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MARKETS FALL FOR 2ND DAY ON
UNABATED FOREIGN FUND OUTFLOWS

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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INDIA SCORES A BULLSEYE

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra prevailed in an intense and stirring duel with compatriot Kishore Jena after brushing aside a technical glitch to defend his Asian Games gold, while the men's 400m relay team also retained its title as India snared 12 medals on Wednesday to record its best-ever show at the continental showpiece.

In archery, Ojas Deotale's youthful energy blended seamlessly with Jyothi Surekha Vennam's skills, securing India's maiden gold medal in the compound mixed team event and contributing to their best-ever show in archery at the Asian Games, here on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old reigning world champion Deotale dropped a point but a flawless Jyothi made up for it, shooting all perfect scores from her eight arrows to down the second-seeded Korean pair So Chaewon and Joo Jaehoon 159-158.

With this, Indian archers are set to win at least four medals from the ongoing Games, which will better their previous best show at Incheon in 2014 when they bagged a men's team compound gold, one silver and a bronze.

In track and field, Indian athletes delivered seven medals on the day that took India's overall tally to 81 — the best-ever show by the country at the Asian Games. India's previous



best medal haul of 70 came in the last edition at Jakarta.

India are assured of more medals in several competitions and the country is expected to breach the 90-medal mark, if not touch the coveted 100.

Chopra was overwhelming favourite in his event but Jena threw up a huge surprise when he heaved his spear to 86.77m to overtake his decorated compatriot, who had managed 84.49m in his second attempt.

This was after a dramatic start when Chopra's first effort was not recorded due to a malfunction in electronic distance measurement.

The Indian camp was jumping with joy with the two Indians locked in a thrilling battle to out-do each other.

Chopra then responded to the challenge like a true champion and came up with his season-best effort of 88.88m in his fourth attempt to regain the lead. Jena too gave his all to further better his personal-best mark by covering the distance of 87.54m but it was good enough only to finish second behind Chopra.

"I felt very good with my opening throw but unfortunately they could not record that. I am pretty happy for Jena. It really became a tough duel

which I enjoyed thoroughly. We are used to such high level competition.

"When he took the lead it became very interesting. We have to keep telling ourselves that we can overcome the challenge and emerge as best," Chopra said after winning gold.

With his stunning effort Kishore thus sealed his berth for the Paris Olympics. The qualification mark was 85.50. Chopra has already qualified for the 2024 Games with a throw of 88.77 at the World Championships in Budapest in August this year.

Indian quartet of Anas Muhammed Yahya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi and Rajesh Ramesh also sealed the gold for India in the men's 4x400m relay with a timing of 3:01.58.

Indian quartet of Vithya Ramraj, Aishwarya Mishra, Prachi and Subha Venkatesan also claimed a silver in women's 4x400m relay.

Harmilan Bains and Avinash Sable won a silver medal each in women's 800m and men's 5000m respectively.

Earlier during the day, Indian race walkers Manju Rani and Ram Baboo won the bronze medal in the inaugural 35km mixed team event.

Tokyo Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain put up a lacklustre display to settle for a silver as Indian boxers signed off with a haul of five medals at the Asian Games here on Wednesday.



Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Kumar Jena wave the national flag after securing gold and silver medal respectively in the Men's Javelin Throw Final event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou in China on Wednesday

Disaster from sky

10 dead, 80 missing in flash flood

PTI ■ GANGTOK

At least 10 people died and 80 others, including 22 Army personnel, went missing on Wednesday after a cloud-burst over Lhonak Lake in north Sikkim triggered a flash flood in the Teesta River basin, officials said.

All 10 who died have been identified as civilians including 3 of the dead who were washed up in north Bengal, they said, adding that one of the 23 Army men who had gone missing in the morning was rescued later.

The flood in Sikkim that started around 1.30 am was made worse by the release of water from Chungthang dam, the officials said.

"Five bodies have been recovered from Golitar and Singtam region," Gangtok Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Mahendra Chettri said.

Another official said besides the 22 army personnel, 47 civilians were also missing, while 166 people have so far been rescued, including an armyman. "The health condition of the rescued soldier is stable," Defence Spokesperson Lt Col Mahendra Rawat said.

Bodies, including that of a

child, were seen fished out from the flood plains of the Teesta river at Golitar in Singtam by rescue personnel, the officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Wednesday to take stock of the situation, and assured him of all possible support.

The release of water from the Chungthang dam led to a sudden increase in water levels up to 15-20 feet downstream, the defence spokesperson said. "Twenty-two army personnel have been reported missing and 41 vehicles submerged under the slush," he said.

"A steel bridge at Singtam, known as Indreni bridge, 30 km from Gangtok has been completely washed away by Teesta river water early Wednesday," an official said.

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level in the Teesta river was below the danger mark at 1 pm on Wednesday and there is no flood situation around it. The water level at three stations — Melli, Singtam and Rohtak — on the Teesta is below the danger mark but hovering near it, it added.

AAP's Sanjay held in liquor case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday arrested Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh in connection with alleged corruption in the Delhi excise policy "scam".

Sanjay is the second high-profile leader in the AAP to be arrested in the excise case after Manish Sisodia, the then Delhi Deputy Chief Minister.

ED officials reached Sanjay's official residence at North Avenue in the morning to conduct searches. After day-long questioning, Sanjay was placed under arrest under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Sisodia, who is the prime accused in the excise policy case, was arrested by the ED as well as the CBI.

Sanjay is expected to be produced before a designated court on Thursday where the agency will seek permission for his custodial interrogation.

The developments stirred a political slugfest between the AAP and the BJP with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal terming it as a desperate measure by the BJP ahead of the



AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the Delhi excise policy case in New Delhi on Wednesday

2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP hit out at Kejriwal accusing him of being the "kingpin" of the alleged liquor policy scam and asserting that "handcuffs" are not far away.

The search and subsequent arrest of Singh comes a day after a Delhi court allowed Raghav Magunta, son of YSR Congress Party Lok Sabha member Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, and Delhi-based businessman Dinesh Arora to turn approver in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

In July, the ED had arrest-

The agency has dubbed this bribe as "proceeds of crime" under PMLA.

"Amit paid ₹2.2 crore to Sisodia through Dinesh for getting policy changes in his favour in the GoM report/excise policy 2021-22..."

"This amount is directly a bribe/kickback to a Government functionary and is proceeds of crime under section 2(1)(u) of PMLA, 2002. In this manner, Sisodia participated in the generation of this proceeds of crime," the ED contended in its prosecution complaint (chargesheet in police parlance) filed in May.

The ED and the CBI have alleged that the Delhi Government's excise policy for 2021-22 allowed cartelisation and favoured certain dealers who paid bribes for licences.

Reacting to the searches, AAP alleged, "Sanjay Singh kept on raising questions on the issue of Adani and this is why the raids are being conducted at his residence."

RJD leader Manoj Jha and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti slammed the BJP-led Centre over Singh's arrest and said the government is trying to distract people from the results of the Bihar caste survey.

Abhishek Banerjee gets ED summons

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday served a second summons on TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, this time asking his entire family, including his parents and his wife Rujira Narula Banerjee, to appear at the CGO complex in Kolkata.

The summons has been sent in connection with the role of Leaps and Bounds, a company owned by the Banerjees, in the multi-crore recruitment scam. Chief operating officer of the company Sujay Krishna Bhadra is in jail. While Abhishek is the chief executive officer of the company, his wife and parents Lata and Amit Banerjee are directors.

"Abhishek has been asked to appear on October 9, while his parents have been asked to come on October 6 and 7 respectively... his wife has been asked to come on October 10," an ED official said.

Meanwhile, a Division Bench of the Calcutta High on Wednesday refused to intervene in the earlier single-judge bench order directing the ED to ensure that the probe against Abhishek was not affected.

The single bench of Justice



Amrita Sinha court had reprimanded and ordered the replacement of the investigating officer for the "fishy" investigation and demanded explanations in several areas of the probe. The single bench had wanted to know why no bank account of Abhishek, who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, had been mentioned apart from enquiring about a specific address at 188A Harish Mukherjee Road where Abhishek lived and the mention of which had been omitted by the agency.

Subsequently Abhishek, an MP from Diamond Harbour

money raised from the recruitment scam had been laundered through the company in question.

"If she (Justice Sinha) had felt that there was smoke somewhere, she had sought documents to evaluate whether the smoke was still there or it had evaporated. What can the court do if it notices any lapse in the investigation process. The court can always seek documents. What is the problem with submitting those documents to the court?" Justice Sen questioned.

The judge also expressed his discontent over the slow pace of investigation by the ED in the school job case. "It has been almost 19 months since the investigation process started. This is a clear example of utter unprofessionalism," he observed.

The Left and the Congress continued to allege "mutual setting" between the BJP and the TMC. "They will summon but not arrest him because Mamata is helping Modi and the RSS in their designs. One of their party mouthpieces have warned against taking the job scam too far so that it becomes helpful for the Left-Congress alliance in Bengal," said CPI(M) State committee member Kalatan Dasgupta.

Let us hear it for R&R

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi-based Army Hospital (R&R), a premier healthcare institution of the Armed Forces, has accomplished a remarkable milestone by becoming the nation's first medical facility to successfully perform 50 bilateral simultaneous cochlear implant procedures in the past eighteen months.

A cochlear implant is an advanced medical device that empowers individuals with hearing disabilities to seamlessly integrate into society by enabling them to hear through this technology. This option is particularly beneficial for those with severe inner-ear damage who do not experience significant improvement with traditional hearing aids.

Cochlear implants may be placed in one ear (unilateral) or

both ears (bilateral). These implants are often placed in both ears at the same time in children with bilateral severe hearing loss, particularly for infants and children who are learning to speak and process language.

Children get only one cochlear implant in most of the government-funded programmes.

The cost of the equipment has always been a concern, making its outreach limited.

"The cost of the equipment has always been a concern, making its outreach limited. Children get only one cochlear implant in most of the government-funded programmes. The benefit of hearing in both ears far outweighs the cost involved and the Armed Forces Medical Services were quick to realise this," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.



Army Hospital (R&R) doctors conducted 50 bilateral simultaneous cochlear implants in the last 18 months, becoming the only government hospital across the country to accomplish these many successful implants

However, realising that the benefit of hearing in both ears far outweighs the cost involved, the Armed Forces Medical Services took a major decision in March 2022 to ensure qual-

ity life to the hearing impaired patients.

It revised the policy for cochlear implant for such beneficiaries in the Armed Forces and simultaneous bilateral (in both ears) implants were included. This was the first policy in the country bringing medical standards at par with developed countries.

The Army Hospital (R&R) is presently being commanded by Lt Gen Ajith Nilakantan who specialises in ENT and Head and Neck Oncosurgery, the statement said.

DG of Armed Forces Medical Services Lt Gen Daljit Singh and DGMS (Army) Lt Gen Arindam Chatterjee have congratulated the Army Hospital (R&R) for taking measures to add quality to the life of the deaf people in the forces and wished many more laurels to the institute.

Privileges Committee to discuss Bidhuri, Danish Ali on October 10

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the Lok Sabha's Privileges Committee on October 10 will hear the complaints by Members of Parliament regarding a dispute involving Lok Sabha member Ramesh Bidhuri and Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali.

Source said the committee will hear Bidhuri over the complaints received against him after he used derogatory words against Ali in the House. It would also hear out Ali over his alleged improper conduct during the discussion on Chandrayaan 3.

The Speaker, Om Birla, had sent all the complaints he had received from the MPs to the Privileges Committee head-

ed by BJP member Sunil Kumar Singh.

The BJP has also issued a show-cause notice to Bidhuri in response to his comments which he is yet to respond to. However the party after the episode handed Bidhuri with a poll responsibility in Rajasthan which goes to Assembly polls along with others next month.

"Oral evidence of Bidhuri, MP, in respect of complaints received from various Members of Parliament against him and Ali for alleged improper conduct during the discussion on 'Chandrayaan-3 Mission' in the House," read the agenda of the meeting as per the sources.

The Opposition parties, which have demanded the strictest action, including sus-

pension of Bidhuri, have been hitting out at the BJP, alleging that it was trying to defend its MP instead of punishing him.

The issue was referred to the House Privileges Committee though the Speaker has already expunged the unparliamentary remarks of the South Delhi MP.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey wrote to the Speaker, urging him to form an inquiry committee to look into statements made by Ali, alleging that the BSP MP made "highly objectionable" remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi that provoked Bidhuri.

Dubey also condemned Bidhuri's comments, saying no decent society can justify them and they cannot be condemned enough.

77 per cent turnout in Kargil polls

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

More than 77 per cent electorate exercised their right to franchise in the Kargil district, for the first time after the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh, sealing the fate of 85 candidates contesting from 26 constituencies of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil on Wednesday.



Elaborate security arrangements were made to ensure the peaceful conduct of the poll process. A large number of first-time voters, including women and senior citizens, were seen lining up outside the polling booths since early morning to participate in the biggest festival of democracy. According to the election authorities in Kargil, "Out of 95388 total voters, including 46,762 women, 74026 voters exercised their right to franchise recording 77.61 per cent voter turnout". The Saliskote constituency recorded the highest 90.07 per cent voter turnout. Over 80 per cent voter turnout was recorded from eight other constituencies while 16 seats recovered over 70 per cent voter turnout. Kargil town along with the coldest inhabited Drass area also witnessed a close

The National Conference and the Congress party had entered into a pre-poll alliance to keep the Bharatiya Janata Party at bay.

In contrast, the BJP campaign highlighted the success of centrally sponsored schemes in Ladakh as well as the infrastructure push by the Centre after the formation of the Union Territory.

The BJP leaders from the Jammu region were also camping in the region to support the local leaders. According to a post on the official handle of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Kargil,

"The oldest voter from Kargil town Haji Ghulam Mohd reached the polling station early morning to cast his vote and urged first-time voters to take part in the election process to elect the right candidate for a better democracy". Similarly, a first-time

voter Ishtiyag Aha from Goma Kargil also expressed his joy for being a responsible Citizen of India and casting his 1st Vote.

22 candidates from INC, 17 from NC, 17 from BJP, and 4 candidates from AAP were in the fray along with 25 independent candidates.

In the outgoing council, while the NC had 10 members, the Congress had 8 and Independents 5. BJP had won only one seat.

The election commission had set up 278 polling stations in the district to ensure incident-free and peaceful polling.

Out of these, 114 polling booths were categorized as hyper-sensitive and 99 were sensitive polling stations in the district. The counting of votes will take place on October 8. According to the election commission, the new council will be formed before October 11.

Two Hizbul terrorists eliminated in Kulgam



MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces on Wednesday eliminated two terrorists belonging to the pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist outfit in the South Kashmir district of Kulgam.

According to Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar,

the killed terrorists have been identified as Basit Amin Bhat of Frisal and Saqib Ahmad Lone of Hawoor, Kulgam.

He said the duo were linked with the proscribed terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahideen. Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 02 AK rifles have been recovered from the encounter site near the Kujjar area of Kulgam.

Man stabbed to death by relative in birthday party

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 34-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by his relative following a scuffle during a birthday party in South Delhi's Sangam Vihar area.

According to police, victim Sunil Kumar was the brother of 40-year-old accused Pramod Kumar's brother-in-law. Police said they received a PCR call at 10.18 pm on Tuesday that two people had attacked each other at E-block in Sangam Vihar.

Sunil was rushed to Mazidia Hospital in Hamdard Nagar where he succumbed to injuries, they said. According to police, Sunil and his four brothers live in Ratiya Marg's gali number 6 and they used to work at a water tank godown. The accused also works at the same godown as a security guard.

Prioritise TB clinical trials of vaccines: Parliament panel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As India's TB tuberculosis elimination target year 2025 nears, a Parliamentary panel has asked the Government to prioritise clinical trials of all vaccine candidates for the deadly disease and mobilise funds for such studies.

It has also favoured conducting research to develop simple to use, less time-consuming diagnostic tests and introducing a booster dose of recombinant BCG vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) to curb the menace.

These are some of the major recommendations proposed by the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, in its report on implementation of Pradhan



Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

"TB vaccine research is underway. The Committee recommends the Government prioritise the clinical trials of all TB vaccine candidates to assess their efficacy in various community settings and for different target groups. For this purpose, the government should mobilise the funds to facilitate these clinical trials so that these vaccine platforms can be scaled up rapidly," said the Committee headed by Member of the Rajya Sabha, Bhubaneswar Kalita.

As regards to the BCG vaccine, the Committee noted that it does not provide adequate protection to adolescents and adults who are at high risk of developing TB disease.

