitals to display the posters of family planning and for IEC and consultancy of it and make records for the reporting and services. The hospital employees should make the people that the hospitals of the private aware of various health services sectors can play an important on urban health cleanliness month and also train the people for the high quality of Subra Dwivedi and Kriti

Pathak of PSI gave some suggestions to assess the actual status of family planning services and make the index of the district better.

They also detailed the qualitative improvement in the family planning programme in the private sector and the new HMIS portal through the

The meeting was held with the cooperation of The Challenge Initiative 'Population Services International (PSI). The ACMOs Dr Nikunj Kumar & Rajesh Prasad, DHEIO Harivansh Yadav and others were present in the

15 IIT (BHU) students get PMRF

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

total of 15 research stu-Adents from the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) have been selected for the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF). This year, 14 research scholars from different departments of BHU also received the same fellowship. The IIT(BHU) students who have received the PMRF are Ajay Kumar Pandey, Saurabh Kumar Pandey (both from Mechanical Engineering department), Iram Tasleema, Piyush Singh, Ritwik Tripathi (all Electrical Engineering), Neha Sharma (Electronics Engineering), Devvani Mangesh Yenurkar (Biomedical Engineering), Upkar Patel (School of Material Science and Technology), Ankita Gupta, Madhusmita Jena (both from Physics), and Anup Kumar, Apurb Mandal, Divakar Chaudhary and Taufik Ansari (all from Chemistry

Providing this information, the Dean (Academic Affairs), Prof Shyam Bihari Dwivedi, mentioned that from cycle 6 to cycle 11, a total of 52 students have been selected for the PMRF. These students will receive a fellowship of Rs 70,000 to Rs 80,000 per month for a period of four to five years, and an annual research grant of Rs 2 lakh will also be

department).

The Deputy Registrar (Academic Affairs) Dr Amit



IIT (BHU) research scholars selected for PMRF in Varanasi

Kumar Singh stated that the institute had recommended 20 students for the PMRF, but only nine seats were allocated to the institute in the current cycle. However, considering the outstanding research projects of the students, 15 students were selected for the PMRF, which is a significant achievement for the IIT (BHU).

The Director Prof Pramod Kumar Jain extended his best wishes to all the selected research students and their supervisors, encouraging them to work diligently and set new standards in their respective fields. The institute will provide all possible support to help them achieve excellence, he

WORKSHOP ON FINANCIAL AWARENESS

HELD: The two-day workshop on Financial Awareness organised by National Institute Security Marketing (NUSM), run by SEBI and Economics Department of Harishchandra PG College in the college premises here concluded on Tuesday. The chief guest and Senior

Professor in the college Prof Vishwanath Verma advised the students to remain vigilant from the financial and cyber fraudulants. The college Principal Prof Rajneesh Kunwar presided over it. The workshop coordinator Prof Jagdish Singh detailed the information related to the financial market such as primamarket, secondary market,

debt fund, equity find, etc and

advised the students to remain

vigilant from those committing the crime of fraud by adopting various techniques.

The resource person of SEBI Deepak Kumar detailed the process to be followed to making profit from share market by making a better portfo-lio and also informed about future & option trading, portfolio management and deriva-

The other resource person Moni Sahu detailed the process of opening a savings account, current account, cheque book sensor account, etc.

Karunesh Ojha presented the brief outline of the workshop. Prof Ashok Kumar, Prof Gajendra Das, Ajay Kumar, Amit Pandey, Ravikant Kasaudhan and others were present on the occasion.

The police claimed to have solved the murder of a woman who had been found dead in a pool of blood in Chandra Shekhar Azad Park near a 'mazar' five months ago. The mobile phone of Iram was also recovered from the possession of the arrested accused Abhishek Goswami alias Golu of Uthagi Kaurihar under the Nawabganj police

On May 13 this year Iram Hamid Siddiqui, wife of Saiyad Shahan Asad of Malviya Nagar dropped her son at St Joseph's School. Because the school was to run for only a few hours that day, Iram decided to spend time at Chandra Shekhar Azad Park and walked towards a 'mazar' situated there. She was talking to some one when a drug adict Abhishek Goswami came and snatched her phone. When she resisted Goswami hit her on the head with a big

fainted and fell on the ground and ultimately breathed her

When no body reached there to collect the boy from the school its management called the student's father. He was surprised to know that his wife did not reach the school. When he dialled her number, he found it switched off. He first collected his son from the school and then launhed a search for Iram with the help of the police. Iram was later found dead in a pool of blood near the mazar in the Chandra Shekhar Azad Park.

The CCTV footage of all the cameras of the park and nearby places was scanned minutely, but the killer could not be spotted. The phone of Iram remained switched off for months together, but suddenly one day it started functioning. The police traced the person with the help of the sim card used by him in this mobile. When he was nabbed stone. Bleeding profusely, Iram in Bihar, he told the police that

Goswami had given him the phone and was demanding Rs 400 for it, but he wanted to buy it for Rs 1,000 so Goswami took back the phone.

The police launched a manhunt for Abhishek Goswami who lived in the slum area near Bharadwaj Ashram here. The police arrested him on Tuesday and sent him to jail after recovering phone from his possession. According to the police

Goswami confessed that he had killed the woman for phone. He just wanted to grab the phone, but when she resisted he hit her hard on her head with a stone. He knew that CCTV cameras were installed at the park gates so he chose to walk within the park and reach the broken boundary on Pannalal Road from where he disappeared.

COMPLAINT: A teacher, who had given Rs 7.80 lakh to a person in 2014, is worried because the property has not been registered in his name as asks him to return the amount.

The teacher Amit Kumar Singh lodged a complaint with the Naini police against a resident of Kazipur area in Naini. He alleged that no action has been initiated by the police.

When he enquired about the person, Amit came to know that the said person had committed such a fraud with many more people. He alleged that when he approaches the person, his whole family hurls abuses and threatens him of dire consequences if he lodged any complaint.

Property fraud related cases have already been lodged against him by an excise inspector and a woman from Jhusi but the Naini police allegedly did not take any aciton. Police 'inaction' in property dealing fraud has irked a number of persons who have lodged complaint with the police commissioner who has instructed the officers to do the

UPRTOU silver jubilee today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The silver jubilee of UP Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU) will be celebrated on November 2. This institution of distance learning was established 25 years ago when Prof Narendra Singh Gaur was the higher education minister of Uttar Pradesh.

According to Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Seema Singh, preparations for the silver jubilee celebrations are in full swing and it will be a grand

The chief guest will be Prof Vansh Gopal Singh, V-C of Pt Sundar Lal Sharma Open University of Bilaspur (Chhatisgarh) while the guest of honour will be Prof Kalpana Pandey, V-C, Jana Nayak Chandrashekhar University, Ballia. Prof NKS Gaur will be the Saraswat Atithi on the



Vice-Chancellor Prof Seema Singh,

V-C Prof Singh emphasised this occasion will be a significant step towards innovation and growth in the field of higher education and research for university's students and

The event will also witness the inauguration of an Information Management System for students which will contribute to quality education.

The V-C said the progress

of the university is closely linked to its teachers and staff. The event will honour those teachers and employees who have excelled in their work. Families of these individuals are also invited to be part of this memorable occasion.

To make the silver jubilee celebration unforgettable, various cultural programmes are planned, featuring performances based on Alha songs, Braj culture, Kajri songs and Awadhi culture. These cultural events are part of the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav, organised in collaboration with the Hindustani Academy, Prayagraj, and will be a part of the Indian Language Festival.

RAIL TRAFFIC DIS-RUPTED: Following derailment of the engine and a generator van of Anand Viharbound Suhaildev Express train, rail traffic remained disturbed Tuesday night on the Howrah-Delhi route. No casualty or injury has been reported in this minor derailment.

The train was sent for its destination around 11.35 pm, Senior PRO, North Central Railway Amit Malviya said.

The Ghazipur City-Anand Vihar Suhaildev Express arrived here at 8.25 pm on platform number 9.

After its scheduled stop-

page at Prayagraj Junction, the train moved towards its destination, but barely after a couple of minutes the engine and the next generator van jumped the rail with a bang.
As soon as the control

room and officials came to know about the derailment, movement on Howrah-Delhi route was stopped. The DRM and other senior officials reached the spot and the accident relief train also arrived on

Seminar on French indology ends

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

¬he three-day international A seminar on 'Revisiting French Indology through Intercultural Approaches' concluded at the Malviya Mulya Anushilan Kendra, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Wednesday. The seminar French resistance fighter and writer, Satprem, on his centenary day. Satprem, disenchanted and deeply broken in soul and body by the Second World War, left France and came to live near Sri Aurobindo and the Mother in India.

The seminar featured presentations of papers by highly esteemed scholars and professors. Some of the highlights included a presentation on the life and works of Clemenceau, the French president who played a significant role in France's victory in the First World War. The presenter noted that the president was heavily influenced by India, studying its great religious and spiritual works and even undertaking a voyage to India. Despite his illness, he expressed a strong desire to visit Varanasi before his passing.

Another significant presentation delved into the life and works of Satprem by Dr Sragdhra Sharma. The presen-



Concluding day function of seminar on French indology being held at BHU in Varanasi on Wednesday

tation emphasised how Satprem's works remain relevant, offering a path beyond religious and sectarian ideologies. In times when all other paths seem closed, his writings provide insight into resolving human problems. Prof Sadashiv Dwivedi, the

coordinator of Bharat Adhyan Kendra, served as the chief guest. He highlighted the profound exploration of Indian texts by French writers and the fruitful research collaboration between France and India. This collaboration has fostered friendly relations between the two nations.

In the beginning, Prof Prayaas Chaturvedi welcomed the participants. Prof Sanjay Kumar, the coordinator of Malviya Mulya Anushilan Kendra and chair of the session, observed that the world is facing deep conflicts, and the Western world has come to realise that the solution does not solely lie in technical research.

Prof Akhilesh Kumar, the convenor and Head of the French Studies department, presented the vote of thanks. The seminar also had the pres-

ence of Prof S Shoba, Dean of JNU, Prof Kiran Chaudhry, Prof Vineeta Singh, and Prof Mithilesh Singh, the Principal of Agrasen PG College, among

The seminar was attended by experts from France, Greece, Vietnam, and Slovenia, as well as professors and researchers from institutions like INU. Pondicherry University, Amity University, Allahabad University, Auroville, and Extrême-Orient, highlighting the international and interdisciplinary nature of the

Iwo cattle smuggl ers arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Rajgarh police arrested

ing a reward of Rs 25,000 each after an encounter on Tuesday night. In a case registered at the Rajgarh police station cattle smugglers Sandeep alias Lalloo of Katari village under Karma police station and Kalloo alias . Karan of Dhapari village under Robertsganj police station of Sonbhadra were at large. The SP had announced a reward of Rs 25,000 each. On being tipped off about the presence of the cattle smugglers in the jungle of Darban the police team led by SHO Rana Pratap Yadav started checking the vehicles. On seeing the police the smugglers tried to flee but were chased. The smugglers opened fire on police. The police also retaliated in self-def-

fire smugglers suffered injuries in their legs and were nabbed by the police. Giving details CO (Operation) Anil Kumar Pandey said the police had recovered one motorcycle, Rs 11,630 cash, two countrymade guns etc. He said the nabbed cattle

smugglers had been sent to the hospital for treatment.

DIRECTIVES: Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla while presiding over the meeting of purchase agencies, incharges of paddy purchase centre and other officials at the Collectorate on Tuesday said during inspection if any of paddy purchase centre was found closed stringent action will be taken.

Issuing directions related to the purchase the ADM said all arrangements for farmers who fence. During the exchange of come to sell paddy should be ensured, including bag, amount, cash, shed, potable water etc. The incharges were asked

to pay special attention to small farmers so that they can sell paddy and get payment. He said all centres were to be equipped with two weighing machines and other required equipment to expedite pur-

He told the incharges that two police personnel will be deployed at those centres where heavy purchase will be done. For any problem the tehsil authorities might be contacted, the ADM added. The SDMs were asked to monitor the working regularly by visiting the places minimum once in a week. The officials concerned were directed to maintain transparency in issuing token to farmers. Deputy regional marketing officer Dhananjay

Singh said 'Shree Anna' (millets) were also to be purchased at the centres and the MSP had already been announced. The meeting was also attended by SDM (Sadar) Asha Ram Verma, SDM (Madihan) Yugantar Tripathi, SDM (Lalganj) Bharat Lal Saroj and others. OBSERVED: The birth

anniversary of the Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was observed across the district on Tuesday. A cross country race was organised from Patel Chowk to Collectorate. Programmes were organised at all government offices to pay tribute to Sardar Patel. DIG RP Singh administered the oath of unity and integrity of the nation. Various programmes were organised at schools, colleges, PAC, zila panchayat, nagar palika parishad and other www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Nakba 2.0?

Israeli Ministry unilaterally drafts contentious scheme to shift Gaza civilians to Egypt

he Old Testament has it that Moses led Jews away from the clutches of Pharaoh to Israel, where they could lead a peaceful life. It appears, however, that Israelites have since forgotten their scriptures. Now they would like to act a Pharaoh and evict civilian Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt. The Israeli intelligence ministry has proposed relocating the 2.3 million residents of the Gaza Strip to Egypt's Sinai peninsula. The proposal is bizarre as it suggests temporary tent cities in Sinai followed by permanent cities and a humanitarian corridor. What Israel wants is clear- It would like Palestinians to leave their homes and live in tents in chilly winter while Israel would take over the complete control of Gaza minus its inhabitants. It claims that the proposal's aim is to reduce tensions in Gaza. However, there are fierce responses from those who see it as human rights violation and an unjust solution to a complex geopolitical problem. The Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated areas in the world



and its inhabitants endure chronic shortage of necessities, including water, power, fuel and healthcare; the ongoing conflict has only exacerbated a dire situation. While the specifics of the proposal, which has not been officially released, are still unclear, the Israeli Government's rationale is that it will help separate the civilians from Palestinian militant groups that operate in Gaza, such as Hams. The plan's proponents argue that it would improve the security situation and pave the way for increased humanitarian aid and development in Gaza, potentially leading to a more stable and peaceful future for the region. But forced relocation of civilians from their homes

is a violation of basic human rights and constitutes a form of collective punishment. The UN and other rights organisations have called for protecting Gaza's civilian population, arguing that any solution should be based on negotiations, respect for international law and respect for human rights. Egypt, nominated as the potential host for relocated Gazans, has not endorsed the Israeli proposal though its Government has historically been involved in Israel-Palestine mediation efforts and offered assistance and cooperation to address the challenges in Gaza. However, forcibly relocating Gaza's population to Egypt would undoubtedly carry significant implications for both countries and the broader region, and Egypt's response remains a crucial factor. It is becoming increasingly clear that Israel wants to get rid of 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza right now. It is using Hams' attack to implement its long-harboured designs. But it is be easier said than done. After the Hams attack, the world opinion was in favour of Israel and there was all-round support for even its air strikes. But after Israel's conduct in the conflict when it pounded innocent Palestinians in hospitals in the name of neutralising the Hamas, it has lost its moral high ground and now even its vocal western support is waning.



