WORLD 5

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GST FOR E-GAMING FROM

OCTOBER 1: FINMIN

VIJAYWADA



*Late City Vol. 33 Issue 271

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

KHALISTANIS RUN RIOT IN UK

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India condemns blocking of Indian envoy's entry to Glasgow gurdwara

PTI ■ LONDON

The Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Vikram Dorwaiswami, who was touring Scotland this week was blocked from entering a gurdwara in the city of Glasgow by pro-Khalistan extremists, an incident the Indian mission dubbed as "disgraceful" before reporting it to the UK government.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the 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 the abuses, High Commissioner (HC) and 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 in a statement

"This interaction was to discuss community and consular issues. The organisers included senior community leaders, ladies and Committee members, and a member of (the) Scottish Parliament. They were threatened and abused by these elements. In an effort to prevent any potential altercation, the HC and CG decided to leave the premises shortly upon their arrival," it said.

The statement goes on to add that one of three elements attempted to "violently force open the HC's car door", which will require suitable police consideration.

"It is due to the quick reac-tion of one of the organisers, who physically intervened at the car door, that a bigger incident was avoided. The High Commission of India has reported this disgraceful incident to the Foreign, CommonwealthDevelopment Office (FCDO) and the Metropolitan Police," the statement added.
The FCDO Minister for

Indo-Pacific took to social media soon after to express her

concern over the incident. "Concerned to see that the Indian High Commissioner, Vikram Doraiswami, was stopped from meeting with the Gurudwara Committee at the Gurudwara in Glasgow.



Khalistanis block the car of Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Dorwaiswami from entering a gurdwara in Glasgow on Saturday

The safety and security of foreign diplomats is of utmost importance, and our places of worship in the UK must be open to all," Anne-Marie Trevelyan said in a post on X.

The gurdwara committee and local community leaders have expressed their regret over the incident and have called on the authorities to take action against the culprits. The local police said it was called to the "disturbance", and its enquiries remain ongoing.
"We were called around

1.05 pm on Friday, 29 September, to a report of a disturbance that happened in the Albert Drive area of Glasgow. There were no reports of any injuries, and enquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances," said a Police Scotland spokesperson.

The incident follows a diplomatic standoff over the issue of pro-Khalistan extremism after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement in the country's Parliament last week that the authorities are "actively pursu-

ing credible allegations" related to Indian government involvement in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a designated terrorist, allegations which the Ministry of External Affairs has strongly rejected as "absurd and motivated". 'This is exactly how we

should be greeting any Indian ambassador, anyone from the Indian government who comes in an official capacity under any excuse of doing visa applications or whatever it might be," a Sikh man is heard saying in a video posted on social media by a group called Sikh Youth UK following the incident in

The incident came towards the end of a two-day visit of the Indian High Commissioner to Scotland.

During his meeting with Scotland's First Minister, Hamza Yousaf, the issue of British Sikh Jagtar Singh Johal in custody on terrorism charges in India was also raised.

"Replying to some issues raised by FM (First Minister Hamza) Yousaf, HC (High Commissioner) stressed that due process is being given under laws to Mr Johal, who faces 8 serious terror charges. FM also 'appreciated' HC's clear message that rights of all communities are guaranteed in India's pluralist and free democracy," the Indian High Commission tweeted with reference to the meeting.

The Indian mission added that the discussions with Scottish leaders ranged from India-Scotland cooperation in sectors across fintech, sustainable agriculture, tourism and water conservation. A visit to the Scottish Parliament, a lecture entitled 'India@75' at the University of Edinburgh, an interaction at the University of Strathclyde and a breakfast meeting with leading business chiefs on topics ranging from whisky, aviation, energy, agriculture, green economy, space and investments were part of the packed two-day schedule to the region.

Do not normalise Canada situation: Jaishankar

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Hitting out at Canada, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is necessary to call out things like violence, threats and intimidation against Indian diplomats and missions and wondered if this had happened to any other country would the world have taken it with equanimity.

"Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada," Jaishankar said during an interaction with Indian journalists here on Friday. His remarks came amidst

simmering tensions with Ottawa following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia.

India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India has angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official

"We have had an ongoing problem with Canada and the Canadian government for some years now. The ongoing problem really revolves around the permissiveness to terrorism, extremism and violence. This permissiveness is also reflected in the fact that some important extradition requests have not been responded to from their side," he said. "We have had smoke

bombs thrown at the mission, we have had violence in front of consulates, there are posters put up. Do you consider this normal? If this had happened to any other country, how would they react? Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada. It is important to call

out what is happening there,"

Jaishankar said.
"What is happening in Canada, had it happened anywhere else, do you think the world would've taken it with equanimity?" he asked. When asked about Trudeau's allegations, he said India has already pointed out to Canada that this is not the government of India's

policy.
"But if they are prepared to share with us specifics and

anything relevant, we are also open to looking at it. So in that sense, that's where the matter stands," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar said one of the problems is that no incident is isolated and the totality as there is a context for everything.
"There are multiple prob-

lems out there. So, I guess in the case of individual incidents, the concerned governments will have to talk to each other and see how they sort of take it forward," he said.
"But there is a larger issue. And I think it's important that the larger issue should be

flagged. The larger issue is this permissiveness that I have spoken about," he said. He also asserted that it was not acceptable to make threats

and intimidate diplomats in the name of freedom of speech.
"We don't need to learn from other people what free-

dom of speech is about. But we can tell people this. We don't think freedom of speech extends to incitement, to violence. That to us is a misuse of freedom," he empha-

Continued on Page 2

सबकी आकांक्षाएं, सबका विकास 023, भारत मंडपम, नई दिल्ली

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the launch of a week-long programme for Aspirational Blocks titled 'Sankalp Saptaah' at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi

PM Modi ignites hope

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Affirming that the Aspirational Districts Programme has positively impacted over 25 crore people across 112 districts, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated on Saturday that he plans to return next year to assess its

progress.

During an event launching "Sankalp Saptaah" linked to the Aspirational Blocks Programme, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Aspirational Blocks Programme Portal, declaring, "For me, this gathering is no less important than the G20." He emphasised that the

programme represents the success of Team Bharat and the spirit of Sabka Prayas. The PM highlighted that

the Aspirational Districts Programme has transformed these areas into "inspirational districts." He announced an ambitious goal: within the next year, at least 100 out of 500 aspirational blocks will

become inspirational. Modi urged officials from

blocks that are lagging behind in their respective departments and elevate them above the national average on various parameters.

Expressing confidence in meeting again in October-November 2024 for an evaluation, Modi addressed an audience that included government officials, representatives from approximately 3,000 panchayats and blocks, and functionaries from across the country Around two lakh individ-

uals, including block and panchayat-level functionaries, farmers, and local residents, virtually participated in the event. The Prime Minister noted that the Aspirational Districts Programme will hold a significant place in any list of the top 10 programmes of independent Îndia.

At the Bharat Mandapam event, Modi contrasted the venue's previous role in hosting world leaders' discussions on global matters with its current focus on grassrootslevel issues involving participants from all corners of the

Continued on Page 2 various ministries to select 100

India tramples Pakistan **India gets Gold** in Squash, **Maiden Gold tor Badminton**

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

aptain Harmanpreet Singh found the net four times as a rampaging India hammered Pakistan 10-2 to record their biggest-ever win over the archrivals in a one-sided Pool A match to book a semifinal berth in the men's hockey competition at the Asian Games here on Saturday.

Harmanpreet scored in the 11th, 17th, 33rd and 34th minutes while Varun Kumar (41st and 54th) struck twice. Mandeep Singh (8th), Sumit (30th), Samsher Singh (46th) and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (49th) were the other goal get-

Pakistan reduced the margin through Muhammad Khan (38th) and Abdul Rana (45th) as India toyed their opponents for large part of their penultimate pool match. This was the 180th match between the two teams and the 8-goal margin



Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh celebrates with teammates after beating Pakistan in the men's hockey competition at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou on Saturday

win was the biggest-ever in the history of India-Pakistan hock-

India's earlier biggest victory margin was 7-1 against Pakistan registered in 2017. Pakistan's 7-1 win in the

final of 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi was their biggest win against India.

India, thus, exacted revenge of that humiliating

loss 41 years ago though Saturday's match.

India collected 12 points from four consecutive wins to stay on top of the pool. India will play Bangladesh on October 2 in their last Pool A

match. India took the lead when Abhishek made a fine turn on the left side into the opponent's striking circle and his pass

was deflected into goal in the eighth minute by Mandeep.

Pakistan made some threatening moves and earned their first penalty corner in the 11th minute but India goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak was upto the task.

India doubled their lead in the 11 minute when they were awarded a penalty stroke and Harmanpreet made no misHarmanpreet scored his second goal and sixth of the tournament in the 17th minute by converting India's first penalty corner of the match

with an accurate drag-flick. tle of attrition against Noor Zaman for the biggest prize of his career as top seeds India regained the Asian Games squash gold with an epic 2-1 win over Pakistan here on

Saturday. Before the tournament began, the Indian men's team was expected to step on the top of podium after eight years with its main challenge coming from Malaysia and Pakistan, the sport's powerhouse in the yesteryears.

In squash, Saurav Ghosalled side managed to see off both the opponents on their way to glory. The win in the final against Pakistan came after the loss to the arch-rivals in the league stage. Zaman, ranked 113, had

got the better of world number 69 Abhay in that contest earlier this week and for the major part of the match on Saturday, it looked going in Pakistan's favour again.

In badminton, Kidambi Srikanth rallied his way to a thrilling win in a tense decider



19th Asian Games

as India stood one step away from winning their first-ever gold medal at the Asian Games, reaching the men's team championships final with a 3-2 win over South Korea here on

Saturday. This is India's maiden entry into the final of the team event

at the continental showpiece. World No. 7 HS Prannoy showed nerves of steel to bounce back from an opening game reversal to outwit Jeon Hveok Iin 18-21 21-16 21-19 and put India 1-0 ahead but Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lost the first doubles 13-21 24-26 to world champions Seo Seung-Jae and Kang Min-hyuk as Korea made

Indian long-distance runners Kartik Kumar and Gulveer Singh bagged a silver and bronze medal respectively in the men's 10000m race with personal best times at the Asian Games here on Saturday.

Vande Bharat reaches Miracle milestone

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI

In a rare feat of what is being tagged as "14 Minutes Miracle Cleaning", the semi high speed Vande Bharat Express Trains will now be cleaned in flat 14 minutes.

The new age trains now traversing several important cities across the country that have caught attention of the nation in recent months due to its aesthetics will be cleaned after each round trip in maximum 14 minutes similar to the practice in passenger aircrafts cleansed after every flight.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told The Pioneer that it will indeed be yet another historical step towards making the rail ambience pleasant

and will also enhance the passenger as well as public aspiration to keep the rail property always clean and travel worthy. As of now Vande Bharat

and all other trains like Shatabdi, Rajdhani, Humsafar and mail trains take about a minimum of 45 minutes to a maximum of four hours to cleanse to prepare the train for onward journey.
Sources in the Ministry of

Railways said that the cleaning cue has been taken from the Japanese Bullet Trains where workers have precisely seven minutes to clean the carriages of seven coaches before the board.

next round of passengers Each 100-seat carriage is covered by one worker, who wipes down food trays, clears



and the same is to be adopted for the trains in India in near

"I will personally be on board a Vande Bharat to kick start the wonder cleaning services to begin with Vande Bharat and in due course of time will be replicated in all the trains in future," said Vaishnaw.

tive at the Delhi Cantonment Railway Station on Shramdaan Divas on Sunday.

The Railway Minister will showcased for passengers at

More than 32 Vande Bharat trains will simultaneously launch this system across the country on October 1 and the same cleaning process will be followed as per routine and

roster. The scheme will also be

present train capacity of seven coaches with rotational seating facility, one coach will take two minutes to clean and thereby multiple of two minutes with

minute magic cleaning.

Chennai, Pune and Shirdi.

Vande Bharat train

presently takes 45 minutes to

clean. Which means for the

additional coach in the train. "For each coach of the Vande Bharat train, a total of 4 cleaning staff would be deployed. The cleaning would be executed manually and for which the cleaning staff has received over a month long training and has held multiple mock drills," railway officials explained when queried on the operation system of 14

Indian Railways has been

Before launching this concept, the Railways carried out a couple of dry-runs where the attendants cleaned the train first in around 28 minutes and then improved it to 18 minutes. "Now it will take only 14 min-

working for some time to

change the process of cleaning

of India's premium trains for

optimum use of its rolling

utes without involving any new technology," the Minister said. As of now 68 Vande Bharat

train services are functional and Vaishnaw informed that the work on the air conditioned sleeper class is going in full swing and the prototype will be put on tracks by year end and the Ministry hopes to roll on the first such services by February 2024.

Aaditya slams Shinde-BJP Govt NIA chargesheets 4 top naxals over Ministers' foreign trips

 $\begin{array}{c} R \text{ elentless in his criticism of} \\ \text{ the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv} \\ \text{ Sena-BJP-NCP } \text{ (Ajit Pawar)} \end{array}$ government over alleged corruption and mis-governance, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Saturday flagged the contentious issue of "foreign trips" undertaken by the state ministers, bureaucrats and others, including Chief Minister Shinde himself and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis, and Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar.

In a series of messages on social media platform "X" on the foreign jaunts undertaken by Shinde, Fadnavis, Speaker Narvekar, State Legislative Council's deputy chairperson Neelam Gorhe and others,



Aaditya said: "Foreign trips are in fashion for the illegal regime in Maharashtra. Spending public money, no outcomes for the state has been the norm for these holidays of ministers & officials in the Shinde-BJP Regime of Maharashtra.

The point is, I have no personal issues with them.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amoun

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in

exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the

said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby

cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge

Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession

706, 17th Floor, Tower- T16, Green Parc-

Flat No. T-16-2003, 19th Floor, Tower-16, Sare

Flat No. T160101, 1st Floor, Tower 16, Green Parc II, Sec 92, Gurgaon, Haryana/

Flat No. T-151506, Cresent Parc Green

Flat No. 1602, 16th Floor, Tower G3, The

Grand, Sare Crescent Parc Township, Sector

92, Gurgaon, Haryana/ September 27, 2023

Flat No. T161906, 18th Floor, Tower 16, Green

92, Gurgaon, Haryana/ September 27, 2023

Flat No. 506, 5th Floor, Tower-16, Green

Township, Sector-92, Gurgaon-122003/

Flat No: T160501, 5th Floor, Tower-16,

Gurgaon, Haryana/ September 27, 2023

Flat No. T161002, 10th Floor, Tower T16

Green Parc-II, Sare Crescent Parc Township, Sector- 92, Gurgaon, Haryana-

Gurgaon, Haryana/ September 27, 2023

Flat No. T150202, 2nd Floor, Tower-15, Sector

Flat No- T150202, 2nd Floor, Tower-15, Sector

92, Green Parc-2 , Crescent Parc, Sector-92, Gurgaon, Haryana/ September 27, 2023

Flat No. P-040403, 4th Floor, The Petioles

Crescent Parc Green Parc II, Situated at Sare Crescent Parc Township, Sec-92,

Gurgaon, Haryana/ September 27, 2023

Sec-92, Gurgaon/ September 27, 2023

P042001, 19th Floor Tower-P4, Sare

Crescent Parc Phase 4, Sector-92, Gurgaon-122001/ September 27, 2023

Flat No-601, 6th Floor, Sare Crescent Parc.

Tower -P04, Phase-4, Sec-92, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001/ September 27, 2023

Flat No. 602, 6th Floor, Sare Crescent Parc

Flat No. F020403, 17th Floor, Crescent Parc Grreen Parc-II, Tower-F02, Sare Crescent Parc Township, Sector 92, Gurgaon,

Flat No. 604, 6th Floor, Tower D2, Aangan,

Village Harsaru, Sector- 88A/89A, Gurgaon

Phase-4, Tower-P04, Sec-92, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001/ September 27, 2023

Haryana/ September 27, 2023

Haryana/ September 27, 2023

Parc Township, Sector September 27, 2023

Flat No P-061202, 12 Th Floor, Tower-P06, Sare Crescent Parc Green Park II, "The Petioles",

Tower P030703, 7th Floor, Crescent Parc

Green Parc-II, The Petioles, Sare Crescen

Sector-92, Gurgoan/

Parc- 2, Sec-92, Gurgaon, Haryana/

Parc Ii Sare Crescent Oarc Township,

Parc Phase-2, Sare Crescent Parc

Crescent Parc Green Parc- 2, Sare Crescent Parc Township, Sector-92

122001/ September 27, 2023

92, Green Parc-2, Crescent Parc,

Unit No. T151805, 17th Floor, Tower 15, Crescent Parc Green Parc Ii, Situated at

Sare Crescent Parc Township, Sector 9 Gurgaon, Haryana/ September 27, 2023

Sector 92, Gurgaon, Haryana/

Crescent Parc. Green Parc-II. Sec 92

Gurgaon-122003/ September 27, 2023

September 27, 2023

September 27, 2023

September 27, 2023

Pranch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

More so, if any of them wishes to go for a holiday, they should, but not on taxpayer money. The finance ministry should clarify if the state can afford these holidays on taxpayer money," Aaditya - who is the son of former chief minister and Sena (UBT) chief

Uddhav Thackeray-- said.

Targeting the chief minister, Aaditya wrote: "Last week, Shinde was to visit Germany and UK for a holiday, disguised as an official tour of the govt with a huge number of people shown as delegation. After I asked for the details of the tour on social media, about investors that he would meet or the places he would visit, his office cancelled the tour within 30 minutes of my social media post," Aaditya wrote.

Singling out Fadnavis for his recent trip to Japan on the invitation of the Mumbai-based Consul General of Japan, Aaditya said that "surprisingly, even with an invite from the government, the 5-day trip has been sponsored by the staterun Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation

Dhankhar slams Chidambaram over his

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday hit out former Union Minister and Congress leader P

express his anguish on the remarks made on the women's reservation law by a "senior member of the Rajya Sabha who had been a Union minister and has held

Without naming Chidambaram, Dhankhar spoke on the former Union

of ICICI Bank Limited.

Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number

Raiiv Jain/ Anita Jain/

LBGUR00002362115

Parmanand/ Luxmi/ LBGUR00001983343

Raj Kumar Gupta/

LBDEL00002434835

Sakshi Aggarwal/ LBGUR00003067817

Praveen Kumar Maduri

LBNOD00002392226

LBNOD00002386314

Sumit Gupta/ Ramesh

Gupta/ LBGUR00003078790

Ganesh Dutt Joshi/

LBDEL00002996682

LBDEL00002869199

Parulrana/ LBGUR00003018710

Bhavyesh Bhatia/ Nita

Bhatia/ Neha Vishwa/

LBGUR00002254147

2. Bhavyesh Bhatia/ Nita

LBDEL00001948621

LBDEL00002855194/

LBDEL00002882867

Gulati/ LBDEL00001990287

Narayanan/ LBGUR00002393124

16. Learoyd Martin Williams/

LBDEL00002437665

Mridul Gupta/ Subhash

Chander Gupta/ LBGUR00002382187

Gaurav Aggarwal/ Shree

Krishna Enterprises/ LBDEL00002432771

19. Nisha Singh/ Priyanka Harish Chawla/ LBDEL00002895023

20. Hemalata Yadavi

Avanish Kumar/

LBDEL00005031996

a Sharon Williams/

Ruhi Gulati/ Namita

Chidambaram

Himanshu Aggarwal/

Jyoti Joshi/ Deep

Chandra Joshi/

Choudhary/ Nitu Kumari/

Dharm Nath

Natver Rana/

Anshuman Chandra

Sandeep Aggarwal/

Maduri Archana/



a law that will not be implemented for several years, certainly not before the 2029

Dhankhar referred to Chidambaram's remarks posted on X last night that the women's reservation law is a "teasing illu-

Pate of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)

February 22, 2020

March 25, 2021

Rs. 69,00,784/-

January 30, 2020

Rs. 70,47,321/-

ebruary 22,2020

Rs. 77,76,145/-

December 31, 201

Rs. 71,87,136/-

June 23, 2021 Rs. 73,95,361/-

March 19,2021

Rs. 75,60,020/-

December 31, 201 Rs. 68,89,346/-

November 30, 201

Rs. 70,56,154/-

August 31, 2019

67,47,908/-

June 23, 2021

Rs. 6,84,728/-

June 23, 2021

Rs. 31,76,040/-

September 28, 202

1,09,35,026/-

August 31, 2019

Rs. 36,27,450/-

August 31, 2019

Rs. 1,14,73,230/-

July 23, 2020

1,08,26,103/-

December 31, 201

1,05,95,209/-

December 31, 201

Rs. 1,03,81,754/-

March 19,2021

70,33,282/-

April 26,2023

Delhi

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sion, a reflection of the moon in a bowl of

The vice president dubbed it a "distorted mindset" and wondered whether a sapling planted today would start giving fruits immediately or whether a person would get a degree soon after admission to an institute. "It is shameful to convert ignorance of the people into political equity," he said.

The vice president said the youth of passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with una-

in Bihar brutal murder case

NIA arrests accused

in transnational

terror conspiracy

The National Investigation The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday said it has filed a supplementary chargesheet against four top Naxals accused in the Bihar case involving the brutal murder of a civilian, Naresh Singh Bhokta, by top leaders of CPĬ (Maoist), a proscribed terrorist organisation.

Bhokta was abducted and ruthlessly killed by the banned outfit's members and cadres in November 2018. The NIA had taken over the case from the State police and registered it as RC-25/2022/NIA-DLI on June 24, 2022. Subsequent investigations led to the arrest of nine persons and the NIA had filed supplementary chargesheets earlier against four persons in February and June this year.

