OPINION 6

BJP-AIADMK SPLIT:

WHAT NEXT?

the pioneer

WORLD 8

TRUMP DENOUNCES CIVIL

FRAUD CASE AS A 'SCAM'

MONEY 10

SEBI EXTENDS DEADLINE TO CONFIRM

OR DENY MARKET RUMOURS

Late City Vol.20 Issue 271 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

Established 1864

KOHLI SKIPS OPTIONAL

PRACTICE SESSION

www.dailypioneer.com

BHOPAL, TUESDAY OCTOBER 3, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹1.50

MOST WANTED TERRORIST NABBED IN DELHI

In a breakthrough against the Pune ISIS module, the Delhi Police arrested three Islamic State terrorists on Monday. One of them is Mohammad Shahnawaz, also known as Shafi Uzzama, who had a reward of ₹3 lakh on his head. Shahnawaz was on the most wanted list of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

According to the Delhi Police, the trio had been planning to carry out terror incidents in north India, taking instructions from handlers based abroad.

Addressing a Press briefing, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) HS Dhaliwal, said, "Last month NIA declared award on three persons allegedly involved in blast cases. Among them, Mohammad Shahnawaz, the main accused, has been arrested with his two associates — Mohammad Rizwan Ashraf and Mohammad Arshad Warsi."

Shahnawaz was arrested from Southeast Delhi's Jaitpur area on Sunday night. Ashraf and Arshad were nabbed from Lucknow and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, respectively All the three suspected terrorists, who are engineers and have expertise in assembling bombs, were produced in a court earlier in the morning and have been sent to seven days of police custody.

While responding to media queries, Dhaliwal said, "Shahnawaz is a mining engi-



Delhi Police's Special Cell with most-wanted terrorist Shahnawaz and his associates after arresting them for their links with an ISIS module, in New Delhi on Monday Ranian Dimri I Pioneer

neer from Visvesvarava Institute of Technology, and he had knowledge of blast mechanisms. He hails from Hazaribagh in Jharkhand. His wife, Basanti Patel, is converted to Islam and is now known as Mariam. She is currently on

Dhaliwal added that bomb making literature sent from Pakistan-based handlers and other incriminating materials were recovered from Shahnawaz's hideouts.

He said initial interrogation revealed that these people conducted elaborate reconnaissance in Western Ghats, southern India, including Hubbali, Dharwad, and Ahmedabad in Gujarat to establish their hide-

They wanted to make their base in Western Ghats, the police said. During the investhey had been instructed to procure all items they needed locally so that external role in their work is not exposed.

Shahnawaz had managed to escape from the custody of the Pune Police. Last month, the NIA had released pictures of Shahnawaz, who was wanted in the Pune ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) module case.

"The arrests were made following a tipoff from an arrested accused of another ISIS module in Delhi. Elementary plastic tubes, iron pipes, different types of chemicals, timing devices, etc, which could have been used in making explosive devices, were seized from Shahnawaz, along with a pistol and car-

tridges," the police alleged.

Dhaliwal said the ongoing

tigation, it was revealed that crackdown has exposed the pan-India reach of the ISIS module. "Their aim was to target well-known people and inflict maximum casualties," he said, adding that they have also uncovered the funding trail behind such activities.

Warsi, police said, is also from Jharkhand. He had completed a BTech in Mechanical Engineering from Aligarh University and was pursuing a doctorate from Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi. Ashraf holds a BTech in computer science. Originally from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, he had also trained as a cleric.

Earlier this month, the NIA had announced ₹3 lakh each for information about Shahnawaz and three other terror suspects: Rizwan Abdul Haji Ali, Abdulla Faiyaz Shaikh alias Diaperwala and

Talha Liyakat Khan.
Shahnawaz, Abdulla and Rizwan were radicalised into joining the ISIS mission over Telegram app, it is learnt. It is alleged that they were linked to an ISIS module at Pune in Maharachtra

Maharashtra.
Initially dismissed as petty thieves, further questioning revealed their association with ISIS as part of a sleeper cell.

Shahnawaz, along with two accomplices named Mohammad Imran Mohammad Yunus Khan and Mohammad Yunus Mohammad Yakub Saki, faced arrest by the Kothrud police in Pune on July 18 after attempting to steal a two-wheeler. While the police were en route to their residence in Kondhwa, Pune, for a search operation.

Shahnawaz made a daring escape by leaping out of the police vehicle. Police uncovered that Khan and Saki, who originally hailed from Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh, were purportedly implicated in a different terrorism case registered in Rajasthan.

In this case, explosives were found inside a car back in March 2022. Both Khan and Saki carried a reward of ₹5 lakh each for information leading to their capture. On July 22, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad assumed control of the investigation. As part of their probe, the ATS detained more individuals, including an IT engineer named Qadir Dastagir Pathan and SN Kazi in Kondhwa.

Khalistanis lay siege to Indian mission in UK

PTI ■ LONDON

Agroup of pro-Khalistan protesters on Monday gathered outside the High Commission of India here, waving anti-India placards and chanting slogans amid strong Scotland Yard presence.

The protest, which was promoted by British Sikh groups on social media, was organised to draw attention to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations last month of alleged Indian involvement in the killing of wanted terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

The allegation has been strongly rejected by the Ministry of External Affairs as "absurd and motivated".

"Sikhs will raise domestic issues, including the suspicious death of activist Bhai Avtar Singh Khanda," reads the call for Monday's protest.

There were several uniformed Metropolitan Police officers on guard and patrolling on foot outside India House, which was cordoned off to restrict the small group of turbaned men and some women opposite the building outside Waldorf Hotel at Aldwych in

central London. Several police vehicles also

patrolled the area throughout the roughly two-hour-long demonstration during which the protesters made speeches in Punjabi and raised pro-Khalistan slogans. Earlier on Monday, the Sikh Federation (UK) organ-

ised a press conference in London to announce a formal request being submitted to the Chief Coroner for England and Wales to open an inquest into the death of Avtar Singh Khanda, a pro-Khalistan UKbased Sikh activist who died in Birmingham in June. "Given the timing of

Khanda's death, and the fact that death threats had been made by those with connections to Indian politics before his death, his case is at the very least suspicious," said Michael Polak, the family's barrister.

Following speculation around the 45-year-old's passing earlier this year, the local West Midlands Police had stated that there were "no suspicious circumstances" surrounding the death. The official cause of death post-mortem was stated as acute leukaemia or blood cancer.

Earlier on Saturday, pro-Khalistan extremists blocked the Indian High Commissioner the UK, Dorwaiswami, from entering a gurdwara in Glasgow. The Indian mission dubbed the incident "disgraceful" before report-

ing it to the UK government. In a statement issued on Saturday, the High High Commission of India in London said that three people from outside Scotland "deliberately disrupted" the visit on Friday evening, and one even attempted to violently force open the diplomatic vehicle as senior diplomats arrived at Glasgow Gurdwara Guru Granth Sahib on Albert Drive.

As they hurled threats and abuses, abuses, the High Commissioner (HC) and the Consul General of India (CG) decided to leave the premises to avert any further altercation.

"On September 29, 2023, three persons — all from areas outside Scotland — disrupted a planned interaction organised by the Gurdwara Committee for the community, the High Commissioner (HC) and the Consul General of India (CG)," said the High Commission of India statement.

Caste survey opens can of worms Jeene Bhi Do Yaaro

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA/NEW DELHI

The Nitish Kumar-led Government in Bihar on Monday released findings of its long-awaited caste survey, disclosing that Other Backward Backward Classes (EBCs) together make up a significant 63 per cent of the State's entire population.
The first Caste Census was

conducted during the British colonial era in 1872, with the last one taking place in 1931.

The data which could spur demands for similar castebased census elsewhere is a key agenda of the Opposition INDIA bloc. And this could provide an advantage to Nitish and his alliance in the upcoming elections in the Hindi heartland, where caste-based politics holds significant sway.

The Congress, which is a major constituent of the Opposition grouping called INDIA, has welcomed the announcement while another Grand Alliance partner Lalu Prasad-led RJD has expressed satisfaction that their longstanding demand for a caste census has finally been fulfilled.

The Opposition BJP, however, voiced dissatisfaction with the caste survey, stressing that it did not give an idea of the



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar speaks with the media regarding the caste-based census report in Patna on Monday

realities" over the years.

State BJP president Samrat Choudhary said his party had "given its consent" for the exercise and would make an assessment of the findings which have now been made public.

According to the data released here by Development Commissioner Vivek Singh, the State's total population stood at a little over 13.07 crore, out of which the Extremely Backward Classes (36 per cent) were the largest social segment followed by the Other Backward Classes at 27.13 per cent.

Backward caste politicians

resented numbered far more

headcount was conducted and released.

the largest in terms of the population, accounting for 14.27 per cent of the total.

"changed social and economic have long claimed that the population of castes they repthan the conventional wisdom based on the 1931 census, which was the last time a caste

The survey also stated that Yadavs, the OBC group to which Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav belongs, were

Dalits, also known as the Scheduled Castes, accounted for 19.65 per cent of the total population in the State, which is also home to nearly 22 lakh (1.68 per cent) people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

Those belonging to the "unreserved" category, which denotes the proverbial "upper castes" who dominated politics till the Mandal wave of the 1990s comprise 15.52 per cent

Nitish said he will convene a meeting of all the nine political parties with an electoral presence in the State legislature and the facts and figures will be

shared with them RJD president Lalu Prasad said declaring the survey will set the tone for a nationwide caste census which will be undertaken if "We form the next Government at the

Centre" Both the leaders have played an instrumental role in the formation of the INDIA bloc, which affirmed its commitment to holding a caste census at a meeting it held in

Bengaluru recently. The survey establishes that the State's population is overwhelmingly Hindu, with the majority community comprising 81.99 per cent of the total population, followed by

Muslims (17.70 per cent). Christians, Sikhs, Jains and those following other religions as also the non-believers have a minuscule presence, together making up for less than one

per cent of the total popula-

The grand old party in recent months has pushed for caste census and announced if the Modi Government does not carry out a caste census, it will be conducted as soon as formed so that every section can get their right.

Interestingly the Congress in 2010 felt, being a secular State, should "discourage community distinction". The Group of Ministers headed by the then Union Minister Pranab Mukherjee decided that caste

census is not advisable. Before that first Prime Minister late Jawaharlal Nehru took a stand against caste census while late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi too followed the

Nehru policy. Another Congress stalwart and former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi had hit out at the VP Singh Government for implementing the Mandal Commission report on OBC reservations by saying it will

divide the country. The caste survey in Bihar was ordered last year after the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre made it clear that it would not be able to undertake a headcount of castes other than SCs and STs as part of the census.



People from different walks of life participated in a rally to raise voice against cruelty to animals at Jantar Mantar on the eye of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. During the rally, signatures for a petition addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his attention on the issue were also collected, an official statement from the organisers said. The rally was organised by India Unites For Animal Rights, a citizen-led movement. As many as 43 NGOs and animal rights groups, including People for Animals and Perroayuda Welfare Foundation, were part of the event

The Nobel Prize in medicine has been awarded to Hungarian-American biochemist Katalin Kariko and American physicianscientist Drew Weissman for enabling development of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. In the photo above, Katalin Kariko, left, and Drew Weissman pose with their trophies during the Japan Prize presentation ceremony in Tokyo on April 13, 2022 AP/PTI

Nobel for COVID saviours

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Two scientists won and Prize in medicine on wo scientists won the Nobel Monday for discoveries that enabled the creation of mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 and that could be used to develop other shots in the

Hungarian-born American Katalin Karikó and American Drew Weissman were cited for contributing "to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times," according to the panel that awarded the prize in Stockholm.

The Nobel panel said the pair's "groundbreaking findings... Fundamentally changed

our understanding of how MRNA interacts with our and an adjunct professor at the immune system."

Traditionally, making vaccines required growing viruses or pieces of viruses — often in giant vats of cells or, like most flu shots, in chicken eggs — and then purifying them before next steps in brewing shots.

The messenger RNA approach is radically different. It starts with a snippet of genetic code that carries instructions for making proteins. Pick the right virus protein to target, and the body turns into a mini vaccine factory. But simply injecting lab-grown mRNA into the body triggered an inflammatory reaction that

usually destroyed it.

University of Pennsylvania, and Weissman, of the University of Pennsylvania, figured out a tiny modification to the building blocks of RNA that made it

stealthy enough to slip past

Karikó, 68, is the 13th woman to win the Nobel Prize in medicine. She was a senior vice president at BioNTech, which partnered with Pfizer to make one of the COVID-19 vaccines.

those immune defences.

She and Weissman, 64, who is a professor and director

of the Penn Institute for RNA Innovations, met by chance in the 1990s while photocopying ally destroyed it. research papers, according to Karikó, a professor at Penn Today, the university's CINES MATTER?

news website. WHY DO MRNA VAC-

Dr Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at Britain's University of East Anglia, described the mRNA vaccines as a "game changer" in helping to shut down the coronavirus pandemic, crediting the shots

with saving millions of lives.
"If it hadn't been for the mRNA technology, COVID would have been much worse... Vaccines generally were the turning point in slowing down COVID and the mRNA vaccines were just so much better than all the others," he said, noting that the main vaccine used in the UK, made by AstraZeneca, is barely in use anymore.

"We would likely only now be coming out of the depths of COVID without the mRNA vaccines," Hunter said.

Dr Bharat Pankhania, an infectious diseases expert at Exeter University, said that a major advantage of mRNA technology was that vaccines could be made in extremely large quantities since their main components are made in laboratories.

Pankhania predicted the technology used in the vaccines could be used to refine vaccines for other diseases like Ebola, malaria and dengue, and might also be used to create shots that immunise people against certain types of cancer or autoimmune diseases like lupus.

Madhya Pradesh to be among top three states: Modi

PNS GWALIOR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that Madhya Pradesh has stood first in cleanliness. While staying ahead in development, it is important to note that Madhya Pradesh would be brought in top three states. It is currently among top 10 states.

Modi addressed a public meeting at Gwalior's Mela Ground on Monday. He inaugurated and laid the foundation for several development projects in Madhya Pradesh valuing at Rs 19,000 crores. Modi said that with modern infrastructure and good law and order, development becomes faster in every sector. There was a time when Madhya Pradesh, especially the Gwalior-Chambal region was known for

is comfortable here. The path to progress has become easier. In the social sector as well, development is being witnessed. The government has resolved people's issues and strengthened their voice assuring them social justice. Today's youth have not seen the difficult times, they have seen the progressing Madhya Pradesh.

Modi said that Gwalior region, which has given many revolutionaries to the country, is a source of inspiration. Patriots from this region dedicated themselves to the service of the nation. Nearly two lakh beneficiaries have been fortunate enough to have their homes before Diwali and Dhanteras from this land. Modi said that new job opportunities will open up for the youth. Soon, India will be included in the top three economies in the of houses in the Prime Minister's

Prime Minister Modi said that

the Central Government has ensured the well-being of the people in every region. About four crore people have received their own homes. In Madhya Pradesh, lakhs of people have got the opportunity to fulfill their dream of having their own house. The important thing in housing construction is that the beneficiary gets the opportunity to build a house according to their dreams. As the construction of houses is completed, the work of depositing money in the account of the beneficiary has become easier. Along with these houses, toilet facilities, electricity, Ujjwala gas connection, and the benefit of water through pipelines are also being provided. The registration

Groundbreaking ceremonies have also taken place for road projects such as Raghavgarhhousing scheme is mostly in the names of women. It should be hoped that after coming to these houses, all families will Indore-Harda, Bakaner Ghat educate their children and give construction, Jeerapur-Pachor, them skills.Guarantee to bring Astha Bypass, and Khilchipur Bypass. Along with this, the inauguration of the academic Madhya Pradesh to the top in development. Modi said that today, the foundation stone is building, hostel building, and being laid for new projects in lab complex at IIT Indore will various places across the state, benefit the students. including the Gwalior region. While the Vikrampuri Industrial The Prime Minister described

the groundbreaking ceremony for the Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Gwalior and Shivpuri districts as an important gift for this region.

Modi mentioned that the foundation stone has been laid for the construction of Critical Care Health Blocks with a capacity of 50 beds each in various places, including Vidisha Medical College. This will provide citizens with better healthcare facilities.



Final trial run of Bhopal Metro train today from Subhash Ngr

Respect the sanitation workers, help them: Dr Manisha Srivastava

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

crime and corruption. Now, life

anitation workers of the Shopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC) on Monday were honored under the Swachhta Hi Seva Fortnight and on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

A cultural program was also organised, in which the students of the nursing college also staged a dance drama to convey the message given by Gandhiji regarding cleanliness. Along with this, the students also presented Gandhiji's two favorite bhajans by singing 'Vaishnav Jan Te Tene Kahiye' and 'Raghupati Raghav Raja

BMHRC Director Dr. Manisha Srivastava while addressing the sanitation workers of BMHRC said that We are not only honoring you for the



the bottom of our heart. The work you guys are doing, no one else can do it. Dr. Srivastava told the employees that we should have respect for the sanitation workers. We should help them. It should not be the case that we spread garbage irresponsibly and expect the sweepers to keep the entire campus clean.

show, but we respect you from He said that it is even more important to take care of cleanliness in hospitals, because infected waste comes out of hospitals. If this contaminated waste is not disposed of properly, it can adversely affect the health of the person exposed to it.Director, BMHRC, while remembering Mahatma Gandhi, said that

of cleanliness.

He was the first to spread the message of cleanliness among the common people in our country. It is not easy for any other person to do what Gandhiji did for himself. We should take inspiration from Gandhiji and take a pledge to keep not only our house but also outside the house and our office clean. Intensive cleanliness drive in

Township has been inaugurated in Ujjain, the foundation stone for the Multi-Model Logistics Park in Indore has also been

laid. In addition, the

inauguration of a 244-kilometer stretch of the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway, the Malanpur Bottling Plant of the Indian Oil

Corporation, and additional

services at the Ratlam Terminal

of the Indian Oil Corporation

are of great significance.

BMHRC : Earlier on Sunday, an intensive cleanliness drive was carried out in the premises of the entire BMHRC as a part of a call given by the Central Government.
BMHRC employees went to different places and cleaned the area. A WhatsApp group was formed to monitor cleanliness at the institute. Any employee will report any litter or litter on the premises and the responsible person will

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

√he final trial run of Bhopal Metro will be done on October 3 and for this, Subhash Nagar and RKMP metro stations have been decorated Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan will flag off the final trial run.

He will also travel in the metro from Subhash Nagar to RKMP station. Earlier on Monday, the metro coach was brought back on track. Metro crossed DB Mall, Kendriya

School, MP Nagar areas. The road between MP Nagar and Subhash Nagar depot has been made. At the same time, the path below the Central School Station has also been opened. Due to this, people no longer have to roam around. They are coming and going from MP Nagar directly to Subhash Nagar overbridge

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

¬he birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri was celebrated on Monday with joy and enthusiasm at Kamala Nehru Park, Barkheda and

Shastri Park of BHEL, Bhopal. Rajeev Singh, Executive Director, BHEL, Bhopal and all the distinguished guests

General Manager (WEX,

MOD & Maintenance) and

Avinash Chandra, General Manager (HR. & LGX) and Vice President (BHECNIS)

garlanded their statues. On this occasion, BK Singh,



struction work will also take place between Jhinsi. This road was closed for about a

Due to the final trial run of Metro, the road between MP Nagar and Subhash Nagar depot has been built. At the same time, the road below Kendriya School Metro Station has also been opened. Will address the program before the inauguration Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the

11 am. Before this, he will also address the program at Subhash Nagar Depot. Then the coach will be flagged off. They will board the metro and reach Rani Kamlapati station. The trial run will be between Subhash Nagar and between Subhash Nagar and RKMP station. During this period, Kendriya School, DB Mall and MP Nagar station will also come. However, the metro will not stop here. The final trial run of Indore Metro was done two days ago.

A team of more than 50 people including senior engineers, technical experts, supervisors were engaged in connecting and testing the coaches. After working for 8 days, it was seen running on the metro track on 26 September. The metro was brought back on track several times for 6 days. On Monday also the metro was seen running on the tracks. Although the metro will pass through five stations, the focus stations are Subhash Nagar and RKMP. Chief Minister Chouhan will board the metro from Subhash Nagar station and alight off at RKMP station. The work of escalator, stairs and foot over bridge was completed at Subhashnagar station. Red carpet was laid here on Monday. Metro coaches and stations are being decorated with flowers.

