WORLD 5

XI ENVOY MEETS NEW

MALDIVIAN PRESIDENT

SPORT 7

BECKHAM CONCLUDES

INDIA TRIP



*Late City Vol. 33 Issue 319

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

www.dailypioneer.com Countdown to glory on Cricket grandest stage

SWARN KUMAR ANAND

hmedabad is ablaze with Aanticipation, a vibrant tapestry of excitement woven into the very air as the Cricket World Cup final beckons. The stage is set for a day destined to be etched in memory, marked not just by the monumental clash between cricketing titans India and Australia but by a series of spectacular events that promise to elevate the spectacle's grandeur.

The Surya Kiran aerobatic team of the Indian Air Force, poised to grace the heavens with a ten-minute display of precision and prowess, will kick off the festivities. This aweinspiring aerial display serves as the prelude to the main event, leaving the crowd in awe and setting the tone for the day. As the game takes a breather during the mid-innings break, composer Pritam will enchant the audience with his musical genius. The fusion of art and sport promises to create a holistic experience for fans, elevating the World Cup final beyond the boundaries of a mere cricket match.

In a testament to the global resonance of the event, Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles will be in attendance. His presence adds an extra layer of prestige, symbolising the diplomatic camaraderie and sportsmanship that cricket fosters on the world stage. Even the Indian Railways chipped in, acknowledging the

surge in demand to travel to Ahmedabad. With alacrity, they orchestrated the operation of special trains from Delhi and Mumbai. This thoughtful initiative ensured that fans from every corner of the country can converge upon Ahmedabad to bear witness to the historic clash. The journey assures to be a celebration in itself, brimming with camaraderie, excitement, and the shared passion for the game.

As the day dawns on the final, Narendra Modi Stadium stands as the epicentre of a cricketing carnival. The clash between confident India and resilient Australia is set to unfold, and the anticipation is not merely for a game but for a moment that will be etched in the memories of generations to come. In the heartbeats of millions, in the roar of the crowd, and on the hallowed grounds of competition, a saga unfolds that transcends boundaries and unites nations. The game is evenly poised between two cricketing powerhouses. India, led by the charismatic Rohit Sharma, has showcased impeccable form, securing a perfect record of 10 wins from 10 games in the tournament. The formidable batting order, spearheaded by the prolific Virat Kohli, alongside Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer, has been a force to be reckoned with. Simultaneously, the relentless bowling attack, led by Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah, has been nothing short of extraordinary. Mohammed Siraj too has been



A sand art of 56 ft long World cup trophy with message 'Good Luck Team India' created by Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik, at Puri beach

casting spells.

On the other side of the spectrum, Australia is a team with a storied history in the Cricket World Cup, with five title victories. Despite initial setbacks with losses to India and South Africa in this edition of the World Cup, Australia engineered a remarkable comeback, clinching victory in eight subsequent matches to secure

MONEY 6

IN ITS ALEXA DIVISION

AMAZON LAYS OFF HUNDREDS

their spot in the final. The explosive batting lineup, featuring the likes of David Warner and Mitchell Marsh, presents a formidable challenge for any bowling attack.

Interestingly, India and Australia's journey in this World Cup started with a clash between them. India emerged victorious in that encounter, setting the stage for what could

be a tantalising rematch in the with a resounding 118-run final. The echoes of that inaugural match linger, adding an extra layer of intensity to an already fervent rivalry.

However, India and Australia first crossed paths in the Cricket World Cup during the 1983 edition. Kapil Dev's side suffered a substantial 162-run defeat in the group match, only to quickly turn the tables

win in their last group-stage game. Since then, the two teams have faced each other 13 times in ODI World Cup history, with Australia holding the upper hand in the head-tohead record, winning eight times.

But, recent encounters tell a different story. In the 2019 World Cup, India emerged victorious

against Australia, setting a tone that continued into the current edition with India's win in the league match. The dynamics have shifted, and India now stands as a potent force challenging Australia's dominance. This time, India has entered the 2023 World Cup final as the potential champion.

The memories of the Johannesburg match, in which Australia beat India by 125 runs in the final of the 2003 edition, are still fresh in many Indians' minds, fueling their determination to rewrite histo-

In today's title match, the spotlight falls on the key players who could shape the destiny of their respective teams. India's Virat, with 711 runs from 10 matches, stands as the top runscorer in the tournament, while Rohit adds his dynamic flair with 550 runs. On the Australian side, David Warner (528) and Mitchell Marsh (426) are the batters to watch, each capable of turning the tide in their team's favor.

In the bowling department, India's Shami leads the charts with an impressive 23 wickets in just 6 matches, followed closely by Bumrah with 18 wickets. But Australia's Adam Zampa, with 22 wickets, poses a threat, alongside Josh Hazlewood, who has claimed 14 wickets

Nevertheless, Mitchell Starc, the formidable Australian pace bowler, has gracefully acknowledged the terrible challenge presented by India's spin maestros Kuldeep Yadav and

of the final, Starc eloquently described it as not just a cricketing showdown but a "loud and spectacular" event.
Recognising India's compre-

hensive cricketing prowess, fel-Australian bowler Hazlewood discerns a subtle glimmer of hope in India's initial stumble at the commencement of the tournament.

In the heart of the cricketing carnival, the final promises moments that will echo through the annals of cricket-ing history. Will it be India's seasoned campaigner Virat and Rohit, leaving a legacy in their wake, or the young gun Shubman, announcing his arrival on the global stage? The answers lie in the unfolding drama on the field today.

With the world's finest players under the spotlight, the Cricket World Cup final is not just a context of deil but a sale bust a contest of skill but a celebration of the sport's enduring spirit. As the titans clash, cricket fans expect moments that redefine greatness and performances that resonate for generations. Brace yourselves for a match where the spirit of competition reaches its zenith.

As the sun rises over Ahmedabad, the stage is set, the players are primed, and the world watches in anticipation as India and Australia prepare to script the final chapter of the Cricket World Cup 2023. Will India exact revenge for the 2003 drubbing at the hands of Australia? Get ready for a day of glory on cricket's grandest

Centre to end Deepfake menace

PNS NEW DELHI

Aday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed concerns about deepfakes, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday that the Government would soon engage with social media platforms on the deepfake issue. He our immun ty clause would not apply if platforms fail to take adequate steps to remove deepfakes.

Vaishnaw told reporters that the Government had recently issued a notice to companies regarding the deepfake issue. While the platforms responded, he added and said the firms would need to be more aggressive in taking action on such content.

"They are taking steps...But we think that many more steps will have to be taken. And we are very soon going to have a meeting of all the platforms...Maybe in the next 3-4 days, we'll call them for brainstorming on that and make sure that platforms make adequate efforts for preventing it (deepfakes), and cleaning up their system,' Vaishnaw told reporters.

Asked if big platforms like Meta and Google would be called for the meeting, the Minister replied in the affirmative.

Vaishnaw also clarified that the safe harbour immunity, currently enjoyed by platforms under the IT Act, will not be applicable unless they take adequate



"The safe harbour clause, which most social media platforms have been enjoying...That does not apply if they do not take adequate steps for removing deepfakes from their platforms," Recently, several 'deepfake'

videos targeting leading actors went viral, sparking outrage and raising concerns over the misuse of technology and tools for creating fake content and

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned that deepfakes created by artificial intelligence can lead to a big crisis and stoke discontent in society, as he urged the media to

raise awareness about its misuse and educate people.

Highlighting the use of generative artificial intelligence by criminals and the problem of deepfake, President Droupadi Murmu said police officers have to always be updated in the field of technology.

Addressing a group of Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers of 2022 batch who had called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, the President said police forces have many challenges like cyber crime, drug cartels, Left-wing extremism and terrorism.

"Circumstances change rapidly due to the influence of new technology and social media.

Generative artificial intelligence is used by criminals and problems like deep-fake are coming

to the fore," Murmu said. She said police officers will always have to be updated in the field of technology and have an edge over criminals.

Addressing the probationers, the President said the main istration and law and order rests with the state governments.

"But, IPS officers provide leadership to the police personnel appointed by the State Governments. In this way, the work of uniting the country's police system into an all India thread is done by the officers of the Indian Police Service," she was quoted as having said in a statement issued by the

Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President said strengthening of law and order is an essential condition for economic and social development.

"Globally, nationally and locally, it has been seen that entrepreneurs do not want to invest where the law and order system is not strong. Thus, the police department plays a central role in the multi-dimensional development of any area," Murmu

The President said police forces have made an invaluable contribution in maintaining law and order in the country and keeping the unity and integrity of the

Murmu said the Government aims to provide opportunities for the development of talent and potential of every citizen. "It is our national priority that all citizens should become participants in the developmental journey," the President said. She said police officers will filling the resolve of making the country a developed nation

during 'Amrit Kaal'. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Rajeshwar Singh has sought a strengthened legal framework and "strict regulation" of laws to check deepfake and forged videos, saying they have the potential to create social, political and economic unrest in the country.

The legislator, a former officer of the Enforcement Directorate and also a lawyer, recently wrote to Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal citing scenarios where such wrong use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and smart software has led to various risks including threats to fundamental rights and dignity of women, political and economic stability, press freedom and a danger to society at

He suggested that a committee of experts could be created who could formulate a comprehensive legal framework to stop the misuse of Al within a specific time frame.

Hopes revive in Uttarkashi

s the clock ticks, authori-As the clock field, and ties initiated preparations on Saturday to drill a vertical hole from the hill's summit in their effort to reach 41 workers who have been trapped inside a collapsed tunnel for seven days, facing limited food

As the sun slipped behind the mountains, casting the day into darkness, officials clung to hope. They anticipated that Border Roads Organisation's (BRO) efforts to

establish an alternative route to the under-construction Silkyara tunnel would be completed by Sunday afternoon. This development raised expectations that the rescue mission. which had been at a standstill since Friday, could finally resume.

'We are trying to make a vertical track from the top of the tunnel. A point at the top of the tunnel has been identified from where drilling will start soon. This track is about 1,000-1,100 metres long. Simultaneously, we are also conducting a survey to know how much time it will take. As per our calculations, the track should be ready by tomorrow afternoon," BRO's Major Naman Narula told reporters.

A high performance drilling machine was brought here from Indore on Saturday to



pierce through the rubble of the collapsed tunnel on the Char Dham route and was being assembled before it is deployed to resume drilling, officials at the site said.

The Silkyara tunnel, about 30 km from the district headquarters of Uttarkashi and a seven hour drive from the Uttarakhand capital Dehradun, is part of the ambitious Char Dham all-weather road project of the Central Government. It is being constructed under the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHID-

The tunnel collapsed around 5.30 am last Sunday. One week on, the desperation of families waiting outside mounted. That rescue operations had been suspended since Friday afternoon when a US-made auger machine deployed to drill and push in pipes through the rubble to prepare an escape pas-

a snag exacerbated the anxiety. By the time the drilling was halted, the auger machine had drilled up to 24 metres through the rubble spread over a 60metre area inside the tunnel. While families back home and those gathered at the mouth of the tunnel counted the hours, tic battle against time as they weighed the various options available to them.

sage for the workers developed

Four machines have been currently put to work right now and four more are arriving, he added.

Other officials and experts gathered at the site too to figure a way out of the crisis and save the 41 men counting the hours inside the dark tunnel. We have come here to assess what options are available with us, to explore what possibilities are there that can help rescuers reach the trapped workers as soon as possible. We are discussing all options," Bhaskar Khulbe, former adviser to the Prime Minister and now OSD Uttarakhand the Government, told reporters in Silkvara.

He was part of a team, including secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Mahmood Ahmed, Deputy Secretary, PMO, Mangesh Ghildiyal, geologist Varun Adhikari and engineering expert Armando Capellan.

Yamuna trapped in toxic foam

As Delhi continues to grapple with poor air quality, indicated by an Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of 398, placing it in the "very poor" category on Saturday, toxic foam in the Yamuna River is a major concern for the lakhs of Purvanchal people as they celebrate Chhath Puja, which began on Friday.

A number of videos of toxic foam floating over the surface of Yamuna River continue to surface on social media.

Scenes of frothing on the Yamuna River are making headlines ahead of Chhath Puja, highlighting the Government's lackluster attitude and intent to clean the river, making only hollow promises.



Despite the efforts of a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) team, which has sprayed chemicals into the river to dissolve the foam, the situation persists. Intriguingly, as the Yamuna flows towards the city's end, the dissolved oxygen (DO), an indicator of life in the river, diminishes to nil. Simultaneously, the faecal coliform (FC), a marker of untreated sewage presence, experiences an exponential

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in its latest report on water quality, found the water indeed does not meet the safety standards with respect to phosphate, surfactants, dissolved oxygen and biochemical oxygen demand. According to experts, Yamuna water is not fit to take a dip and even short-term exposure can lead to skin irritation and aller-

If ingested, these chemicals may cause gastrointestinal problems and diseases like typhoid.

Long term exposure to heavy metals in industrial pollutants can cause neurological issues and hormonal imbalances. Devotees are set to offer evening prayers to the Sun God as part of Chhath festivities on Sunday.

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Cricket World Cup final}}_{\text{is here, and cricket fans are}}$ eagerly anticipating the big day as India takes on Australia at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. In a bid to attract cricket enthusiasts, restaurants are rolling

out special discounts and additional perks. They are pulling out all stops to cash in on the World Cup final frenzy.

In addition to bumper discounts on products, traders and Residents Welfare Associations in the National Capital Region have also planned match screenings and dhol nagadas, buzzing with excitement for an Indian victory.

Special screening arrangements, complete with snacks and tea, have also been made in local parks so that the match can be watched live.

Interestingly, liquor and wine outlets in Delhi will remain closed on Sunday due to Chhath Puja, as the State Government has declared it a 'dry day,' coinciding with the much-awaited finals of the Cricket World Cup 2023.

The decision has left people planning to watch the match screening with wine and whisky a bit disappointed but the order will not have a bearing on clubs, pubs and bars. The establishments have made preparations for their patrons we have kept this rate for big matches." The Beer Cafe has to cheer for their favourite special offers for those who



A representative from Yes Minister — Pub and Kitchen, Adchini, said, "We are levying ₹3,000 as cover charge since it is a big match. On normal days, we do not charge patrons but come wearing the Men in Blue's With Team India in the final,

we are geared up to welcome fans on Sunday to watch parties across all our outlets nationwide. From live screening on large screens to special offers for those wearing the Team India jersey, there will be a lot to cheer with beer," Rahul Singh, The Beer Cafe founder,

"Our mixologist has created a special 'Bleed Blue' shot which will be served on the house to all patrons," he added. The Soi Pub and Brewery in Gurugram's Cyber City is no different.

Lalit Ahlawat of Soi 7 said, "We have three big screens to tele-

sets for our patrons. We are the largest venue in Cyber City and the vibe and the ambience matter a lot when watching such events. We wish the Indian team all the best." A restaurant owner, requesting anonymity, said the high pol-

cast the matches and two TV

lution levels in Delhi might deter patrons from stepping out of their homes. Irrespective of political affiliations, individuals from both the

BJP and the Congress, including Delhi Congress president Arvind Singh Lovely, came together on Saturday to offer prayers at the historic Mata Sundari Gurudwara on Rouse Avenue, praying for the victory of the Indian team.

Kerala CM launches

bus yatra campaign for

LS 2024 polls in State

BJP will ensure free visit to Ayodhya Ram temple for people of T'gana if voted to power, says Shah

nion Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday announced that the BJP will ensure free visit to the Ram temple in Ayodhya for all the people of Telangana, if the saffron party was voted to power in the coming Assembly elec-

Shah, who addressed election rallies at Gadwal, Nalgonda and Warangal, alleged that the Congress has hindered and delayed construction of Ram temple for the last 70 years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

had performed the 'Bhumi Puja' of the temple and the 'pran pratishtha' would be done on Ĵanuary 22, 2024, he said. Shah urged the gathering to elect

the BJP to power in Telangana and said the party-led government would arrange darshan of Lord Ram in Ayodhya free of



Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS government in Telangana, he said it gave religion-based reservation to Muslims, which is

"unconstitutional". The BJP has decided to abolish religious reservation and increase quota to OBCs and STs, should it form the next government in the state, he said.

"Reservation was given to Muslims by snatching it away from OBCs and STs under pressure from Owaisi," he said. Terming both the Congress and BRS as 'anti-backward class', he

claimed that only the BJP and

PM Modi can do good for BCs.

He reiterated the BJP's promise

to make a backward class leader

Chief Minister of the state.

Noting that the OBCs constitute 52 per cent of the population in Telangana, Shah said the CM post will be given to a candidate from the community if the saffron party comes to power. Shah attacked the BRS government, alleging that it is one of the most corrupt in the country. Listing out the alleged unfulfilled

promises of the BRS govern-

Chandrasekhar Rao dispensation has set a world record in making false promises.

Dubbing the BRS as 'Bhrashtachar Rishwat Samiti,' Shah alleged corruption to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees in various government programmes, including the Kaleswaram irrigation project and Mission Bhagiratha.

The veteran BJP leader also accused BRS MLAs of taking bribes of Rs one lakh to Rs three lakh from the beneficiaries of 'Dalit Bandhu' scheme.

BJP, if elected to power, would ensure that the looted amount would be deposited back into the state's exchequer after making those corrupt pay for it. Referring to the paper leak of government exams, the Union Minister said the youth of the state are the worst-affected in the BRS regime with question papers of State Public Service

Shah said the Commission being leaked 16 times.

The BJP would provide 2.5 lakh government jobs to the youth in five years in a transparent manner, he said.

Continuing his attack on the BRS government, he alleged that it was indulging in appeasement politics. The government has given sec-

ond language status to Urdu and provided four per cent reservation to Muslims, he pointed out. He termed the BRS, the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM and the Congress as '2G, 3G and 4G' parties. It means BRS being led by KCR

and his son, AIMIM by three generations of leaders from the waisi family and the Congress from Jawaharlal Nehru to Rahul

He urged the voters to liberate Telangana from the '2G, 3G and 4G' parties and give an opportunity to the BJP.

Aswa Medha and Rajasooyam are terms which are mentioned frequently in the great epics Mahabharath and Ramayana. Emperors and Kings resort to Aswamedham, a kind of yaga performed for the prosperity of the rulers and their country. One need not explain in detail how these rituals are performed. Gone are the days of Maharajas and Kings and with them the tradition of Aswa Medha and Rajasooyam too got vanished.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Pinarayi Vijayan, the "revolutionary" chief minister of Kerala who is addressed by party leaders as Karana Bhoothan (one who is responsible for creation, sustenance and destruction in tune with Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswar) launched his cam-Vishnu and paign for the 2024 Lok Sabha election that is round the corner on Saturday from Kasaragod. The State funded campaign has all the ingredients of Ashwa Medha sans sages, pundits and scholars. A luxury bus fitted with all modern gadgets that cost the exchequer Rs 2 crore will crisscross all the 140 assembly constituencies in the State carrying with

it the chief minister and his

council of ministers to interact

with the electorate and to brief

them about the dangers of electing the BJP and Narendra Modi for another term. The ground work for the campaign has been completed by party's Kerala Secretary M V Govindan and other ministers who has put the blame at the doors of the Centre. "This communal and corrupt Modi government is out to throttle the sincere and dedicated Kerala Government," said Govindan. The Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopalan does

not waste any opportunity to

the Modi Government is denying the State funds due to it. Kerala may be the only State in India which is being victimized by the BJP Government for electing a CPI-M Government," said Balagopalan in the run up to the Nava Kerala Sadas, as the super luxury bus manufactured by Benz has been named. conclude

The journey is expected to Thiruvananthapuram on December 23 with a mammoth public rally. The luxury bus is equipped with all State-of the-Art communication facilities and arrangements for holding conferences. The chief minister has a specially designed revolving chair and could communicate with higher education minister R Bindu and health minister Veena George,

two topics dear to Vijayan's heart. The promo songs describe Vijayan as Karana Bhoothan and a global leader who loves his countrymen to the hilt. Ministers have made themselves up to date on all issues connected with their departments. Bindu, higher education minister who is the wife of party's polit bureau member A Vijayaraghavan had a thorough eye test and purchased a spectacle costing Rs

40,000/. K Jayashankar, State's political and social chronicler, is of the view that the north to south odyssey led by Vijayan could be aptly titled as Bus Medham in the lines of Aswa Medham.

"This is the first of kind Aswa

Medham held in modern times in the State though there were instances Athirathram, a ritual held for rains," he said. Local media is full of reports that Vijayan is likely to stake his claim for the post of Prime Minister in the eventuality of a CPI-M win. The party's State leadership is in talks with Muslim League for a possible alliance either before or after the polls. The nomination of a Muslim League leader as a director of the State-owned Kerala Bank is an indication of things to come in near future itself. Though CPI-M and Congress are allies in the national level, the parties are engaged in a war of words over local issues as both are on the same side of the battle lines against BJP to protect and pro-

Filmmaker Shawl from J&K among '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Shoaib Shawl, a young film-maker from Jammu Kashmir, who graduated in filmmaking from the New York Film Academy, Los Angles, has been selected by National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC) among the "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" (75 CMOT) to attend the upcoming 54th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

Shawl will be reaching Goa to attend the festival's opening ceremony as a special guest of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur. Shoaib Shawl was recently selected for the Gold Rising Program 2023 by the Oscars-awarding Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, USA. His short film "Beads of Breaths" was recently selected and premiered at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival, USA. The "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" has been launched to identify, encourage, and nurture young creative tai ents from across various aspects of filmmaking, by the Ministry Broadcasting.

The selection of the young talent was made by an eminent jury composed of the stalwarts of the Indian Film Industry. Shoaib Shawl has been selected for "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" under the category 'Art Direction' where only three youths have been select-

As per a release by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, the "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" is the brainchild Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur and was launched to commemorate the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahatsav at the 2021 edition of IFFI. The Minister congratulated the 75 talented filmmakers and artists, the promising cinematic talents, who have been handpicked from a pool of over 600 from 19 different States and Union Territories of India based on their talent in different crafts of filmmaking across 10 categories like Direction, Art Design, Scriptwriting Cinematography, Acting Music Composition, Visual Effects (VFX) etc, as part of "75 Creative Minds of

Tomorrow' The 75 CMOT will showcase and exhibit the talent of these artists by producing short films as part of the "48 Hour Filmmaking Challenge" in a compeniion sii their interpretation of "Mission Life." NFDC has conceived the competition in partnership with 'Shorts International' a UK-based company. The "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" shall be provided an opportunity to attend Master classes by industry experts at the 54th IFFI and will be required to virtually/physically attend the same till the end of the festi-

TN Assembly re-adopts 10 bills returned by Raj Bhavan, Stalin tears into Guv Ravi

Days after Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi returned 10 Bills passed by the State Assembly, the House on Saturday met for a special sitting and re-adopted all of them, even as Chief Minister M K Stalin slammed the Governor for withholding the Bills due to his whims and fancies.