With the arrest of the accused, NIA had unearthed the involvement of top CPI (Maoist) commanders, including a Polit Bureau member namely Pramod Mishra, in the conspiracy to commit this brutal murder, aimed at spreading fear and terror while propagating the CPI (Maoist) anti-India ideology.

NIA has also recovered the

weapons used in the attack and their forensic examination has been completed. The three vehicles used by the CPI (Maoist) cadres in the attack have also been recovered and seized.

The accused chargesheeted on Friday in the NIA Special Court, Patna (Bihar) under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Arms Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act have been identified as Ram Prasad Yadav, Abhijit Yadav alias Abhijit Ji, and Abhyash



Bhuiya alias Prem Bhuiya, of Jharkhand, and Subedar Yadav of Bihar.

All of them are senior leaders of CPI (Maoist). While Ram Prasad Yadav is a Sub-Zonal Commander, Abhijit Yadav and Subedar Yadav are Zonal Commanders. Likewise, Abhyash Bhuiya alias Prem Bhuiya is a Regional Commander of the banned

In an intelligence-based joint operation with Manipur Police, the National

Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested Seiminlun

Gangte in a case related to a

transnational conspiracy by

Myanmar and Bangladesh-

based leadership of terror out-

fits to wage war against the government of India by

exploiting the current ethnic

suo moto by the NIA on July

NIA revealed that Myanmar

and Bangladesh-based militant

The case was registered

Investigation of the case by

unrest in Manipur.

"Investigations have revealed that they had all attended the outfit's meeting of Zonal Commanders, SAC and RCM, convened by accused Pramod Mishra (then CCM), in the forest of Anjanwa. It was during this meeting that it was decided to eliminate the SPOs, including Naresh Singh Bhokta," the NIA said in a statement.

The accused then conspired to commit the abduction and murder of Naresh Singh Bhokta to strike terror among the people and a section of the society by killing common people. The entire conspiracy was aimed at waging a war against the Government of India, the

groups have entered into a

conspiracy with a section of

militant leaders in India to

indulge in incidents of vio-

lence with an intention to

drive a wedge between differ-

ent ethnic groups and to wage war against the government of

leadership have been provid-

ing funds to procure arms,

ammunition and other types

of terrorist hardware which are

being sourced both, from

across the border, as well as

from other terrorist outfits

active in North Eastern States

of India to stoke the current

ethnic strife in Manipur," the

"And for this purpose, the

NIA raids premises of LeT suspects in Rajouri killing

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted raids at the premises of several suspects in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the Lashkare- Taiba (LeT) attack in Dhangri village of Rajouri district, in which five civilians were killed and several seriously injured in January this year.

The raids were conducted at five locations across Gursai village of Mendhar Tehsil of Poonch district. NIA teams made extensive searches at the locations, which were the residential premises of Overground Workers (OGWs) linked with LeT, a proscribed terrorist outfit.

Several digital devices and documents containing incriminating data and content have been seized and are being scrutinised for unravelling the conspiracy, the NIA said in a statement.

Two accused, Nisar Ahmed alias Haji Nisar and Mushtaq Hussain, were arrested by the NIA in the case (RC-01/2023/NIA/JMU) on August 31, 2023 and are currently lodged in Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. Disclosures made by these two men, along with inputs gathered the NIA, led to the raids on Saturday, the agency

remarks on Women's Reservation Law

Chidambaram for his remarks that reservation for women in legislatures was still years away, saying it is shameful to convert ignorance of the people into political Dhankhar said he lacked words to

high profile positions".

minister's comments, "What is the use of

Lok Sabha elections?"

water or a pie in the sky'

today will have to fight this as they have access to information. The bill to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies was nimity during the special session of

After Shinde's promise, Patil embarks on tour for Maratha reservations

eeking to build pressure on Sthe Eknath Shinde-led threegovernment in Maharashtra over the grant of job and education reservations to Marathas, and Shivba Sanghatana founder Manoj Jarange-Patil on Saturday Maharashtra to reach out to the political influential Maratha community members.

Fresh from the success of his fortnight-long hunger agitation which catapulted him to the status of being a force to reckon with as a Maratha leader, Jarange-Patil said: "I am reaching out to people across the state to explain the issue. I will not sit quietly until the state government grants reservations to the Maratha community in educa-

tion and jobs".

It may be recalled that Jarange-Patil – who had gone on a hunger agitation Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district from August 29 demanding reservations for the Maratha community - had called off his fast on September 14 after chief minister Eknath Shinde met

him and assured him that his government would fulfil all his demands, including Kunbi OBC community caste certificates to all Marathas.

Starting his state-wide tour from his home village of Antarwali Sarathi in Ambad taluka, Jarange-Patil said: "I broke my fast after the Shinde saheb assured me that all steps would be taken to ensure that the Maratha community gets reservation. We have given 40 days to the state government to act on its promise. But the government should get down to implementing its promise and

not waste time unnecessarily". Among other things, the

Shinde government has promised Jarange-Patil that it would issue Kunbi caste certificates to Marathas from the Marathwada region who possess revenue or education documents from the Nizam-era recognising them as Kunbis - a move that would enable them to avail of benefits currently enjoyed by the OBCs.

also assured the Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh that the OBC quota would not be disturbed.

Queried if the state-wide tour is aimed at mounting pressure on the state government to fulfil the assurances made to him, Jarange-Patil said: "Where does the question of building pressure on the government arise? The state government has assured reservations to the Maratha community and it

GENERAL NOTICE

It is for the General Information that My Client M Himanshu Mittal is purchasing Second Floor property bearing no. D-19, Saket, New Delhi-1100: from M/s Mannat Homes, Where original documen

- Orn M/s Mannat Homes, Where original occuments:
 Perpetual Lease Deed, dated 02/05/1977, in favour of Sh. Shyam Sunder Gandotra
) Agreement to Sale, dated 16.10.1980, in favour of Sh. Ashwani Sharma and Sh. Arvind Sharma;
 i) G.P.A., dated 16.10.1980, in favour of Sh. Ashwani Sharma and Sh. Arvind Sharma;
 conveyance Deed, dated 24.08.1988, in favour of Sh. Ashwani Sharma and Sh. Arvind Sharma;
 Mutation Letter, dated 17.09.1999, in favour of Sh. Ashwani Sharma and Sh. Arvind Sharma;
 j) Agreement to Sale, dated 29.01.2005, in favour of Sh. Subhash Arora
 ii) G.P.A., dated 27.07.2005, in favour of Sh. Gautam Sabharwal
 ii) Sale Deed, dated 17.06.2005, in favour of M/s Sabharwal Developers and Promoters Ltd.
 o) Mutation Letter, dated 28.09.2005, in favour of M/s Sabharwal Developers and Promoters Ltd. Sabharwal Developers and Promoters Ltd.
 lost and misplaced, if anybody including Bank, Is lost and misplaced, if anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall inform within 7 days to the undersigned with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, than our client shall presume that tille of the said property is unencumbered and clear.

Public Notice

is is to inform General Public Notice that Mrs

sema Chopra acquired Entire second floor without

folferace rights built on property bearing not.

72 as measuring 148.77 Sq. Yds., i.e., 124.375 Sc.

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w Mrs. Seema Chopra intends to sell the Entire and floor without roof/terrace rights built on perfect of the control of the control of the control of the control of the Kalyan Co-Operative House Building lety Ltd. Presently known as Kalyan Vihar hit1009 to Mr. Umesh Kumar and turther Mr. esh Kumar has agreed for create a myrtrage in

Do not normalise **Canada** situation.

From Page 1

Jaishankar said he always asks people one question, how would they react if they were in his place?

"If it was your diplomats, your embassies, your people, what would be your reaction?" he asked.

Jaishankar said the entire debate should not focus only on issue one and not on issue two and the bigger picture, which has been going on for some time and which is a very serious picture.

"After all, I was thinking back, when was the last time that any of our missions was intimidated to a point where it could not continue with its normal function? I will have to think back. And if someone says this could happen in a G-7 country, in a commonwealth country, it gives you a lot to think about," Jaishankar

On September 21, India suspended visa services for Canadian citizens in view of "security threats" faced by the Indian High Commission and consulates in Canada.

ignites...

The international convention and exhibition center at Pragati Maidan, which hosted the G20 Summit during India's presidency, played a pivotal

Modi emphasised the crucial importance of optimal resource utilisation, convergence, and public involvement in grassroots development.

Drawing from his extensive government experience, he stressed that budget allocation alone is insufficient for creating change. Through efficient resource utilisation and convergence, progress can be achieved without additional funds.

The Prime Minister emphasised the need for equitable resource distribution and urged increased public participation in achieving goals.

He engaged with blocklevel officers from three aspi rational districts: Baheri (Uttar Pradesh), Mankote (Jammu and Kashmir), and Resubelpara (Meghalaya).

Each day of 'Sankalp Saptaah, from October 3 to October 9, focuses on a specific development theme, with all aspirational blocks actively par-

PM Modi | PM Modi become 'global hero of ground zero': Naqvi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proved to be the 'global hero of ground zero" by depreciating dynastic dominance through decisive delivery and development, BJP leader and former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday.

"Modiji's perfect, potential performance with the passion of 'never let it rest till your good is better and your better is best' has proved that democracy can deliver with decisive determination without dynastic dominance in governance,' Naqvi said at the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry's 'Indian Brand and Leadership Conclave 2023'

The BJP leader said that a brand of any product or personality is proved potential and perfect "not by chance but by choice"

Credibility of a product and reliability of production is paramount to convert people's habits into "hysteria for a brand or brand ambassador," Naqvi said in a statement issued by his



Integrity and acceptability ensures the global glamour and grace of a product and popularity, he added. Naqvi further said a tech-

nology and connectivity revolution has made the world smaller and the competition 'People keep a close watch

on the business, political, economic, cultural, religious, educational, administrative activities of every part of the world," he said.

"...Keep your eyes on the sky and feet on the ground" so that if you fell down, you can stand up easily, the BJP leader

else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: September 30, 2023 **Authorized Officer**

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount,

Air quality in Delhi-NCR second best in 6 years: CAQM

The Commission for Air 1 Quality Management (CAQM) on Saturday said, the national Capital region recorded an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 167 from January 1 to September 30 this year, the second-best for the corresponding period in six

Better air quality during this period was recorded only during the pandemic-affected 2020, it said in a statement. The daily avg. AQI for Delhi in the above noted period during the current year has been recorded as 167 as against 184 in 2022, 180 in 2021, 188 in 2019 and 193 in 2018 respectively, during the corresponding peri-

Delhi experienced its only "good" air quality day of the year, with an AQI of 45, on September 10, the final day of the G20 Summit. Despite less rainfall in September 2023 (82.7 mm) compared to September 2022 (165 mm), the average AQI for the month this year (108) remained on par with last year (104).



2023 also witnessed the only "Good" air quality day (AQI -45) of the year on 10th September, 2023, co-incidentally on the final day of the G20 Summit in New Delhi.

AQI is greatly impacted by the levels of rainfall/ precipitation and wind speed. September 2023 recorded a lower rainfall of total 82.7 mm as against 165 mm during the month of September, 2022. Despite this deficit of rainfall, the daily avg. AQI during the month of September, 2023 at 108, has been comparable with the daily avg. AQI of 104 during September, 2022.

th last year (104).

Delhi witnessed highest daily average PM2.5 and PM10
The month of September, number of days (193) with concentrations in 2023 com-

pared to the past six years. In the first eight months of

2023, the daily average PM2.5 concentrations were around 73 micrograms per cubic metre, significantly lower than the range of 82-95 micrograms per cubic metre observed during the 2017-2022 period (excluding 2020). Similarly, the average PM10 concentration in Delhi this year averages 169 micrograms per cubic metre, lower than the range of 183-215 micrograms per cubic metre in the previous years (excluding

"Favourable meteorologi-

cal conditions, continual ground level efforts, actions by various stakeholder agencies to abate air pollution and ongoing monitoring and enforcement actions have helped to better air quality during 2023. The Commission further urges all agencies and stakeholders to effectively implement the directions / guidelines related to abatement of air pollution and the citizens to follow the Citizen Charter in this regard, in our collective pursuit for better air quality during the ensuing winter season," it said.

GRAP comes in force in Delhi-NCR

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) -- a set of anti-air pollution mea-sures followed in the Delhi-NCR region in the winter season -- will come into force on Sunday. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), an autonomous body tasked with improving air quality in Delhi and the adjoining areas, had made crucial changes to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) last year and again in July this

The new changes include strict restrictions on the plying of overage vehicles and a complete ban on the use of coal and firewood in eateries, restaurants and hotels when the air quality index (AQI) breaches tĥe 200 mark.

BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers will be immediately banned in Delhi and Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar if the Air Quality Index



The CAQM, a statutory body formed under an Act in 2021, had amended the GRAP in July last year to ensure proactive implementation of anti-air pollution steps based on forecasts up to three days in advance. Earlier, the authorities would implement these measures, including banning con-struction and demolition works, entry of high-emission vehicles and the use of coal and firewood, only after the pollution level touched a particular

The GRAP for the National

threshold.

sified under four different stages of adverse air quality in Delhi: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV -'Severe Plus' (AQI >450).

the orders of the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal on overage diesel and petrol vehicles under Stage 1. It also calls for a complete

ommends strict enforcement of

The revised GRAP rec-

ban on the use of coal and firewood in eateries, restaurants and hotels as soon as the AQI

the authorities would implement this measure under Stage 2 (AQI above 300). New steps suggested as part of the revised GRAP include "strict action to curb air pollution at all identicurb air pollution at all identified hotspots in the region under Stage 2". Under Stage 3, states will have to impose strict restrictions on the plying of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel fourwheelers in Delhi and Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar. Authorities may discontinue physical classes in schools for children up to Class V in such a scenario, the CAQM suggested.

At AQI above 450, fourwheelers registered outside Delhi, other than electric vehicles and those using CNG and BS-VI diesel, will not be permitted to enter Delhi. However, those carrying essential commodities or providing essential services are exempt. All other existing measures taken under different stages of GRAP will

Kejriwal visits Bhalswa landfill site

ity (Daily Average AQI<200)

during January – September 2023 as compared to the cor-

responding period for last 5

years (barring the COVID

quality days during this period

in the previous years were only

146 in 2022, 174 in 2021, 165

in 2019 and 152 in 2018 respec-

tively. This period in 2023 has

also witnessed a remarkable

reduction in daily avg. PM2.5

and PM10 concentrations over

been a substantial reduction in

daily average PM2.5 and PM10

The CAQM said there has

"Good" to "Moderate" air

affected 2020).

the last 6 years.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pelhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited Bhalswa landfill site on Saturday and said about 45 lakh tonnes of waste from it is expected to be processed and reduced by May next year. Interacting with reporters at the site, Kejriwal said once 45 lakh tonnes of waste gets reduced, "35 acres of land" will be reclaimed, which can be reused in multiple ways.

There are three landfill sites in Delhi, located at Okhla, Bhalswa and Ghazipur. Kejriwal said Bhalswa landfill site has about 60-65 lakh tonnes of municipal waste spread over 72 acres, and besides legacy waste, 2,000 tonnes of fresh waste is getting added daily to the massive

dump.
"The goal was to remove approximately 30 lakh tonnes of trash from the Bhalswa landfill site within the next 18 months. By September 30, 2023, the target was to remove around 14 lakh tonnes of garbage. I am delighted to report that the work of clearing trash is progressing much faster than the set target. Not 14 lakh tonnes of garbage by September been achieved, but more garbage has been cleared than the target specified. By September, the Bhalswa landfill site had cleared 18 lakh tonnes of garbage instead of the designated 14 lakh tones," Kejriwal said.

The chief minister said the target for the agency working on the waste processing at Bhalswa landfill site is to reduce waste by 30 lakh tonnes by May 15, 2024.

"But, given the speed of work, about 45 lakh tonne waste is expected to be reduced by May 15 next year," he said.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the agency responsible for garbage removal has been given a target to remove 30 lakh tonnes of garbage by May 15, 2024. The pace at





which the agency is working is tonnes of garbage are at the Bhalswa landfill site. In addition to this, the site receives about 2,000 tonnes of new garbage daily. The process of hiring another agency is underway so that both agencies can work together to completely clear the Bhalswa landfill site.

In a statement, the AAP government said that during this visit, the Chief Minister found that garbage was being removed from the Bhalswa landfill site faster than the set

For processing the balance waste, another agency is to be hired, initial work for which has been completed, but the tendering process is getting stalled as the process has to get through the standing committee of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

The MCD panel will be expected to result in the formed as per the directions removal of 45 lakh tonnes of of the Supreme Court, "so, we garbage by May 15, 2024, are trying" to find an alterinstead of the initially set 30 native solution, he said. lakh tonnes. It is reported that Kejriwal further explained clears 45 lakh tonnes of garbage by May 15 next year, approximately 35 acres of land here will be vacant. Once all the garbage is cleared, there will be a significant amount of available land.

The chief minister said he will also visit the other two landfill sites very soon. During the visit, Kejriwal was accompanied by Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi, Deputy Mayor Aaley Mohammad Iqbal, Leader of House in MCD, Mukesh Goyal and AAP's MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak.

Delhi Mayor Dr Shelly Oberai informed the media that the process of appointing an additional agency for this is in its final stages. "Delhi will be freed from garbage mountains ahead of schedule", she

Garbage removal from landfill sites stalled for 8 months, says BJP



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Saturday from Ghazipur and Okhla landfill sites has been stalled for eight months and demanded that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal explain why.

Ahead of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls, the BJP said, the AAP had promised to rid the capital of the "garbage mountains" but they have only been growing in size since the Kejriwalled party assumed charge of the civic body.

hours after Kejriwal visited the Bhalswa landfill site and said about 45 lakh tonnes of waste from it is expected to be processed and reduced by May Once the waste gets

reduced, he said, 35 acres of land will be reclaimed and can be used in multiple ways. There are three landfill sites in Delhi located at Okhla, Bhalswa and Ghazipur.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva visited the Ghazipur landfill site and said Kejriwal has repeatedly undertaken "political tours" to the dumping yard. However, garbage removal from Ghazipur and Okhla landfill sites has been stalled for the last eight months, he claimed.

"The chief minister should show if he has held even one

meeting in the last eight months regarding removal of garbage from the landfill sites, especially Ghazipur and Okhla where the work has been at a standstill," Sachdeva said at a press conference.

Sachdeva further alleged that MP Gautam Gambhir made several visits here with the officials, but after Aam Aadmi Party came to power in the MCD, the officials were stopped from attending the meetings of the MP.

The AAP used to allege

corruption in clearing of the landfill sites but it has not been the MCD elections. "Ahead of the 2022 MCD polls, the AAP made tall promises about removing garbage from the Ghazipur landfill site but the work almost came to a standstill after it won the elections, he alleged.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri accused Kejriwal of indulging in politics over the "garbage mountains" in the city. "The AAP under Kejriwal's leadership has been in control of the municipal corporation for nearly 10 months but it has not yet taken any significant steps in this direction," Bidhuri said.

The AAP had promised to rid the city of the "garbage mountains" and had said these would be gone within a year, he



Delhi State Election Commissioner Vijay Dev calls on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhawan to discuss crucial matters relating to electoral process at the grassroots level of Indian democracy. Dev expressed appreciation for the President's commitment to uphold democratic principles and ensuring transparent and credible elections

Man held for duping shopkeepers on pretext of getting UPI charges waived

A³¹-year-old man was arrested for allegedly duping shopkeepers on the pretext of getting their rental charges waived. According to police, the accused used to work in a bank three years ago, and has experience of installing QR code for UPI payments at shops and private vendors.

The accused has been identified as Naeem, a resident of Bhopra in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, they said. Police said that they received three such complaints in which the victims lost money.

A senior police officer said that Rs 35,000 was transferred fraudulently from the account of a 61-year-old man, who runs a grocery shop, in one complaint.

The officer said that two more complainants -- a grocery shopkeeper and a 'chole bhature' vendor -- were cheated of Rs 39,000 and Rs 7,400 respectively, adding some other such



The modus operandi of the accused was similar in all the incidents, the officer said.

Naeem targeted shopkeepers who transact money mainly using UPI and keep a soundbox in their shops. The man introduced himself as a company agent working in a reputed bank and influenced them to get the monthly rent of the soundbox waived off, police said.

During the conversation, he took the mobile phone of the victims to change settings in UPI ID linked with the said Deputy bank, Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey. He transferred the amount of the victims in his account and

and other notifications, added The man would then say that he would get their work

deleted the transaction history

done from a connected bank employee there, the DCP said. He added that the police nabbed the accused person during the investigation. The DCP said that Naeem

confessed to his involvement in the cheating. He was found to be a graduate who worked in a bank three years ago and has experience of installing QR code for UPI payments at shops or private vendors, the officer said. After leaving his job and got involved in gambling activities, Tirkey said.

Naeem started cheating shopkeepers and influencing them through his technical knowledge, the DCP added. The accused also disclosed that he was involved in such work since the last six to seven months and had duped more than 40 people using the same modus operandi, police said.

Southwest monsoon withdraws from Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

¬he India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday said that the southwest monsoon has receded from Delhi, with the city receiving above normal rains during the season. The national capital recorded 542.2 mm rainfall as against the normal of 544.3 mm during the monsoon this year.

