**OPINION 6** 

BREAK THE AGNIVEER

LOGJAM WITH NEPAL

**MONEY 10** 

INDIA'S GDP TO GROW AT 6.3 PER

CENT IN FY24: WORLD BANK

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

> Late City Vol.33 Issue 274 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

SINDHU ENTERS PRE-QUARTERS OF ASIAN GAMES

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NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

## INDIA CUTS CANADA DOWN TO SIZE India fetches first Gold

sions between both our govern

ments more than ever — it is

important that diplomats be on

the ground, and that is why we

believe in the importance of

having a strong diplomatic foot-print in India," she was quoted

asked Canada to downsize its

diplomatic presence in the

country. Announcing the mea-

sure, External Affairs Ministry

spokesperson Arindam Bagchi

had said the size of Canadian

diplomatic staff in India is

larger than what New Delhi has

in Canada and that there

should be a "parity in strength

and rank equivalence" in the

Canadian government that

there should be parity in

strength and rank equivalence

in our mutual diplomatic pres-

ence. Their numbers here are

very much higher than ours in

Canada. The details of this are

being worked out," Bagchi had

India also announced tem-

"We have informed the

mutual presence.

On September 21, India

as saying by Global News.

**WORLD 8** 

SL PRESIDENT REJECTS INTERNATIONAL

PROBE INTO EASTER BOMBINGS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Amid continuing diplomatic stand-off between the two countries, India has reportedly asked Canada to withdraw nearly 40 of its diplomats from India and set the deadline as October 10. Canada has 62 diplomats in India at present.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of designated Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-fortat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case. Nijiar, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force. was shot dead by two masked gunmen outside a gurdwara in Šurrey, British Columbia, Canada on June 18.

Trudeau on Tuesday said Canada was not looking to "escalate" the situation with India amid the diplomatic row between the two countries over the killing of a Khalistani terrorist and asserted that his government will continue to have "constructive relations" with New Delhi.

Speaking to reporters in Ottawa, Trudeau also said that it is important for Canada to have diplomats on the ground in India, amid a report by London-based Financial Times that New Delhi wants as many



as 41 of 62 remaining Canadian diplomats out of the country, the Toronto Sun newspaper

reported.
"Obviously, we are going through an extremely challenging time with India right now," Trudeau was quoted as saying by the Canadian news-

He, however, did not confirm the media report that India has asked Canada to withdraw 41 of 62 diplomats from the country.

Meanwhile, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly told reporters in Ottawa that the government believes in having a "strong diplomatic footprint" in India. We are in contact with the

government of India. We take Canadian diplomats' safety very seriously, and we will continue to engage privately because we think that diplomatic conversations are best when they remain private," she

"In moments of tensions because indeed there are tenporarily suspending issuance of visas to Canadian citizens.

The India-Canada ties were reeling under some strain for the last few months in view of increasing activities of the pro-Khalistani elements in the North American country. India says the Trudeau

government is not addressing its genuine concerns.

Trudeau, who is the leader of the Liberal Party, shares power with Indian-origin and Canadian Sikh leader Jagmeet Singh, who heads the New Democratic Party (NDP).

While there was no official word from India and Canada, it was learnt India has asked the Canadian diplomats to leave the country by October 10. It also came to light that New Delhi has warned that diplomatic immunity will be withdrawn if the Canadian diplomats do not leave the country by the deadline.

Reports including the one in The Financial Times also said Canada has 62 diplomats in India, while New Delhi has told them to reduce the headcount to 41 at their High Commission.

"Declaring more Canadian diplomats personae non gratae wouldn't help the situation and would make reducing the emotions associated with this disagreement more difficult." Peter Boehm, chair of the Canadian Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, was quoted as saying by the

Trudeau does not expect to back down, said Boehm, adding that India saw Canada as "an easy mark". He asserted that New Delhi was aware of Ottawa's limited capacity to retaliate since the latter has a minority Government.

"India knows our capacity to retaliate is limited, that we have a minority Government and is aware of the consequent politics at play. And, of course, India has an election on the horizon," Boehms was quoted by as saying.

On previous occasions, India said it wanted an equal number of diplomats posted in the country and Canada. At its High Commission in Delhi. Canada has several dozen diplomats posted compared to what India has in Ottawa.

An unprecedented diplomatic crisis emerged between India and Canada after Trudeau on September 18 said Canadian security agencies had been actively pursuing "credible allegations of a potential link" between Indian govern-ment agents and the killing of

India expelled a Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat response to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case. New Delhi also suspended visa services for Canadian nationals.

On September 26, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a veiled dig at Canada, asked the UN member states not to allow "political convenience" to determine responses to terrorism, extremism and violence. He made the comments while addressing the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in

# in Women's Javelin

Annu Rani rose from the Aashes to win a javelin gold, while Parul Chaudhary pulled off a heist to claim the top prize in women's 5000m as Indian athletes bagged six medals from track and field at the Asian Games, here on Tuesday.

With two gold, two silver and two bronze, India's medal tally from athletics rose to 22 (4 gold, 10 silver, 8 bronze), surpassing the 20 medals that the country had achieved in the 2018 edition. This has become the highest number of medals in athletics after the 34 won in the inaugural edition in 1951.

The 31-year-old Annu, who has been in awful form the whole season, produced a season-best effort of 62.92m in her fourth attempt to became the first Indian woman to win an Asian Games gold in javelin throw. This was her second Asiad medal as she had won a bronze in the 2014 edition. For India, Barbara Webster (bronze in 1951), Elizabeth Davenport (bronze in 1962) and Gurmeet Kaur (bronze in 1998) have earlier won Asian Games medals in the competition.

Annu said, "I was trying the whole year and I was not able to give my best. I was feeling depressed and under pressure because the government spent a lot of money sending me abroad for training. This was my last competition of the season and I did not give up. I was determined to give my best."



India's gold medalist Annu Rani poses with the medal during the presentation ceremony of the Women's Javelin Throw Final event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou on Tuesday



19th Asian Games

She revealed that she was on the verge of quitting after a series of poor shows but decided against it to give herself a chance. "There were expectations of the family and the country. I was not able to give my best. The whole season was

not going well. In between I was even doing throws of 54m and I thought if I was doing so bad, I would quit. But I told myself that I will not give up so soon and fight till the end."

The Uttar Pradesh athlete's earlier best this season was 59.24m which fetched her a gold at the Federation Cup in Mav. She has been under tremendous pressure after a string of poor shows. She has a personal best of 63.82m, which is the national record. Continued on Page 2



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during 'sewa' at Gurudwara Sri Harmandir Sahib (the Golden Temple) in Amritsar on Tuesday

## **Unease in Congress** over Rahul's 'jitni abaadi, utna haq'

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA **NEW DELHI** 

A difference of opinion has arisen within the Congress over Rahul Gandhi's support for a caste census, in line with his motto "Jitni abaadi, utna haq," (rights proportionate to

the population). The party's national spokesperson and a member of the Rajya Sabha, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, initially opposed the Congress' stance on caste census, especially Rahul's position. Later, he deleted his social media post under "party pressure" and issued a statement justifying his party's position.

Congress chief spokesperson Jairam Ramesh issued a rebuttal on social media platforms in response to Singhvi's post. He said the Congress firmly supports its Raipur declaration and emphasised that Singhvi's views on caste census were his personal opinions and did not represent the official stance of the Congress or for that matter INDIA bloc.

Singhvi created a flutter by saying "it will eventually culminate into majoritarianism", a remark he later retracted from social media, attributing

it to an error made by his staff. Singhyi also later said he supports caste census on the

basis of which rights would be

determined proportionately.

As the findings of the

Bihar caste census were released on Monday, Rahul batted for a national caste census with a pitch for "Jitni abaadi, utna ĥaq".

Asked about Singhvi's views, AICC OBC department head Ajay Yaday said "What Singhvi has said is not the party line. I will not answer to someone who says something different from the party line. Our line is that the poor, deprived and Bahujan Samaj should be given economic and social benefits."

Rahul said the caste census of Bihar has proved that 84 per cent of people in the State are OBCs. SCs and STs and their rights should be according to their population.

The Nitish Kumar Government in Bihar of which the Congress is a stakeholder has released findings of a caste survey which revealed that OBCs and EBCs constitute a whopping 63 per cent of the State's total population. "Equality of opportunity is

never the same as equality of outcomes. People endorsing #jitniabadiutnahaq have to first completely understand the consequences of it. It will eventually culminate into majoritarianism," Singhvi earlier said on X.

Continued on Page 2

## Congress trying to snatch rights of Muslims: PM Modi

**PTI** ■ JAGDALPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday slammed the Congress over its pitch for a nationwide caste census and accused the grand old party of trying to divide Hindus, and sought to know if it wants to advocating population-based distribution of resources.

Modi said for him the poor formed the biggest chunk of population in the country and they should have the first right over resources irrespective of which caste or community they belong to, and accused the Congress of dividing society on caste lines for vote bank politics.

The PM's statements came a day after the Nitish Kumar Government released a caste survey, which revealed OBCs and EBCs constitute a whopping 63 per cent of Bihar's total population. Congress leader Raĥul Gandhi, wĥose party is a constituent of the ruling bloc in the northern State, hailed the Bihar caste survey, saying the country needs a caste-based census to give people their rights as per their proportion

in population. Addressing the "Parivartan Mahasankalp" rally of the BJP at Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, Modi alleged the Congress has entered into a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters as he arrives for an event organised for laying of foundation stone of various developmental projects, in Nizamabad on Tuesday

"secret pact" with a foreign country and takes pleasure in speaking against India, and asked people to remain alert.

"Since yesterday (Monday), the Congress has started speaking in a different tune. Congress leaders say the 'abaadi' (population) of people will decide the rights (on resources), but for Modi, poor people are the biggest 'abaadi' of the country and they have the first right over resources. Welfare of the poor is my aim," he said. The BJP's star campaigner referred to a 2006 statement of then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh advocating that plans for minorities, particularly Muslims, must have the "first

claim" on resources. "I was wondering what former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ji was thinking? Manmohan Singh ji used to say minorities have the first right over resources of the country and that too the Muslims. But now the Congress is saying proportion in population will decide who

will get how much share of rights. Does it mean they want to curtail the rights of Muslims?" he asked.

Whose population is more? Modi asked, and said will it be possible to ensure distribution of the rights according to social groups' share in demographic mix. "If they want to divide the rights on the basis of population, then who will have the first right (over resources)? Whose population is more? Congress leaders should clarify whether the rights will be

given according to share in population. Whether the Congress wants to take away the rights of minorities? Should Hindus, who have the biggest population in the country, come forward and claim all the rights?" he said.

Attacking the Mallikarjun the national outfit wants to destroy India by dividing the Hindus.

"I have been saying for a long time that the Congress is no longer being run by Congress people. Big leaders of the Congress are sitting with their mouths shut. Now those people are running the Congress from behind the curtain who are in nexus with antinational forces. The Congress wants to destroy India by dividing the Hindus at any cost and wants to divide the poor also. For me, the poor are the biggest community in the country. Welfare of the poor means welfare of the country," he said.

Continuing his attack on the Congress, a key constituent of the opposition INDIA bloc, the PM said the 138-year-old party takes pleasure in speaking against the country. "What secret pact the Congress has entered into with some other country it has not disclosed so far. But people are watching that the Congress takes pleasure in speaking against India.

It presents the good things of India in a bad light and enjoys it. It seems their love for the country has declined," he said and asked people to remain alert of them. The poor of India have the first right on its resources, whether they are Dalits, tribals or are from back-

ry, said the Prime Minister. "The Congress has only given poverty to the country and divided society on caste lines to secure its vote bank. It has been indulging in the same act today, too. They have been putting behind bars those who have been raising their voices for their rights in Chhattisgarh. On the other hand, the BJP is dedicated towards social jus-

tice," he stated. Targetting the Congress government in Chhattisgarh, Modi said, "Sometimes it seems there is a competition between Rajasthan (also ruled by Congress) and Chhattisgarh as to where the maximum number of crimes takes place. Development in Chhattisgarh is only visible either in posts and banners or in the coffers of

Congress leaders," he said. Modi said the Congress has a track record of looting natural resources of Chhattisgarh and vowed he will not allow the ruling party to usurp the Nagarnar steel plant located in Jagdalpur.

## Indian vaccine to eradicate malaria from world

**ARCHANA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Within the past two years, the world has witnessed the development of a second low-cost and highly effective malaria vaccine known as R21/Matrix-M, particularly made for children. This news is heartening, considering the devastating impact of vectorborne malaria as every minute, a child somewhere on the planet succumbs to this disease.

Developed in a joint collaboration with Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), a largest vaccine manufacturer in the world, and the University of Oxford in the UK, the newly approved vaccine will cost less than \$4, cheaper than the current options

"As a malaria researcher, I used to dream of the day we would have a safe and effective vaccine against malaria. Now we have two," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus, WHO Director General, after making an announcement that the global health agency has recommended the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine which can be developed on a mass scale. There is already an agree-

ment in place to manufacture over 100 million doses annually, with the SII committing to doubling this production within the next two years. Such a substantial scale of production is crucial because it will play a pivotal role in vaccinating individuals at high risk of malaria, thereby helping to

curb the disease's transmis-



sion and ensuring the protection of those who are vaccinated

mortalities worldwide.

The RTS S/AS01 vaccine

developed by the GSK became the first jab against the mosquito-borne disease to receive a WHO nod in 2021 when the world reported approximately 247 million cases and 6,19,000

The WHO's independent advisory body, the Ŝtrategic

Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) and the Malaria Policy Advisory Group (MPAG), recommended the use of the vaccine after reviewing its safety, quality and effectiveness standards last month. Their recommendation

was based on pre-clinical and clinical trial data which showed good safety and high efficacy in four countries, at sites with both seasonal and perennial malaria transmission.

"Demand for the RTS, S vaccine far exceeds supply, so this second vaccine is a vital additional tool to protect more children faster, and to bring us

closer to our vision of a malaria-free future," said the WHO Director General. Reacting to the development, Soumya Swaminathan, improve the lives of millions of

WHO's chief scientist, posted on social media, "Great news that a second malaria vaccine is recommended by WHO to be manufactured in India. Will definitely help in malaria control and ultimately elimination. RBM Partnership to end

malaria echoed similar views, applauding the development. .There is no silver bullet to end malaria, but when scaled up alongside existing malaria tools, R21 saves lives," it posted on X media.

The R21/Matrix-MTM malaria vaccine has been licensed for use in Ghana Nigeria and Burkina Faso. In combination with public health measures such as the use of insecticide-treated bed nets, the new shot can help save and

children and their families from the scourge of malaria. In areas with highly sea-

sonal malaria transmission (where malaria transmission is largely limited to 4 or 5 months per year), the R21 vaccine was shown to reduce symptomatic cases of malaria by 75 per cent during the 12 months following a 3-dose series. A fourth dose given a year

after the third maintained efficacy. This high efficacy is similar to the efficacy demonstrated when RTS,S is given seasonally.

The vaccine also showed good efficacy (66 per cent) dur-ing the 12 months following the first 3 doses. A fourth dose a year after the third maintained

Continued on Page 2

LAUNCHING

**Green War** 

Room

## TMC leaders detained during dharna in Delhi

TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and several other party leaders were detained on Tuesday night after they held a dharna at the Union Rural Development Ministry office here demanding a meeting with the minis-

The development came as the tug-of-war between the Centre and the West Bengal government over the release of funds to the state intensified with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) holding protests in the national Capital for the second consecutive day.

Banerjee, along with party lawmakers, state ministers and supporters including MGN-REGA workers, protested at Jantar Mantar here, a day after they held a two-hour sit-in at the Raighat on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary before being evicted by the

They later took out a march to the Rural Development Ministry at the



Krishi Bhavan, where they had an appointment with Minister State Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti.

However, around an hour and a half after going to the Bhavan, TMC leaders claimed that the MoS refused to meet them saying she would not meet more than five represen-

The TMC leaders, who had brought with them bundles of letters addressed to the prime minister and the rural development minister, refused to leave till the MoS met them.

Led by Banerjee, a group of TMC leaders sat on a dharna,

which continued till around 9 pm, after which they were detained by the police and evicted from the ministry

The Trinamool Congress claimed that the phones of some leaders were also taken by

Earlier, addressing the protesters at Jantar Mantar, Banerjee said their party's elected representatives will forgo their salaries to pay MGNRE-GA workers and the payments will be made within two months even if the Centre does not pay their dues.

## Bengal BJP MP's presence at Congress event sparks buzz

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Speculation ran high after BJP MP from Bishnupur constituency in Bankura district Saumitra Khan was on Tuesday seen in a programme organised by the Pradesh

Though all the sides remained tightlipped on the issue and Khan himself avoided posers saying that he had gone to attend the programme on personal capacity, inside sources said that there was much that met the naked eye.

Khan on Tuesday was seen in a blood donation camp organized by the Bankura district Congress

Though he would not make any political statements during his speech he praised the local Congress leaders for working in the interest of the

When asked to comment on his appearance in a Congress programme he said, "I had come here in a personal capacity ... as I had known the local leaders from a very

approached me I readily agreed .. Besides, as I am the local MP there is no problem if I attend such programmes.'

The Trinamool Congress leadership however said that Khan was preparing his grounds ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

"He knows that he may not get a BJP ticket as he has not performed in the past five years ... he even had tried to contact us but the TMC has no place for traitors ... so he is going to the Congress in hope of getting a ticket ... he knows that the Left-Congress alliance has gained ground at the cost of the BJP and he is trying to find a place in that scheme of things.

Khan has a record of turning coats. While in 2011 he was elected on a Congress ticket from Kotulpur in Bankura in 2014 he joined the TMC and became an MP. Subsequently he joined the BJP and was reelected from Bishnupur parliamentary seat on a saffron

## Green War Room launched to curb pollution in Delhi

The Delhi Government launched a 'Green War Room' for 24x7 monitoring and implementation of the Winter Action Plan with a larger team of analysts and experts from Tuesday. Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that a 17-member team consisting of scientists and engineers will look after the Green War Room and environmental scientist Nandita Moitra will lead the

Talking to reporters, Rai said people can report air pollution-related complaints to the Green War Room through the Green Delhi mobile appli

The war room team then forwards these complaints to the relevant department for resolution, he said.

Launched in 2020, the Green War Room has stateof-the-art air quality monitoring equipment and a team of experts, including scientists and data analysts, which keeps an eye on all sources contributing to Delhi's air pollution and helps the city administration implement its

"The massive success of the Delhi Government's efforts to curb pollution; in the last 8 years, PM10 levels and PM2.5 fell by 30% despite increasing population. Around 70,684 complaints received on the Green Delhi App; 90% of complaints have been resolved to date.

The Delhi Government will launch an anti-dust campaign in Delhi from 5th October. Most complaints are received against the working of the MCD. 45,208 complaints have been filed on the app against the MCD. Then some 10,928 complaints have been received against the PWD. 4,289 complaints have been received against the

DDA," Rai added. The Delhi government on Friday launched a 15point action plan to mitigate air pollution in the capital during the winter season, with a strong emphasis on addressing dust pollution, vehicular emissions and the open burning of garbage.

#### DISOWNMENT NOTICE

General public hereby informed that my clients Mr. John Baptist Rodrigues, S/o Mr. J.M. Rodrigues and Mrs. Sylvia Rodrigues, W/o Mr. John Baptist Rodrigues, both of them R/c 25C, Pocket-3, MIG Flats, Mayur Vihar Phase-3 Delhi-110096, Diswons their son namely Mr. Desmond Rodrigues and Daughter-in-law Mrs. Rochelle Selvey from their movable and immovable properties. My clients shall not be bound for any kind of their act, deed, dealing i past, present or in future and anybody dealing

Form No. 3 Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35,
Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
(Additional space allotted on
3rd & 4th Floor also) Case No.: OA/834/2022 Exh No.: 20379

[Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993] ICICI BANK LIMITED VS ASHISH VOHRA

(1) ASHISH VOHRA D/W/S/O- MOHAN VOHRA ASHISH VOHRA SON OF SHRI SURINDER MOHAN VOHRA R/O HOUSE NO 2291, HOUSING BOARD COLONY, BEHIND SHAHI EXPORTS SECTION 28, FARIDABAD, HARYANA - 121008 PAN NO. AAZPY4389E. 2ND ADDRESS: WIPRO LIMITED. PLOT NO. 480-481, UDYOGVIHAR PHASE 3. GURUGRAM

FARIDABAD, HARYANA Also At. WIPRO LTD PLOT NO. 480-481 UDYOG VIHAR PHASE 3 GURUGRAM GURGAON, HARYANA (2) PREETI VOHRA W/O SH ASHISH VOHRA HOUSE NO. 2291, HOUSING BOARD COLONY BEHIND SHAHI EXPORTS, SECTOR 28, FARIDABAD, FARIDABAD, HARYANA

#### SUMMONS

WHEREAS, **OA/834/2022** was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on **18/09/2023**. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 11210519.40/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application:

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties:

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposi such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before **Registrar** on **30/10/2023** at **10:30** A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 21/09/2023.

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

## Opposition parties to hold peaceful protest in Jammu on Oct 10: Faroog

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

The Opposition leaders led by Dr Farooq Abdullah, President of the National Conference, Tuesday unanimously decided to 'hit the streets' against the suspension of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir on October 10.

"The constitution is suspended and the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are under attack. Today we all have decided to stage a peaceful protest on October 10 and are seeking necessary permission from the divisional commissioner," Dr Abdullah flanked by the Peoples Democratic Party Chief Mehbooba Mufti and CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami told reporters after the over two-hour-long meeting at a hotel here.

The meeting of the opposition party leaders, convened by the President of the National Conference, was also attended by Vikar Rasool Wani, JKPCC Chief, along with former minister and working President Raman Harsh Dev Singh, Gulchain Singh Charak of Dogra Sadar Sabha, Muzaffar Shah of J&k Awami National Conference.

Several other representatives of different political outfits also attended the meeting under the chairmanship of Dr Abdullah and shared their



feedback with regard to the emerging political situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion took place on a variety of issues in the wake of the current political scenario in Jammu and Kashmir and how to adopt their future strategy to counter the ruling dispensation. Responding to a question from the media gallery with

regard to today's deliberations, Mohd Yousaf Tarigami of CPI(M) told reporters, "We have not organised any protest demonstrations so far. Now for the first time, we have decided to come together on the streets". Tarigami said, "We will

defend the constitution, we will defend the rights of the people will come on the streets, peacefully to send a message to the people of India to stand behind us and understand our pain in these difficult times.

"We do not trust this Government because it has deprived us of our rights by suspending the Constitution",

Earlier, answering one of

the media persons Dr Abdullah said, "On one hand the Union Home Minister claims the situation is peaceful in Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory attained new heights and growth after the Abrogation of Article 370. Similarly, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also claims the situation is normal and the UT is recording progress on all fronts. At the same time, I also want to know why they have suspended the constitution of India here in I&K".

Dr Abdullah said the government gave assurance to the people to hold Panchayat polls, Block development council polls, and Urban Local Bodies polls but overnight they have away from conducting these polls. Dr Abdullah remarked it means claims made by the government during the G-20 meeting in Srinagar that the situation was normal and peaceful were not correct. I just fail to understand what is

## LG lays foundation stone for Qutabgarh sports complex

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of a sports complex at Qutabgarh Village. The village has been adopted by Lt Governor to develop it as a model village. BJP MP Hans Raj Hans,

BJP MLA from Rohini Vijendra Gupta, Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) vice c hairman Subhashish Panda were also present on the occasion. The project, slated to be completed by next month, will have multiple sporting facilities like Akhara for male and female wrestlers, kabaddi ground, jog-ging track, open gym, bad-minton court, volleyball court, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Saxena reiterated his commit-ment to upgrade and furnish all 49 rural villages in the National Capital with the best of civic infrastructure and said that the sports complex will be highly beneficial for the youth lages. He urged people to avail various facilities provided by it, once it is completed.