The Committee suggested expediting the research programme to study the effectiveness of re-vaccination of BCG and, based on the result, to consider introducing a booster dose of recombinant BCG vaccine in the UIP programme.

"This could be an effective and cheaper option to control TB," it said even as it noted that the study for effectiveness of a second dose of BCG vaccine among adults is underway. "Keeping in view the challenges being faced in TB control, the Committee would like to suggest developing a diagnostic method that is very simple to use and less time-consuming that frontline workers can use to get results within minutes at minimal costs. Such diagnostic methods would add new dimensions to the diagnostic services, which are affordable and easily accessible to patients," it added.

It also drew the attention of the government that evidence on certain drug regimens for Latent TB infection, drug-susceptible & drug-resistant TB infections is clear but still not scaled up.

It also suggested the Government to procure the indigenously developed quick result oriented TrueNat diagnostic machine in bulk and supply the same at the minimum block levels across the country as quickly as possible, later on, which may be extended to primary health centres also.

This would help curb the missing TB cases and simplifies the detection of drug-resistant TB cases.

"The Committee believes that newly developed skin tests may be utilised extensively for TB preventive treatment and conducted for close contact with TB patients and risk groups like diabetics, alcoholics, etc. The validation of this test for children less than 18 years old may be expedited so that the TB preventive treatment may be given at the infection level itself," it said.

Public Notice

My client, Smt. Sander Kaur w/o Sh. Raminder Singh is managing Ground Floor, without roof rights, property no. 1-10, Plot no. - 15, Area Measuring 72.5 sq. yds., part of Kharsa no. - 57, situated at New Mahavir Nagar, Gali No.-15, New Delhi-110018 with FED BANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED owned by virtue of sale deed dated 24.05.2017 Doc. no. 8373/18-18 Delhi. This property was transferred by Bhupinder Singh legal heir of Darsiana Devi namely who became owner by virtue of Relinquishment Deed executed by Smt. Jasleen Kaur (2) Smt. Gurpreet Kaur as Doc. no. 11660 dated 12.08.2015 SR-18 Delhi. Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehlan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through Registered A/D within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.

Adv. Vishal Mehlan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile no. 9811215181

Stop malpractice in MPSC job exams: Congress to Governor

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant move, the Maharashtra Congress on Wednesday sought the intervention of Governor Ramesh Bais to resolve the problems and challenges faced by lakhs of students preparing for various competitive examinations and also the impediments in the contractual job recruitments.

A delegation of the Maharashtra Congress leaders and student representatives, led by state party president Nana Patole, met Governor Ramesh Bais at Raj Bhavan and submitted a detailed memorandum urging the latter to stop the malpractices in the processes followed by the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) examinations for recruitments in the Mumbai Police, Forest Department and state revenue departments.

Talking to media persons after meeting the Governor, Patole said: "There are 32 lakh students preparing for competitive exams in the state. The recruitment process followed by various departments

of the state government and the Maharashtra Public Service Commission is becoming controversial which is unfair to the students."

"Despite having repeatedly raised this issue, the state government has failed to bring about any reforms. We want the Governor to intervene in the matter for resolving the problems and challenges faced by these students," Patole said.

Among other things, the Congress delegation urged the Governor to direct the MPSC to conduct direct recruitments instead of getting appointments made through private companies.

The Congress leaders also asked the Governor to prevail upon the State government to bring in a law which allows for strict punishment for question paper leaks and cheating and also to revoke the decisions taken by the Shinde dispensation in matters relating to the 'Dattak Shala Yojana' and 'Cluster schools'.

In its memorandum to the Governor which highlights issues like the malpractices in the MPSC examinations, paper leaks and mass copying, the Congress stated: "The existing

law against paper leaks in Maharashtra doesn't prescribe severe punishment, leading to the frequent such incidents. As a result, hardworking and underprivileged candidates, despite studying day and night, are left at a disadvantage."

The Congress leaders asked the Maharashtra government to implement stringent laws similar to the ones in Rajasthan and Uttarakhand to curb malpractices like question paper leaks and mass copying.

Accusing the private companies of looting private companies in the guise of examination fees, the memorandum stated: "With the blessings of the state government, under the guise of a fee for every recruitment process, private companies are looting poor students of Rs 1000. All these examinations should be entrusted to the MPSC to provide justice and reassurance to millions of candidates."

"Many candidates selected by the MPSC are stuck in judicial procedures due to various government policies, reservations, or other reasons. Such candidates should be appointed pending the court's decision," the memorandum said.

In its memorandum to the Governor which highlights issues like the malpractices in the MPSC examinations, paper leaks and mass copying, the Congress stated: "The existing

Cabinet hikes Ujjwala scheme's subsidy to ₹300 per cylinder

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Cabinet on Wednesday hiked the subsidy paid to poor women who got cooking gas connections under Ujjwala scheme, to Rs 300 per cylinder from the current Rs 200. Ujjwala beneficiaries currently pay Rs 703 per 14.2-kg cylinder as against the market price of Rs 903. After the decision of the Union Cabinet, they will now pay Rs 603., said Union Minister Anurag Thakur, briefing the details of the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Cabinet also decided to set up National Turmeric Board with a view to promoting production of the herb having medicinal value and increase its exports to USD 1 billion or Rs 8,400 crore by 2030. "With the focused activities of the board, it is expected that turmeric exports will reach USD 1 billion by 2030," a



Commerce Ministry statement said.

Briefing media, Union Minister Kishan Reddy said the decision fulfils the long-pending demand of farmers of Telangana. He said the board will not only help farmers of Telangana but also of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Assam, Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal. He also said farmers in Telangana did not wear slippers or shoes for the past 15 years to press for their demand of setting up of a dedicated board for turmeric.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. VEHICLES FOR SALE

- 1) EICHR_VECV EICPRO2114 REG. NO. DL1GE2056-YOM-2022
- 2) MAH_MBLAZ055 REG. NO. UP14KT2987-YOM-2021
- 3) MAH_BOLPIKUP REG. NO. UP15FT0172-YOM-2021
- 4) TATAMOTORS T1512G REG. NO. DL1GE0893-YOM-2022
- 5) TATAMOTORS LPT_2518T REG. NO. NL01AB8522-YOM-2018
- 6) ASHOK_LEY ECOMET1615 REG. NO. HR58CA1402-YOM-2022
- 7) TATAMOTORS TATAACE REG. NO. DL1LAF9053-YOM-2021
- 8) TATAMOTORS TACEGOLD REG. NO. DL1LAJ0620-YOM-2022
- 9) TATAMOTORS TATAACE REG. NO. DL1LHA9398-YOM-2022
- 10) SWRJ_MAZDA SM_SAMRAT REG. NO. UP14LT2642-
- 11) SML_SMLSARTAJ REG. NO. UP14LT2645-YOM-2022
- 12) TATAMOTORS TACEGOLD REG. NO. DL1LAH9205-YOM-2022
- 13) SWRJ_MAZDA SM_SAMRAT REG. NO. UP14LT2643-
- 14) SML_SMLSARTAJ REG. NO. UP14LT2645-YOM-2022
- 15) TATAMOTORS LPT909CH REG. NO. UP14GT7601-YOM-2018
- 16) TATAMOTORS TACEGOLD REG. NO. DL1LAH9205-YOM-2022
- 17) TATA LPT709CH REG. NO. DL1LAG5693-YOM-2022
- 18) TATAMOTORS TATAACE REG. NO. DL1LAL1097
- 19) TATAMOTORS TATAACE REG. NO. DL1LAJ1062-YOM-2022
- 20) EICHR_VECV ECHPRO2110 REG. NO. HR55AL9402-YOM-2022
- 21) TATAMOTORS TACEGOLD REG. NO. UP12CT0078-YOM-2022

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G20 NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	Name of work	Reconditioning of Points and Xings & SEJs in the jurisdiction of SR, DELHI (INDL)
2	Approx. cost of work	₹ 89,98,279.86/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Nine and Sixty Six paise only)
3	Earnest money to be deposited	₹ 1,80,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Thousand only)
4	Cost of tender document	₹ 0.00/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	27.10.2023 at 15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
7	Allocation	04-200-32

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E - Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. * For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. * No manual offers are acceptable. * Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. No. 128-1W/280/eTender Notice/NT/55/2023-24W-3 Dated :- 29.09.2023 3067/2023

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BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION MADHYA PRADESH

Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal Dated : 04.10.2023 No. 3204/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Board of Secondary Education, Madhya Pradesh invites tender for Providing Annual maintenance **Contract (AMC) for Computer, Photo Copier & UPS** installed at different Exam Centers across the State. The Tender document can be obtained from <https://gem.gov.in>. Detailed terms & Conditions are available in the Tender document.

KEY DATES	
Tender Publication Date	: 04.10.2023
Sale/Downloading Tender Document	: 04.10.2023
Last Date for Submission	: 25.10.2023
Technical Bid Opening	: 25.10.2023
Financial Bid Opening	: 31.10.2023

M.P. Madhyam/112417/2023 **SECRETARY**

Congress questions Modi's silence on Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the situation in Manipur, and alleged that never before has a PM completely "abandoned" a state and its entire people like now.

The party also attacked the government on the reduction of LPG process under Ujjwala scheme ahead of the elections when the consumers have already suffered the brunt for year. On a different note the Congress also slammed the government over the reduction of the qualifying percentile for NEET-PG 2023 to zero, alleging that the move is aimed at benefiting private medical colleges and a select few.

Congress spokesman Jairam Ramesh said that Manipur coming to such a situation after the BJP was elected to power there 15 months ago is a "most damning indictment of its policies and the prime minister's priorities".

He charged that five months back, on the evening of May 3, Manipur erupted because of the "divisive politics of the so-called double engine sarkar" there.

After almost a month, after being relieved from Karnataka election duties and other such urgent matters, the home minister deemed it fit to visit the state, he said.

"But there has been no marked improvement. In fact things have turned from bad to worse. Social harmony has broken down completely. Horrific details of violent crimes emerge every other day.

Tens of thousands continue to languish in relief camps. Clashes between the Armed forces and the state police are routine," the Congress leader said on X.

"Yet the prime minister has been completely silent except for a much belated, routine and ritualistic comment for less than 5 mins in a 133 minute speech in the Lok Sabha on August 10th. The chief minister continues to

brazen it out despite majority of BJP MLAs wanting him out of office," Ramesh said.

He said there are some questions to ponder over and asked when was the last time the prime minister visited Manipur. "When was the last time the prime minister spoke to the BJP CM of Manipur? When was the last time the prime minister met BJP MLAs of Manipur? When was the last time the prime minister discussed Manipur with his cabinet colleague from the state?"

"Never before has a prime minister completely abandoned a state and its entire people like now. That Manipur has come to this horrendous situation just about 15 months after the BJP got a huge mandate in the state is a most damning indictment of its policies and the prime minister's priorities," Ramesh



charged.

The Congress has been questioning the prime minister's silence and asked why he has not taken out the time to visit the violence-hit state.

Asked about the decision of cooking gas price reduction, Congress spokesman Ajoy Kumar at AICC press conference said, "When elections get over in states such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana in December, they (BJP government) will again hike the rates by Rs 300 and then before Lok Sabha polls, will reduce Rs 300 again," Kumar said.

"It is Sabah's habit, there are elections and this is a compulsion but it will not save them. Mark my words, the day elections get over and they (the BJP) will be decimated, rates will go up," he said.

HC expresses regret over retired judicial officer's agony caused by litigant conduct

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has expressed regret over the agony suffered by a retired judicial officer who was appointed as a local commissioner to record evidence in a divorce case due to the conduct of a litigant who made a "mockery" of the court system with her remarks against the officer.

The high court said the conduct of the litigant woman clearly smacks of mala fide and total disrespect for the officers appointed by it and to the court process. It imposed Rs 25,000 as costs on her to be deposited with the Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee within four weeks.

Justice Navin Chawla refused to grant any indulgence to the woman to lead evidence



in the divorce case. He said the evidence of the parties stand concluded and there is no need for appointing a substitute local commissioner.

The high court took into consideration a letter written to the registrar general by retired principal and sessions judge (retired) R Kiran Nath, who was appointed as the LC to record evidence under the Hindu Marriage Act, seeking to recuse herself from further proceedings.

The ex-judicial officer said the WhatsApp messages sent

by the woman, and unfortunately even by her counsel, were all "disrespectful, insinuating, mocking and alleging bias".

After going through the messages, the high court said, clearly, the woman litigant was making a mockery of the court system by first seeking a substitution of the LC appointed by the family court which was agreed to as a matter of indulgence by this court.

The high court said now the woman was making allegations against the substitute LC as well, and added she appeared to be "habitually making instigating remarks, not only against the LC but also against the counsel appearing for the respondent herein (woman's estranged husband). This practice needs to be dealt with firmly".

Indraprastha University silver jubilee offer for dropouts



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its silver jubilee celebrations, the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has decided to offer a "one-time chance" to the students who couldn't complete their degrees over the past 25 years, its vice-chancellor said on Wednesday.

The university held a press conference here earlier in the day during which Vice Chancellor

Mahesh Verma shared details about a host of programmes that will be held from October 5-10 as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations.

He also shared that the GGSIPU will "honour 25 research scholars" working in the field of healthcare. The silver jubilee celebrations kicked off last December and are set to continue until December this year, he said.

Sanjay arrest illegal, Modi nervous: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Wednesday strongly reacted to the arrest of its Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh in connection with an excise policy scam case saying the action shows the BJP's frustration as it is going to lose to the INDIA bloc.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday called the arrest of senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh "completely illegal" and claimed that more Opposition leaders will be arrested in the run-up to the 2024 parliamentary elections.

"The arrest of Sanjay is completely illegal. This shows (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi's nervousness. They will arrest many more opposition leaders until the elections," the AAP national convener said in a post on X. Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister claimed "more than 1,000 raids" had failed to find "a single paise" of illegally acquired money.

Delhi Minister and senior leader Atishi said Singh was



arrested by the ED as he raised voice for the people and it is beginning of the end for the BJP.

"Who knows how much more the BJP will stoop due to its fear. Before the elections, their frustration of losing to INDIA is clearly visible. After Manish ji and Satyendra ji, the government also arrested Sanjay Bhaiya, who raised the voice of the people strongly," he posted on X.

"Why don't they open an ED office in our party office itself? It seems that they only survive by making false alle-

gations against AAP," the Cabinet Minister said in a post. Earlier Kejriwal termed the ED raids at Singh's residence the "last desperate attempt" of a party that is starting at defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Kejriwal also hit out at the ruling BJP (he did not name them) and accused Modi's party of "desperate attempts" to derail rivals ahead of next year's general election.

"For the last year we have been seeing... there is noise about alleged liquor scam. More than 1000 raids have been con-

ducted and not a single paise was recovered. They just keep alleging 'scam'," Kejriwal said, "I did a lot of investigation and found nothing. "This has been going on for a year... nothing has been found till now (and) nothing is going to be found from Sanjay Singh's place too. Elections are coming and they feel (they) are losing... so it appears the last desperate attempt of the losing side," he told reporters during his visit at Okhla landfill site.

Delhi Cabinet Minister Gopal Rai echoed similar views and claimed the panic of the impending defeat in the Lok Sabha polls was the reason behind the raids.

"The way journalists were targeted on October 3 also indicates an attempt to silence any voice against those in power, which I believe is against democracy. The BJP should have trust in the people. Misusing agencies to silence voices won't win elections, and history states this," he said. Rai's Cabinet colleague Atishi asserted that the BJP is afraid of the AAP.

Later in the day, addressing a press conference, Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said this is an imaginary scam that has been under scrutiny for the past 15 months. He said Singh is one of the formidable voices in the opposition and he has been questioning the Centre over a range of issues. AAP chief national spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar called the raids "vendetta" politics.

Time not far when Kejriwal will be in Tihar Jail: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Welcoming the arrest of AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh in connection with the excise policy scam, the Delhi BJP on Wednesday sought to corner the AAP saying the heat of the probe will reach party leader Arvind Kejriwal.

The heat of liquor 'scam' probe that has led to arrest of former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and Singh will ultimately reach Delhi Chief Minister, they said.

In a statement, the Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said today is Sanjay and tomorrow will be Kejriwal, the main kingpin in the excise scam while Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said Singh's arrest shows truth prevails ultimately and the law will finally catch up with Kejriwal too.

Bidhuri said the law is doing its job, and now the investigation is reaching the mastermind of the scandal. "Those who claimed to be staunchly honest are now being exposed before the public. Those who, together, committed a liquor scam, are now revealing the truth and naming the names. Soon, it will be known whose instructions led to the entire script of the liquor scandal being written and executed," he added.

Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari reacting over Singh's arrest said that a "sinner" however clever is punished one day. "The curse of women, whose children became alcoholic with the opening of liquor shops in front of their homes, has done its work. Singh has also been arrested. The heat of the probe will soon reach Kejriwal," Tiwari said.

Delhi BJP Vice president Kapil Mishra alleged thousands of families were destroyed by the Kejriwal Government's excise policy, which allowed liquor stores to be set up across the city with schemes to promote sales. "Manish Sisodia, Vijay



Nayar are already in jail and now Singh is also going to Tihar. The question is whether Kejriwal was unaware of their wrong doings," Mishra said and demanded Kejriwal resign from the post of Chief Minister.

Delhi BJP president said, "Today, one thing is clear that the truth cannot be hidden... After Sanjay Singh, it's Arvind Kejriwal."

Earlier, describing AAP as 'Aur Adhik Paap (more sins)', BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla said Delhi's ruling party was playing the victimhood card. AAP means 'Aur Adhik Paap'. In the liquor scam case, the evil that Kejriwal and AAP committed is surfacing day by day... Rather than giving report cards on the liquor scam case, they are playing the victimhood card," he said.

After the ED began raids at Singh's residence, there has been a "BJP vs AAP" clash, with leaders from both parties accusing each other of corruption allegations. Hours after the raids started, AAP's official Twitter handle posted an image of the MP with a banner in the background that read, "Fakkad house mein ED ka swagath hai" (Welcome to Fakkad house, ED!).

Earlier in the day, the BJP leaders and workers also staged a protest near the AAP office on Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg on Wednesday, demanding Kejriwal's resignation over developments related to the alleged excise policy scam. The protest was led by

Bidhuri in the presence of MPs Manoj Tiwari, Pravesh Sahib Singh and Ramesh Bidhuri. The protesters were marching towards the AAP office on DDU Marg from ITO when they were stopped by police who put up barricades.

The Leader of Opposition said the time is not far when Kejriwal's will not be in the Assembly, Secretariat or Raj Mahal but lodged in Tihar Jail. Sachdeva alleged that the raid at Singh's residence has exposed the corruption of the AAP Government in the national capital.

"All those involved in the liquor scam will soon be behind bars," Sachdeva said.

Tiwari said that former Minister Satyendra Jain is in judicial custody for the last 15 months and the same is the situation with former Liquor Minister Manish Sisodia who is in jail for more than 6 months, both of them have not been granted regular bail.

It means clearly that the court also feels that both of them are corrupt and also the ED has all the evidence for this. The BJP has also erected hoardings in Delhi's ITO area and at the AAP's office calling for Kejriwal and the party's supremo to "resign".

Videos that prominently displayed the message available on the social media: "The mastermind of the liquor scam, Kejriwal's friend, became a government witness. Kejriwal resign."

MP's arrest likely to blight AAP poll prospects

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The arrest of senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, the third leader to be nabbed from the party's top echelons and second in the excise policy scam case is likely to dent the image and prospects of AAP in the upcoming Assembly elections in five States later this year and the Parliamentary polls next year.

The party which has claimed to be a crusader against corruption and championing people's cause, getting embroiled in a series of graft cases, could be ominous for AAP. The AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal has announced its ambitions to contest in poll bound states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh where they have offered free electricity towards several poll sops.

Singh, was also instrumental in 'exiting' in the Patna meet of the first Opposition parties meeting where he was successful over the AAP's demand of the Congress support to the controversial Delhi Administrative Bill. Singh was handed the charge to negotiate with several parties and remains the Man Friday of Kejriwal.

He ran into rough weather with the Rajya Sabha Chairman on many occasions due to being vocal and high pitched on the floor which also led to his suspension from the Rajya Sabha.

Singh was arrested on Wednesday by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with alleged corruption in 2021-22 Delhi excise policy. He is the second high-profile leader nabbed in this case after Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.



After Sisodia and Satyendra Jain, he is the second AAP leader arrested in the excise scam and third from the AAP. Sisodia was arrested earlier this year while Jain was arrested last year.

Singh was the member of the Political Affairs Committee and National Executive and National Spokesperson. He was also the in-charge of party affairs in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Singh was among those who were involved in founding the Aam Aadmi Party in 2012. He was a Committee Member of Team Anna and spoke on behalf of it during the India Against Corruption movement.

The developments led to a political slugfest between AAP and BJP with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal terming it as a desperate measure for the BJP as it stares a defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The BJP hit back at Kejriwal accusing him of being the "kingpin" of the alleged liquor policy scam and saying that "handcuffs" are not far away. Hundreds of AAP workers at the Singh's residence as he was arrested by the ED.

In April, Kejriwal was also questioned for nearly nine hours by the CBI in the liquor policy case. He was questioned as a witness in the case which investigators said involved corruption in framing the policy to benefit a liquor lobby. He hasn't been summoned for further questioning since then.

Earlier, the Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the ED to explain why the political party (Aam Aadmi Party), which was allegedly the beneficiary of the Delhi excise policy 'scam', has not been made an accused in the money laundering case. The ED has claimed the AAP used ₹100 crore received as kickback from various stakeholders for its campaign in the 2022 Goa assembly elections.

The CBI on February 26 arrested Sisodia, then the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, for alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. He has been in custody since then. Soon after, on February 28, he resigned from the Delhi Cabinet on February 28. Sisodia held the excise portfolio among the many that he handled as the Deputy Chief Minister.

Jain was the first Minister in the Kejriwal government arrested in May last year in a money laundering case. The ED had arrested the AAP leader on the charge of laundering money through four companies allegedly linked to him.

The case is based on a CBI complaint registered on the allegation that Jain had acquired movable properties in the name of various persons from February 14, 2015, to May 31, 2017, which he could not satisfactorily account for. Jain is currently out on bail on medical grounds.

Planning to open sealed Roshanara Club outdoor area, DDA informs court



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority on Wednesday told the Delhi High Court that it was contemplating to open from next week the outdoor area of Roshanara Club, the cradle of Indian cricket, which was recently sealed by it. The DDA said the century-old club would remain the same and the only ownership would be with the land-owning agency.

The submission was made by the DDA before Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani during the hearing on a contempt petition filed by Roshanara Club Ltd against the agency. The DDA had sealed the club premises on September 29 and took possession of the historic club.

The move came nearly six months after an eviction notice was served on the club by the agency as its lease had expired earlier.

Senior advocates Sandeep Sethi and Mohit Mathur, representing the Roshanara Club, submitted that in April, a single judge of the high court had "directed that no coercive steps be taken against the petitioner club solely on the ground that the lease of the petitioner club has already expired."

A related issue of the club is also pending before a division bench of the high court.

The council said the eviction has been enforced while the question of lease renewal is still pending.

"What is the purpose of the court's order of no coercive steps? This is the extreme coercive step which they have taken by sealing the club," Sethi argued. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Chetan Sharma, representing the DDA, submitted that members of the club will continue to remain members and that DDA was within its right to exercise its ownership of the property.

"The DDA is now taking an egalitarian view. Not only the 4,000 members but for all the Roshanara Club will be opening its portal to. It is going to be for everybody including the members. No facility is going to be restricted. It is not that the club will shut down," he said. To this, the judge said, "it will not remain a club. Club is always a closed affair."

The ASG responded that it will remain a club and now the DDA has come back as a paramount owner. Technically, the lease comes back to the DDA and it will run the club and they will be opening the portal for everybody, he said. He argued that contempt is not made out in this case and this contempt plea has been filed to arm-twist the DDA.

Delhi remains most polluted city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Although its air quality improved marginally, Delhi remained the most polluted city in the year ending September 30, with a PM2.5 concentration of 100.1 micrograms per cubic metre, which is three times the Government's safe limit, according to a new analysis conducted by independent think tank Climate Trends and tech firm Respires Living Sciences, that manufactures real-time IoT-based air quality monitoring devices.

Four more cities from the National Capital Region — Faridabad (89 micrograms per cubic metre), Noida (79.1 micrograms per cubic metre), Ghaziabad (78.3 micrograms per cubic metre) and Meerut (76.9 micrograms per cubic metre) — also feature among the top 10 most polluted cities. The analysis showed that Aizawl and Mizoram have



India's cleanest air with a PM2.5 level of only 11.1 micrograms per cubic metre.

The report is based on the analysis of the government's PM2.5 data from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023, and focuses on the cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme, which aims to achieve a 40 percent reduction in particulate matter concentration by 2026.

The analysis showed that Patna, the second most polluted city with an average PM2.5 concentration of 99.7 micrograms per cubic metre, saw a 24 percent deterioration in air quality compared to the previous year.

The top seven polluted cities — Delhi, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad, and Meerut — are all part of the Indo-Gangetic

Plains, the report highlighted. However, the analysts noted that PM2.5 concentration in Delhi, Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad and Meerut reduced by 4 percent, 12 percent, 12 percent, 25 percent and 11 percent, respectively, during the study period.

"The analysis reflects that there has been improvement in the Indo-Gangetic Plain cities over the last few years.

However, considering the enormous pollution load, these cities continue to experience the highest PM levels in the country," Aarti Khosla, the director of Climate Trends, said.

"While measures like the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana or hyperlocal developments like the peripheral highways around Delhi are positive actions, there is a need for a scientific approach to address air quality issues in a sustained manner through an airshed approach," she said.

Kejriwal visits Okhla landfill site

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday visited the Okhla landfill site and said the work to process and remove waste from the massive dump was running behind the projected target. Interacting with reporters, the Chief Minister also said the Delhi Government is planning to hire the MCD "as an agency" to carry out mechanical sweeping and cleaning of roads falling under the jurisdiction of the PWD and the civic body.

So far, 18 lakh tons of waste were supposed to be removed from here, but only 12 lakh tons have been cleared.

The Chief Minister's visit to the Okhla landfill site comes days after an inspection of work being done at the Bhalswa landfill site.



There were 45 lakh tonnes of waste in this mountain of garbage at Okhla. Work began last November to process and remove it gradually, and the target was to remove 30 lakh tonnes by May 2024, Kejriwal told reporters.

The Chief Minister stated that the process of hiring a second agency is almost complete. "There are multiple reasons for this. But the process of hiring

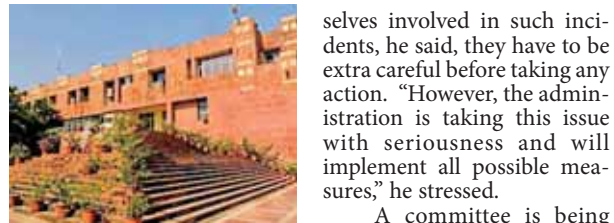
another agency has started to speed up the work, as one agency is not able to meet the target. However, the delay is due to the non-formation of the Standing Committee in the MCD. The matter of forming the Standing Committee is in the Supreme Court. Once the court's order is received, the committee will be constituted, and the second agency will be hired," he said.

JNU to install CCTV cameras to curb anti-national slogans incidents

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration will be carrying out a campus survey to identify spots where CCTV cameras can be installed to keep a check on "frequent" incidents of "anti-national" slogans being scribbled on walls.

The survey will be conducted on the basis of a report received from the Chief Security Officer on the recent incident of slogans such as "Free Kashmir" and "Bhagwa Jalega" scribbled on the walls of the School of Languages. The incident came to light on Sunday following a complaint by RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.



"We have received the report by the Chief Security Officer on Sunday's incident. Based on it, we will survey possible spots in the campus to install CCTV cameras. Other possible measures will also be implemented after considering their feasibility given that we have a huge campus," JNU Rector Prof Satish Chandra Garkoti said.

Alleging that students often cook up stories and are them-

selves involved in such incidents, he said, they have to be extra careful before taking any action. "However, the administration is taking this issue with seriousness and will implement all possible measures," he stressed.

A committee is being formed by the administration which will consist of administrative as well as technical staff who will decide on action to be taken to curb such incidents on the campus.

In December last year also, the university had asked all schools and centres on campus to install CCTV cameras.

The JNUSU has been opposing the installation of CCTVs saying it is an invasion of privacy.

Getting threats from people close to CM, alleges Sukash; LG forwards pliant to MHA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of a complaint by Sukash Chandrashekhar alleging that he was getting threatening calls from people claiming to be speaking on behalf of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Lt Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena on Wednesday forwarded it to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for necessary action.

Sukash had written to Saxena in July through his advocate, the Delhi Chief Minister, alleging that his lawyer Anant Malik was getting threatening calls from people claiming to be speaking on behalf of Kejriwal ad former Home Minister of Delhi Satyendar Jain.

Sukesh has been lodged in Mandoli jail in the ₹200 crore

money laundering case.

The caller (identified as Dinesh Mukhiya) is alleged to have threatened

Sukash with poisoning in his food at Mandoli jail if he did not retract his statements against Kejriwal and Jain. The Mandoli jail is under the Delhi government.

In his letter, Sukash also requested that he be transferred from Mandoli Jail and out of Delhi to any jail.

The letter dated 08.07.2023, from Sukash's lawyer Anant Malik, Anantam Legal, Advocates and Solicitors, along with hand written complaint from Sukash, was forwarded by the LG Secretariat to the Home Department, GNCTD for further necessary action.

Praying for armymen missing in Sikkim flash flood: Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday prayed for the well-being of the army personnel who went missing in Sikkim after a cloudburst triggered flash floods in the Teesta river.

The Defence Minister described the glacial lake burst at Lonak in Sikkim as "deeply heart-wrenching" and said relief and rescue operations in the area are in progress amid extremely bad weather.

Twenty-three army personnel went missing on Wednesday following the cloudburst-triggered flash flood in the Teesta river basin, officials said.



"The Glacial Lake Burst at Lonak, Sikkim is deeply heart-wrenching. Relief and rescue operations in the midst of extremely bad weather are in progress. Praying for the well-being of those army personnel, who are missing due to this tragedy," Rajnath said in a post on X.

The Army's eastern command said 23 personnel went missing following the floods.

"Due to a sudden cloud burst over Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim, a flash flood occurred in the Teesta River in Lachen valley. Some army establishments along the valley have been affected and efforts are on to confirm details," it said in a statement.

"Release of water from the Chungthang dam led to a sudden increase in water level up to 15-20 feet high downstream. This has led to Army vehicles parked at Bardang near Singtam getting affected," it said.

"23 personnel have been reported missing and some vehicles are reported submerged under the slush. Search operations are underway," the Army added.

Modi to launch development projects in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will launch development projects worth Rs 12,600 crore in Madhya Pradesh and Rs 5,000 crore in Rajasthan during his visit to the two poll-bound states.

In Jodhpur in Rajasthan, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said, Modi will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects in sectors like road, rail, aviation, health and higher education.

In Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of development projects in sectors such as road, rail, gas pipeline, housing and clean drinking water, it said.

Among the health projects



for which he will lay the foundation stone in Rajasthan include a 350-bedded trauma centre and critical care hospital block at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur, and seven critical care blocks under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) to be developed across the state.

The centre at the AIIMS will be developed at a cost of more than Rs 350 crore, it said. The statement said the facility will bring a holistic

approach in management of trauma and emergency cases by providing multidisciplinary and comprehensive care to patients while critical care blocks across Rajasthan will augment district level critical care infrastructure, it added.

The prime minister will also lay the foundation stone for the development of a state-of-the-art new terminal building at the Jodhpur airport costing Rs 480 crore and dedicate the IIT Jodhpur campus to the nation as well.

The statement said the campus has been built at a cost of more than Rs 1,135 crore. It is a step towards providing high quality holistic education and building infrastructure for supporting cutting-edge research and innovation initiatives, it said.

Among other projects, he will lay the foundation stone of

multiple road development projects to be built at a cumulative cost of about Rs 1,475 crore and also flag off two new train services in the state.

The PMO said Modi will inaugurate a light house project at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Built at a cost of about Rs 128 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban, the project will benefit more than 1,000 beneficiary families as part of his vision of "housing for all", it said.

He will also lay the foundation stone of multiple Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Mandla, Jabalpur and Dindori districts worth over Rs 2,350 crore and inaugurate a drinking water project under the same scheme in Seoni district. These projects in four districts of the state will benefit about 1,575 villages of Madhya Pradesh.

India's security concerns extend beyond territorial integrity: Murmu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Underscoring fast changing geopolitical environment, President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said here India's security concerns extend way beyond preservation of territorial integrity and encompass other dimensions of well-being dealing with economy, environment, energy security and cyber security.

Addressing the faculty and course members of the 63rd National Defence College (NDC) course, who had called on the president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Murmu said the global geopolitical environment is dynamic and poses numerous challenges.