Gandhiji was a great proponent take immediate action. ३ जल जीवन मिशन परियोजनाएँ का शिलान्यास Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off the Gwalior-Sumawali MEMU train during Gruhapravesam programme in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on Monday Union Minister

AIIMS Bhopal receives

philosophy of life. The first piece of cloth woven from the

charkha, a symbol of econom-

ic freedom and independence,

was produced in the Sabarmati

Ashram. Charkha and Khadi

became the symbol of the coun-

try's independence, behind

which he had his own 'con-

struction philosophy'. He believed that Charkha would

play an important role in the revival of small industries in the

village. This will eliminate

poverty. Gandhiji considered

the wheel as a divine weapon,

Charkha is a tool that can

change people from within.

Charkha can also make the

While presiding over the pro-

gram, Prof. Amitabh Pandey

said that Mahatma Gandhi's

thoughts were so influential

that they left an impact on peo-

ple not only in India but also

abroad. Mahatma Gandhi's

thoughts give a new perspective to life. His thoughts give con-

fidence to people.
What is self respect and self

reliance You accept yourself, and trust yourself, and have a

sense of control in your life.

Mahatma Gandhi was an exam-

ple of sacrifice, restraint and

simplicity.

country stand on its feet.

including all the General Managers, union representatives and a large number of

people were present. On this occasion, Singh said that the path of truth and non-violence shown by



Gandhiji to the Indians in the birthday of two such perreflection of Indian culture. a great and happy coinci-This is a unique example in the entire world and nowhere in the world has the freedom struggle succeeded on the basis of non-violence. Shastriji's personality is a unique example of loyalty, honesty and dedication in Indian history. He said that

After this, a program of singing popular hymns of Mahatma Gandhi was organized in the courtyard of Narmada Guest House. Everyone praised the bhajans presented by Shri J.P. Maravi wholeheartedly.

Guv pays tributes to



Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel celebrated the birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at Raj Bhavan onMonday.

Governor Patel paid tribute by of both the great personalities. Principal Secretary to the Governor, DP Ahuja and Deputy Secretary, Swarochish Somavanshi were also present. The Governor paid floral tributes to the portraits of Mahatma Gandĥi and former Prime Minister Shastri in the banquet hall of Raj Bhavan.

IGRMS organises an exhibition on Charkha on Gandhi Jayanti

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

⊣he Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya organize exhibition the Charkha on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti the Charkha exhibition, A symbol of India's cultural unity and entrepreneurship, was inaugurated by senior litterateur of Madhya Pradesh and former Additional Chief Secretary Madhya Pradesh Manoj Kumar Srivastava.

Addressing the people on this occasion, he said that today is the birth anniversary of both Gandhiji and Shastriji, Both these great men believed in living a very simple, humble life. Whoever underestimated these two had to face defeat.

Giving the example of a childhood story, he said that Seeing the old woman spinning the charkha on the moon, Gandhiji brought the charkha down from the moon to the earth. This spinning wheel of children's imagination can become a weapon in the freedom struggle. Who could have thought like this except Mahatma Ğandhi? In fact, for Gandhiji, the charkha was not just a part of a political strategy, but an overall

appreciation certificate **Bhopal:** Under the guidance of Director Dr. Ajay Singh, AIIMS Bhopal stands at the

forefront of championing the causes of service and cleanliness organized a series of events during theSwachhata Hi Seva Pakhwada celebration and was awarded a certificate of appreciation for its outstanding contributions and efforts during 'Swachhata Hi Seva'.

These events were heldon the Birth Anniversaries of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri under the patronage and guidance of Prof Dr. Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal. On the occasion, the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri were garlanded to honour them for their simplicity, honesty and ideology of Swachhta Hi Jivan ha that continue to inspire people across the nation. AIIMS Bhopal following the dream of Swatchh Bharat of the great leaders of the Nation organized various activities during the past two days to demonstrate solidarity with other institutions of the country for demonstrating leadership commitment to achieve the objective of

Swachh Bharat.

In special operation, Bhopal crime branch nabs 12 bootleggers

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Crime Branch of Bhopal have taken action against liquor smugglers and arrested 12 liquor smugglers in the last 48 hours from different areas of hours from different areas of the city and 339.27 liters of illegally transported and sold liquor has been seized from the possession of the accused. The price of the seized liquor is around Rs 3.50 lakh. Additional DCP Shailendra Singh Chauhan said that the Crime Branch campaign against liquor smugglers will

During the action bootleggers from different areas were caught carrying liquor ille-

The nabbed accused were identified as Sanjay Tiwari(40) and Rao (48) of Barkheda of Barkheda near Nehru Market who works as labourer and has been booked for 5 crimes he was carrying 24.93 liters of liquor and 14.70 liters of country made liquor.

Dashrath Masle(46) of Anna Nagar was nabbed and 9 liters of country liquor was seized from his possession. Among the other accused

Additional DCP Shailendra Singh Chauhan said that the **Crime Branch** campaign against liquor smugglers will continue

Pappu alias Rehman Ali (54) of Rahul Nagar Bairagarh, works as a labourer and 18 liters of country made liquor was seized from his posses-

Kamlesh alias Mosiya (50) of Katara Hills and Arun Ahire(28) of Panchsheel Nagar were nabbed and a total of 111 litres of liquor was seized from their possession. Ajay Londe (32) of Panchsheel Nagar and Sandeep Patel(35) of Anna Nagar were seized with 72

liters of liquor.
In the same manner Vijay
Rai,Deepak alias Kallu Kuchhabadia, Roop Singh Kushwaha, Mukesh Gondane were also

arrested with illegally transported liquor. A total of 339 litres have been seized.



Madhya Pradesh State Congress President Kamal Nath and senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh pay

Governor reaches Khadi India showroom

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

overnor Mangubhai Patel reached Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan located at Jawahar Chowk on Monday to participate in the Khadi Mahotsav. He apprised himself about various products of Khadi Gramodyog displayed at Khadi Lounge of Khadi India, Bhopal. He purchased

Khadi products in the lounge. On arriving at the showroom, Governor Patel was welcomed by the officials of Khadi Gramodyog Department by presenting him Angavastram. The Governor garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi with a cotton garland. The Governor operated the spinning wheel and loom. A replica of the charkha

(spinning wheel) was presented to the Governor as a souvenir.

It is noteworthy that Khadi Mahotsav has been organiced from Gandhi Jayanti Öctober 2 to October 31. Mahotsav is being organised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Bhopal only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

the pioneer

Bamhori and Sultanganj to be new tehsils in Raisen district

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bamhori and Sultanganj of Raisen district will now become tehsils. A new Janpad building and auditorium will be built in Begumganj. New buildings of Government Girls Higher Secondary Schools of Begumganj and Bamhori will be sanctioned and Rs 5 crore each will be made available for development works in Begumganj Municipality, Garatganj, Silwani and Raisen. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made these announcements while addressing the public after inaugurating the nearly Rs. 100 crore worth Semri Reservoir Tap Water Supply Scheme in Raisen

Chouhan inaugurated the Semri Reservoir based Group Tap-Water Supply Scheme at

Begumganj in Raisen district at a cost of Rs 99 crore 96 lakh. He also performed bhoomi pujan and laid the foundation of 93 new development works costing Rs 24 crore 31 lakh and dedicated 25 development works constructed at a cost of Rs 28 crore 42 lakh.

Thus, a total of 95 villages of Begumganj 46 and Gairatganj 49 will be benefited from Semri Reservoir based Group Tap Water Supply Scheme. 76 thou-sand 400 population of 12 thousand 61 families of the area will be benefited.

The Chief Minister laid foundation of joint tehsil office building in Bari built at a cost of Rs 7 crore 96 lakh, construction of a bridge from Marethi to Semrakhas Chainage 9760 meters at a cost of Rs 3 crore 36 lakh, construction of a bridge at Antyodaya Samiti and local Chunaitiya block Silvani district MLA Rampal Singh were pre-

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh with party workers during a Samvidhan Bachao Rally in Bhopal on

Raisen at a cost of Rs 2 crore 75

Tribal Girls Ashram in Uttarakhand, construction of bridge on NH-12 town Deori from Timravan Chainage 2500 meters at a cost of Rs. 2 crore 57 lakhs, outdoor stadium construction work in Begumganj district Raisen at a cost of Rs. 1 crore 44 lakhs and 88 other development works at a cost of Rs. 6 crore 23 lakhs.

Chouhan on Monday dedicated and laid the foundation of various development works worth Rs 153 crore including the inauguration of Semri Reservoir based Group Tap Water Supply Scheme worth Rs 100 crore in Begumganj of Raisen district. On this occasion, Health Minister Dr. Prabhuram Chaudhary and President of Deendayal

Chief Minister dedicated development works including the construction of Sultanganj to Sunvaha Sahajpuri road at a cost of Rs 13 crore 36 lakh, construction of building of Pandit Upadhyay Deendayal Government College Begumganj at a cost of Rs 3 crore 37 lakh, construction of Kasba Deori to Timrawan road at a cost of Rs 3 crore 83 lakh and 22 other development

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Rs 5 crore each will be made available for development works in Begumganj Municipality, Gairatganj, Silwani and Raisen. New buildings of Government Girls Higher Secondary Schools of Begumganj and Bamhori will be approved. In Bina Irrigation Project, the compensation

works costing Rs 7 crore 86

amount will be paid soon to the submergence-hit people under Begumganj development block. Ration will be arranged under the National Food Security Mission for the workers registered in Sambal Yojana and a new building and auditorium of the district will be built in Begumganj. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, permanent houses in urban areas. Development works will continue in the area.

At the beginning of the dedication and foundation laying programme of various development works in Begumganj district Raisen, Chouhan offered floral tributes to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversaries and remembered the contributions of the two great personalities.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits an exhibition at the laying of the foundation stone of various projects at Gwalior, in

to meet the Delhi Police

New Delhi: The mother of the woman constable who was allegedly killed by her former colleague two years ago demanded strict action against the accused who had been deceiving them into believing that she was alive.

Three men, including the Delhi Police constable, his brother-inlaw and another accomplice have been arrested for alleged-ly killing the woman, police said on Sunday.

The trio also deceived the victim's family into believing that she was alive by dropping false clues, they said.

"I had been running from pillar to post just to know about my daughter's whereabouts," the victim's mother told PTI over the phone from Bulandshahr.

"My younger daughter decided

Commissioner a few months ago. He understood our problem and assured proper investigation. Police have now arrested the accused constable. We want strict action against him," she added.

Cop's mother killed by her ex-colleague

Surender Singh (42) had been stalking the victim to marry him and when she refused to give in to his demands, he first strangled her and later buried the body near a nullah near Pushta area.

His brother-in-law Ravin (26) and Rajpal (33) helped him in hiding the crime, the police had

The police have recovered the skeletal remains of the victim from the Pushta area of Burari and sent them for DNA profiling to ascertain if they belong to the woman, they said.

Cleanliness campaign held at Dewas PNS DEWAS

nder the Swachhta Hi Seva Pakhwada, a nationwide cleanliness campaign organized for one date and one hour, the Dewas Municipal Corporation organized a ward-wise cleanliness program on Sunday. Under this, Shramdaan was

done in only 45 wards. In which Mayor Geeta Durgesh Aggarwal, Chairman Ravi Jain, MLA and Mayor's representa-tive Durgesh Aggarwal, District President Rajeev Khandelwal, Dewas municipal Commissioner Rajneesh

Kasera, all councilors and councilor representatives and Amaltas Hospital and Sanstha Mitrai, Sikh Society, Traders Cell, all social organizations,



government and non-government schools donated their labor at different places in this campaign of cleanliness and service.

Under the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign, soil and rice were put in the Amrit Kalash by Mayor Agarwal, Chairman Jain, MLA representative

Mahajan, Raju Soni, Nayan Kanungo, Kailash Dasore. Corporation Assistant Engineer Jagdish Verma,

ers Bahadur

Mukati, Sanjay

Saurabh Tripathi, Health Officer Jitendra Sisodia, Deputy Engineer Vijay Jadhav, Office Superintendent Ashok Deshmukh, Ranjit Singh Punjabi, Assistant Nodal Vishal Joshi, Corporation officers, employees and citizens including Arun Tomar actively participated in this campaign.

in different disciplines and

successful in controlling the

criminals should be given

important responsibilities like

Youth abducted 2 days ago from Bhopal, rescued in Gwalior

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

walior police rescued youth kidnapped two days ago from Rani Kamlapati railway station, Govindpura police informed Gwalior police which helped in the rescuing

The kidnappers had demanded a ransom of Rs 1 crore from the youth's elder brother. The miscreants had also made the youth's elder brother talk to his younger brother over a video

On the input of Bhopal Police, Gwalior Police has freed the youth. The Govindpura police team has also reached Gwalior. Preparations are being made to bring victim to Bhopal.

The station in-charge of Govindpura police Awadhesh Singh said that an accused has been detained who will be brought to Bhopal and interrogated. Other accused will be arrested based on his information.

According to police Arpit Shukla (26) works on commission to open accounts of people in banks. Along with him, Ayush, a resident of Gwalior, also opens accounts. Arpit had reached Rani Kamlapati railway station on Saturday morning at around 6.30 am on a bike to pick up his friend Ayush. Arpit 's elder brother Ravi Shukla told that before kidnapping his younger brother Arpit, his friend Ayush was kidnapped by the kidnappers. He reached Bhopal along with Ayush and also kidnapped Arpit. The kidnappers took both of them to Gwalior. From where an accused called his mobile number on Sunday morning and demanded a ransom of Rs 1 crore. He had threatened to kill Arpit if he failed to pay the ransom money. After this incident, he reached Govindpura police station and registered a case of kidnapping against the

The complainant said that the accused made a video call from his mobile and told her that his brother is with us. The accused made a video call to Arpit and Ayush and showed them sitting in a room. Ravi Shukla told that before kidnapping his brother Arpit, the accused kidnapped his friend Ayush. The accused had also demanded ransom money from Ayush's family. After this, Ayush's family met the kidnappers.

accused's mobile and informed Gwalior police. After this, on the basis of location, Gwalior's Padav police station raided the hideout of the accused on Sunday night and rescued kidnapped Arpit and his friend Ayush and arrested four kidnappers. A team of Govindpura police has reached Gwalior. From where preparations are being made to bring him to Bhopal.

People remember Mahatma on 154th birthday

PNS NEW DELHI

eople from all walks of life paid tributes to 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi on his 154th birth anniversary on Monday and recalled his role in India's fight for independence. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the country in paying homage to the iconic freedom fighter.

Murmu and Dhankhar visited the Gandhi Smriti museum, formerly Birla Bhavan where Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on January 30,

1948, and attended a 'Bhajan

On this occasion, Modi said his timeless teachings "continue to illuminate our path." He also hailed former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on X, saying his iconic call for 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' resonates even today.

"His unwavering commitment to India's progress and his leadership during challenging times remain exemplary. May we always work to realise his vision for a strong India," he posted.

The nation remembered Bapu and Lal Bahadur Shastri, revered freedom fighters and stalwarts of India, both of whom were born on October 2. Modi paid floral tributes to Shastri at Vijay Ghat memorial early in the morning.

Modi reached Rajghat around 8 am and offered floral petals to the Mahatma's memorial and bowed before it. An interfaith prayer service was held at Rajghat where Gandhi's favourite devotional songs were also played.

"I bow to Mahatma Gandhi on the special occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. His timeless teachings continue to illuminate our path. Mahatma Gandhi's impact is global, motivating the entire humankind to further the spirit of unity and compassion.

SAF personnel demand merger of their services in Madhya Pradesh police

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

→he personnel of Madhya Pradesh Special Armed Force s (SAF) have demanded from Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to merge the entire force into the main police force. The personnel of the Special Armed Forces have said that by availing their services in the police stations in the districts, it will be easier for the police to solve the important tasks of Cyber, CBI, ATS, CID, EOW, Lokayukta, NIA and other branches. Along with this, the biggest task will be that the personnel serving in SAF will social and family responsibili-

While talking to media persons here on Monday, Anil Upadhyay, Dinesh Chauhan, Ashish Patel, the families of the personnel working in the Special Armed Forces, said that a single window entry system is implemented in the police department from constable to sub-inspector. Equally qualified candidates are selected in Madhya Pradesh Armed Police Force and District Police Force, but despite having working capability and efficiency in

Equally qualified candidates are selected in the **SAF** and main police force, but despite having work capability and efficiency in the SAF force, they are suppressed

the SAF force, their capability and efficiency are being suppressed. Besides, the personnel

remain disoriented due to are forced to struggle with mental, physical and family pains. It was said from their side that like a paramilitary, a SAF personnel joins the battalion after receiving high level training. In such a situation, when the personnel has additional capabilities to work, he is not able to utilize them in the battalion.

In view of these circumstances, the process of mutual transfer should be started between the District Force and the Special Special Armed Forces and the personnel who are proficient

law and order, traffic etc. so that their morale is also high. Such armed police force servants who have completed 5 years of service should be included in the district force, so that harmony will be maintained between the SAF and the district force and this process will not bring any financial burden on the government. SAF personnel told the media that they have sent a let-ter to the Chief Minister regarding their merger and transfer. This matter has also been brought to the attention

representatives. The special

thing in this matter is that ear-

lier also an initiative has been

taken in this regard through

Police Headquarters' letter

number PUMU/ 1(B)/ 3(A)/

3108/82. In an order issued on 13 September 1982, detailed instructions were issued for the transfer of police from the SAF to the district force but this was later deleted. By starting this process, 26000 employees can be given an opportunity to serve in public interest and

state interest.

In this case, Govindpura police found out the location of the Congress National Spokesperson Ragini Nayak addresses a press conference on LPG commercial gas cylinders price hike and other issues at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Monday Action against illegal transportation

Governor Patel attends all-religion prayer meeting of liquor continues in Indore district

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

🛾 overnor Mangubhai Patel Thas said that an all-relimeaningful tribute to them. Governor Patel was addressing

religion prayer meeting organised at Gandhi Bhawan today. The gathering was organised by the Gandhi Bhavan Trust on the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

organised in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri is an opportunity to understand their moral values ??and ideals and implement them Peer Parai Jaane Re' tells how a true, good man should be. Patel said that every line of the life is to pay tribute to Gandhiji. and behaviour.

Bhopal, received the third prize. Khushi Gupta, student of Khalsa Higher Secondary School, Bhopal won the first prize in painting competition based on climate change, Devnarayan, student of Red Rose Higher Secondary School, Karond Bhopal got second place, Khushi Bhatt, a student of Navniddh Higher Secondary School Sant Hirdaram Nagar Bhopal got the third prize.

Home Public School, Bhopal,

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D. MAINT. DIVISION No. 1 SHED No. 7 JAWAHAR CHOWK BHOPAL

NIT No. 75 to 79/SAC/2023-24

G-20668/23

/// TENDER NOTICE ///

Dt. 29.09.2023

Online Tenders invited for above-mentioned NIT have been processed on the e-procurement system of Public Works Department on the https://mptenders.gov.in Tender details are as below:

S. No. 1	NIT No.	System tender No.	Name of work	Probable Amount of Contract	Earnest money deposit (in Rs.)
2.	76	2023_PWDRB _313108	Various AR SR anurakshan deposit and other work in various Resi. buildings of Hathikhana Section and Hamidia Road Section under PWD. Central Store Sub Dn. Bhopal.	Rs. 25,00,000.00 Rs. Twenty five lacs only	Rs. 50000.00
3.	77	2023_PWDRB _313109	Various AR SR MOW and other works in Govt. Residential Buildings and deposit work in Non Residential Buildings at M.V.M. Section under City Sub Dn. No.1 PWD. Bhopal.	Rs. 25,00,000.00 Rs. Twenty five lacs only	Rs. 50000.00
4.	78	2023_PWDRB _313110	Plastering painting distempering water proofing cement painting in various Resi. buildings of S.Z.H. Section and Sadar Manzil Section under PWD. Central Store Sub Dn. Bhopal.	Rs. 21,00,000.00 Rs. Twenty one lacs only	Rs. 42000.00
5.	79	2023_PWDRB _313111	Plastering painting distempering water proofing cement painting in various Resi. Buildings of Hathikhana Section and Hamidia Road Section under PWD, Central Store Sub Dn. Bhopal.	Rs. 21,00,000.00 Rs. Twenty one lacs only	Rs. 42000.00

payment. The last date & time for purchase and submission of tender document on line is 17.10.2023 up to 5:30 P.M. Any change in the tender can be seen on the portal of above website. Detailed NIT and other details can be/viewed on the above mentioned portal.