He said that other villages will also be transformed on the lines of Qutabgarh Village, adding that 49 villages would be developed at the estimated cost Rs 800 crore, for which



Saxena also visited Jaunti Village to review developmental works undertaken in the village, including a proposed sports complex, which is likely to be completed by January 2024. The Lt Governor also inau-

gurated and dedicated a water body to the residents of the village. This water body will aid farming and other groundwater allied activities in the village.

Deepening and de-silting of the water body was undertaken and is now fit for rainwater to be collected in it, instead of overflowing in drains. Besides, footpath has been constructed plantation work has also been completed, which will not only beautify the village but will also promote physical well being among the villagers as they can enjoy morning and evening walks around the water body and keep themselves fit. To

ly clay utensils, the Lt Governor also distributed electric potter wheels to them while appreciating their hard

#### Saxena approves extension of 8,539 Home Guards volunteers services

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on sion of services of 8539 Home Guards volunteers, including 4060 deployed with DTC as bus marshals. He has also reiterated his earlier directions to Chief Minister and Home Minister to complete the process of fresh enrolment within the specified period.

## kill director of music company **STAFF REPORTER** GURUGRAM

Singer arrested

for threatening to

The crime branch unit of the Gurugram police arrested a Haryanvi singer for allegedly threatening to kill a music company director, police said.

According to the police, the suspect, who is a nephew of notorious gangster Kala Jathedi, wanted the music company to release singers from a

five-year contract. The suspects have been dentified as Deepak alias Kachcha a resident of Sonipat, who introduced the victim as nephew of gangster Kala Jathedi and singer Manoj alias

Guru a resident of Hisar. According to the police, on September 29, the director of Gem Tunes Music Company told the police that on September 17, a person named Deepak, who claimed to be the nephew of gangster Kala Jathedi, threatened to kill him over the phone if he did not break the artist bond with singer

Based on a complaint, a case under relevant sections of the IPC was registered at the Sector-37 police station. During the investigation, the crime branch team nabbed the suspects and recovered 2 mobile phones used in the crime.

## **India fetches first Gold**

From Page 1

Parul also stamped her class to become the first woman to win an Asian Games gold medal in 5000m race, to add to the 3000m steeplechase silver that she won on Monday The 28-year-old was behind

Japan's Ririka Hironaka in the closing stage but produced a metres to claim the vellow metal. Sunita Rani (silver in 1998

and bronze in 2002), OP Jaisha (bronze in 2006). Preeia Sreedharan (silver in 2010) and Kavita Raut (bronze in 2010) have earlier won Asian Games medals for India in women's 5000m race. "I won a silver vesterday (in the 3000m steeplestunning dash in the final 40 chase) and I was tired so I slept

just three hours. I could not win a gold in 3000m steeplechase, so I thought I will fight till the end "I have been working hard and training at the national camp since 2016."

She was lagging behind for

some time, even at sixth spot at

one time, but recovered later to

sneak past the Japanese runner

at the finish line.

Following her win, Parul hoped she would be appointed as Deputy Superintendent of Police by the Uttar Pradesh government. "The policy of our UP government is that if someone wins a gold he/she will be made Deputy Superintendent of Police. That was in my mind," she said.

Delhi boy Tejaswin Shankar also made India proud, establishing himself as the country's unrivalled decathlete by clinching a silver in the gruelling 10event discipline with national

record total points of 7666 total points. He made a fourth-place finish in the 1500m -- the final event of the physically-demanding competition. It was India's first men's

encourage artisans who make

decathlon medal since 1974. Vijay Singh Chauhan was the last Indian to win a decathlon medal in Asian Games in 1974, while the national record belonged to Bharatinder Singh (7,658 points) in 2011.

"I was expecting a little more but (satisfied) considering

that I had a cramp right after the shot put event. After that it was about managing myself to win a medal instead of worrying about total points. Still, I am happy that I made a national record," Tejaswin said. "Now that I have

> "If I get the seal of becoming an Olympian, I will be content and then I can go on to shift to full-time decathlon."

for the Paris Olympics.

won a medal in decathlon, I want

to get back to high jump, make myself a little bit leaner and try

Muhammed Afsal also picked up a silver in the men's 800m race with a time of 1:48.43s, before national record holder triple jumper Praveen Chitravel won a bronze with a below-par performance of 16.68m.

In women's 400m hurdles, Vithay Ramraj, 25, failed to match her national record equalling time of 55.42 seconds which she had clocked during the heats but won a bronze with a time of 55.68 seconds.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, देवास ( म.प्र. ) **宿.索./E-T/PRO./13/DWS/2023** देवास दिनांक 03.10.2023 // चतुर्थ ई-निविदा सूचना //

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीयन ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त ई-निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट <u>https://www.mptenders.gov.in</u> पर देखा जा सकता है। निविदा निविदा कार्य की कार्य का नाम

लागत

प्रपत्र का

	जारा दिनांक		वषाकाल सहित एवं लागत लाख में	मूल्य एव EMD	आतम तिथि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	_313984_1 Date	Survey, Soil Investigation, Design and execution of various works for augmentation of water supply system including construction of an intake well arrangements, Raw water pump house, installation of Raw/Clear water Pumps, sub station including 33KV HT feeder, Water Treatment Plant, ELSR's and GLSR's. Providing, Laying, Jointing, Testing and Commissioning of Raw/Clear water pumping/feeder main and Distribution network including excavation refilling, road cutting/dismantling, restoration to its original condition, providing and fixing required valves (Sluice, Air, scour, PRV etc.) Special, fitting, flow meters, construction of valve chambers, thrust blocks and House service connection, Automation (PLC-SCADA) complete		1. 表. 50,000/- 2. 表. 29,60,955/-	10.10.2023

नोट:- निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन का प्रकाशन ऑनलाईन् https://www.mptenders.gov.in की वेबसाईट पर ही किया जायेगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

as required as per scope of work

आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम, देवास

## **Moot Court in Thrissur** draws wide attention

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

If you ask a person without legal background what is moot court, chances are that you will get a grumpy look. No one can blame him/her because persons without knowledge in legal education are not at all familiar with the term.

Moot Courts are simulated lessons held in law schools across the country to make the budding lawyers ready to face real life battles in court rooms. It is an intellectual bout conceived to test the prowess of law students in their academic pur-

The organiSers take out subjects of national and international events, put them as a legal issue and ask the students to argue for and against the

Class rooms in law schools

are converted into real life

Court Rooms with all resplendent ambience. These bouts Competition, turn out future lethmalanis. Seervais, Narimans and Sorabjees! the country. A low profile moot court

event hosted by Government Law College, Thrissur in memory of late T Ramachandran, who was a judge in Kerala High Court during 1996-1997 has hogged national limelight though limited to the legal fraternity. The Government Law College, Thrissur, played

host to the 12th edition of this All -India Moot Court during September 29 to October 1 and this drew 36 teams from across What makes the Thrissur

Moot Court distinct is the unique Kadavallur Anyonyam, an annual Rig Veda debate between Vedic scholars held during the first fortnight of Malayalam month Vrischikam (mid-November) at Sree Rama Swamy Temple at Kadavallur in

## **Unease in Congress** over...

'Careless forward by a staff

which was deleted with a slight time lag when I came out of a felicitation function in the Supreme Court and saw it and thereafter deleted immediately," Singhvi said and told media that he stands with the party's view that there should be a caste census across the country and said he was not at variance with the party's view. "Dr Singhvi's tweet may be

a reflection of his own personal view but in no way does it reflect the position of the Indian National Congress the essence of which is contained both in the Raipur Declaration on February, 26, 2023 and in the CWC Resolution of September 16, 2023," the Congress said in a statement.

### Indian vaccine to eradicate...

From Page 1 "The R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine is easily deployable, cost effective and affordable, ready for distribution in areas where it is needed most, with the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives a year," said Professor Sir Adrian Hill, Director of The Jenner Institute, at Oxford.

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of the SII added, "For far too long, malaria has threatened the lives of billions of people across the globe, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable amongst us. "This is why the WHO

recommendation approval of the R21/Matrix-M vaccine marks a huge milestone on our journey to combat this life-threatening dis-

## **Court vacates direction on continuation of Fellows' services**

 $T^{\text{he Delhi High Court on}}_{\text{Tuesday vacated its interim}}$ direction for continuation of services of professionals engaged as fellows with the Delhi Assembly Research Centre whose contracts were terminated by the Assembly Secretariat.

Justice Subramonium Prasad of the Delhi High Court observed that the Supreme Court had earlier chosen not to stay the letter terminating the services of the Fellows Therefore, the High Court should not have passed any interim order which effective ly stayed the order of the Delhi

Secretariat, Justice Prasad said.

The court's order came on an application by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat and other authorities seeking vacation of the interim order of stay passed on September 21 on the ground that the issue is pending before the apex court.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva has welcomed the decision of the court order of stay in the matter of appointment of fellows in Delhi government. He said Delhi CM Arvind

Kejriwal should own moral responsibility in the Illegal fellowship matter and resign.

In the order, Justice Prasad

'specifically challenged" by the Delhi government before the Supreme Court as part of its petition against the Centre's ordinance which took away the control over services from the city dispensation, and the petitioner's contention that the high court can look into the issue since no order has been passed by the top court cannot be sustained.

"In the Order dated 20.07.2023 the Apex Court chose not to stay the letter dated 05.07.2023. The contention of the learned Counsel for the Petitioner that since the Apex Court has not passed any



No.13505/2023 (against the July letter), it is open for this Court to consider the same, cannot be sustained," the court observed.

The court recorded it was specifically argued before the apex court that the lieutenant governor has terminated the contract of 437 consultants

engaged with statutory bodies under the Delhi Government or with the Delhi legislative assembly.

On September 21, the court had, on a petition by several terminated fellows, directed that their services with the Delhi Assembly Research Centre shall continue till December 6 and stipends will be paid to them.

The counsel for the petitioners had earlier contended that the services of the fellows, who were appointed after following due procedure, were terminated prematurely in an unceremonious, arbitrary and illegal manner in the aftermath of a letter issued by the services department on July 5.

According to sources, Fellows and Associate Fellows were appointed in the Delhi Legislative Assembly and other departments and organizations of Delhi Government, in gross violation of constitutional provisions of Reservation. Rights of marginalised community while making engagements of such Fellows and Associate Fellows.

Even engagements of such Fellows and Associate Fellows were made without approval of the Lt Governor.

This case is an example as to how the public interest is being defeated by the Delhi Legislative Assembly by first engaging private persons violating Constitutional Rights of Reservation of the marginalized community (SCs and STs). Then Minister (Services) / Delhi Legislative Assembly filed applications. and appointing Senior Advocates to make statements before Courts to allow continuation of such gross illegalities by shaking hands with the Fellows and Associate Fellows (i.e. petitioners) thus acting against the public interest.

The Legislative Assembly has also appointed certain political workers like Ratnesh . Gupta (Prabhari of Aam Aadmi Party in Himachal Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh), volunteers of Aam Aadmi Party on pay and perks disproportionate to regular employees. Some of the volunteers are allegedly issuing directions to the Senior Officers of the Department (example of Ankit Srivastava of DJB)," sources

## People rush to street as tremors jolt Delhi, NCR

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Strong earthquake tremors jolted parts of Delhi-National Capital Region on Tuesday. According to initial assessments by the National Center for Seismology the depth of the earthquake is 5 km and magnitude is 6.2.

People in Delhi and the National Capital Region reported strong tremors after the second quake and rushed out of their offices and high-rise residential buildings. No loss of life or property has been reported in the national capital. The Delhi Police also urged them not to panic.

The first quake of magnitude 4.6 hit Nepal at a depth of 10 km at 2:25 pm. A stronger quake — magnitude 6.2 — jolted the Himalayan nation at 2:51 pm, a National Centre for Seismology (NCS) official said.Two more quakes (magnitude 3.6 and 3.1) hit the same region at a depth of 15 km and 10 km at 3:06 pm and 3:19 pm,

News channels aired visu-



als of shaking ceiling fans and TV screens. Social media was also flooded with such visuals.

In a video shared by DD News on X, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and a group of officials were standing in the Nirman Bhawan building complex after the tremors were felt.

The Nirman Bhawan houses offices of the health ministry and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, among other important offices.

People also shared videos of employees of offices in Gurugram rushing downstairs after the tremors were felt in Delhi-NCR. Taking to X, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in Hindi, "Strong earth-

felt in Delhi. I hope you all are safe." Delhi Police also took to social media and urged people

The Delhi Police posted on social media platform X, "Hey Delhi people! We hope you all are safe. Please come out of your buildings to a safe spot, but do not panic. DO NOT USE ELEVATORS! For any emergency help, dial 112".

not to use elevators.

Thankfully, no damage to life or property was reported to us in Delhi after the earthquake tremors. Stay safe! #DelhiPoliceCares," it said in another post an hour later.Tremors were felt in Chandigarh, Jaipur and other parts of north India as well.

## City Government not paying compensation to farmers: LoP

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

eader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri claimed on Tuesday that despite the Supremé Court's orders, the Delhi Government is not paying the pending compensa-tion of 130 crores to approximately 150 farmers in Jasola and Madanpur villages.

Alleging this, he also said the government even argued in court that they did not have the money in the account of the ADM/Land Execution Collector (LSC).

Looking at the government's attitude, the court issued an order to seize the immovable property of the ADM The court has taken a firm

stance, stating that this decision cannot be appealed, and no stay can be issued on it. Delhi BJP's

spokesperson and MLA Abhay Verma said the 76 acres of land in Jassola village was acquired This land was acquired to Kalindi Kunj.

भारतीय जनता पार्टी, दिल्ली प्रदेश

This land belonged to about 150 farmers, and they were supposed to receive 130 crores as compensation from the Delhi Government. However, the government

has not made this payment. The matter was taken to the Supreme Court, and even the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the farmers, ordering the government to pay the compensation on April 20, 2022. However, this decision has not been implemented so far. Bidhuri revealed that when

the compensation was not paid, the Saket Court issued an order on July 26, 2023, to attach the immovable property of the

ADM/Land Execution Collector (LSC).

Bidhuri criticized the Kejriwal government, accusing them of hypocrisy for claiming that they are increasing farmers' compensation while refusing to pay and going to the extent of saying they don't have the money in their

On one hand, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Cabinet members claim that the Government has no shortage of funds, and on the other hand, farmers' rights are being denied, and the comensation for their land is not being paid, the BJP leader

## Warm weather pushes power demand to record high in September

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

An "exceptionally" warm September this year saw a record-breaking power demand in Delhi. The peak power demand of the city exceeded the September 2022 levels on 80 per cent of the corresponding days, according to State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) data.

In fact, Delhi's peak power demand clocked 6,993 megawatts (MW) on September 5, 2023, the highest ever for the month of September, the officials said. Last year in September, the highest peak demand was 6,687

"Delhi's unusually hot weather was reflected in the city's peak power demand, which remained consistently high in comparison to the similar period last year for the last couple of months," an official said. The lowest peak power demand in September 2023 was 4,536 MW on Sep-10 on account of heavy-rains and it

was just once that the city's peak power demand fell below 5000 MW during the month. As opposed to this, on nine occasions or one-third of the time in September 2023, Delhi's peak power demand fell below the 5000 MW, clocking 4028 MW on September 25. August too witnessed a

similar trend and except for one day, Delhi's peak power demand surpassed August 2022 levels every day, the official added. According to the SLDC data, infact, Delhi's peak power demand clocked the season's high of 7438 MW on August 22, 2023. Since 2012, Delhi's peak power demand has always clocked the season's highest in June and July. Moreover, Delhi's peak power demand has never crossed the 7000 MW in August. This time, crossed the 7000 MW on

A BSES spokesperson said next-generation technologies like SCADA enable the discoms BRPL and BYPL to ensure reliable supply.



## Powering **A New Growth Story**

I am delighted to share that, in FY 23 we have delivered the highest ever net profit of ₹11.605 crore, up 16% from the previous fiscal. We registered double-digit growth of 13% in our loan asset book. Continuing with our commitment to maximize shareholders return, we have declared a dividend of ₹13.25 per share which equates to an impressive 132.5% on the share face value.

Parminder Chopra

Chairman & Managing Director

### Chairman Speech at 37th Annual General Meeting held on 12th September, 2023

Welcome to the 37° Annual General Meeting of your company. Let me begin by congratulating you for yet another year of stellar financial performance by your Company.

The year 2022-23 was the year of resurgence for PFC, as we emerged from the adverse impact of COVID and achieved impressive growth along with outstanding financial performance. fam delighted to share that, in FY 23 we have delivered the highest ever net profit of ₹11,605 crore, up 16% from the previous fiscal. This is the third consecutive year in which we are setting a new record for the highest annual profit. We registered double-digit growth of 13% in our loan asset book. As a result, loan asset portfolio surpassed the ₹4 lakh crore mark and stood at ₹4,22,498 crore as on 31.03.2023. We have also achieved an all-time high loan sanctions of ₹2.32 lakh crore and disbursed ₹85.756 crore. during the year, underscoring our role as the principal lender to the Indian power sector. On the asset quality front also, significant strides have been made in reducing Non-Performing Assets. resulting in the NPA ratios dipping to their lowest levels in the past seven years. In the fiscal year 2023, the Net NPA ratio stood at 1.07%. Coupled with strong growth, consistent profits and stable asset quality, we continued to have a robust net worth of ₹68,202. crore. Continuing with our commitment to maximize shareholders return, we have declared a dividend of ₹13.25 per share, which equates to impressive 132.5% on the share face value.

The global macroeconomic scenario in FY 2022-23 has been challenging, but India has been one of the few bright spots, with the economy continuing to grow at a robust pace, supported by healthy domestic demand and prudent monetary policy

This favourable economic environment is set to benefit the Power Sector's growth. Untapped demand potential is significant, driven by India's vast population of nearly 1.44 billion. The Government's 'Make in India' initiative and the Production-Linked Incentive scheme are expected to further boost demand. Projections indicate a 7.18% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in India's electricity consumption until 2027.



To address this growing demand, additional capacity would be needed. Government plans to double the installed capacity, with addition of around 500 GW of capacity by 2032, with 87% from

non-fossil fuel sources and 13% from fossil fuels, requiring an



Hon'ble Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy and His Excellency Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry ment of Japan, announcing PFC as 1" member from join Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG).

estimated investment of approximately ₹31 takh crore.

Over recent years. Discoms have grappled with financial and operational challenges, which has put a strain on the entire power sector value chain. However, a transformative shift is underway. The government has undertaken significant reforms for Discoms over the past two years. The impact of these reformative measures, as part of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), is evident. Equally noteworthy is our success in implementing the LPS Rules. Over the past year, we have disbursed loans worth ₹16,800 crore to power distribution companies under these rules. The scheme has led to a remarkable 40% reduction in legacy dues payable by distribution utilities from their peak level of ₹1.4 lakh crore. The settlement of current dues are also being monitored rigorously with the help of PRAAPTI portal, which is set up and maintained by our subsidiary, PFCCL The scheme has brought in the much needed fiscal discipline in the sector, which is helping all the players across the power sector

The power sector is currently at an interesting juncture, which creates plethora of growth opportunities for PFC.

Embracing the motto 'Nayi Soch Nayi Rahein,' PFC is boldly moving into new directions, shaping the future through innovative ideas and forward-looking perspectives.

Forayed into Infrastructure Financing

On 25° August, 2022, PFC was granted the mandate by the Ministry of Power to extend lending support to the infrastructure and logistics sector. With the amendment in the Memorandum of Association, PFC's lending capabilities have been extended to encompass the wider infrastructure and logistics sectors. This is one of those milestone decision, which will play a crucial role in PFC's long term business growth. The idea is to gradually build it over time and creating a complementing business line as the power sector matures.

Under the new mandate, we have supported projects in the domains of healthcare, sea water desalination, petrochemicals, optic fibre networks, roads, ports, and metro rail systems. In the last financial year, we have sanctioned projects worth ₹16,700 crore to non-power infrastructure segments.

 Forging a Greener Future through integrating Environment. Social and Governance (ESG) pillars

In today's world, climate change is one of the most critical challenges we face. Among its drivers, the energy sector

emerges as pivotal, with its transformation deeply impacting society. Recognizing this, the Indian government has unveiled the 'Panchamrit' agenda, aiming for a non-fossil energy capacity of 500GW by 2030, a billion-ton carbon reduction, a 45% emission intensity decrease by 2030, and net-zero

emissions by 2070. PFC is fully committed to the Government's vision for a Greener India. Today PFC is India's largest renewable financier, supporting almost a fifth of the India's renewable energy capacity.

In the pursuit of India's net-zero objective, in financial year 2023, PFC has achieved significant milestones in promoting clean energy transition. Notably, PFC has sanctioned loan of ₹633 crore to Blu Smart for the purchase of 5000 passenger Electric Vehicles (EVs). This move is expected to lead to emission savings exceeding 100,000 tons of CO2 equivalent. To put this into perspective, it's equivalent to the CO2 absorption capacity of over 5 million fully-grown trees in a year. This transaction also marks the largest E-vehicle asset finance initiative in India, poised to greatly enhance the adoption of clean energy atternatives. Further, PFC's funding of ₹6,112. crore to refinance 1,227 MW solar and wind projects of JSW Energy Group underscores its commitment to sustainable energy. In alignment with Govt. initiative for making urban India "Garbage Free", PFC has cumulatively sanctioned waste to energy projects worth ₹1,600 crore with a combined



Smt. Parminder Chopra, CMD receiving "Swachter Pakhwara Award 2023" from Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary (Power), Government of India, The award was conferred to PFC for its exemplary performance under Swachti Blanti Abbiyaan.

Our commitment to making a sustainable future is strong, and we are taking big steps forward. In the current FY 24, PFC is steadfastly working to institute a well-structured approach to our ESS practices, seamlessly integrating Environmental Social, and Governance principles into our operations. In this direction. PFC has already taken tangible actions to integrate ESG into our business. Recently, to have a focussed approach towards ESG, a dedicated Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) unit has been established. This centralized ESG unit will work in close collaboration with various stakeholders to chart the ESG course for PFC. These endeavours constitute a few immediate steps we have

taken towards ESG integration. Our promise is to keep lending



Smt. Parminder Chopva. CMD receiving "Raibhasha Samman 2022-23 ective implementation of Official Language from Shri R. K. Singh Hon ble Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy.

responsibly and sustainably. But we are not just making changes for ourselves-we are leading the way for the entire energy sector. Our goal is to have a greener and better norrow, and we are on a determined path to make that future

We will continue to increase our financing in our traditional business areas of generation and T&D space. This will be further complemented with infrastructure financing. In addition to these areas, our financing endeavours will also be closely aligned with the government's goals and vision for the power sector particularly in clean energy space and RDSS.

 Renewable & emerging technologies in clean energy space. In order to achieve India's energy transition targets, the share of renewable energy in the energy mix, which is presently about 27%, will have to reach 50% by 2030. This requires quadrupling of the present solar and wind generation capacity. We would also have to add about 10 GW of pumped storage capacity and over 100 GWh of battery storage in order to meet the energy balancing needs. Commensurate equipment

need to be in place. Given the huge investment required for decarbonisation of our economy, funding of energy transition related projects will be PFC's mainstay for the foreseeable future. PFC is focused on funding entire value chain of energy transition. In addition to the traditional solar/wind projects, we are also exploring bankable projects in the fields of renewable equipment manufacturing, energy storage, green evacuation corridors and electric mobility, green hydrogen and ammonia production

manufacturing capacity and evacuation infrastructure also

#### Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)

Your company has been designated by the Government of India as the nodal agency for the implementation Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)

RDSS has an outlay of ₹3,03,758 crore covering Smart metering and infrastructure works, with an estimated Government grant of ₹97.631 crore. The objective of the scheme is to reduce AT&C losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% by 2024-25 and reduction of ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25. The funding under the scheme will be from the govt, grants, and balance will be counterpart funding from PFC or our

subsidiary REC or State's own equity for infrastructure works. overnance & Social Responsibility 🧶

At PFC, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and disclosure. As a publicly listed company, we adhere to a comprehensive framework of corporate governance frameworks and policies such as the Companies Act, 2013, SEBI's Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements Regulations, DPE Guidelines etc. We also have various risk management Committees at Board level & senior management levels which oversees the key functions of our company and provide strategic directions in each area.