According to IMD data, the Safdarjung Observatory, the primary weather station of Delhi, received 660.8 mm of precipitation against a normal of 653.6 mm during the monsoon season (June to September). IMD data shows West Delhi recorded 417.7 mm rainfall as against the normal of 439.8 mm; Čentral Delhi 937.6 mm as against the normal of 666.6 mm; East Delhi 778.8 mm as against the normal of 666.8 mm; New Delhi 587.9 mm as against the normal of 640.4 mm; North Delhi 624.3 mm as against the normal of 560.1 mm; North East Delhi 341 mm as against the normal of 666.6 mm; North West Delhi 456.2 mm as against the normal of 402.6 mm; South Delhi 663.8 mm as against the normal of 666 mm and South West Delhi 557.3 mm as against the normal of 549 mm. Normally, the monsoon

begins in the national capital by June 27 and recedes by September 25. This year, the rain-bearing system embraced the city on June 25.

"The southwest monsoon has further withdrawn from some parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; entire Punjab and Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi; some parts of west Uttar Pradesh, west Madhya Pradesh and east Rajasthan and some more parts of west Rajasthan today," the IMD said in a state-

Delhi Govt asks licensees to renew excise licences by Oct 5

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government I issued a notification asking the licensees to renew their existing excise licences by October 5.

The city government has decided to extend its existing excise policy by six months due to the time needed for coming up with a new liquor trade regime.

The policy has been extended till March 31, 2024 following the requisite approvals from the Delhi government and the lieutenant governor, a senior officer had said on Thursday.

"All the licensees of L15/L-15F and L-16/L-16F are hereby directed to submit their applications for renewal of the licences online by accessing their accounts in ESCIMS portal through their ID and passwords, along with the applica-



period w.E.F. 01.10.2023 to 31.03.2024 by providing requisite information and payment of renewal licence fee on or before 05.10.2023," the notification read.

department to extend the policy, implemented on September 1 last year, was sent for the LG's nod after it was cleared by the government. The file was sent back to the government from the LG's office marked as 'seen", the officer had said. The current excise policy

A proposal of the excise

ities in its implementation.

was going to lapse on September 30, requiring either its extension or replacement with a new policy for regula-tory necessities to operate retail and wholesale liquor trade in the national capital.

The current policy was meant to be a stop-gap measure to prevent a regulatory vacuum due to the sudden scrapping of the new excise policy for 2021-22 by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government after LG V K Saxena recommended a CBI enquiry into alleged irregular-

LG approves ₹10 crore donation to Himachal Aapda Rahat Kosh 2023

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday approved a contribution of Rs 10 Crore to the Himachal Aapda Rahat Kosh 2023, from the LG/CM Relief fund.

The move comes after a meeting between Saxena and Himachal Chief Minister, Sukhvinder Singh at the recently concluded Northern Zonal Council meeting in Amritsar, where the CM is believed to have brought up the issue of massive destruction caused by the recent unprecedented floods in the Himachal, and the requirement of assis-

tance thereto. Last week, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has approved a Rs 10-crore contribution to the Himachal Pradesh government's disaster relief fund to aid its rehabilitation and

relief efforts following the devastation caused recent heavy rains in the hill state.

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD

Open E-tender CO/NIT/FP-FFU/2023/07 for Setting up, Operation and Management of Food Plazas and Fast Food Units. Last Date of

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submission: 18.10.2023 up to 15:00 hrs. E-mail: fp.ffu@irctc.com II) EOI for Empanelment for Provision of onboard catering services in various types of trains over Indian Railways valid up to Dec' 2024. EO

will be opened every month. Date & time for submiss EOI document. E-mail: mobilecatg.tend@irctc.com. III) Notice Inviting E-Tender 2023/IRCTC/Rail Neer/Business Consultant for study of demand of Packaged Drinking Water over Indian Railways and feasibility of setting up new plants / up-gradation of existing plants to meet growing demand over Indian Railways. Last Date of Submission: 16.10.2023 up to 15:00 hrs. E-mail: ggmrailneer@irctc.com.

IV) Notice Inviting E-Tender's GEM/2023/B/3985913 dated 20.09.2023 for supply of 3,65,000 Kgs of LDPE Shrink Film Rolls at Rail Neer Plant

Nangloi (New Delhi) for a period of 02 years. Last Date of submission 16.10.2023 at 15:00 hrs. E-mail: rkumar2472@irctc.com. For details visit irctc.com for I-IV, tenderwizard.com/IRCTC for I-III and eprocure.gov.in & gem.gov.in for IV. Tender downloading & participation ca only be done only be tenderwizard.com/IRCTC for I-III & gem.gov.in for IV.

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Fusion of Indian language with technology will open limitless possibilities: Pradhan

and innovation," Pradhan said.

part of the Bharatiya Bhasha

Utsav, encompasses three piv-

otal thematic sessions --

Technology FOR Bharatiya

Languages; Technology IN

The summit, organised as

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Saturday said the fusion of Indian languages and technology will open the doors to limitless possibilities for the country's talent pool. At the launch of the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and two-day Technology and Bharatiya Bhasha Summit, Pradhan said, "Through technology, contextualisation of the Indian knowledge system will be possible."

"Discussions during the summit on language for technology, language in technolo-



gy, and language through technology would create a strong ecosystem for Indian languages. One-third of the world's coders are of Indian origin, which is a testament to the nation's prowess in technology

Bharatiya Languages; and Technology THROUGH Bharatiya Languages. "India being one of the oldest civilisations in the world has

"India being one of the oldest civilisations in the world has an extremely close and inseparable relationship with technology. Scholars from around the globe have for centuries come to understand the Indian knowledge.

Fusion of Indian languages and technology will open doors to limitless possibilities for the talent pool of the country," Pradhan said.

The role of technology in the teaching-learning process of Indian languages, the use of Machine Learning, language modelling for speech recognition, Unicode standardisation for Indian language scripts and other important aspects were also discussed during these sessions.

"These themes will emphasize the integration of technology in promoting Bharatiya Bhasha, including its role in teaching, training, examination, and translating educational materials.

The summit aims to facilitate a seamless transition from the current education ecosystem to one rooted in Bharatiya Languages, in line with the vision of NEP-2020," a senior MoE official said.

Congress' Jawahar Bal Manch to start Mohabbat Ki Dukaan from November 14

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress "Jawahar Bal Manch" will start a "Mohabbat Ki Dukaan" programme from November 14, the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, to provide food to street children.

On October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the 'Jawahar Bal Manch' will start another programme called 'Ding Dong Bell', under which children can click on a bell icon on the organisation's website and express any wish related to education which would be fulfilled if found genuine.

Jawahar Bal Manch presi-



dent G V Hari said that under the 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan' project, food packets will be distributed among street children once every week. It will be started as a pilot project in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

"We are not doing anything for political purposes. Our aim is ensuring the well-being of children and that they become good citizens," he said. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Hari said that on October 2, the 'Jawahar Bal Manch' will start the 'Ding Dong Bell' programme. "If any child presses the bell icon on the website of our organisation, he/she can express any wish related to education. Suppose if a child wants a bicycle and really needs it, we will provide it," he said.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

FICICI Bank

| **Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

	perty and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.				
Sr. No	Traine of the	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)		
	Kamboj/ Aman Sahni/ '002105014346/	Unit No 524 5th Floor Silverton Tower Sector 50 Village Badshahpur Gurgaon/ September 26, 2023	June 22, 2021/ Rs. 75,75,211.94/-	Gurgaon	

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

ne provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Authorized Office

Authorized Viffice

Authorized Viffice

Authorized Viffice

Authorized Viffice

Authorized Viffice

Authorized Viffice

Gurgaon ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Picici Bank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

[Sr.] Name of the | Description | Date of Demand | Name |

Sr. No		Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)		
1.		Flat No 47A, Ground Floor, Pocket B SFS Flats, Bodella, Vikaspuri Extension, New Delhi/ September 26, 2023	May 20, 2023 Rs. 81,32,138.00/-	New Delhi	
	he above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else				

the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : September 30, 2023 Place : Delhi/NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Date :-19th Sep 2023

DMI HOUSING FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED ("COMPANY") (U65923DL2011PTC216373

Registered Office: Express Building, 3rd Floor, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002;

T: +91 11 41204444; F: +91 11 41204000;

Email: dmi@dmihousinhgfinance.in)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in general, and the customers in particular, that the management of the Company has decided to close the following branch:

Name, Address and contact details of Closing Branch

DMI Housing Finance Private Limited Office no 309, 3rd Floor, Om Shubham Tower, Plot No 69-71, Neelam Chowk, Faridabad, Haryana - 121001

(+91 9717001553), (kiran.jha@dmihousingfinance.in)

Date of Closure 31.12.202

It is clarified that due care is being taken by the Company to ensure that no inconvenience whatsoever is caused to the Company's customers during the process of closure. The loan accounts of all the valued customers shall continue with the base branch (i.e.C-110, 2nd Floor, Lajpat Nagar-1, New Delhi - 110024). Customers holding loan accounts may transfer their account to any other branch of our company, provided the same is approved by the competent authority. The relevant Application form is available at the branch. Customers are hereby requested to kindly take note of the aforesaid change which will be effective tentatively from 01.01.2024.

In case any further clarification is required and/or in case of any difficulty, the customer may contact the officials of DMI Housing Finance Private Limited (+91 9717001553, Mr. Kiran Jha)

Place :- Faridabad

OICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, Plot No.23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interes (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sunita Agrawal (Borrower), Shailendra Kumar Agarwal (Co-Borrower), Gaurav Agrawal (Co- Borrower), LAN No. LBNOD00002082390	Flat No.4182, Type- C, Floor- 18, Tower-4, ATS Tourmaline, Village Babupur, Sector 109 B, Gurgaon, Haryana Area: Super builtup area: 2150 Sq.Ft., Builtup area: 1797 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 1,97, 95,005/- as on September 16, 2023.	Rs. 1,51, 10,000/- Rs. 15,11,000/-	October 10, 2023 from 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	October 30, 2023 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com). The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till October 27, 2023 before 05:00 PM failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, Plot No.23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before October 27, 2023 before 05:00 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before October 27, 2023 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, Plot No.23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before October 27, 2023 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284, 8584874809

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. NexXen Solution Private limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pv Ltd. 3.Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **www.icicibank.com/n4p4s**

Date: September 30, 2023 Place: Delhi/NCR (Gurgaon) Authorized Officer nearly all of the entire day's physical activity, 97 per cent,

Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart to begin from October 4 after 3 years gap

NEW DELHI

Union Ministry of Tourism on Saturday said India will host the 46th edition of the Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart at Pragati Maidan in Delhi from October 4-6. The physical version of the event is being held after a hiatus of three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said, adding that the PATA Travel Mart 2023 will be held at the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC).

The IECC complex was also the venue for the G20 Summit held from September 9-10. Headquartered in Bangkok, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), which was founded in 1951, is a renowned not-for-profit association recognised internationally for its role as a catalyst in the responsible development of travel and tourism in the Asia-Pacific region, the ministry said in a statement.

The event in Delhi will bring together tourism professionals and business stakeholders from across the world, offering a unique platform for networking, learning and collaboration, the officials said.

India will also be participating in the PATA Travel Mart in a "substantial manner".

"A designated pavilion for India at the Mart will create an immersive experience of the gamut of destinations in India



both known and lesser known," the statement said.

State governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and other ministries will also put up stands and stalls to display their products, it said.

"Although the Mart is an exclusively B2B mart, it will help bring forth the diverse gamut of thematic products such as wellness, adventure, heritage, culinary and art and craft of different states to a global audience," a senior official said.

PATA Travel Mart is one of the important international trade exhibitions catering to the tourism sector and it serves as a platform for trade interactions between global buyers and sellers mostly from the Asia-Pacific region.

This year, the event will feature different activities, including the prestigious PATA added.

Gold Award, the PATA Youth Symposium and the PATA Forum on Sustainability, besides the B2B Mart.

The success of the G20 Summit held this year has already "placed India as one of the sought-after destinations for hosting larger scale events and conferences", the ministry said.

With its sustainable and inclusive tourism activities, "India is fast becoming the preferred choice destination for organising MICE events," it said.

The G20 New Delhi

Leaders' Declaration while recommitting to achieving SDGs has highlighted the crucial role of tourism and culture as a means for sustainable socio-economic development and economic prosperity and noted the Goa Roadmap for Tourism as one of the vehicles for achieving the SDGs, it added.

Army foils infiltration bid along Kupwara, 2 ultras eliminated



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

An infiltration bid was foiled by the joint team of security forces along the line of control in the Machhal sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district by eliminating two heavily armed terrorists in the wee hours of Saturday.

According to a statement issued by the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps, "In a joint operation launched by the Indian Army, J&K Police, and Intelligence agencies on the intervening night of 29-30 Sept, an infiltration bid was foiled by alert troops along LOC in Machhal Sector, Kupwara.

Two terrorists have been eliminated along with the recovery of 02xAK Rifles, 02xHand Grenades, 01xPistol & other war-like stores. Joint operation in progress".

In a separate statement, a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police said, "Based on intelligence input generated by Kupwara Police, a joint operation was launched in the Kumkadi area along the Line of Control in Machhal sector. The joint team observed the movement of terrorists, employing meticulous tactics to infiltrate the Indian territory.

When the terrorists were intercepted they fired indiscriminately upon the joint team. The fire was retaliated, leading to the elimination of two (02) heavily armed unidentified terrorists", the police spokesman said.

The identification and affil-

The identification and affiliation of the killed terrorists are being ascertained.

So far a total number of 33 terrorists have been eliminated in different operations across the Kashmir valley since January 1, 2023.

Short bouts of activity can reduce risk of heart attack, stroke: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Short bouts of incidental activity, the kind done as part of daily living and including household chores, has shown to reduce risk of heart attack, stroke and even premature death, new The Lancet Public Health research shows.

However, duration and intensity of the activity matters, the research team from the UK and Australia, led by the University of Sydney, said, having tracked more than 25,000 UK adults over roughly eight years.

"From walking up the stairs to speedily mopping the floors; in recent years we've come to understand that it is not just structured exercise that is good for our health, but we know very little about how these short bouts of incidental activity translate to health benefits, taid the study's senior author Emmanuel Stamatakis, University of Sydney.

The adults studied were

aged 42-78, all of whom self-reported no participation in exercise or sport. The researchers used wrist-worn wearables data from the UK Biobank and machine learning and analysed their seven-day incidental physical activity patterns down to a 10-second time window.

They then compared these

physical activity micropatterns with the participants' health records, by following them for close to eight years to understand the health impacts of the duration and intensity of the physical activity bouts.

The researchers found that



was accumulated in multiple slots, each lasting less than 10 minutes, with longer slots being better

"The idea of accruing short bouts of moderate to vigorous activity through daily living activities makes physical activity much more accessible to people who are unwilling or unable to take part in structured exercise," said Matthew Ahmadi, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Sydney, adding that data showed that the length and intensity of these activities mattered.

Further, 'moderately' or 'vigorously' intense activity in these slots were associated with a steep decrease in major cardiac events, like heart attack or stroke, and death by any cause, they found.

Also, those who huffed

and puffed for at least 10 seconds per minute, or 15 per cent of one physical activity bout or slot, saw the greatest benefit, they found. "If you are huffing and puffing and unable to hold a conversation for some of that time (in one bout) you have hit the sweet spot," said Stamatakis.

"The take-home message

"The take-home message here is any type of activity is good for your health, but the more effort you put into those daily tasks and the longer you keep up that energy, the more benefits you are likely to reap," said Stamatakis.

Monsoon has ended with 94.4% cumulative rainfall: IMD

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The four-month monsoon season has ended with India receiving "normal" rainfall -- 820 mm against a longperiod average of 868.6 mm, a deficit of 48.6 mm amounting to 6 percent. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra on Saturday said with positive factors countering the effect of El Nino, the 2023 monsoon ended with 94.4 per cent cumulative rainfall, which is considered "normal".

The southwest monsoon

has been a story of swings, and as the months progressed, the variations only became more intense: 9 percent deficit in June, excess by 13 percent in July, deficit again by 36 in August while 13 percent access rain recorded in September due to multiple low pressure systems. August 2023 marked the driest month since 1901 and the hottest ever recorded in India, attributed to the strengthening of El Nino conditions. In August, there were 20 break monsoon days, compared to 16 such days in 2005, which held the previous record for the spells when the monsoon is extremely weak. That month was also marked by large-scale rain-triggered devastation in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, even as much of the country remained parched. Of the 717 meteorological

districts, 220 have received rain deficit while 493 recorded normal rainfall and above this year. Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Kerala, East Uttar Pradesh, Mahe, South Karnataka and Lakshadweep among the states which received less monsoon rain



this year. The monsoon is critical for India's economy, where 51% of India's farmed area — accounting for 40% of production — is irrigated by rain. As many as 47% of the country's population is dependent on agriculture for livelihood, making such inconsistency a challenge not just for farmers who need to time their sowing and harvesting right, but also the larger economy.

Mohapatra said with pos-

monspara said with postive factors countering the effect of El Nino, the 2023 monsoon ended with 94.4 per cent cumulative rainfall, which is considered "normal". "Out of the 36 meteoro-

logical subdivisions, three (constituting 9 per cent of the total area) received excess rainfall, 26 received normal rainfall (covering 73 per cent of the total area), and seven received deficient rainfall. The seven subdivisions with deficient rainfall are Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, East UP, South Interior Karnataka, and Kerala," the IMD chief said. The IMD reported that East and Northeast India recorded 1,115 mm of rainfall against a normal of 1,367.3 mm, which translates to an 18 per cent

deficit. Northwest India

recorded 593 mm of rainfall

compared to a long-period average of 587.6 mm. Central India, where agriculture predominantly relies on monsoon rains, recorded 981.7 mm against a normal of 978 mm. The South Peninsula experienced an eight per cent deficit.

As per the IMD, rainfall between 94 per cent and 106 per cent of the long-period average (LPA) is considered normal. Mohapatra highlighted two factors — the Indian Ocean Dipole and Madden-Julian Oscillation — that significantly influenced this year's monsoon season. Mohapatra said 15 low-pressure systems developed over India during the monsoon season against an average of 13, but their temporal distribution remained skewed". However, normal cumu-

lative rainfall over the country during the monsoon season doesn't mean even spatial and temporal spread of precipitation.

The Indian monsoon

refers to inherent fluctuations and changes that occur over time due to various natural factors. This is called natural variability. However, research shows climate change is making monsoon more variable. Increased variability means more extreme weather and dry spells.

Putin marks annexation anniv amidst drones attack

 $R^{ussian\ President\ Vladimir\ Putin}_{on\ Saturday\ insisted\ that\ the\ res-}$ idents of four Ukrainian regions that Moscow illegally annexed a year ago "made their choice — to be with their

In an address released in the early hours to mark the first anniversary of the annexation, Putin insisted that it was carried out "in full accordance with international norms."

He also claimed that residents of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions had again expressed their desire to be part of Russia in local elections earlier this month, in which Russia's Central Election Commission said that the country's ruling party won the most

The West has denounced both the referendum votes carried out last

 $R^{\rm ishi\ Sunak\ will\ be\ leading\ his}_{\rm first\ Conservative\ Party\ confer-}$

ence as British Prime Minister this

weekend and goes into the annual event starting on Sunday amid pressure from his backbenches

over cutting taxes as the governing

party prepares for a general elec-

His predecessor, Liz Truss, who had a historically brief run at 10 Downing Street last year after

her attempt at slashing taxes in a

controversial mini-budget and for-

mer Indian-origin home secretary

Priti Patel are among the Tory MPs

openly voicing their discontent.

Fiscal Studies (IFS) think tank

issued a forecast this week that tax

levels in the UK are at their high-

est since records began 70 years

ago. "This unprecedentedly high

tax burden is one of the reasons

our economy is stagnating and why

we need to cut taxes to help make

Britain grow again," tweeted Truss.

reduce the tax burden, especially

when there's so much pressure on

by former prime minister Boris

Johnson and collected the honour

from Windsor Castle earlier this

week, told 'GB News' that taxes

70-year high. That is unsustainable.

And the people that pay the taxes

are hard-pressed Brits around the

country," said Patel in an interview

family budgets," she said.

must start to come down.

"We should always seek to

Patel, who was made a Dame

"The tax burden is now at a

"It's about being Conservative

It came after the Institute for

tion, expected in 2024.

AP ■ LONDON

Rishi Sunak under pressure over

taxes ahead of Tory conference

The votes were held as Russian authorities attempted to tighten their grip on territories Moscow illegally annexed a year ago and still does not

fully control.

A concert was held in Red Square on Friday to mark the anniversary, but Putin did not participate.

The address came after Russia's Defense Ministry said Friday it would enlist 130,000 men for compulsory military service this fall, beginning October 1 in most regions of the country. It announced it would for the first time begin enlisting residents of the annexed territories as part of its twice-yearly military conscription campaign. Russia says conscripts are not deployed to what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine, or to serve in the annexed territories.

However, after their service, conscripts automatically become

rather than seeing the size of the state continue to grow," she said.

who was replaced by Suella

Braverman as home secretary after

Boris Johnson resigned as Prime

Minister last year, also disputed the

Sunak-led government's claim that

taxes cannot be cut while inflation

two... I do recall a rather success-

ful Conservative prime minister

Margaret Thatcher, who was able

to tackle inflation while growing

the economy and speaking of economic growth," she told the news

the 'gamesmanship and shenani-

gans' that took place within Tory

ranks and stressed it was time to

be 'forward facing' towards

Conservative success in the next

general election at a 'challenging'

forget... we've seen two democra-

tically elected leaders of the

Conservative Party [Johnson and

Truss] being hounded out of office.

I don't support that," she said, dis-

missing her own leadership ambi-

"I don't think the public will

Patel also went on to condemn

"You have to separate the

remains high.

and radio channel.

time for the party.

