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LUCKNOW, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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**SURYA SHINES AS INDIA DEFEATS AUSTRALIA**  
12 SPORT

## Rajouri gunbattle ends, top LeT terrorist killed

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Indian Army on Thursday neutralised both terrorists, including a top Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) commander, at the conclusion of a fierce 30-hour-long gunfight in the Bajimaal forest area of Dharmasal in Rajouri district. Meanwhile, another para-trooper succumbed to his injuries, taking the toll of fatal injuries among Army personnel to five.

So far, a total number of nine elite para commandos have sacrificed their lives in the Rajouri district alone this year. Seventeen security personnel have been 'killed in action' since April 2023 in four similar strikes by the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

Captain MV Pranjal and Captain Shubham Gupta, along with Havildar Abdul Majid, and two jawans Lance Naik Sanjay Bisht and Paratrooper Sachin Laur, sacrificed their lives in the line of duty during the two-day-long operation. According to a Jammu-based Defence spokesman, the mortal remains of the martyred Army personnel will be airlifted to their native places on Friday morning after receiving last respects from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and senior Army officers of the Northern Command and White Knight Corps.

Captain MV Pranjal from Mangalore, Karnataka, is survived by his wife, Aditi G Muddebihalakar. Captain Shubham Gupta from Agra is survived by his parents and a



Army and police personnel shift bodies of two terrorists killed during an encounter at Bajimaal area in Rajouri district on Thursday

younger sibling. Havildar Abdul Majid, from Ajote village of Poonch, is survived by his wife, Sagera Bi. Lance Naik Sanjay Bisht from Halli Padli in Nainital is survived by his mother, Manju Devi. Paratrooper Sachin Laur from Aligarh is survived by his mother, Bhagvati Devi.

According to official sources, the overnight gunfight resumed on Thursday morning.

Additional troops were rushed to the encounter site to maintain a tight cordon to prevent hiding terrorists from fleeing the area. The Army personnel also pressed drones to pinpoint the exact location of the terrorists hiding in the thickly forested area of Bajimaal.

The movement of the local residents in the area remained restricted due to heavy exchange of fire. The educa-

tional institutions remained closed on Wednesday and Thursday during the operation.

As the crack teams of the Indian Army tightened the cordon and zeroed in on the location of the terrorists at a higher position, a heavy gunfight took place in which one of the top commanders of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba was neutralised. The slain commander, believed to be a Pakistani national, has been identified as the code name Qari.

His associate has also been killed during the ongoing operation but his identity could not be ascertained immediately.

The dead bodies of both the terrorists have been retrieved and taken for further medico-legal formalities by the police.

According to police, Qari has been active in Rajouri-Poonch, along with his group since last year.

According to security forces, Qari was also believed to be the mastermind of the Dangri & Kandi attacks in the region. The slain terrorist was sent to revive terrorism in the Pir Panjal region.

According to Defence sources, Qari was an expert in handling IEDs and was operating from the natural caves.

He was also a trained sniper. During his stay in the upper reaches of Rajouri, the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba commander frequently visited local places and often interacted with the local population.

Ironically, on November 19, his visit to a local religious place in the Bajimaal area of Rajouri turned out to be his last outing. His cover was blown over as some of the local residents recorded his meeting with a group of women and later tipped off the security forces following which the operation was launched to flush them out. Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Thursday reached the Bajimaal area in Rajouri and condemned Pakistan's support to mercenaries to carry out an "ambush" on the Indian Army.

"We condemn it. Some of our Army personnel achieved martyrdom in an ambush laid by the terrorists," Raina said.

Calling it to be a heartening incident, the BJP leader said, "Some people don't want peace and normalcy to prevail. They want to derail the movement of development. They want to trigger fear of psychosis. We have jointly fought them and failed them."

## BS3 BS4 cars off limits in Delhi despite GRAP easing

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the air quality in Delhi continued to hover in the very poor category on Thursday, the Delhi Government decided to continue the ban on the BS3 and BS4 petrol and diesel cars despite GRAP-4 measures being relaxed by the Central agency.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, "The way wind speed is low, scientists believe that it can improve further. The government has taken the decision that until air quality improves, GRAP 3 will continue in Delhi."

The minister added the restrictions under GRAP IV have been modified and now include a ban on BS 3 petrol and BS 4 diesel vehicles with All India Permit, which were allowed to enter Delhi earlier.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) crossed 400 in several places in Delhi at 9 am, but settled at 390 by 4pm, said the Central Pollution Control Board. At least 15 out of 38 monitoring stations of the Central Pollution Control Board recorded AQI in the "severe" category on Thursday, while 22 monitoring stations recorded AQI in the "very poor" category. NCR too reported unhealthy air.

GRAP Stage III requires a total halt to all construction and demolition operations, with the exception of critical government projects, mining, and stone crushing.

Delhi on Thursday recorded the season's lowest minimum temperature at 9.2 degrees Celsius, two notches below the season's average.

## Uttarkashi rescue op too close still too far



Preparations underway near the Silkyara tunnel where rescue operation of 41 workers trapped inside the tunnel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE /PTI ■ DEHRADUN/ UTTARKASHI

The effort to bore through the debris of the collapsed Silkyara tunnel faced another setback on Thursday. The operation was once again paused as cracks emerged in the platform supporting the drilling machine, presenting a new challenge in the ongoing rescue mission for the 41 workers who have been trapped inside for 11 days.

The setback occurred just hours after the operation resumed earlier in the day. The resumption followed a six-hour delay to address an obstacle, a steel girder obstructing the auger machine's path—encountered late Wednesday night. This marks the third interruption in the drilling process since the multi-agency rescue mission commenced on November 12, prompted by the collapse of a section of the under-construction tunnel along Uttarakhand's

Char Dham route. According to one official the drilling was stopped on Thursday to "stabilise" the platform on which the 25-tonne drilling machine is mounted. Some cracks apparently appeared in the structure, but there was no official confirmation.

In the afternoon, a government press statement in Delhi said minor vibrations were noticed at 1.10 pm and the auger was being pushed slightly back to "reassess the force to be applied". It said the operation will then restart.

Before the setback, officials were looking at the possibility of the operation ending during Thursday night, provided no more obstacles emerged during the drilling as it entered the last stretch of 10 to 12 metres.

"I expect that in the next few hours or by tomorrow, we will be successful in this operation," National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) member

Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain said in Delhi, even as warned that there could be more hurdles that could delay it.

State Government's nodal officer Neel Neeraj Khairwal told reporters at around 2 pm that drilling had progressed by 1.8 metre after the setback Wednesday night at the 45-metre mark. Another official said the drill had covered 48 metres. Section-by-section, a steel pipe was being pushed through the rubble as the auger machine drilled.

Once the chute emerges from the other end, NDRF men will enter it to help bring out the trapped workers one by one. The workers would lie on low, wheeled stretchers that will be pulled out of the horizontal chute using ropes.

The trapped workers are being sent food, medicines and other essentials through a new six-inch wide tube, which is also being used for communication.

## Rajasthan campaign ends

BJP challenges Congress on crime, appeasement, graft

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The high-pitch electoral campaign in Rajasthan for the November 25 Assembly elections came to an end on Thursday evening with the BJP going all out to wrest power from the Congress, which is trying to end the anti-incumbency trend.

While the ruling Congress focused its election campaign on the works and performance of the Ashok Gehlot Government, its schemes and also banked on the promise of seven guarantees if the party retains power, the BJP attacked the Congress on issues of crime against women, appeasement, corruption and the paper leak.

Rajasthan has 200 Assembly seats but polling will be held in 199 seats as the Congress candidate from Sriganganagar's Karanpur seat Gurmeet Singh Konoor passed away. There are 5,25,38,105 voters in the 199 Assembly constituencies.

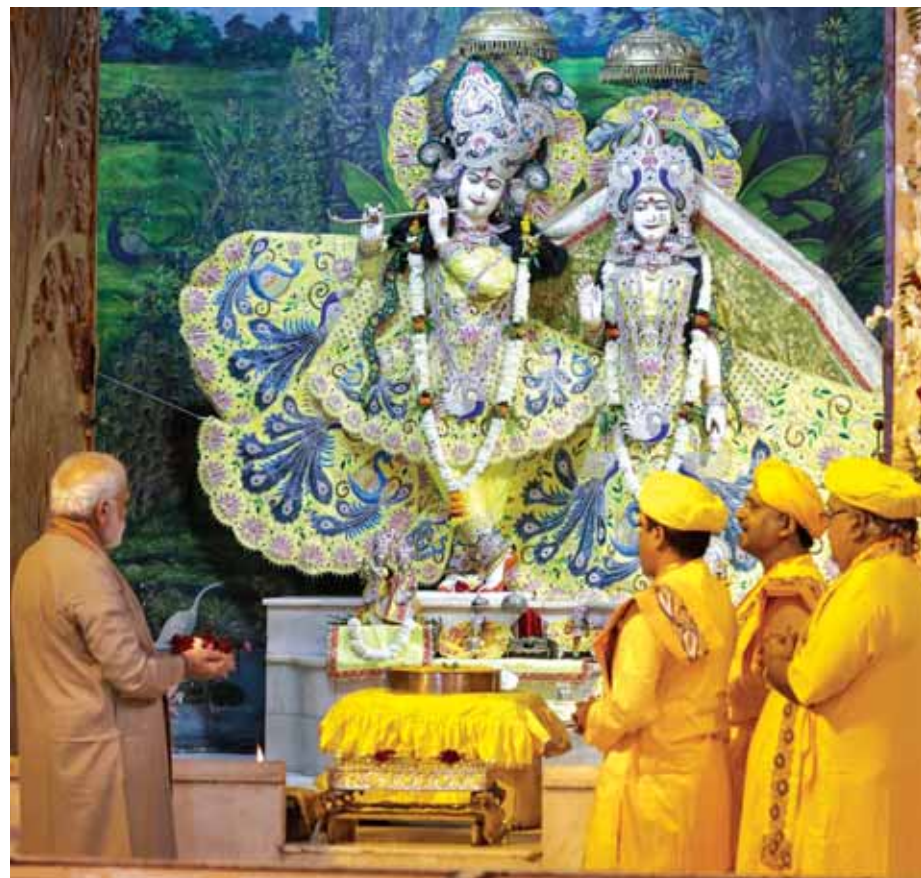
While Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the election campaign for the BJP and held multiple meetings and road shows in important cities of the desert State, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Gehlot and others conducted a series of election meetings.

On the last day of campaigning Home Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Maharashtra counterpart, Eknath Shinde, took out road shows in support of the BJP candidates in different Assembly constituencies of Rajasthan.

BJP president JP Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Smriti Irani and Rajnath Singh, and Chief Ministers Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan Himanta Biswa Sarma among others addressed public meetings in various constituencies across the State. An official of the election

department said the campaigning ended at 6 pm while single phase polling will be held from 7 am to 6 pm on Saturday and results will be declared on December 3 along with the that of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Mizoram. With this, voting process has concluded for four of the five States where polls are being held. Elections are due in Telangana on November 30.

According to the regulations, there will be no election-related public meeting or procession or campaigning on television during the campaign ends. Chief electoral officer Praveen Gupta said if any person violates the provisions, he or she will be punished with imprisonment of up to two years or fine or both. The Election Commission has directed that any political person who is not a voter or candidate of that constituency or is not an MP or MLA cannot stay in that constituency after the election campaign is over.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura on Thursday

## PM: India now out of slavery mindset

PTI ■ MATHURA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said for the first time in the 'Amritkaal' of India's independence, the country has come out of the mentality of slavery and is moving ahead with the feeling of pride for its heritage.

He was addressing the 'Mirabai Janmotsav', organised here to celebrate the 525th birth anniversary of the poet and Lord Krishna devotee.

"Today for the first time in the 'Amritkaal' of India's independence, the country has come out of the mentality of slavery," Modi said.

"We have taken the pledge of 'Panch Pran' from the Red Fort. We are moving ahead with the feeling of pride for our heritage," he said.

Before attending the event, the prime minister paid obeisance at the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura.

During his address, he said unfortunately, this place of pilgrimage, the Braj region, did not get the importance, it should have got after independence," the prime minister said.

"Those who wanted to disconnect India from its past, those who were alienated from India's culture and its spiritual identity, even after independence, they could not give up the mentality of slavery. They also deprived the Braj region of development," he said without naming anyone.

Mentioning Mirabai, he said, "Our country has always been the one that worships women power". Women have always taken up responsibilities and have also continuously guided society, the prime minister said and added that "Mirabai ji is a

shining example of this". The life of Mirabai, an ardent devotee of Lord Shri Krishna, is an inspiration for all, he said.

"It is a privilege for me to participate in the celebration of the 525th birth anniversary of Saint Mirabai at the holy land of Mathura," Modi said.

Mentioning Gujarat's connection with Lord Krishna, the prime minister said, "From Lord Krishna to Meerabai, Braj has a special relationship with Gujarat. Kanha of Mathura became the Dwarkadhish only after going to Gujarat."

"Mirabai ji, who came from Rajasthan and spread love in Mathura-Vrindavan, also spent the last part of her life in Dwarka," he said.

This is not just the celebration of a birth anniversary of a "saint", but the celebration of the entire culture of India, Modi said. This occasion is also a celebration of the "idea of non-distinction between Nar and Narayan, Jiva and Shiva, devotee and God," he said.

Modi said that "a saint like Mirabai showed that a woman's self-confidence has the power to give direction to the entire world". Mirabai was one of the greatest social reformers and pioneers, he added.

Mirabai is known for her devotion to Lord Krishna and she has composed many hymns and verses which are popular even today. Prime Minister Modi also released a commemorative stamp and coin in the honour of Mirabai and attended a cultural programme, in which actor-turned-politician Hema Malini, who is the local BJP MP, performed a dance.

She said in the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is witnessing "nav nirman".

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel were also present at the event.

In his address, the chief minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the honour of India has increased at the global level.

## Booming wedding season kickoff revs up business

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Bands, baja, and related businesses had a hectic but profitable Thursday evening as more than 40,000 weddings took place in the national Capital, marking the beginning of the marriage season from Dev Uthan Ekadashi. The day is considered the most auspicious for the solemnisation of marriages in India.

From the ghoriwala, tents, banquet halls, and jewellery to caterers, the marriage ecosystem brought in more than ₹10,000 crore on the first day. The Delhi region is likely to host 3.5 lakh weddings till December 15, generating a business of more than ₹1 lakh crore.

Starting from November 23, Dev Uthan Ekadashi, the wedding season will continue till

December 15. Stars align auspiciously on dates such as November 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, and December 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 15, drawing couples to tie the knot.

Following a brief hiatus, mid-January will mark the onset of another phase of wedding festivities lasting till July 2023. Goods trade estimates show a diversified distribution with textiles and garments (lehnga, sherwani, sarees) constituting 10 per cent, jewellery at 15 per cent, electronics and consumer durables at 5 per cent, food items at 5 per cent, groceries and vegetables at 5 per cent, gift items at 4 per cent, and miscellaneous items at 6 per cent.

The services sector is also expected to flourish, with allocations of 5 per cent for banquet halls, hotels, and other



farmhouses in every zone. Every farmhouse has two-three venues. "Other than this, there are hotels, community centres, public grounds and lawns. When we get multiple requests for a particular date, and also find that our vendors are already booked on that same day, we figure out that it is a busy day," Lochav said.

However, challenges surfaced with a scarcity of ghoriwalas, bands, and banquet halls, impacting hundreds of weddings. For commuters in Delhi, it was just another day of crazy traffic, especially in the evening when the barataas were out on the roads. The traffic was at its peak between 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm as people took out marriage processions on main roads. Dhaura Kuan, Karkardooma, Chattarpur,

Sardar Patel Marg, Anand Vihar, and ITO among others witnessed heavy traffic. Other areas like Punjabi Bagh, Subhash Nagar, Tilak Nagar in West Delhi also witnessed heavy traffic congestion due to marriages. Amid the ongoing marriage season in Delhi, the traffic police said they have deployed adequate number of personnel on the roads especially in specific parts of the city where banquet halls, hotels and community centres are located. Vedic scholar and chairman of Astrology Science and Veda Gyan Committee Acharya Durgesh Tare said Dev Uthani Ekadasi is the day when lord Vishnu wakes up from his sleep, which is considered most auspicious day for marriages. Tulsi Vivah ceremony is organised with full rituals on this day which is auspicious for Hindus.

Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) general secretary Praveen Khandelwal estimated a staggering ₹10,000 crore in wedding-related businesses on the day.

"Hotels, banquet halls, farm houses, public parks, community centres, dharamshalas and all other types of public places in all parts of Delhi have been booked well in advance due to fewer auspicious dates for marriages in November and December," he added.

The wedding industry saw a surge in bookings for venues, while wedding planners noted a rise in demand for various services like bands, catering, decoration, music groups, hotels and event management. This surge also offered temporary employment opportunities for college students during the wedding season.



# Police intensify vigil on speed limit offenders

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two days after 10-year-old Naimish was killed in a hit-and-run case on the G-20 Summit road, police intensified the vigil on speed limit offenders and reckless drivers. The police checking showed results as stunt-bikers did not show up on specific roads on Thursday. The police said that the checking would continue in the time to come. "Earlier, the stunt-bikers expected a relaxation after a checking drive was launched in the city. Now, there will be

no let-up in the drive. All the officials have been sounded alert," a police officer said. The police placed zig-zag barriers on the G-20 Summit road and also at places where stunt biking takes place. "The police teams channeled those found overspeeding and also checked the driving licences of youths," a policeman from Gomti Nagar Extension said. He added that the cops were conducting checking all across the city. Sources said there are around 30 crossings and 12

locations in the city where e-challans were issued with the help of ITMS. "Speed limit is a special feature to tame the reckless drivers. Usually there is a public outcry when the traffic police intensify the checking. However, the checking will be conducted strictly from now on regardless," a police officer said. Locals pointed out that reckless and drunk driving had claimed lives of several people in the past. "Some of the cases were not even reported. Spoiled brats easily

gets superbikes and cars which they drive recklessly without caring about others. There is a need for classes and seminars on responsible driving for youths, who are mainly the culprits and victims of overspeeding," Manoj Tiwari, a businessman from Husadia in Gomti Nagar, said. Meanwhile, two skating coaches of a private academy have been booked under IPC sections 268 (public nuisance), 283 (danger or obstruction on public way), and 336 (act endangering human life). The two coach-

es — Gaurav Pal and Divyanshu Arora — have been accused of instructing children to practise skating on the G-20 Summit road, which is not only a designated public thoroughfare but also poses a significant safety hazard to both the children and others. The complaint was lodged by one Ashraf Ali, who alleged that reckless disregard for public safety was displayed by these coaches, who prioritised their own interests over the well-being of children under their care.



Uttar Pradesh DGP Vijay Kumar pins a flag on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the occasion of Police Flag Day, in Lucknow on Thursday

# Janeshwar Mishra Park to have sports zone



Lucknow (PNS): Janeshwar Mishra Park is gearing up to establish a sports zone, prioritising the safety and training of youths to elevate their sporting reputation. Vice-Chairman of Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) Indramani Tripathi disclosed plans to enforce practice periods for athletes within the zone, with an upcoming MoU signing with the local Sports Authority of India (SAI) branch. After a four-year search for suitable land, the park has been chosen for cricket, football, hockey grounds, lawn tennis courts, and a skating court. Access to the sports

zone will be through gate number 6, featuring a well-designed jogging track encompassing the entire complex. All age groups will be welcome, and users will be required to deposit fees in the LDA exchequer for maintenance and acquiring new equipment. SAI will fund the zone, ensuring it is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and staffed by coaches from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University, Patiala (Punjab), providing guidance for both young and experienced athletes. The park's in-charge will be responsible for maintenance, and equipment procurement will be through tender processes.

# Man killed in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man lost his life in yet another hit-and-run case near VVIP Guest House in Gautampalli police station area on November 21. The incident came to light on Thursday when the victim's uncle lodged a complaint in this regard. As per reports, Sachin of Beniganj in Hardoi district had visited Telibagh in PGI police station area for some work. He and his uncle Lajja Ram, also of Hardoi, were going to Madaon around 10:30 pm on a motorcycle. When they crossed Lal Batti crossing and reached near the VVIP Guest House, a speeding vehicle knocked their motorcycle from behind. Sachin, who was riding pillion, suffered grievous injuries and he was admitted to Civil hospital where he succumbed during treatment. Lajja Ram said the police knew about the incident as a huge number of commuters had assembled at the scene and had helped in rushing Sachin to the hospital. A police spokesman said the case was registered when the victim's uncle lodged a complaint. Meanwhile, son of a CRPF inspector was found hanging

**Sachin, who was riding pillion, suffered grievous injuries and he was admitted to Civil hospital where he succumbed during treatment**

under mysterious circumstances at his house in Ambekarpuram, Vinit Khand (Gomti Nagar), on Thursday. Reports said Dheeraj Kumar Yadav (22) was found hanging in a room on the second floor of his house with a saree tied around his neck. "I reached there from our native house in Ghazipur district on Thursday morning and found the doors of the room lying open, and Dheeraj hanging from the ceiling," said deceased's father Mahendra Singh Yadav, who is a CRPF inspector, the police spokesman said, adding that the body had been sent for autopsy and further investigation was underway.