This ensures that every aspect of our work is guided by principles that promote integrity, fairness, and responsible conduct.

Before I conclude, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our shareholders who have reposed faith in us. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power and the officials of Ministry of Power for their support and guidance. I also thank the Board of Directors for their valuable guidance, our client utilities, employees, various ministries, investors, auditors, regulators and other stakeholders of PFC for their continued support.

Thank you, and let us make Power Finance Corporation's journey ahead even more remarkable.

( Augus (Parminder Chopra) Place: New Delhi Chairman & Managing Director Date: 12.09.2023

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 12" September, 2023. For full text, please visit : www.pfcindia.com)



#### (A Government of India Undertaking)

Regd. Office: "Urjanidhi", 1, Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110 001, Ph.: 011-23556000, Fax: 011-23512545 Website: www.pfcindia.com CIN: L65910DL1986G0I024862

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## **TMC behind Central** fund scam: Suvendu

### Demands CBI probe into MGNREGA irregularities in West Bengal

Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday demanded a CBI probe into the alleged swindling of central funds in the State, as he accused the ruling TMC of being behind a "big scam" as he also accused of the TMC of having agenda of "parivarvaad", "bhrastachaar" and appeasement.

The BJP leader alleged here that thousands of village heads belonging to the Trinamool Congress in connivance with State Government officials have been involved in corruption to the tune of thousands of crores in the State in relation to work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA).

"It is a big scam. It will turn out to be the biggest scam after Independence," he claimed, hitting out at "bua-bhatija", a reference to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

With TMC leaders headed by Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee protesting here



against the Centre for withholding the release of funds to the state under some central government schemes, including MGNREGA, Adhikari accused them of indulging in a false and fabricated campaign.

The TMC used to be a national party but is now a regional party which is fast losing its base in West Bengal, he said, claiming that its protest in the national capital is aimed at retrieving its shrinking support.

It has become a habit of the TMC of doing politics on every issue and dreaming of power at the Centre, and that is why it has joined the INDIA bloc of

"ghamandia" (arrogant) parties,

These people are staying here in a five-star hotel and doing a drama, he claimed.

cards under the MGNREGA scheme were deleted for various reasons, claiming that thousands of crores of rupees were pocketed by corrupt ruling party functionaries and government officials.

Adhikari alleged that ΓMC's dharna at Rajghat was illegal and caused inconvenience to those who were visiting the Samadhi to pay their homage to the father of the to boost defence manufacturing: IAF Chief

Rs 1.15 lakh crore will be concluded soon. In February 2021, Defence Ministry sealed a Rs 48,000-crore deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to ocure 83 such jets.

Chaudhari said the IAF is looking at inducting military platforms, equipment and defence hardware worth Rs 2.5 lakh crore to Rs 3 lakh crore in the next seven-eight years adding most of the equipment will come from Indian industry. He also said this year alone there will be a cash outflow of nearly rS 42,000

He said modern warfare is constantly undergoing a transformation due to rapid advancements in technology and that his force has embarked on a journey of transformation and is progressing in a planned and sys-

"Our focus is on force multipliers in the form of AI (artificial intelligence)-based decision tools, electronic warfare equipment, robust networks and harnessing space and cyber capabilities.

IAF to procure ₹3 lakh crore weapons systems

'While adding newer and more potent equipment, platforms and weapons to our arsenal, we are also committed to Atmanirbhar Bharat and are contributing extensively towards enhancing indigenisation and defence production, fast-paced development and operationalisation of indigenous aerospace projects," he

Chaudhari said persistent surveillance capability, sharpening of sensor-to-shooter time, long-range precision weapons and development of multi-domain capability are the main focus areas of the

rapid expansion of military infrastructure and enhancing deployment of air assets along the LAC, he said the IAF is constantly monitoring the situation across the borders through ISR (Intelligence, sur-

"We make note of the build-up of resources and capabilities across the borders. Our operational plans are very dynamic and keep changing based on the situation that we perceive that is developing across any front," he

veillance, and reconnaissance)

mechanisms.

"So in places where we cannot really counter the numbers or the might of the adversary, we will counter it through better tactics and through better training," he

Air chief said the IAF does not have a fixed mindset in terms of the deployment of assets in key areas along the LAC. "Our focus will remain to be dynamic at all times and not have a fixed mindset in terms of deployment of assets in particular areas. But we have very very flexible and dynamic war plans which we keep revising every now and then based on the ISR inputs that we get," he said.

Chaudhari said the IAF is in the process of deploying mountain radars to improve

surveillance along the bor-

'The situation continues to remain what it was in the last one year. There have been disengagements in certain contested areas. But complete disengagement has not yet taken place," he said when asked about the ground situation along the LAC in eastern

"We will continue to remain deployed till complete disengagement takes place," he

Answering a question, Air Chief said the IAF received three units of S-400 missile systems from Russia and it is hoping to receive the remaining two by next year.

He described the Indo-Pacific region as the "new economic and strategic centre of gravity" of the world that offers both challenges and

opportunities. The Indian Air Force with its inherent capability to see the farthest, reach the fastest and hit the hardest will be critical in mitigating these challenges and will remain a fulcrum in projecting India's might in the region,"

he said.

"Owing to the volatile and uncertain geopolitical landscape in our region, the need to have a strong and credible military has become an imper-

## CBI chargesheets man for posing as Canadian official, duping people

The CBI has filed a chargesheet against a Delhi-resident who allegedly posed as a Canadian Government official and coerced his targets into transferring their assets to crypto The accused then siphoned

off the crypto funds in collusion with his accomplices who have also been named in the chargesheet. The agency has named

suspects Sahil Pal, Himanshu and Ashish Bhambhani as the accused in its chargesheet filed under the Indian Penal Code sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating and extortion, besides provisions of the Information Technology Act, officials said.



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had booked the trio on May 11 on inputs from Canadian authorities.

Pal has approached a special court seeking default bail, claiming that since the chargesheet was not filed within 60 days of his arrest, he is eligible for the relief.

The CBI had booked the

discovered that the damage to

mitochondria in brain cells

occurs and spreads when these

cells have defects in anti-viral

In the paper, published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry, they sought to

understand why this damage

occurred and how it con-

'Small fragments of

actually DNA -- from the

mitochondria are released into

the cell. When these frag-

ments of damaged DNA are

misplaced, they become toxic

to the cell, prompting nerve cells to expel this toxic mito-chondrial DNA," Issazadeh-

nature of brain cells, these

toxic DNA fragments spread to

neighboring and distant cells,

similar to an uncontrolled for-

est fire sparked by a casual

sions that the study marks the

initial stride towards a better

understanding of the disease,

and the development of future

treatments, diagnostics, and

Issazadeh-Navikas envi-

Given the interconnected

Navikas explained.

bonfire" she added.

tributed to the disease.

response genes.

trio for allegedly posing as Canadian government officials to cheat Quebec-based Trishan Goussard in September last

They allegedly asked Goussard to deposit CAD 7,006 (around Rs 4.35 lakh at present exchange rates) in a crypto wallet to avoid several fraud charges in his compro-

the agency has alleged in the An unsuspecting Goussard deposited the amount through a Bitcoin ATM. The wallet was last active on the Binance application through an IP address that had 103 instances of logs linked to a mobile phone number registered in the name of Bhambani, it alleged.

Giving a boost to self-reliance in defence man-

ufacturing, the IAF plans to

procure weapon systems

including aircraft helicopters

and missiles worth over ₹2.5

lakh crore to ₹3 lakh crore in

the next six to seven years. IAF

chief VR Chaudhari said here

China as it has ramped up its

deployment of a vast array of

radars along the Line of Actual

Control(LAC)capable of look-

ing deep into Indian territory.

here on the occasion of the

91st anniversary of the IAF on

October 8, Chaudhari said

the IAF's operational plans

are very dynamic and it will

deal with challenges along the

LAC through better tactics

and training in places where it

cannot counter the "numbers

or the might of the adversary."

tinue to remain deployed

along the frontier in the region

till complete disengagement takes place in the remaining

Outlining the plans to procure weapon platforms manufactured by Indian industry, IAF chief said a con-

tract to procure 97 Tejas Mark

1A aircraft at a cost of around

contested areas.

He said the IAF will con-

Making these assertions

He also said the IAF is keeping a close watch on

on Monday.

"Their modus operandi involved providing fake technical support consultation to unsuspecting victims and coercing them into transferring cryptocurrency funds.

These ill-gotten cryptocurrency assets were subsequently routed through multiple crypto wallets, ultimately ending up in the perpetrators' crypto accounts," the CBI had said after registering the case.

## SC dismisses pleas of sacked cop Bhatt in drugs planting case, slaps ₹3 lakh fine

#### Former cop filed pleas alleging bias by lower court judge conducting trial in the case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed three pleas and imposed a cost of ₹3 lakh on sacked IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt for alleging bias against a lower court judge conducting his trial in an alleged drugs planting case. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Rajesh Bindal imposed costs of Rs one lakh each for filing three separate pleas and ordered that the amount be deposited with the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association.

"How many times have



Court...At least a dozen times. the bench said and referred to an earlier order of another bench in a similar plea filed by him. In one plea, the former IPS officer sought transfer of the trial to another sessions

second one, he sought directions for audio-video recording of the trial court proceedings. The third one sought adducing additional evidence in the case.

The former IPS officer was arrested in 2018 by the Gujarat CID in connection with the court alleging bias and in the case of alleged planting of

drugs to arrest a man. Bhatt, the then police officer, had arrested one Sumersingh Rajpurohit, an advocate, in 1996 on charges of possessing around one kg of drugs. Earlier, another bench on

May 10 had dismissed a separate plea of Bhatt seeking a direction to submit additional evidence to support his appeal in the Gujarat High Court against his conviction in a 1990 custodial death case. Bhatt is currently in prison after conviction the custodial death case. He had also sought recusal of Justice MR Shah, now retired, from hearing his plea on May 10.

### Damaged mitochondrial DNA may cause Parkinson's disease like symptoms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Damaged genetic material of mitochondrial DNA -the vital energy producers within brain cells-- spreads like a wildfire through the brain causing Parkinson's disease like symptoms, a team of researchers have found in a first of its kind study published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry.

Professor Shohreh Issazadeh-Navikas said, "Our findings establish that the spread of the damaged genetic material, the mitochondrial DNA, causes the symptoms reminiscent of Parkinson's disease and its progression to

The study offers the potential for innovative treatments in the future. Parkinson's disease is a chronic condition that affects the central nervous system, leading to symptoms such as difficulty walking, tremors, cognitive challenges, and, eventually, dementia.

The disease which afflicts over 10 million people worldwide, currently has no cure, but certain medical treatments can offer relief from its symptoms.

The understanding of Parkinson's disease has been quite limited.

It primarily revolved around the genetic factors responsible for familial cases, while the causative factors in the vast majority of patients remained unknown.

Researchers from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark found that small fragments of mitochondrial DNA spreads the disease.

By examining both human and mouse brains, researchers



Setting up wellness teams, identifying students exhibiting warning signs and those at risk of self-harm and supporting them are part of the draft guidelines prepared by the Union Ministry of

Education for schools to prevent student suicides.

With "Every Child Matters" as the underlying belief in developing the guidelines, the draft details directions to schools for enhancing sensitivity and understanding and providing support in case of reported self-harm.

The draft accessed by PTI also emphasises nurturing partnerships between schools, parents and the community, fostering societal support as a critical strategy for preventing suicides and reducing the stigma associated with suicidal behaviour.

Discarding damaging notions, including comparisons with peers, the perception of failure as permanent and the sole measurement of success based on academic performance, have also been recommended in the draft, besides locking empty classrooms, lighting up dark corridors and cleaning gardens and areas with excess growth

The draft for UMMEED (Understand, Motivate, Manage, Empathise, Manage, Empathise, Empower, Develop) guidelines comes at a time when a record number of students preparing for engineering and medical entrance exams in coaching hub Kota have committed suicides in 2023.

measurement of treatment efficacy for Parkinson's disease. She also expressed hope that "detecting the damaged mitochondrial DNA could "A School Wellness Team (SWT) may be formed under the leadership of the School serve as an early biomarker for Principal, where each memdisease development". ber of SWT is oriented in



handling crisis situations. When a student displaying warning signs has been iden-tified by any stakeholder, they need to be reported to the SWT, which takes immediate

"The SWT will also play an important role in implementation of school activities directed towards creating awareness about mental wellbeing, leading towards suicide prevention. However, SWT alone will not suffice in a school's efforts towards prevention of suicide and would require the support of all stakeholders," the guidelines

It has also been recommended that depending on the resources available within the school, the SWT be reconstituted on a regular basis to give all stakeholders in the school the opportuni-ty to build awareness and

Additionally, it is important for the school to review the effectiveness of the SWT and its functioning on an annual basis, the guidelines said.
"Students go through

many transitions during their school life which can cause extreme stress, for example, transition from home to school, from one school to another, school to college, losing a parent, sibling, friend,

near and dear one, etc.
"Along with this, children also experience changes as they progress through the developmental stages, leading to concerns such as those related to physical changes and appearance, peer pressure, career decisions, academic pressure, and many more. Amidst these challenges, a single insensitive comment has the potential to inflict lasting harm," the guidelines

The draft further recommended that in order to effectively prevent suicides and ensure appropriate and timely response in situations of crisis, schools must actively work towards building the capacity of all stakeholders which includes teachers and school staff, students, families of students and others.

"An important step in this direction is to enhance their knowledge and encouraging peer support, organis-ing activities on a regular basis for relaxing and reducing stress, providing channels for expression, compiling resources to seek support, integrating mental well-being in school functioning, creating a safe environment in school and beyond including vigilance at railway tracks, river banks, bridges, cliffs, medical shops, etc," the draft

guidelines stated.

## Anti-tobacco imagery during film screening warn people against life threat, reasons HC

The purpose of showing distasteful and gross antitobacco imagery in the health spots during film screenings in cinema halls and on television and OTT platforms is to make people aware of the ailments and ill-effects of consuming tobacco products, the Delhi High Court has said.

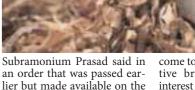
The court's observation came while dismissing a peti-tion seeking directions to the government to prohibit the display of anti-tobacco health spots during film screenings in cinema halls and on television and OTT platforms, which

have graphic or gross images. The court said the petition was backed by the tobacco industry lobby to prevent the government from raising awareness against tobacco use, which is the sole cause for a number of ailments among people, and restrain authorities from ensuring that people do not become tobacco addicts.

The court also raised concerns over the abuse of the process of public interest litigation (PIL), which it said was actually a tool for providing a voice to the voiceless but is now being used for private gains. With a view to deter peo-

ple from smoking tobacco and tobacco products, the Government of India has brought in advertisements to educate people about the ill-effects of tobacco and tobacco

"The graphic description given in these government-issued advertisements which, according to the petitioner, are gross and graphic imagery, are in fact meant to be eyeopeners for the people not to use tobacco and tobacco products and is, therefore, in pub-



lier but made available on the court's website on Tuesday.

The high court said the purpose of displaying distasteful, gross and graphic antitobacco imagery in the health spots played during the screening of movies and television programmes is only to make people aware of the ailments and ill-effects of consuming tobacco and tobacco products and show them what tobacco can do to their health.

The court said it is the duty of the State to take steps to ensure that the health of the citizens is protected and this petition is a gross abuse of the process of law.

"Of late, this court is seeing that public interest litigation, which was actually a tool for providing a voice to the voiceless, is being used to achieve private gains and the present writ petition is also one such petition which has been backed by the tobacco industry lobby to prevent the government from creating awareness against tobacco, which, as stated earlier, is the sole cause responsible for a number of ailments among men and women," Justice Prasad said.

The court also referred to a Supreme Court judgment that recognised the increasing trend of abuse of the forum of PIL and noted that the time has

come to ensure that the attractive brand name of public interest litigation should not be allowed to be used for suspi-

cious products of mischief.

It dismissed the petition filed by a lawyer seeking directions to the Centre for prohibiting the display of antitobacco health spots during film screenings in cinema halls, on television and over-thetop (OTT) platforms, which contain graphic or gross

The plea said it was filed due to the incorporation and prevalence of distasteful, gross, graphic anti-tobacco imagery in the health spots played during the screening of movies

and television programmes.

The court said the aim of the petition was to restrain the government from achieving the noble objective of a tobacco-free State and ensure that people do not become tobacco addicts. "The present writ petition

deserves to be dismissed with exemplary costs but looking at the petitioner, who is a young advocate having a bright future ahead, this court restrains itself from making any comments on the petitioner, which might have a bearing on his future. However, this court warns the petitioner not to file such kind of frivolous petitions in future. The writ petition is dismissed,"



Children enjoying incessant rain in Varanasi on Tuesday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The incessant rain for the last 24 hours in this month of October has changed the weather conditions. Though the intensity of the rain was not very high, it has, definitely, paralysed normal life badly. It was the second consecutive day when due to continuous rains, not only the normal life was affected badly but it also caused frequent disruption in power supply. Most of the markets, internationally famous 88-odd Ganga ghats and other places wore a deserted look, though generally the city wit-

nesses frequent traffic jams. However, as the intensity of the rain was not high it rarely caused big water-logging in

even low-lying areas but at several places, it damaged the roads as well as water-logging was seen due to choked sewer and drainage lines, exposing the tall claims of the Nagar Nigam. Even in the surrounding areas of Nagar Nigam building such road side waterlogging was seen and as construction work was going on at nearby Sampurnanand Sports Stadium, the road condition

there was in a pathetic shape.
According to the Middle
Ganga Division-III of Centre Water Commission (CWC), during the last 24 hours till 8 am on Tuesday, Varanasi received 47.4 mm rains, while in comparison to the city, there was heavy rain in Jaunpur which received 66.8 mm rain. Besides, there was 35.8 mm

rain in Ghazipur and 50 mm in Chunar in Mirzapur district in nearby areas of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP). Though the rain has increased the misery of the residents of the city areas, it has brought happiness on the faces of farmers, especially paddy growers of adjoining districts known as 'Rice Bowl'. Besides, the rain disrupted

the power supply in many areas frequently as the repair of faults in continuous rains was not easy. The rain also affected some flight services as per the report from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur as AI-406 from Delhi AI-695 and QP-1418 both from Mumbai were delayed and UK-621 from Mumbai

also arrived late. Rain also

conditions at some places, it has slowed down the speed of fourwheelers. Though as the Pitra Paksh is going on and during this period the city has wit-nessed heavy rush of people to pay pind-daans and offer rituals for the peace of the souls of their forefathers, the ghats wore a deserted look. However, the rush was as usual at mythological Pichas Mochan pond where the people offer pinddaan of those family members who met unnatural or untimely deaths. Besides, the rain and changes in weather conditions have increased the possibilities of mosquito menace as the cases of viral fever, dengue etc have increased alarmingly

affected train and road trans-

portation as due to slippery

## Incessant rain paralyses life | Dy CM Maurya inspects work in Shringverpur Dham

he Muslim colony located I near Shringverpur Dham here will be relocated somewhere else. For this Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has directed SDM Soraon.

Maurya had come to Maurya nad come to inspect the work being done in Shringverpur Dham. He instructed to displace the Muslim colony located near the

He asked the officials to coordinate with the people of the Muslim colony and relocate them from here to another

Narendra Modi can also come to inaugurate the park of this Shringverpur Dham.

Prasad said the resolution taken in 2014 is being realised here today. He said Shringverpur has now become a world pilgrimage.

He said just as Ganga,

Yamuna and Saraswati meet at Sangam, in the same way Nishadraj and Lord Shri Ram are meeting here too which is giving the message of harmony to the entire country.

During the inspection Maurya said he took complete information about the project from the project manager.

FALLS INTO DITCH: A driver suffered serious injuries when the bus he was driving went out of control and fell into a ditch on the side of the high-

way and was completely dam-

aged after hitting a tree on the Balipur national highway in the Uttaraon police station area here on Tuesday. On being informed the Uttaraon police reached the spot and with the help of an ambulance sent the injured driver to the district hospital for

is said to be critical. According to information driver Mohammad Monu, of

treatment where his condition

Lala Bazaar, Handia town, was going towards Prayagraj when as soon as he reached the new vegetable market near Balipur market, the bus slipped due to rain and entered a ditch on the side of the national highway and hit the tree. The driver was trapped inside the

The Uttaraon police reached the spot and took out the injured bus driver with the help of ICB and sent him to the district hospital.

The family members of the bus driver have been informed. After the incident, a huge crowd of local people gathered at the spot.

## 100 electric buses to run before Mahakumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

head of Mahakumbh 2025, Aa total of 100 electric buses will run on the roads of Sangam city. The authorities of UP State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) and the district administration have started conducting the route survey on which these buses will run.

Sources informed that these buses will run on 24 routes in the first phase. These 24 routes have been proposed in the board meeting chaired by the divisional commissioner. After the proposal is officially approved, the list of these routes will be sent to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban

Presently 50 e-buses are plying on different routes of the city and 50 more such buses will be arriving by February end next year. Decision on creation of new charging points, maintenance of buses and development of basic facilities will also be taken in the board meeting.
The city will also have a

state-of-the-art charging station at Naini. Officials have identified the land for the construction of this proposed depot. As per the plans, Prayagraj will get 100 new e-buses by February 2024 paving the way for every key route being connected through this service.

Recently Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Surendra

identified for the proposed ebus depot. This site is quite close to the present charging station that caters to the 50 ebus plying on the roads of the

Sangam city. HOSPITALS ASKED TO 'RESERVE' 200 BEDS: The district administration has directed all government and private hospitals to keep at least 200 beds as 'reserved' for October 8 - when the grand Air Force flypast will take place in Sangam city. Besides 50 units of blood each (of all blood groups) has to be kept as reserve in AMA Blood Bank, ANHA and SRN blood banks along with 20 unit blood each in Beli and Colvin blood banks. The hospitals have also been asked to ensure that ICU, ven-

tilator and other resources are

fully functional and made available in case of an exigency.

A team of Health department and that of India Air Force (IAF), led by Wing Commander Anil Kumar, visited different hospitals of the city, including Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital, Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital, Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, District Women's Hospital and inquired about arrangements.

The authorities said since a large number of citizens, including VVIPs, will be in the city during the air show and there should be no laxity in preparations. Chief medical officer (CMO) Dr Ashu Pandey has instructed small hospitals to keep five beds reserved in ICUs while big ones have been

## State team visits hospitals to see fever patients

state level three-member Ateam visited various hospitals of the district during the last two days to assess the condition of fever patients. The team included Dr KN Tiwari, Director (Communicable Diseases), Dr Vikasendu Agrawal, State Surveillance Officer and Dr Pankaj Guma, physician, Lokbandhu Rajbandhu Hospital, Lucknow Lokbandhu The team members visited Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya night and Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Ramnagar and Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Divisional Hospital, Kabirchaura on Tuesday to get information about the condition of the patients admitted in the wards. They also reviewed the available testing and treatment facilities at these govern-

Talking to the reporters at his office, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary, along with visiting team members apart from Varanasi Division's Additional Director (Health) Dr Manjula Singh and others said that 250 beds are available in DDU Hospital and 50 additional beds can be arranged. At the time of the visit of the state team, a total of 229 patients were admitted in the hospital, out of which 176 patients were admitted due to fever and

ment hospitals.