Opposition AIADMK, which staged a walkout, asked why a special meeting to readopt the Bills was being held when the government has already taken the matter to the Supreme Court.

The BJP, which has 4 MLAs, also walked out.

The bills, covering different departments including Law, Agriculture and Higher Education, were passed in the wake of Ravi returning them on November 13. The re-adopted bills were later sent to the Governor for his assent.

Earlier, Stalin moved a resolution to take up for reconsideration, the 10 bills. While 2 bills each were adopted by the House in 2020 and 2023, six others were passed last year.

Without giving any reasons,



Ravi had returned the Bills, mentioning "I withhold Assent" to them, Stalin said. Under the proviso to Article 200

of the Constitution, if they were passed again and presented to the Governor for assent, he "shall not withhold assent there-The CM also made a stinging

attack on Ravi, alleging the Governor was keen to block the government's initiatives. He alleged non-BJP ruled states were being targeted through Governors, apparently by the

Stalin said if a "power" that can stop the House from enacting a legislation emerges, it will severely hamper democracy and

that this was his apprehension.

It was the duty of a Governor to give assent to Bills passed by a House that has an elected gov-

"He can seek legal or administrative clarification from the government if required and the government has to give it," he said, adding such clarifications have been given in the past. "At no instances have such clarifications been not given. In such a situation, him (governor) not giving assent to the Bills passed by the Assembly due to his whims and fancies and returning them amounts to insulting the people of Tamil Nadu and this House," Stalin said.

Those who could not stomach his government coming out with pioneering initiatives were

trying to "scuttle the administration" and "want to do politics using the high post of Governor," he alleged. The government has taken up

with the President and Prime Minister, the issues regarding the Governor, seeking solution, "and we had to knock on the doors of the Supreme Court only after these efforts bore no fruit," Stalin added. The Governor could not stom-

ach the Dravidian ideology, equality, social justice, rational thinking and self-respect being engrained in the minds of peoole, he charged. He said the Governor should aid

in the state's progress and use his proximity with the Centre to ensure funds for TN, get the pending GST dues or new railway schemes and be a bridge between the Centre and the state government. Instead of doing these, he only

thinks about how to create hurdles for the state government's schemes," Stalin charged.

Though he was under rest for fever and throat pain, he was taking up the matter today in the interest of the people, Tamil Nadu and the Assembly, he

FIR against Aaditya Thackeray for 'inaugurating' bridge without permission

Aaditya Thackeray and a few others on Saturday for allegedly 'inaugurating' a part of a bridge in Lower Parel area of the city without the civic body's permission, an official said. Thackeray, Maharashtra minister, claimed that the construction of the bridge was completed two weeks ago but it was not opened to the public as Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had no time to inaugurate it. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered against Thackeray based on a complaint lodged by a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) official. A police official said that as per the complaint, Aaditya Thackeray, Sena (UBT)'s members of legislative council Sachin Ahir and Sunil Shinde, former mayors Kishori Pednekar and Snehal Ambekar, and 15 to 20 others inaugurated the second carriageway of Delisle Bridge on Thursday night without the BMC administrator's permission. The bridge is located in



Thackeray's Worli constituency. The Mumbai municipal commissioner currently acts as a state government-appointed administrator as the term of the BMC's general body has expired. The act of inauguration was illegal as the bridge was still incomplete and not certified safe for use, and its premature use could pose a risk to motorists, the complaint said. The FIR was registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 143, 149 (both pertaining to unlawful assembly), 336 (rash or negligent act) and 447 (criminal trespass), the official said. Later in the day, Aaditya

Thackeray alleged at a news conference that the Shinde government delayed the inauguration

attack the Centre claims that In 2+2 dialogue, India, Australia to focus on ramping

mote the minority communi-

tv. The Marxists have declared

that Hamas terrorists are free-

dom fighters and Angels of

PTI NEW DELHI

up partnership

India and Australia are expected to focus on ramping up their overall defence ties and boost strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific at the second edition of the '2+2' ministerial dialogue here on

November 20. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and their Australian counterparts Richard Marles and Penny Wong will hold the talks to further advance cooperation under the India-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Announcing India's hosting of the dialogue, it said on Saturday that the ministers are expected to discuss a wide range of strategic, defence and

security issues. The situation in West Asia in view of the Hamas-Israel conflict, China's increasing military muscle flexing in the Indo-Pacific and issues relating to regional security are expected to figure in the talks, people familiar with the prepara-

tion for the dialogue said. The MEA said the discussions would cover bilateral, regional and global matters of mutual interest to further advance cooperation under the India-

Australia comprehensive strategic partnership. "Both sides will also exchange views on shared priorities for strengthening minilateral and

Singh and Jaishankar will also

investigation into the partial collapse. The Supreme Court is also hearing a plea by residents seeking compensation and action against the developer.

First batch of NDA's women cadets to take part in passing out parade on November 30

The first batch of women cadets of the National Defence Academy will participate in the passing out parade along with their male counter-



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Syed Anwer Hussain S/o Syed Sultan Hussain R/o House No. 1/678, Gali Nal Bandan, Hamilton Road, Kashmere Gate. Delhi-110006 hereby declare that all the names Syed Anwer Hussain, S.A. Hussain, Sayed Anwar Hussain Rizvi, Syed Anwar Hussain Rizvi are the same name of one person

that is myself. PD(197)C I, Mobashir Alam, S/o. Mahboob Alam, R/o. A-130/4, 1st floor, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-II, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Passport as Mobbsir Alam instead of Mobashir Alam.

parts this year, an official

said on Saturday. The parade of the 145th NDA course will be reviewed on November 30 by President Droupadi Murmu, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, the defence official added.

Last year, the first batch of 19 women cadets joined the NDA, Khadakwasla, a premier tri-services institution that has given the country the finest military officers, and they are currently in the second year of the military-cum-academic training, he said.

"Women cadets will be part of the marching contingent. They are currently in their second year. The second-year and thirdyear cadets take part in the passing out parade," the official informed.

"Get ready to witness the Passing Out Parade of the 145th #NDA course on 30th Nov 23. The parade will be reviewed by Smt Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India. Presenting Teaser," the defence spokesperson, Pune, said in a post on social media site X.



PTI RAIPUR

Avoter turnout of 76.31 per cent was recorded in Chhattisgarh assembly elections for 90 seats held in two phases on November 7 and 17, poll officials said on Saturday. The turnout is slightly lower than the voting percentage of 76.88 per cent recorded in the 2018 assembly polls.

The ruling Congress and opposition BJP are locked in a keen contest in the state.

"An average 76.31 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the two-phase Chhattisgarh assembly elections," a poll official said

The counting of votes will be taken up on December 3. A voter turnout of 78 per cent was recorded in the first phase for 20 assembly constituencies in seven districts of the Naxalite-affected Bastar division and four other districts on November 7, while a 75.88 per cent turnout was registered in the second and final phase for

70 seats on Friday, he said. At 90.17 per cent, the Kurud constituency saw the highest voter turnout among the 90



constituencies, while Bijapur recorded the lowest voting percentage at 48.37%

A voter turnout of more than 80% was recorded in 38 assembly segments out of the total 90. In 50 constituencies, women voters took the lead over men. In the 70 constituencies where voting was held on Friday, polling parties have returned safely and election-related material submitted at collection centres. EVM machines were sealed in the presence of representatives of political parties and agents of candidates, an official said.

Four assembly segments in the state capital- Raipur City South, Raipur City North, Raipur City

West and Raipur Rural- recorded voting percentages of 60.20 55.59 %, 55.94 % and 58.55%, respectively.

In the 2018 assembly elections, Raipur City South, Raipur City North, Raipur City West and Raipur Rural had recorded voting turnouts of 61.66 %, 60.28 %, 60.45 % and 61.11 % respectively. A total of 1,181 candidates are

in the fray including Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Deputy Chief Minister TS Singh Deo (both from Congress) and former CM Raman Singh of BJP. Patan seat represented by

Baghel is witnessing a triangular contest with BJP fielding the chief minister's distant nephew and party MP Vijay Baghel while Amit Jogi, Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) state president and son of former CM late Ajit Jogi, is also in the

In the Ambikapur constituency, the BJP has fielded a fresh face Rajesh Agrawal against TS Singh Deo. Agrawal had joined the BJP after quitting the Congress ahead of assembly

Mumbai Police registered a case against Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA a former

of Delisle Bridge.

Barricade Tower D, Chintels Paradiso developer told ment process of the residents at the earliest. All the families declared unsafe for habitation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Gurugram district}}_{\text{administration has direct}}$ ed the developer of Chintels Paradiso to barricade Tower D, which was declared unsafe by an IIT-Delhi audit, and begin the demolition process, an official said on

Saturday. The development comes after four balconies of Tower D collapsed on November 9. No casualty was reported in the incident as the tower was vacant and its surroundings cordoned off after a partial collapse of six floors claimed two lives in February 2022. The administration has also asked the developer to speed up the settlement process and evacuate the flats where residents are still living, Deputy Additional Commissioner Hitesh Meena said. Meena visited the apartment complex after the bal-

conies collapsed to inspect the "The developer was verbally asked to complete the settle-

still living in the tower declared unsafe should be evacuated as soon as possible. After barricading, the work of demolishing the unsafe towers should be started at the earliest," Meena said. Towers D, E, F, G, and H of the society located in Sector 109 were

collapse. The society has nine towers. The CBI has taken over the

in a structural audit by IIT-

Delhi after the February 2022

multilateral cooperation," it

hold separate bilateral talks with their Australian counter-

RWAs plan for screening of WC final amid 'dhol-nagadas'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Traders and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) in the Delhi and NCR have planned for bumper discounts on products, screenings of the match and 'dhol nagadas' as they are buzzing with excitement for an India win in the cricket world cup finals. Several RWAs have made special screening arrangements in their local parks to view the match with snacks and celebrate the event collectively. Besides, the restaurants, bar and pubs have installed big TV screens to serving special drinks in the national capital and are pulling out all stops to cash in on the World Cup final frenzy. Across markets in Delhi, shop owners do not expect much business on the day as cricket fans are expected to watch the match in their

Eateries and pubs across major metropolitan cities have made special preparations to welcome an army of cricket fans eager for the shining trophy to come "home". While some have curated quirky menu items, others have come up with irresistible offers. The restaurants and pubs in the national capital have prepared surprises, including 1+1 offers, discounts on wearing the Men in Blue jersey and free shots. Maxout club in Delhi has announced an 1+1 offer on all food and drinks while Limitless in Noida will provide a 25 per cent discount on the bill on wearing the Indian team's jersey. A restaurant owner, requesting anonymity, however, said the high pollution levels in the



patrons from stepping out of their homes

"Most markets in Delhi on Sunday will be closed and there will be a holiday-like atmosphere in the market. Shop owners in other areas will put up LED screens so that people can enjoy the match together. We hardly expect any business that day," Brijesh Goyal, chairman of Chamber of Trade and Industry said.

Traders in markets such as Khan Market, Lajpat Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, Greater Kailash, Karol Bagh, Rohini, and Pitampura among other areas have arranged LED screens for passersby to enjoy the match, Goyal said. At some places, the rent for LED screens and projectors has doubled, he

As per a statement by CTI, as part of the special arrange-ments for Sunday, hotels and restaurants have prepared special dishes in the names of players, and have increased their seating capacity.

Many traders in Sarojini Nagar market said that they will provide up to 50 per cent discount on products if India bags the trophy. The sale of Indian jer-

seys has also gone up, said Ashok Randhawa, president of Sarojini Nagar market asso-

ciation "We will give up to 50 per cent discount on our products if team India wins this World Cup. Along with that we are planning to book 'dhol' bands for the celebration as firecrackers are banned in Delhi," he said. "There has been a significant rise in sales of blue (Indian team) jersey T-shirts in the market due the upcoming match," he said. Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) have also made arrangements with many residential societies hosting parties for the match. They have planned to host gala feasts and watch the match on a big screen.

Atul Goyal, president, United Residents Joint Action (URJA) the apex body of Delhi residential welfare associations, said that several societies will hold in-house parties and watch the match together. "We will put up a big screen for residents to watch and enjoy the match together. A special menu will be arranged for them," BS Vohra, president of East Delhi

Cricket World Cup brings Congress president fans to city theatres

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Watching a cricket match on the big screen has emerged as an intriguing alter-native for those missing out on the live experience and the final match of Cricket World Cup 2023 between India and Australia is the latest marquee event bringing fans to the the-

Leading theatre chains PVR INOX and Miraj Cinemas will be screening live broadcast of Sunday's final match from the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, and according to the theatre owners, the response to the advance booking has been "extraordinary". Sanjeev Kumar Bijli, Executive Director, PVR INOX Limited, said they have already sold over 45 per cent of the tickets for the match screening.

With India advancing to the finals, the response to the ticket bookings has been extraordinary since we opened the advances on (November) 16th after the second semi-final results. We have over 45 per cent tickets already sold and this figure is anticipated to climb to 70-80 per cent as we approach the match day on Sunday," Bijli said in a state-

PVR INOX is hosting the live screening in 60 cities across 150 cinemas throughout the country, with a focus on Maharashtra, followed by



Gujarat and the northern states of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and UP.

"Although a fortunate few may attend the match at the Ahmedabad stadium, cricket enthusiasts need not despair, as they can experience the thrilling and electrifying stadium like atmosphere on the big screen," Bijli added.

Miraj Cinemas, the thirdlargest national multiplex chain, has also witnessed an overwhelming response, selling over 70-80 percent of the tickets for the match screenings.

The World Cup final will be screened live at selected Miraj Cinemas, including Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, Surat, Ahmedabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Nathdwara, Ranchi, Akola, Amravati, Chandrapur, Hisar, Sonipat, Gurdaspur, Abohar, Hoshiarpur and a few more cites. According to Amit Sharma, Managing Director, Miraj Entertainment Limited, the aim is to provide a "stadium-like" experience to the cricket fans. The company has

also curated exclusive food

and beverage combos for the

occasion. "We've transformed

the cricketing excitement into a visual spectacle with captivating on-ground decorations and activations. Imagine stepping into a mini turf, adding an extra layer of thrill to the entire experience, designed specifically to captivate and engage our audience.
"We're thrilled to announce

that 70-80 percent of the tickets have already found their homes. Initially, we had 21 locations, and now, we're lighting up approximately 28 locations across around 21 cities," Sharma said.

The Indian team, led by skipper Rohit Sharma, entered the final after beating New Zealand in the semifinal in Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday.

Expect a visual treat and grand extravaganza when India take on Australia in the World Cup 2023 final at the colossal Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence during the final on Sunday, a grand air show by the Indian Air Force, two former World Cup-winning captains Kapil and Dhoni watching from the stands with a bevy of who's who from the world of entertainment and politics in attendance, the grandeur will be unmatched. The Suryakiran Indian Air Force airshow will take place after the toss at 1:30 pm IST. It is likely to be a 15-20 minute show.

Lovely prays for India's victory in WC



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely on Saturday offered prayers at the Mata Sundari Gurudwara for the victory of the Indian team against Australia in the final of the 2023 World Cup at Ahmedabad on Sunday, as India will be vying for the World Cup title after a 12-year

gap.
Lovely said that though the Indian team members hail from all parts of the country, the people of Delhi are proud of the fact that two key players in the team belong to Delhi-star batsman Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer. He said that Delhiites have reposed great faith on Kohli and Shreyas to come up with the same kind of batsmanship they had exhibited against New Zealand in the semi-final, to play star roles in defeating Australia in the final

He said that the Indian team were well-balanced and fully charged up to maintain their unbeaten record of 10 consecutive wins in the championship, and lift the Cup, to bring laurels to the country. He said that the Indian team were confident of beating Australia as they had defeated the Aussies in the league round of the championship, which will provide a neverbefore-kind of fireworks to the expected full house at the behemoth Ahmedabad stadi-

CAOM removes curbs as AQI improves

ty last weekend was attributed

to rain. Air pollution levels

surged in the following days

due to intense firecracker burst-

ing on Diwali night and a

resurgence in stubble burning

Recent findings from a joint

project by the Delhi govern-

ment and Indian Institute of

Technology (IIT), Kanpur

found out that vehicular emis-

sions accounted for about 45

per cent of the capital's air pol-

lution on Friday. This reduced

Secondary inorganic aerosols -

- particles such as sulfate and

nitrate that are formed in the

atmosphere due to the inter-

action of gases and particulate

pollutants from sources like

power plants, refineries and

vehicles -- is the second major

contributor to Delhi's foul air,

to 33 per cent on Saturday.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

national capital might deter

n a modest improvement In a modest improvement, Delhi experienced a slight amelioration in air quality overnight due to an increase in the wind speed and a change in the wind direction, the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) on Saturday removed stringent curbs, including a ban on construction work related to linear projects and the entry of polluting trucks and commercial fourwheelers into the national capital. The city's 24-hour average AQI, recorded at 4 pm every day, improved from 405 on Friday to 319 on Saturday. bouring Ghaziabad (276), Gurugram (322), Greater Noida (228), Noida (265) and Faridabad (309) also recorded "very poor" air quality. These measures constitute the

final stage, Stage IV, of the Centre's air pollution control plan, which is activated at least three days before the Air Quality Index (AQI) surpasses the 450-mark in the capital. The CAQM has asked Delhi and NCR states to revoke all emergency measures, which allow only CNG, electric and BS VI-compliant vehicles from other states to enter Delhi, with exemptions granted to



those involved in essential services. All medium and heavy goods vehicles not engaged in essential services were also banned in the capital under Stage IV of GRAP, according to the latest CAQM order.

Meteorological Department/Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology do not indicate any steep degradation in the overall air quality of Delhi-NCR in the coming days, the CAQM said. An official at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said an improvement in the wind speed from November 21 onwards might bring the air pollution levels down.

The AQI was 401 on Wednesday, 397 on Tuesday, 358 on Monday, 218 on Sunday, 220 on Saturday and 279 on Friday.

accounting for 19 to 36 per cent of the air pollution in the city over the last few days.

Delhi's air quality dropped over the last few days despite

the city government implementing stringent measures, including a ban on construction work and the entry of diesel-guzzling trucks into the national capital.

According to IQAir, a Swiss company that specialises in air-quality monitoring, Delhi was the second-most polluted city in the world on Saturday after Baghdad. The Delhi government set up

a six-member special task force (STF) on Thursday to ensure a strict implementation of the measures outlined in the GRAP secretary (environment) will head the STF, whose members include senior officials from the departments of transport, traffic, revenue, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MĈD) and Public Works Department (PWD). According to IQAir, a Swiss company that specialises in air-quality monitoring, Delhi was the second-most polluted city in the world on Saturday after Baghdad. Doctors say breathing in the

polluted air of Delhi is equiv-

alent to the harmful effects of

smoking approximately 10 cig-

arettes a day.

Government announces reopening of all schools from Mon



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

s air quality improves, the Abelhi government on reopening of all schools from Monday after winter break. However outdoor activities and morning assemblies will not be held for one next week from issuance of this order.

"Seeing that the Air Quality Index has improved and as per the forecast made by IMD/IITM there is no indication of any shar degradation in Air Quality of Delhi in near future, the Sub-Committee on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has revoked their order vide which action under Stage IV of GRAP had been invoked," the order read.

BJP alleges scam of ₹3,735 crore taking place in DJB

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Saturday ■ alleged a "scam" of Rs 3,735 crore in the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) under AAP government, citing various accounting-related irregularities since 2017. The BJP leaders have demanded a CBI probe in the matter. They said if the chief minister does not get a CBI inquiry into this matter, then the party will demand from the Lieutenant Governor to conduct a CBI inquiry into this scam.

Virendra Sachdeva, Union alleged a "scam" of Rs 3,735 crore in the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) under AAP government, citing various accounting-related irregularities since 2017. Lekhi said issuing of tenders was avoided for 12,000 work orders worth Rs 600 crore by keeping the value of each below

Lekhi said that the government is doing scams in new ways, which embodies the lines - "Hi Tauba, Hi Allah, Kejriwal has done another new scam. The people of Delhi have already seen many scams in the Kejriwal government like



In a joint press conference liquor scam, Sheeshmahal with Delhi BJP president scam, electricity bill scam, school room construction tisement scam, jail scam etc. and now the Delhi Jal Board scam has come in front of

Referring to the bank account statements and financial reports of Delhi Jal Board, she Lekhi said that Delhi Jal Board has hidden many information regarding financial expenditure between the year 2018-19 to 2022-23. Since the year 2017-18, the detail declaration of Delhi Jal Board's account has also not been done. Many similar financial irregularities have come to light in Delhi Jal

BIP Delhi President Virendra Sachdeva said that the Delhi Jal Board had increased the paywater supply through tankers, whereas only Rs 637 crore was to be paid for this item. Like the liquor scam, the payment was made by increasing the amount so that kick-back could be received. Water supply contracts were given to people associated with the Aam Aadmi Party so that they could easily get commission. Sachdeva said that the Aam Aadmi Party has become the biggest party in the country in corruption. Wherever Arvind Kejriwal touches his hand, scams start emerging from

LG directs Chief Secretary to enquire into Barapullah Corridor Phase-III project saving huge amount of public

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday directed the chief secretary to inquire into erred planning and assessment of land requirement while approving the acquisition of two small parcels of land that removes the final hurdle in completion of the critical Barapullah Corridor Phase-III project. He said the project was delayed by six years requirement" that essentially led and cost escalation of Rs 360 crore and directed for suspension of the engineers in-charge of the project right from the time of start of construction works on the project, if yet serving, and initiating suitable action against those who have retired.

The two land parcels measuring 1169.093 sqm and 709.901 sgm respectively are located in village Nangli Razapur, in South East District. The project was held up due to non-acquisition of these land parcels all these

Ínvoking the AAP Government's oft-repeated claims that it was

money by executing PWD projects before time and below the tendered amount, the LG noted that contrary to the claims made by even the Chief Minister, the government will end up paying Rs. 1326.37 Cr. for the Barapullah Project against the tender amount of Rs.964.00 crores in December 2014. This amounts to an additional Rs. 362.37 crores. being paid to the contractor out of the Government exchequer, while also delaying the project by over 06 years.

