OPINION 6

INDIA'S RELIEF EFFORTS

CAPTIVATES NEPAL

WORLD 9

NUKE ON GAZA CRITICISED

ISRAEL'S THREAT OF DROPPING

MONEY 10

WHOLESALE INFLATION IN NEGATIVE

TERRITORY FOR 7TH MONTH

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> DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA Late City Vol.33 Issue 315

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

DOMINANCE OF INDIA VS NZ'S **PERSEVERANCE** 12 SPORT

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the pioneer

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Murkhon Ke Sardar, jeers Modi Efforts on to drill escape

PM slams Rahul for claiming 'everyone in India has Chinese phones'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dubbed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as the "Murkhon ke Sardar" (chief of fools) during an election campaign rally in Betul in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. While addressing the public, Modi criticised the Gandhi scion for falsely claiming that only "made in China" phones are available in India.

"Yesterday, I heard that an expert from the Congress party claimed that everyone in India has a 'made in China' cell phone. The expert said that all phones in India are made in China. Murkhon ke Sardar (Lord of Fools), where do these people live in this world? Congress leaders have developed a mental illness of undermining the achievements of the country," Modi lambasted Rahul without explicitly mentioning his name.

Modi also took potshots at Rahul's frequent mysterious foreign trips, saying, "I don't know about the foreign spectacles they wear that make them unable to see the development in the country. The truth is that today, India is the secondlargest manufacturer of mobile phones in the world. When Congress was at the Centre, mobiles worth less than ₹20,000 crore were manufactured every year in India. Today, mobile phones worth



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a public meeting in Jhabua ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly

₹3.5 lakh crore are made in

India," the PM said. The former Congress president, in an election rally, had remarked that the mobile phones in people's pockets were "Made in China" and suggested they should be "Made in Madhya Pradesh". "India exports mobile phones worth approximately ₹1 lakh crore to other countries."

The PM stated that those who only remember "Make in India" before the election season do not understand the importance of Swadeshi. In his election campaign speech, Modi also highlighted that people are now "vocal for local" and have purchased India-made products worth ₹4.4 lakh crores during Diwali.

'Congress leaders don't know what to say to the people. The Congress has accepted that their fake promises don't stand a chance in front of Modi's guarantees," he said.

The PM announced that the Centre will launch a scheme worth ₹24,000 crore for the welfare of tribals in the country on Wednesday, coinciding with the entire nation celebrating Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary.

Modi noted the significant presence of people on the last day of his campaign for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections scheduled for November 17, stating that it is an indication that the BJP's victory is assured in these polls.

hole in Uttarkashi tunnel

 $E_{\text{cue 40 labourers who have}}^{\text{fforts are underway to res-}}$ been trapped for two days inside a section of a collapsed under-construction tunnel in Uttarkashi. On Tuesday, rescue workers commenced the operation by inserting broad steel pipes through the debris in an

effort to save them.

Drilling to insert the pipes has begun with the help of an "auger machine", Uttarkashi District Magistrate Abhishek Ruhela told reporters.

"If everything goes as planned, the trapped labourers will be evacuated by Wednesday," he said after visiting the tunnel and taking an update on the operations from officials at the site. Most of the day went into preparing a platform inside the tunnel to position the auger machine for drilling through the rubble. The drilling machine and the pipes arrived at the site early on Tuesday. The plan is to push through

both 800 mm and 900mm diametre sections of mild steel pipes, one after the other, into the rubble using drilling equipment and create an escape passage for the workers who, the officials said, are safe and being provided with oxygen, water, food packets and medicines through tubes.

There are eight 900-millimetre diametre pipes with a length of six metres each and five pipes of 800 millimetre diametre of



Rescue and relief operations underway after a portion of a tunnel under construction between Silkyara and Dandalgaon on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri national highway collapsed, in Uttarkashi district, on Tuesday

Emergency Operation Centre

"According to the latest update, all 40 labourers trapped inside are safe and sound," Superintendent of Police (Uttarkashi) Arpan Yaduvanshi told reporters after a visit to the site. He said some medicines have been supplied as one of the trapped workers was feeling nauseous.

The son of Gabbar Singh Negi, one of the trapped labourers, was allowed to speak to his father for a formal distance of the speak to hi father for a few seconds on Tuesday.

"He said they are safe. He asked us not to worry," said

the same length, the State A local priest was asked to perform a puja for the early and safe evacuation of the trapped

> workers. A part of the tunnel being built between Silkyara and Dandalgaon on Brahmakhal-Yamunotri National Highway caved in on Sunday following a landslide. The 30-metre collapsed section is 270 metres from the mouth of the tunnel from the Silkyara side, the State Emergency Operation Centre in Dehradun

> Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is constantly taking updates on the progress of rescue operations, the statement said.

Dabur bosses booked No relief in Delhi pollution in Mahadev app scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

been implicated in the multicrore online Mahadev betting case. The Mumbai Police has registered a case against 32 individuals, including Gaurav Burman, the Director of Dabur, and Mohit Burman, the company chairman, in connection with the Mahadev betting app, citing various sections related to fraud and gambling. Gaurav Burman is the controlling shareholder of Dabur India.

According to the FIR, Mohit Burman is listed at number 16, while Gaurav Burman is at number 18 as accused in the case registered at Matunga Police Station.

There is an FIR against 31 named individuals, with an unknown person mentioned at number 32. The FIR was filed on November 7 based on a complaint by social activist Prakash Bankar.

Actor Sahil Khan's name appears as accused number 26 in the FIR. Sahil Khan is accused of running another

Mahadev's online betting app. The FIR states, "Sahil is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit and household name in only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit and household name in only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit and household name in only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused of promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused on the promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused to the promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused to the promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused to the promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused to the promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused to the promotion but also of earning substantial profusit is not only accused to the promotion but also only accused to the promotion but also only accused to the promotion but also between the promotion but also between the promotion its by operating the app

Sahil Khan was seen in a video from a party of an online betting app in Dubai. This case has been registered for running a betting app named "Khiladi". Despite media reports, a spokesperson for the Burman family has dismissed the accusations as "baseless," noting that they coincided with their bid to acquire Religare Enterprises.

'We have not received any formal communication regarding any such FIR. However, we have seen the FIR being circulated to media houses. The FIR is patently false and baseless. Nothing could be further from the truth than what is wrongly stated in the FIR," the Dabur spokesperson stated.

The spokesperson also asserted that the FIR was a "step provoked by vested interests in an attempt to block the acquisition of Religare Enterprises Limited by the Burman family."

According to the information, social worker Bankar has

betting app related to claimed that people have been On November 2, the ED defrauded to the tune of received intelligence input that

In the FIR, the complaint also

mentions that the accused,

Saurabh Chandrakar, is associated with several influential personalities and senior political leaders affiliated with the Congress. The FIR mentions that one of the accused, Saurabh Chandrakar, actively participated in match-fixing to earn profits through unofficial means, and the role of the Burmans will be investigated. Directorate Enforcement (ED) is investigating the Mahadev Book Online Betting APP syndicate in which the promoters of this betting syndicate are allegedly sitting abroad and remotely running

thousands of panels across India with the help of their friends and associates. According to the ED, it has already arrested four accused persons and seized proceeds of crime worth more than ₹450 crore. A prosecution complaint has been filed against 14

accused persons

Assembly Elections scheduled for November 7 and 17.

ED conducted searches at Hotel Triton and another location in Bhilai and intercepted a cash courier, Asim Das, who was sent from the UAE specifically to deliver a large amount of cash for the electioneering

expenses of the Congress. The ED claims that from the questioning of Asim Das, and from the forensic examination of the phone recovered from him, and examination of an email sent by one of the highranking accused of the Mahadev network, many startling allegations have come forth. Namely, regular payments have allegedly been made in the past, and so far, around ₹508 crore have been paid by Mahadev App promoters to Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

At an election rally on Monday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Government over the scam.

the

attacked

national Capital on Tuesday. Based on data provided by nine out of the 40 monitoring ity index was recorded at 397 at 4 pm, worsening from 358 on Monday and 218 on Sunday. Rest of the monitoring stations failed to generate enough data for indexing, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's mobile application

Air pollution levels hit the severe category (AQI above 400) at many places within the city, including Pusa Delhi (501), ITI Jehangirpuri 463, ITO (427), RK Puram (422), Punjabi Bagh (423), Anand Vihar (439) and Nehru Nagar

Neighbouring Ghaziabad (356), Gurugram (386), Greater Noida (348), Noida (364) and Faridabad (384) too recorded very poor air quality. According to IQAir, a Swiss company that specialises in air quality monitoring, Delhi was the most polluted city in the world on Tuesday.

Mumbai and Kolkata ranked fifth and 10th among the most

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi continues to grapple with toxic air as the air quality remained "severe" across several places in the



Mobile anti-smog guns spray water to curb air pollution after their flag-off by Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai at Delhi

polluted cities in the world. Even as the people of Delhi reeled under severe air pollution conditions, the AAP and the BIP have accused each other for the current situation in the national Capital.

Secretariat in New Delhi on Tuesday

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai reiterated that people associated with the BJP are offering "absurd" justifications

for supporting firecracker bursting during Diwali, which resulted in a sharp spike in pollution levels in the national capital. Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has blamed rise in stubble burning in AAP ruled Punjab for pollution in the national Capital. BJP MP

Gautam Gambhir said the dis-

cussion on pollution should not be done only during Diwali but all around the year.

The AAP Government has listed a slew of measuresm including sprinkling of water in all the 70 Assembly constituencies and stepped up monitoring of BS-3 Petrol and BS-4 Diesel vehicles and their entry into Delhi is prohibited.

Officer under fire as lost gold mystery unveiled

Baghel

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A consignment containing gold and other precious metals worth lakhs of rupees, seized from Old Delhi Railway Station in 2014, now has a mysterious story that could potentially implicate a top Delhi Government officer.

During the movement of files, the records pertaining to the said seizure caught the attention of the Department of Trade and Taxes. Following this, the officer has been tracked.

Initial probes have found that crucial details such as the owner, origin, and the actual quantity of gold and silver remain shrouded in mystery. What is alarming is the "missing" 12 kg of gold, 36 kg of silver, and ₹7 lakh in currency from the bundles

Surprisingly, these were stored in a conference room at Vyapar Bhawan, instead of being documented in a vault.

A lapse ensued as a five-day delay in inventory creation raised eyebrows, leaving the nation in the dark about the magnitude of the seized treasures. Now, nearly a decade later, a DANICS officer may face heat for alleged lapses.

There was no justification for why the inventory was not made for five days after its seizure in 2014. It remains a mystery what the actual quantity of gold and silver seized on March 01, 2014, is.

Moreover, at one point, the Chief Secretary and Chief Minister recommended disciplinary action. However, things went topsy-turvy when the Deputy Chief Minister recorded that no action could be action against the officer

taken without knowing the status of the investigation by the Delhi Police.

The report of the Principal Secretary (Home) pointed out mistakes on the part of senior officers, ranging from Joint Commissioner Commissioner.

One officer was chargesheeted and subsequently got exonerated. Another officer was given premature retirement under 56(j) (Om Karan, Asst. Commissioner), but he was reinstated Representation Committee.

Recently, the junior staff put up a file before the bosses to close the case in the absence of an actual complainant. However, a chance discovery of a file noting made the Directorate of Vigilance reexamine the file and recommend disciplinary



involved in this case.

The vigilance directorate, in an agenda document for the NCCSA meeting (date yet to be announced), has said that a proposal for action against three officers is being sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs after the approval of the Lieutenant Governor, as they are currently posted outside

According to the Directorate of

Vigilance's (DoV) agenda doc-ument, a probe by then-Principal Secretary (Home) Archana Arora revealed "supervisory lapses" on the part of two IAS and one DAN-ICS (Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Island Civil Services) officers who were serving at the Trade and Taxes department at the time of the theft.

Acting on a tip-off, an enforcement team from the Trade and Taxes department seized 16 kg of gold, 200 kg of silver, and currency notes worth ₹33 lakh from two porters at the Old Delhi Railway Station on March 1, 2014.

The valuables in 24 bundles were later moved to a temporary safe place and then transferred for safekeeping to a room on the 13th floor of the Trade and Taxes department building on March 9, 2014.

The probe report by the then-Principal Secretary (Home) identified various lapses, such as no details of the porters being taken and no efforts made to contact railway authorities to determine the owners and recipients of the parcel through which the gold and silver items were brought into Delhi. The report also noted that

from the date of seizure on March 1, 2014, to March 5, 2014, no inventory of the seized items was prepared. Later, the inventory was completed on March 11, 2014, indicating that approximately 16 ks of gold, 200 kg of silver, and currency worth ₹33 lakh were seized from the railway station. The total value of the seized items was roughly calculated to be more than ₹8 crore.

"On the night of May 9, 2014,

valuables, including 12 kg of gold, 36 kg of silver, besides currency notes worth ₹7.36 lakh, were stolen," said a senior government officer. An FIR was registered for the theft the next day. Later, in June

2014, an inquiry was handed over to the then-Principal Secretary (Home) by the Chief Secretary. It was alleged that the report of

the Principal Secretary (Home), which assigned responsibility to the officers concerned and highlighted lapses on their part, was not shown to the Lieutenant Governor, according to officers. It was also reported that no CCTV cameras were installed where the seized valuables were kept, and it was being watched by only two security guards. 'Interestingly, a senior officer recorded on the file of the mat-

be deposited with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence or Customs Authorities. Still, this note was subsequently double-pasted, recommending storing the same in the conference hall of the Trade and Taxes Building," the Delhi Government officer While there is no clue as to

ter that the seized items could

where the gold and silver came from and where they were heading, the vigilance department, which was probing the charges of irregularities by the tax officials, has recommended disciplinary action against the DANICS officer currently serving in the Delhi Government.

The officer was serving as a Joint Commissioner at the Trade and Taxes department at the time of the theft."

EC notice to Priyanka, Kejriwal for remarks on Modi in poll campaign

The Election Commission on Tuesday issued a showcause notice to the Aam Aadmi Party for alleged disparaging remarks made against the Prime Minister on its social media handle and asked it to respond to the charge of model code violation by November

The notice has been issued to the national convener of the AAP. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is the national convener of the AAP, which is in power in Delhi and

The BJP had on November 10 approached the Election Commission and demanded action against the AAP for posting "very unacceptable" and "unethical" video clip and

The elected public represen-

L tatives of Jammu Municipal

Corporation (JMC) Tuesday

ioined the league of their coun-

terparts in Srinagar after their

existing term ended on

Besides two Municipal

Corporations, the terms of a few

other Urban local bodies will

expire by the end of this month

By December 26, all 76 ULBs

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sangeeta W/o Amit Goval,

R/o H-34, Sector-11, Noida

have changed my name

Sangeeta to Sangeeta Goyal

अधिकार अध्यक्ष, निविदा समिति को होगा।

स्थान का विवरण

कैलाश गेट पर नगर पालिका दुकानों व

पी0डब्ल्यु०डी० कार्यालय के समीप तिराहे

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नगर पालिका परिषद मुनिकीरेती डमपिं

खाराश्रोत पार्किंग के दोनो गेट पर होर्डिंग

खाराश्रोत पार्किंग जाने वाले तिराहे पर

9 भद्रकाली मन्दिर रोड पर यात्री शेड

10 माता भद्र काली मन्दिर के समीप होर्डिंग

11 कबटियाल मन्दिर से आगे मोड पर

12 पुराने आर.टी.ओ. कार्यालय के समीप

13 रिलायंस पेट्रोल पंप के सामने (दोन

14 ढालवाला पुल पर दायें ओर होर्डिंग

15 ढालवाला पुल पर बायें ओर होर्डिंग

17 शत्रुघ्न घाट के समीप होर्डिंग (दोनो

नगर क्षेत्रान्तर्गत स्थित स्ट्रीट लाइट के पोल

पर कियोस्क होर्डिंग विज्ञापन (माता

भद्रकाली मंदिर से पी0डब्लू0डी० तिराहे तक

16 | 14 बीघा में पुल के समीप होर्डिंग ।

होर्डिंग

पास होर्डिंग

मोड पर होर्डिंग।

(दोनों साइड)।

(दोनो साइड)।

18 जानकी सेतु पर होर्डिंग

19 रामझूला के सामने।

20 सार्वजनिक शौचालय।

जानकी सेत् पर एल0ई0डी0

2 रामझूला पार्किंग पर एल0ई0डी०

समीप होर्डिंग (दोनो साइड)।

पात्रंक 912/विज्ञापन शूल्क वसूली/2023-24 संशोधित निविदा सूचना

for all future purpose.

November 14.

or in December.



across I&K will cease to exist. castes as per the new arrange-

tions.

remarks on a social media platform targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The AAP on Wednesday last had posted a video story on 'X' featuring industrialist Gautam Adani and Prime Minister Modi. The next day, the party posted a picture of Adani and Modi, and alleged that the prime minister works for the industrialist and not the peo-

corporation terms end

After the expiry of the terms

of ULBs, the Mayors, Deputy

presidents lose their power.

The powers vested with them

get transferred to Commissioners (in case of JMC and SMC) and

Administrators or Executive

Officers in the case of Municipal Councils and

As per the prevailing circum-

stances the Urban local body polls are most likely to be held

after the Lok Sabha polls in

Until the fresh elections are

held the common people will have to make a beeline outside

the offices of the babus to get

Before announcing the poll

schedule, the election author-

ities are mandated to complete

the fresh delimitation of

municipal wards across the

twin capital cities of Jammu

and Srinagar, extend the reser-

नगर पालिका परिषद, मुनिकीरेती-ढालवाला दिहरी गढ़वाल

एतत द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर पालिका परिषद, मुनिकीरेती ढालवाला द्वारा नगर क्षेत्र में

विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करने हेतु विज्ञापन एजेंसियो से विज्ञापन शुल्क वसूली के कार्य हेतु अपने पत्रांक संख्या—909 / निविदा

सूचना / 2023–24 दिनांक 10.11.2023 में निम्नलिखित संशोधन किया जाता है जिस हेतु इच्छुक ठेकेदारी / फर्मी /

कम्पनियों से निविदायें कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, मुनिकीरेती–ढालवाला में दिनांक 28.11.2023 को अपरान्ह 02:00

बर्ज तक निविदा दो लिफाफा प्रणाली (Double bid system) के अन्तर्गत ''तकनीकी भाव पत्र'' (Technicial Bid

एवं "वित्तीय भाव पत्र" (Financial Bid) के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो कि उसी दिन सायं 04:00

बजे निविदा समिति के द्वारा निविदादाताओं के सम्मुख खोली जायेंगी तकनीकी बिड में सफल निविदादाताओं की ही

वित्तिय बिड निविदा द्वितीय चरण में खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र पालिका कार्यालय, मुनिकीरेती ढालवाला पर से दिनांक

25.11.2023 तक 04:00 बजे तक निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य जी०एस०टी० सहित कुल कार्यालय में नगद जमा कर प्राप्त किये ज

सकते है। कार्य सम्बन्धी विस्तृत सूचना स्थान का विवरण एवं अन्य निविदा शर्ते निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ संलग्न है जो कि

कार्यालय, मुनिकीरेती – ढालवाला में किसी भी कार्यदिवस में देखी जा सकती है एवं पालिका की वेबसाईट

www.nppmunikireti.in पर देखी जा सकती हैं निविदा को बिना कारण बताये स्वीकृत / अस्वीकृत / निरस्त करने क

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संख्या साई्ज वर्ग

vation to the Other backward

their work. done.

Committees.

Mayors, presidents and vice-

Jammu Municipal

A BJP delegation, comprising Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, party national media incharge and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni and party

leader Om Pathak, approached

the poll panel on the issue. "From its official handle, the AAP has posted a video and two tweets (posts on X) in which it has said very unacceptable, reprehensible, mischievous and unethical things

ment, remove discrepancies in

the electoral rolls as brought

out by the various stakehold-

ers while filing their objec-

The election authorities in

Jammu and Kashmir while

completing the summary revi-

sion of the electoral rolls ahead

of the Urban local body polls

have invited objections from

the electorate and political

parties to ensure transparen-

cy. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday felicitated the

Councilors of Jammu

Municipal Corporation and

commended their efforts for

selflessly serving people, fighting the COVID-19 pandemic,

and ensuring municipal ser-

He said the elections for Urban

Local Bodies (ULBs) would be

held after completing the

delimitation exercise of wards

and reserving wards for other

Backward Classes.

vices in respective areas.

ed head of the government," Puri told reporters after raising the issue with the EC.

"It is saying in it (these posts) that a democratically elected leader, who happens to be the prime minister, is a paid employee of some individual," the Union minister said and added this act of the AAP was a new low in politics. Also, the EC on Tuesday issued

a show-cause notice to Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for allegedly making unverified and false statements with regard to

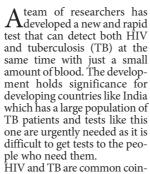
Acting on a complaint made by the BJP that she had made "false" and "unverified" statements against Modi at an election rally in Madhya Pradesh recently, the poll panel asked her to explain her statements by

In its representation to the poll panel, the BJP had accused Priyanka of making a "baseless and false" claim that the Modi Government had privatised public sector undertakings (PSUs).

In its notice to the AAP, the EC stated, "The national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party is hereby called upon to explain the statements/ allegations/ averments, made in the alleged social media posts under reference, against a star campaigner of another national party and against the political party and by insinuation and innuendo against the candidates for the state elections and to show cause why appropriate action for violation of model code of conduct read with relevant election and penal laws should not be taken against you.

Rapid test can detect HIV, TB at same time

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE



fections, meaning they often occur together. One of the symptoms of HIV is a suppressed immune system, which makes patients more likely to contract infections like TB. In fact, the HIV-infected population is at the highest risk of contracting TB.

The researchers said that the test targets HIV and TB antigens in the blood and uses mass spectrometry to detect the viral and bacterial loads. One of the important aspects of this test is that it allows doctors to track the levels of both HIV and TB in a patient as they undergo treatment, meaning they can intervene quickly if a certain treatment isn't working.

In a paper published in Clinical Chemistry, researchers led by Tony Hu, Weatherhead Presidential Chair in director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Diagnostics at Tulane University School of Medicine, said that the new blood-based test can not only detect the two diseases but also measure their viral and bacterial loads in patients.

"For HIV patients, their immune system is very weak, and once they are infected, they can't confront the bacteria very well, so that's why there is this urgent need to bring a blood-based TB tests to them," Hu said. "For the TB-infected

patients, they worry, 'Why did get TB? Is it because I have HIV?' So, this is a multiplex detection to cover both

Typically, TB tests are done by bacterial culture of sputum, which takes a long time and can be impractical when patients are in urgent need of treatment. Sputum, a mixture of saliva and mucus, is also a product of immune response and thus not an option for patients who have HIV, because of their suppressed immune systems. This blood-based test avoids the need for sputum and allows patients with HIV to be tested for TB. It also only requires 200 microliters of blood, which is

only a few drops. By combining these tests, "you can save costs and save time," Hu said. "You cannot treat them simultaneously. You have to TB," Hu said. "If you treat HIV first, you may boost the TB bacterial load?