The Tender document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online

Executive Engineer P.W.D. Maint. Dn. No. 1 Bhopal

This type of action will conin our lives. He said that Secondary School Bhopal, got tinue by the Excise Gandhiji's favourite bhajan second and Tanya Sen, student of Department. 'Vaishnav Jana To Tene Kahiye Je Khalsa Higher Secondary School,

Indore: Under the orders of Collector Dr. Ilaya Raja T and the direction of Assistant Excise Commissioner Manish Khare, the action of the Excise Department against illegal liquor is continuing in Indore district. As per the order, action was taken by the Excise Department on Dry Day on Monday. In this, acting on the information of the informer, they

raided the residential house of Indira Bai in Mahadev Sarai Bajrangnagar of Mangalia area, seized 20 boxes of illegal country liquor and arrested the accused and invoked Section 34(1A) of the Madhya Pradesh Excise Act 1915 against her, Registered a case under 34(2). the basis of information

Similarly on October 1, on received from the informer, a black colored motorcycle Passion Pro was recovered from Palda Abhilasha Nagar Main Road. The driver, Veeru father Hiralal Jatav, age 34 years, resident of Shiv Nagar

police station, Azad Nagar, and Lucky father Ramesh Meena, who was sitting behind, were arrested for illegally transporting 6 boxes of country liquor in plastic bags. The recovered liquor and vehicle were confiscated. A case was registered against the said accused under Section 34(1)A, 34(2) of the Madhya Pradesh Excise Act. Similarly, a two-wheeler Jupiter passed from Lohamandi Bridge. After chasing the unknown driver left the vehicle and ran Due to recovery of 6 cases of

country liquor from the vehicle, the vehicle and liquor were seized and a case was registered against unknown accused under section 34(1) A, 34 (2) of Madhya Pradesh Excise Act and taken under investigation. The value of all the seized material in the above three cases is approximately Rs 2 lakh 45 thousand.

gion prayer meeting is a programme to remember the memorable events related to great men and to implement their high ideals in one's life. Taking inspiration from the ideals of lives of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri and following them is a true and

the public meeting after the all-

Patel said that the programme

bhajan talks about those qualities which are the basis of humanity. To sing the bhajan and be determined to bring its sentiments to He said that it is the responsibility for everyone to inspire children and future generations by imbibing the life values of Gandhiji and Shastriji. Parents have huge responsibility of educating their children. Children learn by observing their actions

In the programme, Governor Patel awarded the winning students of the "Come Know Gandhi" competitions organised from 25 to 29 September during the Gandhi Jayanti week. It was told in the programme that Himanshi Shevani, a student Navniddh Higher Secondary School Sant Hirdaram, Bhopal won the first prize in the essay competition on "Environment and Gandhi", Aditi Tiwari, student of Baby Convent Higher Sana Khan, student of Scholars

got first place in Bapu's Motivational Story Competition, Bhuvanesh Makoria, student of Khalsa Higher Secondary School, Bhopal got second, Tayyaba, a student of Baby Convent Higher Secondary School, Bhopal, got the third prize. In Bapu's favourite bhajan competition, Vansh Samaiya student of Jawahar Lal Nehru Higher Secondary School, BHEL, Bhopal, got first place, Abdullah Arif, student of Red Rose Higher Secondary School, Sindhi Colony, Bhopal, second, Navni Shrivastava, a student of Carmel Convent Higher Secondary School, Bhopal, got the third prize.

Gehlot Government destroying Rajasthan: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday made a scathing attack on the "corrupt" Ashok Gehlot-led Congress Government in Rajasthan and accused it of destroying the State as he made it amply clear that party's election symbol "Kamal" is the "only face" of the BJP in the assembly poll. The Prime Minister claimed that Chief Minister

Ashok Gehlot had already "accepted defeat" by requesting him not to stop schemes initiated by the Congress in Rajasthan.

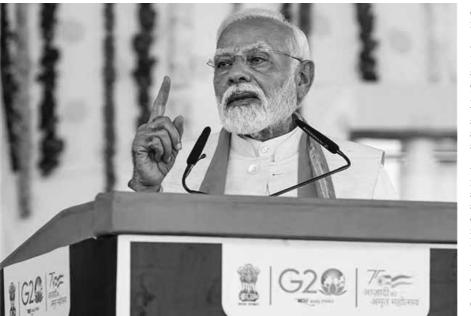
Addressing a rally in Chittorgarh, Modi said Rajasthan tops the list when it comes to crime, riots, atrocities against women, Dalits and backward classes and also mentioned the incident of behead-

The Prime Minister also addressed public meeting in another election bound state of Madhya Pradesh and inaugurated and laid foundation stones for projects worth over Rs 19,000 crore there.

Nearly 2.25 lakh families will enter into their new homes before Dussehra, Dhanteras and Diwali this year," said Modi in Gwalior.

In Madhya Pradesh Modi slammed Opposition forces as "anti-development" saying "they have hatred towards growth because of their poli-

Our target is to ensure Madhya Pradesh emerges as one of the top three states; your votes will help achieve this goal, he said adding "Next five years crucial for Madhya Pradesh's development; double



BJP ensured 'BIMARU' tag was removed from Madhya Pradesh; party brought MP among top 10 states in terms of development, said the Prime Minister. Rajasthan top the list when it comes to crime, riots, atrocities against women, Dalits and backward classes, Modi said at a rally in Chittorgarh.

In Chittorgarh public rally, the prime minister said that he feels pain when atrocities against daughters take place anywhere in the country but charged that the Congress has made this a tradition in Rajasthan.

He also assured the people that all public schemes initiated by the Congress government will continue if the BJP is elected to power in Rajasthan. "Gehlot knows that the

government has started. He in a way has congratulated the BJP by publicly requesting that the schemes should not be stopped. I assure you that BJP will not stop any scheme of public interest but will try to improve it. This is Modi's guarantee," he

The prime minister said if his party his voted to power, action against the corrupt and those involved in the alleged paper leak mafia will be taken. In Chittorgarh rally ,

Modi also gave a clear indication that no chief minister face will be projected in the pollbound state.

The BJP, he said, will contest the assembly election on the party's symbol 'lotus'. Hmara chehra kamal hain, Umveedwar kamal hai, usiko jitana hain", he said.

Vasundhara Raje, BJP state president CP Joshi, leader of opposition Rajendra Rathore, union minister Arjun Meghwal were among the political lead-

ers present at the rally. There has been much speculation whether Raje will be declared the chief ministe-

rial face by the BJP in Rajasthan. will Modi Chhattisgarh and Telangana on Tuesday to launch a slew of

development projects in the two poll-bound states. The Prime Minister's

Office said Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 26,000 crore from Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh and more than Rs 8,000 crore from Nizamabad in Telangana.

Arsh Dala planning terror attacks: Intelligence

RAKESH K SINGH ■ **NEW DELHI**

Designated "individual terrorist" Arshdeep Singh Gill alias Arsh Dala, based in Canada, involved in various criminal activities such as extortions and murders in India through his network of gangsters has now diversified his network to perpetrate terror attacks in the country.

Arsh Dala has formed an association with another USbased terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun of banned terror outfit "Sikhs for Justice" for fanning anti-India activities, an Intelligence dossier has warned.

Arsh Dala has been designated "individual terrorist' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

"It has come to notice that Arsh Dala has formed an association with USA-based Gurpatwant Singh Pannun of



Sikhs for Justice. It has been learnt that Arsh Dala and Gurpatwant Singh Pannun have colluded to carry out suspicious activity in Gurdaspur in Punjab," the report said.

The dossier further said, "Previous activities of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun suggest that he might look to hoist pro-Khalistan flags and graffiti on Government buildings and other public places but

his collusion with Arsh Dala this time suggests that they might try to carry out some terror activity.

Dala, according to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), has been operating from Canada for the last three-four years and allegedly executed many killings in Punjab over the last few years. "He has been guiding and commissioning

ing terror, violence and large scale extortion in India on behalf of the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF). Besides smuggling weapons from Pakistan, they (Dala and his associates) were also involved in recruitment of youth to carry out acts of violence and terror in the country at the behest of the KTF," the NIA had earlier said.

NIA had registered a suo moto case on August 20, 2022 under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 in connection with the terror activities of banned Khalistani terrorist organisations in India.

The agency has been cracking down on individual terrorist outfits and terrorists conspiring to smuggle terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition and explosives besides raising funds for carrying out terrorist acts in the

The syndicates run by Dala, Lakhbir Singh alias Landa and Lawrence Bishnoi among others have been alleged to be spreading their mafia style criminal networks in the northern States of India and were involved in commission of many sensational crimes, such as the murder of popular singer Sidhu Moosewala. and large-scale extortions from businessmen

and professionals. Their crimes, according to the NIA, included killing of Maharashtra builder Sanjay Biyani, as well Sandeep Nangal Ambia, an international Kabaddi organiser in Punjab.

Many of these conspiracies were found to have been masterminded from abroad, including Pakistan and Canada, or by leaders of syndicates lodged in jails, according to the

India, Tanzania to bolster defence ties on Army Chief Pande's visit tion with the Commander of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Tndia and Tanzania will **⊥** review the entire spectrum of their bilateral defence ties and explore ways to further bolster them during Army Chief General Manoj Pande's four-day visit there starting Monday.

Giving details of his schedule, army officials said here, the visit reinforces the long-standing defence ties between the two countries.

Pande will visit Dar es Salaam, the Tanzanian capital, the historical city of Zanzibar, and Arusha. He will engage in discussions and meetings with a host of dignitaries and senior officers from Tanzania.

During his visit, the Army chief is likely to call on



Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Officials said high on the agenda are the planned meetings with Defence Minister Stergomena Lawrence Tax and Chief of Defence Force General Jacob John Mkunda. Pande will also be visiting Zanzibar and call on President Hussein Ali Mwinyi. In addition, interacPande will also be addressing the National Defence College and inter-acting with Major General Wilbert Augustine Ibuge Commandant and the faculty. Additionally, a meeting with Brigadier General Stephen Justice Mnkande, Commandant of the Command and Staff College, Duluti is also planned during

the 101st Infantry Brigade

General Saidi Hamisi Saidi is

also scheduled.

the visit.

with the 2nd India Tanzania Mini DEFEXPO being conducted at Dar-es-Salaam which will showcase the growing prowess of the Indigenous defence industry complex of India, they said.

The visit also coincides

ICG's pollution control vessel arrives at Indonesian port

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

In a significant demonstration of India's commitment to address regional marine pollution threats, the Indian Coast Guard(ICG) ship Samudra Prahari, a specialized Pollution-Control Vessel, arrived at the port of Tanjung Priok, Jakarta, Guard Guard officials said here

This visit, a part of India's Association of South East Nations(ASEAN) initiatives for Marine Pollution Response, underscores India's expertise and collaborative efforts in tackling regional maritime challenges, particularly those related to marine pollution threats.

During this overseas deployment from September 11 to October 14, the specialized Pollution Control Vessel earlier made port call in Bangkok, Thailand from September 16 to 20. Equipped with a Chetak helicopter in Pollution Response configuration, the vessel highlights



ing pollution response capabilities in the region, officials

As a part of an overseas exchange program, the ship has aboard 13 National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets, who will participate actively in the Puneet Sagar Abhiyan' thereby giving the Abhiyan an international reach. This program focuses on beach cleanups and similar activities, fostering collaboration with partner

The ship received a warm

welcome from BAKAMAL (Indonesia Maritime Security Agency) band playing fanfare and other welcoming military tunes as a gesture to their Indian friends

During the four day stay of ship at Jakarta, ICG ship will engage with BAKAMLA in professional exchanges, crossdeck visits, tabletop exercises, Pollution Response demonstration, Joint Yoga session, ioint exercises, as well as official and social engagements, including visits to capacitybuilding facilities.

1 held, weapons seized after raids in CPI(Maoist) conspiracy case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested one person and seized weapons, cash and incriminating material in raids across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the Munchingiputtu CPI (Maoist) conspiracy case.

Multiple raids were carried two States, leading to the arrest of one Chandra Narasimhulu, a State Executive Committee Member of the Pragathiseela Karmika Samakya (PKS), from Satya Sai district of Andhra Pradesh, the NIA said in a statement.

A pistol, along with 14 rounds, was seized from the location. An amount of 13 lakh was seized from one of the premises in Kadapa district, while Maoist literature and documents were seized from other locations, it said.

The raids covered 53 locations in Guntur, Palanadu, Vijayawada, Rajhmundry, Prakasam, Bapatla, Eluru, East Godawari, Dr BR Ambedkar Konasema, Visakhapatnam,



Vizianagaram, Tirupati, Kadapa Satya Sai, Anantapur, and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh. Nine locations were raided in Telangana in the districts of Hyderabad, Hanumakonda, Ranga Reddy and Adilabad., the agency said.

The custodial interrogation of the arrested accused is expected to yield further information about the conspiracy relating to the attempts of various frontal organisations to further the activities of the proscribed CPI (Maoist) outfit," it

include Civil Liberties

Committee (CLC), Amarula Bandhu Mitrula Sangham (ABMS), Chaitanya Mahila Sangham (CMS), Kula Nirmulana Porata Samathi (KNPS), Patriotic Democratic Movement (PDM), Pragathiseela Karmika Samakya (PKS), Praja Kala

Mandali (PKM), Revolutionary Writers Association (RWA) or Viplava Rachaital Sangam (VIRASAM), Human Rights Forum (HRF), Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners (CRPP) and Indian Association of Peoples Lawyers

The frontal organisations

Ships of Navy's 1st Training Squadron on visit to Malaysia



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

As part of the Indian Navy's long range deployment in South East Asia, the ships of First Training Squadron (1TS) -INS Tir, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi are on a visit to Port Klang, Malaysia from September 30 to October 3, navy officials said here on Monday.

During the visit the activities being undertaken by the crew of 1TS include various professional and community interactions, training exchanges, cross deck visits and sports fixtures with personnel of Royal Malaysian Navy, as well as ships open for visit of school children, they said.

The deployment of 1 TS is aimed at exposing the trainees to the sociopolitical, military and maritime linkages of India with the friendly countries in the Indian Ocean Region and strengthening of bilateral engagements between the two Navies.

Personal consumption, possession of e-cigarettes violation of law: Ministry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{n}}$ the wake of no let up in cases of air travellers arriving with e-cigarettes at various airports in the country, Union Health Ministry has clarified that its personal consumption as well as possession of any such devices in any form, quantity or manner is in violation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act (PECA) 2019.

The clarification was sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA) last month, official sources said, adding it will strengthen the enforcement of the ban.

There has been cases of consification of vaping devices from travellers passing through Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi and Bhavnagar airports. The travellers argue that they had purchase them for personal use.



Bengaluru Customs officials had held two persons for allegedly smuggling 1,590 packets of e-cigarettes worth Rs 15.9 lakh from Malaysia

The ministry said that though there is no explicit mention of prohibition of individual use of e-cigarette in PECA, the law has been enacted to prohibit the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement of e- cigarettes.

Therefore, possession of

in any quantity is not possible without contravening the provisions of PECA, 2019," said Dr Pulkesh Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of

The ban includes a prohibition on all forms of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, Heat Not Burn Products, e-Hookah and similar devices.

The law was enacted in the interest of public health and to protect the people from harm, the health ministry said.

Despite heavy penalties and imprisonment, e-cigarettes are reported to be widely available across a range of sources including tobacco vendors, general stores, and online providers.

tal to facilitate reporting of violations under PECA. This

portal will allow the ministry

The health ministry has also launched an online por-

to take necessary action on violations. Anyone can report these violations

http://www.Violationreporting.In". The government has also expressed concern regarding

the alarming rise in its use amongst youth. In May, the ministry issued a public notice for effective implementation of the Act. Later in July, the ministry sent notices to 15 web-

sites selling e-cigarettes, ask-

ing them to stop advertise-ment and sale of such prod-

The ministry, earlier in February, had written to all states and UTs to ensure effective compliance of the government's ban on e-cigarettes.

In a letter addressed to chief secretaries of all states and Union territories, it had flagged the sale of e-cigarettes at stationary stores near educational institutions.

for antibiotic resistant typhoid strains

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Grappling with two highly antibiotic resistant strains of typhoid fever, India is now scouting for indigenously developed improved point of care (POC) test that can help distinguish the duo variants so as to ensure effective management of the life-threatening dis-

In this connection, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Union Health Ministry has invited expression of interest (EOI) from the manufacturers and research institutes for development of diagnostic In Vitro kits for diagnosis of the drug resistant strains.

The move follows concerns that existing typhoid diagnostic tests, such as the Widal test, TUBEX, Typhidot, and Test-It (KIT), have shown sub-optimal sensitivity and specificity to the two serovars namely Salomenella. Typhi (S.



India scouting for indigenous POC test

Typhi) and Salmonella enterica serovar Paratyphi (S. Paratyphi) which have become

resistance to many antibiotics. Moreover, the S Typhi and Paratyphi strains are indistinguishable, thus making it crucial for clinicians to differentiate between them before starting antibiotic therapy due to their different antibiotic susceptibility profiles, said an ICMR scientist on the need for

next generation in vitro kits. There is an urgent need for indigenously developed, improved typhoid POC tests

that offer higher sensitivity and specificity. Such tests would enable healthcare professionals to promptly and accurately diagnose typhoid, leading to more appropriate and targeted treatment, which in turn, could result in better

patient outcomes and reduced

antibiotic misuse," further

added the scientist.

While the morbidity and mortality of S. Typhi make it a greater public health concern, the increasing prevalence of S. Paratyphi in certain regions necessitates a next-generation

detecting both the strains, she Improved disease diagnostics will support the govern-

diagnostic test capable of

ment in guiding interventions program efforts to prevent the diseases, said the ICMR scientist on the need for the next generation detection kit. 'S. Typhi, the bacterium responsible for typhoid fever,

has developed resistance to multiple antibiotics, including three firstline agents. India is bearing a high burden of the disease. It is estimated that there are 11-21 million cases of enteric fever worldwide each year, resulting in 120,000-160,000 deaths. "Due to lack of proper

diagnosis and heterogeneity of disease, the exact burden of disease is unclear but extrapolation of regional data estimates 586 cases per 100,000 personyears typhoid/paratyphoid incidence in India," said the sci-

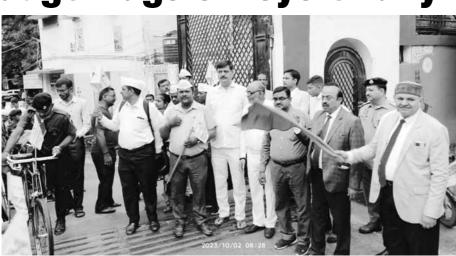
District judge flags off cycle rally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The birth anniversaries of 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri were celebrated with simplicity and joy in the district here on Monday. In the morning, the national flags were hoisted in all government, semi-government offices and schools. Thereafter, tributes were paid to the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri by garlanding

Additional Commissioner Manoj Singh in the Commissionerate Office auditorium, Additional District Magistrate (Civil Supplies) Jawahar Lal Srivastava in the Collectorate's Rifle Club paid homage to the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, District Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ajay Kumar Vishwesh flagged off the cycle rally of schoolchildren as part of the cleanliness and awareness campaign in the District Court premises. Thereafter, live telecast of the e-inauguration programme related to cleanliness and awareness campaign organised on the occasion of Gandhi



District Judge AK Vishwesh flagging off a cycle rally on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti in Varanasi on Monday.

video conferencing hall.

While presiding over the programme organised in the Commissionerate auditorium, Additional Commissioner Manoj Singh informed the people in detail about the life and struggles of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur

He said that taking inspiration from these great men, we should take a pledge that we will work with complete honesty and transparency for the public interest and welfare of the people in the last line of of food production and its society. This would be a true result is being seen today as the

Jayanti was seen and heard in tribute to these great personalities. Presiding over the programme organised at Rifle Club, the ADM (Civil Supplies) Jawahar Lal Srivastava, quoting the life struggles of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, said that Mahatma Gandhi was a priest of truth and non-violence.

He shook the British rule by making non-violence a weapon in the country's freedom struggle, while Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' to make the country self-reliant in the field

country has become a self-sufficient in food production. He further highlighted his concept of 'Antyodaya', especially regarding the welfare of the weak, thoughts regarding emotional unity, national unity and

Besides, Gandhian philosophy of life was propagated in schools and colleges and debate competitions/ seminars were organised for students on various aspects of Gandhi's life and emphasis should be laid on bringing equality and harmony in the society by staying away from caste discrimina-

Modi's cleanliness message from Kashi becomes mass movement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

 $B_{ ext{on the banks of}}^{ ext{y using a shovel from Assi}}$ **D**on the banks of 'Mokshadayini' Ganga and a broom in the streets of Banaras in November, 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given the message of cleanliness to the country, which has now become a mass movement. Later, the campaign gained momentum when Yogi Adityanath became the Chief Minister in 2017 as he linked the cleanliness system of the religious, spiritual and cultur-

al city to the Kashi Integrated Command Centre (KICC), due to which the entire waste management started being monitored from this centre and it has resulted in improving the cleanliness conditions of ghats, streets and main roads.