Saxena has noted that there was sheer negligence on the part of the officers in respect of planning, inspection and field survey of land for the project resulting in delays of more than 06 years, apart from cost overruns running into hundreds of crores. The LG has also directed the Chief Secretary to prepare suitable SoP for lapse-free planning and timely execution of the projects of public importance including identification of land

and assessing requisite area for

acquisition of land.

Kejriwal forwards Atishi Bamnoli land acquisition report to LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has forwarded Vigilance Minister Atishi's report accusing Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar of using his position to enable a "lucrative collaboration" between a company in which his son is a partner and the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena for further action. He has been accused of acquisition of 19 acre in Bamnoli village. The report was submitted to

Kejriwal by the Vigilance Minister on Thursday. The report recommended Kumar's suspension and a CBI investigation in the matter. Sources close to the chief sec-

retary have claimed that his son is not a signatory of any Memorandum Understanding (MoU) between

the company and the ILBS. He is not at all connected with the company in question as a shareholder or director or partner or employee, they claimed.

The Institute of Liver and

Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in a statement on Thursday denied the allegations as "totally baseless and without merit."

"ILBS confirms that it did not issue any purchase order or made any payment to any Al software developer or company," said the ILBS statement. It was alleged in the report that

an MoU was signed between ILBS and the company of Chief Secretary's son on January 24, 2023, that provided "a huge scope for profiteering to the company by providing it with joint intellectual property rights for any intellectual property developed through the project and 50 per cent share of profits by both parties for any future commercialisation of work."

"Prima facie it appears that Naresh Kumar has acted in violation of All India Services Conduct Rules and has used his position to enable a lucrative collaboration for his son's company at a loss to the public exchequer," the report alleged. The report also recommended immediate termination of the

Delhi Police to soon retire legendary .303 rifle from force Mumbai Police had decided to

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The legendary .303 rifle, which remained a part of the Delhi Police for decades, will soon be retired from the

According to the Delhi Police, at least 7,000 such firearms, better known as three-noughtthree rifles, are set to be dismantled by the force. "The use of these weapons came to an end years back and they are ready for dismantling," the officer said.

These .303 rifles are kept at the armoury unit of the Delhi Police. Áccording to sources, a Joint Commissioner rank officer has been appointed to oversee the dismantling of these weapons. The whole operation will be done under the supervision of a committee set by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The .303 calibre Lee-Enfield rifles were initially manufactured in UK arms factory, and extensively used in World War I and II. In India, these rifles were used by the Indian army during the Indo-China war in 1962 and later handed over to the state forces.



Police (Provisioning and Logistics) Vinit Kumar confirmed that the weapons were

up for dismantling.

Another officer said, the process of dismantling of these weapons, each of which weighs approximately 5 kg, is lengthy, and involves removal and destruction of each part. Before they are destroyed, the barrel and the body parts are separated, so that it cannot be further used. The iron from the firearm is melted.

The procurement of the cartridges of these guns was stopped soon after the force decided to end the service of these weapons. Therefore, there

guns," an officer said. The Delhi Police currently has

SLR, INSAS, and AK47 for long range, 9 mm Glock pistol, revolvers for short range, and JVPC and MP5 as machine guns, which are used during special operations. An officer said that the old sten

guns, a relic from the World War, will also be soon dismantled. A huge chunk of these guns is kept in the armoury. "Once these rifles get dismantled, sten guns will be next," the officer added. Many state forces, including

Uttar Pradesh Maharashtra, have already retired the.303 rifles.

sonnel had a confrontation with terrorists armed with much sophisticated AK 47. The Lee-Enfield rifle, commonly known as the .303 SLME (Short Magazine Lee Enfield) or just 303, is a bolt action, magazine-fed rifle that served the English military and that of the Commonwealth since 1895 and saw action in both World War 1 and World War II. Invented by James Paris Lee, the rifle was initially manufactured by Royal Śmall Arms Factory, Enfield, in the UK, and served the Indian Army till the disastrous 1962 India-China War before being handed over to the police forces. Years later, the guns made headlines in 2008 when during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the city's policemen were seen trying to counter the well-armed Pakistani terrorists with their .303s. The original model of the 303 was named the Magazine Lee-Enfield (MLE) — nicknamed the "Emily"— and it came into ser-

replace these guns soon after

the 26/11 attack, when its per-

Modi to chair G20 Leaders virtual summit on Nov 22

 $P_{\text{Modi will chair a virtual G-}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ 20 Leaders' summit on November 22 which will take forward key outcomes and action points firmed up at the annual conclave of the grouping in September under India's presidency besides delving into the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday said the upcoming summit is also expected to push for effective implementation of various decisions taken at the annual summit of the bloc in New Delhi over two months back. It said deliberations that featured during the second Indiahosted Voice of Global South Summit on Friday will also feed into the discussions at the G20

Under India's G20 presidency, the grouping managed to make significant forward movement in areas of digital public infra-



structure, climate finance, clean energy and ensuring sustainable development.

At the end of the G20 summit in New Delhi in September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will host a virtual Leaders' Summit of the grouping before the end of its

In pursuance of this announcement, a virtual G20 Leaders' Summit, chaired by the prime minister, will be held on November 22," the MEA said. "Leaders of all G20 members including the chair of

the African Union, as well as nine guest countries, and heads international Organisations, have been invited," it said in a statement.

It was learnt the summit may discuss the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict. In the last few years, India has been positioning itself as a leading voice, flagging concerns, challenges and aspirations of the Global South or the developing nations, especially the African continent.

"It may be recalled that the New Delhi G20 Summit witnessed

the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration. The virtual summit will take forward key, select outcomes/action points from the New Delhi summit as well as review developments since then," the MEA said.

The G20 joint declaration unveiled on September 9 was seen as a significant diplomat-ic victory for India as it pulled off a breakthrough on the contentious Ukraine conflict amid apprehensions that the summit may not be able to release the document in view of sharp differences on the matter.

"The virtual G20 summit is also expected to push for effective implementation of various G20 decisions, including through relevant national and international platforms," the MEA

India holds the G20 presidency until November 30. Brazil will hold the next presidency of the grouping.
The G20 troika during the

Brazilian G20 presidency in Session of Parliament. 2024 will comprise India, Brazil Private member bills are those and South Africa.

Over 700 private member Bills pending in Lok Sabha

PNS NEW DELHI

Over 700 private members' Bills, several of which seek to amend penal provisions and electoral laws, are pending in the Lok Sabha. Private member bill rarely put to vote or get passed in the Parliament and become an

Only 14 private members bill have been passed by both Houses and become law in the history of Indian Parliament. The last such bill, the Supreme Court (enlargement of criminal appellate jurisdiction) Bill, was passed in 1970.

Members of Parliament other than ministers are called private members and bills presented by them are known as private member's bills.

While several of these bills were introduced in June 2019, when the present Lok Sabha was formed after the parliamentary polls, some were tabled as recently as August this year during the Monsoon

introduced by MPs in their



oringing a private bill is highlighting new laws that they think should be introduced or changes they believe are necessary in the existing statutes. According to a Lok Sabha bulletin issued on Friday, 713 such bills are pending in the

such as bringing a uniform civil code, gender equality, climate change, agriculture, amendment to the existing criminal and electoral laws and tweaking constitutional provisions.

The second half of Fridays when Parliament is in session introduce or discuss private members' bills or resolutions in the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha.

Once a debate on a private member's bill is over, the minister concerned responds and requests the member to with-

Rajnath visits Singapore on way back from ASEAN summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

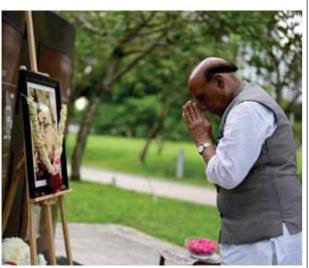
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid a brief visit to Singapore on Saturday on his way back from Indonesia after attending a meeting of the 10nationASEAN and some of its dialogue partners.

In Singapore, Singh paid tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose by laying a wreath at the Indian National Army (INA) marker, the defence ministry here said.

"After completing his tour to Indonesia, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on his way back home, paid a brief visit to Singapore on November 18, the ministry said. It said the construction of a

monument to commemorate the "Unknown Warriors" of the Indian National Army (INA) was proposed by Netaji himself and he had laid the foundation stone in July 1945.

"Paid homage at the INA Memorial marker in Singapore. My heartfelt tributes to the 'Unknown Warriors' of the



INA," Rajnath posted on X. In 1995, the National Heritage Board of Singapore erected the INA marker on the same spot as the original memorial, the ministry said in a state-

The defence minister also offered prayers at the Sri Srinivasa Perumal temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, which is among the oldest Hindu temples in Singapore dating back to 1855," it said. Rajnath Singh also visited the

Indian Heritage Centre in the "Little India" locality of the city-

The centre was set up under the National Heritage Board in 2015, documenting the story of the journey of Singaporean Indians, according to the defence ministry.

Health Ministry dismisses reports claiming 11 lakh children missed measles vaccine in 2022

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

¹he Union Health Ministry on Saturday dismissed reports as "ill-informed and inaccurate" that claimed that an estimated 11 lakh children in India missed their first measles vaccine dose in 2022. There have been some media reports alleging that an estimated 11 lakh children in India missed their first measles vaccine dose in 2022, according to a report published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "These reports are not based

on facts and do not reflect the true picture. These reports are based on the estimated number reported under WHO (Health UNICEF Estimates National Immunisation Coverage (WUENIC) 2022 report which covers the time-period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.



"However, as per the HMIS Management Information System) of the Union Ministry of Health, a total of 2,63,63,270 children out of the eligible 2,63,84,580 istry said in a statement. children received their 1st dose of Measles Containing Besides this, several initiatives

Vaccine (MCV) in the FY 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023) and only 21,310 children missed their 1st dose of Measles Containing Vaccine (MCV) in 2022-23," the minhave been undertaken by the of MR vaccine. government in coordination with the states to ensure that all children, either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated receive all missed or due doses of MCV. The catch-up vaccination

age for the administration of

MCV has been increased from two years to five years in the periodic immunisation intensification activities. Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 and 4.0 were carried out in 2021 and 2022 to vaccinate all unvaccinated or partially vac-

cinated children with missed or due doses of vaccines. Besides this, IMI 5.0 was carried out in 2023 with a special focus to increase the coverage of MR vaccine in children up to the age of five years.

The MR campaign was carried out in Delhi and West Bengal wherein all children in the age group of nine months to 15 years (nine months to five years in Delhi) were vaccinated with campaign dose

Several states have carried Supplementary Immunisation activities and outbreak response immunisation, wherein a total of 30 million children have been vaccinated with an additional dose of MR vaccine.

The WHO and US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cited the report which included data from 194 countries and, marked India among the 10 countries -- accounting for 55 per cent worldwide -- with the highest number of infants who did not receive the measles-containing vaccine (MCV) MCV1. The 10 countries were India

(1.1 million), Nigeria (3 million), Democratic Republic of the Congo (1.8 million), Ethiopia (1.7 million), Pakistan (1.1. million), Angola (0.8 million), Philippines (0.8 million), Indonesia (0.7 million), Brazil (0.5 million), and Madagascar (0.5 million).

Links between gut microbiome, micronutrient deficits discovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Misuse of and overuse of medicines is often blamed for rising Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), but now a team of researchers has discovered a striking link between earlylife gut microbiome and micronutrient deficits which they say may help explain why the menace has been increasing globally. The study is published last week in Nature Microbiology. The researchers at the University of British Columbia looked into how the community of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other microorganisms that reside in the digestive system was impacted by shortages in important micronutrients like vitamin A, B12, folate, iron, and

They discovered that these deficiencies led to significant shifts in the gut microbiome of mice—most notably an alarming expansion of bacteria and fungi known to be opportunis-

Importantly, mice with micronutrient deficiencies also exhibited a higher enrichment of genes that have been linked to antibiotic resis-

"Micronutrient deficiency has been an overlooked factor in the conversation about global antibiotic resistance," said Dr. Paula Littlejohn, a postdoctoral research fellow with UBC's department of medical genetics and department of pediatrics, and the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute. "This is a significant discovery, as it suggests that nutrient deficiencies can make the gut environment more conducive to the development of antibiotic resistance, which is a major global health concern."

Bacteria naturally possess these genes as a defence mechanism. Certain circumstances, such as antibiotic pressure or nutrient stress, cause an increase in these mechanisms. This poses a threat that could render many potent antibiotics ineffective and lead to a future where common infections could become

Antibiotic resistance is often attributed to overuse and misuse of antibiotics, but the work of Dr. Littlejohn and her UBC colleagues suggests that the 'hidden hunger' of micronutrient deficiencies is another important factor. "Globally, around 340 million children under five suffer from multiple micronutrient defi-



ciencies, which not only affect their growth but also significantly alter their gut microbiomes," said Dr. Littlejohn. "Our findings are particularly concerning as these children are often prescribed antibiotics for malnutritionrelated illnesses. Ironically, their gut microbiome may be primed for antibiotic resistance due to the underlying micronutrient defi-

The study offers critical insights into the farreaching consequences of micronutrient defi-ciencies in early life. It underscores the need for comprehensive strategies to address undernutrition and its ripple effects on health. Addressing micronutrient deficiencies is about more than overcoming malnutrition, it may also be a critical step in fighting the global scourge of antibiotic resistance.

The World Bank estimates that an additional 24 million people would be forced into extreme poverty by 2030 if no action is taken on AMR today.

Thomas Joseph, Head, AMR Awareness, Advocacy and Campaigns, WHO, at a recent pre-conference meeting of 22nd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) had pointed out that "AMR is associated with 5 million deaths a year. Besides this, there is the huge burden of morbidity and healthcare expenditure that can affect house-

likely to experience prolonged cough, sputum



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

People who suffered acute Covid-19 infection are more likely to experience prolonged cough and sputum production as part of long Covid, according to a Japanese study. Multiple prolonged symptoms are observed in patients who recover from acute Covid-19, defined as long Covid. Previous studies have suggested that many Covid survivors are living with neurological symptoms linked to long COVID. The study, published in the journal Respiratory Research, however aimed to identify specific risk factors for cough and sputum in patients with long Covid. Researchers from Keio University in Tokyo enrolled hospitalised patients with Covid-19 aged 18 years from 26 medical institutions. At the three, six, and 12-month follow-ups, there were no dif-ferences in the incidence rates of wet and dry coughs. But the proportion of patients producing sputum without coughing rose over time compared

with those with both sputum

At all follow-up visits, analyses

of cough and sputum produc-

tion identified the risk factors

production and coughing.

patients after recovery from acute Covid-19. Further investigations are needed to elucidate the underlying mechanisms and develop specific therapeutic drugs for these persistent symptoms in patients with long Covid, the

for persistent symptoms as the use of intermittent mandatory ventilation (IMV), smoking,

and older age. At 12 months, severe Covid-19 was associated with cough and sputum production based on imaging findings, kidney and liver abnormalities, pulmonary blood clots, and higher levels of lactate dehydrogenase (indicating organ or tissue damage) Krebs von den Lungen-6 (indicating lung inflammation or damage), and haemoglobin A1c (indicating elevated blood

These findings emphasise that a preventive approach including appropriate vaccination and contact precaution and further development of therapeutic drugs for Covid-19 are highly recommended for patients with risk factors for severe infection to avoid persistent respiratory symptoms,' the researchers said.

Long-term persistent cough and sputum are burdens on

Acute Covid patients more Delhi court seeks ED's response on Lava Company MD bail plea

A court here on Saturday sought a response from the Enforcement Directorate on an application filed by the MD of Lava International Company seeking bail in a money-laundering case against Chinese phone-maker Vivo.

Special Judge Tarun Yogesh issued a notice to the ED on the application filed by Hari Om Rai and directed the central probe agency to file its reply by November 29, when the court will further hear the matter. The court passed the direction after hearing arguments from Advocate Nitesh Rana, who, appearing for the accused,

claimed that since Rai was not



required for further custodial interrogation, no purpose will be served by keeping him in custody.

"Accused has no role in money laundering and in the schedule offence. He is just an entrepreneur," Rana told the judge

Rai was arrested last month with a few others under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The ED has alleged that Vivo "illegally" transferred Rs 62,476 crore to China in order to avoid payment of taxes in India.

BJP has no policies, copied Congress' guarantees for its agenda: Kharge

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday accused the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of copying Congress' original guarantees and include in their agenda to serve up in the elections to the people.
"The BJP has neither the inten-

tions, nor policies. The Congress has given concrete programmes for public welfare in the form of guarantees in Rajasthan and other states," Kharge said on X.

"After a lot of efforts, Modi ji and the BJP thought it better to copy our original guarantees... And has made an unsuccess ful attempt to hastily serve the agenda before the

elections," he said in his post in Hindi. "The people of Rajasthan know that the Congress has worked and will also fulfil our



seven guarantees on the ground," Kharge said, using the hashtag #Congress_again.

Kharge will address election meetings in Vair Assembly of Bharatpur district and Tijara of Rajasthan on Saturday for the upcoming November 25 assembly polls.

IMF revises Pak's foreign loan requirement to USD 25 bn

The IMF has revised down The IMF has revised and Pakistan's foreign loan requirements to USD 25 billion for the ongoing fiscal year --reducing it by USD 3.4 billion in a big relief for its cash-starved economy, according to a media report on Saturday.

The Washington-based global lender also lowered the economic growth projection to just 2 per cent, turning down the government's external as well as macroeconomic forecasts, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

International Monetary Fund's delegation wrapped two-week-long talks with Pakistani officials on November 15 and announced that a staff-level agreement has been reached to enable it to release USD 700 million in the second tranche of an already agreed USD 3 billion loan.

The report said that in comparison with July this year,

loan requirements for this fiscal year from USD 28.4 billion USD 25 billion.

In four months, the government has already borrowed USD 6 billion while it expects rollovers of USD 12.5 billion.

The remaining needs are about USD 6.5 billion in addition to the efforts for timely securing the USD 12.5 billion debt rollovers, said the sources.

Secretary Finance Imdadullah Bosal on Thursday said the interim government was comfortable that it would secure the needed financing to remain afloat.

However, there will not be much respite for the government as the estimated available financing has also been cut by USD 3.7 billion because of the problems in acquiring loans through floating Eurobonds and from foreign commercial

The sources said that the IMF did not agree to Pakistan's

projection of USD 4 billion to USD 4.5 billion current account deficit during this fiscal year against the earlier projected figure of USD 6.5 billion.

They added that the IMF had now projected a deficit of USD 5.7 billion -- a reduction of about USD 770 million in comparison with its old estimates. The finance ministry sources told the newspaper that the IMF had further reduced its economic growth projection for Pakistan to 2 per cent from July's estimate of 2.5 per cent.

The lender's fresh forecast is now in line with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank's projections. The IMF did not accept Pakistan's forecast of 3 per cent to 3.5 per cent economic growth in this fiscal

The IMF also did not accept the finance ministry's projection of imports worth USD 54.5 billion during this fiscal year. The lender has now

Pakistan, Russia discuss terrorism threats

said.

scored the complexity of the

terrorism landscape and the

need for continued vigilance,"

a statement from Pakistan's

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

their respective national strate-

gies and measures in combat-

ing terrorism. Pakistan and Russia shared their experi-

ences and best practices, high-

lighting the importance of

national efforts in the broad-

er fight against terrorism, it

said. The meeting was co-

chaired by Ambassador Syed

Haider Shah, Additional

Foreign Secretary, Ministry

of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan,

and Ambassador Sergey

Vershinin, Deputy Foreign

Minister of the Russian

aforesaid property to Mrs. Jaskirat Kaur

D/o Mr. Trilochan Singh and Mr. Basant

Any person who has any objection regarding the Sale of the said property

submit his/her objection within 7 days from the date of the Notice in writing.

The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the

Registered Post on the address given

E: priymitra@trinitylegalpartners.com

elow and by E-mail.

Priy Mitra Gaur (Advocate)

Trinity Legal Partners C-401, Fourth Floor, Nirvana Courtyard, Nirvana Country, Sector-50, Gurugram-122018

Mr. Nikhil Mathai George, may

Nayak S/o Mr. Japani Nayak.

The two sides outlined

Islamabad (PTI): Underling Africa. The dialogue underthe complexity of the terrorism landscape and the need for continued vigilance, Pakistan and Russia have jointly discussed global and regional terrorist threats, with a particular focus on the situations in their neighbour-

Senior officials of the two countries discussed the issue of combating terrorism at the 10th meeting of the Russia-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism and Other Challenges to Security held here on November 16.

'The two sides discussed at length the global and regional terrorist threats, with a particular focus on the situations in Afghanistan, Central and South Asia, and North

but its revised figure is USD 6.3 billion less than what it estimated in July this year. Some of the gains that Pakistan will make because of

the low imports are expected to be lost because of a reduction in the projected remittances. As against the old forecast of USD 32.9 billion, the IMF has now projected the foreign remittances at USD 29.4 billion -- a reduction of USD 3.5 billion, the sources revealed.

The exports have been marginally adjusted downwards to USD 30.6 billion, they added. The estimates of foreign direct investment also increased from USD 173 million to USD 700 million.

The IMF also has cut the inflation rate forecast from 25.9 per cent to 22.8 per cent - a move that should provide space for lowering the interest rates at least in January's monetary policy announcement, according to the paper.

KPK to launch major eviction operation against Afghans

PTI PESHWAR

Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to launch a major operation to evict thousands of illegal Afghans from the provincial capital Peshawar, a senior official said on Saturday.

The move by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) government came amid the ongoing deportation of illegal Afghan nationals residing in Pakistan. The crackdown has so far forced about 340,000 Afghans in recent weeks to leave Pakistan after spending years in the neighbouring country.
"The KPK Provincial

Government has decided to launch a grand operation for the eviction of illegal Afghans from this northwestern city of Peshawar," said the official.

Pakistan's caretaker government has previously said security concerns were behind the deportation order. Islamabad has claimed that Afghan nationals had carried out 14 of the 24 major terrorist attacks that have taken place in the country this year. However, the Taliban-led government in Kabul has rejected Pakistan's claim.

On Friday, a joint meeting of Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Fahd Wazir and Senior Superintendent of Police of Operations department in Peshawar Kashif Abbasi chaired a special meeting to discuss the issue and made a foolproof plan for evictions of the illegal Afghans.

The Peshawar district Administration and police set up special teams under the supervision of divisional SPs to evict the illegal Afghans from the Provincial capital Peshawar.