This condition, where treating one disease causes a resurgence in the other, is called immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome, or IRIS. The speed of this test means that doctors can catch this earlier and change a patient's treatment plan for better patient outcomes

Hu hoped that this pilot study will be able to move to clinical trials soon to get the tests FDA



"Our children and we have not eaten a single gulp of grain for the past 36 hours and ... but for some brothers of the media who purchased us biscuit packets these little ones would have been starving ... and all these in front of the police which watched the village go up in flames for more than 3 hours from a distance and then intervened with small buckets of water for video footages," said Munna Sheikh a daily wager who was crying relentlessly after losing the entire earning of his life.

True, with not a soul in sight and no trace of human activi-"In a matter of hours we have ty this South 24 Parganas village bears the silence of a been rendered into beggars ... and now they are threatening us not to return to our village Another old woman who was given a broken leg recollects how "I was playing with my grandchild when they charged

... they have said that in the coming years they will till our lands and milk our cattle ... tell me what will we do sir ... I don't know where my brothers are ... who will help us," he cries on. "Much of this is because we are CPI(M) and have refused to submit to their diktats," said one of about 50-60 victims taking shelter at a district CPI(M) office at Baruipur some 35 km from Kolkata. "If you are from Laal party (CPI(M) then you are destined to be killed ...that is TMC's law ... Didi's justice,"

The arson and loot took place after the murder of Saifuddin Laskar --- a TMC toughie and a zonal party president ---which TMC strongman and MLA Shaukat Molla claimed to be a handiwork of the Marxists. We have reports that the CPI(M) got our leader killed as they wanted to capture this area politically by killing Saifuddin who is a popular leader." Regardless of his claims, sub-

sequent reports filtering out of the police closet suggest the murder to be a result of inner fighting within the ruling outfit. "The family members of one of the murderers who were subsequently lynched by the mob and another hit man who was arrested and presently in police custody claim that they were active TMC men," a former police officer who recently retired from his service

"This is a fight between three local TMC MLAs for the control of the massive syndicate that ranges from earth quarrying, to extortion rackets to other underworld activities ... after having killed the rival leader the mastermind found it easy to direct the mob anger to a village where the CPI(M) still has some followers ... or else in most of the villages the people are not allowed to speak ... their votes are cast by the TMC goons," CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabrty said.

Chakrabarty and other senior Left leaders on Tuesday tried to lead the evicted villagers back to their homes but were restrained by the police. "We will wait for two days and if these people are not allowed to return to their village with proper security then there will be a bigger movement,"

BJP to release Raj manifesto on Thursday: **Union Minister**

burnt and livestock herded

Rina Khantun (name changed)

describes how her 5-year-old

child was thrown into the

pond by the attackers. "Some

300-400 of them ... who came

charging at the village from all directions ... hurling bombs fir-

ing in the air and pelting stones

lives through the paddy fields

they attacked women ... set our

houses to fire and took away our livestock ... When I protest-

ed they threw my child in the pond," says Khatun.

in ... and upon seeing our men fleeing simply seized the little

one and tossed him in the pond

... when I was protesting they hit my legs with iron rods and

... they did not allow the injured

to be taken to the hospital."

Says Babu Sheikh, a 10-year-

old who was hiding with his

mother in a paddy field how

the fire "brigade uncle's" were

stopped from entering the burning village.

graveyard.

.. as our men ran away for their

away by the raiders.

PTI KOTA (RAJASTHAN)

 $B^{\text{JP} \text{ president JP Nadda will}}_{\text{release the party's election}}$ manifesto for Rajasthan in Jaipur on Thursday.

Senior BJP leader and Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said Nadda will release the party's 'Sankalp Patra' (manifesto) on Thursday at 11 am. The manifesto is based on the suggestions of more than one crore people through the party's outreach programmes social media platforms, he

Meghwal was speaking to media persons at the Kota airport on Tuesday morning before leaving for campaigning at Ramganj Mandi and Ladpura Assembly seats of the district.

On the question of "delay" in releasing the manifesto, Meghwal said it was not a delay; the party adopted an outreach programme, which meant public participation, to prepare its 'Sankalp Patra.'

Raut seeks action over misuse of **Lord Ram in poll**

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

A ccusing the ruling BJP of "misusing" the name of Lord Rama in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut on Tuesday asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to initiate action against it for "violating" the code of conduct for the polls.

Amid the ongoing electioneering in five Assembly pollund states. Raut flag issue of senior leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's poll promise that if the BJP was voted back to power in Madhya Pradesh it "would take all the voters in the state' free of cost to Ayodhya for darshan at the upcoming Lord Ram temple there,

Dubbing the BJP's invocation of Lord Ram in its campaign was nothing but religious propaganda which was a "blatant" violation of poll conduct, Raut said: "I have heard the statements by Shah and other leaders saying that if their party is voted back to power in MP, they would facilitate a free of cost darshan of Lord Ram at Ayodhya. This is religious propaganda. This is a blatant violation of the poll conduct".

Charging that the BJP was projecting that it had a monopoly over Lord Ram, Raut said: "This is disgusting. The entire Narendra Modi cabinet and BJP Central leadership is camping in MP. The BJP leaders are openly invoking Lord Ram's name in their campaign to garner votes. The BJP is behaving as if it has a monopoly over Lord Ram. Lord Ram Lalla belongs to the entire country and world".

"By saying that if their party is voted back to power in MP they would take all the people



to Ram Mandir for a darshan at Ayodhya free of cost, they are implying that if the party loses power in the state that the people would be prevented from going to Ayodhya temple," the Sena (UBT) leader

Accusing the BJP of indulging in "religious propaganda" and seeking to divide the people on the issue of Lord Ram, Raut said: "The BJP leaders should apologise to the Lord Ram and also the people across the country for undertaking a campaign on religious lines. The Election Commission should take serious cognisance of religious propaganda indulged in by the BJP in MP and take immediate action against the

the losing tempo and lack of enthusiasm within the Opposition INDIA front, Raut said that once the Assembly polls in five states were over in December, the United Opposition leaders would sit across and hammer out "seatsharing" arrangements in various states. "We will adopt a give-and-take formula in the seat-sharing process," he said.

Scotching speculation about

BJP tries to woo Yadavs in Bihar Union minister of state for that Yadavs, comprising 14 per cent of the total population,

PTI PATNA

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(रोशन रतूड़ी)

The opposition BJP in Bihar ■ on Tuesday organised a huge function aimed at wooing Yadavs, the state's most populous caste, who have been steadfast in their support to the ruling RJD. The 'Yaduvanshi Milan

Samaroh' was held at the Bapu Sabhagar auditorium in the city, on the occasion of Govardhan Puja, a festival associated with Lord Krishna whose descendants the Yadavs believe themselves to be. Attendees to the function

acknowledged Nityanand Rai,

Home and a former state BJP president, as the "inspiration" behind the event, which was well received on social media as "Yadav with Modi" trended on X for several hours.

In his speech, Rai slammed RJD president Lalu Prasad claiming that he failed to improve the condition of Yadavs despite having ruled Bihar for a long, and cited the recently released report of the caste survey which had stated that less than 2 per cent of the OBC group's total population was in government jobs. Notably, the survey also stated

Moreover, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, widely regarded as the BJP's principal strategist, alleged at a rally earlier this month that numbers of Yadavs and Muslims, both said to be die-hard RJD supporters, were "inflated", an observation that is understood

are the single largest caste in

Bihar though the finding has

often been contested by those

in the BJP which counts on the

upper castes as its core support

to have ruffled many feathers ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

40 Myanmar soldiers who fled to Mizoram sent back

PTI AIZAWL

t least 40 of the 43 AMyanmarese soldiers, who fled to Mizoram after militia group People's Defence Force overran two military bases in the neighbouring country's Chin state, were handed over to the Myanmar military gov-ernment on Tuesday, an official

district on Monday after the

He said the soldiers approached Mizoram police at Zokhawthar in Champhai

PDF raided the two military bases at Rihkhawdar and Khawmawi in Chin state. "Forty Myanmarese soldiers fled to Zokhawthar and approached Mizoram police on Monday, while three others did the same on Tuesday," the official told PTI

He said around 40 Myanmar soldiers were handed over to Assam Rifles, which in turn handed them over to the Myanmar military government at Tamu in Myanmar on

Gujarat girl rescued from UP within 48 hours of abduction for ₹1 cr ransom Delhi, he said.

The Gujarat Police has rescued a 14-year-old girl from Uttar Pradesh within 48 hours of her being kidnapped from Navsari district for a ransom of Rs 1 crore and arrested four persons involved in the crime, an official said on Tuesday.

Chandrasekhar said. The police caught Samir Pathan, The accused allegedly abduct-Abhishekh Čhaudhary and ed the girl from the Gandevi area of Navsari on November Pradeep Chaudhary from a bus 10, and made WhatsApp calls to near Lucknow and arrested her parents demanding Rs 1 crore, inspector-general of another accused Mohit Chaudhary from a slum in



police (Surat range)

the WhatsApp calls and Snapchat details, and with the help of the police in Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, the girl was rescued near Lucknow within 48 hours of being kidnapped, the official The Navsari police first learnt

Based on technical analysis of

that the victim was being taken to Rajasthan by train and sought the help of the Government Railway Police (GRP) in the neighbouring state, he said.

130 पोल एवं आस्था पथ पर 60 पोल) । (तनवीर सिंह मारवाह) अधिशासी अधिकारी,

Woman dies, 25 rescued in sweet shop fire in Shakarpur

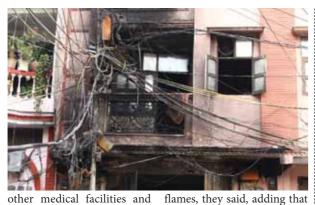
woman died after a fire Abroke out inside a sweet shop in East Delhi's Shakarpur early on Tuesday, trapping 25 people inside the premises. According to Delhi Fire Services (DFS), 26 people were rescued They said the fire started in the

building's parking area in the early hours of the day and soon engulfed the entire structure. The woman, identified as Anita, died of burn injuries at a hospital, the officials said, adding that another person, Naresh Nagar, suffered a frac-ture in his leg after jumping off the first floor of the burning

A total of 25 people were rescued, along with two pets, by Delhi Fire Service (DFS) personnel, they said. "We got a fire call at about 1.05 am... We immediately pressed three fire engines to service. Later, five more fire engines were rushed informed to the police immediately," a DFS official said.

The fire department officials said the blaze was brought under control around 8.35 am. They said 31 people were trapped inside the building when it was engulfed in flames. Five of them jumped off the balconies to save themselves and the rest were brought out of the building by firefighters,

the officials said.
They added that 10 people were rushed to hospitals such as the Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital, Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Hospital and



CAT ambulances, a BSES team

and a crime and forensics team

were also pressed into service.

"All those injured, including a

fireman, were rushed to LBS,

GTB and Hedgewar Hospital.

Initial inquiry revealed that a

fire broke out due to a short cir-

cuit in the parking area on the

ground floor. The fire started

from the parking area and

soon engulfed the first floor.

The residents of the floors

above sustained injuries due to

excessive heat and smoke,

DCP Amrutha Guguloth said.

Of the five men and four

women who received injuries,

one Anita (40) died, police said,

adding that another person

jumped off the first floor and

fractured his leg. Four cars, 11 two-wheelers and three bicycles

parked on the ground floor

were gutted, they said. "An FIR

under sections 304-A (causing death by negligence) and 337

(causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of

others) of the IPC has been reg-

istered and further investiga-

tion into the matter has been

launched," Guguloth added.

other medical facilities and one woman died during treat-

"During the rescue operation, Samay Singh of the DFS suffered breathing problems and was immediately taken to a nearby hospital," an official said, adding that he was later discharged after first-aid. Identities of the victims are being ascertained, DFS officials

Police have registered an FIR in connection with the incident and launched an investigation. Around 1 am on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, information was received regarding a fire in a car in Ganesh Nagar II, Shakarpur,

A police team reached the spot and an inquiry revealed that a fire broke out in a five-storey building having a parking lot and eight flats with single entry and exit points, they said.

Police said the fire started on the left side of the building which has the parking lot on the ground floor and four flats. A total of 17 fire tenders reached the spot to douse the

Power cables, lack of water, onlookers pose challenge to firefighting

ack of water, low-hanging _electricity wires and the problem of onlookers who get in the way of rescue operations; these are some of the challenges that firefighters faced while trying to douse a blaze in an east Delhi building on Tuesday that claimed the life of a woman.

"After getting message at around 1.05 am, we initially sent three fire vehicles to the location. As the fire was major five more fire engines were pressed into service. Later, more than 20 fire engines were rushed to the spot as the flames engulfed the entire left side of the building," Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg

The major challenges the DFS had to face was that there was no water source at the spot so fire vehicles struggled to

"A large number of people thronged to the location just to see that what is happening. Our teams had to repeatedly request people to give them space so that they could rescue people and rush them to nearby hospitals," Garg said.



electricity lightings due to Diwali festival and narrow streets are also major problems we faced during our rescue operation," the DFS chief said. He added that another major problem the fire department faces is traffic. But since the Shakarpur incident happened late at night, there was no traffic on the street, Garg said.

"Beside that spectators must understand that in emergency conditions like fire they must stay away as firefighters need proper space to help others. In such conditions, LPG cylinders can also blow and the fire can engulf the entire area. These locations are densely populated and people's safety too is a concern," Garg added.

Man throws 3-year-old from balcony, jumps with family from second floor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A man threw his three-year-old child from the second-floor balcony of a building where a fire broke out in Shakarpur area of Laxmi Nagar early morning here on Tuesday before jumping with his elder son and wife. All four family members are currently undergoing treatment, three of them

Kamal Tiwari (40), a resident of the five-storey building in east Delhi, wrapped his threeyear-old child in a blanket and threw him from the balcony to save him from the fire that had already engulfed the entrance of his house.

Immediately after, he jumped with his 12-year-old son and wife Priyanka (36) to escape the

"The family was sleeping when they smelt smoke coming from the entrance of the flat. By the time they realised that the building had caught fire, it was too late. The entrance was completely engulfed in fire so they couldn't escape," Sanjay Garg, a relative, said.
"They had no choice but to

jump," he said. Garg said that they got to know that the fire started from the ground floor which later spread to the other floors. "Priyanka took water from the washroom and



poured it on the rest of them in the house. She also poured it around in the room to prevent the fire from spreading. She did this for half an hour," he said. Later, their elder son suggested that they should jump from the balcony rather than die in the fire, Garg said. "Kamal was the last person among the four who jumped from the secondfloor flat," he added.

"The family was initially taken to RML Hospital but since the condition of the father and the kids was not well, we had to bring them to a private hospital," he said. The father and both kids were admitted to Kailash Deepak Hospital in Karkardooma as their condition was said to be critical. All three of them have been admitted to the ICU, and the condition of the three-year-old child is critical, relatives said.

The father has got multiple

kid is suffering from internal bleeding and is yet to gain consciousness, a relative said. Garg said Priyanka has received major injuries and is currently admitted at RML hospital. Kamal has a coaching institute in Laxmi Nagar and gives coaching to BCA and MCA students, he said. Priyanka is a homemaker who also offers coaching to students, he added. Several other families had to jump from their balcony to save their lives and others escaped from the terrace by jumping in the adjacent building. At least two other residents of the first floor suffered fractures after

"My daughter had to jump from the first floor when the fire erupted. Her limbs are fractured," said Suprabha Devi, the victim's mother.

jumping from their balconies,

ocals said.

Water sprinkling on roads among new steps taken to fight pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As air quality worsened in the national capital, the AAP government on Tuesday listed a slew of measure's including sprinkling of water in all the 70 assembly constituencies and stepped up monitoring of BS-3 Petrol and BS-4 Diesel vehicles and their entry into Delhi is prohibited. Delhi's Environment Minister Gopal Rai said in view of the rise in pollution in Delhi after Diwali, a special campaign to sprinkle water has been started in the entire Delhi from Tuesday. The Delhi government has deployed 215 mobile anti-smog guns to sprinkle water on roads across Delhi. There will be 70 mobile anticonstituencies of Delhi to

The Environment Minister said the government is running several campaigns in Delhi under the leadership to tighten the noose of pollution in Delhi. Be it the anti-dust campaign, anti-open burning campaign, or the spraying of biodecomposers, we have taken strict measures to curb pollution. Today, we are initiating another step to keep the pollution levels in check. We will run mobile anti-smog guns across Delhi, which will sprinkle water on roads, he said. Rai said "We are starting a

mega-campaign of sprinkling water on roads of Delhi from



today. I am optimistic that there will be an immediate reduction in pollution levels through this campaign. The campaign will run across Delhi and 60 mobile anti-smog guns keep pollution levels in check." He also said the Punjab Government has made significant efforts to reduce the cases of stubble burning. As a result of the efforts of the Government of Punjab, the incidence of stubble burning has come down by 60% this year as compared to the previ-

To ensure strict compliance with GRAP-IV regulations, Labour Minister Raaj Kumar Anand, along with officials, conducted inspections at the Singhu border late Monday night.According to GRAP-IV regulations, the entry of BS-3 Petrol and BS-4 Diesel vehicles into Delhi is prohibited. The

inspection revealed continuous entry of diesel vehicles from Harvana into Delhi, which is a matter of concern.

The drivers were informed that entry of diesel vehicles into deteriorating air quality. Stringent monitoring and implementation instructions for GRAP-IV were provided to the officials.

Anand said sending diesel vehicles from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to Delhi is contributing to increased pollution in the

The SDM Narela was directed to disseminate information through hoardings, banners, camps, and handbills to enforce a restriction on vehicle entry. Large banners with information on all directives and rules should be displayed at entry from Harvana to ensure drivers are informed in advance and refrain from entering Delhi.

Atishi submits 650 pages report LG nod to 10 more against chief secy in land case plinary proceedings against

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aday after Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar defended the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar in an alleged corruption case, Delhi Vigilance Minister Atishi submitted a nearly 670 page pre-liminary report to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal regarding the Bamnoli land acquisition matter. She has also recommended that Chief Secretary along with Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar be removed.

In her report, Atishi alleged the involvement of the Chief Secretary in enhancing the compensation for a piece of land in Bamnoli village, acquired by the National (NHAI) for the Dwarka Expressway, in order to provide illicit profits to a company linked to his son, Karan Chauhan. The complaint alleged that the chief secretary's son was employed by a relative of a man who was awarded enhanced compensation for his land acquired for a road project. "Atishi has submitted a 670page report on the matter to Kejriwal. The report states that an undue gain of Rs 850 crore was earned in the matter. The land was bought near the Dwarka expressway at Rs 75 lakh only in 2015," sources said. Kejriwal had asked Atishi to conduct an inquiry into the



According to sources, the report also unveils a conspiracy by senior officers of Directorate of Vigilance (DoV), including Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, to undervalue the scale of the scam as Rs 312 crore when the actual compensation award would have resulted in an illicit gain of Rs 850 crore to the beneficiaries.

Atishi stated in her report that Kumar's son had business connections with the landowners who were benefiting. The events since Naresh Kumar became Chief Secretary suggest that he might have used his power to increase compensation for the beneficiaries linked to his son's business. The report also alleges that Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar repeatedly refused to provide files on this matter, which appeared suspicious and raised questions about his complicity. In her report, Atishi urged that files related to this matter be seized from them, to prevent any "tampering or destruction of evidence". The Delhi minister also recommended disciand Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar. The original award of the 19-

acre land at Bamnoli, being acquired by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), was raised from Rs 41 crore to Rs 353 crore in May this year by the then district magistrate (South West) Hemant Kumar. Hemant Kumar was later suspended by the Ministry of Home Affairs in connection with the matter. In a press conference on

Monday, Delhi government Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar said the allegations levelled against Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar are baseless and part of "dirty polsioner claimed the allegations being levelled against the chief secretary are aimed at his character assassination as he is actively taking action in corruption cases. Justifying holding a press conference, Ashwani Kumar said a lot of "rumours and lies" are being spread to tarnish the image of the chief sec-

There should be an inquiry into the whole matter, he said, adding that the allegations against the chief secretary are baseless and aimed at his character assassination. He also said the matter came to light in May and action was taken against the then district magistrate Hemant Kumar.

family courts, total number reaches 31



With nearly 46,000 cases pending in family courts in the national capital, Lt Governor V K Saxena has approved the creation of 10 more family courts taking 31, Raj Niwas officials said on

The approval effects the creation of posts of 10 judges to head these courts and also 71 other posts that include readers, stenographers and others. "The approval comes following a recommendation of the Full Court way back in 2019 for the creation of at least 10 more family courts in view of the pendency of cases for more than five to 10 years," the official said.

About 46,000 cases are pending in family courts in Delhi, the lowest being 1,321 pending with Principal Judge, Family Court, Saket and the highest being 3,654 pending

Bharadwaj inaugurates

with Family Court, Rohini. According to Family Court headquarters in Dwarka, there are about 150-200 cases on average being registered with family courts on a daily basis and approximately 80 per cent of staff in these ed capacity from various

Saxena also approved the regularization of 18 Dental Surgeons working in various Delhi Government hospitals since their appointment on adhoc basis during 1998-2004. He has also approved the conversion of 09 Group 'C' temporary Posts of Stenographer to permanent posts in the WCD . Department.

Saxena has been pitching for regularization of services of those who have been engaged by the GNCTD on ad hoc basis and effecting appointments on a permanent basis

NDMC cultivates imported tulips at special chamber at Delhi's Lodhi Gardens

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Municipal authorities have begun a process to cultivate tulips in a special temperature-controlled chamber at Delhi's Lodhi Garden with bulbs imported from the Netherlands last year, officials said on Tuesday. Lt Governor Vinai Kumar

Saxena had directed the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to ensure indigenous seeding and production of tulip saplings with an aim of not only reducing import costs and augmenting their availability but also boosting the local floriculture industry, they added. The NDMC established the Tulip Growth Cum Storage Chamber -- a one-of-its-kind unit in India -- in April, the officials said.

It was decided to fabricate a proper structure for the preservation and the propagation of harvested bulbs, including tulips, on a trial basis, for future use in the NDMC area



as the conditions/temperature in the Delhi region are not suitable for multiplication/production of tulips.
Accordingly, the NDMC took

the initiative to immediately establish a temperature-controlled unit at Lodhi Garden. The Tulip Growth Cum Storage Chamber includes a cold-storage unit with the capacity to store around 50,000 fresh bulbs in controlled temperatures that vary between 2 and 20 degrees Celsius.

The facility also includes a tulip propagation chamber with the facility to grow around 2,000 bulbs. The capacity can be increased to 4,000 bulbs with a temperature-controlled environment of 10-22 degrees

900 ghats have been prepared for Chhath festival: Minister

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said here on Tuesday more than 900 ghats have been prepared for the upcoming Chhath festival and tents, light, sound and other facilities will be provided for devotees.

