**OPINION 6** 

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**WORLD 8** 

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# Artificial rain to clean Capital lungs

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**NEW DELHI, THURSDAY** NOVEMBER 9, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

#### **School winter vacation advanced, Capital out of bounds for outside cabs**

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As the air quality deteriorated to severe levels, the Delhi Government on Wednesday announced its plan to induce artificial rain through a technique known as cloud seeding on November 20-21. The Delhi Government

also announced an early winter break in schools from November 9 to 18. The City Government also banned the entry of app-based cabs such as Ola and Uber that are not registered in Delhi. Additionally, they deferred

the implementation of the oddeven car rationing scheme until the Supreme Court reviews its effectiveness in curbing air pollution and issues an order in that regard.

Experts from IIT Kanpur have made a detailed presentation on using cloud seeding to create artificial rain for removing dust and pollutants from the air. The scientists from IIT Kanpur, who have conducted research on artificial rain, had previously given a presentation to the Delhi Government on September 12.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai held a meeting on Wednesday with experts from IIT Kanpur. They explained that cloud seeding can only be attempted when there are clouds or moisture in the atmosphere.

Representatives from the



DARKNESS AT NOON: Commuters on Delhi roads amid a thick veil of pollution

As Delhi's air quality again dropped to the "severe" catego-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and senior officials from the Delhi Government were also present at the meeting. After the meeting, Rai said,

Experts anticipate that such (cloud) conditions could develop around November 20-21. We have asked the scientists to prepare a proposal in this regard which will be submitted to the Supreme Court."

Rai emphasised that obtaining the necessary clearances and permissions for using this technology from both the Central and the State governments is a time-sensitive matter.

ry on Wednesday with the 24hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 426, Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi said open burning of garbage, dumping of construction waste and use of tandoors in restaurants were among the top contributors to rising air pollution in the national Capital.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has collected nearly ₹1.51 crore in seven days from fines imposed on violators flouting the ban on these activities, she

Several cities across the

Ranian Dimri I Pioneer Indo-Gangetic plains reported hazardous air quality with neighbouring Ghaziabad recording an AQI of 384, Gurugram 385, Noida 405, Greater Noida 478 and

According to data from the Decision Support System, a numerical model-based framework capable of identifying sources of particulate matter pollution in Delhi, stubble burning in neighbouring States, especially Punjab and Haryana, accounted for 38 per cent of the air pollution in Delhi on Wednesday. It is likely to be 27 per cent on Thursday.

Faridabad 425.

However, in order to create

artificial rain, certain weather conditions are needed, like the presence of clouds with enough moisture and the right kind of wind. Additionally, in order to fly aircraft over the nation's Capital that is in dire need of fresh air, several permissions must be obtained, including those from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Special Protection Group, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Cloud seeding involves dispersing substances into the air to encourage condensation, resulting in precipitation. The most common substances used for cloud seeding include silver iodide, potassium iodide and dry ice (solid carbon dioxide). These agents provide the nuclei around which water vapour can condense, ultimately leading to the formation of rain or snow. This weather modification technique has been utilised in various parts of the world, primarily in regions experiencing water scarcity or drought conditions. Some of the countries and States that have employed the cloud seeding technology include the US, China, Australia, and the UAE.

Earlier in the day, addressing a press conference, Rai on Wednesday said the Delhi Government will implement the odd-even car rationing scheme after the Supreme Court reviews its effectiveness.

# Stubble fire rages on, official data missing

The incidents of stubble burning have witnessed a surge with the harvesting of paddy in full swing in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh but the surge does not reflect in the official data of farm fires recorded by satellites.

There are reports that farmers in Punjab and Haryana are scheduling the stubble burning sessions at night in a bid to skip detection by the orbiting satellites. Enquiries revealed that all incidents of farm fires do not get detected as the satellite imaging is not conducted round the clock. The fires during night may also not get detected by satellite(s) due to technical reasons.
Of 70,286 farmers, 56,229

(80 per cent) harvested paddy crop in Ludhiana but only 993 farm fires were reported and just 118 peasants fined so far which clearly indicates that a significant number of stubble burning incidents are going undetected. This is happening in almost all districts in these three States.

Farmers are taking advantage of a loophole where the daily stubble burning count must be updated by 8 pm, setting fires after this time.



Satellite imaging is also not conducted round the clock, allowing some fires to go unnoticed. In Haryana, the Haryana Space Applications Centre is using satellite imaging to detect farm fires. This imaging, however, is not conducted round the clock. Besides, Radars and Satellites do not detect stubble

burning due to heavy clouds. The data used for detecting fires are received from NASA's Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) and Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS). The VIIRS sensor aboard the Suomi National Polar-Orbiting Partnership (SNPP) satellite has a resolution of 375 metre square, which means it can locate a fire accurately within an area of 375x375 sqm. A single fire within this area will be attributed to the entire area Similarly, multiple fires in this

area will be counted as one fire. A dataset from the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space (CREAMS), managed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), monitors stubble burning and provides daily reports. It revealed that the total number of farm fires in Punjab has jumped to 22,981 this year, with 2,003 new cases reported in the last 24 hours.

Out of the total 22,981 farm fires recorded from September 15 to November 8, Sangrur leads with 4,070, followed by 2,176 in Ferozepur.

### Lokpal has ordered CBI probe PM Modi slams Opposition Bloc into Mahua scam: Nishikant

PNS NEW DELHI

The day before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee is scheduled to make a decision regarding Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra's fate query allegations, complainant BJP MP Nishikant Dubey claimed on Wednesday that the Lokpal had ordered a CBI probe into the same scandal against Moitra.

Dubey took to social media to share the information, mentioning that based on his complaint, the Lokpal has ordered a CBI enquiry against the accused Moitra for allegedly engaging in corruption at the expense of national security. An official statement from the anti-graft panel, however, is still awaited as of the time this news

report was filed. Nishikant has accused Moitra of asking questions in the Lok Sabha to target the Adani Group and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, allegedly at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani, in exchange for

Moitra has denied these allegations, labeling them as a polit-

The matter is currently under investigation by the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha. which is scheduled to adopt the Moitra stated that the was welcome to 'come and count my shoes

She emphasised that the CBI needed to file an FIR in what she referred to as the "Adani coal scam".

For media calling me — my answer: CBI needs to first file an FIR on the ₹13,000 crore Adani coal scam; the national security issue is how dodgy FPI-owned (including Chinese & UAE) Adani firms are buying Indian ports and airports with clearance from the home ministry. Then CBI is welcome to come and count my

shoes," she added. Last month, Dubey lodged a complaint against Moitra with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla who referred the complaint to the ethics panel — alleging that the MP had accepted expensive gifts from businessman Hiranandani in exchange for her parliamentary login cre-

ical vendetta by the ruling BJP. Citing 'evidence' provided by Moitra's former friend Jai Anant Dehadrai, he claimed that Hiranandani would submit questions directly in Parliament report on Thursday. In using her login credentials to response to Dubey's post, target the Adani Group and Prime Minister Modi. Mahua Moitra has denied any wrongdoing.

Dubey filed a complaint against Moitra with the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal on October 21, accusing her of accepting bribes in exchange for asking questions in Parliament at the request of Hiranandani.

Moitra appeared before the Parliament ethics panel on November 2 to give her oral testimony regarding the allegations against her. However, she left the meeting abruptly, asserting that chairperson Vinod Sonkar asked her 'unethical' and personal questions, Sonkar, in turn, accused Moitra of using unparliamentary language against him and other members of the panel. The five Opposition members also left the meeting on November 2, accusing Sonkar of asking indecent questions to

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday attacked Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar saying the Opposition bloc has insulted India before the world. Without naming the senior JD(U) leader, Modi mentioned no INDIA alliance leader objected to his derogatory com-

ments "He has no shame...will they stoop so low," the PM said while addressing a poll rally in Madhya Pradesh's Guna. Earlier in the day Nitish apologised in both the the Bihar Assembly and the Coucil, as well as outside, for remarks made a day before on the importance of women's education to control population

growth. The senior JD(U) leader came under attack of the BJP, which was a long-time ally of Nitish and is now seeking to criticise the Bihar CM who severed ties with the BJP two years ago and is now crucial in the formation of the Opposition bloc called INDIA.

"A politician who is acting as the flag bearer of the INDIA alliance and is playing several games to uproot the current



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting ahead of Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Guna district, on Wednesday. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia is also seen

Central Government, he said women. Those who hold such something unimaginable inside the Assembly in front of women politicians. He made obscene remarks. Koi sharm nahi hai unko (He has no shame). Not even a single leader of the INDIA alliance was ready to say even one word against this insult to

views about women, can they do any good for you? Can they save your honour? What bad fortune has befallen our nation?" Modi said.

Protests were reported from several cities in Bihar and Delhi over the Bihar CM's remark. When he arrived at the

Assembly, Nitish faced embarrassment when he was greeted by several BJP MLAs carrying placards denouncing his utterances and demanding his res-

Delhi BJP activists staged a demonstration near Bihar Bhawan in Chanakyapuri. "I have come to know today

ignation.

that something I said yesterday did not sit well with many people. My intent was to highlight my government's emphasis on women's empowerment and the role improved literacy among women plays in population control. However, if anybody's sentiments have been hurt, I offer my apologies and Nitish.

"Even if I meant no offence. I condemn myself (hum apni ninda karte hain)," the CM stated. On Tuesday, Nitish, who is considered pivotal in the formation of the INDIA bloc, vividly described in the Assembly how an educated woman can restrain her hus-

band during sexual intercourse. 'The husband's actions led to more births. However, with education, a woman knows how to restrain him... This is the reason the numbers (of births) are coming down," he said in a rustic style. He pointed out that with education, the fertility rate, which was "earlier 4.3, has

now come down to 2.9". Former chief minister Rabri Devi, an MLC from the RJD, said that she agreed what Nitish Kumar had said was not proper "but we should let bygones be bygones since he has apol-

### Indian organic revolution takes on global markets

**ARCHANA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI

On the lines of the prominent Amul brand in the milk sector, India launched the "Bharat Organics" brand for organic items produced by cooperative societies to compete in the global and domestic market.

Six products — tur dal, chana dal, sugar, rajma, basmati rice, and sonamasoori rice — have already been identified to be sold under the Bharat Organics brand through Mother Dairy's Safal outlets and online platforms. They will soon be available in the open market," said Union Home and Corporation Minister Amit Shah at an event here after launching the logo of the National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL), which has been entrusted to act as an umbrella organisation managing the entire supply chain of organic products produced by various cooperative societies

and related institutions across

the country It is hoped that with access to national and international markets under a strong brand, the members will get better returns for their organic produce. According to the data, the total size of the world organic food market in 2020 was around ₹10 lakh crore, of which India's organic product exports accounted for a meager ₹7,000

Currently, the certified Indian organic product retail sales market is around ₹27,000 crore, and it is expected to reach ₹1 lakh crore in the next five years. Therefore, the Government wants to ensure that the benefits of this growth reach farmers.

Symposium on Promotion of Organic Products through Cooperatives' here, Shah said that under the 'Bharat Organics' brand, 20 more

Addressing the 'National

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, with Union Minister of State BL Verma, launches 'Bharat Organics' products during the National Symposium on 'Promoting Organic Products through Cooperatives' organised by National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL), in New Delhi on Wednesday

"Bharat Organic" branded products will be in the market by December. "These products under the brand will emerge as the most 'trusted' brand in India and abroad. Initially, the NCOL will sell the organic products in India and later will market them in other coun-

tries," he added. On the occasion, the Minister also launched NOCL's website and brochure, and presented NCOL membership certificates to five cooperative societies at the event.

"It has been decided to ensure that 50 per cent of the price received above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) will be directly deposited into the farmer's bank account on a per kilogram basis," said the Minister, in an effort to encourage farmers associated with the cooperative sector to participate in organic farming. This practice is not only ecofriendly but also in high demand among health-conscious consumers He said that till now, it has

more than 950 members in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Nagaland, and membership applications from more than 2,000 cooperative institutions have been received. Shah said the Government has decided that by the year 2024, more than 25,000 members will join NCOL while the work of creating a database of organic farmers has also started. The Minister expressed confidence that after the launch of the 'Bharat Brand', India will stand very strongly in the world organic market in the next 10

The Minister of State for Cooperation, BL Verma, Cooperation Secretary Gnanesh Kumar, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal, NDDB chairman and NCOL chief Minesh C Shah, and FSSAI CEO G Kamala Vardhana Rao were present at the event. The NCOL is jointly promoted by the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd (NCCF), Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF), and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd Marketing (NAFED), along with two major statutory central bodies, National Development Board (NDDB) and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). A senior official from the

NCDC, an apex lending institute to the sector, said that the NCOL aims at increasing the return on produce while giving organic farmers and producer organisations direct access to

## **ED** arrests firebrand Dogra leader for money laundering

₹irebrand Dogra leader and supremo of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) Lal Singh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate late Tuesday night in connection with a case against an educational trust run by his wife Kanta Andotra under the Prevention of Mo Laundering Act (PMLA).

Singh was picked up by the sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate from the residence of a local contractor in the Sainik Colony area of Jammu. Singh was currently out on bail ED sleuths arrested him after Special Judge CBI Jammu Bala Joyti rejected his pre-arrest bail application while extending the bail application of Kanta Andotra and Dr. Kranti Singh up to November 30 in the same

ED had earlier raided his residence and other commercial establishments in Kathua district on October 17 in connection with the money laundering case. Minutes after Singh, who remained a two-time Congress MP and three-time MLA in the J&K Assembly, was shifted to the ED office in Jammu, a large number of supporters along with his wife Kanta Andotra



staged a protest demonstration outside the office building demanding his immediate

The supporters and his wife alleged Lal Singh was targeted as part of vendetta politics by the ruling dispensation.

Meanwhile, a high-voltage drama enfolded past midnight. Singh was rushed to the Government hospital in Gandhinagar after he complained of chest pain. From Gandhi Nagar, he was shifted to the Government Medical College Hospital. While Lal Singh was kept under observation to conduct mandatory laboratory tests several party workers alleged he was not provided proper treatment at the behest of ED officials. Singh

himself told reporters that he was not given proper treatment by the doctors for reasons best nown to them. Later, ED officials whisked him away from the hospital premises despite resistance from the DSSP workers.

It may be mentioned that CBI had registered the FIR against the R B Educational Trust for occupying a huge piece of land over and above the ceiling of standard 100 kanals (12.5 acres) fixed by the Jammu and Kashmir Government under provisions of the J&K Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976.

Nearly half a dozen retired and serving Revenue officials, who had allegedly helped the Trust get excess land in violation of the Agrarian Reforms Act, were

The CBI later filed a charge sheet in the case in October 2021, alleging the involvement of accused revenue officials in criminal conspiracy with the R B Educational Trust through Kanta Andotra to allow it to retain land beyond the permissible ceiling of standard 100 kanals (12.5 acres).

To enable the R B Educational Trust to retain land beyond 100 kanals, the revenue officials allegedly showed 74.02 kanals (9.25 acres) as orchard and another 32 kanal (4 acres) was "gha charai" (grazing land), which did not come under the ceiling fixed under Agrarian Reforms Act.

As Nishikant Dubey claims CBI probe being initiated against Mahua Mitra TMC for the first time defends her saying BJP is framing her even as Moitra herself hits back at asking govt to first order CBI probe against Adani and Home Ministry which gave him permission to operate sea and airports.

The Enforcement Directorate late Tuesday night arrested the supremo of Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan party Choudhary Lal Singh soon after the special CBĬ judge in Jammu rejected his pre-arrest bail application in a money laundering case



### BJP leader found hanging from tree

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

n an apparent encore of pre-Lyious such instances where saffron men were found hanging from trees, another local level BJP leader from Bankura was on Wednesday hanged to death from a tree near his

His kin and local BJP men accused the TMC for the crime.

The body of Subhadeep Mishra alias Deepu Mishra, was found hanging from a tree in Nidhirampur village. He had contested a fiercely contested panchayat election earlier this year. Accusing the TMC for his "murder" the BJP workers demanded a CBI investigation into the matter.

The TMC men however said that Dipu had a love angle in the matter as he had an affair with a local woman.

While the locals protested against the police demanding an impartial investigation in a post on X handle State Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said, "TMC goons have murdered Subhadeep Mishra and hung his body from a tree with his hands tied" because they were not happy with his increasing popularity in the area. The police were looking into all angles, the officials said

The BJP leadership claimed that at least a dozen of their supporters had been murdered by hanging in the past couple of years. "Ever since the end of the 2021 Assembly elections they have been killing our men by hanging ... similar incidents happened in Purulia, Raiganj, Malda and other places and have to come to an end," said a local BJP leader.

Directorate has issued fresh summons to Trinamool Congress MP and the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee to appear before its officials at the CGO complex at Salt

**ED** summons

**Abhishek today** 

Lake on Thursday. Banerjee who was quizzed by the agency officials earlier too has been summoned in connection with the school recruitment scam. The summons to Banerjee was

n what could send the rate racing, the Enforcement

issued on a day when the Income Tax Department conducted marathon raids at the premises of Tanmoy Ghosh, a BJPturned-TMC MLA. Ghosh who won the Bankura-Bishnupur Assembly seats on BJP ticket had joined the TMC a few days ago. The fresh summons to Abhishek who is also the nephew of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee comes amid intense search operations conducted by the ED in the multi-crore public distribution system and crop procurement scam in which the Agency late last month arrested former Bengal Food Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick.

Putting up a brave face the TMC leadership however said that the party would not suc-cumb to the vendetta political and pressure tactic of the BJP and that the junior Banerjee would definitely appear before the ED on Thursday. Senior Bengal minister Shashi

Panja on Wednesday said that the "frequent summons to our highest leaders is nothing but a result of vendetta politics." She said that the ED was being made to embarrass the Chief Minister and "harass the Abhishek Banerjee because he has repeatedly humbled them politically ... having failed to handle him politically, they are trying to harass him by using the central agencies.

TMC's two-time MP who had earlier been questioned in connection with coal pilferage scam in Delhi too before being quizzed for more than 13 hours at its Kolkata office this time in relation to the teachers' recruitment scam — that has seen former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee and MLAs Manik Bhattacharya and Jivan Krishna



Saha going to jail — had on a previous occasion said that he was being harassed by the ED as unlike Suvendu Adhikari he had refused to mortgage his spine to the BJP.

will come as many times as they call me because that is my legal duty ... but every time I will continue to ask the question as to why Suvendu Adhikari who is an FIR-named accused being called is not being called by the agencies ... I will also assume that I am being harassed because my party and I have refused to bow before them and mortgage my spine before them unlike many political turncoats who have done so," Banerjee ear-

State BJP spokesperson Shamik Bhattacharya however dismissed claims of vendetta politics saying his party never believed in retributive measures. "BJP is a huge party with pan Indian presence and does not need to use ED or anything against insignificant political forces .. they are already in people's hit list and they will be drowned in the coming elections."

Meanwhile, within days of his joining the TMC I-T raids were conducted at Ghosh's rice mills hotels, shops and other business establishments, sources said Raids were continuing when reports came late on Wednesday evening leading to the TMC leadership reiterating its "vendet-

"We have been telling for long that all these allegations of scams are simply rubbish . rather these are the results of BJP's vendetta politics ... this has once again been proved by the I-T raids on Tanmoy Ghosh's properties ... this is because he had left their corrupt and faction-ridden party to join Mamata Banerjee's development oriented outfit," TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said.

#### **MAHADEV BETTING APP** FIR against 32 people for fraud of ₹15,000 crore



The Mumbai police have registered an FIR against 32 people, including the "promoter" of the 'Mahadev' betting app, for allegedly committing a fraud of nearly Rs 15,000 crore, an official said on Wednesday.

official, the first information reminister so far, and that "these Tuesday against "app promoter Saurabh Chandrakar", and key accused Ravi Uppal and Shubham Soni and others for committing the fraud since 2019 until

The case was registered on the direction of the 30th Kurla court under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (cheating), 120-B (conspiracy), IT Act (for cyber terrorism) and the Gambling Act, the official said.

As per the FIR, the accused have

NOTICE to Appear/Attend Proceedings of DLM&SFC-LDH DLM&SrC-LDH
Through this Publication This is for
Constructive Notice for respondent M/S
SAMAIRA ENTERPRISES having registered
office at ShOP NO 1052, 1st FLOGR, PAN
MANDI, SADAR BAZAR, North Delhi, Delhi, MANUI, SADAK BAZAK, North Deini, Jenii 110006 to appear in person or through authorized representative before the District Level Micro & Small facilitation Council Ludhiana, District Industries Centre, Ludhiana on Dated 28-11-2023 regarding claim reference petition submitted by claimant M/S PARANVI HOSIERY U/s 18(1) of MSMED Act 2006 bearing reference: MSEFC/DIC/05/23/2637.

If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per section 23 & 25 of Arbitration and Conciliation Act and award shall also be passed on the basis of evidence before it. Member Secretary cum General Manager District Industries Centre

Ph No:- 0161-2540695 Email Id:- dicludhiana5@gmail.com ludhiana.msefc@gmail.com

Industrial Estate, Ludhiana

defrauded people of nearly Rs 15,000 crore.

The Enforcement Directorate last week claimed that a forensic analysis and a statement made by a 'cash courier' had led to "startling allegations" that Mahadev betting app promoters have paid about Rs 508 According to the Matunga police crore to the Chhattisgarh chief

> Later, the BJP released a video of Shubham Soni saying he was the owner of the app and had the "proof" of paying Rs 508 crore so far to Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel.

> On November 5, the Centre issued blocking orders against 22 illegal betting platforms, including the Mahadev app and 'Reddyannaprestopro, on ED's request, an official statement said. The action of banning the 22 illegal betting platforms follows investigations conducted by the ED against an illegal betting app syndicate and subsequent raids in connection with the Mahadev app in Chhattisgarh.

> > PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS hereby given to the General Public that MRS
SUMITRA BAHUGUNA W/O. MR. VIPIN KUMAR
HAHUGUNA, THE OWER OF IRRST FLOOR, WITH OF
VITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, BUILT ON PROPERTY
LEARNING NO. A42, AREA MEASURING 55 SO
ARDS, OUT OF KHASRA BUT OR OF STEVENS

RIOS, OUT OF KHASRA NO, 808, SITUATED IN THE ADDIO F WEST VINOD NAGAR, IN THE AREA OF LLAGE: MANDAWALI FAZALPUR, ILLAD, AHDDAWALI FAZALPUR, ILLAD, AHDDAWAL FAZALPUR, ILLAD, SEQUENCE OF Attorney Dated 13.09,2007 Vide Documents 5.821 In Book No. 4, Volume No. 2538, On Pages -28, Registered on dated 13.09,2007, 13.09,2007 octude by Mr. Vipin Kumar Bahuguna Stocuted by Mr. Vipin Kumar Bahuguna Stoc. Radhey Kishan Bahuguna, Registered General viscons are hereby informed that MR. ANIL KUMRAT strons are hereby informed that MR. ANIL KUMRAT SANIL ANIM DEVINOR STRANGE AND ANIL KUMRAT SANIL ANIM STRANGE AN

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 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 dea

Description

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

Kapil Rana/ Anjana Rana/ Plot No D-79, Europen State Colony, Revenue

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

### Former KPCC general secy arrested in cooperative bank fraud case in Kerala governing body. According to official sources, Abraham is alleged to have conspired with an individual identified as Sanjeevan to siphon off bank funds

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) former general secretary, K K Abraham, has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an alleged loan scam that occurred during his tenure as president of a service cooperative bank in Wayanad district.