In another case, a youth was mowed down by a train while running after his dog in Vibhuti Khand on Wednesday. Reports said Naman Kanaujia (18) of the slum area in Viraj Khand-2 was walking his dog alongside the railway track near his house around 7:30 am on Wednesday. As the dog was unleashed, it started running. Naman ran after the dog and was hit by the train in the process. He was rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced dead.

**THEFT** Thieves made off with ornaments worth several lakh and Rs 10,000 in cash from a house in Ashiyana. Reports said Sushil Tiwari of Ruchi Khand in Ashiyana, along with his family, had gone to his native house in Unnao to take part in a puja on November 20. "We found the house burgled when we returned on Wednesday," he said. In another case, a motorcycle parked outside Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences was stolen on November 21 afternoon. Shivam Nigam of Vinay Khand in Gomti Nagar said he had parked his bike outside the hospital.

# UP Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act does not prohibit transportation of beef: HC

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court has observed that the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act does not prohibit transportation of beef. The above observation was made by Justice Pankaj Bhatia while allowing a criminal revision filed by one Vaseem Ahmad, who had moved the court challenging an order of the Fatehpur district magistrate, confiscating his motorcycle on the allegation that it was used for transportation of beef. In the order, the district magistrate had said he had received a report from the Fatehpur Superintendent of Police that the revisionist's vehicle was implicated in transporting beef and further recorded that since the revisionist failed to provide convincing evidence contradicting the claim, the vehicle was liable to be confiscated under the anti-cow slaughter law. "The restrictions on transportation in terms of the Act and the rules framed thereunder are only applicable in respect of transportation of cow, bull or bullock, that too in any place in Uttar Pradesh from any place outside the state," the court said on Monday after hearing the lawyers from both sides. "In the entire Act or the rules, there exists no provision barring transportation of beef. The restriction placed under section 5A of the cow slaughter Act is only in respect of transportation of cow, bull or bullock, that too only from a place outside the state to any place within the state. There is

no bar or restriction on transportation of beef even from any place outside the state to any place inside the state," it observed. "In the present case, the alleged transportation of beef on a vehicle (motorcycle) within two places in the state is neither prohibited nor even regulated and thus, the foundation for confiscation on the charge of transportation in violation of the provisions of this Act is prima facie not established," the court said. "I have no hesitation in holding that the power of confiscation has been exercised without any authority of law and on a misreading of section 5A(7) of the cow slaughter Act, and for the said reasons, the confiscation order cannot be sustained and is liable to be quashed," it added.

no bar or restriction on transportation of beef even from any place outside the state to any place inside the state," it observed. "In the present case, the alleged transportation of beef on a vehicle (motorcycle) within two places in the state is neither prohibited nor even regulated and thus, the foundation for confiscation on the charge of transportation in violation of the provisions of this Act is prima facie not established," the court said. "I have no hesitation in holding that the power of confiscation has been exercised without any authority of law and on a misreading of section 5A(7) of the cow slaughter Act, and for the said reasons, the confiscation order cannot be sustained and is liable to be quashed," it added.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

My Homely name Baby & Real Right name is Vibha Mishra. Both name are same woman. In my all certificate & documents wrote Vibha Mishra. In future I shall be known as Vibha Mishra D/o Ram Kumar, 75-D-Block, Shyam Nagar, Ram Puram, COD Kanpur.

### NOTICE

I want to correct my son's name from Avi Prabhu (DOB-06/04/2021) to Avi Roy in his birth certificate and records. In future he will be known only this name. Ari Prabhu W/o Satya Prakash R/o Nurses flat, Room number-106, type-III, SGPGI campus, Raibareilly Road, Lucknow.

### NOTICE

It's informed that, I had taken the deed of Gata No. 1112, Gird Gonda rural Tehsil Sadar Land from Shri Ravindranath Srivastava S/o Rajeshwar Prasad Srivastava, Resident of Village Balapur, District Ghazipur. Infact that original deed missed anywhere. In this regarding I am reported my nearest Police Station for it is not misused in future. Gaurav Singh S/o Ram Newaj Singh, Vill-Malathua Shahjot, Gonda

### NOTICE

I Vivek Nigam have changed my name from Vivek Nigam to Vivek Kumar Nigam S/O Saroj Kumar Nigam for all purposes. Above statement made by me is true and correct to best of my knowledge and belief.

### NOTICE

I have lost my original allotment Letter of Plot No. Sec-6/V-310 Gomti Nagar Lucknow which is allotted Sec-6/V-119 Gomti Nagar Extension Lucknow. It will be used illegal Chavi Biswas-4/295 Vibhav Khand Gomti Nagar Lucknow.

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### NOTICE

This is to inform that my name is Rajkumar Gunani, but by mistake in my passport. It is written as. Rajkumar Gumani. Therefore it should be noted in documents. Rajkumar Gunani, S/o Late Hariram Gunani. Add: 84/81, G.T. Road, Thana Raipurwa, Kanpur Nagar.

### NOTICE

In My Army Service Record No. 2969737H Jai Singh, By mistake my wife name and DOB is recorded as Smt. Amla Devi and DOB 10.07.1967 Whereas his real and correct name is Smt. Amla Rai, DOB is 12.01.1959. Jai Singh S/O Late Mulchand, Vill.-Pathkhauri, Post-Badraw, Teh.-Ghosi, Dist.-Mau

### NOTICE

My two original copies of property document have been stolen from Vibhuti Khand area on 18/11/2023. Anyone who finds this, please inform. They will be given appropriate reward. Kamlesh Yadav, S/o Mata Prasad Yadav, R/o-25 Swastik Ram Kunj, Kukrail Picnic Spot, Faridnagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226006. Contact-09670499111

# Revised budget discussed in LMC meeting

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A special meeting of Lucknow Municipal Corporation house was held at the Trilokinath Hall on Thursday to discuss the revised budget for the year 2023-24. About 92 councilors attended the meeting and discussed the revised budget with Mayor Sushma Kharakwal. The councilors lauded the working methodology of Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh. It was unanimously decided by the committee concerned to hand over the Kaifi Azmi auditorium to the municipal corporation for maintenance and the order has been issued to the chief civil engineer to start the work. Other major decisions taken in the meeting include removal of the illegal hoardings set up within the municipal



corporation limits within 15 days. The amount of expenditure for repair of crematori-

um/cemetery has been raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore while it was also decided to

provide 25-25 lights with fittings to each ward. In order to smoothly exe-

cute the work of the property department, it was decided to immediately appoint tehsildars and accountants and to construct a model office in the Lucknow Municipal Corporation. A decision to construct a mini-stadium was also taken in the meeting. A decision for action against the shopkeepers who change the appearance of the building of Mohan Market was also taken while it was decided to make arrangements for healthy food for the cows taken to 'kanji house'. The mayor also announced the decision taken to do away with all the liabilities of the municipal corporation by March 31. Earlier, expressing grief over the death of former Urban Development Minister Ashutosh Tandon Gopal Ji, the House paid a heartfelt tribute to him.

# Labourer mauled to death by tiger in Corbett National Park

PTI ■ AGRA

Lucknow (PTI): A labourer was mauled to death by a tiger on Thursday while working in the Dhikala zone of Corbett National Park in Bijnore, officials said. According to Forest Range Officer Rajendra Chakravart, Ramprasad (55) of Nepali origin, was dragged into the bushes by the man-eater while he was carrying out solar fencing work. Forest guards on duty fired nine rounds in the air to scare away the beast but by the time Ramprasad could be freed from the clutches of the tiger, he was already dead, Chakravart said. Efforts are being made to control the tiger by tranquillising it, he added. Meanwhile, a head constable allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in Bijnore, a senior police official said on Thursday. The body was found hanging from a tree in a garden on Afzalgarh road. Rahul Kumar (37), posted at Sherkot police station, did not reach home after duty on Wednesday night. Police conducted searches and found his body hanging from a tree in a garden on Afzalgarh road, ASP Dharam Singh Marchal said. According to the family, Kumar had mental health issues for a long time and was under treatment, the ASP added.

# Agra mourns demise of braveheart son Capt Shubham Gupta in J-K encounter

Rural) MP Rajkumar Chahar and other local leaders to console the family members. "It is a great loss to our city. May god give strength to his family to bear this huge loss. Captain Shubham Gupta has made the entire city proud while sacrificing his life for the nation at his young age," said Jay Bhardwaj, a local resident. The residents of the city also condoled the loss on social media and shared photos of Agra's brave son Captain Gupta. The family members have said that the martyr's mortal remains are expected to reach home later in the day or late at night. The legal fraternity in Agra also mourned the Army captain's demise and decided not to work on Thursday. Captain Gupta was among the four Indian Army personnel martyred during the encounter. Two others were injured during the encounter, which broke out between the terrorists and joint forces of the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Bajimaal area of Dharmsal following a cordon-and-search operation.

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# Sanjay Singh getting public support, says Imran Hussain

Lucknow (PNS): Delhi's cabinet minister Imran Hussain said on Thursday that truth could not be intimidated and silenced and Aam Aadmi Party's senior leader Sanjay Singh was getting public support. Imran Hussain was addressing AAP's 'Save Democracy Rally' in Moradabad. He said the participation of a large number of people in the meeting showed that people were convinced with the policies of AAP and saw it as an alternative in the present scenario. AAP MLA from Delhi, Dilip Pandey, said the Bharatiya Janata Party wanted to win elections through the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation. AAP state president Sabhajit Singh said the party workers should be ready to go to jail to save democracy. He said the administration stopped party leaders and workers from holding the rally, and gave permission at 11 pm though the party had applied for it in the morning. On this occasion, the speakers accused the Narendra Modi-led government of corruption and pointed to its shortcomings. "Many farmers died when the government attempted to bring farming black laws. When Sanjay Singh exposed the corruption of Adani-Ambani and the Modi government, he was sent to jail," the party leaders alleged. "Sanjay Singh is getting immense public support in the entire country because he always speaks the truth. Singh has become the voice of every oppressed, poor, youth and farmer and he kept raising their voice in Parliament," Imran Hussain said.

**NOTICE**  
I have Laminated the original property documents of my Bhawan No. 293 EWS, Barra-South Kanpur Nagar and there after all original documents do laminated, while, all the documents are in original.  
1. Allotment Letter-1788/D/Bhu/AA Dated 14.10.88  
2. Free Hold Deed- Kanpur development Authority (Seller) Smt. Parwati W/o Late Moolchandra.  
Document dated 27.6.11 Book No. 1 Vol No. 11267 Page 1 to 18 on serial No. 7027 Sub Registrar-III  
3. Possession certificate No. D/326/AA/Bhawan/KDA/2010-11  
4. Sale Deed -Smt. Parwati W/o Late Mool Chandra (Seller) Santosh Kumar S/o Late Mihli Lal (Purchaser)  
Document Dated 03.08.11 in Book No. 1 Vol No. 11376 Page No. 121 to 146 serial No. 8622 Sub Registrar-III KN

**NOTICE** : I Rajiv Kumar Maurya S/o Mr. Bishun Ram Maurya, R/o Village - Patliya, P.O. Chhawani Line, Ghazipur-233001, Uttar Pradesh, have lost my original stamp duty certificate issued from Chief Treasury Officer, Lucknow dated 15-06-2021 of amount of Rs. 1,87,140/- on a Rs. 10/- stamp paper no. 38AE 632626, which was used for the partial payment of stamp duty for the registration of plot no D-233, DLF Garden City, Lucknow. This certificate was the part of sale deed executed on 09-07-2021 vide book no 1, Jild no. 12940, pages 23 to 76 on serial no. 14034 at sub registrar, Mohanlalgnari, Lucknow. If someone finds it please contract on Ph. 8199065768 and any use of this from someone else will be unauthorised and illegal.







# Four killed in road accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Four persons were killed and five others seriously injured when their speeding car rammied into a tree near Hridaypur Pama village under Kanpur Dehat on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

Reports received here said that all of them were coming to Bhaithana (Gajner) from Bihuna (Auraiya) to attend a ceremony. SP Kanpur Dehat BBGTS Murthy along with other officials rushed to the spot and sent all the injured to the district hospital from where

they were referred to the LLR (Hallet) Hospital, Kanpur. According to reports, the marriage of Jai Singh son of Rajpal Singh of Bhaithana (Gajner) was fixed for November 28. On Wednesday evening, Jai Singh had gone to Banthara, Bidhuna (Auraiya) to bring his elder sister Priya Senger wife of Preetam and others in a hired car. Around 1.30 am when he was returning to Bhaithana (Gajner), the driver dozed off and lost control over the car which rammied into a roadside tree. In the incident Jai Singh (25), son of Rajpal of Bhaithana, his sister Priya Senger (40), wife of Preetam

Singh of Banthara, Bidhuna, grandmother Ranno Devi (70), Priya (14), daughter of Ram Prakash of Banthara (Bidhuna) were killed. The injured included driver Pradip Kumar (35) of Bhagirathpur, Gajner, Parul alias Pragma (14), Palak alias Pratiksha (16), Kanhaiya (10) and Ansh (8). All the injured were referred to the LLR (Hallet) hospital, Kanpur from the district hospital.

**FIRE:** Two waste material godowns unauthorised set up on a vacant plot in Sajari, Sanigwa under Chakeri police area caught fire under mysterious circumstances early on Thursday morning. Five fire

tenders rushed to the spot which controlled the flames after about two-and-a-half hours.

Jajmou FSO Rahul Nandan said around 3 am he received information about the fire in two waste material godowns in Sajari. When he reached there with two fire tenders, he found it to be a devastating fire spread in around 200 metres area of both the godowns. He said the cause of incident could not be ascertained. The godown owners were also found absconding after the incident. However, the fire was controlled and efforts were on to contact the godown owners, he said.

# Man meets tragic end

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A school bus driver was killed when his vehicle collided with a truck near Benda village on the Mughal Road under Ghatampur police station area on Thursday morning. The irate villagers blocked the Mughal Road. Fortunately there were no children in the bus at the time of the incident which took place at the same place where two trucks had collided head-on on Tuesday night.

On coming to know about the agitation, the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM)



The school bus which overturned near Benda village of Ghatampur on Thursday morning

rushed to spot and pacified the matter by assuring payment of compensation to the kin of the deceased. Manphool (40) of Raha village was a bus driver in a private school on Mughal Road. He is survived by wife Ishunandi and four daughters who are married.

The accident took place near Benda village around 6.30 am on Thursday when he was going to bring school children by bus. As a result the bus overturned into a pit and led to Manphool's killing on the spot. The irate kin along with villagers blocked the Mughal Road with the body. When the sub-divisional magistrate reached the spot he assured the villagers of payment of compensation to the kin of the deceased and got the traffic restored.

# CSAUA&T V-C felicitated



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Vice-Chancellor of the Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology (CSAUA&T), Dr Anand Kumar Singh, was felicitated at the Lucknow University with "Lifetime Achievement Award" on Thursday. He was conferred the award jointly by the Agriculture

Scientists Selection Board Chairman Dr Sanjay Kumar and Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University, Prof Alok Kumar Rai. The award was given jointly by the Indian Society of Agriculture Biochemist, CSA and Botanical Sciences Department, Lucknow University. The award was conferred during the inaugural ceremony of the three-day sem-

inar on "Climatic changes and sustainable agricultural environment and current trends in zoology for better health" at Lucknow. He has been conferred the award for his major contributions in the field of agriculture. Director Extension, Dr RK Yadav, Dr RPN Singh, LU and Head of Department of Botany, LU, Prof Munna Singh were present.

# 'Kisan rath' to create awareness among bank customers



Bank of Baroda area head Anant Kumar Das flagging off the 'kisan rath'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Bank of Baroda area head Anant Kumar Das while flagging off the 'kisan rath', informed that this kisan rath will continue till

November 30. The objective of the 'kisan rath' was to create awareness among the customers of the bank, especially in the rural areas. He said mainly it was meant for informing about the loan facil-

ities and this 'rath' will be touring the areas constantly and apprising them about the Baroda Kisan Credit Card, Baroda Tatkal Loan, Baroda Gold Loan, Baroda tractor loan and all other relevant infor-

mation of the bank. Das informed that it will also propagate the policies of the self-help groups. He said every year the bank was organising this fortnight in an effort to apprise the farmers about the loan facility available from the bank and to keep the farmers well informed about the bank facilities and loans from time to time. The function was attended by all officials and staff of the area office of the bank.

**PROGRAMME:** The anti-ragging cell of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, organised an awareness programme on ragging on Thursday.

On the occasion the students formed a human chain to give message of ragging free campus. Principal Prof Anju Chaudhary inaugurated the programme and addressed the students. Anti-Ragging Cell incharge Dr Priti Dwivedi, Dr Archana Mishra, Dr Anju Srivastava, Dr Deepali Nigam, Dr Meera Tripathi, Dr Puja Srivastava and Dr Mamta Mishra were present.

# Pulse Polio campaign from Dec 10

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Alok Ranjan said the next phase of Pulse Polio campaign will start from December 10. He said this time the target is to administer polio drops to 5.96 lakh children aged zero to five years. He was addressing the health teams undergoing training at the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) office in Ramadevi. He said the vaccine was designed to be administered multiple times to ensure complete protection.

He said multiple doses of polio vaccine are required to fully protect a child sometimes more than 10. He said that this vaccine is safe for all children and each additional dose further strengthens the immunity level of the child against polio. He said there has been a recent large outbreak of wild polio virus in neighbouring countries which poses a major threat to polio eradication. He said the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026 introduced a comprehensive set of actions to strengthen the Global Polio Eradication

Initiative (GPEI). The CMO appealed to parents that this is their responsibility too. He said if they have missed the booth day for some reason, they should ensure that the drops are administered to the children by going door-to-door by mobile teams. He said a plan has been made to cover every eligible child to keep polio cases in Uttar Pradesh at zero.

**ARRESTED:** A youth of Bihar called here on the pretext of a job was abducted in a van from Ghataghar crossing. Kidnappers kept him wandering in the moving van for about 20 hours and even after recovering ₹20 lakh from his uncle called at an indicated place did not release him.

On Thursday morning when the kidnappers took the youth to a telecom company store in Kidwai Nagar to get a SIM card issued in his name, the victim escaped on the pretext of answering the call of nature and reported the issue to a traffic sub-inspector. The police arrested one of the accused while his other accomplices managed to escape from the spot. The accused and the

van were taken to the Kidwai Nagar police station. Gajendra Patel (25) of Om Nagar, Arariya (Bihar) said Pammil of Kanpur had called him here on pretext of a job. When he arrived here at the Ghataghar crossing on Wednesday morning eight persons, including Pammil, abducted him in a van. They snatched his mobile phone and withdrew ₹4,000 through Google Pay. Thereafter, they beat him up and took to Ruma where, after arranging a talk with his uncle, managed to get ₹3 lakh but did not release him. On Thursday morning when three kidnappers took him to site No.1, Kidwai Nagar, in the van for getting a new SIM card issued in his name, they found the telecom company outlet closed. While waiting for the opening of the outlet, Gajendra alighted from the van with a kidnapper on the pretext on easing himself and apprised a TSI Parvez Ali of the incident. On seeing the cop, when the kidnappers tried to escape, one of them was caught by the police and the van was also recovered from the spot.

# SSU convocation to be held on November 25

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 58 medals will be given away to as many as 30 meritorious students in the 41st convocation function of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) to be held on November 25 including 10 medals to Abhinav Prakash. The degrees of Shastri and Acharya will be distributed to a total of 14,167 students.

The 41st convocation function of the SSU is proposed to be held at 11 am on November 25 at Yog Sadhana Kendra in the premises of the university



V-C of SSU Prof Bihari Lal Sharma (second from left) talking to newsmen regarding the varsity convocation function.

here. The Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of Central Sanskrit University (CSU), New Delhi Prof Shrinivasa Varkhedhi will be chief guest of the convocation function, while the Uttar Pradesh Governor and Chancellor of the SSU Anandiben Patel will preside over it.

A total of 58 medals will be given away to as many as 30 meritorious students of the university in the convocation function, while the degrees of Shastri and Acharya will be distributed to a total of 14,167 students, the Vice-Chancellor of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University Prof Bihari Lal Sharma informed.

To secure the first position in Acharya, Abhinav Prakash will get the maximum 10 gold medals, while Krishabh Dwivedi and Praveen Paudel will get five gold medals each. Shriya Sharma, Vivek Kumar, Shrawan Kumar Mani Tripathi and Kaushendra Mishra will be given three medals each. Jadhav Vishwanath, Deepak Kumar Ghosh, Ankit Jain and Sandhya Patel will get two medals each from the Governor in the convocation function.