Karnataka tableau artists participate in a procession during 'Karnataka Rajyotsava', in Chikmagalur

The Hamas attack: Lessons for India



RAGHAV CHANDRA

The Hamas attack on Israel and this colossal human crisis that is unfolding before our eyes has key lessons for India and the world

istorians and political scientists can dissect and apportion blame on one or the other side, but there can be no doubt that such impending travesties have to be nipped in the bud for a peaceful world.

That the Israelis were taken unawares, that this was a failure of their intelligence and the professedly impenetrable iron dome is but one of the worries. That nobody could fathom the possible manifestation and intensity of this hatred for the Israelis - a deep-rooted and festering abhorrence for them by extremists is another worry. That Israel and the world were lulled into complacency with the winds of change in the Middle East - freshly inculcated modernity of the prime Arab states and their suave posturing to the Western world - is another concern. What is truly worrisome is that this attack dispels any doubts that terrorist acts are isolated and far between. It proves that terrorism is incip-

ient, lurking and raring to destroy. Even more disturbing is the ambivalence displayed at the political, social and cultural levels - whether to label Hamas unequivocally as a terrorist organisation or not. Even in a country like India which has lost so many lives to terrorist attacks, opinion was divided. In that light, longterm solutions should be found to address the subject of terrorism - not least at the diplomatic, social and cultural levels.

One key reality that has emerged is that illegitimate, non-state actors can exploit and extract financing from legitimate state actors who use them and support them to wage a war by other means. Attempts to choke this nexus are far from successful, as the case of Hamas proves. To have thousands of missiles, heavyduty military vehicles, munitions and manpower requires serious funding. To be able to wage a war against a heavily equipped and competent state that is in a state of eternal battle-readiness requires resources, competence and the backing of rich patrons.

Felicity in handling high-intensity weapons has come about routing funds through illegal because super-power armament channels and continuing to

companies are seeking widespread dissemination of their innovations and so encourage their propagation by clandestine means. The ubiquitous internet is yet another platform for sharing information and enabling do-it-yourself capabilities. That is what should worry military strategists the world over - that the technique and technology of terrorist warfare waged through fringe groups has gotten easier. It has become commoditized.

Terrorist groups the world over should be so unequivocally labelled. Surprisingly, groups like Hamas have not yet been castigated by the United Nations as terrorist groups. Even immediately after the attack, there was political wavering about whether Hamas should be designated as a terrorist organization or not – a noted Indian politician went on to say that Hamas had not been formally so designated even by India. It is indeed unfortunate that in the United Nations, motions can be easily vetoed on political grounds in the Security Council. Similar efforts by India in the past have been disallowed merely because of vetoes by countries unfriendly to India. Therefore, between the binary of extremist and terrorist, a new category snould be creat ed for those groups who are arming themselves militarily,



PROACTIVE STATE

VIGILANCE **AGAINST EXTREMIST GROUPS MAKES IT** INCUMBENT UPON THE STATE TO RISE **ABOVE PETTY MAJORITARIANISM** AND TO ENFORCE A RIGOROUS RULE OF LAW THAT IS

DISCRIMINATORY

voice and mobilise opinion against sovereign states. These should be labelled as Groups that Display Traits of Terrorism. After the Hamas attack and the revelation that the preparations were undertaken over a year of more, it is evident that terrorist attacks are not spontaneous acts of peeve or anguish; they are premeditated and carefully planned. That is why, to await a full-scale terrorist attack by an extremist group before declaring them as terrorists is fraught. It is appropriate to at least designate them as display-ing traits of terrorism if they have bought arms and obtained illegal funds.

It should be legitimate for governments to highlight those groups that have a history of terrorist activities as those displaying traits of terrorism. What are traits of terrorism

today that carry a high probability of becoming acts of terrorism tomorrow? They need to be treated firmly and clinically. The world must know that such groups need unequivocal confinement and oversight. Of course, governments would have to build an ironclad case against them globally. If another nation blocks this move, they should be asked to give an undertaking that the organisation in question will not commit any action against terrorism. act of terrorism on foreign soil. In that breath, India should not

take the Chinese veto in support of Masood Azhar lying down. We should talk unrestrainedly about the Chinese encouragement of traits of terrorism.

Currently, civil opinion against

terrorism is sought to be built through an anodyne oath taken on the National Anti-Terrorism Day on 21 May every year, to commemorate the terrorist assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Instead, the government should seek to pointedly denigrate those with terrorist traits. Genesis and historical rationale of persecution aside, a murder is a murder and so a terrorist attack is a terrorist attack. One must remember that proactive state vigilance against extremist groups makes it incumbent upon the state to rise above petty majoritarianism and to enforce a rigorous rule of law that is non-discriminatory. Initiating, encouraging and facilitating dialogue and confidence-building amongst communities and groupings is

the need of the hour. Stately restraint entails sobriety and not allowing domestic peeve to be exaggerated to a point where it becomes a national issue and divides the body fabric of citizenry. Only in an environment of domestic empathy can one render action against terrorism.

(The author is former Secretary GOI, views are personal)

Music has a role to play in skilling students

RAVI SONNAD

Learning music improves cognitive skills, which supports memory, attention, reading, math, and language

¬here is ample research and evidence on the correlation between learning music and the development of the brain. Music improves cognitive skills, which supports memory, attention, reading, math, and language. Several studies are showing that teens who study music perform better in school - they get higher grades, have improved literacy, and are more likely to graduate; however, there is little attention paid to how learning music supports the development of life skills that have become so essential for life and work in the 21st centu-

Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba, famously said at a World Economic Forum summit, "our entire education system built over the last two hundred years is based on acquiring knowledge which today is accessed with a few clicks on the internet. Skills such as communication and collaboration, creative and critical thinking, and the ability to empathise have a premium today and will only become more

erful experiential medium learn that mastery and that is ideally suited to inculcating these skills.

Unlike a subject test, it is impossible to study music the day before a class or performance. Learning music takes time and understanding when and how much to practice teaches effective time management skills. Learning music also requires concentration and focus. Children learn to concentrate on multiple elements, enhancing their productivi-

ty and attention span. Getting to a certain skill level can at times be frustrating, both physically and mentally. Whether an instrumentalist plays through sore fingertips or a vocalist tries to reach a certain note, it is easy to want to give up. Persevering requires disciimportant." Music is a pow- pline and patience. Children help with relationships at

progress take time and consistent effort. This discipline helps with their academics and personal commitments. As children progress and achieve milestones, their sense of accomplishment grows, leading to increased self-assurance. Performing in front of an audience also enhances their self-esteem. Music is a wonderful way to express oneself creatively. The way one approaches and interprets music is unique and helps mould individuality and creative thinking. It is also a fantastic way to communicate with others. Music in the classroom is always a group exercise and requires careful listening and collaboration to be able to perform in unison.

These strategies eventually

school, jobs, and other social situations.

"When we sing or create music, we use all the parts of the brain: left, right, front, and back. All these parts collaborate. That is very unique!" said Hanne Deneire, composer. Children who go to schools

that use a Montessori-type of pedagogy or follow curricula such as the IB learn music as part of their regular school. Children whose families can afford a private music education also benefit. Today, almost 1 in 4 school-going children in the world are in India. Seventyfive per cent of them attend government or low-income private schools that do not provide this opportunity. If we are to take advantage of the dividend that can result from a well-educated and capable young force that our population demographic can afford us, we must invest in the right type of education that prepares them for the 21st century. Music education can play a vital role

towards this goal. (The writer is the founder, of Enabling Leadership, views are personal)

ED SUMMON ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Sir—The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who also serves as the Aam Aadmi Party's national convener, to record his statement on November 2 in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. The ED case is based on a First Information Report registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), alleging multiple irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi excise policy (2021-22), which was scrapped following corruption allegations. The CBI had recorded Mr. Kejriwal's statement on April 16, and after being questioned for over nine hours, he told the media that the entire case was fabricated, and the agencies did not have any proof; it was merely a result of "dirty politics." He alleged that the entire case was being built to bring down the AAP. Two senior AAP leaders, Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, are already in jail as undertrials in the same case. Now it is Arvind Kejriwal's turn. The saying "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" rings true.

CK R Nathan Ghaziabad

SECURITY OF PUDUCHERRY ASSEMBLY

Sir—The proactive stance taken by the Puducherry Police to fortify security measures at the Legislative Assembly is commendable. The recent announcement of the preparation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) by the Puducherry Police is indeed a noteworthy step in safeguarding one of the pillars of our democratic structure.

Given the current social and political landscape, strengthening security protocols is not just a necessity but also a responsibility towards ensuring the safety and integrity of our legislative institutions. The initiative to create an SOP underscores a strategic approach aimed at preventing and managing potential security threats, thereby ensuring the smooth functioning of the Assembly. While our society respects and cherishes the spirit of democracy, recent events globally and locally have highlight-

Electoral Bonds must be transparent

ELECTORAL BONDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

chieving a corruption-free Bharat requires strong laws, strict enforcement, and a commitment from all citizens to resist and report corrupt practices. The benefit of a corruption-free India is that it paves the way for economic growth, trust in public institutions, and a brighter future for all Bharathians.

In Bharat, some people feel hurt when their right to love, eat, or wear what they want is being controlled by those in charge. Those at the helm of affairs, who speak against corruption in government, should advocate for transparency, as electoral bonds are the first point of corruption in India. In this context, the people of Bharath have the right to know about the funding of electoral bonds. The government has taken several measures to promote transparency and reduce corruption, including implementing the Right to Information Act (RTI), digitising government services, introducing the Aadhaar card, implementing GST, and enforcing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

Now is the right time for the people of Bharat to know about the funding of electoral bonds enjoyed by political parties as a whole. I hope the Honorable Supreme Court will direct the government to show transparency in the transactions of electoral bonds among the political parties in our country. This will pave the way for crystal-clear transparency and strengthen democracy in India.

S Padmanabhan | Kochi

ed the need for heightened security awareness and preparedness.

The decision by the Puducherry Police is commendable, showcasing their commitment to maintaining a secure environment for our elected representatives and the gov-

ernance process. It's imperative for the public to recognize the gravity of such measures and extend support to the efforts of law enforcement agencies in implementing and maintain-

ing the SOP effectively. A collaborative approach involving citizens, the police, and the government is pivotal in fortifying our democratic institutions against any possible disruptions or risks. As a responsible citizen, I urge the authorities to ensure the comprehensive implementation of these security measures, emphasizing the significance of staying vigilant and fostering a secure environment for the legislative proceedings in Puducherry.

Maimul Safui | Howrah

TERROR IN BAGS

Sir—The bomb blasts during a prayer meeting in Ernakulam, Kerala, are deeply distressing and condemnable. Due to two successive explosions, three people lost their lives, and 50 other worshippers were injured. It should be clear that there is no place for hatred and violence in a civilized society. The government must conduct a thorough investigation and bring the guilty to justice. The Govt has constituted a special investigation team to explore all possible angles, including whether it was indeed a renegade's solitary mission. The National Investigation Agency and National Security Guard have initiated their work. Whoever is guilty must be punished, even if they are a member of any party or

Tauqueer Rahmani | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN ESSENCE OF THE UPANISHADS

The Upanishads are treasure trove of wisdom, worth applying in life



SWAMI CHARANASHIT

he Upanishads, often referred to as Vedanta, are a collection of ancient Indian texts that form the philosophical foundation of Hinduism. They are considered the concluding part of the Vedic scriptures, which date back to as early as 1500 BCE. The Upanishads explore profound spiritual and metaphysical concepts, providing insight into the nature of reality, the self, and the ultimate purpose of human existence. The word "Upanishad" itself means "sitting down near" or "sitting at the feet of," suggesting a close and intimate relationship between the teacher and the student. It is in this intimate setting that the essence of the Upanishads is

The Quest for Knowledge: At the heart of the Upanishads lies a deep quest for knowledge. The sages and seers of ancient India sought to understand the fundamental truths of existence, transcending the limitations of the material world. They pondered profound questions: Who am I? What is the nature of the universe? What is the ultimate reality, and how can one attain it? These inquiries were not merely academic exercises but were central to the spiritual quest for self-realisation and enlightenment. Oneness of the Self and the Ultimate Reality: The Upanishads expound the concept of "Brahman," the ultimate reality that underlies and transcends the entire universe. This ultimate reality is often described as formless, infinite, and beyond all dualities. It is the source and essence of everything, including the self, or "Atman." The Upanishads teach that realizing the oneness of the individual self (Atman) with the universal self (Brahman) is the key to spiritual awakening. This realisation is at the core of many spiritual traditions, including Hinduism.

The Process of Self-Realisation: Self-realisation, as described in the Upanishads, is a profound and transformative journey. It involves meditation, introspection, and self-inquiry. The seeker delves into their consciousness to uncover the truth of their existence. This process of selfrealisation leads to the dissolution of the ego and the recognition of the unity that underlies all of creation.

Liberation from the Cycle of Samsara: The Upanishads also address the concept of "Samsara," the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. They assert that the ultimate goal of life is to break free from this cycle and attain "Moksha" or liberation. Through self-realisation and union with Brahman, one can achieve liberation, ending the cycle of suffering and



Ethical and Moral Guidance: While the Upanishads focus on metaphysical and spiritual matters, they also provide ethical and moral guidance. They emphasise the importance of virtues such as truthfulness, non-violence, compassion, and self-discipline. These qualities are seen as essential for one's spiritual progress and for living a harmonious and meaning-

A Universal Message: The teachings of the Upanishads transcend cultural and religious boundaries. Their emphasis on the universal truths of existence, the oneness of all beings, and the importance of self-realisation can resonate with people of diverse spiritual backgrounds. The Upanishads have influenced not only Hinduism but also the development of other philosophical and spiritual traditions, including Buddhism and various schools of Indian philosophy.

