OPINION 6

CONSEQUENCES OF

SUICIDAL ACTS

WORLD 9

ANTI-SEMITISM RISING AMID

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

MONEY 10

INDIA'S STEEL DEMAND TO

TOUCH 190 MT BY 2030

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INDIA DEFEAT **AUSTRALIA BY 44**

RUNS IN T20Is 11 SPORT

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the pioneer

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DO NOT PANIC, BE PREPARED FOR CHINA VIRUS OUTBREAK

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 \mathbf{I}^{n} the wake of a surge in a mysterious respiratory illness in neighbouring China, India is closely monitoring the situation. On Sunday, the Union Health Ministry issued a critical alert to all States, urging an immediate reassessment of public health preparedness. This includes a thorough evaluation of essential resources such as bed availability, influenza medications, vaccines, medical oxygen, antibiotics, personal protec-tive equipment, testing kits, and

Additionally, States are advised to ensure the optimal functioning of oxygen plants and ventilators, as well as the implementation of stringent infection control practices. The nation remains vigilant as it braces itself for potential challenges posed by the evolving health crisis.

At the same time, in an effort to allay fears among the public, the advisory stated that the Ministry is closely monitoring the situation in the neighbouring country and emphasised there is no need for panic. This follows an undetermined

pneumonia outbreak in China that is severely affecting children, as media reports describe overwhelmed children's hospitals in multiple locations. The Health Ministry's decision is an important measure, considering the ongoing winter when influenza-spreading viruses are most active in infecting children. The deteriorating air quality in many metros like Delhi and Mumbai is already taking a toll on children's health, with many suffering from respiratory illnesses, according to pediatricians.

The Ministry said it has decided to proactively review preparatory measures against respiratory illnesses as a mat-ter of abundant caution. "This decision is noted to be important in view of the ongoing influenza and winter season, which results in an increase in respiratory illness cases. The Government is closely monitoring the situation and has indicated that there is no need for any alarm," it said.

In a letter to all States and Union Territories, the Union Health Secretary, Sudanshu Pant, advised them to immediately review public health and hospital preparedness. This includes assessing the availabil-



ity of beds, drugs, and vaccines for influenza, as well as medical oxygen, antibiotics, person-

ality of oxygen plants and ventilators, along with infection control practices.

The State authorities have been advised to implement the Operational Guidelines for

Revised Surveillance Strategy in the context of COVID-19, which were shared earlier this year. These guidelines provide for integrated surveillance of respiratory pathogens presenting as cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI). They have also been instruct-

ed to ensure that the trends of ILI and SARI, particularly among children and adolescents, are closely monitored by the district and State surveillance units of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP). The data for ILI/SARI is required to be uploaded on the IDSP-Integrated Health Information Platform portal. State authorities have been directed to send nasal and throat swab samples of patients with SARI, especially children and adolescents, to the Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories for testing for

respiratory pathogens. The cumulative effect of implementing these precautionary and proactive collaborative measures is expected to counter any potential situations and ensure the safety and wellbeing of citizens.

Recently, information shared by the WHO has indicated an

increase in respiratory illness in the northern parts of China. This is predominantly attributed to usual causes such as influenza, mycoplasma pneumonia, and SARS-CoV-2. According to the WHO, the release of Covid-19 restric-

tions coinciding with the onset of the winter season, in addition to cyclical trends of respiratory illnesses such as mycoplasma pneumonia, has led to this surge.

"Superspreader events, such as weddings, appear to have driven the resurgence of Covid-19 in India. This time, there are also many activities due to the large number of weddings this season coupled with religious events. People usually become careless. So, we hope that they do not lower their guards and adopt safety measures," said an official from the Ministry of Health.

Health experts have called for hygiene measures such as washing hands, ensuring that kids cover their nose and mouth while sneezing and coughing, moving away from others, and using tissues to do so. Use and discard these tissues safely. Wearing masks in social situations should be

Six States snub educational feat survey Vedic scholar embodies generosity,

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Six Opposition ruled States Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal "boycotted" the first State Educational Achievement Survey conducted by national assessment regulator PARAKH, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education.

The survey aimed at identifying areas requiring improvement in school teaching and learning was carried out to understand the baseline performance in the development of the competencies at the end of the foundational, preparatory, and middle stages.

survey assessed educational Punjab, Rajasthan, and West competencies among students at the block level in India in Classes three, six, and nine.

"This extensive survey covered approximately 80 lakh students from three lakh schools at 5,917 blocks across the nation. It also includes 6 lakh teachers and more than 3 lakh field investigators. The primary objective of this survey is to assess the learning competencies of students at the end of each educational stage, i.e., foundational, preparatory, and middle with a primary focus on language and mathematics," a senior Education Ministry official said.

Bengal, all other States and Union Territories participated in the survey.

Tools to assess students' competencies were designed using scientific procedures, while the assessment methodology employed a paper-pen-based approach with OMR technology for data capture and analysis, which ensured the precision and efficiency of data acquisition and validation.

"With the successful execution of the State Educational Achievement Survey, 2023, crucial insights into the strengths and potential areas for enhancement within the The official said barring education system will be availform

the bedrock for evidence-based policies and initiatives directed towards enriching the quality of education for the stu-dents," said School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar.

He said one of the noteworthy

features of the survey this year was the expansion of the sample size to understand the learning gaps at the block level, a strategic shift from the district. "This transition was inspired by the objective of catering to a larger number of students and effectively understanding the performance at a deeper level. Furthermore, this approach also encompassed teachers' professional development programs at the block level,"



Police personnel pay homage to 26/11 martyr Tukaram Omble at Girgaum Chowpatty on the 15th anniversary of the terror attack in Mumbai on Sunday (photo above) Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the attacks as the most dastardly terror assault India has faced and said it is the country's capability that it not only recovered but is also crushing terrorism with all its courage

feeds poor during Sabrimala season

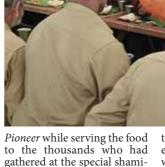
KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Sabarimala season is in full swing in Kerala, with devotees of Lord Ayyappa, the presiding deity of the holy shrine atop the Western Ghats, making a beeline for the sanctum sanctorum after observing 41 days of penance. Hindu homes across the State reverberate with "Swamiye Saranam", Malayalam for "Óh Lord, You are the saviour".

The shrine in the deep jungle comes alive throughout the Sabarimala season as pilgrims countries in Europe, the US, and Australia join their brethren in Kerala to pay obeisance to the Lord. The Sabarimala festival is not confined to the holy shrine alone. Ayyappa temples across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and even in Uttar Pradesh also observe the festival with special poojas and prayers. Malappuram, the Muslim-dominated district, is no exception, as Unnikrishnan Panikkar, the patriarch of the Njarakkattu Kalarickal, an ancient Gurukula family, throws open the doors of his house to poor people and feeds them with a sumptuous meal for the entire Sabarimala sea-

Panikkar, a vedic and astrology scholar, has been offering free food to the poor and needy for the last three decades without any break. He quotes Upanishad verses "Anna Danam Maha Danam" and describes it as a sacred tradition of offering food.

"Annam means food and Daanam is the act of giving. It is the greatest act an ordinary person can do," he told *The*



gathered at the special shamiana put up for the offering. How he manages to offer a sixcourse Kerala feast everyday is surprising.

"Whatever my disciples give me as Dakshina goes to feed the poor. I do not save anything for me or the family. I do what I could do within my means. Some of my friends, after see-

ing the smiling faces of the peo-

ple who come for the feast, have

come forward with offerings

like vegetables and fruits," he His two sons, one with a PhD in western philosophy and the other an aspiring movie maker and daughter join him in keeping the stove burning throughout the season. "There is no caste, creed or religion here.

Our gates remain open

throughout the day as we ensure that no one goes back without food," said Prajesh,

elder son. What causes anxiety in the minds of Panikkar and family is the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities like rice, sugar, vegetables and oil.

'Since the day we started this Anna Danam, prices have shot up over the roof. My only prayer to God Almighty is to help me sustain the Anna Danam without any interruption. The smiling face of the poor people who assemble here is the blessing from heav-

en," he said. While he is not feeding the poor, Panikkar worships Goddess Saraswathi. Two of his works Prashna Vidya (a treatise on astrology, an ancient Indian system of knowledge) and "The Sun that gives us Words" have been widely discussed and debated. Panikkar is a proponent of Sanskrit and strong

family values.

He advises parents to teach their children their mother tongue. A modernist with strong moorings in Indian tra-ditions make him distinct from other scholars. His only worry is that Sanskrit is being sidelined in favour of foreign lan-guages while countries like the US, France, Germany and Britain are serious about their GenNext studying the Indian

language. He has a request to the people who make it to the meals: "Please pray for global peace and security. Nobody should lose their lives because of crime, poverty and riots. Pray for a world where. children, women and old people are respected and adored.

Modi pushes for domestic weddings for economic growth

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed concern on Sunday about the growing trend of "big families" hosting weddings abroad. He urged individuals to consider holding such celebrations within India to prevent the outflow of the country's resources. In his Mann Ki Baat radio address, Modi emphasised the significance of supporting the domestic economy by prioritising products made in India while shopping for weddings.

"The wedding season has commenced now. Some trade organisations estimate that there could be a business of

around Rs 5 lakh crore during this wedding season. While shopping for weddings, all of you should give importance to products made in India only,"

"And yes, since the topic of marriage has come up, one thing has been troubling me off and on for a long time... and if I don't open up my heart's pain to my family members, who else do I do it with? Just ponder... these days a new milieu is being created by some families to go abroad and conduct weddings. Is this at all necessary?" Modi said.

He stressed that if people celebrate the festivities of marpeople of the country, the country's money will remain in the country.

The people of the country will get an opportunity to render some service or the other at such weddings, he pointed out. Even poor people will tell their children about your wedding. Can you expand this mission of 'Vocal for Local'? Why don't we hold such wedding ceremonies in our own country?" Modi said.

"It is possible that the kind of system you want may not be there today, but if we organise such events, systems will also develop. This is a topic related to very big families. I hope this riages on Indian soil, amid the pain of mine will definitely



reach those big families," the prime minister said. In his remarks, Modi also

asserted that when the people at large take charge of nation building, no power in the world can stop that country from moving forward.

India that many transforma-tions are being led by the 140 crore people of the country, he

'We have seen a direct example of this during this festive season. Last month in 'Mann

Ki Baat' I had laid emphasis on 'Vocal for Local' i.E. Buying local products. Within the last few days, business worth more than Rs 4 lakh crore has been done in the country on Diwali, Bhaiya Dooj and Chhath," he

And during this period, tremendous enthusiasm was seen among the people in buying products Made in India, Modi said.

Now even our children, while buying something at the shop, have started checking whether Made in India is mentioned on

them or not. Not only that,

nowadays, people do not forget

to check the country of origin

while purchasing goods online,"

success of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is becoming its inspiration, the success of Vocal For Local' is opening the doors to a 'developed India - prosperous India'. "This campaign of 'Vocal For Local' strengthens the econo-

Modi said that just as the very

he said.

my of the entire country. The Vocal For Local campaign is a guarantee of employment. This is a guarantee of development; this is the guarantee of balanced development of the country," he said.

people, he added.

This provides equal opportunities to both urban and rural

year when the trend of buying some goods through cash payments on the occasion of Deepawali is gradually on the decline, he said. "That means, people are making more and more digital

value addition in local prod-

ucts, and if ever, there are ups

and downs in the global econ-

omy, the mantra of Vocal For

Local also protects our economy," Modi asserted. It is the second consecutive

payments now. This is also very encouraging. You can do one more thing. Decide for yourself that for one month you will make payments only through UPI or any digital medium and This also paves the way for not through cash," he said.

India remembers victims of 26/11 Mumbai attacks

ndia on Sunday paid homage to those killed in the horrif-Lic terror strikes carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba in Mumbai in 2008, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying the country cannot forget the day it faced the most dastardly terror attack and is crushing ter-

rorism with full courage. President Droupadi Murmu said the nation remembers with pain all the victims of the terror attacks. "Let us renew our pledge to battle terrorism in all forms everywhere," she said.

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis along with other leaders and officers paid floral tributes at the martyrs' memorial on the premises of the Police Commissioner Office in south Mumbai. The governor also met the family members of the policemen who lost their lives in

A candle march was held at the Gateway of India, opposite the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel - one of the terror attack sites - in which personnel of the National Security Guard and Mumbai

police participated.

'We can never forget November 26. It was on this very day that the country had come under the most dastardly terror attack. Terrorists had shaken up Mumbai and the entire country. But, it is India's fortitude that we recovered from that attack and now we are also crushing terrorism with full courage," the prime minister said in his monthly "Mann ki Baat" radio broadcast. President Murmu said the country stands with the families and loved ones of the victims "in honouring the memory of the brave souls'

"I pay homage to the valiant security personnel who laid down their lives for the motherland. Recalling their supreme

sacrifice, let us renew our pledge to battle terrorism in all forms everywhere," Murmu said in a post on X.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and other leaders also remembered the victims and lauded the security person-

"We salute the courage of our security personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect us. Their resilience inspires us to stand united against terror and work towards a safer, more peaceful world," Dhankhar said. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said it is 15 years today since the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. "Our quest to bring those responsible for planning and executing these horrific acts to justice continues," he

Envoys of the US and Israel also offered tributes to the victims and pledged support to India in the fight against terrorism. Ten Pakistani terrorists arrived



by the sea route and opened indiscriminate firing, killing 166 people, including 18 security personnel and five US nationals. and injuring several others, besides damaging property worth crores of rupees.

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti reaffirmed his country's commitment to fight terror

"Today marks the 15th anniversary of the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai. We honor the memory of the victims lost and pledge to continue to fight against acts of terror together with the Government of India," he said on X

The attacks began on November 26, 2008, and lasted until November 29. The Chhatrapati Oberoi Trident, the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower, Leopold Cafe, Cama Hospital and Nariman House Jewish Community Centre were some of the places targeted by the terrorists.

Six Jews were among those killed in the terror strikes. Israel's ambassador to India

paid floral tributes to the victims. "On this day, we commemorate 15 years of the tragic 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. We pay tribute to all the victims, including members of the Jewish com-

'We reaffirm our commitment to stand with India in our ongoing fight against terrorism," the Israeli embassy said.

In Israel, the grandfather of Moshe Holtzberg, the youngest survivor of the attacks, expressed his gratitude to the people of India for treating his family's pain as their own all these years. Moshe, who was just two at the time of the attack, lost both his

and Rivka Holztberg, in the assault on Nariman House, also known as Chabad House.

"The people of India remember what happened on this day 15 years ago. You remember the tragedy that struck our family and also the families of other Israeli people," Rabbi Shimon Rosenberg, Moshe's grandfather, told PTI.

"I want to say that I, my wife Yehudit and also the Moishi (Moshe) boy, feel it and want to thank you all in India for your similar feelings for the tragedy that struck us and you all," he

"This year especially shows how terrorists want to murder the Jews but we still hope for peace in the whole world," he said at a time when Israel is at war with the Hamas terror group after they carried out a brutal attack in its territory on October 7. Moshe's parents were the emissaries of the Chabad Movement

26/11 attack.

Moshe's pictures with his nanny Sandra holding him close to her chest after saving his life in a daring move in the middle of the terror attack remain a poignant

Last week, Israel re-affirmed its declaration of Lashkar-e-Taiba as a terror organisation to symbolise the marking of the 15th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

The then Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) chief Hemant Karkare, Major Sandeep Army Unnikrishnan, Mumbai's additional police commissioner Ashok Kamte and senior police inspector Vijay Salaskar were among those killed fighting terrorists.

Nine terrorists were killed by security forces. Ajmal Kasab was the only Pakistani terrorist who was captured alive. He was hanged four years later on



Mamata will soon be grilled by ED: BJP leader

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

In what can bring trepidation in the ruling Trinamool Congress ranks, senior BJP leader and its former national vice president Dilip Ghosh on Sunday said that now it was Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's turn to "taste the hot cup of tea in the Enforcement Department's

Wondering why when a number of her important cabinet colleagues were cooling their heels behind the bar and her own nephew and other family members were being summoned by the central agencies "why should Didi (Mamata Banerjee) remain out of the ambit of their probe ... wait for some more time for a news in the New Year because the Chief Minister too will get the summons from the ED quarters

taste of the hot tea and find how hot it is at the ED office." A time had come when she should be asked to explain her

conduct as the Chief Minister who was at the helm of everything when so many scams were taking Ghosh's statement came hours

before his another senior party mate and Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari lambasted TMC MP Mohua Moitra saying she should not only be expelled from the House for taking cash for asking questions but also barred from contesting elec-

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on beha of our clent (10bl Bank Ltd) that Mrs. Savirii Chhabra i the owner of Property Bearing No. F-112, area measurin behavior of the Control of the Contr

tions for five terms besides being probed against by the central agencies.

"Mohua Moitra has not only sided with one businessman against the other but she has also compromised the country's security by sharing her login with outsiders. This is gross misconduct on the part of an MP ... I want her not only to be expelled from Parliament but barred from contesting elections for five terms ... besides the CBI should investigate her case and she should go to jail for what she has done," Adhikari said even as Moitra who has of late received strong support from the Chief Minister — recently rewarded her with the organisational presidentship of Nadia district

Incidentally Bengal Governor "law should take its own course" when asked to comment on Moitra.

The firebrand TMC MP however said that before the CBI began probe against her the agency should investigate the coal cases against the Adanis. "Before the CBI starts proceeding against me they should investigate the Adanis in the coal scam case?

Reacting to Ghosh and Adhikari's statements TMC spokesperson and MP Shantanu Sen said that the BJP leaders had gone mad after steadily losing ground in Bengal. "There boss Amit Shah is asking for 35 seats from Bengal but they know the condition of their party in Bengal ... they know that they will be literally decimated in this State ... this is why they are shouting so much against Mamata Banerjee ... let them do what they want ... the people will give them a befitting reply in the elections," he said.

Ambedkar statue unveiled in SC

Dresident Droupadi Murmu P Sunday unveiled a statue of Dr B R Ambedkar in the Supreme Court premises on the occasion of Constitution Day. Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal paid their tributes to the father of the Indian Constitution folding hands and offering flowers to the over 7-feet tall sculpture.
The unveiling was followed by plantation of saplings by
President Murmu and CJI Chandrachud.

The event was attended by several judges of the top court. Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Earlier, the day was observed as

Chief Justice of India Justice D Y Chandrachud, judges of the apex court and High Courts and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal also attended the event. November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

Chief Justice of India Chandachud said the Supreme Court has acted as a "people's court" and citizens should not be afraid of going to courts or view it as the last resort. He said just as the Constitution allows us to resolve political differences through established democratic institutions and processes, the courts system helps in resolving many disagreements through established principles and processes. Attorney General (AG) R

Venkataramani said the constitutional promise of access to justice for all cannot be gained through mere access to litigation and disputes must be resolved through the mode of



emphasised that the poor and the marginalised suffer the most in an adversarial system thus urged the Government to instead push mediation as a recourse, saying there was a "need to explore access to justice beyond courts and litigation".

"I appeal on behalf of the Indian Bar to all Governments al said."

mediation as the only lasting and economically wise system of settling issues and differences.... With the enactment of mediation law, we need to take a long jump into pushing the mediation philosophy as the major guiding force towards dispute avoidance and dispute

6 more Punjab cops suspended in PM security breach matter

Six more policemen have been suspended for alleged dereliction of duty in connection with a security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state in January 2022. These six were placed under sus-

pension along with a Superintendent of Police rank officer, who was reported suspended earlier. Two Deputy Superintendent of Police rank officers, Parson Singh and Jagdish Kumar, Inspectors Jatinder Singh and Balwinder Singh, Sub-Inspector Jaswant Singh and Assistant Sub-Inspector Ramesh Kumar were the six policemen suspended, according to the November 22 order of the State's Home

SP Gurbinder Singh, who is at present posted as SP in Bathinda district, reported suspended on Saturday. According to the order, all seven policemen have been

named in a charge sheet under section 8 of Punjab Civil Services rule (punishment and appeal) 1970. On January 5, 2022, Prime Minister Modi's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur after which he returned from Punjab without attending any event and was to forced to cancel a rally.

A Supreme Court-appointed committee which probed the security breach during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Punjab in January 2022 had indicted several State officers for lapses.

Replica of Ram temple constructed with iron scrap in Indore

A replica of Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya has been built in Indore, the cleanest city in the

The Ram temple in Ayodhya will be ready for consecration on January 22 next year. Notably, Muslim artisans are also

involved in the construction of this replica, located in the city's Vishrambagh area.

"This replica will spread the message of Lord Ram as well as the message of cleanliness of Indore across the world," Mayor Pushvamitra Bhargava, instrumental in the construction of the temple replica, told PTI on

Sunday. Bhargava said this replica is based on the "3R" (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) formula of waste management due to which Indore has been scoring the top slot in the National Cleanliness Survey for six consecutive years. This replica was constructed in about three months. It is 40 feet long, 27 feet wide and 24 feet high. 21 tons of iron scrap of electric poles, vehicles etc. Was used in the construction," he

Families mourn loss of children's lives in Kerala college stampede

PTI ■ KOCHI

Teary-eyed, forlorn faces stared blankly into the distance, an illustration of the terrible grief the four families are going through after each of at Cochin University's annual tech festival a day ago. Of the four persons who died, three -Athul Thampi (23), Sara Thomas (19) and Ann Rifta Roy (20) — were students of School of Engineering in Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) and the fourth — Palakkad-based Alwin — an electrician who had ended up at the festival by chance.

For the parents of three students and Alwin, the news of their children's deaths came as a rude shock out of the blue when the names of those who died in the incident were flashed on TV channels. In disbelief, the panicstricken parents desperately tried to get in touch with their children over the phone, but to no avail.

While some made enquiries through relatives or friends to find out what happened, others received calls after some time delivering the tragic news to them. "I saw my son's name flash on the news channel. I immedi-



ately called up a relative there (Kochi) to inquire. He told me that Alwin was at the festival and had died. Later I got a call from someone informing

me about what happened, Alwin's father told a TV channel. Alwin was an electrician by profession but was not getting good jobs, his father said. He probably went to Kochi

looking for a job. His sister lives there," he added, visibly grappling with the huge loss. Similar was the situation of Sara's father, who was at home - himself presently recovering from a snake bite after months-long

treatment. Belonging to Kozhikode district of the state. Sara was a second-year student at the Division of Electronics and Communication in the School of Engineering (SoE). Her neighbour, a lady, remembers Sara Thomas as a bubbly and hardworking student. "The news about her on TV came as a jolt. Efforts to get in touch with her were not successful. My daughter is working there (CUSAT).

called her to find out. She confirmed that Sara had died in the incident," the neighbour said. "We send our children there to

study, trusting them (universities/colleges) to take care of them," she said tearfully. The same was the case with Athul Thampi and Ann Rifta Roy.
While Athul — who hailed from Koothattukulam in

ond-year student at the Division of Civil Engineering, SoE, Ann
— from North Paravur in the same district - was a second year student at the Division of Electronics and Communication.

Athul, the youngest of two children, used to come home every Saturday, but this time he stayed back for the festival. "On hearing the news on TV, we called his phone, but someone else picked it up and said the mobile was found lying on the ground," his

father said.

After getting a polytechnic diploma, Athul had enrolled in a civil engineering course for further studies. Ann was described by relatives and neighbours as the "princess" of her family, perhaps also because she played the role of a princess in several 'Chavittu Nadakams' a colourful Latin Christian classical art form which combines acting, singing, dancing and the steps of the Kerala mar-

tial art Kalaripayattu.

NIA conducts

raids in States in Ghazwa-e-Hind terror module case

PTI NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted raids in several states in the Pakistan-backed Ghazwa-e-Hind terror module case, an official said.

The raids were conducted at the premises of suspects in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh, Gir Somnath district of Gujarat, Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh and Kozhikode district of Kerala, leading to the seizure of incriminating documents and digital devices, a spokesperson of the federal

agency said. The official said the raids also revealed links of the suspects with Pakistan-based handlers. These suspects were in contact with the handlers and were involved in propagating the radical, anti-India idea of Ghazwa-e-Hind,"

spokesperson said. The NIA raids were conducted as part of its ongoing investigation into a case, commonly referred to as the Ghazwa-e-

Hind case, Patna (Bihar). The case was initially registered on July 14 last year by the Phulwarisharif police in Bihar, following the arrest of Marghoob Ahmad Danish alias

"Tahir" who was the administrator of the WhatsApp group Ghazwa-e-Hind, created by a Pakistani national identified as Zain, the official said. The official said the accused, Tahir, had added many people

from India as well as other countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Yemen, to the group, which was also active on other social media platforms such as Telegram and BiP Messenger. "Aimed at radicalizing impressionable youths in the name of establishment of Ghazwa-e-Hind over the territory of India, the group was being operated by Pakistan.

Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com Letter No.: 5284(I)/ Nivida-01/2023-24 Dated: 25/11/2023

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering) **Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 09/11/2023 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

SI. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	C.D. PWD Kapkot Improvement work in Harsila to Nan Kanyalikot motor road under One Time Maintenance in Kapkot Assembly Constituency of Distt Bageshwar.	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 4.63 Lac	60 Days	15 Month (Including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	Class "B" & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./Any state Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking
2	CD PWD Almora Improvement of Bartoli Banthok Motor Road in Jageshwar Constituency District Almora Under State Sector.	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 5.32 Lac	60 Days	15 Month (Including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	-Do-

Foreign Secretary Kwatra meets Iranian foreign minister in Tehran

PTI NEW DELHI

Proreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Sunday met Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Tehran and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties, boost connectivity through the Chabahar port, and the current situation in West Asia arising out of the Hamas-Israel conflict. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said both sides agreed to further strengthen the ongoing cooperation in various spheres. "Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra called on FM @Amirabdolahian of Iran in Tehran today," Bagchi said on

'IITs, IIMs advised to become multi-disciplinary ology, tradition and literature, PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday said that the Centre has advised IITs and IIMs to become multi-disciplinary to venture beyond their respective areas of specialisation.

Pradhan, while speaking at the inauguration of Odisha Research Centre, said priority has been given to imparting multi-disciplinary education through the National Educa-tion Policy, 2020 and IITs and IIMs will also move in this direction. Odisha Governor

Das, Raghubar Chhattisgarh counterpart Biswa Bhusan Harichandan and Pradhan jointly inaugurated the centre here at an event. The centre will conduct research on art, culture, archae-

sociology of Odisha, political process and political culture, agriculture, commerce, business and industry, development trends of contemporary Odisha, science and technology and healthcare, and future

technology.

It will also work on smart cities, climate change, protection of the environment, sustainable development, semiconductors, rare earths and advanced minerals, the minister said.

In 2036, when Odisha will celebrate the centenary of its formation, and in 2047, when the country will celebrate the centenary of India's independence the ORC will prepare a roadmap for the development of Odisha and Odia language, he said.

Delhi air remains very poor, rain may bring relief soon

Delhi's air quality remained very poor on Sunday though a change in meteoro-logical conditions due to a western disturbance may bring some relief, according to monitoring agencies. The capital's average air quality index (AQI) stood at 385 at 9 am which rose to 396 at 4 pm on Sunday. The average AQI is based on the data received from 38 stations. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a generally cloudy sky with the possibility of very light rain or drizzle in Delhi

from Sunday night. Anand Vihar entered in the "very poor" category with PM 2.5 at 348 and PM 10 at 330, while the CO reached at 100 while NO2 was at 73, both in "satisfactory" level, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at 6 p.m. The Bawana station recorded PM 2.5 at 409, in the "severe" level and PM 10 at 396, in the "very poor" category, while the CO reached 94 or "satisfactory". At Aya Nagar, the PM 2.5 reached 324, in the "very poor" category and PM 10 was at 241, under "poor" category. The CO was recorded at 83, under the "sat-

isfactory" category. The AQI monitoring station at Dwarka sector 8 recorded the PM 10 at 407, in the "severe" category and PM 2.5 at 366, or "very poor" while the CO plunged to 120, and NO2 at 102, both in "moderate" levels.



Airport T3 area was in the 'very poor" category with PM 2.5 at 328 and PM 10 at 190, in "moderate" levels while the CO was at 70, or "satisfactory". At ITO station, the PM 2.5 was recorded at 382, in the "very poor" category and PM 10 was at 247, in the "poor" cate-gory. The NO2 was at 177, or moderate" level. The PM 2.5 at Okhla Phase-II was recorded at 351, in the "very poor" category while PM 10 reached 272, under the "poor" category. The NO2 reached 137, in "moderate" category and CO was at 85, in the "satisfactory"

Interestingly, even though Delhi has had 11 'severe' air days so far this month - when the AQI has been over 400, it has been on the brink of severe – 390 or higher on another six days, making it 15 such days with an AQI of 390 or higher. This is the highest tally of such days in November in the last eight years, with the previous high of 13 such days The air quality at the Indira coming in November 2021. Gandhi International (IGI) Delhi recorded 11 days of 390+

showed.

With more wind and a chance of rain, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai expressed hope that the air quality would continue to improve for the next two days.

Rai said, "In the last two to three days there was a rise in pollution but today we have come out of the 'severe category'. It is predicted that from today the wind speed will increase, and there is a probability of rain also. The improvement in air quality, which is being noticed from today, will continue to rise and in the next two days, air quality will improve.

'The Supreme Court had given directions regarding actions to be taken on the ground level for a reduction in Delhi air pollution. The government is working on it with full force," Gopal Rai added.

The national capital recorded a minimum temperature 10.4 degrees Celsius, one notch the season's

Non compliance by thermal power plants aiding to rise in Delhi-NCR pollution: CSE

The Centre for Science and L Environment (CSE) in its study said non-compliance of thermal power plants in Delhi-NCR with emission standards is contributing significantly to air pollution in the region. The environment think tank focuses on particulate matter, nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide emissions from the 11 thermal power plants (TPPs) in Delhi-NCR and is based on their environmental status reports sourced from the website of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), a technical arm of the Union Ministry of Power, from April 2022 to August 2023.

According to studies, the TPPs account for around eight percent of the PM2.5 pollution in Delhi-NCR.

'Delhi-NCR cannot achieve the clean air benchmark and safeguard public health if continuous sources of pollution, such as thermal power plants, continue to emit pollutants at high levels. These plants have struggled to meet the standards, primarily due to continually shifting compliance deadlines," says Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Research and



The CSE report said that despite multiple deadline extensions and revised categorisations by the Union Environment Ministry, many plants in the region are struggling to meet prescribed norms for emissions of nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate

The ministry established stringent emission standards for coal-based power plants in December 2015, requiring compliance within two years. Later, it granted a five-year extension to all power plants except those in Delhi-NCR

which were given until 2019 to comply due to the region's high pollution levels.

Despite this, except for Dadri TPP and Mahatma Gandhi TPP, all NCR plants failed to meet the revised deadline and continued operating in violation until another extension in March 2021. The ministry then categorised all power plants, including those in Delhi-NCR, into three groups (A, B, and C) based on criteria set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

New deadlines were set accordingly: Category A plants must meet SO2 emission norms by December 31, 2024. Category B plants have until December 31, 2025, to meet the SO2 emission norms and Category C plants are required to comply with SO2 emission norms by December 31, 2026. Except for Dadri, Indira Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi, and Panipat

TPPs, the remaining seven

plants were classified under

Category C, granting them additional time for compli-

Almost six years after the first deadline, three plants in the NCR -- Harduaganj TPP, Panipat TPP, and Guru Hargobind TPP — are still

reporting very high suspended particulate matter emissions, the CSE report said.

The CSE researchers said that despite the government relaxing nitrogen oxide norms and deadlines, four plants- -Panipat TPP, Rajiv Gandhi TPP and Yamunanagar TPP in Haryana and Guru Hargobind TPP in Punjab -- have exceeded the NÓx norms several times during the reporting

All coal power plants in NCR have reported SO2 emissions up to three times over the prescribed limits.

While Mahatma Gandhi TPP remains within the limit for sulphur dioxide emissions, Dadri TPP, equipped with sulphur dioxide control equipment (FGD), reported high SO2 readings 86 percent of the time during the reporting peri-

Researchers suggest that either the FGDs at Dadri TPP are malfunctioning or have insufficient capacity, or the coal used has very high sulphur content. DD Basu, former director of the CPCB, said controlling SO2 emissions is essential, as they convert to sulphates, posing greater risks to health and the environment by forming fine particulate matter.

₹500 cr scam in DJB, alleges BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{ ext{scam}}^{ ext{elhi BJP has alleged a}}$ the Delhi Jal Board in connection with awarding contracts related to upgradation and augmentation works to a single bidder. According to BJP, the contractor had not submitted the detailed project reports (DPRs) as mandated in the government tendering Delhi BIP president Virendra

Sachdeva has sent a detailed notes to the Central Bureau of Investigation Enforcement Directorate as well as Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, seeking cancellation of the awards and a probe against officials and the concerned minister who had shown undue haste in awarding the projects.



the concerned minister was not competent to approve the decision, the Delhi government went ahead with the award of the works. In a press statement, Sachdeva said that the due diligence with the Taiwanese embassy was also not obtained in awarding the works even while the compe-

two bidders participated for four packages of works, which were parceled with clear intents to award the works in a premeditated manner, and each got the projects awarded. He further that the tendering tweaks lowered the technical criteria with reduced timeline with aim to keep the genuine contractors away from participating in the tendering process. Sachdeva also alleged that

out of the 10 STPs (sewage treatment plant), only five were shortlisted for upgradation while rest were taken up for upgradation/ augmenta-tion at a cost of Rs 1938 crores in 2022. Shockingly, DPRs were made available only for two STPs - Kondli and Rohini. In a startling revelatence of the said contactor tion, he stated in the letters to

the mandated consideration 5.1.8(1) of CPWD Manual of the local factors such as soil strength, sewage quality and "Estimates prepared by consultant M/s NJS Engineers peak flow data and others were not even sought before hurriedly awarding the works. India Pvt. Ltd. were used for "Former DJB ČEO Udit Prakash (Deputy Secy. to Govt of India) worked in

cost estimation of all STPs despite the fact that consultant's work was not found satundue haste in obtaining isfactory in preparation of approvals from Board on estimates. Estimates were 30.5.2022 even though he was prepared by this consultant on transferred to Health & Family Welfare Dept. Appointment of Udit Prakash the basis of single quotation basis resulting in the estimates being higher than market was also void ab initio since rate," said Sachdeva. no officer below rank of Joint "During the process the rates Secretary is eligible to be posted as CEO DJB," he said.

of items / works (mainly civil works) not required to be done on the ground were included and suggestive rates were prepared on higher sides and thereafter works were awarded at Rs. 1938 Crores i.e. 28% higher than the estimated cost of Rs.1508 crores,"

Will stop works from Nov 27 to protest non-payment of dues: DJB contractors

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the war of words has continued among political parties on the issue of alleged water shortage in the capital city, a section of contractors working for the Delhi Jal Board has said they will stop ongoing projects from November 27. DJÉ Vice Chairman Somnath Bharti claimed despite repeated directions from the Finance Minister, the finance department has not released funds for the last three months and he will reach out to the Lieutenant Governor seeking his intervention.

The Delhi Jal Board Contractors Welfare Association has written to the Additional Chief Engineer mentioning that the workers



contamination, maintenance of water supply, settled leakage system, maintenance of sewage system, operation of tube wells and pumping stations, providing beldars, engagements of labours, desilting of works due to non-payments. The decision to stop all ongoing works was taken after an executive committee meeting on November 23 to discuss the present situ-

once stopped will be taken up onlyand only on receipt of due payments by all concerned contractors and all responsibilities towards stoppage of these works on account of non-payment by the depart-ment for the already works shall lies with the department. "It is regretted that all payments due since long february 2023are not released till date after so many requests. In view of the same, executive committee meeting was held with all the contractors on Nov 23, to discuss the present situation of financial hardship being faced by all the working contractors of the department. All detailed deliberations and finding no option it was unanimously decided to stop all ongoing

The Association said the works

Kejriwal remembers Sisodia, Sanjay on AAP foundation day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AP national convener and ADelhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday wished party workers on the party's foundation day and remembered party leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, who he said are in jail in "false cases." Addressing a press conference

virtually, Kejriwal said that the AAP has been the fastest growing party and also the most targeted of last 11 years. "We have been targeted the most in these 11 years. All investigative agencies, ED,

CBI, Delhi Police, have been

unleashed on us. More than 250 cases have been filed against us but not a single penny of ill-gotten wealth has been found," he

He said though it was a happy



Sanjay Singh, and Satyendar

'This is the first foundation day when they are not here with us.

False cases have been filed against them but they haven not broken. Their families have also stood firm. BJP wants to break opposition leaders by filing false cases against them but we are proud of our leaders who haven't years, the party faced many ups and downs, and many difficulties have arisen.

Despite this, there has been no decline in the determination and passion, and today, every party worker of AAP is prepared to make the highest sacrifice to save the country. On the 12th foundation of the party, Kejriwal addressed the party workers, supporters, and AAP office bearers across the country through a digital press conference.

The BJP knows how to bend leaders of other parties by filing fake cases against them, but they cannot bend the

This is a matter of pride for all of us that to this day, not a single one of our MLAs or leaders has been bought or broken. Their families have also not been broken; they stood by us," he said.

Congress holds rally as part of 'Jawab Do, Hisab Do' campaign

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

He also pointed out hat rates

increased during Negotiation with L1 bidder, from Rs. 392

.04 Crores to Rs. 408.04

Crores. Negotiations were

done without the approval of

Competent Authority and in

¬he Delhi Congress on I Sunday held a 'pratigya' rally as a part of its 'Jawab Do, Hisab Do' campaign against the BJP government at the Centre and its seven MPs from Delhi.

Scores of Congress leaders and workers gathered at the Hathi Wala Chowk in Karol Bagh and raised slogans against the central government at the rally led by Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely.

Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken and All India Congress Committee In-charge of Delhi Deepak Babaria were also present at the rally.

Congress Treasurer Ajay Maken while addressing a Vishal Pratigya Rally as part of Delhi Congress' "Jawab Do-Hissab Do" campaign at Hathi Wala Chowk in Karo Bagh area said, "Had not the Congress government passed the Special



Protection Act-2006, over 30 lakh people, including shopkeepers, small, medium and middle traders would have been rendered jobless.

Maken, a former Union Minister, said that to provide relief to the people of Delhi, the Congress government had made amendments to the Master Plan-2021 in September 2013 to notify mixed use of 2183 roads, but the present Central and Delhi governments have not provided any facilities in these areas till

now. Maken said that in 2012, the Congress government had declared 70 per cent of areas with industries as industrial areas but no development works have been carried out in such places. The Congress leader said that out of the existing industrial complexes, 20 were established by the Congress government, and plans for another five had also been approved by the Congress government, but only notified by the present gov-

takes out 14th Delhi **Queer Pride Parade**

LGBTQIA+ community

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

⊥ ty took out the 14th Delhi Queer Pride Parade on Sunday. The parade started

from Barakhamba and con-

cluded at Jantar Mantar. Delhi Queer Pride march, where we dance, love, and rage on the streets of Delhi. We march to Jantar Mantar, at a time when even this single stretch of space provided for the expression of democratic sentiments is under threat," stated an official statement. The statement further said that they marched against the alleged "oppressive attacks and discrimination" against the

LGBTQIA+ community. "We think that legal rights remain valueless, unless we build a culture of acceptance for personal expression, love in all its consensual forms, across

the barriers of gender, caste, class, ability, religion, region, and language which constrain

"We march for the right to determine our life choices, to build our families, and for all queer people to have our fundamental rights accepted and legally protected," a spokesper-

Dancing to drums and music, the participants walked for more than three hours to Jantar Mantar, holding banners reading "Equality for all" and "Queer and proud" slo-

We march against regressive legislation that targets transgender people, we demand reservations for our community people across institutions, policy changes to protect the community, and implementation of these principles by the

'35 per cent of India's stalled residential projects are in Noida, Greater Noida'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

hirty-five per cent of India's Thirty-live per cent of many stalled residential projects having 1.65 lakh flats worth a total of Rs 1.18 lakh crore are in Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida. According to a white paper, issued by citizens' platform Noida Dialogue and private body Namo Seva Kendra, besides, there are at least one lakh individuals who are still waiting to register their flats while nearly 60,000 others are yet to be handed flats long after their possession date. BJP national vice president Gopal Krishna Agarwal on

Sunday unveiled the 'White of Noida Authority, Greater Paper on Homebuyers Issues in Gautam Buddh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh)' during a programme in Greater Noida West in presence of scores of aggrieved investors. He called for resolution of the long-pending issues of homebuyers, emphasizing the action as suggested in the white paper would come from both the Centre as well as the Uttar Pradesh government.

"More than 850 residential projects have been inaugurated in the Gautam Buddh Nagar district since 2011, of which around 90 per cent of the projects come under the purview

Noida Authority, and Yamuna Expressway Development Authority (ÚP RERA annual report, 2020). Property consultant Anarock ranks Noida as the worst city in terms of projects stalled as 35 per cent of the stalled residential projects in the country are from Noida-Greater Noida region," the white paper stated. 'Their analysis figures out that

projects which comprise around 1.65 lakh units are yet to be completed fully and their combined value is worth as high as Rs 1.18 lakh crore. Our analysis on Uttar Pradesh's



more than 50 per cent such projects are stalled for more than three years over the proposed completion time. As many as 27,992 complaints

registered on the UP RERA portal, recording the highest in the country as of 2020," it

The white paper further said

that as per the report at present, there are at least one lakh individuals who are still waiting to register their flats while nearly 60,000 others are yet to be handed flats long after their possession date. These buyers have a twin

financial burden on their shoulders, continue paying EMIs for their incomplete flats and bear the hefty rent of their houses where they stay at the moment," it noted.

The white paper, which has sourced information from public and private entities and feedback from homebuyers, seeks to identify the problem,

the root cause for it, cites legal case studies and their judg-ments and suggests possible way forward to mitigate the woes of homebuyers. "The whole resolution process

has to be ring fenced from any potential legal challenges. The stalled projects will first have to be made viable for future investors for any acceptable resolution bid. The main problem lies in the legacy issue of allotment of land on lease by authorities to the developers on instalment payment, levying compound interest and hefty penalties for default thereof," it

"The overleveraged developers, supported by multiple financing options on single piece of land, compounded the problem. The unholy nexus of previous governments in power can now be undone through haircuts alone. The above recommended solutions have to be implemented by the government with political will," t added. Agarwal, also BJP's spokesper-

son on economic affairs, said the governments at the Centre and in UP have been working for the homebuyers and are committed to resolving the

India crushing terrorism with all its courage: Modi

On the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India faced the most heinous attack on this day but it was the country's capability that it recovered from that assault and was also "crushing terrorism" with all its courage. In his Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi paid homage to all those who lost their lives in the Mumbai attack and noted that the nation is remembering the brave mar-

"We can never forget November 26. It was on this day that the most heinous terrorist attack took place in the country. Terrorists had shaken Mumbai and the entire coun-

Dinesh Gupta (Borrower) Renu Gupta (Co Borrower 1) Element Five Apparels Private

Dinesh Gupta (Borrower) Renu Gupta (Co Borrower 1) Element Five Apparels Private

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Sanjeev Kumar Brala (Borrower) Santosh

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(LC No. 1900000684 of Raj Nagar Branch) Amit Kumar (Borrower) Rupa Devi (Co

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Vikas Kumar (Borrower) Raj Kumari (Co

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try. But, it is India's capability that we recovered from that attack and now we are also crushing terrorism with full courage," he asserted.

On November 26, 2008, 10 Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists from Pakistan arrived by sea route and opened fire, killing 166 people, including 18 security personnel, and injuring several others during a 60-hour siege in Mumbai.

The prime minister also noted

wenty lakh Eleven Thousand Six Hundred

Eighty Only) NPA (03-11-2017)

inety Nine Only) NPA (03-11-2017)

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ive Thousand Six Hundred Twenty One Only

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lakh Thirty Three Thousand Six Hundred One Only) NPA (09-07-2021)

18-10-2023 /₹ 6606741 /-(₹ Sixty Six lakh Six

housand Seven Hundred Forty One Only)

18-10-2023 /₹ 9142235 /-(₹ Ninety One lakh

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18-10-2023 /₹ 4173207 /-(₹ Forty One lakh

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Only) NPA (10-03-2021)

Six Only) NPA (31-07-2021)

Only) NPA (04-10-2019)

NPA (04-08-2019)

One Only) NPA (06-05-2017)

Three Only) NPA (03-02-2020)

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18-10-2023 /₹ 4268991 /-(₹ Forty Two lakh

Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety One Only) NPA (30-09-2020)

18-10-2023 /₹ 3744479 /-(₹ Thirty Seven lak

18-10-2023 /₹ 4836997 /-(₹ Forty Eight lak)

Thirty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Seven Only) NPA (09-07-2021)

18-10-2023 /₹ 16103421 /-(₹ One Crore S

18-10-2023 /₹ 5225530 /-(₹ Fifty Two lakh

wenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty

18-10-2023 /₹ 9293976 /-(₹ Ninety Two lak

18-10-2023 /₹ 9241249 /-(₹ Ninety Two lak

18-10-2023 /₹ 5170388 /-(₹ Fifty One lak

Twenty One Only) NPA (06-05-2019)

Only) NPA (06-06-2017)

Six Only) NPA (04-12-2018) 18-10-2023 /₹ 5196674 /-(₹ Fifty One lakh Ninety Six Thousand Six Hundred Seventy

Four Only) NPA (04-07-2019)

Eight Only) NPA (10-03-2021)

Only) NPA (04-04-2020)

Ajay Kumar Rastogi (Borrower) Seema Rastogi | Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Eighty

18-10-2023 /₹ 19621667 /-(₹ One Crore

Nine Only) NPA (04-10-2019)

tant for another reason as in 1949, the Constituent Assembly had adopted the Constitution of India on this day

"I remember when we were celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar in 2015, the idea came that November 26 be celebrated as Constitution Day... I extend wishes to all on Constitution day," he said.

"All of us together, by giving priorities to the duties of the citizens, will definitely fulfil the resolve of making the country developed," Modi said.

In his remarks, the prime minister also said business of around ₹4 lakh crore took place during recent festivals and a lot of enthusiasm was seen among people to buy made-in-India products.

'Indian Constitution resilient, withstood challenges of time'

The Constitution of India is I resilient, has weathered even the worst challenges, including those posed by time, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said on Sunday. Mehta said any Constitution

framed for a nation is always a vehicle for governance and the country decides for itself how its future governance would take shape Speaking at the Constitution

Day celebrations at the Vigyan Bhavan here, the top law officer said the Indian Constitution is a manifestation of the very spirit of the country's people immediately after decolonisation.

"Despite its legalistic overtones and drafting history,



one must not forget that when India became independent .. A large number of countries got independence during that era in 1947, may be a few years before or a few years after, and everyone experimented with their own respective constitutions, and India is one of the very few countries whose constitutions have withstood the challenges of time," he said.

Mehta said the challenges were foreseen by the eminent people who drafted the

18-10-2023 /₹ 5231353 /-(₹ Fifty Two lakh Thirty One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Three Only) NPA (30-09-2020)

18-10-2023 /₹ 4591999 /-(₹ Forty Five lak

seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Thirty

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Sixty Eight Thousand Fifty Seven Only) NPA

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18-10-2023 /₹ 10627981 /-(₹ One Crore Six

18-10-2023 /₹ 5444811 /-(₹ Fifty Four lakh

Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Elever Only) NPA (03-02-2020)

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18-10-2023 /₹ 4357353 /-(₹ Forty Thr

Three Only) NPA (04-10-2019)

Seventy Eight Thousand Six Hun Three Only) NPA (04-10-2019)

Five Only) NPA (31-07-2021)

ne Only) NPA (05-03-2020)

NPA (03-09-2020)

Fifty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty

18-10-2023 /₹ 5242902 /-(₹ Fifty Two lakh

18-10-2023 /₹ 6967894 /-(₹ Sixty Nine lakh

Sixty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Four Only) NPA (04-01-2020) 18-10-2023 /₹ 6178653 /-(₹ Sixty One lakh

18-10-2023 /₹ 6293945 /-(₹ Sixty Two lakh

Ninety Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty

18-10-2023 /₹ 1947171 /-(₹ Nineteen lakh

18-10-2023 /₹ 2989014 /-(₹ Twenty Nine lakh

18-10-2023 /₹ 6136745 /-(₹ Sixty One lakh

18-10-2023 /₹ 3198410 /-(₹ Thirty One lakh

18-10-2023 /₹ 22882543 /-(₹ Two Crore

Twenty Eight lakh Eighty Two Thousand Fiv

Hundred Forty Three Only) NPA (10-03-2021)

ifty One Only) NPA (28-02-2021)

Only) NPA (10-03-2021)

18-10-2023 /₹ 5539891 /-(₹ Fifty Five lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninet

Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty

lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Nine H Eighty One Only) NPA (05-03-2020)

18-10-2023 /₹ 5445938 /-(₹ Fifty For Forty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty

ight Only) NPA (03-11-2019)

Fight Only) NPA (03-09-2018)

One Only) NPA (03-02-2020)

Only) NPA (06-06-2019)

One Only) NPA (03-09-2020)

NPA (03-09-2018)

(03-09-2017)

Vertical drilling to create alternative escape route for 41 trapped workers

Vertical drilling of 19.2 metres was done on Sunday to create an alternative escape route for the 41 workers trapped inside the collapsed tunnel in Silkyara here for two weeks, an official said. Drilling to create a vertical pathway from the top of the hill above the collapsed tunnel began on Sunday, a day after an auger machine carrying out horizontal drilling broke down. Rescuers have to drill down 86 metres from above to reach the trapped workers.