Abraham was taken into custody on Tuesday night in connection with the Pulpally Service Cooperative bank scam, according to official sources. He was



subsequently presented before a court on Wednesday, they said without elaborating. ED initiated a probe after receiving multiple allegations of financial irregularities within the bank during Abraham's time as

The victims had approached the ED seeking probe into the scam. One of the victims of the scam had died by suicide a few months ago. Prior to the ED action, Abraham had been arrested by the Vigilance wing of the Kerala police following a cheating complaint filed by an elder-

to the tune of over Rs 5 crore in

the name of fraudulent loans.

### Woman trampled to death by elephant in Karnataka

**PTI** CHIKKAMAGALURU

29-year-old woman planta-Ation worker was trampled to death by a wild elephant near Hedadalu in this district on Wednesday, officials said.

Meena and her fellow workers were on their way to a coffee estate when the incident took place. Suddenly, as they got near the estate, they encountered a wild elephant. While other workers managed to escape, she was attacked by the tusker. Meena sustained serious injuries and died. Following the incident, the locals protested with her body and refused to hand it over to officials for post-mortem unless the MLA came to the spot.

This led to a heated argument

Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Sunita Sharmais the sole owner of Plot of Land area measuring 266 Sq. Yds., Le., 222.40 Sq. Mrs., out of Khasra no. 158min, situated in the village Choda

of Khasra no. 158min, situated in the village Chode Raghunapur, pargana & Tehsil Dadri, Disti. Gaulam Budh Nagar, U.P. This ownershio was legally acquired through a Gift Deed dated 16.09.2023 vide doc. No. 5193, executed by Mr. Mahender Sharma. Mrs. Sunita Sharma is currently in the process of mortgaging the aforementioned property

process of mortgaging the afore mentioned property with SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd, Our Client. An objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 14 days from the

date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 14-day period will not be

after the completion of this 14-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said properly or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 14-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants)at Office No.11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s):+910120-3101683 ./

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

Name of Branch

May 18, 2023

of Branch

Noida/

between protesters and the offi- dre Gowda who passed away on people gathered near the spot and blocked the highway connecting Sringeri and Chikkamagaluru for nearly an hour.

A herd of five wild elephants had recently come to the area from Sakleshpur in the neighbouring Hassan district and later, they were joined by two more elephants. One of them attacked the woman and she lost her life.

Efforts were made to drive these wild elephants to Muthodi forest range and the situation is being constantly monitored by the forest officials, a senior forest officer said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who was in Mudigere in the district to attend the funeral of veteran Karnataka politician D B Chan-

PUBLIC NOTICE

his bad habits. Both of my above named have

Meena and instructed the officials to immediately issue the compensation cheque of Rs 15 lakh to her family. Siddaramaiah held an emer-

gency meeting with the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and senior officials of the Forest Department in Mudigere. He has given a "clear instruc-

tion" to the district administration to immediately take necessary action to send the jumbos back to the forest, a statement from CM's office said. The CM spoke to the protest-

ers over the phone who refused to hand over Meena's body and said instructions have been given to take all necessary measures to prevent elephant

#### Modi, Shah, Rajnath visit Advani's residence to wish him on his birthday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday visited BJP stalwart L K Advani's residence to wish him on his birthday. Advani, former deputy prime

minister and former BJP president, turned 96 on Wednesday. "Went to Advani ji's residence and wished him on the occasion of his birthday," Modi said in a post on X. He also shared his pictures with the BJP veteran.

In another post, the prime minister described Advani as "a beacon of integrity and dedication who has made monumental contributions that have strengthened our nation".

"His visionary leadership has furthered national progress and unity. I wish him good hea-Ith and a long life," Modi said.



Advani's efforts towards nationbuilding continue to inspire 140 crore Indians, he added. Taking to X, Shah wished Advani a long life and good health. He said Advani nourished the

BJP with his tireless hard work and organisational

"From the inception of the power, Advani ji's incomparable contribution is an eternal source of inspiration for every worker," the home minister said.

Singh also prayed for Advani's good health and long life, and said he has provided great strength to the BIP.

"Happy birthday to senior BJP leader and inspiration for all of us, Shri LK Advaniji. He has been a major pillar of Indian politics and has also provid-

ed great strength to the BJP organisation. The contribution of Advaniji, who was active in public life for a long time, is unmatched. I pray to God for his good health and long life," Singh wrote on X.

#### There is one guarantee that Congress going to lose Rajasthan polls: BJP

**PTI** ■ JAIPUR

 $T^{
m he\,BJP}$  on Wednesday took a dig at the seven "guarantees" announced by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, saying that there is only one guarantee that the Congress is going to be defeated in the upcoming assembly polls. BJP national spokesperson

Sudhanshu Trivedi made the remarks a day after Gehlot said the Congress would be contesting assembly elections on seven pre-poll promises announced by him for people of the state. "There is complete guarantee of removal of the Congress government in the assembly elec-

tions," Trivedi told reporters at the party office here. The Rajya Sabha MP said that the Congress promised school education in English medium whereas on the ground, 58 per cent posts in schools in the state

are vacant. Teachers were appointed without preparation but now the same teachers have started requesting for transfer," he



Trivedi also targeted Bihar

'In the INDI Alliance formed by these people, it is clear from the kind of disgusting mentality that JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar has towards women that this is not an inclusive alliance but an explosive alliance," he said.

Trivedi also targeted the Congress over the other "guarantees" announced by CM Gehlot if the Congress forms

"The Congress came to power in Himachal and Karnataka also on the basis of false guarantees, but the people there are now repenting," he claimed. Gehlot has announced seven 'guarantees" including an annual honorarium of Rs 10,000 to women head of family, LPG cylinder for Rs 500 to 1.05 crore families, purchase of dung from cattle rearers for Rs 2 per kg, law for old pension scheme for government employees, laptop or tablet to students taking admission in government colleges, insurance cover up to Rs 15 lakh per family to compensate

Trivedi also said that the Modi government has pushed the IT revolution in the country. Where the average broad-

#### **IIT-Bombay** best in India in row QS Asia rankings PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he\ Indian\ Institute}$  of Technology (IIT), Bombay has retained its top position in India in the QS World University Rankings-Asia and India has surpassed China in the number of ranked univer-According to the rankings

announced on Wednesday, India is now the "most represented higher education system", with 148 featured universities, 37 more than last year. It is followed by Mainland China with 133 and Japan with 96. Myanmar, Cambodia and Nepal featured in the rankings for the first time. Like last year, IISc Bengaluru, Delhi University and five Indian Institutes Technology — Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Kharagpur, Kanpur have secured positions in the elite top 100 institutes in

LBMRT00002921251/ LBMRT00002893889 Village Nanglatashi Kasampur, Kanker Khera, Pargana Tehsil & District Meerut, Uttar Pradesh November 04, 2023 Authorized Officer

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ quarantors(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 09, 2023

Name of the

Borrower/ Loan

**Account Numbe** 

**ICICI Bank Limited** 

#### General Public is hereby informed that I Sunita Verma W/o Late Naresh Kumar R/o Plot No 200, Flat No. 203, 2nd Floor, opposite Mahade Dispensary, Pana Udhan, Narela Delhi-110040 have served all their relations with her son Arvind Soni and his Wife Deepika Soni due to

also disowned and debarred from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybod dealing with Arvind Soni and his wife Deepika Soni will do so at his/her/their own risk and eed or dealing done by Arvind Soni & His wife FORM URC -2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI

[Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorised to register) Rules, 2014] Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar of Companies, Delhi & Haryana, that M/s Seyom Business Solutions LLP, a limited liability partnership may be registered under Part of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013, as a company limited by shares.

2. The principal objects of the proposed company are as follows:

"Providing Information & technology consultancy"
3. Acopy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at 248,1st Floor, Street No

Raiiv Colony, Narela Delhi-110040. 7, Rajiv Colony, Narela, Delhi-110040.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Central Registration Centre, Registrar of Companies, at 4th Floor, IFCI Tower,61, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office. the company at its registered office

Dated this 20th day of October, 2023 Name(s) of the Applicant 1. Sukhmender Vashist

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his controversial statement on the importance of education among women to control the population

the government again.

losses due to natural calamity and school education in English

band speed in 2013 was 1.7

medium.

megabits per second, now it is 3.9 megabits per second. Broadband connections reached all over India and data costs were reduced by 25 times," he said.

#### NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 9, 2023

## Winter break in schools advanced as Capital gasps

n response to the prevailing air pollution concerns, the Delhi Government announced an early winter break in schools from November 9 to 18 amid severe air pollution in the national capital. The Government has also banned the entry of application-based commercial cabs such as Ola and Uber that are not registered in Delhi and also deferred the implementation of the oddfrom November 13 to 20. even car rationing scheme till the time the Supreme Court (SC) reviews its effectiveness in curbing air pollution and issues

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said the Delhi government will implement the odd-even car rationing scheme after the Supreme Court reviews its effectiveness. Addressing a press conference, Rai said that the Delhi government would submit the outcomes of two

an order in that regard.

major studies conducted by the that a special drive will be con-Chicago-based Energy Policy Institute of the University and the Delhi Technical University to determine the effectiveness of the odd-even scheme for the perusal of the Supreme Court. "A call will be taken to implement the odd-even scheme only after the Supreme Court reviews its effectiveness and issues an order," the minister said. The Delhi government had announced the implementation of the odd-even scheme

The entry of app-based taxis into Delhi has also been banned as per the Supreme Court's order, the minister said. The minister also said that the Delhi government has issued directives to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to restart the Connaught Place smog tower at full capacity and release the remaining funds to IIT Kanpur to resume a study to identify different sources of pollution in the capital. Rai said

ducted to check open burning of waste in Delhi, with 611 teams set up for this purpose. The minister mentioned that the Supreme Court had also said diesel cars with orange stickers should be banned.

'We have asked the transport department to examine how many such vehicles are there. Under the GRAP guidelines, BS-III and BS-IV diesel vehicles are already banned and the transport department has been asked to examine how many BS-VI diesel vehicles are there and if they are banned and (if) odd-even is implemented what

will be its impact," Rai said. Meanwhile, the Delhi govern ment on Wednesday rescheduled the December winter break of all schools and said it will be now from November 9 to November 18 as the air pollution in the national capital continues to remain in the 'severe' category. Earlier, due to the deteriorating



air quality, holidays were announced from November 3 to November 10. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Environment Minister Gopal Rai and attended by Education Minister Atishi, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot and senior Delhi government officials. The decision

to bring forward the vacation normally in December-January - was made to protect children's health. The Nov 9-18 holiday will be adjusted against the traditional December-January break.

In a circular issued by the Directorate of Education, Delhi government, it said, "In the wake of implementation of GRAP-IV measures due to Severe Air Quality prevailing in Delhi and seeing that no respite from such adverse weather conditions in near future is preBreak for the session 2023-24 is ordered to be preponed so that schools can be totally closed and both children and teachers can stay at home.

'Accordingly, all schools shall observe Winter Break wef. 09th November 2023 (tomorrow) to 18th November 2023 (Satur-Further orders in the remain

ing portion of winter break will

time," it stated. Delhi Education Minister Atishi had on Sunday announced the closure of primary classes of all schools until November 10 and said schools have the option of teaching online for classes 6 to

Reacting to the announce-ment, the principal of ITL public school, Sudha Acharya, said that scheduled school activities got hampered and several events had to be postponed because of it.

The Government thinks that shutting down school is the only option. Tests for classes 10 and 12 were supposed to be held from November 16, and the annual function was supposed to take place on November 24 but now we have postponed it all," Acharya said. Sant Ram of Government School Teachers Association said while the order is fine from the students' point of view as pollution would affect their their studies.

'If we see this from students' point of view, the order is a welcome step. However, the government should have planned it because shutting down schools means it will be an additional burden on teachers to finish the syllabus in a short period," Ram said.

According to data from the Decision Support System, a numerical model-based framework capable of identifying sources of particulate matter pollution in Delhi, stubble burning in neighbouring states, especially Punjab and Haryana, accounted for 38 per cent of the air pollution in Delhi on Wednesday.

It is likely to be 27 per cent on Thursday. According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi-NCR, the region is likely to experience 'severe' air quality for another five to six days.



### After SC snub, anti-smog tower in Connaught Place gets operational

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Ateam of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) officials on Wednesday restarted the non-functional anti-smog tower in Connaught Place on Wednesday morning, a day after the Supreme Court ordered the administration to immediately operationalise the

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the Delhi Government has issued directives to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to restart the Connaught Place smog tower at full capacity and release the remaining funds to IIT identify different sources of pollution in the capital.

A member of the team said that the plant has been re-operationalized as per the direction of the Supreme Court and the clean-up work of equipment

Delhi Metro's Pink

Line services hit by

technical glitches

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Services were affected for over an hour on a section of Delhi

Metro's Pink Line on Wednesday

morning due to a technical fault

The services were affected from

8:25 am to 10:09 am on the

Majlis Park-Maujpur section

The Pink Line connects Muk-

undpur Depot to Shiv Vihar.

'Train services on metro's Pink

Line (Majlis Park-Maujpur)

were affected on the down line

going from Majlis Park towards

Maujpur from 8:25 am to 10:09

am on Wednesday due to a tech-

nical fault observed in a train as

it approached Durgabai

Deshmukh metro station,"

DMRC official said.

in a train, officials said.

they said.

and rooms was being carried out. "The facility was shut down in April. All the fans are now functional and trials are being carried out. We will gradually increase the speed of fans," the official said. Delhi's air quality index was in severe category on Wednesday with an air quality index of 425 being recorded at 1 pm by the Central Pollution Control Board.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday recommended to Lieutenant Governor the immediate suspension of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee chairman Ashwani Kumar for "arbitrarily halting" the operation of a large smog tower two years ago to mitigate air pol-

The Rs 23 crore-smog tower in Delhi's Connaught Place was inaugurated by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in August 2021 amid much fanfare.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

### Construction waste, open burning of garbage major contributors to worsening air: Oberoi

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Wednesday said open burning of garbage, dumping of construction waste and use of tandoors in restaurants are among the top contributors to rising air pollution in the national capital. Oberai said the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has also decided to implement the winter action plan on the instructions of the chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Oberoi said that construction activities and open burning of garbage are major sources of pollution. Due to construction work, dust blows everywhere, due to which pollution increases more. The second major source of pollution is solid waste. Open burning of garbage causes a lot of pollution. Keeping this in mind, MCD has taken many impor-The MCD has collected nearly Rs 1.51 crore

in seven days from fines imposed on violators flouting the ban on these activities, she

We have deployed special teams on the

ground to keep a check on open burning (of

garbage) and (dumping of) construction and demolition (C&D) waste, which have been banned keeping in mind the rising air pollution. These activities have been banned as they are among top contributors to the rising levels of air pollution in the city," Oberoi said during a press conference. The MCD has deployed 517 surveillance

teams to curb air pollution in the national capital. The teams have issued 297 challans for open burning of garbage and 622 challans for dumping C&D waste to defaulters in seven days.

'More than 175 teams have been formed to monitor open burning during the day and 124 teams have been formed to monitor it at night. About 250 people have been

deployed in the monitoring team during the day. These people are visiting different areas of Delhi and conducting inspections so that open burning can be stopped. At the same time, 316 people have been deployed in the night monitoring team. These people are monitoring the big and small roads in Delhi at night,"she said.

The civic body has collected Rs 14.85 lakh from violators fined for open burning of garbage and Rs 1.37 crore for those flouting the C&D waste dumping ban, according to an official release. The MCD has also removed 676 tandoors from restaurants in an attempt to control air pollution.

Under the MCD's action against pollution, 297 open burning challans have been imposed amounting to a fine of Rs 14.85 lakh and 622 C&D challans accumulating a fine of Rs 1.37 crore during 01.11.2023 to 07.11.2023," the release stated.

The MCD has banned these activities under its Winter Action Plan, invoked as part of GRAP Stage IV. A monitoring team has also been set up to take stock of the sit-

LG visits Azadpur Mandi after complaints over sanitation woes

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant (LG) Gover-nor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday inspected Azadpur Mandi following complaints about flying dust and severe lack of sanitation. The mandi is regulated by Delhi Agriculture Marking Board (DAMB) -Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) of the Delhi Government.

Giving details about his visit, officials said Saxena went there following repeated requests and complaints by different stakeholders including the traders, regarding severe lack of sanitation, public amenities, parking woes and inadequate fire safety

The most outstanding thing that came out during the visit was the prevalence of huge amount of flying road dust and smoke from trucks plying to and from the Mandi, which was adding to the already alarming air quality emergency in the city. Saxena took grave exception to the situation and wondered as to what the Development

Department of GNCTD, under which the DAMB-APMC operate, had been doing for the last about 09 years.

He expressed shock at the fact that the Minister in-charge of the Mandi was also the Environment Minister of Delhi and yet such a polluting hellhole was present in the middle of the Capital. The LG said that he will take up this issue with the Chief Minister in their next meeting. During the visit, LG walked through different blocks of the Fruits and Vegetables Mandi and expressed grave displeasure at the hellish condition in which thousands of traders, more than a lakh of labour and visitors to the Mandi were forced to live. The LG was anguished to see overflowing sewage, open defecation, stray animals, garbage all around and the stench in the Mandi. Azadpur Mandi is one of the largest in the world that witnesses the movement of over 20,000 trucks and receives a footfall of over a lakh every day. Several local traders as well as traders' body also put forward their grievances to the LG saying they were forced to work in unhygienic and pathetic conditions owing to government apathy that posed a grave risk to their health and lives.

The majority of the complaints pertained to non-removal of garbage from the Mandi and acute mismanagement in parking of trucks and other smaller goods vehicles entering the market frequently. Saxena expressed shock at the inhuman conditions in which more than a lakh of labour and traders were forced to live and pulled up lack of toilets, roads and drinking water in the Mandi premis-

The traders in the vegetables Mandi told the LG that there was just one entry / exit for the trucks which led to severe congestion and a huge pile up of trucks. They said this posed a serious threat in case of any emergency like the recent fire incidents in the Mandi. Some other traders complained that the high mast lights inside the Mandi were mostly non-functional and a large part of the market sinks into darkness after

the sunset Having experienced the ground situation first hand and taking a serious note of the traders' complaints, LG directed the concerned officers to take immediate remedial measures to address the concerns raised by

the traders. He asked officials to chalk out the priorities in consultation with all stakeholders and prepare a concrete action plan within a week. While directing the MCD officials to immediately clean the heaps of garbage and Ć&D Waste from the area, the LG asked them to personally monitor the sanitation work and apprise the LG Secretariat about the progress of works along with the photographs.

#### **STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police has issued over 1,300 challans in a single day to vehicle owners driving without PUC certificates. According to data shared by the police, 1,344 challans were issued on Tuesday (November 7) to vehicles operating without a valid pollution under control (PUC) certificate. A total 1,253 issued for obstructive or improper parking and 403 vehicles towed by traffic cranes.

As many as 131 and 888 challans were issued for driving against the flow of traffic and no-entry violations, respectively. In an

### 1,300 challans issued in a day for driving without PUC certificates

effort to control non-destined goods vehicles, 1,239 were checked and 488 returned. Only those vehicles carrying essential commodities with a valid persaid. In addition, challans were issued to 246 BS-III petrol and 1,184 BS-IV diesel vehicles, they said. The police issued 1,060 challans to BS-III petrol vehicles and 4,840 challans to BS-IV diesel vehicles from November

3 to 7. In addition, 5,820 challons and 6,061 notices were plan — Graded Response issued for improper parking during the same period.

3,949 for no-entry violations and 12 for carrying construction and demolition material without proper covering, the police added. On Sunday, after the city's air quality plummeted to the 'Severe Plus' category, Stage IV

Action Plan (GRAP) — came into effect in Delhi. Under A total 637 challans were issued GRAP Stage IV, all kinds of conpolluting trucks into the city are banned. Plying of old diesel or netrol vehicles and trucks carrying non-essential material in the national capital attracts a fine of Rs 20,000 under the Motor Vehicles Act.

### Cops questions YouTuber Elvish over snake venom use at party

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NOIDA

Youtuber Elvish Yadav was questioned by the Noida Police early Wednesday over suspected use of snake venom at a party, officials said, even as an investigation by the veterinary department found venom glands missing in all nine snakes that were rescued last week. Eight of the nine snakes had their teeth missing, the probe found out as Noida Police on Tuesday night interrogated Elvish Yadav in connection with the case. The veterinary report will be placed in the court. The nine snaked have been released in Surajpur Wetlands after obtaining permission from the

Bigg Boss OTT, was among the



Yadav has joined the investiga tion. He came to the police station around 11.30 pm on Tuesday. He was then questioned for around two hours and let off. He will be called again," a senior officer of the Noida Police said, requesting anonymi-

### 73-year-old man attacked over parking dispute

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

73-year-old man was Abeaten up by his neighbours over a parking dispute in west Delhi's Subhash Nagar area, police said on Wednesday.

Amar Singh is in critical condition and undergoing treatment at a hospital, according to his family

On Sunday night, an argument broke out between Amar's son Abhishek Singh and their

neighbour Rajkumar Madan and his sons - Ayush and Shivam — after they parked two cars in front of Amar's house, Abhishek's wife Sonia Singh alleged.

The trio first attacked Abhisekh and when Amar intervened, he was also beaten up by them, she

The father and son were rescued with the help of other neighbours who later informed police about the incident, she



Delhi BJP workers staged a demonstration near the

Bihar Bhawan in Chanakyapuri on Wednesday and demanded Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's resignation over his remarks on the importance of women's education to control the population. A large number of women leaders and workers, including those from the Delhi BJP's Mahila Morcha, raised slogans against the chief minister and demanded him to step down for his "vulgar" remarks. Leading the protesters outside the Bihar Bhawan, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said Kumar "cannot be forgiven for his remarks"

He said that if the Chief Minister



of a state is making such statements in the temple assembly which fulfills the aspirations of the people, then it reflects his mentality and his thinking towards women because such words were never heard before in any assembly. Sachdeva said on one hand we have PM Shri Narendra Modi working for Nari Vandan while on the other hand we have Nitish Kumar who is seen as Nari Bhaksak Later in the evening hundreds of workers led by Delhi BJP Vice President Dinesh Pratap Singh & Morcha President Neera Tewari also held a separate Demonstration at Bihar Niwas at Chankyapuri and demanded resignation of Bihar CM.

The Delhi BJP workers will continue their struggle till Kumar steps down from the chief minister's post, he added The chief minister, however, on Wednesday offered his apologies both inside and outside the Bihar Assembly for comments made a day before. The Bihar Assembly was on

Wednesday adjourned till 2 pm, soon after the proceedings started, as the opposition BJP kept demanding Kumar's resigna-Yadav, winner of reality show

six named accused in the FIR lodged here last week under provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and for criminal conspiracy under Indian Penal Code section 120-B.

The police have already applied for remand of the five people who were arrested in the case.

#### Don't issue P-10 liquor permits to independent restaurants hosting parties: Govt to agencies government collected Rs 2,457 ment Corporation, Delhi Conor such other place, and must be screened off from public view. sumers Cooperative Wholesale

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has directed its agencies not to issue P-10 liquor permits to independent restaurants hosting functions and parties, citing excise revenue loss.

It has come to the notice of the excise department that many independent restaurants were using P-10 permits to host functions and parties where liquor was served, officials said on Wednesday.