Living the Wisdom of the Upanishads: The essence of the Upanishads is not confined to ancient texts but is a living philosophy that continues to inspire and guide seekers on their spiritual journeys. To truly understand the essence of the Upanishads, one must engage in spiritual practice, meditation, and self-inquiry. It is through direct experience and realisation that the profound wisdom of these texts can be fully appreciated. The Upanishads are a treasure trove of spiritual wisdom that offers profound insights into the nature of reality and the path to liberation.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

Challenges in equipping job seekers with skills



DINESH SOOD

Engaging with research organisations and academic institutions that focus on education, skills, and labour markets is critical to building capability



ddressing the challenge of skilling millions of new entrants of the working age is crucial in India's economy, which is undergoing structural, demographic, and technological shifts. As the nature of work changes, it is essential to make new entrants employable and skilled, which is a big challenge. By 2024, around 70 million new individuals within the working age bracket, i.e., 15-59 years, are expected to enter India's labour force. The estimated total workforce will then be around 405 million people. The recently released Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) annual report, 2022-23, reveals that this will include 59 million youth aged between 15-30 years. Hence, strategies for re-skilling, up-skilling, and recognising informally acquired skills of the current workforce must be rein-

India is taking unique initiatives to lever age its demographic potential into a dividend that will fuel the country's growth. Simultaneously, ageing populations in several developed countries provide opportunities for skilled individuals' migration from India to benefit both the host and destination countries. According to an analysis, India's labour force above 30 years of age is 262 million people. Out of this, 259 million are currently employed and need to be future-ready. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) was established as a public-private partnership (PPP) to encourage private sector participation in India's skill development sector to drive re-skilling and upskilling initiatives. This will help prepare the workforce for new technologies and the future of work.

Three major challenges in skill develop-

Firstly, there should be collaboration between industry and the private sector. This is an essential strategic pillar for India, as it is necessary to create avenues



ACCORDING TO AN ANALYSIS, INDIA'S LABOUR **FORCE ABOVE 30** YEARS OF AGE IS 262 MILLION PEOPLE. OUT OF THIS, 259 MILLION ARE **CURRENTLY** EMPLOYED AND NEED TO BE **FUTURE-READY**

(The writer is a cofounder and MD of Örane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member of India

International Skill;

views are personal)

for private-sector engagement. Skill development faces several forms of market failures, including information asymmetries. A skilled person knows their skills, but a potential employer does not. If employers had all the information, they would be willing to pay more for a skilled person. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is an intervention to address information asymmetry.

There is a vast segment of informal workers in India, many of whom possess skills that have not been formally recognised. RPL interventions are critical in this scenario, as holding a formal certification can improve an individual's bargaining power. Some analysis reveals that the monthly incomes of RPL-certified individuals were on average 19% higher than those who had not been RPL-certified. An average increase of 25% in income after certification was reported.

Another market failure in skill development is externalities. When a firm spends resources on developing the skills of an employee, he or she can quit and join another firm, thus benefiting the latter firm and not the firm that incurred the training cost. Government intervention is necessary where there are such market failures. Workers are incentivised to invest in their general skill training through apprenticeships or self-paid training, as they can benefit from higher salaries when they switch jobs. As such, firms may be willing to spend on developing specific skills of employees. There are various skill development models, including government-funded programs that fully or partially subsidize training/apprenticeships, market-

led, market-led, and industryled/on-the-job training. Collaboration with industry is

fundamental to ensure the relevance and quality of skills training and for building the institutional structures required to achieve the desired outcomes. Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) were incubated by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to foster industry connections and develop an industry-relevant course and curriculum. Secondly, there should be encour-

agement for international mobility. India is committed to becoming the "skill capital" of the world, and the India International Skill Centre (IISC) programme is evidence of this. A new, market-driven IISC network has been proosea to counsel and guide potential emigrants, focusing on skills tests, up-skilling, language, and pre-departure orientation. Furthermore, the governments of India and Japan are cooperating to implement Japan's Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP), an on-the-job training scheme providing three to five years of internship opportunities for foreign nationals in Japan, with NSDC as the implementing organisation.

Technical collaborations have been undertaken with countries such as the UK, Australia, and the UAE for benchmarking and mutual recognition of standards. Governmentto-government and B2B partnerships are also being developed for new markets such as those in Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and East Asia to increase the mobility of blue and white-collar Indian workers. Thirdly,

improving women's participation in the labour force is a significant challenge in India. Out of the country's total labour force of 395.2 million, only 91.6 million are women. To address this issue, skilling initiatives can be implemented along with a wider push towards gender sensitisation, creating economic opportunities, and providing social support.

We can use residential facilities for women trainees and embed mentoring and coaching in skills programs to improve their participation. Local workshops can also be organised to provide social support. To make employment more attractive to women, they can be prepared for forms of work such as the gig economy, which has more flexible work models. This is especially relevant because 229. million women out of the 301.5 million who are not in the labour force report their status as "attending domestic duties." Fortunately, our progress in creat-

ing access to skill development for women in the beauty- wellness and health sectors has been positive. More than 60% of the candidates trained under PMKVY are women. Several training providers focus exclusively on women and promote skill training in towns and rural areas. Partnerships with industries to support women-centric projects in non-traditional trades have also been explored. Engaging with research organisations, academic institutions, think tanks, and multilateral institutions that focus on education, skills, and labour markets is critical to building new initiatives, collaborations, and institutional

Divorce: Changing attitudes and social mores Every marriage is different and so are the issues that couples face; divorce sometimes is the only option to end a dysfunctional relationship

¬he average individual feels sufficiently prepared for marriage before getting married. But as time has gone on, they have discovered that marriage is unexpected. Although someone can learn to fly an aircraft in a classroom, does it qualify them as a pilot until they take to the air? Getting married involves a lot of similarities. A formal and social contract is made between two people, uniting their lives on an emotional, financial, and legal level. Making it successful is wholly their combined duty. During the first three years of marriage, some general patterns of adjustment have been observed. The first six months of marriage considered the "honeymoon phase", are characterised by few serious prob-



(The writer is an Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India, views are person-

lems and a general sense of satisfaction. The relationship in marriage gradually gets stronger day by day as it passes through different stages like romance, disillusionment, power struggle, stability and till the stage of lasting commit-

The idea of marriage and how we define marriage has changed drastically over time starting with only being defined as the coming together of a man and a woman, binding them into a relationship of love and support for each other. Every marriage is different and so are the issues that couples face in their con-

Mutual respect, understanding and compassion are essential elements of a strong marriage. We give up the less

important ones, which are the building blocks of the foundation of a relationship, for more important larger and tangible issues. Sacrifice in marriage and relationships is often about making efforts to enhance the qualities of the other person. A healthy compromise is the key to a successful relationship. If you cannot learn to do that then I am sorry to say your relationship will never survive. Love is all about give and take concerning individual, familial and social responsibilities. It's not just kind words, but a lot more. The Indian society exhibits considerable variations in cus-

toms, culture and the meaning

of a marriage between regions,

between classes, between rural

& urban areas and finally

between different ethnic, reli-

down of traditions, joint family system, individual male migrations to cities of work, erosion of the authority of patriarch, the erosion of traditional family values, increase in the number of working mothers in cities, rise in domestic violence and practice of dowry, neglect of children and elderly and poor regard for family codes are enough indications of the danger that the family and ultimately society are progressively facing in the society. There are so many factors that are giving rise to stress in life and which are leading to couples failing to compromise and sacrifices in their marriages. And then begins the conflict, and so does the jour- is staying somewhere you're

rise in the number of single-

member households, break-

gious and caste groups. The ney of pain. Even though young people these days marry mostly of their own choice and even check their sexual compatibility before marriage because people understand that relationships are not prison, your spouse is not your jailor, and it is okay to end a relationship that isn't working. Divorce is not a problem. Divorce is a solution to the problem of a dysfunctional relationship.

Conservative societies like the idea of forcing people to remain in dysfunctional or even abusive relationships. I happen to think that's morally wrong, and kind of sick. Divorce is okay, breaking up is okay, starting over is okay, moving on is okay, and being

alone is okay, what is not okay

not valued and appreciated. Staying in a bad marriage can provide security because at least you know how your life will go. But getting a divorce gives you hope - the hope to be who you want to be, the hope to be happy and the hope to find someone else to love.

If you have done all the work of trying to make the marriage better and nothing is changing, finding the courage to leave and move forward pays off in the long run. You stop putting all your energy into a relationship that no longer works and put more energy into yourself and your kids.

Divorce is preferable to a marriage without love. We all deserve to be loved. I never want to be in a marriage where that partnership isn't sacred and a priority. Life is far

too short to spend it immersed in an unhealthy relationship. Divorce may be a difficult process that leaves emotional wounds that may take some time to heal.

Divorce can have severe aftereffects when emotions like guilt, resentment, and perplexity can persist long after the court case is over. Cognitive scientists have found that there are "clean" and "dirty" pains involved with the divorce process, thus even if one starts the divorce, there might be a major emotional cost. But occasionally, one must battle for peace, and when it is won, nothing is better than ending a bad relationship and living a calm existence. Consequently, divorce may turn out to be a good thing in the long run.

UK summit aims to tackle thorny issues around cutting-edge AI risks

AP ■ BLETCHLEY PARK (ENGLAND)

 $D_{\text{ny}}^{\text{igital officials, tech company}}$ are converging on Wednesday at a former codebreaking spy base near London to discuss and better understand the extreme risks posed by cuttingedge artificial intelligence.

The two-day summit focuses on so-called frontier AI - the latest and most powerful systems that take the technology right up to its limits, but could come with as-yetunknown dangers. They're underpinned by foundation models, which power chatbots like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard and are trained on vast pools of information scraped from the internet.

 \bar{S} ome 100 people from 28 countries are expected to attend

two-day AI Safety Summit, though the British government has refused to disclose the

The event is a labour of love for Sunak, a tech-loving former banker who wants the UK to be a hub for computing innovation and has framed the summit as the start of a global conversation about the safe development of AI. But Vice President Kamala Harris is due to steal the focus on Wednesday with a separate speech in London setting out the US administration's more hands-on approach.

She's due to attend the summit on Thursday alongside government officials from more than two dozen countries including Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, Saudi — and China, invited



Britain's Michelle Donelan, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, 6th right front row, with Digital Ministers who are attending the Al Saftey Summit in Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, England on Wednesday

also scheduled to discuss AI

over the protests of some members of Sunak's governing

with Sunak in a livestreamed conversation on Thursday Tesla CEO Elon Musk is night. The tech billionaire was

among those who signed a statement earlier this year raising the alarm about the perils that AI poses to humanity.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and executives from US artificial intelligence companies such as Anthropic and influential computer scientists like Yoshua Bengio, one of the "godfathers" of AI, are also expected.

The meeting is being held at Bletchley Park, a former top secret base for World War II codebreakers that's seen as a birthplace of modern comput-

One of Sunak's major goals is to get delegates to agree on a first-ever communique about the nature of AI risks. He said the technology brings new opportunities but warns about frontier AI's threat to humanity, because it could be used to create biological weapons or be exploited by terrorists to sow fear and destruction.

Only governments, not companies, can keep people safe from AI's dangers, Sunak said last week. However, in the same speech, he also urged against rushing to regulate AI technology, saying it needs to be fully understood first.

In contrast, Harris will stress the need to address the here and now, including "societal harms that are already happening such as bias, discrimination and the proliferation of misinformation".

Harris plans to stress that the Biden administration is "committed to hold companies accountable, on behalf of the people, in a way that does not stifle innovation", including through legislation.

"As history has shown in the absence of regulation and strong government oversight, some technology companies choose to prioritise profit over: The wellbeing of their customers; the security of our communities; and the stability of our democracies," she plans

She'll point to President Biden's executive order this week, setting out AI safeguards, as evidence the US is leading by example in developing rules for artificial intelligence that work

Among measures she will announce is an AI Safety Institute, run through the Department of Commerce, to help set the rules for "safe and trusted AI".

in the public interest.

Harris also will encourage other countries to sign up to a US-backed pledge to stick to "responsible and ethical" use of AI for military aims.

S Africa calls on UN to deploy rapid protection force in Gaza

South Africa has called on the United Nations to deploy a rapid protection force to protect the civilian population of Gaza amid reports about a large number of children being killed there as the Israeli forces heightens attacks on the Hamas-ruled enclave. "South Africa echoes the UN General Assembly's resolution that called for an immediate ceasefire and the immediate opening of a humanitarian corridor to provide food, medical supplies and fuel," the country's Department of International Relations and Cooperations said in a statement on Monday.

It said that South Africa also "calls on the United Nations to deploy a rapid protection force to protect the civilian population from further bombardment." "All countries genuinely committed to a rules-based system underpinned by international law must act immediately. South Africa calls for the International community to hold Israel accountable for breaches of International Law," it added. 'Save the Children, a humanitarian organisation for children, has reported that the number of children killed in Gaza over the last three weeks has surpassed the annual number of children killed across all the world's conflict zones since 2019.

Since October 7, when Israel commenced retaliatory attacks abducted some Israeli civilians, more than 3,500 Palestinian children are reported to have been killed. According to the NGO, there may be more than 1,000 more children who have been reported missing still lying in the rubble of demolished buildings

"All of these children killed since 7 October are non-combatants and those responsible for their deaths must be held accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity and in the case of the scale of deaths in Gaza and increasingly in the West Bank, the crime of genocide must also be investigated," the South African Ministry said.

Media freedom group reports deaths of 34 journalists

The Hague (Netherlands) (AP): Thirty-four journalists have been killed in the war between Israel and Hamas, an international media freedom group said Wednesday, accusing both sides of committing possible war crimes.

Reporters Without Borders called on International Criminal Court prosecutors to investigate the deaths. The organization said it already filed a complaint regarding eight Palestinian journalists it said were killed in Israel's bombardment of civilian areas in the Gaza Strip, and an Israeli journalist killed during Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel."The scale, seriousness and recurring nature of international crimes targeting journalists, particularly in Gaza, calls for a priority investigation by the ICC prosecutor," Christophe Deloire, directorgeneral of the group also known by the French abbreviation RSF, said. The organization is headquartered in France.

It's the third such complaint to be filed by the group since 2018 alleging war crimes against Palestinian journalists in Gaza. Israel says it makes civilians and accuses Hamas of putting them at risk by operating in residential areas.

The latest complaint also cites "the deliberate, total or partial, destruction of the premises of more than 50 media outlets in Gaza" since Israel declared war against Hamas over the militant group's bloody October 7 incursion, the organization said.

Another media freedom organization, the Committee to Protect Journalists, said Wednesday that it was investigating reports of journalists "killed, injured, detained or missing" in the war, including in Lebanon.



In this frame grab from video, Palestinians stand and others search for survivors and bodies following Israeli airstrikes at the Jabaliya refugee camp on Gaza City? Äôs

'Passengers hid from weekend airport riot in terminal' Tallinn (AP): Israel's ambas- saw in Makhachkala," Ben Zvi

sador to Moscow gave new details Wednesday of the weekend riot at an airport in southern Russia when a flight from think there will be no probsome of the passengers had to hide in the terminal before being flown by helicopter to safety. Ambassador Alexander Ben Zvi blamed Sunday night's unrest on extremist elements resulting from "indoctrination" in the mostly Muslim republic of Dagestan. But he said that overall, there is no antisemitism "on an organised level" in Russia. He added, though, that authorities should take the incident seriously so such actions don't spread.