Nagar Swashtya Adhikari Dr Narendra Pratap Singh said that for solid waste management, a team of more than 6,000 people starts cleaning and door-to-door garbage collection from early morning and takes it to the processing plant. "This entire management is

monitored from KICC," he said, adding that, here the attendance of employees is taken through 130 biometric devices. Besides, he said that 174 locations of 20 garbage houses are also monitored with 433 cameras. "270 garbage trucks are tracked with GPS 902 volume sensors and other

sources measure the amount of

garbage generated by the city.

About 700-800 tonnes of

garbage is generated daily in

Varanasi, Dr Sigh informed,

adding that the roads are cleaned with mechanised

cleaning machines and water is sprayed to remove dust. Apart from this, cleanliness of 235 public and community toilets is also taken care of. Swachh Bharat Mission,

which has been running for nine years, has taken the form of a mass movement with public participation. In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi, state Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is paying special attention to development as well as keeping the city

Spl cleanliness campaign launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, 'Special Cleanliness Campaign 3.0' was launched by the Department of Posts in Varanasi region. Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav, while garlanding the statue of the 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi in a function organised at the Varanasi Cantt Head Post Office, motivated all the officials of the Department of Posts to make the vision of Swachh Bharat and Swachhata Hi Sewa meaningful as thought by Mahatma Gandhi.

He also gave a call for active participation in the cleanliness campaign, which will run till October 31. He also delivered the message of environment protection by planting saplings of Rudraksha, Aawala and Ashoka in the Head Post Office premises



PMG KK Yadav launching a special cleanliness campaign 3.0 in Varanasi on Monday

with the Director of Postal Services (Prayagraj) Gaurav Srivastava, Superintendent of Posts Vinay Yadav and Assistant Director Brijesh Sharma. Besides, Yadav administered the cleanliness pledge to the employees. He also inspired them to contribute in keeping their environment clean by

being a part of this special campaign and gave the message of better health, fitness and clean-

During the event, postal employees also motivated the people by running a cleanliness campaign in the post office premises, postal colony, parks, garden and surrounding areas. Assistant Account Officer Santoshi Rai, inspectors (Posts) Shrikant Pal, Inderjit Pal, Dilip Pandey, Postmaster Varanasi Cantt Arvind Sharma, Rahul Verma, Anand Pradhan, Rakesh Kumar, Manish Kumar, Anurag Shukla, Gyan Sagar and others were also

Swachhata Pakhwada ends at BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As per the guidelines of the Ministry of Railways, 'Swachhta Pakhwada' organised from September 16 concluded in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Monday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi when the General Manager (GM) Basudev Panda and other senior officers paid tributes to the 'Father of the Nation'.

Principal Chief Electrical Engineer SK Srivastava, Principal Chief Materials Manager Rajneesh Gupta, Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr Devesh Kumar, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Ranvijay, Chief Vigilance Officer Pramod Kumar Chaudhary, Chief Materials Manager Trilok Kothari, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Service) Neeraj Jain, Chief Engineer Vinod Kumar Shukla, Chief Safety Officer SB Patel, Chief Electrical Engineer (Loco) Arun Kumar Sharma, Chief Electrical Engineer (Inspection) MK Singh, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer

Shyam Babu, Senior Personnel

Officer (Headquarters) Raj



GM Basudev Panda inaugurating the concluding function of Swachhta Pakhwada at BLW in Varanasi on Monday.

Kumar Gupta, Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar, Staff Council's member Naveen Sinha and other heads of departments, officers and employees present there and

they took a pledge for cleanliness while lighting the lamp and offering floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

The entire cleanliness fortnight programmes were imple-

mented under the guidance of Chief Safety Officer SB Patel under the auspices of the Safety department with the cooperation of all other depart-

Shiv Ganga Express best organised train

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

most popular ▲ 12559/12560 Banaras-New Delhi Shiv Ganga Express has been declared as best organised train while Siwan as best station in A and A1 category, Ghazipur City best station in B category, Chhapra best organised coaching depot and Banaras Railway Colony best organised residential colony under Swachhta Fortnight. All of them were awarded by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava on the occasion of the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in a function organised at the Officers' Club at Lahartara here on Monday. The DRM paid floral tributes to the portraits of 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and administered an oath to the employees to voluntarily keep their residences and workplaces clean and adopt environment friendly behaviour.

The winners were rewardwith shields. Banaras Coaching Depot Officer Vineet Ranjan received shield for Swachhta Rail Train Shiv Ganga Express, while Chief Health Inspector/ Bhatni Amit Kumar Mishra, Chief Health Inspector for Swachh Station category/ Siwan Radheshyam Raman, Chief Health Inspector for Swachh Station B Category/Ghazipur City Usha Yadav, Chief Health Inspector for Swachh Railway Colony, Banaras, Kamlesh Singh, Coaching Depot Officer Ajit Kumar for Swachh Office Chhapra Coaching Depot/Chhapra were honoured with citations.

Along with this, in order to



DRM VK Srivastava felicitating an employee in Varanasi on Monday.

conclude the Cleanliness Fortnight organised by Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) under the theme of 'Swachhta Hi Seva', cultural programmes were organised under the aegis Environment and Housekeeping Management (EnHM) department.

The prize distribution proramme was inaugurated by ighting the lamp by the DRM along with chairperson of Divisional Women's Welfare Organisation Monica Saxena and others. On the occasion, the DRM presented plants and handmade jute bags to the

In the cultural programme organised on this occasion, cleanliness songs were presented by the members of Mandal Kala Samiti and a captivating dance drama was presented by the children of NER Junior High School.

An inspirational street play

was staged by the members of Bharat Scouts and Guides District Association, Varanasi to stop the use of plastic, increase public awareness about cleanliness and adopt nature friendly behaviour.

At the end of the programme, the artistes and children who performed well were appreciated and rewarded by the DRM.

Earlier, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar welcomed evervone. Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infra) Roshan Lal Yadav, ADRM (Operations) Rajesh

Kumar Singh, Chief Medical Superintendent Dr RJ Chaudhuri, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W) Anubhav Pathak, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction) RN Singh, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional Engineers Rishi Srivastava, Satyam Singh and Anuj Verma, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Operation) Anil Srivastava, Senior Divisional Safety Officer Balendra Paul, Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Abhishek Singh, Divisional Personnel Officer Vivek Mishra, Assistant Commercial Manager AK Suman, Assistant Commercial Manager Prashant Kumar and

Floral tributes paid to Gandhi, Shastri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

¬he Swachhta Pakhwada L closing ceremony was organised at the North Ćentral Railway (NCR) headquarters on Monday where tributes were paid to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary. A cycle rally was organised at North Central Railway (NCR) headquarters to mark the occasion.
The Swachhta Pakhwada

was celebrated in the NCR from September 16 to October 2. During the conclusion of Swachhta Pakhwada on Monday a function presided over by Additional General Prakash Gupta was held at the NCR headquarters and ended NCR headquarters. The programme started with the AGM and other officers offering floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi NCR headquarters, including



AGM also released a pamphlet and it was distributed among the people present to create awareness about cleanliness.

A cycle rally was also stadium. A large number of senior officers and staff of

the AGM, enthusiastically participated in this rally.

Senior officers of various departments of NCR and a large number of officers, employees and their families

TRIPLE MURDER CASE: Action is being initiated against the police and the Revenue department officials and staff whose 'negligence' and 'parti-

san attitude' claimed the life of an elderly Dalit person, his pregnant daughter and son-inlaw in Mohiuddinpur Ghaus village of Kaushambi district. The incident had taken place on September 15 and the matter had reached the chief minister. Kaushambi SP Brijesh Kumar Srivastava after preliminary inquiry, sent SO of Sandeepan Ghat Kotwali Dilip Singh and out post incharge of

Harraypur to Police Lines. Subhash, son of the deceased Hori Lal Pasi, met the chief minister and told him that the 'illegal' act of the chakbandi officials led to this triple murder. District Magistrate Sujit Kumar found three lekhpals of Chakbandi department them under suspension. The assistant chakbandi officer is also under scanner and his suspension has also been recom-

Cycle rally to create awareness about air display

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

do spread awareness⊓ **L** amongst the local people about the air display at Sangam on October 8 a cycle rally was conducted on Monday from the headquarters Central Air Command (CAC) to Sangam and back. The event was flagged off by Dr Suneeta Kapoor, president, AFFWA (Regional). Air Marshal RGK Officer Kapoor, Air

Commanding-in-Chief, CAC the citizens of Sangam city. led the team comprising 35 air AOC-in-C explained that the warriors who participated in the rally with lot of fervour. The rally reached Sangam near VIP Ghat braving heavy rain. The public was informed about the visibility of aerial display from Sangam Ghat, Saraswati Ghat, Arail Ghat, Jhusi side of Sangam, Shastri Bridge and surrounding areas. The rally spread the message of awareness about the aerial display to

first aircraft flight in our country was from Naini in 1911. He lauded the efforts in Swachhata Abhiyan and felicitated the shramiks (workers) who participated in cleanliness efforts in Sangam area. He expressed gratitude to media and its personnel in their endeavour to spread awareness about the aerial display and urged people to witness the unprecedented

display in large numbers. The air warriors also interacted with the local population and informed them about the air display over Sangam. They exhorted them to witness the event 2:30 pm onwards on October 8 from one of the locations at Saraswati Ghat, Jhunsi village, Shastri Bridge or Arail Ghat. The rally also offered an opportunity to youth to know about various exciting career options in the Indian Air Force.

Stress on dedication, honesty for progress of nation

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The birth anniversary of Father of the Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri was observed across the district on Monday. District Judge Anmol Pal after hoisting the national flag and garlanding the portraits of the heroes paid his tributes in a programme organ-ised under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in the Civil Court. He said it will be a real tribute to the leaders if we followed their path honestly. He exhorted the people to adopt the path of dedication and honesty for the progress of the nation. Secretary of the DLSA and ADJ Lal Babu said Gandhi was committed to cleanliness.

Magistrate District Priyanka Niranjan after hoisting the tricolour at the Collectorate building garlanded the statue of Gandhi at Gandhi Ghat. She garlanded



District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan paying tributes during a programme to mark the birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bhadur Shastri at the Collectorate on Monday

the statues of heroes, including Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, at Shaheed Udyan. Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhinanandan garlanded the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri at the Police

Additional Superintendent

of Police (ASP/City) Srikant Prajapati and Circle Officer (CO) Sadar Shailendra Tripathi hoisted the flag at the police office, CO (City) Ajay Singh at City Kotwali, CO (Lalganj) Manjari Rao at Lalganj police station, CO (Operation) Anil Kumar Pandey at Madihan police station and CO

(Chunar) Uma Shankar Singh at Chunar Kotwali. At the Rajdeep PG College Kailhat a day-long programme was organised and Director RB Singh addressed a gathering.

MISHAP DEATH: One person died in road mishap in an area under Kachhawaan on police station on Sunday. According to a report, Azad Kumar Bind (55), a resident of Bachchhaanv Meerapur village under Mirzamurad police station in Varanasi was on the way on his bike when it was hit by a vehicle near Barapur village under Kachhawaan police station. After the accident the vehicle driver managed to flee from the spot.

On getting information the police reached the spot and brought the victim to the hospital where the doctor declared him as brought dead. On the basis of the papers recovered from his pocket the police informed the kin of the victim and completed the legal forwww.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Power play

Mamata sends her troops to Delhi to embarrass the Centre over non-payment of dues

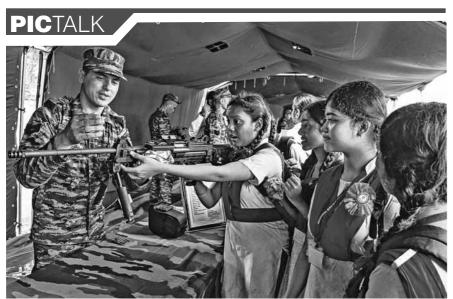
Inile the BJP brass is busy formulating strategy for the upcoming Assembly elections in five States and meeting voters there, the wily West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has unleashed a 4,000-strong contingent in Delhi under her TMC MP and nephew Abhishek Banerjee's charge. Mamata's party leaders and cadres are here for a two-day protest rally to highlight the NDA Government's apathy towards non-payment of Central scheme funds to the State's workers. Interestingly, while the BJP is seeking action in the poll-bound States, Mamata has brought her fight right at its very doorstep and fired the Capital's political atmosphere. The rally has garnered attention for several reasons, ranging from demands for the release of funds to the TMC's clash with the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Another interesting point remains as to why Mamata chose to hold her mega show of strength in faraway Delhi and what the BJP feels about it. The two-day protest in Delhi was prompted by mounting concerns



over the Centre's alleged neglect of West Bengal's development and the delay in releasing funds for vital schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Thousands of TMC leaders and supporters descended on the national Capital with a resolute mission — to voice their grievances against the Central Government.

On Gandhi Jayanti, the TMC MPs embarked on a sit-in at Rajghat to highlight their dedication to the principles of Mahatma Gandhi. The peaceful rally followed with TMC supporters and MGNREGA job card holders marching together to air their concerns. However, it was not a smooth ride for the TMC cadres from

Bengal to Delhi, with them facing unexpected hurdles. Initially, a special train was booked for the TMC supporters and MGNREGA job card holders, along with the party's 'panchayat pramukhs'. But the Railway Ministry abruptly cancelled the train, forcing the TMC to arrange for private buses to transport its supporters. Adding to the intrigue, the Enforcement Directorate summoned Mamata's nephew and party's number 2 leader Abhishek Banerjee for questioning on October 3, coinciding with the rally. Abhishek, however, has chosen to ignore the ED summons. As the rally unfolds, the nation awaits the outcome of this high-stakes showdown between the prominent parties. Though Mamata is challenging the BJP in the Capital, she has a lot to answer to people in her home State as there have been alleged irregularities in the disbursement of MGNREGA salaries by her Government, besides numerous cases of misappropriation of such funds. Union Minister Smriti Irani has also questioned the rationale behind the rally as TMC has failed to ensure even the minimum wages to tea garden workers in North Bengal. The BJP Minister is currently in Bengal, where she met tea workers in Siliguri. On the other hand, Mamata is a strong leader in her State and an important member of the INDIA bloc; her message in Delhi is indeed something the BJP must be watching very carefully.



Army personnel briefs students about a weapon during an event of 'Veer Gatha', in Kolkata

BJP-AIADMK split: What next?



The AIADMK-BJP split does not augur well for the BJP which is trying hard to get a foothold in southern India

ould the split between the AIADMK and BJP be permanent? If so, this could hurt the BJP's chances of winning in Tamil Nadu since the AIADMK had supported them since J Jayalalithaa's passing in 2016. The decision to end its partnership with the NDA on a national and state level may put the BJP at a disadvantage.

The future political landscape could have an impact on the upcoming 2024 elections. It could cause a shift in power among Tamil Nadu parties and their alliances. This may result in the AIADMK losing the support of the Modi government, which has acted as a powerful ally.

According to experts, the separation between the BJP and AIADMK is expected to be temporary. The leaders of both parties have advised their members to refrain from making negative comments about each other. The BJP seeks more support in the Southern region and hopes to secure additional seats through partnerships.

Last week, former AIADMK minister Munuswamy announced that his party is severing ties with the BJP and NDA. He accused the BJP state chief, Annamalai, of deliberately tarnishing the reputation of respected party members, including former Chief Ministers CN Annadurai and Jayalalithaa.

The decision may have a significant impact on state and national politics. AIADMK is the lone major partner of the BJP at the national level. Previously, NDA included bigger parties like Shiv Sena, Akali Dal, Telugu Desam, and AIADMK. Still, now only AIADMK remains in the alliance. For the BJP, the loss is more significant. Despite earnest efforts, it has not established a substantial presence in Tamil Nadu — the power switches between the DMK and AIADMK since 1967. The AIADMK has ruled 30 out of their 50 years.

Tamil Nadu has two main political parties: AIADMK and DMK. AIADMK is a popular 0 to 39. Consequently, party with a large membership of two crore people, and it offers an alternative to DMK. The DMK hindrance. The BJP's attempt and AIADMK, the two main to win over voters in Tamil

Dravidian parties, have both supported the BJP at different

For decades, The BJP has faced a tough challenge in winning over voters in Tamil Nadu. The Dravidian movement started by EV Ramaswamy Naicker has taken deep roots in the form of DMK and AIADMK parties. The party only secured 3% of the vote in the last Lok Sabha elections. In comparison, the two Dravidian parties had a solid 25%

Since 2016, the AIADMK party has experienced continuous defeats in all elections. It has no charismatic leaders like Jayalalithaa or founder MG. Ramachandran — both matinee idols. The party's performance in the most recent Assembly polls in 2021 decreased the seats won, from 136 to 75. The DMK-Congress coalition took control of the government. In the 2019 Lok Šabha polls, AIADMK only secured one seat, a significant drop compared to their previous 37. Meanwhile, the DMK coalition's seats increased from



THE UPCOMING LOK SABHA **ELECTIONS ARE** SIGNIFICANT FOR THE BJP, WHILE THE AIADMK FOCUSES ON THE 2026 ASSEMBLY **POLLS**

Nadu failed due to differing ideologies. The Dravidian par-ties are non-believers, while BJP's primary election strategy is centred around Ram Temple in Ayodhya earlier and Sanathan dharma now.

The upcoming Lok Sabha elections are significant for the BJP, while the AIADMK focuses on the 2026 Assembly polls. The outcome will largely depend on the coalitions formed by the two Dravidian parties. Prime Minister Modi is determined to secure a third term in the 2024 elections.

Insiders suggest that Annamalai's behaviour was not the main reason for the

Despite numerous com-plaints, AIADMK is unhappy that the BJP has not taken action against Annamalai. There is a more significant disagreement over seat sharing. Both parties failed to win seats in Tamil Nadu in the 2019 elections due to a lack of shared ideology. Annamalai has suggested running independently in the election, and some BJP members are considering the idea. Annamaiai wants to form a coalition with smaller parties.

AIADMK chief Edapadi Palaniswamy has successfully

united the party and worked with senior leaders to prevent the re-entry of Sasikala, TTV Dhinakaran, and former Chief Minister O. Pannerselvam. It is a no-no for him even if the BJP provides them seats under its quota. Palaniswamy was able to remove them from AIADMK and now holds complete control. He appre-

his authority would diminish. The ruling DMK coalition apprehends it could be affected, and some suggest that Congress may ally with the AIADMK. The results will depend on the number of seats won by each alliance.

hends that once they entered,

The upcoming Lok Sabha elections are crucial for the DMK, AIADMK, Congress and BJP. Among them, the BJP stands to gain or lose the most. Factors such as caste, financial resources, and political influence will also play a significant role in the election. The BJP needs to perform well in the Fice States Assembly polls. While BJP is ahead, in politics, a week is a long time, and anything can happen in the next six months leading up to the Lok Sabha elections.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

THE EDITOR

Orders by Govt officers are for the larger good



It is imperative to abide by just orders promulgated by Govt servants in public interest and any objection to such orders, must be through legal channels

hat we often come across is the law of contempt concerning courts. It may pertain to maligning the reputation of the judiciary or for that purpose obstructing the functioning of the court. The law of contempt concerning court has now been well established and the educated section across the country mostly have a rough idea about the same if they keep themselves informed by print or electronic media, including social

This article aims to bring into the limelight the less known and less discussed issue, which is disobedience of orders that are duly promulgated by government authorities. We have witnessed such orders during an unprecedented time of covid pandemic. As a citizen, we are at the centre of such orders. For brevity of our understanding, I should inform you that such orders are being promulgated under various acts, one such being the Epidemic Disease Act of 1897. Under the said act, Sections 2 & 2A, give powers to the state government and central government respectively to



such orders which may help contain the infectious disease.

Section 3 of the Epidemic Disease Act imposes a penalty for disobeying any order or regulation made under this act. It makes the act of disobeying or abatement punishable under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code. For instance, if we take the step of price capping by the respective state governments on the treatment of COVID-19 in private hospitals, passing an order under this act or any other act for the time being in force, they impose a duty on private hospitals not to charge above the limits fixed by government authorities.