The special teams have been provided with complete lists and data on the illegal

Afghans residing in Peshawar. The teams would arrest Afghan nationals without documents and would shift them to Juma Khan Holding Camp Nasir Bagh from where they would be deported to their

country via the Torkham bor-According to officials, the Afghans holding Proof of Registration and Afghan Citizen Cards have been exempted from deportation and special teams have been formed for verification of their

documents. Many Afghans who have been in Pakistan for decades say they should be given more time, as they have no home in Afghanistan. Afghans say they do not know how they will start a new life from scratch.

An estimated 1.7 million Afghans were living in Pakistan illegally when the crackdown was launched last month by the government.

Afghanistan has set up a commission in Kabul to deal with repatriations from Pakistan. Bilal Karimi, the spokesman for the refugee commission of Afghanistan's Taliban-led administration, said so far 340,608 Afghans have returned.

Currently, the World Health Organisation is providing health facilities to Afghans returning through the border crossings at Torkham in northwestern Pakistan and Chaman in the southwest.

In a statement on Thursday, the WHO said the "sudden and increased flux of such returnees, along with other related factors, poses significant public health con-

It also warned of the risk of disease outbreaks and transmission of wild poliovirus at the points where Afghans are entering the country.

Jinping's spl envoy meets new Maldivian President

PTI BEIJING/MALE

hinese President Xi Jinping's Special Envoy Shen Yiqin, who attended the inauguration of the new Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu at Male, called on him on Saturday and expressed Beijing's readiness to promote the Belt and Road Initiative projects and push for new progress in the bilateral ties.

During the meeting Shen, a State Councillor, said China attaches great importance to its relations with the Maldives and is willing to work with the country under the new circumstances to strengthen high-level political guidance, deepen synergy of their development strategies, and further expand cooperation and

Four charged with

 $F^{\text{our men arrested on suspicion of the murder of a}}$

British Sikh teenager following a street fight in south-west

London have been charged to

appear before the city's Westminster Magistrates'

Court on Saturday.

Amandeep Singh, 21,
Manjit Singh, 27, Ajmeer
Singh, 31, and Poran Singh, 71

— British Sikhs from the

Southall suburb of London —

were charged with the murder

Singh Nangpal by the

Metropolitan Police overnight

reports of a fight in progress at

Burket Close, Hounslow, and

attended along with the

London Ambulance Service in

the early hours of Wednesday.

area, was found with stab

injuries and "despite the best

efforts of the emergency ser-

vices, he was sadly pronounced

the clock to find those respon-

sible for Simarieet's murder, as

his family struggle to come to

terms with their loss," said

Detective Inspector Martin

Thorpe of the Met Police in an

arrested and our enquiries con-

tinue. I would urge anyone with

information about how the

events unfolded or anyone

who may have captured the

incident on their phone,

dash cameras or doorbell

footage to please come for-

supported by specialist officers

The victim's family were

"Four men have been

"We are working around

dead at the scene

earlier statement.

ward," he said.

Nangpal, from the local

Police were called to

ear-old

on Friday.

murder of Sikh

teen in London

PTI ■ LONDON

exchanges in various fields, staterun Xinhua news agency reported from Male.

China is also ready to promote high-quality Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation, and push for new progress in the future-oriented, all-round friendly and cooperative partnership between the two countries, she

Muizzu said the new government of the Maldives firmly upholds the one-China policy and actively seeks to strengthen practical cooperation with Čhina in various fields, including jointly building the BRI.

The BRI is an ambitious plan initiated by President Xi in 2013 to develop new trade routes connecting China with the rest of the

PTI SAN FRANCISO

Vice President Kamala Harris held critical conversations

with world leaders at the APEC

Summit here primarily focusing

on women's economic empow-

erment, inclusive growth, and

After President Joe Biden,

she has emerged as the most

influential foreign policy voice

of the United States and her

conversations are focused on

humane voices, the White

Business Advisory Council

meeting, Harris, 59, announced

more than USD 900 million in

public and private sector invest-

ment towards an innovative

initiative to bolster women's

economic empowerment

around the world, it said. This

week's events followed her 14th

foreign trip as she has visited 20

countries to strengthen

America's alliances and part-

nerships. Speaking at the

Participation in the Industries of

the Future event, Harris

launched the Women in the

Sustainable Economy Initiative.

civil society to bolster women's

economic participation.

Economic

Addressing the Asia-Pacific

House said.

Women's

strengthening bilateral ties.

Kamala Harris holds critical

conversations at APEC

world via land and maritime networks with the aim of improving regional integration, increasing trade and stimulating economic

> Muizzu hoped to work hand in hand with China to usher in a new chapter in Maldives-China relations.

> The election of Muizzu, seen as a close associate of former pro-China Maldives President Abdulla Yameen, raised expectations in Beijing that the archipelagic state strategically located in the Indian Ocean close to India's southern coast will pursue pro-Beijing policies, unlike the incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, who followed India first policy and established close ties with New

In his message greeting Muizzu earlier, Xi said China and the Maldives enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges.

Xi – who visited Maldives in 2014 and announced several Chinese investments under China's BRI, which subsequently evoked criticism of being "debt traps" by the country's opposition parties - said the two countries are not only friends of sincere trust and mutual assistance but also partners of joint development and common pros-

After her Maldives visit, Shen will visit Sri Lanka from November 18 to 21 at the invitation of the Sri Lankan government, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced earlier.

Chinese man extradited from Morocco to face embezzlement

Beijing (AP): A Chinese man wanted for alleged ly embezzling millions of yuan (hundreds of thousands of dollars) from his company and then fleeing to Morocco was extradited back to China on Saturday, the Ministry of Public Security said.

The man, a financial executive at the company, used passwords for its bank accounts to transfer money to his personal account, the ministry said in a statement. It didn't name the company but said that Shanghai police filed a case against the man in February 2020.

Moroccan police arrested him in April of this year and a court approved his extradition in late October. Chinese officials brought him back to Shanghai on Saturday.

State broadcaster CCTV showed the man, identified only by his surname Luo, signing an arrest warrant after getting off the plane and then being handcuffed. Police officers led him from the jetway to the tarmac and to a waiting police car.

ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED

| PUBLIC NOTICE My client Sh. Sepiest Ste Sh. S.C. Das R/o D.31. Indira | ROTOGRAP | HICS (INDIA | () LIMITED | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| My client, Sh. Sanjeet S/o Sh. S.C. Das R/o D-31, Indira Kalyan Vihar, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, Delhi is | CIN: L74899DL1976PLC008036 | | | | | | | |
| purchasing property from Smt. Rajkuman W/o Sh. Virendra Singh R/o Village Kehrolla Bulandshaher U.P. property bearing Address House No. F-25/03-4, First Floor, Area 29.70 Sq. Mtrs., Situated at Madhuban Bapudham Avasiya | Regd. Office: Unit No 8, Ground | | | Dolbi 110076 | | | | |
| bearing Address House No. F-25/03-A. First Floor. Area | , | | , | | | | | |
| 29.70 Sq. Mtrs., Situated at Madhuban Bapudham Avasiya | Telephone: 011-47366600 E-mail: info@rotoindia.co.in Website: www.rotoindia.co.in | | | | | | | |
| Yojana (Baziabad, U.P. the previous Original Document Including Registered Deed Doc. no. 7927 dated 27.12.2013 executed by Ghaziabad Development Authority in favour of Smt. Rajkumari W/o Sh. Virendra Singh has been Lost and | EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED S | TED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR | | | | | | |
| executed by Ghaziabad Development Authority in favour of | QUARTER & HALF YEA | AR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023 | | | | | | |
| Smt. Kajkumari W/o Sh. Virendra Singh has been Lost and Lin, this Regard NCR no. 20230000735189 dated | | | | (In Lakhs) | | | | |
| in this Regard NCR no. 20230000735189 dated 29.10.2023 has been filed. Above-mentioned property is | Dantianiana | Occurrent Frederic | Halfman Fadad | | | | | |
| going to be mortgage with IIFL HOME FINANCE LIMITED. Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/ | Particulars | Quarter Ended | , | | | | | |
| aright, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to Above | | 30.09.2023 | 30.09.2023 | 30.09.2022 | | | | |
| aright, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to Above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along | | Un-audited | Un-audited | Unaudited" | | | | |
| with documentary evidence under address through registered A/d within 7 days from the date of publication of | Total Income from Operations(Net) | 1.27 | 40.76 | 1.27 | | | | |
| registered A/d within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period | (2.14) | (1.17) | (1.46) | | | | |
| deemed to have been waived. | (before Tax, Exceptional and /or | (=: : :) | (, | () | | | | |
| Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092: Mobile no. 9811215181 | | | | | | | | |
| | Extraordinary items) | (0.44) | (, , , =) | // ** | | | | |
| PUBLIC NOTICE | "Net Profit/(Loss) for the period | (2.14) | (1.17) | (1.46) | | | | |
| Whereas, Late Mr. Blesson George S/o | before Tax, (after Exceptional | | | | | | | |
| Mr. K.M. George, was the owner of the | and /or Extraordinary items)" | | | | | | | |
| Residential Flat bearing No. J-13, Second Floor, Nightingale CGHS | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period | (2.14) | (1.17) | (1.46) | | | | |
| Limited, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018. | after tax (after Exceptional and | (/ | (, | (, | | | | |
| Whereas, Mr. Blesson George died on | /or Extraordinary items) | | | | | | | |
| 14.06.2017 leaving behind Mrs. Annie | | (0.44) | (4.47) | (4.40) | | | | |
| George, Mrs. Ruby Thomas and Mr. | Total Comprehensive Income for | (2.14) | (1.17) | (1.46) | | | | |
| Nikhil Mathai George as his legal heirs. Whereas, Mrs. Annie George and Mrs. | the period [Comprising profit/ | | | | | | | |
| Ruby Thomas released/relinquished | (Loss) for the period (after tax) | | | | | | | |
| their rights and share in the aforesaid | and other Comprehensive | | | | | | | |
| property to Mr. Nikhil Mathai George by | Income (after tax)] | | | | | | | |
| virtue of a Relinquishment Deed dated | | 360.13 | 360.13 | 360.13 | | | | |
| 04.05.2022, which is registered with the | Equity Share Capital | | | | | | | |
| office of the Sub-Registrar, Delhi as document no. 9634. | Earning Per Share(of Rs. 10/- | (0.06) | (0.03) | (0.04) | | | | |
| Whereas, Mr. Nikhil Mathai George | each) Basic and diluted | | | | | | | |
| become the sole owner of the aforesaid | (not annualised)" | | | | | | | |
| property and he intends to sell the | Notes: | | | | | | | |

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly financial Results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (LODR) Regultions 2015. The full format of Quarterly financial Results are available on the stock exchange website www.bseindia.com

The financial results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accouting Standard (IND AS) notified under the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as amended

> For Rotographics (India) Limited Sakshi Jain

Company Secretary

As part of this launch, she announced more than USD Harris announced the 900 million in commitments by governments, private sector November 2022. companies, foundations, and

This innovative programme will bolster women's economic empowerment globally by expanding access to employment, training, leadership roles, and financial resources in the industries critical to our future and the future of our planet, it

The announcements in

in public and private sector commitments will help close the digital gender divide. In the last eight months, her leadership has generated more than USD 2.4 billion to empower women economically around the world, the

White House said. During the APEC Leadership Summit, Harris held APEC timely and productive conversations with a hoist of world leaders. This includes a meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines – their fifth meeting in the past

to continuing to work together to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific and continued their work together to defend international rules and norms in the South China Sea. They also discussed strengthening economic ties, it said.

Harris announced the conclusion of a historic "123" civil nuclear cooperation agreement, which will deepen the US-Philippines partnership to build a global clean energy economy and strengthen their shared commitment to improving energy security and advancing the global non-proliferation regime.

launch of the "123" agreement negotiations while in Manila in

This agreement will provide the legal basis for US exports of nuclear equipment and material to the Philippines, which will support American workers and businesses, the White House

The Vice President also met with Prime Minister James Marape of Papua New Guinea, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment Accra, Ghana of USD 1 billion to the Pacific Islands region.

Liberian president concedes defeat

AP MONROVIA

Liberian President George Weah conceded defeat on Friday after provisional results from this week's runoff vote showed challenger Joseph Boakai beating him by just over a percentage point.

Elections officials said that with 99.58 per cent of ballots counted from Tuesday's election, Boakai was in the lead, with 50.89 per cent to Weah's 49.11 per cent. The results were a dramatic reversal from the election six years ago when second round.

"The Liberian people have spoken and we have heard their voice," Weah said in an address to the nation, adding that Boakai "is in a lead that we cannot surpass."

"I urge you to follow my example and accept the result of the elections," he said, adding that "our time will come again" in 2029. The concession speech

given even before official results were announced in Liberia comes at a time when there have been growing concerns about the decline of democracy in West Africa.

The region has seen a spate of military coups over the last several years, including one earlier this year carried out in Gabon in the aftermath of a presidential election.

Weah said he had "the utmost respect for the democracy process that has defined our nation.

The 57-year-old former international soccer star won the 2017 election after his promise to fight poverty and generate infrastructure devel-

Ukraine's troops work to advance on Russian-held side

Kyiv (AP): Ukrainian troops worked to push back Russian forces positioned on the east bank of the Dnieper River, the military said Saturday, a day after Ukraine claimed to have secured multiple bridgeheads on that side of the river that divides the country's partially occupied Kherson region.

Ukraine's establishment of footholds on the Russian-held bank of the Dnieper represents a small but potentially significant strategic advance in the midst of a war largely at a standstill. The General Staff of Ukraine's armed forces said its troops there had repelled 12 attacks by the Russian army between Friday and

Saturday. The Ukrainians now were trying to "push back Russian army units as far as possible in order to make life easier for the (western) bank of the Kherson region, so

Humeniuk, spokesperson for Ukraine's Southern Operational Command, said.

In response, the Russian military used "tactical aviation," including Iranianmade Shahed exploding drones, to try to pin down Ukraine's troops, Humeniuk said.

The wide river is a natural dividing line along the southern battlefront. Since withdrawing from the city of Kherson and retreating across the Dnieper a year ago, Moscow's forces have regularly shelled communities on the Ukrainian-held side of the river to prevent Kyiv's soldiers from advancing toward Russia-annexed

Elsewhere, air defenses shot down 29 out of 38 Shahed drones launched against Ukraine, military officials reported. One of the drones that got through struck an

that they get shelled less," Natalia energy infrastructure facility in the southern Ödesa region, leaving 2,000 homes without power.

In the capital, hundreds of people gathered to oppose corruption and to demand the reallocation of public funds to the armed forces. The demonstration was the 10th in a series of protests in Kyiv amid anger over municipal projects.

On Saturday, protesters held Ukrainian flags and banners bearing slogans such as "We need drones not stadiums." "I've organized demonstrations in more than 100 cities protesting against corruption in Ukraine and for more money, which should go to the army, Maria Barbash, an activist with the organization Money for the Armed Forces said. "The first priority of our budget local budgets and the central budget should be the army."

and Company's Website at www. rotoindia.co.in.

by the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) (Amendments) Rules, 2016. " The above unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the board of Directors at their meeting held on 17.11.2023.

UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Place: New Delhi

Date: 18.11.2023

Regd.Office: PLOT NO.66, SECTOR-34, EHTP, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122001

CIN: L17100HR1983PLC033460, Website:www.ulilltd.com, Email id: investorrelations@ulilltd.com, Phone:011-2628237, 49075251 Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended September 30, 2023 (Rs. In lacs, except per share data)

| SI. | Particulars | Quarter Ended | | Six Months Ended | | Year Ended | |
|--------|---|---------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| No. | (Refer Notes below) | 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 | 158.01 | 124.41 | 53.61 | 282.42 | 490.32 | 1,047.44 |
| 2 | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional & extraordinary items | 5.32 | 13.79 | 8.62 | 19.11 | 46.21 | 55.59 |
| 3 | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax and exceptional & extraordinary items | 5.32 | 13.79 | 8.62 | 19.11 | 34.66 | 43.00 |
| 4 | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax | 5.32 | 13.79 | 8.62 | 19.11 | 34.66 | 43.00 |
| 5 | Total Comprehensive Income | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 6 | Paid-up equity share capital | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| 7 | Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised) | | | | | | |
| | a) Basic | 0.18 | 0.46 | 0.29 | 0.64 | 1.16 | 1.43 |
| | b) Diluted | 0.18 | 0.46 | 0.29 | 0.64 | 1.16 | 1.43 |
| Notes: | | | | | | | |

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 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 www.ulilltd.com.

For UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED

HARISH RAWAT (Director) DIN: 06918651

Place : Gurugram, Haryana Dated: November 17, 2023

27 firms granted approval under IT hardware PLI scheme

The government on Saturday said 27 companies, including Dell, HP, Flextronics, and Foxconn, have been granted approval under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware.

The scheme, which covers laptops, tablets, PCs, servers and ultra-small form factor devices, is expected to fuel incremental investments of about Rs 3,000

The nod to the applicants comes at a time when India is wooing IT hardware players with policy sweeteners and incentive schemes, making a determined push to position itself as a global powerhouse for hi-tech manufacturing.

"I am happy to announce that 27 companies have been approved for the PLI IT hardware scheme. About 95 per cent of these...23 companies are ready to start their manufacturing from day-zero," Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a briefing. Four companies will start their production in the next 90 days. "These 27 applications will



3,000 crore...The most important thing is that the value chain is shifting to India," the minister said.

The approvals will position India as a big force in manufacturing of IT hardware, encompassing PCs, servers, laptops, and tablets, Vaishnaw

Among the big names that have been granted approval under the IT hardware scheme are Dell, Foxconn, HP, Flextronics, VVDN, and Optiemus. Other applicants that have received the green signal include Padget Electronics, SOJO 2023, with an aim to enhance India's manufacturing prowess and spur export. The scheme aims to bolster the

the Union Cabinet on May 17

manufacturing of laptops, tablets, personal computers, servers and Ultra Small Form

Factor (USFF) devices.
With complex work now beginning to happen in India, there is an increasing level of value addition from here, Vaishnaw said.

"As these companies get established and scale up, many of the component sub-assemblies are coming... Beyond that, the base-level components are coming in parallel. It is a natural pull, and an additional point that is working in our favour is that there are very good design capabilities in the country," he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that India hopes to play on the strength of its storied talent and skill base, vibrant market, and enabling policies to corner a substantial chunk of new investments flowing into IT, electronics and semiconductor production, and global value chains.

Amazon lays off Open Al pushes hundreds in its out co-founder Alexa division

A mazon is cutting hundreds of jobs in the unit that handles its popular voice assistant Alexa as it plows more resources into artificial intelligence.

In a note to employees on Friday, Daniel Rausch, Amazon's vice president of Alexa and Fire TV, wrote that the company is eliminating certain roles because it is ditching some initiatives.

"As we continue to invent, we're shifting some of our efforts to better align with our business priorities, and what we know matters most to customers - which includes maximizing our resources and efforts focused on generative AI," Rausch wrote.

He said "several hundred" positions would be cut but did not give a more precise figure. Seattle-based Amazon is in fierce competition with other tech companies rushing to capitalize on the generative AI craze. The company has been implementing a host of AI



initiatives in the past few months, from infusing the technology into customer reviews to providing services that allow developers to build their own AI tools on its AWS cloud infrastructure. In September, Amazon

unveiled an update to Alexa that infuses it with more generative AI features. The job cuts announced on

Friday will impact employees in the U.S., Canada and India. It follows more recent layoffs in Amazon's gaming and music teams, and also adds to the 27,000 employees the company laid off during the later parts of last year and earlier this year.

and CEO Altman



AP SAN FRANCISCO

The board of ChatGPT-maker Open AI said it has pushed out its co-founder and CEO Sam Altman after a review found he was "not consistently candid in his communications" with the board.

'The board no longer has confidence in his ability to continue leading OpenAÍ," the company said in a statement on Friday. It has appointed Mira Murati, OpenAl's chief technology officer, to an interim CEO role effective immediate-

'IPEF's clean, fair economy agreements should not restrict India's policy space'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the IPEF members concluding the negotiations for fair and clean economy agreements, India should follow a cautious approach while finalising the text of these pacts as new commit-

policy space or tax revenue generation abilities, a report

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said in its report that after the conclusion of the negotiations, the IPEF member countries,

Notice Inviting EOI

No.SSA-45035/2/2023-MIS /354092

Date: 17.11.2023

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through e-Tendering process from NSDC approved Training Partners for implementation of Vocational Education in Govt./Prov. Secondary and Hr. Secondary Schools and KGBVs under National Skill Qualification Framework across Assam. To participate in the EOI process through e-procurement, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves.

The Bidder may be downloaded the EOI schedules containing the EOI details, terms and conditions etc. from the web-portal shall submit their EOI on-line on the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in.