"Of course, there has always been, is and will be antisemitism on the everyday level. The important thing is that it doesn't develop into what we

told The Associated Press in an online interview from Moscow. "If all this is under control, I

The angry mob stormed the airport in Makhachkala, the capital city of Dagestan, when the flight from Israel landed there. Hundreds of men, some carrying banners with antisemitic slogans, roamed the building and rushed onto the tarmac looking for Israeli passengers. It took the authorities several hours to disperse the mob, which threw stones at police.

At least 20 people, both police and civilians, were injured and more than 80 were détained. Russia's Investigative Committee opened a probe on the charges of organising

France vows fight against antisemitism

Paris (AP): French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne on Tuesday vowed a "merciless fight" against surging antisemitism after residents of the French capital discovered anti-Jewish graffiti on buildings in several districts. The discovery comes weeks into the Israel-Hamas war in which thousands of Israelis and Palestinians have been killed and hundreds of Israelis have been taken hostage by the militants in Gaza."The situation in the Middle East does not justify antisemitism," Borne told the National Assembly during a regular questioning session. 'Nothing ever excuses antisemitism...my government is determined to wage a merciless fight against it." Since the Oct Hamas attack on Israel, French authorities have registered 857 antisemitic acts, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said on Tuesday.

'Australia can't strip citizenship from man over his terrorism convictions'

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australia's highest court on Wednesday overturned a government decision to strip citizenship from a man convicted of terrorism. The ruling is a second blow in the High Court to the law introduced almost a decade ago that allows a government minister to strip dual nationals of their Australian citizenship on extremismrelated grounds. The ruling also prevents the government from deporting Algerian-born cleric Abdul Benbrika when he is released from prison, which is expected within weeks.

The High Court judges ruled 6-1 that the law that gave the home affairs minister power to strip citizenship in such instances was unconstitutional. The majority found that the minister was effectively exercising a judicial function of punishing

criminal guilt. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his government would examine the ruling in regards to the law passed by the previous government. Constitutional lawyer George Williams said he was not surprised by the "It's a fundamental breach

of the separation of powers in Australia which says that judging guilty and determining punishment should be by courts and not by people in Parliament," Williams said. Williams said he under-

stood that Benbrika was the only person to lose citizenship under a particular clause of the law relating to convictions of terrorism-related offenses that are punished by more than three years in

Therefore the precedent did not effect any other person who had lost citizenship rights. The High Court last year struck down a separate clause of the law that allowed a dual national imprisoned in Syria to lose his citizenship on suspicion that he had been an Islamic State group fighter.

In 2020, Benbrika became the first extremist, proven or alleged, to lose citizenship rights while still in Australia. The government has not disclosed how many there have

Benbrika was convicted in 2008 of three terrorism charges related to a plot to cause mass casualties at a public event in Melbourne. No attack took place. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and would have been released in 2020. But his sentence was extended by three years under a recent law that allowed the continued detention of prisoners convicted or terrorism offenses who a judge ruled posed an unacceptable risk to the commu-

24-yr-old Indian student stabbed at gym in US

Washington (PTI): A 24-year-old Indian student was stabbed by a man at a public gym in Valparaiso city in the US state of Indiana and is said to be in a critical condition, according to a media report. P Varun Raj, a Computer Science student, the temple by the assailant Jordan Andrade, 24, at the public gym on Sunday morning for reasons that the authorities are still investigating, reported NWI Times.

Following the incident, the attacker was arrested and is facing charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and attempted murder.

Varun was attacked with a knife by his attacker. He was ultimately taken to a Fort Wayne hospital due to the severity of his injury and was reportedly given a zero to five per cent chance of survival. Varun's condition is said to be serious after the violent attack," the report said.
The attacker told the police

that he had requested a massage that morning and walked into the massage room to find the other man, whom he did not know but found "a little weird."

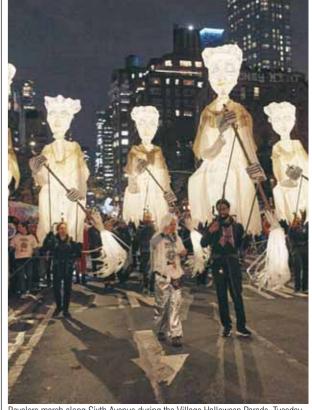
said he made sure to react the "right way," according to a charging document. "Andrade then described

man posed a threat, Andrade

(the man) as a threat to him so he, 'just reacted," police said. Police said they walked

into the massage chair room to find a large amount of blood on one of two chairs and a folding knife on the counter that reportedly belonged to Andrade.

Andrade, who has been charged with attempted murder and aggravated battery, is scheduled to appear before Porter Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Clymer on Wednesday.



Revelers march along Sixth Avenue during the Village Halloween Parade, Tuesday, in New York

AP/PTI

Trump's sons set to testify at fraud trial

AP ■ NEW YORK

When Donald Trump became president in 2017, he handed day-to-day management of his real estate empire to his eldest sons, Donald Jr. and Eric. Now, as the Trumps fight to keep the family business intact, the brothers are set to testify in the New York civil fraud case that threatens their Trump Organisation's future. Donald Trump Jr. is expected to testify on Wednesday and Eric Trump on Thursday, kicking off a blockbuster stretch as the trial in New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit enters its second month.

James, a Democrat, alleges that Donald Trump, his company and top executives, including Eric and Donald Trump Jr., conspired to exaggerate his wealth by billions of dollars on financial statements that were given to banks, insurers and others to secure loans and make deals. Donald Trump — the former president, family patriarch and 2024 Republican front-runner — is slated to testify on

Monday, followed by his eldest daughter, ex-Trump Organisation executive and White House adviser Ivanka Trump, on November 8. State lawyers are expected to rest their case after that, giving Trump's lawyers a chance to call

their own witnesses.

Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump are both executive vice presidents at the Trump Organisation and defendants in James' lawsuit. Eric has oversight over the company's operations while Donald Trump Jr. has been involved in running the company's property development. He and longtime company finance chief Allen Weisselberg were also trustees of the revocable trust Trump set up to hold the company's assets when he became president. Before the trial, Judge Arthur Engoron ruled that Trump's financial statements were fraudulent. He ordered that a court-

appointed receiver seize control

of some of his companies and

properties as Trump Tower -

though an appeals court has halt-

ed enforcement for now

King Charles III visits war cemetery in Kenya

 $K_{
m cemetery}^{
m ing}$ Charles III visited a war Wednesday, laying a wreath in honour of Kenyans who fought alongside the British in the two world wars, a day after the monarch expressed "greatest sorrow and the deepest regret" for the violence of the colonial era.

Charles, who with Queen Camilla arrived on Monday in what is his first state visit to a Commonwealth country as monarch, cited the "abhorrent and unjustifiable acts of violence" committed against Kenyans as they sought independence.

However, he didn't explicitly apologise for Britain's actions in its former colony as many Kenyans wanted. At the state banquet hosted by Kenyan President William Ruto on Tuesday, Charles said there "can be no excuse" for the "wrongdoings of the past". He said that addressing them with honesty and openness could "continue to build an ever closer bond in the years ahead". After the wreath-



laying, he handed replacement medals to four veterans who have since lost theirs. Among the four was Cpl. Samwel Nthigai Mburia, who is 117 years old. The other three are privates John Kavai, Kefa Chagira and

Ezekiel Nyanjom Anyange. Kavai, 101, who fought in India and Burma in World War II, said his medals were a "joy and pride for him and his entire family", reminding him of his service. "I will not lose these ones until my death and my children will be custodians," he added. Mburia, who fought in

Damascus, Cairo and Jerusalem, said he got rid of his medal a long time ago for fear of being associated with the British colonisers but was now happy to get a replacement from the king. The cemetery has 59 graves and neighbours Kariokor market, previously the site of Nairobi's Carrier Corps Depot, the administrative centre through which soldiers heading to the front passed through. Charles also met with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission members and communities living near the cemetery.

In a first, Diwali festivities reverberate at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida regions of India including Gujarat, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh n a first, Diwali festivities

PTI ■ NEW YORK

World Resort in Florida as hundreds of dancers showcased the culture and heritage of India through performances in celebration of the festival of lights for a global audience at the iconic American destination. The firstever Youth Celebration of Diwali was hosted by Jashn Productions with over 400 dancers from across the country celebrating the festival of lights through dance performances at Disney Springs, and Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, a press release issued here said.

The Dance Fest led under the direction of Jeanie Beri, founder of Jashn Productions was a three-day event comprising vibrant colours, costumes and performances by dancers

sharing the joy and excitement

of this important festival with the

from around North America. "Bringing Diwali to Walt Disney World Resort for the first time ever was so exhilarating," Beri said. "We created history by



South Asian dance community. Celebrating the magic of Diwali in 'The Most Magical Place on Earth' was truly a dream come Beri said Jashn Productions

is looking forward to bringing people together to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of South Asia with more events like the Diwali Dance Fest.

The festival, from October 26-28, kicked off with an official parade at Disney Springs, where dancers performed a 20-minute choreographed piece while parading through the streets of Disney Springs. The Dance Fest Showcase, held at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, included 17 dance schools and performances from various

weaving elements of pop and hip-hop. The Diwali Dance Fest was the first of its kind celebration that gave children the opportu-

nity to showcase their talent on a world-renowned platform, the release added. Over 1,000 guests experienced the sights and sounds of Diwali as the iconic Disney park reverberated with sounds of Indian music and colourful costumes. Walt Disney's iconic Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse opened the event alongside specially-abled children. Jashn Productions donated USD 10K to the N-Lorem Foundation

whose mission is to develop and provide personalized experimental medicines free of cost to patients with nano-rare conditions."The Showcase was not just a celebration of a cultural tradition but a representation of unity and the power of art to bridge gaps and bring people together," California-based ICC Bollywood directors Amit and Hiren said in the release.

pressure on Taiwan

sends 43 planes, 7 ships near self-governing island

AP ■ TAIPEI (TAIWAN)

raiwan said Wednesday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island, the latest sign that Beijing plans no let-up in its campaign of harassment, threats and intimidation.
Taiwan's Defense Ministry

said the figure was current for the 24 hours up to 6:00 a.m. Wednesday and that 37 of the aircraft had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, which China no longer recognizes as an informal divider between the sides.It said Taiwan had monitored the situation, scrambled jet fighters, dispatched ships and activated land-based missile systems, all standard responses to Chinese military activities, which include crossing into Taiwan's air not into its actual airspace. Such Chinese maneuvers

have become frequent and aggressive since the then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022. China suspended military communication with the US to show its displeasure over her trip to Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory to be brought under under its control, by force,

China's military maneuvers are seen as intended to break down Taiwanese morale, exhausting its pilots and other personnel and wearing down its

Despite that, the present status of de-facto independence remains widely popular among the island's voters and the defense budget has been increased to purchase new equipment from

the U.S., its chief ally, and to produce some items locally, including submarines.

At an international defense forum in Beijing on Monday, China's second-ranking military official Gen. Zhang Youxia reiterated threats by the Chinese government to retaliate against moves toward establishing Taiwan's formal independence, saying that "no matter who tries to split Taiwan from China in any form, China and the Chinese military will never allow that to

Zhang, who is also vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, which oversees the world's largest standing military, opened the three-day event in the absence of former Defense Minister Gen. Li Shangfu, who would have normally hosted

China keeps up military | Dozens of Afghans deported from Pak in nationwide sweeps

Pakistani security forces on Pwednesday rounded up, detained and deported dozens of Afghans who were living in the country illegally, after a government-set deadline for them to leave expired, authorities said. The sweep is part of a new anti-migrant crackdown that targets all undocumented or unregistered foreigners, according to Islamabad, though it mostly affects some 2 million Afghans, who are in Pakistan without documentation.

The crackdown has drawn widespread criticism from UN agencies, rights groups and the Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan. Pakistan's interior minister

confirmed that the deportations have begun. "Today, we said goodbye to

64 Afghan nationals as they began their journey back home," Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. "This action is a testament to Pakistan's determination to

repatriate any individuals residing in the country without proper documentation."

The authorities said Wednesday's sweeps took place in the port city of Karachi, the garrison city of Rawalpindi, and in various areas in the southwestern Baluchistan and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, which border Afghanistan.

On Tuesday, thousands of Afghans had crammed into trucks and buses and headed to the two key border crossings to forced deportation.

According to the U.N. agencies, there are more than million undocumented Afghans in Pakistan, at least 6,00,000 of whom fled after the Taliban takeover in 2021.

Human Right Watch on Tuesday accused Pakistan of resorting to "threats, abuse, and detention to coerce Afghan asylum seekers without legal Afghanistan. The New Yorkbased watchdog appealed for authorities to drop the deadline and work with the U.N. refugee agency to register those with-out papers.In Afghanistan, Zabihullah Mujahid, the main spokesman for the Taliban government expressed concerns over forced expulsion of Afghans, saying that the past 45 years of wars and conflict in Afghanistan had forced millions to migrate.

The Afghan migrants have not created any problems in their host countries, he added. Without naming Pakistan, he urged host countries "to stop forcefully deporting Afghan refugees" and practice "toler-ance based on Islamic and neighbourly manners."

Mujahid said that all Afghans who are in exile "due to political concerns" are wel-come back and that the Taliban will provide a "secure environment in Afghanistan" for all.

Late Tuesday, a Taliban delegation traveled from the capital of Kabul to eastern Nangarhar province to find solutions for returning Afghans. Ahmad Banwari, the deputy provincial governor, told local media that the establish temporary camps.

Afghan returnees with families that have nowhere to go can stay in the camps for a month until they find a place to live, Banwari said.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban-led administration have become strained over the past two vears because of stepped-up attacks by the Pakistani Taliban, a separate militant group that is allied with the Afghan Taliban. The Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP, have found safe havens in neighbouring Afghanistan, from where they sneak across the volatile border to launch deadly attacks on Pakistani forces. Since the government deadline was announced on October 3, more than 2,00,000 Afghans have returned home from Pakistan.

Pakistan has said the deportations would be carried out in a "phased and orderly" manner and those detained during the crackdown would

Pak, IMF to start negotiations today for release of 2nd tranche of \$3 billion loan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the IMF will start their negotiations Thursday for the release of USD 710 million second tranche of a USD 3 billion loan to the cash-strapped country to stabilise its debt-ridden economy - a real challenge for the caretaker government ahead of the elections expected in January. A review mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will arrive here on Thursday and review the country's economic performance during the first three months of the current fiscal year - from July to September.

The IMF team led by Nathan Porter will field a mission to Pakistan starting on November 2 on the first review under the current Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) of USD 3 billion," Esther Perez, the resident representative of the IMF, said last week.

The IMF had proposed November 7 in anticipation of a delay in compiling the first quarter data but the Ministry of Finance assured that all the relevant data was available for the review talks, according to local media reports.