Vertical drilling has gone up to 19.2 metres so far, NHIDCL MD Mahmood Ahmed said at a press briefing in Silkyara on

Sunday evening.
"The exercise is going on smoothly and if it goes like this without facing obstructions,



we can hope to finish it in four days by November 30," he

On Saturday, the auger machine's blades got stuck inside the rubble, hindering the multi-agency rescue effort

when a portion of the underconstruction tunnel on Uttarakhand's Char Dham route collapsed following a landslide, trapping the 41

JM FINANCIAL

JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited
Corporate identify Number: U67190MH2007PLC74287
Registered Office Address: 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025 T: +91 22 6630 3030 F: +911 22 6630 3223 www. Jmfinancialarc.com

and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") vide an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 ("the Assignment Agreement") in favour of JMFARC (JM) (herein reffered as Assingee). The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of (JM) assignee. Under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the said Borrower(s)) to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Nhotice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to JM, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Borrower(s), from the date(s) mentioned will the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s) respectively.									
Name of the Borrower (s)/ Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)				
	Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five Only) NPA (09-07-2015)	1) H/Flat No. 8 602 , Floor No. 6Th , Plot No. 14 , Jaipuria Appartment , Sector. 1 , Village Ghaziaba Dist Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201010 2) Flat No- E-1106, 11th Floor, Tower- E, Kdp Grand Savana Raj Nagar Ext, Nh-58 Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201011	(LC No. 1330000436 of Cannaught Place Branch) Qamar Parvez Rana (Borrower) Shahana Parveen (Co Borrower 1)	18-10-2023 /₹ 8322215 /-(₹ Eighty Three lakh Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen Only) NPA (06-05-2017)	Flat No. T 3 717 17th Floor Type C Ncr Monarch Plot No.gh 02 C Sec 1 Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308				
			(LC No. 13300000438 of Cannaught Place Branch) Punit Kapoor (Borrower) Priyanka Puri (Co Borrower 1)		Flat No 1903 19th Floor Tower P03 Crescent Parc Green Parc-ii & Petioles Sector 92 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana :- 122001				
Branch) Ashok Chandra Sati (Borrower) Hari	Thirty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty	1) H/Flat No.B 602 , Floor No. 6Th , Plot No. 14 , Jaipuria Appartment , Sector. 1 , Village Ghaziaba Dist Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201010	(LC No. 1330000442 of Cannaught Place Branch) Abishek Gupta (Borrower) Barnali Chakarbarty (Co Borrower 1)		Flat No: T-1/b-224, 24th Floor Ncr Monarch Plot No: Gh-02/c, Sector 1, Greater Noida, Up Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh				

1) H/Flat No.B 602 , Floor No. 6Th , Plot No. 14 , Jaipuria Appartment , Sector. 1 , Village Ghaziaba Dist Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201010 2) Flat No- E-1106, 11th Floor, Tower- E, Kdp Grand Savana Raj Nagar Ext, Nh-58 Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201011

1) Flat No-501 5th Floor Tower No A1 Globa Land Masters Sector-30 Panchkula Panchkula

Haryana :- 134112 2) Flat No 404 4th Floor Tower No- A1 Globa Land Masters Sector-30 Panchkula Panchkula Panchkula Haryana :- 134112 1) Flat No-501 5th Floor Tower No A1 Globa Land Masters Sector-30 Panchkula Panchkula Harvana :- 134112

2) Flat No 404 4th Floor Tower No- A1 Global Land Masters Sector-30 Panchkula Panchkula Panchkula Haryana :- 134112 Flat No 1304 13th Floor, Falt No. 04 Tower No-8 Lake Side Heights Lake Grove City Kundli Sonipat onipat Haryana :- 131402 Flat No 1304 13th Floor, Falt No. 04 Tower No-8

Lake Side Heights Lake Grove City Kundli Sonipat ionipat Haryana :- 131402 Flat No.-701, 7th Floor, Wing- E Mvl Indihones Mvl Bhiwadi Bhiwadi Alwar Rajasthan :- 301019

Unit No-801, 8th Floor, Tower/block- B Elegant Ville Plot No-gh-06b, Noida Extn., Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Apartment No.-504, Fifth Floor Wing- A, Avenue 4 Mvl Coral Bhiwadi Bhiwadi Alwar Rajasthan

Arista Plot No-gh-1 C. Sector-168 Noida Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Unit No. Q- 1205, 12th Floor Tower Q, Logix

Blossm Green Sec- 143 Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201301 Flal No. 29 - B, 2nd Floor, Ganpati Infinity, Khasra No. 205.206.207 Mauza Chhatikara, Virindayan Mathura Mathura Uttar Pradesh :- 281001 Flat No-d-808 7th Floor Block-d Scc Sapphire Ray

Unit No T3/ A819 Tower T3 Type A Block 8 19th Floor Shubhkamna Monarch Plot No G H 02 C Sector 1 Greater Noida West Gautambudh Naga

Uttar Pradesh :- 201307 Flat No 513 Fifth Floor Tower Mercury The Alier Count Plot No G H/1 Sector C3 Tronica City Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201005 Flat No 1702 17th Floor Tower A 3 Plot No Gh 10 way Sector 75 Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201301 Flat No. 301, 3rd Floor Tower-2, Novena Greens

Techzone-4 Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Flat No: T2-1905, 19th Floor Tower- T-2, Plot No Gh-02 The Aranya Sec-119 Noida Gautan Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201301 Flat No--1004, 10th Floor, Tower- A Gavatri A

18-10-2023 /₹ 1744726 /-(₹ Seventeen lakh Forty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Plot No. Gh 11 Sector-1 Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Flat No: E-0201, Second Floor Tower- E, Spring View Height, saare Smaag Nh-24, Near Lalkua Shzaibad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201011 Flat No 704, Type- C, Block-7 Tower-3, Shubhkamna Monarch Plot No. Gh-02/c, Sector-1 18-10-2023 /₹ 7677751 /-(₹ Seventy Six lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fift

Gautam Budh Nagar Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Four Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Four Only Sector 92 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana :- 122001

lat No. 1904 19 Th Floor Tower 15 Green Par C 18-10-2023 /₹ 11971351 /-(₹ One Crore Nineteen lakh Seventy One Thousand Three Crescent Par C Sector 92 Gurgaon Gurgaon lundred Fifty One Only) NPA (06-05-2019) laryana :- 122001 Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Forty Apartment Plot G H 2 Vasundhra Nagar Bhiwad

aiasthan Alwar Raiasthan :- 301019 18-10-2023 /₹ 4103033 /-(₹ Forty One lak Flat No. 802, Wing No. G, 8th Floor Future Estate Three Thousand Thirty Three Only) NPA (04-Sector-1 Greater Noida G B Nagar Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Flat No. 1101 11th Floor Tower G Capita 18-10-2023 /₹ 9464918 /-(₹ Ninety Four lak Sixty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen Gateway Sector 111 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana

18-10-2023 /₹ 7416439 /-(₹ Seventy Four lak Unit No. T - 3/ C - 705, 5th Floor Tower - 3. hubhkamna Monarch Plot No Gh 02/c, Sec-01 reater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Flat No A 12 A4,12th A Floor, Block Aqua Gayatri

Life Plot 1 F Sec 16 Greater Noida West G B Naga Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Flat No A-2001,20th Floor, Block Aqua Gayat Life Plot 1 F Sec 16 Greater Noida West G B Nagar Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Flat No.- 27 A, G F, Block No.- K2, Category- E

Amritsar One Shubham Enclave, G. T. Road Doburji, Distt Amritsar Amritsar Punjab :- 143006 Flat No 1701 16th Floor Tower P04 The Petloles Green Parc Ii Crescent Parc Sector 92 Gurgaon Surgaon Haryana :- 122001 Unit No 512, 12th Floor, Tower- T3 T3/ A-512, Shubhkamna Monarch Plot No. Gh-02/ C, Sector

 1 Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh: - 201308 Flat No-1601, Tower-5 6th Floor, the Aranya, Gh-02 Sector-119, Noida Noida, Uttarpradesh Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Flat No 1607, 16th Floor, Block- B K B N O W S, Plot No 5 B, Sec-16 Greater Noida West G B

Nagar Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh lat No-f-1206,12th Floor Tower Fern,world Residency Indirapuram Ghaziabad Ghaziabac Uttar Pradesh :- 201010

J 1101, On 11th Floor Tower J Mayfair Residency Tech Zone 4 G Noida G Noida Gautambudh Nagai Uttar Pradesh :- 201308 Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Only) NPA (06-06-2017) Monarch Plot No.gh-02/c, Sector-1 Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to JM as aforesaid, JM shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrow

Chakarbarty (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 25600000332 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Atul Aggarwal (Borrower) Priyanka Singh (Co Borrower 1)

Branch) Jainarayan Shishodia (Borrower) Mamta Shishodia (Co Borrower 1) Nine Only) NPA (04-10-2019) (LC No. 25600001203 of Karkarduma Noida 18-10-2023 /₹ 3361450 /-(₹ Thirty Three lakh Branch) Anurag Dixit (Borrower) Varsha Dixit (LC No. 01400004092 of New Delhi Branch 18-10-2023 /₹ 4717538 /-(₹ Forty Seven lak

Sanjeev Katoch (Borrower) Riya Katoch (Co

Eight Only) NPA (03-11-2018) (LC No. 20000042057 of Noida -sector 2 18-10-2023 /₹ 9251165 /-(₹ Ninety Two lakh Branch) Abhijit Ghosal (Borrower) Anuji Ghosal (Co Borrower 1) Only) NPA (03-02-2019)

(LC No. 27400000167 of Bhiwadi Branch) S Kumar (Borrower) Geeta Yadav (Co

hivaji Radhu (Borrower) Vivek Radhu (Co orrower 1) Aniana Radhu (Co Borrower 2) /ivhan Radhu (Guarantor 1) Paramaah Syndicate Pvt Ltd (Guarantor 2) (LC No. 19700043202 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Anuj Bhardwaj (Borrower) Astha Bansa

18-10-2023 /₹ 15714954 /-(₹ One Crore Fifty LC No. 25500000632 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Onkar Nath (Borrower) Ravindra Nath Jpadhyay (Co Borrower 1) Diwakant Upadhyay

(LC No. 09600001224 of New Delhi-west Branch Nishit Thakkar (Borrower) Radhika A Kulkarni (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 19600042577 of Delhi - Safduriung Branch) Mahender Prasad (Borrower) Laxmi (Co Borrower 1) Mahesh Kumar (Co Borrower 2)

(LC No. 19600042706 of Delhi - Safdurium Dinesh Rana (Borrower) Sushma Sushma (Co

(LC No. 19800041443 of Delhi - Pitampura nch) Pardeep Jangra (B (Co Borrower 1) I Next Info Service (Co

Chaudhary (Borrower) Shashi Sharma (Co (LC No. 19800041477 of Delhi - Pitampura

Branch) Manjari (Borrower) Birendra Prasad (Co Borrower 1) I Next Info Service (Co Borrower 2) (LC No. 01400004423 of New Delhi Branch anjoo Khera (Borrower) Ashish Khera (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 19800041602 of Delhi - Pitampura

Branch) Jaylink Overseas Private Limited (Borrower) Ojesh Kumar Agarwal (Co Bo 1) Anuj Poddar (Co Borrower 2) Deepak

(LC No. 19800041455 of Delhi - Pitampur anch) Charanjit Singh (Borrower) Shivan Sodhi (Co Borrower 1) LC No. 11900002181 of Noida Branch) Sa Kumar (Borrower) Gunjan Kumar (Co orrower 1)

ranch) Vishal Mutreia (Borrower) Radhika Azad (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 09600001436 of New Delhi-west

erma (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 19800041501 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Vinod Makkar (Borrower) Ekta M

(Co Borrower 1) Balaji Fruit Traders (Co harmendra Kumar Yadav (Borrower) Susheela Yadav (Co Borrower 1)

(LC No. 19700044098 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road ranch) Jitender Navvar (Borrower) Vinod (LC No. 27400000891 of Bhiwadi Branch) Ankit ipta (Borrower) Lakshmi Devi (Co Bor

18-10-2023 /₹ 8146207 /-(₹ Eighty One lakh (LC No. 25500001915 of Netaji Subhash Place Forty Six Thousand Two Hundred Seven Only) NPA (05-03-2020) Branch) Suneel Kumar (Borrower) Brij Bhushan (Co Borrower 1) Bimla (Co Borrower 2) (LC No. 13100002536 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place 18-10-2023 /₹ 8788347 /-(₹ Eighty Seven lak Branch) Ramesh Kumar Mittal (Borrower) Anan Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Rekha Rani (Co Seven Only) NPA (30-09-2020)

Borrower 2) Pooia Mittal (Guarantor 1) (LC No. 19000002108 of Raj Nagar Branch) ohtash Kumar (Borrow (LC No. 25500002176 of Netaji Subhash Place Iranch) Bharat Sharma (Borrower) Shri Ram Sharma (Co Borrower 1)

(LC No. 20000043096 of Noida -sector 2 ranch) Puneet Garg (Borrower) Savita Garg (LC No. 19700044508 of Gurgaon - Sohna Branch) Hemant Verma (Borrower) Mallika Verma (Co Borrower 1) Nirmal Verma (Co

(LC No. 199FBD31517 of Faridabad - Sector 19 ranch) Nirmal Singh (Borrower) Shiv Pratap ingh (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 198PTM30242 of Delhi - Pitar ranch) Nitin Grover (Borrower) Jyoti Mishra (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 20000043110 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Ankit Jain (Borrower) Rachna Jain (Co

Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201308 nit No. W F-145/ S F 2nd Floor Water Side Floors- K W F Lake Grove City Nh-1 Kundli Sonipat Haryana Faridabad Haryana :- 121001 Unit No. Wf-168,second Floor Waterside Floors Luxury, lake Grove City Kundli, Sonipat Haryana Sonipat Haryana :- 131001

Unit No-1969,19 Th Floor Type-micr,block-kave Mahagun Puram-ii Nh-24 Mehrauli Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201010 Flat No E 601, Tower E 6th Floor Plot No 6b Sector Tech Zone-4 Greater Noida West Greate Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh

201310

radesh :- 247663

Unit No:-105, First Floor, Block-c Antriksh Golf View, Morpheous Green Plot No:- Gh-5a, Secto 78 Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh Unit No.h 303 Third Floor Tower H Capital Green

Sec 9 & 24 Uit Bhiwadi Rajasthan Alwar Rajasth lat No- S1-102, First Floor Studio Services Aarogyam, Haridwar Haridwar Saharanpur Utta

Flat No P02 1902 18th Floor Tower P02 Crescent Parc Petioles Sector 92 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryan

18-10-2023 /₹ 4963491 /-(₹ Forty Nine lakh Tdi Lake Grove City Nh-1, Kundli Sonepat, Harva onipat Haryana :- 131028 Flat No. G-2004. 20th Floor, Elegant Splendou 18-10-2023 /₹ 4033865 /-(₹ Forty lakh Thirty

Plot No- C.p-gh-05c, Techzone -4, Greater Noida (west) Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh Three Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Five Only - 201308 Unit No. 807, Tower 1, 8th Floor Grand I V A 18-10-2023 /₹ 3046062 /-(₹ Thirty lakh Forty Sector 103 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana

Unit No. T-c/2103 "paras Dews" Sector -106 Dwarka Expressway Gurgaon Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana :- 122001

Heights Crescent Parc Sare Homes Nh-24

Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201010 Flat No-t-17/0204 Second Floor Tower-17 .lake laryana Sonipat Haryana :- 131028

Unit No 1304 13th Floor Tower C 3 Delight Residences Alwar Bypass Raoad Tapukara Bh Rajasthan Alwar Rajasthan :- 301019 T-17/0203,2nd Floor, 3rd Flat, Lake Drive Appartment Lake Grove City, Kundli Sonipat pat Haryana :- 131028 18-10-2023 /₹ 13022659 /-(₹ One Crore Thirty | Flat No. 401 4th Floor Tower P01 Crescent Parc

Jttar Pradesh :- 201306 lat No. T-17/0603, Lake Drive Appt, Lake Grove City Kundali Sonipat Haryana Sonipat Haryana

Two Thousand One Hundred Ninety One Only) NPA (04-10-2019) larvana :- 131028 Bamheta Spring View Height Nh-24 Ghaziabad Shaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201001 ower No-02, 10th Floor, Unit No.-4 Lake Side leights, Lake Grove City Kundli Sonepat Sonipa

łeights,lake Grove City kundli Sonipat Sonipat

larvana :- 131028 Jnit No. Wf-172/sf 2nd Floor , Waterside Floor xury Lake Grove City,kundli,sonipat Haryana nipat Haryana :- 131028 T-03/0902, Tower-03, 09th Floor, 2nd Flat,lake Side Heights, Lake Drive Appt. Lake Grove City, Kundli Sonipat Sonipat Haryana:- 131028

uxury In Lake Grove City, Kundli Haryana Harvana Gurgaon Harvana :- 122006 Flat No 104 First Floor Tower 9 The Serenas Sect 36 Sohna Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana :- 122001

4103, Second Floor Block-c Rlf The Park Bhiwad

Flat No. 1302,13th Floor, tower D- 5, Carnation

- 110040 Flat No 603 6th Floor Tower No 1 Lakeside eights Tdi Lakegrove City Kundli Sonepat

18-10-2023 /₹ 15316151 /-(₹ One Crore Fift Three lakh Sixteen Thousand One Hundred The Presidio Apartment No 1001, Tower Citadel Tower 1, Sec 31, Faridabad, Faridabad Faridabad Haryana :- 121007 B-GF-01, CROSSING REPUBLIC N.H.24, GHAZIABA GHAZIABAD Uttar Pradesh :- 201009

> PLOT NO GH-9 SEC-43, GURGAON GURGAON laryana :- 121002

18-10-2023 /₹ 5386879 /-(₹ Fifty Three lakh H/flat No.b 104, Floor No. 1st Floor, Plot No. 14 Eighty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Nine Only) NPA (09-07-2015) 18-10-2023 /₹ 3038561.98 /-(₹ Thirty lakh H/flat No.unit No. E-303 , Floor No. 3rd Floor Skytech Matrott , Sector. 76 Noida Uttar hirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty One Only and Ninety Eight Paise) NPA (08-11-2022) Pradesh: - 201301 18-10-2023 /₹ 8611464 /-(₹ Eighty Six lakh H/flat No.a2-gf05. H/flat No.a2-gf05 , Floor No. Ground Floor , Plo Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four Only) NPA (08-09-2021) No. Gh-10, Tower-a, gardenia Gateway, Sector.

ces. The said Born

Authorised Officer

lives in that massacre. 75, Noida Noida Uttar Pradesh :- 201301 ons of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for im

Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres renamed as Ayushman Arogya Mandir



Now onward, the Ayushman Bharat-Health onward, and Wellness Centres set up under the Central flagship Ayushman Bharat Yojana will be called as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir.' The Union Health Ministry has shot off a letter in this regard to the states and Union territories asking them to implement the rebranding exercise by the end of this year. The funds required for renaming the existing facilities has been proposed at Rs. 3,000 per facility.

Presently, more than 1.6 lakhs AB- HWCs have been successfully established across five years with 219 crore footfalls so far. The ministry has asked states to upload photographs of rebranded primary health facilities on the Áyushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) portal. It has underlined that the National Health Mission (NHM) logo is to be retained in the rebranded centres.

The letter asked the States to have the rebranded AB-HWCs with a new tagline -'Arogyam Parmam Dhanam'. In the letter dated November 25, the Ministry said, "These centres have been successful in taking the thinking and healthcare delivery from illness to wellness.

and to realise the dream of Ayushman India the competent authority has decided to rename the Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir' with the tagline 'Arogyam Parmam Dhanam,"

the letter said. If scripts other than Devanagri (Hindi)/English are to be used for branding, then the full and exact title can be translated into state language(s) but the tagline has to be transliterated in the state language(s), the letter said.

After the centres complete the rebranding, states are required to upload new photographs of primary health facilities with the new name Under the Government of

India's flagship Ayushman Bharat YojanaAB-HWC aims to provide comprehensive primary healthcare, including both maternal and child health services, and free essential drugs and diagnostic services close to people's homes through AB-HWCs.

Over 53.36 crore screenings for hypertension have been done at the AB-HWCs, 46.49 crore for diabetes, 31.48 crore for oral cancer, 14.33 crore for breast cancer and 9.68 crore for cervical cancer till November 24. More than 2.71 crore wellness

sessions have been held at these centres.

People of Balochistan remember Mumbai terror attack victims



PNS NEW DELHI

through its proxies, resulting in

the loss of hundreds of innocent

The 40 million secular and democratic independenceeternal peace and perpetrators of Pakistan Army be punished seeking people of Balochistan for war horrendous terrorism in India, Afghanistan, across the world remembered the terror victims of Mumbai Balochistan and across the attacks. Fifteen years ago on this world, they said. day, Pakistan carried out the Mumbai terror attack on 26/11

'We assure world community that a free and independent Balochistan is utmost priority would be uproot Pakistan sponsored jihadi and extremist factories and work to collaborate maintain durable peace, economic prosperity and regional harmony," said the

May the departed souls rest in

Islamabad sponsored it and gloried it a jihad against India. Pakistan Army must be solely be held accountable of terrorism, said the people of

under the Act from transferring the afore and/or penalty as provided under the Act Date: 27-11-2023

(LC No. 13300000440 of Cannaught Place

JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited acting in its capacity as trustee of Aranya – Trust

celebrations in Kashi today

The stage is set for a grand l and majestic Dev Deepawali celebrations in Kashi on Monday as the Yogi Adityanath government gears up to illuminate the ghats of Kashi with 12 lakh earthen lamps on the occasion.

Among these, one lakh lamps will be made from cow dung. The city and the ghats have been decorated with tricolour spiral lightings to add to the ethereal beauty of the

More than 8 lakh tourists are expected to visit Kashi on the occasion of Dev Deepawali. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, strict security arrangements have been made in the city. Ambassadors, delegates and their families from 70 countries will visit Kashi to witness Dev Deepawali this time.

Lamps will also illuminate the sand across the Ganga: This year, a series of 85 ghats on the northern bank of the Ganges will be adorned with 12 lakh lamps while a total of more than 21 lakh lamps that will be lit on the ghats, ponds, and lakes of Kashi with public participation. Lamps will also illuminate the sand across the Ganga. Hotels, guesthouses, boats, and cruises are already booked for Dev Deepwali.

A laser show will also be organised at Chet Singh Ghat, which will bring to life the history of religion through historic monuments standing along the banks of Kashi's ghats for centuries. Tourists will also be able to enjoy the fireworks along with devotional songs to Lord Shiva on the sand across the Ganges.

Moreover, Sri Kashi Vishwanath Temple is being adorned with 11 tons of flowers by a devotee from Visakhapatnam. The laser

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANAS

overnor Anandiben Patel Usaid that nowadays new

diseases are developing and people are being affected by

Therefore, we all have to be

health-conscious, to maintain

a good diet and to bridge the

gap between son and daughter,

only then we can keep our

daughters anemia free, she

Anganwadi centres while inau-

gurating Samridh Kashi

Abhiyan at the auditorium in

the office of divisional commis-

sioner here on Saturday, the

Governor said that it is also the

responsibility of the parents to

cooperate in the efforts being made by the government to

prevent anemia, only then we

will be able to realise our

dream of a developed India and

added that we have to strength-

en Anganwadi centres only

built and things should be

arranged according to the

needs of the children and said

Distributing kits to

added.

showcase the significance of Kashi and information related to the construction of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham cor-

It is noteworthy that after the inauguration of the renovated Kashi Vishwanath Dham, there has been a record influx of tourists to the city. Tourists from all over the country and abroad come to witness the spectacular view of the ghats of Kashi.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in the city: Along with decorations, the state government has also made elaborate security arrangements for the celebration of Dev Deepawali. Apart from decoration with rangoli, facade lights, and decorative lamps, security measures have been put in place for the safety of tourists. Drone flights have been completely restricted, and surveillance will be intensified on the district borders. Watchtowers will keep an eye on the ghats. Given the large number of tourists, hospital beds have been reserved, and medical teams are on alert.

Additionally, floating dividers will be placed in the Ganga, Boatmen have been instructed to accommodate designated tourists and wear life jackets. Eight NDRF teams, equipped with rescue tools, will be stationed at various ghats. A medical team with a 'water ambulance' will provide free treatment to devotees at different ghats.

Furthermore, water police personnel will be deployed in the Ganga. Traffic diversions and parking arrangements have been ensured to manage the anticipated heavy crowd of devotees and tourists.

CM Yogi will welcome ambassadors of 70 countries and 150 foreign delegates: On the auspicious occasion of Dev Deepawali, the Chief Minister will welcome ambas-

to Anganwadi centres

Anandiben distributes kits

gates and their family mem-

Under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath, all the guests will become witnesses to the unforgettable moments of Dev Deepawali. The guests will arrive at Namo Ghat from the airport in the afternoon. From there, they will embark on a cruise to capture the magnificent views of Dev Deepawali.

According to Indian traditions, there will be a welcome for the guests at the airport. Cultural programmes by local artistes will also be presented at various locations, including the airport. Roads and intersections are being decorated to welcome the foreign guests. The foreign dignitaries will also enjoy the laser show and fireworks. During the cruise, guests will savour the local cuisine of Kashi and the 'kulhad'

Dashashwamedh Ghat to showcase glimpse of nationalism: Along with spirituality, a glimpse of nationalism and socialism will also be seen during Dev Deepawali. The aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat will be dedicated to Ramlala, providing a glimpse of the upcoming Ram Temple.