If private hospitals are charging more than the limit imposed by the government, they are inviting prosecution u/s 188 of the Indian Penal Code i.e., Disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public servant. Bombay High Court in the case of HLA Shwe v. State of Maharashtra peeled section 188 and mentioned its ingredients as follows - The order must be duly promulgated by a public servant authorised to do so; The order directs the accused to abstain from certain acts; Accused was aware of such order; Accused disobeyed such order and lastly, such disobeying resulted in obstruction, annoyance or

This section is part of chapter X of IPC which deals with contempt of lawful authority of public servant. Prosecution under this is slightly different to that of other offences where the victim himself/herself reports the crime to police officials. Cognizance under this chapter X of IPC can only be taken under section 195 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) which requires a written complaint by a public servant concerned or of some other public servant to whom he is administratively subordinate. This means, that if a person 'X' is aggrieved that he

has been charged more than

the prescribed amount (as prescribed by the government during covid times) in a private hospital for Covid19 treatment, he cannot directly report that to the police station and ask the police to register FIR under section 188 of IPC, but he needs to report the same to the official or ministry that promulgated such order and it will be upon the written complaint of such ministry or official that an action can be brought against the private hospital under section 188 of IPC.

In India, we very well know that crimes often are not reported by individuals because of a lack of awareness which further encourages the wrongdoer, initiative should be taken by the government to check the implementation of their orders. This can be done by audits and taking the views and experiences of the intended beneficiaries of those orders. Therefore, for a peaceful society to exist, it is imperative to abide by just orders promulgated by public servants and any objection to such orders, should only

have legal recourse. (The writer is an advocate in *Delhi*; views are personal)

DISTURBING INCIDENT IN THE UK

Sir — The incident that occurred on September 29th, involving the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Vikram Doraiswami, being prevented from entering a Gurdwara in Glasgow, Scotland, is a deeply condemnable and disturbing event. During this incident, some radical elements not only blocked the envoy's entry but also resorted to threats and abuse. They even attempted to open the envoy's locked car, which fortunately was thwarted due to the timely intervention of the event organizers. The UK, being aware of the potential threat from such extremist elements, should have taken adequate security measures for the visiting Indian envoy.

It is essential to acknowledge that the Khalistan ideology has very limited support among Sikhs in India. The majority of Sikhs in India lead peaceful lives and have made significant contributions to the nation in various fields, including defense and trade. Sikhs in the armed forces have played a pivotal role in defending the nation against external threats from countries like China and Pakistan. Only a small fraction of radical elements resort to violence to pursue their objectives.

The recent incident in Scotland, as well as the July attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco, serves as a stark reminder that these extremist elements, although numerically small, continue to exist and have grown more emboldened. These incidents are not isolated and are part of a concerning trend, with extremist elements expanding their reach in countries like Canada, the US, the UK, and Australia. This situation demands serious attention from the international community.

Ramesh G Jethwan | Bengaluru

UKRAINE AID OUESTIONED

Sir — The United States narrowly escaped a government shutdown crisis as a bill was passed at the eleventh hour on Saturday, providing emergency funding to federal services. Notably absent from the bill was any mention of continued aid to war-torn

World Cup Excitement



ricket enthusiasts in India are thrilled as the World Cup inches closer to our doorsteps. The Indian cricket team is poised to compete on home turf, aiming to seize the championship and bring glory to the BCCI. Preparations are progressing as scheduled, with strategic

changes in the team composition to provide opportunities to our top players. Fortunately, we have a wealth of talent, boasting the world's finest all-rounder and the number one bowler. The team is ready to unleash their full potential in various venues. The round-robin format of the tournament offers us a promising path to qualify for the knockout stage, despite even odds.

However, we must address concerns about the team's fitness and fielding prowess, which need improvement. With the best squad at our disposal and a well-balanced team, the 2023 World Cup is a golden opportunity to secure a major victory. Let's rally behind our team and hope for a triumphant campaign!

CK Subramaniam, | Mumbai

Ukraine, raising concerns about the suspension of monetary assistance. The passage of this bill ensures uninterrupted operation of US federal services for the next 45 days.

Failure to approve funding for federal departments and agencies by October 1 would have resulted in a complete government shutdown, with far-reaching consequences, including furloughs without pay for federal employees and a significant economic impact.

While the immediate threat of a shutdown has been averted, there remains the looming challenge of securing government funding in the weeks ahead. Differing viewpoints, particularly among rightwing lawmakers, could lead to further crises, emphasizing the need for a more bipartisan approach.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES

Sir — I am writing to express my deep concerns about the discrimination faced by Muslims and religious minorities in India. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's recent statement denying discrimination against minorities is contradicted by alarming statistics. Between 2014 and

2018, there was a shocking 786% increase in hate crimes against minorities. Ethnic violence has persisted for four months in Manipur against minorities, and attacks on Christians have quadrupled between 2011

Furthermore, instances of hate speech by BJP members and leaders, targeting Muslims, have been on the rise. Muslims have been lynched, houses demolished, and violence inflicted upon them merely due to their faith. The government's silence on these matters is deeply concerning. Propaganda films like "Kashmir Files" have further exacerbated tensions, and religious institutions like mosques and dargahs have been attacked.

The organized violence against Muslims since the current government came to power has created a climate of fear among ordinary Muslims in the country. Discriminatory laws and divisive rhetoric only worsen the situation. It is crucial that we acknowledge these issues and work towards a more inclusive and harmonious

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN TOLERANCE IS THE KEY TO PEACE

Tolerance can bring about lasting peace in the world



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

ost of us have come across many such situations in life wherein the question of Tolerance comes up and we are required to choose whether to tolerate or retaliate. If, for example, a person who has no control over his tongue or is uncultured, impolite, short-tempered and ill-mannered talks in an offensive or insulting language or behaves rudely and roughly with us, then what would we do?

Well! A cultured and spiritualised person, under such a situation, would choose to tolerate, because he knows very well that when tolerance is lost, temper is also lost and the loss of both means the loss of mental balance. Hence, in such a situation, one should not feel hurt, injured or mauled and should not think of revenge. Instead, one should pity such a person and give him vibrations of peace to recover from his temper. This kind of approach or attitude would enable one to remain calm, composed and dignified. Tolerance, in such provocative situations, is a Value that saves one's life. Tolerance, joined by humility, has great Value even as a matter of policy, strategy or tactic.

So, if one loses tolerance in such hot situations even for a moment, one may even lose one's life or face a still more complicated situation, fraught with grave consequences and unpredictable repercussions. Looking at it from this angle, one can say that tolerance is not only a high-class virtue and moral value but it is a non-violent strategy for self-defence and survival and also a weapon for victory. Remember! Our tolerance and Humility can melt or mellow the minds of our bitter critics and opponents while it enables us to be in a state of peace. It creates harmony in the course of time and even the most arrogant person, at some point in time, expresses appreciation of our amazing tolerance in the face of grave aggravation. Along with this, we should also learn to forget and forgive some lapses and shortcomings of others in the spirit of friendliness or brotherhood, or else we cannot have goodwill, amity co-operation and peace.



However, most people ask this question: how long should we allow our tormentor to continue with his cruel acts, his nefarious designs and his dirty ways? Should we tolerate injustice? If we do so, wouldn't it mean our silent consent to his acts of depriving those who deserve justice? Also, it would mean our connivance in his acts of punishing those who are not at fault. Isn't it a kind of self-imposed servitude, servility and slavery? The answer is that we must put forth our moral resistance. We must make our disapproval manifest through our non-cooperation in such acts. Better still, we must use our skill of persuasion at proper moments. We must make efforts to enable this man of blinded intellect to see the real nature of his act and the attendant evils and the following consequences.

We must have the spiritual power to change his heart, to transform him from being stone-hearted. We must try to give a healing touch to this mentally and morally sick person. We must pity him rather than lose our moral sense and react with a feeling of rancour and vengeance. That would be our tolerance. But the question that ultimately comes up is whether we have that spiritual power to transform a sinner into a saint. For that, we must check our stock of spirituality and fill ourselves with the power again through Yoga-Mediation as one would recharge one's battery with the help of a dynamo. With our high spiritual power, we can use tolerance as a tool of social transformation and can be God's instrument for uplifting a man, fallen from his seat of morality.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist;

views expressed are personal)

Timeless traditions: Thathera metal craft



Thathera metal craft has been on the UNESCO list for almost a decade now, but the struggle of the artisans making these utensils continues



espite the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage inscription of the thathera craft of Jndiala Guru since 2014, the financial and social condition of the craftsmen has not improved much. Recognising the cultural heritage worth of the 'thathera' metal craft in Jnadiala Guru, in its 9th session held in Paris in 2014, UNESCO 'Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage' decided to inscribe the craft on its list. This is the first metal craft from India to find a place in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Thus, not only Punjab but India should be proud of it. "But just the pride cannot feed the craftsmen and keep the craft vibrant", says a craftsman seeking anonymity.

S Hardev Singh of the 'father' community says, "The younger generation is opt ing out of this family profession because it neither earns money nor respect. Although Ayurveda recognises the advantages of eating in copper, bronze and brass utensils, the 'use and throw' cheaper alternatives are pushing it out of use". Instead of popular cosmetic measures, the government should take concrete steps of waiving taxes and continuing the old quota system of issuing scrap as the raw material directly and only to the working craftsmen to reduce the cost and prices of objects to face the competition. Further, it can help market the products as art pieces and utilitarian objects. The government can check the entry of middlemen who buy raw materials from the Indian Army on auction and then distribute them among the craftsmen to produce objects for them at low labour rates. "In the current practice, a craftsman has no claim of ownership of the product and after the day-long hard work earns only 500-600 a day", a craftsman quips. He asks, "Is this the value of skill or the wage of labour? How would my son like to pursue this profession"?



THE SCIENCE OF AYURVEDA IN INDIA **RECOGNISES** THE RELEVANCE OF THESE **METALS** FOR HEALTH

Recently, the Punjab government has declared the Thathera Bazar a Heritage street and built a gate at the street entry symbolising the value of the craft, but has neither waived off its share in GST nor taken any serious steps to help them improve their condition. The question is how the gate and the heritage street status would help if there were no craftsmen in the street.

The UNESCO recognition has, of course, created some hype in the media. Some agencies have succeeded in getting the study projects sanctioned adding to their profiles and justifying their jobs but have not advocated the case forcefully enough to deliver at the ground. Some art and craft dealers have tried to reap benefits by tagging the prod-ucts with UNESCO recognition to sell them at premium prices while the craftsmen continue to work as labourers at low rates.

This is where the shoe pinches and the government should step in to save the craft, the craftsmen and the cultural heritage of the state. The thathera craft is practised at several other places in India but the uniqueness of the craftsmen in Jandiala Guru is their continuance as a community to practice the family tradition of handmade copper and brass utensils. The ten to twelve-generation tradition of fathers in Jandiala Guru and their craft is a journey of place and people in and through time. The knowledge systems transmitted from generation to generation and the continued relevance of their products to the people make the craftsmanship a 'living tradition', fulfilling the three-tier criterion of people, place and time' to identify the craft as the Cultural Heritage.

According to the Amritsar District Gazetteer of 1883, "Besides the city [Amritsar]...the only trade centre worthy of notice is the town of Jandiala, which is known for its manufacture of brass and copper vessels in which it has a brisk export trade"(p.117). If so, the trade perfected worthy of export must have started during the days of Maharaja Ranjit Singh or before.

While the utensils are tangible objects, traditional knowledge, skills and art are intangible. Both the craft and its knowledge conventions have been recognized in the UNESCO inscription. The craftsmen of Jandiala Guru use the conventional knowledge and skills of forging' instead of casting' metal to shape it as a utensil. Using the method of forging, they hammer the metal plates with the help of a mallet. After heating the plates in a small hand-driven furnace, they consistently thump and beat a plate to make it malleable and ductile.

Then the parts of a utensil are made by cutting, heating and curving the metal sheet; then these parts are joined with each other. There are five methods for joining of metals: soldering, brazing, flux, riveting and welding. The fathers of Jandiala Guru use brazing and riveting. Brazing is a process of joining two or more metals by pouring a molten filler metal into the joint. The utensils made from the metal sheets are then cleaned with diluted acid and scrubbed with tamarind water and sand. The whole process of polishing is carried out with hands and feet. This final process brings out the

rich texture and colour of the metal. Finally, the utensils are ornamented with hand-engraved designs with patterns of delicate dents of small size and round shapes looking like small stars.

Utensils are art objects "produced not only for their use but also for their beauty possessing an artistic image which expresses their function". Thus the contribution of craftsmen to the development of culture and civilization, on the one hand, and to the fulfilment of utilitarian and aesthetic needs, on the other, has been great in human his-

Eating and cooking in the mud, copper, brass and bronze utensils is good for health and taste. The science of Ayurveda in India recog nizes the relevance of these metals for health. The references to Bronze for health healing can be found in several tracts like Ashtanga Samgraha/ Hridaya, Rajtarangini and Bhavprakasha. In contrast with glass, plastic and steel, bronze shows nil microbial presence one hour after being washed in hot water. Copper is said to kill harmful bacteria and viruses. It helps prevent cell damage and slow ageing due to its antioxidant and anti-carcinogenic properties.

As copper, which is well known as a biocide, is the major content in alloy metal of brasses, utensils made from brass have the beneficial effect of restricting the growth of microorganisms. While the craftsmen must be acknowledged as educated and skilled worthy of social respect and honour; their craft must be supported and promoted as our precious

Turning challenges of food insecurity into opportunity

(The writer is a retired

professor from Guru

Nanak Dev University,

Amritsar; views are

personal)

Food loss can impact food security and nutrition by influencing the four aspects of food security: food availability, access, utilisation, and stability

Pand environmental degradation are being aggravated by food loss and waste, globally. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that - in terms of economic value — 14 per cent of the world's food is lost from post-harvest up to, but not including, the retail level. In India, 4-6 % of cereal and 5-12 % of vegetables are being lost every year.

FAO on the fourth International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW), calls upon the need to adopt the Food Loss Index (FLI) methodology and monitor losses throughout the supply chain from production to consumption. In collaboration with FAO, IASRI-ICAR



TAKAYUKI **HAGIWARA**

(The writer is a country

head & representative of

FAO in India; views are per-

sonal)

has estimated the FLI for India. These estimates are based on the three nationallevel surveys conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to estimate the harvest and post-harvest losses of major crops and commodities in the country. India has been a torchbearer for the world as the only country that has established a robust system of regular surveys for monitoring food losses. These surveys conducted in India have provided the foundations for the development of the FLI methodology globally and for the technical support, FAO provides to countries across the world.

Food loss is a recurring issue due to several causes stemming from different stages of the food supply chain and

socio-economic factors. To address these issues and to ensure food security in the country, mitigating the challenges along the supply chain is critical. FAO works closely with the government and relevant bodies to identify these challenges and find solutions. Food Loss, a leading cause of Hunger, Food Insecurity and Climate Change. Food loss can impact food security and nutrition by influencing the four aspects of food security: food availability, access, utilization, and stability. As per FAO's report, India's food loss percentage stands at approximately 4.5% The highest levels of food

loss occur in nutrient-rich foods such as fruits and vegetables, meat and fish. It is also estimated that 8 to 10 % of global greenhouse gases are generated by the food that ends up in landfills. This results in unstable climate conditions thereby affecting crop yields, reducing the nutritional crop quality and supply chain disruptions. FOOD LOSS IN INDIA

Inadequate storage and transportation infrastructure coupled with post-harvest losses contribute to a substantial amount of food loss in the country. The fragmented and complex supply chain with multiple intermediaries involved further escalates the problem leading to food loss at almost every stage.

Food loss is a pervasive issue resulting in critical economic, social, and environmental implications in the country, limiting India's ability to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **WAY FORWARD**

FAO draws attention to the critical need to measure postharvest losses across the country. This approach aligns with achieving SDG 12, Target 12.3 which seeks to halve per-capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, and SDĞ 2 — Zero Hunger.

FAO firmly believes that it is crucial to identify the channels where significant losses occur. Disaggregation of data at subnational levels throughout the supply chain will help locate loss points and their impact. This, in turn, will support targeted intervention

and necessary aids. A critical requirement for effective decision-making is improved data, which can drive innovation. promote best practices, and optimize resource allocation.

Addressing India's food loss challenge requires a comprehensive and coordinated effort from various stakeholders, including the government, farmers, food processors, retailers, and consumers. Improvements in localised infrastructure, storage, transportation, processing, packaging, market linkages, and awareness campaigns to change consumer behaviour,

are critical. It is essential to identify the channels in harvest and postharvest operations in which substantial losses are taking place for further technological

interventions. Food loss is a global challenge. Countries must adopt the globally agreed methodology and measurement techniques for the computation of FLI which also provides a platform for global comparability and cross-learning opportunities. Reducing food loss will

help conserve resources and reduce the environmental footprint associated with food production and disposal. FAO firmly believes that India as the leader for the Global South can address this issue and demonstrate a way forward in reducing food loss that is essential to achieving efficient, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

At least 10 die after church | UK Treasury chief to hike min wage roof collapses in Mexico

The roof of a church collapsed in northern Mexico during Sunday Mass, killing at least 10 people and injuring around 60, authorities said assearchers phobed in the wreckage throughout the night and into Monday morning looking for survivors and more victims.

Approximately 30 parishioners were believed to have been trapped in the rubble when the roof caved in, officials

Searchers crawled under the roof slabs and officials brought in dogs to help search

The Tamaulipas state police said about 100 people were in the church at the time of the collapse. The state

spokesman's office said early Monday that 10 people had been confirmed dead from the

collapse, which it described as likely being caused by a structural failure" The office said 23 of the 60 injured remain hospitalized, with two in serious condition.

Tamaulipas state police said units of the National Guard, the state police and state civil defense office and the Red Cross were involved in the The Mexican Council of

Bishops issued a statement saying that "we join in prayer at the tragic loss of life and those injured." Bishop José Armando Alvarez of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tampico said the roof caved in while parishioners were receiving communion at the Santa Cruz church in the Gulf coast city of Ciudad Madero, next to the port city of

The diocese later posted a list of people who had been injured, including a 4-month-old baby, three 5-year-olds and hand including a 4-month-old baby, three 5-year-old baby, thr

The number of young vicpolice officers said three of the dead were children - may have been due to the fact that baptisms were to take place at the church.

"We lament the painful loss of people who were there celebrating the baptism of their children," Alvarez wrote. At the same time, there were signs of

"From underneath the rubble, thanks to Divine Providence and the work of the rescue teams, people have been pulled out alive!" Alvarez's diocese wrote in a statement posted on it social media accounts. "Let's keep praying!' He also called on anyone

who had wood to donate to bring it to the church, apparently to shore up the roof while rescue teams crawled

to be a concrete and brick structure, with parts of the roof fallen almost to the ground.

Security camera footage from about a block away showed the unusual, gabled roof simply collapsed down-

Walls did not appear to have been blown outward, nor was there any indication of an explosion, or anything other than simple structural failure.

The roof appeared to be made of relatively thin poured concrete, and photos distributed by state authorities showed the roof slab resting on the top of pews in some parts of the church. That left open the possibility there were air spaces for any survivors.

"At this time, the necessary work is being performed to extract the people who are still under the ruble," Alvarez said in a taped message. "Today we are living through a very difficult moment."

Tax cuts ruled out while inflation stays high

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Britain's Treasury chief announced a hike in the national minimum wage on Monday, as the governing Conservative Party tries to persuade voters it is on the side of those who are struggling finan-

But Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt ruled out tax cuts, saying they would fuel inflation. "I do want us to have lower taxes," Hunt told Sky News before his speech. But he said "it's very difficult to see" it happening this year.

That message was not what many Conservatives at the party's annual conference wanted to hear. Hundreds of them packed a room to applaud as former Prime Minister Liz Truss whose seven weeks in office plunged Britain's economy into crisis — demanded Hunt slash taxes in his fall budget next month. Hunt told the Conservatives' annual confer-

"Those who won't even look for work do not deserve the same benefits as people trying hard to do the right thing," he said. The party is trying to sprinkle voter-pleasing measures such as the pay increase at the conference, which may be the last before a national election due in 2024. But the government's spending power is constricted by the UK's sluggish economy and stub-bornly high inflation that hit double digits last year and now stands just below 7%. The rightof-centre Tories, in power since 2010, are lagging far behind the centre-left opposition Labour Party in opinion polls. Voters are weary after years of political turmoil over the UK's exit from the European Union, the coronavirus pandemic and a cost-ofliving crisis fuelled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who took office just under a year ago, is facing grumbling — and even open rebellion — from

some Conservative members

Sunak steadied the economy after his predecessor Truss crashed the pound and trashed Britain's reputation for fiscal prudence with her tax-slashing

economic plans. She left office after just 49 days.