While approving the USD 3 billion loan in July this year, the Washington-based global lender had also released the first tranche of USD 1.2 billion. Although essentially a bridge loan, it offered much respite to Pakistan, which was battling an

acute balance of payments crisis and falling foreign exchange reserves. Ahead of the crucial talks, Pakistan was confident to secure the nod of the creditor for release of the second tranche under the short-term

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar expressed optimism on Tuesday regarding Pakistan's upcoming review, Hum News channel reported. "We have achieved our targets, includ-

ing revenue goals. We are confident that our negotiations for the second tranche will be successful," he said.

"Pakistan has achieved the structural bench agreed with the IMF and its important condition of increasing gas prices has also been met. Similarly, the circular credit is also within the prescribed limit and the fiscal deficit is in accordance with the set target as well," the Express Tribune newspaper reported on Wednesday ahead of the talks. It said that the Federal Board of Revenue's tax collections have exceeded their set target.

There are some difficulties about the external financing required for the budget deficit, but this issue will also be resolved easily too because of the assurances given by friendly countries including China, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, the paper said. If the review mission is satisfied with Pakistan's actions, it will recommend the

release of the next instalment of the loan to the IMF board, which will approve the release of USD 710 million in December to the country, it added. Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation. The federal government and the State Bank of Pakistan remain hopeful that they will comfortably complete the review on the back of meeting the conditions agreed with the IMF in July. Highly placed sources said that during the recently held IMF-World Bank annual meetings, the Pakistani delegation faced three major questions in almost

The finance ministry officials were asked about the status and role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council the prospects of next elections, and the mandate of the interim government, the sources said. A clarity on the next general election date could have strengthened the hands of the Ministry of Finance during the upcoming review talks, although the IMF has not explicitly attached any such condition.

Unlike the last failed USD 6.5 billion programme, the Ministry of Finance seemed committed to meeting the conditions set for the USD 3 billion programme during the past three months.

Pak SC terms govt committee as 'eyewash'

PTI ISLAMABAD

Dismissing it as an "eye-wash," Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a committee formed by the government to probe the 2017 sit-in by a hardline religious group and directed it to form another panel to probe those responsible for it.

The government had informed the court on October 27 that it set up a fact-finding commission for the 2017 sit-in by the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) at Islamabad's Faizabad interchange against the alleged changes in the Khatm-i-Nabuwwat (finality of prophethood) oath for lawmakers by the government. The then government had

claimed that the amendment to the oath was a "clerical error' and was subsequently rectified through an act of Parliament. However, the 20-day sit-in

by the group caused massive inconvenience to the public as it paralysed life in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. At the start of the hearing

today, Attorney General Mansoor Awan stated that a

FAIZABAD DHARNA

fact-finding committee had been constituted on October 19 and then read out the notification that the three-member committee is responsible for ensuring compliance with directions included in the 2019 judgement.

Qazi Faez Isa said the exercise was an "eyewash" and the "real thing" was missing from it. 'When everyone is withdrawing their review petitions, the terms of reference of the committee are synonymous to dust

the status of the committee, the chief justice declared it illegal. This committee too is illegal," the CJ stated and then asked why the inquiry was not conducted under the Inquiry Commission Act.

the fact-finding committee, it directed the government to form another committee to probe those responsible for the Faizabad dharna, which

was a major embarrassment for

the government. Chief Justice Isa, who was However, Chief Justice

After raising questions over

After the bench rejected

then the justice for the case, in his 2019 verdict in the sit-in case had ordered, among other steps, the formation of a probe committee to know the real reason behind the protest. The searing judgement had also instructed the defence ministry and the tri-services chiefs to penalise personnel under their command who were found to have violated their oath. It also directed the federal

government to monitor those advocating hate, extremism, and terrorism and prosecute them in accordance with the The decision had upset

the government and the powerful establishment and a case of alleged corruption was filed against Isa in the Supreme Court, which after hearing rejected the charges.

Several review petitions, including by the Ministry of Defence, the Intelligence

Bureau, the Pakistan Tehreeki-Insaf, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, the Election Commission of Pakistan, the Mutta-hida Qaumi Movement party as well by former minister Sheikh Rashid and Ijazul Haq (who is the son of former dictator Ziaul Haq) were also filed against the original judgment.

The review petitions remained in the cold storage but Isa, after becoming the chief justice, decided to hear them. He formed a three-member bench — including himself and fellow judges, Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Athar Minallah, which on September 28 heard a set of review petitions challenging the apex court's verdict.

Earlier, the chief justice while taking up the review petitions last month had said if his judgment had been implemented, acts like the Jaranwala incident, involving Muslims attacking Christians, could have been avoided. The incident was sparked

in August by a rumour of blasphemy in Jaranwala town of

Biden to meet Xi Jingping in this month

Washington (PTI): US President Joe Biden would meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Leadership Summit in San Francisco later this month, the White House has confirmed. "The president is looking forward to it. And that, I think should answer your question," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Tuesday at her daily news conference when asked about reports of a Biden-Xi meeting in San Francisco.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also been invited for the APEC Leadership summit by President Biden.

India is most likely to be represented by a Cabinet-level minister.

"We've been talking about it. The President said he's looking forward to meeting - to meeting with President Xi. And and so, not going to get into details about this meeting that's going to happen in November. It's going to be in San Francisco. It's going to be a constructive meeting," Jean-Pierre said.

"Look, what I'm saying is that we're aiming to have a constructive conversation, meeting between the leaders in San Francisco in November. So that's what I'm saying.

That's what's going to happen in November. We're going to have constructive conversa tion in San Francisco," she said. She said that the policy of

the Biden Administration as to how to move forward with China hasn't changed. "This is intense competi-

tion, right, that we have said that we want to move forward with China. We understand that and intense competition means intense diplomacy. That's what you're going to

see. That's what the president is

going to be doing and having a

tough conversation, but impor-

tant conversation," she said.

'North Korea shipped more than San Francisco million artillery shells to Russia'

Couth Korea's top spy agency believes North Korea sent more than a million artillery shells to Russia since August to help fuel Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, according to a lawmaker who attended a closed-door briefing Wednesday with intelligence

North Korea and Russia have been actively boosting the visibility of their partnership in the face of separate, deepening confrontations with the United

Their diplomacy — highlighted by a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Putin in September has triggered concerns about an arms arrangement in which North Korea supplies Russia with badly needed munitions in exchange for advanced Russian technologies that would strengthen Kim's nuclear-armed military.

Both Pyongyang and Moscow have

denied US and South Korean claims that the North has been transferring arms supplies to Russia.

According to lawmaker Yoo Sangbum, the South Korean National Intelligence Service believes the North shipped more than a million artillery shells to Russia through ships and other transport means since early August to help boost Russia's warfighting capabilities in Ukraine.

Those shells would roughly amount to two months' worth of supplies for the Russians, Yoo said.

The agency believes North Korea has been operating its munitions factories at full capacity to meet Russian munition demands and has also been mobilising residents to increase production, Yoo said.

There are also signs that North Korea dispatched weapons experts to Russia in October to counsel Russian officials on how to use the exported North Korean

NIS officials didn't immediately

respond to a request to confirm Yoo's account of the meeting. The agency has a mixed record on tracking developments in North Korea, which is made difficult by Pyongyang's stringent control of infor-

There are concerns in South Korea that North Korea could receive sensitive Russian technologies that would enhance the threat of Kim's nuclear weapons and missiles program. But the NIS believes it's more likely that the Russian assistance would be limited to conventional capabilities, possibly including efforts to improve North Korea's aging fighter aircraft fleets, Yoo said.

It's also likely that North Korea is receiving Russian technological assistance as it pushes ahead with plans to launch its first military reconnaissance satellite, Yoo quoted the NIS as saying. Following consecutive launch failures in recent months, the North failed to follow through on its vow to attempt a third launch in October.

ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਔਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ

ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਕੈੱਪਸ ਵਿਖੇ ਵਹੀਕਲ ਸਟੈਂਡ (ਮੇਨ ਗੇਂਟ ਅਤੇ ਬੈਂਕ ਸਾਈਡ ਗੈਂਟ ਪਾਰਕਿੰਗ) ਦੀ ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਬਿਨੈ-ਪੱਤਰ ਮਿਤੀ 15-11-2023 ਤੱਕ ਮੰਗੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਵੇਰਵਾ, Term & Conditions ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਵੈਬਸਾਇਟ www.gndu.ac.in→(Tenders) ਤੋਂ download ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਬਿਨੈ-ਪੱਤਰ ਜਨਰਲ ਸਾਖਾ ਤੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੇ

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE File No.-CE/R&B/ACCTS-30/23/371 Dt.27/10/23 Name of the Work: Special repair of JB/JC qtrs in port township Estimated cost: Rs.3,81,10,678.98. Last Date & time of submission of bid: 20.11.2023 upto 18:00 Hrs., Refer our Website for details:

eprocure/app Sd/-Executive Engineer Roads & Building Divsion PA/PR/56/2023-2024 dtd.01.11.2023

NOTICE TO APPEAR / ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF DLM & SFC-LDH Through this publication this is for constructive notice for respondent Arihant Knitwear, 9/5949 Gali No. 12, Raghubar Pura No. 2, Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi to https://eprocure.gov.in/

appear in person or through authorized representati before the district level Micro & Small Facilitati before the district level Micro & Small Facilitation Council Ludhiana, District Industries Centre, Ludhian on dated 21-12-2023 regarding claim reference petition submitted by Atam Corporation # 2945/ Guru Vihar, Street No. 2, Rahon Road, Ludhiana u 18(1), OS MSME act 2006 bearing Reference N MSFE/CIDC12/21/1739. If respondent still fails comits to apper as above then arbitration proceeding shall be conducted as per section 23 and 25 c arbitration and conciliation act and award shall als passed on basis of evidence before it. (Rakesh Kumar Kansa Memoer Secretary Cum General Manager District Industries Center Industrial Estate Ludhiana. Phone: 0161-2540695 Distt. Industries Cente

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001. Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813:

Short Term E-Tender Eng. No.7481/P-1/EMP-12472 dated 30-10-23 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-tender ID No.2023_POWER_111808_1 for the Procurement of MS and HT Nuts & Bolts under FS Group for the year 2023-24 for whole plant. detailed NIT & tender specification please refer

Website www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-10914

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 01-11-23/ 05.00 PM onwards. Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

76155/12/2353/2023/29428 Dated CHD :- 11/1/2023

Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)

Place : New Delhi

Date : 01.11.2023

MODI RUBBER LIMITED CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392

Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE

Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a 303rd Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, 10th November, 2023 at 11.30 AM at Corporate Office: 4-7/C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4th Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi- 110 025 to inter-alia approve the following: (1) Un-audited Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) of the

Company for the quarter and half year ended September, 2023 and review limited review report of the Statutory Auditors for the publication as per SEBI LODR requirements. Appointment of Ms Nadira Hamid as Independent Director of the

Reconstitution of Various Committee of the Company

For Modi Rubber Limited

Head - Legal & Co. Secretary

(S K Bajpai)

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that my client Sapna garg is in process to avail the LAP against her first floor portion area measuring 103.32 square meter out of the said property now known as Mahender apartment property number 988, 998 and 990 area measuring 425 square meter situated at ward number 8 main road Bazar Stram Delhi-06 tavalling loon from Suryodaya Small Finance Bank), who acquired the said property vide sale deed dated 13 April 2021 (doc. No. 3901) executed by Madha Rani, Whereas she has

said property vide sale deed dated 13 April 2021 (doc. No. 3901) executed by Radia Rani, Whereas she has lost the below mentioned deed pertraining to this property for which the online FIR has already been lodged on dated 31/10/23.

Driginal sale deed dated 3 February 2010 executed by Mahendra Kumar Bansal in favour of Pushpa Bupta All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, licenae, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned bellow within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Mettro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform public in genera that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has

organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE** I) TATAMOTORS T INTRAV10

REG.NO.UP12CT0996-YOM-2023 2) TATAMOTORS TATLPT2818 REG.NO.HR38AD9085-YOM-2022

3) TATAMOTORS TLPT4225CW

REG.NO.HR58C4164-YOM-2023 4) MARUTIS EECO REG.NO.HR55AK3356-YOM-2021

5) TATAMOTORS T INTRAV20 REG.NO.DL1LAL0692-YOM-2022 6) EICHR VECV 1112 GOODS

REG.NO.HR46D8623-YOM-2014 7) TATAMOTORS TATAACE

REG.NO.DL1LAL0896-YOM-2023 8) TATAMOTORS TACEGOLD REG.NO.DL1LAJ4471-YOM-2022

9) TATAMOTORS T3118FBGD REG.NO.UP37T5085-YOM-2016

10) TATAMOTORS TATAACE REG.NO.UP15ET8859-YOM-2020

11) EICHR VECV EVPRO2049 REG.NO.DL1LAE9395-YOM-2021 12) TATAMOTORS TACEGOLD

REG.NO.DL1LAE8415-YOM-2021 UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH

M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK
IS UNDER SALE IN ITS
"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE HEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT: RAMAN AHUJA KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. 8377988238 EMAIL-raman.ahuja@kotak.com

More than 40% of Ukrainians need humanitarian help, says UN

be magnified," he said.

cant damage and destruction of

critical infrastructure continues

to severely impact civilian

access to electricity, heating,

AP UNITED NATIONS

 $R^{\hbox{\it ussian strikes are inflicting}}_{\hbox{\it unimaginable suffering on}}$ the people of Ukraine and more than 40 per cent of them need humanitarian assistance, a senior UN official told the UN Security Council. Ramesh Rajasingham,

director of coordination in the UN humanitarian office, said thousands of civilians have been killed in strikes on homes, schools, fields and markets since Russia's invasion in February 20022. The UN human rights office has formally verified 9,900 civilians killed, but he said "the actual number is certainly higher."

Ukrainian civilians are suffering "horrendous humanitarconsequences" and "unimaginable levels of suffering" from the Russian strikes,



fast approaches," which will put the elderly, disabled and dislation — need some form of humanitarian assistance, and as placed most at risk. winter approaches "needs will Rajasingham said signifi-

The Russian military methodically targeted Ukraine's power stations and other critical infrastructure with missile and drone strikes during the last winter season, resulting in

frequent power outages.

tarian community is helping people carrying out house-hold repairs and ensuring that water and heating systems are functional. "The aim is to ensure that every civilian has access to somewhere both safe and warm during the winter ahead," Rajasingham said. Ukrainians must also deal with diminished health care, he said. Since the invasion, the UN

To prepare for the freezing

temperatures this winter, the

UN official said, the humani-

wide during the same period, And 111 health care work-

has verified over 1,300 attacks on health care – more than 55 per cent of all attacks world-

World Health Organisation

he said. ers and patients have been killed, with 13 health facilities impacted by attacks just since

the beginning of September.