The four-day festival, in which devotees fast and offer 'arghya' to the Sun God on the last two days, will begin on November 17. Meanwhile, Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely has demanded Delhi government to declare Chhath as a dry day. He also visited various Chhath ghats to take stock of the water quality and preparations ahead of the chhath puja. "This year, the Delhi government has prepared over 900 Chhath ghats. Provisions for tent, light, and sound will be made for devotees. We want the devotees to have a good experience," he said adding everyone should offer 'arghya' to the

Sun God joyfully and get bless-



Chhath Puja is celebrated six davs after Diwali, and is mainly observed in Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh by the natives of these states settled in other states or other coun-

So, many families observe it at parks, gardens and other public places where temporary 'ghats' are prepared and water

is filled to let devotees perform the rituals. Meanwhile, Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh

Lovely on Tuesday visited the Chhath Ghat at the Yamuna Banks, ITO to see the preparations for the Chhath Puja fes-

Lovely also reiterated his demand that Delhi Government declare Chhath Puja day as Dry Day. He said Delhi Congress had

written to the Lt. Governor demanding that Chhat Puja should be declared as a Dry Day, otherwise it will hurt the religious sentiments of the Poorvanchal devotees.

Delhi Pavillion at IITF 23 STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Industries Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj on Tuesday inaugurated the Delhi Pavilion at the 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF'23) at Pragati Maidan. Union Minister of State Anupriya Patel was also present on the occasion in the Conference Hall No. 2, Bharat Mandapam.

While addressing the media, Bhardwaj informed that this year the theme of the IITF is Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam United by Trade" and Delhi government is participating as one of the Focus States. The government has set up Delhi Pavilion on the heritage theme of Connaught Place. Delhi Pavilion observed the first day of IITF 2023 with cultural event, musical performances, interactive financial literacy session, dances etc.

The Minister appreciated the design and heritage theme of the pavilion which includes a



depiction of 'Connaught Place Delhi' and a 3D structure of 'Akshardham Temple'. He visited the pavilion which is dedicated to the departments of Delhi which is having thematic area on 'Invest Delhi' theme, EODB, Ease of Living, Clean Delhi Green Delhi.

Bhardwaj gave thrust and importance on the three corridors designed in the Delhi Pavilion viz. 'Tourism Corridor' (having cut-outs of historical monuments of Delhi, Medical Tourism and Education Tourism), 'Cultural Corridor' (dedicated to Yoga, Festivals

'Industrial Corridor' (dedicated to start-ups, entrepreneurs and MSMEs) and told that the State Govt. dedicated to promote tourism, cultural activities, and encourage start-up, and knowledge based MSMEs. Manish Gupta, ACS (Industries); Sanjiv Mittal, MD, DSIIDC (Director), Monika Priyadarshini, ED(DSIIDC), Shobhit Gupta, Chief Manager and Director Delhi Pavilion alongwith officers of various departments of GNCTD and dignitaries attended the inau-

guration of the Pavilion.

Stop attacks on places of worship, India tells Canada

India has recommended Canada to strengthen its framework to prevent "misuse of freedom of expression" for triggering violence, attacks on places of worship and racial minorities, and address hate crimes and speeches. It came in the backdrop of strained diplomatic ties between the two countries since September. These assertions were made by KS Mohammed Hussain, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India while addressing the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) review meeting in Geneva last week. These recommendations came in the backdrop of strained diplomatic ties between the two countries since September. Hussain, leading the Indian

and thanks the delegation of Canada for the presentation of their national report" to combat human trafficking. "We note the enactment of National Housing Strategy Act, 2019; Accessible Canada Act; and the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking 2019-2024," he said

"In the spirit of constructive dialogue, India recommends the following to Canada - one, further strengthen the domes-tic framework to prevent misuse of freedom of expression for inciting violence and disallow activities of groups which are promoting extrem-

Two, effectively prevent attacks on places of worship of religious and racial minorities, strengthen legislative and other measures to address hate crimes and hate speech," the UNHRC meeting.

India also recommended Canada to eradicate the "structural discrimination against children belonging to indigenous groups" and "address disparities in access to services by all children". Diplomats from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh also shared their insights and recommenda-

India's recommendation came

close on the heels of a UN report that criticised Canada for "modern slavery". The report expressed concern over Canada's foreign worker programmes, describing these as "breeding ground for contemporary forms of slavery" The UN human rights body urged Canadian authorities to "do more" to protect workers, tackle discrimination that



manent residency for all

Incidentally, two days ago Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made fresh remarks on the diplomatic ties between the two countries over Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing. Trudeau reiterated his allegation of India's involvement in

the murder of Nijjar in Canada, and said his country will "always stand up for the rule of law"

He accused New Delhi of violating the Vienna Convention by "kicking out" 40 diplomats at a time when his country had reached out to the former and other global partners to get to the bottom of the murder. Calling Nijjar's killing "very of this matter" and to allies the US to investigate Canada's

Diplomatic tension between India and Canada erupted in September when Trudeau alleged a "potential" involve-ment of Indian agents in the June killing of Nijjar in the Canadian province of British Colombia. Nijjar was the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force, and was wanted in

India rejected the allegations as "absurd and motivated" and expelled a Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move after Ottawa asked a senior Indian diplomat to leave.

Last month, Canada pulled out 41 diplomats from India and also halted its visa and consular services in Chandigarh, Mumbai, and Bengaluru conto strip them of their immu-

It may be mentioned here that on November 10 India conveyed to the US its serious concerns over increasing activities of pro-Khalistani elements in Canada. India flagged its concerns at the '2+2' foreign and defence ministerial meeting here.

"We have made our concerns very very clear," Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra had said at a media briefing. "We have core security concerns and I am sure you are all aware of recent video that has surfaced from one such individual," Kwatra said adding the US side understood New Delhi's concerns.

The American delegation at the '2+2' ministerial dialogue talks was led by US Secretary

Austin while External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh headed the Indian side. The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June in the Canadian town of Surrey.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd

Days after Trudeau's allegations, India temporarily suspended issuance of visas to Canadian citizens and asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country to ensure parity.

Canada has already withdrawn 41 diplomats and their family members from India. India has already resumed some of the

6 months jail for selling adulterated Teachers from leading schools food, proposes parliamentary panel join hands against vaping

AParliamentary Standing Committee has recommended a minimum imprisonment of six months for those selling adulterate food or drinks along with a minimum fine of Rs 25,000. In view of the serious health

issues that can result from the consumption of adulterated food, the punishment provided for the offenders under this clause is inadequate, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs headed by BJP MP Brijlal said. "The committee recommends that a minimum punishment of six months be provided for the offence under this clause along with a minimum fine of Rs

Referring to the sale of noxious food or drinks, the panel said the offence has the potential to affect the public at large and that the punishment provided for the offenders under this clause is also inadequate.

"The committee recommends that a minimum punishment of six months be provided for the offence under this clause along

with a minimum fine of Rs

At present, the offence of food adulteration is punishable with a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to R 1,000, or with

The committee also described as a "welcome step" the intro-duction of "community service" as one of the punishments under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "This is a very commendable effort and a reformatory approach to tackle the delinquent. Its introduction as a punishment was appreciated by all stakeholders as it shall not only reduce the burden on the prison infra-

structure by reducing the number of prison inmates but also improve the management of prisons in the country," the

The panel also recommended that while inserting definition of the phrase "community service" in the proposed law, a provision may also be made with regard to making a person responsible to supervise the punishment given in the form of community service.

The committee also undertook a detailed examination of the text of each clause and noted that the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita contains some typographical and grammatical

everal teachers from many Several teachers from many leading schools across the country have joined hands to take up the cudgels on behalf of the children against the ecigarettes such as vaping devices and heat-not-burn products with specific focus on protecting the impressionable minds from the menace. On the Children's Day being

celebrated on November 14, under the platform, 'Teachers Against Vaping', they have written a letter to Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Development

Entrepreneurship, demanding institutionalisation of communication programmes to raise awareness about the adverse effects of electronic cigarettes in all forms. They also emphasized on cre-

ating awareness among their fellow teachers, parents and children about the recent clarifications in law which ban manufacture, sale and even possession of these devices. These teachers are supporting 'Mothers Against Vaping', a



united front of concerned mothers combating efforts by foreign manufacturers to promote these products among

They flagged concerns that international tobacco companies, driven by their pursuit of new markets, are disseminating misleading information that portrays new-age e-cigarettes as either harmless or less harmful in comparison to smoking traditional cigarettes.

These companies are aggressively marketing products like vaping, heat-not-burn devices, and e-hookahs in India, said the group 'Teachers against Vaping'.
They also alleged that schools

have become the hunting ground for these marketers who are using below the radar methods to popularise such products in a systemic manner beginning with favoured options and gradually leading the users to graduate to high-er level of substances and spreading misinformation. Taking exception to the grow

ing vaping menace, the World Health Organization, infact in September released two publications, "Freedom from tobacco and nicotine: guide for schools," and "Nicotine- and tobacco-free school toolkit" to help protect children's health just in time for back-to-school season in many countries.

It said that the tobacco industry relentlessly targets young people with tobacco and nicotine products resulting in e-cigarette use increasing and 9 out of 10 smokers starting before the age of 18. "Products have also been made more affordable for young people through the sale of single-use cigarettes and e-cigarettes, which typically lack health warnings," the WHO said in a statement during the release of the pub-

BJP to organise 'NaMo kabaddi' across country

The BJP is set to organise a series of kabaddi matches after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name across the country starting Wednesday.

BJP's Kisan Morcha has decided to organise 'NaMo kabaddi' across all districts, except those in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Mizoram, till November 30 to promote the Modi government's 'Khelo India' programme, it said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government is encouraging rural sports talents and providing them a platform at the international and national levels," it further said. BJP's Kisan Mocraha nation-

al and state office bearers recently held a meeting in this connection and formed several committees to make the 'NaMo kabaddi' programme a grand success, the party said. The winning teams will be

Annual apex level Navy conference



by a Union minister or the BJP states, it added.

The BJP Kisan Morcha national president hailed Prime Minister Modi for taking "commendable steps like the launch of Khelo India" programme and said it has created awareness and increased the youth's enthusiasm for sports in the country.

"The people of the country saw the positive results of the 'Khelo India' campaign when Indian players created history by winning more than 100 medals in the Asian Games 2023," he

Rajnath to attend ASEAN ADMM-Plus in Indonesia

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Jakarta, Indonesia for two days starting November 16 to attend the 10th Association of South East Asian Nations(ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus). During the meeting, which will take place on November 16, he will address the forum on regional and international security issues. Indonesia is hosting the meeting as it is the chair of ADMM-Plus.

Giving details of his schedule here on Tuesday, defence ministry officials said on the sidelines of the ADMM-Plus, Rajnath will hold bilateral meetings with the Defence Ministers of the participating countries and discuss defence cooperation matters to further strengthen mutually-beneficial engagements.

The ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. The ADMM-Plus is a platform for the ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar,

Thailand, Vietnam) and its eight Dialogue Partners (India, US, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand) to strengthen security and defence cooperation. India became the dialogue partner of the ASEAN in 1992 and the inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi, Vietnam on October 12, 2010. Since 2017, the ADMM-Plus Ministers have been meeting annually to bolster the cooperation amongst the ASEAN and the Plus countries.

The ADMM-Plus progresses practical cooperation amongst member countries through seven Experts Working Groups (EWGs) namely Maritime Security, Military Medicine, Cyber Security, Peacekeeping Operations, Counter Terrorism, Humanitarian Mine Action and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

During the 10th ADMM-Plus, the next set of co-chairs for the cycle 2024-2027 would also be announced. In the present cycle from 2021-2024, India is cochairing EWG on HADR along with Indonesia

Children future, everyone's duty to safeguard them: Prez

 $P^{\text{resident Droupadi Murmu}}_{\text{on Tuesday said children}}$ are the future of the country and it is everyone's duty to safeguard them.

Children from various schools and organisations met the president at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre (RBCC) here on the occasion of Children's Day.

Speaking on the occasion, the president said that "we often say that children are the future of the country"

"It is the duty of all of us to safeguard this future and ensure its proper upbringing," Murmu was quoted as having said in a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan. She stated that today's chil-

dren have technology and a lot of information and knowledge. They are showing their talent in the country and abroad, and it is the responsibility of all of us to give the right direction to the talent of our children.

Murmu told children that if they recognise their potential and keep moving towards their aim with full dedication



and hard work, they can achieve their goal.

She advised them to adopt the habit of reading. The president said that there is a saying that books are their best friends. Good books bring positive changes in one's personality, she said while advising the children to read biographies of great personalities which will inspire them and also help them face chal-

Murmu said children have

more sensitivity towards oth-

"They become sad after seeing the sadness of others and they become happy after seeing others happy. Due to this quality of children, we can inspire them from childhood to help others and have a feeling of love and respect for the environment," she said. It is also very important to make children aware of the health and cleanliness of the environment, Murmu said

IPRD to be held from November 15

NEW DELHI

The annual apex-level The annual upon international conference of the Indian Navy - the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) - will be held in New Delhi from November 15-17 and the event includes a Keynote Address by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on November 15, navy officials said here on Tuesday.

A series of Special Addresses by Union Ministers and senior officers of the government of India are also scheduled to provide overarching guidance to the deliberations of this mega conference, they

The IPRD follows the Goa Maritime Conclave 2023 conducted by the Indian Navy from October 29-31. In terms of conceptual positioning, the Goa Maritime Conclave seeks to project the Indian Navy's cooperative engagement at the strategic-operational level, by providing a forum for the Chiefs-of-Navy and Heads of Maritime Agencies in the Indian Ocean Region.



The IPRD, on the other hand, is the principal manifestation of the Navy's international engagement at the strategic-level, addressing 'holistic' maritime security issues across the Indo-Pacific The first two editions of IPRD were held in 2018 and 2019 respectively at New Delhi. IPRD 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The third edition of IPRD was held in 2021 in online mode and the fourth edition was conducted, reverting to a physical format, at New Delhi The overarching theme of IPRD-2023 is "Geopolitical Impacts upon Indo-Pacific Maritime Trade and

Connectivity". This year's edition of the IPRD builds upon the previous one, which focussed upon Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)', by specifically addressing the 'Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport' pillar of the IPOI. Both 'Trade' and 'Maritime Transport' are, of course, segments of maritime connec-

research suggests, complica-

The risk of complications can

be significantly reduced

through early detection, timely treatment and informed

self-care, the researchers said.

World Diabetes Day (WDD)

was created in 1991 by the

IDF and the World Health

Organization in response to

growing concerns about the

escalating health threat posed

tions are already present.

87 per cent Indians get diabetes diagnosis after facing complications: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Despite the diabetes being easily diagnosed through routine screening and blood tests, more than four in five people living with diabetes (87 per cent) in India find they are diabetic after developing complications associated with the condition, a global study has said. It was far higher than the global rate of 72 per cent.

The number was seven out of ten ie 72 per cent of the total population, said the research carried International

Federation (IDF) on World Diabetes Day, noted that lack of serious attention towards proper treatment resulted with the passage of time in kidney, eye and heart diseases

The research, which included 700 adults living with diabetes in India, Spain, Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan, China and Nigeria, showed that 97 per cent Indians surveyed experienced one or more diabetes complications during the course of their life with dia-

Diabetes-related complicasome cases, life-threatening. They include damage to the heart, eyes, kidneys and feet. Improper diet, obesity and poor lifestyle are the main causes of the disease. The most common compli-

cations experienced among survey respondents in India were eye problems (64 per cent), depression (52 per cent), and oral health (42 per cent) problems.

More than half (59 per cent) of respondents said they worry most days about developing diabetes-related comlications.

Nearly every person living tions can be serious and, in with diabetes in India has experienced at least one com-



plication, which highlights a lack of knowledge around how to manage the condition," said Dr Banshi Saboo, Diabetologist and Chairman of Diabetes Care and Hormone Clinic in Ahmedabad, in a statement on Monday.

"More needs to be done to improve diabetes awareness and provide education to support the early detection and

management of complica-What we have learned offers a stark reminder that diabetes often goes undetected until one or more complications

are present," Dr Saboo added.

Globally, 7 in ten people living with diabetes (72 per cent) only found out they had diabetes after developing complications associated with the condition. The most common compli-

cations globally experienced were eye (46 per cent), foot (38 per cent), and oral health (37 per cent) problems. Type 2 diabetes, which

accounts for over 90 per cent of all diabetes, often develops silently, with symptoms that go unnoticed.

As a result, many people with

the condition, more than 50

per cent in some countries,

are not diagnosed and, as the

by diabetes. It is marked every year on

November 14 to raise awareness about the condition. This year's theme is 'Know your risk' and 'know your

Heavy rush at KV temple on **Annakut Mahotsav**

nnakut Mahotsav was cel-Aebrated with traditional gaiety and religious fervour at Kashi Vishwanath (KV), adjoining Annapurna and many other temples here on Tuesday. Though the festival is celebrated a day after the Deepawali but this year, it was postponed by a day due to the Somvati Amavasya and due to this, this year the Annakut or Dhanteras Mahotsav which was started on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras was celebrated for five days, instead of four. On the occasion, right from the morning the people started thronging at Kashi Vishwanath and Annapurna temples to get the glimpse of Annakut Mahotsav

On the occasion, the silver idol was decorated with 56 bhog followed by grand Bhog aarti and then quintals of sweets were offered at KV temple. The Annakut Mahotsav of Annapurna Mandir is most famous where 56 dishes were offered. The festival also marked the end of a five-day festival that started on the occasion of Dhanteras. Mahant Shankarpuri and others were also present. The festival was also celebrated in many adjoining temples in Gyanvapi premises including Surya, Saani, Kailash, Rani and other temples. Besides, a big bhandara was also organised at Swami Narayan temple (Machoudhari).

As there was a heavy rush of devotees at Sri Kashi Vishwanath Dham premises, elaborate security arrangements were made there to



Gujaratis and other devotees offering aarti at Swaminarayan temple in Varanasi on Tuesday

tion. Throughout the day, the rush of devotees was seen. A large number of tourists also visited there on the occasion of

Annakut Mahotsav. GUJARATIS OFFER PRAYÉRS SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE: A good number of Gujaratis offered prayers and aarti at Swaminarayan temple at Machaudhari here on Tuesday on the occasion of Annakut Mahotsav. On the occasion, 21 quintals of Chappan Bhog were offered to Lord Swaminarayan. The temple witnessed the rush of devotees to see attractive Annakoot tableaux. Many distinguished scholars were hon-

Among several Gujarati and cooked food grains and sweets. During this time, the temple premises kept resonat-

Mahesh Bhai and others came from Gujarat to make the Diwali festival events successful, Besides, other Gujarati followers like Bhavesh Bhagat, Divesh Bhai, Dinesh Bhai, Bhavna Ben and Hetal Ben from Surat, temple priest Ghanshyam Mehta, Bhavna Bhagat, Vicky Yadav and many were also present. The entire ritual was performed under the guidance of Dr Sant Vallabh Das (Mahant, Vadtal, Gujarat), Sant Madhav Priya Das and

Sant Nautam Prakash Das. The devotees gathered in the temple premises since morning remained enthralled while looking at the different types of figures made from raw

ing with the praises of God. At the same time, during Annakut aarti, the entire temple complex was drenched in lights of various eco-friendly fireworks. Apart from this, the entire campus was abuzz with Garba dance.

After the festival, a Bhandara was held.

Mayor Ashok Tiwari, Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust President Prof Nagendra Pandey, Prof Brij Bhushan Oiha, Prof Dhananjay Pandey, Prof Ram Poojan Pandey, Prof Amit Kumar Shukla, Prof Shrikrishna Tripathi, Prof Kamlesh Jha, Prof Saroj Pani, Prof Upendra Kumar Tripathi, Prof Deepak Kumar Pandey, Acharya Shailesh, Acharya Pankaj Shukla and many oth-

Govardhan Puja Mahotsav celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

🞙 ovardhan puja was organ-Gised at various places here. Under the aegis of Shri Braj Ras Rasik Bhajan Mandal, the 44th Shri Govardhan Puja Mahotsav was celebrated with great pomp at Shyama Sadan Radhe Krishna Enclave, Lukerganj.

Earlier, a grand procession of Shri Krishna and Balram was taken out with musical instruments. The tableau of Shri Krishna and Balram riding on the chariot was the centre of attraction among the people. Hundreds of Krishna devotees took part in the procession. The procession left Radhe Krishna Enclave and reached Shyama Sadan via Lukerganj, Himmatganj Khuldabad where it was given a grand welcome. Various cultural programmes were presented by the artistes of Bhajan

On the occasion BJP Mahanagar president Rajendra Mishra performed aarti and praised the programme coordinator Dr Åkhil Nigam.

BJP Mahanagar president Rajendra Mishra and former Députy Mayor Murari Lal Agarwal presented incentive awards to the child artistes. Mahant of Nimbarka Ashram Shri Radha Madhav Das Ji Maharaj highlighted the importance of Govardhan Puja. Bhajan Mandal director Atul Nigam expressed his gratitude

to all the devotees present.
Earlier the festival of lights
Diwali was celebrated in the city with great enthusiasm, gaiety and fervour. The temples were tastefully decorated with flower petals, decorative lights, bulbs and buntings. In the evening people dressed in their traditional attire performed 'puja' of Lord Ganesh and Mother Goddess Laxmi. Thereafter, they visited each other's home and exchanged firecrackers with them. greetings. Sweets were distrib-

Grand procession of Shri Krishna and Balram being taken out with musical instruments

uted to the near and dear ones. The highlight of evening was the joy and merriment of the youngsters who came out on the streets to burst crackers. The sweetmeat sellers did brisk business. While the sweets made of dry fruits were sold at Rs 1,000 per kg, those made from pure ghee were sold at Rs

This year there was huge sale of dry fruits.

Meanwhile, children at orphanage at Khuldabad had a special Diwali this year with senior police officials. Senior police officials celebrated it with the children at the

orphanage. Children presented severcultural programmes and displayed their dancing and singing skills. Senior cops not only distributed sweets among the children but also burst

Technology (MNNIT) and Jhunsi. PM 2.5 is being mea-AQI REACHES 302: The air of Prayagraj has become sured through this. The amount of PM 2.5 in the Municipal Corporation more poisonous post Diwali. The air quality index (AQI) here has reached 302. Municipal Corporation office premises on November 1, 2023 was 255 micro grams cubic. On Civil Lines has been among the Diwali day this figure reached most polluted places. The AQI 302 respectively. Similarly, the score here has been recorded at figures of MNNIT for the last 302. Katra is among the second most polluted places and the AQI score here has been 293. three days were 124, 220 and 190 respectively. Pollution levels in Jhunsi area were record-After this comes Jhunsi and the AQI here has been 290. The AQI of Katra has been 277.

ed at 148, 237 and 217.

Dr Rajeev Singh of
Narayan Swaroop Hospital says
children and elderly people After Diwali, the air of Sangam should take special care when dust particles increase in the city became poisonous on Monday. The amount of Particle pollution (PM) 2.5 has environment. Dust and smoke increased almost eight times should also be avoided. It is betcompared to normal days. ter to wear a mask while going Instruments to measure air quality index have been

As pollution increases, problems like swelling in the lungs may occur. Asthma patients face more problems

PM may inaugurate Swarved Mahamandir on Dec 18

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit his parliamentary constituency on December 18 to inaugurate the world's largest meditation centre and probably a rare temple where no gods are wor-shipped. Named after Swarved by Vihangam Yoga Sansthan, the seven-storey Mahamandir is spread over 68,000 square feet and it is a symbol of the and cutting-edge technology. Actually, it is a spiritual temple dedicated to Swarveda, a spiritual text with seven floors originally dedicated to the 7 chakras. The construction of

the temple started about 20 years ago and it was visited by the PM in 2021 to participate in the 98th anniversary celebration of Vihangam Yoga of Swarved Mahamandir.