The department has already debarred such restaurants from hosting functions using the P-10  $\,$ permits as they are eligible for obtaining excise licences, they "These restaurants use P-10 per-

mits to get liquor instead of having excise licence to serve liquor because of the higher licence fee. This leads to excise revenue loss to the state exchequer," said a

senior excise officer. A recent order issued by the excise department said, "All the

L-6 retail vends are directed to ensure that no P-10 Permits be issued to the independent restaurants for hosting func-

'Non-compliance of the order will be viewed seriously and stern action including cancellation of licence may be taken against the defaulter L-6 vends,

The Delhi government has collected revenue to the tune of Rs 3,588 crore in the first half of the this fiscal year. Officials said the

crore as excise duty and Rs 1,131 crore as value added tax by selling 27.6 crore liquor bottles between April 1 and September 30 this year. The first two quarters of a financial year are generally considered lean in comparison to the third and fourth

Four Delhi government agencies — Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation, Delhi Tourism and Transportation Develop-

Store, and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation — run more than 650 liquor stores in the city. A P-10 licence can be obtained on payment of Rs 10,000 (except

for motels, banquet hall and farm houses where P-10 license fee is 15,000 ) for service of liquor in any party, function, marriage and such other events. As per conditions for issuing P-10 licences, the specific premises should not be any public park

Also, liquor should not be served to a person below 25 years of age.A P-10 licence holder can purchase liquor from maximum three vends. The officials said there are 935

hotels, clubs and restaurants in the city with excise licence to run bar at their premises. On the other hand, there are 5,374 independent restaurants that are eligible for excise licence but do not have it, they said.

### India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue to focus on ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ndia and the United States will review the entire spectrum of their bilateral strategic and defence ties here on Friday during the 2plus2 ministerial dialogue. It is the fifth interaction of 2+2 and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will hold talks with US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd J Austin III. Giving details of the upcoming

high-profile parleys, ministry of external affairs(MEA) said the 2+2 will enable a high-level review of progress being made in cross-cutting aspects of defence and security coopera-tion, technology value chain



collaborations and people-to-

people ties. The Ministers will take the opportunity to progress the futuristic roadmap for the India-US partnership as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph Biden, in their discussions in June and September this year.

al platforms, and through frameworks such as Quad. Both sides will also take stock Rajnath and Jaishankar are of contemporary regional issalso scheduled to have bilaterues and exchange views about al meetings with their respective U.S. counterparts, which will mark a continuity of Ministerial Dialogue and reaf-firm the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic partnership, MEA said.

The dialogue comes in the backdrop of ongoing Israel and Hamas and Ukraine conflicts. Moreover, tension still prevails at the border in Ladakh between India and China and the dialogue may discuss these issues. Incidentally, the dialogue is also the first such meeting since diplomatic ties soured between Canada and India over allegations that the government was behind the killing of a Canadian Khalistani separatist leader in British Columbia

The falling out between Ottawa

Washington in an awkward position as it tries to balance its commitments and interests with both countries.

Also the 2+2 meeting comes a few months before India is expected to host the Quad Summit in New Delhi, with the leaders of the U.S., Japan and Australia.

The speculative date for this meeting is January 27 with US President Joe Biden being invited to attend the Republic

Day on January 26.
The group of Ministers will discuss "both bilateral and global concerns and developments in the Indo-Pacific" the US State Department had said last week. Blinken's visit to New Delhi is part of a larger The falling out between Ottawa and New Delhi had left Aviv, Amman, Tokyo .

#### Declare unencroached forest land as reserved or face contempt, Delhi HC tells Chief Secretary

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Wednesday warned the city government's chief secretary of contempt action if he did not designate unencroached forest areas in the national capital as "reserved forest" within two weeks.

Justice Jasmeet Singh said the official was liable for contempt of court for not following a 2021 National Green Tribunal (NGT) order directing the Delhi Government through the chief secretary to ensure that requisite notification under Section 20 (Notification declaring forest reserved) of the Indian Forest Act is issued in three months in relation to forest land having "no controver-

sy".
"Even till date, the said notification has not been issued. I am of the view that the Chief Secretary is in contempt of the order dated January 15, 2021 of NGT and is liable to be proceeded against under the Contempt of Court Act," the judge said.

'In case notification under section 20 is not issued within 2 weeks, Chief Secretary shall be liable for contempt of court and notice of contempt shall be framed," he said.

The court added the official shall appear virtually before it for framing of contempt notice if the notification with respect to declaration of reserved forest is not issued.

The court also expressed its displeasure over the monthly meetings of an oversight committee not being held as per the NGT order to deal with the issue of encroachment in the ridge area.

The court made the chief secretary as well as the director general of forests parties to the proceedings which concern removal of encroachment from the ridge, asserting that the administration cannot claim helplessness

Advocate Aditya N Prasad, the amicus curiae assisting the court, recalled that the NGT had said the ridge in Delhi has historical and environmental significance and demanded urgent action to protect it by finalise the notification under section 20 of the Indian Forest

The NGT had also ordered constitution of an Oversight Committee under the DG (Forest) of the Government of India to oversee the progress with regard to removal of encroachments from the ridge,

he added. The court said if the NGT order is not followed in letter and spirit, it shall be constrained to issue contempt notice to the officials con-

cerned. "End of the day, it is the administration which has to take care of this. If you are incapable, make a statement (that) God help citizens of Delhi...I will record it and not waste time," Justice Singh remarked. The court said despite the NGT order, encroachment removal was going on at a slow pace, which showed lack of effort on part of the officials

concerned The NGT order directed meeting of the oversight committee once a month so there should have been 34 meetings. The minutes of meetings show that the 6th meeting was held on May 17 and next is proposed to be held on November 14, clearly showing that the NGT order is not being complied with," stated the court.

Calling is "shocking", the judge noted that out of 394 hectares of encroached forest land, only 82 hectares was recovered over a period of 4 years, which was also stated to have been reencroached now.

The Delhi Government counsel said he will verify the status of the reclaimed land and get back to the court.

"The non-action of the oversight committee shows total disregard. In case the directions of the NGT are not acted upon scrupulously in letter, intent and spirit, the court shall be constrained to issued contempt notice," the judge warned.

The court asked the authorities to file an "up to date" status report in the matter, including on the aspect of concrete steps for removal of encroachment and afforestation on the

### Sumedha made port call in Luanda, Angola



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELH** 

Continuing with its ongoing deployment in the Gulf of Guinea, Indian Navy ship INS Sumedha made a three day port call to Luanda, Angola from November three. This was followed by Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Angolan Navy on November seven, officials

said here on Wednesday. The visit was aimed at enhancing Naval Cooperation and aug-

menting interoperability. The crew of INS Sumedha undertook professional interactions with Angolan Navy. The Commanding Officer INS Sumedha called on Vice Admiral Joa'o Pedro Adao Cambole, Commander Luanda Naval Base and Me Leidy Cussomba, Vice Director, National Directorate for National Defence Policy. The ship was also kept open for

visitors and members of the

Indian Diaspora. A visit was also

organised for the children from the Don Bosco orphanage. The MPX conducted on 07 Nov 23, was aimed at exchange of best practices & honing pro-

### Maiden INDUS-X investors meet held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

shared priorities for augment-

ing cooperation in multilater-

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence, organised the maiden INDUS-X Investors Meet here on Wednesday as a pre-cursor to the 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue. The INDUS-X Educational

Series (Gurukul) was also launched during the event. Doug Beck, Director Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), US DoD led the US delegation and Vivek Virmani, PO (G) & COO/iDEX-DIO the Indian delegation.

The event was co-ordinated by US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), IndusTech, and mach33.aero (Social Alpha), defence ministry officials said here.

The first-ever INDUS-X Investors Event evinced the interest of the investors in the start-ups and MSMEs operating in the defence sector and the emerging opportunities under the INDUS-X initiative. The interactive meet brought all the stakeholders viz Startups/MSMEs, Investors,

the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the

**Account Numbe** 

LBGHZ00006050549

Sanjay Kumar/ Prerana/ LBDEL00004408225

Manish Kapoor/ Preeti Kapoor/ LBNOD00005462665/

LBNOD00005918659

Date: November 09, 2023 Place: Delhi/ NCR

(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.

(Borrower), Anuradha Jasuja (Co-Borrower)

LBGUR00004983636

asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

Date: November 09, 2023

Place: Gurgaon

Vibhore Kumar

FICICI Bank

Incubators, Industry from both Leaders, Industry Forums, sides under one roof to discuss the collaborative agendas and opportunities thereon.

The event also had focused panel discussions with a select audience of 50 thought leaders, including start-ups, investors, government officials and business leaders from the defence industry. The panel discussed on 'Investment Opportunities in the Defence Sector', elaborating upon establishing a sustainable commercial founda-tion for defence collaboration and co-production.

In the Investor-Start-up Connect session, leading Indian and US investors, VCs and defence start-ups offered their insights regarding their plans for the defence sector and the expectations from each

Select Indian and US startups also presented their profile and innovations to the marquee audience.

The Gurukul initiative is aimed to help the innovators /startups to navigate in the defence ecosystem of the US and India. The Gurukul (Education) series will have sessions for the startups/innovators by the experts from both sides including Govt Officials, Corporate

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

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 dea

Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession

Shop/office No. 01, Ground Floor, Satyam Shopping Complex, Plot No Cs-06, Sector Alpha-2, Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar/ November 04, 2023

Flat No. 104, Ground Floor, Block No. 35, Sector-omicron 1 Distt Gautam Budh Nagar, Up Noida- 201307/ November 04, 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 pe

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interes

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the

below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession

of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private

Limited (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com) The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till December 05, 2023 before 05:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured

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, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005

on or before **December 05**, **2023** before **05**:00 **P.M** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **December 05**, **2023** before **05**:00 **P.M** along with scan image of

Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at

ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before December 05, 2023 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a

Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset

Management Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005

Amount Reserve Date and Outstanding Price Time of

(E)

000/-

8,01

000/-

462

04, 2023

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

Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun/

Prachi Sahu/ Reena Sahu/ Flat No. C 101, 1st Floor, Tower C, Mayur Vihar, "Resizone Residency", Clement Town,

November 02, 2023

the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Details of the

Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any

Unit No G-68, Ground Floor,

An Area Of 394 Sq. Fts.

tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited On 8126013708/8584874809

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

Spaze Palazo Sector 69, Village

Fazilpur Jharsa, Haryana Gurgaon 122001 Admeasuring

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

Beck appreciated the brain-storming session on setting up a Joint Innovation Fund besides the panel discussions on critical issues.

He expressed satisfaction with
the response to the joint
IMPACT challenges and was

Incubators/ Accelerators etc.

The kick-off session was

launched with an interesting

fireside chat between the Director, DIU and the COO,

DIO highlighting the oppor-

ups under the INDUS-X ini-

tunities for the defence start

tiative and the way-ahead.

confident that the Gurukul Educational Series would help the startups in navigating in the defence eco-systems of India and USA. Virmani added that the path

breaking Investor connect event would lead to increased collaboration in the field of defence innovation.

He also agreed that the topics finalised under Gurukul will be relevant for all stakeholders, especially the startups. Both Director/DIU and COO/DIO invited the startups and innovators to apply in the joint IMPACT challenges, and to participate in the Gurukul

in Demand Notice (Rs.)

January 25, 2023

99,51,132/-

December 19, 2022

47,14,079/-

June 21, 2023

Rs. 38,87,137/-

Branch

Delhi/

Delhi/

NCR

Delhi

Authorized Officer

Date & Time of E-Auction

(G)

Decembe 06, 2023,

From

12:00

Authorised Officer

**ICICI Bank Limited** 

Time of Property Inspection

(F)

November 24, 2023 From

12:00 Noor

02:00 PM

## taking necessary steps to reclaimed land.

### TB remains world's second leading cause of death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI** 

After two years of Covid-related disruptions, there was a major global recovery in the number of people diagnosed with TB and treated in 2022, but infections remain the world's second leading cause of death, according to a WHO 2023 Global TB Report released on Wednesday. The net reduction from 2015 to 2022 was 8.7%, far from the WHO End TB Strategy milestone of a 50% reduction by 2025.

Situation in India too was not impressive as it accounted for the highest number of infections, representing a staggering 27 percent of the global burden, as per the report, featuring data from 192 countries and areas. However, on a brighter side, the WHO acknowledged India's success in declining TB cases by 16% and TB mortality by 18% since 2015. India also improved in treatment

coverage to 80 per cent of the estimated TB cases, said the report.

However, overall the report has

called for accelerated efforts to achieve new targets. The report showed that India, Indonesia and the Philippines, which together accounted for over 60 per cent of the global reductions in the number of people newly diagnosed with TB in 2020 and 2021, all recovered to beyond 2019 levels in 2022.

According to the report, India recorded 2.8 million (28.2 lakh) TB cases in 2022, with a case fatality ratio of 12 per cent. Officials stated that "The best estimate of the number of deaths

in India from TB was 3,42,000 (3,31,000 among HIV-negative people and 11,000 among those

with HIV) The report highlights that multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) remains a public health crisis, with 1.1 lakh cases recorded in India in 2022. "For millennia, our ancestors suffered and died with tuberculosis, without knowing what it was, what caused it, or how to stop it," said

WHO Director-General, in the statement. "Today, we have knowledge and tools they could only have dreamed of. We have political commitment, and we have an opportunity that no generation in the history of humanity has had: the opportunity to write the final chapter in the story of TB," he added.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,

Globally, an estimated 10.6 million people fell ill with TB in 2022, up from 10.3 million in

2021

Geographically, in 2022, most people who developed TB were in the WHO Regions of South-East Asia (46 per cent), Africa (23 per cent) and the Western Pacific (18 per cent), with smaller proportions in the Eastern Mediterranean (8.1 per cent), the Americas (3.1 per cent) and Europe (2.2 per cent).

The total number of TB-related deaths (including those among people with HIV) was 1.3 million in 2022, down from 1.4 million in 2021.

However, during the 2020-2022 period, Covid-19 disruptions resulted in nearly half a million more deaths from TB. TB continues to be the leading killer among people with HIV.

#### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch 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

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		Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manoj Kumar/ Kiran Bala/ LBROH00005340250/ LBXBA00005905375	Khewat No. 670/579 Khatoni No. 1234, Khata No. 905, Khasra No 775, 776 Mouja Bahadurgarh Bhagat Singh Colony Rohtak Haryana/ November 04, 2023	June 14, 2023 Rs. 18,12,304/-	Rohtak/ Delhi/ Bahadurgarh
2.	Rajneesh Joshi/ Vandana Devi/ LBROH00001523658	Khasra No. 2107, Mouja Bhadurgarh Back Side Dayanand Nagar Within M.c Limits Haryana / November 04, 2023	June 07, 2023 Rs. 3,94,904/-	Rohtak/ Delhi/ Bahadurgarh
3.	Rajeev Ahuja/ Rekha Rani/ Versha Rani/ LBPNP00004952659/ LBPNP00004952664/ LBNOD00005332938	Part of House No. 842 Ward No. 7, Inside MC Limits Panipat Haryana/ November 04, 2023	May 03, 2023 Rs. 34,42,719/-	Panipat/ Delhi

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 09, 2023 Authorized Officer

**Ficici** Bank

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 Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

WITE	ilis, and whateverthere is bas	is as per trie brief particulars	giverriereu	idei,		
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	Earnest	Time of	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Dhiraj Kumar (Borrower), M/S Air Guru Travel Solutions Pvt Ltd, Shilpa Shrivatsava, Madhusudan Prasad Srivatsava (Co-borrower) Lan No. LBDEL00005057084	Plot No.3, Tower-D, Flat No.101, Philips Cghs Ltd, First Floor, Sector-23, Dwarka, Delhi- 110075 Admeasuring an Area of 1036.13 Sq. Fts.	Rs. 1,96, 44,908/- as on November 01, 2023	Rs. 1,64,75, 000/- Rs. 16,47, 500/-	November 23, 2023 From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	21, 2023, From

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com) The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till December 20, 2023 before 05:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before December 20, 2023 before 05:00 P.M and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before December 20, 2023 before 05:00 P.M along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi- 110005 on or before December 20, 2023 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission o

Management Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of

Date: November 09, 2023 **Authorized Officer** Place: Delhi/Ncr

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak

Notice for sale of immovable assets

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 Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder."

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	Earnest	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Dhiraj Kumar (Borrower), M/S Air Guru Travel Solutions Pvt Ltd, Shilpa Shrivatsava, Madhusudan Prasad Srivatsava (Co-borrower) Lan No. LBDEL00005057084	Plot No.3, Tower-D, Flat No.101, Philips Cghs Ltd, First Floor, Sector-23, Dwarka, Delhi- 110075 Admeasuring an Area of 1036.13 Sq. Fts.	Rs. 1,96, 44,908/- as on November 01, 2023	Rs. 1,64,75, 000/- Rs. 16,47, 500/-	November 23, 2023 From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	21, 2023, From

favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi

tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited On 8126013708/8584874809
Please note that Marketing agencies 1.M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. Fo detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

**ICICI Bank Limited** 

## **Sport creates spirit of** competition: Minister

UP Minister of Tourism and Culture and Minister In-charge of the district Jaiveer Singh said that sports create the spirit of competition in people's lives. He was addressing the concluding function of Sansad Khel Pratiyogita Kashi-2023 (October 16 to November 8) at Ambedkar Sports Stadium in Bada Lalpur here on Wednesday. He wished the players a bright future and set examples in their respective disciplines.

He said that the reins of the all-round development of the country are in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The country is progressing in every field. His (the PM's) wish is that the youth of the country should progress in every field and the youth, boys and girls and women of the country and the countrymen are progressing and developing in various fields," he said, adding that if one wants to remain healthy in life, he/she will have to take up

He further said that India was the tenth economy of the world earlier but during the tenure of the Prime Minister for 9.5 years, the country has become the fifth economy of the world and by 2030, India will become the third economy of the world. He said that India was a Vishwa Guru (world leader) once and the PM has dreamed of making India a world leader again and by 2047, India will lead the world by becoming a global

He said that by presiding over the G-20 programme and successfully organising the same of those powerful nations which have a monopoly on 80 per cent of the world's economy, it proved that India can



become a global leader. He said that children and youth are the future of the country and called upon them to pledge to contribute towards the country's progress towards making India a global leader. He said that there is no shortage of natural and other resources in the

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Stamp and Court Registration Fees Ravindra Jaiswal, while addressing the gathering, said that sports are important for mental, physical and social development. "Sports provide an opportunity to keep us healthy, develop brain abilities, practice strategy, and teamwork apart from enhancing the quality of our life and giving us the ability to think positively, struggle, and win," he said, adding that sports are an essential part of our life. "Sports play an important role in developing a healthy body and mind. There are many types of sports, which

help in our physical as well as mental development. Many times there is a situation of stress during continuous studies. In such a situation, sports are a better medium to relieve this stress," he said.

He emphasised that in our country, earlier sports were not given as much priority as education was given but under the leadership of the PM Narendra Modi, special importance is being given to sports and players in the country. That's why the Prime Minister says, 'Whoever plays, will blossom'. Just as education is important for proper development of the mind, similarly sports are important for physical development, he added.

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam said that this year 276,000 people had registered online for this sports competition, out of which more than 2 lakh participants in various sports. "The spirit of the game was such that even a 103 year-

old woman ran on the track," he said. On the occasion, Minister Jaiveer Singh also distributed awards. He awarded gold medal to four-year-old Gurmehar Chawla of Sunbeam Annapurna and silver medal to Shia Singh Rajput and other players in the Wushu game. Before this, the chief guest

started the race competition for boys and girls by playing the clamp. After that, he took the salute of the march past and saw the yogasanas done in various postures by the boys and girls. Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLC Ashwani Tyagi, MLC/ District BJP President Hansraj Vishwakarma, City BJP Chief Vidyasagar Rai, ex-MLA Surendra Narayan Singh, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal apart from Basic Shiksha Adhikar, Regional Sports Officer and

### SP leader urges party president to stake claim on Varanasi LS seat

RAMATMA SRIVASTAVA VARANASI

Former UP Minister and national spokesperson of Samajwadi Party (SP) Virendra Singh has claimed that the party has strong base in Varanasi parliamentary con-Varanasi unit has urged the party national leadership to stake its claim on this seat in 2024 parliamentary election when it would discuss with the INDIA Alliance for seat shar-

"The SP has strong base in Varanasi parliamentary constituency and so, the party's Varanasi unit has urged the party national leadership to stake its claim on this seat in 2024 parliamentary election when sit to discuss with the INDIA Alliance for seat sharing so that the party could make direct fight with the ruling BJP", Singh said while talking to "The Pioneer".

The party chief AkhileshYadav has clearly con-



National spokesperson of Samajwadi Party Virendra Singh

veyed the message to party leaders to make preparation for the election on all 80 seats of Lok Sabha in UP, he said, adding that the party has already started its preparation as the election can be contested strongly only when the preparations are complete. And in this order, six zones and 30 sectors have been constituted in each assembly and 10 booths have been constituted in each sector while a committee of 20

each booth. The booth level committee has been directed to remain active in view to strengthen party organisation keeping the parliamentary election in view, he said.

Congress Party has no organisational structure in UP booth level workers, Singh said, adding that if the Congress Party wants to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha election strongly, it would have to seek the help of the SP. The alliance will succeed in UP or not, it all will depend on the Congress Party and the party national leadership will decide on the issue of alliance, he added.

Each political party has right to extend its base and the SP is contesting assembly elections in MP where it is finding itself strong, Singh said and added that it would not make any impact on the alliance in the parliamentary election. And the statements being given youths has been constituted in by the party chief Akhilesh Yadav during electioneering is nothing but to boost the morale of party workers to ensure the victory of party candidates.

If the idol of Lord Ram is installed by Shankaracharya in Ayodhya it does not matter who is yajaman whether it is and all the political parties should attend the installation ceremony of the idol of Lord Ram if invited by the organiser, the SP senior leader said.

Akhilesh Yadav is the right candidate for the prime ministerial post in the 2024 Lok Sabha election but it would be decided by the INDIA Alliance. The allegation of corruption on the Chattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raises questions over the investigating agency as this serious allegation was leveled without the investigation as it itself mentioned in its press statement released regarding this that the investigation into this matter is going on, Singh said.

## Shops witness brisk business as festival of lights inches closer

lthough the festival of Alights is a couple of days away, markets of the city are buzzing with hectic activities as denizens thronged the markets of Sangam city. People were seen purchasing electronic items, garments, consumer products, decorative items, 'lai' and 'lawa' (puffed rice), rango-

lis, candles and diyas.

Although the festival of lights is on Sunday, several offices and schools of the city are already witnessing thin attendance.

Shops of all the markets of the city, including Civil Lines, Katra, Chowk, Telirganj, Sulem Sarai, Muttiganj, Kydganj, Khuldabad, Batasa Mandi, Koknath etc are remaining open for late hours and doing brisk business. "Although I am not getting time from my office, my family members

the rush will increase in the market", said a 30-year-old management professional Saket Srivastava.

Among several items that are being sold in the market, decorative items, artificial flowers, showpieces, chandeliers etc were picked up by the cus-

People are busy buying firecrackers, sweets, candles and earthen pots. Same was the rush for purchase of electronic items. "Cellphones, microwave ovens, LCD TVs, refrigerators, handycams, laptops are in great demand. As expected we saw a jump in sales," said Vivek, a salesman of a showroom at

Similarly, roadside shops offering decorative items like artificial flowers, glow shine items, lamps, decorative 'jhalar', bulbs and flowers are selling our mid-semester examinations, but we are helping the parents in cleaning the house. There was a heavy rush on the roads and almost every shop that we visited on Sunday", said a student of Allahabad University, Shashwat. Major markets of the city witnessed traffic jams for several hours. MG Road, Elgin Road of Civil Lines or the market of Katra, all witnessed traffic moving at a

snail's pace. Meanwhile the police have stepped up vigil in all busy market places in the city to ensure event-free festivi-

Senior police officials have taken to foot patrolling in busy markets to ensure feeling of safety among shoppers in places like Civil lines, Chowk, Katra and Sulemsarai. Police sources said additional personnel were deployed at the marhave increased security in the market during the festive sea-son to ensure that no untoward incident takes place," said an officer. The official also said they were monitoring the sit-uation through CCTV cam-

The move has evoked a positive response from traders who are happy to see good

strength of shoppers.