Sd/-Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axor Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

The general public is informed that Ms. Eara Dutt, residing at B1002, Lodha Florenza, Off Western Express Highway, Gorgganoft; Mumbai 400063, who is a member of Aashiana CGHS Ltd., Plot No. 5, Mayur Vihar Phase | Extn. Delhi 110091, has reportedly lost/misplaced the original share certificate issued by the Society in the name of her late father Shri Virendra Sharma in respect of Flat A-303 situated in the a fresh share certificate in her name in place of Shri Virendra Sharma (whose share certificate will stand cancelled upon such issuance). Any person or persons having objections to issuance of a fresh share certificate in favour of Ms. Fara Dutt and/or cancellation of the original share certificate in the name of Shri Virendra Sharma may file objections in writing within 30 days of Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli ntioned office address of Aashiana CGHS Ltd., failing which the Managing Committee of Aashiana CGHS Ltd. will be free to issue the fresh share certificate in her name and proceed

For Aashiana CGHS Ltd. P V Hariharan - President

320861, 425085, 1330575 for EQUITY SHARES Nos. 675 of Larsen & Toubro imited standing in the name of Parneet Singh Bains. S/o Late

further in the matter in accordance with appli

cable law and procedures

publication of this public notice at the aforeme

Sh Kanwaliit Singh Bains has been lost and the undersigned has applied to the Company to issue duplicate Certificate(s) for the said shares. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said shares should write to our Registrar, KFin Technologies Private Limited. Selenium inancial District, Hyderabad-500032 within one month from this date else the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate, Parneet Singh Bains Sto L<mark>ate Sh Kanwaljit Singh Bains</mark> House No 147, Sector 15A, Noida -201301(UP)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

lotice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under the b vranches of the company, which were overdue for redemption and have not been redeemed so far in spite of r

branches of the Company, which were overdue for redemption and have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, We will conduct the auction at the concerned branches on 22° November 2023 at 11:00 AM Address of such Taluka/Centers have been duly notified at our websites, www.capriloans.in. Capri Global has the auction for which the concerned the auction list without prior information and has the right to cancel/change the auction date without prior infamation. Mentrion Below 15 The District Name and Gold Loan Number Adampur-GL2302175247, Ambala-GL22109707/3, Assandh-GL2302210754, GL2304274538, GL230427494, GL2303286746, GL2303175247, Ambala-GL22109707/3, Assandh-GL23023210754, GL2305346494, GL2305346494, GL2303535073, GL2303535073, GL2303535073, GL2303536793, Bahadurgarh-GL2210296949, GL230427476, GL230429494, GL2303536474, GL2305351074, GL2305350747, GL230530747, GL2305350747, GL230545750, GL230545750, GL230545750, GL230545750, GL230545750, GL GL2303243993, GL2304249891, GL2304255608, GL2304258755, GL2304263407, GL2304265720, GL2304269702, GL23042734 3L2304274000, GL2304276317, GL2304276430, GL2304277456, GL2304278393, GL2304279012, GL2304282849, GL230428385 GL2304287366, GL2304287544, GL2304292288, GL2304298312, GL2304299107, GL2305302559, GL2305311651, GL230531229 GL2302158025, GL2302165067, GL2302172167, GL2302180904, GL2302183037, GL2302188566, GL2302189769, GL23032094 GL290128108.CG, GL230128007, GL230127167, GL2301280404, GL2301280307, GL2301280307, GL2301280507, GL GL2305358423, GL2305358923, GL2305358928, GL2305365200, GL2306366444, GL2306366140, GL230636954: **Gohana**-GL2301108293, **Greater Noida**-GL2212086009, GL2302166645, GL2304249280, GL2304292164, GL230530878: \[
\text{Qodana-(L231) | 102-92, greater Notice_(L221 (2080.00)*, \text{QC-1220}(169-95), \text{QC-2200-02-220}, \text{QC-2200-02-220}, \text{QC-2200}(169-95), \text{QC-2200}(179-95), \text{QC-2200} GL2306370695, Jind GL2303195783, GL2304277934, GL2306369001, Kaithal GL2302176284, Kannal GL2211064417, Madlauda-GL22120851 GL2305/04%, Jand GL2331976/8; GL23042798/4; GL230539970; GL230534709; GL230534993; GL230534970; GL2305576/2 GL2303197012; GL2300237807; GL2200247588; GL230539970; GL2305345709; GL230534993; GL230534994; GL230534997; GL23053576/2 GL2305375489; GL230532033; GL2205326992; GL2305329701; GL2305357515, Meham-GL2210426907; GL2305314279; GL2305375849; GL230532077; Marmaul GL2305324926; GL230535575, Moida UPGL230503660; GL230149076; GL230426907; GL230534577; GL2304267107; GL230479492; GL2305317979; GL230535275, Noida UPGL2305030560; GL2301149076; GL23045717 GL2302176819; GL230476072; GL230530799; GL230531288; GL2305326925556; GL23053574518; GL23053674518; GL230536745 GL2305338465, GL2305347017, GL2305347943, GL2305349492, GL2305349685, GL2305350281, GL2305350505, GL230535791 GL2305.38496, GL2305.37470, GL2305.374743, GL2305.347472, GL2305.347685, GL2305.35026, GL2305.35026,

ments need not restrict its including India will now do domestic consultations and legal reviews and prepare final texts of the proposed agree-

Goodworth, Neolync, Syrma

SGS, Mega Networks, Panache

Digilife, and ITI Ltd, among

To a question on the absence of

certain large names from the

list, the minister said that some

are evaluating and making

their plans and "it is just the

question of time". He, howev-

er, did not take specific names.

The scheme will lead to addi-

tional production of Rs 3.5 lakh

crore and create direct employ-

ment for 50,000 people and

indirect employment for 1.5

lakh people, the minister said. The PLI scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware was approved by

While doing that, the government needs to "focus on ensuring that new commitments do not overly restrict its policy space or tax revenue generation abilities," it said. This includes careful consid-

erations in areas such as clean economy commitments, labour standards, and agricultural policies, it added. India, the US and 12 other members of the Indo-Pacific

Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) have this week concluded the negotiations on the clean and fair economy agreements with a view to strengthen the implementation of effective anti-corruption and tax measures and promote sustainable trade. It was announced after the

third IPEF ministerial meeting



California, this week. The countries have also signed an agreement on supply chain resilience.

The GTRI said that these texts encompass diverse areas such as labour, environment, agriculture, and other relevant sectors, necessitating expert involvement from respective ministries. 'There is not enough scope for

altering the substantially concluded texts through the

domestic consultation of legal scrutiny processes, yet India may keep few critical issues in mind while finalising the agreements," GTRI Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said. On the IPÉF Clean Economy agreement, it said that the partners are expected to decarbonise and reduce the climate impact of the transportation sector, follow advanced sustainable agricultural practices, and address drivers of deforestation and degradation,

including by working with companies that source prod-ucts from the Indo-Pacific While doing legal review,

India may not agree to a nonderogation clause. This would prevent a government from relaxing an existing domestic rule for a project of national importance," the report said. It added that India also should not agree to minimum standards on clean energy prod-ucts/technologies for domestic markets as this would prevent producers from selling in their domestic markets and relying on imports.

"India should not agree to stop preferential treatment to domestic suppliers in government procurement of goods," it said, adding that while India is committed to sustainability, it cannot afford to have the same stringent labour and environmental standards as the advanced countries.

not allow the import of GM seeds and foods in the pretence of food security as doing this may result in a surge in subsidised agriculture commodity imports.

It also said that India should

We must settle this issue at the domestic level first before taking international obligations. Large seed monopolies want farmers to buy seeds from them every time if once bought. Do not agree to restrict farmers' rights to reproduce or exchange seeds. Do not surrender the right to limit trade or provide subsidies to farmers for fertilisers, electricity, and irrigation," Srivastava said. He said that India should learn from the US, which uses heavy subsidies on agriculture and is now doing the same for critical industrial sectors.

With regard to the agreement on the fair economy, the report suggested that India is already implementing many of the ruption and taking new obligations would make domestic actions legally enforceable and open to international scrutiny.

obligations related to anti-cor-

It said that commitments related to the effective administration of tax policy might curtail the ability to raise tax

"India should ensure that the provisions do not restrict its policy space. For example, should India seek inputs before increasing tariffs or imposing trade restrictions or affect domestic policy changes? No, as this would legitimise big businesses to have a direct say in how we should make our domestic laws," Srivastava said. Further, it said that demanding labour standards might provide legal justification to the US to impose restrictions on India's labour-intensive exports on the ground that India did not follow the stan-

USIBC, CII organise collaborative effort to promote innovation and foster development of critical and emerging technologies

AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

¬he US India Business L Council (USIBC) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) this week organised an industry-driven collaborative effort between the US and India, promoting innovation and fostering the development of critical and emerging technologies.

The collaborative effort was organised on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Leadership Summit here. Addressed by US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, the inaugural discussion roundtable on "Decoding the Innovation Handshake," was attended among others by Suzanne Clark, president and CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce, and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General of CII, in the presence of American and Indian private sectors, respectively, alongside founders and c-suite executives from over thirty American and Indian companies.

The US Chamber of

Commerce is proud to be a part of this new initiative to increase innovation and collaboration between the US and India. With the launch of the 'Innovation Handshake', both Washington and New Delhi are demonstrating a renewed commitment to the partnership needed to unlock the technology of tomorrow," said Clarke. "Fuelled by free enterprise and enabled by pro-growth policies, this new initiative will ensure the US and India work together to reward those who develop solutions to serve customers, solve problems, and strengthen society," she said. The 'Innovation Handshake', a concept developed under the US-India Commercial



Dialogue, was announced as a key component of the bilateral summit held between US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington in June.

The handshake aims to catalyse deeper connectivity and integration of America's and India's innovation ecosystems, from academia and research institutions to government and industry cooperation, said a media release issued by USIBC

According to the media release, the inaugural roundtable presented the opportunity for political and industry leaders to hear firsthand the steps required to ensure both democracies can continue leading the way globally in critical areas, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, defence, semiconductors, space and geospatial technologies, telecommunications, supply chains, and clean energy.

The roundtable also addressed

how private equity and venture capital are crucial in accelerating and promoting innovation while delivering scalable and commercially viable solutions

to global challenges.
"Through the Innovation
Handshake, the United States and India are forging a critical tech partnership that will further strengthen our interconnected innovation ecosystems," said Raimondo.

"This is an important step to bolster the US-India commercial relationship, and I look forward to building on this progress with Minister Goyal to help U.S. And Indian workers and businesses succeed," she said. "The Innovation Handshake

signals a joint commitment to strengthen the startup ecosystem and promote cooperation in Critical and Emerging Technologies between India and the United States," said Minister Goyal.

A CII-led delegation of entrepreneurs and innovators from across India also participated in the programme, highlighting specific opportunities and recommendations that would ease operational and early-stage challenges faced by startups in

Banerjee, Director General of CII, said: "Today exemplifies what's possible when government and industry work collaboratively and in consultation. In many ways, the startup ecosystem created in India is only made possible through our government's digital public infrastructure priorities."

"We stand ready to further the technological convergence, especially on Research and Development collaboration, product fitment and testing opportunities, and enabling access to capital between India and the US through this Innovation Handshake," he

'Vested interests attempting to derail Dharavi project' Development Department,

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Adani Group-nement Redevelopment dani Group-helmed Project (DRP) on Saturday refuted allegations favouritism in the issue.

In a statement, DRP, which also has the Maharashtra government as a stakeholder, said "vested interests" are attempting to derail or delay the project with a revenue potential of Rs 20,000 crore.

The Opposition Congress had on Friday alleged that the BJP government is 'benefitting' Adani Group by relaxing norms for the Dharavi redevelopment project in Mumbai. Its general secretary Jairam Ramesh levelled an allegation that the Maharashtra Urban

which had originally expressed its reservations about relaxing the rules, "has been compelled to issue a notification that removes the provision of indexation in Dharavi's real estate Transferable Development Rights (TDR), and made it mandatory for all Mumbai builders to buy the first 40 per cent of their TDRs from Adani". The DRP statement termed the attempts to "manufacture a

controversy" around TDR generation as "unfortunate". It claimed that the generation of TDR within the Dharavi Notified Area (DNA) was permitted since the Government

Resolution (GR) of 2018, mod-

ified in the GR of 2022,

reminded that both develop-

issuance of the tender for the redevelopment in 2022.

The Maharashtra government is at present only notifying the same as per the due process, the statement said. It also said that a GR issued

before the onset of the 2018 tendering process had a provision for the sale of TDR generated from the DRP across Mumbai.

"Contrary to the claim that these policy changes are going to benefit a single entity, the final notification from the government has, in fact, capped the minimum usage of TDR in other projects at 40 per cent instead of 50 per cent, as mentioned in the September 2022 GR," the statement said.

Kerala startups yet to grab openings in defence, aerospace: Experts at Huddle Global

PTI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

 $K^{\text{erala-based startups are yet}}$ to take full advantage of immense opportunities in defence and aerospace sectors, which have gone up manifold after the launch of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, panelists said at a session at Huddle Global

Initiating the discussion, the CEO of Technopark, Col Sanjeev Nair (Retd), noted that homespun startups of Kerala have not leveraged the opportunities thrown up by the iDEX Scheme, which was launched by Ministry of Defence (MOD) to promote, support and onboard innovative solutions in this critical sector. A flagship scheme of the MOD, iDEX is funded and managed by Innovation

Organisation (DIO) to create an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in defence and aerospace by engaging industries, including MSMEs, startups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.

"The scheme is backed by grants and various other supports. The number of Kerala startups that have taken advantage of this flagship project, however, is very less," Nair noted. With the country pursuing a proactive approach to achieve self-reliance in critical domains, startups can take the best advantage of the entire ecosystem that has been created to acquire innovative solutions and technologies in the defence sector, Group Captain Saurabh Shiv of the Indian Air Force (IAF) said.

"IAF, for instance, is looking for indigenously developed solutions that will enhance selfreliance and capacity. Challenge is available, funding is

available. The ball is in your court. Please rise up," he further said, exhorting the nascent companies to foray into the defence

Rajaguru Nathan K, Director, Astromedia Space Pvt Ltd. recalled his company's journey with iDEX scheme after starting off as a space-medicine startup. Meanwhile, participants in a discussion on "Corporate Innovation and Scaling up with startups", said corporate entities are ready to engage with dedicated and hardworking startups with right ideas that resonate with their business require-

BECKHAM CONCLUDES INDIA TRIP

Public Market Shah Rukh Khan and actor Sonam Kapoor for their gracious hos-

pitality.
The football superstar posted photos with Shah Rukh on Instagram after the 58-year-old actor invited him for a dinner party at his Mumbai residence,

Mannat on Thursday. Sonam and her husband, Anand Ahuja, had hosted a grand party in Beckham's honour at their house on Wednesday.

"Honoured to have been welcomed into this great man's home. To enjoy a meal with @iamsrk, @gaurikhan, their beautiful children and close friends - what a special way to end my first visit to India... Thank you my friend - you and your family are welcome any time in my home," Beckham wrote.

"@sonamkapoor and @anandahuja - you hosted me with such warmth and kindness

Denmark and Albania advanced to the European

Championship and title-hold-

er Italy got a crucial win ahead of a showdown game against

Italy beat North Macedonia 5-

2 to both avenge its elimination in the 2022 World Cup quali-

fying playoffs and ensure it

needs only a draw against Ukraine on Monday to secure

a place at Euro 2024 in

Germany. At stake is second

place behind group winner England, which beat Malta 2-

Robert Lewandowski and

Poland must go through the playoffs in March after a 1-1

draw at home to the Czech

Republic ended its chance of

advancing directly with group leader Albania.

Albania kicked off earlier need-

ing only a point in Moldova to secure its Euro 2024 place and

did just enough in a 1-1 draw.

Denmark ensured it will finish top of Group H by beating clos-

est rival Slovenia 2-1 thanks to

a 54th-minute goal by mid-

final game Monday: Slovenia

hosts Kazakhstan needing only

a draw to return to the Euros

for the first time since 2000.

Kazakhstan, which beat San Marino 3-1, has never qualified

England secured its place last

month and a 2-0 win over Malta at Wembley Stadium

was routine, as was Harry Kane scoring his 25th goal in a pro-

lific season for England and

The only surprising moment of

drama was Kane being shown

a yellow card after he was

adjudged to have dived in the

England is on course to be

among the group winners with

the best records who will be in

the pot of top-seeded teams when the Euro 2024 tourna-

ment draw is made on Dec. 2

Including Denmark and Albania, 13 countries have

now qualified for the 24-team

Bayern Munich

penalty area.

in Hamburg.

for a major tournament.

fielder Thomas Delaney. That set up another

PTI ■ GENEVA

Ukraine.

0 on Friday.

Denmark, Albania

advance to Euro 2024



this week, thank you for the amazing evening you created at your home - see you again soon," he added.

tournament, and eight more

will follow by the time the qual-

The final three places are decid-

ed in the 12-team playoffs scheduled from March 21-26. BRAZILIAN INFLUENCE

Brazilian coach Sylvinho is

going to Euro 2024 with his

The former Arsenal and Barcelona left-back was

appointed in January and has

led Albania on a seven-game

unbeaten run after starting qualifying with a 1-0 loss at Poland in March.

Sylvinho has found success

after lasting less than a vear at

his previous jobs coaching

Albania needed just one point from its final two Group E

games, after outperforming the higher-ranked Poles and

Czechs, and got it at the first

attempt on Friday. Veteran for-

ward Sokol Cikalleshi's 25th-

Skanderbeg and Mother Teresa

squares in Tirana to celebrate

the result by waving national

flags and setting off fireworks.

Cars drove through the center

of the city blaring their horns

and loud national music.

Lyon and Corinthians.

ized in the 87th.

like all of you.

Albania team.

ifying groups end Tuesday.

The 48-year-old former football player came to the country earlier this week as UNICEF's goodwill ambas-

sador - a role which he took up in the year 2005. Beckham first went to Gujarat as part of a UNICEF programme for child rights and gender equality, which is also the global theme for World On Wednesday, he watched the 2023 World Cup semifinal match between India and New Zealand alongside a bevy of Indian celebrities, including John Abraham, Ranbir Kapoor, Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra.

The same day, the Manchester United and Real Madrid legend was the guest of honour at Sonam and Anand Ahuja's party which was also attended by Arjun Kapoor, Malaika Arora, Shahid Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor and Farhan Akhtar. On Thursday, Beckham was clicked by paparazzi arriving at SRK's residence Mannat for dinner with the superstar. Shah Rukh had later shared a photo with the former foot-

baller on his Instagram, calling him an "absolute gentleman". "Have always been a big admirer but meeting him and seeing how he is with kids made me realise that the only thing that out does his football is his kindness and his gentle nature. My love to your family. Be well and happy my friend and get some sleep.@Davidbeckham," the actor had posted.

Shooting a 64, Lee recently tied with Minjee Lee at the

BMW Ladies Championship, where she ultimately lost to

the Aussie after a one-hole

After a bogey-free 66 on Thursday, Lee was sitting in a tie for fifth place but rose up

One of the first-round leaders, Hataoka maintained her spot

in first place after another round at Tiburón Golf Club.

Hataoka, an Olympian, was

one-under for the front nine

and then made three birdies in

her first five holes on the back

nine, including Nos. 10, 12

She capped off her round with a pair of birdies on holes

playoff.

the leaderboard.



Avani fights back to stay in top 10

PTI ■ PALMA (SPAIN)

India's Avani Prashanth fought back twice from two bogeys to grab birdies and finally finished even par to be placed tied ninth after the second round at the after the second round at the inaugural Mallorca Ladies Golf Open here.

With her first round 69 and a 72 in the second, she was 3-under for 36-holes and stayed in the Top-10.

Avani will be turning professional at the end of the year after the LET's Final Stage of the Qualifying School but smilingly said she would rather win this week and avoid the School.

Her senior colleague, Diksha Dagar, bidding to become

Dagar, bidding to become the first Indian to win the LET's Order of Merit, also played even par after a first round 71. Diksha, currently second on the Race to Costa Del Sol, is 1-under and T-18. Welsh golfer Chloe Williams carded a second round of seven-under-par 65 to take a one-stroke lead into the

final round. The 28-year-old, looking for her first win on the LET, made nine birdies and two bogeys moving ahead of Germany's Alexandra Forsterling, who shot a fiveunder-par 67.

First-round leader Kristyna Napoleaova carded a level par 72 and lies in third posi-

For the second time in two days, Avani began horribly with two bogeys in first three holes, but rallied with back-to-back bogeys on sixth and seventh. She again again with birdies on 16th and 17th.

"I stayed focussed and was determined to fight back," said Avani, who this year has had two Top-10 finishes on LET events and won a LET Access Series event while

being an amateur. Diksha (71-72), starting from the 10th alongside Trichat Cheenglab (72-69) and Johanna Gustavsson (77-72), ran into early trouble with three bogeys in first five holes

She fought back with a birdie on 16th but gave that back on the 18th as she turned in

She continued to fight on the second nine and birdies on second, sixth and seventh with no dropped shots saw her finish even par and in Top-20.

Both Forsterling and Napoleaova have won LET titles this year, in the VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open and Amundi German Masters respectively.

Forsterling's round included eight birdies and two bogeys. Napoleova had to fight for

South African Lee-Anne Pace and Marta Sanz Barrio from Spain are tied for fourth place on five-underpar, with five further players on four-under-par -- Trichat Cheenglab, Avani Prashanth. Caroline Caroline Prashanth, Hedwall, Anne Van Dam and Jana Melichova.

With the Race to Costa del Sol set to reach an exciting conclusion at the Andalucia Costa del Sol Open de España in Marbella next week, the top 70 players will

Aditi slips to 44th at season-ending event

PTI NAPLES (USA)

diti Ashok dropped a cou-A dilu Ashox diopped ple of bogeys against three birdies in a modest round of 1-under 72, as she was placed tied 44th at the midway stage of the CME Group Tour

Championship.
Aditi, placed 40th on the Race to CME Rankings, the Order of Merit for LPGA, was lying tied 32nd overnight following a 2-under 70 in the first round. But she slipped 12 places on Friday to be tied 44th with a Friday to be tied 44th with a total of three-under 141. Aditi, who came close to her

maiden LPGA win earlier this season, had a great first half in 2023 winning the Ladies European Tour. But she has not been able to

replicate that form. Currently ranked in Top-60 of the world, she is however secure for the 2024 season.

Alison Lee and Nasa Hataoka lead after the second day with



totals of 14-under 130 each. They will have a one-shot shot advantage over two playadvantage over three players ers tied in sixth place.

tied in third place and a three-

17 and 18 to move into a share of the lead alongside Lee.

Three players sit in a tie for third behind the leaders, including Amy Yang (63), M Lee (67) and Ruoning Yin

dropped shots on 10th and the 15th, only to fight back retain their cards for 2024.

Paris Olympics scales back design of new surf tower

PTI ■ LE PECQ (FRANCE)

Organisers of next year's Paris Olympics are scaling back the metal tower they plan to build for judges and television cameras at the picture-perfect surfing venue in Tahiti.

minute penalty put Albania ahead before Moldova equal-They're bowing to concerns on the French Polynesian island "After the last whistle, but realabout damage to sea life and its ly after nine months, working majestic Teahupo'o wave. The tower will still be erected every day, it's a dream, it's a

out at sea with aluminum but dream," Sylvinho told Albanian will be smaller, lighter, hold "In fact, I should enjoy it. And fewer people and require shalthat is why I am very pleased, lower drilling than originally planned, games organizers announced Friday evening. Thousands of Albanian fans gathered at the main

Critics on the island have voiced fears for coral reefs, fish and other aquatic life when the tower's foundations are drilled into the seabed and mounted on concrete. Islanders pushed for the Olympics to use a wooden tower on existing founda-

tions that's long been the set-up for surfing competitions at Teahupo'o. They have collected more than 160,000 signatures

with an online petition. Tahitian surfer Matahi Drollet has been among opponents of the metal tower. Videos critical of its plans that he posted on Instagram have many tens of thousands of likes. People on the island, some carrying surf boards, also marched in protest last month.

"The ocean and the lagoon is the most precious place we have here. This is where we get our food from, where we play, where ... We spend most of our time and where we have the most perfect wave in the world," Drollet said in an October post.