"In the fast-changing geopolitical environment, we need to be well prepared to tackle any adverse situation. Geopolitical dynamics have changed the security landscape. There is a need to have a deeper understanding of national and global issues. We not only have to secure our national interests, but also prepare for new security challenges like cyber warfare, technology-enabled terrorism and climate change," she said.

The president said updated knowledge and cutting-edge technologies based on extensive research are required to be applied.

"You need to explore innovative applications of



artificial intelligence in addressing current and future challenges. In fact, government agencies and the corporate sector need to join

hands to identify and address these challenges," she said.

The way in which global events are unfolding, "we increasingly realise the

importance of being aatmanirbhar (self-reliant)", globally competent and future-ready to deal with any kind of situation and crisis,

Murmu stressed.

"Today, our security concerns extend way beyond preservation of territorial integrity and encompass other dimensions of well-being dealing with economy, environment, energy security and cyber security among others," she said.

The president noted that the role of the armed forces has also expanded beyond traditional military matters.

"It is clear that future conflicts in the complex defence and security environment will require a more integrated multi-state and multi-agency approach," she said.

Murmu said security and defence are essential for progress and development.

"The real progress of a nation depends to a large extent on how effectively it harnesses resources at its disposal, especially its human resource," she said.

Both civil services and defence services officers must understand the fine points of the constitutional framework in the country's democratic system, the president said.

"This awareness is the first step towards fostering synergy among the functionaries of different services. I am sure that our officers will rise to the dynamic needs of our country," she added.

The NDC course, therefore, plays an important role in preparing military and civil services officers to deal with the complex security

environment of the future in a comprehensive manner, Murmu said.

She noted that the NDC course is a one-of-a-kind course encompassing areas of national security and strategy, along with governance, technology, history and economics.

The president expressed confidence that the holistic approach of learning at the NDC -- comprising research, classroom discussions, insights from eminent speakers and on-ground exposure through national and international visits -- has enriched the course members in terms of facing challenges. A total of 37 officers from 27 friendly foreign countries were present at the event.

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/1048/2023
[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]
Exh. No.: 20396
ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS
PRASHANT KUMAR RAI

To:
(D-2) JYOTSANA RAI
WIFE OF SH PRASHANT KUMAR RAI A-2 OF -11 SMG GDM 11, GHAZIABAD GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH
ALSO AT:
FLAT NO 201, 2ND FLOOR, SHIV RAJ RESIDENCY, THIKARIYA BAGRU KHURD AND BHAMBHORIA SANGANERV PLOT NO GH 3, OMAXE CITY VILLAGE SARANGPURA JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN
Also At:
U-40/25-26, 1ST FLOOR, DLF PHASE 3, CYBER CITY GURUGRAM, GURGAON HARYANA

SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/1048/2023 was listed before Hon'ble/ Presiding Officer/Registrar on 02/09/2023. 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. 34,93,885/- (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 granted;

(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 way of sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit 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 05/10/2023 at 10:00 AM 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.

Ranbir summoned by ED in Mahadev betting app case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned actor Ranbir Kapoor for questioning on Friday in connection with the Mahadev betting application money-laundering case in Chhattisgarh.

The agency has accused Kapoor of receiving money from the promoters of the app for promoting their product in the virtual (online) space, officials said.

The ED has asked Kapoor to appear at the agency's Raipur office on October 6, they said.

About 14-15 other



celebrities and actors are under the ED's scanner in the case and they will also be summoned soon for questioning in the matter, sources said.

Court grants bail to Lalu, family in 'land for job' scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday granted bail to RJD chief Lalu Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi and their son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav in the alleged land-for-job scam in the railways. Special Judge Geetanjali Goel granted relief to the accused after they appeared before the court in pursuance of summons issued against them.

The court had on September 22 summoned the accused after taking cognizance of the charge sheet filed against them and other accused, saying the evidence "prima facie" showed commission of various offences, including corruption, criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery. The agency had on July 3 filed a charge sheet in connection with the alleged scam. Prasad is out on bail in



this case as well as fodder scam cases.

It was the second charge sheet filed by the CBI in the case but the first in which Tejashwi Yadav has been named as an accused. The case pertains to Group-D appointments made in West Central Zone of the railways based in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh during Lalu Prasad's tenure as the railway minister from 2004 to 2009 in return for land parcels gifted or transferred by the recruits in the name of the

Panel formed to assess readiness for National Exit Test for MBBS students

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has set up a seven-member panel to assess preparedness of States and medical colleges for the implementation of the National Exit Test (NExT) for final year MBBS students of the 2020 batch. The committee has been asked to submit its recommendations within two weeks from its constitution.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) on July 13 had deferred the NExT for the final year MBBS students of 2019 batch.

"It has been decided to constitute a committee with approval of the Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to examine the implementation and preparedness for NExT," the Health Ministry said in an order issued on Tuesday.

The committee will examine the relevant regulations to understand changes proposed under NExT from the existing system. "The committee will examine the application of NExT as a final year examination, PG entrance and licentiate exam and if there is a need to limit its application. It will examine the preparedness of the states, universities and medical colleges for implementation of the proposed system for the batch 2020 and suggest measures for preparations and provide a roadmap for operationalisation of NExT for batch 2020 or later," an official said quoting the order.

The NMC in its National Exit Test (NExT) regulations 2023 issued in June had stated that the exam will be held in two phases with the NExT Step 1 and NExT Step 2 exams being held twice in a one-year period.

PUBLIC NOTICE
We M/s. ATLAS PLACEMENT, Reg No.-0040/MUM/PER/1000+/5/6400/2003 under Emigration Act 1983, for export of manpower have closed the business with immediate effect from 30/09/2023 of Delhi Branch and Mumbai head office. In the event there is any complaint against us, the same may be referred within 30 days of the publication of the notice, copies of the complaint may be sent to the Protector General Of Emigrants, Ministry Of External Affairs, Govt Of India, Akbar Bhavan, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021.

Sd/
Proprietor
M/s. Atlas Placement
73-C, Prem Complex, First Floor, Tajmooor Nagar, Gurudwara road, New Friends colony, New Delhi - 110025.
Place: Mumbai Date: 05.10.2023

LOST & FOUND

This Public at large is hereby notify that my client M/s Sharmis Estates Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at H. No.8 -3-1055, Plot No.139, Sri Nagar Colony, Hyderabad - 500073 is the absolute and lawful owner of Apartment No. T-08-06-01 situated at The Common Wealth Games Village, Located off NH-24, Adjacent to Akshardham Temple at Noida Crossing, Delhi-110092. That the Original Apartment Buyer's Agreement dated: 01/12/2009 along with Possession Letter, Allotment Letter and Payment Receipt has been all lost/misplaced by me and it is not traceable by my best efforts and for the same I have filed NCR vide L.R. No. 957043/2023. Dated: 01/10/2023. If anyone found or have any objection/Claim for any type such as any Loan, Mortgage, Surety, Security etc. Over the said property regarding the above said original documents, then contact to the undersigned within 15 days to the Notice. There after no body have any right on the said property
SAHIL ARORA (ADVOCATE)
Office No.107, First Floor
M.S. Chambers, Aruna Park
Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to All The General Body Members of the Society "Society for Development of Human Resources" to attend an Annual General Meeting and conduct Election of Governing Body for the Period 2023-26 the same will be held on Wednesday, 18th day of October, 2023 at 11.00 AM at Plot No. 37/16, Khasra No. 76, Rahnoula Opp. Dera Baba.Bagga Singh, New Delhi-41.

Balwan Singh Gulia
(General Secretary)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Rashtriya Jan Karmath Party. The office of the party is located at 2nd, F-110, Nehru Nagar, Near Ganesh Hospital, Ghaziabad-201001. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as a Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:
President/Chairman: Ansul Gupta
2nd, F-110, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001
General Secretary/Secretary: Rajesh Kumar Saini
216, Ram Nagar, Turab Nagar, Ghaziabad, 201001
Treasurer: Priya Gupta
2nd, F-110, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001
If anyone has any objection to the registration of Rashtriya Jan Karmath Party, they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Body Drench India Pvt Ltd/ Pankaj Arora/ 000205003505/ 031405006673/ 000255000044	1103 and 1104, 11th Floor Sas Tower Tower B Sector 38 Gurgaon/ September 29, 2023	February 23, 2023 Rs. 2,64,71,117.00/-	Gurgaon

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

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pradeep Kumar Jaiswal, R/o #1568, C1, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070, have changed my daughter name (minor) from 'Aradhita P. Jaiswal' to 'Aradhita Jaiswal' for all practical purposes, afdvt dtd. 04/09/2023, notry by Ombir Sangwan.
PD(170)A

Rajnath releases 5th indigenous procurement list of 98 items

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Sustaining the drive to Achieve self reliance and 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and innovation, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday released the fifth positive indigenisation list of 98 items including highly complex systems, sensors, weapons and ammunition. All these items will be procured from indigenous sources by the armed forces. The government had earlier promulgated four Positive Indigenisation Lists comprising 411 military items.

Rajnath also launched 76 challenges for the industry under 10th Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC 10) and DISC 10 PRIME of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and five problem statements under iDEX for Fauji during the plenary session of 'Swavlamban

2.0' here.

In addition, two INDUS X challenges under 'INDUS-X Mutual Promotion of Advanced Collaborative Technologies' (IMPACT) challenges jointly finalised by iDEX and United States Department of Defense (US DoD) were launched by the defence minister.

He also released the Indian Navy's updated Indigenisation Roadmap 'Swavlamban 2.0'.

The Fifth Positive Indigenisation List was prepared by Department of Military Affairs (DMA) after several rounds of consultations with all stakeholders.

It lays special focus on import substitution of components of major systems besides important platforms, weapon system and sensors and munitions which are being developed and likely to translate into firm orders in the next five to ten years.

SC: ED must provide in writing grounds for arrest under PMLA



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Changing its earlier judgments, the Supreme Court ruled that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) must supply in writing the grounds of arrest of persons accused under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). A bench of Justice AS Bopanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar in an order on Tuesday said that the accused has a constitutional and statutory right to be informed of the grounds of arrest. It also held that mere reading of the grounds of arrest would not be an adequate compliance with the mandate under Article 22(1) of the Constitution and Section 19(1) of the PMLA.

8 killed, one injured as car rams into parked truck

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Eight people, three women and five men, were killed and one minor sustained serious injuries in a major road mishap that occurred early morning on Wednesday near Karkhiyaon village on Varanasi-Lucknow highway, about 30 kms away from the city, in Phulpur police station when a speeding SUV car rams into a truck parked along the road. The seriously injured was admitted at a trauma centre in BHU where his condition was said to be stable. The DM S Rajalingam talked to the DM of Pilibhit urging him to contact the family members of the deceased and inform them about the accident.

According to the information, one Mahendra Pal (50), resident of Muzaffarpur in Purnapur police station of Pilibhit district and Vipin (39), resident of Rudrapur in Pilibhit district, along with their family members had come to Varanasi to immerse ashes of his mother Midhana Devi and father Satyapal respectively in Ganga.

After immersing the ashes in Ganga they had darshan and puja in a temple. After having darshan and puja, they were returning to their homes in Pilibhit by a SUV car when the accident took place.

It was said that when they were on the way near Karkhiyaon village on Varanasi-Lucknow highway the car they were traveling in, rams into a truck parked



The DM S Rajalingam asking about the welfare of injured minor in road mishap from the doctors of Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay District Hospital.

along the road early Wednesday morning around 4.30 am. The car was said to be going at speed.

After hearing their crying, the local villagers rushed to the spot and reported to the local police and ambulance as well about the accident. On get-

ting information, the police reached the spot and pulled out the people trapped in the car with the help of villagers. Eight died on the spot, while a minor, aged around 9 years and identified as Shanti Swaroop sustained serious head injuries. He was rushed to the Pt Deen

Dayal Upadhyay District Hospital.

After being aware of the major road mishap, the senior police officers reached the accident site and took stock of the information about the road mishap. The bodies were sent for the postmortem examination.

The District Magistrate S Rajalingam reached the district hospital and seeing the condition of the minor as critical, directed the hospital authority to take him to the trauma centre in BHU with a doctor and a counsellor. The condition of the seriously injured minor was said to be stable.

He also held a talk with the DM of Pilibhit and urged him to contact the family members of the deceased and inform them about the great tragedy, Rajalingam informed, adding that the necessary processes were being followed by the police in this direction.

The deceased were of two families, one of Mahendra Pal and other of Vipin. Besides Mahendra Pal and Vipin, four others, killed in the mishap, were identified on the basis of their Aadhaar Cards and mobile phones, as Chandrakali (42), wife of Mahendra Pal, Damodar Pal (43), Nirmala (38), wife of Damodar Pal and Aman Kumar (car driver).

Two deceased could not be identified till filling of this report. The police were waiting for the family members of the deceased for the further process.

Ajay Kumar Saroj bags silver in Asian Games

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In the ongoing 19th Asian Games in China Ajay Kumar Saroj (26) made everyone proud by bagging a silver medal in the 1,500m race.

Hailing from a small village Kajiani (in Soraon block), Ajay had actively taken up sports since his teenage years.

He used to practise in the ground of Meva Lal Inter college of his village under the supervision of his father Dharamraj. His four siblings too are into athletics.

His father, a plumber by profession, never let his meagre income come between the dreams of his children. And for that, he didn't even shy away from borrowing money to buy shoes and kits for his kids. "I was a good runner during my school days but after early marriage and later kids, the talent somewhat lost its shine but then when my kids started showing interest, I guided them and steadily all the four of them showed vast potential. Since I

had limited income and yet I wanted my kids to be star runners one day, I took the job as a plumber and we somehow managed our kitchen and even borrowed money to buy shoes and kits for them," Dharamraj told the media.

First it was the eldest of the five, Ajit, who followed his father's wish and soon the daughters — Shashi and Shastri joined too. Ajit has won gold medals in national level competition in 800m and 1500m race.

Shashi and Shastri too have won medals in national level competitions in 10,000m and 5,000m races. Shastri has also won Indira Marathon.

However, in due course of time, Ajit got a job in Railways under sports quota. He is presently posted at Jamshepur. As the condition of the family started improving, Ajit started helping and encouraging Ajay.

Ajay's mother Rani Devi said: "Many a times Ajay used to borrow shoes from his friends to participate in com-

petitions. Despite all the hardship, he always believed that he would change the destiny of the family and bring laurels for the country."

Presently Ajay is working in Railways. He has won gold medals in the 1500m event at the 2016 South Asian Games and 2017 Asian Athletics Championships. He has also won Gold in 1500m event at the South Asian Games 2019.

SEMINAR CONCLUDES: The department of English and Modern European Languages of the Allahabad University successfully hosted a three-day national seminar sponsored by ICSSR on the topic 'Epistemic (In)Justice and the Shaping of Indian Society' which concluded here.

The first plenary session of the concluding day of the seminar began with a lecture by Ashok Jahnavi Prasad who spoke on science and democracy and Prof Sumit Chakraborty from Presidency University delivered a thought-provoking lecture about how

intellectuals such as Bankim proposed three narratives; namely Dharma, Science and History.

Later, Tajuddin Ahmed spoke on writings of Muslim women and their revolution. Vinod Kumar Singh from DU, spoke about Adivasi narratives.

The second plenary session, held online, was presided over by Prof Manoj Kumar. The speakers in this session were Prof Amulya Purohit from Ravenshaw University who spoke about epistemic injustice in the classroom, Prof Sushant Kumar Mishra from Nalanda University who spoke on theological uniformity with reference to European history.

On the first day the participants had the privilege to listen Prof Anamika, winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award, who talked extensively about feminism, hyper-feminism and the condition of women, followed by Prof Christel Devadawson's lecture on epistemic injustice.

Property worth ₹ 8.25 cr of Vijay Mishra's kin attached

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Property of Satish Mishra, nephew of mafia don-turned politician Vijay Mishra, worth ₹ 8.25 crore was attached on Tuesday by the Bhadohi police in Allahpur area. Satish owned a big two-storey building in Allahpur in the name of his mother-in-law and wife. The Bhadohi police acted on an order of Bhadohi District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi who had asked to attach the above property of Satish Mishra in Allahpur, Prayagraj.

Vijay Mishra's huge property worth crores of rupees have already been pulled down in Allahpur and still buildings worth crores are owned by him in that very area. Vijay Mishra, a gangster who has 83 cases of serious nature against him, is at present in Agra jail, and the police are collecting details about properties owned

either by him or his gang men to attach or demolish them.