Many Conservatives doubt whether Sunak — the party's fifth leader since 2016 — can restore its popularity to the level that saw the party win an 80-seat majority in the 650-seat House of Commons in 2019. The prime minister then, Boris Johnson, resigned in mid-2022 amid scandals over his ethics and judg-

In recent weeks, Sunak has sought to take the initiative with a clutch of measures depicted as easing the economic burden on taxpayers. He has delayed a ban on selling new gas and diesel cars and watered down other green measures that he said imposed "unacceptable costs" on ordinary

'At least 13 killed in Spain nightclub fire

Madrid (AP): A fire broke out in a nightclub in the southeastern Spanish city of Murcia on Sunday, killing 13 people and injuring several others, authorities said. The fire started around 6 a.m. in the popular Teatre nightclub and quickly tore through the venue, according to Spain's state news agency EFE. It was not immediately clear what caused the fire. A video shared by Murcia's fire service showed firefighters trying to control flames inside the nightclub. Police and emergency services worked to secure the interior of the club to avoid a possible collapse and were trying to locate and identify the bodies. Officials said the death toll could increase. The city council declared three days of mourning with flags flown at half-staff on public buildings throughout the region of

Fire at Egypt police HQ injures 38

out early Monday at a police facility in northeastern Egypt, injuring at least 38 people before firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze several hours later, authorities said. The cause of the fire, which ripped through the multistory police headquarters in the Suez Canal province of Ismailia, was not immediately

Interior Minister Mahoud Tawfiq, whose ministry oversees police forces, rushed to the site in the city of Ismailia, about 125 kilometres (77 miles) northeast of Cairo. He said a committee was set up to investigate the fire.

Hossam Abdel-Ghaffar, a spokesperson for the Health Ministry, said in a statement that 12 of the injured were treated at the site, while 26 others were taken to hospitals. All but two suffered from

Cairo (AP): A huge fire broke breathing difficulties; seven of the injured were treated and discharged, he said.

It was not immediately clear how many police were in the building at the time. Local media reported that the police building was severely damaged in the blaze.

Videos circulating on social media shows flames and black smoke pouring out of the The state-run MENA news

agency said firefighters managed to put out the fire after Safety standards and fire regulations are poorly enforced in Egypt and have been linked

to many deaths. In Áugust 2022, a fire at a packed Coptic Orthodox church during morning services in Cairo killed 41 worshippers in what was one of Egypt's deadliest fires in recent

Trump denounces civil fraud case as a

AP ■ NEW YORK

Former President Donald Trump denounced the civil fraud case over his business practices as a politically motivated "scam" as he arrived defiantly for a trial in the lawsuit, which could cost him control of Trump Tower and other prized properties.

"This is a continuation of the single greatest witch hunt of all time," he said as he made a voluntary trip to a New York court for a trial that has high stakes for him.

"It's a scam. It's a sham," the Republican said, reiterating claims that New York Attorney General Letitia James' suit is a politically motivated attempt to thwart his return to the White

"What we have here is an attempt to hurt me in an election," he charged, adding: "I don't think the people of this country are going to stand for it." He looked away from

James, a Democrat, as he passed her on the way into court, with a disgusted look on passed her on the way into court, with a disgusted look on his face.

The suit accuses Trump and his company of deceiving banks, insurers and others by habitually lying about his wealth in financial statements.

Judge Arthur Engoron already has ruled that Trump committed fraud in his business dealings. It is a non-jury trial, so Engoron will decide on six other claims in the lawsuit. James, a Democrat, is seek-

ing \$250 million in penalties

and a ban on Trump doing business in New York. The judge's ruling last week, if upheld on appeal, could force Trump to give up New York properties including

T r u m pTower, a W a l

the 2024 presidential race, has denied wrongdoing. He says that James and the judge are undervaluing such assets as Mar-a-Lago, and that it didn't matter what he put on his financial statements because they have a disclaimer that says they shouldn't be trusted.

ence that the hourly rate for

workers 23 or older will rise in

April from 10.42 pounds

(\$12.70) to at least 11 pounds

(\$13.40). The exact amount will

be set after a recommendation by

the Low Pay Commission, an

advisory body. Hunt said that

will mean a raise for more than

en the rules on social benefits in

an attempt to stem the flow of

working-age people out of the

workforce, a trend that has accel-

erated since the coronavirus

Hunt also pledged to tough-

2 million workers.

In posts overnight on his Truth Social site, he said he was going to court "to fight for my name and reputation,"

denounced the case as "A SHAM," and called on the attorney general and judge to resign. Before the

position that Trump for years engaged in "persistent and repeated fraud "No matter how powerful

Monday, James reiterated her

you are, and no matter how much money you think you have, no one is above the law," she said on her way into the courthouse. Trump isn't expected to

testify for several weeks. His

trip to court Monday marked

a remarkable departure from his past practice. Trump didn't go to court as either a witness or a spectator when his company and one of its top executives was convicted of tax fraud last year. He didn't show, either, for a trial earlier this year in which a jury found him liable for sexually assaulting the writer E Jean Carroll in a department store dressing room. In some ways, though, this new trial comes with higher stakes. James, a Democrat, is seeking \$250 million in penalties and a ban on doing

business in New York.

Engoron's ruling of last week, if upheld on appeal, would also shift control of some of his companies to a court-appointed receiver and could force him to give up prized New York properties such as Trump Tower, a Wall Street office building, golf courses and a suburban estate. Trump called it a "a corporate death penalty". In a post Sunday night on his Truth Social platform, Trump wrote that Engoron is "unfair, unhinged, and vicious in his PURSUIT of me."

Engoron will decide on six remaining claims in James' lawsuit, including allegations of conspiracy, falsifying business records and insurance fraud.

James' lawsuit accused Trump and his company of a long list of falsehoods in the financial statements he gave to banks. In a recent court filing, James' office alleged Trump exaggerated his wealth by as

Smoky haze on Indonesia's island prompting calls for work from home

AP ■ PALEMBANG (INDONESIA) Iriansyah, who like many fires since last week. Malaysia's

More than 300 forest and peatland fires on Indonesia's Sumatra island caused hazy skies across the region on Monday, prompting government officials to ask people to work from home. The military, police and local government were working together to extinguish the fires, which were burning in 316 places across South Sumatra province, but their work was complicated by the extreme dry weather, said Iriansyah, the head of the South Sumatra Disaster Management Agency.

The smoky haze drifted from the fires toward Palembang, the capital of South Palembang province, causing unhealthy air conditions for the area's 1.7 million people. "There is a high potential for people to suffer from respiratory tract infections, coughing, shortness of breath and eye irritation," said

The panel said the pair's

"groundbreaking findings ...

fundamentally changed our

understanding of how mRNA

interacts with our immune sys-

tem." Traditionally, making vac-

name. The government in South Sumatra last week called on schools to delay their opening time, as the haze tends to decrease during the day. But on Monday, the schools asked students to attend classes online, as the air quality had worsened and was categorised as "dangerous". "We are worried as the haze is getting worse in Palembang...Many children are sick and we can only pray that this disaster will pass quickly," Umi Kalsum, a private sector worker and mother, told The Associated Press on Monday.

Forest and peat fires are an annual problem in Indonesia that strains relations with neighboring countries. Smoke from the fires has blanketed parts of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and southern Thailand. Some parts of Malaysia said they experienced smoke from the Indonesian

chief Wan Abdul Latiff Wan Jaffar last week said the return of smog in some parts of the country was due to hundreds of forest fires in Indonesia. "Overall, air quality in the country has deteriorated," he said in a statement. "Forest fires that occur in the southern part of Sumatra and the central and southern parts of Kalimantan, Indonesia have caused haze to cross borders." But Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Indonesia's Environment and Forestry Minister, said in a statement on Monday there has been no transboundary haze from Indonesia to Malaysia. Satellite data from Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency shows that the haze in Indonesia was in several areas in Sumatra and Borneo islands. Wind direction in Indonesia is generally from southeast to northwest-northeast.

Nobel in medicine goes to two scientists

Karikó, Drew Weissman's work enabled creation of vaccines against COVID-19

Work starts on turning Adolf Hitler's birthplace into police station

Braunau am Inn (Austria): Work started Monday on turning the house in Austria where Adolf Hitler was born in 1889 into a police station, a project meant to make it unattractive as a site of pilgrimage for people who glorify the Nazi dicta-

The decision on the future of the building in Braunau am Inn, a town on Austria's border with Germany, was made in late 2019. Plans call for a police station, the district police headquarters and a security academy branch where police officers will get human rights training.

On Monday, workers put up fencing and started taking measurements for the construction work. The police are expected to occupy the premises in early 2026. A years-long back-and-forth over the ownership of the house preceded

lab-grown mRNA into the body

triggered an inflammatory reac-

tion that usually destroyed it.

Karikó, a professor at Szeged

the overhaul project. The question was resolved in 2017 when Austria's highest court ruled that the government was within its rights to expropriate the building after its owner refused to sell it. A suggestion it might be demolished was dropped.

The building had been rented by Austria's Interior Ministry since 1972 to prevent its misuse, and was sublet to various charitable organisations. It stood empty after a care centre for adults with disabilities moved out in 2011.

A memorial stone with the inscription "for freedom, democracy and liberty. Never again facism. Millions of dead remind us" is to remain in place outside the house.

The Austrian government argues that having the police, as the guardians of civil liberties, move in is the best use for the building.

'India will help maintaining sites connected to Gandhi in S Africa'

▼ndia will assist in maintain-Ling all sites connected to Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa, the Indian envoy here said on Monday as the world marked the 154th birth anniversary of the global peace

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, High Commissioner Prabhat Kumar paid floral homage to the bust of Gandhi at the Constitutional Court premises here, which was once a prison where the Mahatma and his followers served sentences during their resistance to discriminatory laws.

Gandhi served four terms of imprisonment between 1908 and 1913 here, including his very first sentence in South

The bust was unveiled in 2012 by then-President Pratibha Patil when she paid a visit to South Africa. "In all my postings abroad, I have always garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and now in South Africa, where I am doing so for the first time, it is very special, because Gandhiji was here for 21 years," Kumar said.

After the garlanding, Kumar visited permanent exhibitions at the venue dedicated to the lives of both Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, who served 27 years as a political prisoner of the apartheid government before becoming South Africa's first democratically-elected president in May 1994.

The diplomat said he is also looking forward to attending the installation of a seven-foot statue of Gandhi at Tolstov Farm, the once-thriving commune established by Ğandhi about 30 km south of Johannesburg during his tenure as a lawyer in the city.

After falling into complete disrepair due to vandalism, only the foundation of Gandhi's original zinc and wood home was left, surrounded by tall grass, until interventions by Gandhian activist Mohan Hira and the Mahatma Gandhi

CJ, Maha minister mark Gandhi Jayanti in London

London (PTI): The Chief birth anniversary, we remem-Justice of India, Justice ber Mahatma Gandhi for his Dhananjaya Yeshwant teachings, wisdom and com-Chandrachud, passion for humankind," said Maharashtra Minister for Justice Chadrachud in his address to the gathering. Cultural Affairs Sudhir Munganitwar were among the special guests at the annual

"Mahatma Gandhi is a name that is known to every-Gandhi Jayanti celebrations in London on Monday. The one in the world. A name which stands for the principle Indian diaspora gathering at the iconic Gandhi statue at of truth and non-violence. A name which calls for univer-Tavistock Square in London, assembled by the Indian High sal peace. A name which inspires hope that we shall make our world a better place Commission in London and India League, included floral than it was before," he said. tributes to the Mahatma and The Chief Justice described addresses reflective of his mes-Bapu, as he is lovingly known sage.Students of the Bharatiya in India, as a guiding light for Vidya Bhavan in London perall Indians in a spiritual sense.

formed a selection of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite bhajans, including 'Raghupati

prayer. "Today, on his 154th Remembrance Organisation

'Vaishnava Jan', as 🌑

community leaders

and parliamentarians gathered for the

sombre ceremony

which concluded

with a Buddhist

Raghav'

With support largely from the Indian government, Tolstoy Farm has now been restored to some extent with a fruit orchard, a Peace Garden with flowers and shrubs, and a library.

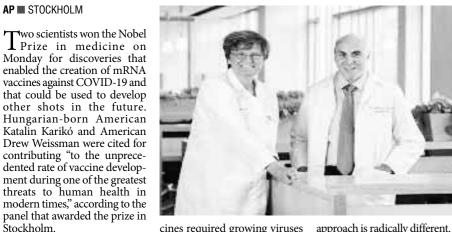
Hira arranged for an artisan from India to sculpt the latest statue at his residence here before moving it to Tolstoy Farm. Kumar pledged further support for Tolstoy Farm.

The support from India will continue...all the places connected with Mahatma Gandhi (in South Africa) will receive attention from the government of India," the envoy

sized image of the two leaders together, prepared for the exhibition although they had never met, Kumar reflected on the special relationship between Gandhi and the African National Congress (ANC) led by Mandela. "Gandhiji was here and the ANC got a lot of inspiration from Gandhiji and thereafter Nelson Mandela also always admired Gandhi and said a lot about him, so this exhibition is an inspiration for all of us, Indians and South Africans," he said.

Standing next to a wall-

The exhibitions are very popular among foreign tourists, who visit the site daily.



cines required growing viruses approach is radically different. It or pieces of viruses — often in giant vats of cells or, like most flu shots, in chicken eggs — and then purifying them before next

steps in brewing shots. The the messenger RNA

starts with a snippet of genetic code that carries instructions for making proteins. Pick the right virus protein to target, and the body turns into a mini vaccine factory. But simply injecting

University in Hungary and an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and Weissman, of the University of Pennsylvania, figured out a tiny modification to the building blocks of RNA that made it stealthy enough to slip past those immune defences. Karikó, 68, is the 13th woman to win the Nobel Prize in medicine. She was a senior vice president at BioNTech, which partnered with Pfizer to make one of the COVID-19 vaccines. She and Weissman, 64, who is a professor and director of the Penn Institute for RNA Innovations, met by chance in the 1990s while photocopying research papers, according to Penn Today, the

Dr. Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at Britain's University of East Anglia, described the mRNA vaccines as a "game changer" in helping to shut down the coronavirus pandemic, crediting the shots with

saving millions of lives.
"If it hadn't been for the mRNA technology, COVID would have been much worse," he said. "Vaccines generally were the turning point in slowing down COVID and the mRNA vaccines were just so much better than all the others," he said, noting that the main vaccine used in the UK, made by AstraZeneca, is barely in use anymore

."We would likely only now be coming out of the depths of COVID without the mRNA vaccines," Hunter said.

'Open hearing of Imran bail plea may affect ties with other countries'

 $P_{\text{agency Monday informed a}}^{\text{akistan's top investigation}}$ court here that an open hearing of former premier Imran Khan's bail plea in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets could pose a "risk of deteriorating relations" with other countries

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday filed a charge sheet in the Special Court established under the Official Secrets Act, declaring Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Khan and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi "principal accused" in the cipher case. Both Khan and Qureshi are currently detained in jail on judicial remand.

The FIA on Monday informed the Islamabad High Court (IHC) that an open hearing of Khan's bail plea in the cipher case could pose a "risk of deteriorating relations with other countries," Dawn newspaper reported.

The post-arrest bail pleas of Khan and Qureshi were rejected by the special court earlier, following which the former premier approached the IHC seeking the same.

Khan, 70, was arrested in August after the case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington last year in March.

mer foreign minister, was arrested under the Official Secrets Act for violating the secrecy of the official cable sent by the Pakistani embassy in the US to the foreign office when he was the foreign minister.

On September 26, the judicial remand of Khan and Qureshi was extended till October 10 and as per the IHC's orders, the PTI chairman was shifted to Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail from the Attock dis-

Last week, the FIA filed a petition in the IHC seeking incamera proceedings of Khan's

bail plea in the case.
On Monday, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq took up the FIA's plea.

"We also have to present statements regarding other countries before the court. By bringing such statements before an open court, there is a risk of deteriorating relations with other countries," prosecutor Shah Khawar said during

Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Dogal also presented the code of conduct for diplomatic state documents before the IHC.

Khan's lawyer Salman Safdar pointed out that the FIA's request, which was meant to prevent matters from being made public, contradicted its stance that the PTI chief had already "made the cipher public".



Subsequently, the IHC reserved its verdict on the FIA's plea seeking in-camera proceedings of Khan's bail plea.

Separately, a two-member bench of the IHC on Monday accepted a set of petitions filed by Khan's party against trial courts' decisions to dismiss his bail in nine cases.

Last month, local courts of Islamabad had rejected nine petitions of the PTÍ chief seeking bail in first information reports (FIRs) registered against him over violent

Meanwhile, a special court on Monday summoned Khan and Qureshi on October 4 in the cipher case.

Special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulgarnain issued notices to respondents saying that statements of witnesses are sufficient to summon the accused in the court, Geo News reported. The judge directed the superintendent of Adiala

jail to present the PTI leaders before the court on October 4.

Khan and Qureshi have been placed in column 3 in the charge sheet which describes the names and addresses of the accused sent for trial.

The FIA invoked in the charge sheet sections 5 and 9 of the Official Secrets Act which may lead to a death sentence. or two to 14 years' imprisonment if proven.

The cricketer-turnedpolitician is charged with the violation of the Official Secrets Act in connection with the leakage of a confidential diplomatic cable from Pakistan's embassy in Washington.

In March last year, ahead of the vote of no-confidence that resulted in his ouster, Khan pulled out a piece of paper allegedly the cipher - from his pocket and waved it at a public rally in Islamabad, claiming it was the evidence of an "international conspiracy" being hatched to topple his government. However, during the interrogation with the joint investigation team (JIT) in the jail on August 26, Khan denied that the paper he waved at a public gathering last year was the cipher. He also admitted to losing the cipher, saying he couldn't recall where he kept it.

His principal secretary Azam Khan stated before a magistrate and the FIA that the Khan used it for his 'political gains' and to avert a vote of noconfidence against him.

tycoon, son among six killed in Zim plane crash

Johannesburg (PTI): An Indian billionaire and his son were among the six individuals killed when their private plane crashed near a diamond mine in southwestern Zimbabwe after experiencing a technical fault, according to media reports.

Harpal Randhawa, the owner of RioZim, a diversified mining company producing gold and coal as well as refining nickel and copper, along with his son and four others was killed when the plane crashed in the Zvamahande area of Mashava, iHarare, a news and media website in Zimbabwe, reported.

The Cessna 206 aircraft, owned by RioZim, was en route from Harare to the Murowa diamond mine when the tragic incident occurred on Friday. The single-engined aircraft crashed near the Murowa Diamonds mine, which is partly owned by RioZim. mThe plane experienced a technical fault, possibly resulting in a mid-air explosion, before plummeting into Peter Farm in the Zvamahande region.

All passengers and crew onboard lost their lives in this accident, the report said.

The Herald, a state-owned

daily newspaper, quoted police as saying four of the victims were foreigners and the other two Zimbabweans. "The Zimbabwe Republic

Police reports a plane crash which occurred on September 29 between 7.30 am and 8 am, where six people are confirmed dead," police said. "The Murowa Diamond

Company (RioZim)-owned white and red Zcam aircraft had left Harare for the mine at 6 am and crashed about 6km from Mashava.'

RioZim confirmed the crash and said it was working with relevant authorities to gather more information.

Names of the deceased are yet to be released by police but journalist and filmmaker Hopewell Chinono, who was a friend of Randhawa, confirmed his death. "I am deeply saddened by the passing of Harpal Randhawa, the owner of RioZim who died today in a plane crash in Zvishavane. Five other people including his son, who was also a pilot but a passenger on this flight, also died in the crash," wrote Chinono on X.

"My thoughts are with his wife, family, friends and the RioZim community."

Indian mining Turkiye strikes suspected Kurdish militant targets in northern Iraq

The Turkish defence ministry says its warplanes have carried out raids on suspected Kurdish rebel targets in northern Iraq on Sunday following a suicide attack on a government building in the Turkish capital.

A ministry statement said some 20 targets of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) were "destroyed" in the aerial operation, including caves, shelters, and depots.

Earlier, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device near an entrance of the Ministry of Interior Affairs, injuring two police officers. A second assailant was killed in a shootout with police on Sunday, the interior minister said. A news agency close to the PKK said the group has claimed responsibility for the

The attack happened hours before Turkiye's Parliament was set to reopen after its threemonth summer recess with an address by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Two police officers were

slightly wounded in the bombing near an entrance to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on X. Assailants who arrived at the scene inside a light commercial vehicle carried out the attack.

cers, through their intuition, resisted the terrorists as soon as they got out of the vehicle," Yerlikaya later told reporters. "One of them blew himself up, while the other one was shot in the head before he had a chance to blow himself up."

"Our fight against terrorism, their collaborators, the (drug) dealers, gangs, and organised crime organisations will continue with determination," he said.