CMO, along with state team members and AD (Health), addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Tuesday

of which 12 patients were dengue positive. He also informed that all

the admitted patients were completely stable and were being given proper treatment in the hospital. "Necessary facilities are available in the hospital for testing dengue and other diseases and medicines and IV fluids are also available in sufficient quantities. Elisa reader is also functional in the hospital for advanced testing," he claimed.

CMO further The informed that there are 153 beds available in LBS Hospital and 20 additional beds can be arranged. "At the time of the visit of the state team, a total of 115 patients were admitted in the hospital, out of which 31 patients were admitted due to

other fever related reasons, out fever and other fever related reasons, out of which eight patients were dengue positive. All the admitted patients were completely stable and were being given proper treatment in the hospital," he said, adding that necessary facilities are available in the hospital for quick diagnosis of dengue and malaria diseases and medicines and IV fluids are also available in sufficient quantity.

Besides, the CMO said that 316 beds are available in SSPG Divisional Hospital and 40 additional beds can be arranged. "At the time of the visit of the state team, a total of 254 patients were admitted in the hospital, out of which 102 patients were admitted due to fever and other fever related reasons, out of which 13 patients were dengue positive.

All the admitted patients were completely stable and were being given proper treatment in the hospital," he claimed, adding that necessary facilities are available in the hospital for quick diagnosis of dengue and malaria diseases and medicines and IV fluids are also available in sufficient quantity. An ELISA reader has also been installed in the hospital for higher testing, on which kits for testing are being purchased.
The CMO has directed all

the urban health centres to provide two additional staff nurses each to these three hospitals until the number of fever patients decreases. Besides, he also directed to make available test kits for Elisa test like scrub typhus, leptospirosis, chikungunya etc at SSPG and DDU

controlled by running the cam-

### Change in rules related to giving recognition to private schools Secretary Yatindra Kumar in only written that there should there was no provision for

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

hildren studying in private Oprimary and upper primary schools will now have adequate space to play as the state government has fixed the size of playground for getting recognition for opening a new

director of basic education regarding change in rules pertaining to giving recognition to private schools. The letter has been issued by Special dated January 11, 2019, it was been made mandatory. Earlier both the cases.

this regard.

Now for opening primary and upper primary schools in the urban limits, it is mandatory to have a playground of 500 sqm and 1,000 sqm, respectively. Whereas in rural areas, the Basic Education department will give approval As per the order dated for opening a school only if September 26, detailed instructhere is a playground of 1,000 ly. Earlier, there was no strict rule about the size of play-

In the government order

be adequate playground in or around the school premises that can be used by students.

In the existing rule schools should have three classrooms of 270 sqft, one staffroom of 150-150 sqft and one headmaster's room in primary and upper primary schools. Now, an additional room of 400 sqft has also been made mandatory for both tional activities can be conduct-Apart from this, a science

laboratory of 600 sqft has also

Also there should be sufficient number of trees and plants in the school so that children can complete their learning activities in a natural environment.

The application fee for recognition of private schools for classes I to V and VI to VIII has been reduced.

and Rs 15,000 had to be paid for primary and upper primary level respectively which has been reduced by Rs 5,000 in

## Prayagraj administration to publish district gazetteer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

fter around 40 years, the APrayagraj district administration will be publishing the district gazetteer with 11 chapters of information pertaining to history and development of the district.

A detailed questionnaire has been prepared to compile information to be carried in the 11 chapters of the gazetteer. The highlight of the latest gazetteer will be the inclusion of Kumbh Mela, the world famous religious congregation, district, details of religious

which was never mentioned in the British Gazetteer. Because of its importance

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Organisation Cultural (UNESCO) has recognised the Kumbh Mela as 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' for India and will be specially recorded in the new gazetteer. In the first chapter, the name of the district, formation, geographical location, extent and extension, population, regional languages and dialects of the

communities, beliefs and practices of the district, festivals, fairs etc. administrative units of the district, water resources, forestry etc will find

mention.

There will be details of the area, animals and water diversity. Along with this, the major products of the district, eminent personalities, freedom fighters, martyrs etc of the district, details of Lok Sabha-Rajya Sabha-Vidhan Sabha-Legislative Council seats of the district and Doordarshan-Akashvani centre and radio

channels located in the district and other subjects will be included.

Chapter-wise nodal officers have been nominated for this. All nodal officers have been instructed to compile the relevant information and make it available soon.

To prepare its action plan, the officiating district magistrate and CDÖ Gaurav Kumar held the first meeting of the gazetteer committee during which, he explained in detail the contents of the

### One killed in road accident

**CORRESPONDENT** ■ MIRZAPUR

One person died and another sustained serious injuries when a truck hit a standing truck under Lalgani police station on Monday. . Driver Lallan Sharma of Banda was repairing his truck in Patehra Pandey village under Lalganj police station on the Mirzapur-Rewa highway when the other truck hit it as a result of which he died on the spot. The driver of the other truck Ajay Jaiswal sustained serious injuries. Lalganj Circle Officer (ĆO) Manjari Rao said the police reached the spot and launched a rescue operation. She said the body of the

deceased could be taken out

with the help of a machine and the injured driver was sent to the hospital. The body was sent for the post-mortem, the police

**INAUGURATED: MLA** Chunar Anurag Singh while inaugurating a road in Bharuhia village under Narainpur block on Monday appealed to village pradhans to keep the area as clean as possible in the larger interests of the people as well as the nation. The MLA accorded a warm reception by locals and the BJP workers by presenting a memento.

FACILITY: Principal Medical College Dr RB Kamal and SIC Dr Tarun Kumar Singh jointly inaugurated the

hormone test facility at the central pathology of the divisional hospital on Monday. He said the new equipment is a boon for the district and added since he had joined as the principal he felt that patients were facing problems for tests like hormone, thyroid, vitamins etc which were very costly. Therefore he approached the authorities and fortunately equipment worth Rs 45 lakh was made available. He hoped that the pathology equipped with modern facilities in which 150 tests could be done will help doctors treat the patients more effectively. Dr Parul Sachan, Dr Vivek Kumar, Dr Sachin Kishore, Dr Durgesh Singh and others were present.

ARRESTED: The Katra Kotwali police arrested an accused in a deadly attack case on Monday. Manoj Kumar Tripathi of Avas Vikas Colony under Katra Kotwali police station had lodged a named complaint on September 30 alleging that the accused had attacked him. After registering the FIR the station house officer (SHO) handed over the case to sub-inspector (S-I) Kunwar Manoj Singh and he started searching for the accused. On being tipped off by an informer, the police team raided the place and nabbed Ankit Singh of Mukeri Bazar. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to

VARANASI (PNS): The MLA from Varanasi Cantonment area Saurabh Srivastava flagged off 'Special Communicable Disease Control Campaign' here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the state government is continuously making efforts for the prevention and control of communicable and mosquitoborne diseases like dengue, malaria, chikungunya, filaria-sis etc. He expressed his views at the inauguration ceremony of the campaign at Swami Vivekananda Memorial Government Hospital in

Bhelupur.

To prevent these diseases, a special campaign was launched during the day and this campaign will run throughout the month of October. For this, teams of 10 departments including Health department, Municipal Corporation, Panchayati Raj department etc have been deployed, which will go doorto-door to prevent diseases and make the community aware. In such a situation, it is also the responsibility of the public to cooperate in the campaign, to be alert and aware, said the MLA.

MLA flags off Spl Communicable Disease Control Campaign

He said that with the inspiration of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, better medical and health facilities are being provided to all the people. "Along with the district administration and various departments, public representatives will also give full emphasis to make this campaign successful. In the campaign, anti-larva spraying, fogging, cleanliness, hygiene etc will be taken care of to prevent dengue and other diseases. Situation of water logging, dirt, garbage etc will also be

removed," he said. According to him, along with examination and treatment, necessary medicines will also be provided. "Cleanliness

ly in the slum areas of the city. Source reduction work like spraying of pesticide chemicals, destruction of mosquito breeding places etc will be done," he said, appealing to the public that dengue mosquitoes bite only during the day and to protect themselves from this they should wear clothes that cover the entire body. "Use antimosquito cream. Use mosquito nets while sleeping," he said, adding that a healthy and better nation can be built only with everyone's cooperation.

campaign will be run especial-

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that the Special Communicable Disease Control and Dastak Abhiyan are very ambitious programmes of the Chief Minister. "Just as Japanese Encephalitis (JE) has been controlled to a great extent in the state, similarly diseases like dengue, malaria, filariasis, kala azar, TB, leprosy etc will also be paign," he said, adding that the Health department will be the nodal department in this campaign. As many as 10 departments including Municipal Corporation, Panchayati Raj, Animal Husbandry. Women and Child Development. Education, Disabled Public Welfare, Agriculture and Irrigation will make the campaign successful by mutual coordination. The CMO said that maximum publicity work will be done regarding the campaign and in this, cooperation of public representatives, influential persons, various institutions as well as the public will also be taken. District Malaria Officer Sharad Chand Pandey conducted the entire programme. On the occasion, Dr Kshitij Tiwari, Kasim Khan, KK Rai, Sanjeev Singh, Dr Amit Singh, Dr Shishir, Archana Singh, Ajay Mishra, Pradeep Srivastava and Dr Shahid were also present.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Casting away**

Nitish Kumar's survey findings have fired up caste politics just before 2024 elections

dding a new leaf to caste politics in the Indian context, the Nitish Kumar-led Bihar Government has released the findings of its caste survey on Gandhi Jayanti. A Government has released the findings of its cade out of the Union Government showed.

The move has raked up controversy as it came after the Union Government showed because of the Load Bibar made his. disinclination to conduct a nationwide caste census. Taking the lead, Bihar made history and became the first State to publish the survey findings since 1931. Caste politics, for long a dominant force in Indian society, has been shaping our political landscape and polity. The data reveals that of Bihar's total population of over 13.1 crore, 36 per cent belong to the Extremely Backward Classes, 27.1 per cent to Backward Classes, 19.7 per cent to Scheduled Castes and 1.7 per cent to Scheduled Tribes, while the general population constitutes 15.5 per cent. Notably, the Yadav community is the largest subgroup within the OBC, comprising 14.27 per cent. This information is expected to ignite a political debate, with calls likely to emerge for an increase



in OBC quotas from the current 27 per cent. The Bihar caste survey is a comprehensive exercise aimed at documenting the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of its population, including their caste affiliations. The release of this data has sparked intense debate and analysis. The OBCs constitute a substantial portion of Bihar's population and have played a pivotal role in the State's politics for decades. The release of caste data has brought to the fore the issue of representation and political empowerment. With a clearer understanding of the numerical strength of different OBC groups, there is a growing demand for enhanced political representation.

Political parties are now under pressure to field more OBC candidates and prioritise their interests. The caste data has the potential to reshape coalition dynamics in Bihar. Understanding the relative strength of different caste groups can influence the formation of alliances and the distribution of tickets among parties. The data can also inform Government policies and schemes, ensuring that these are tailored to address the specific needs of various OBC communities. This could lead to more targeted social welfare programmes and initiatives. However, the release of caste data can further fuel identity politics, both within and outside the OBC category. Communities may vie for recognition and reservation benefits, potentially leading to conflicts. Striking a balance between affirmative action and social cohesion will be a challenge for policymakers. The data has the potential to reshape political strategies, influence policies and redefine the power dynamics among various caste groups. However, it is essential to handle this information with sensitivity and a focus on inclusive development to ensure that Bihar's diverse population benefits from this newfound awareness of caste demographics. Balancing the interests of different communities while fostering social cohesion will be the key to navigating the complex terrain of caste politics in the years to come.



An Agniveer soldier of the second batch celebrates with his mother after the passing out parade in Patna

# Break the Agniveer logjam with Nepal



India unilaterally announced Agnipath scheme without consulting Nepal and this has led to the shrinking of Gorkha regiments in the army

here is misplaced excitement over the 40,000 Agniveers recruited last year, the first batch reporting to units in August and the second batch by October. They are full of josh with the rank of Agniveer while the permanent cadre are Sepoys/Rifleman and above. Much is being made of them in Service Headquarters as Outstanding where special cells are monitoring their progress and evaluation for re-enlistment of 25 per cent after 4 years. The truth can only be discovered by conversations with their recipients as I have.

Veterans' critique of Agniveer has not subsided but critique fatigue has overtaken it. By 2030, at the present rate of induction, half the Army will be Agniveers. Then it will be a very unhappy Battalion Commander leading them unless he believes in destiny. Unhappier still will be the Gorkha commanders by then without recruitment of an additional 15,000 Nepali-domiciled Gorkhas which translated on the ground would mean that nearly half of the 42 Gorkha battalions would have disappeared with only Agniveer Indian Domiciled Gorkhas in the By 2024, the reduction of bat-

talions will start to maintain minimal operational strength. By 2030, I suspect, the Gorkha Brigade will disappear losing its identity and cohesion, converted to Kumaoni and Garhwali battalions. This back-of-the-envelope calculation is on the assumption that the government is unable or unwilling to persuade the Government of Nepal to relent into accepting Agniveer on present terms. With a better package of enhanced service and larger retention (seven years instead of four years of service and 50 per cent instead of 25 per cent reenlistment) or total exemption from Agniveer, the prospects of Communists in government and opposition accepting terms of recruitment are higher. But it seems as a Nepali ex-serviceman tota me: India nas a secret pian to stop the recruitment of Gorkhas and the Communists in my country will oblige". The stars will shortly come into the right without consulting a friendly



constellation for this, he adds. Last month, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda was to meet an exservicemen delegation before going to the UN and China but that did not happen. As the leader of the ten-year-old insurgency against Royal rule, he knows the value and grit of Gorkha soldiers. He also knows that today's youth, while still attracted by soldiering are equally fascinated by service in foreign countries where they can also be educated and settled lucratively which is happening today in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other Western countries. Many Nepali Gorkhas have joined the Russian Army whose key attraction is the Right to Residency in Russia after one year of military service. Gorkhas are joining French Foreign Legion, British Army, Singapore Police and like the Sikhs once, can be found all

Still, there might be many who want to become Agniveers in the Indian Army which is regulated by the 1947 Tripartite Treaty on Recruitment between Britain, India and Nepal which Nepal believes has been violated by

over the world.



BY 2030, NEARLY HALF OF THE 42 GORKHA **BATTALIONS** WOULD DISAPPEAR WITH ONLY AGNIVEER INDIAN DOMICILED **GORKHAS IN THE MAJORITY** 

neighbour, Nepal with which it claims special and unique relations. Gorkha recruitment is a key factor of the bilateral strategic relationship and has provided an assured pro-India platform in Nepal. Nepal has not done its sums on the financial benefit of Agniveer. With approximately 22,000 Nepali Domiciled Gorkha Soldiers (NDG) soldiers and 85,000 Indian Army NDG pensioners being paid on an average of INR 6 lakh and INR 3.8 lakh per annum respectively, total outlay and remittance to Nepal per annum is Rs 4500 crore. The average span of service of soldiers is 20 years and the currency of pension is 50 years. If there is no recruitment under Agniveer, the entire remittance will stop in the next 70 years years. If Nepal accepts Agniveer, the overall effect is that Rs 4500 crore will gradually reduce to Rs 1827 crore (40 per cent) which will include the pension of Permanent Cadre Agniveer and salaries of Permanent and Temporary Agniveers. Reduction in pay will be very marginal, from the present Rs 1290 crore to Rs 1242 crore with the Agnipath scheme. Reduction in pension though will be substantial is 68 per cent (Rs 3146 crore to Rs 585 crore) But this will happen

in 70 years - in Nepali, (iota

pusht) or one generation.

HE EDITOR

Remittances are the No. 1 earner for the economy as almost one-third of the Nepali population of 30 mn is abroad

at any time including in India. It seems Nepal is shedding its mercenary tag discounting financial benefits. It is also an assertion of its self-respect and dignity. All recent Indian ambassadors to Nepal except one have acknowledged the exceptional role of NDGs and ex-servicemen in promoting bilateral relations and being a strategic asset. Most beguiling though is the silence of the Army hierarchy. Equally puzzling is inaction on the part of Gorkha veterans including a former Army Chief and scores of two and three-star Generals who put their names on various service issue petitions to powers that be. Now they are silent. But saddest of all is that the slow disbandment of the Gorkha Brigade will happen under the watch of the seniormost Gorkha officer of the Army, CDS Gen Anil Chouhan. But his re-enlistment and appointment were under a cloud.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, ana Jounaer membe of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

## NGOs must build capacity for a bigger impact



Capacity building is a continuous process that enables NGOs to strengthen their essential capabilities which go fuel their workforce to bring about a lasting change

rganisational development may be termed as the development of strategies, structures and processes that contribute to the effectiveness of an organisation. An effective organisation is characterised by strong financial and technical performance, quality products and services and high productivity. To achieve these indicators of effectiveness, an organisation must utilise a combination of human, financial, and infrastructural resources to improve its product/service delivery and meet its objectives. These resources are organised into specialised departments such as human resources, legal, monitoring and evaluation, communications etc. Capacity building is a structured process that aims to strengthen these organisational capabilities, thereby improving the organisation's efficiency and effectiveness in achieving its purpose.

Non-government organisations, working in the social development sector need these capacities to enhance the impact of their interventions on the communities they serve. However, NGOs are dependent upon CSR

grants and philanthropic funding for the same. Often these funds are tied to program expenses, as for NGOs, the direct outcomes for communities result from their

#### Pathways for capacity

building of NGOs Capacity building for these functions can be conducted through investments in training and developing existing employees, creating specialised departments for key functions, and hiring talent. To improve their internal capacities, NGOs should put a strong emphasis on leveraging their resources. They must plan and invest in solutions where their investment could make the most significant impact in line with the organisation's strategic goals. Training and development may be conducted through strengthening capacities. For

hiring consultants, investing in courses and workshops and engaging in cross-learning through networking with other NGOs. Most capacity building

requires monetary investments. Hence, the ability of NGOs to raise funds for nonprogrammatic aspects is of great significance. To increase their ability for such fundraising, NGOs can incorporate a process of self-assessment of their capacities, strengths, and weaknesses. Based on the assessment they can create a roadmap for capacity building and include ways of measuring the impact of capacity building. Including such assessments in their proposals will enable funders to identify the need for non-programmatic funding and gauge the significance of capacity

On the funders' side, there should be an acknowledgement of the fact that training and workshops will only have a limited impact on the capacity building of NGOs. There needs to be a stream of funds, apart from the programmatic grants, that can be utilized dedicatedly for

this purpose, the funders should be open to investing in empowering the NGOs in terms of skill-building, learning and other necessary

Capacity building enables organisations to meet their strategic goals through sound organisational processes, skills, and knowledge. For an NGO, these goals might include empowering communities through improving access to essential services, providing means for income enhancement, and elevating the representation of underserved groups across sectors. For NGOs, their capabilities have a direct bearing on their ability to deliver desired outcomes in the communities that they serve. Therefore, the impact of capacity-building activities by NGOs must also be measured to ensure their effectiveness. Capacity building as a continuous process enables NGOs to strengthen these essential capabilities which go towards fuelling their workforce towards creating impact.

(The writer is the chief executive officer, EdelGive foundation; views are personal)

#### THE BIHAR CASTE SURVEY

Sir — The results of the Bihar caste survev are out. It shows that 27% of the people are classified as backward, and 36% of the population belongs to extremely backward castes. The OBC population has increased significantly. This survey will likely lead to a demand for an increased reservation quota for them in education and jobs. Secondly, we must study and debate the financial upliftment of these people to evaluate whether the caste-based reservation system has yielded any dividends for them or has become a total failure.

The Centre was shying away from conducting a nationwide caste survey but now after the Bihar initiative it might have second thoughts on its decision to defer the caste census

Indeed caste census would help the policy makers to have better directed policies towards underpriviledged section of the society but the downside is that it would also lead to a fierce caste politics which would not be in the national interests. The castes are already politicised and while we set out to dissolve the caste identities we are doing just the opposite

NR Ramachandran | Chennai

**CHILDREN AND PARTICULATE MATTER** Sir — Children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of particulate matter in the air. This is because they inhale more air relative to their size compared to adults. While particulate matter can harm everyone, young children are more susceptible due to their developing lungs and shorter noses, which are less effective at filtering air. Children also tend to engage in more outdoor activities than adults, making them more prone to experiencing serious symptoms. Therefore, vulnerable populations can suffer long-term health impacts if not treated properly. Increasing incidents like wildfires, unchecked carbon emissions, and so on

### **Swachh Bharat**



lead, the country is following in the footsteps of the Prime Minister to bring the best in cleanliness to India. Cleanliness is next to godliness, and people have realized the importance of staying clean during the Covid-19 pandemic and following the rule of law most meticulously. Gandhi mounted a rigorous critique of

the waste behind modern industrial civilization in more ways than we can imagine. The phrase 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness' has finally become more than just an idea. On 2nd October 2014, on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 145th birth anniversary, we launched an important campaign. 'Swachh Bharat.' which means Clean India. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has achieved great success in spreading awareness across the country to get rid of many wrong and unhealthy practices. As a result, significant progress has been observed through the Swachh Bharat mission. The real success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has come full circle, and we have truly benefited in the best way possible.

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

extended period.

Additionally, exposure to such pollutants can alter the biology of the lungs by causing immune cells to work more frequently than they are accustomed to, leading to worsening lung diseases in the long run. For such populations, doctors recommend spending more time indoors, staying hydrated, and using a humidifier if possible. It's also crucial to avoid burning incense sticks, candles, or smoking tobacco products in proximity to children to maintain indoor air quality. For those with central air conditioning systems, ensure that the filters are efficient enough to capture finer particulate matter from smoke if present. Arka Goswami | Durgapur

#### THE LONG-PENDING KAVERI ISSUE

Sir —In the contemporary history of India, the 124-year-old Kaveri water dispute remains unresolved, linked to inadequate rainfall in the Kaveri catchment area. The Kaveri is a sacred river to the people of southern India, worshipped as Goddess Kaveriamma (Mother Kavery). The advice of former Chief Minister S M Krishna, suggesting are expected to affect health over an that the four riparian states (Tamil

Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Puducherry) constitute a distress formula to resolve the long-pending Cauvery issue, comes at an opportune time. Whenever there is inadequate rainfall, it becomes an emotional issue, and this dispute should be scientifically resolved, considering present-day ground reali-

The solution to this long-standing water dispute among these states regarding sharing river water is to establish a permanent tribunal for resolving interstate water disputes and to create a distress-sharing formula during periods when rainfall is adequate in the Cauvery

Prioritising drinking water over irrigation is essential. For a long-term solution, both states must objectively assess agricultural practices and initiate urgent projects for water conservation. Today, Bangalore is a global Information Technology (IT) hub with a large population, making its need for Kaveri water more crucial than ever.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru Send your feedback to:

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

### **'SHRADHS' ARE MORE** THAN JUST RITUALS

'Shradhs' are part of the Vedic culture and cater to the specific needs of ancestors



YOGI **ASHWINI** 

he soul incarnates into a physical body which is made up of the five elements in various permutations and combinations, reincarnating birth after birth depending on the kind of karmas that one does in a lifetime. Certain souls do not reincarnate, either because they are finished with their karmic cycle of the the 'Prithvi lok' or because they are stuck in a different dimension of existence and are unable to manifest in the human body, as their karmic balance is not sufficient to entitle them for human birth. These souls either remain suspended as energies and are called ghosts and spirits or they go to a different dimension of existence called the pitr lok or the lok of the ancestors.