The replica of 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' is being finalised by Ganga Seva Nidhi at Dashashwamedh Ghat. The immortal brave warriors of India are also honored with 'Bhagirath Shaurya Samman'.

Additionally, 21 archakas (priests) and 51 Dev Kanyas will perform the 'Maha Aarti' at Dashashwamedh Ghat, symbolising the message of

The ghats will also convey messages through paintings of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, emphasising the strength of

Furthermore, paintings depicting Guru Nanak Dev Ji will be exhibited during the celebration of the Prakash sadors from 70 countries in Utsav, marking the birth

anniversary of Guru Nanak

Religious and spiritual importance of Dev Deepawali : After 15 days of Diwali there is a special Diwali celebration of the deities on Kartik Purnima.

It is believed that to celebrate this festival, the gods descend from heaven in invisible form on the holy Ganga ghats of Kashi and pave the way for the salvation of the devotees participating in the 'Maha Aarti'. This festival is a unique aspect of the ancient culture of Kashi.

The description of Dev Deepawali is found in the 'Shiv Purana', which narrates that when the demon Tripurasura began to oppress the deities and started killing them, Lord Vishnu killed this cruel demon on this day, and the deities celebrated Dev Deepawali. It is also believed that the King of Kashi initiated the tradition of lighting lamps on the ghats for his martyred soldiers.

The tradition of Dev Deepawali, which started from the Panch Ganga Ghat, has now illuminated all the ghats of Kashi. By lighting lamps on this day in the month of Kartik, ancestors attain liberation, and the devotee who lights the lamp also finds the path to salvation.

The District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam on Sunday made an inspection of Namo Ghat and directed the officers to complete all the preparations by tonight.

The district administra tion, municipal corporation, Tourism department and other concerned departments were engaged to give the last touch to the preparations. The DM S Rajalingam made an inspection of Namo Ghat where a programme is also to be held and the foreigner guests will visit there and directed the officers concerned to complete the preparations by tonight.

Stage set for grand Dev Deepawali Meeting held to resolve sticking points before Mahakumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

meeting of the coordina-Ameeting of the coordinate of the Army and district administration was held to resolve several sticking points ahead of the Mahakumbh 2025.

Since many works for Mahakumbh have to be done on defence land in such a situation, the coordination committee meeting was held between district administration and officers of Indian Army and that of Indian Air Force at Central Air Command Headquarters, Bamrauli. Divisional Commissioner (DC)Vijay Vishwas Pant, District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal and officials of the mela authority attended the

At the end of the meeting it was decided to remove the roadblock for the construction of the SSP office outside the mela authority office in the parade area. Army officers also assured that they will accompany the district administration in the survey that will be conducted for the construction of

The army officials also

approved the widening of the road of Mankameshwar temple. It was also agreed to get the beautification work done at Mankameshwar temple, Alop Shankari temple, Anant Madhav and Bindu Madhav temple with the help of the

Due to the construction of an additional lane at Alopibagh flyover, there was discussion on shifting the sub-station and sewer line inside the parade area. Army officers assured that as soon as the application for land is received, they will immediately give the NOC.

Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) Chairman Arvind Singh Chauhan, Setu Nigam Chief Project Manager Manoj Aggarwal, Project Manager Anirudh Kumar, Magh Mela Adhikari Dayanand Prasad, ADM (Kumbh Mela) Vivek Chaturvedi etc were also pre-

Army officers were satisfied with the work of Akshayavat, Patalpuri and Saraswati Koop. The target has been set to complete these work before the floods next year. The joint survey of Army and district administration for Hanuman temple corridor has been completed and now the process of NOC will start. It is expected that construction of the corridor will start after next year's Magh Mela.

At the rail over bridges (ROB) at Subedarganj, Cheoki and IERT, some work had to be done in coordination with the Army, on which discussions were also held.

Some other unresolved issues were also raised. It includes balance payment for Naini Bridge, lands for Chaufatka service lane and for water tank service lane that have been pending for years. It was taken up by the army and the administrative officials assured that they will resolve all the issues at the earliest.

Meanwhile in view of Mahakumbh the road from Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital to Mahatma Gandhi Marg is being widened. Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant inspected this work and found poor quality bricks were being used in the boundary wall being constructed there. When the commissioner checked the pillar that had

been prepared by hitting it with a hammer, it was also found to be substandard and expressed his displeasure. He directed to collect a sample of the material and get it tested. He also inspected the work

of widening, strengthening and beautification of the road being done by PDA from Katka Tiraha (Naresh Garden) in Ihunsi to Ihunsi Bus Stand Tiraha. In order to ensure quality in all works, the DC directed the officers concerned to appoint JE project wise. He asked to speed up the work of utility shifting and complete all the work before starting road construction.

The DC also inspected the construction and widening and strengthening works of security wall, culvert, approach road etc Unsatisfactory work was found at the site. He reprimanded the officers concerned and instructed them to carry out all the work as per the standard. The construction work of the two-lane ROB being built by Setu Nigam between Phaphamau and Tharvai railway station was also inspected and instructions were given to speed up all works.

the local belt itself. Due to pos-

itive changes, employment

opportunities have increased

Global Investors Summit will

also create a large number of

employment opportunities in

the state. According to the information given by Joint

Commissioner Industries Lal

Jeet Singh, an investment of

more than Rs 61,484 crore was

signed for investment in 408

units at the Global Investors

Summit in Prayagraj. This

Yogi government's UP

even in small towns.

Four injured in celebratory firing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

 $F^{our\ persons,\ including\ three}_{kids\ and\ a\ woman,\ were}$ injured in celebratory firing, which occurred under Sarai Inayat police station of Ganga Nagar (trans-Ganga) area of Prayagraj late on Saturday evening.

According to DCP, Ganga Nagar, Abhishek Bhartiya, "The incident occurred during the 'gauna' (post-marriage ceremony where the bride is sent back to her in-law's place) celebrations at the house of Shiv Prakash. While celebrating the occasion, one of the relatives of Prakash, Prakash Saroj started firing from his licensed gun". In the celebratory firing,

three children and a woman were injured by bullet pellets. Those who are injured in the celebratory firing include 60year old Sushma Devi of Hanumanganj under Sarai Inayat police station, 11-year-old Vijay Kumar of

police station, 15-year-old Rakshit of Gurgaon, Haryana and 12-vear-old Bhaumik Nirala also from Haryana.

The police official added that all the injured have been referred to the SRN hospital for treatment while Saroj has been arrested and his gun, which was used to fire in ceremony, has been seized by the police. EMPLOYMENT GENER-

ATION: According to the report of the National Career Service of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the year 2023-24, Prayagraj has now come second in the state in terms of employment generation. In terms of providing employment and its registration, Lucknow along with Noida has jointly ranked first while Prayagraj is now at second place. Before this, Prayagraj was ranked third in the state. The report has also revealed that Noida and Lucknow have accounted for 32 per cent (pc) of the state's employment generation and demand. Here, due to industrial development, Pravagrai has become the fastest growing employment centre. Prayagraj has secured the second position by capturing about 9.57 pc of the total employment generation and possibilities in the state. Now Kanpur has reached below Prayagraj with 8.51 pc, Lucknow and Noida both have 16 pc each share in this and both remain at the top position.

This report has also revealed that the number of people migrating from the state for employment is continuously decreasing. Due to this, an encouraging increase in registration for employment has been seen not only in big but also in small districts. Now, even in districts with

less population and area of the state, not only a large number of applications are coming for jobs but employment opportunities are also being created. Professor Manmohan Krishna Srivastava, an expert in

economic matters, says the

investment will also create direct and indirect employment opportunities in the district. Joint Commissioner Industries says this investment will create 13,720 jobs in various departments. Most employment will be created in the housing sector and 6,000 jobs will be created in this area. After this comes the MSME

sector in which 1,143 jobs will

be created. This will provide

huge employment opportuni-

reason for this is the increasing ties for the unemployed youth employment opportunities in

Ambedkar's statue damaged

PTI/PNS KAUSHAMBI

statue of Dr Bhimrao Asiatuc of 21 by some miscreants at a village in Sara Akil area of this district, police said on Sunday.

Residents of Chittapur village found the fingers and book in the statue's hand damaged in the morning and informed the police, officials

Circle Officer Yogendra

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

 ${
m F}^{
m our}$ women died in a collision between a car going to

Sonbhadra and trailer in an

area under Adalhaat police

station late on Saturday night.

On getting information about

the accident near Ankit hospi-

tal in Narainpur, the police

reached the spot where Shakeel

Bano (56) of Brahmnagar

Robertsganj, Hushna Ara (40)

and Dilshan of Obra and

Samita Parveen (35) of

Uramaura, all residents of

Sonbhadra were found dead on

the spot. After taking the bod-

ies into possession the police

sent the injured to the hospital.

As per the police, on the com-

plaint of the car driver a case

has been registered against the

DIWAS: As many as 35 cases

THANA SAMADHAN

While hearing the prob-

trailer driver.

Krishna Narain said the statue was immediately repaired and an FIR registered against unidentified men, who were seen in a CCTV footage on a motorcycle. The statue was damaged on Saturday night, he said, adding that police are probing the matter.

BODY FOUND: The body of a youth was found on the tracks near Sirathu railway station in Saini police station area here. On getting information the police took the body into possession. The victim was identified as Dharamraj, a resident of Antu Ka Purva of Kada Dham police station.

Dharamraj came to Sirathu by train from Delhi. It is being said that even after the train did not stop, Dharamraj was trying to get off it due to which he came under its wheels of the train and was cut into two pieces. Dharamraj of Ward No. 6 Vivekananda Nagar (Antu Ka Purva) used to work in a private company in Delhi after the death of his father. Due to not being able to come home on Diwali, he was coming home on the said night by a train. When the train slowed down in the afternoon near Sirathu railway station due to lack of signal some people got off it. Dharamraj also tried to get down from the moving train. It is being told that his foot slipped and he went between the tracks and wheels of the train due to which his body was

chopped off into two pieces.

there should be a strong chan-nel between KG to PG and clocked food scheme. Mayor Ashok Tiwari praised the drive then we can strengthen the informed that due to her efforts children. She emphasised that launched to make Kashi free the NCERT syllabus has been baby toilets must be built in the from anemia. The DM S new Anganwadi centres being implemented in 1998. She Rajalingam informed that the

inspired everyone to get the

vaccine to protect girls from

of the divisional commissioner on Saturday.

The Governor said that

that if we have to make a devel-

oped India in the next 25 years, we will have to pay

attention to all these things.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

With the distribution of prizes and certificates to the winners and participants of various competitions, the World Heritage Week concluded on Saturday at Gurudham Mandir premises

With an objective to preserve our heritage, various programmes were organised from November 19 to 25 under World Heritage Week under which the exhibition of photographs, painting and documentation evidences were held in the colleges and schools of the district.

The exhibition, seminar, workshop, etc programmes were organised in Gurudham Mandir, Sunbeam College and other places. Besides, the painting competition, debate based



Governor Anandiben Patel distributed kits to Anganbadi Centres at a programme held in the auditorium of the office

Welcoming one and all

resent on the occasion, the

Zila Panchayat Chairperson

Poonam Maurya talked about

the benefits from the hot

development of 150 Anganbadi

centres is being made and the

development work of 112 cen-

Winners of various competitions organised during World Heritage Week, with prizes.

competition based on search my heritage, etc were also organised. About 1000 students of different colleges and schools participated in these programmes. The winners of the competitions were rewarded and certificates were given

on Ganga Katha film, poster to the participants in the closing ceremony held on Saturday in Gurudham Mandir premis es by the chief guest Padma Sri Shiv Nath Mishra who made emphasis on the organisation of such programmes to preserve not only tangible heritage but also intangible heritage special-

ly musical heritage. A cultural programme was also held in the closing ceremony.

The regional archaeologi-

tres has been completed and

added that the kits have been

distributed at 415 centres and

the same is being distributed at 300 centres. As many as 10

Mini NRCs were to be estab-

lished but against it, as many as

Mini NRCs have been estab-

lished for the nalnuttient chil-

dren, he informed further. The

CDO Himanshu Nagpal

proposed the vote of thanks at

cal officer Dr Subhash Chandra police station Yadav welcomed the guests and Ashok Kapoor offered the lems of the people at police stavote of thanks, while Prashant tion Chilh the DIG said too Rai conducted it. maximum disposal at the

police station level is helpful in

Four killed in road accident

reducing the crime graph. The DIG inspected the police station and asked the officials concerned to keep the records updated. He directed to the staff to ensure follow-up of magistrate (SDM) Chunar Chandrabhanu Singh asked the brick kiln owners to deposit the required fee by this month otherwise they will have bear the burden of interest. He said that after November 30 extra



DIG Vindhyachal range RP Singh hearing the problems of the people during theThana Samadhan Divas at Chilh police station on Saturday

were disposed of on the spot during the Thana Samadhan Diwas organised at all police police station. He inspected the Mahila desk, store room, comstations of the district on Saturday. At Chilh police staputer room and other arrangements. He directed to improve the record keeping, During the inspection CO Sadar tion the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) RP Singh heard the problems of the aggrieved Shailendra Tripathi, the SO while Superintendent of Police and other staff were present. (SP) Abhinandan at Lalganj

INSPECTION: Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla while inspecting the brick kilns located in Chunar area along with sub-divisional

He warned that if any owner failed to deposit the fee he/she will not be allowed to run the CAMP ORGANISED:

Under traffic month a medical check-up camp was organised at Police Lines on Saturday. The BP, sugar and eyes of 250 drivers, including common people, were examined a the team of doctors. Under the traffic awareness programme a street play was presented by school

children and an appeal was made to use helmet while driving two-wheelers and seat belt while driving four-wheelers, An appeal was also made to not to drive in an inebriated state or using mobile.

The traffic police honoured Shubham Agrawal of Mahindra dealership and others from different orgnisations for their support to the drive. SP Abhinandan said traffic rules have been made in the larger interest of the society. The programme was convened by sub-inspector and traffic incharge Vipin Pandey with the association of schools and social organisations. SEMINAR: Chairman Nagar Palika Parishad

Mirzapur Shyam Sundar

Keshari while addressing a seminar on dowry prohibition organised at One Stop Centre as the chief guest on Saturday stressed on eradicating the menace. Probation Officer Shakti Tripathi said out of 84 cases of dowry harassment she had disposed of 14 and the process for the remaining is being expedited. To make the people aware against dowry an organisation distributed pamphlets. The seminar was conducted by Shakti Tripathi and the vote of thanks was proposed by District Coordinater Mission Manju Yadav.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Wait prolongs

Those in charge are simply extending the timeline, but the lifeline of trapped workers may not keep pace

Forkers trapped in the Uttarkashi tunnel will have to spend many more days physically cut off from the world. The main drilling machine was damaged beyond repair just a few metres from extracting them. Now rescue efforts are being made by digging a hole from the top and drilling vertically rather than horizontally. One is not a domain expert, but a simple question begs an answer: When the authorities were not quick enough to salvage the situation themselves or seek international expert help expeditiously, what prevented them from simultaneously exploring all the options they have since been trying one after the other? It is not a game of trial and error: Let us see, if this blow does not work, we will make the next one harder! There are 41 men deep under Earth's surface in unnatural conditions, sitting quietly, waiting patiently, doing nothing but hanging between hope and despair, life and death! The powersthat-be should have attempted to go in from all sides, with all their might, all guns blaz-



ing, altogether right from Day 1. Well, they might have, if they or their kin were trapped inside and their own lives depended on the potency and urgency of the rescue attempt. But that is not the case, so we are already in Day 15. Chief rescue in-charge Arnold Dix has said the workers could be rescued by Christmas, which stretches the timeline to at least three weeks. Meanwhile, water seepage and chillier weather are making life harsher for the workers in the mountainous region.

The incident brings the focus back not only on the emergency challenges but also on issues of workplace safety and enforcement of labour laws. The inci-

dent which could have been a tragedy, or can still turn into one any day, raises many poking questions. One, the decision to undertake projects using heavy machinery, especially drillers and dynamite, in ecologically sensitive terrains must be reconsidered. Two, should such an incident happen, what must be the response? A good number of days were lost in contemplating the plan of action and summoning international domain experts. This delay could have been fatal for the trapped workers; the delayed response from the Centre was a grave mistake. Workers on the site have reported that necessary escape routes and tunnels, crucial for handling emergencies in the construction of big underground projects, were not even planned. Three, a thorough investigation must be ordered and responsibility fixed with penal action and fiscal penalty. As it is, these workers who are mostly migrant labourers brought to an unfamiliar terrain, are paid poorly and their daily perks and long, hard working hours certainly do not arouse envy. Therefore, the workers and their families must be adequately compensated for the ordeal they went through for no fault of theirs. This incident should be made a case study in learning lessons for workers' safety. Unfortunately, however, our track record has been rather dismal – what we learn from such incidents is that we don't learn anything from them!



An elephant carries Lord Ayyappa idol as part of 'Ayyappan Vilakku' festival,in Kozhikode,

Consequences of suicidal acts



BHOPINDER SINGH

The Sheikhdoms had no idea of the Hamas plan as they were engrossed in mending fences with Israel as part of the Abrahamic Agreement

s green shoots of truce finally dawn via proposed exchange of hostages in the bloody Israel-Hamas war, it is time to reflect on the conduct of those who threatened to intervene but didn't. For starters, unlike the earlier Israel-Arab Wars i.e., Israel's War of Independence/Palestinian Nakba (1948-49), Suez Crisis (1956), Six-Day War (1967), Yom Kippur War (1973) – the 2023 War in the region was strictly between Israel and the Palestinian terror group Hamas, as sabre-rattling notwithstanding, no Arab Sheikhdom, Iran or armed militias like the Lebanese Hezbollah joined in the

Clearly, the Sheikhdoms had no idea of the Hamas plan as they were engrossed in mending fences with Israel as part of the Abrahamic Agreement. Israeli embassies were sprouting from Abu Dhabi, Manama, Rabat, Khartoum et al and the shadowy Israeli confabulations with the Saudis were the worst-kept secret of the region.

The restive region was almost clinically cleaved into a sectarian 'divide' with only Shiite Iran and its co-sectarian proxies like the Lebanese Hezbollah and Yemeni Houthis, yet to reconcile to rapprochement with Israel. Within the Sunni side of the 'divide', the animus with Israelis was reducing with traditional alternatives in the form of militias like the Al Qaida or later, the Islamic State of Levant (ISIL) on the retreat. Politically too, the alternative phenomenon to the Muslim Brotherhood which sought to delegitimise the motley crew of Arab monarchies, dictators and dynasts had been de-fanged as part of the post-Arab Spring cleansing.

Consequently, this left the Sunni grouping of Hamas (ideologically aligned to Muslim Brotherhood sensibilities) isolated with very few sovereign backers, save the oddity of making common cause with Shiite Iran and its proxies in the region. It was an unnatural and imperiect alliance that was borne of necessity (from Hamas' not have shed too many tears perspective) and topical opportunity (from Iran's perspective, as it Hamas, added to Tehran's outreach, espe-

cially since the usual appeal of sectarianism wasn't relevant in the Palestinian context). Understandably, Tehran supported Hamas politically and materially but may still not have had the necessary levers or the extent of control that was invokable with say Hezbollah.

This essentially meant that Hamas did not have too many committed backers who could have intervened on its behalf, should the exigency so demand. Unsurprisingly it was left to yet another odd Arab power, Qatar, who too had a testy relationship with the other Saudi-led Sheikhdoms and instead a more working relation with the sectarian 'other' i.e., Iran, to mediate on behalf of Hamas. The role of Doha along with that of Washington DC is writ all over the current truce agreement. The feeble anti-Israel line mouthed by the Arab Sheikhs or even countries like Turkey, Malaysia or Pakistan were more towards ticking the box of demonstrated empathy towards the hapless Palestinians, as imagined by its citizens.

If anything, the Arab Sheikdoms were more aligned with the rival Palestinian group of Fatah, and therefore may Muslim Brotherhood affiliate.



SHOULD PEACE

RETURN TO THE GAZA STRIP, THE CHANCES THAT ANY **REGIONAL POWER** WILL HEREINAFTER SUPPORT HAMAS (OR EVEN BENJAMIN **NETANYAHU IN** ISRAEL) TO RETAIN ITS LEGITIMACY AND RELEVANCE IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY

Necessity rather than conviction dictated their supposedly anti-Israeli stand.

Hamas literally went into the provocative and unforgiving act of attacking Israel unaligned with any major regional power (sovereign or militia) and subsequently paid for it in terms of abject isolation when the Israelis responded disproportionately, killing thousands of Palestinian civilians. It is widely believed that the Iranian Supreme Leader bluntly told the Hamas leadership that as Tehran was not kept in the loop about Hamas's 7th October attack, the Iranians would not enter on its behalf. Tellingly, Tehran kept voicing concerns and dissuading against the escalation and spread of the conflict, across the region.

This Iranian 'distance' is in stark contrast to the tangible and significant support offered to Shiite Houthis in the battlefield of Yemen or even to the forces aligned to co-sectarian Syrian President, Bashar Al Assad (who is an Alawite, a syncretic offshoot of Shiiteleaning). Tehran has not shied away from deploying its official and unofficial forces and elements like drones, missiles and other weaponry to take on American or Arab interests, but not so in the case of

The desperation was palpable when Hamas'

Mohammed Deif pleaded with Iran and its proxies, "Our brothers in the Islamic resistance in Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, Iraq and Syria, this is the day when your resistance unites with your people in Palestine" meaningless platitudes aside, Hamas was essentially left to

fend for itself. Israel read the situation early and pressed on relentlessly in the Gaza Strip, knowing that the Hamas had not just shot the Palestinian cause, and compromised the innocent civilians but also itself with the act that looked extremely impressive in the beginning but had unimaginably painful consequences to follow.

Should peace return to the Gaza Strip, the chances that any regional power will thereafter support Hamas (or even Benjamin Netanyahu is Israel) to retain its legitimacy and relevance is highly unlikely, as Fatah with its moderate anchorage will seem more reasonable to support. The economic condition in Iran or the United States (and even Israel) is such that they can barely afford any more suicidal attempts like the 7th Oct attack, and its aftermath truce and peace is what they all want, even if they can't say it.

an, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

(The writer, a military veter

New Kerala collective runs into trouble



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The Kerala Chief Minister takes a trip across the state to tell about his good work but his party is falling apart

⊣he Nava Kerala Sadass Collective), a prelude to the 2024 Lok Sabha election, being held under the auspices of the CPI-M ruled State Government has run into trouble as the internal group war within the party and the discontentment among the constituent units of the Left Democratic Front coming out in the open.

The Sadass is a journey undertaken by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and all members of the council of ministers through the 140 assembly constituencies in the State to highlight the "good works" done by the CPI-M during the last eight years since it came to power in 2016. A custom built luxury bus with state-of-the-art seating arrangements and communication facilities transport the ministers across the assembly constituencies in all the districts. The Sadass that commenced on 18 November 2023 from the northern town Manjeswaram would conclude at the capital city on

December 23 with a massive public meeting.

ministers would address the public rallies being held along the route. While Pinarayi Vijayan would focus his speeches on global issues and topics of national importance, the ministers would portray the 'great work' done as per the directives of the chief minister to elevate Kerala as the most socially, economically and culturally advanced State among the comity of nations.

This is a historic journey as Kerala has not seen a programme like this in the past. Once the journey concludes at Thiruvananthapuram, the historians would be forced to rewrite the State's history as The chief minister and select Kerala Before the Sadass and workers in public sector

Kerala after the Sadass", said E P Jayarajan, convenor of the LDF and former industries minister (2016-2021). He asserted that since Pinarayi Vijayan took over as chief minister, Kerala has become a role model for the developed world. "It is all because of Pinarayi Vijayan who is the undisputed global leader," said Jayarajan.

The luxury bus transporting the chief minister and his colleagues cost the exchequer Rs 2 crore. There were charges made by the opposition leaders that it was a waste of public money by a government which has not paid pension to employees and salary to

undertakings. "The ire of the Opposition is a case of bitter grapes. Once the journey is over, the bus, named as Cabinet Bus, will be displayed in a museum and there will be millions of people turning up to watch this historical bus," said A K Balan, former minister (2016-2021) and member of the central committee of the CPI-M. Political commentator Jayashankar terms the comments by Jayarajan and Balan as reflections of the simmering groupism in the CPI-M. "Both the leaders are upset with Vijayan and his new sonin-law Mohammed Riyas for sidelining them by denying them tickets in the 2021 assembly election. Jayarajan and Balan were frontrunners for the post of member of polit bureau which fell vacant following the demise of Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, the former party secretary, Vijayan favored M V Govindan, a sidekick for decades, while Jayarajan and Balan had to eat humble pie," said Jayashankar.

(The writer is a special correspondent with The Pioneer, views are personal) To be continued...