"It's a heritage of our ancestors that we need to preserve." In announcing revised plans Friday for what they called "a



leaner, smaller tower," Olympic organisers said the old wooden tower previously used to judge surfing competitions on the Teahupo'o wave couldn't be certified for safety reasons for the Olympics.



the tower's foundations and it "must be replaced if Teahupo'o is to continue to organize surfcompetition," the organisers'

minum tower will now be reduced by a quarter, to make ing events, whether for the Olympic Games or any other it the same size as the wooden one - 150 square meters (1,615

erected and then dismantled for competitions, organizers said. It will hold 25 to 30 people during the Olympics, down from 40 initially planned. They will be provided with dry toilets instead of flush ones that orig-inally were to have been linked to the island's sewage system via a wastewater pipe that's now being abandoned

square feet) - that used to be

The tower's weight will also be reduced from 14 to 9 tons - also the same as the wooden one. The foundations won't have to be drilled so deeply as a consequence, organizers said.

The new tower, less imposing and reduced in size and weight, installed on new permanent foundations, is the solution that will ensure the longevity of the tower and guarantee that future sporting events can be held at Teahupo'o," the statement said.

We've strong chance to finish on podium in Junior World Cup: Araijeet

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Rising forward Araijeet Singh Hundal, named vice-captain of the Indian team for the upcoming Junior World Cup, is living his father's dream and is determined to make a mark by helping the country finish on the podium in the Kuala Lumpur showpiece from December 5-16.

Growing up in a family where hockey was a tradition, the Amritsar-born forward made his debut for India at the 2021 Junior World Cup in Bhubaneswar where he scored five goals in six games and has not looked back since then. "Everyone in my family played hockey, including my grandfather, father, and uncles. My father used to go to games, and as a kid, I would accompany him," the 19-year-old told Hockey India.

"From then on, my interest grew. My father had a dream to represent India, and now I am carrying forward this dream for him," added Araijeet, who has scored 17 goals in 22 appearances so far. Araijeet is among the seven players in the 18-member squad who represented India at the 2021 Junior World Cup in Bhubaneswar. The other six members are skipper Uttam Singh, Boby Singh Dhami, Sudeep Chirmako, Sudeep Chirmako, Vishnukant Singh, Sunil JoJo, and Sharda Nand Tiwari.

India went down 1-3 against France in the classification playoff to finish fourth in the tournament.

We have prepared well as a team at the camp and have focused on several key areas of our game. We are working on

where we can improve and our aim is to finish with a medal," Araijeet said. important technical areas He further said they have upcoming tournament.

learned a lot over the past couple of years, and the team is feeling confident ahead of the

"Since the previous Junior World Cup, we have learned that we should not take any team lightly and we must give

100 per cent against all teams. We have to keep pushing ourselves till the final whistle.

We have played 3-4 major tournaments which have really given a boost to our confidence. We have also seen how other teams play and about the slight adjustments and tweaks that we can make in our game to improve our chances in a match," he said. The Indian colts forward further said winning the Junior Men's Asia Cup beating Pakistan 2-1 has been his career highlight so far.

I have had several highlights during my career in such a short time. But winning the junior men's Asia Cup trophy, beating Pakistan in a close game has been the best moment of my career. I also scored a crucial goal in the match," he recalled 'Ready to roar'

India are placed in Pool C alongside Canada, Korea and Spain, and will begin their campaign against Korea on December 5.

Defending champions Argentina along with Australia, Chile, and Malaysia form Pool A.

Egypt, France, Germany, and South Africa have been placed in Pool B, while Belgium, New Zealand, Pakistan and the Netherlands have been grouped in Pool D in the 16-

team tournament. 'Now we hope to repeat a similar performance in Kuala Lumpur. We will look to minimise our errors and capitalise on our strengths in the tournament.

'Our fitness levels have also improved and we have grown a lot as a team. We are all ready to roar and make the nation proud by winning a medal at the Junior World Cup," Araijeet said.

Having begun hockey around eight years ago in 2016, he received a chance to play his first Junior Nationals for Punjab & Sind Bank.

After a string of consistent performances for his side, Araijeet received a call for the Junior men's national camp in 2019, but the pandemic disrupted his dream of representing India for a year.

"During the lockdown, our coaches shared programmes so that we can continue to train and maintain our fitness at home," he remembered. In 2021, Araijeet finally made his debut for the India at the Junior World Cup in

Bhubaneswar. He also competed in the

senior Nationals at the domestic level in 2021 and 2022, and he is also pursuing his studies.

Ruthless India ready for date with history

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

n Indian captain ready to create a legacy of his own will have 10 ruthless professionals and a billion cricket maniacs for support when his team takes on five-time champions Australia in a winner-takes-it-all World Cup final on what promises to be a 'Super Sunday

Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin know the feeling of winning the ODI World Cup and Rohit Sharma himself was in the thick of things at the 'Bull Ring' in Johannesburg when India won their maiden T20 World Cup in 2007.

But the final on Sunday will be completely different. It won't just be a mere cricket tournament that needs to be won but also caring about the emotions of all those invested in the game.

Rohit and his mates have time and again said that they don't care about the outside noise but it is this outside noise that has made the game and this team All the stakeholders -- the fans,

who treat these players as 'Demi Gods', the broadcasters who spend a bomb buy Indian crick-

et telecast rights and the sponsors, who support the game -- all want the game to thrive and sur-

When Kapil Dev's toothy grin at the Lord's balcony melted fans' hearts in 1983, it was the beginning and no one knew which direction the road ahead will lead us to.

When Dhoni hit that winning six in 2011 World Cup final, it was more about a final reiteration that the 'Mecca of Cricket' has shifted long back and everyone needed to take a bow and accept Indian domination. Circa 2023, Indian cricket team

will not just be looking to win a third ODI global title but also look at saving the '50-over for-mat' which has been battling identity crisis for at least five

An Indian victory will give the format the injection it needs. Australia is the only team to have achieved title triumph with 11 wins in a row -- in 2003 and 2007 -- and Rohit indeed has a date with history since if the team gets the win on Sunday, it will only be the second side ever side to do so.

A near flawless effort The skipper (550 runs @124 SR)



has led from the front, literally walking the talk, with his aggressive in-your-face batting that has set the platform for Virat Kohli (711 @90 plus SR) to be the 'run

machine' that everyone is so used to seeing. Shubman Gill has battled dengue and corresponding fatigue to show his class time and again. Shreyas Iyer has fought his short ball demons to score a semi-final hundred. He has conquered his head and thus was able to win hearts

But the man who has made a huge difference to India's campaign is Mohammed Shami. The 'Amroha Express' has made this team enjoy an aura of invin-

cibility with his 23-wicket show after initial exclusion from the playing XI. Shami is once again proving that

old adage correct that batters win you games but bowlers can win you tournaments. Shami has put this team right there. There is KL Rahul's composure, Ravindra Jadeja's invaluable all-

round game, Suryakumar Yadav's x-factor and Kuldeep Yadav's innate ability to create self-doubts in the minds of the batters. And there is Jasprit Bumrah, who is 'toe-crusher on call' and can pluck a David Warner or Steve Smith out for

The pitch, made of black soil, will be a slow turner but expecting Indian team to go with a third spinner in Ashwin looks like utmost luxury as of now. Not ugly Aussies but lethal as always

Sandpaper Post Australians team has undergone a tectonic cultural shift but five-time World champions know the art of winning on big days. Australia is possibly the only team that can actually put India under immense pressure. "They've certainly played really well this World Cup. I think we certainly didn't - I don't think we scored par in that first game but we're one catch away from potentially being in front of that game," Cummins referred to the dropped catch of Virat Kohli which became the turning point during the league game between two teams, which was also their

opening match. Cummins knows that 130,000 one-sided spectators would be rooting for India but he would harp on the fact that his team won an ODI series in India, earlier this year.

'We won an ODI series here early on in the year. There's lots of moments we can draw on where we've had success against, you know, a really good Indian side." So who will win tomorrow? Ruthless Indians or nice Australians. It remains a multibillion dollar question. Squads:

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (vc and wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Sirai Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Ishan Kishan and Prasidh Krishna.

Rohit vs Starc and Hazlewood, Kohli vs Zampa, Kuldeep vs Maxwell

PTI AHMEDABAD

India and Australia -- the two best teams of the 2023 ODI World Cup -- have duly made their way to the final, promising a series of fascinating individual battles between the fierce rivals.

India, the only unbeaten side in the tournament, have hardly put a foot wrong while Australia have never looked back after recovering from back-to-back losses in the beginning of the competition. As a unit, India have performed better than Australia and are favourites to lift the coveted trophy at home after 12 long years.

On the other hand, Australia are not used to coming second when a global trophy is at stake and five titles in seven ment to their envious record. The final promises to be a rivetting contest and PTI looks at match-ups that could potentially decide the winner.

Rohit Sharma versus new ball of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood

India captain Rohit Sharma has walked the talk by taking on the bowlers in the opening powerplay throughout the tournament. His high-risk game has released the pressure of the other batters and allowed the likes of Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill to build their

Rohit dancing down the track and dispatching Trent Boult over cover for a six in the third over of the semifinal summed up the Indian skipper's fearless approach over the course of the long and draining tournament. The big question is can he pull it off against Hazlewood and Starc in the opening powerplay on Sunday. While batting first or chasing, India will rely heavily on Rohit, who was trapped in front by Hazlewood in the league game against Australia in Chennai. Hazlewood will continue to ask questions with his seam movement while Starc will be looking for a banana inswinger that has troubled Rohit in the past. It is probably the most significant game of his career and trust Rohit to take the challenge head on. Mohammed Shami versus the

left-handed openers

With 23 wickets in six games, Shami is having a tournament to remember. No batter has found a way to negotiate the movement generated with an impeccable seam position.

Bowling from around the wicket, the skillful Indian pacer has especially rattled the left-arm batters, making even a champion cricketer like Ben Stokes look clueless

In his back-to-back overs in the powerplay of the first semifinal, Shami removed the dangerous opening duo of Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra with the ball that straightened enough from around the wicket angle to take the outside edge. His performance against lefties make a strong case for Shami to open the bowling alongside Jasprit Bumrah against the rampaging David Warner and Travis Head.

The 33-year-old Amroha-born pacer has been used as the first change option by Rohit but considering the threat posed by Warner and Head, the India skipper will be tempted to throw the new ball to Shami. Virat Kohli versus Adam

Kohli has often struggled against left-arm spinners in the recent past but leg-spinner Zampa too has troubled him and has got the special wicket of the Indian superstar as many as eight times.

The battle between tournament's leading run-getter and be the one to watch out for. Kohli, who has amassed 711 runs at a strike rate of 90.69 and average of 101.57, will be expected to tackle Zampa by taking the quick singles and two besides working the field in the middle overs.

Zampa likes to target the stumps considering that Kohli will be expecting the odd flipper and googly. It has not been his mode of play thus far but will will Kohli attempt to charge down the track and sur-

prise Zampa? Kuldeep Yadav versus Glenn Maxwell

It is a testament to Kuldeep's sublime skills that barring Daryl Mitchell, no batter has went for the offence against the left-arm wrist spinner.

Mitchell targetted the straight boundary against Kuldeep in Dharamsala but a freak like Maxwell has a lot more shots in his repertoire and some of them he only can pull off.

If Maxwell manages to hang around on Sunday, it would be the toughest test for Kuldeep. Maxwell can target the cow corner while playing with the spin and he also has the abilitv to disturb Kuldeep's rhythm by going for the breathtaking reverse hits when the ball lands outside the off-stump. If that happens, Kuldeep will have to think out of the box to fox the Australian.

David Warner versus Jasprit Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah, who has taken 18 wickets in 10 games with an incredible economy rate of 3.98, is yet to dismiss Warner in ODIs in 14 games.

Warner has managed to collect 117 runs off the 130 balls he has faced from Bumrah.

Since coming back from an injury, Bumrah has added a deadly outswinger in his already envious range and that could trouble an in-form Warner, who is Australia's leading run getter in the tournament with 528 runs. Bumrah will fire away a few with an angle but Warner will be waiting for that incoming ball.

Kohli has achieved one hell of a record: Viswanath

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $B_{
m has\ made\ one\ "hell\ of\ a}^{
m atting\ maestro\ Virat\ Kohli}$ record" by smashing his 50th ODI hundred but there is no one getting close to the milestone by a far distance, believes Indian great Gundappa Viswanath.

Kohli eclipsed Sachin Tendulkar's 49 ODI hundreds during his 117 against New Zealand in the World Cup semifinal on Wednesday to propel India into the final for the first time since 2011. "Sometime back, I had said that

if at all anyone can come closer to Sachin's 100s, it will be Kohli. I didn't expect that he is going to break it," Viswanath told PTI during an interview.

"His consistency, I mean, all are talking about his hundreds but the way he has been getting 70s and 80s, any batsman will take that. It is (only) because of his scores. The way he approaches his cricket, he has a lot of cricket in him.

There are not many who can come closer, even though Rohit (Sharma) has around 30 plus a hundred, so (there is) still a long way (to go) for him, but rest I can't pinpoint somebody is there to come close. He has achieved one hell of a thing scoring one more than Sachin," he said. Besides 50 ODI centuries, Kohli also has 29 hundreds in Tests

Najmul Hossain Shanto was on Saturday named

Bangladesh captain for the two-

match home Test series against

New Zealand beginning in

Litton Das, who had captained

Bangladesh in a one-off Test

against Afghanistan here in

June, is on paternity leave for one

Sylhet on November 28.

PTI DHAKA

80 scores above 100. During the semifinal, Kohli also became the first batter ever to break the 700-run barrier in a

and one in T20Is for a total of

single World Cup edition with one more game to go "I am not comparing him with Sachin because they are two different cricketers, (there are) no comparisons but both are great, absolutely legends. The best

doing. Sachin knew what he was doing and Kohli said he is my guru and he is going along the way," he said. "It is amazing, Kohli's batting," Viswanath said. Tendulkar scored 49 tons in ODIs and 51

centuries in Tests and is the only batter till date to have a century of hundreds to his name. international tons? "Well, it all depends on how

Can Kohli break Tendulkar's record of making a hundred many Test matches we play. Few are coming up with South Africa and England, you can't get 100s in all the matches but he is capable of scoring. We will have to see," he said.

'KL Rahul's DRS is a plus point'

The 74-year-old Viswanath, who was part of the Indian team during the 1975 and 1979 World Rahul for his wicketkeeping and correct inputs during DRS

'Rahul is not a regular 'keeper

for India but nobody pinpointed anything about his 'keeping, so that means he is 'keeping well," Visawanath observed. Rahul has made a huge contribution not only with his bat but also with his correct DRS calls. His accurate calls have prevented India from a wrong referral during the World Cup at least "It is a plus point," said Viswanath, who has scored 6,080 runs, including 14 centuries in his 91 Tests for India. "(MS) Dhoni was a captain and he was right most of the time (with his DRS calls) but here, Rabul is a 'keeper and Rohit is Rahul is a 'keeper and Rohit is the captain but he is not in the line of the ball. If he is at cover or short midwicket, he has to take Rahul's assistance and he is giving it so perfectly. That is a plus point," he added.

five times so far.

'Host multi-nation events to keep the ODI format alive'

Kohli's 50th hundred during the World Cup instilled life to a large extent in the ODI format which many consider is dying a slow death amid the razzmatazz of T20s, a format which has spread globally in the last decade. Viswanath feels hosting bi-annual multi-nation events could be the key to keep 50 overs format alive.

"Four years is too much, I am not saying play the World Cup once in two years, but you have to create some other format. "All the teams can play like this every two years, don't call it the World Cup, but in some other form like the Champions Trophy. So there are bigger matches with all teams playing then you will have people watching, that's the only way to

"I'm not a great pitch reader, but it looked pretty firm. They've only just watered it, so yeah, give it another 24 hours and have a look, but it looks like a pretty good wicket."

"I think Pakistan played some-one there," he said without tak-

afternoon training session, Cummins was at the Narendra Modi Stadium just after half past 9.

He went up to the square and then started clicking pictures to on the match-day afternoon.

over pitch behaviour Smith, Travis Head, head coach Andrew McDonald also wanted to have a close look. Head, a good off-spinner in conducive conditions tried to gauge the

Eden Gardens strip had a few

deliveries turning at right angles

but Cummins believe that it

A black soil track, rolled heavi-

ly to ensure slowness, is on offer. Batting will be difficult under the

won't be like that in Motera.

hardness of the surface.

Australians appear jittery

PTI AHMEDABAD

Inspecting the pitch before a match is routine but clicking pictures of the track, for possible dressing room discussion and strategy building, is a bit unusual.

That's exactly what happened this morning when Australia skipper Pat Cummins came to have a look at the 22-yard-strip which will be used for the World Cup title clash between India and Australia on Sunday. Probably the pitch is playing on Australians' mind before the big match.

`ummi response when asked about his assessment of the pitch, which has already been used for the marquee India-Pakistan match. "Just had a look," Cummins replied when asked about the track. So what do you make of it? He was probed further.

ing India's name. While Australian team had an

possibly check and compare how much the track's look will change from Saturday morning to afternoon and subsequently In fact, before the Australian training session started, Steve

lights if opposition has two quality spinners operating in the middle overs. "It's been a bit more high scoring here throughout the tournament. It's obviousv the same for both doubt playing on your own wicket in your own country has

wickets that you've been playing your whole life," he said. Unlike Wankhede where New Zealand virtually lost the game after losing the toss, it won't be the case at Motera.

some advantages, similar to

"I think, of all the venues, perhaps this venue - the toss isn't as important as, say, a Mumbai Wankhede Stadium or other venues. So, we'll be ready in terms of anything they'll throw at us. Yeah, we'll wait and see, but we'll make sure we have some

Dew will be big factor ICC's pitch consultant Andy

Atkinson did pay a visit and was around for an hour as BCCI's curators monitored the last day touch up before it is handed over to match referee Andy Pycroft. The GCA ground-staff were seen using anti-dew spray in the afternoon as the last 20-25 overs of the match are always affected by late evening dew.

Shami's ancestral village in UP to get

rural stadium, the district magistrate of Amroha said on Saturday

The DM added that efforts will be made to invite Shami at the foundation-stone-laying event if he is available.

Alinagar will be spread over an area of 1.092 hectares "A rural stadium and an open

cost of the rural stadium will be around Rs 5 crore," District Magistrate Rajesh Kumar Tyagi told PTI.

Regular skipper Shakib Al Hasan, on the other hand, is ruled out due to an injury sustained during the World Cup in

"Litton has been granted leave for one month, he is not available for the two Tests. He wants to spend time with his new-born baby," Jalal Yunus, chairman of the BCB's cricket operations

2007 World Cup left an indeli-

ble scar on his legacy as Indian

England later that year - India's

last till date - could never real-

ly provide him the relief that he

must be seeking for 16 years

On Sunday, November 19, 2023, Rahul Sharad Dravid gets his

biggest shot at redemption,

albeit as a coach as his wards

play the match of their lives in

the World Cup final against

skipper.

committee, told reporters here. "We had requested him to play at least the second Test match but he insisted on (being away for) the whole series. That's why we granted him leave. As a result, Najmul Hossain Shanto will captain the side in these two Tests.

The 25-year-old Shanto, with 23 Tests under his belt and a batting average of 29.83 with four

centuries, is stepping into his first leadership role for Bangladesh in the longest for-While he hasn't captained in

Tests before, he did lead the team in three ODIs, notably taking charge twice during the 2023 ODI World Cup in the absence of Shakib due to injury for the matches against India and Australia.

Dravid and Memories of fresh contract," a former India teammate told PTI on condipare a bridge between seniors and juniors through excellent tions of anonymity. communication. There hasn't been a lot of change

Dravid, the coach. He was meticulous then and he is meticulous now.

He was data-driven then and he is highly into analytics now. But it must be mentioned that working as the National Cricket Academy (NCA) Director and

ing the core team for both red and white ball cricket Shubman Gill, Mohammed Siraj and Shreyas Iyer have all come

up the ranks playing a lot of

Anyone who has seen the Kohli-Ravi Shastri era and the current management run by Rohit and Dravid would tell you that com-

munication has been their strongest suit and hence none of the players are unaware of their roles in the team. The team reached the final of

two global events and semifinal in one more. However, two months short of

his 51st birthday, the question remains whether Dravid has the bandwidth of devoting 365 days thinking about the Indian cricket team, which also includes at least 150-plus days

A World Cup victory is a high that everyone wants and at times there is nothing left to

a rural stadium PTI LUCKNOW

Sahaspur Alinagar, the ancestral village of Indian pacer Mohammed Shami, will get a

The rural stadium in Sahaspur

gym will be constructed in Sahaspur Alinagar. It will cover an area of 1.092 hectares. The approximate

PTI AHMEDABAD Nothing succeeds like success and no one knows it better than India head coach Rahul Dravid. Despite 10,889 ODI runs, brilliant by any standards, the preliminary round ouster from the

That week in March at Port of Spain became his Port of Pain and even a Test series win in Australia at Motera.

Shanto named Bangladesh captain for home Test series against NZ

Interestingly, Sunday is also Dravid's last day of his two-year contract as the Indian coach that started after the group league ouster from the 2021 T20 World Cup in UAE.

If India wins, there will be a lot of clamour, wanting him to continue but anyone who knows Dravid, will vouch that he is a very proud man.

esteem. He didn't quit captaincy after the World Cup disaster in 2007 but within a few months won a high-profile series in England and had a good ODI series.

someone who swears by his self-

"Jammy (Rahul's nickname) is

"He just stepped down on a high after an away Test win in England. Here obviously, if India wins, BCCI might offer him a between Dravid, the player and

coach of India Á, he has been quietly instrumental in prepar-

India A cricket. Having played with Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ravindra

on the road.

Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin and working with the others, Dravid was able to preachieve after that. New Delhi, November 19, 2023

The pioneer Control of the pioneer Control of

"I know, ultimately, I want to help effect change; otherwise, I would look at myself in the mirror every day and think, 'What in the world am I doing with my life?'"





eenakshi Dhingra's journey, spanning from the compassionate care she provided for her daughter Tanisa, diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2016, to the establishment of the foundation in her memory, unfolds as a poignant saga embodying resilience, compassion, and the profound transformative impact of personal adversity.

As the founder of Tanisa Foundation,

Meenakshi has now created a dynamic platform dedicated to not only extending the lives of cancer patients but also enhancing their overall quality of life.

Simultaneously the foundation offe

Simultaneously, the foundation offers invaluable support to caregivers, acknowledging the integral role they play in the journey of those affected by the life-threatening but preventable disease.