GST collections rise 13 per cent to ₹1.72 lakh crore in Oct; second highest ever

ST collections increased 13 per cent to Rs 1.72 lakh crore in October, the second highestever, helped by momentum in the economy, efforts of taxmen in checking evasion and festive demand.

GST revenue collection for October 2023 is second highest ever, next only to April 2023, at Rs 1.72 lakh crore; records increase of 13 per cent Y-o-Y," the finance ministry said in a statement.

The highest-ever revenue from Goods and Services Tax (GST) was recorded in April 2023 at Rs 1.87 lakh crore, while in September, it was Rs 1.63 lakh

The average gross monthly GST collection in the current fiscal has also shown an 11 per cent growth year-on-year at Rs 1.66 lakh crore.

Icra Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said GST collections



benefited from quarter-end adjustments related to transactions in the previous month and the overall momentum in

the economy. With this, the pace of YoY growth jumped to a 10-month

high in October 2023, which is encouraging. At present, we project the CGST collections to mildly exceed the FY2024 BE," Navar said. During October, revenue from domestic transactions was 13

per cent higher year-on-year. The gross GST revenue collected in October 2023 is Rs 1,72,003 crore, out of which Rs 30,062 crore is Central GST, Rs 38,171 crore is State GST, Rs 91,315 crore (including Rs

import of goods) is Integrated GST, and Rs 12,456 crore (including Rs 1,294 crore collected on import of goods) is

The government has settled Rs 42,873 crore to CGST and Rs 36,614 crore to SGST from

The total revenue of the Centre and states in October after regular settlement is Rs 72,934 crore for CGST and Rs 74,785 crore for SGST.

NA Shah Associates Partner, Indirect Tax Parag Mehta said one of the reasons for the rise in collection is the time barring period for the 2017-18 fis-

Spate of notices, anti-evasion drive, DGGST investigations etc. Have led to substantial collections. Further, the period from September to December is a festive period where consumer spending is substantial on high-value items like real estate, vehicles, gold, and

The collections are bound to increase substantially again with the annual returns etc. For FY 2022-23 being filed," Mehta said.

Deloitte India Partner MS Mani said the remarkable growth in GST collections over the past few months is not only on account of the underlying strong economic factors but also due to the efforts of the tax authorities in deploying tools to compare data sets to determine short payment and evasion.

KPMG Indirect Tax Head and Partner Abhishek Jain said a mid-year collection of such an increased number is definitely worth a cheer, and the ongoing festivities-driven consumption could help this con-

EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said with the stable collection, the government can now consider rate rationalisation as the next task.

sector activity falls to 8 months low in Oct

India's manufacturing

Manufacturing activities in India decelerated in October as new orders increased at the slowest pace in a year, triggering a softer rise in output and employment, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slipped from 57.5 in September to 55.5 in October, the slowest rate of expansion since February.
The October PMI data point-

ed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 28th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 indicates contraction. The survey's new orders index slipped to a one-year low, as some firms raised concerns about the current demand picture for their products," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

According to the survey, there were substantial, albeit slower, increases in total new orders, production, exports, buying levels and stocks of purchases. Hiring activity faded, and busifive-month low. October data signalled a decel-

eration in growth since September. Anecdotal evidence suggested that subdued demand for certain products and fierce competition stymied the upturn," the survey said. On the job front, less than 4 per cent of companies hired extra staff and 95 per cent left workforce numbers unchanged. The rate of job creation was slight and the slowest since April. On the price front, cost pressures intensified, while output

price inflation receded. We saw a further indication of broadly stable inflationary forces across the manufacturing industry. It appears that a moderate increase in input costs was simply passed on to clients," Lima said.

Looking ahead, business sentiment remained firmly inside positive territory but slipped to a five-month low amid concerns surrounding the path for inflation and demand.

The S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manu-

Toyota sales

surge 66 pc

units in Oct

Nod for 110 applications for imports of laptops, IT hardware products

The government has cleared 110 of the total 111 applications, including those of Apple, Dell and Lenovo, that sought permission for imports of IT hardware products like laptops and computers on the first day of implementation of the new system, an official

Other companies that received import approvals include HP India Sales Pvt Ltd, ASUS India, IBM India, Samsung India Electronics, Xiaomi Technology India, Cisco Commerce India, Microsoft Corporation (India),

Siemens Ltd, Bosch Ltd, Redington Ltd, Ingram Micro India, and Oracle India, the official said.

"Around 110 import authorisa tions have been issued till date. All major IT hardware companies defaulted export obligations sations. All applications received are being disposed of

There is no pendency as on date," the official said. Only the application of a

within the time stipulated.

Hyderabad-based vendor was rejected as that firm was on the denied entity list. The DGFT (Directorate

General of Foreign Trade) held a detailed consultations with stakeholders on October 31, in which officials explained the process of following the new system for seeking authorisations smoothly.

After concerns being raised by the industry on imposing licensing regime on these imports, the government last month diluted the norms on these imports, allowing importers to bring in shipments of IT hardware from

overseas on a mere 'authorisation' upon detailing quantity and value.

The new licence regime is applicable to laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), microcomputers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines to ensure India's trusted supply chain.

The new import management system' is aimed at monitoring shipments of laptops, tablets and computers into the country without hurting market supply or creating a cumbersome licensing regime. Clerance of almost all the

applications reflect that authorisation seekers are not facing any hassles, the official said.

Companies on the "denied entity list" will not get the authorisations Such lists include firms which have not fulfilled or

like advance authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG), or those having DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) cases against them.

Companies willing to import second-hand goods or refurbished items would also not be allowed to apply for this authorisation as for those imports, the standard operating procedure is different.

The new mechanism was launched after holding an extensive consultation with the industry.

The import authorisation will remain valid till September

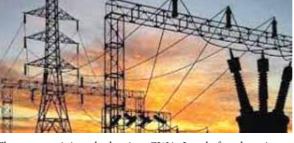
India imported these goods worth USD 8.7 billion in 2022-23 against USD 10.3 billion in 2021-22 and USD 7.1 billion in

Power consumption grows nearly 22 per cent to 138.94 billion units in October

The country's power consumption grew nearly 22 per cent to 138.94 billion units (BU) in October, showing a surge in electricity demand due to festivities and increased economic activities. In the year-ago period, power

consumption stood at 113.94 BU, higher than 112.79 billion units recorded in October 2021, according to government data. The peak power demand met -- the highest supply in a day --

rose to 221.62 GW in October. The peak power supply stood at 186.90 GW in October 2022 and 174.44 GW in October



The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer. The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal

The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1

GW in June before dropping to 209.03 GW in July. Peak demand touched 238.19 GW in it was 240.17 GW.

Industry experts said power consumption was affected in March, April, May, and June this year due to widespread rainfall.

grew in August and September, mainly due to humid weather conditions and also perk up in industrial activities ahead of festive season. They stated that the doubledigit growth in power con-

They said power consumption

October reflects the impact of festivities and better economic There were festivals of Navratri, Durga Puja and Dusshera in

sumption in the month of

The experts are of the view that power consumption growth will remain steady in coming months due to festivities and improvement in economic

to 21,879

¬oyota Kirloskar Motor said its sales increased by 66 per cent year-on-year to 21,879 units in October.

The company had dispatched 13,143 units in October 2022. Last month, the company sold 20,542 units in the domestic market and exported 1,337 units, TKM said in a state-

TKM Vice President of Sales and Strategic Marketing Atul Sood said the October sales were mainly driven by the festive season push, along with the strong market acceptance of the entire product lineup, resulting in higher volumes. For us, sustained growth has been coming from across every segment where Toyota has its presence," he added.

Markets fall for 2nd day on foreign fund outflows

PTI MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the second day in a row on Wednesday amid unabated foreign fund outflows.

on the sidelines ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex

declined 283.60 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 63,591.33. During the day, it fell 324.47 points or 0.50 per cent to 63,550.46.

The Nifty went down by 90.45 points or 0.47 to 18,989.15. Among the Sensex firms,

Asian Paints, Tata Steel, HCL Technologies, Nestle, Maruti, JSW Steel, NTPC and Larsen & Toubro were the major laggards.

Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India and Bharti Airtel were the gainers. "Investors continued to trade

with caution and trimmed

their equity exposure as markets extended fall for the secing in metal, power, auto and banking stocks while gains in telecom stocks curbed losses. "FIIs offloading shares in the

domestic market continues to hurt sentiment while strong US growth indicators indicate that interest rates may stay elevated going ahead. Investors sentiment was also primarily clouded by lingering concerns about corporate India's Q2 earnings which as of now is uninspiring," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

In the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.35 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.10 per

Among the indices, metal fell 1.45 per cent, power declined 1.19 per cent, commodities (1.18 per cent), services (1.15 per cent), utilities (1.13 per cent), IT (0.75 per cent), teck (0.63 per cent) and capital Telecommunication, oil & gas

and realty were the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled in the green while Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in positive territory on Tuesday Global oil benchmark Brent

crude jumped 1.31 per cent to USD 86.13 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth

1,816.91 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Manufacturing activities in India decelerated in October as new orders increased at the slowest pace in a year, trigger-

ing a softer rise in output and

employment, a monthly survey

said on Wednesday.

Rupee falls 9 paise to close at all-time low of 83.33 against US dollar

against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking a strong greenback against major rivals overseas and unabated foreign capital outflows. Besides, a negative trend in

domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices amid geopolitical uncertainty in the Middle East weighed on investor sentiments, according to forex traders.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.26 against the dollar. During the trading session, it touched an intra-day low of 83.35 and a high of 83.26 against the American currency

The local unit finally settled at its lifetime low of 83.33 (provisional), lower by 9 paise against its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee settled at 83.24 against the American

We expect the rupee to trade The rupee depreciated 9 with a slight negative bias on

■ paise to close at an all-time the strong Dollar amid geopo-Middle East. Weak tone in domestic markets may also weigh on the rupee. Traders may take cues from manufacturing PMI from India

and ADP non-farm employment, JOLTS job opening and ISM manufacturing PMI data from the US. Investors may remain cautious ahead of the FOMC meeting tonight. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83-83.60," said Anuj Choudhary -Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Meanwhile, the dollar index,

which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.20 per cent higher at 106.87. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 1.34 per cent to USD 86.16 per

Seven out of 10 D2C merchants expect 4 times surge in sales this festive season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $N_{\rm Customer}^{\rm early}$ seven out of 10 Direct-to-Customer (D2C) merchants selling products online expect a whopping two to four times jump in sales this festive season, according to a survey.

About 53 per cent of merchants surveyed anticipate apparel and ethnic wear to top the sales charts, followed by beauty and wellness, electronics and gadgets, and home decor, the survey of hundreds of D2C merchants like Snitch, Fourth Dimension Club, Boult Audio, Superkicks, Italian Colony, and Badmaash conducted by checkout network and buy-now-pay-later app Simpl stated. To complement the pent-up demand and cater to the high number of orders, a number of merchants are investing in increasing their manufac-

turing and warehousing capacities. Snitch co-founder and Chief Marketing Officer Chetan Siyal said, "We are anticipating a 4X increase in demand this fes-

Alternative assets surged twice as fast as mutual funds in 5 yrs: PMS Bazaar Pallavarajan R, Founder & Director,

PTI MUMBAI

The country's alternative invest-I ment industry, comprising Portfolio Management Services (PMS) and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), has witnessed remarkable growth in the last five years, outpacing traditional mutual funds, the latest revealed data by PMS Bazaar on Wednesday. Over the past five years (from June

FY19 to June FY24), the alternative investment industry has witnessed a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 26 per cent, with assets under management (AUM) reaching Rs 13.74 lakh crore as of June FY24, according to the data. This growth rate is more than double

which recorded a CAGR of 13 per cent with an AUM of Rs 46.63 lakh crore as of August 2023. The PMS Bazaar said that the surge in the alternative investment industry could be attributed to several factors

such as rising income levels that have

that of the mutual fund industry,

broadened accessibility to alternative investments, catering to a diverse range of High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) and Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals (UHNIs).

Additionally, the proliferation of com-

prehensive information about alternate

investments and the appeal of diver-

sification and higher returns has dri-

ven the industry s rapid expansion, it

added. PMS Bazaar is a platform for investors and intermediaries looking for PMS and AIF information, analytics, and comparisons to help wealth-building medium.

investors create wealth using this PMS and AIF structures are gaining massive traction and the assets base of these products is expected to grow to

Rs 43.64 lakh crore by 2028.

PMS Bazaar said that India's rising affluence is driving HNIs to alternative investments -- PMSs and AIFs-which offer lucrative opportunities, customized solutions, and transparent structures. "AUM in these products (PMSs and

AIFs) has grown more than three times in five years, twice as fast as mutual funds. If the same pace of investments continues, in a favourable market, we anticipate the PMS & AIF industry to grow to Rs 43.64 lakh crore by 2028," he added. Alternative products are becoming an

essential part of the investment portfolios of India's wealthy.

Among alternative investments, AIFs have emerged as trailblazers, boasting a CAGR of 36 per cent over the last five

Category II AIFs, including venture capital, private equity, real estate funds, and private credit, have experienced robust growth, fueled by heightened interest from HNIs and

BUSINESS BRIEF

TATA CONSUMER TO MERGE 3 WHOLLY-OWNED **SUBSIDIARIES**

New Delhi: Tata Consumer Products Ltd said it would merge its three wholly-owned subsidiaries -- NourishCo Beverages, Tata SmartFoodz and Tata Consumer Soulfull -- to ensure "more effective utilisation of the resources" and reduce "compliance requirements". The board of the Tata group firm's FMCG arm on Tuesday approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of the three wholly-owned subsidiaries of the company, informed Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL).

ADANI WILMAR POSTS ₹130.73 CR NET LOSS IN **JULY-SEPT QTR**

New Delhi: Edible oil major Adani Wilmar on Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 130.73 crore for the September 2023 quarter as expenses were higher than income. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 48.76 crore in the year-ago period. ts total income also fell to Rs 12,331.20 crore during the July-September period from Rs 14,209.20 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing.

NATIONAL UNITY DAY OBSERVED

New Delhi: Department of Empowerment of persons with Disabilities observed the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas / National Unity Day on the 31st October 2023 in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel - the Iron Man of India. With the vision to create awareness among the masses, the Department observed the National Unity Day through the institutions associated with it by conducting various events across the country. The celebration witnessed activities like Run for Unity

Jessica beats number 1 Aryna at WTA Finals

PTI ■ CANCUN (MEXICO)

s match point after match point came and went there were six in all she didn't convert - Jessica Pegula made sure she staved calm and didn't, as she put it, "freak out" against No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka at the WTA Finals. When her seventh chance to end things arrived, Pegula finally was able to complete a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Sabalenka in roundrobin action at the season-ending championship for the top eight players in women's tennis on Tuesday.