# Drive to revise photo voter lists on November 25 & 26

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district administration will launch a special drive to revise the photo voter lists on November 25 and 26.

The revision work of photo voter lists is in progress from October 27 last based on the eligibility date of 01-01-2024 and in this order, a special campaign will be launched on November 25 and 26 as per the directive of the Election Commission. The Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be available at their respective booths from 10 am to 4 pm on both

days on November 25 and 26 and receive forms of claims and objections such as Form-6, Form-6A, Form-6-B and Form-7. The District Election Officer, Dy District Election Officer, all the Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and Observers will visit the booths to monitor the special drive.

If any BLO is found absent during the special drive legal action will be ascertained against him/her under the relevant sections of the Representation of the People's Act.

The educational institutions/offices and other institutions where the polling booths are made, will remain open on both days, the Dy District Election Officer informed and appealed to the people to take advantage of the special drive to get their names enrolled in the voter lists or get delete the names of any voter from the list or make any correction in the name or address, etc by visiting their respective polling booths. The youths who have completed or are completing 18 years of age on January 1, 2024 and their name has not yet

been registered in the voter list, they should appear at their polling station on the said date to get their name included in the electoral roll by filling Form-6 while Form-6V for linking Aadhaar number with the voter list, Form-7 for erasure of any entry from the voter list and Form-8 for correcting any entry, making duplicate voter ID card, change of place, etc. can be filled through BLO or website of Election Commission—,https://voters.eci.gov.in or downloading Voter Helpline App (VHA) on mobile.

# Smartphone given to students



Smartphones distributed at Harsahai PG College, P Road, on Thursday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Under the ambitious scheme of the state government, students of BSc (third year) and BEd (second year) were given smartphone at the Harsahai PG College, P Road, on Thursday. After getting the smartphones, students were upbeat and expressed gratitude towards the government's ambitious scheme.

Regional Higher Education Officer Prof Ripudaman Singh was the chief guest on this occasion. Member of the college management committee Dr Anurag

Sxena and the special guest Prof Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi (Director, CDC), were also present. Principal Dr Amar Srivastava welcomed the guests and expressed gratitude towards the state administration. Nodal Officer Dr Swadesh Srivastava conducted the proceedings. Dr Sushil Kumar Srivastava, Dr Sunil Kumar Mishra, Dr Kamlesh Kumar Patel, Dr Akhand Pratap Singh, Dr KK Gupta, Dr Vishal Saxena, Dr Kamlesh Yadav, Dr Raj Kumar Singh, Dr Dinesh, Dr Pradip Kumar Mishra, Dr Sandeep Kumar Rawat, Ms Sneha Kumari

Vishwakarma, Dr Renu Tripathi, Dr Ajay Laxmi Singh, Dr Neelam Tomar, Dr Varsha Singh and Ms Ranjana Shukla were present.

**SELECTED:** Feature film 'Dhai Akhar' based on the novel of city's writer Amreek Singh 'Thirtatan Ke Baa'd' has been selected for competition in the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2023 being held in Goa. Directed by Pravin Arora and produced under the banner of Akriti Productions Pvt Ltd, it is a Hindi Feature Film based on city writer Amreek Singh's novel.

# Conference on reimagining earth family from today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The English department of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in collaboration with Malviya Centre for Ethics and Human Values is organising a two-day international conference on 'Reimagining Planetary and The Earth Family' from Friday.

This conference seeks to explore planets as one where the hierarchical order is absent and which, instead promises a

heterarchy foregrounding social, political and cultural power inequities. Borrowing from the logo of G-20 for 2023, this conference reiterates the concept of 'One Earth, One Family and One Future'. The inaugural session will be chaired by Prof Shree Kishore Mishra, Dean, Faculty of Arts on Friday. The conference will see experts and scholars from various countries including UK, USA, Sri Lanka and Nepal who will be brain-

storming and exchanging insights on ecology, health, humanities, apocalyptic spaces, folk planetary and eco-criticism etc. About 300 participants are expected to attend the two-day event. According to the organisers, the necessity for rethinking human beings emanates from the multiple entangled pandemics, unstable weather patterns that jeopardise food production, rising sea levels that compound the risk of catastrophic flooding, and the

effects of poverty, war, and recession which are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Therefore, to be human in the 21st century requires understanding the realities of human-induced climate calamities, realising the dangers of the carbon economy as well as ecological limits to capitalism and developing non-anthropocentric worldviews to find out the possibilities of the common planetary futures.

# Certificates distributed to beneficiaries

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam presided over the inauguration programme of Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra at the memorial site of Munshi Premchand in Lamhi here on Thursday. In the programme, a camp was organised with the participation of the departments of social welfare, food and logistics, district urban development, health and others. On the occasion, the DM gave certificates to the winning children of the quiz competition and also distributed certificates to the skilled children as an incentive. He also distributed loan approval certificates of PM SVANidhi Yojana and certificates to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

In the camp, the concerned departments verified the beneficiaries of their respective



DM S Rajalingam with participants of a quiz contest at Lamhi in Varanasi on Thursday.

schemes and identified the other left out eligible people by getting them registered. While addressing the function, the DM said that the work of verification and identification is being done by all the departments in such camps. "If any

eligible person is left out, he/she can come to these camps and register him/ her to avail the benefits of various schemes," he said. Information about the Sankalp Yatra, which was started with the inspiration of the Prime Minister, was conveyed

to the people through LED vans. This LED van will visit two wards in a day. In rural areas, such programmes will also be organised in two gram panchayats in a day and the Prime Minister's message will be conveyed to the people.

The DM, along with the Chief Development Officer, Municipal Commissioner and corporator of the ward laid a wreath at the memorial of Munshi Premchand and saw the collection of books written by him, used items like radio, lantern etc. After this, the DM saw the library building which is not in use and instructed the Municipal Commissioner to maintain it and also to do gardening in the premises. He also talked about preparing an audio visual on the biography of Munshi Premchand so that people can know about him and his life becomes a source of inspiration.



# Laser, cracker shows to add grandeur to Dev Deepawali

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Laser and cracker shows will add more grandeur to Dev Deepawali when 12 lakh diyas (earthen lamps) including one lakh made of cow dung will illuminate 88-odd Ganga ghats on November 27. Preparations are going on in full swing for this internationally famous festival as thousands of visitors including foreign tourists are expected to arrive here to have a glance of the festival.

Every effort is being made by the Yogi government to give Dev Deepawali a grand shape on the line of Deepotsav organised on the occasion of Deepawali in Ayodhya. Sound and light show with projection on the walls of the historical ghats of Kashi will be an attraction as the people will learn and hear the story connecting the mythological Kashi with Shiva through this holographic show. This show of about 25 to 30 minutes will be shown several times at Chet Singh Ghat, so that all the devotees coming on the occasion of Dev Deepawali can watch the show. Apart from this, laser show and cracker shows will also be organised at Ganga Dwar of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham.

Besides, both the eastern and western banks of the crescent-shaped ghats of Kashi



Namami Gange activists celebrating Prabodini Ekadashi before launching a special cleanliness drive for Dev Deepawali in Varanasi on Thursday.

where holy river Ganga is also known as Uttarvahini (north flowing) will be glittered with lakhs of diyas. Deputy Director of Tourism department Rajendra Kumar Rawat said that in the sound and light show with projection at Chet Singh Ghat, the tourists will get to see the unique synergy of lasers and lights with the sound of music.

Meanwhile, the members of Namami Gange have geared up to clean the ghats before Dev Deepawali by launching a

special drive on the occasion of Dev Prabodini Ekadashi during the day at Panchganga, Durga and Brahma ghats. They also appealed to the people of Kashi to get involved in Ganga cleanliness. By performing the marriage ceremony and Aarti of Tulsī and Lord Shaligram at Panchganga Ghat, they also wished the people for relief from diseases. Apart from this, Tulsī plants were distributed to the devotees. Regional convenor (Kashi) Rajesh Shukla said that public participation is

very important for Ganga cleanliness.

"This festival of awakening of Lord Vishnu from Yoganidra is in a way a festival of waking up and awakening towards one's duties and responsibilities," he said.

Representative of National Clean Ganga Mission (New Delhi) Atharva Raj Pandey, city co-coordinator Sarika Gupta, Utkarsh Raman, Monica Khemka and many others were present on the occasion.

# Atiq's aide arrested after encounter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Slain mafia don Atiq Ahmed's close aide Mohammad Nafees alias Nafees Biryani was arrested from Pratapgarh-Prayagraj border here late on Wednesday night after a brief encounter. He sustained bullet injury in his left leg and is undergoing treatment at the SRN Hospital of Moti Lal Nehru Medical College.

Nafees, carrying a reward of Rs 50,000, was involved in the Umesh Pal murder case and he had been absconding since then. Umesh Pal who had been gunned down in on February 24 this year was the prime witness in the BSP MLA Raju Pal murder case of 2005.

The Creta used in the murder of Umesh Pal belonged to Nafees, though he pleaded that it was transferred in the name of a woman, who is not traceable. The police said that it was a fake name.

Nafees was quite close to Khalid Azeem alias Ashraf, younger brother of Atiq Ahmad. He used to finance the gang and provided other help when needed. Owing to influence of Atiq, he had acquired a piece of land at a prime location in Civil Lines to run a Biryani shop. It was having its extension at Nawab Yusuf Road.

When the PDA officials demolished the Eat On Biryani Corner on MG Marg, Civil Lines, Nafees immediately opened a new Biryani Centre near Boys High School.

Recently the location of Nafees Biryani was found in a five star hotel in Delhi and the police had been vigilant. On Wednesday night the police came to know from their sources that Nafees was travel-



Mohammad Nafees alias Nafees Biryani who sustained bullet injury in his left leg

ling towards Prayagraj from Lucknow on a bike to go to his house in Khuldabad. The Octopus wing of the Prayagraj police and the Nawabganj police jointly launched a vehicle checking drive on all the roads leading to Prayagraj from Lucknow side. In Aanapur area bordering Pratapgarh and Prayagraj a motorcycle was signalled to stop but its rider tried to escape by opening fire on the police. However the

police gave a hot chase and fired in retaliation. As a result the bike overturned and Nafees was caught. His associate, however, managed to escape under the cover of darkness.

**NABBED:** Aslam alias Mantri, cousin brother of mafia don Atiq Ahmad has been arrested. He had been absconding for the past seven months in the case of demanding Rs 1 crore as goonda tax from Sabir of Zafri Colony in Kareli and

attempting to kill him. The police had demolished his house worth Rs 4 crore two years ago. The police had announced a reward of Rs 10,000 on his head. Aslam of Kasari Masari in Chakia area used to look after the property dealing business of Atiq gang. A case of attempt to murder was lodged against him in the year 2001.

According to an FIR lodged by Sabir on April 11 this year Aslam, Ali, son of Atiq, Asad Kalia and many others had allegedly threatened him and had demanded Rs 1 crore as goonda tax. They had also fired on him, but fortunately he had escaped the fire.

**INQUIRY:** Taking the killing of a rape victim in Mahewa Ghat area of Kaushambi seriously, ADG Zone Bhanu Bhasker has constituted an inquiry into the case under IG Range Chandra Prakash and ASP Fatehpur.

The victim's mother said their life had been under threat since the main accused had come out of the jail on bail. She alleged that the police did not give an ear to their complaints, and ultimately her rape victim daughter was killed by the brother of the accused. The girl was raped by a youth of her own caste. The village Panchayat had asked the youth to marry the girl, but he refused to do so.

Then an FIR was lodged and the boy was sent to jail. Recently he was released on bail and had pressurised the girl to withdraw the case. The girl had gone to the police station and while returning home from there was attacked with an axe by the brother of the accused and she died on the spot.

# CMO launches TB ACF campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary launched the Tuberculosis Active Case Finding (TB ACF) campaign here on Thursday by flagging off the rally in the effort of the Health department to fulfill the Prime Minister's resolve to make India TB-free by 2025. The TB ACF campaign was launched in the district under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) and Pradhan Mantri TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. On this occasion, a public awareness rally was taken out from the CMO office premises.

The CMO said that all preparations have been completed to make the campaign successful. "The population of the district is around 44 lakh but under the special campaign, 20 per cent of the population will be screened," he said, adding that TB bacteria spread in the air when the patient coughs, sneezes and spits and inhaled, they reach the lungs of a healthy person and cause the disease.

"A TB patient can infect 10 to 15 healthy people in a year. Therefore, in this campaign, persons with symptoms of TB (potential patients) will be examined and if TB is confirmed in the test, treatment will be started immediately.



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary flagging off rally under TB ACF campaign in Varanasi on Thursday.

Along with this, under the Nikshay Nutrition Scheme, financial assistance of Rs 500 is provided every month to TB patients during their treatment through DBT in their bank account.

District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) Dr Piyush Rai said that 225 teams and 45 supervisors have been deployed for the campaign. "Health workers will screen potential TB patients and if TB is confirmed, treatment will be started within 48 hours," he said, adding that during the campaign, sensitisation will be done against TB by organising camps in residential complex-

es like orphanages, old age homes, Nari Niketan, child protection homes, madrassas and hostels and sputum samples of symptomatic persons will be collected. The DTO further said that during the campaign, according to the microplan, 20 per cent of the population of the district will be screened covering sensitive areas (dense settlements and slum areas). "Pulmonary TB can be detected by examining the patient's sputum. Two samples of sputum are examined through microscopy and CBNAAT machine, which confirms TB. Along with this, sugar and HIV testing of all

patients will also be done. The entire report of the campaign will be uploaded on Nikshay portal," he said.

On the occasion, Deputy CMO Dr HC Maurya, Dr Amit Singh, Dr YB Pathak, DHEIO Hariyansh Yadav, Assistant Malaria Officer KK Rai, District Advisor (Tobacco Control) Dr Saurabh Pratap Singh, Dr Shishir, DPC Sanjay Chaudhary, STS Uday Singh, Ramakrishna Shukla, Asha Kusum Devi, Reena Devi, Saraswati Devi, Manita Devi and Anganwadi workers Anita Devi and Anita Rao and other health workers were also present.

# 53rd foundation day of CNI on Nov 29

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The 53rd foundation day of Churches of North India (CNI) will be celebrated on November 29.

Media incharge of Diocese of Lucknow Sunil Kumar Verma said as usual the main function will be organised at All Saints Cathedral (Patthar Girijagarh) Civil Lines, here in Prayagraj. Bishop Morris E Dan will cut the ceremonial cake and will pray for the well-being of the society.

Katra Church, Saint Paul

Church, St John's Church, Yamuna Church, Chowk Church, Holy Trinity Church, Naini Community Church will also celebrate the occasion and the priests will attend the main function.

**DIYAS LIT:** On the eve of Devothani Ekadashi 1.25 lakh diyas were lit to glow Mauji Ghat on Wednesday evening. It was a part of Kalindi Mahotsav, organised by Duttatreya Sewa Samiti. Yamuna Aarti and fire work display were the main attraction of the programme. Dozens of boats were used

for 'deep daan'. The programme was inaugurated by Justice Manju Rani Chauhan of the Allahabad High Court, while the guest of honour was Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav.

Juna Akhara chief Mahant Prem Giri called upon people to stay connected with 'dharma'. The entire Sangam area will be decorated with lakhs of diyas and candles on Dev Deepawali day while the temples on river banks will be skillfully decorated.

**NOTICE:** Associate professor of Allahabad University

Dr Vikram has been served a show cause notice for his 'comments' on Lord Ram and Lord Krishna. He had allegedly made objectionable remarks on the Hindu Gods on X and had to face strong criticism from the students and society.

The matter was placed before the Executive Committee of the university, which directed the registrar to serve a notice on Dr Vikram and ask him to explain as to why action be not taken against him for this 'uncalled for irresponsible act'.

# Children to get food at Anganwadi centres

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The children will get hot, fresh and nutritious food along with studies at Anganwadi centres. This 'Hot Cooked Meal Scheme' will be operated at 3,914 Anganwadi centres of the district and about 1.40 lakh registered children aged between three to six years will get the benefit of the scheme. The children are getting special help through better and welfare schemes being run by the state government due to which their lives are also improving.

In this sequence, 'Hot Cooked Meal Scheme' is being launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Child Development Nutrition department and the Women and Child Development department. Through this scheme, children aged three to six years registered in Anganwadi centres will be given quality hot and fresh food made from nutritious and coarse grains along with better education, so that the health of the children remains good. This information was given by Dinesh Kumar Singh, District

Programme Officer (DPO) of Child Development Services and Nutrition department.

He said that the main objective of this scheme will be to provide hot cooked food through prescribed menus to 1,40,925 children aged three to six years registered in 3,914 Anganwadi centres in the district. For the successful operation of this scheme, the responsibility has been given to the Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Chief Sevaks, Anganwadi workers and assistants of the city area and all the eight blocks. He said

that this is an ambitious plan of the Chief Minister and it has to be implemented in a better way in the district. "Strict action will be taken if any complaint or error is found. Besides, instructions have been given to ensure home visits on nutrition tracker, measurement capability of children, mobile verification of beneficiaries, geo tagging, 100 per cent feeding of malnourished and extremely malnourished children," he said, adding that the scheme would be thoroughly reviewed every month in the District Nutrition Committee meeting.

# 'Aradhya' of Mahamana re-installed at Malviya Bhawan in BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) felt a different kind of happiness when on the auspicious day of Dev Uthani (Prabodhini) Ekadashi on Thursday, the idol of Radha-Krishna, the 'Aradhya' of Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, the founder of BHU, was re-established in Malviya Bhawan with proper rituals. Mahamana used to worship this idol daily. After the death of Malviya, these idols of God along with his family members had also gone to his ancestral home Prayagraj.

After almost 77 years, his family members have decided to hand over this idol to Malviya Bhawan which was handed over to the Vice-Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain who happily gave approval to the Director of Malviya Bhawan Prof Rajaram Shukla for the installation of the idol and selection of place as per the Vaastu. Later, Prof Shukla, in consultation with the scholars, gave the form of a temple to the north-east corner of Malviya Bhawan and made arrangements for the installation of both the idols there. Next to this cell, Mahamana's kitchen and bedroom are also pre-



served even today. On the suggestions of the V-C to bring the idol of Radha-Krishna from Prayagraj, Co-designated Director of Malviya Bhawan and Chairman of the Vedic Philosophy department Prof Shri Krishna Tripathi had gone there and on the instructions of Chancellor and Mahamana's grandson Justice (retired) Giridhar Malviya, Malviya's fifth generation daughter Anjali Malviya and

her family members also came to hand over the idol. Around 11.35 am under the leadership of Prof Shukla and in the supervision of Prof Tripathi, the V-C established the idol by worshipping with rituals. Vedic scholars of the Faculty of Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vigyan (SVDV) completed the work of worship and installation. Expressing happiness on the said occasion, Prof Jain said that it is the good fortune of all

of us that on the day of Dev Uthani Ekadashi, we got the privilege of darshan, worship and installation of the revered idol of Mahamana and it is a matter of pride for the university. The V-C also said that in this way we will continue to try to bring the memories related to Mahamana from India and abroad to the university. Prof Shukla also ensured the arrangements for daily worship, aarti and bhog of the idol.

# Solve problems of farmers on priority: DM

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan while presiding over the meeting of Kisan Diwas at Vikas Bhawan on Wednesday asked the officials concerned to solve problems of farmers on top priority and inform her. The matter about the broken pipeline laid under Jal Jeevan Mission in Jalapur Mafi village under Narainpur block was raised in the meeting. The DM directed the official concerned to ensure its repair so that potable water could be made available to houses and misuse of water could be stopped.

After repair of pipeline on priority she should be informed, she added. The issue of shortage of DAP fertiliser was raised for which the official concerned was asked to visit the problematic areas and ensure availability of DAP in all cooperative shops. The demand for construction of a bridge on Kalkaliya river was made on which the DM directed the PWD to submit the estimate.

The matter of lift canals was also raised. Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS, DDO Shrawan



District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan presiding over the meeting of Kisan Diwas at Vikas Bhawan on Wednesday

Kumar Rai besides other officials concerned, including LDM, and farmers were present.

**PENSION ADALAT:** As many as 49 cases out of 59 were disposed of on the spot in the divisional pension adalat held at the office of divisional commissioner on Wednesday. Presiding over the adalat the DC Dr Muthukumarasamy B directed the officials concerned to dispose of the remaining 10 matters within a week and inform him.

Expressing his discontent over the absence of some offi-

cers he issued show cause notices and made it clear that the presence of the officer concerned was a must instead of any representative. He directed the office heads to ensure availability of post-retirement claims timely. Additional District Magistrate (ADM/Land Revenue) Satya Prakash Singh, Chief Treasury Officer Archna Tripathi Mirzapur, treasury officers of the other districts of the division and other officials concerned were present.