A 100 feet high sand stone statue of Sadgurudev has also been installed in the Mahamandir complex. The carving done on pink stones in three lakh square feet is also nation of ancient architecture. The main dome is like a giant lotus flower with 125 petals. The nine domes built with GRC (Governance, Risk and Compliance) technique in used here as well. In this tem-

May 2017, 21,000 Kundiya Swarveda Gyan Mahayagya was held at Swarved Mahamandir Dham at Umrah on Varanasi-Ghazipur highway. In this unique temple, couplets of Swaraveda are inscribed on the Makrana stones. About 5,000 couplets are being engraved on 50,000 using water jet technology. special. The followers across the world are eager to have a Mahamandir beautiful, full glimpse of this divine spiritu- care has also been taken of the in the east direction is established as a water body. The stone which is used for the construction of Lord Shri Ram Janmasthali temple is being

Gujarat are like nine lotuses. In

ple, there are stones from many places of Rajasthan. The wooden work in the Mahamandir is from Balsari teak in Gujarat. The preparations for inau-

guration are going on in tem-

ple premises in full swing as more than three lakh devotees Anil alias Pintu Srivastava from across the country and the world are expected to attend the two-day inauguration ceremony. Preparations have also been started by the local administration on the report of possibilities of visit of Modi may also inaugurate the Amul plant along with the Phulwaria four-lane, the two ambitious projects whose foundation stones were also laid by

Land dispute claims a life

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

man attacked his uncle Awith a knife over an old land dispute in Utrao police station area here who died during treatment. The family members resorted to a chakka jam by placing the body on the road and demanded immediate arrest of the accused.

(42) of Uttara police station, used to support his family by doing farming and there was dispute going on with the elder brother regarding the land. Late in the evening on Diwali between the two parties due to old rivalry. During the fight Anil was attacked by his nephew with a knife due to

ground bleeding profusely. The family members immediately admitted him to the district hospital. The police was investigating the case by registering a case against four people Satish Kumar Srivastava, son of Premchand, Shivam Srivastava and Satyam, sons of Satish Srivastava and Manju Srivastava, wife of Satish Chand, and an unknown person under several serious sections, including murderous assault. Meanwhile Anil died during treatment.

which he collapsed on the

The family brought the government assistance etc. ACP Sudhir Kumar, Handia inspector Dharmendra Dubey,

with heavy police were present on the spot. After the assurance of ACP Handia, the family agreed. The police took the body into possession and sent it for the post-mortem examination.

SHO Pankaj Tripathi along

installed in Prayagraj

Complex, Motilal Nehru

Municipal

Corporation

Meanwhile a 23-year-old youth from Rampur Chauthar Sheshjainpur village under Mirganj police station of Jaunpur died when his motorcycle collided with a tractor in Janghai under Sarai Mamarej police station while going to Janghai market to buy Diwali items. Ramchandra Yadav of Jarauna Janghai road to buy goods for Diwali when his bike collided with a tractor

coming from the opposite direction near Janghai Babanagar Kakarhwa in the morning due to which he died on the spot. On getting information the Sarai Mamarej police and his family members also reached the spot. The deceased, who used to earn money by driving a vehicle, was the second among three brothers and was married only four years ago and was a father of three-month-old child. Mother Sumitra, wife Reena Devi, sister Pooja and other family members are in a state of shock. Sarai Mamarej Janghai reached the spot, took the body into possession and sent

Many contests held on Children's Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Under the chairmanship of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava, 'National Children's Day-2023' was organised at the Mini Stadium of North Eastern Railway (NER), Lahartara here on Tuesday. Under this event, various sports, race and musical chair competitions for children were organised in the age groups of 8-12 and 12-14 years for boys and girls. The functions were also organised at different schools and the Congress workers also celebrated the day as it is the birth anniversary of first Prime Minister Pt Jawaharlal Nehru.

Addressing the children at NER Mini Stadium, the DRM said that the truest time of life and the best and most beautiful moments in the world are found only in childhood, hence congratulations to all the children on this day. "We all remember 14th November as Children's Day as it is the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister Pt Nehru, who loved children very much," he said, adding that the children are called the future of our coun-

He appealed to all the children to do good work throughout their life for becoming great citizens of the country

ADRM (Operations) Rajesh Kumar Singh, ADRM (Infra) Roshan Lal Yadav, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction) RN Singh, Divisional Personnel Officer Vivek Mishra, Assistant



DRM VK Srivastava awarding a winner at Children's Day function at Mini NER Stadium in Varanasi on Tuesday

Personnel Officer Ramesh Upadhyay, Assistant Personnel Officer Virendra Kumar and other Railway officers and employees were also present.

In the sports competitions organised in the first phase, 100 metres races were conducted for boys and girls of 12 to 14 years category in which Shivam and Ragni Sonkar among boys and girls stood first respective-ly while Akhilesh Yadav and Deepika Kumari finished second while Abhishek Yadav and Ruby Khatoon were placed third. In the 50 metres races for boys and girls of 8-12 agegroup, Ayush Rajbhar and Aaradhya Gupta stood first among boys and girls respectively while Amit Yadav and Ruby Khatoon got second places and Pawan Singh and Mahi Singh third places.

In the girls' needle thread (Sui dhaga) race, Sanjana got first place followed by Bharti Maurya and Ragini Sonkar while among the boys and girls hurdles race (Bora Daur), Ayush Rajbhar and Mahi Singh got first place, while Pawan Vishwakarma and Ruby Khatoon finished second and Yash Kumar and Anushka Verma third places respectively. In the girls' musical chair competition, Kajal Kannaujiya got first place while Sandhya

finished second and Anjali third respectively. On this occasion, children also recited patriotic poems and songs.
In this event, children of

employees working in the divisional office, students of NER Junior School located in Railway Colony, Scouts and Guides of NER Bharat Scouts District Guides Association, Varanasi and Bulbuls participated. The programme was conducted by chief welfare inspectors Yogeshwar Mall, Satyaprakash and Anil Srivastava while the vote of thanks was proposed by Vivek Mishra, Divisional Personnel Officer.

UPPSC to recruit on vacant posts of Unani staff nurse

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

¬he Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) will be conducting recruitment against vacant posts of staff nurse (Unani) for the first time. Till now the Unani department itself used to undertake the recruitment. The UPPSC has so far received requisition for 27 vacant posts from the AYUSH (Unani) department and the posts could rise in the coming weeks, said

UPPSC secretary Ashok Kumar. According to officials, rules and exam pattern is being finalised and online applications will be invited soon. Earlier on August 4 the commission had invited applications for staff nurse (Ayurveda) for the first time. The commission has also invited applications for 171 posts of staff nurse (allopathy) for males and 2,069 posts for females under the medical medical education and training department on August

21. Around 90,000 candidates have applied for recruitment to a total of 2,240 posts. On an average 40 candidates are in the fray for each post on offer. Likewise, 9,118 candidates have applied for recruitment to 300 posts of staff nurse Ayurveda (female 252 and male 48) under Uttar Pradesh AYUSH (Ayurveda) department. There are more than 30 contenders for each post on offer in this recruitment. The UPPSC has expedited the recruitment

process in the state Advertisements will be issued within a month after completing all the formalities regarding the requisitions being received from various departments. The commission issued advertisements for 3,782 posts between April 1 and October 31 this year. Till April 1 recruitment process for 5,438 posts was in progress. Out of these, selections for 4,394 posts have been completed by October 31, UPPSC officials said.

SP inspects security arrangements

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

 $S^{\text{uperintendent of Police (SP)}}_{Abhinandan \ inspected \ the}$ security arrangements in the city on Tuesday. During it he visited the banks, examined the CCTV cameras, alarms and

cops deployed at the banks about the suspects for security purposes. The SP also inspected the points at which the cops were deployed for security purposes. He directed the SOs to continue movement

in their areas and conduct



other security arrangements there. He directed the bankers to maintain their internal security arrangements and keep a close watch on the visitors. He to a report, Ramjanm Yadav told the bankers to inform the (36), a resident of Haraiya vil-

checking from time to time.

MAN DROWNS: A man drowned while bathing in the Ganga on Tuesday. According

station, Azamgarh, taking bathing in the Ganga at Akhara Ghat under Vindhyachal police station before performing the rituals in Vindhyavasini temple when he slipped into the area where water was deep and drowned. The divers were pressed into service due to whose efforts the victim was brought out and sent to a hospital by the police but was declared as brought dead. The police took the body into possession for completing the legal formalities.

lage under Kaptanganj police

TWO BURNT ALIVE: Two children were burnt alive in an area under Rajgarh police station on Monday. According to a report, three-year-old daughter and one-year-old son of Dabloo Kol of Sonvarsha village under Rajgarh police station were sleeping on the cot when it caught fire on Sunday night. By the time the family

members came to know about the incident they were burnt badly. On getting information the police reached the spot and admitted the victims to the community health centre (CHC) Lalganj from where they were referred to the divisional hospital Mirzapur. The doctors declared them as brought dead.

ARRESTED: The Vindhyachal police arrested an accused of cattle smuggling on Monday. During routine patrolling on being tipped off by an informer about the presence of the cattle smuggler the police raided the place and succeeded in nabbing the accused. After completing the legal formalities the police sent him to

The accused was identified as Hari Shankar Yadav, a resident of Samda village under Charva police station, www.dailypioneer.com

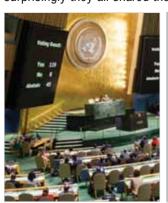
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Standing together

India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh ask Canada to tackle hate speech, hate crimes

group of South Asian countries ticked off Canada at a recent UN meeting, saying that it must rein in roque elements operating from its soil. Canada was also told that freedom of speech cannot be absolute, so reasonable restrictions must be placed if it hurts the sentiments of others and is hateful. It was unprecedented when two of India's neighbors gave all-out support to India in dealing with recent Canadian diatribes wherein Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has accused India of violating the Vienna convention and expelling Canadian diplomats after the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India had urged Canada to strengthen its steps against hate speech, discrimination and attacks on religious places. The recommendations were made during the UN Human Rights Council Review meeting, where representatives from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka shared their concerns. And surprisingly they all shared the same sentiment.



Indian diplomat Mohammed Hussain highlighted Canada's legislative achievements, such as the National Housing Strategy Act and the Accessible Canada Act. However, he also underscored the need for Canada to further fortify its domestic framework to prevent the misuse of freedom of expression, especially in instances of inciting violence and activities promoting extremism. He asked his Canadian counterpart to take decisive measures to prevent attacks on places of worship belonging to religious and racial minorities. Additionally, he urged Canada to enhance legislative measures to address hate crimes and hate speech effectively. It is pertinent

to note here that after the Nijjar killing, Indian diaspora in Canada has been facing slur and abuse. The Indian embassy staff even received calls asking them to leave the country or face consequences. But the support rendered by Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the meeting was most heartening. Bangladeshi diplomat Abdullah Al Forhad emphasised the necessity for Canada to intensify its efforts against racism, hate speech, hate crimes and discrimination faced by migrants and Muslim minorities. Sri Lankan diplomat Thilini Jayasekara urged Canada to accede to the Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and take steps to combat racial discrimination against immigrants. Jayasekara also emphasised the need for Canada to oppose misinformation against minorities and follow-up on global human rights recommendations. Earlier, the diplomatic tension between India and Canada following Nijjar's killing led to the suspension of visa services in Canada, although they have been partially restored. However, a positive sign is the support that came from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and it is indeed in the interest of South Asia that all countries of the region speak in one voice as the issues are more or less similar and identifiable.



NCC cadets march past during the Children's Day celebrations, in Thiruvananthapuram

India's relief efforts captivates Nepal



India, by being the first responder to the Jajarkot earthquake, has won many hearts in Nepal. Can Nepal, on its part, allow recruitment under the Agniveer scheme?

seeing me all holiday enquired where I was headed. "To escape Delhi's smog, I am off to Nepal" I replied. "But Nepal is reverberating with earthquakes" he said, referring to two massive tremors (magnitude 6.3 and below) on 4 and 6 November in Jajarkot and Rukum West which demolished most of the kaccha homes and those that remained developed cracks. Earlier, on 3 October, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck

Nearby Bhajang even as Nepal has still not fully recovered from the 7.8 magnitude 2015 Gorkha earthquake centred in Barpak which destroyed many parts of Kathmandu valley. The 8.0 earthquake of 1934 is forgotten as there are few of that period living. The Gorkha earthquake caused 3800 fatalities affecting 31 of the 75 districts resulting in a loss of more than USD1 bn. Like in 2015, India's response to the latest tragedy - as I write from Lameahal, Pokhara 250 km east of Jajarkot - is stellar and continuing. In 2015, the Indian Army and Air Force contribution was in the class worthy of a Nobel Peace Prize. Then Nepal Army Chief, Gen Gaurav Rana, publicly acknowledged the lead role played by the Indian Army.

Îndia is able to become virtually the first responder due to its elaborate network of pension-paying offices in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Dharan and Butawal (shortly). The commanders of these assets belong to the Gorkha battalions of the Indian Army, familiar with the local language, terrain and culture - enabled by a trekking programme of young Gorkha officers begun in 1970 by Army Chief Gen Sam Manekshaw, better known here as Sam Bahadur. Many of these facilities have been created by the Indian Embassy and Defence Wing Kathmandu like the 28 District Soldiers Board, seasonal pension camps established across the country and vists by senior Indian Army officers. This month alone, Adjutant quake) requires all relief mate-General, Lt Gen Bansi Ponappa and Director General Recruiting (although Agniveer is suspended



When I landed on 9

November at China-constructed Pokhara International Airport which, like the Matala airport in Sri Lanka is becoming a white elephant, Inspector Keshav Thapa of Nepal Police said only four international flights, and that too from China (two chartered for tourists and two for Jajarkot earthquake relief) have landed here since the inauguration of the airport six months ago. Pivotal to the Jajarkot assistance programme is Lt Col Prashant Baghel, Pension Paying Officer Pokhara who established a relief headquarters in Jajarkot with his PPO staff and a team of Gorkha exservicemen. The government of Nepal's "single route-policy" of disaster assistance (presumably after the shemozzle during the Gorkha earth rial to be handed over to Nepalese officials, in this case, the Chief District Officer of



THE RELENTLESS **GOOD WORK DONE** BY INDIA-CREATED FACILITIES FOR **GORKHA EX-**SERVICEMEN OVER THE YEARS SHOULD INSPIRE THE NEPAL **GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO** SUSPEND OR REJECT **AGNIVEER**

Jajarkot. Baghel took along with him Rs 15 lakh worth of immediate assistance material and returned on 11 November. His job was to assess the damage and direct relief material.

Col Amit Sharma, the Defence Advisor in Kathmandu said on 11 November, that 35 tonnes of relief material had been delivered to Nepal by three IAF aircraft in Nepalgunj airport (some aircraft brought additional supplies to Kathmandu). He said he had employed Gorkha ex-servicemen to assist in various relief activities for the injured and other displaced victims. Fatalities in Jajarkot were 157 with thousands hurt. 10 lakh persons had been provided food and succour. Only four serving Gorkhas were affected by the earthquake as few were recruited from this remote region which was the epicentre of the 10-year-long Maoist insurgency beginning in 1996. The noted columnist of Kathmandu Post, CK Lal, in his 8 November column has written on lessons from Jajarkot advocating that Government must discourage disaster tourism for domestic and international do-gooders". He does not include India in this category. India's Defence wing has snown it can rise to the occasion.

Gorkha ex-servicemen over views expressed are personal)

Nepal government to reconsider its decision to suspend/reject Agniveers' truncated terms of engagement, devoid of pension. Agniveer is indeed deeply flawed but Kathmandu should allow temporary recruitment as a test bed till outcomes fructify. At the rate both governments are silent on breaking the Agniveer impasse, the end of the Gorkha Brigade is not far off. Also, the end will be all assets available for emergency relief. I was informed that when the Nepali Congress leads the alliance government it may take a more positive

the years should inspire the

Agniveer". It is the festive season in Nepal following the week of Dussehra. Today is Tihar (Bhai Tika) after four days of happy pujas venerating the kag (crow), kukur(dog),gai(cow) and of course, Lakshmi puja. The high point is Tika Tihar as Nepal goes delirious playing Bhaillo (dancing) putting aside

view of Agniveer. Gen Prabhu

Sharma, the outgoing Nepal Army Chief is reported to have

said: "I am not against Gorkha

recruitment in the Indian

Army. But I am against

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence The relentless good work done by India-created facilities for Integrated Defence Staff. The

Switching to renewable energy is the only option



Given the ill effects of climate change, the urgency of transitioning to renewable energy sources cannot be overstated

≺he world is at a critical crossroads when it comes to energy production and consumption. Fossil fuels have powered our civilization for centuries, but the environmental and climate consequences of our dependence on them are now undeniable. The urgency of transitioning to renewable energy sources has never been more apparent. In this article, we will discuss why the world needs to accelerate its transition to renewable energy, highlighting the environmental and climate change consequences of any further

Toll of Fossil Fuels Fossil fuels, including coal, oil, and natural gas, have long been the primary sources of energy worldwide. However, their extraction, production, and consumption have severe environmental implications. One of the most significant concerns is air pollution. Burning fossil fuels releases harmful pollutants, including carbon dioxide (CO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and nitrogen oxides (NOx), which contribute to smog, acid rain, and respiratory problems.

fossil fuels often leads to habitat destruction and water

pollution. Fracking, for example, can contaminate groundwater, leading to long-lasting ecological damage. Oil spills are another devastating consequence, causing catastrophic harm to marine ecosys-

A Global Emergency

The burning of fossil fuels is the primary driver of climate change. Carbon dioxide, released into the atmosphere when we burn these fuels, acts as a greenhouse gas, trapping heat and causing global temperatures to rise. The consequences of a warming planet are profound and far-reaching, including:

a. Rising Sea Levels: As global temperatures increase, polar ice caps melt, causing sea levels to rise. This poses a severe threat to coastal Moreover, the extraction of communities, leading to

increased flooding and displacement. b. Extreme Weather Events:

Climate change intensifies extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, and heatwaves, impacting ecosystems, economies, and human lives. c. Disruption of Ecosystems: Climate change disrupts ecosystems and threatens biodiversity, leading to the extinction of numerous species and upsetting the delicate balance of life on Earth. Renewable Energy Solution Renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power, offer a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels. Transitioning to

renewables is imperative for several reasons: a. Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Renewable energy sources produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions during energy production, making them a key tool in the fight against climate change. b. Resource Sustainability: Unlike fossil fuels, which are finite resources, renewable energy sources are practically inexhaustible. The sun will

shine and the wind will blow

for millions of years, ensuring a long-term and stable energy supply.

c. Improved Air Quality: Renewable energy generation is clean, reducing air pollution and improving public health by minimising the release of harmful pollutants. The Cost of Delay

The transition to renewable energy is not without its challenges, including initial investment costs and infrastructure development. However, the cost of delaying this transition is far greater. The longer we rely on fossil fuels, the more damage we do to the planet, the environment, and future

generations. Conclusion

The environmental and climate consequences of delaying this transition are already evident in the form of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and biodiversity loss. The world must accelerate its shift to renewable energy. Indeed, it is an ethical responsibility to safeguard the planet from the consequences of climate change.

(The writer is a legal associate of Ampin Energy Transition; views are personal)

COMBAT RISING AIR POLLUTION Sir — the critical issue of escalating air

pollution, particularly in the aftermath of the recent Diwali festival. Festivals are traditionally a time of joy and relaxation, allowing people to unwind and celebrate. However, the environmental repercussions of such celebrations have become increasingly evident. The air pollution levels, akin to living in a gas chamber, have reached an alarming high, posing severe challenges for individuals with respiratory diseases.

Despite the Supreme Court's attempt to regulate the use of firecrackers with a twohour window, the guidelines were widely disregarded. The aftermath of Diwali witnessed a staggering number of firecrackers being sold, exacerbating the already precarious air quality. Areas like Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi saw a surge in sales, with Anand Vihar experiencing a notable increase, despite stringent

It is disheartening to note that, as a society, we are responsible for this surge in air pollution. The excessive use of firecrackers has created a toxic haze that now blankets our skies post-festivals. We must acknowledge our role in this environmental crisis.

The gravity of air pollution demands immediate attention and concerted efforts from all stakeholders. Each one of us needs to make a sincere effort to combat this issue. The government and municipalities must also play their part in implementing effective measures to restore clear skies and a pollution-free environment. It is imperative that we address this menace urgently before it further deteriorates our air quality and, subsequently, our health.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

INDIA'S QUEST FOR GLORY

Sir — With an impressive nine consecutive victories, the Men in Blue have dominated the World Cup league phase, securing the top spot with 18 points. As

THE EDITOR **Biden-Xi summit amidst global turmoil**

and Chinese President Xi Jinping prepare to meet in the San Francisco Bay area, political experts remain cautiously optimistic about the outcomes of this significant sum-

s the United States President Joe Biden

The world is currently grappling with complex issues, from the ongoing conflict in South Asia to the Ukraine impasse. Amidst these challenges, the South China Sea remains a pivotal

point of discussion. President Biden must ensure that the United States maintains a steadfast stance on peace in Taiwan, a move seen as countering Beijing's agenda.

Jajarkot.

The agenda for the meeting includes discussions on military cooperation, climate change, and human rights. While expectations for concrete resolutions are modest, the primary focus appears to be on improving communication channels and dispelling existing percep-

This summit is crucial, given that the leaders have not met since the November 2022 G20 meeting. President Xi has not set foot on U.S. soil since 2017. Striking a balance between assertiveness and diplomacy is crucial, especially when dealing with the elusive Xi. The outcome of this meeting could set the template for future discussions

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

semifinals against New Zealand in Mumbai pose a significant challenge. Despite India's current form, the knockout stage has proven tricky in the past, as evidenced by the 2015 edition's semifinal loss. Meanwhile, Australia remains a formidable force in knockout rounds, contrasting with South Africa's historical struggles. However, the tournament's heartening story lies in the growth demonstrated by Afghanistan and the

Netherlands. The knockout matches promise excitement when faced with tough contests. As the cricketing world eagerly awaits the outcome, let's brace ourselves for thrilling clashes on the path to World Cup glory.

MT Farooqi | Chennai

COLLEGIUM CONTROVERSY

Sir — the ongoing debate surrounding the Collegium system for the appointment, transfer, and promotion of judges. In an informal discussion, the Chief Justice of India eyes a third World Cup triumph, the India highlighted the multi-stage and

challenging process involved in judge

However, the government has expressed its objection to the current Collegium system, advocating for a new memorandum of procedure and the inclusion of a government representative in the search and evaluation committee. The Supreme Court, on the other hand, emphasizes the need to keep government officials at arm's length, fearing interference in the judi-

ciary's independence. The crux of the matter lies in balancing public opinion and the government's role. The Chief Justice emphasized the rigorous process of collecting facts related to appointments and promotions, ensuring the quality of judges' decisions. As this debate continues, it is crucial to strike a delicate balance that preserves both the independence of the judiciary and the accountability of the government.