They said the footfall is increasing with every passing day and will peak in next three

days.
"We are happy that markets are seeing heavy rush. There is need to manage crowd. We have appealed senior cops to depute more forces in city markets during the festive period as was done earlier," said a

"Apart from police, we have also deployed private security guards at the gates of installation during festive season" he

## ATM booths to be set up at 8 rly stations of Prayagraj div

For the convenience of the passengers ATM booths will be set up at eight railway stations of Prayagraj division of North Central Railway (NCR). The e-tender process has been completed and the Reserve Bank of India authorised Hitachi Payment Services Private Limited has been chosen for the job.

The company has started work at the Prayagraj Junction, Kanpur Central railway station, Prayagraj Chheoki, Etawah, Mirzapur, Manikpur, Fatehpur, and Dadri railway stations to provide ATM facility as early as ATM booths were not

available in the station premises and passengers had to come out to withdraw money. Now this facility will be available on the main platform of the above eight railway stations of Prayagraj division.

According to

Prayagraj Division of NCR, Hitachi Payment Services Private Limited has been given this contract for five years. The passengers will be able to withdraw up to Rs 25,000 in a day from the above ATM booths. Hitachi will maintain the ATM after installation and will look after the security and cleanliness of the ATM booths.

**CAUGHT:** The vigilance team has apprehended Krishna Chandra Tripathi, secretary of District Cooperative Union in Phulpur, red-handed while taking a bribe of Rs 20,000 in the name of licence renewal. Based on a complaint the Vigilance team laid a trap and arrested him with Rs 20,000 as bribe and sent him to jail.

Alok of an area under Phulpur police station had lodged a complaint against the secretary. He has DCF fertiliser sales centre in Silokhra Phulpur and his license was to be renewed. It was registered in 2015 and the licence was expiring on November 8. When Alok went to renew his license the secretary allegedly demanded Rs 20,000 from him. Alok informed the Vigilance team about it. When the Vigilance team investigated the matte, they found that the case was prima facie true and after this a trap was laid. At the appointed time and date, Alok handed over Rs 20,000 to the secretary and the Vigilance team caught him.

**MOLESTATION CASE:** A case of alleged molestation of two female MEd trainees of Allahabad University has come to light while on duty as room invigilator in a college here. The principal has lodged a report against a lecturer at the Georgetown police station.

Principal of KP College, Dr Yogendra Singh said in the report that there was an examination in the college on November 5. Sunday being a holiday most of the college teachers had expressed their

examination duty. For conducting the examination, 30 male and female trainees undergoing training under the guidance of Dr Devi Prasad Singh, Associate Professor of Allahabad University, were put on duty as room invigila-

Two female trainees working as room invigilators accused a lecturer of misbehaviour, inappropriate touching and molestation. The female trainees made a written complaint on the basis of which a report was lodged at the Georgetown police station. Georgetown police station incharge Rajeev Srivastava said the statements of both the victim trainees have been record-

The house of the accused lecturer was raided but he is still absconding. His number has been put on surveillance. He will be arrested soon and

#### Traffic curbs for Diwali

VARANASI (PNS): In view of the upcoming Diwali and other festivals, the police has imposed traffic restrictions on some routes in the city. As per traffic restrictions imposed by the Traffic departof Goddess Annapurna, Diwali, Annakoot Mahotsav and Chatth Puja, there will be one way traffic on Kabir Chaura-Piyari-Benia route and only two wheelers would be allowed to ply on this route while there will be complete restriction on the plying of three and four wheelers from Benia to Kabir Chaura. The four wheelers coming from out of city will be parked in Benia parking stand and they will not be allowed to go to Ramapura from Benia. There will be complete restriction on the plying of rickshaw, auto rickshaw and e-rickshaw on Maidagin-Chowk-Godoulia route. The plying of four wheelers will be controlled on this route and they will be parked in Town Hall parking stand and Majada parking stand.

The auto rickshaw, rickshaw and e-rickshaw coming from Gurubagh side, will be diverted from Gurubagh towards Nimamai. The auto rickshaw and e-rickshaw going to Ramapura from Bhelupura through Rewadi Talab will not be allowed to go ahead from Bipin Bihari Inter College.

The vehicles going to Sonarpura from Bhelupur and from Broadway to Agrawal tri-junction will be diverted. No vehicle will be allowed to ply from Jangambadi to Godowlia. The vehicle going to Ravidas Ghat from Assi crossing and Nagawa crossing will also be controlled.

#### Presentation on effective communication skills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ oneself and with right attitude

The Allahabad Management ▲ Association (AMA) in collaboration with Shambhunath Institute of Engineering and Technology organised a management development programme at the conference hall of the college for the students of MBA, Pharmacy and Law. The distinguished speakers were Ravi Prakash, president, AMA, and Vibhav Bajpai, past president AMA. The theme of the event was 'From campus to corporate- the changed scenario'. Vibhav Bajpai gave a presentation on effective communication skills. In his presentation he emphasised on the fact that communication is a vital link. One must have confidence in

munication skill can be developed. The second speaker Ravi Prakash, president AMA gave an in-depth presentation on employability skills. He emphasised that a degree and good marks are not sufficient to get a good job. One must have as many skills as possible and keep pace with the recent trends in recruitment. Virtual intelligence (VI ) will take a centre stage and man will work along with machines. More than 200 students had registered for the event. The programme was coordinated by Dr Shanti Chaudhri PRO, AMA, and was conducted by Dr Nameer Hasan of SIET. Dr Malay Tiwari conducted the

### **Pilot project of Bal Taranveer** programme launched for 3 dists

project of Mukhyamantri Bal Taranveer Karyakram was launched for three districts namely Varanasi, Gorakhpur and Prayagraj and its main objective is to reduce the loss of lives due to drowning in the state. In this direction, a oneday divisional level workshop organised

Trimbakeshwar Multipurpose Hall of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (corridor) under the joint aegis of the Relief Commissioner's Office and District Disaster Management Authority here on Tuesday. On the occasion, demonstration and presentation on first aid, search and rescue in case of drowning and boat accident was given by NDRF personnel. Aditi Umrao gave information on the work and relief standards being done by the state government to reduce the loss of life due to boat accidents and drowning. To

increase awareness regarding



Bal Taranveer pilot project in Varanasi

drowning prevention, a demonstration was conducted through folk arts (street drama and magic). At the end of the workshop, participants took an oath to prevent drowning.

After the workshop, a mock drill for drowning prevention was organised at Lalita Ghat where three scenarios were displayed. In the first scenario, a person was shown drowning while bathing in deep water, second one drowning due to foot slipping from the pier and third scenario of boat capsizing. The said mock

drill was jointly organised by NDRF, SDRF, 36 PAC and Water Police. A temporary medical camp was set up.

Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Sanjeev Kumar Jindal was the chief guest of the programme while Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Rajendra Singh and Secretary and Relief Commissioner, Revenue Department, UP Govt, GS Naveen Kumar were guests of honour. The workshop was also attended by District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, DIG of 11th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Manoj Kumar Sharma, ADM (Finance/ Revenue) Vandita Srivastava, ADM (R/F) Ghazipur Arun Kumar Singh, Project Director, Relief Commissioner's Office Aditi Umrao, and officers of

SDRF, 36th Battalion PAC,

Water Police, district adminis-

tration and police and repre-

sentatives of boatmen, divers ghat management, Aapda Mitras, volunteers of Civil Defence and others. Vandita Srivastava threw light on types of disasters, scenarios of different types of disasters, nature of Bal Taranveer programme and the efforts to reduce deaths due to drowning in the district.

In the first phase of this pilot project, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and PAC personnel were given swimming training to become master trainers by Patna-based National Inland Navigation Institute (NINI). After being fully trained, these master trainers will provide swimming training to the Aapda Mitras and ghat workers of the three districts, so that the incidents of drowning in future can be reduced. The workshop was started by lighting the lamp. While addressing the gathering, the guests present stressed on the success of the scheme and its reduction in future.

### Property worth lakhs gutted in showroom fire

**CORRESPONDENT** ■ MIRZAPUR

Clothes, shoes and other valuable property worth several lakhs was gutted when a major fire broke out in a showroom of shoes and clothes in Badali locality Katra under Katra Kotwali police station on Tuesday. After closing the showroom the owner had gone to his house on Monday. The neighbours saw the smoke on Tuesday morning and informed the owner. On information fire tenders reached the spot and extinguished the fire. During the operation fire station officer Anil Kumar Saroj received minor injuries and said maximum property could be saved due to the hard labour of the staff and support of the

**ARRESTED:** Under a joint operation with SOG, the Kachhawaan police arrested three murder accused on Tuesday. Giving details Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP/ City) Niteshwar Singh said Suman Patel of Jamuaan village under Kachhawaan police station had

lodged a complaint on November 4 that her husband Rajesh Patel (35) was assaulted by unknown persons and he died in a hospital during treatment. After registering the case the police started the investigation and nabbed the accused who confessed to their crime. The main accused Onkar Patel said he had a one-sided affair with the wife of the deceased. Besides, once Rajesh had seen him talking to his wife. After arresting the accused the police recovered the knife used in the murder, four mobile phones, one motorcycle and other items related to crime. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail. The accused were identified as Onkar Patel, Rahul Patel and Ajay Patel of Jamuaan village under Kachhawaan police sta-

MEETING: Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS presided over the meeting of AYUSH Samiti at the Collectorate on Tuesday. In it medical officer Mavaiya failed to provide proper information so the CDO directed to issue

show cause notice to the doctor concerned. Regional ayurvedic and unani officer was directed to make available the list of hospitals and write a letter to the BDOs for repair of hospital

be informed so that the demand for construction of buildings could be sent to the government, the CDO added. The CDO directed the doctors to hold medical camps from time

programme.



CDO Srilaxmi VS holding the meeting of AYUSH Samiti at the Collectorate on

buildings which were running in government buildings.

He was directed to contact sub-divisional magistrates (SDMs) to provide land for those hospitals which were running in rented buildings. After identifying the land she should

to time. She asked the doctors to perform their duties properly and added stringent action will be taken if anyone was found absent from duty during surprise checking. The meeting was attended by all ayurvedic and homeopathic doctors.

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

### Mad Max!

In darting pain, Glenn Maxwell's tenacious double ton against Afghanistan wows the world

eroes are a dime a dozen these days. Cricket is a game of glorious uncertainties. There are more clichés, but superhuman, did someone say? Well, what Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell put on show at the Wankhede stadium in their match against Afghanistan was a lot more than that. Crores of spectators saw it with their own eyes, but it is still difficult to believe that a normal human living among us, with the same number of limbs and largely of the same proportion, can pull off something so extraordinary that viewers would stop doing their chores and freeze in rapt attention. Now it matters little that Australia were seven wickets down for 91 runs, and Afghanistan cruising towards a comfortable victory, when Maxwell launched his onslaught; he had come in at 49/4. It hardly matters that he remained unbeaten even after scoring over 200 runs all by himself, that too after having been active 50 overs when Australia was field-



ing. How does it matter that his captain Pat Cummins, who mercifully kept a cool head and his wickets so Maxwell could score at will, could score just 12 runs in 68 balls against an extremely talented Afghanistan team? The only thing that matters now, and will forever in the cricket pantheon, is Maxwell proving the invincibility of mind over

Cramps ran through his legs, he lay down on the ground in tearing pain amid incessant spasms and convulsions, medics and masseurs became regular visitors on the ground at the end of each over, he batted with only his hands without moving his

lower limbs an inch, but he stood resolute in front of the wickets and kept hitting the ball hard as if his life depended on it. The only concession he allowed to show his human side was when he would sporadically show his teeth, either in a grimace or following another amazing shot out of the park. Maxwell paced his innings beautifully, taking his time initially and then launching into an astonishing array of strokes. The all-rounder's incredible display of power-hitting and composure made Sachin Tendulkar term it the "best ODI knock". Indeed, the men's cricket World Cup has always been a stage for extraordinary performances. Not very many Indians, and others of the current generation around the world, would have seen the 1983 vintage Kapil Dev bat through that historic innings against Zimbabwe. Indian population in England was much sparse then, even those who were there did not go to the stadium because there was no hope of India winning, aficionados back home could not partake because the BBC was on strike that day. But despair not; it must have been the same mettle that Maxwell put on display in Mumbai while charting the highest individual score in a World Cup chase. History does repeat itself, even if it be after 40 years!



A craftsman paints 'diyas' ahead of the festival of Diwali, in Amritsar

## Identity in Indian political landscape



Both Hindus and Muslims in Kashmir must strive to understand each other's viewpoints, fostering mutual trust and loyalty within the community

everal columns have appeared in the national press, which have cautioned New Delhi that after the current honeymoon of prosperity passes in Kashmir, some good old troubled days of pseudo-terrorism are likely to return. As of now, the valley is part of a Union Territory, not a state. There is no assembly and consequently, not much of politics.

No doubt, the prolific tourism seen in the last two years, plus the developments such as the coming malls, cinemas and expansion of railways have all helped distract the attention of the 'moderate' separatists. All these factors have led to the current peaceful atmosphere, which some column writers have chosen to call a "current truce".

If this is true, a substantive reason for this would be a big gap in communication between the Indian state and its Muslim populace. Islam accords little importance to nationalism, unlike Christianity, under whose jumbo umbrella nationalism grew. So much so that it replaced Christianity itself as a political ideology. İt was nationalism that eventually defeated and uprooted communism in early 1990. The appeal of the Communist Manifesto slogan, 'Workers of the world unite" was over. Leon Trotsky's thesis was a permanent revolution, which meant that there was no need to attend to any nation until the last member of the world's proletariat was unchained. The communist ideologues believed that the nation was an enemy of the working class. Similarly, for its reasons. Islam has never been interested in the nation, and is, therefore, either indifferent or hostile to 'vatanparasti' (loyalty to the nation). The Prophet's religion has consistently promoted majahabparasti' (loyalty to religion) as a total prescription for an ideal life. In the bargain, several Muslim leaders have preferred the expression 'Muslim Indian' to 'Indian Muslim', implying religion before nation, not "nation before religion".
The late Muslim leader Syed right in saying "Muslim Indian". Chaim Weizmann, leader of the World Jewish Conference and later the first President of Israel in 1948, emphasised a similar concept when he said: "There are no American Jews, British Jews, Russian Jews, German Jews or French Jews. There are Jews in America, Jews in Britain, Jews in France, Jews in Germany and Jews in

The Jews have consistently been supra-national, which is one of the reasons many Christians in Europe have suspected them of being antinational, whenever Jewish interests have clashed with national ones. The classic example was Adolf Hitler's repeated assertion that it was the Jews who helped defeat Germany in World War I. How and why did Germany surrender to the Western allies while German troops were still standing on French In India, the Khilafat

Committee, incidentally, presided over by Mahatma Gandhi, declared that if Afghanistan were to invade India, Muslim soldiers would not fight to defend India. This pronibition covered all poten tial Muslim invaders. This obscurantist injunction was later affirmed by the Muslim cows came home, that he was League. This principle was



UNLIKE CHRISTIANITY, WHICH PLACES A STRONG EMPHASIS ON NATIONALISM, **ISLAM ASSIGNS** LESS IMPORTANCE TO THIS CONCEPT. AS A RESULT, MANY MUSLIM LEADERS PREFER TO IDENTIFY AS 'MUSLIM INDIAN' RATHER THAN 'INDIAN MUSLIM', SIGNIFYING A PRIORITISATION OF **RELIGION OVER**  later applied and quoted by the then-Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram in the nineties. When his team lost to Bangladesh in the 1996 Cricket World Cup, Akram said to a journalist that he had no problem "losing to a brother Muslim team". In all probability, the Islamic

proclivity to supra-nationalism has not even occurred to most Muslims. They haven't been told, nor explained the reasons for it. Indian political leaders must clarify this publicly, so that they realise why, sometimes for reason, they are suspect when it comes to their national loyalty. The moment a Muslim is seen applauding a stylish shot played by a Pak batsman, Hindus often take this to be a symptom of pro-Pakistani sympathy. The British do not react in this manner when they see a Briton of Indian origin applauding a boundary hit by an Indian batsman in an India-England match.

This psycho-syndrome is relevant in the context of Kashmir for both Muslims and Hindus. For Hindus, so that they are not perpetually suspicious; for the Muslims in the Valley to realise that their conduct can be prejudiciai to their co-religionists in the rest of India. The fact that the Muslims of India with their families have been resident

here, out of their own choice is not insignificant. Whatever political parties say or claim has only passing significance. The fact is that India is a majority Hindu-state. Any normal person would like to be a welcome citizen rather than a suspect. Therefore, all his/her actions ought to be acceptably patriotic and not doubtful in the eyes of the

The Hindus also want to feel that their co-citizens are good and loyal. To be perpetually suspecting others is no way to be happy. It is, therefore, important for the community's leaders to candidly articulate the factual situation, rather than say one thing and mean quite another.

majority.

There were several patriotic Muslims, as proved by Brigadier Usman (1948, Kashmir Valley), Havaldar Abdul Hamid in the 1965 war against Pakistan, and others. On a macro scale could Bangladesh have attained its independence from Pakistan had India not intervened? But these sacrifices in blood and treasure are forgotten when it comes to episodes like sporting contests and diplomatic

( I ne writer is a weii-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

and political standoffs.

### Two-wheeler EV startups: The new growth engines



Shahbuddin would argue, till the

The greenhorns are fuelling the growth as the EV sector is growing rapidly, thanks to the worldwide demand for eco-friendly vehicles

lthough it has encountered its fair share of **L**challenges, the Indian electric vehicle (EV) market is on the brink of substantial expansion within the EV sector. While the industry remains in its nascent stages, both domestic and international companies, in cooperation with the Indian government, have committed to substantial investments, amounting to over Rs 1 Lakh Cr over the next 5-10 years. The EV market is projected to become a \$266 billion market by 2030. During the first seven months of 2023, India witnessed a robust market for electric vehicles (EVs) with a notable cumulative sale of 8,38,766 units, highlighting its impressive performance. Currently, India boasts around 3 million registered EVs, with projected sales of more than 10 million EVs per year by 2030, which is expected to generate employment opportunities for 50 million individuals. The escalating development path demonstrates India's rising acceptance of electric vehicles, illuminating the substantial economic benefits and employment opportuni-



ties within the sector.

Launched in April 2015 as part of the National Electric Mobility Mission, the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme was designed to incentivise the purchase of electric and hybrid vehicles through financial support. Its initial phase spanned four years, ending in 2019. The subsequent phase, known as FAME II, is a 3-year subsidy program with a primary focus on promoting the electrification of public and shared transportation. This includes provisions for approximately 7,000 electric and hybrid buses, 500,000 electric threewheelers, 55,000 electric passenger cars, and 1 million electric two-wheelers.

The Indian electric vehicle (EV) market is currently witnessing intense competition, with a range of players actively engaged in this rapidly growing sector. Among them are newcomers like Eveez, Ola Electric, Ather Energy, ABZO Motors and Okinawa, as well as established household brands such as Tata Motors, Hyundai, and Mahindra.

This sector is set to generate more opportunities for employment and development as it encompasses a wide array of market segments, each teeming with diverse opportunities. These segments range from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to EV financiers, deep tech enablers, charging station providers, battery manufacturers, assemblers, BMS (Battery Management System) providers, and

numerous other niches. The Indian government has set an ambitious goal of making 30% of all vehicles in the country electric or hybrid within the next decade. While this target may have seemed challenging in the past, recent news of Taiwanese manufacturing giant Foxconn's plans to establish a new line of electric vehicle production facilities in India has made it more achievable. The push for electric vehicles in India isn't solely driven by a growing

affection for EVs. India is among the G20 nations committed to taking substantial actions against climate change, and the transition to electric vehicles is a pivotal component of this global effort. According to industry experts, India possesses the ideal combination of a rapidly expanding market and abundant renewable energy resources needed to support the growth of electric vehicles. With the right infrastructure development and continued commitment to sustainability, India has the potential to become the next major player in the Asian electric vehicle market. In these active markets, new businesses have a great opportunity. Unlike some other new industries like cryptocurrency, the electric vehicle sector is growing, thanks to the unstoppable worldwide move toward ecofriendly transportation. This momentum offers a promising outlook for entrepreneurs venturing into the EV ecosystem who are looking to make their mark in the green transportation industry. (The writer is a Co-founder,

of Abzo Motors, views are

#### **NOT A GENTLEMAN ACT**

Sir —I hope this letter finds you in good health. I wanted to bring to your attention a rare and intriguing incident that occurred during the 2023 Cricket World Cup, which took place on November 6th, 2023, at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi. Angelo Mathews, a well-known cricketer, was dismissed in a manner rarely seen in the sport through a 'timed out.'

'Timed out' is a method of dismissal in cricket that comes into play when an incoming batsman fails to take the crease within two minutes of the previous batsman being declared out, especially in a One-Day International (ODI) situation. This particular dismissal is exceptionally unusual, as it had never occurred in any international match before this incident. The purpose of this law is to ensure there are no unnecessary delays in the game. It is relatively easy to avoid, and it is a rare occurrence for a batsman to be declared 'timed out.' According to the rules, it's the next batsman in line who will be declared timed out in such situations.

However, this rule is not without debate. Since there's no fixed batting order, and it can change based on match situations, in unique scenarios, a number 11 batsman may be sent out as a sacrifice to avoid tim-

CK Subramaniam Iyer | Mumbai

#### THE MAHADEV SCAM RESURFACES

Sir —I am writing to bring to your attention the resurgence of the Mahadev betting app scam in recent news. The Central authorities have taken action by imposing blocking orders against 22 illegal betting apps and websites, including platforms like Mahadev Book Online.

The Mahadev Book App operates through various websites, using contact numbers on portals to entice individuals into illegal betting activities. It provides platforms for betting on live games, including poker, card games, cricket, badminton, tennis, and football in India. It is imperative that all apps and websites promoting activities that contravene the law and order of the land

### **Trump vs Biden: Round two**

THE EDITOR



NATION

voking article by esteemed columnist Kalyani Shankar, titled 'Race for the White House, published in The Pioneer on November 7. The article provides valuable insights into the upcoming US Presidential Elections, scheduled for the end of next year. The race features Republican candidate and former President Donald Trump pitted against the Democratic

wish to draw your attention to a thought-pro-

incumbent, President Joe Biden. Notably, Donald Trump is currently the favoured candidate to win the 2024 Presidential election, with 48 percent of Americans approving of his performance during his previous tenure. This is despite Trump facing a staggering 91 felony charges. In a head-to-head comparison, President Biden's approval rating stands at 41 percent, while Trump's is at 37 percent.

This situation highlights a striking parallel between the American and Indian political landscapes. Both nations appear to have become accustomed to candidates with questionable pasts. The world is watching this intriguing scenario closely, refraining from making hasty predictions. As we follow suit and patiently await the outcome of this US Presidential Election, it is indeed a curious spectacle to observe how the cookie will crumble this time around.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

should be banned. Those who facilitate the provision of such apps must face appropriate consequences.