**OBSERVED:** The birth anniversary of the founder of

Samajwadi Party (SP) Mulyam Singh was observed by party workers on Wednesday. Chairing the programme district president of the party Devi Prasad Chaudhary shared memories related to Mulyam Singh Yadav and said that it will be a real tribute to him if we followed his path. Gulab Chand Yadav 'Munni', Surendra Singh Patel, Parvez Khan, Satish Mishra, Jamuna Yadav, Ashok Singh 'Munna' and others expressed their views.

**MEETING:** District incharge of party affairs and regional vice-president BJP Kashi province Saroj Kushwaha while addressing the meeting of party workers on Wednesday appealed to workers to take get the Voter Chetna Abhiyan seriously and knock on the door of every house to ensure that every eligible person of the family became a voter. She said a special two day drive was scheduled on November 25 and 26.

The meeting was presided over by district president Braj Bhushan Singh. MLAs Ratnakar Mishra, Rama Shankar Singh Patel, chairman zila panchayat Raju Kanaujia and other party workers were present.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Thawing out

Israel and Hamas declare four-day cease-fire, but it is still a long road to lasting peace

After being at each other's throat since October 7, besides causing untimely death to thousands of civilians on both sides and putting global peace in grave peril, Israel and Hamas have showed wise counsel in agreeing to a four-day cease-fire. The truce, though temporary for now, is indeed a hopeful step towards de-escalation and fostering an environment conducive to further negotiations between the stubbornly warring sides. Realistically, it would be premature to say that this development would end the hostilities and normalcy would soon be restored. The Israel-Hamas conflict has a long, bloody and complex history, rooted in territorial disputes, historical grievances and differing political visions. Even the recent flare-up of violence was triggered by a series of events. The immediate provocation was of course the 500 rockets launched by Hamas, leading to the death of over 1,000 Israeli civilians. Israel lost no time in retaliating hard and



pummeled Gaza, not sparing even civilian targets like hospitals. The cycle of violence since then has resulted in significant loss of life and widespread destruction, prompting international concern and calls for a cease-fire. The cease-fire brokered by international mediators comes as a major respite. During these four days, both sides have committed to halting all military operations, including airstrikes and rocket attacks. The cease-fire is expected to provide an opportunity for humanitarian aid to reach those in need and for diplomatic efforts to gain traction.

While the announcement of even a temporary halt in hostilities is a positive sign, it is important to note that the underlying issues that fuel the conflict remain unresolved. The cease-fire serves as just a pause rather than a comprehensive solution to the deep-rooted problems plaguing the region for decades, but the world community has correctly welcomed it as it opens at least a window of opportunity for peace to return to West Asia. The UN and other diplomatic channels have played a crucial role in facilitating dialogue between Israel and Hamas. Efforts are underway to lay the groundwork for more extensive negotiations that could address the core issues of the conflict. The pause allows both sides to reassess their position and consider the broader implications of a continued conflict. International pressure is likely to intensify during this period, urging them to engage in meaningful dialogue and work towards a lasting solution. Despite the optimism surrounding the temporary truce, challenges remain: Deep-seated grievances, historical animosities and complex geopolitical realities pose significant obstacles. Achieving a comprehensive and sustainable resolution will require the commitment of all stakeholders as well as a willingness to make difficult compromises in the interest of long-term stability.

## PICTALK



A participant with his buffaloes during a trial run for the 'Bengaluru Kambala', in Bengaluru.

## Calling names will not help

It's time leaders of the US and China stopped wincing or winking away from the real issues related to sustainable development goals



UMANG KOHLI

China is said to be the closest to Russia in the last 70 years and was taken back by the strength of the reaction of the West to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. That has led to an unexpected isolation of China on an international level, which the latter had not anticipated. Now it is trying to mend its ties with the US in order to boost its sagging economy. The US too looks towards safeguarding the interest of its big industrial houses and mending fences. The visit of the Chinese President to the US was a step in that direction.

Was the trip of Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at earning U.S. policy concessions? Was it aimed at easing bilateral tensions which may allow more focus on economic growth? Did it look for a chance to woo foreign investors who now increasingly shun China? Was it aimed at convincing the US to look the other way while China tries to gobble up Taiwan? Was the trip successful in any of these endeavours? As the US President refused to back down on his earlier comment of calling 'Xi' a dictator, has the visit rather soured ties even more? Well, these are some of the questions the visit has thrown at the watchers of geopolitics across the world.

The reaction of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to a comment by Joe Biden that he still considers Xi Jinping a dictator has brought to the fore answers to some of these questions. It apparently seems that the US wants to desperately improve economic ties with China because of its own compulsions, however, the political divide is too big to bridge. On one hand, the US has over a period of time scaled down from its earlier positions of 'Economic Decoupling' to 'Economic De-risking' and now to 'Constructive Engagement', but the ideological and political divide with the Communist state of China persists. The stakes at the meeting were high, as the two global powers did not see eye to eye on various issues. The Chinese severed military-to-military contacts with the United States after the then-House of Representative Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited



Taiwan in August 2022. The contact has been restored now to avoid miscalculations between the two militaries.

Relations between the two countries have been frosty for some time now with China sending a spy balloon to hover over the US skies and Biden ordering it to be shot down. Many top Biden administration officials have since visited Beijing and met with their counterparts to rebuild communication and trust which culminated in this visit by Xi Jinping to the US. However, the 'Dictator' remark by the US President has put things back to square one and that was clearly visible in the anguish of Blinken's reaction. China and the US have taken positions that are outrightly opposite of each other on various issues of strategic and military importance at various international forums including the United Nations.

War in the Middle East has furthered the divide between the two countries, as China continues to have strong ties with Iran, whereas the US continues to bomb Iran-backed forces. Convergence of Chinese and Russian ideology which is totally divergent to the NATO strategy is likely to further the gulf between the two countries in the days to come. The visit therefore has not effectively addressed any of these issues.

India has been out of this pow-



THERE ARE MANY POSITIVE THINGS THAT HAVE EMERGED FROM XI'S VISIT TO THE US. ONE OF THEM IS IN THE DIRECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

erplay to some extent and rightfully so, however as China continues to show greater presence in the Indo-Pacific, the significance of strengthening military assets can not be downplayed. For one thing, China of late has become restless and reactive which was rarely the case about a decade or two ago. Make no mistake, China is making moves that are typical of a country that has an authoritative ruler, irrespective of what Joe Biden may have said or not said. India needs to deliver on its commitment of not only being 'Atmanirbhar', but also its endeavour to emerge as a global hub of manufacturing. Manufacturing in the defence sector would be the key in the years to come to provide stability to the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific.

There are many positive things that have emerged from Xi's visit to the US. One of them is in the direction of environmental conservation. The US and China, two of the world's biggest polluters, agreed to pursue efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally by 2030 through wind, solar and other renewables. China and the US would keep engaging at various forums and keep coming to stop-gap arrangements to suit each other's interest, but the bottom line remains that China is not a democracy and the will of the people of China is not truly

represented in its day-to-day functioning. China is ready to negotiate to make its economy recover and as soon as it recovers, the negotiations may become even more difficult. The bulk of the focus of Chinese negotiations as a run-up to the Xi-Biden meeting revolved around how China is the safest place for US companies to come and invest.

It's time leaders of the US and China stopped wincing or winking away from the real issues related to sustainable development goals. It's also time when the larger good of humanity must take centre stage and a workable mechanism to stop wars and unrest is worked out.

The US and China should look at how the United Nations must become more relevant in conflict situations rather than working out how and what they can veto to suit each other's agenda. They should also keep in mind that there should be enough space for everyone to grow and prosper in this world not just the US and China. Maybe next time the two leaders should consider discussing how to stop unrest and terrorism of all kinds in the world rather than how much should corporate leaders pay to meet the head of a country.

(The writer is expert on geopolitics and international Affairs. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## India-Canada relations cool down



In a welcome development, there has been a virtual thaw in relations between India and Canada after a two-month-long tense period.

Both nations have resumed e-visa services, signalling that the dust of confrontation has settled since India, on Wednesday, allowed Canadian citizens electronic visas. This positive step follows a pause initiated in the aftermath of Hardeep Singh Najjar's killing.

It is noteworthy that the announcement of resuming visas comes ahead of Canadian PM Trudeau's participation in the G20 leaders' summit hosted by his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. This move is expected to significantly improve the strained relationship that took a nosedive following Canadian allegations of India's involvement in Najjar's killing. Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar has also affirmed that India will not balk at looking into the accusations levelled by Canada, provided the latter provides the former with reliable evidence to buttress the claim. Undoubtedly, it is trust whereupon the edifice of friendship stands for good!

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

## Responsible gaming: Skill minus addiction

By harnessing the power of technology in a thoughtful and collaborative manner, we can pave the way for a brighter future



RAMEESH KAILASAM

In today's digital age, online gaming has emerged both as a beacon of recreation as well as a subject of debate. The allure of virtual worlds and immersive gameplay experiences has captivated millions worldwide, yet a concern of addiction looms. Fortunately, technology itself holds the key to mitigating challenges such as these, offering innovative solutions to regulate and control excessive gaming habits while helping individuals develop notable proficiencies.

Even amidst these concerns, we cannot overlook the valuable skills and positive qualities that online gaming cultivates. Contrary to conventional perceptions, gaming isn't merely about entertainment; it's a realm that fosters an array of skills. Many of the online gaming formats require a combination of physical skills such as dexterity and quick response besides mental skills in the nature of strategic thinking, logic, attention, practise, adroitness and superior knowledge of the game. Collaboration, critical thinking, strategic planning, and adaptability are among the myriad abilities honed



through online gaming. Technology, the very catalyst behind online gaming's rise, also offers solutions to mitigate addiction. Technology can be leveraged further to implement features such as time limits, monetary tracking, and monitoring unusual behaviour which is clearly not a feature in case of addictive sectors such as alcohol or even fast food. Technology in gaming therefore can serve as a guardian that limits excessive indulgence without hampering learning and enjoyment. One of the foremost strategies in responsible gaming involves implementing strict time limits on gameplay by creating a personalised cap on the number of hours an individual spends per day. These limits can be tailored to suit individual needs and responsibilities, allowing for a balanced approach that encourages healthy gaming habits while preventing excessive engagement that leads to

addiction. Furthermore, the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning presents a groundbreaking opportunity in combating addiction. These technologies can analyse individual gaming patterns, offering personalised recommendations and interventions when signs of addictive behaviour surface. This nuanced approach not only addresses addiction but also respects the individuality of gaming experiences, tailoring interventions to suit diverse needs. Fostering a culture of awareness and education is paramount for the online gaming sector. Technology can play a pivotal role in this regard by providing informative resources and interactive modules within gaming environments. This proactive approach equips gamers with knowledge about the potential risks of addiction while highlighting the importance of moderation and responsible gaming practises.

The effectiveness of these technological interventions lies not just in their implementation but in their seamless integration and user

acceptance. It's crucial to design user-friendly interfaces and platforms that promote awareness and encourage users to actively engage with these control mechanisms. Providing educational resources about the importance of mental health and the risks associated with excessive gaming is equally essential in fostering a culture of responsible gaming.

It is not solely a pastime but a realm that stimulates creativity, fosters friendships, and nurtures skills pivotal in an evolving world. At the macro level, one should also not forget the promise that the sector holds in contributing to India's GDP, generating employment and helping foster innovation and entrepreneurship. The sunrise sector was expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 40% to \$2.8 billion by 2022, up from \$1.1 billion in 2019. Indian gaming companies have already attracted \$2.8 billion in investments from global investors over the past five years.

(The writer is a noted governance reform, policy expert and a business strategist, views are personal)

## TROLLING: IT IS NOT VERY SPORTING

Sir—Post the Cricket World Cup Final 2023, social media is flooded with mixed reactions. Some memes of Indian cricketers have gone viral, depicting them with tears and disheartened for losing the finals. Images of the dressing room, PM Modi consoling them, and Mitchell Marsh resting feet on the trophy have circulated. Notably, there is also trolling of the Indian PM for not staying longer on the dais to reward and congratulate the Australian Team for their victory.

Despite everything claimed so far, it is heartening that modern cricket players have no real sense of sportsmanship. The icing on the cake was Marsh's image of putting feet on a trophy. This depicts the reality of Aussie players: despite their hard work, they themselves don't respect what they actually won. Often, players hug and cuddle their trophies and medals, putting on their head pillows to honour them, which other don't. Here something very disrespectful is actually seen.

Those who are trolling the Indian PM must first check what the Aussie said about the Indian team and large fan audience. Then how could they expect that PM of 1.2 billions would stay long and congratulate so genuinely? Such trolling memes must be immediately removed from social media. Instead, we must circulate real sportsmanship and team spirit, which is not derogatory to any audience. Both the Indian and Australian teams are equivalent in terms of game and zeal. Winning or losing is just a part of the game; the players must keep respect for the game before anything else.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

## TOBACCO ILL-EFFECTS

Sir—To succeed in the battle against diseases, especially cancer, it is imperative to win the crucial battle against tobacco. A study has revealed that approximately 1.3 million people succumb to the aftereffects of smoked tobacco in seven countries, including India. Lower and

middle-income countries bear the brunt of tobacco ill-effects, and these cancers are preventable by eliminating risk factors.

The deadly effects of smoking on the lungs are well known. Both chewed and smoked tobacco are dangerous to the body due to the toxic chemicals in them. Besides, other risk factors like alcohol and obesity are preventable causative factors for many cancerous and non-cancerous conditions. It is more often the duration of smoking that is the culprit, though the number of cigarettes smoked per day cannot be discounted. However, the only consolation is that quitting smoking almost always helps chronic smokers, and it is nothing more than mind over matter.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

## LEARN TO DIGEST DEFEAT

Sir—We are rarely taught about losses, and a sporting attitude can teach valu-

able lessons in the face of defeat. Often, we tend to perceive everything as a reflection of our greatness and struggle when faced with loss. India's defeats in ICC events over the past decade have been challenging, and it's crucial to acknowledge that losses are part of the game. India's defeats in the ICC events over the past decade have been dismal indeed.

We could not bear the loss, and the touring teams coming to India have a concrete plan of action and a plan to play. This time around, the crowd was silenced before the Australian team ran home victorious. At that time, Cook cooked India's goose, and this time Cummins prepared noodles for dinner. We can complain that batsmen failed and bowlers failed, but never say the crowd failed us.

C K Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

## THE OTHER INDIA-AUSTRALIA MATCH

Both are working closely to bring greater stability in the Indo-Pacific region



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

India and Australia got into a 2+2 dialogue this week, right after a heart-break, for the World Cup hosts' and crowd favourites India, whose luck perhaps ran out on the 11th match/hour. India may have lost the World Cup to the mighty Australian cricket team, but it is back at the table to discuss business about the gated globalisation with Australia on the geo-economic front.

India and Australia signed on an interim Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) last December. This set the stage for greater economic cooperation between the two countries from the QUAD group to shed their age-old inhibitions, and come together in the vast Indian Ocean Region against the bully in the backyard of China. Commenting on the signing of ECTA in December Union Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal had said "There is a lot of potential for exporting finished goods to Australia, since they hardly manufacture anything, they are largely a raw material and intermediate producing country, we will get cheaper raw materials which will not only make us more competitive globally but also enable us to serve Indian consumers better; enabling us to provide more quality goods at more affordable prices.

Australia, which is largely dependent on imports, will benefit hugely, they will soon start seeing a lot more finished goods coming in from India, providing a huge amount of work and job opportunities in both goods and services, provided by Indian talent. The Agreement will also eliminate Double taxation on IT services which was making us less competitive and making us less profitable in the IT sector, the double taxation has now been removed by amending the law, and from 1st April, double taxation for the IT sector will be over, we will save millions and millions of dollars right now, and over a billion dollars going forward, maybe



5 - 7 years going forward, giving us competitive edge and also creating a lot many jobs. I appreciate the Australian government for being very sensitive and considerate, giving us full cooperation throughout the negotiations, especially in protecting the interests of the farmers and dairy sector of India."

The ECTA is likely to be upgraded to a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) which will provide more areas of economic play between Australia and India. The ECTA framework has already provided a huge fillip for Indian exports to Australia, where data reveals that nearly eight per cent of Indian exporters have utilised the concessional tariff lines available. This has also pushed India's exports to Australia by nearly 17% on a year-on-year basis, making India one of the important trade partners. This week the defence and external affairs ministers of both countries discussed in detail the expansion of bilateral defence cooperation, including intelligence sharing, maritime awareness and emerging technology, such as AI, and cybercrime cooperation. Foreign minister S Jaishankar highlighted post the dialogue, the message of stability Australia and India, closely working together are sending out in the greater Indo-Pacific region, where China is getting aggressive with many of its immediate neighbours. It was no surprise that the Philippines almost simultaneously was complaining of China's belligerent behaviour in the ocean, in their backyard, and reiterating the need to respect the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

India and Australia work closely as the QUAD countries along with the US and Japan, to bring greater economic and strategic cooperation for stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Each of the QUAD countries has strong bilateral relations among themselves too. With China threatening to unilaterally change the world order, especially through military and sophisticated technology use, the World Cup for geo politics in the Indo-Pacific would go to teams from countries (especially in QUAD) who work more closely.

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

## Giving a safe passage to delinquent SEZs



UTTAM GUPTA

Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) bill, gives a 'safe passage' to all those SEZ units that haven't been able to fulfill their export commitments

The government is planning to make a few amendments to the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act 2005 in the winter session of Parliament, with a view to giving more operational flexibility to units in these tax-free enclaves, especially when it comes to sales in the domestic tariff area (DTA).

It had intended to overhaul the SEZ regime by bringing in the Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs Bill (DESH) announced in the budget for 2022-23. Since DESH is facing delays, the government is keen to address some of the concerns under the extant regime by making amendments. The SEZs policy was launched in 2000 followed by the passage of the SEZs Act (2005) by Parliament in 2005. Intended to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for facilitating rapid economic growth, the Act sought to establish certain designated areas within the territory of India (call them enclaves) which are subject to different economic regulations than other regions within the country.

An enclave is treated as a 'territory outside the customs territory of India' for the purpose of authorised operations in the SEZ. Such exclusive demarcation makes entities in these areas eligible for a host of fiscal incentives. An SEZ developer or a unit located therein gets a 100 per cent Income Tax (IT) exemption on export income for the first 5 years, 50 per cent for the next 5 years thereafter and 50 per cent of the ploughed back export profit for the next 5 years.

As for indirect taxes, because SEZs are considered to be located in a foreign territory, all transactions with them are classified as exports and imports - in the same way as transactions with a foreign country say, Germany. Their tax treatment flows from this fundamental premise. Thus, any supply of goods or services or both to a SEZ developer/unit is considered as export hence, zero-rated under GST which means these supplies are exempt from levy of GST. The SEZ units don't also have to pay customs duties or other levies on imports like anti-dumping, countervailing safeguard duties etc.

The SEZ developers and units located therein are exempt from seeking licenses or other regulatory compliances for undertaking import/export (for instance, there is no routine examination by customs authorities of the cargos) which the enterprises in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) - an acronym for all units located within the territory of India other than SEZs - are normally subject to.

SEZs are equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, including well-planned industrial parks, reliable power supply, transportation networks (railways, highways, waterways etc) communication systems, and other necessary utilities.

Against this paraphernalia of support systems, the government imposes an obligation on SEZs to achieve Positive Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) to be calculated cumulatively for a period of five years from the commencement of production.

It has been over a decade since the SEZ policy was launched. But, the performance of these SEZs over the years has been at par with, or at best marginally better than sections of DTA units when it comes to boosting foreign exchange inflows. The 262 operational SEZs set up over this period (against 425 approved of which 376 have been notified) currently have only 5,576



AN ENCLAVE IS TREATED AS A 'TERRITORY OUTSIDE THE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF INDIA' FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORISED OPERATIONS IN THE SEZ

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

operational units and account for less than 20 per cent of the country's exports. More than 1 lakh acres of land within the current SEZs is still not occupied. The 2005 SEZ Act was brought in with the hope of making India a manufacturing powerhouse of the world, but it had very limited positive effects. Even as India's service sector continues to show appreciable growth, the manufacturing sector has been lagging. This is evident from the fact that during 2022-23, out of total exports from SEZs at US\$155.8 billion, services exports at US\$94.2 billion were 60 per cent while merchandise exports at US\$61.6 billion were 40 per cent.

The objective of the DESH Bill is to "set up development hubs for promoting economic activity, generating employment, integrating with global supply and value chains and maintaining manufacturing and export competitiveness, developing infrastructure facilities, promoting investments, including in research and development (R&D)".

These hubs will be further classified into enterprise and service hubs. While enterprise hubs will permit both manufacturing and service activities, service hubs will permit only service activities. The government plans to facilitate easier financing norms for activities in these hubs by giving them infrastructure status, at par with sectors such as roads, rail waterways, and airports.