N Mateeni | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

IS IT NECESSARY TO BE SPIRITUAL?

One must strike a balance between the material and spiritual aspects of life



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

pirituality! The word itself creates a lot of inquisitiveness as well as mystery in the minds of people because there is no single, widely agreed definition of spirituality that's available to those who want to seriously pursue it. Traditionally spirituality has been defined as a process of personal transformation by religious ideals. Since the 19th century spirituality is often separated from religion, and has become more oriented on subjective experience and psychological growth. It may refer to almost any kind of meaningful activity or blissful experience but without a single, widely agreed definition. Hence under such a confused scenario, to grow spiritually in a society that is defined by power, money, and influence is almost a herculean task. Today, modern-day electronic equipment, gadgets, and tools as well as entertainment stuff

through radio, TV magazines and of course the Internet have seemingly predisposed many of us to confine our attention mostly to our physical needs. As a result, our concepts of self-worth and self-meaning have become muddled and confused.

So the question that arises here is, how can we learn to strike an ideal balance between the material and spiritual aspects of our lives? Indeed a tough question that almost every individual living on this earth has been facing since the time he/she was born!



Usually, when it comes to spirituality, people think of god, religion, rituals etc. For example, a person folding his hands before an idol in a temple thinks he is spiritual, though his mind wanders in several ways, even while he prays to God. That is why the modern generation feels that practicality and spirituality do not go hand in hand. Hence, they consider spirituality as impractical. However, we need to understand that spirituality is a way of sharpening your mind and hence raising your effectiveness to a much higher level. It is knowledge of the self, its relationship with God, the purpose of one's existence and the way to achieve that purpose or goal. But again there is a question that a lot of people raise: why at all does one need to be spiritual? What's so wrong with being materialistic instead of being spiritual? Well, the answer to this is simple, it's a matter of will and one is free to choose how and what he/she wants to be. But we should not forget the fact that at some point in life, everyone tries to be spiritual willingly or circumstantially/ incidentally. This happens a lot of times when one wishes to forget all the materialistic things, the physical details of people, the luxuries of the world and everything physical & just wishes to relax and be with oneself in peace, love and

A spiritual person always remains content with the self and devotes his time not to material pursuits but tends to remain in the company of the divine thereby experiencing true love, peace and happiness which are more lasting than material attainments. Such a person will see everyone as souls; and be full of love for every person in this world regardless of one's religion, country, gender and other physical traits. He would always remain peaceful, no matter how people and situations around him would be because being peaceful is being the true self and being spiritual. When we understand the above definition of a real spiritual being, we will be spiritually awakened and enlightened & get directly connected to the Supreme who will lead us to the path of self-transformation which would further lead to world transformation. So, let's embark on this journey of becoming a 'Spiritual Being' through self-realisation &

> (The writer is a spiritual guide and a popular columnist; views are personal)

Has free ration become a political compulsion?



Under 'open-ended' procurement, Govt buys from farmers unlimited quantities at MSP. Apart from high stocks, this adds to the food subsidy bill substantially



ddressing a poll rally in Chhattisgarh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) free ration scheme for another five years. Launched in April 2020 to deal with the situation triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, PMGKAY provided 5 kg of rice or wheat per person per month for "free" to 820 million, as well as 1 kg of pulses per family per month to people covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Run for three months initially, the scheme got six extensions till December 31,

On December 23, 2022, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal announced the merger of the free part of PMGKAY with the regular food security schemes under NFSA. The 'merger' requires explanation. Under the NFSA, the Centre directs the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies to procure food from the farmers at MSP and ganize its distribution to around 820 million people through a network of fair price shops (FPS) at the subsidized price (issue FREE FOOD TO 820 price) of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat, rice, and coarse cereals. There are two types of ben-

As part of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), the poorest of the poor households get 35 kg of food grains per family. For a POPULATION THAT family of five, it comes to 7 kg per person each month. The number of families under AAY is 24 million, and persons getting 7 kg cereals per month @ Rs 2/3/1 per kg are 120 million. The rest 700 million get five kg per

person a month at the same price. The excess of MSP paid to farmers and handling and distribution costs (HDC) over the issue price is reimbursed to the FCI et al as a subsidy from the Union Budget. Call it regular food subsidy. In addition, under PMGKAY, all 820 million beneficiaries under the NFSA got 5 kg of cereals per month for free. On December 23, 2022, Goyal announced the withdrawal of PMGKAY while making supplies under regular NFSA free for a year from January 1



NOTHING ELSE COULD HAVE CARRIED A **GREATER APPEAL** TO VOTERS THAN THE PROMISE OF MILLION OR **NEARLY 59 PER** CENT OF THE TOO FOR FIVE YEARS. BUT, IT COMES AT A COST

(The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)

2023, to December 31, 2023. Modi has extended this arrangement for five years. During the election season, Modi's announcement was a political masterstroke. Nothing else could have carried a greater appeal to voters than the promise of free food to 820 million or nearly 59 per cent of the population that too for five years. But, it comes at a cost. Against Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat, rice, and coarse cereals paid earlier, now, the beneficiaries would get these for free. The extra spend on food subsidy would be Rs 2 per kg per person if she takes her ration as wheat (Rs 3 per kg per person if it is rice). This will translate to additional outgo in the range of Rs 10,000 - 15,000 crore per annum (Rs 50,000 – 75,000 crore over five years) depending on which cereal or a combination thereof, the beneficiary opts for. It may be argued that in a total annual food subsidy budget of around Rs 200,000 crore, this is a small 5 - 7.5 per cent and by some tweaking of expenditure and revenue receipts in other heads, the government could avoid any slippage from the desired fiscal trajectory. This is a myopic thought. It distracts attention from the overarching goal of 'rationalising and pruning subsidies to which the then Finance Minister (FM), Arun Jaitely under Modi had vowed in 2015-16. Even today, the NITI Aayog Union government's think tank - is studying the effectiveness of the food subsidy scheme and examining 'whether, and how, the Scheme can be rationalised or closed'. In sync with this goal, it is possible

for the government to take credible steps to reduce food subsidies without compromising its commitments to the welfare of the poor. For instance, the current issue price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg was specified in the NFSA legislation. The law enacted in 2013 froze these rates for three years. Since 2016, there has been no legal bar on increasing the price. Yet, it remains where it was a decade ago despite a substantial increase in MSP as well as HDC. A hike in the issue price by Rs 1 per kg would yield an annual savings of over Rs 5,000 crore. Second, the existing number of beneficiaries under NFSA at 59 per cent of the country's population is far in excess of the people who actually deserve a subsidy. Even as per the Shanta Kumar Committee (2015), the people eligible for subsidised food shouldn't be more than 40 per cent of the population. The excess of 19 per cent comes to 266 million. By deleting these persons from the beneficiaries list, the government can save about Rs 40,000 crore (25 (27-2)x5x12x266; where 27 is the cost of supplying wheat).

Third, other than AAY families and persons, the rest can pay more than Rs 2/3/1 per kg. Deduct 266 million (those who shouldn't be eligible for subsidy) from 700 million, this number comes to 434 million. The Shanta Kumar Committee wanted them should pay at least 50 per cent of the MSP or Rs 10.5 (current MSP is Rs 21).

This could yield savings of about Rs 22,000 crore [8.5(10.5-2)x5x12x434]. Fourth, the ridiculously low price at which food is available in the supply chain is an open invitation to dubious operators to siphon off and sell in the open market raking in a moolah. This can be prevented if only the government disbands the existing system and gives subsidies to the beneficiaries under DBT.

Under DBT, the state agencies need not buy, store and deliver food to the beneficiary; instead the latter buys from the market paying the full price, say, Rs 27 per kg of wheat.

Of this, Rs 25 comes from the Centre as a subsidy and Rs 2 from her pocket as per the extant NFSA regime. Now, under Modi's prescription of making it free, the entire Rs 27 would come from the Centre. When subsidized food doesn't enter the supply chain, diversion and misuse is completely ruled out. With DBT in place, it is much easier for the Govt to deny subsidies to undeserving persons. It will also save on costs currently incurred on handling of grains by the agencies. Besides, all consumers will benefit from increased supplies and competition in the

Currently, the Govt is using state agencies not just to meet food requirements under NFSA but also to extend price support to farmers. Under what has come to be known as 'open-ended' procurement, it buys from farmers unlimited quantities at MSP. Apart from facing a nightmare due to high stocks and high carrying costs, this has added to the food subsidy bill. With the switchover to DBT, the government needs to get out of this price support business.

The only viable way to support farmers is to give them the freedom to sell their produce, open up the market and give them multi-ple choices to sell. This will require the resurrection of the three farm laws Modi was forced to junk in November 2021 following agitation by farmers from Punjab and Haryana. Sadly, all reforms are held hostage to the politics of populism. Giving food free, continuing with subsidies to the undeserving and open-ended purchases from farmers at MSP are all manifestations of populism. If Modi dares to tinker with any of these, he risks losing at the hustings. So,

Tackling violence against women in rural India

If morality and tradition are meant to guide society in the right direction, why aren't they strictly applied to men as well?

After six months of marriage, Sakshi, a resident of Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand, returned to her home, leaving her husband's residence where she had faced harassment. The video of her return went viral on social media and was later covered by several news channels and newspapers. Why? It was due to the ceremonious way in which her father, Prem Gupta, celebrated her return. He marked his daughter's homecoming with dance, music, and enthusiasm.

In an interview, Prem said "When I could send Sakshi off with such pride at her wedding, why should I bring her back shamefully when she is not at fault?" He aimed to set an example for the



(Taniya is a student in

Uttarakhand and writes

about gender issues, views

are personal. Charkha

Features)

many women and their families undergoing a similar situation. "If I had brought my daughter back secretly, everyone would have said, "My daughter was unsuccessful in her marriage; she was the one at fault," he added. Sakshi and Prem made a strong statement against domestic violence. However, not every girl has the support of someone like Prem in their life. Located 315 km from the state capital Dehradun, Charson village in the Garur block of Bageshwar district in the mountainous state of Uttarakhand is an example where the silent screams of girls and women do not find an echo. The total population of Charson village is approximately 4000, with a literacy

rate of about 75%. However, in comparison to men, the literacy rate of women is significantly lower. Due to the lack of education, women in this village are unaware of their rights, making it challenging for them to speak out against any form of abuse. Simran, an 18-year-old, expressed, "When we go out, we have to endure comments and taunts. These experiences affect our physical and mental health, making it difficult for us to focus on our day-to-day life. We are unable to concentrate on our studies as well. Most women in the village face restrictions when going out, and if they do work outside the home, they are closely monitored." Ritika, another girl from the village, added, "Even the



choice of our clothing, like jeans and shorter tops, is restricted, as people not only look at us with judgment but also make comments that affect us mentally. It feels like we have done something wrong, and society blames us without even thinking about the impact of their words."

Sadly, instead of supporting a girl who speaks against violence, society tends to label her negatively.

According to a 2023 report conducted by BMC Women's Health, "In the South Asian countries, the prevalence of lifetime and current physical and/or sexual partner violence were highest in India." The report also said, "The increase in prevalence of current violence in India and the higher ratio of current to lifetime violence also suggests that violence continued, once it had started, for more women."

Moreover, gender-based violence finds support in the pay disparity between men and women. A recent survey report titled "Women and Men in India 2022" by the

National Statistical Office reveals that market-determined wages for women performing similar work are significantly lower than those of men. The gender wage gap has not only persisted but has widened in rural areas over the past decade, even as it has narrowed in towns, as reported by a leading newspaper. National figures indicate that the average daily rural wage for men is Rs 393, whereas a woman worker receives only

Sangita Devi, a 26-year-old, mentioned that this wage disparity is rationalised by the notion that a man can break stones, but a woman cannot. Despite women being capable of the same physical work as men, they receive less pay. Social work-

that even today, many rural women are unaware of their rights. Unlike their urban counterparts, women in villages like Charson lack awareness, leading to a higher incidence of violence against them. Neelam emphasises that women must raise their voices against violence and underscores the need for societal mindset change. She adds, "Society needs to understand that everyone has equal rights according to the constitution. It's time for patriarchal societies to change their thinking." The question that arises is, if morality and tradition are meant to guide society in the right direction, why aren't they strictly applied to men as well?

er Neelam Grundy highlights

Sunak addresses new Cabinet, pledges change

 $B^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Rishi}}_{\text{Sunak addressed a weekly}}$ meeting on Tuesday with a pledge to "drive change" with his new look Cabinet, a day after sacking Home Secretary Suella Braverman and parachuting in former prime minister David Cameron as the

new Foreign Secretary.
In his opening remarks, Sunak said to his Cabinet that they all should build a better future for the citizens of the

"Our purpose is nothing less than to make the long-term decisions that are going to change our country for the better. I know that this strong and united team is going to deliver that change for everybody," said Sunak in his opening remarks to the new Cabinet, which sees former foreign secretary James Cleverly shifted to the role of Home Secretary.

"I am confident that we can demonstrate to the country that we're making progress on

beginning of the year. But you all know that is not the limit of our ambitions. We want to build a better future for our children and for our grandchildren, and that is what this team is going to do. So, let's get to work," he said at the meeting held at 10 Downing Street in London. It comes after a day of

political frenzy at the very top of the UK government, with Sunak shaking things up by getting rid of a controversy courting Indian-origin home minister as he prepares for a general election year coming up in 2024.

Cameron was speedily made a peer in the House of Lords to be eligible for the government post having quit frontline politics in the wake of the June 2016 Brexit referendum.

Lord Cameron hit the ground running with a meeting with his Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar, at his new Foreign, Commonwealth and



Britain's Foreign Secretary David Cameron (background right) arrives for the first meeting of the new-look Cabinet following a reshuffle on Monday, in Downing Street, London.

Development Office (FCDO) in London.

"It was extremely satisfying to hear from him about the commitment and support for the relationship. We spent a lot of time talking about cultivating both," Jaishankar said of his meeting with Cameron in an address to the Indian diaspora

in London soon after on

The two ministers discussed a wide range of topics, including global conflicts and the importance of the Indo-Pacific region.

A conversation with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to discuss the Israel-

Hamas conflict was the other main agenda for Cameron's first day back in government.

"They discussed the conflict in the Middle East, Israel's right to self-defence and the need for humanitarian pauses to allow the safe passage of aid into Gaza," FCDO said in a statement, adding that the strength and depth of the relationship between the UK

In a customary annual address at the Lord Mayor's banquet on Monday night, Sunak stated that he was "pleased to have appointed a new Foreign Secretary", who will build on everything achieved in the last year.

The voices of dissent within the governing Conservative Party are playing out in the background with at least one backbencher, Dame Andrea Jenkyns, having submitted a letter of no confidence in Sunak over the sacking of Braverman.

The cut-off to trigger a leadership challenge is 53 and analysts believe the opposition within the Tory ranks is not anywhere close to that number as yet.

However, Sunak does have tricky road ahead as he attempts to rally his new-look ministerial team to give the Tories a fighting chance in the polls expected next year.

Head of China's Catholic church begins historic trip to Hong Kong

AP HONG KONG

The head of the Catholic church in China began a trip to Hong Kong on Tuesday at the invitation of the city's pope-appointed Roman Catholic cardinal, marking the first official visit by a Beijing bishop in histo-

Joseph Li, who was installed by China's state-controlled Catholic church as an archbishop, visited the Cathedral the Immaculate Conception in the morning, public broadcaster RTHK

Li's five-day tour came after the city's newly installed Cardinal Stephen Chow invited him to visit Hong Kong during a landmark trip to Beijing in April — the first

visit to the Chinese capital by the city's bishop in nearly three decades. Experts said the invitation was a symbolic gesture that could strengthen the fragile relationship between China and the Vatican.

Earlier this month, Chow said his job is to foster better communication between the sides, and underscored the importance of human connections when asked about the significance of Li's visit.

The Hong Kong diocese said Li would meet with Chow and "different diocesan offices to promote exchanges and interactions between the two dioceses." It said this is the first time a Beijing bishop has officially visited Hong Kong, without disclosing further details about Li's trip.

US-China ties can veer towards conflict if not managed well: Sullivan

The US and China could easily veer towards a conflict if their "complex and competitive" relationship is not well managed, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has warned ahead of the much-anticipated summit between President Joe Biden and

Particulars

1 Total Income from Operations

(Refer Notes below)

tax and exceptional & extraoridnary items

Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax

and exceptional & extraoridnary items

Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax

Total Comprehensive Income

Paid-up equity share capital

(not annualised)

b) Diluted

www.rlfltd.com.

Place: Gurugram, Haryana

Dated: November 14, 2023

Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each

to meet in San Francisco on Wednesday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic (APEC) Cooperation Leadership meeting in San Francisco. The two top leaders last met face-to-face at the G20

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Veeran, Distt.Gurugram, Haryana.

CIN: L74999HR1979PLC032747, Website:www.rlfltd.com,

Email id: investorrelations@rlfltd.com,

Phone:011-49075251 Statement of Unaudited Financial Results

for the Quarter and Half Year Ended September 30, 2023

Unaudited)

(5.37)

(5.37)

980.08

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the

Quarter and half year ended September 30, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchange

under Regulation 33 and 30 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure

Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Financial

Results for the Quarter and half year ended September 30, 2023 are available on the

Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website

Quarter Ended

30.09.2023 30.06.2023

(Unaudited

his Chinese counterpart Xi Summit in Bali in November 2022. Biden, 80, and Xi, 70, had Jinping. 2022. Biden, 80, and Xi, 70, had already known each other for more than a decade before

(Rs. In lacs, except per share data)

Year Ended

30.09.2022 31.03.2023

(9.70) (34.16)

(9.70) (278.04)

(9.70) (278.04)

For RLF Limited

Vikas Grover

DIN: 07075918

Director

96.62

46.14

[Unaudited] [Unaudited] [Audited]

Six Months Ended

34.63

34.63

34.63

980.08

30.09.2022 30.09.2023

[Unaudited]

(8.40)

980.08

Biden became President in 2021. Sullivan on Monday said the US president has the opportunity to engage on how they effectively manage peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. The

two sides are also expected to discuss China's aggressive actions in the Indo-Pacific region. Sullivan said the most impor-

tant thing is that "this is a complex and a competitive relation-ship that could easily veer into conflict or confrontation if it's not well managed".

"So, managing the relation-ship effectively is the single most important responsibility of the president and everyone who works for him on this file," Sullivan told reporters at a news

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Smt.

fadhu Sharma is the unequivocal owner of Plot to. II F 64, an area measuring 195 sq. mirs. Italiant at all block F, Sec.II, C.M.P. Office, Post liftice -Navyug, Nehru Nagar Ghaziabad. This sigal ownership was established through a futation Letter dated 05.07.2022, executed by USA and lease deed dated 09.02.1976 executed y GDA. Smt. Machu Sharma intends to transfer eo ownership by way of Transfer Deed of the forementioned property to Mrs. Geeta Agarwal is to be over the control of the control o PUBLIC NOTICE

110092", hereinafter referred to as "Schedu Property vide Conveyance Deed dated 15.03.0" duly registered as Regn. No. 15793. Bock No. Vol. No. 1725, pp. 152–153 on 10.10.05 in to Office of the Sub Registrar–VII, Vikas Sadar New Delhi. That original documents i.e. Allotment Letter dated 01.02.91, (iii) Possession Letter dated 90.03.91, (iv) General Power of Attorney wif Agreement to Sell, Will & Receipt all date 50.59.4 and (v) General Power of Attorney wif Agreement to Sell, Will & Receipt all date 09.12.03 for the Scheduler Property, have bee lost/misplaced and are untraceable as on date, lieu of which Information Report dated 08.11.2 ost 7.2.03 for the Scinedule Property, nave ost ost/misplaced and are untraceable as on date, i lieu of which Information Report dated 08.11.2 bearing LR No. 112(1070) 2023 has been fille with Delhi Police. This notice is thus issued to the Public at large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(les Authority(les), Society(les), Organisation(s) Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), HUFs et naving any knowledge, custody or possession of the above mentioned lost/ misplaced untraceable original documents or otherwise naving any claims, rights, title, interest possession etc. in the Schedule Property, by wa of Ownership, Succession, Inneritance, Sale Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trus Encumbrance etc. or objection to the sale of the Schedule Property by the Title Holder, may comforward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 12 days fror the date of this Publication, post expiration chicking and some objection(s), if raised creceived, shall be treated as null & void and a waived, and the Title Holder shall proceed to se the Schedule Property, as is presently intended.

APEC forum: Biden to focus on region amid other crises

AP SAN FRANCISCO

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden is looking to use this week's sum-}$ mit of Asia-Pacific leaders to show world leaders the United States has the gumption, attention span and money to focus on the region even as it grapples with a multitude of foreign and domestic policy crises.

Biden's highly anticipated meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday is the main event of his four-day visit to San Francisco, where leaders from the 21 economies that make up the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum are gathering for their annual summit. The talks with Xi are of enormous importance as the leaders of the world's two biggest economies try to find a measure of stability after what's been a difficult year for US-China relations.

But the White House also wants to demonstrate to APEC's leaders that Biden can remain focused on the Pacific while also trying to keep the Israel-Hamas war from exploding into a broader regional conflict and to persuade tinue to spend billions more on the costly Ukrainian effort to repel Russia's nearly 21-month old invasion.

"President Biden this coming week will be doing a lot more than just meeting with President Xi," White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters in Washington on Monday. He added that Biden would put forward his economic vision for the region, make the case

that the US is "the very emi-nent driver" for sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific, and hold the region out as critical to US economic

White House officials say they are cognizant that fellow APEC nations want to see better dialogue between the US and China because it reduces the risk of regional conflict. At the same time, they also know that others in the region are concerned that the Pacific is too often seen through a prism in which the dominant power centres in Washington and Beijing make decisions for the region without engagement from less powerful nations. To that end, the White

new initiatives to advance clean economy investments and develop anti-corruption and taxation policies through its Indo-Pacific Economic Forum, an economic strategy announced last year aimed at countering Beijing's commercial strength in the region. The strategy, known by the

House is expected to unveil

acronym IPEF, was designed to foster trade and demonstrate American commitment to the Donald Trump announced in 2017 that the US was with drawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, an Obama-era trade deal with 12

'The US is really aiming to use APEC as a way to demonstrate its lasting economic commitment to the region overall," said Neils Graham, associate director for the Atlantic GeoEconomics Centre.

Rajapaksa bros, top officials responsible for worst economic crisis: Sri Lanka SC

In a landmark judgement, Sri Lanka's top court on Tuesday ruled that former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, ex-prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa and other senior officials violated the fundamental rights of the people by mishandling the economy and causing the unprecedented economic

Sri Lanka declared economic bankruptcy in April 2022 by announcing its first-ever sovereign default. The island nation was hit by its worst financial crisis in history, with its foreign exchange reserves falling to a critical low and the public coming out on the streets to protest the shortage of fuel, fertilisers and essential commodities.

A five-member bench of the Supreme Court was ruling on the petition filed by Transparency International, Sri Lanka and four other activists in 2022.