The former Cabinet minister,

deployed reservists to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, in Ukraine, the governor of Ukraine's partly occupied southern Zaporizhzhia region, Yurii Malashko, said five people were wounded on Saturday in two missile strikes on the village of Matviivka, located on the northeastern outskirts of the regional capital, also called Zaporizhzhia.

Air defences shot down 30 out of 40 Iranian-made kamikaze drones aimed at the Odesa, Mykolaiv and Vinnytsia provinces overnight, the Ukrainian air force said Saturday.

Vinnytsia regional Gov. Serhii Borzov said that air defenses shot down 20 drones over his central Ukrainian region, but that a "powerful fire" broke out in the town of Kalynivka when a drone struck an unspecified infrastructure facility.

Romania's Ministry of National

sible unauthorised entry into its national airspace occurred overnight amid the bombardment.

It said the radar surveillance system of the Romanian Army detected 'a possible unauthorised entry" into the national airspace of NATO member Romania, with a signal detected toward the city of Galati, which is close to the border with Ukraine.

"At this moment, no objects have been identified that fell from the airspace onto the national territory," the statement read, adding that NATO allies were informed in real time and that searches will continue through

Emergency authorities issued text message alerts overnight to residents living in the counties of Galati and Tulcea, after detecting what the defence ministry said was "groups of drones heading toward Ukrainian

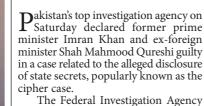
In recent weeks, Romania has found drone fragments on its soil from the war next door at least three times as Russian forces carry out sustained attacks on Ukraine's Danube ports.

Russia's Defence Ministry said Saturday that it had shot down nine Ukrainian rockets fired at its southern Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine. Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said that an artillery shell created a crater and shrapnel damaged a house, a store and a gas pipeline in an attack on the regional capital, also called Belgorod.

Local officials in Russia's Bryansk region, also bordering Ukraine, reported disruptions to the power supply following an unspecified attack on the town of Pogar.

Drone strikes and shelling in the Russian border regions are a regular

Imran, Shah Mahmood Qureshi guilty in cipher case: FIA



(FIA) submitted the charge sheet against Khan, the chairman of the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and his deputy Oureshi, both currently detained in jail on judicial remand, to a special court established under the Official Secrets Act, the Pakistan Observer website reported.

Khan, 70, was arrested last month after a 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

The FIA has requested the court to start the trial of the PTI leaders and sentence them according to the law, it said.

Qureshi, 75, is the vice chairman of PTI. Former general secretary of PTI Asad Umar has not been named in the FIA's list of accused, while former principal secretary Azam Khan has been presented as a strong witness of the FIA against Imran Khan, GeoTV, a prominent news channel, reported and added, the challan also carries Azam Khan's statement recorded under sections 161 and 164. The FIA has also attached the transcript of Khan and Qureshi's speeches made on March 27.

The Pakistan Observer also reported that the FIA has submitted a list of 28 witnesses along with the charge sheet in the court. Names of foreign secretary Asad Majid, former foreign secretary

'Elections could be further delayed'

Islamabad (PTI): Amidst an acrimonious political environment and clouds hanging over the upcoming general elections in Pakistan, a former prime minister on Saturday predicted further delay in polls due to the extreme win-

The Election Commission of Pakistan has announced that it would hold polls in the last week of January after the completion of the delimitation process and fulfilling other legal requirements prior to elections.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in an interview with the Geo News on Saturday night said that elections may not be possible in January in several constituencies of the country due to heavy snowfall in the winter.

"In my own area, people will not be able to go to polling stations as the entire area is covered with snow," Abbasi said, who belongs to Murree Hill Resort near Islamabad, which receives moderate to heavy snowfall in December and January

Sohail Mahmood, and additional foreign secretary Faisal Niaz Tirmizi are included in the list of witnesses, it said.

Earlier on September 26, it was the third time that Khan was sent to jail on remand. His judicial remand was initially extended till September 13 and then again till September 26, along with

On the same day, Khan was shifted to the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi from Attock prison, a day after the Islamabad High Court ordered authorities to relocate him to the high-security jail.

Incidentally, a joint investigation team on Thursday submitted charge

from 2017 to 2018, also said that there and northwestern districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province where life is paralysed in winter.

tions will be made," the leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party said. When asked when the

his information that the poll might be delayed due to weather, he said that it

election timing comes as the ECP has been criticized by political leaders for failure to hold the election within 90 days of the dissolution of the national assembly on August 9.

court here that the jailed former prime minister and several other top leaders of his party were directly involved in orchestrating the unprecedented anti-

REPRESENTATIVES PROCEEDINGS

Washington: In a first, a Sikh Granthi from New Jersey offered prayers to start the proceedings of the US House of Representatives. Granthi Giani Jaswinder Singh from Pine Hill Gurdwara in New Jersey started the day's proceedings at the House on Friday. The prayers before the proceedings are normally offered by a Christian priest.



House Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced that Singh would start the proceedings. Taking up the floor soon after the prayers, Congressman Donald Norcross described this as a historic occasion. He is the first Sikh chaplain to make prayers in the US House of Representatives. "The history made today is a reminder that the United States welcomes and values and will remain committed to free expression of religion. Giani Singh has made South Jersey proud today and it is an honour to be a part of this moment with him," Norcross said.

ILLINOIS ACCIDENT KILLS 1, INJURES 5

Teutopolis: A semitruck carrying ammonia overturned in an Illinois county, spilling the chemical and causing an evacuation of area residents Friday night, police said. The Effingham County Sheriff's Office said the accident happened less than 1 mile (1.6 kilometres) east of Teutopolis near an intersection of Route 40 and residents were evacuated from the area and provided shelter, WCIA-TV reported. Effingham County Coroner Kim Rhodes told the television station that one person was killed and five people were transported for emergency medical care with unknown injuries, Rhodes said a hazardous materials unit was at the scene and additional details about the accident were not immediately available, WCIA reported. Teutopolis is about 92 miles southeast of Springfield, the capital of Illinois.

ITALY, LIBYA RESUME COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS

Cairo: Italy and war-torn Libya on Saturday resumed commercial flights for the first time in a decade, authorities in the Libyan capital said. Flight MT522, operated by the Libyan carrier Medsky Airways, departed Mitiga International Airport in Tripoli for Rome's Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport, according to Libyan airport authorities. There were 25 passengers on the flight, said Hamdi al-Zanad, head of the Libyan airline. A return flight was scheduled to land in Tripoli on Saturday afternoon, according to Mitiga International Airport. There will be a round-trip flight between the Libyan and Italian capitals on Saturdays and Wednesdays, according to the Mitiga airport announcement. The government of Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah in Tripoli lauded the resumed flights, posting photos on social media that showed passengers boarding the flight and officials celebrating.

ZIMBABWE GOLD MINE COLLAPSE: 6 DEAD, 15 TRAPPED

Harare: Six people have died in the collapse of a gold mine in Zimbabwe, and 15 others are still trapped underground, according to state media reports. State-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation quoted deputy mines minister Polite Kambamura as saying 34 miners had been caught in Friday's collapse. Thirteen managed to escape. The broadcaster on Saturday said rescue operations were underway at Beyhose mine in the gold rich town of Chegutu, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of the capital, Harare. The police and the mines ministry could not be reached for comment on Saturday. Incidents of mine collapses, often involving artisanal miners, are rampant in the southern African country that is rich in gold, coal and diamonds.

GERMANY, MUSK SPAR OVER MIGRANT RESCUE SHIPS Berlin: Germany's government rebuked X owner Elon Musk after

he criticised the recent work of migrant rescue ships that German humanitarian groups operate in the Mediterranean Sea. Musk on Friday shared a video that showed migrants and aid workers on a boat. The right-wing account that first put the content on X, formerly known as Twitter, praised the populist far-right Alternative for Germany party, which has taken a hard line on migration issues. "Is the German public aware of this?" Musk wrote in his repost.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. SSA-20015/1/2023-Equity-SSA/I/294335/2023 Date 30.09.2023 Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites bids vide GEM/2023/B/4025930 Dated: 29-09-2023 for printing and Supply of Career Guidance through GeM portal.

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



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

Dt. 30.09.2023 **E-Tender Notice** Tentative Cost Name of Scheme Completion of Project Period Construction Of 500 KI Over Head Rs. 166.14 08 Months

Tank Of 22m Staging. Distribution System inc. other appurtances works And Construction 01 No 300x200 mm Dia 200 Mtr Deep Tubewell and SITC of Submersible Pumping Plant For THDC, Rishikesh General Manager (Admin.) Head Office, Uttarakhand Name & Address of Officer Inviting the Bid:-Peyjal Nigam, Dehradun. 3 Date and Time of Availability of bid 04-10-2023 - 15.00 Hrs. documents in the portal:-4 Last Date/Time for receipt of bids 19-10-2023 - 17.00 Hrs.

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in"

General Manager (Admin.) General Manager (Admin.)

GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD (Environment Cell)

Sector- 10/A, CHH Road, Opp. Air Force Station, Gandhinagar - 382 010

Advertisement for Empanelment of Authorized Agencies for lifting ships wastes as a part of Port

Reception Facility by Gujarat Maritime Board. On behalf of Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,

Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) invites applications from the authorized agencies for lifting ships' wastes from ships calling at GMB administered

Ports/Ship Recycling Yards/Anchorages as a part of Port Reception Facility under MARPOL 73/78 Regulations of IMO and all other applicable waste management rules. For further details, please visit GMB's website:

www.gmbports.org or contact Shri Atul Sharma, Dy. General Manager (Env)- Phone No. 079-23248733, 23238346-48

Dy- General manager (Env) Environment Cell, Gujarat Maritime Board, No/INF/VPN/2022/G/1419 Gandhinagar

and ensuring that the public keep more of the money that they earn, Pope creates 21 new cardinals | Israeli soldiers

AP VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis created 21 new cardinals at a ritual-filled ceremony on Saturday, including key figures at the Vatican and in the field who will help enact his reforms and cement his legacy as he enters a crucial new phase in running the Catholic Church.

On a crisp sunny morning filled with cheers from St. Peter's Square, Francis further expanded his influence on the College of Cardinals who will help him govern and one day elect his successor: With Saturday's additions, nearly three-quarters of the voting-age "princes of the church" owe their red hats to the Argentine Jesuit. In his instructions to the new cardinals at the start of the service, Francis said their variety and geographic diversity would serve the church like musicians in an orchestra, where sometimes they play solos, sometimes as an ensem-

"Diversity is necessary; it is indispensable. However, each

AP ■ NEW YORK



New Cardinal Américo Manuel Alves Aguiar, auxiliary bishop of Lisbon, returns the salute of a pontifical Swiss guard at the end of the consistory where Pope Francis elevated 21 new cardinals in St Peter's Square at The Vatican on Saturday

common design," Francis told them.
"This is why mutual listen-

ing is essential: each musician must listen to the others." Among the new cardinals

was the controversial new head of the Vatican's doctrine office, Victor Manuel Fernandez, and the Chicago-born missionary now responsible for vetting bishop candidates around the globe, Robert Prevost.

Also entering the exclusive club were the Vatican's ambassadors to the United States and Italy, two important diplo-

ing the church hierarchy. Leaders of the church in geopolitical hotspots like Hong Kong and Jerusalem, fragile communities like Juba, South Sudan, and sentimental favorites like Cordoba, Argentina, filled out the roster.

has a keen interest in reform-

Francis' promotions of Prevost and his ambassador to Washington, French Cardinal Christophe Pierre, were clear signs that he has his eye on shifting the balance of power in the US hierarchy, where some conservative bishops have sound must contribute to the matic posts where the Holy See strongly resisted his reforms. | of protesters.

kill a Palestinian militant in WB Jerusalem (AP): Israeli soldiers

shot and killed a Palestinian man in the West Bank Palestinian health officials said, the latest death in a monthslong surge of violence in the occupied territory. The Israeli military said that soldiers on Friday shot two Palestinians who hurled Molotov cocktails at an army post near the West Bank city of Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian authority. The Palestinian Health Ministry said the soldiers killed Muhammad Rumaneh from the hardscrabble Amari refugee camp in Ramallah. The militant group Hamas claimed him as a member. Health officials did not identify Rumaneh's age, saying that Israeli authorities were withholding his body.

Israeli officials have suggested in the past that holding onto the bodies of Palestinians slain in security incidents can deter attacks and prevent the exaltation of assailants at funerals that often draw giant crowds

Rain swamps NYC's subways, streets "I was so worried," she said. It became

Within minutes, water filled the building's basement nearly to the ceiling. After the family's deaths in 2021, the basement was turned into a recreation room. It is now destroyed.

six flooded basement apartments on

Adams declared states of emergency and urged people to stay put if possible. But schools were open, students went to class and many adults went to work, only to wonder how they would get home.

partly suspended, rerouted or running with delays. Metro-North commuter rail service from Manhattan was suspended for much of the day but began resuming by

This is to inform all the members of the Company that 102nd Annual General

Meeting which was scheduled to be held on 29th September, 2023 at 2:00 pm pursuant to the notice of AGM dated 5th September, 2023, could not be held as the Estate officer, Central Zone, New Delhi, of Delhi Development Authority has issued the Orders bearing no. TN2(04)2023/LM/CZ/396 dated 27.09.2023 for eviction for the premises of the company and took possession of the registered office during morning of 29/09/2023 in the presence of heavy police personnel without any prior

and due to absence of requisite quorum, this AGM stands adjourned. The company is taking necessary steps to hold the required AGM and proper notice of the same

Date: 30.09.2023

For Roshanara Club Limited **RAJAN MANCHANDA** Director & Hon. Gen. Secretary (DIN-00457119) 37/38 UB, Jawahar Nagar, Delhi -110007

	Annual Rate Contract		
Sr No.	Item	Tender ID	
1	Supply of Three Phase Horizontal Mono Submersible Pump Sets, (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10567	
2	Supply of Three Phase Submersible Pump Sets, (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10630	
3	Supply of Single Phase Submersible Pump Sets (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10024	
4	Supply of 3 Core Flat PVC Copper Cable for Submersible Pumps (only Indian Manufacturer)	10429	
5	ISI Marked different size of U.P.V.C casing Pipe (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only).	10603	
6	ISI Marked different size heavy duty G. I. Column Pipes, (only Indian Manufacturer)	10296	
7	ISI Marked different size H.D.P.E. Pipes (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only	10617	
8	ISI Marked 32mm dia Medium Duty G.I. Pipes, (only Indian Manufacturer)	10289	
9	ISI Marked 200mm & 250 mm dia M.S. ERW Pipes, (only Indian Manufacturer)	10340	
10	Various Size of Cubical Control Panel Board (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10578	
11	Cage Type Trapezoidal Shape "V" Wire Wound Low Carbon Galvanized / Stainless Steel - 304 Screen Pipes. (only Indian Manufacturer)	10544	
12	Spares for Deepwell Hand pumps - Standard and Extra Deep and Tool Kits, (only Indian Manufacturer)	10437	
13	ISI Marked Deepwell Handpump with normal & Telescopic stand assembly and Extra Deep Deepwell Handpump with Telescopic Stand Assembly (Indian Manufacture)	10423	

Pre-bid meeting on Dtd. 10/10/2023 at 11.00 Hrs. at GWSSB Last Date of Online Submission of Tender: 30 / 10 / 2023 at 12.00 Hrs Last Date of Physical Submission of Tender: 30 / 10 / 2023 at 15.00 Hrs Bid Opening Date: 30 / 10 / 2023 at 15.00 Hrs

Contact Office: Executive Engineer, Public Health Mechanical Store Division,"A Block, Patnagar Yojana Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Near GH-4, Sector-16, Gandhinaga 382 016, Gujarat State. Tel/fax. No. (079) 23222844, 9978493321. TAN No.- AHMP03663C

The detailed tender notice and tender documents are available on web site: watersupply.gujrat.gov.in and http://tender.nprocure.com GWSSB has all the rights to cancel the tender without reason or Village Level Drinking water Complaint Please Contact our Toll Free No: 1910

Executive Engineer No/INF/VPN/2023/G/1475 Public Health Mechanical Store Divisio

are many constituencies in the north With people unable to go to polling stations, the process will be tainted and allegations of unfair elec-

polls could be held, if not in January, he responded by saying that the end of February or March would be a good time for holding the elections. To a question about the source of

was his "assessment, not information". The take of the former premier on

sheets that informed an anti-terrorism government violence on May 9.

A large number of PTI activists had attacked military installations, police vehicles, and other public and private properties in Lahore, according to the cases registered with the police. The vandalism at the Lahore Corps Commander's House (Jinnah House), Askari Tower, and the Shadman police station were some of the major incidents during the violence.

ROSHANARA CLUB LTD.

In view of the unexpected, unusual, unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, shall be given to members in due time.

GUJARAT WATER SUPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD TENDER NOTICE NO: SK/RC / 04 of 2023-24

And more downpours were expected. The deluge came two years after the

 $R^{\text{ain walloped the New York metropol-}} \\ \text{Ritan area with a startling punch Friday,}$ knocking out several subway and commuter rail lines, stranding drivers on highways, flooding basements and shuttering a terminal at LaGuardia Airport for hours in one of the city's wettest days in decades. More than 7.25 inches (18.41 centime-

tres) of rain had fallen in parts of Brooklyn by nightfall, with at least one spot seeing 2.5 inches (6 centimetres) in a single hour, according to weather and city officials. The 8.65 inches (21.97 centimetres) at John F. Kennedy Airport surpassed its record for any September day, a bar set during Hurricane Donna in 1960, the National Weather Service said.

remnants of Hurricane Ida dumped



killed at least 13 people in New York City, mostly in flooded basement apartments. Although no deaths or severe injuries have been reported so far from Friday's storm,

it stirred frightening memories. Ida killed three of Joy Wong's neighbours, including a toddler. And on Friday, water began lapping against the front door of her building in Woodside, Queens.

too dangerous to leave: "Outside was like a lake, like an ocean."

City officials said they got reports of Friday, but all occupants got out safely. Gov. Kathy Hochul and Mayor Éric

Virtually every subway line was at least

Amended GST for e-gaming to be implemented from Oct 1: FinMin

he Finance Ministry has notified October 1 as the date for implementation of the amended GST law provisions for taxing e-gaming,

casinos and horse racing.

According to the changes to the Central GST Act, these supplies will henceforth be treated as "actionable claims" similar to lottery, betting and gambling and subject to 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on full face value of bets.

The amendments to Integrated GST (IGST) Act makes it mandatory for offshore online gaming platforms to take registration in India and pay taxes in accordance with

Indus Iowers

inks pact with

clean energy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IOC Phinergy for

Indus Towers and IOC Phinergy (IOP) have inked a pact for the deployment of

300 zero-emission energy systems to optimise diesel consumption at Indus' telecom

This move accelerates Indus Towers' progress towards its sustainability priorities, according to a release.

IOC Phinergy Private Limited

(IOP) have signed an agreement for deployment of 300

zero-emission energy systems

based on aluminium-air tech-

nology, to optimise diesel con-

sumption at Indus' telecom

tower sites," the release said. Indus Towers' CEO

Prachur Sah said as part of the

company's ESG vision, Indus

Towers believes in nurturing environmental stewardship

being socially responsible and

with IOP is a testimony of the

company's commitment to

build eco-friendly telecom

tower sites by investing in solu-

tions for resource optimisation," Sah added.

"Indus Tower's agreement

having robust governance.

"Indus Towers Limited and



Govt has allocated ₹100 cr

Programme this fiscal: Official

for Aspirational Blocks

domestic law.

PTI NEW DELHI

The government in this finan-The government in the character Rs 100 cial year has allocated Rs 100

crore for the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), which aims

to improve governance at the

block level, in order to enhance

the quality of life of citizens, a top

government official said on

The Aspirational Blocks Programme is being imple-mented in 500 aspirational

blocks across 329 districts in the country. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi launched the

nationwide programme on January 7. "The government has allocated Rs 100 crore for the

Aspirational Blocks Programme

in 2023-24... We expect that all

500 backward blocks will reach

the state average in terms of development," the official said

In its meetings in July and August, the GST Council, comprising finance ministers of Centre and states, had clarified that such supplies

approved amendments to the law to include online gaming, casinos and horse racing as tax-

able actionable claims, and

on the condition of anonymity.

Out of 500 aspirations blocks, 160 blocks are part of the 112 aspirational districts.

Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of blocks (68)

under this programme, followed by Bihar (61) and Madhya

Pradesh. NITI Aayog would undertake ranking of Blocks

every quarter based on their per-

gramme changed the lives of

more than 25 crore people in

112 districts of the country and

its success will now form the

basis of the aspirational blocks

he launched a unique week-long

programme for aspirational

blocks called 'Sankalp Saptaah' at the Bharat Mandapam here.

Modi made the remarks as

formance, the official added. PM Modi on Saturday said the aspirational districts profull bet value.

Parliament last month passed amendments to the Central GST and Integrated GST laws to give effect to the Council's decision. The Finance Ministry has now notified that October 1 will be the appointed date for implementation of these provisions

The GST Council in its meeting in August had decided that the amended provision to classify these supplies as actionable claims and clarifying the taxation provisions would come into effect from October A review of the implementation was proposed to be carried out after six months, which is April 2024.

Registration of properties in Mumbai up 23% in Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{
m egistration}$ of properties in Mumbai municipal area rose 23 per cent year-on-year this month to around 10,600 units — highest in 10 years on better housing demand, according to Knight Frank

The registration of properties in Mumbai city (area under BMC jurisdiction) touched 10,594 units by 3.15 pm on Saturday. Data pertains to both primary and secondary property market.