Existing ports, airports, inland container depots (ICDs), land stations, etc., are proposed to be

transformed into Development Hubs with a clear demarcation of processing and non-processing areas.

A comparison with the extant SEZ Act will show that there is nothing new in the DESH except replacing the word 'SEZ' with 'hub'. It seems to be a case of 'old wine in a new bottle'. What then has prompted the government to come up with DESH?

To understand this, let us look at a key proposal in the proposed amendments to the SEZ Act. This is to treat sales by SEZ units in the DTA akin to imports from countries with which India has bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs). Imports from FTA countries are subject to concessional nil import tariffs. Currently, such sales are subject to the buyer paying the basic customs duty (import tariff) and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) applicable to the product concerned, besides other levies on imports like anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard duties wherever applicable.

The existing provision is perfectly in order.

If the SEZ unit is unable to export and forced to sell in the domestic market, the very raison d'être of giving it 'tax free' status disappears. Such sale in DTA has to be treated like any other sale and duty has to be paid. Charging concessional nil duty - as proposed in the amendment - won't be logical.

Another provision in the new bill is expected to ensure tax rebates/refunds/financial subsidies

to developers/companies in the hub, in a manner similar to the existing SEZs, but with no export compulsion NFE obligation. This too knocks at the foundation of giving the SEZ tax exemptions. If, the government doesn't insist on export obligations from these units then, how are they different from other units?

Tax-free status to SEZs with no export obligation will confer a fortuitous advantage on them. Instead of focusing on increasing exports, they will misuse tax exemptions for selling in the domestic market at the cost of units located in DTA that pay taxes. Another amendment in the SEZ Act seeks to make de-notification norms for SEZs easier. De-notification is basically an approval granted to developers to opt out of the SEZ scheme after being part of it. When SEZs are identified, the developers have to refund all duties and tax benefits. More than 100 cases of de-notification have been approved by the government since 2008.

One wonders whether in the garb of simplifying the process of de-notification, the intent is to do away with the requirement of refunding all duties and tax benefits.

To conclude, it appears that the DESH bill/proposed amendments to the SEZ Act are intended to give SEZ developers and units located therein is to give a 'safe passage' to all those who haven't been able to fulfill their export commitments as also to make life easier for others intending to invest in these zones/hubs.

## AMR: Developing countries must show political will

Out of the 5 million AMR-related human deaths that occur every year, most of them are happening in low- and middle-income countries

World leaders at next year's UN General Assembly will be convening a United Nations High-Level Meeting on AMR. "We are at a critical point in time to act against AMR. The attention to AMR is growing and it is rightly so. The UN High Level Meeting on AMR next year is a critical opportunity to further accelerate the response to AMR," said Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar, Uganda's Minister of State for Environment, and Member of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). "Out of the 5 million AMR related human deaths that occur every year, most of them are happening in low- and middle-income countries. These are the countries where



SHOBHA SHUKLA



BOBBY RAMAKANT

(Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant lead the editorial team of Citizen News Service and are on the Board of Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA) and Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development APCAT Media; views are personal.

the burden of diseases is also higher. That is why Uganda is spearheading action against AMR across sectors such as human health, animal health, food and agriculture, and the environment," added Minister Beatrice.

## One Health Approach

The health of humans, animals, (domestic and wild), plants and our environment are closely interlinked and interdependent. "This means that whatever happens to one of them, the others will be inevitably affected and impacted for better or for worse," says Javier Yugueros-Marcos, Head of the Department of Antimicrobial Resistance & Veterinary Products at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). We cannot ignore one at the cost

of another.

Agrees Emmanuel Kabali, AMR Project Coordination Consultant at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), that "AMR is a complex issue that impacts human, animal, plant and environmental health. Antimicrobials are used extensively in humans, and in animal and plant production".

"The drivers of AMR are in several sectors. Misuse or overuse of antimicrobials happen in human health, animal health, food and agriculture, and several other sectors," adds Dr Philip Mathew, Technical Officer, World Health Organisation (WHO). As per WHO, One Health is an integrated unifying approach to sustainably balance and optimize the health

of people, animals and our environment. By linking humans, animals and the environment, One Health can help to address the full spectrum of disease control and contribute to global health security.

## Antimicrobials is public goods

There are several issues of access and equity affecting AMR. "Research and development of new treatment options, including new antibiotics, is not prioritized due to a sector-wide market failure. As a result, we are running out of treatment options and new drugs are not coming into the market. Even when new medicines finally reach the market, low- and middle-income countries are not able to access these due to intellectual property and pricing constraints.

Antimicrobials should be regarded as global public goods. Governments should strengthen their health systems and push for universal health coverage, so that all have access to the needed antimicrobials prescribed by registered healthcare providers," said Thomas.

## Information, knowledge, action gap

"When it comes to addressing AMR, mere information is not enough. Information has to be translated into knowledge and action. We need to bridge that knowledge-action gap. In context of sustainability, we often say - think global, act local. What we do at the local level or what we do in our house, community, school, or organisation, also makes a huge difference. Key message

is grounded in promoting appropriate use of antimicrobials, and to stop inappropriate or inappropriate use of antimicrobials in human health, animal health and livestock, food and agriculture, and environment. That is why quadripartite agencies of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) have united to advance progress on One Health approach in addressing challenges such as AMR," said Wondwosen Asnake Kibret, Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, UNEP. "Calling AMR a 'silent pandemic' might convey a wrong message that 'it is a very

distant issue which may affect us sometime in the future'. AMR is not a distant issue as it is killing millions right now - even one death is a death too many when it comes to preventable threats like AMR. AMR can happen to anybody at any time", cautions Philip. That is why all sectors across the One Health spectrum spanning human, animal, plant, and the environment must work together to ensure the responsible use of antimicrobials while taking preventive measures to decrease the incidence of infections. The medicines that we have today to combat diseases have to be handled with care and used responsibly. This is the second part of a series on AMR.

Concluded.



# EC serves show cause notice on Rahul over Modi jibes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday issued a show-cause notice to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday for his "panauti", "pickpocket" and "loan waiver for the super rich" jibes at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and asked him to respond by Saturday.

BJP had approached the poll panel against the former Congress president, saying it was "unbecoming" of a "very senior leader" to use such language. The EC reminded Gandhi that the Model Code of Conduct prohibits leaders from making unverified allegations against political rivals.

The Congress leader used those words targeting the prime minister at recent rallies in poll-bound Rajasthan. While this is the first notice issued to Rahul Gandhi during the present set of Assembly polls, his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has been given two notices by the EC. In its representation to the poll watchdog, BJP had asserted that the alle-



gation of grant of waivers to industrialists of ₹ 14,00,000 crore over the last nine years was "not borne out on facts". The EC notice said the expression "panauti" ex-facie falls in the equity of the prohibition of section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, dealing with corrupt practices.

Clause 2, sub section (ii) of section 123 states that any person who induces or attempts to induce a candidate or an elector to believe that he, or any person in whom he is interested, will become or will be rendered an object of divine displeasure or spiritual censure, shall be deemed to interfere

with the free exercise of the electoral right of such a candidate or elector, the notice reminded Gandhi.

The Congress leader had used the "panauti" barb against Modi in a poll speech in Rajasthan as the prime minister had attended the World Cup cricket final that India lost to Australia after 10 consecutive wins in the tournament. A Hindi slang, "panauti" loosely refers to someone who brings bad luck. The former Congress president took the "pickpocket" dig at Modi during a poll speech on Wednesday, alleging that the prime minister diverts people's attention while industrialist Gautam Adani picks

their pockets.

This is how pickpockets operate, he had alleged.

The notice also recalled a general advisory issued by the EC, in which the poll panel had expressed concerns at the "plummeting level of political discourse" during electioneering.

The commission also told Rahul Gandhi about a Supreme Court observation that if freedom of speech and expression is protected by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, the right to reputation is also considered to be an inextricable part of the right to life protected by Article 21 and "balancing these two rights is a constitutional necessity".

"Accordingly, you are requested to provide your explanation on the allegation made and to show causes as to why action as deemed fit for alleged violation of Model Code of Conduct and relevant penal provisions is not initiated by the commission. Your reply, if any, be reached by 6.00 pm of November 25. If no reply is received by then, action deemed fit will be taken by the commission," the notice said.

# Dubey fires fresh salvo at Mahua

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In his fresh attack on Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, BJP Lok Sabha MP Nishikant Dubey has cited a Lok Sabha Secretariat document that states that replies to questions asked by the Parliamentarians must remain confidential till the question is actually answered in the lower house.

The Lok Sabha secretariat has underscored the confidentiality of government's replies to MPs during the Question Hour in the House and asked them to access their portal only for their exclusive use, a development triggered by the raging "cash-for-query" row involving TMC MP Mahua Moitra.

Sharing the secretariat's bulletin on social media, Dubey took a swipe at Moitra saying the "corrupt MP was probably not to share the contents with other members until the Question Hour is over, it added.

It may be noted that since the replies are log-in and password protected on the Members' Portal, they are exclusively for the use of



Members only," the Lok Sabha secretariat said in its bulletin dated November 10, a day after the House's Ethics Committee recommended Moitra's expulsion.

Members are, therefore, requested to maintain confidentiality of the replies and not to share the contents with other members until the Question Hour is over, it added.

It informed MPs that the contents of reply made in response to a question is "strictly confidential" until the question for oral answer has been asked and answered in the House.

In case a question could not come up for oral answer, the

reply to the question should not be released till the conclusion of Question Hour, the Lok Sabha secretariat added. "Questions included in the lists of written answers are also to be treated as confidential until the same have been laid on the Table of the House after the Question Hour is over," it said.

Sources said the Lok Sabha has merely reiterated the same set of existing rules about confidentiality in the wake of the episode involving Moitra. She was accused by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey of letting a Dubai-based businessman to access her parliamentary portal in lieu of bribes, and the Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee had recommended her expulsion.

The TMC MP admitted to sharing her log-in credentials with businessman Darshan Hiranandani but has denied the bribery charges, dismissing her indictment by the parliamentary panel as a decision of a "kangaroo court".

Under a new initiative, the secretariat said replies to "Starred Questions", a term for queries where ministers concerned answer to related supplementaries in the House, are being uploaded on members' portal by 9 am on the day of reply. With Parliament's Winter

Session scheduled to begin from December 4, members have begun putting in their questions.

The House is likely to take a decision on the Ethics Committee's recommendation for Moitra's expulsion during the session, with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) rallying around her after its initial "wait and watch" approach.

Moitra was last week tasked with strengthening the party's organisation in Nadia district, in a clear message of support from the TMC.

TMC president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday broke her silence over the issue and said that plans were in the works to expel her (Moitra) from Parliament but any action would help the lawmaker from Krishnanagar ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "Now, they are planning to expel Mahua (from Parliament). She will become more popular as a result. Whatever she used to say inside (Parliament), she will now say those things outside. Would anyone do something like this three months before the elections if he is not stupid?" Banerjee said, addressing a special session of the party in Kolkata.

# 'Establish safeguards for use of technology in legal proceedings'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel, which examined the three proposed criminal laws, has hailed the move to enhance the use of technology in legal proceedings but said the adoption of electronic means for communication and trials should proceed only after the establishment of robust safeguards.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, headed by BJP MP Brij Lal, also said enabling online or electronic FIR registration is a positive step forward but these should be allowed only through modes specified by the state.

"The committee notes that the Sanhita provides for acceptance of trials in electronic mode as provided in 'Clause 532' wherein all trials, inquiries, and proceedings may be held in electronic mode by production of electronic communication devices, likely to contain digital evidence, for investigation, inquiry, or trial," the panel noted.

"Electronic communication includes communication through devices such as mobiles, computers, or telephone. The committee notes the enhanced technological integration in the Sanhita, emphasising increased utilisation of technology in legal proceedings, and considers it as a welcome change," it said.

According to Clause 532 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, "all trials, inquiries and



proceedings under this Code - including summons and warrant, issuance, service and execution thereof; holding of inquiry; examination of complainant and witnesses; trial before a court of session, trial in warrant cases, trial in summons-cases, summary trials and plea bargaining; recording of evidence in inquiries and trials; trials before high courts; all appellate proceedings and such other proceedings, may be held in electronic mode, by use of electronic communication or use of audio-video electronic means".

The committee observed that while the increased utilisation of technology offers numerous advantages, it also creates opportunities for manipulation and misuse. The collection and storage of electronic evidence raise concerns about data security and the possibility of unauthorised access or breaches, the panel said.

"The committee, therefore, recommends that the adoption of electronic means for communication and trials should proceed only after the estab-

lishment of robust safeguards to ensure the secure usage and authentication of electronically available data.

"This will help safeguard the integrity of the justice system and ensure that justice is administered fairly and accurately," it said.

The panel said allowing any form of electronic communication for FIR registration can create logistical and technical challenges for law enforcement. Moreover, it could become difficult to track all the FIRs filed, especially if, for example, sending an SMS to any police officer is considered as providing information within the scope of Clause 173.

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS-2023) bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11 along with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS-2023) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA-2023) bills. The three proposed laws seek to replace the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively.

# Indian Coast Guard holds meeting to check oil spills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further hone procedures to check oil spill, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 25th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSD-CP) and preparedness meeting at Vadinar, Gujarat on Thursday, Coast Guard officials said here.

Chaired by Coast Guard chief and Chairman NOSD-CP Rakesh Pal, more than 80 delegates from various ministries, Central Government, ports and oil handling companies participated in the meeting. The national capabilities with the common aim to ensure collective preparedness to respond to any oil spill contingency in Indian waters was reviewed during the meeting, they said.

Presently, as the third largest importer of crude, India receives large volume of oil through ships. Similarly, India stands sixth in the world as major chemical importer country. Both oil and chemicals, if spilled, pose inherent risks to the maritime zones of India and the connected coastlines housing large coastal population, marine ecosystem, industries and various installations along with



the supporting tourism industry.

Preventive measures, by the central coordinating agency, ship owners, oil handling facilities and other concerned stakeholders are thus, required to be taken to prepare for combating any likely marine spill. Pal, in his address, committed that the ICG is cognizant and prepared to counter the threats to the region and its resources, including marine oil and chemical spills at sea, officials said.

He stressed that as new vulnerabilities continue to emerge, the stakeholders must recognize the opportunity to enhance cooperation through stronger partnerships, effective coordination and imbibing best practices of the developing technology. He also stated that Indian Coast Guard is indigenously building two more state of the art Pollution Response Configured Specialized Vessels besides the three existing to further bolster capacity.

# MoU for research in Defence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was signed here on Thursday for technical collaboration and joint research and development in the field of defence technology.

Giving details, Defence Ministry officials said the MoU was signed by Lt General JP Mathew, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Dr. N Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR and Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST).

The MoU between the HQ IDS and CSIR aims to provide an umbrella framework for initiating collaborative interaction between CSIR Labs, HQ IDS and Armed Forces, namely Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, for enhancing scientific understanding of technologies related to defence and undertaking joint research and development in dual use technologies, officials said.

The HQ IDS and CSIR both share a common interest to undertake joint research and development in defence technologies for mutual benefit, in the true spirit of 'scientific cooperation in support of Indian Armed Forces'. This partnership will also accelerate the indigenisation efforts of Armed Forces for achieving 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat', they said.

# ABVP reelects Shahi as national president



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has re-elected Rajsharan Shahi and Yagywalka Shukla as its national president and national general secretary, respectively, for 2023-24, according to an official statement issued on Thursday.

They will assume their responsibility during the 69th national conference of the ABVP scheduled to be held in Delhi from December 7 to 10, the statement issued by election officer C N Patel from the central office of the students' body in Mumbai said. The statement said Shahi hails from Gorakhpur district in Uttar Pradesh. He has completed his PhD in education and is an associate professor in the Department of Education at the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow. He is also a member of various educational committees, including the National Education Policy Implementation Committee, in Uttar Pradesh. Shukla hails from Garhwa district in Jharkhand and holds a PhD in geography from the Ranchi University. He is also the president of the students' union in the Shri Jagjit Singh Namdhari College in Garhwa and the vice-president of the students' union in the Ranchi University.

# Financial inclusion conclave to be held

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY CONCIL



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Economic and financial experts from India and world over will congregate at a mega event to be held here on Friday to deliberate the importance of "financial management" by individuals and enterprises as well as changing economic landscape for various segments of the society including agriculture, youth, women, MSMEs and role of BFSI sector.

The conclave "Financial Inclusion - Bridging the Gaps" which will also be addressed by former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu is being organized by the AWOKE India Foundation as its 6th edition of "International Financial Literacy Conclave 2023". The AIF, the only Investor Association recognized by the SEBI in Uttar Pradesh focusses on community causes viz. financial literacy, investor education, protection & Skill Development.

Financial Inclusion & Literacy Leadership (FILL) Awards 2023 shall be also conferred in

the event like earlier years. These awards will be given in 3 categories - individual, institution and innovation to the winners and runner-up. Several noted dignitaries and internationally acclaimed industry experts such as Dakshita Das, Former Additional Secretary- Department of Financial Services, Prof Ananth Narayan, whole time member SEBI, Rajnish Kumar, former Chairman SBI, Naina Lal Kidwai, former president, FICCI, Dr Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Former Chairman NABARD, and many others will be part of the conclave, according to a statement here.

Pravin Kumar Dwivedi, Founder and President AWOKE India said that the conference will provide insights from eminent panelists/industry experts focused on agriculture, youth, women, MSME & startups, & BFSI Sector and how they should build financial acumen before entering into employment. "Learning practical aspects of finance sooner than later makes life much better in all respects," he said.

# 1,326 former servicemen register for employment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 1,326 vacancies were offered by 33 companies to ex-servicemen on Thursday in Gurugram during an employment seminar and fair organised by Directorate General of Resettlement, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence.

Giving these details here, Defence Ministry officials said nearly 1,200 ex-servicemen from Army, Air Force and Navy registered for seeking employment. Two more job fairs are scheduled at Chandigarh and Visakhapatnam in the coming month. The ex-servicemen selected would be gainfully employed in various positions ranging from Senior Supervisors, Mid/Senior level managers to Strategic Planners and Project Directors. The event was beneficial for both Corporate and the Veterans.

# Government working on strategy to make environment friendly Hydel Projects

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With large hydel power projects being blamed for the disasters in the fragile zones of Himalayas and Northeastern States, the Government is working on a strategy to make the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Projects - those plants which have a generating capacity of below 25 megawatt (MW) - more environment-friendly.

The move follows growing protest from locals against several Small Hydro Power (SHP) projects in various States, with activists pointing out that the structures were being constructed without following environmental norms.

To begin with, the Union Environment Ministry may soon set up a committee for framing Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) for development of the SHPs in an eco-friendly manner. The committee will comprise members from Ministries from Environment, Jal Shakti, Power besides State Governments and expert institutions.

Setting up of a panel to frame SOPs was recommended by an Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) of



the Union Environment Ministry held last month. The members felt that the SHPs being a sustainable energy solution because of its low environmental cost in terms of problems of large scale forest land /community land acquisition/deforestation and displacement of human settlements has the potential to help meet the Government's target of achieving Carbon Zero emission by 2070.

As per a study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, projects with capacity of 25 MW or below, classified as small hydro, are estimated to have a potential of 21,133 MW from 7,133 sites in India. The hilly States of India mainly Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu &

Kashmir and Uttarakhand constitute around half of this potential.

Other potential States are Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Kerala. North Eastern (NE) States have a fairly good potential to develop small hydro power projects.

Among the NE States, Arunachal Pradesh has the highest potential followed by Sikkim, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Such projects are run on the river-based and create minimum hindrance/ disruption to rivers/streams. The SHPs construction takes much less time as compared to conventional large hydropower projects, which makes it cost effective and favourable to the local community. Small hydro projects are generally set up

closer to the demand area, so they are more effective for load-generation management. The SHP plays a significant role in social upliftment of remote hilly areas through creating local employment opportunities and restricting population migration from remote areas to urban areas.

To speed up the SHPs proposals, the EAC has also sought the CIA and carrying capacity studies of the rivers where hydro-electric projects are proposed to be completed in time bound manner while the SHPs less than 25 MW of total 200 MW capacity (cumulative) may be permitted in the river basin, based on Hydro-electric potential studies by the Union Power Ministry without insisting on individual river basin study. The State Governments have been asked to finalise the list of the SHPs in view of hydro-electric potential studies conducted by the Union Ministry of Power keeping in view of any court order/policy w.r.t. construction of SHPs/HEPs in the river basin. The list will include the cumulative impact assessment (CIA) and carrying capacity of the whole river basin.



# Ministry inks pact with Amazon to leverage 'Districts as Export Hubs'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry on Thursday said it has inked an agreement with US-based Amazon to provide training to MSMEs in 20 identified districts in areas such as making digital catalogues and tax-related issues with a view to promoting exports through e-commerce medium.

The capacity building session will allow MSMEs to learn about imaging, digital cataloguing of their products, and tax advisory, among others, it said in a statement.