The bench, in a majority 4-1 ruling, said that the respondents, including the Rajapaksa brothers- former president prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa- were responsible for economic mismanagement in the island country between 2019-2022.

Former Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) governors Ajith Nivard Cabraal and WD Lakshman, and ex-secretaries to the Treasury PB Jayasundera and SR Attygalle, were also found guilty of rights violations.

The petitioners had claimed

that tax concessions worth SLR 681 billion granted to businesses in 2019 by Gotabaya Rajapaksa during his tenure as the president were the main reason for the economic slump.

Other actions, such as peging the USD at Sri Lankan Rupee 203, the delay in approaching the International Monetary Fund for a bailout, and the decision to honour a USD 500 million international sovereign bond payment in January 2022 in the looming forex crisis, were cited as examples of mismanagement.

Attorneys for the petitioner said they wanted a court declaration that the mishandling of the economy by those responsible had violated the fundamental rights of people.

Since the petitioners approached the court in the interest of the public and did not seek compensation for themselves, the Court was not inclined to order compensation other than costs incurred by petition-

Thus, the apex court ordered all respondents to pay the petitioners legal costs of Rs 150,000

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka still has a total foreign debt of USD 46.9 billion.

Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign in May 2022, while Gotabaya Rajapaksa quit

in July, following unprecedented anti-government protests over the country's worst economic crisis that led to acute shortages of staple food, fuel and power. Former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa also resigned in June last year.

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED CIN: L25199DL1980PLC010173

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EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF

YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

					_		(₹in lakhs)	
SI.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Half Year Ended		Year Ended	
No.		30.09.2023	30.06.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	31.03.2023	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
1	Total Income from operations	4,180.82	4,555.49	3,853.77	8,736.31	7,218.12	15,318.31	
2	Net Profit for the period before Tax	122.83	122.58	13.63	245.41	30.08	90.50	
3	Net Profit for the period after tax	65.83	54.33	7.24	120.16	14.02	68.05	
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after	66.58	55.08	7.24	121.66	14.02	71.04	
	tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]							
5	Equity Share Capital	416.10	416.10	416.10	416.10	416.10	416.10	
6	Other Equity						4,239.43	
7	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10 each)							
(a)	Basic (₹)	1.58	1.31	0.17	2.89	0.34	1.64	
(b)	Diluted (₹)	1.58	1.31	0.17	2.89	0.34	1.64	

Place : Delhi

Date: 14.11.2023

1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEB (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites (www.bseindia.com/corporates) and on the Company's website www.cosco.in

2 The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their respective

By Order of the Board For Cosco (India) Limited

Managing Director and CEO DIN: 00191539

Hindustan Auto Finance Limited CIN:L65910DL1980PLC010617

E-mail: hindaf1980@gmail.com, Website:www.hindaf.in Regd. Off: Cabin No. DA-8, 2nd Floor, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, New Delhi-110092

Extract of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year ended $$30^{\rm th}$$ September, 2023

			((₹ in Rs. lakhs	
SI. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 30.09.2023	Half Year ended 30.09.2023	Quarter ended 30.09.2022 Unaudited	
		Unaudited	Unaudited		
1	Total Income from Operations	-	1.88	5.17	
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-1.69	-9.31	1.17	
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-1.69	-9.31	1.17	
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-1.69	-9.31	1.17	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	-1.69	-9.31	1.17	
6	Equity Share Capital	35.03	35.03	35.03	
7	Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2023	-	4		
8	Earning per share				
	1. Basic	-0.05	-0.27	0.03	
	2. Diluted	-0.05	-0.27	0.03	

Place: New Delhi

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter and Half Year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results for the quarter and Half Year ended 30th September, 2023 are available on the Company's website www.hindaf.in and website o Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Ltd (www.msei.in).

The above Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2023 were reviewed by the Audit Committee and thereafter approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 14th November, 2023. These results have been subjected to limite review by statutory auditors who have expressed an unqualified opinion

For M/s Hindustan Auto Finance Limited

Managing Director

DIN:00241940

Hanno Pevkur, said it was crucial to ramp up supply of the ammunition. "Look at Russia. They are producing today

EU struggles to send ammunition pledged to Ukraine more than ever. They are get-

European Union nations acknowledged on Tuesday that they risk failing to provide Ukraine with the ammunition they pledged to help Kyiv stave off the Russian invasion and win back its territory. Early this year, ÉU leaders

promised to provide 1 million rounds of ammunition to Ukraine's front line by spring next year in what would have amounted to a serious ramp-up of production. But the 27nation bloc, for over half a century steeped in a "peace, not war" message and sheltering under a US military umbrella, is finding it tough to come up with the goods.

"The 1 million will not be reached, you have to assume that," said German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius, ahead of a meeting of EU defence and foreign affairs ministers in Brussels. Estonia's defence minister,

ting shells from North Korea. Europe cannot say that ... Russia and North Korea can deliver and we cannot," he Some 300,000 rounds

have been delivered from existing stocks in the EU so far. With the rest becoming increasingly elusive to source before spring, Latvian Defence Minister Andris Spruds insisted the original target should not be taken too literally. "Well, of course, 1 million

rounds are symbolic. I think aspiration and ambition is important," he said. On the battlefield, though,

the presence of ammunition is the only thing that counts. In Ukraine's war with

Russia, 155mm artillery rounds play a pivotal role. The daily consumption of 6,000 to 7,000 shells highlights its strategic importance. Acquiring 1 million such shells could secure stability for Ukraine for at least half a year, providing a substantial advantage in sustained operations and flexibility on the battlefield, observers said.

new impetus" to establishing a

nuclear weapons-free zone in the Mideast, saying there is

greater urgency because of the situation in the current region.

Izumi Nakamitsu, who opened

Monday's fourth conference,

didn't mention Israel. But she

said: "Any threat to use nuclear

"urgency ... of a Middle East

zone free of nuclear weapons

and other weapons of mass

destruction", stressing that "cool

heads and diplomatic efforts"

must prevail to achieve peace

between Israel and the

Oman's UN Ambassador

Palestinians, based on a two-

state solution.

weapons is inadmissible." Nakamitsu reiterated the

UN disarmament chief

Israel's threat of

dropping nuke

on Gaza draws

condemnation

AP UNITED NATIONS

hina, Iran and a multitude

of Arab nations con-

demned an Israeli minister's

statement that a nuclear bomb

on the Gaza Strip was an

option in the Israel-Hamas

war, calling it a threat to the

world. At Monday's long-

planned opening of a United

Nations conference whose goal

is to establish a nuclear-free

zone in the Middle East, many

ambassadors expressed con-

demnations and criticisms of

comments by Israel's Heritage

Minister Amihai Eliyahu, who

later called his remarks in a

radio interview on Sunday

in 1986. China's deputy UN

ambassador Geng Shuang said

Beijing was "shocked", calling

the statements "extremely irre-

sponsible and disturbing" and

should be universally con-

demned. He urged Israeli offi-

cials to retract the statement

and become a party to the

Nuclear Nonproliferation

Treaty, considered the corner-

stone of nuclear disarmament,

as a non-nuclear weapon state

join other countries "to inject

Geng said China is ready to

"as soon as possible".

Israeli Prime Minister

"metaphorical".

Humanitarian crisis worsens in south Gaza

PTI DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA)

nother 200,000 people Ahave fled northern Gaza since November 5, the UN humanitarian office said Tuesday, as Israeli ground forces battle Palestinian militants around hospitals where patients, newborns and medics are stranded with no electricity and dwindling supplies.

The humanitarian office, known as OCHA, says only one hospital in the north is capable of receiving patients. All the others are no longer able to function and mostly serve as shelters from the fighting, including Gaza's largest, Shifa, which is surrounded by Israeli troops and where 36 babies are at risk of dying because there is no power for incubators.

The war, now in its sixth week, was triggered by Hamas' surprise attack into Israel, in which militants massacred hundreds of civilians and dragged some 240 hostages back to Gaza. Israel launched heavy airstrikes for nearly three weeks before sending troops and tanks into the north. The war has killed thousands of Palestinian civilians and wreaked widespread destruction on the impoverished

Israel has urged civilians to evacuate Gaza City and surrounding areas in the north, but the southern part of the besieged territory is not much safer. Israel carries out frequent airstrikes from north to south, hitting what it says are militant targets but often killing women and children.

UN-run shelters in the south are severely overcrowded, with an average of one toilet for 160 people. In all, some 1.5 million Palestinians, more than two thirds of Gaza's population, have fled their homes.

People stand in line for hours for scarce bread and brackish water. Trash is piling up, sewage is flooding the streets and taps run dry because there is no fuel for water pumps or treatment plants. Israel has barred fuel imports since the start of the war, saying Hamas would use

it for military purposes.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, which is struggling to provide basic services to over 600,000 people sheltering in schools and other facilities in the south, said it may run out of fuel by Wednesday, forcing it to halt most aid operations. It said it



was unable to continue importing limited supplies of food and medicine through Egypt's Rafah crossing, Gaza's only link to the outside world.

With Israeli forces fighting Palestinian militants in the centre of Gaza City, the territory's main city, both sides have seized on the plight of hospitals. Images of doctors trying to keep newborns warm at Shifa have circulated wide-

Israel accuses Hamas of using hospitals as cover for its fighters, alleging that Hamas has set up its main command centre in and beneath Shifa, without providing visual evidence. Both Hamas and Shifa Hospital staff deny the Israeli

On Monday, the military released footage of a children's hospital that its forces entered over the weekend, showing weapons it said it found inside, as well as rooms in the basement where it believes the militants were holding hostages. The video showed what appeared to be a hastily

system, as well as a motorcycle with a bullet hole in it, in the

The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza rejected the allegations, saying the base-ment shown was part of the hospital and had been turned into a shelter for displaced people. "The hospital was force-

fully evacuated at gunpoint .. Why didn't they detain any of the alleged resistance or alleged hostages?" the statement said. It denied the facility was related to a tunnel that Israeli forces uncovered nearby.

Meanwhile, gunfire and explosions raged Monday around Shifa, which Israeli troops encircled over the weekend. Tens of thousands of people have fled the hospital in the past few days and headed to the southern Gaza Strip, including large numbers of displaced people who had taken shelter

For weeks, Shifa staff members running low on supplies have performed surgery on war-wounded patients, including children, without anaesthesia and using vinegar as antiseptic.

Benjamin Netanyahu quickly Mohamed Al-Hassan, speakdisavowed the comments and ing on behalf of the sixsuspended him from cabinet nation Gulf Cooperation meetings.
Israel has neither con-Council which includes Saudi Arabia, said the threat to use firmed nor denied its nuclear nuclear weapons in Gaza capability. It is widely believed 'reaffirms the extremes and to possess nuclear weapons, brutality of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian and a former employee at its nuclear reactor served 18 years people" and their "disregard in Israeli prison for leaking details and pictures of Israel's for innocent life". He called on the UN alleged nuclear arsenal programme to a British newspaper

Security Council and the IAEA to take decisive action on the matter. Lebanon's Charge d'Affaires Hadi Hachem also condemned the Israeli heritage minister's comments, stressing that "this selfacknowledgment of having nuclear weapons and the threat of using them by its officials, poses a serious threat to both regional and international peace and security".

He urged Israel to stop 'such rhetoric or posturing' and join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Medics and patients stranded as battles rage around hospitals

AP KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA)

 $B_{\text{around hospitals forced thou-}}^{\text{attles between Israel and Hamas}}$ sands of Palestinians to flee from some of the last perceived safe places in northern Gaza, stranding critically wounded patients, newborns and their caregivers with dwindling supplies and no electricity, health officials said Monday.

With Israeli forces fighting in the centre of Gaza City, the territory's main city, both sides have seized on the plight of hospitals as a symbol of the larger war, now in its sixth week. The fighting was triggered by Hamas' October 7 surprise attack into Israel, whose response has led to thousands of deaths and much destruction - across

Israel accuses Hamas of using hospitals as cover for its fighters, alleging that Hamas has set up its main command centre in and

beneath Gaza's largest hospital, Shifa, without providing visual evidence. Both Hamas and Shifa Hospital staff deny the Israeli allegations.

On Monday, the military released footage of a children's hospital that its forces moved into over the weekend, showing weapons it said it found inside, as well as rooms in the basement where it believes the militants were holding some of the around 240 hostages they abducted during the initial

"Hamas uses hospitals as an instrument of war," said Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the army's chief spokesperson, standing in a room of the Rantisi Children's Hospital decorated with a colourful children's drawing of a tree. Explosive vests, grenades and RPGs were displayed on the floor.

Meanwhile, gunfire and explosions raged Monday around Shifa, which has been encircled by Israeli troops for days. Tens of thousands of people have fled the hospital in the past few days and headed to the southern Gaza Strip, including large numbers of displaced people who had taken shelter there, as well as patients who could move.

For Palestinians, Shifa and the other hospitals in the combat zone evoke the suffering of civilians. U.N. monitors said Tuesday that only one hospital in northern Gaza is still operating, with the others forced to shut down because of nearby fighting and the lack of fuel, power, water and medicine.

For weeks, Shifa staff members running low on supplies have performed surgery on war-wounded patients, including children, without anaesthesia. After the weekend's mass exodus, about 650 patients and 500 staff remain in the hospital, which can no longer function, along with around 2,500 displaced Palestinians sheltering inside with little food or water.

After power for Shifa's incubators went out days ago, the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza on Monday released a photo it says shows about a dozen premature babies wrapped in blankets together on a bed to keep them at a proper temperature. Otherwise, "they immediately die," said the Health Ministry's director general, Medhat Abbas, who added that four of the babies had been delivered by cesarean section after their mothers died.

US President Joe Biden said Monday that Shifa "must be protected." 'It is my hope and expectation that there will be less intrusive action," Biden said in the Oval Office.

Early Tuesday, the Israeli military said in a statement that it had started an effort to transfer incubators from Israel to Shifa. It wasn't clear if the incubators had been delivered or how they will be powered. International law

gives hospitals special protections during war. But hospitals can lose those protections if combatants use them to hide fighters or store weapons, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross

Still, there must be plenty of warning to allow evacuation of staff and patients, and if harm to civilians from an attack is disproportionate to the military objective, it is illegal under international law. In an editorial published Friday in Britain's The Guardian newspaper, International Criminal Court prosecutor Karim Khan said the attack er must meet a high burden of proof to show that a hospital has lost its

The Red Cross was attempting Monday to evacuate some 6,000 patients, staff and displaced people from another hospital, Al-Quds, after it shut down for lack of fuel, but the Red Cross said its convoy had to turn back because of shelling and fighting.

NOTICE INVITING BIDS (NIB)

Name of Work: "Supply & Installation of CCTV cameras at all workstations in the High Cour of Andhra Pradesh" through BOQ based Bidding in GeM (Government e-Marketplace) portal https://gem.gov.in)-Estimate Cost: Rs.65,86,280/- (incl.of all taxes). The bid can be d on GeM portal from 16.11.2023 to 01.12.2023 up to 14.00 Hrs. Bid end date 01.12.2023 up to 14.00 Hrs, bid opening date 01.12.2023 @14.30 Hrs. For further details please refer to https://gem.gov.in and https://crda.ap.gov.in.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001. Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813: Website www.pspcl.in Mobile No.96461-07205

E-Tender Eng. No.7485/P-3/EMP-12489 dated 09-11-23 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP Roopnagar invites E-tender ID no.2023_POWER_112429_1 for Procurement of spares for ID fans (Angular Vane and Diffuser Plate). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 10-11-23/ 5.00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.puniab.gov.in

RTP-137/23

76155/12/2394/2023/29751 Dated CHD :- 11/14/2023

Islamabad HC stays Imran Khan trial in cipher case

PTI ISLAMABAD

APakistan high court on Tuesday issued a stay order against the jail trial of former prime minister Imran Khan in the cipher case, seeking information about the "circumstances" that prompted the trial to be conducted in a high-security Rawalpindi prison.

The 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is currently detained in Adiala jail in Rawalpindi on judicial remand. Khan's close aide and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, 67, who was also arrested in the cipher case is imprisoned in the same jail. Khan and Qureshi have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

A two-member bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz pronounced the judgement during the hearing of Khan's intra-court appeal against his trial in Adiala jail.

The appeal was filed against a single-member bench of the same court which last month upheld the trial of Khan in Adiala Jail.

Justice Aurangzeb said the court would scrutinise the notification, questioning the "extraordinary circumstances" that led to the trial being conducted in its current man ner. "We want to know the actual events; you have to inform us," the judge said.

The court also sought clarification on the reasons behind the federal cabinet's approval of the jail trial. "The most important question lies in determining the status of court proceedings preceding the cabinet's approval," Justice Aurangzeb asked.

RenServ Global Private Limited (Formerly known as ReNew Services Private Limited)

CIN No.: U74999DL2019PTC348911

Regd. Office: 138, Ansal Chambers II, Bikaji Cama Place, Delhi-110066 Corporate Office: ReNew.hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram, 122009, Haryana, Phone – 0124-4896 670/ 80

Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2023 (Amounts in INR millions, except share and per share data, unless otherwise stated)

Total Income from Operations Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, 916 3,208 1,114 718 Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax 277 (120)(55)(302)(302)(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items# 277 (120)(55)Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax 278 (122)(56)(320)(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items# Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive (122)278 (56)(320)Income (after tax)] Paid up Equity Share Capital Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) (37) (37) 46 (232)(232) 750 Net worth* 46 750 Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt* Debt Equity Ratio *
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) 0.58 (for continuing and discontinued operations

Debt Service Coverage Ratio* Interest Service Coverage Ratio' (2.99) Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(7) Securites and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

27,847.30

(12,170.84)

(10.25)

(5,636.63)

(6.44)

(32,012.26

Asset Coverage Ratio: 816% Debt Equity ratio: mentioned above

Debenture Redemption Reserve'

Debt Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above Interest Service Coverage Ratio: mentioned above

Notes: Ratios have been computed as follows

Diluted

Earning per share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares Debt Equity Ratio* = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital + share premium + quasi equity i.e. Short term borrowing but excluding unamortize fees) Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, prior period items, tax, extraordinary items and depreciation / (Total Interest Expense).

 Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = ((PAT based on Project Revenues realised (excluding non-cash adjustment, if any) + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing) costs payable under Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment+Guarantee fee).

Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) *As per Debenture Trust Deed dated 06 May, 2023.

** Networth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus. Reserves and Surplus includes Capital reserve, General reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, Securities

premium account and Profit and loss account balance.

The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange and the

Company - https://renew.com.
For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures

have been made to the BSE (BSE) and can be accessed on the URL https://www.bseindia.com/. The company is in the business of operation and maintenance of wind and solar power plants. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 "Operating Segments".

The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and for the period ended 30 September 2023 have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on 14 November 2023. The statutory auditors of the company have carried out the limited review of the above unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended The statement has been prepared in accordance with recognition and measurement principles

laid down in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting ("Ind AS 34") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 ('the Act') read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and relevant rules issued thereunde and other recognized accounting practices and policies. Care Rating has assigned long term issuer rating and rating for the outstanding non-convertible debentures of the Company to "CRISIL A+ (CE)" with stable outlook.

Previous period figures have been re-grouped / re-classified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification in order to comply with the requirements of the amended Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 effective from 1 April 2021. For and on behalf of the

RenServ Global Private Limited (Formerly known as ReNew Services Private Limited) Place : Gurugram Place: Gurugram Date: 14th November, 2023 (Sd./-) Sanjay Jagadish Kulkarni Managing Director, DIN: 07852390 Date: 14th November, 2023

Wisemore Advisory Private Limited CIN: U74999HR2017PTC085774 Regd Office: AR1017B, The Aralias, DLF Golf Links, Gurgaon, Haryana-122009

Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30th September 2023

ended Total Income from Operations Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)

Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (20)(164)(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items# (22)(20)(38)(164)Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#) (22)(20)(38)(164)Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive (1,496) 869 (511) 869 (2,431) 869 Paid up Equity Share Capital Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) Equity component of compulsory 976 2,994 2,473 convertible debentures 1,831 1,845 3,863 3.342 Net worth' Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt*
Debt Equity Ratio * 1,335 0.72 2,265 Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (0.59) (0.59) (0.44) (0.44) (1.87) (1.87) (0.23) (0.23) 2. Diluted Debenture Redemption Reserve (0.05)(0.02)(0.02)Debt Service Coverage Ratio Interest Service Coverage Ratio

Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(7) Securites and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. - Credit Rating : CARE BB - (CE)

· Change in credit rating: No · Asset Coverage Ratio: 455% (31 March, 2023: 701%)

Debt Equity ratio : mentioned above

Debt Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above

Interest Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above
Previous due date for the payment of interest/ repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities

and whether the same has been paid or not (as on 30 Sept., 2023) Previous due date for the payment of interest : NA Previous due date for the payment of principal : NA

Next due date for the payment of interest/ repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities Next due date for the payment of interest: 20 Nov, 2023

Next due date for the payment of principal: 20 Nov 2023 Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value): Not Applicable

Net Worth ** (30 Sept., 2023): INR 1,831 (31 March, 2023: INR INR 3,342) Net profit after tax : mentioned above

Earning per share : mentioned above Debenture Redemption Reserve (30 Sept., 2023): NIL (31 March, 2023: INR NIL)

There are no material deviation in the use of proceeds of issue of Non Convertible Debentures from the objects stated in the offer document (Regulations 52(7))

Ratios have been computed as follows

 Earning per share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares
 Debt Equity Ratio* = (Debt Securities + Borrowings other than Debt Securities-Unamortised Issue Expenses) / Equity (Equity share capital + Other Equity) Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, tax and depreciation / Total Interest Expense Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = (Profit after tax + Depreciation + Interest) /(Interest

+ Principal Repayment)
Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders)

*As per Debenture Trust Deed dated 12th August 2021 as amended time to time. Networth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus. Reserves

and Surplus includes Capital reserve, General reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, Securities premium account and Profit and loss account balance. n Accordance with Ind AS 108 on Segment Reporting, the Company has identified two business segments i.e Investment Activity and Management Consultancy.

The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and for the period ended Sep 30, 2023 have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on

The figures of the quarter ended September 30, 2023 are balancing figures in respect of the respective half year ended Sept. 30, 2023 and unaudited management internal reporting figures for the quarter ended June 30, 2023. However, management has exercised necessory due diligence to ensure that the financial results for the periods provide a true and fair view o the Company's affairs.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Wisemore Advisory Private Limited

Vaishali Nigam Sinha

PUBLIC NOTICE

in possession of the Third Floor, Left Side Portion, adm. 50.00 sq.yds, built on property bearing No. 1–85, adm. 10.00 sq.yds, out of Khasra no. 665, situated at Sudershan Park, New Delhi. by virtue of Regd. Will by Mrs. Kamlesh Sabharwal dated 04.08.2016, as Doc No. 542. Now Mrs. Rozy Kohii & Mrs. Rita (Confirming Party) are selling said property of Mr. Daya Nand Ram and same approached Jana Small Finance Bank Limited for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgagad with the said Bank. We give this public notice that if any person having any claim/objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property in favour of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, is/are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 7 days from the date of publication of this documentary evidence at the address mention below within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, if any, of such persons will be consider to have been waived and/or, abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortage in respect thereof.