Tauqueer Rahmani | Mumbai

**SOUTH AFRICA RECALLS DIPLOMATS** Sir — South Africa has recalled all its diplomats from Israel in condemnation of the bombardment of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip and threatened to take action against the Israeli Ambassador in the country. Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni said the South African Cabinet had decided on these measures at its latest meeting given the continuing bombing of schools and clinics in Gaza and the closure of borders for humanitarian aid to reach Gaza. They said "A genocide under the watch of the international community cannot be tolerated. The Cabinet has decided to recall all South African diplomats from Tel Aviv for consultation. Another holocaust in the history of humankind is not acceptable," The South African government cabinet is disappointed by the refusal of the Israeli government to respect international law and its continued undermining of the United Nations resolutions for the implementation

of a ceasefire with impunity. South Africa, a staunch supporter of Palestine since Nelson Mandela first ascended to power in 1994, had downgraded its mission in Israel to a liaison office in 2018 when it also withdrew its ambassador to Israel. Mandela famously said that South Africa's freedom from decades of white minority rule would not be complete without the freedom of the people of Palestine. South Africa has now joined countries including Colombia, Turkiye, Bahrain, Honduras, Bolivia, Chad and others who have taken similar diplomatic moves in the past week in protest against Israel's attacks on Gaza."South Africa, together with these countries, are on the right side of history.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

### **FIRST COLUMN**

#### **PRESERVING NATURE:** THE VEDIC CONCERN

To live in harmony with nature, was a way of life in ancient India



SWAMI CHARANSHRIT

he preservation of nature has been a concern deeply rooted in the wisdom and culture of ancient India, as reflected in the sacred texts of the Vedas. The Vedas, a collection of ancient scriptures dating back thousands of years, not only provide spiritual guidance but also contain profound insights into the relationship between humanity and the environment.

#### HARMONY WITH NATURE

The Vedas emphasise the interconnectedness and harmony between humans and nature. They view nature as a divine manifestation, and everything within it is seen as interconnected and interdependent. The idea is that humans are not separate from the environment; they are an integral part of it. This viewpoint urges individuals to treat nature with respect

"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," a Vedic mantra, translates to "The world is one family." This concept underscores the idea that all living beings, including animals, plants, and humans, share a common bond and are part of one large family.

#### **RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE FORMS**

The Vedas also advocate for the reverence of all life forms. Ahimsa, the principle of non-violence, is a fundamental aspect of Vedic teachings. This principle encourages individuals to refrain from causing harm to any living being, whether through their actions, words, or thoughts. It extends to all creatures, from the smallest insects to the largest mam-

#### CYCLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF NATURE

The Vedas offer a cyclical perspective of nature, highlighting the recurring cycles of birth, growth, decay, and renewal. This understanding encourages people to live in harmony with these natural cycles rather than trying to dominate or exploit them. Vedic rituals and ceremonies are often performed in alignment with these natural cycles, reinforcing the idea of respecting the environment's rhythms.



#### PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Vedic texts emphasise the sustainable use of natural resources. They stress the importance of conserving and protecting the environment for the well-being of current and future generations. Water, for instance, is considered a sacred element in Vedic culture, and there are numerous rituals and prayers dedicated to its conservation and purification. The Vedas also promote reforestation and the protection of forests, recognising their critical role in maintaining ecological balance.

#### **MODERN IMPLICATIONS**

In today's world, where environmental challenges like climate change, deforestation, and pollution are pressing issues, the Vedic concern for preserving nature offers valuable insights. Here are some modern implications of Vedic wisdom:

- Sustainable Living: The principles of sustainable living and responsible resource management align closely with Vedic teachings. Adopting eco-friendly practices and reducing our ecological footprint can help address contemporary environmental challenges.
- •Biodiversity Conservation: Vedic teachings encourage the preservation of biodiversity and the protection of endangered species. This reflects the importance of modern conservation efforts and the need to protect fragile ecosystems.
- •Water Conservation: The Vedic reverence for water highlights the importance of conserving and protecting this vital resource.

By adopting the principles of sustainability, non-violence, and respect for all life forms, we can work towards a more harmonious relationship with nature, as inspired by the wisdom of the Vedas. I

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

# Local products can boost exports



**AS MITTAL** 

States can enhance their exports by making their districts as export hubs and marketing the local products with geotags, to enhance their appeal



eographical location is a pivotal factor in making trade competitive which is crucial for overall economic growth. Haryana, a state that was born out of Punjab 57 years ago, was once a barren land with minimal development. However, today, it ranks among the top ten states in terms of export values, mainly due to its geo-graphical advantage of being close to the National Capital Region(NCR). It has five times more exports than Punjab. Similarly, coastline states that have access to ports are better equipped to engage in international trade, while landlocked regions like Punjab face higher trade costs and challenges in transit from the seas. Unfortunately, policymakers have not prioritized overcoming geographical challenges and regional disparities, the focus must shift towards developing each district of such states as an export hub to ensure balanced economic growth.

In the era of the fourth digital industrial revolution and e-commerce channels, developing countries have been able to meet the increasing demand for goods and services from developed countries, thereby exploring new opportunities in international trade. India's goal of making each district an export hub highlights the need for active participation from all districts to promote exports of goods and services produced or manufactured there. It is high time to work actively to overcome the trade challenges faced by landlocked states like

To achieve the goal of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', it is imperative to promote export growth of local goods and services and increase local production, for which export promotion activities must be decentralised. India has already signed several Free Trade Agreements and is currently signing more, which will provide greater access to export markets and raise India's exports to GDP ratio from the present 22.74%



TO ACHIEVE THE **GOAL OF** 'ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT', IT IS **IMPERATIVE TO PROMOTE EXPORT GROWTH OF** LOCAL GOODS AND SERVICES AND INCREASE LOCAL **PRODUCTION** 

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board; views expressed are strictly personal)

However, in the latest ranking of states based on the Export Preparedness Index (EPI), Punjab is positioned at a low 10th with a score of 58.95, whereas Haryana takes the lead at 5th with a score of 63.65. It is noteworthy that Gujarat has the highest number of 8 districts among the top 25 districts of the country in terms of export share (54%), followed by Maharashtra with 5 districts, Haryana with one, and Punjab with none. To increase exports significantly, states must actively participate in export promotion activities in each district.

Punjab, in particular, has untapped potential in the form of unique products in each district. Identification of these districts as export hubs would unlock their local potential and fuel economic growth, generate employment, boost rural entrepreneurship, and ennance exports. It's high time that Punjab takes the necessary steps to actively participate and promote export operations in each district, in tandem with 'Vocal for Local' and 'Make in India' initiatives.

The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023-28 is determined to boost India's foreign trade through decentralized export promotion. As a part of this policy, the Districts as Export Hubs initiative has been introduced as a crucial strategy. This initiative aims to identify potential export products and services in all districts and create institutional mechanisms to promote them, which is a significant step towards achieving the policy's objectives.

To make this initiative a grand success, the Districts as Export Hubs Initiative proposes several strategies. These include creating

identifying potential export products, building the capacity of new exporters, conducting outreach programs for export promotion, addressing bottlenecks related to infrastructure and logistics, and converging ongoing government schemes to support these initiatives. These strategies will ensure that India's potential for foreign trade is fully realized, and the country becomes a major player in the global market. Permission must be granted for

the flow of bilateral trade from Punjab through Pakistan Territory to Middle-East Countries, CIS Nations to Europe and the US to further boost competitive trade. To synchronize the state and centre policy of exports and act as the nodal coordination point for exporters between the state and centre, the establishment of a Directorate of Exports in the state is of utmost importance.

Given that most trade is shifting to global value chains that require timely deliveries, exporters must be allowed to choose the shipment mode as per their business requirements. China has already created an efficient and seamless logistics system to ship goods to global customers, and we must take action now to ensure that we do not fall behind.

The government must create a separate customs code for ecommerce shipments to match the emerging channels. This will not only reduce costs but also expedite the delivery of merchandise by exempting import duties on rejects and treating re-imports as duty-exempt imports in line with global practices. It's high time that the exporters should be to drive the local economic

To boost export orders for highpotential product categories like engineering goods, chemicals, telecom equipment, and processed food items, we must focus on developing market intelligence, organizing training for MSMEs, and facilitating the fulfilment of export orders. This is a must-do to stay ahead of the competition.

The Districts as Export Hubs Initiative should be prioritized with the objectives of enabling farmers and MSMEs to benefit from export opportunities in foreign markets. To achieve this, we need to create a district-level ecosystem for innovation and technology utilization to increase export competitiveness and reduce transit and transaction costs for the exporter at various stages of the export cycle. Platforms should also be provided for wide and global reach of products and services from the district, which in turn, will promote local farmers and small entrepreneurs. This is a win-win situation for all.

the export market, it is essential to implement the initiative effectively. State and District Export Promotion Committees have been formed, but they are not functioning effectively to meet key target areas such as disseminating market intelligence, improving quality standards, and providing access to international certification industries, as well as monitoring export performance at the district level. The District Export Action Plans aim to identify goods and services for export promotion, employment and revenue generation

To create a competitive space in

### Mensural hygiene: Adolescents continue to use cloth, pads are rare

The government must ensure affordable and easy access to sanitary products in remote areas so that adolescents can be healthy and live with a sense of freedom

girls are resorting to the use of the cloth during their menstruation in Muzaffarpur District, 22 km away from the state of Bihar. While the government provides sanitary napkins to encourage the hygienic use of pads, most women are unaware of the use of the product. "Menstruation causes a lot of problems. I experience itching due to the use of cloth," said 15-year-old Rani. She can't participate in school activities during her period and even after returning from school, she remains inactive, she

According to a study conducted by the Population Research Centre (PRC) of Patna University on 'Menstrual health and hygiene among



(The author is from Bihar

and writes on rural and

gender issues,

views are personal.

Charkha features)

adolescent girls in climatic vulnerable regions, about 40% of the rural adolescent girls in Bihar use cloth instead of sanitary napkins during their menstruation and at least 5% of them are not allowed to take

bath during their period. The study further reveals that even among the girls who use sanitary napkins, 90 have not received any government-supplied napkins in the recent past. Further, due to the lack of awareness, even among the girls who use sanitary napkins, 67% of the girls throw the used napkins in open areas. The majority of the girls expressed problems related to privacy, shyness and hesitation about open defecation during menstruation. Some girls said they use neighbours' or relatives' toilets during menstruation.

16-year-old Radha says that her mother gives her a cloth during menstruation as sanitary pads are unknown to her family. The use of dirty cloth has caused her to suffer from white discharge (leucorrhea). "I am too embarrassed to talk to anyone about it," she added. The girls in the village's primary school also revealed that they do not receive money for sanitary pads from the govern-ment. "I have never used a pad," said 15-year-old Kajal Kumari. But she also has trouble wearing cloth, she added. The walk from her school to her home takes half an hour. During menstruation, blood stains her cloth, and she feels dirty the entire way back. Eventually, she stopped going

to school during her periods.

The ASHA worker of the area,

Mira Devi, revealed that the mentally friendly napkin pro-Health Department does not provide sanitary pads for men-struation for girls. The girls have no knowledge about hygiene and treatment during menstruation. Most of them need regular iron supplements to prevent anaemia. Mira Devi also added that due to the concerned authority's inaction, women and girls in the area are forced to seek private clinics health problems. Economically weaker women and girls, therefore, have no option but to live without treatment. It is imperative that the

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare increase awareness among adolescent girls, improve the availability and use of high-quality sanitary napkins, and promote environ-

duction. Since 2011, menstrual hygiene has been enforced under various government initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Sabla Program, and National Rural Livelihood Mission.

But still, about 50 per cent of women aged 15-24 years use cloth for menstrual protection, according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) report, with experts attributing it to a lack of awareness and taboo existing around menstruation. The lowest percentage of women use a hygienic method of menstrual protection in Bihar (59 per cent). Women from the lowest wealth quintile are about 3.3 times more likely to use cloth than women from the highest

wealth quintile. Thus, social

background often determines access to proper menstrual hygiene. The same report also stated that on exposure to infections due to unhygienic menstrual practices, "Many studies have shown reproductive tract infections like bacterial vaginosis or urinary tract infections (UTI) could occur which eventually become pelvic infections."

As these infections can travel up to the pelvis, they can cause difficulties in getting pregnant or pregnancy complications like preterm labour (resulting in premature birth), the report also mentioned. "Besides, poor hygiene can increase cervical cancer risks in the long-run, as one of the risk factors for this cancer is poor local hygiene," it added. Along with authorities, teach-

workers, and Anganwadi workers are responsible for spreading awareness under the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK). Mission Shakti also aims to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene, the problem of periods, and the use of napkins as part of the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign. For menstrual hygiene, the Indian government should provide free period products in all schools, colleges, and public places restrooms. In rural areas, all Anganwadi centres and schools should provide napkins for free. In areas where there are no Jan Aushadhi centres, ASHA didis, PHCs, and panchayat offices should also provide napkins for free or at affordable prices.

ers, assistant nurses, ASHA

### **G7** nations announce unified stance on Israel-Hamas war

AP TOKYO

Top diplomats from the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies announced a unified stance on the Israel-Hamas war on Wednesday after intensive meetings in Tokyo, condemning Hamas, supporting Israel's right to self-defence and calling for "humanitarian pauses" to speed aid to desperate civilians in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza Strip.

In a statement following two days of talks, the nations sought to balance unequivocal criticism of Hamas' attacks against Israel and "the need for urgent action" to help civilians in the besieged Palestinian enclave.

"All parties must allow unimpeded humanitarian support for civilians, including food, water, medical care, fuel and shelter, and access for humanitarian workers," said the statement, hammered out by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and foreign ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and Italy. "We support humanitarian pauses and corridors to facilitate urgently needed assistance, civilian movement and the release of hostages."

The G7 meeting was, in part, an attempt to contain the worsening humanitarian crisis while also keeping broader differences on Gaza from deepening.

on Gaza from deepening.

The ministers noted that the G7 is "working intensively to prevent the conflict from escalating further and spreading more widely," and also using sanctions and other measures "to deny Hamas the ability to raise and use funds to carry out atrocities." They also condemned "the rise in extremist settler violence committed against Palestinians," which they said is "unacceptable, undermines security in the West Bank, and threatens prospects for a lasting peace."

As the diplomats met in downtour Talgare at INI greeney.

downtown Tokyo, a UN agency said that thousands of Palestinians in Gaza are fleeing south on foot with only what they can carry after running out of food and water in the north. Israel said its troops were battling Hamas militants deep inside Gaza City, which was home to some 650,000 people before the war and where the Israel military says Hamas has its central command and a vast labyrinth of tunnels. The growing numbers making their way south point to an increasingly desperate situation in and around Gaza's largest city, which has come under heavy Israeli bombardment

The monthlong conflict in Gaza, which followed Hamas' October 7 attack in Israel in which militants killed more than 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and captured 242, topped the agenda in Tokyo. But the G7 envoys also dealt with a flurry of other crises, including Russia's war in Ukraine, North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes and China's growing aggression in territorial disputes with its neighbours. There has also been a push for cooperation to combat pandemics, synthetic opioids, and threats from the misuse of artificial intelligence.

Since before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the G7 has held together in defence of the international order that originally emerged after the destruction of World War II. Despite some fraying around the edges, the group has preserved a unified front in condemning and opposing Russia's invasion.

"Our steadfast commitment to supporting Ukraine's fight for its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity will never waver," the statement said. It also condemned "Russia's irresponsible nuclear rhetoric" and demanded Moscow "cease its aggression."

The ministers said they "remain seriously concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas, strongly opposing any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion." Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa raised worries about North Korea, according to a Japanese government readout. The G7 foreign ministers "strongly condemned North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches as well as arms transfers from North Korea to Russia, which directly violate relevant UN Security Council resolutions." Prime Minister Fumio Kishida earlier said that "the unity of G7 is needed more than ever with the situation in Israel and Palestine, the situation in Ukraine, and the challenges in the Indo-Pacific region."

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that "as G7 countries, we are making clear that Israel has the right and the duty to protect its population and its people in the framework of international law."

She said that she has been discussing with many partners "how we can finally get humanitarian cease-fires off the ground, in terms of time and also geographically."





People attend a ceremony to mark the one-month anniversary of the bloody Oct. 7 cross-border attack by Hamas militants, in which 1,400 people were killed and 240 people kidnapped, mostly Israeli citizens, in front of the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray, in Jerusalem's Old City on Tuesday. The cross-border attack by Hamas triggered a war that has raged for the past month and (R) From third left in clockwise, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock attend a session on the war in Ukraine during the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Tokyo Wednesday.

# Israel pressured by allies over plight of civilians in Gaza as thousands flee

**AP** ■ KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP)

Israel faced mounting pressure from some of its closest allies Wednesday over the plight of civilians in Gaza, where thousands streamed on foot out of the enclave's north because of dwindling food and water and fear of approaching Israeli forces. Over 70% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have already left their homes, but the number making their way south has quickened recently as Israeli troops battle Hamas militants inside Gaza City and the humanitarian situation grows increasingly dire.

The Group of Seven wealthy nations

called Wednesday for the "unimpeded" delivery of food, water, medicine and fuel, and for "humanitarian pauses" in the fighting. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has left open the possibility of small pauses to deliver humanitarian aid, but has ruled out a broader cease-fire unless all hostages are freed. There is no end in sight to the war triggered by Hamas' deadly Oct 7 assault inside Israel. Israel has said the battle to end Hamas' rule and crush its military capabilities will be long and dif-

ficult, and that it will maintain some form of control over the coastal enclave indefinitely — though how it will achieve that remains unclear. Support for the war remains strong inside Israel, where the focus has been on the fate of the more than 240 hostages taken by Hamas and other militant groups.

About 15,000 people fled northern Gaza on Tuesday — triple the number that left Monday — according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. They are using Gaza's main north-south highway during a daily four-hour window announced by Israel. Those fleeing include children, older people and people with disabilities, and most walked with minimal belongings, the UN agency said. Some say they had to cross Israeli checkpoints, where they saw people being arrested, while others held their hands in the air and raised white flags while passing Israeli tanks. Hundreds of trucks carrying aid

Hundreds of trucks carrying aid have been allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt since Oct 21. But humanitarian workers say that is nowhere near enough. "There is an ocean of needs in Gaza right now, and what's been getting in is a drop in the ocean. We need fuel, we need water, we need food, and we need medical supplies," Dominic Allen of the United Nations Population Fund said, speaking from the West Bank.

Residents reported loud explosions

overnight into Wednesday across Gaza City and in its Shati refugee camp, which houses Palestinian families who fled from or were driven out of what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its establishment.

"The bombings were heavy and close," said Mohamed Abed, who lives in Gaza City. The Israeli army's chief

"The bombings were heavy and close," said Mohamed Abed, who lives in Gaza City. The Israeli army's chief spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said late Tuesday that ground forces had reached "the depths of Gaza City". The army said Wednesday that it killed one of Hamas' leading developers of rockets and other weapons, without saying where he was killed.

Hamas has denied that Israeli troops have made any significant gains or entered Gaza City. It was not possible to independently confirm battlefield claims from either side. Israel is focusing its operations on the city, which was home to some 650,000 people before the war and where the military says Hamas has

its central command and a labyrinth of tunnels. Hundreds of thousands have heeded Israeli orders in recent weeks to flee the north, where the city is located even though Israel also routinely strikes what it says are militant targets in the south, often killing civilians. Tens of thousands of Palestinians remain in the north, however, many sheltering at hospitals or UN schools. The north has been without running water for weeks, and the UN aid office said the last functioning bakeries shut down Tuesday for lack of fuel, water and flour. Hospitals running low on supplies are performing surgeries — including amputations without anesthesia, it said.Majed Haroun, who lives in Gaza City, said women and children go door to door asking for food, while those in shelters rely on local donations.

Ameer Ghalban, who pushed an older relative in a wheelchair down Gaza's main highway, said the two of them had each lived off one piece of bread a day for the past three. "The majority of people have left their land because the siege has become absolute in Gaza. We have no water, no electricity, and no flour," he said.

### Ukraine gets good news about its EU membership quest

**AP** ■ UKRAINE

Moldova and Georgia received positive news on Wednesday about their quests to join the European Union but countries in the volatile Balkans region that have waited years longer to become members of the world's biggest trading bloc appeared to slip back in the queue.

In a series of reports, the EU's executive branch recommended that war-ravaged Ukraine should be permitted to open membership talks, once it's addressed some shortfalls. The European Commission lauded Ukraine, which Russian troops invaded last year, saying that the government "has shown a remarkable level of institutional strength, determination and ability to function". But it said that talks should only start once it has addressed corruption, lobbying concerns, and a law on national minorities.

Ukraine's neighbour Moldova was delivered a similar message.

Georgia was told that it should officially be named as a candidate to join once it addresses shortcomings, including in the fight against corruption and election deficiencies. This does not mean that it will start accession talks soon.

The country will have to clear more reform hurdles before that can happen.

The commission's proposals, outlined in annual progress reports, mostly provide technical guidance to the 27 EU member states on how much progress countries have made in aligning their laws and standards with those of the bloc. EU leaders are expected to decide whether to endorse those recommendations at a summit in Brussels on Dec 14-15. There is no guarantee that they will agree unanimously to do so. Hungary and Slovakia are notably cool about Ukraine's aspirations, for example.

#### Powerful quakes shake eastern Indonesia, but no casualties

**AP** ■ JAKARTA

A series of powerful and shallow earthquakes shook a sparsely populated island chain in eastern Indonesia on Wednesday. There were no immediate reports of damage or



casualties. The US Geological Survey said a magnitude 6.9 earthquake hit an area 341 kilometres (211 miles) southwest of Tual, a coastal town in Maluku province, at a depth of 10 kilometres (6.2 miles). It was followed by another 7.0 magnitude quake in the same area and two 5.1 magnitude aftershocks, the USGS said.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency said there was no danger of a tsunami but warned of possible aftershocks. Villagers in the Tanimbar Islands reported strong tremors for a few minutes but there was no panic, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesperson Abul Muhari said in a statement.

He said the epicentre of the quakes was in the Banda Sea near the Tanimbar Islands, with a population of about 127,000. The country of more than 270 million people is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin known as the "Ring of Fire."

In 2004, a 9.1 magnitude Indian Ocean quake set off a tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia's Aceh province.

# 21 Syrian militiamen killed in overnight ambush by ISIS

Beirut (AP): The Islamic State group ambushed pro-government militiamen in an overnight attack in eastern Syria, killing at least 21 fighters, pro-government media and an opposition war monitor said Wednesday.

Sham FM radio reported that the militiamen from the pro-government National Defence Places were ambushed in the village of al-Kawm in the central Syrian desert, between the government-held city of Homs and south of the city of Raqqa, which is under control of US-backed Kurdish-led forces. British-based opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also blamed IS for the attack but gave a higher death toll, saying there were 34 militiamen killed. Different casualty

figures are common in th aftermath of such attacks.

Syrian officials did not immediately comment on the attack, and there was no immediate claim of responsibility from IS. The attack comes as violence is rising elsewhere in Syria. The opposition-held enclave in the country's northwest has witnessed intense shelling and airstrikes by the Syrian army and Russian allies over the past month, and an Iran-backed Iraqi militant group regularly launches attacks on US bases in eastern and southern Syria.

Neighbouring Israel has been mired in war in the blockaded Gaza Strip since Oct 7, following the deadly incursion by the Palestinian militant group into southern Israel.



Britain's King Charles III, second left, Queen Camilla, center, Chair of the Royal Opera House Board of Trustees Sir Lloyd Dorfman, left, and Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House Alex Beard, right, attend the Royal Ballet's performance of Carlos Acosta's "Don Quixote," at the Royal Opera House in London, Tuesday.

\*\*APPP\*\*

# Cambodia deports 25 Japanese suspected of operating online scams

Phnom Penh (Cambodia): Twenty-five Japanese nationals suspected of involvement in a cyberscam operation based in Cambodia were deported to Japan on Wednesday, said Gen. Khieu Sopheak, a spokesperson for Cambodia's Interior Ministry.