DUES CLEARED: An octogenarian here contacted the Excise department and cleared the dues of licence fee of liquor shop pending against his name for about five decades. He settled the entire dues of ₹1.48 lakh in one go.

The individual does not want to reveal his identity and maintains what he did was his personal choice. However, the excise department is upholding this case as an example for other defaulters to follow. There are 73 defaulters from the district who have not paid their licence fee for long.

This unique case comes at a time when realising dues from defaulters has been a major challenge for the excise department and various schemes too are introduced from time to time to settle the

dues. Of the 74 cases, many are over three decades old.

The department includes the licensees on the list of defaulters who do not deposit the full fee after obtaining the licence of liquor shop. The interest on their outstanding amount increases year after year.

Although the department had lost all hopes of getting back the amount from this person, a few days ago the defaulter approached the officers and after showing the documents, deposited an amount of ₹ 1.48 lakh and took no dues certificate.

Excise inspector Avnish Pandey said "He had taken the licence of a liquor shop from the department in 1972-73 but did not deposit the fee of ₹ 74,000 which increased over the years. The licence fee remained outstanding and later the liquor shop was closed.

Even after the shop was closed, the licensees did not come forward and the principal amount and interest kept increasing. By March this year, this amount had increased to ₹ 6.74 lakh."

Meanwhile, the department came out with a one-time settlement scheme. According to Pandey, "One fine day this individual contacted the office and sought information about his dues. After this, his liability was settled at ₹ 1.48 lakh," he added.

District excise officer Jitendra Kumar Singh said: "Although we don't know what exactly went into the mind of this particular while clearing his dues at the winter of his life. Surely, he is an inspiration for other defaulters. Others should also come forward and clear the outstanding dues for which this scheme has been launched."

Take PMO complaints seriously: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam has instructed the officers that the complaints received from the PMO should be taken seriously on priority basis and their prompt and quality disposal should be ensured. He was holding a meeting with the officers of concerned departments at the Rifle Club here on Wednesday.

"Any kind of laxity or carelessness in this direction will not be tolerated," he said, adding that the responsible officers of the concerned departments should ensure quality disposal by personally inspecting the complaints received on the spot with positive thinking. He also gave instructions to the concerned officers to immediately repair

the wires and other cables hanging on the electric poles.

Expressing his displeasure over not getting the network of wires hanging in Bhairav Bazar street repaired despite earlier instructions, he gave a final warning to the concerned officers to get it repaired immediately. Regarding the issue of water logging near VDA Colony on Bhojubeer-Sindhora Marg, the officials of VDA, Municipal Corporation, Jal Nigam and PWD were directed to resolve the problem quickly by mutual coordination.

He also directed the officers to immediately resolve the problem of drain and water logging in Gangapur area and sought clarifications from the officers of PWD Provincial Section, Jalkal and Municipal

Corporation for not attending the meeting. Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, ADM (City) and officers of PWD, Electricity and other departments were also present in the meeting.

SWAMISHRI ARRIVING TODAY: After completing his 'chaturmas' stay at Paramhansi Ganga Ashram in Madhya Pradesh, the Shankaracharya of Jyotishpeeth Swami Avimukteshwarananda Saraswati, popularly known as Swamishri, is arriving in this holy city on Thursday evening. All the preparations to welcome Swamishri have been completed, informed his media in-charge Sanjay Pandey.

According to him, during his stay in the city where Swamishri was born and

brought up till his appointment as the Shankaracharya, religious rituals will be held for the people who died during the corona pandemic period. He said that a programme of Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana Katha will be organised and Vedic Brahmins will perform 'tarpan' and other religious rituals. He said that the Mukti Katha will be telecast live between October 7 and 13 on 56 channels through OTT.

Pandey said that some time ago, Swamishri had announced that religious rituals will be organised in Kashi during Pitru Paksha for the peace of the souls and salvation of those who died in the country and abroad during the corona pandemic period and those whose last rites could not be performed as per the rituals.

1,600 degrees to be awarded in IIT (BHU) convocation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The 12th convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) will be organised on Friday at Swatantrata Bhawan from 9 am. Giving this information in a press conference held here on Wednesday, the Director of the institute Prof Pramod Kumar Jain said that in this convocation, 1,660 meritorious students will be awarded degrees. In this, 954 B.Tech, 247 IDD, 223 M.Tech/MPHarma and 44 M.Sc students will be awarded degrees. More than 192 researchers will be awarded doctorate degrees. A total of 66 students will be awarded 108 medals (106 gold and two silver) and awards.

The chief guest of the ceremony will be Dr Sameer V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman, Defence Research



Director Prof PK Jain addressing a press conference at IIT (BHU) in Varanasi on Wednesday.

and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The ceremony will be presided over by Padma Shri Dr Kota Harinarayan, Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Prof Jain said that this year two students will be given the

President's Gold Medal and the Director's Gold Medal for their excellent achievements in all fields. President's Gold Medal will be awarded to Divyansh Chandra Roy, B.Tech, Electronics Engineering, for overall outstanding performance in academics at the B.Tech level in the institute and Raghav Soni, B.Tech, Electronics Engineering, will be awarded the Director's Gold Medal for outstanding performance in all areas and displaying organisational and leadership abilities.

The Director further said that alumni are an important part of any institution. The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest award given by IIT (BHU) to its alumni in recognition of their achievements. A total of nine alumni will be honoured with the Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Student Award 2023-24 in the convoca-

tion this year. These include Ghanshyam Prasad (Electrical-88) in the Professional field, Prof Alok Gupta (Mining-88) in the Academic field, Sudhir Singh (Civil-93) in the Industry/ Entrepreneurship field, Manu K Vora (Chemical-68) for Public Life, Vikas Agrawal (Chemical-95) and Soumya Sarkar (Mechanical-79) for distinguished service to the institute and Prateek Maheshwari (Mechanical-11), Dr Akshay Kumar Rathore (Electrical-03) and Abhilash Sridharan (Metallurgy-08) will be honoured with the Young Alumnus Achiever Award.

Prof Jain said that after the convocation, the DRDO Industry Academy-Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) will be inaugurated by Dr Sameer V Kamat at 6 pm. The rehearsal before the convocation ceremony will be held on Thursday at 4 pm at Swatantrata Bhawan, BHU.

Woman hangs self due to domestic discord

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): Due to domestic discord, a married woman hanged herself in Helipar locality under Shivkuti police station here on Tuesday night.

The police reached the spot on Wednesday morning and sent the body for post-mortem. Police are interrogating the family members. During initial interrogation, the police came to know that a family feud took place between Shivani and her husband Anand over eating cucumber while having dinner at night.

SO Shivkuti Umakant said that Shivani (28) was living with her family in Helipar locality. After having dinner with everyone on Tuesday, she went to sleep in her room. When she did not come out for a long time on Wednesday morning, her family members went to wake her up. As the latch of the room was not

During initial interrogation, the police came to know that a family feud took place between Shivani and her husband Anand over eating cucumber while having dinner at night.

locked from inside they went into the room and found Shivani's body hanging.

On getting information, police force was sent to the spot. When the police arrived, both the children and family

members were present in the house. Anand had gone out somewhere. After interrogating the family, the body has been sent for the post-mortem. No complaint has been filed yet from any side.

AIR SHOW: When devotees and locals visited the Sangam area on Tuesday evening they were surprised and thrilled to witness high-speed sorties of several fighter jets that zoomed past over the twin rivers with deafening sound. It was part of practice drill of Indian Air Force fighter jets ahead of the October 8 air show to commemorate the 91st anniversary of IAF. A stunning display of fighter jets like Tejas and SU30, C-130, Apache attack helicopters along Sarang choppers, Chetak and Harvard trainer aircraft left the onlookers completely spellbound. "These fighters and

choppers will continue to do their practice sessions everyday which will give the local populace an idea of the might of IAF and finally they can watch the air show on October 6 and 8," said defence PRO, Gp Capt Samir Gangakhedkar. Till Tuesday, several fighters had arrived at IAF base of Prayagraj including C-130. After this initial phase of practising, a full-dress rehearsal would be held on October 6. Apart from these fighters, choppers and aircraft, vintage aircraft Tiger Moth too has reached Prayagraj and started practice. As locals were not informed in advance regarding the practising session, the were left surprised to witness the manoeuvres of these fighters. Equally attractive was the low-flying by the Sarang choppers which performed some basic manoeuvres to start with their practice.

DM: Ensure proper sanitation & illumination in mela area

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate (DM) Priyanka Niranjani at a meeting organised in Collectorate on Tuesday reviewed the progress in works for organising the Navratri Mela at Vindhyaachal asked the officials to submit a detailed report about the works done till October 7 to City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh so that necessary action could be taken to complete them within the stipulated time. She said all roads as well as the streets have to be repaired cleaned properly.

She directed the officials of nagar palika, zila panchayat and development authority to ensure proper sanitation and illumination in entire mela area.

specifically directed to ensure cleaning as well as barricading at the Ganga ghats where the devotees have to take bath. The EO was directed to provide changing rooms at the ghats and temporary toilets for the devotees.

The AMA zila panchayat was directed to ensure availability of motor boats equipped with all necessary facilities related to safety measures besides all information related to divers, including home address and phone numbers. Regarding the 24-hour availability of potable water at important places, the nagar palika was directed to make available 15 water tankers, jal nigam - eight and zila panchayat - seven water tankers and place them at the identified 30 places and ensure regular supply of water to the devotees.

In the meeting the issues like police arrangements, transportation and other arrangements were also discussed. The DM said no laxity in work will be tolerated at all.

ARRESTED: The Kachhawaan police arrested a cattle smuggler carrying a reward of Rs 25, 000 after an encounter on Tuesday. Ram Bachan Yadav of Launda village under Alinagar police station, Chandauli, was an accused in a case registered at Raigarh police station but was at large for months. On being tipped off by an informer about the presence of the accused in the area the Kachhawaan police informed the authorities. As per the strategy the command was handed over to circle officer (CO) Sadar Shailendra Tripathi. The accused opened fire during police raid but was

nabbed. The police recovered a countrymade gun of 315 bore from the possession of the criminal along with cartridge. The police sent the accused to jail.

DRIVE: Chairman Cooperative Bank Jagdish Singh Patel while interacting with the media on Tuesday thanked the entire team for its hard labour and said it was their achievement that the district secured 16th place in the state regarding the one month membership drive. He said not only farmers but skilled and non-skilled labourers also took membership. He said that the bank had planned to provide the loan up to Rs 3 lakh to the members at the interest of three per cent per year. Vice-chairman Vipul Singh and others were also present during the press conference.

Passing out parade of Agniveers held

VARANASI (PNS):

114 Agniveers of the second batch marched smartly on the drill ground of the 39 Gorkha Training Centre (GTC) and crossed the 'Antim Pag' to enter into the folds of 3 & 9 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army. The parade was reviewed by Brigadier Rajeev Nagyal, Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, Commandant 39 GTC here on Tuesday.

After 31 weeks of basic and advanced military training,



Brigadier Rajeev Nagyal at passing out parade of Agniveers at 39-GTC.

Agniveers were transformed from young boys into disciplined soldiers. The POP marks the culmination of the rigorous training at 39 GTC which excels in transforming young boys into strong mentally fit, tough and battle ready soldiers.

The Commandant 39 GTC inspired the young hearts of Agniveer 002 batch by complimenting them for their hard work and outstanding performance. In his address, he mentioned the importance of train-

ing and exhorted the young soldiers to take pride in their uniform and country and wished them good luck for their next role.

The proud parents of the young soldiers were seen filled up with mixed emotions having a sense of pride in their children.

The historical event culminated with the parents being awarded the 'Gaurav Padak', a medal that symbolises their sacrifice to the nation.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Raising the pitch

Rahul's 'Jitni abaadi, utna haq' slogan is being dissected across political spectrum

The Indian political system has been since the very beginning interspersed by one too many slogans; some inspiring, some catchy and a few downright ugly. Mentioning even a few would be a Herculean task, but 'Angrezo Bharat Chhodo' to 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' to 'Garibi Hatao' to 'Mandal Kamandal', 'Tilak, taraazu aur talwaar' and 'Mandir wahin banayenge' are quick to jump to mind. The important thing is that these phrases oftentimes play a pivotal role in moulding public opinion and shifting support for a particular party. Now, with the 2024 general elections almost here, Congress' senior leader Rahul Gandhi has coined the latest, 'Jitni abaadi, utna haq'. The Gandhi scion has unmistakably been enthused by the recent revelations of Bihar's caste census; along similar lines he and his party have been vociferously demanding a pan-India caste census for some time now. In his hurry to own the initiative, however, Rahul seems to have jumped the gun somewhat and uttered just a little more than what he actually intended to convey: The need for equitable distribution of resources and opportunities among. The ongoing discourse around it highlights the complex dynamics of Indian politics where identity, regionalism and nationalism often intertwine. The slogan has understandably caused a stir within the Congress and invited a sharp and swift rebuke from none less than Prime Minister Modi, who wondered whether Rahul and the Congress were against the interests of minorities.



He opined that the nation's poor, whichever caste or religion they belonged to, must have the first right on its resources. Wasting no time in seizing upon the controversy, Modi accused the Congress of playing

'divisive politics.' He argued that such slogans serve to only create discord and hinder national unity. Critics of the Congress also allege that it is exploiting regional grievances to gain electoral advantage, a tactic frequently used by regional parties to consolidate their support base. They apprehend that the slogan could polarise the electorate even along regional lines, eroding the party's broader appeal. As the Congress seeks to reinvent itself and regain its political relevance, it will need to carefully consider the messaging it adopts and the potential consequences of such messaging. While it may appear to be a call for social justice, it has divided the party internally. Some members argue that it underscores the importance of addressing regional disparities, which is a legitimate concern. They believe that it resonates with voters who have long felt neglected by the Government. However, other party leaders express reservations, arguing that the slogan might be interpreted as promoting identity politics, potentially alienating voters who don't belong to regions with high population densities. The slogan also raises questions about the Congress' strategy as it attempts to regain its footing in electoral politics, with certain analysts believing that its adoption of identity-based slogans is an attempt to counter the BJP's successful use of nationalistic and cultural appeals.

PICTALK



People watch the overflowing Dassam Falls, after continuous rains, in Ranchi

PTI

Is IAF's engine crisis finally over?

India has become the fifth country in the world to produce jet engines but are we self-sufficient yet?

Months after United States' Defence giant GE Aeronautics signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the US Congress has given clearance to the deal for manufacturing F414 jet engines in India for HAL's Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mark 2. The MoU was signed when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-day state visit to the US in June this year. Although the MoU was signed when PM Modi was in the US in June itself, however, according to the process, the State Department notified the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 28. The deal is significant because the US treats jet engine technology as a "Crown jewel" and hasn't shared similar tech with even its closest allies. For its part, India has lagged in jet engine technology, a gap that the agreement can bridge, helping bolster both India's aerial power, especially in the backdrop of the fragile situation with China at the Line of



Actual Control, and its ambition of building a domestic defence industrial base. GE Aerospace would transfer 80% of its technology to India for the manufacture of F414 fighter jet engines under this agreement. Under the Transfer of Technology (ToT) provision, both the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, which is now under construction and will have twin engines, and the LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) Mark II will be powered by the India-specific GE-F414 INS6 engine, which will be introduced by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) early next year and enter service by the end of 2024.

The 4.5 generation Mark II Tejas, which would replace the Mirage 2000 and MiG-29 aircraft and carry roughly 6.5 tonnes of missiles and munitions, will be powered by the GE-F414 engine in place of the 4+ generation LCA Tejas

Mark II's GE-404 engine. A replacement for the MiG-21, the LAC Mark I can only carry 3.5 tonnes of missiles and ammunition and has half the operational range and warfighting capability of the Mark II. For the Indian Air Force, India intends to construct more than six squadrons, and it also intends to export the fighters to other interested nations. The twin-engine Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) being developed by ADA, the nodal agency under DRDO for the development of LCAs, will likewise be powered by the GE-F414 engine. The LCA Mk2 will have improved range, enhanced survivability, better situational awareness for pilots, network-centric capabilities, and the ability to quickly switch from one role to another. Some other fighter planes powered by the F414 engine include Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, Boeing E/A-18G Growler and Saab JAS 39E/F Gripen NG. Apart from this, New Delhi has also decided to develop a jet engine in collaboration with France. France company Safran and

DRDO will be working jointly on this project.