HYPOCRISY OF MONITORING AGENCIES Sir — The glaring double standards exhib-

ited by the so-called "monitoring agencies" when it comes to scrutinizing the actions of political leaders. It is truly remarkable how a mere dissenting comment from leaders in the Opposition can trigger an avalanche of attention, resulting in notices, bans, and vigorous monitoring. Yet, when members of the ruling dispensation engage in reprehensible behavior, ranging from personal attacks to communalism, these agencies conveniently turn a blind

How is it possible that leaders who openly provoke communities with vulgar slogans, justify pogroms through misappropriated scientific principles, and use divisive rhetoric like "Shamshan-Kabristan" to polarize voters, are not held accountable by these so-called monitoring agencies? The selective enforcement becomes even more apparent when warnings about voting against a particular party leading to the elevation of a Muslim individual are issued without repercussions. The blatant hypocrisy of these "law-enforcers" is nothing short of astonishing. It raises questions about their commitment to impartiality and the principles they claim to uphold. As a concerned citizen, I urge these agencies to apply their standards consistently across the political spectrum, ensuring that no leader is exempt from account-

Kajal Chatterjee | *Kolkata*

ERASURES

Sir — "Erasures are made for those who make mistakes," asserts German scholar Max Muller. "Erasures are made for those who are willing to correct their mistakes," echoes Swami Vivekananda. The very first stage of practicing writing involved the use of slate and slate pencil. The subsequent stage introduced the pencil, which was later followed by the pen. Unlike slate, which requires no erasure to wipe out what is written, pencil markings can be easily erased using fingers or the palm. If traces of writing persist, water is used to clean

Hamas-Israel Ceasefire

THE EDITOR



he ongoing ceasefire in the Hamas-Israel conflict that commenced on October 7, 2023. Today marks the 49th day of this truce, initiated through a peace pact facilitated by Egypt, Qatar, and the USA. I hope this agreement will pave the way for a lasting peace and ceasefire between the two parties. While the ceasefire brings a temporary respite, it is essential to acknowledge the human cost of the conflict. More than 1,400 Israelis lost their lives, and over 240 were taken

the slate, allowing for a fresh start.

cil has dwindled, with pencil usage com-

mencing as early as lower kindergarten.

Erasure assumes a pivotal role in deleting

mistaken portions of writing. While pen-

cil markings can be effortlessly erased, the

same cannot be said for pen markings,

even with the use of ink rubber. The

underlying message is clear: mistakes

made in childhood can be easily erased,

leaving no trace, whereas those made at

Max Muller's assertion that erasures are

necessary only for those who make mis-

takes implies that everyone in the world

has made a mistake. This reality under-

scores the indispensable role of erasure in

the academic field, making it an integral

part of life. The need to identify a mistake

before correction necessitates keeping

erasures away, allowing for correction by

rewriting over the mistaken portion,

preferably in red ink. In contrast, erasures

are necessary when a mistake prior to cor-

rection needs to be erased to prevent com-

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

a later stage leave an indelible mark.

hostage, alongside over 10,000 Palestinian casualties. The destruction of buildings, properties, and assets on both sides has been devastating. The global community's call for implementing the decades-old "two-nation theory," designating areas with a Muslim majority as part of an independent Palestine and those with a Jewish majority as Israel, seems like a straightforward solution. Additionally, the proposal for a "no missiles firing" pact by both sides is crucial for maintain-

The recent conflict highlights the urgency of finding a sustainable resolution to the long-standing issues in the region. It is my sincere hope that diplomatic efforts will continue, fostering an environment where civilians on both sides can live without the constant fear of violence and loss. PV Srinivas Sreelekha | Secunderabad

JUSTICE HAS BEEN SERVED In today's times, the use of slate and pen-

Sir — Proverbially speaking 'better late than never', five killers of TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan have eventually been brought to book, though after an appallingly long wait spanning over as many as 15 years, with a Delhi court on Saturday sending four of them behind bars for life and the fifth Ajay Sethi for three years with a fine of Rs 7.5 lakh while Additional Sessions Judge also imposed Rs1.25 lakh as fine on each of the four lif-

Ironically, Soumya Vishwanathan, working with a leading English news channel, was shot dead on her way home on September 30, 2008 in a loot bid.

It's really pity that the journalists while scrupulously discharging their duty imperil which affects the journalism, inadvertently or otherwise, their life for the society's sake. Hence, they merit Police protection during night time at

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

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FIRST COLUMN HARNESSING PSYCHOLOGICAL SKILLS

To seek clarity, it is essential to clear doubts that envelope the human mind



RAVI VALLURI

■ aharishi Patanjali in the celebrated treatise Patanjali Yoga Sutra, wrote, "Tado drashtuhu swarupe avastham," (Sutra 3), implying that the seer then rests or remains in his/her own nature. This exalted state can be achieved only by a disciplined mind, which is not ensnared by aversions and cravings and is in a state of bliss. It would be worthwhile to also appreciate Sutra 4, "Vrutti sarupyamitarata," that is, a seeker identifies oneself with the modulations of the mind all the

Nature of the mind

The human mind is perpetually cannonaded by innumerable thoughts and at the same time is engaged with the outside world all the time. With eyes wide open in a wakeful state, one is ensnared by the senses of sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste. Or else a human being revisits the world of sleep or inertia where the mind blanks out the sensory perception to delve deep inside itself.

Painter from Milan

Once a prominent Italian painter was intrigued and fascinated by the paintings of Raja Ravi Varma and the epic Mahabharata. This consummate artiste from Milan was overwhelmed with the celestial and divine portraits of Hindu deities by the legendary Indian painter. He psychologically coached and trained his mind through techniques of looking back on incidents in his life, understanding the meaning of love and affection and discovering bonding and togetherness.

Discipline, identity and understanding



The term psychological skill-sets can be broadly delineated as a degree of proficiency of faculties, or dexterity that a seeker acquires through vigorous training and vast experiences in life. The human mind over a period becomes robust by assessment of individual differences, behavioural modifications, and various guidance skills. Continuous and vigorous training disciplines and lays down what can be termed a quotidian regimen to harness and upgrade skill sets.

The mind demands proof

An untrained mind perennially demands proof. Sutra 5 of Patanjali Yoga Sutra states, "Vrutayaha panchtayyaha klishtaklishtaha," meaning that modulations in the human mind are five-fold and could be agonizing or not painful at all. There are some vruttis or modulations of the mind which are unwelcome and unbidden. This has been further explained in Sutra 6, "Pramanaviparyayavikalpanidra-smrutayaha." The human mind is either in quest of proof, on the path of wrong understanding, in a state of imagination, or in a state of sleep or memory.

They may well appear paradoxical but all these are natural stages in life. And it is perhaps essential that the human mind is exposed to such thought processes; for it is from doubts that solutions arise. And any scientist will vouchsafe for this trajectory of thought process. But it is essential to clear the clouds of doubt that envelope the human mind to seek clarity. This too can be achieved through developing psychological skill sets of practice (abhyasa) and discipline to achieve the desired target. As one develops psychological skills, individuals develop interpersonal skills too; cognitive skills, effective skills, personality and attitudinal skills grow. It helps one to grow in the knowledge of self, and nature, acquire the ability to work with people from various backgrounds, respect diversity and accept with sensitive preferences of various individuals and their ideologies. "Knowing others is intelligence. Knowing yourself is true wisdom. Mastering others is a strength, mastering yourself is true power," wrote the renowned scholar Lao Tzu.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and is a fac-

ulty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Making of the Indian Constitution



It was on 26th November 1949 that the Constitution was passed by the Constituent Assembly which met for 2 years, 11 months and 17 days

n 26 Nov. when we have celebrated it as Constitution Day, the reminisces of constitutional history float in the mind. Breaking the adamantine shackles of slavery, India became an independent nation on 15th August 1947 and a sovereign democratic republic on 26th January 1950

with the coming into force of the Constitution of the sovereign democratic republic of India. But it was on 26th Nov. 1949 that the Constitution was passed by the Constituent Assembly (CA) which met

2 years, 11 months and 17 days. Democracy presupposes 'Rule of law' and

the Constitution is the supreme Lex of the land and also the fount of all laws.

The organs of the State- the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary owe their origin to the Constitution, derive their authority from the Constitution and have to discharge their responsibilities within the framework of the Constitution. So, it was imperative and desirable that independent India had its own Constitution.

During the freedom struggle movement itself, the crusaders of freedom were alive to the need for having a Constitution for free India. Mahatma Gandhi had asserted as early as 1922 that 'Swaraj will not be a free gift of the British Parliament. It will be a declaration of India's full self- expression, expressed through an Act of Parliament.

When it became evident that the Britishers could no longer subjugate and suppress the struggle for India's Independence, a decision was taken under the Cabinet Mission in 1946 to form a Constituent Assembly (CA) by electing its 389 members through the Provincial Legislative Assemblies. However, with the partition of the country, the strength of the CA was reduced to 299. The CA first met on 9th December 1946 and Sachindanand Sinha, the oldest Member who was also the Member of Central Legislative Assembly since 1910, was elected as the provisional Chairman of the CA.

Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the CA on 11th December 1946. On 13 December 1946, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru moved an inspiring Objective Resolution in the Assembly declaring the firm and solemn resolve of the CA to proclaim India as an independent sovereign republic and to draw up for her uture governance a Constitution. The Resolution declared that 'all power and authority of the Sovereign Independent India, its constituent parts and organs of government, are derived from the people'. guaranteed to secure 'all the people of India- justice, social economic and political, equality of status and opportunity, freedom of thought, expression, belief faith and

The CA became a sovereign body on 14 August 1947 with the partition of India. The CA met in sessions. There were in all 12 sessions, from 9 December 1946 to 24 January 1949. The 5th session of the CA met at 11 pm on 14 August 1947. After the singing of the Vande Mataram, Pandit Nehru made his historic 'tryst with destiny' speech at midnight when he declared that India awakes to life and freedom and reminded the Assembly of the ambition of the greatest man of our generation 'to wipe every tear from every eye. He conceded 'that it may be beyond us, but as long as there are tears and sufferings, so long our work



DURING THE **FREEDOM** STRUGGLE **MOVEMENT** ITSELF, THE CRUSADERS OF FREEDOM WERE ALIVE TO THE **NEED FOR HAVING** A CONSTITUTION FOR FREE INDIA

He concluded in his chaste and elegant words: 'We have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell'.

After the stroke of midnight hour, every Member took an oath to dedicate himself to the service of India and her people so that 'the ancient land of India attains her rightful place in the world and India makes her willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind. The CA met again on 15 August

1947 at ten of the Clock.

The President of the Assembly, Dr Rajendra Prasad with their Excellencies, Lord Mountbatten the Governor General of India and Lady Mountbatten entered the Constitution Hall in a procession. The President read the congratulatory letters and greetings from foreign governments. Thereafter Lord Mountbatten addressed the Assembly. At the conclusion of the speech, with the booming of the gunfire, the National Flag, our tricolour, was hoisted over the Parliament House building by replacing the Union Jack. The CA, consisting of great freedom

fighters, statesmen, eminent lawyers, social crusaders and scholars in the CA, including 17 distinguished women members, was conscientious of the complexity and the enormity of the task before them. Twenty-two committees were formed which were chaired by prominent members of the Assembly for different areas of the proposed Constitution.

Sir B N Rao, constitutional Advisor to the Assembly prepared a draft constitution drawing from different reports of the Committees and the debates in the CA. It consisted of 213 Articles and 13 Schedules. The draft was submitted to the Drafting

Committee on 29th August 1947, the day it was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr Ambekar. The Committee started its work the next day, that is, 30th August and held 141 sittings. The Draft Constitution was submitted to the President on 21 Feb. 1948 who caused its circu-27 March and on 18 Oct 1948. The suggestions acceptable to the Drafting Committee were incorporated in the revised Draft Constitution and submitted to the

President on 26 Oct. 1948. The Draft Constitution was introduced in the CA on 4 Nov. 1948 by Dr Ambedkar with a historic speech. It contained 316 Articles and 8 Schedules. The Draft Constitution was debated in the Assembly and underwent three mandatory readings between 4th Nov 1948 to 26th Nov 1949 in 114 sittings. There were as many as 7,365 amendments tabled but only 2,473 were actually moved and carried.

The Constitution was passed, adopted, enacted and given to 'We, the People of India' on 26 Nov. 1949. The Constitution, as passed, contained 395 Articles and 8 Schedules. The 12th and the last session was held on 24th January, 1949. Dr Rajendra Prasad made a statement that Jana gana mana is the National Anthem of India with such variations as the Govt. of India may authorise and the song Vande Mataram which played a historic part in the struggle for freedom shall be honoured equally with the National Anthem. On 24th January 1950, the C elected Dr Rajendra Prasad, unopposed to the office of

the President of the Republic with effect from 26 January 1950. His name was proposed by Nehru and seconded by Patel.

Thereafter three copies of the Constitution, one in English completely handwritten and illuminated by artists, the second copy in English in print and the third copy also handwritten were placed in the Assembly Hall for signatures by all the Members.

The first to sign was the Prime Minister Nehru, as desired by the President, as the Prime Minister had to go on public duty. The Members then signed the copies of the Constitution one by one. In all 284 Members signed the Constitution. Thereafter the President signed the

The National Anthem was sung by the members. It was followed by the singing of the Vande Mataram. Dr Rajendra Prasad informed the

Assembly on 26 Nov. 1949 that 53,000 visitors were admitted to the Visitors' Gallery of the CA during the period the Constitution was under consideration and that the expenses incurred on the CA up to 22 Nov. 1949 came to Rs.63,96,729/-India became a Republic on 26 January 1950 and the CA transformed itself into the Provisional Parliament until the first Parliament

It's a matter of delight that 26 Nov. is now being celebrated as Constitution Day by the Government. The decision owes its origin to the exclusive sittings of both Houses of Parliament convened on 26th Nov. 2015 to celebrate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.

was constituted in 1952.

Secretary Lok Sabha and a Delhibased Advocate. The views expressed are personal)

(The author is ex Additional

heavily tilts towards China.

Maldives' 74% GDP depends

Maldives may fall into the Chinese trap

India faces a big challenge to preserve India-Maldives ties under new regime

raldives's new President, Mohamed Muizzu's formal request to withdraw security personnel from the Archipelago may be aimed at creating a strategic space for China in the long term but his readiness to discuss agreeable solutions to various issues may be an indicator of a ray of hope of preserving the old relationships with the neighbour (India).

Notwithstanding an open Pro China election campaign launched by Muizzu and subsequently emerging as victorious, the outburst of a newly elected president to ask India to withdraw the security personnel from the island, India responded with positive diplomatic initiative and sent union minister, Kiren Rijju to



(The writer is political

analyst; views are

personal)

ceremony of the new president. India opted for a friendly gesture as it was in consonance with Prime Minister, Modi's "Neighborhood First Policy" and his Vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

The policy agreements between China and Maldives may get filip:

Five agreements were signed during the visit of the Chinese foreign minister to Maldives in January 2022 which will get a boost as Muizzi will give top priority to implement them. China may accelerate the process to execute these agreements which include mutual visa exemption between the two nations and Maldivians being permitted to travel on when Solih took over as head

participate in the swearing-in a 30-day vis-free basis, economic and technical cooperation, and development in key areas like social, livelihood and infrastructure projects. Male owes USD 1.4 billion from past loans from China which may be restructured to ease off the pressure on the country's fragile economy. A big challenge for India: The Analysts believe that the

outcome of the presidential poll is bound to have a bearing on the future dynamics of the region as Muizzu ran his campaign on the theme of Pro China and' India Out' rhetoric hence India cannot expect the continuation of present warm ties between two countries. India has expanded trade with Maldives and undertaken several projects since 2108 of the nation which had marked an end of the Pro-Beijing template of Abdulla Ameen. Muizzu's party, People's Nation Congress is viewed as "Heavily Pro-China" which has promised to ensure the withdrawal of military troops from the country's soil and balance trade which tilted in favor of India. The Maldives is a cluster of 1200 islands in the Indian Ocean comprising the main shipping route between the east and the west. Muizzu had focused on the "India Out" campaign and promised to send back small Indian military personnel and surveillance military aircraft which will open up the space for Chinese presence.

2nd, an agreement relating to Maldives-India defence coop-

eration to monitor Chinese maritime and naval movements along vital sea lane communication along the side of Maldives may be in jeopardy as Dragon would like to sabotage it under Muizzi.

3rd, China's enhanced foot-print will be strengthened after the addition of Pear (Maldives) in China's String of Pearls. (The term 'String of Pearls' denotes those areas where China is developing its bases, termed 'pearls'. Which spreads from Hainan Island, Chinese province to Gwadar.) Maldives has been using the China card to bargain with India but the new president may permit the direct involvement of Dragon.

Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs) will face an uncertain future but have strained relations and

they are of utmost importance and critical for India for maritime trade flow between the Gulf of Aden and Gulf of Hormuz in West Asia and the Strait of Malacca in Southeast Asia. Experts say that 50% of India's trade and 80% of its energy imports transit these SLOCs in the Arabian Sea. 5th, India's total exports to Maldives exceeded USD 476.75 Million during 2022-23 which is bound to be affected in future under the new regime. India had committed USD 1.4 billion when Solih took over in 2018 but Muizzu may give priority to the Chinese debt policy. Finally, India accounts for 23

% of the tourist source market of Maldives which may be affected if Muizzi opts to

upon the resources generated from the tourism industry. Analysts opine that Maldives graduated from the status of Least Developed Nation (LDC)in 2011 only hence new president should try to follow the principle of 'Equidistance' diplomacy unlike his predecessor to extract the financial advantages from India and China which will be in the interest of people of his country. At the same time, India will have to tread cautiously to establish better diplomatic ties with Muizz's regime though it will be heavily tilted in favor of China which cannot be allowed to have a free run to create imbalance in the

Brought down many Moscow-bound | SC petition seeks removal of Pak's President Alvi Ukrainian drones, says Russia

Ukraine overnight tried to attack Moscow with dozens of drones, Russian authorities said Sunday, just a day after Ukrainian officials reported that Russia had launched its most intense drone attack on Kyiv since the beginning of its full-scale war in 2022.

Russian air defences brought down at least 24 drones over the Moscow region which surrounds but does not include the capital — and four other provinces to the south and west, the Russian Defence Ministry and Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin reported in a series of Telegram updates. Neither referenced any casualties.

Andrei Vorobyev, governor of the Moscow region, wrote on Telegram that the drone strikes damaged three unspecified buildings there, adding that no one was hurt.

One drone crashed into a 12-story apartment block in the western Russian city of Tula, about 180 km (113 miles) south of Moscow, lightly wounding one resident and causing limited damage, local Gov Aleksei Dyumin wrote on Telegram on Sunday morning.

Moscow's Vnukovo and



Domodedovo airports also briefly shut down because of the drone attack, according to Russia's state-run news agency

Both appeared to have resumed normal operation by 6 am local time, according to data from international flight tracking portals.

Russian Telegram chan-nels speculated that Ukrainian forces had deployed a previously unseen type of drone in the

purported strike, pointing out some similarities to the Iranian-made weapons Moscow routinely employs in its attacks on Ukraine.

The Russian capital has come under attack from drones regularly since May, with Russian officials blaming Ukraine. Military analysts commented at the time that the early attacks deployed Ukrainian locally made drones which could not carry as heavy

a payload as the Iranian-made Shaheds used by Russia.

As of late morning Sunday, Ukrainian officials did not acknowledge or comment on the strikes, which came a day after Russia targeted the Ukrainian capital with over 60 Shahed drones.

At least five civilians were wounded in the hourslong assault, which saw several buildings damaged by falling debris from downed drones,

including a kindergarten. The wounded included an 11-yearold child, according to Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko.

The Ukrainian air force early on Sunday said it had brought down eight of nine Shahed drones fired overnight by Russian forces.

Also on Sunday morning, the Russian Defence Ministry reported that two Soviet-made S-200 rockets fired by Kyiv were shot down over the sea of Azov, which stretches between Crimea and Ukraine's Russian-occupied southeast-

According to local news sources, air raid sirens sounded earlier in Russian-annexed Crimea, which on Friday came under what Russian officials called a major drone attack. Road traffic was also briefly halted on Sunday morning across the 19-km (12-mile) bridge that connects Crimea to the Russian mainland.

There were no reports of casualties, and no comment from officials in Kyiv.

Elsewhere, parts of Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine were left without power following a nighttime Ukrainian strike on a thermal power plant in the Donetsk region, a Moscow-installed local official reported on Telegram Sunday.

A petition has been filed in Pakistan's Supreme Court seeking President Arif Alvi's removal as the head of the state over 'misconduct' and failure to maintain impartiality in performing his duties, according to media reports on Sunday.

The petition, filed by one Ghulam Murtaza Khan on Saturday, alleges that the president has been evasive in performing his constitutional obligations, the Dawn newspaper reported.

"Ĥe has violated the Constitution and committed gross misconduct; therefore, he is not eligible to continue his duties as the president and needs to be declared that he should not continue as president of Pakistan," the petition

"Being the head of the State, he is under constitutional obligation to work in accordance with the law, but he was misusing the powers and violating the Constitution continuously by his words and conducts," it said.

Asserting that the president should not have been representing any political party, the petitioner said that Alvi's representing and portraying one party- former prime minister İmran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party- is evident.

It further alleged that the

The Tenth Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The Republic of Kores, Japan ar Peoles Republic of China



president is being biased by giving favour to one particular political party", according to the report.

The petition said that Alvi's dissolution of the National Assembly in April 2022 on the PTI chief's instructions ruined the entire political scenario of the country and damaged Pakisan's image internationally. In April 2022, Alvi dissolved the lower house of the parliament after the opposition parties tabled a no-confidence motion against the Khan-led government, which cited 'international conspiracy, according to the report. The no-confidence motion was declared 'unconstitutional' by then-National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser.

Alvi 'has misused his powers by using his Office (Office of the State) to support the PTI," the petition claims, alleging that the president's office is being used for party meetings, the Geo News reported.

the president's responsibility to ensure peace within the country, and he could not act in a biased or subjective manner by favouring a particular political party while representing the

entire nation. It argues that the president represents the entire nation and should, therefore, fulfil this responsibility patriotically, with loyalty and devotion.

The petition urged the court to probe the matter and to stop Alvi from holding the office of the head of state, the report said.

Alvi, whose five-year term ended on September 8, continues holding the president's post under Article 44 of Pakistan's Constitution, which allows the president to continue holding the office in the absence of the provincial and national assemblies — which were dissolved in January and August earlier this year, respectively, according to the report.

Pope to attend climate conference despite lung inflammation

AP VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis on Sunday revealed that he has a lung inflammation but will go later this week to Dubai to address the climate change conference.

Francis skipped his weekly on Sunday appearance at a window overlooking St Peter's Square, a day after the Vatican said he was suffering from a mild flu. Instead, Francis gave the traditional noon blessing in an appearance televised live from the chapel in the Vatican hotel where he lives.

"Brothers and sisters, happy Sunday. Today I cannot appear at the window because I have this problem of inflammation of the lungs, Francis said. The pontiff, whose 87th birthday is next month, added that a priest, sitting beside him, would read out his day's reflections for him.

In those comments, Francis said he was going to the COP28 gathering on climate change and that he would deliver his speech, as scheduled, on Saturday to the partic-

He described the climate change problem as a serious problem, especially for young

On his right hand he had a bandage and what appeared to be a cannula. The Vatican didn't immediately respond to a query from the AP about whether he was receiving intravenous treatment.

Not immediately explained was the discrepancy between the pope saying he has lung inflammation and the Vatican saying a day earlier that Francis had a CT scan at a Rome hospital for pulmonary complications and that the exam was Francis thanked all those

who would be following his three-day trip to Dubai with

Francis earlier this year was hospitalized for three days for what he later said was pneumonia and what the Vatican described as a case of ment with intravenous antibi-

This weekend has been very windy and unusually chilly for late autumn in Rome.

S Korea, Japan, China agree to resume trilateral leaders' summit

M eeting for the first time in about four years, the top diplomats from South Korea, Japan and China agreed Sunday to revive cooperation among the Asian neighbours and resume their leaders' trilateral summit — but without a specific timing. Closely linked economical-

ly and culturally with one another, the three countries together account for about 25 per cent of the global gross domestic product. But efforts to boost cooperation have often hit a snag because of a mix of issues including historical disputes stemming from Japan's wartime aggression and the strategic competition between China and the United States.

"We three ministers agreed to restore and normalise threenation cooperation at an early date," South Korean Foreign Minister told reporters after his meeting with Japan's Yoko Kamikawa and China's Wang Yi

Park said the three ministers affirmed an earlier agreement by lower-level officials to restart the summit "at the earliest mutually convenient time"

and agreed to expedite preparations for the meeting. Kamikawa separately said the ministers agreed to speed up their work to achieve the summit "at an early and appropriate timing?

The three ministers also agreed to push for diverse cooperation projects in areas such as people-to-people exchange, trade, technology, public health, sustainable development and security, according to South Korean and Japanese statements. The lack of an agreement on the timing for the trilateral summit would suggest the top-level gathering won't likely happen this year as South Korea, the chair of the next summit, had hoped, observers say. Still, Kamikawa said, "I believe it is an important step toward achieving an upcoming Japan-China-South Korea summit.