The Japanese government arranged a charter flight to transport the suspects, who were detained in September after Cambodian police received a tip-off from their Japanese counterparts, he told The Associated Press. The 25 were arrested in the capital, Phnom Penh, according to Gen. Keo Vanthan, a spokesperson for the immigration police. Khieu Sopheak thanked the Japanese government "for their support and good cooperation with the Cambodian government

in order to arrest these peo-

Cybercrime scams have become a major issue in Asia.
In August, the UN's

human rights office said that criminal gangs have forced hundreds of thousands of people in Southeast Asia into participating in unlawful online scam operations, including false romantic ploys, bogus investment pitches and illegal gambling schemes. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in a report cited "credible sources" saying that at least 120,000 people in strife-torn Myanmar and roughly 100,000 in Cambodia "may be affected."

The report sheds new

light on cybercrime scams that have become a major issue in Asia.

AP

# Meta to begin labelling of political ads that use Al-generated imagery

**AP** ■ WASHINGTON

Pacebook and Instagram will require political ads running on their platforms to disclose if they were created using artificial intelligence, their parent company announced on Wednesday. Under the new policy by Meta, labels acknowledging the use of AI will appear on users' screens when they click on ads. The rule takes effect Jan 1 and will be applied worldwide.

The development of new AI programmes has made it easier than ever to quickly generate lifelike audio, images and video. In the wrong hands, the technology could be used to create fake videos of a candidate or frightening images of election fraud or polling place violence. When strapped to the

media, these fakes could mislead and confuse voters on a scale never seen.Meta Platforms Inc and other tech platforms have been criticised for not doing more to address this risk. Wednesday's announcement - which comes on the day House lawmakers hold a hearing on deepfakes — isn't likely to assuage those concerns. While officials in Europe are working on comprehensive regulations for the use of AI, time is running out for lawmakers in the United States to pass regulations ahead of the 2024 election.

powerful algorithms of social

Earlier this year, the Federal Election Commission began a process to potentially regulate AI-generated deepfakes in political ads before the 2024 election. President Joe

week issued an executive order intended to encourage responsible development of AI. Among other provisions, it will require AI developers to provide safety data and other information about their programs with the government.

The US isn't the only

grams with the government.

The US isn't the only nation holding a high-profile vote next year: National elections are also scheduled in countries including Mexico, South Africa, Ukraine, Taiwan and Pakistan. AI-generated political ads have already made an appearance in the US. In April, the Republican National Committee released an entirely AI-generated ad meant to show the future of the United States if Biden, a Democrat, is reelected.

It employed fake but real-

istic photos showing boardedup storefronts, armoured military patrols in the streets, and waves of immigrants creating panic. The ad was labeled to inform viewers that AI was used.In June, Florida Gov Ron DeSantis' presidential campaign shared an attack ad against his GOP primary oppo-nent Donald Trump that used AI-generated images of the former president hugging infectious disease expert Dr Anthony Fauci. "It's gotten to be a very difficult job for the casual observer to figure out: What do I believe here?" said Vince Lynch, an AI developer and CEO of the AI company IV.AI. Lynch said some combination of federal regulation and voluntary policies by tech companies is needed to protect

## Mexico's hurricane reconstruction plans prioritize military barracks

9,500 and 10,000 Guard troops

AP MEXICO CIT

Mexico's government laid out hurricane reconstruction plans on Tuesday for the resort of Acapulco that seem to give as much priority to building military barracks as reopening hotels. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he hoped owners would be able to reopen as many as 35 of the resort's 377 hotels by March or April, following the destruction of Hurricane Otis, the Category 5 storm that smashed into the city on October 25.

But his administration plans to build 38 new barracks in the resort for the quasi-military National Guard, in addition to five that already exist there. Each barracks will house 250 Guard troopers, who are recruited from or trained by the army. That would mean between

would be stationed permanently in the resort, about the same number sent there following the hurricane, which caused at least 48 deaths.In the days following the storm's October 25 landfall, Guard troops proved incapable of stopping days of ransacking that stripped every large- and medium-sized store in Acapulco to the walls.

Lopez Obrador has promised a barracks in every

In Acapulco to the walls.

Lopez Obrador has promised a barracks in every neighbourhood of the resort, which has also been hit by nearly 20 years of drug cartel violence. The president has given the armed forces almost exclusive control of the fight against the cartels and has proposed placing the National Guard under army command.

Lopez Obrador has refused to consider government loans or grants to the hotels, most of which had windows or walls blown out. Many were reduced to their skeletal concrete or steel frames.

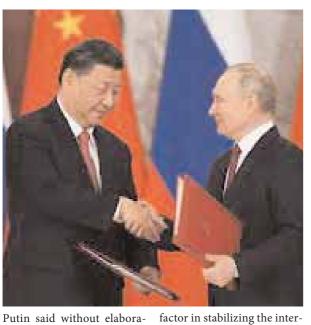
Instead, he said the government would pay half the interest on reconstruction loans from private banks. But with no cash flow, many hotel owners doubt they can qualify for big private bank loans.Lopez Obrador has also refused to earmark specific funds in the 2024 budget for reconstruction efforts, a move that has led to demonstrations by a protest caravan of Acapulco residents who drove to Mexico City this week. Evodio Velazquez, an opposition party member and former mayor of Acapulco, said the demonstrators were demanding a rebuilding programme roughly four times the size of the USD 3.4 billion plan the president announced last week

## **Putin calls for closer Russia-China cooperation**

 $R^{ussian\; President\; Vladimir}_{Putin\;\; told\;\; a\;\; senior}$ Chinese military official Wednesday that Moscow and Beijing should expand their cooperation on military satellites and other prospective defence technologies - a statement that signalled increasingly close defence links between the allies.

Putin spoke in televised remarks at the start of his meeting with Gen Zhang Youxia, who is China's second-ranking military official and vice chairman of the Central Military Commission. The Russian leader emphasised the importance of developing closer military links, noting that cooperation in high-tech spheres now takes priority.

"I mean space, including high-orbit assets, and new prospective types of weapons that will ensure strategic security of both Russia and the People's Republic of China,"



Putin said without elabora-

He emphasised that while 'Russia and China aren't building any military alliances based on Cold War patterns," their cooperation is a "serious

national situation' Beijing declared last year that it had a "no-limits" friendship with Russia. China has denounced Western sanctions against Moscow, and

United States of provoking Russia's military action in Ukraine even as it tried to project itself as neutral in the Ukrainian conflict.

Russia, in turn, has continuously voiced support for Beijing on issues related to Taiwan

Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Moscow in March to further cement ties and Putin traveled to Beijing last month for a summit of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. during

Speaking Wednesday's meeting with Zhang, Putin noted that NATO has sought to expand its reach to the Asia-Pacific region, in what he described as "an attempt to go beyond its geographic sphere of influ-

\"The US has increasingly drawn the alliance members into inciting tensions in the Asia-Pacific region and tried to create new militarypolitical alliances, including countries of the region, proceeding from its own egoistic interests," he said.

He added that Russia and China were responding in a "calm and balanced way" and work to strengthen their security with joint air force and navy drills. Zhang hailed Moscow for resisting Western pressure, saying that "the Russian Federation under your leadership is standing firm in the face of Western sanctions, showing that you and Russia won't be bent by any difficulties". "The Chinese side expresses its respect for you for this," he said.

Speaking during a meeting with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu earlier in the day, Zhang said that the relations between Russia and China are "at the highest level in the new epoch," adding that the two countries "invariably support each other on issues of fundamen-

tal interest and key concerns".

He hailed a "model of strategic trust and mutually

beneficial cooperation" between Moscow and Beijing, and noted that his visit is intended to help further boost military cooperation.

Shoigu said that defense ties between Russia and China aren't aimed at third countries.

"Unlike certain aggressive Western countries, we are not creating a military bloc," he said, adding that mutual ties "set an example of strate-gic interaction based on trust and respect".

"We hold regular opera-

tional and combat exercises on land, in the air and at sea, and successfully accomplish combat training missions of various levels of complexity shoulder-to-shoulder," Shoigu said. "All those actions do not target third countries and are taken exclusively in each other's interests.'

He invited Zhang to discuss "further steps to expand cooperation in the sphere of defence and international

### Report: Pak seeks USD 600 mn Ioan from Chinese banks

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan has sought USD 600 million in fresh loans from two Chinese banks to bridge a big financing gap as it negotiates with the IMF for the release of the second tranche of a USD 3 billion bailout package, a media report said on Wednesday.

Citing sources, The Express Tribune newspaper reported that the federal government was in negotiations with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and the Bank of China for a total loan of USD 600 million. Each bank has been approached for USD 300 million in financing.
Negotiations are at an

advanced stage and loans are expected to be received by next month, according to officials of the finance ministry.

Ministry of Finance

spokesman Qamar Abbasi did not respond to queries, the report said.

Abbasi also did not respond to a query on whether Pakistan had sought another loan from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) of China. SAFE has already given USD 4 billion in loans that are rescheduled every year due to Pakistan's inability to pay them

Citing diplomatic sources, the paper said that China and Pakistan were in close coordination to complete the remaining technical procedures for the loan of USD 600 million.

In recent years, China, Pakistan's all-weather ally, has become Islamabad's last hope for meeting emergency financing needs. Every government, including the caretakers, has reached out to China for rescue The Chinese have been

extending loans from SAFE deposits, concessionary loans and commercial loans to help Pakistan to stabilise its external In June this year, China

helped Pakistan to avoid a further fall in its critically low foreign currency reserves by prematurely adjusting the repayment of USD 1.3 billion.

Pakistan has budgeted USD 4.5 billion in foreign commercial loans but it has so far not received any financing due to poor credit ratings, high risks to debt sustainability and a weak macroeconomic situation.

Since 2017, larger proportions of Chinese development finance have been rescue loans, rather than for developmental projects, which were the hallmark of CPEC in its heyday from 2014 to 2017 when fresh commitments were forthcoming in large amounts, wrote AidData, a Western research lab, in its latest report.

Since 2000, China has given USD 21.2 billion in loans in general budget support, which was 30% of the total lending to Pakistan, according to AidData. These loans were taken to avoid default and push the low foreign currency reserves a bit higher.

The government has informed the IMF that its USD 6.5 billion borrowing plan hinges on the macroeconomic conditions. Pakistani negotiators

voiced hope that the successful completion of the ongoing talks could give a boost to the country's low credit ratings, which describe Pakistani debt as highly risky. Even if there is no imme-

diate improvement in ratings, we are hopeful that these agencies will upgrade the economic outlook on Pakistan,' said a senior Pakistani official on condition of anonymity.

After the staff-level agreement, Pakistani authorities plan to re-engage non-Chinese banks that have in the past given loans but are now reluctant due to the poor credit ratings and growing external sector risks.

Interim Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar met with representatives of Standard Chartered Bank and Deutsche Bank and the international credit rating agencies on the sidelines of the IMF or International Monetary Fund-World Bank meetings last

### '60% spike in terror incidents after Taliban came to power in Af'

PTI ISLAMABAD

Paretaker Prime Minister CAnwaarul Haq Kakar said on Wednesday that terror attacks in Pakistan rose 60 per cent and suicide bombings by 500 per cent after the Taliban came to power in neighbouring Afghanistan, lamenting at Kabul's failure to stop the use of its soil for terrorism.

The hardline Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 bringing to an end the government in Kabul when the army, trained and equipped by the US and allies, melted away with a speed that surprised even the rebels. "After the establishment of the

interim Afghan government in August 2021, we had a strong hope that there would be long-term peace in Afghanistan. [...] Strict action would be taken against Pakistan-opposing groups, especially the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and they would absolutely not be allowed to use Afghan soil against Pakistan," Kakar said at a press conference in Islamabad.

"But unfortunately, after the establishment of the interim Afghan back illegal aliens, the majority of them Afghans, the prime minister

govt, there has been a 60 per cent increase in terror incidents and a 500 per cent rise in suicide attacks in Pakistan," he said.

He said that 2,267 Pakistani citizens were killed in the past two years due to the attacks by the TTP using Afghan soil.

During this time, 15 Afghan citizens were also among the people involved in suicide attacks. Other than this, till now, 64 Afghan citizens were killed while fighting Pakistan's law enforcement agencies during the counterterrorism campaign," he said.

Kakar asserted that the details of the attacks were in the knowledge of the Afghan interim authorities, but no action was taken against the TTP despite assurance by the His terse remarks come after a

spate of attacks in the past week, including on Mianwali Training Air Base in the Punjab province, which was claimed by the Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan and the killing of soldiers in an ambush in Gwadar, claimed

by the Balochistan Liberation Front. Talking about the drive to send said that the crackdown aimed to set right internal security matters.

"Pakistan's recent actions regarding this are neither surpris-

ing nor unexpected.

Illegal immigrants have a huge role in spreading unrest in Pakistan, which is why the state of Pakistan, decided to send them back to their countries from November 1," he said, adding that the country was within its right to send back foreign-

He said 1.4 million Afghan refugees registered via the 'Proof of Residence card and 8 lakh registered under the Afghan citizen card would not be deported, rejecting the criticism by the Afghan leaders as "unnecessary, irresponsible, misleading and threatening".

Kakar said that so far, around 252,000 illegal Afghans returned to their country.

The caretaker government last month gave an ultimatum to all undocumented immigrants to leave Pakistan by October 31 or else risk imprisonment and deportation. It announced that action would be taken from November 1 against those illegal foreigners who had not

### 'Weapons left over by US in Af being used against Pak'

PTI ISLAMABAD

A day after the US said that it has not left behind any weapons during its with-drawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-Ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said terrorists were using American-made arms against his country. Highlighting that American-made weapons are being sold in the black market not just in Pakistan but also throughout the region as well as the Gulf countries, Kakar emphasised that Islamabad was standing firm on its stance regarding United States' weapons being used for terrorism in Pakistan, Geo News said in a

Kakar's remarks came in response to a statement by US State Department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel during a press briefing on Tuesday, days after at least 17 Pakistani soldiers were killed and a training base of the Pakistan Air Force was attacked by terrorists. "We are aware of the reports of multiple attacks on Pakistani security forces and facilities ear-

lier in November and we offer our condolences to the families of the victims, but I want to be very clear about this: There was no equipment left behind by American forces during the withdrawal from Afghanistan," Patel said. "I will also add that while large-scale military grant assistance remains suspended, we have partnered with Pakistan for more than 40 years to support law enforcement, the rule of law, counternarcotics efforts, and other areas in the security space, and will continue to value our bilateral relationship," Patel said.

Kakar said that America's "acknowledgement or disavowal of its weapons being used in Pakistan is irrelevant, as there is objective evidence which confirms that these weapons are making their way into the black market and are being used too."Pakistan's stance is grounded in facts and not conspiracy theories, the Geo News reported, quoting Kakar. The premier also spoke about the disappearance of the 150,000-strong Afghan military within a mere two days, raising questions over the unaccounted-for fate of their weapons.

### Over 60 workers of Imran's party held Bajwa) in different parts of the city date. "" Tobore police state"We condemn the illegal fascist

**PTI** ■ LAHORE

ore than 60 leaders and work **W**1 ers of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) party have been arrested here in Punjab province in connection with the attacks on military installations in May, police said on Wednesday, an act described as "illegal fascist measures" by the party.

Police action against the PTI leaders and workers has been intensified across the country following the announcement of general elections in Pakistan on February 8,

These are fresh arrests in addition to those already arrested on May 9 and soon after.

According to the PTI, over 10,000 of its leaders and workers have been in jail since early May in connection with attacks on military and state installations following Khan's arrest in an alleged corruption case.

"The police arrested 62 PTI workers involved in the May 9 attack on Lahore Corps Commander House and torching of a plaza (allegedly owned by the son of former army chief Gen Qamar Javed

three-year drought that has left

Amillions of people in Syria, Iraq

and Iran with little water wouldn't

have happened without human-

caused climate change, a new study

found. The west Asian drought,

which started in July 2020, is most-

ly because hotter-than-normal tem-

peratures are evaporating the little

rainfall that fell, according to a flash

study Wednesday by a team of inter-

national climate scientists at World

Weather Attribution. Without the

world warming 1.2 degrees Celsius

unnaturally intensifying naturally

**AP** DAMASCUS

ment said on Wednesday.

launched against those involved in attacks on military installations but evaded arrest. A heavy contingent of police also

raided the residence of PTI president Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to arrest his relative and former lawmaker Maj (R) Tahir Sadiq. Elahi is already in PTI senior leader and former

federal minister Moonis Elahi said the Punjab police's brutalities against the PTI leaders and workers are at their peak as they are not sparing even women. On May 9, following the arrest

of Khan by paramilitary Rangers, unrest broke out in Pakistan that saw the torching and vandalising of dozens of military and state build-ings, including the Army headquarters in Rawalpindi and the ISI building in Faisalabad

Police arrested over 10,000 workers of PTI, and over 100 are being tried under the Army Act.

The PTI core committee has also strongly denounced the "state's coercive tactics, reprisal actions" against the PTI workers and leaders even after the announcement of the polls

'Drought in Syria, Iraq and Iran wouldn't

have happened without climate change'

crisis that has left people thirsty, hun-

gry and displaced, concluded the

research, which has not yet under-

gone peer review but follows scien-

tifically valid techniques to look for

the fingerprints of global warming.

tures, rainfall and moisture levels and

compared what happened in the last

three years to multiple computer

simulations of the conditions in a

world without human-caused cli-

The team looked at tempera-

dry conditions into a humanitarian to live."

measures of the state against peaceelections. The nation will not accept rigged polls held in such an uneven electoral field and with state interference," it said and added that after fixing the date of the poll, the reprehensible attempts to force the PTI out of the electoral arena and deprive it of a level playing field have become more prominent before the

The PTI core committee asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to avoid playing the role of a vacillator in poll rigging (and) rather it should ensure a level playing field for all political parties to hold free, fair and transparent elections in the

It also paid glowing tribute to PTI chairman Imran Khan for facing the "unjustifiable" incarceration with steadfastness, courage and perseverance.

"The PTI will take part in the elections and Imran Khan will lead the party's election campaign across the country," it said and added Khan has been in jail for over 100 days without any legal justification and was being merely subjected to

Computer simulations didn't

But evaporation of water in

In addition to making near-nor-

find significant climate change fin-

gerprints in the reduced rainfall,

which was low but not too rare, Otto

lakes, rivers, wetlands and soil "was

much higher than it would have

been' without climate change-spiked

mal water conditions into an extreme

temperatures, she said.

My client Mrs. Sona Devi is the owner of the Property Bearing Built Up House No. WZ 46-E/1-A with Roof Right Khasra No. 2783/738, Area Measuring 100 Sq. Yards Basai Dara Pur New Delhi-110015 vide Registered Sale Deed Regd. No. 3588 Dated-23.03.2023 SR-II executed by Mrs. Sunita Devi Gupta. This Above-mentioned Property is going to be are with EED BANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED. If any person/bank/financial Institution having any claim/right, lien, Any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the Undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with locumentary evidence under address through registered A/d within 07 days from the date of ublication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived Adv Vishal Mehan. E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile no. 9811215181

My Client Mr. Kuldeep Singh S/o Mr. Devendra Singh is the owner of Plot Area measuring 200 sq. yard comprising Khasra no. 754 situated at village Khatana Dheerkhera Pargana & Tensil Dadri & Dist Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. vide Registered Gift Deed Regd. no. 29052 dated 20.08.2022 SR-Dadri executed by Mr. Devendra Singh S/o Late Mr. Rajveer his above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with FED BANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED. If any person/bank/financial institution naving any claim/right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through Registered A/d within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile no. 9811215181

#### ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED

Regd. Off.: Unit No 307A, 3rd Floor, Worldmark 2 Asset Area No 8, Hospitality Dist. Delhi Aerocity New Delhi - 110037

E-mail: onbhlinvestors.relations@orientalinfratrust.com; CIN: U45400DL2010PLC203649 FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30. 2023

No.	Particulars	30.09.2023 (un-audited)	30.09.2022 (un-audited)	31.03.2023 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	1,000.47	945.53	4,165.33
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	502.92	479.02	2,251.97
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	502.92	479.02	2,251.97
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	487.85	(44.39)	2,131.94
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	488.03	(44.39)	2,131.94
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	181.35	181.35	181.35
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	7,549.67	10,254.24	10,922.90
8	Securities Premium	3,443.66	3,443.66	3,443.66
9	Net Worth	9,336.13	12,256.29	12,818.07
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	20,093.76	22,230.29	21,171.39
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	2.40:1	2.01:1	1.84:1
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)			
	1. Basic:	26.91	(2.45)	117.56
	2. Diluted:	26.91	(2.45)	117.56
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	1605.12	1,820.70	1,713.82
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.10:1	1.11:1	1.18:1
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.97:1	1.85:1	2.03:1

#### Notes

Date: 08.11.2023

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the quarterly un-audited financial results are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity (http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in) For the other line items referred to in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Othe
- Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity (http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in). These quarterly un-audited financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by
- the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on November 8, 2023. The Statutory Auditors have carried out limited review of the aforesaid results The financial results of the company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting standard

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of Oriental Nagpur Betul Highway Limited

Abhishek Sehgal Directo

DIN - 09771954

(Amount in Millions)

Quarter Ended Quarter Ended Year Ended

My Client Smt. Babita W/o Dheeraj Yadav is the owner of a built-up Residential House area measuring 260 sq yards i.e. 217.38 sq. mtrs out of Khasra no. 146 min, Situated at Village Hajratpur Wajidpur Noida, Pargana Tehsil Dadri District Gautam Budh Nagarvide Registered Gift Deed Regd.no.7507 dated 31.10.2023 SR-III Noida executed by Sh. Dheeraj Yadav S/o Sh. Shishad I This ahove-mertioned pronerly is grips to Shishpal. This above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with FED BANK FINANCIAL SERVICES De mortgage with FED BAINT FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED. If any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with 713, Ankalouolina (2001), Edini-1002 along wind documentary evidence under address through registered A/d within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile no. 9811215181

My clients Mrs. Kallo W/o Sh. Mange Ram is the owner of the property bearing Residential House Area Measuring 300 sq.yds. out of Khasara no.146 min. Measuring 30U sq.yds. out of khasara no.14b min. Situated in Village Hazratpur Wajidpur, Noida, Paragana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautambudh Nagar executed by Sh. Mange Ram 5/o Sh. Teja Delhi-110015, vide Registered Gift Deed Regd. No. 7501 dated-30.10.2023 SR-G.B Nagar. This above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with FED BANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED. If any parago/park/ficersical institution begins on volaric. person/bank/financial institution having any claim, right, lien, Any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned, Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence unde address through registered Ad within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile no. 9811215181

#### Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Tender Notice Reference No. 817/ DR

1 No.
1 No.
1 No.

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website Director of Research

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsa NΔ/12/20117/2023/29613 Dated CHD -- 11/8/2023

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering) Name of work with its location: Provision of thick web switches in NDLS-PWL & Ring Railway (DAL) section of Delhi Division App. Cost of the work: Rs. 84,63,080.67/- only Bid Security: Rs. 1,69,300.00/- only Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northen Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055. Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender : Tender uploading

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

07.11.2023 / closing date & time- 29.11.2023 up to 15.00 hrs Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. : See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1405 Dated: 07.11.2023 3486/2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

verka 55. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66 Notice Inviting e Tende Name of Work/Item Period/Tentative Qty For Verka Ludhiana Dairy

Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Feron Based Cold Rooms, Blast Cold Room, Antiroom with Puf-Panels, Compressor Racks & its Accessories including other allied refrigeration jobs and civil works at Verka Ludhiana Dairy.