The registration process is slow on Saturday because of the start of 'shradh' period. The consultant expects the number to rise to around 10,650 units by the end of the day, out of which 82 per cent would be



As many as 8,628 units were registered during September last year. In the previous month, 10,902 units ere registered

Registration of properties is expected to contribute Rs 1,127 crore to the state government's

Shishir Baijal, Chairman & Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said, " ... For the

first nine months of 2023, we have observed a monthly average of 10,420 property transactions. The growing prominence of properties valued at Rs 1 crore and above indicates a shift in preference towards more spacious and upscale accommodations, mirroring the upward trajectory of property prices."

Amit Goyal, MD, India Sotheby's International Realty, said Mumbai's luxury housing market has been steadily rising for the last three years.

"This signifies that real estate has made a meaningful come-back into the ultra high net worth individuals (UHNIs) portfolios," Goyal said, and expected sales momentum to continue, especially in luxury



n a bid to further strengthen its presence in Karnataka, Texas-based technology conglomerate Dell is considering a fresh investment in its research and development (R&D) centhe office of Karnataka Large and Medium Industries & Infrastructure Minister M B

Dell operates around 25 manufacturing facilities with 14 of these facilities dedicated to

operations, which would enhance cost sustainability for Dell's expansion in India, his office said in a statement here.

A business delegation led by Patil is visiting various states in the US to attract investments into the state.

The delegation also met leading semiconductor manufacturing company Global Foundries (GF), which expressed interest in increasing its workforce in Bengaluru with an addition of 200 skilled

The Minister has assured to extend the government's support in this regard and will also help Global Foundries to

tomers and suppliers, it added. The \$30-billion Global Foundries has also expressed interest in establishing and expanding its Aerospace and Defence (A&D) presence in Karnataka, with plans for further engagement to develop a

Espire Hospitality plans to have 20 hotels by FY25 with ₹560 crore capex

Espire Hospitality Group is planning to have 20 operational properties by 2024-25, with a capex of Rs 560 crore under its brands - Zana, Country Inn Express and Country Inn Premier, a top company executive said on Saturday.

"Currently, we have 10 hotels in the portfolio under the 5 star luxury boutique resort brand 'ZANA - a Luxury Escapes' and the 4 star brand 'Country Inn Hotels and Resorts', with 780 keys. In this financial year, we are adding 200 more keys (3 ZANA resorts) to reach 13 operational hotels with 980 keys," Espire Hospitality Group Chief Executive Officer Akhil Arora told PTI.

The capex, through in-house funding, will also be utilised in phases for renovating, leasing and upgrading the existing hotels, he added

The hospitality group, Arora said, is exploring both green-field as well as brown-field properties in leisure destinations like Goa, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

"We are exploring opportunities in leisure destinations as well as tier I cities for expanding our footprint. We are looking at Goa, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh as well as Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. Continuing with our expansion we are opening ZANA resort in Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh near Diwali, in Rishikesh in Uttarakhand in December and Jim Corbett in February 2024," he added.



The company, he said, is also looking at opportunities in pilgrim destinations for expansion of its property portfolio.

"Pilgrim destinations are critical and we are eyeing to enter Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh to begin with," he added.

The homegrown hospitality company currently has 10 operational hotels and under the luxury boutique segment it has ZANA Forest Resort, Ranthambore (opening on Saturday), ZANA Lake Resort, Udaipur in Rajasthan.

In the mid-segment, the company has properties in Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Uttar Pradesh. With the current expansion, the company is expecting to more than double its revenue by 2024-25, Arora said, adding that Espire Hospitality has clocked over Rs 30 crore of revenue in

With the tourism sector booming, he

said, the hospitality industry has been witnessing an average 60 per cent occupancy rate, and Espire Hospitality has also been seeing a similar level of occupancy.

'Along with the industry, we are experiencing a 20 per cent increase in occupancy, rates and demand, compared to pre-Covid times.

This is because travellers have increased their domestic travel share significantly due to the domestic chains offering more personalised, hygienic services and for their increased focus on sustainability. We are at 60 per cent occupancy pan İndia, across our portfolio. Our immediate focus is to take it up to 70 per

cent," Arora added.

Dell considering fresh investment in Bengaluru

tre in Bengaluru, according to The company already operates a prominent research and development centre in Bengaluru. Āt the global level,

On Friday, senior officials from Dell held meetings with Patil at Austin in the USA and sought support from the Karnataka government to over-come import restrictions on Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

workers, it said.

establish connections with cus-

comprehensive business strategy, the statement added.

Cyprus hails Moody's two-notch credit rating upgrade bringing the country into investment grade

AP ■ NICOSIA (CYPRUS)

vprus on Saturday hailed a Ctwo-notch upgrade by credit ratings agency Moody's to bring the east Mediterranean island nation back into investment-grade territory a decade after a financial crisis left the country on the brink of bank-President Nikos Christo-

doulides said he was "deeply satisfied" with the upgrade that he said was the culmination of years of fiscal discipline and will translate into attracting quality foreign investment and creating new jobs. "We unwaveringly contin-

ue on this path as a government ... and so we will carry on with our governance," Christodoulides said in a written message. "We will carry on buttressing our economy and expanding its dynamic course.

Moody's said in its statement the upgrade from Ba1 to Baa2 with a concurrent change in outlook from positive to stable is due to previous and continuing economic, fiscal and banking reforms, as well as a significant drop in bad bank

The agency pointed to "sustained structural improvements" in the labour market, a

investments, a continuing drop in public debt and a jump in productivity that resulted in economic growth by more than 4 per cent between 2014-2023.

These developments also support the resilience of the ypriot economy to external ocks as shown for instance in the context of the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war," the agency said, adding that it expects the Cypriot economy to grow by 2.3 per cent in 2023 and 2.8 per cent in 2024.

It warned that profligate government spending and a jump in the public debt would Cyprus' Finance Ministry

said the Moody's credit upgrade brings Cyprus to investment-grade level according to all major credit rating agencies by two notches, with the exception of the DBRS agency which rates the country a notch higher.

The ministry said in a statement it would continue on a "responsible" management of the economy despite the continued challenges the country faces including the war in Ukraine, inflationary pressures

rebound in public and private

potentially put "downward essure" on the credit rating.

and an energy crisis.

Bengaluru sees 39% fall in office demand in July-Sept: Cushman & Wakefield Across eight major cities, the

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

programme.

 $B_{\text{nent city for commercial}}^{\text{engaluru, the most prominent}}$ real estate market, saw a 39 per cent decline in gross leasing of office space during July-September with corporates making delays in taking decisions to expand business, according to Cushman & Wakefield

According to data released by real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield, the gross office leasing in Bengaluru fell to 22,13,654 square feet (sq ft) during July-September from 36,39,339 sq ft in the year-ago

absorption of office space fell 13 per cent to 151,18,147 sq ft from 173,76,222 sq ft. Anshul Jain, Head of APAC Tenant Representation and Managing Director, India & South East Asia, said, "The office segment is seeing major shifts in terms of evolving occupier demands.

"India is currently in the spotlight as a preferred destination for business expansion, the top tier markets are destined to witness more innovation and traction in the real estate place. We can expect a healthy sustained demand for Grade-A, compliant and sustainable office



assets in these markets," Jain said. As per the data, Mumbai saw a nearly 19 per cent fall to 34,70,098 sq ft from 42,58,198 sq ft. In Delhi-NCR, the office demand was down 11 per cent to 33,96,626 sq ft from 38,24,131

Chennai saw a decline of 7 per cent to 18,01,666 sq ft from 19,39,058 sq ft, while Pune witnessed a fall of 42 per cent to 9,66,772 sq ft from 16,56,319 sq ft. However, the leasing of office space in Hyderabad grew 59 per cent to 24,43,523 sq ft from 15,34,851 sq ft.

In Kolkata, the absorption of office space rose 40 per cent to 4,08,273 sq ft from 2,92,000 sq ft. The office demand in Ahmedabad jumped 80 per cent to 4,17,535 sq ft during July-September from 2,32,326 sq ft in the corresponding period of the previous year

Realtors hail Bengal for extending stamp duty rebate

The real estate industry in West Bengal on Friday welcomed the state government's decision to extend the stamp duty rebate till June 2024.

CREDAI West Bengal president and Merlin Group chairman Sushil Mohta said the stamp duty rebate extension will help the industry achieve a growth trajectory.

"The real estate industry has been struggling since the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it managed to survive because of the continuous support from the state government in terms of the two per cent rebate in stamp duty and 10 per cent rebate in circle rate. The extension of the rebate will give a much-needed boost to the industry," Mohta said.

The increase in interest rates

and the huge rise in the cost of raw materials made it difficult for the industry to pass on the benefits of the rebate to consumers, he said

"However, the state government's support is helping us keep the costs down for consumers. The extension of the rebate will further encourage real estate buyers to close their transactions and boost the sector significantly," he said

extension will be a win-win situation for the state government and buyers, as it will help add revenue to the state exchequer.

'Lots of old customers are likely to register their properties, who have not done so in the last two decades. This will also help boost the state government's revenue," Mohta stated. The real estate industry contributes 10 per cent of the state GDP.

Popular Vehicles and Services files IPO papers with Sebi again PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 P^{opular} Vehicles and Services Ltd, which is engaged in automotive dealerships, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial share sale. This is the company's second attempt to go public. Earlier, the company filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in August 2021 for floating an Initial Public Offering (IPO) but deferred the maiden public issue amid uncertain market condi-

According to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed on Thursday, the IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 250 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 1.42 crore equity shares by Banyantree Growth Capital IÍ, LLC. Besides, the company is looking to raise Rs 50 crore in a pre-IPO placement round. If such placement is undertaken, the fresh issue size will be reduced.

Proceeds of the fresh issue will be used for payment of debt

and general corporate purposes. The Kerala-based company is a leading diversified automotive dealership in the country with a presence across the auto motive retail value chain, including the sale of new passenger and commercial vehicles, services and repairs, spare parts distribution, sale of pre-owned

It operates passenger vehi-cle dealerships of Maruti Suzuki, Honda, and JLR and the commercial vehicle dealership of Tata Motors

passenger vehicles, and facilita-

tion of the sale of third-party

financial and insurance prod-

ICICI Securities, Nuvama Wealth Management, and Centrum Capital have been appointed as merchant bankers to advise the company on the IPO. The equity shares of the company will be listed on the BSE and NSE.

Godrej Agrovet to set up integrated palm oil complex in Telangana

PTI ■ MUMBAI

odrej Agrovet Ltd (GAVL) on Saturday said it will set up an integrated palm oil complex in Telangana with an investment of Rs 300 crore over the next 3-4 years The palm oil complex, to

be set up in the Khammam district of Telangana, is spread over 125 acres and will consist of a crude palm oil mill along with the provision of setting up

The company will also establish a nursery with a capacity of up to 7 lakh saplings

per year in addition to the seed production and research unit, it added "Telangana's ambitious oil

palm mission aims to bring 20 lakh acres under cultivation across the state. The mission will improve income for more than 5 lakh farm households, while at the same time contributing to the nation's deficit for edible oils.

"Along with being the rice bowl for the country, Telangana is all set to become the largest edible oil producer in India, Telangana Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Industries and Com-



in the oil palm sector will help

years in setting up the integrated palm oil complex and through its Samadhan Centers - a one stop solution for oil palm farmers. The company would also

300 crore over the next 3-4

provide advisory services on best practices / modern technologies, farm inputs (such as fertilisers, drip irrigation, pesticides, seeds, and harvesting tools) and services under one

The company's partner-

gestation period, the statement idded. Currently, with 65,000 hectares of palm oil under cul-

tivation across the country, GAVL plans to increase cultivation to 1.2 lakh hectares by . We intend to handhold

oil palm farmers by providing them access to quality seedlings and nursery. With our plans of commissioning of Crude Palm Oil mill in the coming years, it is our honour to set up the country's first integrated palm oil complex in Telangana," GAVL Managing Director Balram Singh Yadav said.

Pivotal role of MSMEs in job creation highlightes New Delhi: Purple Finance, a digitally empowered NBFC, Purple Finance employs a tech-driven platform with a targets micro-entrepreneurs in

tier III and IV Indian cities, aiming to provide accessible growth capital. Founder and executive chairman Amitabh Chaturvedi emphasised the pivotal role of MSMEs in job creation and economic development, recognising government efforts while suggesting room for improvement.

sive growth in India.

vernacular interface, enabling swift, paperless customer onboarding and loan approvals in under 5 hours. Co-Founder and CEO Sabyasachi Rath stressed their commitment as growth partners for microentrepreneurs, with aspirations to evolve into a small finance bank, further advancing inclu-

a refinery in the near future, GAVL said in a statement.

merce and Information Technology minister K T Rama Rao He said GAVL's expertise

the state to achieve its goals of unleashing a yellow revolution. GAVL will be investing Rs

ship with the public sector lender, State Bank of India, would also support oil palm plantation farmers during the

BADMINTON GOLD ONE WIN AWAY

India beat South Korea, enter first-ever Asian Games final in Badminton team event

PTI HANGZHOU

idambi Srikanth rallied his way to a thrilling win in a tense decider as India kept alive their hopes of winning a first-ever gold medal at the Asian Games, reaching the men's team championships final with a 3-2 win over South Korea here on Saturday.

This is India's maiden entry into the final of the team event at the continental showpiece. World No. 7 HS Prannoy

showed nerves of steel to bounce back from an opening game reversal to outwit Jeon Hyeok Jin 18-21 21-16 21-19 and put India 1-0 ahead but Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lost the first doubles 13-21 24-26 to reigning world champions Seo Seung-Jae and Kang Minhyuk as Korea made it 1-1.

Lakshya Sen then put up a dominating show in the second singles to bring India back in business with a clinical 21-7 21-9 win over Lee Yungyu but MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila lost 16 21 11-21 to Kim Wonho and NA Sungseung in the second doubles as the two teams found themselves on level terms once



Srikanth, a 2021 World Championships silver medallist, then fought his way under pressure to struggle past world no. 163 Cho Geonyeop 12-21 21-16 21-14 and seal India's place in the summit clash at the BI Gymnasium.

India will look to live up to their Thomas Cup champions tag when they face multiple-time gold medallist China in the final on Sunday. Saturday's win assured India

of at least a silver medal in badminton at the continental championships with two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu winning the first in women's singles in the 2018 edition at Iakarta.

The last time the Indian men won a badminton medal in team championships was at the 1986 edition at Seoul where Sen's mentor Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar played a crucial role.

In total, India have so far bagged 10 badminton medals in Asian Games history, including three individual singles medals, three men's team bronze, two women's team bronze and one medal each in men's doubles and mixed doubles.

Fearless Preeti wins Olympic quota,

assures India of medal

PTI HANGZHOU

▼ndian boxer Preeti Pawar Isecured a quota for the Paris Olympics and also assured herself of a medal along with Lovlina Borgohain as they moved into the semifinals of the Asian Games here on Saturday.

The 19-year-old Preeti put up a fearless display against Kazakhstan's Zhaina Shekerbekova, a three-time World Championship medallist and reigning Asian champion, to eke out a 4-1 win in a fiercely fought 54kg quarterfinal bout

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina, who received a first round bye, used her long reach to expectedly defeat South Korea's Seong Suyeon by a 5-0 unanimous decision in the women's 75 kg category.

Lovlina is now a win away from earning an Olympic quota.

Preeti started the bout on the offensive but her defence was broken several times by the more experi-

enced rival. Unperturbed, the Indian teenager continued to pummel Shekerbekova to take a slender 3-2 lead in the first round.

But Preeti fought a strategic bout as she moved off the center of the ring in the beginning of the second round with a long range jab.

In the last three minutes, the two boxers showered a lot of punches at each other but both were inaccurate. As the clock ticked, the fatigue kicked in for Shekerbekova, while Preeti continued to pepper her opponent with shots to take the win.

On Friday, Nikhat Zareen became the first Indian boxer to win an Olympic quota.

In the women's events, the semifinalists in the 50kg, 54kg, 57kg, and 60kg while the finalists in the 66kg and 75kg will qualify for the Paris Olympics.

The gold and silver medallists in each of the seven weight divisions in the men's event will receive Olympic quotas.

Aditi Ashok closes in on historic gold

Indian women's team marches to top slot

after 54 holes.

in the team competition. Aditi's 11-under put alongside Pranavi Urs' 2-

women construct a lead.

under 70 helped Indian

and are ahead of fancied teams

India is now 29-under

Aditi has dropped just

She opened the third

round with a birdie on second

and added further birdies on

fourth, fifth, seventh and

ond eagle of the week on the

short par-4 ninth to turn in 7-

on the 12th was followed by

three more on 15th, 17th,

and 18th holes to go 11-

Then she landed her sec-

On the back nine, a birdie

Pranavi had three birdies

against one bogey, while Avani

had two birdies and two

bogeys in the first 17 holes

and then had a double bogey

eighth to go 5-under.

PTI HANGZHOU

Aditi Ashok played a sensational third round of 11under 61 to place herself in a commanding position to win a historic individual gold medal in the golf competition at the Asian Games here on Saturday. Aditi, who is now seven

shots clear of her closest rival, also carried the Indian women's team to the top spot, where it holds a one-shot lead over Thailand. Indian women have never

won a medal at the Asian Games, as Aditi had finished a distant 21st at the Incheon Games in 2014. Aditi's 11-under score-

card was five shots better than the next best round of India's other two players,

under and Avani Prashanth (72-69-74) at 1-under are 11th and tied 19th respectively. However, the day did not

go well for the men. Anirban Lahiri, who needed medical aid to help him through extreme heat in the second round, was off-colour.

He shot 2-over 74 on a course that has been yielding low scores. Lahiri at 10-under was

like Thailand, China, Korea tied-17th, while SSP Chawrasia with a 68 in the third round was on tied 20th one shot in 54 holes and that and Khalin Joshi with a card came in the second round. of 69 was on tied 24th.

Shubhankar Sharma shot a wavward 76 that saw him dropping to tied 34th.

Hong Kong's Taichi Kho (70) at 24-under leads the men's section with Taipei's Chien-Yao Hung (67) at 21and Korea's Jang Yubin (68) at 20-under is

The Indian men's team are also out of the reckoning for a medal, as they were eighth with a total of 32-under, which was a massive 26-shots behind Korea, while Thailand and Hong Kong share the second

Aditi, who was fourth at on the 18th in her 74.

The Indian compound archers will enter the Asian

Games as outright favourites

after producing exceptional

results in the 2023 season while

HANGZHOU SEP 30 (PTI)

The Indian women's 3x3 basketball I team entered the quarterfinals but the men's campaign ended in the pre-quarterfinals stage of the Asian Games here on The women's team thrashed Malaysia

16-6 in its pre-quarter final match with Vaishnavi Yadav emerging as the star performer, scoring a maximum of nine points in the contest. The women's team had finished sec-

ond in its group, having beaten Uzbekistan



Indian women enter 3x3 basketball

quarterfinals, men knocked out

while facing a humiliating defeat against last edition's gold medallist China. The women's team will lock horns

with Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals. In the men's event, the Indian side lost a close contest against Iran 17-19 and was knocked out of the tournament. India's Princepal Singh was the star

performer, scoring a maximum of nine points in the match but failed to take his side to the finish line. The men's side ended the league stage

in second place. They defeated Malaysia and Macao and lost to 2018 Games' gold medallist China.

The Indian contingent is making its

after finishing second in his heat and among the top 12.

PTI HANGZHOU

Tndian hurdlers Jyothi Yarraji ▲and Nithva Ramrai advanced to the women's 100m hurdles final, while ace long jumpers the Tokyo Olympics, is now Murali Sreeshankar and Jeswin 22-under with rounds of 67-Aldrin also sailed through, 66-61 for a total of 22-under keeping their medal hopes alive at the Asian Games here

Arpichaya Yubol (67-65-69) is Asian champion Yarraji finished second in her heat 15-under, while China's Lin Xiyu (67-67-68) is 14-under. with a timing of 13.03 seconds Aditi's stunning round to qualify for the women's 100m hurdles final. also gave India a one-shot lead

China's Yuwei Lin finished first with a personal best time of 12.79.

India will have a second hurdler in the event as Nithya Ramraj finished fifth in her heat but qualified as second fastest loser with a time of Second-fastest Asian hur-

Asian Athletics Championships. She has broken the national record in the 100m hurdles a staggering



Indian athletes make finals in long jump, 1500m, women's 100m hurdles

In long jump, Commonwealth Games silver medallist Sreeshankar jumped more than the automatic qualification mark of 7.90m to make it to the final.

The 24-year-old from Kerala, who boasts a personal and season's best of 8.41m, produced a first jump of 7.97 to

Having started off with a foul, Asia's best Jeswin Aldrin's third attempt of 7.67 was not enough for an automatic qualification but he still made the cut

There will be two Indians in the men's 1500m final as Jinson Johnson and Ajay Kumar qualified from their respective heats. Johnson finished fifth with

a time of 3:56.22 to seal an automatic qualification spot. Ajay Kumar was second to cruise into the final with a timing of finishing second in his heat. Finals of all the three events

- women's 100m hurdles, men's long jump and men's 1500m -are slated on Sunday.

Mirabai's injury ends her Asian Games campaign

PTI HANGZHOU

ce Indian weightlifter Ace Indian weighter Amirabai Chanu is disappointed that she could not realise her dream of an Asian Games medal as she suffered thigh muscle injury during the women's 49kg event here on Saturday

The Olympic silver medal-list said she felt pain while warming up before the event started and despite her coach asking her to pull out, she continued as she wanted to win a medal for the country.