The interior minister did not say who was behind the attack. However, ANF News, a news agency close to the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, reported on Sunday night that the group had claimed responsibility for Leftist extremists and the

Islamic State group have also carried out deadly attacks throughout Turkiye in the past. Erdogan gave his speech in

Parliament as planned and called the attack "the last stand of terrorism." "The scoundrels who targeted the peace and security of the citizens could not achieve their goals and they never will," he said. The president reiterated

his government's aim to create a 30-km safe zone along Turkive's border with Syria to secure its southern border from

Turkiye has launched sev-

Syria since 2016 to drive away the Islamic State group and a Kurdish militia group, known by the initials YPG, and controls swaths of territory in the

Turkiye views the YPG as an extension of the PKK, which is listed as a terror group by Turkiye, the United States, and the European Union. The PKK has waged an insurgency against Turkiye since 1984. Tens of thousands of people have died in the conflict.

Last year, a bomb blast in bustling pedestrian street in Istanbul left six people dead, including two children. More than 80 others were wounded. Turkiye blamed the attack on the PKK and the YPG.

The State-run Anadolu Agency reported that the two attackers on Sunday had seized the vehicle in the central province of Kayseri from a veterinarian. The pro-government daily Sabah reported that they shot the man in the head and threw his body into a ditch by the side of the road. They then drove the vehicle to Ankara,

roughly 300 km away.
Security camera footage
on Sunday showed the vehicle stopping in front of the ministry, with a man exiting it and rushing toward the entrance of the building before blowing himself up. A second man is seen following him.

Pak court gives police one week to recover Imran's key ally Sheikh Rashid

Islamabad (PTI): A Pakistani court on Monday ordered the police to recover within a week Awami Muslim League chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid, a key ally of former premier Imran Khan, after his lawyer claimed that the politician had been arrested. Rashid, 72, was detained

by "plain clothes men" from his residence in Bahria Town of Rawalpindi on September 17 and shifted to an undisclosed location, his lawyer Sardar Abdul Raziq Khan had said. Rashid's nephew Sheikh

Shakir and houseworker Sheikh Imran had also been arrested and taken to an "undisclosed location", according to the lawyer. Later, police submitted City

Police Officer (CPO) Khalid Hamdani's report to the court,

which stated that Rashid was neither in their custody nor was he arrested by the Rawalpindi police. Last week, Rashid's lawyer told the court that his client was arrested by the Rawalpindi police. However, police denied having the politician in their custody. The court then directed the

police to locate Rashid's whereabouts and asked the law enforcement agency to make an all-out effort for his recovery.

On Monday, Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan of the Lahore High Court's (LHC) Rawalpindi bench resumed the proceedings over the plea against the former interior minister's arrest. The court ordered the police to recover the AML chief within a week and present him before the court, Dawn newspaper reported.

Pakistan launches anti-polio vaccine drive targeting 44M children amid tight security

launched its second nationwide anti-polio campaign of the year Monday in an effort to inoculate 44 million children under the age of 5 amid signs the country was close to eradicating the disease. Caretaker Prime Minister

Anwaarul-Haq-Kakar launched the five-day vaccination campaign in the capital, Islamabad, and urged parents in a televised address to cooperate with the 350,000 health workers who are going doorto-door to administer vaccine drops to children.

The campaign was taking place under heavy security. The government deployed police and security forces to ensure the safety of the inoculation drive workers.

police assigned to protect them have been attacked during past anti-polio campaigns, which militants falsely claimed were a Western conspiracy to sterilise children. Pakistan has registered two new polio cases since January, a blow to the goal of eradicating a disease that affects the nervous system and can cause severe paralysis

in children. Pakistan and neighbour-ing Afghanistan are the only two countries in the world where polio continues to threaten the health and wellbeing of children.

Pakistan came close to eradicating polio in 2021, when only one case was reported, and last year reported about two dozen cases.



'Private sector desperate to take migrants despite negative narrative'

AP ■ GENEVA

The new head of the UN's **■** migration agency said on Monday that the private sector is "desperate" for their countries to take in migrants to mop up labour shortages, especially in the West endeavouring to steer a narrative away from reticence and suspicion about migrants in many parts of the world.

Amy Pope, the first woman to head the International Organisation for Migration, sought to play up the economic benefits of migration for rich nations with aging populations and declining workforces — in the face of "build-the-wall" rhetoric in the United States to block migrants from Latin America and right-wing movements in Europe that want to keep foreigners out.

vate sector globally, but especially in Europe and in North America, that they are desperate for migration in order to meet their own labour market needs and in order to continue to fuel innovation within their own companies," Pope, who is American, told reporters.

She said the evidence was "fairly overwhelming" that migration benefits economies by filling jobs, powering innovation or "fuelling the renovation or revitalisation of aging communities.

"Migration, on the whole, is a benefit. That's not to say that the rhetoric around migration reflects the fact that it is a tremendous bene-

Governments who open up to migration often do so at their political peril: The Biden administration - which



strongly supported Pope's candidacy - recently gave work permits to nearly 500,000 Venezuelans, whose home country has been in economic and political turmoil in recent years to help get them to work, pay taxes and stop being a burden on public

But critics insist such policies are likely to encourage migrants to flock to the United States, and say they take manual and blue-collar jobs and put downward pressure on wages.

Pope insisted that countries must ensure legal and proper "pathways" to migration, a longstanding call by UN institutions.

The difference today is that 30 of the biggest economies have experienced very significant labour shortages — and we are seeing it everywhere," she said, adding that agriculture, construction, health care and hospitality were among the sectors

Pope said her first trip abroad in the job will be to East Africa, where drought

and the impacts of climate change have driven many to

African migrants stay in Africa, and said her job was "not to focus just on south-tonorth migration, which I know occupies a lot of the political space and a lot of the print space."

She pointed to shrinking humanitarian aid budgets, the need to draw in the private sector into the "conversation" to support migration, and signs that migration is set to continue to grow.

"Whether it's climate change, whether it's conflict, whether it's the inability to find a job or a future at home, or violence within neighbourhoods or communities, more and more people are looking to find a better life somewhere else in the world," she said of a message gleaned from her talks last week with migration experts in Asia.

Pope officially took over Sunday from Antonio Vitorino of Portugal, her former boss, whom she outlasted in a US-vs.-European Union showdown earlier this year. The Geneva-based agency has only had two non-American directors-general since its founding in 1951, and today it brings together 175 member countries and more She said 80 per cent of than 20,000 staff.

European diplomats meet in Kyiv to support Ukraine

Some of Europe's top diplomats gathered Monday in Kyiv in a display of support for Úkraine's fight against Russia's invasion as signs emerge of political strain in Europe and the United States over the 19month-old war.

European Union foreign ministers converged on the Ukrainian capital for an unannounced informal meeting that officials said would review the bloc's support for Ukraine and discuss Ükrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's proposed peace formula. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the foreign ministers' first joint meeting outside EU borders signalled that the 27nation bloc's support is "unwavering," and underscored the EU's commitment to Ukraine.

The United States, the EU and the United Kingdom have

provided massive military and financial support to Ukraine, enabling it to stand up to the Kremlin's attack. The assistance is crucial for Ukraine's weakened economy and has so far been open-ended.

But uncertainty has set in over how long Kyiv's allies will keep sending it aid worth billions of dollars (euros).

US President Joe Biden on Sunday reassured allies of continued US financial support for the war effort, after Congress averted a government shutdown by adopting a shortterm funding package that dropped assistance for Ukraine

in its battle against Russia.

Many US lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war grinds on. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told reporters that Ukraine held discussions

with representatives of both parties in the US Congress to ensure more help will arrive. The decision was taken as it was, but we are now working with both sides of the Congress to make sure that it does not repeat again under any circumstances," Kuleba said. "The question is whether what happens in the US Congress last weekend is an incident or a system. I think it was an incident,"

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday he didn't doubt that Washington will continue to be directly involved in the conflict" At the same time, Russian

he added.

President Vladimir Putin is wagering that international support for Kyiv will sooner or later begin to flag, and Peskov said the fatigue will eventually bring "fragmentation" of Jkraine's foreign assistance.
The largely symbolic EU

meeting in Kyiv took place after the weekend election victory in EU member Slovakia of Robert Fico, whose pro-Russian agenda has increased the question marks about the EU's continued support for Kyiv.

The small eastern European country could bring more tension to the EU's discussions on Ukraine, as has happened with Hungary's attimes cool attitude toward Kyiv.

Budapest has maintained close relations with Moscow and argued against supplying arms to Ukraine or providing it with economic assistance. Slovakia operates a key rail line used to transport western mil-

itary hardware to Ukraine. Peskov, the Kremlin pokesman, didn't comment directly on what Moscow expects from the new Slovak government, saying that a governing coalition is yet to be formed there. The foreign min-

were not at the Kyiv gathering. However, it is not unusual for diplomats to skip such informal meetings.

Four of the 27 countries sent high-ranking officials instead of their diplomacy chiefs, EU officials said. Even so, French Foreign

Minister Catherine Colonna described the gathering as "an exceptional diplomatic gesture" that "shows Ukraine is part of our European family." Danish Foreign Minister

Lars Løkke Rasmussen said Europe must be ready to provide further help "for many good reasons."

"First of all, in order to sup-

port Ukraine, but also to send a strong trans-Atlantic signal that what's going on on our own soil is something we have to take on a great responsibility for," Løkke Rasmussen

China's next lunar mission to carry payload from Pakistan

PTI ■ BEIJING

hina's next lunar mission scheduled for 2024 will also carry a payload from Pakistan, the country's space agency has said, as the two allweather friends step up their cooperation in the space sector.

The Change-6 lunar mission is currently undergoing research and development work as planned, state-run news agency Xinhua reported on Friday quoting China National Space Administration (CNSA). The Change-6 mission, with the launch scheduled for around 2024, is tasked with bringing back samples from the far side of the moon. To date,

all 10 lunar sampling missions conducted by humans have taken place on the near side of the moon, The Global Times newspaper reported. The far side is generally

older and contains the Aitken Basin, one of the three major lunar landforms, making it of significant scientific value, the report said, quoting CNSA.

The Chang'e-6 mission aims at landing the South Poleand ages.

Aitken Basin on the far side to explore and collect lunar samples from different regions To promote international cooperation, the Change-6

mission will carry payloads

and satellite projects from dif-

ferent countries and regions France's DORN radon detection instrument, the European Space Agency's negative ion detector, Italy's laser retroreflector, and Pakistan's CubeSat, the CNSA said.

A CubeSat is a miniaturised satellite from Pakistan. Earlier this year, Pakistan also sent seeds to the Chinese space station, Tiangong, for research into environmentally tolerant seeds. Similarly, Pakistan is exploring the possibility of a formal agreement to join both the Tiangong space station, as well as the more ambitious China-led base on the lunar South Pole, the Dawn newspa-

per reported last month.

Work starts on turning Adolf Hitler's birthplace in Austria into police station

Braunau am Inn (Austria): Work started Monday on turning the house in Austria where Adolf Hitler was born in 1889 into a police station, a project meant to make it unattractive as a site of pilgrimage for people who glorify the Nazi dictator. The decision on the future of the building in Braunau am Inn, a town on Austria's border with Germany, was made in late 2019. Plans call for a police station, the district police headquarters and a security academy branch where police officers will get human rights training. On Monday, workers put up fencing and started taking measurements for the construction work. The police

are expected to occupy the premises in early 2026.

A years-long back-andforth over the ownership of the house preceded the overhaul project. The question was resolved in 2017 when Austria's highest court ruled that the government was within its rights to expropriate the building after its owner refused to sell it. A suggestion it might be demolished was dropped.

The building had been rented by Austria's Interior Ministry since 1972 to prevent its misuse, and was sublet to various charitable organisations. It stood empty after a care centre for adults with disabilities moved out in 2011. AP

India to clock 6.5% GROWTH in FY24: Rajiv Kumar

¬he Indian economy will grow at around 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal as the country's macroeconomic situation is benefiting from the reforms that have been taken up in the last nine years by the Narendra Modi-led government, former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Monday

Kumar further said that India needs and can grow at 8 per cent-plus as that level of economic growth is required to meet aspirations of the country's young population and to generate sufficient jobs for its workforce. "My growth projection (of

24) is 6.5 per cent. "And I think we can easily maintain this (growth) over the next few years," he told PTI in an inter-

India's GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7.2 per cent, lower than 9.1 per cent in 2021-22. According to Reserve Bank

of India's projections, India's GDP is likely to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Kumar further said, "Macroeconomic situation India is benefiting from the reforms that have been implemented in the last nine years. Therefore, both the external macroeconomic balance as well as the domestic ones are in good

rent account deficit is manageable, the country's foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover about 11 months of imports and the foreign direct investment flows are continuing.

On the domestic side, Kumar said inflation is beginning to come down to the target levels and the government tax revenues have shown a good 16 per cent increase over last year. "So, this will take care of the fiscal situation and lead to fiscal consolidation. As a result of this improvement, the rating agencies have improved their ratings and JP Morgan has included India in its international bond



According to Kumar, the only weakness that he sees is that the private corporate investment is not yet responding in the manner that "we would expect, but that also is beginning to improve as demonstrated by

the increase in bank credit growth over the last six months". Expressing concern over

decline of India's exports between April and August by about 11 per cent compared to the same period last year, he said, tion which is that India's export performance is strongly correlated with the global trade perfor-

Kumar pointed out that as the global trade has weakened, India's exports performance has also weakened given the weak demand in Europe, the US and other developed economies.

"We have to change this. We must do whatever we can to ensure that our exports have a greater share of world marets," he said.

On some US-based economists' claim that India is overstating economic growth, Kumar said that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme

take a firm position and give enough reasons as to why they are using the wholesale price index (WPI) deflator and not the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as GDP deflator.

"And that needs to be firm-ly established once and for all," Kumar emphasised.

Meanwhile, India's real GDP growth was 7.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis in Q1 FY24 as per the Income or Production Approach.

Recently, former chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian, in an article, argued that India's GDP is not measured from the expenditure side and measured only from the income GDP growth. Last month, chief econom-

ic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran rejected criticism of "statistical discrepancy" in the first quarter GDP data, saying when the same statistical authority reported the severest contraction in the first quarter of 2020, the navsavers had called it credible as it suited their narrative.

The article by Nageshwaran was written in light of debates over India's economic performance and economist Ashoka Mody, a Princeton University professor, raising concerns regarding the country's GDP growth rate for the first quarter of the financial year 2023-24.

Lava eyes 10% smartphone market share in 2 years with investment of ₹600 crore in R&D, marketing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Home-grown mobile devices maker Lava International expects to capture 10 per cent market share in under Rs 30,000-priced smartphone seg ment on account of up to Rs 600 crore investment in product development and marketing in the next two years, a senior company official said.

Lava International President Sunil Raina told PTI that at a time when several Indian mobile phone companies succumbed to the pressure of aggressive pricing of foreign players around 2016-17 coupled with challenges posed by demonetisation and GST imple mentation, Lava focussed on its core strength and re-worked on the growth strategy.

The company relaunched its smartphone business with a small pause with focus on customer experience around devices and providing repair ser vice at home, Raina said.

He said that the company has realised that technology has to be competitive for growth

along with visibility.
"With branding and product development, we will invest Rs 500-600 crore in the next two years with a large part of it will go in product development, Raina said.



He said that the company has decided not to load smartphones with bloatware — which are pre-loaded apps on mobile

phones.
"We have decided we will not put out any bloatware in the phone. We have taken some hit on what could have been earned from bloatware only because we don't want to compromise on consumer experience. I also believe that bloatware is going to be short-lived because consumers don't like it and what consumers don't like doesn't last

long," Raina said. He said that consumers are very unhappy about bloatware because they get irritated with unwanted advertisements, unwanted notifications and bloatware makes devices slow and very vulnerable to security

Raina said most of the brands are not providing software updates on the devices that

"In the last 2-3 years, we have not missed any single update," he said.

patch security loopholes and

mprove performances of the

Raina said that the company has over 800 service centres but still decided to come up with 'service at home" where the company sends engineers to the home of consumers for

"In Agni 2, we have gone a step ahead and started giving replacement at home if their is any hardware fault," he said.

While the India smartphone market has recorded continuous decline in shipment since April 2022, Raina said that with new strategy Lava's smartphone busi-

ness grew over 200 per cent last year and this year it is growing at the rate of 300 per cent.

"We expect to grow by 100 per cent on average in the next 2-3 years. Our plan is to get 10 per cent market share in sub-Rs 30,000 price range smartphones. Right now we have around 2 per cent share," he said.

Lava president said that the company will leverage its retail channel strength as well as boost online growth to meet the tar-

The company at present sells products through 1.2 lakh retail stores which largely include feature phones only. Lava claims to have 25 per

cent share in the feature phone "We will fully leverage our offline strength. As of now we sell our product through 1.2 lakh retailers. Smartphones are not present in the entire 100 per cent of that universe. We will look at

taking smartphones to most of

the outlets and strong presence

across all geographies in the country," Raina said. Lava also plans to strength en online business to meet its target. "Online earlier used to account for 10 per cent of our total sales. Now online contributes 25 per cent of our total which we will grow further,'

Remarkable 5G adoption drives India's global speed ranking 72 places higher, says Ookla

The mobile download speeds in India have seen significant boost with launch of 5G services, and the country has climbed 72 places higher to clinch 47th spot in Speedtest Global Index, according to Ookla.

This puts India not only ahead of its neighbours like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, but also some G20 countries, such as Mexico (90th), Turkey (68th), the UK (62nd), Japan (58th), Brazil (50th place), and South Africa (48th place).

India's speed performance has seen a 3.59 times increase



with median download speeds improving to 50.21 Mbps in August 2023, from 13.87 Mbps September 2022.

"This improvement has led to India's rise in the Speedtest

Global Index, moving up 72 places, from 119th place to the 47th position," it said.

The 5G deployments have led to an improved overall user experience across all telecom circles with operators investing in

backhaul infrastructure.

The launch of 5G technology by operators like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel has led to a substantial increase in 5G subscribers, and operators still have ambitious roll-out plans, with the deployment of a significant number of 5G base stations across the country.

In fact, 5G has not only

prought faster speeds but also higher customer satisfaction, as indicated by the Net Promoter Score (NPS), which shows that 5G users in India consistently rate their network operators more positively compared to 4G

Sebi extends deadline to confirm or deny market rumours

PTI NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has extended the deadline for mandatory confirmation or denial of market rumours by listed companies

The deadline has been extended for the top 100 listed companies by market capitalisation to February 1, 2024, from October 1 this year at present, according to the latest circular by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Similarly, for the top 250 list-

ed entities, the rule will kick in on August 1, 2024, from the current requirement of April 1, The rule is aimed at

strengthening the corporate governance of listed entities. "It has been decided to

extend the effective date of implementation of...The LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) rules for top 100 listed companies by market capitalisation to February 1, 2024, and for top 250 listed companies by market



capitalisation to August 1, 2024,

Earlier in June, Sebi notified rules asking these listed companies by market capitalisation to confirm, deny, or clarify any market rumour reported in the mainstream media. As per the disclosure

requirements, these companies will have to "confirm, deny or clarify any reported event or information in the mainstream media, which is not general in nature and which indicates that rumours of an impending specific material event" are circulating amongst the investing public within 24 hours from the reporting of the information.



WhatsApp bans 74 lakh accounts in August

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Meta-owned WhatsApp banned 74 lakh accounts in August, keeping in line with IT rules, according to the latest India monthly report by the

messaging platform.
Of these, 35 lakh accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users.

The 'user-safety report' con-

tains details of user complaints

received and the corresponding action taken by WhatsApp, as well as WhatsApp's own preventive actions to combat abuse on the platform. "Between August 1 and August 31, a total of 7,420,748 WhatsApp accounts were banned. 3,506,905 of these accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users," it said.

An Indian account is identified via a +91 phone number.

Google with HP partnership start producing Cromebooks in India PTI ■ NEW DELHI

oogle in partnership with ing Chromebooks in India, the PC maker said on Monday.

The Chromebook devices

are being manufactured at the Flex Facility near Chennai, where HP has been producing a range of laptops and desktops since August 2020. "We're partnering with HP to manufacture Chromebooks

in India - These are the first Chromebooks to be made in India and will make it easier for Indian students to have access to affordable and secure computing," Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Monday said in a post on X.

An HP spokesperson confirmed that the production of Chromebooks has started in

New Chromebooks are available online from a price range starting at Rs 15,990

HP is one of the applicants under the government's Rs 17,000 crore production-linked incentive scheme for IT hard-

Chromebooks come at a



lower price compared to notebooks with proprietary operating system

A joint statement of Google and HP said Chromebooks are leading devices in K-12 education, helping over 50 million students and teachers across the

The local production of Chromebooks expands HP's India-made PC portfolio.