Since they held their first stand-alone, trilateral summit in 2008, the leaders of the three countries had been sup-Instead, the summit has been suspended or stalled since 2019. The meeting on Sunday was also the first of since 2019. South Korea and Japan are

key US military allies, hosting with diplomatic rooms to a total of 80,000 American troops on their territories. Their recent push to beef up a trilateral security cooperation with the United States has angered China, which is extremely sensitive to any

moves it perceives as seeking to contain its rise to dominance in Asia. But some observers say that the fact that Chinese President Joe Biden struck a conciliatory tone in their first face-to-face meeting in a year earlier this month would pro-



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, right, South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin, center, and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa pose for a photo prior to the trilateral foreign ministers' meeting in Busan, South Korea on Sunday

vide Seoul, Tokyo and Beijing

maneuver to find ways to revive three-way cooperation. After her meeting with

Wang on Saturday, Kamikawa said she renewed Japan's demand that China remove its ban on seafood imports from Japan in response to Tokyo's discharge of treated radioactive wastewater from its tsunamihit nuclear power plant.

China opposed Japan's "irresponsible action" of releasing the wastewater and called for an independent monitoring mechanism of the process, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Ties between South Korea

and Japan deteriorated severely in past years due to issues originating from Japan's 1910-45 colonisation of the Korean Peninsula. But their relations have warmed significantly in recent months as the two countries took a series of major steps to move beyond history wranthe face of North Korea's advancing nuclear program and other shared challenges.

In a reminder of their difficult relations, however, a

compensate Koreans forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops during the colonial period. During her meeting with Park earlier Sunday, Kamikawa called the court verdict "extremely regrettable" and urged South Korea to take appropriate steps to remedy the breaches of international law, according to Japan's Consulate in Busan. South Korea's Foreign Ministry said the ministers

Seoul court earlier this week

ordered Japan to financially

discussed the court ruling as well as ways to work together to reinvigorate three-way cooperation with China. The ministry also said that both strongly condemned the North's spy satellite launch last week. Park also asked Wang for

China to play a constructive role in persuading North Korea to halt provocations and take steps toward denuclearisation, according to South Korea's Foreign Ministry. Wang described China as "a stabilis-"always played and will continue to play a constructive role in easing the situation on the peninsula," according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Surge in respiratory illnesses caused by flu, known pathogens: China

surge in respiratory illnesses across AChina that has drawn the attention of the World Health Organisation is caused by the flu and other known pathogens and not by a novel virus, the country's health ministry said on

Recent clusters of respiratory infections are caused by an overlap of common viruses such as the influenza virus, rhinoviruses, the respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, the adenovirus as well as bacteria such as mycoplasma pneumoniae, which is a common culprit for respiratory tract infections, a National Health Commission spokesperson said.

The ministry called on local authorities to open more fever clinics and promote vaccinations among children and the elderly as the country grapples with a wave of respiratory illnesses in its first full winter since the removal of COVID-

"Efforts should be made to increase the opening of relevant clinics and treat-



increase the supply of medicines," said ministry spokesman Mi Feng.

He advised people to wear masks and called on local authorities to focus on preventing the spread of illnesses in crowded places such as schools and nursing homes.

The WHO earlier this week formally requested that China provide information about a potentially worrying spike in respiratory illnesses and clusment areas, extend service hours and ters of pneumonia in children, as men-

tioned by several media reports and a global infectious disease monitoring ser-

The emergence of new flu strains or other viruses capable of triggering pandemics typically starts with undiagnosed clusters of respiratory illness. Both SARS and COVID-19 were first reported as unusual types of pneumo-

Chinese authorities earlier this month blamed the increase in respira-

tory diseases on the lifting of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Other countries also saw a jump in respiratory diseases such as RSV when pandemic restrictions ended.

The WHO said Chinese health officials on Thursday provided the data it requested during a teleconference. Those showed an increase in hospital admissions of children due to diseases including bacterial infection, RSV, influenza and common cold viruses since October. Chinese officials maintained the spike in patients had not overloaded the country's hospitals, according to the WHO.

It is rare for the UN health agency to publicly ask for more detailed information from countries, as such requests are typically made internally. WHO said it requested further data from China via an international legal mechanism.

According to internal accounts in China, the outbreaks have swamped some hospitals in northern China, including in Beijing, and health authorities have asked the public to take children with less severe symptoms to clinics and other facilities.

Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio declared a nationwide curfew on Sunday after gunmen attacked the military's main and largest barracks in the West African nation's capital, raising fears of a breakdown of order amid a surge of coups in the region.

The unidentified gunmen attacked the military armoury within the Wilberforce bar racks in the capital, Freetown, early morning, Bio said in a statement posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, adding that they were driven back by security forces and "calm has been restored".

"As the combined team of our Security Forces continue to root out the remnant of the fleeing renegades, a nationwide curfew has been declared and citizens are encouraged to stay indoors," he wrote.

The country's Ministry of Information and Education

also said in a statement the government and security forces are "in control" of the situation, trying to dismiss fears of a possible escalation of violence in the country whose population of eight million people is among the poorest in the world, having some of the lowest scores on the United Nations Human Development Index. An Associated Press journalist in the capital said gunshots were still being heard in the city hours after the government assured the situation was under control, although it was not clear who was behind the fire exchange, nor if any arrests were made. No details have been immediately given about the gunmen or the reason for the attack which comes months after Bio was reelected for a second term in a disputed vote in which the main opposition party accused the

Videos online, that went

lectoral commission of rigging

Sierra Leone declares nationwide curfew viral, reportedly showed soldiers patrolling Freetown's empty streets and captured the loud blasts of gunshots at dawn.

West Africa's regional economic bloc of ECOWAS - of which Sierra Leone is a member - described the incident as a plot "to acquire arms and disturb the peace and constitutional order" in the country.

The bloc has in recent months tried to reverse the surge in coups in West and Central Africa, which has recorded eight military takeovers since 2020, the latest in Niger and Gabon this year.

"ECOWAS reiterates its zero tolerance for unconstitutional change of government," the bloc said in a statement.

Bio was reelected in Sierra Leone's fifth presidential election since the end of a brutal 11-year civil war - more than two decades ago - which left tens of thousands dead and destroyed the country's econ-

ebanese residents of border towns come back during fragile ceasefire between Hamas, Israel.

AP ■ KFAR KILA

With a cautious calm prevailing over the border area in south Lebanon on Saturday, the second day of a four-day ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, villages that had emptied of their residents came back to life -- at least briefly.

Shuttered shops reopened, cars moved through the streets, and a family on an outing posed for photos in front of brightly coloured block letters proclaiming "I (HEART) ODAISSEH" in one border

a backdrop. Around 55,500 Lebanese

are displaced by the clashes between the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah and Israeli forces since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war, according to the International Organization for Migration.

more than 100 people in Lebanon, including more than a dozen civilians -- three of them journalists -- and 12 people on the Israeli side, including four civilians. While Lebanon and

srael and Hamas, it has brought at least a temporary halt to the daily exchanges of rockets, artillery shelling and airstrikes. Some Lebanese took the opportunity to inspect their damaged houses or to pick up belongings. Abdallah Quteish, a retired The fighting has killed

town, with the tense frontier as Hezbollah weren't officially

school principal, and his wife, Sabah, fled their house in the village of Houla -- directly facing an Israeli military position across the border -- on the second day of the clashes. They went to stay with their daugh-

parties to the ceasefire between

ter in the north, leaving behind their olive orchard just as the harvest season was set to start. They returned to their

house on Friday and to an orchard where the unharvested olives were turning dry on the branches. "We lost out on the season.

but we're alright \dots and that's the most important thing,' Sabah said. "God willing, we'll stay in our house if the situation remains like this." On the western side of the

border in the village of

Marwaheen, Khalil Ghanam

had come on Saturday to pack

up the remaining stocks from his cafe on the frontier road and take them to Beirut.

The cafe has been closed since October 13, the day that Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah was killed and six other people were wounded in an Israeli strike in nearby Alma al-Shaab. Shells also fell next to the cafe, leaving mangled remnants of what used to be its outdoor seating.

"We say God willing nothing bad will happen, but the situation now is difficult, and as I see it we're heading into a long difficult period," Ghanam said.

In Kfar Kila on Saturday, iron worker Hussein Fawaz picked through the charred shell of his house, hit by an airstrike two days earlier -- no one was inside at the time, but the family's furniture, school books and household goods

were destroyed. Fawaz had sent his wife and three children to stay with relatives soon after the war began, but he stayed in the village because his parents refused to go. He still has no plans to

"Where would we go? This is our land and our home.

one knows what will happen, but we hope things will stabilise and the war will end."

We're staying here," he said. "No

The general calm of the ceasefire was punctuated by scattered moments of tension. The Israeli military said on Saturday that its air defences intercepted a "suspicious aerial target" that entered Israeli airspace from Lebanon and that it had shot down a missile launched from Lebanon at an Israeli drone

Meanwhile, the UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon said one of its patrols in a borfrom Israeli forces, causing no injuries but damaging the vehi-UNIFIL said in a statement

der area was hit by gunfire

village of Aitaroun occurred during "a period of relative calm" along the Lebanon-Israel border. "This attack on peacekeepers, dedicated to reducing ten-

that the shooting in the border

sions & restoring stability in south Lebanon, is deeply troubling," UNIFIL tweeted.

immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Israeli military didn't

Anti-Semitism rising amid Israel-Hamas war, Europe's Jews worry

s he sits in Geneva, Michel ADreifuss does not feel all that far away from the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7 and Israel's subsequent bombardment of Gaza. The ripples are rolling through Europe and upending assumptions both global and intimate — including those about his personal safety as a Jew.

"Yesterday I bought a teargas spray canister at a militaryequipment surplus store," the 64-year-old retired tech sector worker said recently at a rally to mark a month since the Hamas killings. The choice, he says, is a "precaution," driven by a surge of antisemitism in Europe. Last month's slayings of about 1,200 people in Israel by armed Palestinian militants represented the biggest killing of Jews since the Holocaust. The fallout from it, and from Israel's intense military response that health officials in Hamas-controlled Gaza say has killed at least 13,300 Palestinians, has extended to Europe. In doing so, it has shaken a continent all too familiar with deadly anti-Jewish hatred for centuries.

The past century is of particular note, of course. Concern about rising antisemitism in Europe is fuelled in part by what happened to Jews before and during World War II, and that makes it particularly fearsome for those who may be only one or two generations removed from people who were Jews and Nazi brutality.

What most chills many Jews interviewed is what they see as the lack of empathy for the Israelis killed during the early morning massacre and for the relatives of the hostages about 30 of whom are children — suspended in an agonising limbo.
"What really upsets me,"

said Holocaust survivor Herbert Traube said at a Paris event commemorating the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the 1938 government-backed pogroms against Jews in Germany and Austria, "is to see that there isn't a massive popular reaction against this.'

Antisemitism is broadly defined as hatred of Jews. But a debate has been raging for years over what actions and words should be labelled antisemitic. Criticism of Israel's policies and antisemitism have long been conflated by Israeli leaders such as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and by some watchdog groups. Critics say that blurring helps undermine opposition to the country's policies and amps up perceptions that any utterance or incident against İsraeli policy is antisemitic.

Some language — whether for or against Israel or the Palestinians – "makes it sound like a football match," says Susan Neiman of the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany. 'We are perpetuating the idea that you've got to be on one side

or the other instead of being on the side of human rights and justice," she said.

Others argue that antisemites often use criticism of Israel as a placeholder for expressing their views. The list of examples of anti-Jewish sentiment since the October 7 attacks is long and documented by governments and watchdog groups across Europe.
Little more than a month

after the attack in Israel, the French Interior Ministry said 1,247 antisemitic incidents had been reported since October 7, nearly three times the total for all of 2022.

Denmark's main Jewish association said cases were up 24 times from the average of the last nine months. The Community Security

Trust, which tracks antisemitic incidents in Britain, reported more than 1,000 such events the most ever recorded for a 28-day period.

That all comes despite widespread denunciations of anti-Jewish hatred — and support for Israel — from leaders in Europe since the attack.

Some of Europe's Jews say they see it on the streets and the news. Jewish schoolchildren face bullying on their way to class, or — in one instance have been asked to explain Israel's actions, according to Britain's Community Security Trust. There's been talk of blending in better: covering skullcaps in public and perhaps hiding mezuzahs, the tradi-

tional symbol on doorposts of

In Russia, a riot broke out at an airport in which there were some antisemitic chants and posters from a crowd of men looking for passengers who had arrived from Israel. A Berlin synagogue was firebombed. An assailant stabbed a Jewish woman twice in the stomach at her home in Lyon, France, according to her lawyer. In Prague's Little Quarter

last month, staffers at the wellknown Hippopotamus bar refused to serve beer to several tourists from Israel and their Czech guides, and some patrons served up insults. Police had to step in. În Berlin, Jews are still reeling from an attempted firebombing of a synagogue last month. "Some of us are in a state of panic," said Anna Segal, 37, the manager of the Kahal Adass Jisroel in Berlin, a community of 450 members. Some community mem-

bers are changing how they live, Segal said. Students no longer wear uniforms. Kindergarten classes don't leave the building for field trips or the playground next door. Some members no longer call taxis, or they hesitate to order deliveries to their homes. Hebrew-speaking in public is fading. Some wonder if they should move to Israel. "I hear more and more from people from the Jewish communitv who say they feel safer and more comfortable in Israel now than in Germany, despite the war and all the rockets," Segal

Israeli forces kill 8 Palestinians in surging West Bank violence, health officials say

Tel Aviv (AP): Israeli forces operating in the occupied West Bank killed at least eight Palestinians in a 24-hour period, Palestinian health officials said on Sunday, as a fragile pause in fighting between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip entered its

Violence in the West Bank has surged in the weeks since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, setting off a devastating war in the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces have killed dozens of Palestinians and arrested hundreds in the West Bank. Jewish West Bank settlers have also stepped up attacks. The Palestinian Health Ministry said that five Palestinians were killed in the militant stronghold Jenin,

said. "Because they don't have to hide there."

And in pro-Palestinian demonstrations, some protesters are shouting, " from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." Some say that's a call for Palestinian freedom and is not anti-Jewish but anti-Israel; the land between the Iordan River and the Mediterranean Sea includes not only Israel, but also the West Bank and east Jerusalem, where Palestinians while three others were killed in separate areas of the West Bank since Saturday morning. One of those killed, in al-Bireh in the central West Bank, was a teenager, the ministry said. The Israeli military said forces entered the Jenin refugee camp to arrest a Palestinian suspected of killing an Israeli father and son at a West Bank car wash earlier in the year. In its statement on Sunday, the military made no mention of clashes, nor of the Palestinian deaths, but said forces were still operating in the area.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said Israeli snipers were positioned on roofs and that military bulldozers were damaging roads and infrastructure. The reports could not immediately be

have lived under Israeli occupation since 1967. Many Jews, though, say the chant is inherently anti-Jewish and calls for the destruction of Israel.

Faced with fears that antisemitism will spread, communities are taking action. A hot-line has been set up in France to help provide psychological support for Jews. The Community Security Trust, which aims to protect the Jewish community and foster

independently verified.

În its bid to pursue militants, Israel clamped down on the West Bank immediately after the Hamas assault, closing crossings and checkpoints between Palestinian towns. The intensified violence in the territory follows more than a year of escalating raids and arrests in the West Bank and deadly Palestinian attacks on Israelis. Before the Hamas assault, 2023 already was the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank in over two decades.

Israel and Hamas have briefly halted fire to allow for more aid to enter Gaza and permit a hostage release in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. The Israeli offensive has killed more than

good relations with others, has

joined with the British govern-

ment to distribute primers on

how to address antisemitism in

primary and secondary schools.

Peggy Hicks, a director at the UN human rights office,

says the actions of govern-

ments and political movements

are fair game for criticism but

warned against discrimination,

which the Geneva-based office

has long battled. In the chaos of

the past weeks, she sees reason

Strip have been flattened and some 1.7 million Palestinians have fled their homes. In last month's surprise attack, Hamas and other Gaza

13,300 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in the

Hamas-run Gaza government,

which does not differentiate

between civilians and combat-

ants. Vast swaths of the Gaza

militants killed some 1,200 people in Israel and took about 240 hostage. Several dozen soldiers have been killed since Israel began its ground invasion into Gaza shortly after the attack. Israel captured the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek those territories as part of their hoped-for independent state.

"Î've been amazed in the course of my working in human rights about the amount of compassion and the resilience of of human beings," Hicks said.
"People who have lost children and come together on both sides of a conflict, who have shared a loss — but from opposing sides — and who have found a way to get past the fact that they should actually be

Ecuador president repeals guidelines allowing people to carry limited drug amounts

ess than 48 hours into his Less than 40 hours have term, Ecuador President Daniel Noboa on Friday repealed controversial guidelines established by the country's left a decade ago that eliminated penalties for people found carrying illegal drugs under certain Noboa's decision fulfilled

a campaign promise to fight trafficking. Consequences of the illegal trade, particularly cocaine, have kept Ecuadorians on edge as killings, kidnappings, robberies, extortion and other crimes reached unprecedent-

A statement from Noboa's argued that the old guidelines 'encouraged micro-trafficking" and characterised them as a "harmful element for Ecuadorian society".

Noboa also directed the ministries of interior and public health to develop coordinated information, prevention and control programs on the consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances" and to offer treatment and rehabilitation to "habitual and problematic occasional users

The guidelines were adopted in 2013 during the presidency of Rafael Correa under the argument that illegal drug use was a public health problem and users should not be sent to prison. The quantities used in the guidelines attempted to differentiate drug consumption from drug trafficking.

Under the parameters, an individual could carry for personal use up to 10 grams of marijuana, two grams of cocaine paste, one gram of cocaine, 0.10 grams of heroin and 0.04 grams of amphet-

The guidelines were highly criticised from the start by Ecuador's right, and in general, the country's conservative

It remained unclear how Noboa's decision will be implemented. His predecessor, President Guillermo Lasso, announced in January 2021 his own decision to eliminate the parameters, arguing that they affected "young people and children", but it was never implemented.

In addition, a ruling from Ecuador's Constitutional Court orders judges to distinguish between consumers and ing possible punishments. Without the guidelines, however, it is unclear how they will make the distinction.

Noboa was sworn in to office on Thursday after defeating Luisa Gonzalez, a Correa mentee, in a runoff election October 15. His term will run only through May 2025, which is what remained of Lasso's tenure. Lasso cut his term short when he dissolved the National Assembly in May lawmakers pursued impeachment proceedings against him.

Under Lasso's watch, violent deaths in Ecuador soared, reaching a record 4,600 in 2022, which was double the number from the year

The spike in violence is tied to the trafficking of cocaine produced in neighbouring Colombia and Peru. Mexican, Colombian and Balkan cartels have set down roots in Ecuador and operate with assistance from local criminal gangs.

Santos says he expects to be kicked out of Congress Santos once the body returns

 $R^{\text{ep George Santos said he}}_{\text{expects to be expelled from}}$ Congress following a scathing report by the House Ethics Committee that found substantial evidence of lawbreaking by the New York Republican. In a defiant speech on Friday sprinkled with taunts

and obscenities aimed at his congressional colleagues, Santos insisted he was "not going anywhere". But he acknowledged that his time as a member of Congress, at least, may soon be coming to an end. "I know I'm going to get

expelled when this expulsion resolution goes to the floor," he said on Friday night during a conversation on X Spaces. "I've done the math over and over, The comments came one

week after the Republican chairman of the House Ethics Committee, Michael Guest, introduced a resolution to expel

from Thanksgiving break. While Santos has survived two expulsion votes, many of his colleagues who formerly opposed the effort now say they support it, citing the findings of the committee's months-long investigation into a wide range of alleged misconduct by Santos. The report found Santos used campaign funds for personal purposes, such as purchases at luxury retailers and adult content websites, then caused the campaign to file false or incomplete reports.

"Representative Santos sought to fraudulently exploit every aspect of his House candidacy for his own personal financial profit," investigators wrote. They noted that he did not cooperate with the report and repeatedly "evaded"

On Friday, Santos said he did not want to address the specifics of the report, which he claimed were "slanderous" and "designed to force me out of my seat". Any defence of his conduct, he said, could be used against him in the ongoing criminal case brought by federal prosecutors.

Instead, Santos struck a contemplative tone during the three-hour livestream, tracing his trajectory from Republican "it girl" to "the Mary Magdalene of the United States Congress". And he lashed out at his congressional colleagues, accusing them of misconduct -- such as voting while drunk -- that he said was far worse than any-

thing he'd done.
"They all act like they're in ivory towers with white pointy hats and they're untouchable," he said. "Within the ranks of United States Congress there's felons galore, there's people with all sorts of shystie backseek reelection, he said, was not because of external pressure, but due to his frustration with the "sheer arrogance" of his col-



Aviv Asher, 2.5-year-old, her sister Raz Asher, 4.5-year-old, and mother Doron, react as they meet with Yoni, Doron's husband and their father, after they returned to Israel to the designated complex at the Schneider Children's Medical Centre on Friday, November 24. A four-day cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war began in Gaza on Friday with an exchange of hostages and

4 local employees of Germany's main

Community fights for Indian Sikh woman facing deportation from UK

PTI ■ LONDON

The case of an elderly Indian The case of an elderly midian Sikh woman, which first came to light back in 2019, has continued to attract widespread community support in the West Midlands region of England as her supporters fight against her deportation.

Gurmit Kaur, 78, came to the UK in 2009 and Smethwick has been home to her ever since, reads an online petition attracting over 65,000 signatures since it was launched in July 2020. More recently, "We Are All Gurmit Kaur" has been running across social media as the local

community continues to rally around the widow. "Gurmit Kaur has no family to turn to in the UK and no family to return to in Puniab, so the local Sikh community of Smethwick have adopted her," reads the petition on Change.Org. "Gurmit applied to stay but has been refused even though she has no family to return to in Punjab, India. Gurmit is a very kind woman, even though she has nothing she is still generous and will always give what she can, when she can. Most of her days are spent volunteering at the local gurdwara," it reads. The UK Home Office maintains that Kaur was still in contact with people in her home village in Punjab and would be able to re-adjust to life there. Salman Mirza, an immigration advisor for the Brushstroke Community Project who started the petition and is among those helping Kaur through the visa appeals process, told the BBC that her ordeal has been like torture for her. "She has a derelict house in the village, with no roof and would have to find heating, food, and resources in a village she hasn't been to in 11 years. It's like water torture, it's like a slow death, she's never had the right to work and provide for herself,"

aid agency arrested in Afghanistan Berlin (AP): Taliban authorities in Afghanistan arrested four local employees of Germany's main government-

owned aid agency, according to the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. "I can confirm that the local employees of GIZ are in custody although we have not

received any official information on why they are detained," a ministry spokeswoman told the Associated Press in a statement late Saturday.

'We are taking this situation very seriously and are working through all channels available to us to ensure that our colleagues are released," she added. The German Agency for International Cooperation, or GIZ, is owned

by the German government.

It operates in around 120 countries worldwide, offering projects and services in the areas of "economic development, employment promotion, energy and the environment, and peace and security," according to the agency's website. The Taliban took over Afghanistan in August 2021, after the withdrawal of US and NATO forces from the

Many foreign missions, including the German embassy in Kabul, closed down their offices. The Taliban initially promised a more moderate approach than during their previous rule from 1996 to 2001 but gradually reimposed their harsh interpretation of Islamic law,

or Sharia. Girls were banned from education beyond the sixth grade and women were barred from working, studying, traveling without a male companion, and even going to parks or bathhouses and forced to cover up from head to toe.

A man dressed as Santa Clause waves to onlookers during a parade before a Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Saturday in Plains, Ga

On 15th anniversary of 26/11 attack, Moshe's grandfather thanks Indians

The grandfather of Moshe Holtzberg, the youngest survivor of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, has expressed his gratitude to the people of India for treating his family's pain as their own all these years. Moshe, who was just two at the time of the deadly 26/11 attack, carried out by 10 Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, lost both his parents, Rabbi Gabriel Holtzberg and Rivka Holztberg, in the assault on Nariman House, also known as Chabad House.

The people of India remember what happened on this day 15 years ago. You remember the tragedy that struck our family and also the families of other Israeli people,"

Rabbi Shimon Rosenberg, Moshe's grandfather, told PTI. "I want to say that I, my wife

Yehudit and also the Moishi (Moshe) boy, feel it and want to thank you all in India for your similar feelings for the tragedy that struck us and you all," he said. "This year especially shows how terrorists want to murder the Jews but we still hope for peace in the whole world," he said at a time when Israel is at war with the Islamist Hamas terror group after they carried out a brutal attack in its territory on October 7.

Moshe's parents were the emissaries of the Chabad Movement in Mumbai at the time of the 26/11 attack. Moshe's pictures with his nanny Sandra holding him close to her chest after saving his life in a daring move in the middle of the terror attack caught worldwide attention.

"Moshe is well and learning in a Yeshiva. Sandra is in Israel and comes from Jerusalem to be with us every alternate weekend. She has a permanent place in our house as a member of the family," Rabbi Rosenberg said.