Whatever dimension or level of existence they are in unless they have been freed from the cycle of birth and death, they need energy from their offspring to offset their karmic balance to enable them to reincar-

'Shradhs' are an important part of the Hindu/Vedic culture and cater to these ancestors' needs. On these days the constellations are such that the gateways to the other dimensions open and they are allowed to visit the earth to meet their near and dear ones. These ancestors depend on their children and grandchildren to do good deeds in their name and to chant specific mantras, both these acts free the souls from bondages of these not-desired yonis or levels of existence. It is the basic duty of the family members to perform certain rites and do charity and 'guardian' in the names of their close ones, as only once you are in the human body can you do all this, once out - all is lost and you are dependent on others for your salvation and rebirth (if your karmas do not permit).



At present and age, the youth of the country has no idea about the power and efficacy of the Vedic sciences and the phenomenal knowledge of the Vedic 'mantras' and rituals, the present education system is to be blamed for this as it is completely based on what the colonial masters chose for us, they were fearful of the power of the Vedas and hence destroyed the gurukul system and ensured that we were taught redundant sciences and tweaked history to their advantage the purpose was so that the coming generations lose faith in their culture and follow the colonial masters blindly. The result that they wanted is visible today.

For the younger generations who might be thinking by now that this article reeks of Hindutva and is a fairy tale based on fiction, I would like to point out certain facts of history. In the ancient world, the main cultures flourishing around 4,000 years back were the Egyptians, the Mesopotamians, the Romans, the Mayans etc. and of course our very own culture. None of the present-day religions or schools of thought were present, except the Hindu religion and the Vedic thought. All the cultures are prevalent believed in the other world and traveling of the soul to other dimensions.

Scientists today accept that the ancients had a strong knowledge of mathematics, astronomy, chemistry and physics. The pyramids are aligned in the north-south direction and the shafts in them are pointing towards the three main stars of the Orion belt which the scientists of today say could be the birthplace of stars and human origin.

It is important to note that the Hindu culture is the only culture that predates all the other cultures and is still the largest practised religion, its mantras and practices are not mumbo jumbo but they are a gift of a highly advanced civilisation to the present day humans That's why it

(The is a spiritual guide and well-versed in ancient Vedic sciences of Yoga, Spiritual Healing and Yagyas; views are personal)

# Endorsing the principles of women empowerment



We need women at all levels, including the top to make sure women's voices are heard and heeded and not overlooked and ignored

he constitutional amendment bill (128th constitutional amendment) to enact Nari Shakti Vandan Abhiyan meant to provide one-third of seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was passed by Lok Sabha by an overwhelming majority and then unanimously in Rajya Sabha. The reservation will come into force soon after the first delimitation (in 2026) It was pronounced by PM Narendra Modi that the women's reservation bill will pave the way for women's

A very positive step indeed for an inclusive and holistic development Growth trajectory cannot move in the right direction if about ninety per cent of its population (women population) languishes in impecuniosity, proscription and forbiddance.

Rosa Luxemburg expressed "Women's freedom is the sign of social freedom. To add it can be depicted that women's freedom and empowerment are the initial indications for economic, social, political and intellectual advancement of the nation. Amartya Sen has delineated empowering women is the key to building the future we want. Overall inclusive growth of a nation entails the ameliora-tion of the predicaments of women and poverty-stricken to propel the trajectory of growth in a direction of positive advancement.

Women's empowerment can be stated as a process by which women gain power and control over their own lives and acquire the ability to make strategic choices. In short, empowerment entitles women to take charge of their personal development. It aims at raising the selfesteem and self-confidence of women by eliminating discrimination in all forms (and manifestations) of violence against women and girl child. As such this empowerment can be categorized into five main parts and those are social, educational, economic, political and psychological. And the five pillars on which empowerment is based are education health, security, finance and emotion.

The steps to be followed in women's empowerment are clarity and support. While Clarity signifies clarifying goals and expeditions, support is meant to support those steps by providing resources they need to succeed and remove obstacles, trying to restrict and ninder progress. The four stages of empowerment are self-awareness, self-acceptance, self-belief and self-realization and the four methods of empowerment are communication, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity.

The meaning of empowerment in lexiconic semantics is depicted as the granting of political, social, and economic power to an individual or a group. As opposed to interdiction and emaciation, empowerment rests, and authorizes to inculcate confidence and strength in the individual or the group to accomplish the vested task. Kofi Anan said there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. It is said that women's empowerment is intertwined with respect for human rights.

Various enactments have been taken up by the government in the past for protection and vindication of women's causes. Those are the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Domestic Violence



WOMEN **EMPOWERMENT** CAN BE STATED AS A PROCESS BY WHICH WOMEN GAIN POWER AND CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN LIVES AND ACQUIRE THE **ABILITY TO** MAKE STRATEGIC CHOICES

(The author is a super-

annuated senior IAS

Harassment of Women in Workplaces Act, 2013 etc. The need of the hour is to

redefine the status of women in society and to eradicate the exclusion process of women from citadels of socio-economic and political power. The challenges faced by women (spatial and temporal factors) emanates from various factors like hegemonistic patriarchy, perpetration of dis-crimination and exploitation, lack of education, the prevalence of poverty (exploited as domestic help, sex-slavery), health and safety (maternal mortality rate in India as 301 per 1000 and about many women are dying in India due to childbirth complication every year), gender discrimination and chiid abuse (no role in decision making in the family or outside and female feticides) crime against women (murder, rape, dowry deaths etc) girls and women trafficking and domestic violence.

The most important task at hand is for a paradigm shift in approach and empowerment in all spheres of life. Mahatma Gandhi wrote 'The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.

Empowering women in education (by giving them support to take the lead) and in business (economic independence is very much linked and associated with women empowerment) is also important. Other issues like the problem of working women, gender bias, technological advancement sexual harassment should also be addressed for effective assimilation of women in the decision-making process in the country, coming out of age-old discrimination and

exploitation exacerbating their predicaments - Empowerment of women in fact should start with economic empowerment of women (poverty eradication and micro credit etc) and women's perspectives should be included in designing and implementing macro and micro economic and social policies by institutionalising their participation in the process.

Empowering women would also be a key to control population growth. Because the spread of illiteracy, poverty and hegemonis-tic patriarchy have relegated their position to a cypher level both in the family and in the social circle. Early marriage, frequent childbirth to add to work workforce to house to tackle poverty, no voice in the Act, special marriage act, domesfamily, patriarchy, lack of educa- tic violence etc. and various meation and family control, role as a sex-commodity, urge for a male child etc. have remained a poignant causes for population explosion/growth. The answer with specificity points towards women's empowerment which would cause a wane on this burgeoning problem.

Various movements in India have been taken by the protagonists to enhance the position of women in India. These movements have voiced against injustice in socio-economic issues like equal pay for equal work, recognition of work, sexual harassment in workplaces domestic violence etc. The achievements of these feminist movements are immense and their relevance has remained vibrant. But some fault lines there need to be analyzed. It is pointed out that these movements reflect the privileges and power dynamics that

Some people accuse that these feminist movements have been hijacked by urban English-speaking middle/upper-class and upper-caste women. It is viewed that the benefits have not percolated down to poor and lowercaste women. This paradoxical situation has led to caste-specific feminist organizations and movements. Low levels of political awareness, ignorance, the patriarch mindset of Indian society, and low levels of political effica-cy have also inhibited poor and rural women without providing any fillip for advancement. Even the steps and enactments of government as the dowry prohibition act, child marriage (prohibition) sures and enactments, have not percolated deep into poor women's lifestyles. Empowerment with education, skill development and inclusion-oriented welfare schemes would enhance the position of lower-strata women in society.

To conclude Sheryl Sandberg opined 'We need women at all levels, including the top, to change the dynamics, reshape the conversion, to make sure women's voices are heard and heeded and not overlooked and ignored'. Even J L Nehru told 'India to awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves and the nation

Let us not only aim at empowerment, but total emancipation socially and from other bondages empowered women should take charge of social engineering erelong.

## Will India ever become a football-playing nation?

The Asian Games 2023 have taught us once again that India is nowhere near global standards in football; can we please do something about it?

¬he country which boasts of being the champion in the first-ever Asian Games held at New Delhi in 1951, was thrown out of the Hangzhou event in the first round itself. It was after a series of political and business interventions that a second-rung football team was sent to China to participate in the

Forget about the reasons behind the indecisiveness in selecting a team to be sent to the major event in the Asian continent. Also, forget the fact that football is the most popular sport in

the world. What Hangzhou has proved is that India is light years behind other footballing nations, both in the



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

(The writer is a special

correspondent with the

Pioneer; views expressed

are personal)

quality of the game and its administration. While other countries had selected their national squads in advance and trained them for months, the AIFF remained inactive till the eve of the Games, pointed out Rufus Dsouza, a nonagenarian coach based in Kochi.

Magan Singh Rajvi, former Indian captain who led the country in the 1974 Tehran Asian Games is a disappointed man. Speaking to The Pioneer from Bikaner. Magan Singh, rated as one of the all-time greats in India, expressed his anguish: "Is there any serious game of football happening in India? Where are the football teams that reigned supreme during the 1960s to 1980s?" asked

Despite humiliating defeats by China and Saudi Arabia, the Indian coach Igor Stimac was a contented man. He has been quoted as saying that the results were on expected lines and there was no need for any disappointment.

The run-up to the Asian Games reminded one of a comedy of errors. The clubs employing the members of the national squad refused to release the players. Sunil Chhetri, the 39-year-old captain was the spearhead of the Indian attack!

It is the age at which international players hand up their boots and here we are, depending on a man past his prime to save Indian football. Most countries sent their U-23 teams to the

Asian Games while India fielded Chhetri and Jingan (another burnt-out talent).

"The best thing we could have done is to skip the football events for the time being. Though the Asian Games is a serious sporting event, we are yet to understand the significance of the same," said Rufus.

He pointed out that what India needs today is desi coaches. "We won gold medals in the Delhi and Jakarta Asian Games with teams trained by Indian coaches. A coach should know the psyche of his players," said Rufus who is still active in Kochi's maidans.

Harjeender Singh from Punjab, who represented India in many international tournaments and the son of

legendary Inder Singh said that though there was a shortage of infrastructure in the country, India does not have players like Inder, Magan or Shyam Thapa. "These players had passion in them for the game while

the youngsters consider the game as a means to get rich. Football is a serious profession and it needs dedication devotion," and Harjeender Singh.

There were great expectations when corporates like Reliance came forward to resuscitate the game by launching a professional soccer league. "But that has done damage to football in India. Most of the foreigners playing in the Indian league are discards from their own

countries.

India is struggling to beat countries like Nepal and

Bangladesh, " said Rufus. There was a report recently that India may bid to host the quadrennial World Cup Championship for the FIFA trophy! What will be the result if India is pitted against teams like Brazil Germany or France? Rufus, Magan Singh and Harjeender point out that the period between the 1960s to 1980s had many all-India football tournaments across the country. Rufus says he has yet to see the likes of Jarnail Singh, Inder Singh, Manjt Singh, and Shyam Thapa among the newgen players. "We had coaches like S A Rahim, and Sukhwinder Singh who were capable of creating magic with the given talents. But that's an old story," reminiscences Rufus.

Magan, with the Rajput blood, is still optimistic. "Revive the tournaments and the teams. There will not be any dearth of talents. Tournaments like Rovers Cub in Bombay, Nizam Gold Cup in Hyderabad and Chackola Cup in Thrissur (the trophy weighed 145 sovereigns) drew even international teams to India.

Where are those tournaments?" asks Magan Singh. Veteran players are unanimous in their view that the AIFF has done nothing to save football in the country. The only people who have prospered through Indian football are the office bearers of the All India Football Federation and brokers who help them to import foreign players, according to Rufus. God save Indian Football.

## Shooting at Bangkok mall kills 3 | UK visa fee hike for visitors

### **Teenage suspect arrested**

AP BANGKOK

shooter opened fire inside As major shopping mall in the centre of Thailand's capital Tuesday afternoon, killing three people before being apprehended, authorities said. Police said a 14-year old suspect was apprehended less than an hour after the first report-ed gunshots at the Siam Paragon Mall, long been seen as one of Bangkok's biggest and most upscale shopping destina-

Police spokesman Archayon Kraithong told reporters the situation was under control at the mall, which sells high-end fashions and luxury cars, and includes a cinema, an aquarium and the five-star Siam Kempinski hotel

Three people were killed and six were injured, according to Yutthana Sretthanan, director of Bangkok's Emergency

The incident happened days before Thais were planning to mark the anniversary of

a grisly gun and knife attack at a rural day care centre in a northeastern province that killed 36 people, most of them preschoolers, on Oct 6, 2022.

Tuesday's shooting prompted authorities to shut access to the nearby Siam elevated train stop, preventing commuters from exiting the transit station as the evening rush hour began and intense rain pounded the city, according to an Associated Press

journalist at the scene.

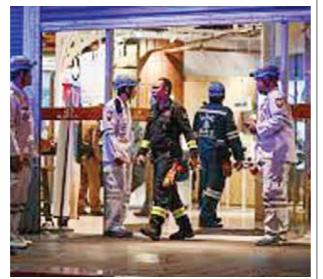
First responders could be seen entering the mall as sirens wailed outside.

Witnesses said crowds of people left the building, one of several shopping centers in the area popular with tourists and well-heeled Thais alike. Chinese tourist Liu Shiying

told the AP that she saw people running and saying someone had opened fire. She said she heard gun-

shots and an alarm ringing, and that the lights in the mall went

"We're temporarily hiding.



Who dares to go out?" she said while taking cover. She was later able to leave.

Multiple videos uploaded to social media showed people running out of the building and a person dressed in a baseball cap, dark shirt and camouflage pants holding a handgun.

Video posted later showed what appeared to be the shooter surrendering to police.

Gun violence is not uncommon in Thailand, though mass shootings are

In 2020, a disgruntled soldier opened fire in and around a mall in the northeastern city of Nakhon Ratchasima, killing 29 people and holding off security forces for some 16 hours before eventually being killed

# effective from this week

PTI LONDON

proposed visa fee hike Announced by the British government will become effective from Wednesday, when a visit visa for under six months will cost GBP 15 more and student visas will be GBP 127 more expensive for travellers from around the world, including Indians.

Following the legislation tabled in Parliament last month, the UK Home Office said the changes mean that the cost for a visit visa for less than six months will rise to GBP 115 and the fee for applying for a student visa from outside the UK will rise to GBP 490 - to equal the amount charged for in-country applications.

"It is right and fair to increase visa application fees so we can fund vital public services and allow wider funding to contribute to public sector pay," a Home Office spokesperson sIt comes after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had announced in July that the fees and health surcharge paid towards the UK's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) by visa applicants are set to rise 'significantly" to meet the country's public sector wage increase.

"We are going to increase the charges that we have for migrants who are coming to this country when they apply for visas and indeed something called the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), which is the levy that they pay to access the NHS," he said at the time.

"All of those fees are going to go up and that will raise over GBP 1 billion, so across the board visa application fees are going to go up significantly and similarly for the IHS," he said. The Home Office indicated a 15 per cent increase in the cost of most work and visit visas, and an increase of at least 20 per cent in the cost of priority visas, study visas and certificates of sponsorship.

"Income from fees charged plays a vital role in the Home Office's ability to run a sustainable immigration and nationality system. Careful consideration is given when setting fees to help reduce the funding contribution from British taxpayers, whilst continuing to provide a service that remains attractive to those wishing to work in the UK and support broader prosperity for all," the Home Office said.

The hike in fees applies across most visa categories, including fees for up to six months, two, five and 10-year visit visas; the majority of fees for entry clearance and certain applications for leave to remain in the UK, including those for work and study; fees for indefinite leave to enter and indefinite leave to remain; health and care visa; fees in relation to certificates of sponsorship and confirmation of acceptance for studies; and applications to register and naturalise as a British Citizen.

A proposed increase to the IHS for funds towards the NHS is scheduled to be intro-

### Indian-origin couple back in UK court

gin couple from London who escaped extradition to India four years ago on charges of the murder of their adopted 11-year-old son and his brother-. in-law in Gujarat are back in a UK court this month facing other criminal charges. Arti Dhir, 58, and husband Kaval Raijada, 35, have now been charged by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) with one count of exporting cocaine to Australia and 12 counts of money laundering. Their trial is scheduled to begin at the Southwark Crown Court in London on October 30. "Arti Dhir and Kavaljitsinh Raijada have both been charged with one count of exporting cocaine to Australia and 12 counts of money laundering," said an NCA spokesperson.

"We won't be providing commentary or comment while the case is ongoing, but the trial is due to commence on 30 October at the Southwark Crown Court," the spokesperson said.India's extradition request for the duo had been turned down by Westminster Magistrates' Court in London in July 2019 on human rights grounds under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Judge Emma Arbuthnot "discharged" Dhir and Raijada noting that if extradited, they will be subject to an "irreducible sentence" in India. However, the judge did find that "there is a circumstantial prima facie case that Dhir and Raijada acting together and with others committed the offences". However, the rigorous life sentences they would face in India, if found guilty of the multiple murders, resulted in the two accused being freed. The Indian govt gave assurance that the death penalty would not apply in their case and also some additional assurances, which came in later than the timeframe stipulated by the court. In February 2020, Índia's appeal in the High Court in London was also dismissed. Lord Justice James Dingemans and Justice Robin Spencer ruled that delays on the part of the Indian govt to provide the requisite assurances related to human rights concerns.

### **US** official urges India to cooperate in investigation into Nijjar's death

The Biden Administration has engaged with the Indian government on a number of occasions urging them to cooperate with Canada in its investigations into the death of a Khalistani separatist, a US State Department official has said. Bilateral ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June. India has rejected the alle-

gations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-fortat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the The issue of the killing of

Nijjar in Canada was raised by Secretary of State Antony Blinken during his meeting with



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar here last week.

"As he made clear then, I'll close coordination with our Canadian colleagues on this question," State Department spokesperson Mathew Miller told reporters on Monday at his daily news conference in response to a question raised by a Pakistani journalist.

"We have engaged with the Indian government on a number of occasions to urge them to cooperate with Canada's investigation. The secretary had an opportunity to do that in his meeting with the foreign minister on Friday," he said.

When asked if India has

agreed to cooperate with Canada, Miller said this is for New Delhi to respond to.

"I will let the Indian government speak for themselves and I will speak for the United States government, and we urge that operation," he said.

Jaishankar told journalists here last week that the governments of India and Canada will have to talk to each other and see how they resolve their differences over the issue and underlined that the larger issue of "permissiveness" must be flagged and addressed. "The issue is as follows, which is that the Canadians have made some allegations. We have pointed out to them 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 look-

## Britain's COVID-19 response inquiry enters 2<sup>nd</sup> phase with political decisions in spotlight

 $B^{\text{ritain's inquiry into the}}_{\text{response to the coronavirus}}$ pandemic and its impact on the nation entered its second phase Tuesday, with political decision-making around major developments, such as the timing of lockdowns, set to take centre stage. Families whose loved ones died during the pandemic held a silent protest outside the inquiry in London, and claimed the new stage of the investigation — the so-called Module 2, the second of four planned phases - is ignoring how they were failed by politicians and policymakers. Many were holding portraits of their deceased loved ones, and stood beside a banner which read "Stop silencing the bereaved".

"I hope the inquiry has access to evidence it needs which includes evidence from husband Vincent Marzello, 72, in March 2020. "They have taken impact statements, but we have much more to provide. Many of us were eyewitnesses to what went on during that

Chair Judge Heather Hallett insisted that the voices of the bereaved won't be ignored during his stage of the inquiry, which will focus on the UK government's actions during the crisis from January 2020, when it first became evident that the virus was spreading around the world. The first phase, which concluded in July, looked at the country's preparedness for the pandemic. Hallett, who is a judge at

Britain's Court of Appeal in London, acknowledged calls for more bereaved people to be brought in as witnesses, but said there wasn't enough time

the bereaved," said Lorelei to hear more. "The need for me King, 69, who lost her actor to reach conclusions and make to reach conclusions and make recommendations to reduce suffering in the future when the next pandemic hits the UK is pressing," she said. "I say when the next pandemic hits the UK, because the evidence in Module 1 suggested it is not if another pandemic will hit us, but when."

She said the focus of the current phase will be "on governance and key decision-making at a high level in the United Kingdom during the time when the pandemic was at its worst, and when it caused so much suffering". The UK had one of the world's deadliest outbreaks, with around 230,000 coronavirus-related deaths up to Sept 28, according to government statistics.An array of experts and politicians are set to testify during the current phase, which is due to end on

Dec 14. The decisions of Boris

Iohnson, who was prime minister during the pandemic, will be in particular focus. Johnson was forced to stand down as leader in September 2022, partly because of lockdown-flouting parties in his office during the pandemic.

After Hallett's introductory statement, the inquiry heard emotional video testimonies from families who lost loved ones or whose children have suffered long-term physical and mental effects of the virus, so-called long COVID. During the video, an older widower, who was only identified as Alan, shook as he recalled his wife's death and funeral."There were only eight people allowed to attend, and then to find out the later revelations that the day of my wife's funeral, under those draconian restrictions, our government officials were holding parties on the same day," he said.

### Ramaswamy's campaign asks Republican panel to allow top 4 candidates to debate

dian-American presiden-ial aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy's campaign has asked the Republican National Committee to allow only the top four candidates in national polling to the third Republican primary debate next month, saying another "unhelpful debate" is not an option.

The second Republican debate of the 2024 election cycle, which was held at Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California, last week, saw Ramaswamy sharing the stage with six other candidates, including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former United Nations Ambassador and Indian-American Nikki

The Ramaswamy campaign sought the change in rules for the third primary debate scheduled to be held in Miami on November 8, CBS



News reported on Monday.

Ramaswamy asked the Republican party to allow only the top four candidates in national polling to be allowed onto the debate stage, aside from former president Donald Trump, according to a letter sent to the Republican National Committee (RNC) by Ben Yoho, the CEO of the 38-yearold multimillionaire biotech entrepreneur's campaign.
"Another unhelpful debate

in November is not an option," Yoho wrote. "Voters are not well-served when a cacophony

stage, while the overwhelming frontrunner is absent from the centre of that same stage," the letter said, according to the

Ramaswamy, Trump, DeSantis, and Haley appear to have met the qualifications for the third debate stage, according to Politico newspaper.

Trump, who did not attend the second Republican debate last month, will also not attend the third debate in Miami, a Trump campaign adviser, Chris LaCivita, told CBS News. The former president is currently

the frontrunner. Apart from requesting "greater time for candidates to respond to their competitors," Yoho also appealed for a single debate moderator "who is able to enforce debate rules and avoid candidates indiscernibly shouting over each other," the report said.

of candidates with minimal threshold to be raised to chance of success talk over each 100,000 unique donors – up the RNC's current debate cri-

According to the report campaigns can't force the RNC to adjust the debate rules but can lobby for changes.

Yoho's letter also took a dig at the reported summit of GOF mega-donors and campaign representatives of DeSantis and Republican presidential candidate Haley scheduled for later this month.

"A small group of billion-aires has already 'summoned' certain PAC (Political action committee)-favoured campaigns to a private retreat in Texas to potentially coordinate and consolidate donor support against President Trump," Yoho wrote. "Our party's voters, not mega-donors, should be the ones to properly vet presidential candi dates and determine the nominee," he said, according to the

Yoho also asked the donor

#### North Dakota senator, his wife, kids killed in Utah plane crash

Bismarck (AP): A state senator from North Dakota, his wife and their two young children died when the small plane they were travelling in crashed in Útah, a Senate leader said on Monday. Doug Larsen's death was confirmed Monday in an email that Republican Senate Majority Leader David Hogue sent to his fellow senators and was obtained by The

Associated Press. The plane crashed Sunday evening shortly after taking off from Canyonlands Airfield about 15 miles (24 kilometers) north of Moab, according to a Grand County Sheriff's Department statement posted on Facebook. The sheriff's office said all four people on

board the plane were killed. "Senator Doug Larsen, his wife Amy, and their two young children died in a plane crash last evening in Utah," Hogue wrote in his email. "They were visiting family in Scottsdale and returning home. They stopped to refuel in Utah."