This initiative has successfully provided a new lease of life for more than 10,000 individuals contending with cancer and their dedicated caregivers, said Meenakshi as she shared that Tanisa was only 23 when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The initial shock and the ensuing challenging phase were obviously overwhelming for the family. However, adding to the agony of the

challenging phase were obviously overwhelming for the family. However, adding to the agony of the Dhingra's were emotional and logistical challenges, including the difficulty of navigating the complex landscape of cancer treatment in India, after they came to know that Tansia got Ovarian cancer.

Tanisa's medical condition), we held onto the hope that she would recover with the best treatment. However, we were clueless about where to go and whom to contact for the right treat-

"I found that even most of the doctors were unable to address all our queries due to time constraints. Some so-called friends also began distancing themselves, fearing that we might seek help from them. Those were tough days. But we decided to fight together. I took a sabbatical from my company and conducted extensive research on the possibilities of restoring her health. We clung to the belief that we could achieve it," reminisced Meenakshi. It may be mentioned here that Ovarian cancer is a condition characterised by the growth of cells in the ovaries. Often referred as the silent killer, it poses a life-threatening risk for women. Detecting early symptoms of ovarian cancer proves challenging, often leading to delayed

Throughout the course of Tanisa's

treatment, Meenakshi remarked, "I discovered, through personal experience, that contrary to the common belief associating ovarian cancer with women in old age, approximately 15 per cent of women grappling with this deadly disease fall within the age group of 15-30 years. I also realised the difficulty in seeking support when facing challenges that are too emotionally taxing to discuss." Meenakshi endeavoured to emphasise this point, underscoring that "despite living in an era marked by remarkable advancements in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, the disease persists entangled with societal stigma and taboos. Many individuals still encounter denial of fundamental cancer care." This revelation held particular poignancy for Meenakshi, a known face in the furniture export sector.

While they gained access to topnotch medical care, the mother of the cancer patient realised that not all doctors have the capacity to provide the kind of support patients require, and perhaps it is unreasonable to expect them to do so. India has over two million cancer patients and less than 350 oncologists, which results in most doctors spending only a few minutes with each of their patients, leaving many of the holistic needs of the patient and caregiver unaddressed.

"What was particularly heart wrenching for us to witness our 23-year-old darling facing health challenges at such a tender age. She had to take sabbatical at the world's largest technology company, Google, and relocate to the US for treatment. Though she refused to give up on life and kept fighting the deadly disease till the end," Meenakshi continued as she shared how four years proved a turning point in mother-daughter duo's lives.

'Transitioning from a vibrant Google employee to a cancer survivor, Tanisa's personal journey was entirely devoted to assisting others. She became a symbol of inspiration, noticing significant disparities in treatment approaches between the USA and India. This observation motivated her to bridge the gap and raise awareness about the critical importance of prevention. Tanisa returned to India in later 2016, having overcome the challenges posed by cancer. But she refused to take rest. Tanisa redirected her energy toward raising awareness and providing support. They became volunteers with the Indian Cancer Society, visiting hospitals and clinics to offer emotional support to cancer patients and their caregivers. "People always consider the cancer patient, but often forget the carer. I



Meenakshi Dhingra with her daughter Tanisa



feel if we connect with caregivers and

tell them we are there to help them,

it would help relieve some of their

stress and give a sense of direction."

Tanisa's passion for making a mean-

ingful impact led her to organise var-

Her initiatives, including events like

clubs, makeup collaborations, photo-

reflect a holistic approach to cancer

support. The foundation's compre-

hensive vision encompasses educa-

tional, psychological, and nutritional

assistance, particularly for children.

These activities, focused on alleviat-

ing trauma and instilling positivity,

Cancer' serves as a crucial gathering

for patients and families to discon-

nect from the challenges of the dis-

ease, ensuring a supportive commu-

"This movement gradually expand-

tance of embracing life, regardless of

circumstances, choosing to confront

the disease by dressing well and cul-

tivating a positive self-image," fondly

From 2017 to 2019, Tanisa positively

impacted several patients and their

families. In addition to her work in

India, Tanisa delivered motivational

ed. Tanisa understood the impor-

are now regular features.

For instance, 'Breakfree From

nity within the foundation.

recalled Meenakshi.

"Breakfree From Cancer," laughter

shoots, and hair donation drives,

ious events across Delhi/NCR.

Meenakshi Dhingra with cancer patients (Left &Right)



talks globally in locations such as Singapore, Malaysia, the USA, Hong Kong, etc. "As a Google employee, she even had the opportunity to present her talk before Sundar Pichai in one of their conferences," Meenakshi warmly reminisces about Tanisa's innovative initiatives. But tragically, in mid-2020, complications arose during Tanisa's treatment and she succumbed to the cancer in December 2021.

with an aim of carrying forward Tanisa's legacy by supporting dreams and offering hope to the community, Tanisa Foundation was officially born in April 2022.

While it was "hard to watch" her only daughter go through the painful journey, Meenakshi gives credit to her son Tejas and a few friends of Tanisa, such as Pragya, for the way they stepped up.

Following in his sister Tanisa's footsteps, Tejas (28), who also joined Google in 2020 immediately after graduating from Delhi University, said, "I am now fully dedicated to helping the entire cancer community and spreading the happiness that Tanisa used to bring to him and everyone around her."

Pragya Bhargava, Tanisa's childhood friend echoed similar sentiments. "I knew her since childhood. As a way of remembering and celebrating her,

"In these initiatives, I am simply living my daughter's dream, as this is what she always wanted to do," said Meenakshi, poignantly recalling Tanisa's enthusiasm to work compassionately in every field she chose. In addition to being a self-made businesswoman, Meenakshi has been active in numerous cancer events and regularly counseling cancer patients across the country with a heart that understands their pain and journey. She is also an active and integral member of the Indian Cancer Society. Given that cancer treatment necessitates a more humane approach, she emphasises the importance of a holistic attempt to address patients' mental concerns, empower them to reintegrate into the mainstream, and assist them in rebuilding their lives. "Our cancer screening drives cater to people who cannot otherwise afford regular health check-ups. We organize screening camps around Delhi and NCR in collaboration with hospitals to provide health check-ups that identify early signs of cancerous or precancerous conditions before

I try to volunteer my time and skills

to continue the work she started. She was a gem of person." Her husband, Neeraj Dhingra, too is

also fully committed to honouring Tanisa's life through the foundation

On Tanisa's part, who has left an

irreplaceable void in the lives of all

those who had met her in the four

years following her ovarian cancer

resilience and compassion. Despite

facing the harsh realities of cancer

support others, offering financial

assistance and advocating for

improved access to quality care.

treatment, Tanisa worked tirelessly to

Recognising the financial strain on low-

income households, the foundation is

playing a crucial role in providing assis-

tance and raising awareness about can-

cancer patients in India are detected in

advanced stages of the disease, leading

to a high mortality rate. Many cancers

are treatable if they are detected early,

envisions expanding the foundation's

noted Meenakshi asserting that she now

reach by collaborating with like-minded

individuals, doctors, and NGOs to cre-

ate a robust network of support systems

across India. The goal is to foster a

greater good.

community passionate about fighting cancer and to share knowledge for the

cer. It is estimated that 70 per cent of

diagnosis, she showcased her

and volunteering to assist cancer

from this terrible disease."
(The writer is an Associate Editor,
The Pioneer)

any symptoms appear," she explained.

Meenakshi sums it up, "Cancer does-

n't care, but we do. I miss Tanisa ter-

ribly, and no one else should suffer

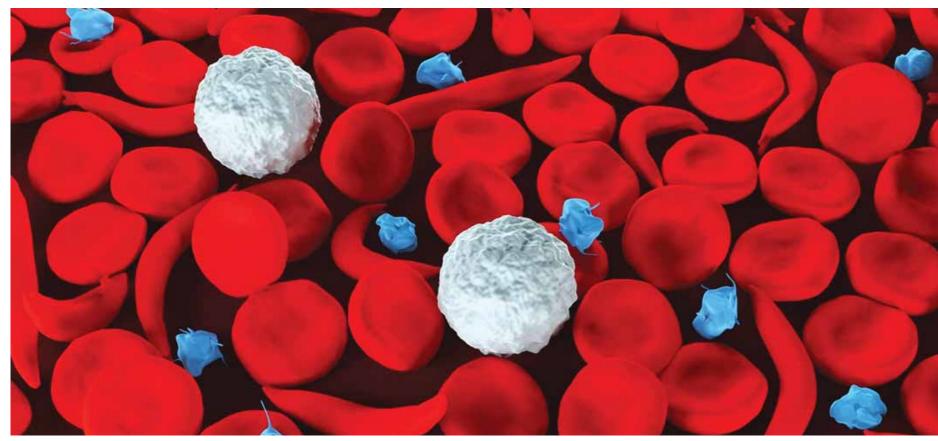
MEENAKSHI NOW **ENVISIONS EXPANDING THE** FOUNDATION'S REACH BY **COLLABORATING WITH** LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS, DOCTORS, AND NGOS TO **CREATE A ROBUST** NETWORK OF SUPPORT SYSTEMS ACROSS INDIA. THE GOAL IS TO FOSTER A **COMMUNITY PASSIONATE** ABOUT FIGHTING CANCER AND TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE FOR THE GREATER GOOD. TODAY, THE TANISA FOUNDATION STANDS AS A BEACON OF



HOPE FOR THOSE

AFFECTED BY CANCER IN

New Delhi, November 19, 2023



A RAY OF HOPE FOR SCD PATIENTS

Instilling optimism in millions of people suffering with the sickle cell disease (SCD) across the world including India which has the second-highest prevalence of the genetic abnormality, Britain's medicines regulator has authorized the world's first gene therapy treatment for the genetic blood disorder in the UK. **THE HEALTH PIONEER** reports

CD is marked by chronic anaemia, recurrent episodes of intense pain requiring hospitalisation, organ damage, an elevated risk of stroke, and premature mortality.

According to estimates, the tribal population living in India's southern, central, and western states are particularly susceptible to it. Considering 10 percent of our country's population lives in tribal areas, it is important to focus on Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA) detection in this community, say the experts in the sector.

They inform that the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency in the UK said it approved Casgevy, the first medicine licensed using the gene editing tool CRISPR, which won its makers a Nobel prize in 2020.

ment for patients with sickle cell disease and thalassemia who are 12 years old and over. Casgevy is made by Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Europe) Ltd. and CRISPR Therapeutics. To date, bone marrow transplants, extremely arduous procedures that come with very unpleasant side effects, have been the only long-lasting treatment. There are very few drugs available for the treatment of sickle cell disorder. "The future of life-changing

cures resides in CRISPR based (gene-editing) technology, said Dr. Helen O'Neill of University College London. Both sickle cell disease and thalassemia are caused by mistakes in the genes that carry hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carry oxygen. In people with sickle cell which is particularly common in people with African or Caribbean backgrounds — a genetic mutation causes the cells to become crescentshaped, which can block blood flow and cause excruciating pain, organ damage, stroke and other problems.

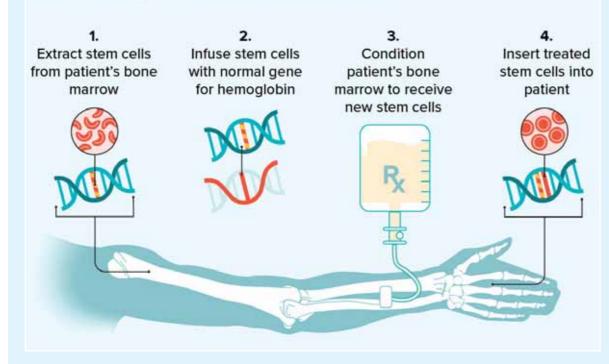
In people with thalassemia, the genetic mutation can cause severe anemia. Patients typi-

HOW THE THERAPY WORKS

Casgevy is a gene editing therapy. Gene-editing technologies have the ability to make lasting changes to the genes that cause diseases by precisely fixing, removing, adding, or disrupting specific sequences within those genes.

Casgevy works by taking bone marrow stem cells from a sickle cell patient, and changing the genetic material to reduce the problems caused by sickle cells. When these stem cells are replaced in the patient and used to make new red blood cells, the new red cells do not tend to sickle or cause other problems. The edited genes greatly increase the patient's ability to make a fetal haemoglobin (HbF), which stops sickle haemoglobin damaging the red cells and reduces nearly all the symptoms caused by sickle haemoglobin.

Gene therapy to cure sickle cell anemia



cally require blood transfusions every few weeks, and injections and medicines for their entire life. Thalassemia predominantly affects people of South Asian, Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern heritage.

heritage.

The new medicine, Casgevy, works by targeting the problematic gene in a patient's bone marrow stem cells so that the body can make properly functioning hemoglobin.

Patients first receive a course

of chemotherapy, before doc-

tors take stem cells from the patient's bone marrow and use genetic editing techniques in a laboratory to fix the gene. The cells are then infused back into the patient for a permanent treatment. Patients must be hospitalized at least twice — once for the collection of the stem cells and then to receive the altered cells. Britain's regulator said its deci-

sion to authorize gene thera-

py for sickle cell disease was

based on a study done on 29

patients, of whom 28 report-

caused by
mistakes in the
genes that
carry
hemoglobin, the
protein in red
blood cells that
carry oxygen

Both sickle cell

thalassemia are

disease and

ed having no severe pain problems for at least one year after being treated. In the study for thalassemia, 39 out of 42 patients who got the therapy did not need a red blood cell transfusion for at least a year afterwards.

Gene therapy treatments can cost millions of dollars and experts have previously raised concerns that they could remain out of reach for the people who would benefit most

In India too, for many, the

therapy may remain unaffordable until government intervention. Moreover, according to the health experts, its application, using stem cell transplant, is limited to individuals who meet specific criteria. "Consequently, it won't be a viable option for everyone," said Sickle Cell Society in a statement.

Last year, Britain approved a gene therapy for a fatal genetic disorder that had a list price of £2.8 million (\$3.5 million). England's National Health Service negotiated a significant confidential discount to make it available to eligible patients.

In many countries like India, current treatment options hydroxyurea, crizanlizumab, and voxelotor – aim to reduce the frequency of painful crises but they do not alleviate the pain, which requires strong painkillers. For example, hydroxyurea supports hemoglobin production and has been shown to reduce about half of the number of painful events a person with SCD may experience, as per the experts.

The Indian Government on its part has taken various initiatives aimed to address SCD. During the Union budget 2023, Union Finance Minister Sitharaman announced a mission to eliminate sickle-cell anaemia by 2047. The project focuses on raising awareness, universal screening of about seven crore individuals—aged 0-40—in afflicted tribal areas, and counselling through com-bined efforts of central ministries and state governments. A recent study estimated the life expectancy of adults with SCD to be 54 years, approximately 20 years shorter than that of adults without SCD. In the meanwhile, the nod to the new gene therapy offers newfound hope and optimism for the sickle cell community, and a step forwards in the fight for an end to inequalities in the treatment of people living with the condition, said the statement from the Sickle Cell



Decoding Diabetes Through Skin Signs

Dr DIKSHA AGRAWAL, a well-known dermatologist unravels the complex relationship between skin and diabetes to ensure holistic care

Diabetes, a chronic condition affecting millions worldwide, not only impacts blood sugar levels but also affects all organ systems. Interestingly, skin serves as a marker for signs of diabetes or pre-diabetes, which can help in recognizing the diabetes early, ensuring prompt treatment and prevention of further complications. Thus, skin can act as a dynamic canvas reflecting the complexities of this metabolic disorder.

this metabolic disorder.

People with diabetes often experience skin complications, ranging from dryness and itching to more severe conditions such as infections and slow wound healing. Understanding the underlying mechanisms is crucial for healthcare professionals and individuals alike.

Diabetes unmasked: A skindeep perspective: Diabetes can affect the skin in multiple ways. The elevated blood sugar levels associated with diabetes can lead to dehydration, causing dry and itchy skin. Additionally, impaired circulation and nerve damage, common in diabetes, contributes to slow wound healing and increase the risk of infections.

COMMON SKIN ISSUES IN DIABETES

- Dry skin (xerosis)- High blood sugar levels can lead to dehydration, resulting in dry and flaky skin. Proper hydration and moisturization are essential for managing this common issue
- this common issue.

 Skin infections- Diabetes weakens the immune system, making individuals more susceptible to skin infections. Fungal infections, bacterial infections, and other skin conditions require prompt attention to prevent complication
- Slow wound healing-Impaired circulation and nerve damage can hinder the body's ability to heal wounds. Diabetes-related foot ulcers are a notable concern, emphasizing the importance of regular foot care and early intervention.
- Acanthosis Nigricans-Dark, velvety patches on the skin, often in body folds like the neck, armpits, and groin, may indicate insulin resistance, a precursor to type 2 diabetes.
 Vallow, Skin Patches
- Yellow Skin Patches (Necrobiosis Lipoidica Diabeticorum)- Rare but distinctive, yellowish patches on the skin, usually on the shins, may signal an underlying diabetic condition.

Holistic approach to diabetic care: Need of the hour- It is important to approach dia-



DR DIKSHA AGARWAL Consultant Dermatologist, Ghaziabad Dermatology Centre

betes in a holistic manner, that includes skin care. Lifestyle modifications, such as maintaining stable blood sugar levels through diabetes friendly diet, regular exercise and stress management, play a vital role in preventing skin complications.

EMPOWERING INDIVIDU-ALS: SKIN GUIDED DIA-BETES MANAGEMENT

- Self awareness- Open communication between individuals and healthcare providers is crucial for addressing skin concerns and potential diabetesrelated issues promptly.
- Self skin checks-Individuals with diabetes are encouraged to conduct regular self-assessments, monitoring for changes in skin texture, color, and any signs of infection.
- Dermatological consultations- Integrating dermatological assessments into routine diabetes care can provide personalized insights and early intervention strategies

SKIN FRIENDLY DIABETES TIPS FOR PATIENTS

- **Hydration** Drink an adequate amount of water to combat dry skin.
- Moisturisation- Use a fragrance-free moisturizer to prevent dryness and itching.
- Foot care- Inspect feet regularly, keep them clean and moisturized, and wear comfortable, well-fitted shoes to prevent complication
- Prompt attention to skin diseases- Report any changes in skin color or texture or non-healing wound concerns about the skin to healthcare providers promptly.

In conclusion, recognizing and addressing the multifaceted link between diabetes and dermatological health is indispensable for comprehensive diabetes care. By shedding light on this connection, individuals, health-care providers, and diabetes associations can collectively pave the way for a future where skin health is an integral aspect of diabetes management.

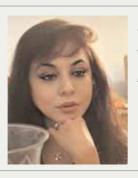
BOOK REVIEW

WICCA, all about self-discovery and divine-connect

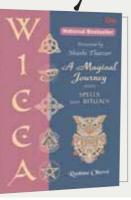
BY AMIT GOEL

The world of humans is rich and expansive. Brimming with wisdom and knowledge about the known and the unknown, this realm has a lot to offer. Wicca is one of them. It is one of the most intriguing and relatively unchartered territories that have largely remained lesser known and understood by us. In her book on Wicca,

Rashme Oberoi endeavours to open doors to the Wiccan way of life that is exotic, intuitive and hugely transformative. In her latest book on Wicca, she accompanies the reader through the maze of modern day witchcraft, magic and wizardry with ease and confidence. Not only does her book inform the reader about the craft through the fine detailing that comes associated with it,



Wicca: A Magical Journey With Spells and Rituals Author: Rashmi Oberoi Publisher: Om books international Price: ₹284



it also makes the reader understand Wicca with his/ her own perspective and understanding.

Rashme is a practising Wiccan and her book is a testament to her expansive knowledge and mastery of the craft. Her book is a guide to the world of Wicca and spell craft for those who wish to empower themselves with the ability to heal and make our world a better place. The book is a reposito-

ry of knowledge on Wicca where almost every aspect of the craft is adequately touched upon. It opens with a chapter on the history of Wicca and moves forward to explaining the Wiccan symbols and tools in great detail. The chapter on Wiccan symbols in particular is quite informative where each symbol associated with the craft is well explained. The one on relationships is worth a mention here where the

various spells are explained in detail.

detail.

If you are looking for a good weekend read on the subject of Wicca and spell craft, this book is a one-in- all. Read it to discover the Wicca in you. As they say, magic will come to those who believe in it.

(The reviewer was associated with the Financial Express and is Suspended Director, The Pioneer. The views are personal)



Fledgling INDIA bloc grapples with internal discord

 $E_{\rm months\ ago\ after\ negotia-}^{\rm stablished\ only\ a\ few}$ tions that began in April and two meetings in Patna and Bengaluru under the Congress leadership, with the aim of thwarting the BJP's bid for a third consecutive term in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the fledgling INDIA bloc is grappling with internal discord. Fellow Opposition members are wielding knives to assail the Congress and undermine its influence within the 26-party Opposition alliance, Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). The schism within the coalition unfolded as the intricacies of

unfolded as the intricacies of seat allocation became a focal point during the five State Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Mizoram, termed semifinal to the 2024 Parliamentary election.

The alliance parties engaged in deft manoeuvers, transforming the seat-sharing negotiations into a high-stake game of political brinkmanship. As the rift deepened, the coalition found itself navigating through the labyrinth of conflicting ambitions and aspirations, adding an intricate layer to the already complex dynamics of electoral alliances.

Akhilesh Yadav, the chief of the Samajwadi Party, emerged as the first Opposition leader to unleash a verbal fusillade against the Congress, a sentiment that found resonance in the voices of both JD(U) president Nitish Kumar and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, who didn't shy away from, hurling rhetorical punches at the Congress -India's oldest grand party, now relegated to the sidelines after decades long tenure in power at the Centre.

"We were assured that six seats will be given to us. If we had known that there was no alliance of the INDIA bloc (of



the Samajwadi Party and the Congress) in Madhya Pradesh for the Assembly election, then we would not have sent our people to hold discussions with the Congress. If the Congress continues to behave like this, then who will trust them?" asked Akhilesh.

The architect behind the effort to bring together Opposition parties, Nitish, acknowledged for the first time that progress has been sluggish within the INDIA Opposition bloc.

"There are Assembly elections in five States. The Congress party is more interested in those. We were all working together to take forward the Congress party (alliance), but they are not worried about all this right now. They are busy with the five State elections. So, after the State polls, they themselves will call everyone," Nitish said at a rally organised by the CPI called 'BJP Hatao, Desh

Bachao (Remove BJP, Save Country)' in Patna.

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

Demonstrating astute political acumen, the Congress, up to this point, has tactically avoided getting embroiled in the intensifying skirmish. Instead, it is directing its energies and resources toward a careful strategy designed to broaden its territorial influence.