The ministry's arm Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is also in discussions with various other e-commerce platforms like Flipkart/Walmart, Ebay, Rivexa, Shopclues, Shiprocket, DHL Express to have similar collaboration in other districts of the country under the initiative.

DGFT deals with import and export-related issues of the country.



"To enable micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and boost e-commerce exports from the country, DGFT is collaborating with the various e-commerce players to leverage the Districts as Export Hubs initiative and promote e-commerce exports from the country," the ministry said in a statement. As part of this MoU, Amazon and DGFT will co-

create capacity-building sessions, training and workshops for MSMEs in districts identified by the DGFT as part of the 'District as Export Hub' initiative outlined in the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, in a phased manner.

"The initiative seeks to link local producers even in rural and remote districts with global supply chains. The collabora-

tion aims to enable exporters/MSMEs to sell their Made in India; products to customers internationally," it said, adding that the core objective is to leverage e-commerce platforms to support local exporters, manufacturers, and MSMEs in reaching potential international buyers.

Under the collaboration, districts will be identified by various e-commerce platforms across India to undertake various capacity-building and outreach activities in collaboration with DGFT-Regional Authorities.

"Under the MoU with Amazon India, 20 districts have been identified for such capacity building and hand-holding sessions," it added.

This will supplement DGFT's efforts to handhold, and promote new and first-time exporters and other MSME producers to export from India, thereby making substantial strides towards the goal of USD 1 trillion in goods exports by the year 2030.

The MoU was signed in the presence of DGFT Santosh Sarangi.

According to the think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), India should target USD 350 billion worth of goods exported through e-commerce by 2030 and for that, the government needs to address pain points of the sector by taking steps like formulating a separate policy.

India's current e-commerce export numbers remain far below their potential, and at present, e-commerce exports account for only USD 2 billion, less than 0.5 per cent of the country's total goods export basket, the GTRI said.

Commenting on the agreement, Bhupen Wakankar, Director of Global Trade at Amazon India, said, "Our focus remains on making exports simpler and more accessible to businesses of all sizes as we work toward our goal of enabling \$20 billion in cumulative e-commerce exports from India by 2025".

# FM: Customer data with account aggregators completely safe in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday assured that customer data shared with account aggregators (AA) is completely safe in India.

Concerned over the slow movement of the AA scheme, she said, "It is not as much as I would want to see. It can be better, which means either the building of awareness exercises are not sufficient, adequate" or there is a need for simplification of technology.

"Banks, both public and private, have reviewed it with me once. Banks have become a member or a part of this account aggregators working, and it has actually helped," she said at the 'DATE with Tech' event here. She stressed that the enthusiasm of the banks has to be accentuated, only then that it will reach every customer.

Allaying concerns about data security, she said, "Initially, there were some apprehensions that possibly, account aggregators are going to sit over data bank. They cannot hold data. They are just a pass-



through. Neither the beneficiary customer nor the bank can sit on it through the AA. They will deal with it only for the purpose of giving credit".

Asked about what kind of assurance she can provide to customers, Sitharaman said the government's approach in creating public platforms for banking facilities ensures customer data protection.

"The moment you agree to be willing to give it, it will be shared without much hindrance. On data protection, I can assure Indian citizens your data remains completely safe," she said.

Account aggregators (AA) are entities that enable financial

data sharing from Financial Information Providers (FIPs) to Financial Information Users (FIUs), based on the consent from the customers.

On low insurance penetration in India, Sitharaman said there have been experiments by Scheduled Commercial Banks to increase the penetration.

Insurance companies will have to be a lot smarter by adopting technology tools and addressing last-mile distribution of their products, she added. "There is a need for insurance companies to become a lot more tech-ready and through technology, but because insurance is such a sentimental matter. You still need a human interface."

# Hybrid mutual funds catch investors' fancy, attract ₹72,000 cr in 7 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hybrid mutual fund schemes have been gaining popularity among investors with the category attracting over Rs 72,000 crore in the past seven months, following a change in taxation for debt funds and huge inflow experienced in the arbitrage category. Hybrid funds are mutual fund schemes that typically invest in a combination of equity and debt securities and sometimes in other asset categories such as gold. The category has been attracting regular inflows since April after a change in taxation for debt funds that kicked off in the same month. Before that, the segment saw a net withdrawal of Rs 12,372 crore in March.

According to the latest data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), hybrid schemes witnessed an inflow of Rs 9,907 crore in October. The category had attracted Rs



62,174 crore in the April-September period.

With this, total inflow has reached Rs 72,081 crore in the first seven months of the current financial year.

Of Rs 72,081 crore, a massive amount of Rs 48,978 crore inflow was seen in the arbitrage category, data showed. Hybrid funds appeal more

to investors with a moderate or low-risk profile.

These funds are good investment options as they reduce the volatility associated when participating in equity markets while simultaneously providing stability in the fixed-income market. Market analysts believe that investors are looking to invest a portion of

their fixed income exposure through hybrid funds after the change in taxation for debt funds.

Under the new rules that kicked in from April 1, debt mutual funds held for more than three years will no longer enjoy indexation benefits.

Indexation takes into account inflation during the holding period of a mutual fund unit and consequently increases the purchase price of the asset and this reduces the tax. The inflow has pushed the Assets Under Management (AUM) of hybrid schemes by 19 per cent to Rs 5.88 lakh crore in October-end from Rs 4.94 lakh crore in April.

Within the hybrid schemes, the largest assets belong to the dynamic asset-allocation/balanced advantage category, with assets totalling Rs 2.12 lakh crore. This was followed by the balanced hybrid fund/aggressive hybrid category with assets of Rs 1.72 lakh crore.

# Cipla shares fall over 8 pc; Mcap declines by ₹8,319 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Cipla plunged over 8 per cent on Thursday after the US health regulator pulled up the drug major for various manufacturing lapses at its Pithampur (Madhya Pradesh) based manufacturing facility.

The stock tanked 8.10 per cent to Rs 1,168.60 on the BSE. During the day, it dropped 8.37 per cent to Rs 1,165.10.

At the NSE, it fell 7.63 per cent to Rs 1,174.40.

The company's market valuation eroded by Rs 8,319.48 crore to Rs 94,344.05 crore.

On the traded volume front, 2.83 lakh shares of the company were traded at the BSE and over 76.43 lakh shares at the NSE during the day.

In a letter to the company's Managing Director Umang Vohra, the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) stated that it inspected Cipla's



Pithampur-based plant in Madhya Pradesh during February 6-17, 2023.

"This warning letter summarises significant violations of Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) regulations for finished pharmaceuticals...Because your methods, facilities, or controls for manufacturing, processing, packing, or holding do not conform to CGMP, your drug products are

adulterated," it noted. A warning letter is issued when the US health regulator finds that a manufacturer has significantly violated its regulations.

"Your firm failed to thoroughly investigate any unexplained discrepancy or failure of a batch or any of its components to meet any of its specifications, whether or not the batch has already been distributed," the USFDA stated in the letter.

# Tata Tech's IPO subscribed 14.85 times

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offer of Tata Technologies, which provides engineering and product development digital services, was subscribed 14.85 times on the second day of subscription on Thursday. This is the first company from the Tata Group to float an Initial Public Offer (IPO) in nearly two decades. Tata Consultancy Services was the last IPO from the group in the year 2004. The Rs 3,042.5 crore initial share sale received bid for 66,87,31,680 shares against 4,50,29,207 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The portion for non-institutional investors got subscribed 31.03 times while the category for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 11.19 times subscription. The portion for Qualified Institutional Buyers attracted 8.55 times subscription.

# Daikin to accelerate supply of Made in India products



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Daikin Airconditioning India Pvt Ltd on Thursday said it is set to accelerate supplies of products manufactured in the country for both domestic and international markets with the commercialisation of its third plant.

The company, a wholly-owned arm of Japan's Daikin Industries Ltd said its third integrated air-conditioning and compressor manufacturing facility at Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, has been set up with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore. The new plant spread across 75.5 acres has been set up as part of a PLI scheme and it helps the company leverage on India's manufacturing potential to produce for the world.

"We have about 100 production units globally and a

customer base in over 170 countries but India holds a special significance. As we expand our manufacturing footprint in India, we re-emphasise the importance of India in Daikin's global vision," Daikin Industries President & CEO Masanori Togawa said in a statement.

"The country's dynamic market and skilled workforce align perfectly with our mission, and we are confident that the new facility will not only elevate the standard of HVAC solutions but also contribute significantly to the growth of the industry in India and the surrounding regions," he further said. The new facility is dedicated to the development of climate-friendly air conditioning solutions for markets in West Africa, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, the Middle East, South America, and East Africa, Daikin India said.

# Equity markets settle flat in volatile trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower in highly volatile trade on Thursday as losses in healthcare and IT stocks were largely offset by gains in energy and metal shares amid positive global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 5.43 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 66,017.81. During the day, it hit a high of 66,235.24 and a low of 65,980.50. The Nifty slipped 9.85 points or 0.05 per cent to 19,802. "It turned out to be a dull session as the benchmark ended unchanged after trading in a narrow band.

After the initial uptick, Nifty slipped lower in no time and remained in a tight range till the end," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Among the Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services, NTPC, Infosys, Titan and Asian Paints were the major laggards.

IndusInd Bank, JSW Steel,



Bharti Airtel, Wipro, HDFC Bank and Tata Steel were the major gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.44 per cent, and midcap index gained 0.15 per cent.

Among the indices, healthcare declined 1.13 per cent, IT fell 0.46 per cent, consumer durables declined 0.44 per cent, tech (0.26 per cent), capital goods (0.26 per cent) and power (0.11 per cent).

Realty climbed 1.22 per cent, oil & gas jumped 1.21 per cent, energy (0.84 per cent), telecommunication (0.82 per cent) and metal (0.53 per cent).

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green.

European markets were trading with marginal gains.

The US markets ended in positive territory on

Wednesday.

"Range-bound momentum continued on main indexes as the market looked for new triggers for a decisive move beyond the 19,800 level.

However, the broad markets' undercurrent is strong and rapid buying has emerged in the mid and small-cap counters as a bargaining strategy arose on recent underperforming stocks. "The declining oil prices and ease in US bond yields are the key positives for a broader recovery for the market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.50 per cent to USD 80.73 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 306.56 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

# Experts: India must tread carefully in negotiating labour provisions in FTAs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India needs to follow a cautious approach while negotiating labour provisions in free trade agreements (FTAs) as those could have potential repercussions on domestic manufacturing and overall trade competitiveness, experts say.

International trade experts claimed that in a significant shift from its longstanding stance, India has begun to engage on labour issues in its trade negotiations with the UK, European Union, and the US-led Indo Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

Inclusion of these issues in trade pacts could have negative impacts, they said, adding that the recent US presidential memorandum of Joe Biden on worker rights indicates a deepening focus on labour standards in trade deals. Negotiations are on fast track with a comprehensive trade agreement with the UK, which seeks to promote trade in goods, services and two-way investments.

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)



Ajay Srivastava said that such provisions could erode the competitive advantage of developing countries by inflating manufacturing costs.

Citing an example, he said that the US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement, which mandates a minimum wage in Mexico's auto sector, potentially diminishes its competitiveness. Sharing similar views, trade expert and former government official Sangeeta Godbole also expressed reservations about labour clauses in trade deals.

She was involved in the negotiations of the India-EU trade agreement. "Even non-binding labour provisions in the EU-South Korea FTA led to a dispute adversely impacting South Korea's auto industry, cautioning against complacency

in negotiations," Godbole said.

International trade expert Abhijit Das said that labour provisions in trade agreements often seek enforcement of domestic laws and can lead to punitive actions for non-compliance.

He noted that the labour clauses in the recent supply chain resilience agreement under IPEF as a potential gateway for increased scrutiny and a pressure point for the imposition of import restrictions in future based on alleged labour law violations.

"India must tread carefully in negotiating labour provisions in trade agreements, mindful of the potential repercussions on its manufacturing sector and overall trade competitiveness," the experts said.

# Coal India to phase out mining equipment imports in 6 years: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL, which has imported high-capacity mining equipment worth Rs 3,500 crore in the past five years, has drawn up a plan to phase out such inbound shipments over the next six years, the government said on Thursday.

The move aims to encourage

and develop domestically manufactured equipment, it said.

"Currently, Coal India Ltd (CIL) imports high-capacity equipment, such as electric rope shovels, hydraulic shovels, dumpers, crawler dozers, drills, motor graders, and front-end loaders wheel dozer, valued at Rs 3,500 crore, incurring additional expenses of Rs 1,000 crore in customs duty," the coal

ministry said in a statement.

These equipment were imported over the past five years.

To curb these imports and boost domestic manufacturing, CIL has devised a strategy to phase out imports gradually over the next six years, it said.

Notably, high-capacity machines are already being procured from domestic man-

ufacturers. With a strong commitment to reduce the country's dependence on imports and promoting domestic production, the Centre is taking steps to foster indigenous manufacturing capabilities within the coal mining sector. "In pursuit of this goal, an interdisciplinary high-level committee under the chairmanship of Director (Technical), CIL,

was constituted to provide recommendations for bolstering domestic manufacturing of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) and underground mining equipment, including High Wall Miners, standard and low-capacity miners, and associated ancillary equipment," the statement said. It is projected that coal will remain the pre-

dominant source of energy even beyond 2030, thus, the panel expected a huge requirement of equipment in the next 10 years in the country, for opencast and underground mines and submitted its final report. The panel consisted of representatives from the Ministries of Heavy Industries and Railways and various stakeholders among others.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

POWERGRID HOLDS MANTHAN'23

Sohna: MANTHAN'23 -The 18th Asset Management Conference of POWERGRID was held from 16th to 17th Nov 2023 at Sohn, Haryana. It was organized by Northern Region-1. This conference is a platform to review and devise a suitable strategy for Operations and Maintenance of the rapidly increasing POWERGRID's transmission system and mitigating challenges in optimizing the man-agement of TBCB SPVs assets.





# Cease-fire and hostage release expected to begin today

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH/  
WASHINGTON

An agreement for a four-day cease-fire in Gaza and the release of dozens of hostages held by militants and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel appeared to have hit a last-minute snag. A senior Israeli official said it would not take effect until Friday, a day later than originally announced. The diplomatic breakthrough promised some relief for the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza who have endured weeks of Israeli bombardment, as well as families in Israel fearful for the fate of their loved ones taken captive during Hamas' Oct 7 attack that triggered the war.

Israel's national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, announced the delay late Wednesday, without providing a reason. Negotiators were still "working to create the appropriate conditions" for the cease-fire and swap, according to Majed al-Ansari, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of Qatar, which played a key role in mediating with Hamas.

The Persian Gulf nation said early Thursday that a new time for the agreement to go into force would be announced "in the coming hours." It was originally set to begin Thursday morning. The US and Egypt also helped negotiate the deal.



Israeli soldiers show the media an underground tunnel found underneath Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, Wednesday. Israel says that Hamas militants sought cover on the grounds of the hospital and used the tunnel for military purposes.

## RISING TOLL IN GAZA

The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza, meanwhile, resumed its detailed count of Palestinian casualties from the war, saying over 13,300 have been killed. The figures do not include updated numbers from hospitals in the north, where services and communication largely broke down earlier this month, and the ministry says some 6,000 people have been reported missing and are feared to be buried under rubble. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and militants in its death tolls. Israel says it has killed thousands of Hamas fighters, though it has presented no evidence for its count.

The ministry stopped publishing casualty counts as of Nov 11, saying it had lost the ability to do so because of the collapse of the health sector in the north.

## 'TRUCE WON'T END WAR'

The truce agreement had raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, which has levelled vast swaths of Gaza, fuelled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

Air raid sirens sounded across northern Israel on Thursday as Hezbollah said it had fired 48 Katyusha rockets from southern Lebanon. The barrage came after an Israeli strike killed five Hezbollah fighters, including the son of the head of the group's parlia-

mentary bloc.

The Israeli military said it was striking the sources of the launches. Israel and Hezbollah, which fought a month-long war in 2006, have repeatedly traded fire across the border since the war in Gaza broke out.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war against Hamas after the truce expires, with the goal of destroying the group's military capabilities, ending its 16-year rule in Gaza and returning all of the estimated 240 captives held in Gaza by Hamas and other groups.

"We will continue it until we achieve all our goals," Netanyahu said, adding that he had delivered the same message in a phone call to US President Joe Biden. Washington has provided extensive military and diplomatic support to Israel since the start of the war.

Israeli troops hold much of northern Gaza and say they have dismantled tunnels and much of Hamas' infrastructure there. Israeli forces on Wednesday revealed what they said was a major Hamas hideout in a tunnel beneath Shifa Hospital.

The territory's largest medical centre has been at the heart of a fierce battle of narratives over both sides' allegedly reckless endangerment of civilians. Hamas and hospital staff deny Israeli allegations that Shifa was used as a militant command centre.

The military said Thursday that it had detained Mohammed Abu Selma, the director of Shifa, for questioning over his involvement in what it said

were "extensive" Hamas activities in the hospital. Gaza's Health Ministry called on international bodies to intervene and said it would no longer cooperate with the World Health Organisation in evacuating hospitals.

Earlier on Thursday, Israel had ordered the full evacuation of the Indonesian Hospital in the north, Dr Munir al-Boursh, a Health Ministry official inside the facility, told Al-Jazeera.

Fighting has raged outside the hospital for days, and hundreds of people have already been evacuated to the south. It was unclear if the arrest of Abu Selma would affect those efforts.

Israel has threatened to launch wider operations in southern Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of people who fled the north have crammed into overflowing UN-run shelters with dwindling food, water and basic supplies. For Hamas, the cease-fire would provide an opportunity to regroup after weeks of apparently heavy losses.

Hamas leader Yehya Sinwar, who is believed to be alive and in hiding in Gaza, is likely to claim the release of Palestinian prisoners as a major achievement and declare victory if the war ends.

## HOSTAGES TO BE FREED IN STAGES

Under the truce deal, 50 hostages are supposed to be freed in stages, in exchange for the release of what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinian prisoners. Women and children would be released first, and Israel said the truce

would be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages freed.

The return of hostages could lift spirits in Israel, where their plight has gripped the country. Families of the hostages have staged mass demonstrations to pressure the government to bring them home. Qatar said the cease-fire would allow a "larger number of humanitarian convoys and relief aid" to enter Gaza, including fuel, but it gave no details on quantities. Israel cut off all fuel imports at the start of the war, causing a territory-wide blackout and leaving homes and hospitals reliant on generators, which have also steadily been forced to shut down.

Israel's Justice Ministry published a list of 300 prisoners eligible to be released, mainly teenagers detained over the past year for rock-throwing and other minor offences.

The war erupted when several thousand Hamas militants stormed into southern Israel, killing at least 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking scores of hostages, including babies, women and older adults, as well as soldiers, for whom Hamas is expected to demand a large number of high-profile prisoners.

More than 1.7 million people, three-fourths of Gaza's population, have been displaced in the war. Many, if not most, will be unable to return home because of the vast damage and the presence of Israeli troops in the north. Israel has barred imports to Gaza since the start of the war, except for a trickle of aid. Humanitarian aid groups operating in Gaza said the truce will prove too short and the Rafah crossing's capacity insufficient to meet urgent needs.

## BIDEN CALLS MIDDLE EAST LEADERS

US President Joe Biden called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad al-Thani of Qatar and President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt to discuss the latest situation in the Middle East following an agreement between Israel and Hamas on the release of hostages.

Israel and Hamas agreed on Wednesday to a temporary four-day ceasefire to allow the release of 50 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza in exchange for 150 Palestinian detainees and the entry of humanitarian aid into the besieged territory.

The deal, once implemented, will be the first major diplomatic breakthrough and pause in fighting since the war began after Hamas attacked Israel on October 7. Biden on Wednesday spoke with Netanyahu to welcome the deal, the White House said in a readout of the call. The two leaders discussed the pause in fighting, which will allow needed humanitarian assistance to enter into Gaza, it added.

# Hezbollah fires rockets at Israel after airstrike kills 5



An explosion is seen following an Israeli bombardment in the Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel, Thursday. AP/PTI

AP ■ BEIRUT

The militant Hezbollah group fired more than 50 rockets at military posts in northern Israel on Thursday, a day after an Israeli airstrike on a home in southern Lebanon killed five of the group's senior fighters.

The waves of rockets sent over the border represented one of the most intense bombardments since Hezbollah started attacking Israeli posts in the country's north at the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war.

Hezbollah has said that by heating up its actions on the Israel-Lebanon border, it is easing pressure on the Gaza Strip, where Israel's crushing aerial, ground and naval offensive has left more than 13,300 Palestinians dead and caused wide destruction in the sealed-off enclave.

The war was triggered by an October 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel that left about 1,200 people dead, most of them civilians, and resulted in about 240 hostages getting taken to Gaza.