"When I was warming up before the snatch section, I felt pain on my thigh, I think deep sheathing hit me. They have put ice and some spray, and will see in India what kind of treatment



we will do. I am having pain now also," Chanu said after the event, where she finished fourth. "It is pain in the glutes and

the bones on the right side of the thigh," she added. An Asian Games medal is

the only silverware missing from the Manipuri's decorated cabinet. Chanu had finished ninth in the 2014 edition and was forced to miss the 2018 Games due to a back injury.

"I had trained hard but I could not bring the results because of this pain. I tried my best to win a medal for the country but could not. I am feeling

"I could not take part in the 2018 Asian Games. It was my dream to win a medal in the Asian Games but it is not happening. Now, my target is to do well in the Paris Olympics.'

"Pain had started during snatch warm up. Sir (Vijay Sharma) asked me if I wanted to pull out because it may lead to serious injury. But I continued because I wanted to win a medal," she added.

Chanu lifted 108kg in her first clean and jerk but increased the weight to 117kg with an eye

Indian canoers enter final with women's kayak pair

PTI HANGZHOU

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{ndia's Niraj Verma qualified}}$ for the final of the canoe sprint events at the Asian Games along with the men's and women's pairs, here on Saturday.

Niraj topped the canoe single 1000m semi-final by clock ing 4:31.626s after missing the final qualification in heat 1, where he managed a time of 4:25.162 seconds.

Taipei's Kuan-Chieh Lai emerged the winner by clocking a blistering 4:02.431s.

Later, the top three in the four-canoer semifinals advanced to the medal round with Nirai taking the top spot.

The eight-man final is scheduled for Monday. The Indian team of Ribason

Singh Ningthoujam and

Gyaneshwor Singh Philem reached the canoe double 500m final after finishing third with a combined timing of 1:57.225 seconds in the semifinals.

This was after they finished fourth in heats with a timing of 1:54.829 seconds.

In the women's Kayak double 500m semifinal, the Indian duo of Binita Chanu Oinam and Parvathy Geetha finished second with a combined timing of 2:07.036 seconds after claiming fourth place in the heats, clocking 2:06.956 seconds.

India have won only one bronze medal so far in the sport at the Asian Games -- a bronze at the 1994 Hiroshima edition.

In the last edition in Jakarta Indian athletes made eight finals across slalom and sprint events but could not secure a medal.



beat Vietnam

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The second-seeded Indian ▲ women's team registered a 2.5-1.5 win over Vietnam in the second round of the team event in the Asian Games, here on Saturday. The top-seeded men's team

was held to a 2-2 draw by a strong Uzbekistan team with all four matches ending in draws. In the India-Vietnam

match, R Vaishali scored the first win with black pieces against WGM Vo Thi Kim Phung.

The country's top player, Koneru Humpy, and Vantika Agarwal drew their games. On the fourth board, B

Savitha Shri drew against Thi

Bao Tram Hoang as India closed out a 2.5-1.5 victory. Meanwhile, it was a solid draw for India against

Uzbekistan. D Gukesh was under pressure on the top board against Nodirbek Abdusattorov, but

Javokhir Sindarov, but could not force a win. Vidit S Gujrathi drew against Nodirbek Yakubboev and Arjun Erigaisi held on for a draw in his game

World-conquering compound archers aim Asian domination Aditi who dropped just four points in the semifinal and the winning a silver at the World grabbed seven gold and four bronze medals from three stages "The mixed team event will be tricky and you never know,

> recurve section. Going into the Asian Games with such stupendous performances, the compound archers will be aiming for all the five gold medals on offer and power India to their best-ever show in archery

of the World Cup to assert their

supremacy, similar to what

Korean archers brag about in

at the continental showpiece. India had returned with two silver medals from

India's best-ever show in archery at the Asian Games came in 2014 with one gold, one silver and a bronze in the com-



"This time we are expecting gold in men's and women's sections. God willing, we may end up with four gold medals in compound," India's high perfor-

director mance Dronacharya Awardee Sanjeeva Singh told PTI referring to individual and team events.

Berlin in August. India's most-accomplished compound archer Jyothi, who has seven World Championship

final en route to title win in

medals, will also look to make her presence felt. In men's section, while

world champion Deotale will look to live up to his reputation, senior-most Abhishek Verma, who is the only compound archer to have an individual silver (Incheon 2014) in the Asian Games would look to upgrade his medal and sign off on a high.

Then the compound team also have the promising winning a silver at the World Cup Final earlier this month. As per a new rule, only two

qualifying round for the individual elimination round. Also, this Asian Games will offer two more medals in archery from the previous addi-

tion with the addition of mixed sections (recurve and com-

pound events). 'So no country can make a clean sweep in the individual section, and hence I'm expecting four medals from compound archers -- two each in

it will be a bonus if we make it five (in mixed event)," Singh added.

recurve section which is an Olympic discipline. The last time India won a recurve medal at the Asian Games was 13 years ago at Guangzhou.

India's best bet would be 22-year-old Army man Dhira

managed to hold on for a draw. R Praggnanandhaa had an edge in the middlegame against

against Shamsiddin Vokhidov.

the recurve archers will strive to end a 13-year medal drought at the continental showpiece when competition in the bow sport gets underway, here on Sunday. India never boasted a world champion in archery but the year 2023 threw not just one but three senior champions, includ-Indonesia in 2018. ing Ojas Deotale and 17-year-

old Aditi Swami, who excelled in compound. The compound archers also

pound section.

In the women's compound section, all eyes would be on

men's and women's sections.

archers from the same country Redemption time will make the cut from the It's a different story in

> That six Olympic quota places will also be on offer and that will be an added incentive.

Bommadevara, who is enjoying a career-best world rank-

BUTTLER'S MEN HAVE STOKES' FIRE, BUT... PTI MUMBAI TACKLING SPIN REMAINS A CHALLENGE tions, and they have also arrived only a day before their first

rith Ben Stokes coming out of retirement and the 2019 title winning core group largely intact, England will fancy a successful campaign in challenging conditions in India during the 50-over World Cup starting on October 5. England's squad has depth and variety but adapting to conditions would be crucial for them, and the Three Lions players will also lean on their IPL experience to tread through eight venues for their nine group stage matches.

Jos Buttler's team will face New Zealand in Ahmedabad in the World Cup opener on October 5, but before that, they would hope to make the most of the two warm-up matches against India and Bangladesh, especially in their preparations against spin.

HERE'S THEN A SWOT ANALYSIS OF ENGLAND

Strengths: The presence of Stokes is a massive shot in the arm for them, and they also have a number of players who know how to win a global tournament, something only Australia can boast of among the competitors.

They have a long batting



line-up but more than the length the fearsome ability to subjugate rivals with an aggressive approach make England stand out from the rest, a key component of their domination in

white ball formats.

The addition of in-form

Harry Brook in place of out of form Jason Roy has only added to their firepower, but they also have class in Joe Root.

Fast bowler Jofra Archer will be a reserve player but England have searing pace in Mark Wood, while leg-spinner Adil

Rashid will be crucial for them on Indian pitches.

Weakness: Unlike their Indian and Australian counterparts, England have had no specific build-up to the World Cup. A four-match ODI series against the Kiwis at home, which England won 3-1, was their most recent experience of oneday cricket while their frontline players were rested for the Ireland series.

This lack of game-time for key players could be a major deterrent for England's ambi-

tions, and they have also arrived only a day before their first warm-up match. While England's aggressive

batting approach has largely won approvals, it remains to be seen how they would execute it on the surfaces that slow down as the tournament progresses.

Opportunity: The finest generation of England's whiteball players - most of whom could be in their last 50-over WC - would not get any better opportunity than this to 'create memories', which is essentially the core of their 'Bazball approach in Tests.

Stokes showed his intent to bring a bit of the 'Bazball' into one-dayers when he went ballistic with a 124-ball 182 against New Zealand. At the same time, lesser-known young quick Gus Atkinson, Brook and Sam Curran would know it is their time to cement positions as England gradually heads towards transition.

Threat: England have played only 10 ODIs in the World Cup year, and 'Buttler's Buccaneer's even with all their exceptional skills will have to counter a set of spinners, especially from Asian nations, who know how to exploit the condi-

2023 World Cup could be my last for India: Ashwin



PTI ■ GUWAHATI

 $R^{avichandran} \ \ Ashwin \ \ on \\ Saturday \ \ conceded \ \ the \\ upcoming \ World \ Cup \ could \ be$ his last for India after the veteran spinner replaced Axar Patel in the hosts' 15-member squad for the event, starting on October 5.

Ashwin, who enjoyed a successful outing against Australia featuring in the first two ODIs of the recently-concluded series, was named as the replacement of Patel who has been sidelined due to quadricep strain.

Ahead of India's first warmup match against defending champions England here on Saturday, the 37-year-old Ashwin made the admission in a pre-match chat

"Being in a good space, enjoying this tournament will keep me in good stead. This could be my last World Cup for India, so enjoying the tournament is of utmost importance," Ashwin told Star Sports.

"I would have said that you were joking. Life is full of surprises. Honestly, did not think I would be here. Circumstances have made sure I am here today, the team management have shown trust," said Ashwin while talking about his inclusion in the

Indian squad. Ashwin has played 10 matches for India in World Cup history with his last appearance coming in 2015.

He has bagged 17 wickets in the competition at an average of 24.88 and an economy of 4.36

with his best figures being 4/25. Apart from Virat Kohli, Ashwin is the only member of the current Indian side who were also a part of their World Cup winning campaign in 2011.

Ashwin said dealing with pressure would be crucial. "All you can do is turn the ball both ways, and I think I can do it. Dealing with pressure is paramount in these tournaments. and it will dictate how the tournament goes," he said.

Kuldeep best spinner going into World Cup, will give India significant advantage: Intikhab Alam

PTI HYDERABAD

✓uldeep Yadav is the best Kuldeep rauav is the Spinner going into the World Cup and will give India a distinct advantage in the middle overs through the course of the 50-over showpiece, reckons former Pakistan captain Intikhab Alam.

The 28-year-old Kuldeep is being seen as India's trump card in the World Cup at home, having taken 33 wickets in 17 ODIs at an average of 16.03 this year. Since coming back from a knee injury, Kuldeep has worked on his arm speed and angles, helping him get a bagful of wickets in the middle overs.

Alam, who has been to

India multiple times as a player and having also served as a manager of the Pakistan team in the past, feels it will be advantage India in the mother of all clashes in Ahmedabad on October 14. "The way India played in Asia Cup and played the final (decimating Sri Lanka). They look like the team to beat. Their spin attack stands out. Kuldeep is going to play a major role in the tournament. He will test the batters of all teams," Alam told

'Jadeja and Kuldeep make a lethal combination. Kuldeep is a match winner. He is the best spinner in this World Cup in my opinion. Now you also have (Ravichandran) Ashwin back,"

PTI on Saturday

said the 81-year-old, who was born in Hoshiarpur in the pre-Independence India.

Alam added that India's

batting, including greats like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, as well as the in-form Shubman Gill makes the hosts a strong contender to win the trophy.

SPIN ATTACK A CONCERN FOR PAKISTAN

Alam said Pakistan spinners, however, don't inspire the same confidence

Pakistan could not defend 345 in the opening warm-up match against New Zealand here on Friday as their premier spinner Shadab Khan did not bowl while left-arm spinner



Mohmmad Nawaz leaked runs. Leggie Usama Mir, though, made an impact with two wick-

ets. "In the bowling department, Pakistan's spin attack is weak in the middle overs. In

too will be missed with the new ball," said Alam referring to Shah's injury. STICK WITH FAKHAR

Asia Cup we struggled. It is important for them to do well in

this phase else teams will easily

score 300 against them. Naseem

Shah is young and quick and he

Fakhar Zaman has been battling an inconsistent run and pressure is building on him ahead of the team's opening World Cup fixture against Netherlands, here on October 6. Abdullah Shafique can replace him at the top.

'On these true wickets in India, most games will be high-

PATANJALI

expect anything, he will fire in one out of five games but you have to take that risk with him,

scoring. With Fakhar you can

'SINCE MY FIRST TOUR OF INDIA IN 1961, PAKISTAN HAVE BEEN ACCORDED WARM WELCOME

Barring two members, Pakistan players are visiting India for the first time including captain Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Upon their arrival here on Wednesday, the entire squad was overwhelmed with an unexpected welcome at the airport.

For Alam, who has also coached the Punjab team in Ranji Trophy in the early 2000s, it doesn't come as a surprise.

"Whenever we go to India we get a memorable welcome. I have spent two years there (as Punjab coach). People to people contact should be encouraged in tense times like these," he said. Alam said Pakistan crick-

eters will feel the pressure of playing on Indian soil.

There will be pressure, for sure. It depends on how team management treat the players to ensure they focus only on cricket. You get four years to prepare for an event like this. You have to do something special so people remember for you a long time. It is a great opportunity for Babar and Co," added Alam.

Black Caps look to punch above weight despite injury cloud over Williamson

PTI MUMBAI

or a team which has entered stage in the last four editions of the World Cup, New Zealand would want to end their wait to

In 2019, Kane Williamson's men came agonisingly close in doing so in the summit clash against England, but only to end on the wrong side of a result, courtesy a strange boundary countback rule.

The outcome still rages on in debates but the Kiwis will have to muster all their strength to have a crack at the coveted trophy, and they would want to do that for their affable leader Williamson

STRENGTH: The stats may tend to portray New Zealand as a side who struggle in India but in ICC events, the Black Caps are a different beast - often punching above their weight, evidenced by their three ICC tournaments final appearances — two 50-over WC finals in 2015 and 2019 and the WTC summit clash in 2021.

The Kiwis have a largely balanced squad for this World Cup consisting of exciting players like



Devon Conway, Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips but also ageing stars like Williamson, Tim Southee and Trent Boult, who form their backbone. New Zealand's bowling,

especially the spin department, seems to have covered the bases with Mitchell Santner and Ish Sodhi in their ranks while fast bowlers Lockie Ferguson and Matt Henry will be there to support Boult and Southee.

WEAKNESS: Overall, New Zealand's ODI record in India is pretty dismal: only 18 wins to show from 61 matches with 47 losses and two games ending without any result.

Besides, Williamson won't

be available for New Zealand's tournament-opener in Ahmeda-

bad against England as he continues to battle a knee injury that

he suffered during IPL 2023. How Williamson performs in the tournament could also determine the fortunes for the Kiwis as apart from being their captain, the 32-year-old is also their best batter irrespective of

conditions **OPPORTUNITY:** For the troika consisting Williamson, Boult and Southee, this World Cup could be the last opportu-nity to win another ICC trophy for New Zealand.

Conway lifted the IPL tro-phy with Chennai Super Kings earlier this year. The resolute letthanded batter would be itching to have a go in white-ball cricket in India and build more on the

success he has had this year with

Mitchell has been a vital cog for New Zealand with both the bat and the ball and he would want to play an impactful role in their campaign. Phillips, Will even Ravindra would look to make their contributions.

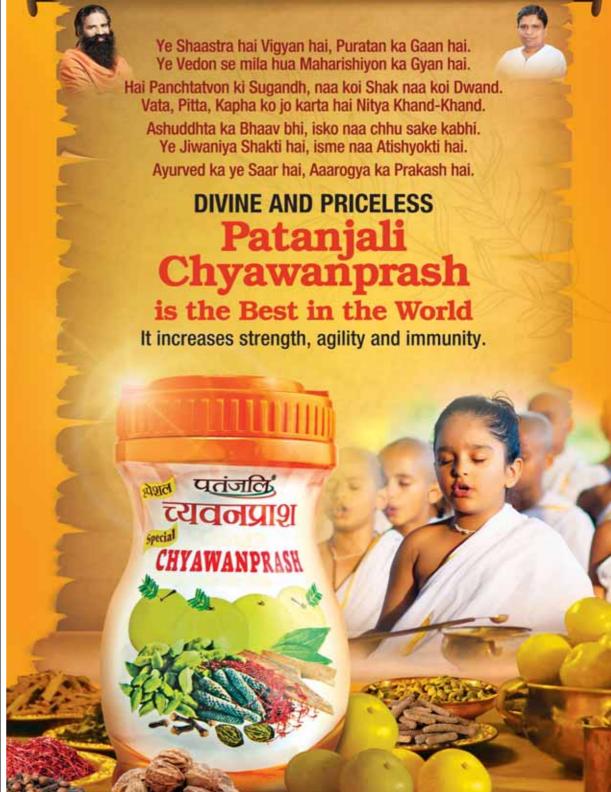
THREAT: Apart from a dismal ODI record in India, New Zealand have suffered away series defeats against two Asian sides - India and Pakistan - this year. But to their credit, New Zealand did well to edge Pakistan 2-1 in their first of the

two away series in 2023.

Along with Williamson's injury, New Zealand's trusted bowling weapons in Southee and Boult, 34 each, will have to prove themselves on wickets that may not suit their art.

If recent form is taken into account, New Zealand are coming off a 1-3 defeat to England in a four-match away ODI series, albeit in different conditions.

The Kiwis got the better of Bangladesh 2-0 in a three-match affair before they reached India for the World Cup, but they need to replicate that effort in a big-



Rain washes out India-England World Cup warm-up match

Persistent rain on Saturday washed out the World Cup warm-up match between India and England at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium here. It began raining a little before the start of the match on Saturday before the start of the match on Saturday afternoon, which resulted in the toss being delayed but later in the evening the umpires decided to abandon the contest, a little before 6pm local time owing to inclement weather. All 10 teams will get to play two warmup matches each before the group stage of the 50-over World Cup which gets under-

the 50-over World Cup which gets underway in Ahmedabad on October 5.
England will face New Zealand in the World Cup opener. England, who arrived in India a day before their first warm-up match, will remain in Guwahati to play their second and final warm-up game against Bangladesh on October 2.

On the other hand, India, who travelled all the way to Guwahati on Thursday after completing a 2-1 series win over Australia, will now fly to Thiruvananthapuram for



Netherlands on October 3.

The warm-up matches began on Friday with Sri Lanka suffering a seven-wicket defeat at the hands of Bangladesh here, while

scoring contest in Hyderabad.

The warm-up matches are being played at three venues Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Hyderabad.

First time in the world' Leading research journal 'Frontiers in Pharmacology' carries a research paper that proves that Patanjali Special Chyawanprash cures inflammation and enhances immunity. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8633414/

New Delhi, October 1, 2023

the pioneer

"Reflecting on where I came from helps me to appreciate and balance what I have now



REMEMBERING JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

A POET OF DEPTH AND HUMANITY

Jayanta Mahapatra, revered Indian poet, delved into human psyche with poignant verses. His works, spanning social disparity and existential reflection, resonate beyond accolades. His legacy is one of profound introspection and empathetic insight, leaving an enduring impact

All the poetry there is in the world/appears to rise out of the ashes.

Jayanta Mahapatra in "All The Poetry

poetry and poetic experiences are strange phenomena. That was the precise reason Plato banned poets from entering his ideal Republic. Athenian society, at the zenith of rationality, offered poison to Socrates. Socrates's fault was his belief in the power of scrutiny, of judgement. He found "an unexamined life is not worth living." Genuine poets pierce through the layers "an unexamined life" is made of and then let gathered clouds in their minds get scattered by the sunlight of their musings.

Jayanta Mahapatra, such a poet, was one of the most revered doyens of English poetry in India who delved into deep, unexplored human psyche wherein he slipped into pseudorealistic visions: more real than real. We lost him.

I knew him since 2005 when the then Sahitya Akademi's Secretary Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee introduced me to him. Since then we cherished a relationship words can hardly describe. Many handwritten letters, a few telephonic conversations and his FOREWORD to my book of poems SHADOWS OF THE REAL are the aftermath. I went to meet him once at Jaipur Airport but briefly, when he was returning from Ajmer after attending a literary programme. He was old but far from serious illnesses. The warmth of his embrace is still a treasure with me.

During the course of more than fifteen years of association, I chanced upon reading many of his poetry books including Relationship that fetched him Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981. He sent me a number of issues of the prestigious literary journal Chandrabhaga. He wanted me to read The Hudson Review from the USA that I subscribed to and was immensely pleased to read Mahapatra's long letter to its Editor (one of the features of the magazine was to feature each issue a long letter from world's top litterateurs across the world.)

If I were to summarise Mahapatra's poetry, I find it in one of the issues of Chandrabhaga, where he pens in "First Page", "It is a small life I live. Perhaps in the way I am, doing small things, like plucking a half-ripe guava from the tree in our yard, the green cozying up to my senses, the mesmerising aroma waking me up......Perhaps one should not be one of those who suffer because the world is a wreck, it's hard to say. Does it



KK SRIVASTAVA

HIS POETRY IS ABOUT TRUTH, JUSTICE, DEPRIVATION, SELF-DELUSION, ANXIETY, **SELF-PACIFICATION AND** SOLACE. AT TIMES LUCIDLY, AT TIMES SURREPTITIOUSLY, HIS POETRY HARPS ON THE **ESSENTIAL HARMONY IN** THE DIVERSITY OF THINGS: LATENT OR APPARENT. HE OBSERVED EVERYTHING OF THE UNIVERSE AS A COMMON HERITAGE FOR ALL: POOR OR AFFLUENT. READERS **OBSERVE IN THE DEPTH** AND MAGNITUDE OF THE FEELINGS/SENTIMENTS MAKING HIS POEMS, THE RISING STORMS IN MAHAPATRA'S MIND. HE KEPT ON EXPLORING THE SOCIAL POWER OF THE PLEBEIANS THROUGH HIS **POETRY**



But look at concluding lines that amaze:

It's my job to love people again and again. To feel flowers blossoming in the sun, butterflies dipping into the pollen.

He was certainly not the poet of the great and prosperous. He evolved over a number of years through his penetrating observations and interactions. He developed a tender fellow feeling for the men, women and children on the margin.