"We all, as tennis players, have experienced that to some extent - on both sides. So, I mean, I try to use my match experience as best I can," said Pegula, a 29year-old American who is now guaranteed to finish atop her group and reach the semifinals in Cancun.

"Every match, you're always going to feel different. But I think the more you put yourself in those situations, the better you feel when they come up again. It doesn't feel like you have to panic as much.



On Tuesday's other singles match, 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina beat Maria Sakkari 6-0, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2). That eliminated Sakkari from semifinal contention and means Sabalenka will face Rybakina on Thursday for their group's second berth in the final four; that's a rematch of the Australian Open title match in January, won by Sabalenka.

Pegula has won both matches and all four sets she's played so far at these WTA Finals, a year after going 0-3 at the competi-

She had lost four times in a row to Sabalenka, who was the runner-up to Coco Gauff at the U.S. Open in September.

On Tuesday, on a temporary hard court that has drawn criticism from Sabalenka and others, Pegula dominated for

stretches. That included a fourgame run in the opening set, and then a 4-0 start to the second while grabbing 16 of 19 points. The big-hitting Sabalenka - who lost just one game on Sunday against Sakkari - finished with

more than twice as many

unforced errors as Pegula,

including a 17-8 margin in the

first set.

"I gave her too much," Sabalenka

The toughest portion for Pegula was at the end.

Serving for the match at 5-2, she got to 40-15 to earn a pair of match points. That's when Pegula double-faulted for the first time all evening, and followed immediately with another. Soon enough, Sabalenka had broken her.

In the next game, Pegula got to love-40 - three more match points. And Sabalenka saved each of those, the first two with backhand winners, the next with a forehand winner. A sixth match disappeared when Pegula netted a forehand.

Soon enough, though, Sabalenka was faltering, double-faulting, putting a forehand into the net to offer up a seventh chance for Pegula to end the match, then framing a backhand to wrap it up.
"A really solid match - up until

the couple of double-faults at the end. I mean, I felt like I was in control and playing smart and doing everything really well," Pegula said

Sometimes you need to get through those moments to really test yourself.

Alcaraz loses at Paris Masters in return from injury, Zverev and Hurkacz advance

Carlos Alcaraz's hopes of finishing the season as the top-ranked player took a hit after a 6-3, 6-4 loss to qualifier Roman Safiullin in the second round of the Paris Masters.

In his return from injury, Alcaraz dropped serve four times and made 27 unforced errors to 21 for Safiullin, a former world No. 2 junior.

"I didn't feel well, you know, in the game," Alcaraz told a news conference on Tuesday. "I think I didn't move well. In the

shots, I think I had a good quality of shots. But, you know, physically, in the part of movement, I have to improve a lot.' The Spaniard was knocked out

in the fourth round of the Shanghai Masters nearly three weeks ago and withdrew from the Swiss Indoors in Basel because of a left foot injury and muscle fatigue to his lower back. Alcaraz leads the ATP Tour with six titles this year but hasn't lifted any trophy since Wimbledon. He seems to be running on fumes lately because of his demanding style of play. "Probably the season has been so, so long," Alcaraz said. "Probably that affects my game."



Safiullin traded breaks in the

third and fourth games. Alcaraz

struggled to find his range and

dropped serve at 4-3 with a poor game that included a double fault and two unforced errors.

Safiullin hit a service winner and

two backhand winners to grab

Play was briefly interrupted in

the beginning of the second set

to switch off a vivid pink light

under the roof of the arena that

troubled the players when they

were tossing the ball to serve.

Alcaraz rifled two consecutive

return winners to break for a 3-

1 lead only to see Safiullin break

back in the next game with a

forehand pass. Alcaraz dropped

serve again in the seventh game,

the opening set.

Last season, Alcaraz became the youngest year-end No. 1 in the history of the ATP rankings. He is looking to achieve the extraordinary feat of claiming two year-end No. 1 finishes at The second-seeded Alcaraz and only 20.

hitting a forehand long at the end of a long rally. Safiullin con-

verted his second match point

when Alcaraz sent a forehand

"Even if he's not in the best shape, it's tough to beat him, so I'm really happy that I made it," Safiullin told the ATP.

return wide.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic had racked up 500 more points than Alcaraz this season before

the Paris Masters. Djokovic won't be able to clinch the year-end No. 1 spot in Paris since Alcaraz still gets 10 points for his second-round defeat.

There are 1,000 points for the Paris Masters winner and 1,500 points for a perfect run at the ATP Finals.

Daniil Medvedev also has an outside chance of finishing the season as the No. 1 player. The fifth-seeded Andrey Rubley,

the 16th-seeded Karen Khachanov, Tallon Griekspoor, Alexander Bublik and Daniel Altmaier also moved into the third round.

Justin to be part of Atlanta team in TGL

Annika Sorenstam now an Augusta member

PTI WASHINGTON

 $T_{\text{sion draft, but Justin}}^{\text{his isn't exactly an expansion draft, but Justin}}_{\text{Thomas is the first player to}}$ join one of the six teams in the new TGL League.

Thomas, a two-time PGA champion, is the first of four players to join Atlanta Drive Golf Club.

The TGL League starts in January and will be shown on ESPN. It pits players from two teams going head to head in a South Florida arena in which some of the shots involve a high-tech simulator and shots around the green will be actually made.

Atlanta is among five of the six teams already named. The others are in Boston, New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Player announcements for other teams including the sixth team not vet revealed - are expected

The teams feature high-end owners from sports and entertainment, such as Arthur Blank of the Atlanta Falcons owning the Atlanta Drive.

"To be aligned with an owner like Arthur Blank and his incredible variety of businesses as they expand their golf portfolio feels like a great fit for me," Thomas said.

"I promise our team will com-

pete hard to win champi-onships and have a lot of fun along the way.'

Some of the assignments are based on regions - Thomas grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, and played college at Alabama - and how players' PGA Tour and European tour schedules will align with the TGL matches.

Most of the matches will be held on Tuesday in prime time on ESPN platforms.

TGL was developed by TMRW Sports, owned by Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy. The acronym doesn't stand for anything official, though the "T" most likely stands for TMRW (not Tiger). TGL already has a full roster of 24 players. Twelve have won majors and six players have reached No. 1 in the world.

ANNIKA IN GREEN

Augusta National has a longstanding policy of not dismembership. cussing Chairman Fred Ridley was willing to make an exception given the fame of one of the recent additions: Annika

"I am very excited about Annika, so I'll just say that," Ridley said at the Asia Pacific Amateur Championship in Australia. "She is a delightful person. As you know, we have a number of women members and have for a quite a few years. I think it made us a better club and they are an integral part of our culture.

AP MANCHESTER

While Premier League giants Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal do not yet know if they will advance to the quarterfinals of the English League Cup, third-division Port Vale has already secured its place in the next

The Midlands-based team has never played higher than the second tier of English soccer flight opposition.

and has never won one of its major trophies. But it could be rubbing shoulders with some of the biggest

teams in the land in the last eight of the cup after a 1-0 win against Mansfield on Tuesday. Alfie Devine's goal five minutes into the second half at One Call Stadium ended fourth-division Mansfield's own hopes of a potential quarterfinals matchup against top-



Port Vale will not be the only team from outside the Premier League in the next round after Middlesbrough came back to beat third-division Exeter 3-2.

Middlesbrough won the League Cup in 2004 and is hoping to secure promotion to the Premier League this season under manager Michael Carrick, who lifted every major club prize during a storied playing career at

Manchester United. But Port Vale is turning out to

be the story of the competition so far as the lowest-ranked team remaining and having advanced to the quarterfinals for the first time in its history. Its fans will likely be hoping to be drawn against the likes of United or Liverpool if those teams advance Wednesday. Defending champion United hosts Newcastle at Old

Trafford, with manager Erik

increasing pressure to turn his team's form around after seven defeats in all competitions this season. Liverpool travels to Bournemouth, while West

ten Hag coming under

Ham hosts Arsenal.

With Chelsea, Everton, Burnley and Fulham also still vying to advance, there is every chance Port Vale could face top-flight opposition in the next round.

'Indian football team's performance in Asian Games was satisfactory'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian men football I team's performance in the recent Asian Games in Hangzhou was on Wednesday described as "satisfactory under the circumstances" by the national federation's (AIFF) technical committee.

A rag-tag Indian team with just Sunil Chhetri and Sandesh Jhingan as notable names was after the Indian Super League clubs refused to release their players named in the original

The team reached Hangzhou just hours before the first group match and the strategy sessions were held in flight and on transit. But the side still reached the knock-out round only to lose to Saudi Arabia in the round of 16.



the performance of the men's team was satisfactory considering the circumstances where the team reached just before the tournament and many players in the original squad were not there," All India Football Federation (AIFF) secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran told PTI.

"Moreover, the team did better (in Hangzhou) than the last ediout in the group stage," he added.

The technical committee meeting, held virtually, was chaired by former India captain IM Vijavan and attended by Prabhakaran, technical director Syed Sabir Pasha, and members Pinky Bompal Magar, Harjinder Singh, Arun Malhotra, Climax Lawrence and Eugeneson Lyngdoh.

Aishwary wins 50m

rifle 3P gold in Asian

Prabhakaran said the technical committee did not discuss anvthing specific relating to India head coach Igor Stimac, whose contract was extended by two years after the Asian Games campaign.

Earlier, Stimac was asked to take the national team to the quarter-finals of the AFC Asian Cup in January next year or face the axe. The technical committee members also recommended that the by clubs for tournaments like the Asian Games be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting, the AIFF said in a release.

The Vijavan-led committee also recommended that the national women's team be given longer preparation time and friendly matches to prepare for such big events like the Asian

Bhavina gives wings to 2 para athletes's sporting dreams

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Para table tennis player Bhavina Patel is now doing for others what she wished someone had done for her also giving wings to someone's sporting dreams with muchneeded financial support.

In 2021, Bhavina became only the second Indian woman to win a Paralympic medal when she clinched the silver in women's singles table tennis class 4 final. It was also the country's first medal in para table tennis.

A medal in a multi-sport event in India brings with it a lot of perks including fame, attention, sponsors and cash rewards. And after her Tokyo Paralympic silver medal, Bhavina thought of ways how she could make the Indian Para athletic movement

One day she had an epiphany and Bhavina knew what she had to do.

"After Tokyo, I got a lot money. I thought what should I do, how can I help others. So now I am sponsoring two players," Bhavina told PTI.

months old.

"I come from a small village, I never dreamed that I'd play table tennis but today I have a lot of knowledge and I want to share it.

'The more exposure para athletes get the better it is for them. I had to face a lot of financial problems, I don't want others to face the same," the wheelchair-bound athlete said.

One could sense the pride in Bhavina voice when she said, "I have adopted two para athletes. I take care of their training expenses etc as per their

requirements. Pragya Ghildial and Jashvant Choudhary are the two para table tennis players Bhavina is

supporting. Pragya, who injured her spinal cord in a road accident in 2005, and Bhavina were rivals and also partnered together for

doubles way back in 2008. An extrovert who wanted to try new things, Pragya, ventured

into different sports and would compete on and off up until the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 following which she quit sports. "I know Bhavina since the time I took up table tennis in 2008. She and I used to compete against each other. We also played doubles together. I left table tennis after the Delhi Commonwealth Games in 2010," the Delhi-based Pragya

India looks to maintain unbeaten run in match against South Korea

PTI ■ RANCHI

lready through to the semi-Afinals, India would look to maintain their unbeaten run and top the points table when they face South Korea in their last league match of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on

Thursday. India are currently leading the six-team league table with 12 points while South Korea, who are also already through to the semifinals, are third with seven points from four matches.

The top four teams after the round-robin league stage qualify for the semifinals.

India have had a dominating run in the tournament so far, having beaten Thailand (7-1), Malaysia (5-0), China (2-1) and Japan (2-

1). South Korea, who have won two matches, lost one (against Japan) and drawn one, would eye to end the league stage with a victory against the hosts.

Historically, South Korea have the edge in head-to-head record, having won 12 matches out of the 20 games against India. India have won five games, while three matches ended in a The last match between the

two teams - during the Hangzhou Asian Games -- had also ended in a 1-1 draw. India are coming into Thursday's match with a morale-boosting 2-1 win over Japan while South Korea also beat Thailand 3-0 on Tuesday. Sangita Kumari has been in great touch with four goals so far in the tournament and is the joint top scorer with



Zhong Jiaqi of China.

Vandana Katariya, who played her 300th international match in India's 2-1 win over Japan on Tuesday to become the county's most capped woman player, would also be looking to add to her two goals in the tournament. India head coach Janneke Schopman said her players are determined to end the league stage unbeaten.

has been incredible so far. The to redeem itself after the disapqualification to next year's Paris Olympics.

"Our journey in this tournament players have exhibited exceptional teamwork, skill, and resilience. We are determined to finish the Pool stage on a high note by defeating Korea," she said. The Indian team is trying pointment of its failure to clinch the gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games, which would have given the country a direct

India lost 0-4 to China in the semifinals of the Asian Games in Hangzhou but defeated Japan 2-1 to clinch the bronze medal. India have won the Asian Champions Trophy only once -- in 2016 -- while they were runners-up twice, in 2013 and 2018.

Shooting C'ships PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions individual event and helped India grab a team silver the Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea on Wednesday. The 22-year-old Tomar shot

463.5 in the final to win the gold. China's Tian Jiaming took the silver with a score of 462.7. Another Chinese, Du Linshu picked up the bronze with 450.3.

Tomar had finished fifth in the qualification round with 591. The Indian trio of Tomar, Swapnil Kusale and Akhil Sheoran won the team silver with a total score of 1764,



behind China (1777). India has already got maximum two possible Ólympic quota places in this event through

Kusale and Sheoran. Kusale had won the Paris Games quota during the World Championships in Cairo last year. Sheoran did the same in this year's W Championships in Baku.