An agreement for a four-day cease-fire in Gaza and the release of dozens of hostages

held by the militants and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, was set to take place on Thursday but appeared to have hit a last-minute snag.

Hezbollah said in a series of statements released Thursday that the volleys it fired toward Israeli posts included 48 Katyusha rockets that were directed at an Israeli army base in Beit Zeitim, about 10 kilometres south of the border.

The group said its fighters also struck tanks and locations where Israeli troops were taking positions.

The intense fire followed an Israeli airstrike on a house in Beit Yahoun, a village in southern Lebanon, that killed the five senior fighters, including Abbas Raad, the son of the head of Hezbollah's 13-member parliamentary bloc in Lebanon, Mohammed Raad.

The deaths bring the number of Hezbollah fighters who have been killed in seven weeks of fighting to at least 83.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah met in Beirut in Thursday with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian. They discussed the ongoing war in Gaza and efforts to "stop the

Israeli aggression," as well as the situation at the tense Lebanon-Israel border, according to a statement released by Hezbollah.

Amirabdollahian warned in comments to journalists upon his arrival in Lebanon Wednesday that the ongoing Israel-Hamas war could "spiral out of control" if a truce does not last.

Iran-backed factions in Iraq, including the militant group Kataib Hezbollah, have carried out more than 60 rocket or suicide drone attacks at bases housing US troops in Iraq and Syria. Kataib Hezbollah is allied with Lebanon's Hezbollah but the groups have different leaders.

The US military said on Thursday that one of its warships in the Red Sea shot down bomb-carrying drones launched from territory controlled by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

The American military's Central Command said the USS Thomas Hudner, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, shot down the drones early on Thursday morning. "The ship and crew sustained no damage or injury," Central Command said.

# 'Russian support enabled N Korea to launch spy satellite'

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea has concluded that Russian support likely enabled North Korea to put a spy satellite into orbit for the first time this week, and will know whether it is functioning properly by early next week, officials said on Thursday.

The launch has deepened regional animosities, with both Koreas threatening to breach a past reconciliation deal and taking hostile actions along their heavily armed border.

After two launch failures earlier this year, North Korea said it successfully placed its "Malligyong-1" satellite into orbit on Tuesday night. South Korea's military has confirmed that the satellite entered orbit, but said it needs several more days to verify whether it is working properly.

In a closed-door briefing, South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers on Thursday that Russian assistance was likely the main reason the launch was successful, according to lawmakers who attended the meeting.

The National Intelligence Service cited Russian President Vladimir Putin's earlier mention of a promise to support North Korea's satellite programme. It said it also obtained intelligence that North Korea had sent Russia the design and other data for its new "Chollima-1" rocket used in the two previous failed launches. The intelligence showed that Russia returned its analysis of the North Korean data, according to lawmaker Yoo Sangbum, who attended the NIS briefing.

South Korean Defence Minister Shin Wonsik told a separate parliamentary committee meeting on Thursday that Russia appears to have been providing technological assistance for North Korea's

satellite programme. The same satellite and rocket were used in all three launches. The two earlier attempts in May and August failed due to technical problems with the rocket.

There has been speculation that Russia is providing technological support for North Korea's satellite and other programs since leader Kim Jong Un travelled to Russia to meet Putin and visit key technology and military sites in September. The Kim-Putin summit was held at Russia's main space launch centre.

Asked whether Russia would help North Korea build and launch satellites, Putin told Russian state media at the time that "that's why we have come here." "The (North Korean) leader shows keen interest in rocket technology. They're trying to develop space, too," Putin said.

The US, South Korea and Japan accuse North Korea of obtaining high-tech Russian military technologies in return for supplying conventional arms for Russia's war in Ukraine. Both Russia and North Korea have denied the alleged deal.

North Korea said its Malligyong-1 satellite will begin its official mission on December 1. But it said the satellite has already transmitted images of military facilities in the US territory of Guam and that Kim saw them. North Korea hasn't released the images.

Many foreign experts are sceptical about the satellite's ability to take high-resolution images and whether it is militarily meaningful. After recovering debris from the first failed launch attempt, South Korea's military said the satellite wasn't sophisticated enough to perform military reconnaissance.

# World Hindu Congress to open today in Bangkok

PTI ■ BANGKOK

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will on Friday inaugurate the World Hindu Congress here in Thailand's capital which will bring together thinkers, activists and leaders to deliberate on issues and challenges faced by the Hindus across the globe and discuss ways to address them. The third edition of the once-in-four-year World Hindu Congress (WHC) will have 'Jayasya Aayatanam Dharmah' (translated, Dharma, the Abode of Victory) and comprise seven parallel conferences to articulate the values, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of the Hindus.

"The parallel conferences will provide space to discuss and deliberate upon the opportunities and challenges facing Hindus across the world and how to address them valiantly," Sameer Panda, a member of

the organising team of the event, said. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, spiritual leaders such as Mata Amritanandamayi, Yogendra Giri, Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh, entrepreneurs including Sridhar Vembu, Narendra Murkumbi, author Vikram Sampath, scientist Anand Ranganathan are expected to speak at the three-day conference. Besides, political and business leaders from countries such as Kenya, Australia, Suriname, Germany, New Zealand, and Thailand are also expected to attend the conference.

The WHC enables all Hindu leaders, activists, thinkers and influencers to come together and work towards a common vision and also provide a platform to

connect, share, ideas and inspire each other for the greater common good, Panda said.

According to the WHC website, the event is also a place where critical issues impacting Hindus such as denial of human rights, discrimination and downright physical and cultural assaults are expected to be addressed.

India and Southeast Asia share common religious and cultural values that find expression in language, arts, architecture and tradition, the organisers said, adding, magnificent symbols of a shared heritage can be seen in Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram (Thailand), Angkor Wat and Phnom Kulen (Cambodia), Prambanan and Borobudur (Indonesia), Bagan (Myanmar), Kedaram (Malaysia), Cham Temple, M Son (Vietnam) and Vat Phou (Laos).

## Indian student shot dead in US

Washington (PTI):

The 26-year-old Indian doctoral student died after being shot inside a car in the US state of Ohio, in an incident described by his medical university as "sudden, tragic and senseless".

Aaditya Adlakha was a fourth-year doctoral student in the molecular and developmental biology programme at the University of Cincinnati Medical School, according to a statement from the medical school, WXIX-TV reported.

Adlakha died earlier this month at the UC Medical Center, according to the Hamilton County Coroner's Office. On November 9, Cincinnati Police Lt. Jonathan Cunningham said officers found a man shot inside a vehicle that crashed into a wall on the upper deck of the Western Hills Viaduct.

# Indian workers dominate UK visa tally

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian skilled workers, medical professionals and students held on to their domination in the UK's visa tally over the past year, according to official immigration statistics released here on Thursday.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) data collated by the UK Home Office for the year ending September 2023 shows that Indian nationals topped not only the Skilled Worker visa route but also the Health and Care Visa route.

In the students' visa category, Indian nationals continued to represent the largest group of students granted leave to remain on the relatively new post-study Graduate visa route, representing 43 per cent of grants.

"While 'Skilled Worker' visas have only seen a modest rise in the past year (+9 per

cent), 'Skilled Worker - Health and Care' visa grants have more than doubled (+135 per cent) to 143,990. Indian (38,866), Nigerian (26,715), and Zimbabwean (21,130) nationals saw the largest increases on this visa compared with the previous year," the Home Office analysis notes.

While the Health and Care visa figures mark a 76 per cent rise in Indian applicants, the Skilled Worker route saw a small decline of 11 per cent to drop from 20,360 visas in the year ending September 2022 to 18,107 in the year ending this September.

"There were 133,237 sponsored study visa grants to Indian nationals in (the) year ending September 2023, a small increase of 5,804 (+5 per cent) compared to the year ending September 2022, but their number is now nearly five times higher than in the year ending

# German cops raid properties of Hamas supporters

AP ■ BERLIN

Hundreds of police officers searched the properties of Hamas members and followers in Germany on Thursday morning following a formal ban on any activity by or in support of the militant group. The German government implemented the ban on November 2 and dissolved Samidoun, a group that was behind a celebration in Berlin of Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel.

Germany's domestic intelligence service estimates that Hamas has around 450 members in the country. Their activities range from expressions of sympathy and propaganda activities to financing and fundraising activities to strengthen the organization abroad.

"We are continuing our consistent action against radical Islamists," German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said. "By

banning Hamas and Samidoun in Germany, we have sent a clear signal that we will not tolerate any glorification or support of Hamas' barbaric terror against Israel."

The raids, which mostly took place in Berlin, were meant to enforce the bans and to further investigate the groups, the German interior ministry said in a statement.

A total of 15 properties were searched in Berlin and the states of Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia and Schleswig-Holstein.

In Berlin alone, more than 300 police officers carried out searches at 11 locations in order to seize evidence and assets. Seven searches were related to Hamas and four to Samidoun.

The searches mainly took place at the homes of supporters and the premises of a Palestinian association, German news agency dpa reported.

# 'Fiery crash kills 2 at US-Canada bridge'

Niagara Falls NY (AP): A vehicle speeding toward a US-Canada bridge from the American side crashed and exploded at a checkpoint in Niagara Falls on Wednesday, killing two people and prompting the closing of multiple border crossings for hours.

Authorities weren't sure what spurred the wreck but said there were no signs it was a terror attack.

Much remained unclear about the incident at the Rainbow Bridge, which stirred concerns on both sides of the border as the US headed into the Thanksgiving holiday. Both US President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau were briefed soon afterward, and Trudeau excused himself from Question Period in the House of Commons to get further information, saying officials were "taking this extraordinarily seriously."

A few hours later, New York Governor Kathy Hochul and western New York's US attorney, Trini Ross, both sought to ease fears, while cautioning that the investigation was in the early stages.

"Based on what we know at this moment," Hochul said at a news conference, "there is no sign of terrorist activity in this crash." At a separate news conference with Ross nearby in Buffalo, Erie County Sheriff John Garcia said, "We can go on with our lives."

Security camera video released by the US government showed the car race through an intersection on a wet road, hit a low median and vault high into the air in a US Customs and Border Protection area just east of the main vehicle checkpoint. The car flew for yards (metres), twisting, and then crashed into a line of booths out of the camera's view.



# Djokovic ready for one final push

AP ■ MALAGA (SPAIN)

Novak Djokovic is not ready to start letting down just yet. The top-ranked Djokovic wants to keep his momentum going for one last week and cap a great season in style with the Davis Cup title.

Djokovic, who won three Grand Slams this year, will lead Serbia against Britain in the last quarterfinal of the Davis Cup Finals on Thursday.

"It's the last week of the season so one final push is necessary from each one of us, and I'm excited because I have been playing some really good tennis, particularly in the last four months," said Djokovic, who won a record-breaking seventh ATP Finals title on Sunday.

"I couldn't be happier with the way I performed in the semifinals and finals of Torino, so hopefully I'm carrying this kind of energy and performance level to the Davis Cup," he said.

Djokovic flew to Malaga shortly after his win in Turin to start preparing for the Davis Cup. "I came the next day. I got a day and a half of rest and I started training right away, because obviously there is not much time to really leave the racket aside," he said.

"Davis Cup has been and is one of my greatest goals of this



season and always is. Hopefully I will be able to contribute to win."

Djokovic is on a 20-match winning streak in Davis Cup singles, going back to a loss via retirement to Juan Martin del Potro in Serbia's 2011 semifinal loss to Argentina. Djokovic's last loss in a completed Davis Cup singles match was in 2009. He is tied with Nenad Zimonjic at the top of the list for most Davis Cup match-wins by a Serbian player.

Djokovic helped Serbia win its first Davis Cup title in 2010.

**DEPLETED BRITAIN:** Seeking an 11th Davis Cup trophy, and first since its drought-breaking victory in 2015, Britain will take on Serbia without Andy Murray and Dan Evans because of injuries.

The Brits, aiming to reach the semifinals for the first time in four years, will be led by No. 18 Cameron Norrie and No. 60 Jack Draper. Neal Skupski and Joe Salisbury are set to play in the doubles. "Britain is one of the greatest tennis nations out there and a very strong team in this format," Djokovic said.

"We are a team that don't have any doubles specialists. We rely on singles, but if it comes to doubles, we are also ready to pair up in the different combinations and give it all.



## Harika loses in final of Speed Chess tournament

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian Grandmaster D Harika went down 11-15 to GM Hou Yifan of China in the final of the Julius Baer Women's online Speed Chess Championship 2023. Harika took home USD 4,230.77 for the games she won in the tournament.

"I'm just not happy with my strength today. I think it has to do with immediately back-to-back matches... It was really exhausting," Harika said after the match.

"This is one of my favourite tournaments, being at home, you can play such matches with the best players with an amazing prize fund... I wish to come back again next year!" she added.

Harika had defeated GM Kateryna Lagno in the semifinals 12-10.

Hou earned USD 10,000 for winning the title and another USD 5,769.23 for win percentage.

Hou took a three-point lead in the first four games. Although her opponent won two games in the second half, the Chinese was in control.

"I got lucky to start with some leading positions," said Hou after the triumph.

"When this match (went) to the bullet chess, I felt like I (couldn't) see the moves... But in general, I am relatively satisfied with the performance today, especially compared to the previous match where I blundered more," she added.



## India announce 26-member contingent for Junior World Boxing Championships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A strong 26-member contingent will represent India at the IBA Junior World Boxing Championships in Yerevan, Armenia, starting on Friday.

The prestigious event, which will continue till December 4, marks a significant milestone in junior boxing as it hosts a total of 448 young talents from 58 nations across 26 weight categories.

The Indian junior squad will be high on confidence after their recent exploits at the 2023 Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships, wherein they won a total of 21 medals, including 13 medals for girls and eight for boys.

Brijesh (46kg), Divash (50kg), Yogesh (57kg), Rahul Kundu (70kg) and Hardik (80kg), who won gold medals at the Asian event, will represent India in their respective categories for boys at the Junior World Championships.

Sikander (48kg), Sahil (52kg), Jatin (54kg), Sarthi (60kg), Kabiraj Singh (63kg), Prashant (66 kg), Sahil (75kg) and Hemant

(80+kg) will also be among the contenders in the boys' category. In the girls' junior section, the gold medalists from the Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships — Pari (50kg), Nisha (52kg), Nidhi (66kg), Akansha (70kg) and Megha (80kg) — will be in contention in their respective weight categories.

Neha (46kg), Payal (48kg), Amisha (54kg), Vini (57kg), Joyshree Devi (60kg), Shrushti (63kg), Kritika (75kg) and Prachi (80+kg) are the other boxers in the competition.

### SQUADS:

**Boys:** Brijesh (46Kg), Sikandar (48Kg), Divash (50kg), Sahil (52 Kg), Jatin (54Kg), Yogesh (57 Kg), Sarthi Saini (60Kg), Kabiraj Singh (63Kg), Prashant (66Kg), Rahul Kundu (70Kg), Sahil (75Kg), Hardik (80Kg), Hemant (80+ Kg).

**Girls:** Neha Lunthi (46Kg), Payal (48Kg), Pari (50Kg), Nisha (52Kg), Amisha (54Kg), Vini (57 Kg), Joyshree Devi (60Kg), Shrushti (63Kg), Nidhi Dhull (66Kg), Akansha (70Kg), Kritika (75Kg), Megha (80Kg), Prachi (80+Kg).

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Until this year, Brazil's national soccer team had never lost three games in a row. The Selecao had never lost a World Cup qualifying match at home. It had never had anything but wins against a visiting Venezuela team, for many years the weakest in South America.

Interim coach Fernando Diniz, however, has had to endure all those setbacks in only a few months on the job - all while Brazil hopes that Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti will soon take over.

Diniz's troubles, and the lack of a confirmed answer from Ancelotti, have increased the pressure on the Brazilian team, even though qualifying for the expanded 2026 World Cup is still expected despite a 1-0 loss to Argentina on Tuesday.

The top six teams in the South American qualifying group will gain direct entry to the 48-team tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada. The seventh-place team can earn a berth in an intercontinental playoff.

Brazil, the only team never to miss a World Cup, has won only three of nine matches in 2023 — the national team's poorest record in years. The five-time World Cup champions are in sixth place in the 10-team South American qualifying group with

# Brazil end year in poor shape

seven points after six matches — eight behind leader Argentina. Performances have been equally disappointing.

Many soccer analysts in Brazil say the team has struggled this year because Diniz has had little time to implement his tactics. Injuries and dwindling performances have also contributed to the team's poor form.

The 49-year-old Diniz, who took over in July, has split his time with the national team and Brazilian club Fluminense. That alone has drawn the ire of some of his club's fans and those of the national team. His attacking style of play is admired by many, even more so after his team's Copa Libertadores title this year.

The interim coach is not a fan of positional play, unlike predecessor Tite, who left after six years following last year's World Cup elimination against Croatia. Diniz doesn't believe in spreading his players on the field. Instead, he concentrates them wherever the ball is so he can outnumber the opposition where it matters.

The problem for Brazil is that formula takes time to succeed, as it did with Fluminense. If opposing teams move the ball

# Australia rally to beat Czech Republic

AP ■ MALAGA (SPAIN)

A game away from elimination, Australia found a way to rally and make its way back to the Davis Cup semifinals.

Australia came from behind to defeat the Czech Republic 2-1 and reach the last-four for the second straight year on Wednesday.

Alex de Minaur recovered from a set and a break down to keep the Aussies alive, then Max Purcell and Matthew Ebden won the decisive doubles match to set up a last-four encounter with Finland on Friday.

Tomas Machac defeated Jordan Thompson 6-4, 7-5 in the

first singles to put the Czechs ahead, but De Minaur beat Jiri Lehecka 4-6, 7-6 (2) 7-5, and then Purcell and Ebden — the 2022 Wimbledon champions — sealed the comeback by defeating Adam Pavlasek and Lehecka 6-4, 7-5 in the doubles.

"I prided myself on a never-say-die attitude and he's certainly in the same category," Australia captain Lleyton Hewitt said of De Minaur.

"For him to go out there and put the boys on his back again, we're so proud of him. He had to dig really deep and yet again he saved us."

De Minaur, the top-ranked Australian and No. 12 in the world, broke back at 3-5 down



in the second set and went on to force a tiebreaker. He then broke serve at 5-5 in the final set before closing out the match with four straight points.

"It would have been quite easy for me to roll over under the circumstances, but that's just not the type of player I am," the 24-year-old De Minaur said.

# Man United head to Goodison Park

AP ■ LONDON

Fuelled by a sense of perceived injustice, Everton is ready to turn its Goodison Park home into a bearpit in response to being deducted a Premier League-record 10 points for breaching financial rules.

Manchester United, beware. Everton's first match since receiving a sanction that stunned many in soccer — not least those associated with the Merseyside club in question — is on Sunday when United visits a stadium which will be seething with fury and resentment.

Goodison Park, an old and compact ground, is famously atmospheric and often hostile, with the vocal home fans never shy about getting their point across — even toward their own players and officials.

This time, the ire will be directed toward the Premier League following a penalty that



puts Everton's 70-year status in the top flight at huge risk.

An appeal has been launched by Everton but that hasn't stopped its director of football, Kevin Thelwell, speaking of a "wholly disproportionate and unjust ruling" that will provide

"additional fuel" for the club.

A fans group, the 1878s, has organized a protest that is calling on supporters inside the stadium to chant an expletive-laden phrase, suggesting corruption in the league, in the 10th minute of the game against

United.

On the back of a crowdfunding campaign that has raised more than USD 50,000, tens of thousands of pink cards featuring the word "corrupt" and the logo of the Premier League will be distributed among fans of both Everton and maybe even United.

There are reports that a plane will be flown over Manchester City's Etihad Stadium during the Saturday lunchtime match against Liverpool with a banner containing a message about the 10-point deduction.

"We won't take this lying down," the 1878s group said, vowing to make Goodison "as hostile and electric as it can be at a pivotal time for Everton Football Club."

Local lawmakers have voiced their complaints in parliament. Liverpool's mayor, Steve Rotherham, has described the points penalty as "ludicrous."



# Now Chiesa and Thuram meet again

AP ■ ROME

They played together as toddlers back in the 1990s when their fathers were leading Parma to trophies at home and in Europe.

Now, the two 26-year-olds are in leading roles themselves entering Sunday's Derby d'Italia.

Federico Chiesa is a dynamic forward for Juventus and Marcus Thuram plays virtually the same position for Inter Milan.

A quarter century ago, their dads — forward Enrico Chiesa and center back Lilian Thuram — helped Parma to Italian Cup and UEFA Cup titles. Lilian went on to play for Juventus — his son's upcoming opponent — and Enrico moved to Fiorentina, where son Federico began his career.

Both of the current players have scored four goals this season, although Marcus Thuram has gone a step further by also providing five assists.

Federico Chiesa has been the one constant in Juve's attack with coach Massimiliano Allegri alternating between Dusan Vlahovic and Moise Kean as his strike partner.