It is pertinent to note that with India and the US signing this deal, India became the fifth country in the world to produce jet engines, joining the United States, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom. The deal will not only bolster India's military capabilities and expand defence production, the deal will also assist in replacing India's ageing fighter fleet. The partnership is being considered as a "Big game changer", as it forms the basis for future indigenous engines that will power fighter aircraft. India is using the American engine for the indigenous aircraft after the setbacks in developing an indigenous jet engine, with the project to develop the Kaveri engine not giving the expected results. However, a version of the Kaveri engine is being used to power the Ghatik drone. This Deal has come to life at a very critical juncture from the context of India's fighter aircraft ecosystem.

(The writer is a freelancer; views expressed are personal)



RAHUL KAMBLE

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(The writer is a freelancer; views expressed are personal)

Homegrown terrorists run berserk in Pakistan



BHOPINDER SINGH

Pakistan's attempts to blame India or other neighbours for terrorist attacks are unconvincing as the country is facing challenges from within

Earlier last month, nine Pakistani soldiers were killed as a convoy was attacked by "terrorists" in the Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Days earlier, a police vehicle was ambushed in the neighbouring Lakki Marwat district, killing two policemen. While the province was always restive and lawless, this time the identity of "terrorists" (a term generously adopted by Pakistan, finally) was a matter of concern. It was not the usual suspects of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) that was responsible, but an independent outfit that had supposedly mutated, thereof. A new entity by the name of Lashkar-i-Sufyan Karvan had owned up to the Bannu attack. In both cases, the target was unequivocally the 'establishment' (read, Pakistani security apparatus).



the other, as seemingly every section of the society has something to settle against someone else!

The historical and puerile attempts of passing the buck onto India/RAW or neighbours like Afghanistan or Iran are becoming increasingly unconvincing as the gunpowder and matchstick are all within the cauldron of self-created Pakistan, which is now an explosive tinderbox. Pakistan does not require outside help to explain its situation and every terror attack is therefore faced with a 'Whodunit' conundrum. No one is quite sure of the presumed reason for anyone to perpetuate violence and bloodshed, anymore.

The latest "terror" attack, albeit, without any ownership or attribution yet, took place in the nondescript Mastung district of Balochistan. Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has confirmed at least 55 deaths, as a suicide bomber blew himself up targeting a 12th Rabiul Awwal procession, outside a mosque.

In an unprecedented move, the auto-instinctive presumption of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was countered by its immediate denial. Yet another deadly attack took place on the same day targeting a Police Station's Mosque in the Hangzhou township of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa killing five people, at least

NO EXECUTION OF AN ATTACK OF THIS MAGNITUDE AND INTENSITY CAN BE DONE BY A 'LONE-WOLF' MODEL AS IT NEEDS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

had telltale signs and familiar targets, but not so for the Mastung attack. In a sign that is even more worrisome, the lack of ownership or attribution to a known force, suggests a possible new strain of societal degradation, if that were to be possible. The rote Pakistani government reaction of a headless chicken with a deflective call-out to the "enemy that wanted to destroy religious tolerance and peace in Balochistan with foreign blessings" continued, with frankly no takers. Mastung is not unfamiliar with terror, as in 2018 over 125 people were killed in a similar suicide attack.

The purported attacker had targeted a political rally and the Islamic State-Khorasan Province had claimed responsibility. The Saga of bloodshed in Mustang was reiterated in the year 2017 killing 28 (but there was a political angle with the targeting of the convoy of Deputy Chairman Senate), in the year 2014 killing 24 (sectarian angle targeting Shia pilgrims) and in the year 2012 killing 20 (targeting buses with remote control). But the latest attack on a procession celebrating the Holy Prophet's birthdate, composed of a heterogeneous populace beyond sectarianism or partisanship, or pointedly at any element of the 'establishment', is simply beyond standard explanation.

No execution of an attack of this magnitude and intensity can be done by a 'lone-wolf' model as it needs a significant amount of planning. Though the exact date of the Holy Prophet's birthdate is sometimes disputed amongst Islamic theorists and often the headline Wahabis, Salafis etc., do not partake in the Mawlid or Eid-e-Milad un-Nabi celebrations as they take it for a recent innovation. Interestingly, while it is celebrated in our sub-continent, the officially Salafi countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar do not recognise. But disagrees with the same reached a level that it warrants a deadly attack is a matter of deeper enquiry — however, the same cannot be discounted given the recent reach of Wahabi or Salafi sensibilities in Pakistan.

An extremist Egyptian Maliki, Taj-al din had equated it to a haram (forbidden) activity by pronouncing that it was, a "bida that was introduced by idlers, and a delight to which gluttons abandon themselves". It is a puritanical and revisionist view that could have possible takers in Pakistan which is in the throes of religiosity. For now, the 'Whodunit' conundrum stays. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AVOIDABLE CONTROVERSY

India's heptathlon athlete, Swapna Barman, couldn't defend her title in the Asian Games 2023, finishing in 4th place, just 4 points behind her fellow Indian, Nandini Agasara. In the process, Nandini secured the bronze medal in the women's heptathlon event, while the defending champion Swapna returned home without a medal. However, Swapna caused controversy on social media when she claimed that the athlete who won bronze is a 'transgender' and shouldn't have been allowed to participate in the event. She later deleted her post, stating, "I have lost my Asian Games bronze medal to a transgender woman at the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China. I want my medal back as it goes against the rules of our Athletics. Please help and support me." It's shocking! As a passionate sports lover, I watched all seven events of the women's heptathlon. Swapna underperformed in all events and made a spectacle of herself by crying when she failed. Moreover, it is not only unprofessional but also baseless to make allegations against a fellow athlete like Nandini Agasara by claiming she is a 'transgender' in front of the world. People are shocked by Swapna's attempt to judge Nandini's gender. In sports, one must compete and accept defeat gracefully. If you can't handle defeat, you are not suited for any sport. I've witnessed Swapna's growth, and I urge her to show sportsmanship and think twice before accusing her fellow countrywoman. In my opinion, Swapna should face consequences for such remarks and be barred from future events, in line with the norms for unprofessional behaviour. Indians were disheartened to see this India vs. India battle unfold in the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Tragic Deaths in Maharashtra



It is truly appalling and tragic that as many as a dozen newborns and an equal number of adults died in a government-run hospital in Nanded, Maharashtra, in a single day. Currently, seventy individuals are reported to be in critical condition. This situation is exacerbated by a shortage of medical facilities and staff, with many nurses being transferred and not replaced. Numerous

machines are out of order, and the hospital, with a capacity for 500 patients, is currently accommodating 1,200. There is also a shortage of essential medicines, and the hospital environment is unhygienic. Additionally, the food supplied falls far below prescribed standards. In general, healthcare facilities in most government-run hospitals are subpar, reflecting government negligence. Those in power should be held accountable for such lapses, but they often evade responsibility. The Right to Services Act should be made mandatory, ensuring quality services across all sectors to ensure that taxpayers receive value for their contributions to government funds.

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

CASTE SURVEY CREATES RIPPLES

Definitely, Bihar's caste-based survey has created a political ripple across the country. While Nitish Kumar boasts that this data can be used for inclusive development policies, growth-oriented programs, and educational reforms, the BJP has criticized it as an attempt to mislead the poor. This data will likely prompt the state to revise its existing reservation policy to increase the quota for the OBCs. The caste-based survey has justified the need to amend the reservation system to provide greater benefits to the OBCs and EBCs. The Modi Government has sidestepped this issue for political reasons for a long time. The caste-based survey indeed highlights the economic status of the people, and demands may arise for a similar survey nationwide.

Zeeshan | Kazipet

BLACK MONEY IS A BIG ISSUE

Every year, approximately five percent of the GDP flows out of the country due to money laundering. While a 0.2 to 0.4 percent change in GDP sparks discussions, it's crucial to note that despite demonetization and digitization, black

money remains a significant problem. According to the UN Drugs and Crime Office, in the year 2021-22, when India's GDP exceeded 3 trillion dollars, approximately \$159 billion (about Rs 10 lakh crore), equivalent to five percent, was illicitly funneled abroad. This staggering figure erodes the economy like termites. Additionally, a FICCI-run organisation reports that illegal trade, drugs, arms, terrorism, and organized crime are more prevalent in India than the average of 122 countries. This problem persists, with tax evasion of around Rs 1 lakh crore occurring through fake invoices in import and export. Black money was a prominent issue in the 2014 general elections, with promises of recovery under a BJP government. However, the web of black money is proving challenging to break, let alone reduce. Even an organisation like SEBI, following a money laundering investigation ordered by the Supreme Court, has concluded that it reached a dead end.

Nawas | Kollam

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FIRST COLUMN

GOD AND HIS MANY FORMS

God takes many forms; it does not matter which form you believe in



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

God is one and will eternally be so. And He takes many forms and incarnates as decided by Him. We are aware of His incarnations as Lord Ramachandra and Lord Krishna. We, on the other hand, are many souls and take different bodies, as deserved. Lord Krishna has described in some detail what God is like in the Bhagavad-Geeta. This article is about some of His incarnations and forms taken by Him.

Before I take it up, let me address the need for taking up so many forms by Bhagavan, and why we must not differentiate between them. All of us are different packages with specific natures, desires, attachments, etc. Therefore, it is obvious that we will be attracted to different forms of God. For example, I am helplessly attracted to Lord Krishna. I have a photo of my beloved Lord hanging on the right side of my bed. I routinely look at Him, do 'namaskar', pray to Him for guidance and help, thank Him for His 'kripa', etc. On the other hand, my mother was a staunch devotee of Lord Ramachandra. She read 'Sundar Kand' of the Ramacharitra Manas routinely till the very end of her life. Lord Ramachandra's photo dominated her 'pooja-ghar'. My mother-in-law has taken Mother Durga as her sole shelter. Durgaji's large photo hangs behind her bed, and there is an idol of her beloved mother on the right side of her bed.

God's different incarnations represent some qualities, which stand out. For example, Lord Ramachandra has been famously called 'Maryada Purushottama', because He upheld 'Maryada' throughout His presence on the planet Earth. Lord Krishna, as His name suggests, attracts. The word 'Krishna' is made from 'dhatu' krish, which means what attracts. I am well and truly attracted to my Lord. Then, there is Lord Narsimha,



who incarnated to punish Hiranyakashipu, who was torturing his devotee, Prahlad. God took the form of half man and half lion. The head was that of a lion and had a human torso. This 'avatar' is known to remove all evils against His devotees and protect them from all harm. I turn to Him when I am fearful and 'tamoguna' has become dominant in me. Is it not wonderful that we have so many forms of God to choose from? These multi-forms help us to worship God anywhere there is a temple of whatever form of God.

Describing some more forms of God, Lord Shiva comes to mind. The literal meaning of the word Shiva is auspicious. Mahadeva is part of the trinity composed of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. He was worshipped most famously by Lord Ramachandra in His incarnation in the 'treta yuga'. And there is the world-famous 'Kashi Vishwanath temple', which is visited by millions every year including many foreigners. I had the good fortune of having His 'darshan' there many times. Lord Narayana is another form of God. In this form, the Lord has four arms carrying a lotus flower, a conch, a mace and a chakra.

Chanting the holy name Narayana is believed to reinforce the good and annihilate the bad. Mother Kali is another form of God. Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa was her very famous devotee. She is regarded as the ultimate manifestation of 'shakti' (cosmic energy). And we all know why Shakti is so crucial to exist well. I am blessed to have a magnificent Kali temple close to my residence. Lord Ganesh is worshipped by one and all. He is prominently known as the remover of obstacles. It is no wonder that all auspicious activities are begun with the chant of 'Shri Ganeshaya Namah'. Hanumanji is especially known for His devotion to Lord Ramachandra in His incarnation. Hanumanji carried out many extremely difficult tasks for his beloved Lord. He is here with us on the earth to support/help us.

Lakshmi, who is worshipped in homes all over, especially at the time of 'Deepawali', is God's form of opulence. She brings prosperity, welfare and a good future. We should benefit from worshipping any of the multiple forms of God. They all add up, there is no loss of any kind.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views expressed are personal)

Pardhis: The traditional custodians of Cheetahs

The 'pardhis' have the knowledge that could significantly enhance the reach and effectiveness of our conservation efforts



BKP SINHA



ARVIND KUMAR JHA

The introduction of cheetahs into India has indeed sparked intense debate. The cheetahs were introduced in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh marking a significant milestone for the \$5 million project. Authorities maintain that reintroducing a top predator like cheetah can enhance the area's overall biodiversity by restoring the predator-prey balance. The presence of cheetahs can significantly attract tourists, potentially boost the local economy, and increase funds for conservation. On the scientific front, it can provide valuable data on reintroduction methodologies and challenges, which can be applied to similar projects worldwide for this species classified, by the IUCN as "vulnerable". Further, for the local communities, the presence of a historically significant animal can foster a sense of pride, furthering the cause of conservation.

The fate of this esteemed conservation endeavour hangs precariously in the balance. Nine cheetahs, six adults and three out of four cubs born in India, have succumbed to a tragic fate due to a multitude of afflictions. These reportedly include renal failure, physical injury, humidity-related infestations. Three of the first litter of four died apparently due to frailty, malnutrition, and dehydration. Concerns raised by many experts over the labelling of the cheetah's 'introduction' as a 'reintroduction' and positioning of the translocation as an example of the dilution of scientific rigour need much more serious consideration. Although the concerned international experts do not find the number of deaths alarming, many experts do not consider Kuno, a largely deciduous forest with sparse grasslands, as an ideal habitat for African cheetahs and opine that merely housing a few cheetahs is hardly an answer to the claimed restoration of India's grasslands.

The declared notion of cheetahs filling a unique ecological niche as a predator is also seen as not well-founded, given that Kuno already has a myriad of native predators. They mention that the resident blackbucks vanished when the habitat transitioned into woodlands with isolated tall grass segments. It is feared that with competition and challenges in finding suitable prey, cheetahs could venture beyond their intended territories, causing human-wildlife conflicts. Some international experts have also raised the issue of limited consultation with experts in cheetah ecology before the translocation.

History reveals that the habitat of the Asiatic cheetah in India was spread across scrublands, bushlands, arid and semi-arid terrains, and a mix of low hills and plains interrupted by rocky plateaus. Wildlife hunting, in general, was a specialized profession. Pardhis, a conglomerate of eleven types based on hunting methods and targeting wild animals, largely followed the geographical spread of relevant ecosystems as they roamed.

A set of astute and occupationally differentiated specialized hunters from amongst them were called 'Cheetah Pardhi' who applied a kind of very strong bird lime to the branches of the trees cheetahs inhabited, or set their snare traps made from deer guts near trees marked and revisited by the cheetahs either for claw sharpening or for relieving themselves. The Cheetah Pardhi community capitalized on this behaviour. They



trapped, trained, and deployed cheetahs for hunting; or traded them to the elites, princely states, and zamindaris.

Records show that Akbar had a remarkable assembly of 9,000 cheetahs. His successors Shah Jehan and Aurangzeb were also fond of hunting using trained cheetahs, leopards, and hawks. For this 'pardhis' were highly sought after by the royalty. The cheetah population in the wild faced a severe decline over time due to excessive hunting.

As time passed, the aristocracy's enduring fascination with these creatures prompted them to import African cheetahs, particularly post-1918. The era marked a surge in the import of African cheetahs to India, with previous records indicating just one specimen imported in 1890-91 for Calcutta's Alipore Zoo. With the royals of Baroda, Bhavnagar, and Kolhapur playing pivotal roles, by 1920, African cheetahs had largely supplanted their Asiatic counterparts in Indian captivity. In the late 19th and early 20th century, the use of sophisticated weapons coupled with the British Government's bounty system rewarding the killing of cheetahs, leopards, and other wildlife drastically reduced their numbers. The ancient art of cheetah trapping in India soon faded, and the Asiatic cheetah also, once widespread, left only fleeting footprints around the sal-bearing areas of central India, eventually disappearing entirely.

Anthropological literature indicates the bond between the Pardhis and the animals they trapped and tamed. The process was intricate, requiring immense patience and a deep understanding of the animals



LITERATURE INDICATES THE BOND BETWEEN THE 'PARDHIS' AND THE ANIMALS THEY TRAPPED AND TAMED. THE PROCESS WAS INTRICATE, REQUIRING IMMENSE PATIENCE AND A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE ANIMALS

(The writers are former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views are personal)

the existing biocomplexity and connectance will present new challenges that need to be addressed successfully. To ensure the project's success, we must adopt a purely professional approach, champion collaborative problem-solving over blame games; synergise efforts of all the stakeholders with genuine openness to feedback; prioritise the development of vacated village areas into grasslands; create conservation breeding enclosures for cheetahs; establish robust health-care system and engage with locals with appropriate capacity building, awareness. In addition to the above, it's paramount to also source and harness the traditional knowledge of the cheetah 'pardhis' for the purpose. Today, the Forest Department's initiative of employing ex-poachers, sandalwood and rosewood smugglers in Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala and Kabini Wildlife Safari, Karnataka; and locals as guides in Kas plateau in Maharashtra, are a few examples of recognition and utilization of indigenous people and their knowledge. Integrating them into wildlife conservation efforts can be a win-win situation.