"I'm not sure where the bereavement starts with such a tragedy, but I think it starts with prayers for the grandparents, surviving stepchild of Senator Larsen, and extended family of Doug and Amy," Hogue wrote. "Hold your family close today."The crash of the single-engine Piper plane was being investigated, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a post on X, the social media website formerly called Twitter. A phone message left with sheriff's officials seeking additional information wasn't immediately returned Monday.

Larsen was a Republican first elected to the North Dakota Senate in 2020.

His district comprises Mandan, the city neighbouring Bismarck to the west across the Missouri River. Larsen chaired a Senate panel that handled industry and business legislation.He was also a lieutenant colonel in the North Dakota



Former President Donald Trump speaks with journalists during a midday break from court proceedings in New York, on Monday, as he attends the start of a civil trial in a lawsuit that already has resulted in a judge ruling that he committed fraud in his business

#### Musk facing defamation lawsuit Oil refinery site blast kills AP AUSTIN

Abuja (AP): An explosion and fire at at an illegal oil refinery site in Nigeria's Niger Delta region killed at least 15 people, including a pregnant woman residents and a local environmental rights group reported Tuesday.

15 in Nigeria

The blast happened Monday in the southern River state's Emohua district, where illegal refineries are common. Residents said the death toll was likely to grow because many of the bodies were completed burned and dozens of people were injured. Police confirmed the incident but did not provide details of what happened. Locals said most of the people who died had worked at the illegal refinery in the village of Rumucholu.

California man who says

A California man who says he was harassed after Elon Musk amplified posts on his social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, that falsely placed the man at a confrontation involving far-right protesters sued the billionaire for defamation in a lawsuit filed Monday. Benjamin Brody, 22, is represented by Mark Bankston, a Texas attorney who won a defamation case last year against conspiracy theorist Alex Jones in a lawsuit brought by families of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. Brody is seeking a jury trial in Austin, Texas, and unspecified damages of at least USD 1 million.

Attorneys for Musk did not immediately respond to requests for comment left ough a spokesperson.

In June, video posted to X showed a confrontation involv-

ing protesters near a Pride fes-

tival in Oregon. Some of those involved wore the same colours of the Proud Boys extremist group, according to The Oregonian. On X, some users falsely identified one of the participants as Brody, highlighting

his post-college plans to work for the government to spread baseless assertions that federal agents were involved. The lawsuit includes screenshots of Musk engaging with users spreading the posts involving Brody, including one in which Musk described it as a "probable false flag situation." Brody, a recent college graduate who said he was in California when the event happened, came under harassment because of Musk's reach according to the lawsuit. The posts by Musk were

still on X as of Monday. It is not the first time Musk

has been sued for defamation. He defeated a lawsuit in 2019 from a British cave explorer who claimed he was branded a pedophile when the Tesla CEO called him "pedo guy" on what was then called Twitter.

Musk's tech company has also taken others to court over what is posted on the site. In August, X sued a group of researchers over accusations that their work highlighting an increase in hate speech on the platform cost the company millions of dollars of advertis-National Guard.

## S Africa culls nearly 2.5mn chickens in effort to contain bird flu outbreaks

**AP** ■ CAPE TOWN

South Africa has culled near-ly 2.5 million chickens in an effort to contain dozens of outbreaks of two separate strains of avian influenza that have threatened to create a shortage of eggs for consumers and are hitting an industry already struggling due to an electricity crisis, the government said on Tuesday.

Another 205,000 chickens have died from bird flu in at least 60 separate outbreaks across the country, with more than half of those outbreaks in Gauteng province, which includes the country's biggest city, Johannesburg, and the capital, Pretoria.

Some grocery stores in Johannesburg were limiting

the number of eggs customers were allowed to buy this week - in some cases to one carton of six eggs — and the government acknowledged there were "supply constraints". The government was mov-

ing to fast-track new import permits for companies to bring in eggs from other countries "to ensure sufficient supplies for consumers," Agriculture Minister Thoko Didiza said. Her ministry is also considering embarking on a vaccination program to halt the bird flu outbreaks and said the number of farms with cases was increasing.

Neighbouring Namibia has banned chicken meat and egg imports from South

The South African Poultry

Association said the outbreaks were the worst since 2017. Wilhelm Mare, chairman

of the poultry group in the South African Veterinary Association, said 8.5 million egg-laying chickens could be affected, as well as another 2.5 million chickens used in the meat production business. "It tells me we're going to have problems with this situ-

ation for quite a while," Mare said, calling it "catastrophic" for the industry. The United States' Centres

for Disease Control and Prevention said last month that bird flu outbreaks were on the rise globally, with more than 21,000 outbreaks across the world between 2013 and 2022. Bird flu only rarely infects humans.

## Armenia's parl votes to join ICC, straining ties with ally Russia

rmenia's parliament voted Ann Tuesday to join the International Criminal Court, a move that further strains the country's ties with its old ally Russia after the court issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin over events in Ukraine, Moscow last month called Yerevan's effort to join the the ICC an "unfriendly step," and the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Armenia's ambassador.

Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC are bound to arrest Putin, who was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he sets foot on their soil. Armenia later sought to assure Russia that Putin would not be arrested if he entered the country.

Still, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called Tuesday's decision "incorrect," saying it will raise "additional questions" in Moscow, even though Armenia is "our ally, a friendly state, our partner, and a lot unites us with the brotherly Armenian people."

Asked if Putin would have to refrain from travelling to Armenia, he added: "Of course, we wouldn't want the president to have to ever, for whatever

Abbas Jilani will visit China to

participate in the 3rd Trans-

International Cooperation to be

held in Tibet on October 4-5,

according to a media report

here. The Forum meeting is

being held at Nyingchi in Tibet

Autonomous Region, 400 km

east of Lhasa and, north of and

very near to Arunachal

Pradesh's Upper Siang district.

undertaking the visit at the

special invitation of the Foreign

Minister of China, Wang Yi," the

state-run Associated Press of

Pakistan (APP) news agency

reported, quoting the Foreign

Office on Monday. The Trans-

Himalaya Forum was initiated

"The foreign minister is

Forum for

A diplomatic solution is needed and will be discussed with Yerevan, he said. Armenian officials have argued the move has nothing to do with Russia and was prompted by what they call Azerbaijan's aggression against the country.

Lawmakers voted to ratify the Rome Statute by a vote of 60-22. The decision after that is to be submitted to Armenia's president, who must prepare a ratification document, which is then deposited with the UN secretary-general. The decision comes into force 60 days after the ratification, according to Armenian lawmakers.

Armenia's relations with Russia have frayed significantin recent years. In 2020, Moscow brokered a deal that ended a six-week war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It mandated that Yerevan cede to Baku large swaths of territory in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, a part of Azerbaijan with a predominantly Armenian population.

Russia then sent some 2,000 peacekeepers to the tumultuous region and Armenia has accused the troops of failing to prevent recent hostilities by Azerbaijan that led to Baku taking full

countries on diverse subjects,

including geographical connec-

tivity, environmental protec-

tion, ecological preservation,

and enhancing cultural linkages,

the report said. The last in-per-

son meeting of the Forum was

held in 2019 before the COVID-

19 pandemic broke out in China

and led to worldwide lock-

downs. The theme of this year's

Forum is "Ecological

Civilization and Environmental

Protection." The Foreign Office

in a statement said that Foreign

Minister Jilani will address the

opening ceremony of the Trans-

meet with several regional dig-nitaries, including the Deputy

On the sidelines, he will

Himalaya Forum.

interim Foreign Minister Jalil cooperation among regional

The Kremlin, in turn, has accused Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of precipitating the fall of Nagorno-Karabakh acknowledging Azerbaijan's

sovereignty over the region.

Moscow also blames Yerevan for damaging ties with Russia by embracing the West, including hosting US troops for joint military drills. It remains unclear whether Pashinyan might take Armenia out of the Moscow-dominated Collective Security Treaty Organisation, a group of several former Soviet nations, and other Russia-led alliances.

Armenia also hosts a Russian military base and Russian border guards help patrol Armenia's frontier with Turkey. Armenia had started the process of joining the ICC more than 20 years ago, but in 2004 its Constitutional Court ruled that the Rome Statute contradicted the country's constitution at the time, putting the process on pause.

The constitution has been amended twice since then. In March, the Constitutional Court ruled that the obligations for signatories outlined by the Rome Statute are in line with the existing constitution. Armenia's envoy on international legal matters, Yegishe

decided to resume the process of joining the ICC because of Baku's alleged aggression against Armenia. Armenian officials last year accused Azerbaijan of killing a number of Armenian prisoners of war, an allegation Baku had promised to investigate.

Yerevan wants the ICC's jurisdiction to take force starting from May 10, 2021, but under the court's founding treaty, Armenia would likely have to make a separate declaration to that effect.

Kirakosyan said last week that Armenia has proposed to Moscow a bilateral agreement to assuage Russia's concerns about Putin. The text was presented to Russia in April, he said, and Armenian officials have been waiting for a response. Kirakosyan also said an arrest of Putin is not a possibility even after Armenia joins the ICC, since "leaders have immunity."

Asked about the agreement that Yerevan proposed, Peskov said Tuesday it is "merely an idea of the Armenian side," that still needs to be worked out. "Serious conversations on this topic are ahead. We need to for some kind of a diplomatic solution in this regard," he

### Pak FM to participate in Trans-Himalaya Forum Foreign Minister of China and

IMF MISSION TO ARRIVE BY LATE OCTOBER FOR **ECONOMIC REVIEW** 

the Interim Foreign Minister of

The IMF will send its delegation to Pakistan in the last week of October to review the cash-strapped country's economic performance in the first three months of the current fiscal year, according to a media report on Tuesday.

Quoting sources in the Ministry of Finance, The Express Tribune newspaper said that during the meeting with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission, the caretaker government will also discuss

including taxes and energy. The report said once the economic review is successfully completed, Pakistan will receive the next installment of USD 700 million from the IMF after its board's

The Washington-based global lender transferred USD 1.2 billion to the cash-strapped country in July, as part of the USD 3 billion bailout programme for nine months to support the government's efforts to stabilise the country's ailing economy. Although essentially a bridge loan, it offered much respite to Pakistan, which was battling an acute balance of payments crisis and falling foreign exchange reserves, the report

#### Turkey detains 1000, including Kurdish 'militants' after bomb attack

Ankara (AP): Police detained almost a thousand people in raids across Turkiye on Tuesday, including dozens with alleged links to Kurdish militants, days after a suicide bomb attack in the Turkish capital.

Police detained at least 67 people across Turkiye on Tuesday in a sweep targeting people with alleged links to Kurdish militants, days after a suicide bomb attack in the Turkish capital

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said police carried out raids in 16 Turkish provinces, detaining 55 people suspected of being part of the "intelligence structure" of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK.

At least 12 other suspected PKK members were rounded up in a separate operation in five provinces, Yerlikaya wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

The PKK has led a decades-long insurgency in Turkiye and is considered a terror organisation by the United States and the European Union. Tens of thousands of people have died since the

start of the conflict in 1984.
Yerlikaya later said that 928
people suspected of holding unlicensed firearms or being connected to firearms smug-gling were also arrested during the operation, but he did not immediately make it clear if the suspects arrested for illegal firearms were suspected of connections to the PKK.

He added that over 840 firearms were confiscated during the operation.

On Sunday, a suicide for its double standards. bomber detonated an explosive Nine suicide bombers device near an entrance to the belonging to the local Islamist Interior Ministry hours before extremist group National President Recep Tayyip Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked Erdogan was set to address to ISIS carried out a series of Parliament as it returned from devastating blasts that tore through three Catholic churchits summer recess. A second es and as many luxury hotels on would-be bomber was killed in April 21, 2019, killing nearly 270 a shootout with police. Two people, including 11 Indians, police officers were slightly and injuring over 500. wounded in the attack. The suspects arrived at the scene inside a vehicle they seized from a veterinarian in the central Turkish of Kayseri after shooting him in the head, officials said.

In September, UK's Channel 4 television station aired a documentary titled 'Sri Lanka's Easter Bombings Dispatches, alleging the involvement and complicity of certain government officials, including intelligence service chief Major General Suresh Sallay, in orchestrating the 2019 Easter suicide bombings. It called the attacks a "crafted act" aimed at forcing a political change in favour of the then-powerful

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PPA/PR/50/2023-24

PTI ■ COLOMBO

 $S^{\rm ri}$  Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has ruled

out having an international-

aided independent probe into

the 2019 Easter bombings by a

local Islamist extremist group as

he slammed the Western media

Rajapaksa brothers. During a fiery interview with the German state-owned broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) against the backdrop of Channel 4's allegations, Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka will not have any international inquiry into the Easter blasts. "It is out," he said.

Queen Rania of Jordan, left, listens to founder and CEO of ArtsEkta Dr Nisha Tandon during her visit to at the Conway

Education Centre as she attends the One Young World Summit at Conway Mill in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on Tuesday AP/PTI

SL prez rejects int'l probe

into Easter bombings

'The Sri Lankan government does not have international investigations. Full stop. Few people may want (it), but the Parliament doesn't," he said. Referring to an FBI report on terror Wickremesinghe said, "No one outside was involved."

"We had the FBI, we had the British Police, the Australians, Indians, Chinese and the Pakistanis. If those secret services have given reports, what are these allegations?" he questioned the inter-

The president accused the Western world of double standards in calling for an international investigation in Lanka when the Western governments had not allowed any international inquiries when accusations were made against them. "Germany does not have

such inquiries. The UK does not have such inquiries. What international inquiries have they gone into? Why is it for Sri Lankans and Asians? You think we are second class?' Wickremesinghe asked.

"You need to take this Western attitude out. The Western media thinks we are bad. The way we have an inquiry is by using Sri Lankan personnel," he said. Wickremesinghe has pledged to appoint a parliamentary select committee to investigate allegations levelled by the British channel that the whole attack was a conspiracy and there is a

mastermind behind the attacks. "You are talking nonsense. You have no right to ask me this question. Do you think we are second class? You need to take this Western attitude out. You stop it, I stop it, We go off," he retorted angrily when the interviewer suggested that his government stood in the dock for its lack of accountability for human rights violations.

The president said that his government has rejected the "wrong" report of the UN Human Rights Commission.

## Chinese president vows to deepen ties with Maldives, congratulates Muizzu

**PTI** ■ BEIJING

hinese President Xi Clinping on Tuesday pledged to deepen bilateral ties with the Maldives as he congratulated President-elect Mohamed Muizzu, whose party campaigned for forging close ties with Beijing.

Muizzu, from the People's National Congress and a close associate of former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen who forged close ties with China during his Presidency from 2013 to 2018, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held on Saturday.

Yameen is currently serving an 11-year prison sentence for corruption. In his message, Xi said that China and the Maldives enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges

Xi, who visited Maldives in 2014 and announced several Chinese investments under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which subsequently evoked criticism of the two countries are not only friends of sincere trust and mutual assistance but also partners of joint development and common prosperity.

He said he attaches great importance to the development of bilateral relations and stands ready to work with President-elect Muizzu to carry forward the traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation and push for new progress in the future-oriented, all-round friendly and cooperative partnership between the two countries, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Muizzu's election raised expectations in China that the archipelagic state strategically located in the Indian Ocean close to India's southern coast will pursue pro-Beijing policies, unlike Solih who pursued India's first policy and established close ties with New Delhi. Muizzu is due to take over the office on November 17 after which he was expect-

being "debt traps" by the coun- ed to outline his foreign poli-

During Solih's tenure, India besides undertaking many infrastructure projects and providing economic assistance to Maldives which has a population of 5.21 lakh people also actively campaigned for Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid election as President of the UN General Assembly. India also provided vaccines to Maldives during the Covid crisis.

Observers say despite his party's pro-China rhetoric, Muizzu, a British-educated civil engineer, may follow a more nuanced foreign policy as the country faces a precarious economy with several debt repayments due, taking a cue from the worst economic crisis faced by Sri Lanka.

India stepped in with USD four billion in assistance to Sri Lanka while China dithered despite massive BRI investments in the country including the Hambantota port which Beijing took over for a 99-year lease as debt swap.

### More than 100 dolphins found dead in Brazilian Amazon

Sao Paulo (AP): More than 100 dolphins have died in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest in the past week as the region grapples with a severe drought, and many more could die soon if water temperatures remain high, experts say.

The Mamiraua Institute, a research group of Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, said two more dead dolphins were found Monday in the region around Tefe Lake, which is key for mammals and fish in the area.

Video provided by the institute showed vultures picking at the dolphin carcasses beached on the lakeside. Thousands of fish have also died, local media reported. Experts believe high water temperatures are the most likely cause of the deaths in the lakes in the region.

Temperatures since last week have exceeded 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Tefe Lake region. The Brazilian government's Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, which manages conservation areas, said last week it had sent teams of veterinarians and

investigate the deaths. There had been some 1,400 river dolphins in Tefe Lake, said Miriam Marmontel, a researcher from the Mamiraua Institute. "In one week we have already lost around 120 animals between the two of them, which

could represent 5 per cent to 10

per cent of the population," said

aquatic mammal experts to

Workers have recovered carcasses of dolphins since last week in a region where dry rivers have impacted impoverished riverside communities and stuck their boats in the sand. Amazonas Gov. Wilson Lima on Friday declared a state of emergency due to the drought.

Nicson Marreira, mayor of Tefe, a city of 60,000 residents. said his government was unable to deliver food directly to some isolated communities because the rivers are dry.

Ayan Fleischmann, the Geospatial coordinator at the Mamirauá Institute, said the drought has had a major impact on the riverside communities in the Amazon region.

### Syria says Israeli airstrikes in an eastern province wounded 2 soldiers

Beirut (AP): Syrian state media said on Tuesday that the Israeli military carried out airstrikes in a strategic eastern province wounding two soldiers and causing material damage. There was agency, SANA, quoted an unnamed military official as saying the airstrikes late Monday targeted military positions in Deir

The eastern Deir el-Zour province that borders Iraq contains oil fields and has been a strategic province throughout Syria's conflict, now in its 13th year. Iran-backed militia groups and Syrian forces control the area and have often been the target of Israeli war planes in previous strikes.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my client Axis Bank Ltd, having one of its Branch at Himalaya House, First Floor, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-10001 intends to grant Loan facility to Sh. Ravinder Singh Khatri against security of Property bearing No. 29, having land area measuring 208.93 Sq. Mtrs., situated in the layout plan of Narela Residential Scheme, situated at Pocket 12, Sector 4-5, Narela cheme, situated at Pocket-12, Sector A-5, Narela elhi-110040 (hereinafter referred to as "Said roperty"). Sh. Ranbir Singh Khatri claims the ownership of the Said Property by virtue of Sale Deed lated 17.07.2023, duly registered as Document No. 1915 on 19.07.2023. It is pertinent to inform that all Original Document(s) pertaining to the Said Property nad been misplaced/ lost except Sale Deed dated lad been misplacely lost except sale beed dated propriate report regarding loss of briginal title document(s) has been lodged with station House Officer, Crime Branch, Delhi on 1.01.2023. Any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to right, title or iterest in the said property/portion in any manne whatsnever must immediately contact the undersigned in writing along with all supportin documents in respect of their claim(s)/objection(s). no such claim is received with in a period of 07 days om the date of publication of this notice, then it wil e presumed that no one has any paramount right, tle, or interest in the said property and even if omeone has any claim/objection, he/she/they have

Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate) Contact No.: 9810310373, 011-41830049 E-mail Address : alolegals@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE** ce is hereby given to the general public at large the inder Singh S/o Chidda Singh, R/o C 8 Block N Nagar Ghaziabad UP 201001. Is the owner dential Plot No. 7, measuring 220 Sq Yards Out sra No. 1154, in the Residential Colony known. awa puperis y y vinue u sale Letto dated 2.6.11.2071.

cecuted by Mahesh Yadav in his Yavour, duly registere.

10 con 8,915, Book no.1, Volno. 16,977, Pages 37,

2, SRO-I Ghaziabad. That the following paper hanen lost 1. Original Sale deed dated 28.11.2011.

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ards, Out of Khasra No. 1154, situated in Radha Kunj
olony, C. S Compound Lal Kua Gram Sahpur, Bamheta,
haziabad, U. P. "said property" by virtue of Sale Deed
sted 02.07.2019 executed by Rajnath Singh in her
wour duly registered as Document No. 5276, Book
of, Volume No. 16603, Page No. 1-80, registered on
07.7019 by SRI Ghaziabad. That the following paper
as been lost 1. Original Sale deed dated 16.06.203
ecuted Chidde in favour of Rajnath Singh in respect of
e Plot measuring 200 Sq Yards Out of Khasra no. 1154
aren has been lodged vide LR No. 2023000657863,
axed 03.10.2023. Further Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.
1751-y is intending to create a registered/equitable
original property, they may contact the undersigned within
floays of this publication. It may be further noted
at after the lapse of the aforesaid period no claim
any manner shall be entertained and the same
ilb be considered as waived or abandoned.
ew Delhi, Dated: 03.10.2023. Mohd. Gulfarm, Advocate
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Mohd. Bultan, 24.18. LGF. Saket

National Carlot.

office: Gadi & Associates,D-148, LGF, Sak New Delhi-110017, +91-880000224

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDED CALL MOTION Name of the Work: "Allotment of 08 (Six) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP". License Fees

**Public Notice** My Client Satnam Singh S/o Late Bhagat Singh R/o R-Z-Q-61, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi-41 have debarred & disowned his son Sukhvinder Singh & his wife Sonia Kaur from his movable & immovable properties. My client has also severed all his relation with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk & responsibility. Simranjeet Singh Sethi (Advocate),GH-14/645, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-87

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Catalyst Trusteeship. Limited, 910-911, 9th Floor, Kailash Building, 26, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi -110001 that the below mentioned original documents, pertaining to the below mentioned immovable property of Avaada Green HNProject Private Limited (Company), have been misplaced lost by us from our office address as above. The Company shall create mortgage charge on the basis of certified copy of documents of the said properties for the benefit of State Bank of India, for securing the loans/credit facilities availed by the Company.

A missing article report to this respect has been lodged with Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi bearing unique ID: 939777/2023 on 26 September 2023.

September 2023.