For Juris NextGen Law Offices

E-56, LGF, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-1

New Delhi-11048

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all, SHYAM SUNDER ARORA
S/o Sh.Gobind Ram R/o C-13/147,Sector-3,
Rohini,Delhi-110085,allottee/mutatee/ Rohini, Delhi-110085, allottee/mutatee/ Owner of DDA SFS Flat No.189, On Ground Floor, in Pocket-GH-4, CAT-II, situated at PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI, Vide DDA File No.F.1 45(8)91/SFS/PA/II, has applied for certified copies & conversion from leasehold to freehold in DDA. The original documents i.e. Demand Cum Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, NOC for obtaining water & electric connection, Mutation Letter Original Un-registered Conveyance Deed & other Relevant Documents of the above safe flat has been lost. An F.I.R./NCR/IR No. 1131 flat has been lost. An F.I.R./NCR/LR No.1131 24 5/2023 dated 13/11/2023 to this effect has 245/2023 dated 13/11/2023 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/ Phone No. 9958097857 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing)-SFS or Director(H)-SFS, Delhi Development Authority, Wikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023. Authority, Vikas Sadan , New Delhi-110023.



Aro granite industries Itd. CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510 Registered Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi 110025 Phone: 011-41686169; Fax: 011-26941984

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended ("the Rules"). The Rules, amongst other matters, contain provisions for transfer of all shares in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed for seven consecutive years or more in the name of the nvestor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority. The Company has uploaded full details of such shareholders and shares due for transfer to IEPF Authority on its website at www.arotile.com/Investor Relations. Shareholders are requested to refer to our website www.arotile.com/Investor Relations to verify the details of the shares liable to be transferred to

hareholders may note that both the unclaimed dividend and the shares transferred to IEPF Authority including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back by them from IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules. The Company has also sent individual letters to the shareholders in this regard. In case the shares which are required to be transferred to IEPF are held in physical form, the

Company would be issuing duplicate shares certificate(s) in lieu of the original share certificate(s) held by them for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPFA Authority as per the Rules and upon such issue, the original certificate(s) which stands registered in their name will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable. In case of the shares are held in demat form, the company shall inform the depository by way of Corporate Action, where the shareholders have neir demat accounts, for transfer of shares to IEPF. The shareholders may further note that the etails uploaded by the Company on its website should be regarded as and shall be deemed to be adequate notice in respect of issue of duplicate certificate(s) by the Company for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPF Authority pursuant to the Rules. In case the Company does not receive any communication from the concerned shareholders by

5th December 2023, the Company shall, with a view to complying with the requirements set out In the Rules, dematerialise and transfer the shares to IEPF Authority by way of corporate action be the due date as per the procedure stipulated in the Rules.

or any clarification in this regard, the shareholders may write to the Company or it's Registrar ransfer Agent M/s Alankit Assignments Limited, Unit: Aro granite industries ltd., Alankit ssignments Limited 205-208 Anarkali Complex, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi – 110055, rhone: 011-42541955, 42541960. Email :rta@alankit.com

For Aro granite industries Itd.

Sabvasachi Panigrahi Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi

Managing Director, DIN: 02299472

Next round of India-UK talks for free trade agreement expected soon

hief negotiators of India and the UK are expectded to soon hold next round of talks for the proposed free trade agreement to iron out differences on issues such as automobiles, medical devices, and movement of professionals, an official said. The official said that the UK team may come here for the 14th round of negotiations so that the talks can be concluded at the earliest.

"Virtual sessions are progressing. But we are planning for a full fledged round of talks. In the full round, both sides discuss all the chapters. Some 60-70 sessions happen parallelly," the official, who did not wish to be named, said. Issues which need resolution include rules of origin; intel-

chocolates and certain confectionary items; liberalisation of norms in services sectors like banking and insurance.

Talks are also progressing on

ment between India and the BITs help in promoting and protecting investments in each These investment treaties help other's countries. India has proposed to first in promoting and protecting

utilise all local judicial remedies for settlement of disputes before initiating an interna-

India and the UK launched the talks for free-trade agreement (FTA) in January 2022, with an aim to conclude talks by Diwali (October 24, 2022), but the

deadline was missed due to political developments in the There are 26 chapters in the agreement, which include goods, services, investments and intellectual property rights.

The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals from sectors like IT, and healthcare in the UK market, besides market access for several goods at nil customs duties. On the other hand, the UK is seeking a significant cut in import duties on goods such as scotch whiskey, automobiles, lamb meat, chocolates and certain confectionary items. Britain is also looking for

services in Indian markets in segments like telecommunications, legal and financial services (banking and insurance).

The bilateral trade between India and the UK increased to USD 20.36 billion in 2022-23 from USD 17.5 billion in 2021-

The 'rules of origin' provision prescribes minimal processing that should happen in the FTA country so that the final manufactured product may be called originating goods in that country.

Under this provision, a country that has inked an FTA with India cannot dump goods from some third country in the Indian market by just putting a label on it. It has to undertake a prescribed value addition in that product to export to India. Rules of origin norms help contain dumpmore opportunities for UK ing of goods.



Goyal visits Tesla's manufacturing facility in California

PTI NEW DELHI

ommerce and Industry →Minister Piyush Goyal has visited the manufacturing facility of US-based electric vehicle major Tesla at Fremont, California and said that the company would be doubling its auto components imports from

The minister is in the US on a four-day visit. The world's largest electric car producer Tesla Inc's chief Elon Musk met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June in New York and after the meeting Musk had said that he planned to visit India in

2024. "Visited @Tesla's state of the art manufacturing facility at Fremont, California. Extremely delighted to see talented Indian engineers and finance professionals working at Senior positions and contributing to Tesla's remarkable journey to transform mobility.

"Also proud to see the growing importance of auto component suppliers from India in the Tesla EV supply chain. It is on its way to double its components imports from India. Missed Mr @ElonMusk's magnetic presence and I wish him a speedy recovery," Goyal said on social networking platThe platform is also owned by

The visit comes amid reports that India is looking at giving customs duty concessions to Tesla for setting up a plant in the country. In September, Goyal said the company is looking to source components worth around USD 1.9 billion from India this year against USD 1 billion in 2022.

Going forward, demand for electric vehicles will increase and it will help in pushing the growth of the sector. Earlier, the government had stated that it is not looking to frame a sep-arate policy for providing incentives to Tesla, and the company can apply to avail support measures under exist-ing schemes like PLI for auto and advanced chemistry cells. Replying to the minister on the platform, Musk said :"It was an honor to have you visit Tesla! My apologies for not being able to travel to California today, but I look forward to meeting at a future date".

The government has rolled out production-linked incentives (PLI) schemes (PLI) for advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery storage with an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore and Rs 26,058 crore PLI scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries.



investments in each other's lectual property rights (IPRs); the proposed bilateral investcountry. The main point of social security agreement; duty ment treaty (BIT). contention involved in this

Wholesale inflation at (-) 0.52% in Oct; in negative territory for 7th month

Wholesale price inflation remained in the negative territory for the seventh month in a row in October at (-) 0.52 per cent on easing prices of food items.

Experts said some near-term upside risks to the WPI inflation could emanate from volatile vegetable prices, uptrend in domestic prices of most food items as well as an unfavourable base.

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rate has been in the negative zone since April and was at (-) 0.26 per cent in September, 2023. In October last year,

"The negative rate of inflation in October, 2023, is primarily due to fall in prices of chemicals and chemical products, electricity, textiles, basic metals, food products, paper and paper products, etc. As compared to the corresponding month of previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said on Tuesday.

A negative WPI inflation, technically termed as deflation, means that overall wholesale prices have been falling vear-on-year.

As per the data, inflation in food articles eased to 2.53 per cent in October. It was 3.35 per cent in the previous month. While inflation in vegetables and potatoes cooled to (-) 21.04 per cent and (-) 29.27

per cent respectively, the annual rate of price rise in onion continued to rule high at 62.60 per cent in October. Pulses and paddy continued to witness high inflation of 19.43 per cent and 9.39 per cent respectively. ICRA Ltd Chief Economist,

Head (Research & Outreach) Aditi Nayar said the WPI deflation widened slightly to 0.5 per cent in October 2023, from 0.3 per cent in September 2023, in year-onyear (YoY) terms. This was led by a sharp turnaround in crude petroleum and natural gas print to a deflation, and a

The fuel and power basket inflation was at (-) 2.47 per cent in October, against (-) 3.35 per cent in September. In manufactured products, the inflation rate was at (-) 1.13 per cent, as against (-1.34 per cent in September. Barclays MD & Head of EM Asia Economics, Rahul Bajoria said overall, inflation continues to stay broadly in check, with a stable rupee, manageable energy costs, and a countercyclical tax policy on fuel prices helping keep inflation in a stable range.

"Strong economic growth, coupled with resilient demand, should keep some pressure on headline inflation, both CPI and WPI, to remain manageable, with some near-term upside risks emanating from volatile vegetable prices," he

ICRA estimates the WPI inflation prints to remain below 3 per cent in the remaining months of FY2024, amid expectations that commodity prices will remain at benign levels unless global demand outlook strengthens signifi-

"Looking ahead, while global commodity prices, including crude oil continued to soften in the ongoing month, the uptrend in domestic prices of most food items as well as an unfavourable base is projected to lead to a turnaround in the WPI to a marginal 0.1 per cent inflation in November 2023 (6.1 per cent in November 2022), after a gap of seven months," Nayar said. The WPI remains materially below retail inflation, which is still close to 5 per cent.

The annual retail or consumer price inflation for October hit a 5-month low of 4.87 per cent, data released on Monday

The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its meeting last month held interest rate steady and projected average retail inflation for the current fiscal at 5.4 per softening in the inflation for primary food articles, mainly recorded in 2022-23.

Govt to invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks in next two weeks: Mines Secy approved royalty rates of three per cent each for lithium and

he government will invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks in next two weeks, a top official said on Tuesday. The 20 critical blocks include

lithium and graphite mines, Mines Secretary V L Kantha Rao told reporters here. "After making the policy on critical minerals, the next step is the

auctioning of critical mineral

"Now we are almost ready to issue the auction notice and in two weeks time we will be issuing an auction notice for auctioning about 20 blocks that are related to critical minerals like lithium and graphite," the sec-

Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi, the 94-year-old veteran cor-

porate hotelier who redefined

India's hospitality industry,

The Chairman Emeritus of

known as 'Biki', built a sprawl-

ing chain comprising 32 hotels

during his lifetime. EIH owns

the eponymous Oberoi and

Son of late Rai Bahadur MS

Oberoi, the founder of The

Oberoi Group, PRS Oberoi

had also been instrumental in

developing the Trident chain of

hotels. His father, the man

who started it all in 1934,

passed away in 2002 and Tilak

Raj, his older son, reportedly

Since then, PRS Oberoi steered

the hospitality chain through its

ups and downs. A hotel mag-

nate who embodied fine living,

his death brings to an end two

generations of the family that

built the Oberoi empire into an

Indian hospitality powerhouse.

died prematurely in 1984.

Trident hotel chains.

passed away on Tuesday.



retary said. He was speaking after the inauguration of the Mining Pavilion at India International Trade Fair (IITF). The secretary said 10-12 players in the country have the technology to produce and process

India's hospitality industry

icon PRS Oberoi no more

"It is with deep sadness that

we inform the peaceful pass-

ing of PRS Oberoi, Chairman

Emeritus of The Oberoi

Group, earlier today. A lumi-

nary in the hospitality indus-

try, Oberoi's legacy transcends

borders, leaving an indelible mark on the global land-scape," a statement said. PRS

Oberoi was born in New Delhi

on February 3, 1929. He

served as chairman of the

company since 1988 until he

stepped down in May last

year due to ill health.

Post this auction notice, he said, a workshop will be organised in which all the stakeholders will be brought together and a national-level strategy on mining and processing of critical minerals will be made. Last month, the Centre had

"PRS Oberoi has decided to

relinquish his position as chair-

man and director of the EIH

Associated Hotels Ltd effective

May 2, 2022 due to his deteri-

orating health," a press release

Under his leadership, the com-

hotel, 'The Trident Chennai',

that opened in 1988, to become

one of India's most reputable

He is reportedly survived by

three children, son Vikramjit

Singh Oberoi -Managing

Director and Chief Executive

Officer of EIH Hotels, and

daughters Natasha and

In 2014, it was reported that

PRS Oberoi decided not to

choose his successor to run

EIH Ltd, after years of intense

speculation over who he would

choose as successor, son

Vikramjit or nephew Arjun,

who currently serves as

Executive Chairman of EIH

Ltd. Arjun is the son of PRS

Oberoi's late elder brother,

had said that time.

hotel companies.

Anastasia.

Rare Earth Elements (REEs). Critical minerals have become important for the nation's economic development and national security Lithium and REEs have gained significance keeping in mind the

niobium and one per cent for

country's commitment towards energy transition and achieving net-zero emission by 2070.

The Centre had earlier said that it is working to launch the first round of the auction of critical and strategic minerals such as lithium, REE, nickel, platinum group of elements, potash, glauconite, phosphorite, graphite and molybdenum shortly.

60% of businesses 'off track' to meet sustainability goals: Bain & Company report

PTI NEW DELHI

track" to meet their sustain- number of related behaviours report by Bain & Company, which also found that consumers are willing to shell out a premium for sustainable

According to the report, a large number of people surveyed in India say they have a high level of concern about environment sustainability. This could be driven by the spiking levels of pollution in major cities and the rising incidence of flash floods in different parts of the country.

Consumers in fast-growing markets, where Bain found environmental concerns to be highest, including India, were willing to pay a greater premi-um (between 15 and 20 per cent), compared to markets like the US and the UK.

The report further said that an Indian consumer, however, is Over 60 per cent of busi-nesses surveyed are "off standing sustainability and a norms and financial realities. "As extreme weather prompts growing environmental concern across the globe, new research from Bain & Company shows more than 60 per cent of businesses are off track to meet their current sustainability goals," it said.

Progress will require a combination of technology, policy, and behaviour change, the report said, adding that an increasingly conscious base of consumers and employees may prove helpful.

To get a broad sense of environmental concerns around the world, Bain surveyed 23,000 consumers, and the results underscored the growing urgency of sustainability



mn via bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Energy Solutions (AESL), earlier known as Adani Transmission, is planning to raise USD 360 million (around Rs 3,000 crore) through issuing bonds on a private placement basis.

"...We are looking for a private placement of USD 360 million of transmission assets which were commissioned in the last three to four years," Rohit Soni, Chief Financial Officer of Adani Energy Solutions, said during an

investors call. He further informed that the company is still working if it can get (raise USD 360 million) via bonds early next year and the work is still in progress.

He also informed that paperwork (for the bond issue) are

underway.

Soni also told analysts about the company's plan to raise another USD Í billion, saying, "we are looking at a billion dollar of raise, so I think we are still working on it, so the time what we have given by year end that still holds good from our perspective." In May this year, the board has approved raising of funds by way of issuance of equities worth up to Rs 8,500 crore by way of qualified institutional placement or other permissible mode.

folio, is a multi-dimensional organisation with presence in various facets of the energy domain, namely power transmission, distribution, smart metering, and cooling solu-

AESL, part of the Adani port-

AESL is the country's largest private transmission company having presence across 16 states of India and a cumulative transmission network of 19,800 circuit kilometers and 53,000 MVA transformation

RINL hopes asset monetisation may garner ₹3000-4000cr

PTI KOLKATA

 $R^{
m ashtriya\ Ispat\ Nigam\ Ltd}$ RINL), a steel CPSE, on Tuesday said if it can garner Rs 3000-4000 crore from the monetisation of its forged wheel plant and land parcel, and the ongoing efficiency measures, it will be able to increase production and turnaround from

As RINL is a divestment candidate, the monetisation process is handled by the Department of Investment and

Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

"If we are able to fetch Rs 3000-4000 crore from the monetisation of the railway wheel plant and the land parcel at Vizag, it will help us turn around with a reduction in debt and working capital," RINL (Vizag Steel Plant) CMD Atul Bhatt said on the sidelines of the Steel & Metallurgy Steel Conclave and Award Ceremony.

RINL had invested Rs 2000 crore in the wheel plant. The forged wheel plant, a unit of



RINL at Rae Bareli in UP, has a capacity of one lakh forged train wheels per year with a provision to expand the capacity up to two lakh wheels per year and supplies to the Indian Railways. "If the monetisation happens by this fiscal, it will help RINL to come back to cash profit by ramping up production with ongoing operational efficiency projects," Bhatt said. În 2022-23, RINL had posted

a loss of around Rs 3000 crore. It has an installed capacity of 7.3 million tonne and current

production is at about 5.5 million tonne. Bhatt attributed this loss to a

glut in the steel market due to the global recession, export tax on steel, and a lack of captive raw material security. "We have a cost disadvantage of

Rs 6000 per tonne due to buying iron ore from the open market and an unsustainable debt of around Rs 23000 crore. The monetisation plan will help reduce debt and improve the working capital situation,"

Tata Steel announces 800 job cuts in Netherlands to ensure profitability vention in the five-shift system. petitiveness and profitability, The decision to reduce the

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

rata Steel, which is seeking 1 a financial aid for its Dutch operations, has said it will cut 800 jobs in the Netherlands to ensure structural competitive-

ness and profitability. In October 2021, Tata Steel completed the process of separating Tata Steel UK and Tata Steel Netherlands as two independent companies from Tata Steel Europe

In the Netherlands, the company has a 7 Million Tonne Per Annum (MTPA) plant in

The company's goal is to produce CO2-neutral steel by 2050 in Europe.

The steel market has been in dire straits for some time. In order to ensure structural com-

both now and in the future, Tata Steel Nederland is implementing significant measures, including the reduction of 800 jobs in IJmuiden," Tata Steel said in a statement.

Tata Steel will improve its market position and reduce costs... And the company also needs to further reduce personnel costs, the statement said.

number of jobs is a difficult one, with potentially significant personal impacts on employees and their families, the company said.

The job reduction is expected to affect about 500 Tata Steel employees, primarily in management, staff, and support

There is emphatically no inter-

Forced redundancies cannot be ruled out, and the company will discuss a social plan with the unions.

The remaining 300 jobs that will be eliminated concern the work of temporary workers and not filling vacancies not directly related to the production. "The measures being taken are also in the interest of

steel company. Substantial investments are being made now and in the coming years."

of new skilled talent. Despite the reduction in the

steps of our green steel plan, Tata Steel said.

transforming into a cleaner, would go for fresh hirings as there is no freeze on induction greener, and more circular

"It is, therefore, crucial to maintain a strong competitive position and to be agile enough to respond to rapidly changing circumstances and new devel opments," Tata Steel said. The company further said it

number of jobs, there is no complete hiring freeze, it said. The need for technically trained people, for example in production, remains. Both now and in the future, in the next

Uttam to lead India in Junior Hockey World Cup

alented forward Uttam Singh will lead India in the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, to be held in Kuala Lumpur from December 5 to 16.

India, the reigning Asian champions, are placed in Pool C alongside Canada, South Korea and Spain. They will start their tournament campaign against Korea on December 5.

In their next fixtures, India will face Spain on December 7 and Canada on December 9.

India had finished fourth in the last edition of the tournament, and coach C.R. Kumar said the team is all set to take



their journey much forward. "We have a formidable squad. We draw inspiration from the 2016 Junior World Cup-winning team. We are fortunate to have a bunch of seasoned players, who were part of the last Junior World Cup in

'They will shoulder leadership roles and mentor their teammates. Our ultimate priority is to clinch victory in the Junior World Cup, and we are committed to taking measured

steps," said Kumar. Pool A boasts of defending champions Argentina, Australia, Chile, and Malaysia. Pool B includes Egypt, France, Germany and South Africa. Pool D sets the stage for fierce

competition with Belgium, Netherlands, New Zealand, and Pakistan vying for a quarterfinal berth.

India squad: Goalkeepers: Mohit HS, Ranvijay Singh Yadav.

Defenders: Shardanand Tiwari, Amandeep Lakra, Rohit, Sunil JoJo, Amir Ali.

Midfielders: Vishnukant Singh Poovanna C B, Rajinder Singh, Amandeep, Áditya Singh.

Forwards: Uttam Singh (Captain), Aditya Lalage, Araijeet Singh Hundal (vicecaptain), Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Sudeep Chirmako, Boby Singh Dhami. Reserve players: Sukhvinder, Sunit



Italy faces showdown with Ukraine in Euro 2024 qualifying

Albania and Slovenia well set to advance

AP GENEVA

The final rounds of The initial founds of European Championship qualifiers see defending champion Italy needing a strong finish to clinch a spot at the tournament, while Albania and Slovenia can secure surprising group victo-

Romania is another unlikely team controlling its own Euro 2024 destiny, although Israel still has an outside chance to secure direct advancement from that group.

Slovenia tops Group H ahead of Denmark, but could still be overtaken by an even lowerranked team - Kazakhstan.

Twelve teams will secure advancement in the next week to the tournament hosted by Germany. Eight teams already qualified last month: France, England, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Austria, Scotland

and Turkey. The Netherlands, Hungary and Serbia are best placed to confirm their qualification. Three more teams will advance from a 12-team playoff in March.

Among those in danger of not qualifying directly are Croatia, a finalist and semi-finalist at the past two World Cups, and Italy, which failed to reach either of those tournaments. Italy faces a high-stakes game

likely for second place behind England in Group C.

Ukraine will host Italy in Germany - at the stadium of Bundesliga leader Bayer Leverkusen - because it cannot play international games at home for security reasons during the military invasion by Russia. Russia was banned from Euro 2024 qualifying. Italy is three points behind Ukraine, but with a game in hand, and hosts North Macedonia on Friday - a fix-

ture that could revive bad memories for the Italians. Italy's second straight failure to reach the World Cup came in a home loss to North Macedonia in a playoff semifinal in March 2022.

includes the Czech Republic and Poland.

Coached by former Brazil, Arsenal and Barcelona leftback Sylvinho, Albania only needs a draw Friday at Moldova to advance. Albania finishes Monday at home to the Faeroe Islands.

Poland, which fired veteran Portugal coach Fernando Santos after just a few months, needs a win at home against the Czechs on Friday to maintain any chance of advancing directly, but captain Robert Lewandowski's team seems headed to the playoffs.

Slovenia has not qualified for a Euro since the 2000 edition but leads Euro 2020 semi-finalist Denmark on goal difference before they meet in Copenhagen on Friday. Even with a loss, Slovenia will need just a point to advance when hosting Kazakhstan on Monday. Either Wales or Croatia will miss out on qualifying from Group D, where Turkey has

already secured one of the top two spots. Wales hosts Turkey next Tuesday potentially needing a win to advance and send Croatia to the playoffs. Wales holds the head-to-head tiebreaker after beating Croatia

2-1 last month. Slovakia will join Portugal advancing from Group J by drawing at home to Iceland on Thursday. Third-place should be

playoffs because of its Nations League results. ISRAEL'S QUEST

Israel has never qualified for the Euros since becoming a full UEFA member in 1994. It was already in a tight, three-way race with Romania and Switzerland in Group I before the war with Hamas led to its two scheduled games in October being post-

A new program of four games in 10 days started Sunday with a 1-0 loss at Kosovo, making third-place Israel's "home" game Wednesday against Switzerland

Israel will play that game in a small Hungarian village closely tied to the country's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Group leader Romania visits on

Saturday. The final round is Tuesday, when Romania Switzerland and Israel is at

each four-man group reaching

Bellingham out of England's **European** qualifiers with shoulder injury

AP ■ LONDON

 $\begin{array}{c} R^{\text{eal}} \ \text{Madrid} \ \text{midfielder} \\ \text{Jude} \ \text{Bellingham} \ \text{withdrew} \ \text{Tuesday} \ \text{from} \ \text{England's} \end{array}$ squad for its upcoming European Championship qualifiers because of a shoulder injury.