2. Hiring of Road Milk Tankers for Transportation of milk all over Punjab, Chandigarh, U.P. Delhi & Haryana

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

Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only

Incharge (Purchase)

(2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) since the prescribed under sec 133 of companies Act 2013 mid-19th century, "it would not be a drought at all," said lead author people in West Asia," said study co-Iran, 16 times more likely. Kelly Smith, assistant director of author Mohammed Rahimi, a professor of climatology at Semnan University in Iran. "With every Friederike Otto, an Imperial College the US National Drought Mitigation of London climate scientist. University in Iran. Centre in Nebraska, who was not It's a case of climate change Place: New Delhi

mate change. drought, study authors calculated "Human-caused global climate that the drought conditions in Syria and Iraq are 25 times more likely change is already making life considerably harder for tens of millions of because of climate change, and in

degree of warming Syria, Iraq and part of the study, said the research Iran will become even harder places

## **Looking at liberalising some** restrictions on SEZ units: Goyal

ommerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal ✓on Wednesday said the Government is looking at easing certain restrictions for units in the special economic zones (SEZ) to promote the sector's

SEZs in India are treated as foreign territories for trade and customs duties, with restrictions on duty-free domestic sales.

"We are looking at ways and means to liberalise some of these restrictions on SEZ units. It's under consideration...We are discussing it with all the stakeholders and hopefully that itself will give a significant boost to the SEZ units," Goyal said

PTI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

cial year 2022-23.

rerala's pioneer IT hub Technopark

Kerala's pioneer 11 Hub Technopum.

There has reported a remarkable surge

in software export revenue for the finan-

The organization saw a substantial

increase of Rs 1,855 crores in export rev-

enue, registering a 19 per cent growth

compared to the previous fiscal year, a

statement said here on Wednesday. Also,

the Technopark has consistently main-

tained an A+ stable rating from CRISIL

(Credit Rating Information Service of

India Limited) for the last three years,

underscoring its robust financial perfor-

mance and seamless transactions. The

campus spread over 768.63 acres with

11.22 million sq. Ft of built up space, currently hosts 72,000 employees across 486

In the last financial year, 46 companies

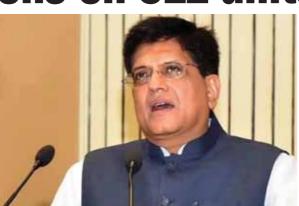
opened new IT/ITeS offices in Technopark

ware export revenue from 465 companies

was Rs 9,775 crores, it said. This fiscal year

it has reached Rs 11,630 crores, which is an excellent growth curve. Col Sanjeev

and during that time, Technopark's soft-



here at an industry chamber

Regarding the industry's demand to extend benefits of the Remission of Duties or Taxes on

Kerala's Technopark records software

exports worth ₹11,630 cr for 2022-23

Export Products (RoDTEP) Scheme to SEZs, he said the ministry will go about it "cau-

tiously' "At some point in time we will fident that it will not lead to WTO non-compliance," he

In these zones, the largest areas of exports are petroleum products and software. Companies in SEZs are urging

the government to permit them to sell their products in domestic tariff areas or domestic markets without paying the imporduties that currently apply, similar to duty-free FTA imports. SEZs have emerged as an important contributor to India's exports. Total exports from SEZs stood at USD 155.8 billion in 2022-23. These included USD 61.6 billion in merchandise and USD 94.2 billion in services

#### PLI scheme: Govt frames process for streamlining visa approvals for Chinese professionals

PTI NEW DELHI

he government has formulated a standard I operating procedure for streamlining visa approvals for Chinese professionals whose expertise is required by vendors under the PLI scheme, an official said on Wednesday. Some players had flagged the visa issue in a stakeholder consultation meeting on the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme in

The government at that time stated that it was trying to sort out visa-related matters where vendors require Chinese professionals' exper-

"We have resolved the visa issue in the sense that we have created an SOP (standard operating procedure) for PLI units. For their visas we have a system under which their visa approvals will be streamlined," the official

The PLI scheme was announced in 2021 for 14 sectors such as telecommunication, white goods, textiles, manufacturing of medical devices, automobiles, speciality steel, food products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell battery, drones and pharma with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore.

Adani's Sri Lanka JV to get

\$553 mn funding from US

### Stock markets edge higher in volatile trade amid weak global cues



PTI MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty edged higher on Wednesday after a volatile trade amid weak cues from Asian and European mar-kets along with unabated foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced by 33.21 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 64,975.61. During the day, it hit a high of 65,124 and a low of

The broader Nifty went up by 36.80 points or 0.19 per cent to close at 19,443.50 with 29 of its components closing in green and the rest 21 in red. Among the Sensex firms, Asian

Paints, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Maruti and Reliance Industries were the major gain-

ICICI Bank, NTPC, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel and Bajaj Finance were among the The domestic market traded

rangebound with a positive bias. And further confidence may be derived from the global market cues post the FED chair speech. Oil prices continued to fall, which will provide respite to the domestic economy and navigate a downward trajectory to inflation & fiscal," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Markets remained rangebound and ended marginally in the green. After the flat start, Nifty oscillated in a narrow range till the end and finally settled at 19,443.50 levels," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.78 per cent and smallcap index gained 0.60 per cent.

jumped 1.40 per cent, services climbed 1.07 per cent, oil & gas (0.96 per cent), capital goods (0.86 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.84 per cent), auto (0.80 per cent) and energy (0.77 per cent).

Financial Services, IT, bankex and teck were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended in positive territory on Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.15 per cent to

USD 81.73 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 497.21 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark dipped 16.29 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 64,942.40 on Tuesday. The Nifty slipped 5.05 points or 0.03 per cent to 19,406.70. Gold drops

### ₹150; silver tumbles ₹950

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price dropped by Rs 150 to Rs 61,350 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday amid a decline in the precious metal's price in overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had ended at Rs 61,500 per 10 gram in the previous trade Silver also tumbled Rs 950 to Rs

73,600 per kg.

In the global markets, gold and silver were trading down at USD 1,966 per ounce and USD 22.55 per ounce, respectively. Gold fell due to an uptick in the dollar and hawkish comments from the US Federal Reserve members which emphasised on Tuesday that bringing inflation fully down to the central bank's 2 per cent goal is their main focus, Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

#### Among the indices, realty India-Netherlands MoI on medical products regulations

PTI NEW DELHI

ndia and the Netherlands will Looperate on regulations for medical products and enhance the quality of healthcare services in both countries.

At Hague, India and the Netherlands have "signed a memorandum of intent (MoI) to cooperate on medical product regulation and enhance the quality of medical products both countries".

Services.

The MoI was signed during a meeting of Bhagwant Khuba, Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers with Ernst Kuipers Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports of the Kingdom of Netherlands. An Indian delegation led by Khuba is in the Netherlands to participate in the second World Local Production Forum (WLPF) meeting being held in The Hague from 6 to 8

November 2023.

The World Local Production Platform is a platform created at the initiative of WHO with the aim of increasing access to medicines and other health technologies

The Minister also visited the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

He met Carla van Rooijen, Director Pharmaceuticals and Medical Technology Division and had

a fruitful discussion with her about regulations in the phar-maceutical and medical technology industries.

Khuba also visited Bilthoven Biologicals (Cyrus Poonawalla Group), the world's largest vaccine producer. During his visit, Khuba visited

the Port of Rotterdam, Europe's largest port and discussed with Boudwijn Simmons, COO and other officials about the port's hydrogen hub plans.

### HPCL to stop buying diesel from other companies next year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tindustan Petroleum Cor-Hporation Ltd (HPCL) will stop buying diesel from companies like Reliance Industries completes expansion of its Visakhapatnam refinery in Andhra Pradesh and builds a new one in Rajasthan next financial year, company officials said

HPCL owns almost a quarter of petrol pumps in the country but does not have commensurate oil refining capacity to produce petrol and diesel. So to make up for this, it buys products from refiners such as Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), Reliance Industries' Jamanagar units in Gujarat and Navara's Vadinar refinery.

At an investor call post announcing second quarter earnings, HPCL chairman Pushp Kumar Joshi says the firm's focus on capital spending in the last five years in

The

observance of vigilance awareness

was concluded with the closing

ceremony held at Corporate

Centre of Power Grid Corporation

of India Limited (POWERGRID), a

Maharatna CPSU under Ministry

of Power. During the closing

**KSB REGISTERS 31% GROWTH** 

MAKE O CENTRE IN NOIDA

prime city of Noida

Guruaram:

BUSINESS

**VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK AT POWERGRID ENDS** 

ceremony, DK Madan, CVO, welcomed Hari Mohan, I.O.F.S., Ex Chairman

and Director General. Indian Ordnance Factories and he addressed on

vigilance issues, decision making in complicated situations. RK Tyagi,

Director (Operations) and G Ravisankar, Director (Finance) attended the

Mumbai: KSB Limited, one of leading pumps and Valves manufacturer

Rs 5,637 million achieved for this guarter is 31 per cent increase over

a consistent upward trend is seen in our export business, which will

strengthen our position in the global market, said Farrokh Bhathena.

experience-led and functional centres across India, where a customer

can walk-in and seek treatment for smile, skin and hair concerns with

qualified experts and advanced technology. Given the success of the

experience centres, makeO has opened its 19th store in Delhi-NCR's

the previous year. We remain optimistic about the demand situation as

in India, recorded a growth of 31 per cent in the third guarter compared to previous year. According to company; the sales value of

New Delhi: Launched in 2022, makeO experience centres are

Vice President of Sales and Marketing, KSB Limited

week-long

"strengthening quality and capacity" of assets has "started vielding results now".

The company has already expanded its Mumbai refinery capacity to 9.5 million tonnes tonnes and would complete the expansion of Visakhapatnam unit to 15 million tonnes next year, he said. Besides, it is building a new 9 million tonnes a year oil refinery and petrochemical complex at Barmer in Rajasthan at a cost of Rs 73,000

tion, the company has forayed into new areas like petrochemicals, natural gas and biofuels business "to provide stability to our balance sheet", he said. Giving an update on Visakha patnam refinery expansion project, Joshi said a 3.05 million tonnes full conversion hydrocracker unit (FCHCU) has been commissioned, which will increase distillate vield (production of petrol and

BRIEF

Nair (Retd), CEO of Technopark, empha

sized that the sustained yearly growth in

software exports by IT/ITES industries' of

Technopark bodes well for the entire IT

ecosystem of Kerala. He also added that

the developmental efforts undertaken by

Technopark with the support of the state

government, along with infrastructure

development activities by co-developers

and availability of sound social fabric with-

in the city act as catalysts for the IT sec-

tor's expansion in the state. Technopark's

software export growth trajectory since its

inception, is an indicator of the organisa-

tion's tremendous potential for IT/ITeS

companies to flourish by investing here in

Kerala, the statement added

PTI ■ NEW DELHI Together with capacity addi-

Adani Ports and Special Econo-Port of Colombo.

recovery," it added.

Over the years, China made ining loans and other forms of financial aid for infrastructure

The Hambantota port, with its



 $T^{
m he}$  US will provide USD 553 million financing to Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT) Pvt Ltd -- a consortium that includes India's largest port operator Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, as it tries to blunt China's aggressive infrastructure investment in the island nation.

mic Zone Limited (APSEZ) in a statement said that the US fund will support the development of a new deepwater shipping container terminal in the

"(It) will facilitate private sector-led growth and attract crucial foreign exchange to Sri Lanka to aid in its economic

According to the statement, the US, Sri Lanka and India will foster an enduring legacy of cooperation in the development of sustainable infrastructure, like smart and green

roads into Sri Lanka by offer-

strategic location near busy Indian Ocean shipping routes, was touted as good for Sri Lanka.

But it soon turned out to be a loss-making investment, and the Sri Lankan government defaulted on the Chinese loans of more than USD 1 billion. China foreclosed the loan in 2017, taking over the key port's operations on a 99-year lease, much to the concern of India. DFC is the US government's development finance institution. CWIT is a consortium of India's largest port operator Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, Sri Lanka's leading enterprise John Keells Holdings (JKH) and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

DFC partners with the private sector to finance solutions to the most critical challenges facing the developing world. It invests across sectors, including energy, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture and small business and financial services. As per the statement, this is the first time that the US government, through one of its agencies, is funding an Adani pro-

APSEZ whole-time director and CEO Karan Adani said, "We welcome the association of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the US government's development finance institution, in funding the Adani project.

When completed, Colombo West International Terminal project will transform the socio-economic landscape, not just in Colombo but across the island, through thousands of direct and indirect new employment opportunities and by massively boosting Sri Lanka's trade and commerce ecosystem," he added.

The Port of Colombo is the largest and busiest transshipment port in the Indian Ocean. It has been operating at more than 90 per cent utilisation since 2021, signalling its need for additional capacity.

According to the statement, the new terminal will cater to growing economies in the Bay of Bengal, taking advantage of Sri Lanka's prime position on major shipping routes and its proximity to these expanding

DFC CEO Scott Nathan said, Sri Lanka is one of the world's key transit hubs, with half of all container ships transiting through its waters.

"DFC's commitment of USD 553 million in private-sector loans for the West Container Terminal will expand its shipping capacity, creating greater prosperity for Sri Lanka - without adding to sovereign debt while at the same time strengthening the position of our allies across the region."

The US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung said, the USD 553 million investment by DFC for the long-term devel-opment of the Port of Colombo's West Container Terminal will facilitate private and attract crucial foreign exchange inflows during its economic recovery.

"Sri Lanka regaining its economic footing will further our shared vision for a free and prosperous Indo-Pacific," she

John Keells Holdings chairperson Krishan Balendra said. DFC's investment is an endorsement of the potential of the West Terminal project and a boost for investor confidence as Sri Lanka's economy recov-

Colombo West International Terminal is a consortium comprising Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, Šri Lanka's John Keells Holdings and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. The consortium will develop Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT) on a build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis for a period of 35 years.

The development of this terminal will reinforce Colombo Port's position as the primary hub in the region and is expected to elevate its ranking to 20th among the world's top container terminals, it added.

It will also transform the port's position in terms of global shipping connectivity, which is currently 12th globally.



# ₹1,017 crore in **Q2**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

rata Power on Wednesday Tata Power on resemble in its posted a 9 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,017.41 crore in the September quarter, mainly on the back of higher revenues from core busi-

Its consolidated net profit was Rs 935.18 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing.

Total income rose to Rs 16,029.54 crore in the July-September quarter from Rs 14,181.07 crore in the same period a year ago.

In a statement, the company explained that during the quarter, a significant 84 per cent contribution to the company's Profit After Tax (PAT) came from the core businesses, while the contributions from overseas joint ventures, including coal mining operations, continued to decline. 'We have reported yet another strong quarter of financial performance, driven by robust contributions from all our core business clusters. Our adherence to financial discipline, operational excellence along with business resilience and diversification have helped us in maintaining this consistent profit growth," Praveer Sinha, CEO and Managing Director of Tata Power, said in the statement. We are constantly focusing on new areas of growth such as our greenfield solar cell and module manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu which has produced its

first module in this quarter and is on track to roll out the first cell into Q4FY24, he stated. With net debt to underlying EBITDA (Earnings Before

1.09x in Q1 FY24) during the quarter, the company's balance sheet continues to strengthen, it stated

The company's clean energy portfolio achieved the milestone of 5,500 MW during the second quarter of FY24, standing at 38 per cent of total installed generation capacity. Tata Power also made significant progress in its distribution business by improving its cash flow and reducing AT&C losses in Odisha.

Further, it is well-poised to capitalise on the pumped hydro storage projects and has signed an MoU with the Maharashtra government for the development of 2,800 MW projects.

The company's Zambia unit (ITPC 120 MW hydro plant) resolved the PPA (Power purchase agreement) tariff issue with the Zambian State Utility (ZESCO) and has realised part of the pending receivable dues of USD 102 million from Zambia Electricity Supply

Corporation.

Meanwhile, the company also received all the pending sale proceeds of Arutmin Coal Investment, as per the earlier arrangement to divest its stake in 2016. The board has approved the appointment of Vispi S Patel as the company Secretary and Compliance Officer (Key Managerial Personnel) consequent upon the superannuation of Hanoz M Mistry (to retire on January 31, 2024), from February 1, 2024. Tata Power is a leading integrat-

ed power company and has a diversified portfolio of 14,399 MW, spanning across the entire power value chain - from renewable and conventional energy generation to transmission & distribution, trading, storage solutions and solar cells and module manufacturing.

#### MFIs need to focus on data privacy and cyber security, says SBI MD PTI ■ NEW DELHI "The second thing which is need of the customers in the

State Bank of India (SBI) managing director Alok Kumar Choudhary on Wednesday said there is a need for micro finance institutions (MFIs) to pay attention to data privacy and cyber security as they deal with data of a large number of customers. Speaking at a conference organised by Sa-Dhan, he said, MFIs should also focus on capacity

building to deal with the chal-

lenges of the future.

very important is the integration with the evolving regulation particularly when you have data privacy law. The enormous amount of data which has been handled by all the MFIs, this particular aspect (data privacy) requires attention and some kind of action plan needs to be in place," he said.

Financial institutions need to focus on improving ease of transaction through digital means, he said, adding, the changing time has to be addressed as per their convenience and ease. "For this segment of (bottom of

the pyramid) customers, we need to understand what they want and ease with which their desire can be fulfilled," he said. SBI has a significant credit line to MFIs as well as to NBFCs that are trying to foster financial inclusion.

Talking about participation of SBI in the government's finan-

Yojana. More than 50 crore bank

accounts have been opened Rs 2.03 lakh crore.

under the scheme.

#### cial inclusion drive, Choudhary said, the bank alone has opened 36 per cent of the total account opened under PM Jan Dhan

under the PM Jan Dhan Yojana in the last nine years and the deposit balance swelled to over

Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, With regard to Atal Pension and Amortization) improving to 2.65-fold (from 2.73x in Q1 Yojana, he said, SBI has enrolled FY24) and net debt to equity improving to 1.02-fold (from 32 per cent of total subscribers

# profit rises to

## Prannoy in no mood to rush back from back injury

**PTI** MUMBAI

ecovering from a back injury, star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy says he doesn't want to force his way back as he knows the "toughest" job of sealing an Olympic berth awaits him next year. The world No. 8 feels Olympic

qualification system in bad-minton is a "big issue" as players can't pick and choose tournaments, making the next few months crucial as they try to get into the "safe zone" in terms of ranking by end of

Prannoy, who ended India's 41year wait for a medal in the Asian Games with a men's singles bronze, has been managing a back injury which troubled him in Hangzhou.

"(It has been) better I would say. (It is) just taking a little more time than usual just to be on the safe side, looking at the number of tournaments which

you have to play from next year," Prannoy told PTI in an interview.

"(I am) just taking it a little slowly, not rushing up on the injury side. I would say it is pretty better than how it was during the Asian Games, I have started training also. I will have to look how things pan up in the next few tournaments." Prannoy is scheduled to participate in the Japan Open Super 500 and China Open Super 750 tournaments this month.

The Olympic qualification period started on May 1, 2023 and will conclude on April 28 next year with players inside the top 16 making the cut.

'That is the biggest problem in badminton as such, where the qualification period is until April 30th. The toughest job is to qualify in badminton - we have to be in the top 16 in world rankings," the 31-year-old said during a collaboration announcement with Federal Bank



'That is one big issue when we come into an Olympic cycle when we cannot pick and choose much, we will have to play in a lot of tournaments to make sure you are in that safe zone. "But yes, post April, you can pick and choose what you

want to play and will have 2-3 months' of window to kind of train and try to peak for the Olympics. But before that, I would say (it is) still running the race and it is pretty much open to all the players who want to qualify.

Prannoy, who had claimed a maiden world championships bronze this year, is optimistic about India's medal chances at the Paris Games.

"The next few years look very promising. Definitely, we have been on the rise since the last

10 years, big medals coming in from big events - in every sin-gle cycle of Asian Games, Commonwealth Games or Olympics - we have been able to get medals," he said.

"Looking at the Paris Olympics, (I am) very optimistic that we

have a very strong badminton squad out there for medal prospects, we have men's singles, men's doubles and women's singles also which are very strong and we can always bank on for a medal.

"Post that, we will have to see how the juniors are going to come in and fare in the next four years. But for the time, being we are just thinking (about the) 2024 Olympic Games.

Prannoy said he is not losing his sleep over rankings and focusing on improving his consistency

'Take care of the consistency and the ranking also takes care of itself. In the coming year also that would be the target, to see how consistent badminton you can play - and that is the toughest thing to do given the number of tournaments coming up - and how to manage your body in the right way.
"We also have to do the workbiggest challenge which I face as a player in the coming next few years.

The man Thiruvananthapuram said he hasn't moved to Tamil Nadu yet but is looking at a long-term

association with TNBA. "I have not yet (moved)," he

'Tamil Nadu has been a big supporting factor for the sportspersons and the bad-minton association of Tamil Nadu is also pretty much interested in making sure that they have the next bunch of players

for the state. "In that way, I was looking at a very long term plan being there and thinking how I can help them (with) the next set of players post my career. Definitely, I would be playing at the highest level for the next 3-4 years and for me to go the next step, the support would be

## Czech Republic beats defending champion Switzerland

AP SEVILLE (SPAIN)

The Czech Republic beat defending champion Switzerland 3-0 on the first day of the group stage at the Billie Jean King Cup Finals on Tuesday.

Debutant Linda Noskova defeated Celine Naef 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-4 in the first singles match, and another debutant Marie

Bouzkova beat Viktorija Golubic 6-4, 6-4 in the second match of the Group A tie. The third point came with Barbora

Bouzkova was a late addition to the Czech team following the withdrawal of world No. 8 Karolina Muchova because of a

wrist injury. Switzerland was without Olympic gold medalist Belinda Bencic, who announced on Friday that she is pregnant. The United States is the other team in Group A and will face Switzerland on Thursday.

In Group B, Slovenia defeated last year's runner-up Australia 2-1 after Kaja Juvan defeated Aila Tomlianovic 6-4, 6-1 and Tamara Zidansek beat Daria



Australia's point came when Kimberly Birrell and Storm Hunter beat Veronika Erjavec and Ela Nala Milic 7-5, 6-7 (2), 10-5 in the doubles match.

The 12-team BJK Cup Finals is being played at La Cartuja Stadium in the southern Spanish city of Seville. It will run through Sunday offering a record total of \$9.6 million in

prize money, including \$2.4 million to the champions.

The teams compete in four round-robin groups and the winners will advance to the semifinals. The biggest team competition in women's tennis is starting two days after the end of the WTA Finals in Cancun, Mexico, which featured the top eight players on the tour





### Haaland scores 2 as Man City beats Young Boys 3-0

The Champions League is a hat trick when he was submost testing stage. Try telling that to Erling Haaland.

The Norway striker extended his record in the competition to 39 goals in 34 games as Manchester City advanced to the knockout round with a 3-0 win against Young Boys on Tuesday.

Haaland scored twice, including a brilliant longrange effort in the second half, to move him to within two of City great Sergio Aguero's total of 41.

It seems inevitable he will one day challenge Cristiano Ronaldo's record of 140 Champions League goals. And after losing out to Lionel Messi in the battle for the Ballon d'Or last week, he will likely be back in contention for soccer's biggest individual prize next year if he continues his scoring streak.

"If he, with his mates, win a lot of trophies, there will be chance to win it," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "If not, we won't do any-

thing." City's defense of the Champions League is going smoothly. Guardiola's team extended its perfect record after four games in Group G and also extended its unbeaten home run in the competition to 28.