Sandra was given honorary citizenship by the government of Israel and conferred with the title of "righteous gentile", a rare honour extended to those who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

The family held annual prayers in memory of their dear ones on November 13 in Afula as per the Hebrew Calendar this year. They decided not to do the prayers in Jerusalem this year because of

the ongoing situation in Israel. Last year, in an emotional recorded video message Moshe had called upon the international community to look for ways

to counter terror so that "nobody has to go through what he has gone through".

He narrated the story of his lucky escape in a daring act by Sandra "who risked her own life to save his" and about his growing up in Israel with his grandparents, Rabbi Shimon and Yehudit Rosenberg, who have been raising him as their own son. They are his grandparents from his mother's side. On November 26, 2008, ten Pakistani terrorists entered the south Mumbai areas through a sea route and attacked a number of places, including Chabad House, a Jewish centre. The

indiscriminate attack killed 166 people, including six Jews and 18 security personnel.

The 26/11 attack continues to be an emotional moment for a lot of Israelis who feel that it "is a shared pain" that binds India and Israel together.

Last week, Israel reaffirmed its declaration of Lashkar-e-Taiba as a terror organisation to symbolise the marking of the 15th year of commemoration of the 26/11

Mumbai terror attack. "While Israel only lists terror organisations who are actively operating against it from within or around its borders, or in a similar manner to India - those globally recognised by UNSC or the US State Department; the Israeli ministries of Defence and Foreign

the last few months towards an expedited and extraordinary listing of the Lashkar-e-Taiba organisation on this date, to highlight the importance of a Unified Global Front in combating terrorism," an official statement stressed. Israeli Foreign Ministry's

affairs, have jointly worked in

spokesperson Lior Haiat separately confirmed the development to PTI saying that it was initially done so in 2013 but has now formally entered the records. Seen by many as a "shared pain", 26/11 continues to stir outrage in Israel every year with commemorative events condemning the senseless killings and demands for justice against the masterminds of the terror attack heard every year across the country.

India's steel demand to touch 190 MT by 2030

Production to reach 210 MT: Steel Min

India's steel demand is expected to grow at a CAGR of 7 per cent to touch 190 Million Tonne (MT) level by 2030, according to a report by SteelMint India.

The demand will be largely fuelled by construction and infrastructure sectors, which contribute 60-65 per cent to the demand, the market research

In 2030, India's steel demand is projected to reach 190 MT based on a 7 per cent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR).

"In the best case scenario, it can also reach 230 MT by 2030," the report titled 'India's Steel and Coking Coal Demand

The demand will also be pushed by sectors like auto and engineering, and factors like population growth, growing urbanisation, various govern-ment initiatives will be its key

The demand is expected to touch 120 MT mark by 2023end, and production will be at 136 MT, as per the report. India's crude steel production



is expected to be at 210 MT by 2030, 45 per cent higher from production levels of 2023.

Many countries, including China, will show a fall in steel production as compared to their current production levels, the report said.

On raw material demand scenario, SteelMint said India's steel production growth via the Blast Oxygen Furnace (BOF) route, aiming for 140 MT of hot metal output in 2030, will require 116 MT of metallurgi-

In times to come, India will emerge as the largest importer of sea-borne met coal, which has a market share of 30 per cent, it said, adding that the country will require around 350 MT of iron ore by 2030. The year 2030 is significant for

the domestic steel industry as the government has set an ambitious target to increase India's installed steel making capacity to 300 MT. With approximately 80 MT of

steel production capacity to be added in India by 2030, 66 per cent will be through the Blast Furnace-Basic Oxygen Furnace (BF-BOF) route.

Currently, BOF and Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) contribute 46 per cent and 54 per cent, respectively, to the steel production in India

BSE comes out with new guidelines for shifting of SMEs to main board



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 B^{SE} has put in place fresh guidelines for small and medium enterprises looking to migrate from its SME platform to the main board, whereby the applicant will be required to have a net worth of at least Rs 15 crore for the preceding two financial years.

Under the guidelines, the applicant firm needs to be listed on the SME platform for at least three years. Besides, they need to have 250 public shareholders before shifting to the main board.

In addition, the SME should have a positive operating profit for at least any two out of three financial years and have a positive profit after tax (PAT) in the immediate financial year

of making the migration application to the bourse. "The applicant should have a

net worth of at least Rs 15 crore for two preceding full financial years, "BSE said in a circular. Further, the paid-up equity capital of the applicant should be more than Rs 10 crore and the market capitalization should be at least Rs 25 crore. Among other parameters, the applicant company should not have received any winding-up petition admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and no material regulatory action should have been taken against the firm in the past three years like suspension of trading against the SME and its promoters by

any stock exchange. Also, the applicant company, its promoters as well as its subsidiary should not be debarred by capital markets regulator

Separately, the exchange also tweaked the eligibility criteria for listing on the SME platform. The new guidelines will become effective from January , 2024, BSE said.

Till date, 464 companies have been listed on the BSE SME platform, of which 181 have migrated to the main board, data with the platform showed. Top bourses- BSE and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) - launched dedicated platforms for SMEs in March 2012 to enable the listing of these firms and help them raise equity capital for growth and expansion in a cost-effective

Private general insurers expand market share to 53.58% in H1'FY24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI,

Private general insurers increased their combined market share to 53.58 per cent in gross direct premium under-written in the first half of the current financial year from 50.81 per cent in the year-ago period.

As many as 31 insurers from the non-life industry had underwritten gross direct premiums of Rs 1.43 lakh crore in the first half of the current financial year, according to data on segment-wise gross direct premiums up September 2023 released by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai).

Private insurers registered an annual increase of 14.86 per cent in gross direct premiums. The non-life industry had underwritten gross direct pre-mium (GDP) of Rs 1,25,194 crore in the April-September period of 2022-23.

Private general insurers have a combined market share of 53.58 per cent YTD September 2023 with a growth rate of 21.13 per cent as compared to a market share of 50.81 per cent YTD September 2022 with a growth rate of 21.33 per

cent," Irdai said.

PSU general insurers had a combined market share of 31.99 per cent during April-September, 2023 period with a growth rate of 12.16 per cent as compared to a market share of compared to a market share of 32.76 per cent in the corresponding period of the last financial year, 2022 with a growth rate of 6.43 per

Irdai data showed that New India Assurance Company is the largest insurer with a market share of 13.09 per cent fol-lowed by ICICI Lombard General İnsurance Company (8.67 per cent) and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company (7.69 per cent).

These top 3 insurers have a combined market share of 29.46 per cent with a growth rate of 18.45 per cent. Irdai also said that eight insur-

ers have more than 5 per cent market share of total non-life GDP YTD September 2023. According to the Irdai data, up to September 2023 health

life segment followed by motor (total) and crop insurance.
It also showed that marine cargo, marine hull, crop insurance and liability (total)

insurance was the largest non-

registered negative growth rate.

India's FTA with Singapore and as part of Asean needs to be studied together: GTRI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

rhink-tank GTRI on Sunday **■** suggested that the government study the bilateral free trade agreement with Singapore and as part of the Asean bloc together while reviewing its trade pact with the 10-nation grouping.

Singapore is a member of 10nation Asean bloc with which India has a free trade agreement in goods since 2010. Separately, India also implemented a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) with Singapore in 2005.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) also suggested a similar exercise with

Thailand, another member of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). India signed a limited free trade pact with Thailand in 2006.

These suggestions assume significance as India and Asean have agreed to review their trade pact and are aiming to conclude the exercise by 2025.

Asean members are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam. Out of these, five countries -Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam - account for 92.7 per cent of India's exports and 97.4 per cent imports from Asean.

India's export to Asean was USD 19.1 billion in 2008-09 and it increased to USD 44 billion in 2022-23. On the other hand, imports from the 10nation bloc rose to USD 87.6 billion in the last fiscal as against USD 26.2 billion in

"India has a separate FTA with Singapore with more relaxed rules of origin of products. The two FTAs may be studied together. India has a separate FTA with Thailand called early harvest scheme (EHS) with relaxed rules of origin than what India-Asean FTA offers. Substantial imports may be happening through EHS. The two FTAs may be studied



together," GTRI said in its

With Indonesia, the report said

 Δ s part of its digital trans-

ance behemoth Life Insurance

Corporation (LIC) is exploring

the possibility of setting up a

LIC has initiated a total digi-

tal transformation project

DIVE (Digital Innovation and

Value Enhancement) and

appointed a consultant to steer the project, LIC Chairman

Siddhartha Mohanty told PTI

"Our objective is to get best in

class digital initiatives for all

our stakeholders, customers,

fintech unit.

ed a total of USD 28.8 billion worth of goods and the primary imports included coal (USD 14.4 billion), which consisted of both steam coal (USD 13.7 billion) and coking coal (USD 0.7 billion).

Additionally, India imported palm oil worth USD 5.6 billion and copper ore worth USD 0.9 billion from Indonesia. These products are needed by

India, most imports take place at MFN (most favoured nation) zero duty, it said adding the FTA review may not be helpful to cut such imports. 'Coal imports have increased

by 121 per cent in the past one year alone and most coal is steam coal, available in abundance in India. India should focus on using local coal. Offering MSP (minimum support price) on mustard and

'LIC exploring possibility of setting up fintech arm'

other similar oils will cut domestic prices and wean people away from inferior palm oil gradually," GTRI Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

With Singapore, the report said that electronics constituted a significant portion of imports, totalling USD 7.2 billion in the last fiscal, including computers (USD 1.7 billion) and integrated circuits (USD 1.5 bil-

Other notable imports included plastics, iron and steel, gold, and a smaller amount of fer-

"Singapore does not produce coal, iron, steel, or fertilizers. Firms may be transhipping these from Singapore.

business. Such imports must be out of the FTA, but need investigation why they are happening in the first place. Rules of Origins may be checked for use of value addition norms for electronics products, gold etc," Further the country's imports

But this adds to cost and is bad

from Malaysia stood at USD 12.7 billion in 2022-23 and the main goods included palm oil (USD 3.5 billion), petroleum products (USD 3.2 billion), and electronics (USD 2.2 billion) and most of these imports are commodities needed by India and the FTA review may not be helpful to cut most of such imports, GTRI said.

IOC, GAIL fined for second straight quarter for failing to meet listing norms

State-owned oil and gas giants Sincluding IndianOil and GAIL (India) Ltd have been slapped with fines for the second quarter in a row for failing to meet listing requirements of having the requisite number of independent directors on board. Stock exchanges have fined oil refining and fuel marketing giant Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), explorers Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd, gas utility GAIL, refiners Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), and Engineers India Ltd Rs 5.42 lakh, stock exchange filings showed.

In separate filings, the companies detailed the fines imposed by the BSE and NSE but were quick to point out that appointment of directors was done by the government and they had no role in it.

The fines were for not having the requisite independent directors in the second quarter. They had faced fines for the same reason in the first quarter as well. While the companies have now been slapped with a uniform Rs 5,42,800 fine, ONGC was previously slapped with Rs 3.36 lakh fine, IOC Rs 5.36 lakh and GAIL Rs 2.71 lakh fine. HPCL and BPCL were each asked to pay Rs 3.6 lakh fine, while Oil India had faced a penalty of Rs 5.37 lakh. Listing norms require companies to have independent directors in the same proportion as executive or functional directors. They are also required to have at least one woman director on the board.

In its filing, IOC said it has informed the BSE and NSE that "being a government company, the power to appoint directors (including independent direc-



tors) vests with the Ministry of Independent Directors) are Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), Government of India and hence the nonappointment of women independent director on the Board during the quarter ended September 30, 2023 was not due to any negligence / fault by the

IOC said it "should not be held liable to pay the fines and the same should be waived-off." Stating that it has been regularly taking up with MoP&NG for

appointment of requisite number of independent directors (including woman independent director) to ensure compliance with corporate governance norms, the company said it had received similar notices from the stock exchanges in the past imposing fines and its waiver request was considered favorably by the exchanges. GAIL said "the non-compliance with regard to the composition of the Board was neither due to any negligence/default by the company nor within the control of ĜAIL's management and continuous efforts were also made to meet the compliance requirements.

"ĠAIL (India) Limited is a 'Government Company' under the administrative control of the MoP&NG, Government of India. All the Directors on the Board of GAIL (including nominated/ appointed by the Government of India.

'As such, appointments are outside the purview/ control of the GAIL's management. The company is regularly following up the Government of India for appointment of requisite number of Independent Directors on its Board," it added.

ONGC said it had in May and again in October submitted to the government the requirement for appointment of additional independent directors on the company board.

Government of India has been requested for nomination of the requisite number of independent directors on the Board of the company," it said. BPCL said it complied with the

listing requirement of having 50 per cent independent directors on the board till April 30 but is short of one independent director thereafter. BPCL has requested the Government of India from time to time for the nomination of one independent director," it said.

"As the directors are appointed after receipt of nomination from Government of India, BPCL has no control over the appointment of directors. Hence, BPCL will be approaching BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited for waiver of the fines.



intermediaries, marketing people and everybody through the project DIVE," he said. In the first phase, the customer acquisition part is going to be transformed, he said. Customer acquisition is done through three modes--agent, bancas-

surance and direct sale. LIC gets most of its new customers through its agents. Subsequently, other areas would see transformation, he said, adding, services like claims settlement, loan and other services will be made

available at the click of a but- corporate agents so far in the

through his mobile he can access our required services...We are focussing on fintech as well and will harness its potential in expanding business," he said.

LIC is also exploring options of having its own fintech arm that can be developed as a business model, he said.

Asked to share further details on fintech, he said, it is premature to talk about it. It is to be noted that LIC has added three fintech companies as

current year for product dis-"Customers need not come to tribution. The insurer has lined during the current financial year to accelerate new business premium growth in the double

LIC is going to launch one product in the first week of December, he said, hoping that it will attract a lot of traction in the market. Sharing some features of the new product, Mohanty said it will provide assured returns and after maturity, the policyholder will get 10 per cent of the sum assured life

ONGC charges premium over Brent in oil deals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

in an interview.

India's top oil and gas producer ONGC has signed term contracts with refiners to sell crude oil it produces from Mumbai offshore fields at a premium to international benchmark Brent, sources said. Oil and Natural Gas

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL). The oil has been priced at the prevailing Brent crude oil price plus 1 per cent, company

million tonne of crude oil each

sources said. Brent, the world's best known Corporation (ONGC) has benchmark for the raw matersigned deals to sell about 4.5 ial that is converted into fuels



like petrol and diesel in refiner-

barrel. As per the pricing in the term contracts, ONGC would get USD 80 plus USD 0.8 for the oil it will sell to HPCL and

ONGC produces 13-14 million tonne per annum of crude oil from its fields in the Arabian Sea, off the Mumbai coast. In June last year, the government abolished a rule that said oil from blocks awarded prior to

1999 must be sold to govern-ment-nominated customers, mostly state refiners. The old rule had led to producers such as ONGC and Oil India not getting the best market price. Subsequent to that rule change, ONGC started quarterly auctions of crude oil produced from Mumbai High and Panna/Mukta fields in the western offshore.

States to miss capex targets this fiscal on fall in revenue, other factors: Report

PTI MUMBAI

S everal states are likely to miss their capital expenditure targets for the ongoing fiscal due to polls and fall in revenue, according to an analysis.

A steep fall in revenue receipts will further lead to a major compression in state capex, which during the first half of FY24 rose to a record 35 per cent, Icra Ratings Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said. To maintain their Budget

the second half, which is unlikely, since model code of conduct is likely to take effect in the March quarter before the general elections, Nayar

The combined revenue and fiscal deficits of these 21 states widened to Rs 70,000 crore and Rs 3.5 lakh crore, respectively, in the April-September period, from Rs 50,000 crore and Rs 2.4 lakh crore, respectively, in the year-ago period.

The report excludes Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, estimates, 21 states -- whose capex and other macro data is Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, available -- will have to ensure Mizoram, and Nagaland. that the capex run run rate is While the growth of com-

maintained at 28 per cent in bined revenue receipts and expenditure of these 21 states in the period under review trailed Budget estimates, their capital outlays and net lending were higher.

This was boosted by the early releases under the scheme for special assistance to states for capital investments (or capex loan) in the April-October period of the current fiscal, Nayar said.

This contributed to the increase in capex as a proportion of Budget estimates to 35 per cent in the first half of the fiscal from previous years' average of 30 per cent, she

INBRIEF

SRM HOLDS 'DELHI-6 FOOD FESTIVAL'



Kattankulathur: SRM Hotels at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur has kickstarted 'Delhi-6 Food Festival' promising an authentic taste of Delhi food. The buffet, showcasing the flavours of Delhi, is curated by the renowned Chef Dilip Johri from Delhi along with SRMIST's Executive Chef Ramesh. The ingredients and the groceries are directly brought in from Delhi. The event will be on till 29 November 2023. The festival invites food lovers to indulge in an exquisite dining experience and the opportunity to savor the rich and diverse tastes of Delhi under one roof

NATIONAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sanjeet, Varinder off to a flying start

sian Championships 2021 gold medalist Sanjeet (92kg) and three-time national champion Varinder Singh (60kg) notched up commanding wins against their respective opponents on Day 1 of the Elite Men's National Boxing Championships here on Sunday

Sanjeet, representing Services, used his experience to beat Jagadheeshwaran J of Karnataka in the opening round itself.

Sanjeet's aggressive approach and hard-hitting punches were too good to handle for his opponent, resulting in the referee stopping the contest for the former's win

On Tuesday, Sanjeet will be up against Sawan Gill of Chandi garh in the pre-quarterfinals clash. Varinder, playing for Railways, began the bout on a cautious note against Bihar's Amlesh Kumar. Varinder tested his opponent initially, before launching some counter-attacking punches towards the end. Riding on his confidence from his opening two-round exploits, Varinder raked up a 5-0 tri-umph. He will be up against Vishal Nupe of Maharashtra in the Round of 32 clash.

Meanwhile, Harsh Choudhary (80kg) of Rajasthan, who represented India at the 2023 Men's World Championships, faced Uttar Pradesh's Shivam Saini in his tournament opener.

Choudhary overpowered his opponent, thanks to his quick moments, strength and accurate



punches, winning the bout 5-0 by unanimous decision.

On Tuesday, Choudhary will face Jammu & Kashmir's Chander Dev Singh in the prequarterfinals.

Ålso, Punjab's Jashanpreet Singh

(71kg) registered a commanding win against Mohammad Moin Shikh of Gujarat, as the bout ended with a knockout in Round 2.

Assam's Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), a six-time Asian medalist, will

begin his campaign in the Round of 32, having received a bye in his opening round and will take on Abhinash Jamwal of Himachal Pradesh on Monday. Similarly, Amit Panghal (51kg) of Services, a World Championships silver medalist, will be in action on Monday against Shivaji of Maharashtra in the Round of 32 clash.

Over 350 boxers across 13 weight categories are taking part in the championships.

Sreenidi Deccan beat Namdhari FC 2-0 in I-League

Munoz expertly placed the ball

into the net, giving Deccan the

The Deccan warriors doubled

their lead three minutes later.

This move was initiated by Faysal Shayesteh, who played a

In a desperate attempt to thwart the attack, Namdhari's defend-

er Akashdeep Singh lunged for-

ward with a tackle, hoping to clear the ball.

However, his clearance attempt

was not successful, and the ball

landed at the feet of Jagdeep

Singh who fired home a power-

Sreenidi Deccan nearly added a

third goal in the 36th minute.

Munoz unleashed a fierce left-

footed shot, challenging the

Namdhari goalkeeper who man-

aged to deflect the ball with a

As Lalromawia prepared to capitalize on the rebound,

ful right-footed shot.

desperate fist.

quick one-two with Munoz.

PTI ■ SRI BHAINI SAHIB (PUNJAB)

Stheir winning run to three matches in the I-League as they notched up a 2-0 win against Namdhari FC here on Sunday. Captain David Castenada Munoz (21st minute) and Jagdeep Singh (24th) were the goal scorers.

Namdhari were reduced to 10 men early in the second half, when Sukhandeep Singh was shown a red card.

The win took Sreenidi, who are tied on 16 points with Mohammedan Sporting, to the top spot on the I-League table, though the latter have played one game less

Sri Bhaini Sahib is located near

Ludhiana city. From the outset, both teams displayed an offensive strategy. The first significant opportunity came in the 10th minute, courtesy Namdhari's skilful Spanish midfielder, Imanol Arana Sadaba.

Demonstrating his expertise in set-pieces, Sadaba hit a beautifully curled free-kick that seemed destined for the back of the net. However, in a stroke of misfortune for Namdhari, the ball struck the upright.

Sreenidi Deccan's first opportunity came in the 21st minute and they seized it with remarkable efficiency.

Munoz, who was benched in the previous match, proved his worth when he skilfully passed the ball to Rosenberg Gabriel from just outside the penalty area and then made a run into

Namdhari's captain Akashdeep Singh intervened in time to Gabriel drew the defenders towards him before playing the ball back to Munoz. Finding himself with ample space, clear the danger.

Namdhari returned to action after half time with renewed determination to narrow the score gap. Their proactive approach almost paid off in the 47th minute when substitute Sandeep Singh delivered a low cross towards the Sreenidi

Deccan goal. Sreenidi Deccan's goalkeeper Albino Geovanni Gomes misjudged the trajectory of the ball, leaving the goal vulnerable. However, Namdhari's players were not positioned well to

exploit this lapse. Namdhari's task, though, turned into a daunting one in the 56th minute when the team was reduced to 10 players after defender Sukhandeep Singh received his second vellow card for a foul on Shavesteh

Confronted with the numerical disadvantage, Namdhari tactically shifted their focus to defence, aiming to prevent conceding any further goals.

Satwik, Chirag go down fighting to world number 1 Liang-Wang

PTI SHENZHEN (CHINA)

Star Indian shuttlers Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fought valiantly before going down to the Chinese duo of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang in an exciting men's doubles final of the China Masters Super 750 tournament here on Sunday

Satwik and Chirag, the Asian Games champions, lost 19-21 21-18 19-21 to the world no. 1 Chinese pair after a one-hour, 11-minute battle, their first defeat in six finals this season. The Indian pair gave ample display of their grit as they saved six championship points from from 1-8 down in the decider, but Liang and Wang found their bearing just in time to win the first men's doubles China Masters title for the hosts in eight years.

With this victory, Liang and Wang also avenged their Asian Games loss to the Indians.
In a finale of fluctuating for-

tunes, the Indian shuttlers couldn't produce their best as their defence, particularly Satwik's, wilted under the pressure of Liang and Wang, who looked in the zone.

Wang rose to the occasion and stood tall in the key moments, winning the battle of the front



court play with Chirag. It was not a smash-feast like the semifinals but was an exhibition of versatility of skills as the two pairs focused more on placement and angles, varying the pace to outmanoeuvre the other. The Chinese pair of Liang and Wang led the head-to-head record against their opponents going into this final though the Indian duo won their most recent meetings in straight

fault and then hit two miscued strokes as the Indians lagged 1-4. The slow start affected India as they were left to do the catch-

up act. The Indians kept themselves in the hunt, levelling at 9-9, 15-15 and 19-19 but Liang then unleashed a smash to earn a game point and sealed it, when Satwik went to net.

The Indians regrouped and staged a remarkable rally to win the second game 21-18 but games. the second game 2.1. Satwik and Chirag committed a

series of unforced errors to allow the Chinese pair to make a rollicking start in the decider. The Indians fell 1-8 behind before the Chinese pair grabbed an 11-6 advantage at the final

The Chinese shuttlers kept an upper hand and earned seven championship points with Wang producing another stiff return. But then, Satwik and Chirag showed their grit as they went on to save six points to raise hopes of a twist. But the Chinese managed to get past them following another excruciating rally which ended with Chirag spraying into the net. Satwik and Chirag have won the ships, Indonesia Super 1000, Korea Super 500, Swiss Super 300 and the Asian Games gold medal in a stellar year.

The BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300. One more category of the tournament, the BWF Tour Super 100 level, also offers ranking

Each of these tournaments offers different ranking points and prize money. The highest points and prize pool is offered at the Super 1000 level.

New wrestling selection policy has its pros and cons: Olympic medallist Yogeshwar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Celebrated Indian grappler Yogeshwar Dutt neither praised nor criticised the new selection policy of the IOA-constituted ad-hoc panel for wrestling, which states that Olympic quota winners will have to compete against a challenger to book a ticket to the Paris Games.

As per the new policy, the wrestling squad for the Paris Olympics will be finalised through a two-step selection process, where the grapplers, who have earned quota places for the country, will compete Khelo India Para Games to be

against a challenger on June 1 and the winner will represent India in the quadrennial show-

Dutt said it is the prerogative of the officials running the sport in the country to decide the selection policy. "Earlier, the wrestlers who used

to qualify went on to compete in the Olympics. As per the current selection policy, Antim (Panghal) who has secured an Olympic quota is not assured (of a Paris berth)... She has to go through one trial," Dutt told PTI on the sidelines of the launch of the mascot and logo for the



held here from December 10 to

"Till date, no trials had happened, I am speaking of our times. Whoever won the quota went on to represent the country in the Olympics. But it is a

rule made by the federation and we have to respect it." "It is the prerogative of the federation to make the rules and

amend them." So far only Antim Panghal, the world championships bronze medallist in 53kg category, has

earned a quota place for the country and she too will have to compete against a challenger on June 1 to know whether she will go to Paris or not. Antim could end up competing

against arch-rival Vinesh Phogat for the Paris berth if the 2018 Asian Games gold medallist emerges a "challenger", which will be determined on May 31.