HP has been expanding its manufacturing operations in

as interest rates were coming down.

However with complete change in situ-

India since 2020, and from December 2021, started manufacturing a wide range of laptops in India, including HP EliteBooks, HP ProBooks, and HP G8 series notebooks.

It has also expanded its portfolio of locally manufactured commercial desktops by adding various models of desk-top mini towers (MT), mini desktops (DM), small form factor (SFF) desktops, and a range of All-in-One PCs.



Power consumption grows 10.7% to 140.49 billion units in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's power consumption grew 10.7 per cent to 140.49 billion units in September mainly due to increased use of cooling appliances amid unusually humid

weather conditions. In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 126.91 Billion Units (BU), higher than 112.43 billion units in September 2021, according to government data.

The peak power demand met — the highest supply in a day — rose to 239.97 GW in September. The peak power supply stood at 199.50 GW in September 2022 and 180.73 GW in September 2021.

The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer. The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal

The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1 GW in June and before dropping to 209.03 GW in July. Peak demand touched 238.19 GW in August.

Spokesperson of the Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd, which supplies electricity to 70 lakh people in Delhi, told PTI that the demand has remained higher mainly due to unusually higher temperature levels this

The spokesperson said in the coming months, demand is expected to remain on the higher side due to festivities.

In September, the Tata Power Delhi Distribution's power consumption was esti-mated at 1,110 MUs (million units), compared to 1,035 MUs in a year ago.

Shriram General to diversify: Official

Chriram General Insurance product portfolio by focusing more on the non-motor segments like marine, fire, during the current financial year, a top official said.

Motor insurance has been the core of the business for the Jaipur-based firm accounting to about 92 per cent, company Chief Underwriting Officer Shashi Kant Dahuja

As part of the diversification plan, the company would launch new insurance products under the fire, marine, engineering segments, he said.

"The idea is to double our non-motor business to around 15 per cent in two to three years from the current 7-8 per cent, Dahuja told PTI in an interac-

The non-motor business was growing at 70 per cent, he

To strengthen its presence in the non-motor business, he said the company would launch products in cyber insurance, pay as you drive, theft and pet insurance, soon.

"As a business strategy we don't want to be excessively dependent on one vertical and we also want to diversify our products slowly and increase our non-motor portfolio to 15 per cent over the next 2-3 years," he said responding to a query.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2023, Shriram General Insurance reported a profit of Rs 98 crore, up by 37 per cent over the corresponding quarter of last

The Gross Written Premium during the quarter under review was at Rs 560 crore, up by 39 per cent from Rs 401 crore registered in the same period of last year.

On the overall business growth targeted, he said the company has set a plan of growing 30 per cent during the current financial year.

"This year, we will grow the overall business by 30 per cent. The general insurance industry grew by 12 per cent between April and August this year, but our growth has been strong and



we hope the momentum continues for the remaining months, he said.

On the surge in electric vehicles in the domestic market, he said the sales of EV insurance policies were growing faster and the company issued policies worth Rs 82 crore during last financial year.

"EV is a good business for

us. Last year, we wrote policies worth Rs 82 crore, while we have achieved that mark in the first six months of the current financial year, we expect Rs 200 crore in this segment, by the end of this fiscal," he said. Dahuja said the company

was also expanding its employ-ee base with plans to add 700 people during the current financial year.

The growth in business will be driven by aggressive recruitment of employees and agents. We have 3,780 employees now and will recruit another 700 in the current fiscal," he explained.

"Similarly, we have nearly 63,000 agents and that will increase to 1.50 lakh over the next couple of years," he said. On the medical policy seg-

ment, he said the company would grow this segment as it was witnessing traction in the market in the 'Benefit-based health insurance' category. "Shriram General İnsurance

will also grow its medical policy segment. Insurers offer two types of products - indemnity based and benefit-based policy. The most commonly known health insurance is the indemnity-based health insurance which is popularly known as Mediclaim," he said.

Exporters seek Government intervention for affordable credit to MSMEs, seek ECLGS extension PTI ■ NEW DELHI ation, there is an urgent need to restore interest equalisation benefit of 5 per

Exporters have sought the central government's intervention in providing affordable and easy availability of credit to MSMEs amid global headwinds due to lack of liquidity. In a letter to Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman, apex exporters' body Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) requested for the extension of Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till March 31, 2024 and restoration of interest subsidy benefit of 5 per cent to manufactur-It said some of the MSME sectors are

affected due to a dip in exports on account of a global demand slowdown. FIEO has urged extending the ECLGS "till March 31, 2024" as it will help micro, small and medium enterpris-

es sail through this difficult time and



MSMEs are getting credit at not less than

MSMEs account for about 40 per cent in the country's total exports.
India's exports declined 6.86 per cent to USD 34.48 billion in August, for the

cent," it added.

global demand.

seventh month in a row, due to a fall in shipments from key sectors like petro-leum and gems and jewellery on subdued

The trade deficit (difference between

imports and exports) during the month touched a 10-month high of USD 24.16 Cumulatively, exports during April-August this fiscal contracted 11.9 per cent to USD 172.95 billion. India's exports

contracted 15.88 per cent in July.

Exports sectors, which recorded gative growth in August, include tea, coffee, rice, spices, leather, gems and jewellery, textiles, and petroleum products.

Kohli skips optional practice session due to personal reasons

PTI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

ndia's star batter Virat Kohli didn't join the team's option-Lal practice session here due to personal reasons but is expected to link up with the squad before the second warmup game against The Netherlands here on Tuesday.

Kohli had left for Mumbai from Guwahati for some emergency personal reasons on September 30 and wasn't available for the afternoon training session at the local college ground here.

"It was an optional session. He is expected to join the squad soon and could play the warmup game if required," a BCCI source privy to developments told PTI on condition of

On the day, skipper Rohit Sharma, batter Shreyas Iyer and pacer Mohammed Shami also skipped the session which was attended by the likes of Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah and veteran spin duo Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.

The World Cup warm-up



match against the Dutch will be 8. The Indians had a full-fledged the last chance for India to get session with Gill, Surva and KL some game time before the start Rahul batting for a considerable of tournament proper against amount of time against the likes Australia in Chennai on October of Bumrah and Mohammed

Ashwin and Iadeia also rolled their arm over for considerable period of time as they both are going to play a massive

which are expected to offer

SURYA WILL BE IN MY XII, SAYS SHASTRI

The warm-up match could be also a chance for Survakumar Yadav to press his case for a first XI berth ahead of Shreyas Iyer or Ishan Kishan.

"I will be watching him very closely," Ravi Shastri said on ESPN Cricinfo.

"If your top-order is firing, you will play him or Shreyas Iyer? If all guys get runs, that guy becomes X factor in big game. The damage he can do along with Hardik (Pandya), they can take the game away. In Indian conditions, your top order will rarely struggle. Surya will always be in my XII," Shastri said.

But Shastri believes that one should look at the condi-

"If the track is flat, then it's Surya and if conditions are tough, then Shreyas," said the former head coach.

"Play him (Surva) before the semi-final not just in the semi-



Rachin: From cheering for NZ at bar in 2019 to being part of 2023 World Cup batch

Rachin Ravindra found the night of July 14, 2019, one of the longest and hardest to endure as he watched New Zealand's heartbreaking defeat to England in the ODI World Cup final sitting in a Bengaluru pub.

Ravindra, then all of 19 was on an annual trip to India with his father's cricket club and the roller-coaster experience of watching the final is still etched

in his memory.

New Zealand losing that final to England on the boundary count-back rule divides opinion to this day. Rachin, whose first name is inspired by the first names of Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid, remembers that night as it was

As a budding cricketer dreaming to represent New Zealand one day, the Indian-origin circketer was shattered with the outcome of the game and the desire to represent New Zealand

grew stronger. Cut to 2023, he is among the fast rising cricketers in the New Zealand set-up. Primarily a batter, who also takes his left-arm spin very seriously, Rachin has already made a statement with a gutsy 97 as an opener in the World Cup warm-up against Pakistan here last week.

Born to Indian parents in Wellington, Rachin has a strong connect with the cricket mad nation with his family roots in Bengaluru. It was fitting that he made his Test debut in India two years ago and now he is set to make his World Cup debut

"Looking back on my Test tional time. Being able to play in at that time, few years into pro-India, the fanfare around the fessional cricket, you have those game here, to be able to experidreams to be part of a World

ence that is pretty special.
"My parents come from

Bangalore and it is amazing to play a World Cup here," the 23vear-old PTI referring to the Kanpur Test which he was able to draw for his team while batting alongside number 11 Ajaz

From watching previous World Cup as a fanboy to now being part of the next one, it has been a pretty "cool" journey for Rachin.

"It is actually quite a story. My dad takes a bunch of age group boys to India (annually) and we were in Bangalore on a senior trip. We were watching the final (2019) in a stock exchange bar

"I watched the whole final. It was unbelievable and such a rollercoaster experience with the high and lows of the game. Having Indian supporters around us was pretty cool. It is an experience I will never forget." New Zealand is probably

the most liked team on the planet but on that night, no pleasantries were exchanged in that bar. A couple of days ago, New Zealand had ended India's run in the semifinals.

"All of us were New Zealanders, so we were massively going for the Black Caps but quite a few Indians were going for England, probably because of the emotional hangover from the semifinal.

"That created a nice little atmosphere there as we all know how the game went," recalled

Did he think then that he will be part of the 2023 batch?

"It ĥas been a great ride. You always think one day you might

Cup. It is pretty cool how it has come to fruition," he said.

Experience of cricket tours to India with my dad will come in hand

Rachin, who opens for Wellington back home but bats in the middle-order for New Zealand, feels the experience of playing age-group cricket around the country will help him in this World Cup as the team travels all around India for its nine league games.

"For sure. Any sort of experience playing in India goes a long way. Grateful for these tours of India in my younger days. Goes a long way in playing spin and how to bowl in these conditions, face different type of seamers on different

"The conditions over here are so different to what we get back home. I think it will definitely come in handy. Prior to this World Cup, I have played in Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, up North.

"It gives you a bit of sense of belonging and calms you down knowing you have played here," said Rachin, whose father Ravi Krishnamurthy has been his coach since childhood.

Rachin might not get to pen in the tournament proper ike he did against Pakistan but he has already made a statement. However, he is fully aware of his role in the side.

"Naah (laughs)," he responded when asked about opening the innings regularly. "It was a nice wicket to bat on. To be fair I do open for my domestic side, have always been an opener so nice to get the opporinity for N Whatever role I get hopefully I

would be able to do it," he

South Africa lack good all-rounder at No 7, going into World Cup: Graeme



South Africa are lacking depth in their batting in the absence of quality all-rounders, an aspect that could affect the team's chances in the World Cup, reckons former skipper Graeme There was a time when

South Africa boasted of world class all-rounders like Lance Klusener, Jacques Kallis and even a bowling all-rounder like Shaun Pollock but Temba Bavuma's team doesn't have a quality batter at No. 7.

"Where they fall short is, teams have. Who is going to be

Reigning men's singles champion Manish Sureshkumar

of Tamil Nadu began his title defence at the Fenesta Open

National Tennis Championship

with a win over Uttar Pradesh's

Maan Kesharwani here on

early challenge from Kesharwani to win 6-4 6-4 and advance to

the second round at the DLTA

Complex. Kesharwani's shots from the

baseline looked to disrupt the

defending champion's rhythm

but Sureshkumar was soon back

in his groove, playing accurate

forehands and backhands to

of Haryana also began the tour-

The No. 2 seed Karan Singh

The No. 4 seed overcame an

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Monday

7? Marco Jansen or someone else," Smith said during an exclusive interview with PTI.

For South Africa to succeed, left-arm spinner Keshav Maharai's control and wickettaking ability will go a long way, in case Bavuma wants to leave an impression as a leader.

Whether they go with two spinners or not but Keshav Maharaj needs to have an outstanding tournament. Obviously, he has Tabraiz Shamsi on his wings but reliability of Maharaj is key to Temba as a captain, said Smith, who scored nearly 7000 runs in ODIs.

batting like some of the other retired in 2014, is also hopeful Markram that's going to be key that Kagiso Rabada will carry a lot on his shoulders in the going to be successful."

nament with a comfortable 6-4

West Bengal defeated Gujarat's Dhruv Hirpara 6-2 3-6 6-1 to

reach the second round. In

women's singles, No.4 seed from

Maharashtra, Vaishnavi Adkar

made a positive start, defeating

No. 5 seed Sharmada Balu

Sonal Patil 6-3 6-2

No. 7 seed Ishaque Eqbal of

6-2 win over Jagmeet Singh.

Fenesta Open: Sureshkumar begins

title defence with win over Kesharwani

absence of Anrich Nortje and Sisanda Magala due to injuries. "Rabada, we all know how

world class he is and we would like him to have an incredible World Cup tournament. Always carries a lot on his shoulders and you need a couple of key players to play well and then push through knock-out of the tournament and give yourself good chances back-to-back to hold that trophy." Nortje's absence will hurt South Africa on those batting friendly tracks.

"I think Nortje in particular, to win in India in a long tournament, you need players who can contribute. Nortje's pace through the air, wicket-taking ability is certainly going to be missed.

The key to South African campaign will be the top six batters, he said. "If South Africa need to be successful, they would need their 6-7 big players to really have a great World Cup. If you look at top-order you have Quinton, Temba and in that middle-order, really you have really good players of spin, power players like David Miller, einrich Klassen and

also made a winning return to

the Fenesta Open, defeating

Telangana's Paavanii Paathak 6-

match that he was looking to

rience as I went on to win the

tournament and I would like to

continue the same. I played my

Sureshkumar said after the

"Last year was a good expe-

2 4-6 6-1 to advance

defend his title this year.

Spain's women's team players Putellas, Rodríguez, Paredes appear before judge

AP N MADRID

Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas and two of her teammates in Spain's women's national team appeared before a judge Monday as witnesses in the investigation of former soccer federation president Luis Rubiales for his kiss on Putellas, Irene Paredes and

Misa Rodríguez all answered questions from the judge in Madrid. Rodríguez appeared in court in the Spanish capital, while Putellas and Paredes testified through video conference from Barcelona. Spanish state prosecutors

have accused Rubiales of sexual assault and coercion for kissing Jenni Hermoso on the lips without her consent during the awards ceremony after the Women's World Cup final in

A couple of federation officials and former national team coach Jorge Vilda, who was not long after winning the World Cup in Australia, have been summoned as investigated parties. They are set to appear

first match today and I was not feeling very sharp but as I play

more matches here I will get into

the groove, and hopefully, I will

be able to repeat what I did last season," said Sureshkumar.

ry saw top seed Chandan Shivaraj of Karnataka defeat Tamil Nadu's Kavin Karthik KS 6-1 6-3, while Aditi Rawat of Haryana beat Swasti Singh 6-0

7-5 in Under-18 girl's section to

The Fenesta Open offers a

move into the second round.

prize pool of over Rs 21.5 lakh

along with kit allowance for the

ment has witnessed the partic-

ipation of players such as Rohan

Bopanna, Somdev Devvarman

Yuki Bhambri, Sania Mirza and

Over the years, the tourna-

junior categories.

Rutuja Bhosale.



before the judge next week. Vilda was among those accused of allegedly trying to convince Hermoso to back Rubiales after Rubiales eventually resigned

and the players ended their boycott of the national team after being given some guarantees of change within the federation. Some federation officials have already been fired as a result. Hermoso is also expected to

testify at some point.

According to a sexual consent law passed last year, Rubiales could face a fine or a prison sentence of one to four years if found guilty of sexual assault. The new law eliminatual harassment" and "sexual assault," sanctioning any unconsented sexual act.

Liverpool says it will 'explore the range of options available' after VAR controversy at Tottenham

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

iverpool criticized the Professional LGame Match Officials Limited and warned it will "explore the range of options available" following the VAR controversy at Tottenham.

PGMOL, the referees' governing body in England, admitted Video Assistant Referee officials Darren England and Dan Cook failed to act after Luis Diaz' 34thminute strike at Tottenham on Saturday was wrongly disallowed for offside. Still images of the incident showed Tottenham's Cristian Romero playing Diaz onside.

The decision was made when the Premier League match was goalless but after Curtis Jones had been contentiously sent off following Darren England's intervention. Liverpool went on to lose 2-1, ending the game with nine players. The officials were stood down from duty

for the rest of the weekend but Liverpool says it will pursue the matter.



A statement read: "Liverpool Football Club acknowledges PGMOL's admission of their failures last night. It is clear that the correct application of the laws of the game did

not occur, resulting in sporting integrity being undermined. We fully accept the pressures that match officials work under but these pressures are supposed to be alleviated, not exacerbated, by the existence and implementation of VAR."

Liverpool said it was "therefore unsatisfactory that sufficient time was not afforded to allow the correct decision to be made and that there was no subsequent interven-

"That such failings have already been categorized as significant human error' is also unacceptable," the club's statement added. "Any and all outcomes should be established only by the review and with full transparency.

Liverpool said it need to explore its options, "given the clear need for escalation and resolution.

PGMOL had earlier acknowledged that "a significant human error" occurred in the first half of the game and said it would conduct a full review

Medvedev through to semifinals at China Open. Swiatek wins on debut in Beijing

AP ■ BEIJING

win the match.

 $T^{
m hird}$ -ranked Daniil Medvedev overcame a second-set stumble to beat Frenchman Ugo Humbert 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 and advance to the semifinals of the China Open on Monday.

The Russian struggled to find his usual fluid game in the first two sets but sprung to life in the third set to shake off the 36th-ranked Humbert and progress to his 10th semifinal of the year. "I'm kind of happy that I managed to raise my level in important moments, except a game in the second set," Medvedev said. "It's great that I managed to still find in this tough match these moments of consistency, which is enough to win. That's what you

The Russian will next face either eighth-seeded Alexander Zverev or

Nicolas Jarry, who play later Monday. Second-ranked, and top-seeded, Carlos Alcaraz plays his quarterfinal match against seventh-seeded Casper Ruud in a night match.

Making her first appearance at the China Open, second-ranked Iga Swiatek advanced to the second round with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Sara Sorribes Tormo. The Pole fired 27 winners and made 25 unforced errors, breaking serve a total of seven times in the win

"You have to be patient with her because she's running for every ball," Swiatek said of her No.55-ranked Spanish opponent. "I kind of wanted to just be solid and be intensive but not make too many mistakes with risking.

Światek will next face Varvara

Seventh-seeded Ons Jabeur, winner



of the Ningbo Open last week, beat Ashlyn Krueger 6-3, 6-4 and ninth-seeded Caroline Garcia was a 6-2, 6-4 winner over Kateryna Baindl.

China's Wang Xinyu beat wildcard Vera Zvonareva 6-4, 6-3 and 11th-seeded Daria Kasatkina defeated Mayar Sherif 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (8).

Third-ranked Coco Gauff plays her first-round match later Monday against No.20-ranked Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Jelena Ostapenko, seeded-13th, had a walkover into the round-of-16 after Linda Noskova withdrew due to illness Ostapenko will face either fourth-seeded Jessica Pegula or Anna Blinkova

Also in the second-round, Anhelina Kalinina defeated Daria Saville 6-2, 7-6 (5) and Jasmine Paolini beat Yuan Yue 2-



विकास किया है - विकास करेंगे





₹ 6940 करोड़ लागत की भोपाल मेट्रो न ट्रायल रन फ्लेग ऑफ

सुभाष नगर, भोपाल । पूर्वाह्न ११:०० बजे

महिला स्व-सहायता समूह सम्मेलन एवं राज्य स्तरीय

1400 स्कूटी _व ऋण वितरण

जम्बूरी मैदान, भोपाल । दोपहर 12:30 बजे

स्टेट मीडिया सेन्टर क भूमिपूजन

मालवीय नगर, भोपाल । दोपहर १२:०० बजे



मुख्यमंत्री

शिवराज सिंह चौहान

द्वारा

3 अक्टूबर, 2023



भोपाल मेट्रो

आवागमन का तेज, सुरक्षित, आधुनिक और आरामदेह साधन उपलब्ध होने के साथ हरित ऊर्जा से होगा पर्यावरण संरक्षण

स्टेट मीडिया सेन्टर

यह सेन्टर सार्थक और प्रासंगिक मीडिया गतिविधियों का प्रमुख केन्द्र बनेगा, नये भवन में सभागार, पुस्तकालय, सामान्य कक्ष व अन्य आधुनिक सुविधाएं होंगी

महिला स्व-सहायता समूह

4 लाख 50 हजार से अधिक स्व-सहायता समूहों के माध्यम से 53 लाख से अधिक महिलायें हुईं आत्मनिर्भर। ₹5 हजार 800 करोड़ से अधिक का क्रेडिट लिंकेज