Any person(s) coming into possession of the below mentioned documents and/or any person(s) who is/are having knowledge of the whereabouts of the below mentioned Documents, are hereby requested to intimate the same to Mr. Yogesh Sharma, r/o C-11, C Block, Sector-65, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301 having mobile no.: +91-9560999293 & emailid yogesh sharma@avaada.com, under intimation to Mr. Mukesh Kumar, Relationship Manager, State Bank of India, Overseas Branch (04803), 9th Floor, Jawahar Yyapar Bhawan, 1, Tolstry Marg, New Delhi 110001, having mobile no.: +91-7488869115 & email id rm1.04803@sbi.co.in, as soon as possible. Public is warned not to deal with the below

email or mi. Lu4e0J@ssb.tco.in, as soon as possion Public is warned not to deal with the below mentioned Documents and any person receiving the said Documents or dealing with properties or the basis of the said Documents would be doing so at his/her/their own risk and responsibility. Anybody not returning the said Documents and dealing with the same shall be liable to be prosecuted as per the law of the land. Any transaction on the basis of the lost below mentioned Documents, whether done in over the which may be done, it styre, whell out he Documents and immovable property referre

above are:

Properties situated in Village Pohadka and Bhuratwala, Tehsil Ellenabad, District Sirsa, Haryana purchased by the Company vide the sale deed no 2572 dated 19.09.2019 (75 Kanal), sale deed no 3597 dated 06.01.2020 amended with 3650 dated 08.01.2020 (10 Kanal 10 Marla), sale deed no 2690 dated 03.10.2019 (2 Kanal 2 Marla 1 Sarsai), sale deed no 2691 dated 03.10.2019 (1 Kanal 2 Marla), sale deed no 3295 dated 11.2.2019 (15 Kanal 4 Marla), sale deed no 3277 dated 11.1.2.2019 (11 Kanal 1 5 Marla 6 Sarsai), sale deed no 3433 dated 24.1.2.2019 (11 Kanal 1 5 Marla 6 Sarsai), sale deed no 3433 dated 24.1.2.2019 (11 Marla 4 Sarsai), all registered with the Sub-Registrar Ellenabad, Haryana.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I Ram Chopra S/o Late S.S Chopra R/o C-101,Mayur Aptt,Sec-9,Rohini,Delhi-TD/TM/GEN-235(Vol-VII)/23/1984 85 owner of Commercial Unit no.103.FF.Plot no. for conversion of the aforesaid Unit from leasehold to **freehold** vide Application No.340 under Policy of Apartment Act in DDA. That original documents i.e. Rs. 2,91,07,650/-, Wharfage Fees Rs. 18,98,620/-, Last date & time of ssion of bid: 19.10.2023 up to

Builder Buyer Agreement & Posession Letter of above property have been lost, A FIR dt.02.10.2023 bearing LR no.960467/2023 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. Any persons 15:00 hrs, Date and time of opening (technical bid): 19.10.2023 up to claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents may 15:00 hrs Refer our Website for details write/contact with above named person at above add/ph. 9990101129 within 15 days from date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right interest objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL), A-Block, 1st Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, N.Delhi-23

Public Notice
This is to inform to general public that initially property bearing no. R 7720, area 500 sq. yds., i.e., 418.05 sq. mtrs., situated at residential colony Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad, Tehail & Distt. Ghaziabad was owned by Mr. Rakesh Kumar & Mrs. Aarti Gupta who sold the said property to I. Mr. Mango Tyagi, 2 Mr. Rajesh Tyagi, 3. Mr. Gulshan Tyagi, 8.4. Mr. Rakesh Tyagi vide Sale Deed dated 29.06.2011, Docno. 6513.

Unfortunately, Mr. Mango Tyagi died on dated 05.04.2020 and as per SMC shared with slegal heirs of Mr. Mango Tyagi are Mr. Rakesh Tyagi, Mr. Rajesh Tyagi & Mr. Gulshan Tyagi & Mr. Gulshan Tyagi are mortgaging the above said property with Industind Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be

anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Law Veritas North, Office No. 11, 1s Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16 Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 or contact

#### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. SS/CW/RR/78/2023/67

Sd/-Traffic Manager

Paradip Port Authority

dtd.03.10.2023

Dated 3rd October 2023

The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam invites bids for the following building works from registered contractor under PWD (Building), Assam having experience of similar nature of work in

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 04-10-2023 (1100 hours) to 25-10-2023 (1400 hours). The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

SI	Name of work	Approximat e value of work (in lakh)	Time of completion (in month)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)		Tender cost (in Rs.)
				General (in Rs.)	Reserved category (in Rs.)	
1	Repair & renovation works of the office of the Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam at State Mission Office, Kahilipara, Ghy-19	Rs. 73.36	60 days	Rs. 1,46,720.00	Rs. 73,360.00	Rs. 1468.00

Online mode of submission for both technical and financial bid is mandatory.

Ahard copy of the technical bid submitted online is also to be submitted at the office of the undersigned on or before 25-10-2023 up to 1400 hours for evaluation purpose. For any discrepancy between the online bid and the hard copy of the bid, the online bid will govern and will be considered for evaluation. Along-with the hard copy of the technical bid, the following documents must also be submitted on or before 25-10-2023 up to 1400 hrs :-

a. Original Power of Attorney for signing the bid, if any.

b.Copy of bid security/ EMD submitted online at www.assamtenders.gov.in.

c.Copy of tender fee submitted online at www.assamtenders.gov.in.

4.Bidders are advised to scan their technical papers at a resolution of 100 dpi (in colour mode) in ".pdf" format for multiple pages with maximum file size of 25 MB. If the file size exceeds 25 MB, the bidders are advised to create multiple files and upload the same in "Upload Additional Document" stage.

In the event of date of bid opening being a holiday, the activities will take place on the next working day. All the interested bidders are requested to read the bid document carefully before submission of their bid.



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

Janasanyog/CF/2950/23/4-Oct-23

## 'India's GDP to grow at 6.3 per cent in FY24'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/ WASHINGTON

the World Bank on Tuesday retained India's growth forecast at 6.3 per cent for current financial year on the back of robust services activities despite global headwinds.

According to a World Bank report released on Tuesday, India continues to show resilience against the backdrop of a challenging global environ-

In India, which accounts for the bulk of South Asia region, growth is expected to remain robust at 6.3 per cent in 2023-24, India Development Update of the World Bank said. The World Bank had projected 6.3 per cent GDP growth in its April report as well. India recorded 7.2 per cent growth in 2022-23.

Last month, Asian Development Bank (ADB) marginally lowered India's growth forecast to 6.3 per cent for current financial year.

As per RBI's latest forecast, the Indian economy would grow

India's coal

16 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

production rises

The country's coal output increased 15.81 per cent to

67.21 million tonnes ir

September as against 58.04 million tonnes in the year-ago period, an official statement said on

The cumulative coal production up to September increased to 428.25 MT in the

ongoing fiscal, over 382.16 MT in the year-ago period, registering a growth of 12.06 per cent.

the coal ministry statement said.

The output of state-owned Coal India Ltd, which accounts

for over 80 per cent of domes-

tic coal output, increased to

51.44 MT in September as

increased to 70.33 MT over

unprecedented upswing, with

production, dispatch and stock

levels soaring to remarkable

attributed to the unwavering

dedication of coal PSUs, which

has played a pivotal role in dri-

ving this extraordinary

progress," the statement said.

The coal ministry added

that it remains committed to

maintaining consistent coal pro-

duction and dispatch, ensuring

uninterrupted supply for a reli-

able and resilient energy sector

contributing to the nation's con-

tinued growth and prosperity.

heights, the ministry said.

Additionally, coal dispatch

The coal sector witnessed an

This exceptional growth is

Sentember la

against 45.67 MT a year ago.

at 6.5 per cent in 2023-24.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its latest report upped the GDP growth projection for India to 6.3 per cent from the previous estimate of 6 per cent.

While global rating agency Fitch retained India's growth forecast at 6.3 per cent, S&P Global Market Intelligence raised it to 6.6 per cent from the earlier projection of 5.9 per

tor is expected to clock a growth of 3.5 per cent, industry 5.7 per cent and services 7.4 per cent during 2023-24. At the same time, investment growth is projected to remain robust at 8.9 per

"An adverse global environment will continue to pose challenges in the short term. Tapping public spending that crowds in more private investments will create more

Set to marginally

Tndia Inc's financial health

Imeasured by the credit ratio,

or the proportion of rating

upgrades to downgrades, moderated in the first half of current

fiscal year and is set to dip mar-

ginally further in the second half, Crisil Ratings said

companies, however, made it

clear that the credit ratio will stay

above 1 going forward as well,

which means the number of

upgrades will outpace the down-

In April-September FY24, there were 443 upgrades as

compared to 232 downgrades,

the agency said, adding that the credit ratio moderated to 1.91

Crisil, which rates 6,500

dip in H2

PTI MUMBAI

on Tuesday



On inflation, the report said, it is expected to decrease ize and government measures help increase the supply of key

Retail inflation is expected

The World Bank expects fiscal consolidation to continue in FY24 with the central government's fiscal deficit projected to decline from 6.4 per cent to 5.9 per cent of GDP.

"Public debt is expected to stabilize at 83 per cent of GDP. On the external front, the current account deficit is expected to narrow to 1.4 per cent of GDP,

flows and supported by large for-eign reserves," it said.

The report also said the asset quality of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) continue to improve, driven by higher loan growth, decline in slippages, better recoveries and write-offs of bad loans.

Gross non-performing assets of SCBs as a ratio of gross advances reached its lowest level in a decade to 3.9 per cent as of March 2023 compared to 5.9 per cent in March 2022, it said.

The World Bank said South Asia is expected to grow 5.8 per cent this year-higher than any other developing country region in the world, but slower than its pre-pandemic pace and not fast enough to meet its development

As compared to the earlier forecast, growth in 2023 has been upgraded by 0.2 percentage points due to stronger-than-

pected data in India.
"At first glance, South Asia

and it will be adequately is a bright spot in the global financed by foreign investment economy. The World Bank is forecasting that the region will grow more quickly than any other developing country region over the next few years," said Martin Raiser, vice president, South Asia Region, World Bank.

Although India's post-pan-demic economic rebound is now fading, growth is expected to remain stronger than in other large emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs). Output is forecast to grow 6.3 per cent in FY2023-24 and 6.4 per cent in FY2024-25roughly equal to the estimated pace of India's potential growth, the World Bank said.

"The dampening effect of monetary policy tightening on domestic demand, particularly investment, will likely peak in the coming year. The effects of slowing global demand and rising interest rates will be mitigated by India's low external debt and the healthy balance sheets of its financial and corporate sectors," the bank said in its report.

19-20 per cent, and added that the riskier unsecured loans will

the agency expects a further

improvement on the decadal

best gross non-performing assets ratio of 3.9 per cent in FY24. The

faster growth in unsecured assets will lead to a 0.20-0.25 per cent

rise in the retail NPAs, but the same will be manageable, the

Ratings also reported higher

upgrades (146) as compared to downgrades (55) during the

first half, but added that the pro-

files are showing signs of mod-

performance stayed its expect-

"Corporate credit profile

Meanwhile, its peer India

On the asset quality front,

grow faster.

agency said.



PTI MUMBAI

 $E_{\text{Sensex and Nifty declined on}}^{\text{quity benchmark indices}}$ Tuesday amid unabated foreign fund outflows and sluggish Asian market cues.

Equity indices fall

on unabated foreign

Fall in index majors HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries also dragged the benchmark indices lower. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 316.31 points or 0.48 per cent to settle at 65,512.10. During the day, it fell 483.82 points or 0.73 per cent to 65,344.59.

The Nifty fell 109.55 points or 0.56 per cent to end at 19,528.75.

Among the Sensex firms, Maruti, NTPC, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, JSW Steel, ITC and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major laggards.

Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finserv and Titan were among the gainers.

"Consolidation continued given the rising US bond yields and dollar index, prompting FIIs to pull funds. While the moderation in oil prices may provide respite on the downside. Infrastructure activity indicates an acceleration led by the rise in core sector output. Auto stocks declined due to mixed bag monthly data, while a nearnormal monsoon will aid positive sentiment for consumption in the near term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed

0.61 per cent and midcap gained 0.09 per cent.

Among the indices, oil & as declined 1.30 per cent, auto fell by 1.21 per cent, metal (0.78 per cent), utilities (0.72 per cent), FMCG (0.50 per cent) and commodities (0.20 per cent).

Industrials, capital goods consumer durables, realty and services were the gainers. "Investors preferred to shun

their equity exposure ahead of the monetary policy committee meeting this week. Markets were in weak terrain through the session, as traders trimmed their holding in automobile, oil & gas and metal shares. The stronger dollar once again weighed heavily on the rupee, which indicates that foreign investors may have once again pulled the plug on Indian equities.

"Even the robust September GST collections failed to enthuse investors as global worries continue to dictate the trend on local markets," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled lower while Shanghai ended in the green. European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended mostly in the green on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.07 per cent to USD 90.73 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,685.70 crore on Friday, according to exchange

Gold tumbles

₹650, silver

nosedives

#### Sharing sectoral growth projections, the World Bank report said, the agriculture secfavourable conditions for India to remain elevated at 5.9 per cent to seize global opportunities in during the year, it said.

the future and thus achieve higher growth," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director in India.

gradually as food prices normalcommodities.

India Inc's financial health moderates in H1FY24 from 2.19 in the preceding six

> It said the upgrades are much higher than the decadal average, but the downgrades are inching up lately, largely due to difficulties faced by exportlinked sectors due to slowing growth in the world.
> Crisil's Managing Director

Gurpreet Chhatwal said the moderation in the first half was along expected lines, and the government's infrastructure push and spending are helping corporate India report positive credit ratios. Chhatwal said there are

challenges on higher inflation, surging global fuel prices and the erratic rainfall.

Crisil's senior director Somasekhar Vemuri said it expects a "marginal moderation" in the credit ratio in the second half of the fiscal. The debt rated credit ratio, which captures the movement of India Inc's loans



shot up to over 7 because of upgrades in some large corpo-

On the crucial question of private capital expenditure, Chhatwal said corporate India continues to be circumspect on making investments, though there have been some brown-

Vemuri pointed out to high

interest rates being one of the reasons holding back India Inc from making investments.

The agency expects bank credit growth to moderate to 13 per cent in FY24 from the previous fiscal's over 15 per cent, and blamed the slower credit demand from the corporates for the moderation. It said the retail credit growth will be higher at

ed course in H1FY24. While upgrades continued to outpace downgrades, their intensity has moderated," its head of credit group Arvind

**Vedanta shares climb nearly 4 per cent;** 

Mining magnate Anil

Vedanta approving a spin-off of its metals, power, aluminium and oil and gas businesses into separate listed entities and an overhaul of a lucrative zinc unit planned as part of value creation and reducing debt load.

Vedanta will issue one share of the five demerged businesscompany, the firm said in a state-

#### ₹1,800 PTI ■ NEW DELHI old price tumbled by Rs 650

to Rs 57,550 per 10 grams Tuesday amid weak global cues, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had ended at Rs 58,200 per 10 grams. Silver also nosedived Rs 1,800 to Rs 71,500 per kilogramme.

Gold and silver prices slipped on Comex in the previous session as the domestic market was shut on Monday Navneet Damani, senior vicepresident of commodity research at Motilal Oswal

In the overseas markets, both gold and silver were trading lower at USD 1,825 per ounce and USD 21.10 per ounce, respectively.

### Maruti Suzuki production dips 1 per cent in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday said its total production declined by 1 per cent to 1,74,978 units in September. The company had produced

1,77,468 units in September

entry level cars — Alto and S-Presso — declined by 70 per cent to 10,705 units from 35,887 units in the year-ago period, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing.

Similarly, production of models like Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift and WagonR, declined to 90,849 units in September as against 92,717 units in the same month last

Production of mid-sized sedan Ciaz declined to 2,304 units last month. It was 2,654 units in September 2022.

Total passenger car production dropped by 21 per cent to 1,03,858 units last month as



against 1,31,258 units in the year-ago period.

Production of utility vehicles, including Brezza, Grand Vitara, Ertiga and Jimny, however, rose to 56,579 units last month as compared with 29,811 units in September 2022.

Total passenger vehicle production fell marginally to ,73,451 units last month over 1,73,929 units in September

Light commercial vehicle Super Carry's production dropped to 1,527 units in comparison with 3,539 units in September 2022.

### market valuation jumps ₹3,085 crore per cent to Rs 233.75 in intra-

PTI NEW DELHI

Chares of Vedanta Ltd climbed Snearly 4 per cent on Tuesday after the announcement of a major business shake-up.

The stock ended at Rs 230.80 apiece, up 3.73 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it

On the NSE, it climbed 5

Corporates garnered Rs 3.31 crore through the

issuance of bonds on a private

placement basis in the first five

months of the ongoing fiscal, a

surge of 73 per cent from the

year-ago period. The funds were

mopped up to strengthen bal-

ance sheets, retire existing debt

and support working capital

requirements, market experts

day trade. Later, it ended at Rs 230.95 per share, a gain of 3.77

The company's market valuation jumped Rs 3,085.07 crore to Rs 85,792.90 crore. On the volume front, 31.12

lakh shares of the firm were crore shares on the NSE during

said. According to data available

with markets regulator Sebi, Rs

3.31 lakh crore was mopped-up

through the route during the

April-August period of the cur-

Rs 1.91 lakh crore in the first five months of 2022-23, data

showed. Market experts attrib-

uted several factors to higher

fund mobilisation through pri-

vate placement of corporate

In comparison, firms raised

Friday announced a major business shake-up, with flagship

bonds such as increase in cred-

it demand, soaring bank loan

rates, and expensive overseas

borrowing. In terms of numbers,

the period under review as

compared to 508 in the year-ago

period. In private placements,

firms issue securities or bonds

to institutional investors instead

of a sale in the open market.

The platforms — BSE-BOND and NSE-EBP (Electro-

Fund raising via bonds on private placement surges facilitates online bidding for private placement of debt securities. Overall, firms raised Rs 7.55 lakh crore through issuance 520 issuances took place during of bonds on private placement basis in 2019-20. Apart from private placement of corporate bonds, funds worth about Rs 8,200 crore were raised through public issues of non-convertible debenture during the period

under review.

Financial Services, said.



turned out to be a very impressive affair with over 8500 students receiving degrees. Thunderous applauds filled the auditorium as graduates rose to receive their degrees from chief guest Prof Ricardo Leon Borquez, President of World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), Graduation Day is the most memorable day in your life, said Prof Ricardo. It is the end of one phase of life, and commencement of another, which involves constant learning. Learning is a process that has no end, key to sustaining success in life requires one to be a constant learner. Perfection comes to those who are always searching for knowledge, he said. Eminent scientist, traditional medicine expert were presented with honorary doctorate on the

#### PFC SANCTIONS ₹15,000 CRORE FOR PROJECTS

**New Delhi**: To reaffirm its commitment towards developing power sector of the North Eastern Region, PFC, a Maharatna company and the leading NBFC in the Indian power sector, held its recent Board Meeting in Shillong, Meghalaya.PFC has sanctioned loans amounting to ₹15,000 crore for various projects during its Board Meeting. As part of its diversification strategy and funding for Infrastructure Projects, PFC sanctioned its maiden financing fora Greenfield Airport project in Andhra Pradesh. PFC's Board of Directors also reviewed strategic agendas pertaining to diversification strategy, including exploring avenues for expanding the business into new market segments and accelerating the funding in the renewable space



### Plaza Wires IPO subscribed 27.78 times on day two of subscription

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Plaza Wires was subscribed 27.78 times on the second day of subscription on Tuesday

The IPO received bids for 26,37,76,020 shares against 94,96,114 shares on offer, as per data available with the NSE.

The category for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) was subscribed 118.24 times while the quota for non-institutional investors received 53.06 times subscription and the portion for Qualified Institutional Buyers

(QIBs) got subscribed 42 per cent. The offer is a fresh issue of up to 1,32,00,158 equity shares. The price range for the offer is Rs 51-54 a share. The company is in the business of manufacturing, market-

ing and selling wires, aluminium cables and fast-moving electrical goods like electric fans and water heaters Plaza Wires has raised Rs 20 crore from anchor investors.

Pantomath Capital Advisors is the manager to the offer. The equity shares of the company are proposed to be listed on the BSE and NSE.

## 'IL&FS has settled ₹35,650 crore of its ₹99,000 crore dues till September' holding firms IL&FS Transportation Networks (ITNL) and IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN),

PTI MUMBAI

rent fiscal.

The IL&FS Group has settled **▲** around Rs 35,650 crore of its total debt of Rs 99,000 crore through asset monetisation, auto debits by banks and repayments as of September.

In a statement on Tuesday, the group said it has completed a repayment of around Rs 10,000 crore by way of interim distribution across 14 companies. These include two vertical and the group holding company IL&FS Ltd. The group has repaid around Rs 35,650 crore of its

total debt of Rs 99,000 crore till September through asset monetisation, auto debits by banks and repayments, including interim distribution across group entities, IL&FS Group Managing Director Nand Kishore said.



"We are happy to have achieved Rs 10,000 crore payout under the interim distribution framework that was proposed by the new board and was approved by the NCLAT last year," he said.

This allowed the group to pay dues to eligible creditors, including several public funds and debenture holders, that invested at the vertical holding companies and group holding company, on an interim basis, without waiting for the final resolution, he said

The group initiated interim ayouts to eligible creditors of IL&FS, IFIN, and ITNL, totalling over Rs 2,400 crore in

#### 31 million users in India seen upgrading to 5G phones by December: Survey and the willingness - by a section Swedish telecom maker

As many as 31 million smart-phone users in India are million. expected to upgrade to 5G phones between now and December, a report by Ericsson said on Tuesday underlining the accelerated pace at which the world's second largest telecom market is adopting the ultra high-speed services.

rent base of 5G handset users in India to be between 80-100

5G services were launched in India in October last year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the past months have seen a rapid rollout of these services across the length and breadth of the country by operators like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.

Ericsson's Consumer Lab's Global Survey released on Tuesday pointed out that 5G users in India stand out for their high quality daily engagement with apps, such as streaming high definition video, video calling services, mobile gaming and augmented reality.

Among the big takeaways were the 5G satisfaction levels,

of those polled - to shell out a premium for innovative services and differentiated 5G connectivity. On an average, Indian 5G users spend two more hours per

week using these services compared to users in other early adopter 5G markets such as the US, the UK, South Korea, China and others.

# **SRMIST HOLDS GRADUATION DAY Chennai:** Graduation Day at SRM Institute of Science and Technology

# NEERAJ ALL SET TO DEFEND HIS GOLD

PTI HANGZHOU

India's Neeraj Chopra would seek to defend his gold medal and end the season on a high when he takes the field for the much-anticipated men's javelin throw event here on Wednesday.

It could just be a cakewalk for India's greatest athlete as his nearest competitor and world silver medallist Arshad Nadeem has pulled out of the Games due to a chronic knee injury which has troubled him for some

Chopra has won every competition against Nadeem, nine in all, including the 2018 Asian Games, where the Pakistani was third when the Indian stood on top of the podi-

"After consulting the medical personnel, Mr. Arshad Nadeem has now decided not to participate in the Asian Games in order to prevent any untoward situation that may hinder his training program and participation in the Paris 2024," Pakistan contingent

issued a press release. "The Chief Medical Officer (Dr Asad Abbas) of the Pakistan Contingent recommended a comprehensive

Ghosal, Dipika-Harinder

and Abhay-Anahat pairs

reach semis, assure

India of three medals

**PTI** ■ HANGZHOU

Courav Ghosal was domi-

tory, while the mixed doubles pairs were also equally facile in their waltz to the semifinals of

the squash competition, assur-

ing India of three medals in the

Asian Games here on Tuesday.

Ryunosuke Tsukue, while the

mixed doubles team of Anahat

Singh and Abhay Singh defeated Yang Yeonsoo and Dongjun Lee 11-4, 8-11, 11-1 in 32

nals on a bright note through the mixed doubles duo of

Dipika Pallikal and Harindar

Pal Singh Sidhu, who pro-

duced a come-from-behind

victory over Jemyca Aribado and Andrew Garica of Philippines 7-11, 11-5, 11-4.

for India's Tanvi Khanna as she

lost to Satomi Watanabe in the

women's singles quarterfinals

Ghosal, a gold medallist in Incheon Games 2014, brought

forth his years of experience to

put it against Tsukue as the

Indian breezed past the first

But the Japanese gave the top seeded Ghosal a more

5-11, 6-11, 12-14

game 11-4.

However, it was curtains

India started the quarterfi-

minutes.