Haaland opened the scoring at Etihad Stadium with a 23rd minute penalty and Phil Foden made it 2-0 in first-half stoppage time. Haaland then fired into the

Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova defeating Golubic and Jil Teichmann 7-6 (3), 6-2 in the doubles match.

top corner from the edge of

the area six minutes after

the break — but was denied

By then there was little

doubt that City was on

course for a 23rd straight

home win in all competi-

tions in a game that saw

Young Boys reduced to 10

men when Sandro Lauper

was sent off for high foot on

City substitute Nathan Ake

After Matheus Nunes was

brought down in the area by

Lauper in the first half,

Haaland stepped up and

sent goalkeeper Anthony

Racioppi the wrong way by

firing into the bottom left

On Foden's goal, the for-

ward received a pass from

Jack Grealish on the right

and then showed quick feet

to beat Ulisses Garcia inside

He still had a tight angle to

shoot from, but swept the

ball past Racioppi and into

Of course we are incredibly happy to have qualified

"Finish first. We have time

to think about it," Guardiola

said. "The word that defines

this group of players for

"We have high standards

and that is why we are still

in the Premier League up

there and qualified from the

City defender John Stones

was substituted at halftime

because of a muscle prob-

lem and could be out for a

while," Guardiola said

Champions League.

STONES OUT

many years is the consisten-

with two games left.

in the 53rd.

hand corner

the area

the far corner.

### Portland Timbers introduce Phil Neville as their new head coach

 $P^{
m hil}_{
m as\ the\ new\ head\ coach\ of}$ the Portland Timbers amid concerns from the Major League Soccer team's fan base over some of his past posts on

over some of his past posts on social media, as well as his coaching record.

Neville, who has apologized before for sexist Twitter posts from more than a decade ago, addressed them during a press conference Tuesday. "The tweets that I put out

were wrong in 2011 and they're wrong today," the former Manchester United and Everton defender said. The tweets have since been delet-

Neville, who coached Inter Miami before his dismissal in June, signed a deal with Portland that will keep him as the head coach through the 2026 season. When word of his hiring leaked last week, fans of the team were critical. The Timbers Army supporters group issued a statement asking the club to reconsider. 'We are deeply disappointed that the club has reportedly settled on a finalist for head coach who has a history of sexist public statements that run counter to our ethos as a club, city and supporters' group, and who also lacks a proven track record as a manager," the statement said.

Neville said he would like to meet with the supporters to

DENCE

address concerns personally. "I think the big part of this city is the supporters. And I think the statement that they put out showed that this club cares about their people," he

"In reference to the tweets that I made in 2011, I think I addressed these in 2019 when I was named the head coach of the England women's team. that by no means are they a reflection of me as a person and my character.

The Timbers organization was also widely criticized for past missteps involving the Portland Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League and its handling of sexual harassment and misconduct allegations against former Thorns coach Paul Riley. Riley denied the claims, which were outlined last year in a pair of reports commissioned by U.S. Soccer and the NWSL.

Neville replaces Giovanni Savarese, who was let go by the Timbers in August after more than five seasons with the club. Portland went to the playoffs in four of those seasons and reached the MLS Cup title game in 2018 and

The 46-year-old Neville was 35-42-13 as coach of Inter Miami. But he said he was hampered over his time there, in part because of sanctions imposed on the team by the league for violating salary budget and roster guidelines during the 2020 season. Neville was also coach of the

English women's national team from January 2018 to January 2021, leading the team at the 2019 Women's World Cup.

England's women advanced to the World Cup semifinals in 2019, but were eliminated by the eventual champion United States. Sweden downed the Lionesses in the third-place In addition to his lengthy

playing career in the Premier League, Neville also appeared in 59 matches for England's European championships. Portland general manager

Ned Grabavoy said the team spoke with up to 20 candidates for the vacancy. The past controversy over the posts made Portland more diligent about vetting him.

"I think the longer that time went on, I felt more and more comfortable that Phil was the right choice for this club without question," Grabavoy said. "I do point back to - there's a lot of staff, technical staff, staff on the business side. I work with these people daily. I know how much these people care about the club. Never would this decision be made if there wasn't full conviction that Phil is the right person and is the right person now.

### AIFF sacks its secretary general Shaji due to breach of trust

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Wednesday announced that it has sacked secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran due to "breach of trust".

Prabhakaran's sacking comes 14 months after his appointment to the high-profile job even as the national federation did not mention what the breach of trust was that prompted the action.

The All India Football Federation hereby announces that the services of Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran have been terminated due to breach of trust with immediate effect as of November 7, 2023," the AIFF statement read.

The AIFF Depi Mr M Satyanarayan, will take charge as Acting Secretary General of AIFF with immediate effect," the statement added. AIFF president Kalyan Chaubev served the termination letter on Tuesday to Prabhakaran, who was appointed on September 3 in 2022 and took charge on September 6.

Prabhakaran has not yet reacted to the development but is expected to give his version

AIFF vice-president NA Haris told PTI that even the AIFF executive committee members were not happy with the way Prabhakaran worked

In a cryptic post on X on Monday night, Prabhakaran had hinted that all was not well within the AIFF.

'We have to remain true to our game and when we have the position of power and influence then our responsibility is far higher to do our work with sincerity and dedication without any personal interests," he

had written on his X page. 'Never allow personal interests to dominate the mind and decisions. Let's focus on our mission to transform football and make India proud. There can't be a bigger satisfaction in life than to see India shining on the pitch on a bigger stage," he

Prabhakaran was appointed at the first executive Committee meeting of the new dispensa-tion which took charge after the elections on September 2. Football Delhi president. He resigned from that post and took charge as AIFF secretary general on September 6, 2022. A meeting of the executive committee has been called here on Thursday and the members are expected to be officially apprised of the development, besides discussing

other matters. Haris said there is no need for the AIFF executive committee to ratify the decision of the president.

The post of the secretary general is a paid post and he was not appointed by the executive committee. The president has the power to appoint and remove the secretary general. So the president issued the termination letter," said Haris.

### Talisca's hat trick powers Al-Nassr to 3-2 win over Al-Duhail in Asian Champions League

#### AP DOHA (QATAR)

nderson Talisca's hat trick Agave Al-Nassr a 3-2 win over Al-Duhail in the Asian Champions League on Tuesday with Philippe Coutinho scoring both goals for the Qatari team. The victory puts the Saudi Arabian team, which rested Cristiano Ronaldo, in control of Group E with four wins from four and needing just a point from the two remaining games to reach knockout stage. Al-Duhail was eliminated

Coutinho, the former Liverpool and Barcelona star who joined Al-Duhail on loan in September, put the team ahead after eight minutes. Talisca leveled after 27 minutes and then added a second ten minutes later.

Talisca completed his hat trick just after the hour to put Al-Nassr, still searching for a first continental championship, 3-1 ahead. Coutinho converted a late penalty.

On Monday, Saudi Arabian title-holder Al-Ittihad lost 2-0 to Al Quwa Al Jawiya of Iraq. Despite the defeat, Al-Ittihad is still atop Group C with nine points from four games, two above Iranian team Sepahan, which routed AGMK of Uzbekistan 9-0. Four-time winner Al-Hilal is

without the injured Neymar



but Aleksandar Mitrovic has been in fine form.

The Serbian striker scored the second in a 2-0 win at Mumbai City, his 16th goal for the Saudi Arabian team in 16 games since joining from the English Premier League club Fulham. Brazilian forward Michael opened the scoring as Al-Hilal stayed on top of Group

The tournament is divided into two geographic halves until the final. In the eastern zone, former Manchester United star Marouane Fellaini

scored a late goal to seal Shandong Taishan's 2-0 win at Incheon United of South Korea to put the Chinese team level atop Group G with Japanese champion Yokohama F. Marinos who won 3-0 over Kaya-Iloilo of the Philippines. In Group I, Kawasaki Frontale of Japan maintained its perfect record with a fourth straight win, defeating Thailand's BG Pathum United 4-2. Two-time winner Ulsan Hyundai Horang-i of South Korea stays second despite a 2-1 loss at Johor Darul Tazim of Malaysia.

### Fans throw fake money to protest UEFA's planned Champions League reforms

**AP** ■ DORTMUND (GERMANY)

 $B^{\text{or ussia Dortmund fans}}_{\text{threw fake money and fake}}$ bars of gold onto the field during the team's 2-0 win over Newcastle in the Champions League on Tuesday to protest

UEFA's planned reforms of the Another banner depicted FIFA competition.

The supporters held a huge banner across nearly the whole length of one of the goal-ends saying, "You don't care about the sport - all you care about is

president Gianni Infantino flanked on either side by Paris Saint-Germain chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi and Juventus chairman Andrea Agnelli. The banner showed Infantino wearing a cap stating, "Cash rules every-



thing about me," while Al-Khelaifi was depicted with money stuck in his ears. A book with the title "How to kill the football" was shown between Infantino and Agnelli.

porters' group promoted the website www.Nein-zur-cl-reform.De where the group makes its case against the reforms planned by European soccer's governing body.

Another banner organized by the Südtribüne Dortmund sup
Societ's governing body.

Societ's governing body.

Societ's governing body.

Societ's governing body.

Left be consumed in Front of Bortmand deleated reweaster the screen," the supporters and group said. "This results in reaching the knockout rounds.

League. "It's about the fan in front of

the screen and an increase in the number of games that can be consumed in front of

games in the Champions higher TV revenues and therefore more money for associations and clubs - at the expense of players, fans and national competitions." Dortmund defeated Newcastle

## GILL, SIRAJ ATTAIN TOP SPOTS IN ICC ODI RANKINGS

India opener Shubman Gill and pacer Mohammed Siraj on Wednesday grabbed the top positions in the batting and bowling charts respectively in the ICC ODI

While Gill replaced Pakistan skipper Babar Azam from the top of the batters' chart, Siraj displaced South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj in the bowlers' list. Gill displaced Babar on the

back of his solid start to India's campaign at the ongoing World Cup and in the process became just the fourth player from his country behind Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Virat Kohli to hold the No.1 ODI batter ranking

The right-hander has contributed scores of 92 against Sri Lanka and 23 against South Africa over the last week, and amassed a total of 219 runs



from six innings at the ongoing tournament. Babar has totalled 282 runs

from eight knocks at the

World Cup and dropped six rating points below Gill into second place as his reign of more than two years as the

world came to an end.

No.1 ranked ODI batter in the

Among other Indian batters, Virat Kohli has risen to fourth place following his sensational run in the World Cup, while skipper Rohit Sharma is placed

Kohli is currently India's highest run-scorer, amassing 543 in eighth innings at an average of 108.60, including two centuries and four fifties.

Kohli is one rating point ahead of third-placed Quinton de Kock of South Africa. Middleorder batter Shreyas Iyer also rose 17 spots to be placed 18th in the rankings.

Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman (up three spots to 11th) and Afghanistan counterpart Ibrahim Zadran (up six spots to 12th) also made good ground.

Meanwhile among bowlers, Siraj rose to the top spot with his impressive effort so far in the tournament.

Siraj has grabbed 10 wickets so far in eighth matches at an economy rate of 5.23 to displace Maharaj from the top. Among other Indian bowlers, Bumrah has risen three spots to eighth, while Mohammed Shami jumped seven spots to be placed 10th on the chart. Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav also climbed three places to be placed fourth, while fellow tweaker Ravindra Jadeja has moved up eight rungs to the 19th spot. Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan is leading the allrounders' chart, while Jadeja is the highest-ranked Indian at the 10th spot.

Jadeja is İndia's third-highest wicket-taker in the competition so far, scalping 14 wickets from eight matches at a good economy rate of 3.76, including a fivefor. With the bat, he has piled up 111 runs in four innings at an average of 55.50.

Hardik Pandya, who will miss the remainder of the tournament after suffering an ankle injury in India's fourth match against Bangladesh, is down to 13th position.

Ackermann nicked a David

Willey delivery to Jos Buttler

Wesley Barresi (37) and Sybrand

Engelbrecht (33) tried their best

to stabilise the chase with a 55-

run stand for the third wicket

Engelbrecht was then holed out

before Baressi was run out.

behind the stumps.



#### Three teams, three days, one spot

### The riveting battle for India's semifinal rival

**PTI** ■ KOLKATA

 $F_{\text{tional victory on Tuesday}}^{\text{ollowing Australia's sensa-}}$ night that sealed their last-four clash against South Africa, it will largely be a three-way battle among New Zealand, Pakistan and Afghanistan to identify hot-favourite India's semifinal rival.

New Zealand, Pakistan and Afghanistan are on eight points each and are separated only by Net Run-Rate.

The Kiwis, who face the struggling Sri Lanka in their last group match at Bengaluru on Thursday boast the highest NRR of 0.398 among the three

The last edition's runners-up need to win by a handsome margin and hope that Pakistan (0.036) and Afghanistan (-0.038) do not win.

The Black Caps' late struggle -- they have lost four matches in a row with poor bowling -- and a rain forecast for their match in Bengaluru has added some more spice to the intriguing scenarios.

India-Pakistan semifinal at Eden?

An India-Pakistan semi-final clash on Thursday at Eden Gardens is still possible. For this to happen, Pakistan will have to play out of their skin against England here on Saturday.

The Babar Azam-led side, which is slowly getting its rhythm back, need to win big and will have the advantage of playing after New Zealand and Afghanistan's game.

Afghanistan, the tournament's

most improved team had Australia on the mat before snatching defeat from an advantageous position, take on title-contenders South Africa in Ahmedabad on Friday.

So when Pakistan take on England at Kolkata on Saturday they will have the advantage of knowing the exact run-rate equation.

For Afghanistan to qualify as the fourth team, they have to win against power-packed South Africa by a huge margin to eclipse the NRR of New Zealand and Pakistan.

But if New Zealand and Pakistan lose against Sri Lanka and England respectively, then just win against South Africa will do it for Afghanistan.

Minnows Netherlands, who produced two stunning results defeating South Africa and Bangladesh in this tournament, also have have an outside chance in terms of mathematical probability.

They are on four points and, with two matches in hand, can go to eight points.

The Dutch take on England in Pune later in the day before clashing with table-toppers India in their concluding group league match in Bengaluru on November 12.

For them to make the cut, Dutch have to produce two more massive upsets so that they can improve their negative net run-rate (-1.504), which seems too unrealistic and also hope that New Zealand, Pakistan and Afghanistan lose their respective matches by significant margins.

### Nick, the man who kept Maxwell going in his epic knock

Australia's physiotherapist Nick Jones' advise got a "dead man" stand on his feet and the result was an epic World Cup knock that will be talked about for a long time to come. Suffering multiple body cramps, Glenn Maxwell was done and wanted to retire during the World Cup match against Afghanistan on Tuesday night. His skipper Pat Cummins was not complaining either. But Jones knew that the "best

bet" for Maxwell was to just stand, minimise his running and keep going for his shots. And it worked. For both

Maxwell and Australia. Maxwell is now a proud owner of perhaps the greatest knock

201 that propelled Australia

into the semifinals. Jones, working with the Australian team for the last two years and someone who has treated Maxwell for severe cramping, advised against leaving the field because the allrounder's conditions would have only worsened in the dressing

"From there it was obvious we were fighting a losing battle," Jones told cricket.Com.Au.

room.

"That's not unusual - we see this a lot with lots of different players - but the more running you do, vou're bringing (cramps) on more regularly and more quickly. I was going out pretty regularly and I was just trying to keep him calm, trying to down-regulate everything, manage his heart rate and be as assuring as possible," he said.

Jones' told Maxwell, "If we can keep you as upright as possible, you're going to be able to keep going from now."

Maxwell had got Australia back on the reckoning, lifting the side from 91 for seven but when the side was still 55 runs away from



the finish line, Jones had to be summoned again.

"Then he went down like he was shot, lying down like a dead man on the floor," said Iones. "I got out there and it was his few other areas that were all cramping at the same time. While we were giving him a bit of a stretch out, it was in that moment he said, 'I'm done here. I can't keep going. I need to come off and retire.

"Patty was like, 'go off, get some treatment and you can always come back later

That is reasonable in some situations. But in that one, from my end, if you take someone off in that situation when their system is already depleted, and you sit them down and cool them down - you're not getting them back up.

"Their body shuts down. They often go into full body cramps and you're often not able to get any level of function out of

And then came Jones' advice. "He was struggling big time but I said to Glenn initially, 'look, I think your best bet is to get you up off the ground. 'You're lying down, other things are going to cramp, we need you up on your feet, we need to stretch the key muscle groups that are

### Stokes powers England to emphatic win

 $B^{\text{en Stokes' attacking century}}_{\text{was well complemented by}} \\ \text{the bowlers as England cantered}$ to a 160-run win over the Netherlands here on Wednesday to stay in the hunt for a place in the 2025 Champions Trophy in

Though England and Netherlands are out of reckoning for the semifinals, the contest between the two lowestplaced sides gain significance when it comes to qualifying for the Champions Trophy as only the top seven teams from the ongoing showpiece will qualify for the event.

England's batting finally clicked as they posted 339 for 9 and then the bowlers did the rest, dismissing Netherlands for 179 in 37.2

The win took England to the seventh spot in the points table on account of better run rate.

Tshan Kishan slumped to the

Ifield with a painful grunt as

Jasprit Bumrah's slightly short of

length delivery thudded onto his

stomach. It took him a few

minutes to recover and resume

the training here on Wednesday.

Shubman Gill was at his best,

while clobbering pacers Mohammed Siraj, Shardul

Thakur and Prasidh Krishna

But the Indian opener had to

restrain himself once Bumrah

tested his skills with an assort-

ment of slower balls and in the

channel outside the off-stump.

It was an optional net session

alright, but the pacer did not

drop his intensity even for a

moment. The whole 20 minutes

Bumrah spent bowling at nets

offered a good peek into his

operating philosophy in this

It is not eye-catching like

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

into the stands.



The defending champions will take on Pakistan in their last match in Kolkata on Saturday. Opting to bat, Stokes (108 off 83) initially provided the stability in the middle before opening up towards the end, while David Malan (87 off 74) got England off to a flier with his breezy knock during which he hit 10 fours and two sixes to power England to 339 for nine.

India's optional nets: Batsmen

get taste of Bumrah's craftiness

Mohammed Shami, who has

hogged all the limelight over the

last fortnight owing to his 16-

wicket burst over four matches.

Shami is an apex predator,

zooming in on the stumps and

hunting for wickets all the time.

Perhaps, no other contemporary

bowler hit the timber as often as

But Bumrah has a totally differ-

ent philosophy, something that

will thrill the connoisseurs more.

He likes to build up pressure

with dot balls and draw batsmen

Check this piece of statistics.

into mistakes.

Stokes struck six fours and as many hits over the fence, while Chris Woakes too did his bit with a 45-ball 51.

Chasing a huge target of 340, Netherlands lost their first wicket in the fifth over when Max O'Dowd gave a simple catch to Moeen Ali at mid-on off the bowling of Chris Woakes. In the next over, Netherlands

Bumrah has an economy of 3.65

across eight matches and it is the

best among bowlers who have

played at least two games in this

In this showpiece, the average

run-rate in the first Power Play

(1-10 overs) hovers around six,

but Bumrah's economy stands at

a thrifty 2.9 during this phase.

It is like a python grip. He just

doesn't give any breathing space

to the batters just as he had

restricted a free-flowing Gill on

Perhaps, being the leader of the

pack prompts Bumrah not to

chase wickets but him building

pressure at one end allows the

Īikes of Shami or Kuldeep Yadav

It is not that Bumrah is incapable

of moments of magic. He can bring out that dreaded yorker at

will, like the one crashed on to

the base of Bangladesh batter

Mahmudullah's stumps like a

heat-seeking missile.

this day at nets.

to feed on that.

were two down when Colin

Woakes at mid-on to hand Willey his second wicket of the day, while Bas de Leede played on an Adil Rashid delivery.

Willey dropped Nidamanuru (41 not out off 34) at mid-on off Atkinson in 27th over and the batter grabbed the life with both hands, clobbering Adil Rashid and Atkinson for two huge sixes over mid-on and square-leg boundary in consecutive overs

Netherlands skipper Scott Edwards and Nidamanuru then shared 59 runs for the sixth wicket before the former gave a simple catch to Willey at mid-off of Ali's bowling.

### Williamson looks at Ferguson return for New Zealand to regain bowling fire against SL

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

New Zealand's bowling unit has been underwhelming for a large part of the World Cup, and skipper Kane Williamson on Wednesday hoped returning pacer Lockie Ferguson could impart some fire to their attack alongside new ball pair Trent Boult and Tome Southee.

Ferguson had missed the last couple of games with right Achilles injury. His presence could be vital for New Zealand as they face Sri Lanka in a mustwin match here on Thursday. "He (Ferguson) balances out our attack nicely and made some really valuable contributions in the tournament and brings a bit of experience as well."

"So, naturally comes in and bowls with that high pace and it complements our new ball bowlers. So, we'll have to have a look at the surface and decide on our balance," said Williamson



during the pre-match press

Williamson backed left-arm pacer Boult to come good in the crunch game against the Lankans

Boult has taken 10 wickets from eight matches in the tournament but he really has not been to able to make an impact with the new ball as he often does.

"He's world class. The second

games that we've had, the pitches have been very good and players have been playing well. It can be quite dependent on the assistance you might get as well with the new ball?

"He's very experienced and done that on a number of occasions. There's another opportunity tomorrow for the guys to go out and operate and try and apply their skills," he added. Williamson praised batter

Rachin Ravindra for his consistent efforts in the showpiece. The 23-year-old has amassed 523 runs from eight matches with three hundreds, an unprecedented feat for a Kiwi batter in the quadrennial big

"He is clearly an amazing talent and just entered the side and walk into a World Cup and not just any World Cup but here in India and do what he's done is

that he was hitting all, guys were changing pace, he was hit-

ting that, you know, spinners

were bowling different lengths,

"Sometimes you have got to

take a cap off to a person the

way that he played, but he

should not have been allowed

to play like that. We should

have had him out earlier," Trott

he was hitting that," he said.

#### put fielders in the stands for Maxwell: Afghanistan coach Wish we could have

s Glenn Maxwell's brutal Ashots kept soaring into the Mumbai skyline, Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott wished there was a rule to station fielders in the stands as that was the only way to get

him out. Maxwell made the most of a dropped catch - a simple regulation chance at short fine leg spilled by Mujeeb Ur Rahman off Noor Ahmed - as he stroked his way to a sensational 201 not out off only 128 balls, hitting 21

fours and 10 sixes. This was after Australia being down and out at 91 for 7 in pursuit of 292. Trott, who has been heralded for taking Afghanistan to the next level in this World Cup, lamented an ordinary fielding effort shown by his players.

"I am sure there are a few things, maybe one or two things, you could have done differently but that is cricket and there are always going to be things you want to have back," Trott told the media after Afghanistan's loss. "But he kept hitting them in the

stands, so we cannot put fielders in the stands. I wish we could have," he added.

"But full credit to him, the way that he played to get a double hundred is phenomenal. He deserved to win the game; he got a double hundred," Trott continued.

ted his team did not have the right mindset even though they had the game in their grasp at one stage, having reduced Australia to 91 for seven inside 19 overs.

The Afghanistan coach admit-"I think when, obviously,



unfortunately, the second catch went down, everyone just seemed to sort of think - just waiting for him, you know, Maxwell to get out," Trott said. "I did not see a lot of encouragement or people cheering each other (on) and encouraging each other. It seemed to sort of like the attitude was a little bit, well, we will just, hopefully 'we will still win' type-thing," Trott said.

"It is not a case of when you get an opportunity against a side like Australia, you have got to grab it. They are not going to

just give it to you. And you have got to take it. If you get a chance to take it, you have got to take it," Trott added. Trott also conceded that there

was not much they have could have done as a bowling unit given the shots that Maxwell played all around the park. You know, could we have

tried maybe wider yorkers when he was cramping up, could we have done things differently? I just saw the same delivery over and over again, which is..." he said. "You have got to remember

said.

Trott reminded the Afghanistan players that the game of cricket can bite one back at any stage and it is not important to take the eve off the ball.

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