Bellingham has missed Madrid's last two games because of the problem and, having been assessed at England's training base at St. George's Park on Monday, will continue his rehabilitation back in Spain. Chelsea defender Levi Colwill

also withdrew with a shoulder injury ahead of games against Malta and North Macedonia, which are largely inconsequential with England having qualified with two games to spare in Group C. Colwill missed Chelsea's 4-4 draw with Manchester City in the Premier League on Sunday. Rashford and midfielder Kalvin Phillips will join the squad later this week because of personal matters.

England leads its group with 16 points, three more than Ukraine and six more than

Kahleah of WNBA's Chicago Sky returns to Rutgers as assistant coach

AP WASHINGTON

Kahleah Copper is heading back to Rutgers as an assistant on the women's basketball team, where she played during her college career.

her college career.
The Chicago Sky's star wing will become the Director of Athletic Culture and Professional Development.
Copper averaged 14 points and 5.8 rebounds when she competed for the Scarlet Knights from 2012-16 under coach C. Vivian Stringer.
"I think it's crazy that I've been having some full circle

been having some full circle moments," Copper said in a phone interview. "I'm super excited to be back and pour into the program that molded me into the player and person I am. I'm excited to go back to my roots where it all began for me. Give back to that program and help develop the next generation of pros.

Rutgers coach Coquese Washington said when she told her players that Copper would coach them - a player who won the 2021 WNBA title with Chicago - their eyes were "big as saucers."

This isn't Copper's first foray into coaching. She was an assistant on the Purdue University Northwest basketball team in 2020-21. She said a greater appreciation for coaching.

"I appreciate scouts more, being a leader and being a player that is consistent," she said. "You see the difference in what that makes. A leader comes in every day and is consistent."



Copper said she received a call from Washington this summer, asking her if she wanted to return as a coach.

We talked about her journey as she was still playing and her becoming a coach. What inspired her to do that," Copper said. "We talked about what I did at Purdue Northwest and how it made me feel. I got a love for it.

Washington said she got into college coaching as an assistant at her alma mater Notre Dame while playing in the WNBA for the New York Liberty, Houston Comets and Indiana Fever. She was recruited for the job by her college coach, Hall of Famer Muffet McGraw.

Talking to Kahleah, I told her I came from the same place. I understand what you're thinking in the offseason," Washington said. "You want to ape, the marketing stay ir and business responsibilities. Those were the conversations

we had. "She's a finals MVP, a WNBA champion, plays on the national team. This is as good as it gets of what it takes to be an elite level player."

Chess fraternity confident its players will get TOPS support

PTI NEW DELHI

The chess fraternity, following a host of top-notch performances in recent years, is foreseeing the government extending the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) to its players despite the sport not being a part of the Games curriculum. R Vaishali and Vidit Gujrathi

who recently won the FIDE Grand Swiss women's and open titles in a rare double for India in Isle of Man to qualify for the the prestigious Candidates tournament in Toronto next year, felt that it's a matter of time before the government extends the scheme to chess, while All India Chess Federation vice-president Bharat Singh Chauhan said that the sports ministry had "told us we can apply" for TOPS.

TOPS is the sports ministry's flagship programme that attempts to assist India's premier athletes in Olympic disciplines. The scheme aims to improve the athletes' training so they can compete for medals in the global showpiece.

"TOPS are going to support us. They have told us we can apply and they will support. This discussion has taken place. The government is supporting us on all fronts, no PTI on the sidelines of the announcement of a Rs two crore financial assistance for R Praggnandhaaa, Gujrathi and Vaishali to prepare for the Candidates tournament in Toronto in April. The international chess body,

FIDE, organises the Candidates as the final contest to determine the challenger for the World Championship.

Gujrathi, who beat Alexandr Prédke of Serbia to record his seventh victory in the Grand Swiss event in Isle of Man to take the top spot in the open section last week, said it will be the icing on the cake if chess players also get support under

"We would be very glad. Of course the government is doing a lot of good things and this (inclusion in TOPS) would be the icing on the cake. I mean we will be getting better facilities, trainers. Because of that, we can train better and achieve our goals, which is not easy. "So if it happens there is nothing like it. I really wish that it

The 29-year-old also hoped chess becomes a part of the

"It's my dream to represent India in the Olympics. There is a huge potential," he added. Vaishali, the elder sister of chess prodigy Praggnandhaaa, too felt TOPS will support chess players in the long run. "As a sport, chess is gaining a

lot of popularity. Definitely it will be nice if it's a part of the TOPS. I am sure it $\bar{\text{will}}$ happen in the long run," said Vaishali, who is on the threshold of becoming the third Indian woman to become a Grandmaster.

To become a Grandmaster has always been my dream when I started playing chess. In Isle of Man, I was so close to completing the title. All I had to do was win the last game to join Koneru Humpy and D Harika in the elite club of grandmas-

"But I drew. Now I am just like a few points away. I hope it will come soon. I do keep thinking about it every day. I've planned a tournament in this monthend in Spain. I just confirmed it yesterday. There is a good chance I could become a GM there," she hoped.

Vaishali is happy that she will Candidates tournament next year along with younger brother Praggnandhaaa, which will be a proud moment for the family

"Our family is very happy that two of us have qualified for the Candidates.

Satwik-Chirag lose in first round of Japan Masters

PTI KUMAMOTO (JAPAN)

Asian Games gold medal-lists Satwiksairai Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty faltered in the opening round to make a shocking exit from the Japan Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Tuesday. The top-seeded Indian com-

bination went down 21-16 18-21 16-21 to world number 21 Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han of Chinese Taipei in a 63minute match.

Satwik and Chirag, ranked world number 5, had defeated Lu and Yang at the French Open final last year but they couldn't get on top of the Taiwanese pair, who dished out a spirited performance to outwit the Indians. The Indians erased an initial 0-3 deficit to grab a 11-7 lead. Lu and Yang clawed



Chirag managed to keep their nose ahead before taking the opening game with four straight points.

The second game was a tough battle as advantage changed hands too frequently with the Taiwanese managing to hold on to 11-9 lead at the interval. Satwik and Chirag kept breathing down their neck but Lu and Yang broke off at 14-14 to take the match to the

The third game followed the same script with the two pairs engaging in a slugfest. From 6-6, Lu and Yang won four of the next five points to make it 7-10. Satwik and Chirag drew parity but Lu and Yang were relentless as they dominated the rallies and feasted on the weakness of the Indians to seal the issue without much ado in the end.

HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen and Priyanshu Rajawat will begin their campaign on Wednesday.

Albania has ridden its strong home form - three wins and no goals conceded - to currently top a group that

Alcaraz loses to Zverev in his ATP Finals debut

Medvedev soundly beats good friend Rublev

onsidering all that he's →accomplished over the last two years — two Grand Slam titles and finishing last season as No. 1 — Carlos Alcaraz no doubt belongs among the world's elite.

Still, this wouldn't have been the ATP Finals debut the 20-yearold Spaniard was hoping for at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players. After missing the finals last year

because of an abdominal injury, Alcaraz was beaten in his opening match on Monday by twotime champion Alexander Zverev 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-4. In the other red group match, Daniil Medvedev quickly disin his right ankle in the French Open semifinals. But the bigserving German clearly likes the fast conditions inside the Pala

patched his good friend Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-2. Zverev also missed last year's

edition after tearing ligaments

title two years ago. Zverev served 16 aces to Alcaraz's 11, saved five of six break points, and never really let Alcaraz feel in control. "I had a few break points that I couldn't take, and Î think that

Alpitour, where he claimed the

was the key of the match," Alcaraz said. Added Zverev, "I served very

well. That helped." Zverev overcame a scare late in

the third set when he was chas-

ing down a forehand from Alcaraz, lost his grip, slipped and fell to the court clutching his left ankle. But Zverev quickly shook it off and held in that game for a 4-2 lead. "I didn't twist my ankle. I just kind of slipped. And kind of

maybe pinched my Achilles, my capsule a little bit," Zverev said. "Hopefully it's nothing too major and I can continue play-

Zverev faced a break point while serving for the match and responded with an ace down the middle. Two points later, the match was over.

Zverev has also had off-court issues recently after a German court issued a penalty order against him after allegations he caused bodily harm to a woman. Zverev has disputed the allegations and is contesting the penalty order.

Alcaraz had trouble adjusting to the court's speed.



"This surface is the fastest on the year, that's for sure," Alcaraz said. "I don't know why they put this kind of surface at the end of the year because all the tournaments that we have played on hard court is so, so slow. Then we come here to the Masters and they put this court so fast." Zverev suggested a slight bit of altitude is a factor, with Turin at an elevation of 784 feet (239 meters),

"But generally speaking, the conditions here are very fast," Zverev said

Still, Alcaraz enjoyed the experience of the fancy lighting and and the tunnel leading out to the court.

"The best walk-out that I've ever done," the Spaniard said. "It was unbelievable experience for me to play my first match ... Even if I lost."

Alcaraz can still hope to advance from the round-robin, with the top two finishers in

the semifinals. OVERPOWERING

MEDVEDEV Medvedev cranked out 10 aces

to Rublev's two to improve to 7-2 in his career against Rublev, who is the godfather of his oneyear-old daughter. Medvedev, who won this tournament in 2020 when it was in London, also reached the 2021 final in Turin. Rublev beat Medvedev in a third-set tiebreaker in the opening

round-robin match a year ago. Medvedev was so overpowering on Monday that Rublev fell to the ground while at the net late in the second set as he attempted to fend off his friend's heavy groundstrokes - then covered his face with his hands in despair.

Novak Djokovic and Jannik Sinner won their opening matches in the green group on

India's dominance vs NZ's perseverance

relentless India rocketed through their league engagements with nine wins on the bounce but the past record is just a shiny antique in a showcase and the hosts will have to be at their gun-slinging best when they face familiar foes New Zealand in the first World Cup semifinal, here Wednesday.

The 2019 Manchester heartbreak might be lingering in a corner of the hosts' mind as an irritant. The Kiwis also had the measure of India in the ICC WTC Final in 2021, if one needs more attestation of the Kiwis' grip over the latter in global events. However, this Indian side has

shown a propensity to rise above an uncomfortable past, but they will be aware that any slip up at the Wankhede Stadium will be viewed as a national catastrophe, shattering a billion hearts.

So, India will also have to rise above the pressure emanating out of those enormous expectations placed on them, also heightened by their league phase bull run.

Captain Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid, two individuals who know all about the pitfalls of heavy expectations, will have to keep their outfit calm, nestled away from the fear of failure in a crunch match.

But those are more matters of the mind. There are just as significant matters to take care of

WC semifinal

on the field.

To start with, the Indian team and its legion of fans will hope and pray that Rohit calls it right at the toss. The teams batting second at this venue have invariably lost early wickets in clusters under lights with the new ball moving dangerously in the air and off the deck.

Both India and New Zealand have bowlers who can inflict severe damage with the new

In that context, a lot will depend on the fearless approach of Indian openers -- Rohit and Shubman Gill.

The Mumbaikar has so far made 503 runs and will hope for a continuation, but Gill with a tally of 270 runs from seven matches would like to own the stage with a blistering effort against the Kiwis.

Virat Kohli is now the top rungetter in the tournament with 593 runs, and the landmark of 50 ODI hundreds is waiting to be reached. He would like to marry the milestone with an Indian victory.

Kohli would also like to break the semifinal jinx after getting

dismissed for one in the 2019 and 2015 edition.

India will also be delighted to see their middle-order batters KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer hitting top form ahead of the semis though the management will welcome some runs from Survakumar Yadav.

Jasprit Bumrah and Kuldeep Yadav have been as lethal as they ever have been but the limelight, to a large extent, has been stolen by Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj who have been unplayable

In this World Cup, no other bowling attack has produced a masterclass in bowling on flat wickets than India's.

But that said, writing off Kiwis' pace troika of Trent Boult, Tim Southee, Lockie Ferguson and left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner will be naive.

They have enough experience and skill to make an impact even on a shirtfront, and will also hope to prey on any pressure India faces in front of the home crowd. For India, a win is non-negotiable and the Blackcaps can play all-out Southee, Will Young.

cricket knowing that they really have not much to lose. in batting also, New Zealand have enough depth and experience to counter the marauding India bowlers.

The young Rachin Ravindra (565 runs) is the find of the tournament, but Devon Conway is short of big scores his unbeaten 152 against England in the tournament opener was the only time he scored fifty or above.

Captain Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell are the middleorder lynchpins but New Zealand do not match India's firepower on paper, but they certainly have the ability to dig

So, it all boils down to who will manage the pressure moments better and we might just have a cracker. **SQUADS:**

India: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (wk), KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yaday, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ishan Kishan (wk), Prasidh Krishna, Suryakumar Yadav.

New Zealand: Williamson (c), Trent Boult, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham (wk), Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips (wk), Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim

Fortune favours the brave, says Rohit

Over the past few weeks, his team has transformed into an unstoppable force vanquishing everyone on its path to glory. But, in Wednesday's World Cup semifinal against New Zealand, India skipper Rohit Sharma also wants "luck to favour" his squad.

"Now, the time has come that you need a little bit of luck as well to favour you, go your way. Obviously, we are going to be brave enough. And hopefully, fortune favours the brave," Rohit said on the eve of the bigticket game.

Rohit said the hosts will not be required to make big changes in regards to their mindset and approach just because they are headed into the semifinal clash.

India have been the most dominant team in this World Cup having won all their nine league matches to finish at the top of the points table and will face the Kiwis at the Wankhede Stadium in the first semifinal. "(In) the first (half) of the tournament, if you see, I think we chased the first five games and then the next four games we batted first. In terms of the areas that we wanted to cover, we have covered almost every

here before India's only training session ahead of the semifinal game.

"But again, like I said, we do understand the importance of this week, but for us I do not think we need to do anything different from what we've been doing in this tournament," he

The captain said pressure has always been a part of the journey for them as Indian cricketers and it will be no different when they take the field for the semifinaĺ.

"Be it a league match or semifinal, the pressure is always there in a World Cup match. We have handled it well from the first game to the last. The team has responded well," Rohit said.

"We are focusing on playing good cricket in the next two games. Pressure is always there on us as Indian cricketers. The need is to focus on the game and not on the pressure and challenges from the other side," he added.

Rohit has respect for New Zealand whom he described as probably the "most disciplined" side in the competition, adding that they have a quality of reading the oppo-

Kiwis skipper will know how to tackle Kuldeep: Gavaskar

PTI MUMBAI

On the rare occasions when India's menacing pace attack could not scythe through opposition line-ups in this World Cup, their spinners did the job in their own ways.

However, that may not be the case when Kane Williamson leads New Zealand out in the first semifinal against the inform hosts here on Wednesday, according to batting great Sunil Gavaskar.

Highlighting Williamson's adept footwork and strategic approach, Gavaskar reckoned the Kiwis skipper will have no trouble negotiating the Indian spinners, especially the unorthodox Kuldeep Yadav.

"He's such a great player; it doesn't matter if he's come out from a big break and he's scored runs. So, I don't think it's going to make much of a difference," Gavaskar said on Star Sports.

"He uses his feet really well to go down the pitch to smother the turn if needed; he then goes and uses the crease as well. So, he's a very good player. I don't think he is going to be fussed about playing Kuldeep; he will know how to tackle him." Gavaskar said Williamson's

cricket in this World Cup has not just been about technical nous and cultured strokeplay, as the affable Kiwi has also shown a propensity to take the aerial route, a far cry from his 2019 avatar.

"If needed, you don't want to hit him for boundaries; just work it away for six singles if that is required. Then, six runs an over is a good scoring rate by any standard, so he will look to do that.

"When the boundary ball comes along, he will hit the boundary ball, so we've seen his willingness to take more risks. We haven't seen that side of Kane Williamson maybe in 2019, but here, we have seen him take the aerial route.

"He got out on a shot for a 100 the other day; he got out on 95, but that's because he had taken the aerial route, and he will probably look to do that against Kuldeep Yadav as well," Gavaskar concluded.

India are considered favourites against New Zealand in what will be a repeat of the final four clash four years ago in the 2019

Williamson fine by 'underdogs'

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson is impressed that India did not let Hardik Pandya's absence hurt them but reminded that they too have done some "good stuff" in the World Cup and "anything can happen" if they they play to their potential.

India are the only team to reach the knockout stage without losing a single match, making it hot-favourite and the Kiwis enter the knockout match as 'underdogs', a tag Williamson has no qualms in accepting. Williamson, though reminded that "anything can happen", if

"The underdog thing - from what you guys write I do not think it has changed too much, league stage.

but that is fine, and India have been exceptional," Williamson told the media on the eve of the match at the Wankhede Stadium. However, the New Zealand

captain said the semifinals would place every side on an even keel and the Kiwis have as much chance as their oppo-

"India are one of the, if not the best team going around and playing cricket that matches that, but we know as well on our day when we play our best cricket, it certainly gives us the best chance, and anything can happen," he said.

Williamson praised India for ing their only all-rounder Pandya midway through the



"Every team has a slightly dif- "They (India) adjusted nicely, ferent balance that they rely on and you know our team tends and naturally with the injury to to, or has done in the past any-Hardik - it meant that their bal- way, played with a slightly difcertainly did not change the outcome of what they were doing," Williamson said.

"When you get into tournaments as well, it is guys being with the ball or with the bat, and it all goes quite quickly so you are trying to make sure you build on those performances as a team," he said.

"(India) have done it better than anybody so far in this competition. As a side, I think we have done some good stuff too," he added.

Williamson spent a long time on the sidelines after injuring his knee at the start of the Indian Premier League this year and returned only in the World Cup after a long recovery process. He then suffered a fracture to his thumb a few games into the tournament

"An interesting journey for sure, from sort of, it (comeback) not being a chance to get-

that they have, whether that is ting close and it becoming a reality and something to target, and certainly feeling really grateful to be here and then to get back and then break my thumb. It is not funny," he said. "It was quite frustrating and testing but still feeling that it had not ruled me out. It is nice to be fitter than perhaps I was yesterday and be sitting here." The Kiwi skipper said facing the home team India would be a massive opportunity for both the teams to win and there were no clear favourites.

> really tough challenge. They (India) are a side that has been playing extremely well, but we everything sort of starts again and it is all about the day," he

"We know it is going to be a

When Maninder had tears, Azhar didn't know what to do

A retiring legend was devastated, an enormously talented spinner never fully found his mojo back, an inspirational captain lost his hot seat while a 14year-old watching everything from the Wankhede stadium's boundary line must have made a pledge to himself that one day his script will be different from theirs.

The teenager was of course Sachin Tendulkar and the devastated legend was Sunil Gavaskar, who had already announced his retirement and never played for India after India lost that World Cup semifinal against England in 1987. Maninder Singh, a world class left-arm spinner, was never the same bowler after that game.



Kapil Dev lost his captaincy, one last time

Wankhede Stadium in 1987 was an amphitheatre that had absorbed the trials and tribulations of a very good Indian team. Graham Gooch, the English vice-captain swept his way to 115 and England didn't look back.

On that day, no one envisaged that anything could go wrong for the Indian team. But Murphy's Law hit the Indian team with full force on November 5, 1987.

On Wednesday, when Rohit Sharma leads the blue shirts against a quality New Zealand side, the home fans would pray that they do not return from Wankhede with heartache.

Cricket's biggest advantage and disadvantage is the recency bias. Only fans of a certain vintage would remember that no-sotalked about World Cup semifinal, where India started as

overwhelming favourites. Actually April 2, 2011 is so strongly entrenched in the collective consciousness of the Indian fans that very few remember how formidable class of 1987 was.

felt devastated twice in my career. One was that 1987 semi-

final at Wankhede and the second time after losing the 1996 semi-final to Sri Lanka at the Eden Gardens," Mohammed Azharuddin, the only Indian captain to lead the country in three World Cups told PTI.

"On both occasions, we had a very strong team for conditions and no one actually thought, we could lose. We lost five wickets for 15 runs. The match turned once Paaji (Kapil Dev) got out. "I also panicked after being

well-set. The asking rate was moving upwards and I played that needless paddle sweep off Eddie Hemmings. I was very upset that evening," Azhar said. Do you feel that had DRS been there back then, the leg before that Hemmings got could have been over-turned? Azhar replied in a negative.



Beckham to attend India-NZ clash

PTI MUMBAI

 $E_{\text{David Beckham will be}}^{\text{ngland football legend}}$ among the dignitaries present during the first semifinal of the ongoing World Cup between India and New Zealand here on Wednesday.

Beckham, who is already in the country as UNICEF's goodwill ambassador - a role which he took up in the year 2005, is expected to travel to Mumbai on the day of the match and watch the action at the Wankhede Stadium.

According to a source, Beckham is in Gujarat presently as he is touring the country to understand the state of the action and contribute towards advocating for child rights and gender equality, which is also the global theme for World Children's Day 2023. Earlier this month, the league stage game between World

Cup hosts India and Sri Lanka

at the Wankhede Stadium on

November 2 witnessed the celebration of ICC's initiative 'One Day 4 Children' and promotion of the #BeAChampion cam-The campaign was launched for "harnessing the reach of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup to build a better world for every

child, and create equal oppor-

tunities for girls and boys", the

cricket's governing body said in a release. The India-Sri Lanka game witnessed two cricket legends, Sachin Tendulkar and Muttiah

Muralitharan, taking part in a short event during a drinks break in the second half of the

Judges shun bench in Lanka cricket court case

PTI ■ COLOMBO

t least two judges of the ACourt of Appeal in Sri Lanka have recused themselves from hearing Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe's plea to overturn the writ issued against his action to appoint an interim committee for running cricket in the country. The chair of the Court of

Appeal, Nissanka Bandula Karunaratne, and justice Dhammika Ganepola have asking the case be referred to a different bench.

The case will now be taken up on November 16 by justices DN Samarakoon and Neil Iddawela. Ranasinghe had alleged bias when the Court of Appeal issued a writ against his interim committee headed by



World Cup winning captain captain Arjuna Ranatunga. The Appeal Court the next day reinstated the elected SLĆ administration of Shammi Silva who has his term left until May of 2025.

Ranasinghe sacked him based on a national audit recommendations of alleged financial mismanagement of SLC funds by Silva administration.

Silva, in a counter punch, charged that the Minister was obstructing the freedom of SLC management through political interference. The chaos in Sri Lankan crick-

et came after the national team's early exit from the World Cup, leading to a suspension from the International Cricket Council on ground of government interference.

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