The 'pardhis' are not merely a tribe. They are the custodians of centuries of wisdom, their lives intricately woven into the tapestry of local ecosystems and cultures. Yet, they bear the unjust stigma of being a criminal tribe, a label that overshadows their rich heritage and intimate understanding of nature. Once this stigma is removed, the 'pardhis' has the potential to become invaluable allies in our conservation efforts. Their knowledge, honed over generations, could significantly enhance the reach and effectiveness of our current approaches. The choice to harness this wisdom or let it dissipate into oblivion lies with us.

Empowering through consent: Shaping a safer society

Consent is pivotal as it respects individual autonomy, fosters safety, maintains ethical standards, and promotes healthy, respectful relationships

Childhood is a treasured and formative phase in a person's life, marked by innocence and growth. However, for some, this period can turn into a time of great difficulty and hardship. Those who have endured the traumatic experience of child sexual abuse comprehend the immense emotional weight associated with harbouring dark secrets. In such cases of abuse, the individual often finds themselves trapped in a cycle of fear and shame, which can prevent them from reaching out for help or disclosing their suffering.

Startling statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for 2021 reveal that around 38.1% of India's child population experienced various forms of sex-



ROSHAN YEDERY

ual offences. The alarming figures continue as children grow up, with nearly 30% of women reporting spousal violence and marital rape. The year saw over 17,000 cases of sexual harassment, more than 11,000 assault cases, and a staggering 31,677 reported rape cases.

Raising awareness about consent is critical, especially among adolescents. Consent is fundamental to safe relationships, respecting bodily autonomy and personal choices from age 1 to 101. Research conducted across the globe suggests that educating adolescents on the concept of consent can lead to fewer incidents of sexual assault but needs more evidence-based data.

Youngsters need to understand what constitutes appro-

priate and inappropriate physical contact. This awareness must also extend to married individuals who may experience spousal violence without comprehending the concept's relevance. Often, the issue of consent is overlooked within marital relationships, with a mistaken belief that it is acceptable merely because the two individuals are married.

It is with this context that the World Association of Sexual Health (WAS), an organization committed to providing universal access to Sexual Health, Rights, Justice, and Pleasure, annually observes World Sexual Health Day, with the focus this year on 'Consent'.

Sex education plays a pivotal role in introducing consent awareness. India's efforts

began in 2005 with the 'Adolescence Reproductive and Sexual Health Education' (ASRH) project, providing age-appropriate information on topics like puberty, contraception, and STIs while promoting healthy attitudes towards sexuality, gender, and relationships. Despite these initiatives, the majority of Indian schools, both public and private, lack any form of sex education in their curriculum.

To bridge this gap, the government introduced the 'Adolescent Education Program' (AEP) in 2007 in partnership with NACO and UNICEF. The program builds life skills for adolescents to cope with the changes associated with growing up and provides education on HIV

prevention, teen pregnancy, and substance use.

However, discussions on 'consent' and 'attraction' remained absent from these programs until the initiation of India's RISE program in 2020. This initiative educates female college students on gender, relationships, sexual violence, and bystander intervention, emphasizing the involvement of both genders in future prevention efforts. Additionally, the 'Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act' was enacted, emphasising the need to create secure environments for women.

In 2012, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act aimed to safeguard minors under 18 from

sexual offences. The legislation criminalises child sexual abuse, establishes special courts for expeditious trials, and imposes penalties based on the severity of the offence. It has been suggested that children should be educated about POCSO laws and child-friendly procedures.

In the realm of physical and sexual interactions, 'consent' is a cornerstone. Hence, in tandem with governmental actions, sexuality educators, intimacy coaches, and sex therapists are also leveraging digital platforms like social media and interactive apps to promote awareness about sexual, reproductive, and mental health among a wide audience. Social for-profit enterprises have also been exploring this space to

create social impact through sustainable business models. For instance, educator Pallavi Barnwal, through GetIntimacy, tackles intimacy and sexuality challenges to enhance relationship satisfaction. On the other hand, ThatMate, a social enterprise, utilises its app to provide counselling, self-management, and sex education to teenagers in semi-urban and rural regions.

A holistic strategy involving educational reform, legal progress, and grassroots efforts is essential. Empowering women, reshaping relationship norms, and promoting consent education in a culturally sensitive manner is the way forward. Let's make 'Consent' the bold title of our societal narrative.

Bus plummets 15 m from elevated road in Venice, 21 killed

AP ■ VENICE

A bus carrying dozens of people plummeted 15 metres (50 feet) from an elevated road in Venice, Italy, causing a fiery crash that killed 21 people and injured at least 15, mostly foreign tourists returning to a nearby campsite.

Those who died in the Tuesday night crash included at least five Ukrainians, one German citizen and the man who was driving the bus, according to Venice prefecture.

At least two of the dead were children, Venice prefect Michele Di Bari said, adding that many of the people involved in the accident were "young". Nine people were in critical condition, hospital officials said late Wednesday morning, including a 3-year-old girl from Ukraine.

Firefighters worked until dawn Wednesday to clear the wreckage. Later in the morning, traffic was slowly passing the spot where the bus burst through a guardrail and a rusted fence. Passersby stopped to contemplate the accident. A couple of locals said that the overpass was more than 60 years old and that nothing similar had ever happened there, while a man wearing a biker jacket stopped his motorcycle to tie to a post a bouquet of plastic flowers. The bus was carrying foreign tourists from

Venice's Piazzale Roma to the Hu campground on Tuesday evening when it fell from an elevated street next to railway tracks in the borough of Mestre, catching fire. Tourists frequently stay in boroughs across the lagoon from the canals of Venice's famous historic centre to find cheaper accommodations.

The injured, including five in serious condition, included French, Spanish, Austrian and Croatian nationals, local officials said. The Spanish Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that two people from Spain were injured in the accident, and both were in hospital and in good condition.

The reason for the crash was unclear. Venice city councillor Renato Boraso said the driver, Alberto Rizzotto, was experienced. Local prosecutors are investigating if he felt ill.

Rescuers noted that the fact that the bus was electric contributed to the massive fire and made rescue operations more difficult. Godstime Erheneden was in his apartment near the accident when he heard a crash outside. He rushed outside and was among the first to enter the bus. "When we went in, we saw the driver right away. He was dead. I carried a woman out on my shoulders, then a man," Erheneden told the local newspaper il Gazzettino.



Britain is not a racist country: Rishi Sunak

AP ■ MANCHESTER



Street in three generations," he said.

Rishi Sunak addressed his first Conservative Party conference as party leader in Manchester on Wednesday and used his own elevation as the country's first Indian-origin Prime Minister as proof that the UK is not a racist country and that his skin colour was not a "big deal". Dubbed as the most important speech of his political career nearly a year after he took charge as Tory leader, there was a lot riding on the 43-year-old leader's address to the governing party activists ahead of a general election expected next year.

After a warm and personal introduction by wife Akshata Murty, who praised his "honesty, integrity and strength of character", Sunak went on to lay out his plans for what he hopes would win him the British public's mandate at the next polls.

"Never let anyone tell you that this is a racist country. It is not," said Sunak. "My story is a British story. A story about how a family can go from arriving here with little to Downing

Street in three generations," he said. He went on to point to his frontline Cabinet members in the audience, among them Indian-origin Home Secretary Suella Braverman and Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho, as reflective of what the Tories offer migrant families, including "even the chance to become Prime Minister". Reflecting on when he was first chosen by the local Conservative Association to contest from the stronghold of Richmond in North Yorkshire, a seat he has held as MP since his win in 2015, Sunak claimed people in other countries couldn't understand it.

"One American magazine even sent a reporter to Yorkshire to write about how 'a candidate of the wrong race [could] cost the Tories one of the safest seats in England?' But they should not have projected their own prejudices onto our country. The people of North Yorkshire were not interested in my colour, but my character," shared Sunak.

"I am proud to be the first British Asian Prime Minister, but you know what, I'm even prouder that it's just not a big deal. And just remember: it was the Conservative Party who made that happen, not the [Opposition] Labour Party," he added.

During the speech that will define the remainder of his term as Prime Minister until the next elections, Sunak's mantra was long-term decisions to transform the UK for a brighter future. He drew a line under an issue that had been brewing for days and cancelled the remainder of the High Speed-2 (HS2) railway project to instead invest GBP 36 billion in wider transport projects. Besides, he also made a

series of announcements across health and education sectors including plans to increase the smoking age.

"I propose that in future we raise the smoking age by one year, every year. That means a 14-year-old today will never legally be sold a cigarette and that they — and their generation — can grow up smoke free. We know this works," he said.

On the education system, he added: "We will introduce the new rigorous, knowledge rich Advanced British Standard which will bring together A-Levels and T-Levels into a new, single qualification for our school leavers. First, this will finally deliver on the promise of parity of esteem between academic and technical education because all students will sit the Advanced British Standard.

"Second, we will raise the floor, ensuring that our children leave school literate and numerate because with the Advanced British Standard all students will study some form of English and maths to 18, with extra help for those who struggle most."

Akshata makes political stage debut for 'best friend' UK Prime min

PTI ■ LONDON



Britain's Indian First Lady, Akshata Murty, made a surprise debut on the political stage on Wednesday when she stepped out to introduce "best friend" Rishi Sunak for his maiden speech as UK Prime Minister to the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. Murty, during her light-hearted and personal speech, claimed her husband was unaware of her "gate-crashing" as the warm-up act to the centrepiece of the annual conference and that her decision had also surprised their daughters, Krishna and Anoushka.

The 43-year-old daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayan Murthy went on to share her pride in Sunak's many achievements and how it was his "honesty and integrity" that had first attracted her to him when they met as students at Stanford University in their 20s.

"Rishi and I are each other's best friends; we are one team and I could not imagine being anywhere else than here today to show my support to him and to the party," said Murty. "Rishi and I met when we were 24 when we were both studying abroad in America. Right from the very beginning, I was struck by two things about him...his deep love for his home, the United Kingdom, and his sincere desire to ensure as many people as possible have a chance to have the opportunities he was lucky enough to have had. It completely energised him. Being with Rishi was the easiest decision of my life," she said.

According to Murty, the one word that encapsulates her husband is "aspiration", which drives him to work for a better future for the UK. "Sometimes when the going gets tough, I remind Rishi that he's fighting for his values. That he's fighting for this party's values, knowing that it's a hard road ahead. That success is hard one," she said.

During the lighter moments in her speech, Murty confirmed media reports about Sunak's preference for rom-coms and described him as "fun, thoughtful and compassionate". "He has an incredible zest for life. What drew me to him most was his strength of character, his honesty, his integrity, with a firm understanding of right from wrong. It's what I'm still drawn to, even today, after 14 years of being married," she said.

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"He has an incredible zest for life. What drew me to him most was his strength of character, his honesty, his integrity, with a firm understanding of right from wrong. It's what I'm still drawn to, even today, after 14 years of being married," she said.

"Rishi, you know this, you know that doing the right thing for the long term even when it is hard is the right thing to do. I hope you also know how proud you make our girls and me every single day," concluded Murty, to sustained applause from the Tory gathering as a visibly moved Sunak stepped out onto the stage.

During his much-anticipated address, Sunak opened with the central theme of the Tory conference to say that Murty was the "best long-term decision for a brighter future" he had made.

Sunak said since he became Prime Minister in October last year the government has "done good things in that time". He went on to highlight that the political system over the last 30 years had incentivised easy decisions short-term rather than the right ones.

"It doesn't have to be this way, I won't be this way," he declared.

US: Canadian allegations against India 'serious'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Canadian allegations regarding India's involvement in the killing of a pro-Khalistan separatist are "serious" and need to be investigated fully, the White House has said. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), was killed in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

Tensions flared between India and Canada last month following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar. India has angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated".

The claims made by Canada were discussed when visiting External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met here last week,

John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House told reporters at a news conference here.

"The issue was discussed. We'll certainly leave it to those two countries to talk about their bilateral relationship," Kirby said in response to a question.

"We've been clear, these allegations are serious, they need to be fully investigated and of course, as we've said before, we urge India to participate actively in that investigation," Kirby said. Jaishankar, who also met his counterpart Antony Blinken during his visit, told journalists in Washington 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. State Department's Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters at a separate news conference that it's critical that Canada's investigation proceeds and the perpetrators are brought to justice.

"We also have, as we've previously said publicly and privately, urged the Indian government to cooperate in the Canadian investigation and cooperate in those efforts," he said.

The US, he said, has seen the reports on the diplomatic staffing levels for the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi.

"But I don't have anything further to offer on those reports and certainly don't want to get into hypotheticals and take this process one step at a time. As it relates to our Indo-Pacific strategy and the focus that we continue to place on the region, that effort and that line of work is going to continue," he said.

Shooting at US University wounds 5

Baltimore (AP): Five people were wounded, none critically, in a shooting outside a residence hall at Morgan State University in Baltimore on Tuesday, according to authorities, who urged students to take shelter on the campus of the historically Black college.

The Baltimore Police Department initially said officers were on the scene for an "active shooter situation" around 9:30 p.m. Police kept the campus on lockdown for hours and provided little information about their investigation.

The gunfire shattered windows at a residential building that's on the same block as a city police station.

Police Commissioner Richard Worley said the five victims, four males and one female, are between the ages of 18 and 22.

Pope challenges leaders at UN talks to slow global warming before it's too late

AP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis shamed and challenged world leaders on Wednesday to commit to binding targets to slow climate change before it's too late, warning that God's increasingly warming creation is fast reaching a "point of no return". In an update to his landmark 2015 encyclical on the environment, Francis heightened the alarm about the "irreversible" harm to people and planet already under way and lamented that once again, the world's poor and most vulnerable are paying the highest price.

"We are now unable to halt the enormous damage we have caused. We barely have time to prevent even more tragic damage," Francis warned.

He took square aim at the United States, noting that per-capita emissions in the US are twice as high as China and seven times greater than the average in poor countries.

Pope conducts meeting on church's future

Vatican City (AP): Pope Francis opened a big meeting on the future of the Catholic Church on Wednesday by saying it was in need of repair to make it a place of welcome for "everyone, everyone, everyone", not a rigid barricade riven by fears and ideology. Francis presided over a solemn Mass in St. Peter's Square to formally open the meeting, which progressives are hoping will lead to more women in leadership roles and conservatives are warning could split the church.

Rarely in recent times has a Vatican gathering generated as much hope, hype and fear as this three-week, closed-door meeting, known as a synod. It won't make any binding decisions and is only the



first session of a two-year process. But it nevertheless has drawn an acute battle line in the church's perennial left-right divide and marks a defining moment for Francis and his reform agenda. In his homily, Francis acknowledged the ideological divisions at play but urged the faithful to put them aside and instead listen to the Holy Spirit.

While individual, household efforts are helping, "we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact," he said.

The document, "Praise God," was released on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the pontiff's nature-loving namesake, and was aimed at spurring negotiators to commit to binding climate targets at the next round of UN talks in Dubai.

Francis weighed in on a key and contentious point of negotiations — whether countries should agree to a phase out of coal, oil and natural gas, the fossil fuels that are causing climate change.

He is for it. As fast as possible even, he wrote. He lamented that "the necessary transition towards clean energy sources, such as wind and solar energy, and the abandonment of fossil fuels is not progressing at the necessary speed".

Thousands of US health care workers go on strike

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Picketing began Wednesday morning at Kaiser Permanente hospitals as some 75,000 health care workers go on strike in Virginia, California and three other states over wages and staffing shortages, marking the latest major labour unrest in the United States.

Kaiser Permanente is one of the country's larger insurers and health care system operators, with 39 hospitals nationwide. The non-profit company, based in Oakland, California, provides health coverage for nearly 13 million people, sending customers to clinics and hospitals it runs or contracts with to provide care.

The Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions, representing about 85,000 of the health system's employees nationally, approved a strike for three days in California, Colorado, Oregon and Washington, and for one day in Virginia and Washington, DC. The strikers

include licensed vocational nurses, home health aides and ultrasound sonographers, as well as technicians in radiology, X-ray, surgical, pharmacy and emergency departments.

Doctors are not participating, and Kaiser says its hospitals, including emergency rooms, will remain open during the picketing. The company said it was bringing in thousands of temporary workers to fill gaps during the strike. But the strike could lead to delays in getting appointments and non-urgent procedures being rescheduled.