Rashmikaa wards off Zeel Desai to bag maiden ITF title

Reigning national champion Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty clinched her maiden ITF title, beating a valiant Zeel Desai in an all-Indian final of the Women's World Tennis

Tour here on Sunday. Rashmikaa won 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 in the title clash to walk away with a winner's cheque of USD 3935 and 50 WTA points.
Desai bagged USD 2107 and 30 WTA

Rashmikaa took advantage of an error-prone Desai to gain a break in the second game of the first set and from that point the 27-

to her opponent, grabbing it 6-0.

year-old did not give a semblance of a chance



However, Desai broke her opponent's serve in the very first game of the second set. But Rashmika made a break and servicehold in the fourth and fifth games to take

Desai again came back into the set winning three games on the trot to go 5-3 up before winning the set 6-4.

In the deciding set, Desai found herself down 0-3 down after struggling with her serve in windy conditions.

Rashmikaa also used her strong forehand to good effect and played some brilliant cross court shots which Desai didn't have any

"It is still not sunk in. I knew Zeel is a good player and I was prepared for a 3-setter. "But losing the second set, I thought of giving it all to win the trophy and that is what I did." said Rashmikaa.

Result: Singles (Final): Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty beat Zeel Desai 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.

Champions League group stage resumes this

AP ■ GENEVA

The Champions League group stage moves into the final two rounds of matches on Tuesday with the results also affecting entries to other international competitions this season and next.

The 2025 FIFA Club World Cup. Next season's Champions League. This season's Europa League knockout rounds. They're are effectively in play

right now. That gives extra incentive even to those teams which have already advanced to the Champions League round of 16 in February - Manchester City, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Inter Milan, Real Sociedad, Leipzig - to keep pushing for the best possible results. Likewise for the six teams already out of contention:
Benfica, Red Star Belgrade, Antwerp, Salzburg, Union

Berlin, Young Boys.
FIRST THINGS FIRST: The first priority is trying to earn one of the 10 remaining places in the Champions League round-of-16 draw on Dec. 18. Napoli would advance with a win Wednesday at Madrid, the already qualified Group C

leader, though likely must wait for a final game showdown hosting Braga on Dec. 12.
Arsenal will go through with just a draw Wednesday at home to Lens in Group B, and

cinating Group F where Borussia Dortmund, Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan and and Milan hosts Dortmund. Manchester

winner Bayern. Galatasaray hosting Man United on Wednesday could be the highest-stakes Champions League game of the week, with implications for each club and their respective countries. A loss for either team in Istanbul raises the risk of finishing last

February.
Third-place finishers in each Champions League group next month continue playing in

Atletico Madrid can advance with a win at Feyenoord on Tuesday in Group E. Everything is open in the fas-

Newcastle can still finish in any position from first to last. On Tuesday, PSG hosts Newcastle It's equally tight between United, Galatasaray and Copenhagen to finish second behind Group A

in the group which would mean no European football in

February. Those eight teams



move across to the Europa League knockout playoffs, which also are drawn on Dec.

For English soccer, it is a problem if Man United and Newcastle remain last in their

groups and play no European games for the rest of the season. BONUS CHAMPIONS LEA-**GUE PLACES:** Expanding the Champions League next season in a new 36-team format means four more teams qualifying

and two more guaranteed games for each in a singlestandings league phase.

Two of the four extra entries will go to the countries whose teams collectively have the best overall record in this season's

European competitions. When UEFA confirmed this policy last year, England and Spain were predicted to earn those bonus places that would then be given to fifth-place finishers in the Premier League and La Liga. After all, English and Spanish clubs win most European trophies. Right now, however, Turkey

and Belgium are in line for those bonus entries. Clubs from those countries have the best average total of UEFA ranking points this season - 8.75 and 8.40, respectively. In Turkey that's because

Galatasaray advanced through three qualifying rounds to get into a Champions League group - where it beat Man United at Old Trafford - and Fenerbahce has won nine games since July in the third-tier Europa Conference League. All three Belgian clubs in the Conference League — Brugge, Gent and Genk — are unbeat-en through four rounds, compensating for Antwerp's struggles in the Champions League. England and Spain also trail Germany and Italy in the ranking points standings and can ill afford having Man United, Newcastle and Sevilla sit last in Champions League groups.

CLUB WORLD CUP: The

relaunched FIFA Club World Cup tournament with 32 teams - 12 from Europe - is played at the end of next season in the United States.

If June 2025 seems a long way off, Champions League results this season are helping to decide which teams advance to what should be a huge brandbuilding opportunity every four years. FIFA also will pay tens of millions of prize money dollars. Soccer's world governing body has not yet confirmed the exact entry path. That could happen at a meeting in Saudi Arabia next month. Manchester City, Real Madrid

and Chelsea are in the Club World Cup as the past three winners of the Champions League. The European champion this season also gets a place. That leaves eight or nine entries from a yet-to-be-finalized for-mula that should reward teams for being consistently good in the four Champions League seasons from 2020-24. FIFA has limited countries to

two teams entering with exceptions only for Champions League winners. So Arsenal, Man United or Newcastle must win the final at Wembley Stadium on June 1 to be in the U.S. One year later.

Champions League regulars like Bayern and PSG can be confident they will be at the 2025 Club World Cup.

INDIA DEFEAT AUSTRALIA BY 44 RUNS

ndia defeated Australia by 44 runs in the second T20I to go 2-0 up in the five-match series, here on Sunday. Chasing an imposing 236, Australia were restricted to 191 for nine in the stipulated 20 overs. Ravi Bishnoi (3/32) inflicted a double blow in the powerplay as Australia lost their top-four for 58 runs. Glenn Maxwell (12) also fell cheaply. Thereafter, Marcus Stoinis led the chase with a quickfire knock. But Mukesh Kumar (1/43) cut short his innings for 45 to give the breakthrough. Prasidh Krishna (3/41) also returned with three wickets.

Put in to bat, India posted a huge 235/4. India were off to a flier with Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad making 77 runs for the opening wicket in 5.5 overs. Yashasvi Jaiswal manifested his abundant talent while Ruturai Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan displayed their grace and power with sparkling fifties as India posted a massive 235 for four against Australia in the second T20I here on Sunday.

Australian captain Matthew Wade opted to bowl first keeping in mind the dew factor as the night moves on, but his bowlers faltered against Jaiswal (53 off 25 balls), Kishan (52 off 32 balls) and Gaikwad (58 off 43 balls).



In fact, the ball came to the bat a tad slow off the pitch but the Australian bowlers in general were wayward, also offering width to Índian batsmen.

They were happy to oblige too, especially Jaiswal who took on Sean Abbot in a breathtaking

The Australian pacer rightly took the pace off his deliveries but he erred in the line and length, offering a chance for the Indian opener to free his hands. In the fourth over, the left-hander punished Abbot with a

sequence of 4, 4, 4, 6, 6 for 24 runs, which came through two square cuts, a late cut and two pulls. In the previous over, laiswal and Gaikwad combined to take 15 runs off Glenn Maxwell as India motored on in the Power Play segment which

produced 71 runs. Jaiswal brought up his fifty in just 24 balls, but he could not extend the innings as a rather wild slash off pacer Nathan Ellis landed in the hands of Adam Zampa at backward square leg. But that did not really affect the Indian innings as Gaikwad combined with Kishan, who made his second fifty in as many matches, to garner 87 runs for a bruising second wicket alliance.

After the return of Jaiswal, the visitors might have hoped to slow down India's march, but the right-hand-left-hand combination never really allowed them to dictate the pace of the match as the home team touched 101 for 1 after 10 overs.

India progressed at around 11.5 runs per over in the middle

phase of the innings despite spinners Zampa and Tanveer Sangha bowling relatively better

spells. Kishan reached his half-century in 29 balls with a massive pulled six off leg-spinner Sangha over mid-wicket.

Gaikwad, whose lofted shot over bowler Zampa's head was a treat to watch, too reached his a treat to watch, too reached his fifty off 39 balls with a double off pacer Ellis. It might appear an industrious innings but Gaik-wad's solidity allowed others to launch into the Australian attack. However, Kishan too could not build on his innings as he lost balance while trying to wallop Marcus Stoinis out of the ground, hoicking a simple catch

to Ellis in the deep. But Gaikwad stayed around to ensure that India finished their innings quite strongly, and Rinku Singh too chipped in with his customary cameo (31 off 9 balls). Rinku robbed 25 runs off the 19th over bowled by Abbot as he leaked 56 runs off three

overs in total. BRIEF SCORES:

India 235/4; 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 58, Yashasvi Jaiswal 53, Ishan Kishan 52; Nathan Ellis 3/45) beat Australia 191/9; 20 overs Marcus Stoinis 45, Tim David 37; Ravi Bishnoi 3/32, Prasidh Krishna 3/41) by 44

Gujarat Titans retain Hardik as captain for IPL 2024

Gujarat Titans on Sunday retained premier all-rounder Hardik Pandya as their captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season, ending speculations that he cou-ld join Mumbai Indians ahead of the December 19 auction. Pandya had joined Gujarat Titans as their captain in 2022 and led them to title in the maid-en season itself, besides guiding them to the IPL 2023 final, where they lost to the Chennai Super Kings.

Speculations were rife that Pandya could rejoin Mumbai Indians, ending his two-year association with the Titans ahead of the IPL 2024.

It was expected to be an all-cash trade with Mumbai but in the end Pandya and the Titans found a way out to continue their journey together, at least for now. While the Mumbai side named Rohit Sharma as their captain for IPL 2024, England pacer Jofra Archer has been released.

Archer is still recuperating from an elbow surgery.

List of Retained and Released players of IPL teams:

Mumbai Indians: Retained: Rohit Sharma (Capt), Dewald Brevis, SKY, Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, Tim David, Vishnu Vinod, Arjun Tendulkar, Cam Green, Shams Mulani, Nehal Wadhera, Jasprit Bumrah, Kumar Kartikeya, Piyush Chawla, Akash Madhwal, Jason Behrendorff, Romario Shepherd (trade).

Released: Arshad Khan, Ramandeep Singh, Hrithik Shokeen, Raghav Goyal, Jofra Archer, Tristan Stubbs, Duan Jansen, Ihve Richardson, Rilev Meredith, Chris Jordan, Sandeep Warrier.

Gujarat Titans: Retained: Hardik Pandya (Captain), David Miller, Shubman Gill, Matthew Wade, Wriddhiman Saha, Kane Williamson, Abhinav Manohar, B Sai Sudharsan, Darshan Nalkande, Vijay Shankar, Jayant Yadav, Rahul Tewatia, Mohammed Shami, Noor Ahmad, R Sai Kishore, Rashid Khan, Josh Little, Mohit Sharma. Released: Yash Daval, KS Bharat, Shivam Mavi, Urvil Patel, Pradeep Sangwan, Odean Smith, Alzarri Joseph, Dasun Shanaka.

Lucknow Supergiants: Retained: KL Rahul, Quinton de Kock, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Deepak Hooda, K Gowtham, Krunal Pandya, Kyle Mayers, Marcus Stoinis, Prerak Mankad, Yudhvir Singh, Mark Wood,

Mayank Yaday, Mohsin Khan,

Ravi Bishnoi, Yash Thakur, Amit Mishra, Naveen-ul-Haq. Released: Daniel Sams, Karun Nair, Jaydev Unadkat, Manan Vohra, Karan Sharma, Suryansh

Shedge, Swapnil Singh, Arpit

Traded out: Romario Shepherd, Avesh Khan.

Guleria

Traded in: Devdutt Padikkal. 4. Sunrisers Hyderabad: Retained: Abdul Samad, Aiden Markram, Rahul Tripathi, Glenn Phillips, Heinrich Klaasen, Mayank Agarwal, Anmolpreet Singh, Upendra Yadav, Nitish Reddy, Shahbaz Ahmed (traded from RCB), Abhishek Sharma, Marco Jansen, Washington Sundar, Sanvir Singh, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mayank Markande, Umran Malik, T Natarajan, Fazahaq Farooqi.

Released: Harry Brook, Samarth Vyas, Kartik Tyagi, Vivrant Sharma, Akeal Hosein, Adil Rashid.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Reta-ined: Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Sunil Narine, Jason Roy. Suyash Sharma, Anukul Roy, Andre Russell, Venkatesh Iver, Harshit Rana, Vaibhav Árora, Varun Chakravarthy. Released: Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Das, David Wiese, Arya

Desai, N Jagadeesan, Mandeep Singh, Kulwant Khejroliya, Shardul Thakur, Lockie Ferguson, Umesh Yadav, Tim Southee, Johnson Charles. Chennai Super Kings: Retained: MS Dhoni, Moeen Ali, Deepak Chahar, Devon Conway (wk), Tushar Deshpande, Shivam Dube, Ruturaj Gaikwad,

Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Mandal, Mukesh Choudhary, Matheesha Pathirana, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Mitchell Santner, Simarjeet Singh, Nishant Sindhu, Prashant Solanki, Maheesh Theekshana. Released: Ben Stokes, Dwaine Pretorius, Ambati Rayudu,

Sisanda Magala, Kyle Jamieson, Bhagath Varma, Senapati and Akash Singh. Delhi Captails: Retained:

Rishabh Pant, David Warner, Prithvi Shaw, Axar Patel, Mitchell Marsh, Anrich Nortje,

Kuldeep Yaday, Ishant Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Lungi Ngidi, Abishek Porel, Lalit Yadav, Yash Dhull, Pravin Dubey, Vicky Ostwal, Khaleel Ahmed.

Released: Manish Pandey, Sarfaraz Khan, Rilee Rossouw, Ripal Patel, Rovman Powell, Aman Khan, Priyam Garg, Chetan Sakariya, Mustafizur Rahman, Phil Salt, Kamlesh Nagarkoti. Rajasthan Royals: Retained:

Sanju Samson, Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Prasidh Krishna, Navdeep Saini, Avesh Khan (traded from LSG), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Kuldeep Sen, Sandeep Sharma, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Kunal Singh Rathore, Jos Buttler, Trent Boult, Adam Zampa, Shimron Hetmyer, Donovan Ferreira.

Released: Devdutt Padikkal (traded to LSG), Murugan Ashwin, KC Cariappa, KM Asif, Akash Vashisht, Abdul Bazith, Kuldip Yadav, Joe Root, Jason

Holder, Obed McCoy.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Retained: Faf du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudessai, Will Jacks, Mahipal Lomror, Karn Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Mayank Dagar (trade), Vyshak Vijaykumar, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar.

Released: Wanindu Hasarangha, Harshal Patel, Josh Hazlewood, Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, David Willey, Wayne Parnell, Sonu Yadav, Avinash Singh, Siddharth Kaul, Kedar Ihadav.

Punjab Kings: Retained: Shikhar Dhawan, Jonny Bairstow, Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran, Sikandar Raza, Matthew Short, Arshdeep Singh, Kagiso Rabada, Nathan Ellis, Prabhsimran Singh, Jitesh Sharma, Harpreet Bhatia, Atharva Taide, Rishi Dhawan, Shivam Singh, Harpreet Brar, Rahul Chahar, Gurnoor Brar, Vidwath Kave-

Released: Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Mohit Rathee, Baltej Dhanda, Raj Angad Bawa, Shahrukh

Compensate if India refuse to travel to Pakistan for CT 2025, sign hosting rights: PCB urges ICC

PTI KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) to sign the Champions Trophy 2025 hosting rights agreements with it, stressing that the PCB should be compensated if India refuse to travel to the country citing political and security reasons. A highly reliable source in the PCB told PTI on Sunday that while the ICC has marked Pakistan as the host of the tournament, the global body is yet to sign the with it.

The source disclosed that PCB Chairman Zaka Ashraf and COO Salman Naseer had met the ICC executive board in Ahmedabad to discuss the hosting of the Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February-March,

"Pakistani officials discussed the probability of the Indian board (BCCI) again refusing to send its team to Pakistan and made it clear that in any given situation the ICC must avoid taking unilateral decisions on the tournament," the source said. He said the PCB officials had told ICC that if India refuses to

appoint an independent security agency.
The PCB further said the agency

World record holder para javelin thrower Sumit

Antil on Sunday said that he

wants to prepare for next year's

Paris Paralympic Games at his

not feel the need for it.

for the Paris Paralympics in my

city Sonipat. For me, it has

been a tried and tested strategy,

Antil told PTI Bhasha in an

"Paris has been lucky for me any-

way, where I have been playing

since 2018 and have been giving

my best performance. Till now

I have played there 3-4 times and

I have not faced any problem of

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

abroad.

interview

conditioning.

play in Pakistan on security

could liaison with Pakistan government and security officials to assess the security situation of the participating teams including India.

"The PCB officials said many top teams had toured Pakistan in the last two years without any security concerns.

'They also made it clear that in case of India not sending its team and its matches being moved to another country, then the ICC must compensate Pakistan for this," the source added.

clear that given the relation between Pakistan and Indian governments there was a high probability of India again backing out of playing in the country on security and political grounds.

It may be recalled that India had refused to play in Pakistan in the Asia Cup which was partially hosted by Pakistan in August-September this year.

The Indian team played all its matches in Sri Lanka including the final against that nation. Pakistan hosted just four games of the Asia Cup under an agreement with the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) headed by Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary. The source said Ashraf and Naseer were clear at the ICC

grounds, the global body should meeting that Pakistan would not give up its hosting rights.

Mohun Bagan seeks to keep qualification hopes alive

Mohun Bagan Super Giant Will be keen to return to winning ways and keep their qualifying hopes alive when they face a resurgent Odisha FC in the AFC Cup penultimate round group D clash here on Monday

Mohun Bagan Super Giant had a positive start to their cam-paign, winning back-to-back But they have suffered setbacks

in their last two matches, first dropping points and then losing 1-2 to Bashundhara Kings to slip to second spot in the standings. The Mariners, who qualified for the inter-zonal semifinals in the last two editions, need to bounce back to arrest their slide and keep their qualification hopes alive as they face Odisha in a key clash at the Salt Lake Stadium.

The team will be looking to make use of the home advantage and is determined to bounce back from the 1-2 defeat in

Dhaka, and regain their form. Mohun Bagan have slipped behind Bashundhara to second spot on goal difference and they will end their group league campaign with an away clash against Maziya Sports and Recreation of Maldives on December 11.

The Dhaka outfit, on the other

hand, will take on Maziya on Monday and will conclude their group stage with an away clash against Odisha on December 11. "I know it's a difficult match but we are confident of winning the match and going to next round," said the Mariners coach Juan

Ferrando. The coach will also have to rearrange his squad following the latest injuries to their Indian forward Manvir Singh and Dimitri Petratos, Anwar Ali and Ashish Rai are already injured for Mohun Bagan.

The star of India's 1-0 win over Kuwait had to pull out of their next World Cup qualifiers against Qatar in Bhubaneswar, while the Aussie was also ruled out and skipped the training.
"Football is part of injuries. We have a big squad and this will give opportunities to other players. I don't like to lose sleep over who's not here. Of course it's disappointing but it's better to use the energy in preparing the team," said the Spaniard.

AFC Cup debutants Odisha FC, who suffered a 0-4 blanking at the hands of Mohun Bagan at home in their first match, have shown resilience and determination to bounce back, securing back-to-back victories against Maziya S&RC both at home and

The team, driven by the determination to avenge their previous loss, will be eager to bag all three points.

Fernando acknowledged the threat.

"Past is past, it's history. They won two matches and the atmosphere in the dressing room will be much better than the first game. They press more in the second-half, and now look totally different," he added..

Gill wins maiden APRC title

PTI ■ DANAU TOBA (INDONESIA)

Tndia's Jahaan Singh Gill Lunderlined his supremacy as he clinched the FIA Junior Asia Pacific Rally Championship title 2023 in his maiden outing here on Sunday.

In a grid comprising 63 competitive drivers across categories, Gill ruled the junior class, while the other JK Tyre Motorsports drivers Suhem Kabeer and Lokesh Gowda stamping their authority in the NVA (National Vehicles Approval) category Gill has been in stellar form at

the domestic circuit and recent-

ly sealed the Junior Indian National Rally Championship in Coorg. The rookie finished 8th overall in APRC R2 class as he took home his maiden international title.

"The stages were already very tricky and the rains made it worse. We knew the hazards of driving on this surface but we held our act together and managed to end on the podium," an elated Gill said.

Gill started rallying back in 2021 in K1000 $\dot{\text{Rally}}$ and soon caught the attention of the Indian motorsports fraternity for his speed and technical dri-

Driving a Subaru WRX STi, the

youngster from Chandigarh, along with his co-driver Suraj Keshava Prasad of Bengaluru, did well to battle the tricky surface which became very dangerous due to continuous rains and finished the 12 stage gravel course rally.

Driving for the first time in an international rally, Mysuru's Suhem Kabeer, along with his navigator PVS Murthy, was at his imperious best and posted some impressive timings to win the NVA category and achieve the fourth position overall.

In the M2 class of Indonesia National Rally Championship, Kabeer finished an impressive

"It was one of the most difficult rallies that I have been part of. It was an unchartered territory for us with little knowledge of the terrain. The slush made the stages very slippery and I had to dig deep into my reservoir to finish the event

unscathed," Kabeer said. Bengaluru's Lokesh (along with co-driver Ashwin Naik) had a memorable outing too as he finished second in the NVA category and third in the M2 category for Team JK Tyre Motorsports in the premier continental championship. He also finished fifth in the overall category.



Terry, ex-England, Tottenham and Barcelona coach, dies at 80

AP ■ LONDON

erry Venables, a former led the national team to the semifinals of the European Championship as a coach, has died. He was 80.

The death of Venables was announced on Sunday in a statement by his family to British media, saying he died on Saturday after a long illness. The English Football Associa-

tion and Tottenham, one of the clubs he coached, were among those sending tributes to Venables. Former England captain Gary Lineker called him "the best, most innovative coach that I had the privilege and pleasure of playing for."

Charming and popular, Venables, who was born just outside London, played for Chelsea, Tottenham, Queens Park Rangers and Crystal Palace - all clubs in the capital - in a 16-year senior career that included two caps for England. Palace and QPR were the first teams he managed before spells in charge of Barcelona from 1984-87 and Tottenham from 1987-91.

Venables then turned to international management, coaching England from 1994-96, including at Euro 96 on home soil where the team lost to Germany in a penalty shootout in the semi-finals.

He coached Australia but failed to qualify the team for the World Cup in 1998 after losing in a playoff to Iran. His final coaching spells were

back in club soccer with Palace, Middlesbrough and Leeds. Gareth Southgate, the current coach of England's men's team, described Venables as "tactically excellent" and "capable of han-

dling everyone from the youngest player to the biggest "He was open-minded, forwardthinking, enjoyed life to the full and created a brilliant environment with England that allowed his players to flourish and have one of the most memorable

tournaments in England history," said Southgate, who missed a penalty for England in the 1996 shootout against Germany. 'A brilliant man, who made people feel special, I'm very sad to hear of his passing. The Premier League said

Tottenham will hold a minute's applause ahead of its game against Aston Villa on Sunday and players will wear black armbands.

I want to prepare for 2024 Paris Paralympics in Sonipat, not abroad: Sumit wrestler was shattered in an acci-

home city Sonipat and not There is trouble in extreme cold or extreme hot weather, but the While most of the athletes insist-Paralympics will be held in August and I have played in ed on training in European countries to acclimatise with conditions in Paris, reigning Paris at that time. The world Paralympic champion Antil does record of 70.83m was made in the World Championship 2023 "I don't think practice is necesin Paris itself," said the 25-yearsary in Europe. I want to prepare

Antil, who won gold medal in Tokyo Paralympics in F64 category, holds the current world record, having thrown 73.29m at the recent Hangzhou Asian Para Games. He has broken the world record many times in his career. "My preparations are going very well. Some technical shortcomings came to light in Hangzhou which I am working on. I am also making every possible effort



to remain injury free," he said. "The Para Asian Games gold and the world record are a thing of the past and now my eyes are on the next target.

the World Championship in Kobe, Japan in May. Apart from this, my aim is to cross the 80m barrier sometime in my life," said Antil who shifted to javelin "Currently, I am preparing for after his dream of becoming a

dent due to which he lost his left Terming comparisons with

Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra as meaningless, he said, "There can be no comparison between an able bodied athlete and a para-athlete

The struggle of both is different, the benchmark is different. I would not like to compare myself with any para athlete too because there are many aspects. Everyone has their own journey. It is important to focus on your game instead of any compari-

He also said that the increasing awareness about para sports in India is encouraging the athletes a lot.

"The scenario of para sports in India has changed a lot from the time I started playing. There is a lot of awareness now and it is very heartening to see the way people are showing faith and encouraging para players.

Khelo India Para Games (in Delhi from December 10) will give new inspiration to the youth," he said.

Expressing hope of a recordbreaking performance in the Paris Paralympics, he said, "Very good players are coming up at the junior level and it is expected that the performance in the Paris Paralympics will be better than in Tokyo.

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