Winning or successfully retain-

ing the political bastions of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, (which the party rules) coupled with the strategic capture of Madhya Pradesh from the BJP's grasp, would not just be a feather in the Congress' cap, it would be a resounding triumph, a seismic shift capable of injecting newfound vigour into the party's veins, improving its importance in INDIA. This is why the Congress has been cautious about not allowing INDIA alliance partners to establish a presence in Madhya Pradesh. There is a resolute determination within the Congress camp not to cede

tion.
In the 2018 Assembly elections, the Congress formed the Government in MP by winning 114 seats, just one short of reaching the majority mark. The Bahujan Samaj Party got two seats, the Samajwadi Party

even an inch of its political bas-

won one seat, and four seats went to independents then. Nevertheless, Kamal Nath's leadership tenure proved to be a precarious balancing act in governance. Despite initially holding to power firmly, the strings of authority became vulnerable to the BJP's adept poaching strategies, ultimately resulting in the downfall of the Congress-led Government.

Subsequently, the BJP returned

to power.

The Congress attempted to convey a message to Akhilesh and other regional parties, emphasising that the electoral battle in MP is primarily between the BJP and the Congress. The argument put forth is that any additional party, supposedly lacking significant grassroots support, would predominantly split the anti-BJP votes, thereby providing an advantage to the

Congress' Supriya Shrinate said, "When elections are held, tussle over tickets is a natural thing. Everyone feels that the ticket should be given to the strongest contestant. As of now, the challenges and dissent will persist until a consensus is reached on the seat-sharing formula. Until that moment, our reporting on 'he said, she said' will continue."

The Congress's efforts to maintain undisputed leadership over the INDIA alliance partners have regrettably proven to be an elusive aspiration, given that both the SP and Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are contesting in many seats in MP.

The grand old party not only grapples with the formidable challenge posed by the BJP but also navigates the maze of ambitious regional power players within the alliance. Leaders such as Nitish, Akhilesh,

Mamata Banerjee, and Kejriwal, each harbouring aspirations beyond their regional bastions, pose additional challenges to the Congress' dream of returning to power at the Centre and maintaining unity within the alliance to deliver a robust counter to the BJP in 2024.

The looming complexity of divvying up the political pie among the diverse and ambitious coalition partners poses the most significant hurdle, fuelling the potential peril of disintegration of the INDIA bloc ahead of the final showdown.

The path forward is fraught with challenges, marked by the acknowledgment that when going alone, the Congress and regional parties find themselves overshadowed by the colossal presence of the BJP, a political juggernaut bolstered by the formidable leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Confronted with this political behemoth, the Congress and regional parties feel compelled to navigate the landscape of alliance politics for their survival.

There is a tacit acknowledgment that relying solely on alliance strength may not be enough to confront the BJP's supremacy and stop Modi from securing a third consecutive term in power.

This is evident from the 2019

general elections, where Modi's BJP-led alliance secured 37 per cent of the votes, winning an impressive 303 out of the 543 seats.

Maintaining cohesion within the India coalition and securing a leading role will pose a formidable challenge for the Congress until the results of the elections in five State are out on December 3.

(The writer is Deputy News Editor, The Pioneer)

The Congress not only grapples with the formidable challenge posed by the BJP but also navigates the maze of ambitious regional power players within the alliance. Leaders such as Nitish Kumar, Akhilesh Yadav, Mamata Banerjee, and Arvind Kejriwal, each harbouring aspirations beyond their regional bastions, pose additional challenges to the Congress' dream of returning to power at the Centre.



ASAD

PERSPECTIVE

Arab leaders meet highlights urgency in Gaza crisis

The Islamic-Arab leaders' summit in Riyadh underscored the dire situation in Gaza, calling for an end to Israel's actions. Despite initial success. Hamas faces Israeli military superiority. The **UNHRC** seeks an investigation, while Israel plans long-term security in Gaza. The summit's impact on peace appears uncertain without



US intervention.

WANTAN SAINI

The Islamic-Arab leaders' summit in Riyadh last week once again reminded the international community of the grim situation in Gaza. Currently, as the situation unfolds, there is no end in sight for the people of Gaza. By now, more than 11,500 people have lost their lives in Gaza. These include mainly civilians and thousands of children, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry in the Gaza Strip.

This crucial summit was convened by the de facto leader of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman, popularly known as MBS, the capital city of the country. It was attended by all the high-profile leaders from the Islamic-Arab nations. The attendees included Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. All of them together rejected Israel's justifications for its actions against the Palestinians

as self-defense. The summit urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate the war crimes committed by Israel in the Palestinian territories. Saudi Arabia pressed the US and Israel to bring an end to the war. MBS once again affirmed the kingdom's condemnation and categorical rejection of this barbaric war against its brothers in Palestine. Mahmoud Abbas said that the Palestinians are facing a "genocidal war" and urged the US to end the Israeli aggression.

The most significant aspect of the meeting was that Raisi hailed Hamas for attacking Israel and asked the Islamic nations to impose oil and goods sanctions on Israel. He also said, "We kiss the hands of Hamas for its resistance against Israel." Erdogan called for an international peace conference to put a permanent end to the conflict.

However, three important things have come out clear from the summit: first, the Palestinian issue has remained at the centre; second, though the US-led efforts so far have failed to bring between the Israelis and the Palestinians, yet, Washington has remained the sole guarantor of peace and security in the region; and finally, Hamas, though initially successful in launching the attack, could not survive the superior military might of the Israelis as of now. The worst part of the Israel-

Hamas war is that most of the victims are innocent civilians. And they are not a party to this conflict. They are being punished simply because they are living in Gaza. They are caught in the quagmire. They are struggling for basic needs and looking for safety. Only a humanitarian pause will not ensure them respite from this bloody war. It demands a permanent end to this crisis.

Every single day, Israel and its allies are reinforcing and validating their agenda. It redoubles Netanyahu's aggressive campaign against Hamas. Though the very foundation of "self-defence" against the brutal attack launched by Hamas on October 7 over South Israel has been repeated by Tel Aviv for more than a month now, the international community must estimate the growing humanitarian crisis in North Gaza by

What the UN Human Rights Commission is doing so far? UNHRC chief Volker Turk decried all allegations of serious rights violations in the war between Israel and Hamas. He demanded that there should be an international investigation to look into the instances of rights violations. After a visit to West Asia, Turk expressed

anguish over the current situation and said that both sides were committing war crimes. He said, "Extremely serious allegations of multiple and profound breaches of international humanitarian law, whoever commits them, demand rigorous investigation and full accountability." Further, while briefing UN Member States at Geneva, he

Member States at Geneva, he said, "Where national authorities prove unwilling or unable to carry out such investigations and where there are contested narratives on particularly significant incidents, international investigation is called for." But the reality is that it would be an uphill task to carry out an international investigation without the permission of Israel. And for persuading the big powers and to finally make both the parties agree to a set of comprehensive terms and conditions seem to be unattainable at the moment.

conditions seem to be unattainable at the moment.

He urged for an immediate ceasefire and called on all parties to acknowledge the equal value of all human beings. He

is deeply concerned that the conflict is fast expanding beyond Gaza Strip. And as per the latest reports, the Israeli forces have already dropped leaflets warning Palestinians to flee some parts of southern Gaza. If the conflict extends to this part of Gaza wherein thousands coming from North Gaza are living in UN-run shelters, the humanitarian cost of the war might be inconceivable. The role and responsibility of the UN Security Council (UNSC) are being questioned over the fast-deteriorating situation in Gaza.

The top UN body for security has not been able to halt the crisis after more than six weeks now. As death and despair rain down on Gaza, the UNSC is fighting to hammer out a solution at the earliest. But the deadlock continues among the Big Five, and so far, no consensus is emerging. It is learned that Malta's Ambassador to the UN Venessa Frazier has already circulated a new resolution among the members of the UNSC. It is hoped that after

a series of failed attempts and vetoed resolutions either by one or the other permanent members, this one might make its way to bringing peace in Gaza. The message emerging from Netanyahu is not very optimistic. He clarified that Israel would be at risk of another major attack if it did not remain engaged in the Palestinian enclave, i.e., the Gaza Strip. That means the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) will not vacate the already occupied stretches of the North Gaza, fearing once vacated, the Hamas might regroup and plan future combat operations against Israel. Now, Netanyahu has made it very clear to the international community that after the war, his country will manage "overall security" in the Gaza Strip simply to avoid any future offensive from Hamas.

Thus, he said, "Israel will, for an indefinite period, have the overall security responsibility because we have seen what happens when we don't have it. When we don't have that security responsibility, what we have is the eruption of Hamas terror on a scale that we could

not imagine."
It indicates Israel's future plans in the clearest terms ever, and once again, the Gaza Strip will witness an uneasy situation after the war. Interestingly, Yair Lapid, the main Opposition leader in Israel, also quickly endorsed the plans unveiled by

Netanyahu. It shows how the major political parties are in support of retaking Gaza but in a new style, in the name of fighting terror and bringing back peace and normalcy for the Palestinians in this enclave. Previously, the Israeli forces occupied Gaza for 38 years and vacated only in 2005 largely because of strong Palestinian resistance. And today, US President Joe Biden is already sending warning signals to Israel that it would be a mistake for them to reoccupy Gaza.

For now, Netanyahu is making it clear that who should govern Gaza in the future is a different question but only that they be "those who do not want to continue the ways of Hamas". In fact, Lapid also spoke out that the Palestinian Authority, which administers the Israelioccupied West Bank, could once again govern the Gaza Strip once the war is over. Incidentally, the erstwhile Palestinian National Liberation Movement founded by Yasser Arafat in 1959 to establish Palestine as an independent state, now known as Fatah, headed by Mahmoud Abbas, was dethroned by the Hamas from the Gaza Strip in the general elections of the enclave in 2006. Since 2007, Hamas has been ruling the enclave and running their administration over it. So, now bringing back the Fatah administration over the Gaza Strip could be a new beginning and that too under the strict security surveillance

In this scenario, can we expect that the Islamic-Arab leaders' crucial meeting will make any headway towards permanent peace or even for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza? To me, it is just not possible because Israel is in no mood to stop its aggression against the Hamas militants.

By now, it has decided to root out the Hamas military machine and it is damaging it on a daily basis. And this time, unlike the previous instances, the IDF may have to fight a combination of three groups-the Hamas, the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and Hezbollah. It is a new war game, but the theater is an old one for all the enemies. Finally, Israelis, the

Palestinians, and the rest of the residents of West Asia are no stranger to such conflicts. Since Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005, the Zionist state has waged many battles against Gaza: once in 2008 that lasted for 22 days, in 2012 which was for 8 days, in 2014 for 50 days, and in 2021 for 11 days. But this war against Hamas is significant as it indicated to the international community the complete failure of Israel's impenetrable security and one of the most advanced intelligence systems since the 19-day Yom Kippur War of 1973, almost 50 years back. Tel Aviv will learn a lesson from the October 7 Hamas attack and will prepare itself accordingly against all its future enemies. Keeping this scenario in mind, we can say that unless the US and other western nations seriously intervene, the Islamic-Arab efforts and veiled threats to Israel will not end in either negotiating an immediate ceasefire or an abrupt end of the bloody war.

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research Foundation)







sunday magazine the pioneer agazine





















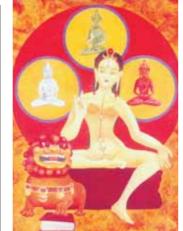




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week may start with a sense of disappointment, especially in matters related to finances. At your workplace, you might find yourself grappling with indecision, leading to a backlog of tasks and disorganized plans. Uncertainty might lead you to postpone significant tasks or travel arrangements. However, as the week progresses, you'll find a more stable and clear approach to handling your responsibilities. Connections from distant places could emerge, offering potential benefits. Expectations from those around you in your professional circle will increase, but you'll rise to the occasion with enhanced involvement and efficiency. This period will also boost your confidence, encouraging you to engage more with your social circle. The week, however, may conclude on a challenging note.

Lucky number 23 | Lucky colour Sea Green Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your focus is intensely directed toward your goals, leaving little room for emotional considerations. You're facing a heavy workload, which might be overwhelming, making your objectives seem distant and challenging to attain. Midweek, expect an unexpected change in your personal or professional life, possibly involving someone's arrival or departure. Be cautious of impulsive behavior; there's a risk of acting rashly. Confusion could obscure your decision-making process, potentially resulting in hasty decisions. Your week may also include travel. When uncertainty strikes, seek inner peace through calming practices to boost your confidence and clarity. Your ability to make unbiased decisions will shine, but haste could undermine your efforts. Trust your instinctive understanding in straightforward situations, and rely on your analytical skills for

Lucky number 26 | Lucky colour Fuchsia Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, maintaining organization and practicing self-control could be particularly significant for you. A lingering sense of uncertainty could create tension in close connections. You might find yourself close to achieving clarity and truthfulness, yet hesitate, possibly fearing it could complicate matters. Midweek, be prepared for a challenging situation, potentially involving official matters, which might bring some disappointment During this period, prioritizing your personal well-being is crucial. Be cautious about sharing your thoughts too freely in sensitive or heated discussions. Now is a moment for self-reflection and focusing on your self-care. Allow yourself moments of rest, reevaluate your ambitions, and focus on healing. This period of self-reflection will be beneficial, equipping you with renewed strength and clarity to face upcoming challenges more effectively.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour | Ivory Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, expect a wave of positive developments. Longterm projects you've been working on are likely to reach successful conclusions. There's a good chance of a significant shift in your living situation, possibly involving a new home. Enjoy gatherings with family and friends, as these moments strengthen bonds and bring joy. Your natural charisma shines brightly, inspiring confidence and admiration in those around you. Your communication skills enhance this effect, drawing people to you and encouraging meaningful interactions. You naturally take on a leadership role within your social circle, a position that brings both responsibility and fulfillment. As the week closes, you'll find yourself gravitating towards reflective activities. These practices not only offer tranquility but also ignite your creativity, rounding off a week full of progress and personal growth.

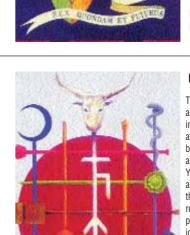
Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Teal Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You excel in your professional sphere, applying your extensive knowledge in practical ways. Your approach is marked by responsibility and fairness in interactions. Adhering to schedules and following established procedures, you maintain discipline and order. Adopting this strategy sets the groundwork for economic steadiness, providing safety and ease. You might experience considerable monetary benefits, possibly from unforeseen avenues. Career advancements, such as promotions are likely, which will boost your self-confidence. This period is an opportunity for self-reflection and to appreciate your achievements. You might encounter new professional opportunities, like a different job or project. Your ability to efficiently utilize your resources is notable, and you show an eagerness to learn and integrate new concepts into your work This period also highlights the joy and positive influence your offspring bring into your life.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Lilac **Lucky day** Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week signifies a time of notable personal development and accomplishment. It begins with a strong focus on improving both your professional life and personal skills. Your attention to detail, unwavering persistence, and dedication will be key. The challenges you face may seem daunting, but they are opportunities for valuable learning and skill development. Your efforts and intelligence will lead to notable success. allowing you to take pride in your accomplishments. During this time, there's also an opportunity for profound spiritual renewal and a deeper bond with your inner being. As the week progresses, various powerful influences converge, creating an ideal environment for emotional or physical healing. For some, this time may bring about important developments in personal relationships, including new commitments or deepening

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Mint **Lucky day** Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

In this phase, you will experience a profound journey of emotional and personal development, accompanied by a significant increase in material prosperity. The week begins with positive developments in your financial sector, leading to increased gains. Your life reflects a blend of luxury and empathy, creating a harmonious atmosphere at work. Travel may feature in your plans, possibly including long-distance or leisure trips with family. Midway through the week, you'll skillfully balance your home and work duties. By the end of the week, the fruits of your labor become evident, characterized by robust health, a surge in creativity, and an optimistic perspective. The weekend offers a chance to relax and spend quality time with family, basking in the contentment of your achievements.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Mauve



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week starts with a focus on finding answers and skillfully handling a significant challenge. You're on the verge of completing something important, facing hurdles but equipped to deal with them. The middle of the week is marked by an increase in warmth and meaningful time spent with someone close to you. As the week progresses, the environment becomes conducive to making long-term investments. It's a time when many will encounter beneficial opportunities. The backing and harmony within your family circle will boost your confidence. Look forward to enjoyable trips and making memorable moments with those dear to you. This period is also ripe for introspection. leading to valuable insights and personal development.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Aquamarine Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week ushers in a time of contentment and happiness, marked by a wealth of positive experiences in different areas of your life. It's a time when your aspirations have a strong chance of materializing, bringing a sense of completeness and contentment. The period is marked by a heightened ability to organize and harness your inner wisdom and intuition. Embrace this period to focus and amplify your cognitive abilities. Matters of personal connections and partnerships are especially significant during this time, aligning well with your plans and expectations. Opportunities for new professional ventures or projects may arise, signaling a phase of progress and achievement. Your overall vitality, influence, effective communication skills, and leadership traits are at a peak, contributing to a sense of overall fortune and success

Lucky number 27 | Lucky colour Rose Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Surprising shifts are on the horizon, leading you to a phase where pride and confidence blossom. You'll find vourself triumphing in an area you once thought was beyond reach. Recognition and envy from others will be evident, yet genuine support will bolster your spirits. This marks a period of significant personal growth, aligning with your true interests. You've navigated through challenges and emerged victorious, with your achievements now widely recognized and celebrated. Joy stems from revisiting cherished memories. As the week concludes, you'll find comfort in reflecting on fond moments from your early years, reconnecting with old friends, and enjoying the company of the younger generation.

Lucky number 28 Lucky colour Burgundy **Lucky day** Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week is a pivotal time for career-focused endeavors. Embrace challenges as they present themselves; these are not just obstacles but gateways to potential financial gains through your hard work and dedication. You're currently equipped with a dynamic energy that enables you to push beyond conventional limits. A particularly tough challenge that's been weighing on your thoughts is within your grasp to overcome, and you're poised to do so with flair and finesse. Midweek, prepare for a phase of constructive guidance from a respected elder in your family circle. Listening to the advice and guidance of a nurturing figure in your life will prove beneficial. To enhance your cognitive acuity, engage in intellectually stimulating pursuits like delving into complex books or tackling challenging puzzles.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Viole Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Effective collaboration is essential for reaching your objectives. Embracing your unique qualities, you'll bring innovation and energy to both your career and personal life. The future looks promising, indicating that your new opportunity or role in your professional life. Clear and collaborative communication will be vital, setting the stage for productive interactions. This period may also bring a sense of deep fulfillment. Those hoping for happy developments in their family life can anticipate good news. Your inclination to embrace new ideas and ventures boldly will serve you well. As this period draws to a close, any worries you have will be addressed, thanks to your resilience and ability to overcome

ucky number 13 | Lucky colour Bronze

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 987328333



ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

digest that cosmic bodies could be

eeking remedial measure, someone you here. I can offer you a no cost soluapproached me for necessary guidance "Sir Low Salar Sa tion, which may though not offer ance: "Sir, I am going through a very instant solution, but will help you bad patch in. My business has collapsed, address the problem from the root level. and I am loaded with heavy debt. I don't Your effort, however, will not bear fruits know how to deal with this crisis and unless you understand and acknowledge some basic truths. The genesis of probmake a fresh start. An astrologer I met recently observed that my marriage has lem doesn't lie in extraterrestrial forces brought bad luck. For, my lagna lord playing in the cosmos. It is rather root-Mars is exalted but Venus, the lord of 7th ed in your inherent trends of mind, house identified with wife is in debility. desires, perception, habits, and atti-When I reflected, it looked probable. tudes. That's what ordinarily drives the functional mandate of a being. Whatever I attempted before marriage, I Accordingly, you make choices in life. came out with flying colours. After marriage, I twice took business initiative and But whenever there is choice, the probamiserably failed. I am shaken and thorbility of its use and misuse remains oughly confused. Should I end up my equal. And there is no free lunch in life. marriage to ensure a smooth sail of life? You are to own up the consequences of the choices made. Even the destiny indi-Suggest me some puja to get out of this dilemma. cations are a result of the choices you Didn't that pundit offer quick fix solumade in the past. The quality and tion through some puja? I countered. intent of your actions define the way "Yes, but I can't afford the cost." He future would unfold. It is difficult to

answered. So, it is the cost that brought

appeased. For, they don't enjoy discriminatory abilities necessary to selectively respond to your individualistic prayers. The most potent method is to self-reflect, identify, and acknowledge fault lines, and address them through fresh educative inputs. A purified mind will let you look at issues in hand with an open mind, free from any preconditioning whatsoever. You may then see things in the right perspective and target what is achievable. But our ego often plays spoil sport. It doesn't let you dispassionately read your mind trends. Here astrology comes handy. For, it reads energy mapping of a being, which reflects personality trends with a fair amount of precision, as energy knows no bias.

approach misleads

"What's your take on the other pundit's observation? In your opinion what does my astrological chart reflect?" Asked the man. Well, he certainly lacked a holistic approach. Or that he purposely made selective observation to serve his vested



Holistic look reveals truth, selective

interest. True, your lagna lord Mars is exalted. But it is placed adverse to both Sun, and Jupiter indicating inflated ego. That binds you to your self-defined beliefs and desires. It doesn't let you go beyond for a reality check or looking for better options if any. Also, it will not let you identify and admit own weaknesses either. Instead, you find it convenient to shift the blame on others. If your wife brought ill-luck, how comes she is doing well by herself, which has helped you sail through your crisis. You should be rather thankful for her support. You are born in Aries lagna, a fiery sign, with Moon therein, which is ill-disposed off to Mars. That makes you aggressive, impulsive, commanding in nature, who will jump into action without applying proper forethought. You never wish to play second fiddle to others, which includes the superiors. That tempted you to get into business, carrying the mistaken belief that things will move exclusively to your asking, whereas in corporate sector you are to report to superiors. You forget that you are still dependant on the callings of market forces, if not your support staff. Also, mischievous Neptune is placed adverse to Venus, the natural significator of finance. That brings in illusionary craving for amassing huge wealth. At the same time, it also makes you vulnerable to loss because of indiscrete and impulsive speculative initiatives. The result is there to see. Truth remains that 2nd sub-lord, which reflects upon the potential to earn, is Mercury, which is tenanted in the nakshatra owned by limiting Saturn. It indicates fixed income. No wonder, you did well when worked on fixed salary, but encountered failure in business where the income level fluctuates.

> The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@gmail.com

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisements Printed and published by Shobori Ganguli for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 100k Milap Bhawan, 8/A Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.