"Hope lay perhaps in burning the home

He writes in HUNGER. Readers can interpret the way they wish.

Always there was the question in his lips, the bewilderment in his eyes, the rebellion of his soul. He spent his last days in extreme loneliness tackling the tyranny of his memories and dreams. He writes in SPRING, "Somehow it seems the light/has spent its night in another's arms/But it's here with me now/with a story of a million words." He had faith in the power of words. He transferred his own fluid moment into the frozen store of memory and surveyed his dreams through a pragmatic eye.

His poetry is about truth, justice, deprivation, self-delusion, anxiety, self-pacification and solace. His poetry is indispensable irrespective of time and space. His poetry oscillates between the virility and verisimilitude. As in Mask of Longing-

A time when even oxygen seems to hiss cruelly

In those crumpled eyes of hers the light of death goes on gathering shadows. And I feel I'm late with my life. At times lucidly, at times

surreptitiously, his poetry harps on the essential harmony in the diversity of things: latent or apparent. He observed everything of the universe as a common heritage for all: poor or affluent. Readers observe in the depth and magnitude of the feelings/sentiments making his poems,

the rising storms in Mahapatra's mind. He kept on exploring the social power of the plebeians through his poetry.

His poems endeavour to trace different facets of human life and existence: love, lust, revenge, sufferings, fears and deprivations. His voice is melancholic, sharp, intimate and scans the movement of time and human beings' silence. Many of Mahapatra's collections are kaleidoscopic collections of poems written with diverse thought processes underway. These engage readers with preoccupation of human beings with fleeting time and man's questionable existence in the universe. His poems weave a quagmire of wonton thought that invades poet's psyche very incisively. Nostalgia aches,

There was something I did not like: his returning Padma Shri in November 2015. I conveyed it to him. Though nothing was heard from him, I got Mahapatra's last letter to me on August 5, 2019. He wrote of the sad demise of his wife, son and son's family, and summarising his concluding days by quoting from my poem DEPRESSION from my book of poetry Shadows of the Real, "the same known fire burns me from inside" and then added, "a fire unknown and nameless still goes on burning through the nights." His greatness lay in making small, unknown writers like me happy and joyous through his words.

His concluding life reminded me of a line from his poem A STILL WINTER MORNING, "standing like a lost sheep/huddled away from death." Or as Brazilian poet, Izacyl Guimarães Ferreira confronts us with what he thinks of life in his poem — A WAR

WITH NO NAME, "There is too much and there is too little/there is warmth and there's a chill." Life links; it delinks

In Indian Summer, Mahapatra in his characteristic way, bemoans loneliness of a woman:

The good wife throughout the long afternoon, dreaming still, unexhausted by the deep roar of funeral pyres.

In this poem there are all disconnected pictures, with none of them being in any way inter-related to the others. "funeral fires" convey the deepest amount of mental agony of "a good wife".

Truth is either the most simple or the trickiest of the phenomenon a man has to deal with. It brings awakened enlightenment thought amidst suffocating pains for those who keep truth on the highest pedestal. Look at following lines:

The worn-out face of India/ holds the weak eyes of dumb,/ solitary poets who die alone.

For truth seekers, there are no engrossing dilemmas; no consequences. He clarifies doubts; he clears doubts as far as yearning for truths is concerned.

WH Auden pointed out three attributes in a poet to deserve him a classification of being a great poet, "Firstly a gift of a very high order for memorable language, secondly a profound understanding of the age in which he lives, and thirdly a working knowledge of and sympathetic attitude towards the most progressive thought of

Mahaptra met all these stringent conditions based on which we remember him as a great poet. His deathless poems enabled him to pave his way into the mists of eternity.

Imagist simplicity with dense connotations, oscillating rhythms of ebbs and flows are a few scintillating

characteristics of his poetry. Poets who believe, to use writer, critic and Centennial Professor of English at Vanderbilt University, Mark Jarman's words, in "poetry with an edge", poetry has lasting impact on the world, for every poet contributes his little bit to keep the edges of poetry sharp. The moot question is: how capably each and every poet contributes to that edge. Poets have to determine poetry's strength and future. They possess their own ultimate destiny, which Mahapatra summarises in his poem, Twilight —

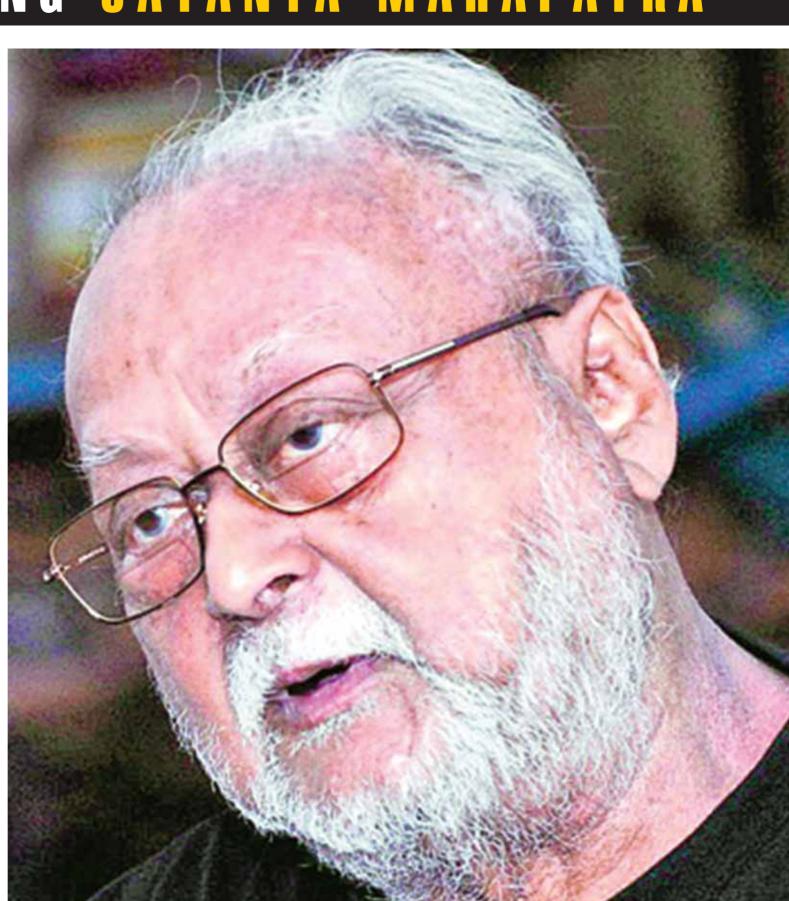
Newly-lit lamps in the houses across the street make me look out at the wet August that holds up the vast unknown in such small delicate hands.

As for Mahapatra, he belonged to the intellectual aristocracy of the world though he lived a very down-to-earth life in Cuttack, never hankering after literary awards and recognition. Reclusiveness is a serious writer's sine qua non.

(KK Srivastava is a former Additional

Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General, an acclaimed poet, writer and columnist for The Pioneer, The Daily Guardian and Brazilian Literary magazine SIBILA. Currently, he is a nominated member from the category of Literate person from the public and community' of Éthics Committee on Research of mental health establishment- IHBAS (Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences), of Government of NCT of Delhi where he in working with a group of psychiatrists/neurologists on research work on mental health. Views

expressed are personal.)



New Delhi, October 1, 2023



LOVE YOUR HEART

Ignorance may be bliss sometimes but never when it comes to the heart. Rapid urbanisation inducing stress and a stressful lifestyle, coupled with dietary issues, are alarmingly taking toll on the heart, spiking cardiovascular diseases year after year. These ailments have increasingly affected the younger age groups, imposing economic and social burdens on the society, doctors point out in a chat with THE HEALTH PIONEER

r Vivek Tandon, Additional Director, Interventional Cardiology, Fortis Hospital Greater Noida, said, "Cardiovascular diseases are one of the leading causes of mortality in

In the last few years, there has been a rise in heart attack cases which has also been recorded in various studies: 25% of Indians below 40 years of age are at a higher risk of suffering heart attacks or other serious heart-related ailment.

people between 40 and 50 years of

Regular Health Screening, Weight Management and moderate exercising lowers the risk of heart attack, advises the medicos.

People with family history of cardio vascular diseases, smoking and high stress levels are at greater risk, they warn.

"Since heart health has been a serious concern in India, the need for introducing light to moderate exercise regime, maintaining body weight, healthy diet intake, reduce consumption of alcohol and tobacco are critical to avert any cardiac related ailments.

"Even if we are active, take a

balanced diet, give up smoking and alcohol, and introduce methods to keep stress levels under control, sudden cardiac arrests can be averted. One of the major reasons for increasing heart attack cases in the young population is the long working hours, reduced sleep, and relationship issues, which cause stress and lead to heart disease. People with rick factors like family history with risk factors like family history of cardiovascular disease and exposure to an unhealthy lifestyle must get themselves examined by

Cardiologists at Amrita Hospital, Faridabad concured even as they blamed stress, smoking and overeating-led visceral weight gain as the flagbearers of risk factors leading to cardiovascular chal-

Dr. Vivek Chaturvedi, Head of Department (Adult Cardiology), Amrita Hospital, Faridabad said, "Stress management takes center stage in heart health so, it is crucial to avoid excessive stress and also smoking which is caused by it.

Additionally, maintaining control over eating habits is crucial; overeating should be avoided, and a healthy diet should be embraced. Abdominal obesity is a significant

concern for heart health which can be prevented through regular exercise and physical activity. Such activities hold great significance in preventing a range of diseases, including hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. Weight loss and blood pressure reduction can often be achieved through regular exercise without the need for medication."

The doctors emphasized upon inculcating healthy habits among students in the early stage itself. "School students should adapt to a lives which will help them sidestep adverse heart diseases in the long run," said Dr. Mohit Bhutani, Assistant Professor, Dept of Adult Cardiology, Amrita Hospital,

He added, "Students should focus on taking a balanced diet, with an adequate intake of proteins, carbohydrates, fats, and nuts while cautioning against excessive consumption of fatty foods. In the educational setting, schools play a pivotal role in promoting heart health among students. Schools to monitor students' anthropometry regularly, which includes measurements like height, weight, and body mass index, to identify and address potential obesity concerns early on. "Incorporating yoga and meditation into daily routines can

enhance mental and emotional health of students. It is essential for students to avoid harmful habits such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, and substance abuse. Teachers are urged to lead by example by proactively integrating heart-healthy practices into their lives, including regular exercise, tobacco and alcohol avoidance, and stress management through

Pramit Mishra, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital, Greater Noida stressed on having complete

In these competitive times, our sleep takes a toll, which impacts the overall health, whereas people who complete their sleepcycles and have healthier sleep patterns are better at managing health factors like weight and blood pressure along with a healthy heart.

India's share of one-fifth in the 17.9 million global heart attack deaths, as per WHO, is a stark reminder that heart disease is now affecting people in their 30s and 40s. This shift highlights the urgent need for preventive measures and

early detection in younger adults to curb this alarming trend.

Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director and Senior Psychiatrist from Manasthali felt that one way to keep heart healthy is by keeping one free from stress. "Stress is the silent architect of

heart disease, weaving a web of risk factors that can shatter the strongest of hearts. It's not just an emotional burden; it's a potent risk factor for heart disease. When stress takes center stage in our daily existence, it ological changes that can, over time, harm our cardiovascular health. Like a relentless storm, chronic stress can erode the resilience of our hearts, leading to increased blood pressure, inflammation, and unhealthy lifestyle choices.

'To protect the heart's sanctiwe must become vigilant guardians of our well-being, mastering the art of stress management. As we unravel the knots of tension, we fortify the heart's defenses, nurturing a future where stress is but a fleeting gust in the gentle breeze of a healthy heart."

The WHO South-East Asia Region member states need to join

the global call to raise awareness

about heart health and accelerate actions to prevent, detect and manage cardiovascular diseases. The region is home to a quarter of the world's population, said WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh on the occasion of World Heart Day

observed on September 29.

The WHO South-East Asia Region is experiencing a very high burden of noncommunicable diseases. Cardiovascular diseases are responsible for 3.9 million or 30 per

"Alarmingly, almost half (48 per cent) of these cardiovascular disease-related deaths occurred prematurely, affecting individuals aged 30-70 years and imposing significant socioeconomic burdens on families, communities and countries," Singh said.

The main causes to the burden of cardiovascular diseases include modifiable lifestyle factors such as tobacco use, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diets -- especially high salt intake -- and lack of physical activity. Raised blood pressure and glucose levels are the key drivers and these can be detected, diagnosed and managed adequately in primary care, she added.

SEVEN-DAY SELF-CARE FOR HEART HEALTH

Here is a seven-day self-care plan that is sure to get you on the road to improving your heart health:

• Healthy Eating for Your Heart
Everyone has heard that they
need to eat healthier, but knowing what that actually means can be overwhelming and confusing. If your doctor has told you to lower your cholesterol to reduce your risk for heart disease, then ask the dieticians what type of food will

• Get Your Blood Pressure Checked

Did you know that you can feel fine and still be suffering from high blood pressure, also known as the "silent killer"? For that reason, it is recommended that you have your blood pressure checked at least once per year. If you also grapple with "white coat syndrome" (an increase in blood pressure due to the presence of a doctor or other medical professional), it is reasonable to use at-home cuffs or grocery store cuffs to get an idea of what your numbers are. Make sure that you remain quiet and calm for several minutes before taking the reading. Knowing your blood pressure and working with your medical team can be life-saving.

•Engage in High-Quality Sleep Sleep disorders can have an impact on heart health; therefore, it is important to know the signs of a sleep disorder. Because you are unconscious when asleep, asking a family member or person with whom you live about your sleep behaviors is informative.

•Weight Management and Maintenance

Managing your weight is much easier said than done; however, obesity greatly increases your risk of heart health difficulties. If you have tried dieting and exercising with no success, there is still hope. If you feel that you have exhausted all options, speak with a physician to discuss next

•Moderate Your Sugar Intake Sugar intake is closely linked to inflammation and heart disease.

If you have a sweet tooth, try to snag a fruit instead of a treat. Moderating your refined sugar intake will help keep your heart healthy, keep your weight down and get you feeling more energized throughout your day.

Quit Smoking and Avoid

Smoking and regularly comsmoke is detrimental to your overall health and especially to your heart health. Did you know that when you quit smoking you begin to experience health benefits within just half an hour?

Be Active for 30 Minutes or

If lifting weights at a gym sounds intimidating, fear not. You can improve your heart health by focusing on increasing your physical activity by at least 30 minutes per day. Some ideas include dancing, swimming, walking and anything else that gets your body moving.

Courtesy: Washington University

Unique SOS QR Code to ensure timely aid within 'Golden Hour'

This groundbreaking service of detecting the accurate location of the patient in need and providing ambulance service underscores the Manipal hospital's bid to transforming Bengaluru into a Heart Smart City, reports THE HEALTH PIONEER

n a bid to save lives and provide first aid faster during medical ∟emergencies, Manipal Hospitals has launched an advanced SOS QR code through which one can avail ambulance service at the earliest in times of distress.

Manipal Hospitals has strategically positioned the QR codes at key traffic intersections, apartments, and a few vehicles for easy access during emergencies.

Patients or their caregivers can in an instant scan these codes using their Android and iOS mobile phones. The QR code will seamlessly provide real-time, patient location information to the nearest Manipal Ambulance Response Service and 108 Ambulance team.

These ambulances have been strategically stationed at various key points throughout the city so that they can transport patients to the nearest hospital. Manipal Hospitals has also launched a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) education programme for Bengalureans and proposed to the state government to make CPR education mandatory in colleges and schools

Guj Govt takes lead in heart diseases treatment The Gujarat Government has spent approximately Rs 1614 crore on the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease patients in last five

years even as it included the heart transplant procedure under AB PMJAY-MA. Thus, making Gujarat the first and only state in the country to do so

On World Heart Day on September 29, the Gujarat Government shared that more than 2 lakh 95 thousand heart disease patients have availed free treatment under AB PMJAY-MA (Ayushman Bharat-Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojana-Chief Minister Amrutam) in the last five years.

When considering the number of claims submitted by these beneficiaries, the figure exceeds 2 lakh 99 thousand.

Under AB PMJAY-MA, a range of diag-



nostic and treatment procedures for heart diseases are available. These include diagnostic angiogram, Coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), Valve Procedures, Pacemaker Implantation, AICD - Automatic Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator, Device Closure, femoral bypass and Ventricular pacing, etc.

It is well-known that the diagnosis and treatment of heart-related diseases are quite expensive. In such a situation, the Gujarat government has implemented the Prime Minister's Ayushman Bharat Yojana in the state in such an effective manner that the state's underprivileged families no longer need to wander extensively in search of heart-related check-ups and treatment.

In a significant move to provide an additional facility to serious heart disease patients from poor and middle-class families, the State Government has also decided to include the heart transplant procedure under AB PMJAY-MA, making it the first and only state in the country to take this step.

reminder to everyone that every life counts and that one should not neglect one's own heart health.

This trend was set by introducing red heart signals last year at key traffic junctions, which was expanded to 37 traffic signals this year as well, with the support of Bengaluru Traffic Police and BBMP.

The event was inaugurated by Home Minister G Parameshwara and Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao along with Dr Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal hospitals.

As per data from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 47 per cent of cardiac arrest fatalities occur prior to a patient's arrival at the hospital. The key to saving lives during heart attacks lies in delivering prompt assistance such as CPR during the 'golden

Speaking about the newly launched initiatives, Dr Ballal said that at the time of an accident or a medical emergency, one just needs to scan the QR code and one of the ambulances of the hospital would

early as possible.
"We have about 35 ambulances

in our system in Bengaluru, which may not be enough. So, we have also sought the help of the '108' ambulance service so that there are enough ambulances to address the issue in case of emergency. We also want to educate as many number of people as possible about CPR so that we can save lives," he said. Home Minister Parameshwara

said he will make CPR training mandatory in police training academies in the state and also take efforts to include it in school and college curricula. "We have more than 12 police training academies in Karnataka and we will include CPR as part of our police training programme," he said.

Health Minister Gundu Rao said that in emergency situations, the quicker the patient is brought to the hospital, the better the chances of recovery increases. "We are also working to improve 108 ambulance service facilities and will push for giving CPR training to more and more people, as it can save more lives," he added.

to make the community capable of ical patient receives timely assistance providing critical assistance during medical emergencies.

Through these initiatives, the multi-specialty healthcare chain said, it aims to ensure that every crit-

during the 'golden hour'. In medical circles, the 'golden hour' is referred to as the period of time immediately after an adverse health event such as a heart attack or stroke or trau-

matic injury during which there is also transformed traffic signals into the highest likelihood that prompt medical and surgical treatment would prevent death.

As part of its health awareness programme, Manipal Hospitals has traffic junction is meant to be a

heart-shaped symbols. These traffic signals display SOS QR codes for easy access to the ambulance service.

The heart-shaped signal at the

get activated and rush to the spot as

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: No endgame

The conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is now more than three decades old. This disputed territory lies in the mountainous South Caucasus region, situated between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Known as Artsakh to Armenians, this landlocked region falls within the sovereign borders of Azerbaijan, but it is predominantly populated by ethnic Armenians. While internationally recognised as a part of Azerbaijan, it is currently home to over 120,000 Armenians who resist being under Azerbaijani control. Both Azerbaijan and Armenia fought in the 1980s and 1990s to gain control of this hilly region, but were unsuccessful in their attempts.

As the conflict has resurfaced, it is worth examining the historical background of the issue. In 1923, Vladimir Lenin, the first leader of the USSR who ruled the Soviet Union from 1917 to 1924, established the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. At that time, it was home to a 95 per cent ethnic Armenian population. The problem arose in 1988, just two years before the dissolution of the USSR, when the regional legislature of Nagorno-Karabakh passed a resolution indicating its desire to join Armenia, despite the region being an integral part of Azerbaijan. It is widely understood that ethno-nationalism has played a vital role in mobilising people for nationhood since the beginning of modern civilisation. This strongly influenced the Armenians living in this enclave, and they gradually prepared themselves to become a part of neighbouring Armenia. With the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, both Armenia and Azerbaijan became independent nations.

Meanwhile, the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast declared independence, leading to intense fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan. By 1993, the Armenian security forces had occupied the region and also gained control over 20 per cent of the neighbouring Azerbaijani territory. In 1994, Boris Yeltsin, the first leader of the Russian Federation, successfully negotiated a peace deal known as the Bishkek Protocol between the two former Soviet Republics.



A convoy of cars of ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh moves towards Kornidzor in the Syunik region in Armenia

However, it did not resolve the territorial dispute and left the Nagorno-Karabakh region de facto independent. Peace between the two warring neighbours was maintained for some time with the influence of Moscow. However, once the USSR disintegrated, these peripheral republics became more conscious of their rights, priorities, and sovereign frontiers and they tried to re-establish their external relations with other nations around the globe.

From 1994 to 2015, there was peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In 2016, heavy fighting erupted once again. Then, in late September 2020, fresh clashes broke out along the Azerbaijan-Nagorno-Karabakh border. Azerbaijan regained much of the territory from Armenia and left a small portion of Karabakh to Armenia. The war came to an end with a Russia-brokered peace deal in November 2020. tion by the major powers and

establishment of the Lachin Corridor, which allowed Armenia to connect to the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave under strict monitoring by Russian peacekeepers. The main trouble started in December 2022 when activists from Azerbaijan blocked the Lachin Corridor, halting all supplies coming to Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia. This further led to the opening of a checkpoint by the Azerbaijani government on the corridor, alleging the supply of arms to Armenian separatists in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

To put an end to the hostilities between the two neighbours, the US, Russia, and the European Union hosted talks with representatives from Baku and Yerevan. Finally, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev made considerable progress towards eace after constant interven-The most significant aspect pressure from the UN to main-

is positive for the international community that Pashinyan recognised the entire Nagorno-Karabakh enclave as the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. He also emphasised that Baku must respect the internationally recognised boundary of Armenia and ensure the protection of ethnic Armenians living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region."