Veteran Ghosal was in his elements while scoring 11-5, 12-10, 11-3 win over Japan's



check-up. Mr. Arshad Nadeem underwent a thorough medical examination, including a noninvasive test i.E. MRI at a local hospital here in Hangzhou.

challenging time in the second game, running the Indian close

opening when the score was 11-10, as the Indian's powerful

forehand caught the Japanese short in the back court. Ghosal

lead, the fight seemed to have ebbed out of the Japanese, as

Ghosal ran roughshod over

him to win the game 11-3 in just 10 minutes and the match

Ghosal brought the winning moment with a neatly placed low volley near the front wall that Tsukue failed to

bles, the Philippines duo started the game well and built a 9-

6 lead from where they won it

But Dipika and Harinder regrouped quickly in the next

two games to win as their rivals struggled to hit the front

wall regularly and failed to

In the pre-quarterfinals matches, Dipika and Harinder

Sidhu breezed past Japan's Risa

Sugimoto and Tomotaka Endo

2-0 (11-5 11-5) in Pool A, while

Anahat teamed up with Abhay

to beat Hong Kong's Tsz Wing

Tong and Ming Hong Tang in 2-0 (11-10 11-8) in Pool D.

retrieve the ball effectively.

Earlier, in the mixed dou-

Once he conceded a 2-0

took that game 12-10.

point by point.

along with it.

even reach.

The MRI revealed a chronic injury which he has been car-

rying."
Nadeem has beaten Chopra in the race of reaching 90m first

but the Indian Olympic champion has been victorious in all the events featuring the duo, starting from the 2016 South Asian Games where the

Pakistani had won a bronze. Nadeem was third when

Chopra won gold in the 2018 Asian Games. He was eighth in

Games where Chopra clinched

Nadeem was fifth in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 where Chopra won gold. Nadeem was again fifth in 2022 World Championships where Chopra bagged a silver. He also finished seventh in the 2017 Asian Championships where Chopra grabbed a gold.

For Chopra, the dream of becoming the world champion has been fulfilled this season even as he battled a persistent groin strain, which he sustained during training in late

Just a few days back, he said the injury has not gone away completely but can be manageable. He said he has been trying to divert his mind from the groin strain and focus on his game, which he had done during the Budapest World Championships and during the Diamond League finals in Eugene, USA, last month where he lost his title.

The back-to-back second place finishes at the Zurich Diamond League and in the DL grand finale in Eugene could be some sort of concern, but Chopra would start as firm favourite at the 'Big Lotus' staSindhu, Prannoy and Srikanth enter last 16

**PTI** ■ HANGZHOU

Star Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy, PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the singles pre-quarterfinals with straight-game wins over their respective opponents in the badminton competition at the Asian Games here on

Tuesday.

World no. 7 Prannoy, who had missed the men's team championships final against China due to a back injury, was back on the court, dishing out a clinical performance to expectedly outwit Mongolia's Batdavaa Munkhbat 21-9 21-12 in 25

He will face Kazakhstan's

Dmitriy Panarin next.
Srikanth also notched up
a 21-16, 21-11 win over Korea's Lee Yun Gyu to set up a clash with Japan's second seed Kodai Naruka.

Former world champion Sindhu also looked good as she prevailed 21-10, 21-15 over world no. 21 We Chi Hsu of Chinese Taipei. The last and only time Sindhu played Hsu was at the Asia Badminton Championships in Dubai earlier this month.

Sindhu will play Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani next.

However, it was curtains for Ashmita Chaliha, who lost 17-21, 16-21 to Indonesia's world no. 7 Gregoria Mariska In the men's event, India Tunjung in 35 minutes. Both the players had received a bye

in their opening match.
World no. 17 pair of
Treesa Jolly and Gayatri
Gopichand began their cam-

paign with a 21-14, 21-12 win over Aminath Nabeeha Abdul Razzaq and Fathimath Nabaaha Abdul Razzaq.

The Commonwealth Games bronze medallists will meet third seeded Korean combination of Kim So Yeong

and Kong Hee Yong.
Women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa, who had won their first International Challenge title in France in June this year, reached the second round after their Maldives opponents Maisa Fathuhulla Ismail and Aishath Afnaan Rasheed retired after lagging 2-21, 2-12 in the opening match.

Tanisha and Ashwini will meet China's Zhang Shu Xian and Zheng Yu next.

An exuberant Ojas Deotale set up an all-Indian final against the experienced Abhishek Verma in the men's compound event to confirm the first-ever individual gold medal for the country in

archery.

On a day when the recurve archers ended their campaign in individual sections following the painful tions following the painful exits of Atanu Das and Dhiraj Bommadevara, Deotale, Verma and seasoned Jyothi Surekha Vennam led the charge in compound section to assure India of three

It also matched their best-ever haul of 2014 Asian Games in Incheon where they had won a gold, silver and bronze each

medals.

## Indian men rout Bangladesh, women outwit South Korea

**PTI** ■ HANGZHOU

 $I_{good\ day\ in\ office\ as\ both\ the}^{ndian\ kabaddi\ players\ had\ a}$ notched up comprehensive victories in their group fixtures at the Asian Games here on The Indian men's team,

who are a record seven-time champions, began their campaign with an emphatic 55-18 win over Bangladesh in a group

Later in the day, the women's side recorded a 56-23 win over South Korea in their second group A game. India, last edition's silver medallist, were held to a surprise 34-34 draw by Chinese Taipei in

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Untested in the pool stages, the Indian men's hockey

team would look to guard

against complacency against

an unpredictable and dan-

gerous South Korea in the

semifinal of the Asian Games here on Wednesday.

the gold here which will guar-

antee a berth to next year's

Paris Olympics, world No. 3

India looked menacing in the

pool stages, scoring as many

as 58 goals and conceding just

The Harmanpreet Singh-led side looked impressive

from the start and scored

goals at will to outplay Uzbekistan 16-0, Singapore

16-1, defending champions Japan 4-2, arch-rivals Pakistan

10-2 and Bangladesh 12-0 in

position heading into the semifinals at the 2018 Asian

Games but went down 6-7 to Malaysia in shoot-off after

the match ended in 2-2 draw.

India were in a similar

its Pool A matches.

Clear favourites to clinch



their opening match on Monday. In their bid to regain the

in men's hockey semis

While India last won the

Asian Games gold in 2014 in

Incheon, Korea's last title

came way back in 2006 Doha.

Harmanpreet is aware about

in the tournament and have

won all our pool matches,

which has given us a lot of

confidence going into the final stages of the competition.

'We have started strongly

India

the job at hand.

Indian men's team, which had slipped to a bronze at the 2018 edition, took a 24-9 lead at the Asian Games gold medal, the

We will enter into the semifi-

nal with a positive mindset,

that we do not allow ourselves

to take any opposition lightly and are well-prepared to adapt

ourselves against our opposi-

scintillating form as he scored

as many as 12 goals so far in the tournament.

tion whenever needed.

"But we are also cautious

Harmanpreet himself is in

the ace drag-flicker said.

first all-out in the 12th minute.
Bangladesh managed to inflict two supertackles in the

Arjun Deshwal spearheaded their raids in style to inflict the

Naveen Kumar Goyat and

first half on Pawan Sehrawat and then on Goyat but that proved insufficient as India took 12-point lead inside 20 Bangladesh faltered in their

raids as the Indians extended their lead in the second-half and sealed the issue.

find themselves clubbed with Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Japan in Group A.

Iran, Korea, Pakistan and Malaysia form Group B.

## India face South Korea | Lovlina books Paris Olympics ticket, Preeti signs off with bronze

PTI HANGZHOU

World champion Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) locked an Olympic quota for herself by moving to the final while young Indian boxer Preeti Pawar (54kg) signed off with a bronze medal at the Asian bronze medal at the Asian

Games here on Tuesday.
Borgohain, the Tokyo
Olympic bronze medallist, cleverly managed her bout against Asian Championship silver medallist Baison Manikon of Thailand to win by an unanimous 5-0 decision and book her ticket for next year's Paris

Preeti, whose father is an assistant sub-inspector in Haryana Police, put up a good show but lost 0-5 to reigning flyweight champion China's Chang Yuan. She has already secured an Olympic quota.

Both the southpaw boxers showcased their high skill and ring IQs in the opening three minutes. While Preeti looked to poke and peck with a right hook, the Chinese kept landing right hooks.

At one point, the 19-year-



old Indian landed a double jab, followed by two right hooks and two body shots to score crucial points. But Chang replied aggressively with a right cross and a flurry of jabs.
The Chinese boxer was

cleaner with her punches and the four of the five judges ruled in her favour in the opening round.

In the second round, Preeti

dialled up the intensity, trying to break Chang's defence. But the Chinese, who enjoyed the crowd support, defended well, moving around the ring.

Chang was warned a couple of times for hitting behind the head of Preeti. Having done enough, the Chinese boxer continued to defend in the final three minutes to take

## Tough test awaits Bajrang Punia; Aman, Antim strong contenders

captain

**PTI** ■ HANGZHOU

Intering the Asian Games Eafter copping widespread opprobrium for accepting a direct entry, Bajrang Punia's mental fortitude will be put to a stern test when he jumps straight to a high-level competition without real 'mat-time' in the last one

First it was Bajrang who sat on a dharna against the WFI chief and then witnessed sit-in protests organised against him in the villages of Haryana when he accepted exemption from the selection trials

Kaliraman, who won the 65kg Asian Games trial, and the several panchayats were of the opinion that Bajrang should not go without competing in the

Now that he has chosen to enter the Games without accepting the challenge of Kaliraman, the pride of the 2018 champion will be at stake.

More than that, the fact that he has not competed since the 2022 World Championships in Belgrade in September, Bajrang is terribly short of quality mat

Competitions are crucial in The family of Vishal testing fitness, skills and

endurance and Bajrang would enter the Games without any real assessment.

His leg defence was already a 'work in progress' and it remains to be seen if the 18-day training stint in Kyrgyzstan in the run up to the Hangzhou Games has readied him enough for his title defence.

He will begin with a bout against Philippines' Ronil Tubog and if he gets past him, Bajrang is expected to meet Bahrain's Alibeg Alibegov in pre-quarters.

Bajrang's category has qualperformers, including the reigning Asian Champion and 2022 World champion Rahman



Amouzadkhalili from Iran, against whom he is likely to meet

in the semifinals. We worked hard in Kyrgyzstan. We practised with the national team of Kyrgyzstan. But nothing can replace the competition experience, so it will be a tough competition," Sujeet Mann, Bajrang's personal coach, told PTI.

"There are at least 4-5 wrestlers who are in top-8 in the world. Also the fact that smaller nations have now imported strong wrestlers and most of the wrestlers now train in Russia, the competition in wrestling has become really tough," he added.

While Bajrang will be under pressure, Deepak Punia, who barely managed to win the tri-als, will also be watched keenly in the 86kg competition. He has also not done much after winning the 2022 CWG gold.

Aman Sehrawat will be a genuine medal contender in the 57kg category. His rise has been phenomenal in the last two years. He became the first Indian U23 world champion and is reigning Asian champion.

The wrestling competition begins from Wednesday with Greco Roman style, where India have not won a medal since the 2010 edition.

Ravinder Singh and Sunil Rana were the last Indian Greco Roman wrestlers to have climbed the podium in the premier continental event.

India can expect a good show from the women's wrestlers. Led by Antim Panghal, the women's squad is packed with strong contenders.

Panghal has been in red-hot form. After winning back-to-back U20 world championships, the 20-year-old from Hisar has already locked Paris Olympics quota after winning a bronze at the senior world championship.

# INDIA, PAK ENTER SEMIS

## JAISWAL'S 100 HELPS INDIA BEAT NEPAL BY 23 RUNS IN ASIAN GAMES 2023

PTI HANGZHOU

rashasvi Jaiswal smashed a blazing hundred to lead India to Asian Games semifinals but cricketers from Nepal showed a lot of promise by putting up a fearless fight in their 23-run defeat here on

Jaiswal, Indian cricket's new pin-up boy, earned the distinction of being the youngest T20I centurion from the country en route his 49-ball-100 that took India to a healthy 202 for 4.

The men from the Himalavan nation made a match of it but lack of experience became their undoing as their innings ended at 179 for 9, ensuring a last four spot for Ruturaj Gaikwad's men.

No praise would be enough for the Monty Desai-coached Nepalese side as the smaller ground dimensions helped them embarrass two Indian pacers Arshdeep Singh (2/43) and Avesh Khan (3/32), who gave

away 75 runs in their 8 overs.

There is one piece of statistics that will certainly annoy head coach VVS Laxman. India, in all, hit 12 sixes but Nepal batters surpassed them with 14 maximums.

India skipper Ruturaj Gaik-wad admitted it wasn't their best day. He was also not surprised Nepal's gritty performance.

"Not really. They are an international side backed up with international experience, having played tournaments like Asia Cup with all the main teams. They have scored around 250 runs against India, the main side, as well. They are a good side so were not really surprised with how they came (at us).'

Centurion Jaiswal was expectedly pleased with his bat-

"I'm just so glad and happy to represent India and proud of myself for going out there to express myself and my game. I didn't think for that (century). At the start I had some plans. I was just trying to play all my shots and making sure that the run rate was high even when I had played only a few," he said.

It was debutant left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore (1/25) and IPL star Ravi Bishnoi (3/24) who

actually controlled the middle overs to save India from what could have been an upset. The likes of Kushal Bhurtel,

Kushal Malla, Deependra Airee and Sundeep Jora are blessed with talent and hopefully the



global cricket establishment will give them enough exposure to consistently challenge heavy-

weights like they did this dav. Against better teams like Bangladesh or Pakistan, the ble keeping the ridiculously

Indian pacers, who bowled too full or too short will be in trou-

short side boundaries into account. But nothing can take the credit away from 21-year-old Jaiswal, who enthralled the crowd with eight fours and seven sixes.

There was slog sweep off pacers and spinners, the pick-up pull behind square, the square cuts, the heave over cow corner and the deftly executed lap shot over keeper's head to reach to 99 before a single took him to the milestone.

Credit should also be given to Rinku Singh, who once again enjoyed his role as a finisher with 37 off 15 balls, including 20-odd in the final over which made the difference in the end

Pakistan also reached the semi-finals, crushing Hong Kong by 68 runs with experienced all-rounder Khushdil

Shah taking 3-13.
Pakistan swept through at an overcast Zhejiang University of Technology Pingfeng Cricket Field, despite some early wob-

They struggled on an uneven pitch and slumped to 54-5 after being sent in, but a brilliant 41 from 16 balls by Aamer Jamal ensured they made a respectable 160 all out.

Hong Kong similarly collapsed, to 55-5, but they had noone of Jamal's class to bail them out and were bowled for 92. "It was a combined job by all

Sri Lanka face Afghanistan

Omair Yousuf.

and Bangladesh take on Malaysia in the other quarterfinals on Wednesday.

of us," said Pakistan opener



### Rain washes out India's second warm-up match

**PTI** ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Tndia's second World Cup warm up match against Netherland was washed out due to incessant rain here on

The game was abandoned without a ball being bowled. The hosts' first warm up game against England also met with a similar fate in Guwahati last week.

India is thus the only team that heads to the World Cup without batting or bowling in the warm up matches.

India will open their campaign against Australia in Chennai on Sunday.



## Chelsea stun Fulham with quickfire double

**AP** ■ LONDON

Goal-shy Chelsea finally found their cutting edge on Monday, striking twice in 82 seconds to earn a morale-boosting 2-0 win against Fulham as Mykhailo Mudryk finally got off the mark.

Maur injury-ravaged team travelled to the home of their near-neighbours just two points above the relegation zone and with only

five goals to their name.

Wasted early opportunities
hinted at familiar failings but Ukrainian winger Mudryk scored his first goal in a Chelsea shirt in the 18th minute and Armando Broja doubled the lead in the blink of an eye.

The win lifts Chelsea to mid-table and eases the pressure on beleaguered new manager Pochettino, whose team had failed to score in their previous three Premier League games.

The former Tottenham and Paris Saint-Germain boss had pleaded for ruthlessness in front of goal and his nerves were settled by his team's quickfire firsthalf double.

"It's important for us to build our confidence and trust in ourselves," Pochettino told Sky Sports.

"The performance was very good, I'm so happy for the players and in the end we got what we deserved '

Chelsea started brightly at Craven Cottage but failed to take

Albania forward Broja, making his first start since November 2022, blazed over from an offside position shortly after kick-off and the lively Mudryk also wasted a

But the visitors got their reward in the 18th minute when a long ball from the back found Levi Colwill on the left.

Colwill passed to Mudryk, who controlled the ball on his chest before producing a composed finish for his first goal for the club since his big-money move from Shakhtar Donetsk in Chelsea doubled their lead

when Broja capitalised on a defensive mistake from Fulham centre-half Tim Ream, who gifted the ball to new signing ole Palmer.

Chelsea, playing with zest, could have extended their lead further but Enzo Fernandez's strike flew narrowly wide.

The home side failed to

muster a single shot on target in the first half, though Raul Jimenez went close with a header from Andreas Pereira's outswinging corner as half-time

Mudryk did not appear for the second half, replaced by defender Ian Maatsen.

RB Leipzig coach Marco Rose said Manchester City was "history" as the two sides prepare to meet again in the Champions League in Germany on

City's rampant victory in their home leg of the last 16 tie, with Erling Haaland scoring five goals in 60 min-utes, was one of the English side's key victories on the way to winning the Champions League for the first time last

"It wasn't part of the preparation for the game, because it's history," Rose said in Leipzig on Tuesday.

'Everything came together for them in that match and of course we were hugely dissatisfied with the size of the result.

"But we're in a new season and we're doing pretty well right now." Leipzig have won seven of nine

games in all competitions this season and come into the match fresh from a 2-2 home draw with German champions Bayern Munich.

Rose said his side could draw positives from the home leg against City last season, where Leipzig fought hard to

"We know that we played very well

## \_eipzig eye revenge against City

at home and for that to happen again tomorrow, we have to run a lot and we have to suffer.

Rose said "yes" when asked if City were the best side in the world. "But that doesn't help us and it doesn't help City," he added. "It's foot-

ball and we will play 11 against 11.
"We know City's quality. We will need a top performance and a slice of

City come into the match in a rare run of poor form, having lost two games in a row for the first time since

The English champions are also missing midfielders Kevin de Bruyne and Bernardo Silva.

Rose however praised City's squad depth, saying "even when de Bruyne and Bernardo Silva are missing, then in comes (Mateo) Kovacic, then in comes Phil Foden, who has developed really

Rose said he was looking forward to seeing Josko Gyardiol, who moved from Leipzig to City in the summer, calling the Croatian centre-back "a great

player and a great guy." The Leipzig coach confirmed wing-



back Benjamin Henrichs will miss the clash through injury, while Spanish international forward Dani Olmo is also ruled out as he continues his recovery from injury. Former Chelsea forward Timo Werner is however set to make a return from a back complaint.

#### **10-YEAR DROUGHT**

Once feared as a fortress of European football, Celtic are aiming to end a 10-year wait for a Champions League win at home when Lazio visit Parkhead on Wednesday.

Brendan Rodgers wasted no time on his return as the Hoops' manager in revealing his ambition is to finally make a mark on the Champions League. In domestic football, Celtic remain

in a class of their own having won 11 of the last 12 Scottish Premiership titles and four domestic trebles in the past six

But Rodgers was in charge during his first spell at the club the last time the Hoops won a game in Europe's elite competition in 2017 away to Anderlecht After failing to qualify for the next

four seasons, Celtic collected just two points from six games on their return to the Champions League last season under Ange Postecoglou despite some impressive performances.

## Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society picks Yash Bharwani as president



PNS NEW DELHI

awaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, known for the prestigious Nehru Senior Hockey

Tournament, which unearthed talent of stalwarts like Zafar Iqbal, Ajit Pal Singh, Pargat Singh and even the current captain Manpreet Singh; has nominated

Yash Bharwani, the grandson of the "Founding Father" of the Society, Inder Mohan Kapur, as its seventh president. Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament

across the country.

Society, was formed in 1964 in the fond memory of Pandit Nehru by Shri Inder Mohan Kapur Ji and other eminent citizens from

## Biles in complete control at gymnastic worlds

AP ANTWERP

Simone Biles enjoyed a virtual sweep in qualifying at the gymnastics world championships on Monday, further burying the nightmare of her

Tokyo Olympics.

The US superstar took top spot in the all-around, vault, beam and floor and appears certain to comfortably add to her 25 world medals made up of 19 gold, three silver and three

The only athlete to get the better of her on Monday was 16year-old Qiu Qiyuan of China on the uneven bars.

In total, Biles has 58.865 points for a two-point lead over compatriot Shilese Jones (56.932) and Jessica Gadirova of Britain (56.766).

Brazil's Rebeca Andrade, the revelation of the Tokyo

Olympics two years ago, took fourth place with 56.599 points. Biles' only disappointment came on the uneven bars where

the 2021 Olympics as the huge favourite thanks to her four titles won five years earlier in However, she broke down in full view of a global audience, withdrawing from most of the

"I don't know, it happens in gymnastics," she said. "You have to think quickly so as not to for-

the most important thing."

"I recovered well and that's

On Sunday, 26-year-old

Biles made history by becoming

the first female gymnast to execute a "Yurchenko double pike vault" now renamed "Biles II"

during women's team qualifying. A four-time Olympic champion, Biles arrived in Japan for

get the sequences.

She then explained that she was fighting against "twisties", a temporary mental block whereby gymnasts lose their sense of where they are in the air, with

the risk of injury when they land. She returned to action at the beginning of August and demonstrated that she had lost

## Sabalenka, Gauff dig deep to reach China Open third round World number two Iga Swiatek eased past France's Varvara Gracheva 6-4, 6-1 to set

**AP** ■ BEIJING

World number one Aryna Sabalenka on Tuesday said her performances in "key moments" were crucial to surviving a major scare in the China Open second round, after she defeated unseeded Katie Boulter 7-5, 7-6 (7/2) in Beijing.

US Open champion Coco Gauff also had to dig deep to get the better of Croatia's Petra Martic in a rollercoaster tie that lasted over three hours.

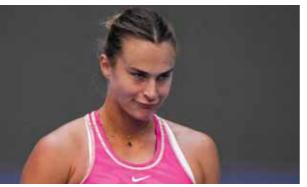
Sabalenka saved seven break points at 5-5 and then forced the stubborn Briton, ranked 56th in the world, into a rare backhand error to clinch the opening set.

The Belarusian notched another must-win break in the second set to again draw level at 5-5 before triumphing in a tiebreak by slamming down an unreturned serve.

She will battle Italy's Jasmine Paolini in the next round for a place in the quarter-finals.

"I think what made the difference was that in the key moments I played a little bit bet-ter than her," Sabalenka said at a post-match news conference. had the opportunity and I'm "I think it was all about

those last games in each set. She



"I kept fighting, kept trying, super glad that I didn't give her and that's what made the differthose sets easily. ence," she said.

Martic was serving for the match against Gauff but the world number three fought back to take the game and went on to dominate the ensuing tie-break, winning 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (7/2).
"Today was a mental victo-

ry. I was happy I was able to get through it," said Gauff, who will face Russia's Veronika Kudermetova in her next match. "I was just telling myself to keep suffering, it will be over in

a couple seconds," the 19-yearold said. "I knew I could outlast her.

also aggressive.'

Kazakhstan's Yulia I just had to be consistent, but

Putintseva 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. The China Open is taking place for the first time since 2019 after Beijing ditched its isolationist zero-Covid policy.

up a date with fellow Pole

Pegula bounced back from a set

down to beat Russia's Anna Blinkova 6-7 (2/7), 6-2, 6-1.

10 Caroline Garcia suffered a

second-set wobble before down-

Fourth-ranked Jessica

And France's world number

Magda Linette.

she was fifth after being penalised for a fall. none of her incredible level.

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