Marcus Thuram, meanwhile, has ably filled the vacancy left by Romelu Lukaku's acrimonious departure from Inter, and formed just as dangerous an attack duo with Lautaro Martinez.

It's also a matchup between Serie A's top two clubs with Inter holding a two-point advantage over Juventus.

With third-place AC Milan eight points off the lead, "Italy's Derby" could launch either Inter or Juventus toward the title.

Juventus is not playing in Europe this season.

It's a clash between opposite styles, with Allegri's Juve known for its stingy defense and rare forays forward and Simone Inzaghi's Inter averaging nearly 2.5 goals per game in the Italian league.

There could be a third son of 1990s Serie A in the match but Juventus winger Timothy Weah — the son of former AC Milan striker George Weah — appears set to miss the game with an injury.

One key for the game could be how players like Lautaro and Juventus defender Gleison Bremer perform after returning from the rowdy Brazil-Argentina game in South America on Tuesday.

Inter also has a tough match the following week at defending champion Napoli.

**M A Z Z A R R I ' S** DEBUT Walter Mazzarri marks his return as Napoli's coach at Atalanta on Saturday.

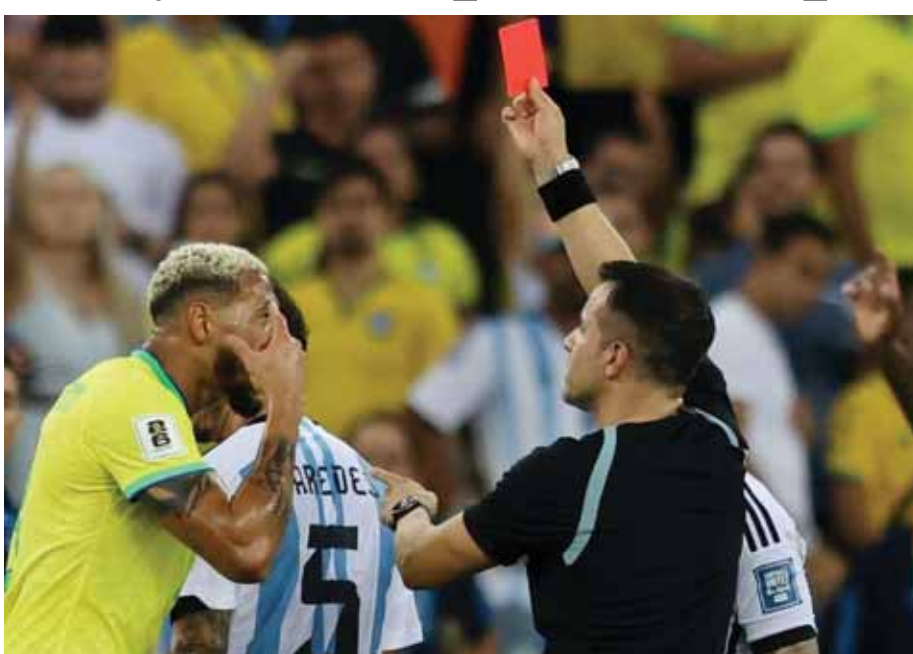
Mazzarri, who previously coached Napoli a decade ago, was hired to replace the fired Rudi Garcia.

The coaching change came six months after Napoli stormed to its first Serie A title since the days when Diego Maradona played for the club.

Napoli has already lost three home matches in Serie A - after losing just two all last season.

Napoli striker Victor Osimhen could return from a right thigh injury that has kept him out for more than a month.

Napoli is in fourth place and Atalanta is one point behind in fifth.



fast enough, they will find an unmarked man at some point, something that has happened to Brazil in several World Cup qualifying matches.

Few Brazil players coming from European leagues have understood what the coach wants from them.

is different from what we had with Tite," Brazil defender Emerson Royal said Wednesday. "It is not easy to play like that. Few teams in the world can do that. What Diniz is trying to do with Brazil is a very hard thing to do."

Royal, one of the players who got the most jeers at the

Maracana Stadium on Tuesday before the loss to Argentina, is another part of the team's problems this year. The right back is among the players struggling to do well for both his club and the national team, but still starting matches for Brazil because of a lack of options and injuries.

That is also the case for



# INDIA WIN: SURYA SHINES, RINKU FINISHES OFF IN STYLE

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav shrugged off the disappointment of a World Cup final defeat with a captain's knock but it was Rinku Singh's composure that took a young Indian team to a thrilling two-wicket victory in the opening T20 International here on Thursday.

This was India's highest successful chase in T20 Internationals. The skipper was in belligerent mood making a mockery of a 209-run chase with 80 off just 42 balls but Rinku's 22 not off 14 balls saved India from the blushes.

India needed 14 off 12 balls after Surya departed but Axar Patel bungled big time and the likes of Ravi Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh also were run-out in a jiffy.

With a single needed off the final delivery, Sean Abbott was deposited into the stands by Rinku but to everyone's delight, it turned out to be a big no-ball and hence the maximum was n't counted. India thus won with a ball to spare.

However, what stood out was



Rinku's fearlessness and the sense of occasion and execution under pressure.

Ishan Kishan also brushed aside initial rustiness to smack five sixes in his 39-ball-58 and was an ideal companion for his skipper in a run-chase which

became easy due to a flat batting track, short boundaries although there wasn't a lot of dew during the second innings. What the 112-run stand in 10 overs between Surya and Kishan did for India was keep them at par with Australia and in the

hunt for a win. Rinku, the 'designated finisher' of T20 team, showed little nerves while lending the finishing touches with some lusty blows after Axar Patel's 2 off 6 balls seemed like increasing tension in the dug-out.

Kishan initially had only two runs off his first eight deliveries but once Surya played his customary pick-up short off Jason Behrendorff behind the keeper for a six, the keeper-batter seemed to gain some confidence as he lofted Sean Abbott over deep mid-wicket for a huge six.

Surya lofted Abbott for a maximum and both got going as Kishan found his match-up in leg-break bowler Tanveer Sangha, who was sent on a leather-hunt.

Sangha's leg-breaks were literally long-hops coming into left-hander and three of Kishan's five sixes were muscled in the same region but it was the hunger for a sixth six over extra cover that brought about his downfall.

His skipper, however, hit the best six of the match when he brought about his first half-century with a lofted on-drive off Abbott. Earlier, India's young bowling attack got a rude reality check as a dominant Josh Inglis smoked them to all parts of the ground with a cracking 110 off 50 balls, taking Australia to a healthy 208 for three.

# Kuldeep, Siraj and Rahul react after World Cup heartbreak

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Some of India's World Cup heroes, including Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Siraj, opened up after the heartbreak at the last hurdle following a glorious run in the show-piece.

Spinner Kuldeep Yadav on Thursday admitted that the pain of World Cup final defeat to Australia will linger and push him to work harder for the "next opportunity".

Reactions from Mohammed Siraj and KL Rahul followed, as the players tried to cope up with the six-wicket loss to Australia in the summit clash in Ahmedabad on November 19. "Our journey from Chennai to Ahmedabad ended in a disappointing result, but we take pride in our achievements over the six weeks. Despite the pain, we're determined to work harder for the next opportunity," Kuldeep said in a post on 'X'.

"While the pain of defeat lingers, we must move forward; life continues, and healing takes time," said the wrist spinner.

He said dealing with the setback was tough.

"The Cup was beautiful, but it seems God had other plans. Navigating this moment, it's time to switch off and recharge.



Dealing with this setback is tough, but we hold onto faith, believing in the journey ahead," he said.

Kuldeep played all of India's 11 matches in the World Cup and took 15 wickets at an average of 28.26.

India won 10 matches on the trot before losing the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in front of over one lakh supporters.

"Thanks to our dedicated support staff, we were fully prepared for every opponent, and their commitment reassured us as players," said Kuldeep.

"The love from fans at each of the 9 venues touched our hearts and motivated us to exceed our limits. We're grateful to passionate fans worldwide and in every Indian Household for

their support."

Siraj, who was seen crying after India's loss, took 14 wickets in 11 matches at an economy rate of 5.68 and was part of a formidable new ball attack that ran through opposition batting line-ups right through the group stages of the tournament.

"Our campaign did not end like we wanted it to but representing India is the biggest honour and moment of pride for me. All I have ever wanted to do is represent my country," Siraj tweeted.

"Heartbroken! Words can't express the disappointment and hurt. It's been a tough loss to take. This time might not have been god's will but we aim to work harder each day to chase glory for our country!"



# Rashid to undergo back surgery

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Afghanistan star Rashid Khan will miss the Big Bash League, starting December 7, due to a back injury that requires surgery.

His team Adelaide Strikers announced on Thursday that Rashid will undergo a minor operation. England's Harry Brook too will be unavailable for the team. Rashid has played for the Strikers since 2017.

"Rashid is a beloved member of the Strikers and a fan favourite who has been with us for seven years, so he will be extremely missed this summer," Tim Nielsen, GM of Cricket at Adelaide Strikers, said.

"Rashid loves Adelaide and the Strikers, and we know how much he loves playing in the BBL, and we support him as he has treatment for this injury to ensure his long-term involvement in the game.

"Our list management and coaching staff will now look at our options for replacing Rashid for the upcoming season and a replacement player will be announced in due course."

# UP lift U-23 State A trophy



Lucknow (PNS): A well planned ton by Rituraj Sharma (143) and a fiery 84 runs by skipper Sameer Rizvi helped Uttar Pradesh lift Under-23 State A Trophy, beating Uttarakhand by 16 runs.

Batting first, UP piled up a massive total of 356 runs for the loss of seven wickets in the allotted 50 overs. Rituraj scored 143 runs in 135 balls with the help of 14 strokes to the boundary and four over the boundary. Sameer smashed 84 runs off 50 balls with the help of 10 boundaries and four sixes.

Aasdiya Sharma made a contribution of 47 runs. Satyam Baliyan took three wickets.

In reply, despite of a valiant efforts from Yuvraj Choudhary (72), Aryan Sharma (80), Kamal (69) and Yash Shukla (35), Uttarakhand could manage only 340 runs on board. Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association has announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh to the players and the support staff. Vaibhav Choudhary claimed three scalps while Rituraj and Prashant Veer chipped in two wickets each.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said Thursday Rohit Sharma "doesn't need to be taught to score hundreds", backing his captain to the hilt after his failure to convert a blazing start into a big score in the World Cup final against Australia attracted criticism.

Rohit was in full flow throughout the tournament and the brisk starts that India enjoyed were largely due to his pyrotechnics at the top of the order. Scoring at an incredible strike rate of 125, he amassed 597 runs in 11 matches.

However, Rohit received criticism from some quarters after an adventurous attempt to hit Glenn Maxwell out of the ground in the final led to his dismissal for a 31-ball 47, which set a solid foundation but from where his team could not consolidate.

"Everybody says in hindsight that he would score 100 if he carried on, but it was his intent that made the team play in such a way. Rohit Sharma doesn't need to be taught to score hundreds — he has had quite a lot - but it is the intent which counts," Ashwin said.

The seasoned off-spinner revealed he was shell-shocked by Australia's decision to bowl first in the final last Sunday, but also praised Pat Cummins and selector George Bailey for reading the pitch at Ahmedabad perfectly.

Australia outsmarted India on many fronts of the summit clash as they clinched their sixth World Cup fin, beating the title favourites, who were on a 10-match winning spree, in the final played at the world's largest cricket stadium.

"Australia were practically out-

# Rohit doesn't need to be taught to score hundreds, Ashwin backs skipper

standing in the final. I was shell-shocked to see their tactics. Australia has deceived me personally, as their history goes by, they say 'we are going to have a bat, mate!' after winning the toss in the big finals," Ashwin said in his latest YouTube video on Thursday.

"I was praying to the lord that Australia should do that, because many people do not understand that the soil in Ahmedabad was like Odisha's, as in, it played like how any soil taken from the eastern part of the country would play - if every pitch gets bounce until the knee, this would get bounce only up to the shin," he said.

"The bounce will be less, but the soil won't disintegrate because the clay does not release the moisture, but holds it," Ashwin added.

Ashwin explained why he was surprised by Australia's tactics, but also added that India becoming a 'cricket hub' of the world due to the number of bilateral series as well as the Indian Premier League gave the overseas players insights into pitches and conditions.

"I was checking out if the pitch was disintegrating at the mid innings and I met George Bailey, the chairman of selectors and asked 'why didn't you guys bat first like you always do after winning the toss?'" he said.

"For that he answered back, 'we have played IPL and bilateral series for a long time now, and in our experience, the red soil disintegrates, but the black soil gets better to bat on under the



lights," Ashwin said.

"Dew is not a big impact in red soil pitches, whereas black soil pitches are good turners in the afternoon, but in the night, the pitch solidifies into a paata wicket and plays as though it is made of concrete," he continued.

Ashwin said, "I was flabbergasted listening to that, seeing all the experience from IPL and the bilateral series and India becoming a central hub of world cricket. They can read the pitch perfectly," he said.

The ace Indian spinner laughed off the media reports that surfaced on the day of India's semi-final against New Zealand in Mumbai claiming that the pitch for the contest was change at the behest of the hosts.

"Journalists from other countries comment that the pictures have been changed and so on but it is clearly laughable. India is a unique country, different

apart from calling the toss right," said Ashwin, while praising the Australian camp for persisting with Travis Head and giving him full backing.

Ashwin said India No 4 Shreyas Iyer is someone who chases excellence and is a champion batter in-making for the country.

"Batting against spin and taking them down is Shreyas' speciality and he is a standout performer. Chasing excellence is a rare commodity in sports. If somebody does something unique, people, instead of appreciating it, tell them not to do it," Ashwin said.

"What I love about Shreyas is that he chases excellence, he took a note to master the pull shot and worked on it. He got out on it but look at the number of balls he put away to the boundary?"

"Balls were sent to the mid-wicket region and behind square, which shows he is ready for that ball. He hit fast bowlers above mid off, definitely the sign of a champion batter developing for India," Ashwin said.

For taking most wickets in the World Cup (24) in only seven matches, Ashwin praised India pacer Mohammed Shami.

"There is something in mythology called Midas touch. Like Midas, Shami had the golden touch with him. Whenever he bowled, there was a wicket. I don't remember how many times as first ball in a spell was a wicket (taking one) in this tournament," Ashwin said.

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Yuzvendra Chahal might be despondent after the selectors snubbed him for the T20I series against Australia, but the leg-spinner channelised his angst positively with a six-wicket burst against Uttarakhand as Haryana started their Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign with a six-wicket win here on Thursday.

The 33-year-old's six-wicket haul (10-2-26-6) saw Haryana bundling out Uttarakhand for 207 in their Group C match, and along the way Chahal also completed 200 List A wickets. It might just help him to stay visible on the selector's radar. For Uttarakhand, wicketkeeper batter Aditya Tare made 67 while opener Kunal Chandela chipped in with 47 as Chahal ran through the rest of the order.

The chase was pretty non-frilled as openers Yuvraj Singh (68) and Ankit Kumar (49) gave them a sound platform, while captain Ashok Maneria contributed an unbeaten 44.

**KERALA PREVAIL OVER SAURASHTRA:** In Group A, Kerala went through some

# SNUBBED CHAHAL GRABS SIX WICKETS

struggles before eking out a three-wicket win over Saurashtra at Alur-KSCA Oval in Bengaluru.

Courtesy a gritty 98 off 121 balls by Vishvarajsinh Jadeja, Saurashtra recovered from a precarious 65 for 7 to post a competitive 185 under cloudy skies on a freshly-laid pitch.

Debutant Akhin took 4 for 39 for Kerala to rock their opponents top order, generating good pace and bounce.

Kerala nearly messed up the chase and were at 61 for 4 in the 17th over, but a composed fifty by Abdul Bazith (60 off 76 balls) and an unbeaten 21 by Shreyas Gopal carried them past target with 14 balls to spare.

**MUMBAI OUTCLASS SIKKIM:** In a Group A match at Alur 2 in Bengaluru, pacer Tushar Deshpande's three-wicket haul helped Mumbai steamroll Sikkim by 7 wickets. Deshpande's 3 for 19 proved vital as Mumbai shot out Sikkim for 89 in 38.1 overs, and

then they chased it down in 12 overs with opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi making a 28-ball 30.

**HARSHIT, ISHANT SHINE FOR DELHI:** In a Group C match at Motera 'A' in Ahmedabad, veteran pacer Ishant Sharma (3/30), his younger colleague Harshit Rana (4/17) and leg-spinner Suyash Sharma (3/19) combined to bowl out Bihar for 149.

Skipper Yash Dhull and openers Anuj Rawat and Priyansh Arya made well-timed knocks as Delhi cantered to the target in just over 22 overs.

**MAYANK, SAMARTH SPUR KARNATAKA:** Openers Mayank Agarwal and Ravikumar Samarth fired in tandem to make big hundreds as Karnataka started their campaign with a big 222-run win over Jammu and Kashmir at Motera 'B' ground in Ahmedabad in a Group C match.

Samarth (123 off 120 balls, 11x4, 2x6), Agarwal (157 off



133 balls, 11x4, 8x6) and Devdutt Padikkal (71, 35 balls, 4x4, 5x6) spurred Karnataka to a mammoth 402 for 2.

It was also their highest-ever List A total. Pacer Vysakh Vijayakumar then grabbed four wickets as Karnataka bundled out J&K for 180.

**ALL-ROUND BENGAL HAMMER NAGALAND:** In a Group E match at BKC, Mumbai, captain Sudip Kumar

Gharami, who made a 44-ball 62, and opener Abhimanyu Easwaran, who struck 57 off 63 balls, assisted Bengal to overcome a mediocre target posted by Nagaland for a nine-wicket victory.

Earlier, pacers Saksham Chaudhary (3/23) and Akash Deep (2/24) shared five wickets among them to bowl out Nagaland to a lowly 139 in 47 overs.

**BRIEF SCORES:**

**GROUP A:** Sikkim: 89 all out in 38.1 overs (Nilesh Lamichaney 29; Tushar Deshpande 3/19, Mohit Avasthi 2/9, Atharva Ankolekar 2/13) lost to **Mumbai:** 90 for 3 in 12 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 30, Jay Bista 28, Ajinkya Rahane 15 not out) by 7 wickets.

**Saurashtra:** 185 all out in 49.1 overs (Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 98, Akhin 4/39, Shreyas Gopal 2/29) lost to **Kerala:** 188 for 7 in 47.4 overs (Abdul Bazith 60, Sanju Samson 30, Shreyas Gopal 21 not out; Ankur Panwar 4/50) by 3 wickets.

**GROUP B:** Maharashtra: 355 for 4 in 50 overs (Ankit Bawane 107, Om Bhosal 73, A.N. Kazi 61) lost to **Jharkhand:** 359 for 4 in 49 overs (Virat Singh 143, V. Vishal 53, Saurabh Tiwary 70 not out, Kumar Kushagra 67 not out) by 6 wickets.

**GROUP C:** Bihar: 149 all out in 39 overs (Veer Pratap Singh 43; Ishant Sharma 3/30, Harshit Rana 4/17, Suyash Sharma

3/19) lost to **Delhi:** 150 for 2 in 22.1 overs (Priyansh Arya 45, Yash Dhull 46 not out, Anuj Rawat 33) by 8 wickets.

**Karnataka:** 402 for 2 in 50 overs (Mayank Agarwal 157, R Samarth 123, Devdutt Padikkal 71) beat **J&K:** 180 all out in 30.4 overs (Vivrant Sharma 41, Yudhvir Singh 64; Vysakh Vijayakumar 4/57) by 222 runs.

**Uttarakhand:** 207 all out in 47.4 overs (Aditya Tare 65, Kunal Chandela 47; Yuzvendra Chahal 6/26) lost to **Haryana:**

208/4 in 45 overs (Yuvraj Singh 68, Ankit Kumar 49, Ashok Maneria 44 not out) by 6 wickets.

**GROUP D:** Baroda: 214 for 9 in 50 overs (Shivalik Sharma 51, Krunal Pandya 49, Abhimanyu Singh 38; Baltej Singh 4/27) beat **Punjab:** 211 all out in 49 overs (Nehal Wadhara 49, Siddharth Kaul 47; BA Pathan 3/50) by 3 runs.

**GROUP E:** Nagaland: 139 all out in 47 overs (Sumit Kumar 36; Saksham Chaudhary 3/23, Akash Deep 2/24) lost to **Bengal:** 143 for 1 in 18.5 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 57 not out, Sudip Kumar Gharami 62 not out) by 9 wickets.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

No. SSA-18016(12)/1/2023-MDM-I/345457/2023 Date : 22.11.2023

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites bids vide GEM/2023/B/4233525 Dated : 21-11-2023 for Supply of Kitchen Device through GeM portal.

Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid in GeM portal accordingly. The bid is also available in SSA website : <https://ssa.assam.gov.in>

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