What has happened in Nagorno-Karabakh now? On September 19, in the days following the opening of the Lachin border, people from both sides of the frontier hoped that normalcy would be back to the disputed territory. This deal came as a result of an understanding between the Azerbaijan Government and the Armenian separatists of the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast. The agreement aimed to reopen two disputed transport routes, including a crucial link road known as the Lachin Corridor.

What has really worsened the ground situation is that for

months, Azerbaijan authorities are tightly restricting the movements of the Armenian Government with the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast through the Lachin Corridor.

Earlier Azerbaijan accused Armenia of smuggling arms and ammunition by using this route to the Nagorno-Karabakh. When the historic deal was sealed between two warring nations, the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh declared the election of a new President named Samvel Shahramanyan for it simultaneously. This move, which irked the Azerbaijani Government, was declared as illegal. For Baku, this election is purely illegal. Azerbaijan referred to the government as a "puppet separatist regime" at the heart of all troubles between the two nations.

for a new flare-up, the gin were massacred in Anatolia, Azerbaijani foreign ministry reiterated that "the only way to Turkey. It is ironic that the US achieve peace and stability in remained silent about the of this agreement was the tain tranquility in the region. It the last more than nine the region is the uncondition- Armenian genocide until 2021,

al and complete withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the disbandment of the puppet regime".

Meanwhile, both Ukraine and Turkey voiced support for Azerbaijan's claim over Karabakh and denounced the election held in the region. The European Union has taken a very cautious stand by saying that it did not recognise the election but wanted the people of the Nagorno-Karabakh to consolidate around its de facto leadership while dealing with

Many in Armenia fear that the people in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave may face genocide in 2023. The way Baku is asserting control over the disputed territory is alarming. We are all aware of the Armenian genocide of 1915, While echoing concerns when people of Armenian oriin what is now modern-da

when President Biden finally publicly recognised it.

Currently, the ethnic Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast need the support of global governance institutions like the UN, as well as intervention from major powers such as the US, the Russian Federation, and the European Union, to prevent a potential genocide in the enclave.

What is concerning are the messages coming from Baku and President Aliyev. In the past, Aliyev did not abide by the verdict of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which instructed Baku to reopen the Lachin Corridor. He has consistently disregarded requests from the UN and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to comply with the ICJ's ruling. His government has assured the international community that reintegration will bring development and prosperity to Nagorno-Karabakh.

However, it is alarming that since 2010, Aliyev has reportedly stated that Armenia itself is "Western Azerbaijan", and last December, he declared that "present-day Armenia is our land". Furthermore, for years, Azerbaijan has maintained that Armenia is an illegitimate state. These are serious warning signals for the entire world, for Armenia, and for the conflict-ridden Nagorno-Karabakh oblast.

At present, Azerbaijani forces have fully occupied the Nagorno-Karabakh region whose separatist leaders have laid down their arms. However, thousands of ethnic Armenians are fleeing to Armenia, fearing for their lives and the sudden change in the status quo.

It is time for the international community to ensure the future safety of ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan. President Aliyev must work towards restoring peace and tranquility to the Nagorno-Karabakh region. He should refrain from seeking further escalation of the crisis. Otherwise, pressure on Pashinyan might lead Armenian forces to reclaim the oblast, potentially sparking a bloody war in the region.

The time has come for both Baku and Yerevan to bid farewell to arms.

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict spans over three decades, rooted in territorial disputes between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Despite internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, the region is predominantly Armenianpopulated. Recent tensions, exacerbated by border restrictions, pose a risk of genocide. International intervention is crucial to ensure ethnic Armenians' safety and regional peace.



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE -

Planet burns as superpowers desert multilateralism

The planet is on fire, but almost all the firefighters have deserted. At the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, which began on September 19 in New York, the leaders of four of the five permanent members of the Security Council — the UN's most powerful executive body were absent.

The absence of the top representatives of France, the United Kingdom, Russia and China, replaced by ministers or diplomats, demonstrated the emptying of the main global multilateral forum and highlighted the speeches of the two presidents who opened the General Assembly: Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and the US' Joe Biden.

Both leaders, with decades of experience, referred bluntly to fires that are ravaging the planet — starting with the climate emergency and the war in Ukraine. And both, albeit in very different tones, pointed the finger at the central issue hanging over the meeting, which the absentees made clear: the crisis of the UN and the multilateral system that has been built around it in recent decades.

The UN was created in 1945, on the initiative of the United States and with the support of the allied countries that had defeated Nazism and

Union, Great Britain and France) with the aim of "preserving future generations from the scourge of war".

A year earlier, in 1944, the Bretton Woods Agreements had laid the foundations for the post-war global financial system, and created the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Over the years, dozens of agencies, funds and specialised programmes have been added, gradually building up what is known as the UN System.

Practically every country in the world is a member of the UN and the organisation deals with countless issues, ranging from protecting life in the oceans to coordinating satellite orbits, humanitarian aid operations, vaccination campaigns, agreements to limit climate change and, more recently, attempts to create regulations against disinformation on social networks and to combat tax avoidance by large international corporations.

An imperfect system, but one that worked

The system, as Biden pointed out in his speech, "is not always perfect and has not always been perfect", but with its ups and downs, it worked reasonably well for seven decades. During the Cold War,

fascism (primarily the Soviet the UN was a crucial channel of communication that contributed to avoiding nuclear conflict. After it, the UN's remit expanded further: for example, with the multiplication of peacekeeping opera-

Despite the genocide in Rwanda, the civil war in the former Yugoslavia and the invasion of Iraq in 2003, in those two decades the number of armed conflicts (between countries and within countries) steadily declined, as did the number of victims. The curve reversed in 2012, when the civil war in Syria worsened, and since then it has continued to rise year on year. According to the Conflict Data Programme at Uppsala University, 184 different conflicts were recorded in 2022, including the war in Ukraine, with more than 238,000 victims in total, compared to an average of 120 conflicts and 30,000 victims per year between 2001

The UN's inability to respond appropriately to the war in Ukraine is more an indicator than a trigger of the crisis of multilateralism. Russia has brought the war of aggression, of territorial annexation, back as a tool of foreign policy. But the same Western powers with permanent seats on the Security Council that are right-

and 2012.

ly criticising the Russian invasion today have resorted to the unilateral use of military force in recent decades, contrary to the UN Charter and interna-

What we usually call multilateralism is the way in which the international system adopts a grammar of principles and norms that, in theory, should be followed by all states. It is a process of institutionalising forms of coordination and cooperation in public policy that generates a certain stability and predictability in relations between states and soci-

In the way the UN works, there is an element of equality in the treatment of states (all 193 member countries have the right to vote and voice in the General Assembly), but there are also obvious asymmetries of power, such as the special status of the five permanent members of the Security Council. The so-called P5 have kept their veto power unchanged since 1945 and often ignore the rules they are supposed to enforce — a historical incongruity that Lula rightly attacked again in his speech in New

Global governance

Even so, this grammar organises a large part of global governance mechanisms, which increase international dialogue and cooperation, and decrease the propensity to use force as the main instrument for settling disputes.

The UN system is based on the idea that power relations between states should not be the only element that determines the shape of international relations. In fact, as recently as 2015, the multilateral system reached a consensus to adopt two global agreements of great importance and impact: the Paris Agreement for the reduction of greenhouse gases, responsible for the climate emergency, and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

From then on, the multilateral system was able to do little more than try to manage a growing number of humanitarian emergencies. In June 2023, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) estimated that there were 362 million people around the world in need of international aid to meet their basic survival needs.

Crisis of legitimacy and authority

During the ĆOVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organisation, under heavy fire from the administration of then US President Donald Trump, was virtually ignored

by the richest countries in its attempt to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines. The conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Israel/Palestine drag on, with no solution in sight. Efforts to strengthen the UN's capacity for preventive diplomacy, promised by Secretary-General António Guterres, have backfired, and the organisation has been unable to do anything to prevent the invasion of Ukraine or to facilitate a ceasefire. The system has apparently ground to a halt.

It continues to shape a large part of international interaction, but today there are two key areas of resistance to it: the emergence of countries in the Global South willing to reinterpret the hegemony of the liberal order, and the growth of a transnationally articulated radical right.

In the international debate, there is much more attention paid to the first question than the second. However, as the experience of the Trump and Bolsonaro governments has shown, the radical right's sovereigntist vision is at odds with the essence of multilateralism, which requires agreed transfers of national sovereignty in favour of common goals, such as the fight against climate change. It is no coincidence that the Spanish radical right party Vox has been running a

campaign against the 2030 Agenda for years, which has been expanding throughout Latin America. Even so, the entire UN bureaucracy, from Secretary-General Guterres onwards, is reluctant to engage in open conflict with the radical right.

A strategic problem For Brazil, and Latin

America in general, the crisis of the multilateral system is a strategic problem. The region has an old multilateralist tradition, in which conflicts between states have been resolved by diplomatic means and not by arms. A dozen countries from the region took part in the creation of the League of Nations in 1920, and 20 were among the 51 founding nations of the UN. To this day, the multilateral space represents the only international arena in which the region has any influence, since from an economic and military point of view Latin America's weight is extremely limited: the region is home to 8 per cent of the world's population, but in 2022 it accounted for only 5.26 per cent of global GDP.

At the same time, the collective influence of the socalled Global South is increasing. In the weeks leading up to the UN General Assembly, the leaders of developing nations

met at the BRICS summits in South Africa, the G20 in India and the G77+China in Cuba.

For Brazil and the other countries of the Global South, the challenge is to maintain political independence and action, seeking to defend the interests of their populations, without taking sides in the dispute over the new global hegemony between China and the US. It is the concept of active non-alignment.

Concluding his speech in New York, Lula recalled that "the UN needs to fulfil its role as a builder of a more just, supportive and fraternal world. But it will only do so if its members have the courage to proclaim their indignation at inequality and work tirelessly to overcome Brazil and the Global

South must endeavour to reform the multilateral system, such as the unsustainable composition of the Security Council, while respecting all its norms, especially with regard to the UN Charter and all human rights protection mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court. Only in this way will it be possible to reaffirm the legitimacy of multilateralism, reduce global power asymmetries and try to put out the fires that threaten our planet.

(The Conversation)

























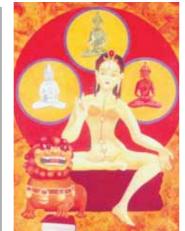




ARIES March 21-April 19

The cosmos emphasizes the need to judiciously manage your monetary resources. While abundance is foreseen, your expenditures might surpass your earnings if not monitored. Seeking equilibrium between fiscal management and other fast-evolving aspects of life is essential. Your domestic sphere, real estate matters, educational pursuits, and career advancements are beckoning for your consideration. As the week draws to a close, you'll experience a lightening of burdens, making way for a harmonious flow of energy. A spirited and exuberant aura will envelop you, enhancing your zest for life's journey. However, a cautionary cosmic whisper advises staying vigilant to avoid any unforeseen snags. The tarot's wisdom reiterates the need to cultivate balance, assuring a smoother sail through life's various arenas.

Lucky number 24 | Lucky colour Lavender



LEO July 23-Aug 22

The stars bestow upon you a commanding presence, allowing you to steer situations with confidence this week. While emotions and passions run deep, they remain within your grasp. Engaging in creative endeavors, whipping up delightful dishes, and catering to family needs will occupy your time. Additionally, you'll indulge in some self-care and leisure activities. By midweek, a shift in your convictions and operational methods emerges. An epiphany about harnessing your talents might strike you. A journey beckons and unforeseen events might catch you off guard. However, with meticulous planning, you'll navigate these scenarios adeptly. A surge of optimism and trust in the cosmic order fills you. You'll perceive the guiding hand of destiny, and perhaps, witness serendipitous occurrences or a string of fortunate events.

Lucky number 26 | Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

There are numerous shortcomings that require prompt rectification. Master the art of delegating tasks and prescheduling your routine to ensure efficient time and energy management. If a promotion is on the horizon, you might see it materialize this week, alongside indications of financial gains. Work or business-related travel will be fruitful, paving the way for new associations poised to benefit you in the long-term. Your self-confidence and valor are your ladders to success, propelling you upwards. By the week's end, substantial monetary and financial gains await, leading to enjoyable material comforts. This period is auspicious for property acquisition, though caution and thorough deliberation are crucial in the decisions you make. Don't let career anxieties bog you down; you're on the brink of a significant breakthrough, just one step away.

Lucky number 23 | Lucky colour Amber Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You might come across harsh or unkind remarks from a colleague or even a loved one, which could be unsettling. Despite this, the week kicks off on a cheerful note with new opportunities presenting themselves. It's advisable to remain grounded and not get carried away by unrealistic expectations. There's a possibility that a budding relationship might hit a rocky patch. It's crucial to manage your emotions and temper, as it may otherwise lead to a stressful and tiresome situation. Although this is a transient phase, gaining control over the situation will soon be achievable. A supportive interaction with a senior female figure, be it your mother or a distant relative, could prove beneficial during this

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Coral Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, you find yourself on an emotional whirlwind, reminiscing about old friends or yearning to be with family if you're away. A trip to your hometown may be on the cards, offering a chance to exchange gifts and share joyful moments with friends. However, when it comes to love or romance, you might find yourself lagging. Your emotions may tilt towards possessiveness with your partner, thus maintaining a balanced emotional state and a calm demeanor is advisable. Meditation can serve as an excellent solace. Donning white attire is recommended. Rather than dwelling in gloom or disappointment, channeling your energy into artistic or spiritual pursuits could be more rewarding. Remember, after every phase of darkness, there's light, signaling that change is on the horizon, so keeping an optimistic outlook is beneficial.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Marigold Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Guidance on your life's path ahead may come from a guru or a senior family member, as high aspirations and desires are causing confusion. Steer clear of illusions and false narratives; a practical approach will serve as your shield against these adverse circumstances. Fantasizing without grounding may lead to further complications, and while relationship issues might arise, providing space and time to your partner before making decisions can pave the way for better outcomes. Uphold honesty and exercise wisdom and intellect to accurately assess the reality in front of you. A negative ambiance surrounding you requires clearing to let the joys of life color your days. Have faith in your capabilities and proceed forward with confidence

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Sunday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Many positive occurrences are on the horizon. Experiences of love, romance, heightened emotions, recognition, applause, and triumph over adversarial situations will elevate your self-esteem. The week commences with nurturing support and a strengthened bond with your spouse. The altruistic love and mutual understanding within existing relationships will invigorate your spirit, enabling you to give your utmost. With a positive outlook, you'll overcome the negative forces that previously stifled your ease. Your capability and intelligence will earn the admiration of even those opposed to you, marking a significant victory. Your persona inspires those around you. You'll experience healing both physically and mentally ultimately leading to a sense of justice being served.

Lucky number 29 | Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, your energy, creativity, and determination toward achieving professional aspirations take center stage. If you've been anticipating news or messages from overseas, this period seems promising, with good news likely to buoy your spirits. Come mid-week, financial matters will engage your attention, encompassing transactions, payments, and investments. While money flows favorably, remember, channeling some towards charity or assisting the less fortunate will usher in blessings. As you transition into this next chapter laden with myriad possibilities, a significant shift in your behavior or thought processes is essential. Embracing this change will pave the way for positive outcomes and the taste of success. Though obstacles may arise, your seasoned experience and intellectual prowess will equip you to confront and overcome these hurdles proficiently

Lucky number 21 | Lucky colour OlivViolet Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

The week appears promising both professionally and romantarily. An unexpected pay raise or a superior position might be on the horizon. Be prepared for work-related travel, which is poised to yield significant benefits in the future. There may be a change in your workspace or residence if you're currently renting. Midweek brings a wave of romantic and sentimental feelings, fueling your passions. A particular relationship or situation may leave you torn; though your heart and mind seem at odds, following your heart is advisable. As the week concludes, a sense of stability and emotional control will prevail. Your perspectives will broaden, inviting a host of opportunities related to your career, the birth of a child, or fertility.

Lucky number 28 | Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Your sentimental tendencies are taking hold, leading to potential remorse over past actions and displaying resentment or aggression towards those close to you. It's vital to steer clear of disappointment and depression, and engaging in mental exercises could provide significant relief. Practices like meditation, yoga, Pranayama, or even delving into enriching literature may prove beneficial. The past is behind you and reflecting on the present to brighten your future is the week's motif. By closing an old chapter and adopting a fresh perspective, you showcase your strength and intelligence. Dodging an issue won't resolve it. It's optimism and faith that will propel you towards your desires. It's advisable to steer clear of any risky endeavors.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Peach **Lucky day** Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week unfolds a tapestry of delightful and amusing narratives for you. You'll find yourself immersed in a challenging task or mission, dedicating your heart and soul to it, and experiencing a unique journey altogether. Collaborating with a group towards a common goal will enrich your character, exposing you to new insights, talents, and revealing your own potential. Around midweek, an overseas connection might emerge, possibly through a friend or plans for a foreign visit may be laid down. Your goal-driven attitude ensures that distractions like love, romance, or leisure won't sway you off course. Your ambition to attain financial success and carve a notable reputation is strong. The recognition for your diligent efforts is on the horizon, potentially manifesting as a promotion or salary increment.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Teal Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week will be marked by a reflective analysis and evaluation of your recent work, helping you learn from past mistakes. Negative thoughts could surface during this period. However, come mid-week, a sense of contentment and joy may emerge as unexpected opportunities in business, new assignments, or job offers come your way. This period is ripe for financial gains, investments, and launching new business ventures. Various offers will cross your path, requiring careful consideration to select the most suitable one. It's also essential to keep a tight rein on your budget to avoid overspending. As the week winds down, travel seems likely—be it for leisure, a romantic outing with your partner, or a pleasant picnic, plans for a rejuvenating excursion might be in the offing.

ucky number 11 | Lucky colour Beige

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n Indian tradition, Mantra plays an important role in Dhyana process. It will therefore be desirable to explore its relevance and the way it works. Mantra is usually a set of syllables placed in a logical sequence to create a particular sound effect. It could be just a seed letter, syllable, word, or a set of words. That, as a sequel to stress created and uttered by mouth, is heard by ears, and apprehended by mind. Mantra is so called because it involves a mental process. The word comprises of 'mana' out of 'manana' and 'tra' from 'trana'. In Hindi lingua-franca 'mana' means mind; 'manana' implies reflection in mind; and 'trana' stands for liberation. So, chanting of mantra helps attain liberation from mental limitations, and therefore, serves a great purpose. For, it happens to be a radiant energy, rather a sound-body of consciousness, set in correspondence with the consciousness of the related imagery. Following repeated

chanting with focus on the related imagery, consciousness of the seeker comes in harmony with that of the mantra and the imagery. Eventually, with time, the seeker's consciousness becomes one with the eternal element of consciousness

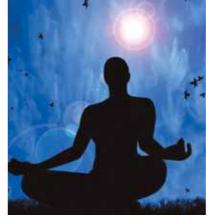
While pursuing the process, one is continuously confronted with distracting thoughts that drifts our attention away from the focal point, again and again. So, you won't have an easy go. Don't confront those distracting thoughts. If you ever do that, they will stay put in mind, and keep visiting again and again. The only way out is training one's mind not to pay attention to them. It needs to be appreciated here that unless you pay attention to something, it won't bother you.

Continue chanting and try to bring back attention to the imagery sought after again and again. Gradually, the distracting thoughts go out of reckoning. You

Dhyana process proper

may then be able to remain focused for a longer stretch of time. Let me add here that when the sound notes of the mantra resonate to the imagery in focus, with time, one gets so involved that distracting thoughts go out of sight. Once fully established in the process, mind becomes one pointed. In the process, one also inculcates a value system, coming as it may with the educative import of the imagery in focus.

As one gets established in the dharana process, the seeker is in harmony with the imagery and its related educative import, as well as the resonating mantra. State of dhyana is thus arrived at. Pursuing the process further, one reaches a stage when mantra, though playing in the background, but apparently goes unnoticed. One remains steadfast with the concept synonymous with the imagery in focus. This state is termed as being in savikalpa samadhi (immersed in



the iconic figure targeted). With time even the iconic figure drops. Following which the mantra, the imagery, and the mind become one seamless awareness, which means attaining the state of

nirvikalpa (formless) samadhi.

In samadhi, all thoughts, whether pertaining to the past or future get dropped. The sense of past and future having been lost, nothing is there to process in immediate terms. Mind, therefore, is at peace. You then live in just your present moment, which is termed as mindfulness.

The question now is: If all about life, including the mind, involves play and interplay of nature driven energies, always pulsating, how comes mind would become inactive and be at peace? Well, it can never become immobile the way a running vehicle is halted. But pursuing dhyana, a state is arrived at when mind is in perfect harmony with the element of consciousness. The unitary mind then submerges with the cosmic mind. Mind then becomes an integral part of nature's flow, and so is at peace with self and the rest. Just the way someone doesn't have a

feel of earth spinning at such a great speed while standing on its plane. For, the person and the earth become synonymous. This is what may mean attaining a state of Yoga. In this state, mind enters an infinite domain having no distinctive existences. It is something like a river stream merging with the ocean. In that state the river water loses its identity and becomes one with the ocean. Having thus struck upon the core of existence, mind realises its wholesome nature, when it has nothing more to explore. The unitary mind having thus been dropped the sense of individualistic existence too goes away. That leaves no scope for any comparison or differentiation and hence at peace by the self and with the rest.

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