Daughter of Hasmukhbhai Patel, a small-time shopkeeper at Sundhiya village in Gujarat's Mehsana district, Bhavina was diagnosed with polio when she was only 12

nerves I get before the race

feeling will ever leave me," he "This was my last event in India. You might see me again

though. I don't think that

as a coach someday, but this was my last competitive race here for sure," said Khade, who had started coaching youngsters in Mumbai when he was recovering from his

Khade retires from domestic swimming events after winning gold swimmer that I am today, so I really want to thank all the **PTI** PANJIM It was quite clear from the cel-National Games are set to be the Maharashtra government veteran before explaining his was followed by a knee injury, ebration that the gold medal his last outing as a competitive decision to retire from domescoaches and all the people who have been a part of this jour-Veteran Indian swimmer Virdhawal Khade has swimmer in India and he wantwinning performance meant which meant that the tic meets. Kolhapur-born swimmer lost "At heart, I still feel young, but something more for the man ed to end things on a high. out a few years at his peak. the body is feeling tired now. ney," said one of India's most

has come full circle with the gold medal at my last Nationals again in Goa," he said. Back then, I could never have



decorated swimmers. Khade had announced his

arrival on the national scene at the Junior Nationals in Margao in 2001 and broke multiple national records in the years to

reflected on his journey from being a talented youngster back The demands of his job with in 2001 to returning to Goa as

However, he made a strong comeback in 2018 and went on to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. Khade got emotional as he

y as I once used to. without breaking a sweat, but even 3 events feel like a tall order now. I still enjoy the

Too many years have gone by, and I've swum too much in this span. I don't recover as quick-"Earlier I could do 10 events

Games here 50m freestyle gold on Tuesday

retired from domestic competitions after winning the 50m freestyle gold at the National Khade touched the wall to pip India's upcoming swimming sensation Srihari Nataraj for the

who became the youngest Indian swimmer to qualify for the Olympics back in 2008. He had then ended India's 24year wait for a swimming medal at the Asian Games in 2010 with a bronze in 50m but-

Khade revealed that the imagined I would become the

"What is also special about this medal is that I won my first national medal back in 2001 in Goa and today it feels like life

Red-hot India take on Sri Lanka in World Cup battle of unequals

welve years on from that dream April 2011 night when a country of billions landed in a frenzy of delight, India take on Sri Lanka in another World Cup clash here on Thursday, albeit one that is poles apart from being termed an encore

If that World Cup final was truly a battle of titans in every sense, the impending contest is more or less a battle of the unequals. India have hitherto marched on immaculately in pursuit of a third title and Sri Lanka have lost more than what they have

Unbeaten in six straight games and largely unchallenged for longer spans, India have displayed traits of being a champion side which has the knack of staging remarkable fightbacks. India's confidence is irrefutably high but greater is their selfbelief and trust on skills - witnessed in the mini-storm created by Australia in Chennai when reduced to 5/3 or when

modest 229/9 in Lucknow.

The doggedness to keep striking England until the defending champions were disintegrated was not only another display of their potential, but also a sign that Îndia's opponents must raise the performance bar significantly higher when it comes to facing Rohit Sharma's team in this World Cup.

Coming into fray as a forced selection with India looking to answer Hardik Pandya's absence creating 'balance', Mohammed Shami has only provided the happiest of selection headaches with nine wickets - including a fifer - in only two appearances.

But the think tank led by cap tain Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid knows 'Special Shami' must be preserved for greater battles ahead - for India would still need Jasprit Bumrah fresh and firing to steer through remaining challenges in the league stage.

There is no news on Pandya's return yet, but going into this



game there would be lingering concerns on how India's young guns would go.

Both Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer came into the World Cup with consistent performances in the one-day format, but are yet to make a strong dent on the

Gill missed two games at the start and has only one fifty to show since he returned. He has been guilty of getting out to what is termed 'soft dismissals' and the young batter would know the stage is set for him to

get cracking once again.

At 1,334 runs (24 matches, 5x100s, 6x50s, avg 63.52), Gill is still a considerable distance (560 runs) behind the legendary Sachin Tendulkar in terms of getting most ODI runs

With his frailties against the short ball once again becoming opposition's weapon against him, Iyer too will be in need of a big knock. He has only one fifty to show from six outings so

Iver's unbeaten 53 came in the chase against Pakistan when the opposition was down and out but the right-handed batter has also fallen on occasions where there were opportunities to bat big and finish games.

There will be extra motivation to put that all behind when Iyer walks out at the Wankhede Stadium, playing a World Cup game on his home ground. For that matter, the feeling would be ditto for the local boys

Rohit, Suryakumar Yadav and Shardul Thakur. India's leading run-scorer with 398 runs at 66.33 with one century and two fifties in the World Cup, Rohit will want to make more memories with the

passionate home crowd. Sri Lanka are no pushovers but they have faltered more often than not in this World Cup after an superlative show in the qualification round.

Injuries and unavailability of key players have also ravaged the team from the island nation, but its young brigade should make the most of facing a high quality opponent in its pomp. Sadeera Samarawickrama has

had a fine run with 331 runs in six games, hitting one century and a fifty in the process to be Sri Lanka's leading run-scorer. Pathum Nissanka has also done well for becoming only the second batter after Gill to score more than a thousand ODI runs this year. His four consecutive fifties in the World Cup makes him one to watch out for while his tally now stands at 1,108 runs in 26 matches at 48.17 with two centuries and nine fifties. But captain Kusal Mendis with his artistry with the bat remains Sri Lanka's best batter even though the venerable Angelo Mathews is back and has bat in front of his raucous and

already put in a match-winning performance. Sri Lanka's bowlers have largemissed the presence of more experienced bowlers, but given their resources they will hope to put up a fight against the rampant Indian batters in perfect batting conditions.

India: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ishan Kishan (wk), Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya.

Sri Lanka: Kusal Mendis (c&wk), Kusal Perera, Pathum Nissanka, Lahiru Kumara, Dimuth Karunaratne, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Kasun Rajitha, Angelo Mathews, Dilshan Madushanka, Dushan Chamika Hemantha,

Fitness freak Stoinis travelling with Indian chef during World Cup

Afitness freak who is very particular about his food intake, Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis is travelling across India with a personal chef to ensure that he is getting a low carb diet during the ODI World Cup.

The 34-year-old all-rounder is on a ketogenic diet (high-fat, low-carb) with baked oats infused with protein one of his in 'cricket.Com.Au'. Mumbai-born Velton Saldanha,

a chef trained in French cuisine, travels with Stoinis while he is in India and cooks him meals out of the Australian team's hotel kitchens, according to the report. "Quite a few of the Indian boys do it, that's where I got the Stoinis cricket.Com.Au's 'Unplayable Podcast'.

"I've always been quite strict with my food and all that stuff in my preparation."

The Australian team has its own chef, who oversees food preparation as they move around the country, but Stoinis has gone a step further in his pursuit of peak performance. Garlic naan is out. Gluten-free banana bread and shepherd's pie with roasted cauliflower mash are in. A roast butter chicken, the intersection of Saldanha's French training and his Indian heritage, has also been a hit," the report said.

"Stoinis is getting by on baked oats - at least for the small carbohydrate portion of his meticulously curated diet," it said.

Saldanha might be able to sell the 'Stoinis Oats' as a stand-

alone dish.

Stoinis had met Saldanha, who who has worked in fine-dining restaurants in Chicago and New York, during this year's Indian Premier League on a recommendation from his Lucknow Supergiants teammate and India star KL Rahul. Saldanha founded Mumbai's Chutney Collective during the

Stoinis has struggled to play consistently in this tournament. He missed the opening match with a hamstring and quad concern. His scores in the three matches he has played so far are 5, 20 not out and 21. "I want to play for as long as I can. I want to take control of as many things as I can through my cricketing career," said

Stoinis. "We travel a lot and we're obviously away from our comfort zone. We're in different time zones. We're in different beds, we're in different hotels - we're not exactly by the beach in Perth, having a coffee and that sort of stuff.

He does not consider investing on a personal chef as waste of

"So I'm more than happy to invest in myself and in my environment. I don't see that stuff, which some people do, as a waste (of money).

"I'm happy to invest in my own chef or invest my own batting coach or invest my own sports psychologist - that's just the way

De Kock, Van der Dussen power SA to 357/4

Quinton de Kock and Rassie Van der Dussen revelled in the knowledge that the focus back home has finally shifted from rugby to cricket, striking scintillating hundreds to power South Africa to 357 for 4 against New Zealand in the World Cup here on Wednesday. De Kock (114 off 116 balls) hit

his fourth hundred of the tournament to go level with Kumar Sangakkara, who achieved the feat in 2015 edition, while Van der Dussen blazed away to a 118-ball 133.

For record, only three batters have scored four or more centuries in a single World Cup edition.

David Miller blasted 53 in 30 balls to provide the final flourish, barely days after the whole country was basking in its rugby team's record fourth World Cup triumph in Paris. Zealand's stand-in skipper Tom Latham opted to bowl first at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium whose stands were half-full with some people gathered outside when the in-form De Kock and skipper Temba Bavuma walked out to bat.



De Kock and Van der Dussen the South Africans had the perfect duo to set the tone, and they did exactly that with a 200-run partnership in little over 30 overs. Riding on a bit of luck with one

of his shots falling in a no

outside against Mitchell Santner and hoisted the seasoned left-arm spinner over the long-on boundary for a six. Van der Dussen, too, got into the act and looked comfortable while accumulating his runs. Dealing with two set batters

was not the only challenge for the Kiwis as they also had players getting injured, the last thing for a team that was already grappling with injuries to key players heading into this

After Matt Henry hurt his right hamstring and received treatment, Jimmy Nesham also had some injury issues. Luck also smiled on Van der

one reprieve on way to his cen-Meanwhile, De Kock reached his hundred in style, smashing Neesham on the onside for a

Dussen as he got more than

maximum. Soon, Van der Dussen got to

his ton with a four. Batting on 104 off 105 balls, Van der Dussen shifted gears and launched into Neesham for two consecutive sixes, the first one was thanks to Trent Boult tipping the ball over the ropes while trying to catch it.

Then, Van der Dussen carted over long-on.

By the time De Kock and Van der Dussen were dismissed, they had done enough for South Africa to aim for 350. Miller produced a few big hits to prop them up towards the

Pandya's return unlikely until India's last league game against Netherlands

Ctar India all-rounder Hardik Spandya, who is recovering from an ankle injury, is unlikely to return to action before the team's World Cup match against the Netherlands on November 12. Pandya had hurt his left ankle while fielding on his own bowling in the game against Bangladesh in Pune on October He missed the games against

New Zealand and England and

is also set to miss the fixtures against Sri Lanka on Thursday and South Africa on November 5. India's final league match is against Netherlands in Bengaluru on November 12. "It is a minor tear. He is recovering well and is likely to return for the last league game. There is also a possibility that he straight away plays the semifinal," said a BCCI source.

With six wins in as many games, India are set to qualify for the Pandya's all-round abilities, the team was forced to make two changes to the playing eleven. In his absence, the management is playing with five bowlers with Suryakumar Yadav batting at six in his place. With Mohammad Shami in siz-

zling form, the management has not missed Pandya the bowler but he remains critical to the team's balance. After win over England, bowling coach Paras Mhambrey had expressed confidence over Pandya's imminent return. Pandya was recovering at National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

The medical team is looking at that and are very much in touch with Hardik and the NCA well. We're hoping to get an update in a couple of days," Mhambrey had said on Sunday. As per a BCCI media release, Pandya was supposed to join the team in Lucknow ahead of the England game but he was not

Willey to retire from international cricket after World Cup

 $E^{ngland \ all\mbox{-rounder David}}_{Willey \ on \ Wednesday}$ announced that he will retire from international cricket after the end of the ongoing World Cup and insisted that his team's underwhelming performance in the showpiece has not influenced his decision.

Willey's decision has come a week after England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) excluded him from the list of cricketers who were offered central contracts for the 2023-24 season. "I never wanted this day to come. From a young boy, I've only ever dreamed of playing cricket for England," Willey wrote in an Instagram post.

"So, with careful thought and consideration, it is with great regret that I feel the time has come for me to retire from all forms of international cricket at the end of the World Cup.' England have endured a forgettable campaign so far as the defending champions are languishing at the bottom of the 10-team table, managing just one victory from their six

"I have worn the shirt with immense pride and given my



badge on my chest," the 33year-old southpaw wrote. "I've been very lucky to be a part of such an incredible white-ball team with some of

the best players in the world. I've made some special memories and great friends along the way and been through some very difficult times.

give on and off the field while I am still playing my best cricket, and my decision has nothing to do with our performance during the World Cup."
Willey made his international debut in 2015 against Ireland in Dublin and has played 70 ODIs (94 wickets) and 43 T20Is (51 wicket) so far. The left-hander has scored 627 ODI runs at an average of 26.12 with two fifties.

In the ongoing World Cup, Willey has featured in three matches and has scalped five

"I'm sure everybody who

knows me does not doubt that whatever my involvement in the remainder of this campaign, I will give my everything and more! That's the only way I know.'

He also thanked his family for

support in tough times.
"To my wife, two children, mum and dad, I wouldn't have been able to follow my dreams without your sacrifice and unwavering support through-out. Thank you for sharing the special memories and picking up the pieces when I've fallen apart - I'm eternally grateful.' England next play Ausralia on Saturday in Ahmedabad.

Shaheen becomes number 1 ODI bowler for first time

PTI KOLKATA

 $P^{\text{akistan's lead pacer Shaheen Shah}}_{\text{Afridi on Wednesday became the}}$ new number one bowler in ODIs, achieving the feat for the first time in his eventful career that has been a mix of many highs and few lows.

He jumped seven places to displace Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood from the top in the latest ICC rank-

Afridi's rise to the top comes a day after his team's victory over Bangladesh in the World Cup in



which he captured three wickets for 23

The match also saw him reach his 100th ODI wicket, which came in his 51st game, making him the third fastest to achieve the landmark in the format to date, besides being the fastest pacer to do so.

He is now the joint highest wickettaker of the competition along with Adam Zampa of Australia, having taken 16 wickets in seven matches at an average of 19.93 and an economy of 5.22, including a five-wicket haul. Meanwhile, Indian pacer Mohammed

Siraj and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav were placed third and seventh respectively.
As for the batters, Pakistan skipper

Babar Adam led the chart. India's Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were ranked second, fifth and seventh respectively.

Among all-rounders, the list is headed by Shakib Al Hasan of Bangladesh. While India's Hardik Pandya dropped a place to 11th, Ravindra Jadeja stayed in 13th position, while Pakistan's Shadab Khan was down a couple of slots to 20.

Maxwell falls off golf cart, to miss England clash

PTI AHMEDABAD

ustralia batter Glenn AMaxwell has been ruled out of the World Cup clash against England on November 4 after he fell off a golf cart, resulting in a concussion and

facial bruising. Cricket.Com.Au reported that Maxwell was riding on the back of a golf cart after a round on Monday when he fell off.

The all-rounder is a key member of the Australian team as he shares spin duties with Adam Zampa while also playing a vital role in the middle order with the bat. He had smashed the fastest hundred in World Cup history -- off 40 balls against the Netherlands -- in

Delhi last week. This is Maxwell's second freak injury in less than a year. Last November, he broke his leg at a

birthday party in Melbourne and as per the report, he is yet to recover fully from that. The players were enjoying a round of golf having got a week's break between the New

Zealand and England game. In another freak injury, England wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow had slipped while playing golf last year, ruling him out of T20 World Cup which his team eventually won.

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