It comes amid unprecedented worker organising — from strike authorisations to work stoppages — within multiple industries this year, including transportation, entertainment and hospitality.

Wednesday's strike is the latest one for the health care industry this year as it continues to confront burnout with the heavy workloads — problems that were exacerbated

greatly by the pandemic. Unions representing Kaiser workers in August asked for a \$25 hourly minimum wage, as well as increases of 7% each year in the first two years and 6.25% each year in the two years afterward.

They say understaffing is boosting the hospital system's profits but hurting patients, and executives have been bargaining in bad faith during negotiations.

"They're not listening to the frontline health care workers," said Mikki Fletchall, a licensed vocational nurse based in a Kaiser medical office in Camarillo, California. "We're striking because of our patients. We don't want to have to do it, but we will do it." Kaiser has proposed minimum hourly wages of between \$21 and \$23 next year depending on the location. Since 2022, the hospital system has hired 51,000 workers and has plans to add 10,000 more people by the end of the month.

Republican party in disarray after House votes out McCarthy

Washington (PTI): The opposition Republican Party plunged into a crisis as its Speaker Kevin McCarthy lost the gavel after a small group of its Congressmen joined hands with the Democratic Party in an unprecedented vote in the House of Representatives.

Eight Republicans led by Congressman Matt Gaetz voted against McCarthy along with the Democrats in a 216 to 210 votes on Tuesday afternoon. Congressman Patrick McHenry was declared Speaker pro tempore as the two parties chalk out their future course of action. This is the first time since 1910 that a House voted on whether to remove a sitting Speaker. "The reason Kevin McCarthy went down today is because nobody trusts Kevin McCarthy. Kevin McCarthy has made multiple contradictory promises. And when they all came due, he lost votes from people who maybe don't even ideologically agree with me on everything," Gaetz told reporters soon after the vote. Gaetz and his team were upset that McCarthy entered into a deal with the Democrats to prevent a government shutdown.

On September 30, the House of Representatives voted to pass a continuing resolution with the support of more Democrats than Republicans which was quickly passed by the Senate and signed by the President. The new deadline to fund the government is November 17.

"Today's vote to remove Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House is an unprecedented action that showcases the dysfunction and infighting within the House Republican Caucus," Indian American Congressman from the Democratic Party Ami Bera said.

3 scientists win Nobel Prize in chemistry

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Three scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry for their work on quantum dots — tiny particles that can release very bright coloured light and are used in electronics and medical imaging.

Moungi Bawendi, of MIT; Louis Brus, of Columbia University, and Alexei Ekimov, of Nanocrystals Technology Inc., were honoured for their work with the particles, just a few atoms in diameter, and that "have unique properties and now spread their light from television screens and LED lamps," according to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which announced the award in Stockholm.

"They catalyze chemical reactions and their clear light



From left: Scientists Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus, Alexei Ekimov

can illuminate tumour tissue for a surgeon," the academy said. Quantum dots' electrons have constrained movement, and this affects how they absorb and release visible light, allowing for very bright colours.

In a highly unusual leap, Swedish media reported the names of the winners before the

prize was announced. "There was a press release sent out for still unknown reasons. We have been very active this morning to find out exactly what happened," Hans Ellegren, the secretary-general of the academy, told the news conference where the award was announced. "This is very

unfortunate, we do regret what happened." The academy, which awards the physics, chemistry and economics prizes, asks for nominations a year in advance from thousands of university professors and other scholars around the world.

A committee for each prize then discusses candidates in a series of meetings throughout the year. At the end of the process, the committee presents one or more proposals to the full academy for a vote. The deliberations, including the names of nominees other than the winners, are kept confidential for 50 years.

Ekimov, 78, and Brus, 80, are early pioneers of the technology, while Bawendi, 62, is credited with revolutionizing the production of quantum dots "resulting in almost perfect

particles. This high quality was necessary for them to be utilized in applications," the academy said.

Bawendi told the news conference that he was "very surprised, sleepy, shocked, unexpected and very honoured." "The community realized the implications in the mid 90s, that there could potentially be some real world applications," Bawendi said. Asked about the leak, he said he didn't know about the prize until he was called by the academy.

On Tuesday, the physics prize went to French-Swedish physicist Anne L'Huillier, French scientist Pierre Agostini and Hungarian-born Ferenc Krausz for producing the first split-second glimpse into the superfast world of spinning electrons.

Russia holds nationwide emergency drills

AP ■ MOSCOW

Sirens wailed across Russia and TV stations interrupted regular programming to broadcast warnings Wednesday as part of sweeping drills intended to test the readiness of the country's emergency responders amid the fighting in Ukraine.

The exercise that started on Tuesday follows Ukrainian drone attacks on Moscow and other cities. As the readiness drill went on, the Russian Defence Ministry said air defences shot down 31 Ukrainian drones over border regions early Wednesday.

As part of the drills, TV stations broadcast a notice saying: "Attention everyone! The readiness of the public warning system is being tested! Please remain calm!"

Russian media said the exercise's storyline mentions the increasing danger of a conflict between nuclear powers and simulates a response to a situation in which 70% of housing and all vital infra-

structure have been destroyed, wide areas contaminated by radioactive fallout and a general mobilization announced.

The stark scenario echoes Kremlin warnings that Western support for Ukraine has increased the threat of a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, has regularly talked about the growing threat of a nuclear conflict. Lambasting Western officials who talk about increasing military assistance to Kyiv, Medvedev charged over the weekend that "those imbeciles are actively pushing us to World War III".

Such ominous statements and sweeping emergency drills contrast with the government's efforts to assuage a public increasingly tired of the nearly 20 months of fighting that the Kremlin continues to call its "special military operation".

'Russia foils Ukrainian drone attack'

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian air defences shot down 31 Ukrainian drones during a concerted nighttime attack by Kyiv's forces on border regions, the Russian Defence Ministry said Wednesday, even as uncertainty grew over Ukraine's future access to weapons and ammunition from its Western allies.

The drone attack appeared to be Kyiv's largest single cross-border drone assault reported by Moscow since it launched its invasion 20 months ago.

Ukraine is pressing on with a slow-moving counteroffensive it launched three months ago, though mounting concerns about replenishing its military stocks cast a cloud over its efforts.



likely continuing through winter into next year, Bauer said of weapons systems and ammunition supplies: "The bottom of the barrel is now visible."

He urged the defence industry to boost production "at a much higher tempo. And we need large volumes," he told the Warsaw Security Forum, an annual two-day conference that continued Wednesday.

The Russian Defence Ministry didn't provide any evidence for its claims about

intercepting Ukrainian drones nor any details about whether there were any damage or casualties.

It also said Russian aircraft thwarted a Ukrainian attempt to deploy a group of soldiers by sea to the western side of Russian-annexed Crimea.

The force attempted to land on Cape Tarkhankut, on Crimea's western end, using a high-speed boat and three jet skis, the ministry said.

Moscow's claims could not

be independently verified, and Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment.

The Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, has been a frequent target of Ukrainian attacks. The region has been the key hub supporting the invasion.

Fears over the resupply of Ukraine's armed forces have deepened in recent weeks.

The Pentagon has warned Congress that it is running low on money to replace weapons the US has sent to Ukraine.

Concern about the commitment of Kyiv's allies has also grown amid political turmoil in the United States amid the unprecedented and dramatic ouster Tuesday of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Some in the House Republican majority, and many GOP voters, oppose sending more military aid to Ukraine. The US is by far Ukraine's largest military supplier.

'Budapest may not be ready for military aid to Ukraine'

AP ■ BUDAPEST

Hungary's foreign minister on Wednesday said that his government wants guarantees from Kyiv that a Hungarian bank, recently removed from a Ukrainian list of sponsors of Russia's war, will not be placed back on that list in the future — a sign that Budapest may not be ready to lift its veto of a major military aid package to Ukraine.

Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said that a Monday decision by the Ukrainian National Agency of Corruption Prevention to remove OTP Bank from the list was a "step in the right direction," but that Hungary required further assurances before it would change its approach to Ukraine in any international settings.

Hungary's Foreign Ministry has invited Ukraine's anti-corruption agency to come to Budapest "as soon as possible" to discuss the listing of OTP, Szijjarto said, "so that we can negotiate an agreement that guarantees that no such decision will be taken (again) in the future."

"If a reassuring agreement is reached there, then we will of course have to consider what steps this justifies on our part," Szijjarto told a news conference.

Ukraine added OTP to its list of sponsors of the war in May in response to the financial institution continuing its operations in Russia — and thus paying taxes to the central government — after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. In response, Hungary has blocked an EU military aid package to Kyiv worth 500 million euros since May, vowing it would not withdraw its veto until OTP was removed from the list.

Last week, Ukraine's anti-corruption agency temporarily removed the bank from the list in the hopes that Budapest would lift its veto of the funding. But Hungarian officials signalled that the temporary removal was not enough, and the agency fully removed the bank from the list on Monday.

Hungary's Foreign Ministry did not respond to emailed questions about whether Szijjarto's comments indicated that Hungary would continue blocking the EU aid package despite OTP being taken off the war sponsors list. The Hungarian government, led by nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban, has sparred with Kyiv over a number of issues since Russia's full-scale invasion began.

Orban, who has maintained ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin, has argued against supplying Ukraine with weapons and refused to allow Hungary to do so, and has fervently argued against imposing EU sanctions on Moscow, though he has never ultimately voted against them.

Last week, Orban cast doubt on the prospect of the EU beginning negotiations any time soon for Ukraine to join the bloc, saying it was unrealistic to launch the accession process with a country that's at war.

He told the Hungarian parliament last week that his government would "not support Ukraine on any international issue" until the language rights of a Hungarian minority in western Ukraine are restored.

On Wednesday, Szijjarto said that Hungary also expects Ukraine to remove OTP's Russian branch and four of its Hungarian executives from a list of entities submitted for sanctions.

US defence secy speaks with Pak Army chief

Washington/Islamabad: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke to Pakistan Army chief Gen Asim Munir and discussed "areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments," amidst a spike in terror attacks in Pakistan.

In Washington, the US Department of Defence said Secretary of Defence Austin spoke by phone with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Munir on Tuesday. Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder, the Pentagon Press Secretary, confirmed the telephonic conversation between the top officials and said, "They discussed areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments." This is the second time that Gen Munir and the US secretary have spoken on the phone. The last time they spoke was in January of this year, when the US defence secretary had called Gen Munir to congratulate him on taking charge as the army chief, Geo News reported. PTI

'Imran Khan's bail plea in cipher case to be heard in open court'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday ruled that jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's bail plea in the cipher case would take place in an open court on October 9, as it disposed of a petition by the country's top investigation agency seeking in-camera proceedings of the bail plea.

Khan, 70, was arrested in August after the case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington last year in March. Last week, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking in-camera proceedings of Khan's bail plea. It said an open hearing in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state



secrets could pose a "risk of deteriorating relations" with other countries. Khan and his close aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi were named "principal accused" in the case by the apex investigation agency.

Both Khan and Qureshi are currently detained in jail on judicial remand. On September 26, both leaders' judicial remand was extended until October 10 as Khan as per the IHC's orders was shifted to Rawalpindi's Adiala jail from Attock district jail.

On Wednesday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) ruled that an open court hearing on the bail petition will be held on October 9.

The court, however, stated that "sensitive information" regarding the case would be in-camera, as it disposed of the FIA plea seeking in-camera proceedings.

Special Court Judge Abul Hasanat Zulfikarain presided over the hearing at Adiala jail, where Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman Khan and Vice Chairman Qureshi are currently incarcerated.

The court had reserved earlier this week its judgment on the FIA plea for in-camera proceedings in the bail plea by Khan.

Meanwhile, PTI lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar termed the in-camera trial of the Khan and former foreign minister Qureshi in the cipher case

"unconstitutional." "The trial should not be held behind closed doors. It is unconstitutional," Safdar said outside the jail.

"Imran's arrest and remand in the case were also kept secret, and now, this trial is being kept secret as well," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Khan is charged with violating the Official Secrets Act in connection with the leakage of a confidential diplomatic cable from Pakistan's embassy in Washington.

In March last year, ahead of the vote of no-confidence that resulted in his ouster, cricketer-turned-politician pulled out a piece of paper — allegedly the cipher — from his pocket and waved it at a public rally in Islamabad, claiming it was the evidence of an "international conspiracy" being hatched to topple his government.

'N Korea vows strong response to Pentagon report'

Seoul (AP): North Korea slammed the United States over a recent Pentagon report that labelled it a "persistent" threat because of weapons of mass destruction, saying it will counter any US aggression or provocations with "the most overwhelming and sustained response strategy."

Last week, the Pentagon released the unclassified version of its "2023 Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction" describing WMD challenges and methods to address them. The report stated that while China and Russia present "the principal WMD challenges," North Korea, Iran and violent extremist organisations remain "persistent regional threats" that must also be addressed.

Public Notice section containing legal notices and advertisements for JM Financial and other services.

Af's Taliban needs to meet its commitments to get legitimacy: White House

Washington (PTI): Two days after a Taliban-appointed Afghanistan minister reiterated that "men and women are not equal" based on Sharia, the White House said, the Taliban needs to meet its commitments to get legitimacy from the international community.

"We've not recognised them as a governing power in Afghanistan. They want that. They want legitimacy. Then they need to meet their commitments," John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House, told reporters at a news conference here on Tuesday.

"The Almighty Allah has distinguished between men and women. A male is the ruler, he has the authority, he must be obeyed, and the woman must accept his world."

hibited from being a part of that process? So, we're going to keep holding them accountable for their commitments," he said in response to a question.

On October 1, Taliban-appointed Afghanistan's acting education minister Neda Mohammad Nadim said that "men and women are not equal" based on Sharia and expressed concerns that "attempts are being made to dismantle the current system under the pretext of addressing women's issues," according to a report by TOLO News. Nadim further emphasised the adherence to Sharia principles in the educational system.

"The Almighty Allah has distinguished between men and women. A male is the ruler, he has the authority, he must be obeyed, and the woman must accept his world."

Himalaya Food International Limited advertisement with contact details and office address.

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Manner of registering/updating e-mail addresses for the EGM, including instructions for physical and demat mode.

Bank members may please note the following: List of members and their details for the EGM.

US warns of Chinese global disinformation campaign: Washington (AP): For much of the world, China's Xinjiang region is notorious, a place where ethnic Uyghurs face forced labour and arbitrary detention. But a group of visiting foreign journalists was left with a decidedly different impression. On a tour in late September sponsored by Beijing, the 22 journalists from 17 countries visited bazaars and chatted with residents over dates and watermelon slices. They later told state media they were impressed with the bustling economy, described the region as "full of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity," and denounced what they said were lies by Western media. The trip is an example of what Washington sees as Beijing's growing efforts to reshape the global narrative on China. It's spending billions of dollars annually to do so. In a first-of-its-kind report, the State Department last week laid out Beijing's tactics and techniques for molding public opinion, such as buying content, creating fake personas to spread its message and using repression to quash unfavourable accounts. The Global Engagement Centre, a State Department agency tasked with combating foreign propaganda and disinformation and which released the 58-page report, warned that Beijing's information campaign could eventually sway how decisions are made around the world and undermine US interests. "Unchecked, the (Chinese government's) information manipulation could in many parts of the world diminish freedom to express views critical of Beijing," said Jamie Rubin, who heads the centre. He said Beijing's efforts could "transform the global information and damage the security and stability of the United States, its friends, and partners."

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Himalaya Food International Limited. Includes contact information for Man Mohan Malik, Managing Director.

Large public notice table detailing financial assets, demand notices, and secured assets with columns for Name of the Borrower(s), Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date, and Description of secured asset (immovable property).

Improve corporate governance, FM asks company secretaries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday urged company secretaries to rededicate themselves for better corporate governance, as India gears to become a developed nation by 2047.

Addressing the 55th Foundation Day of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), the finance minister said it is time to "rededicate ourselves for and towards better corporate governance... We cannot see our value systems being diluted... Corporate governance is an issue on which all of us are committed."

Praising ICSI, she said, the high standard set by the institute is well recognised across the world.

She appreciated the decision of the ICSI to waive off registration fee for Agniveer, defence personnel and families of mar-



tyrs for enrollment in company secretaries course.

The other decision, to donate Rs 11 lakh for the education of daughters of martyrs, is also praiseworthy, she noted.

The Finance Minister said the government has taken significant steps to promote ease of

doing business like decriminalisation of minor offences, introduction of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, simplification of regulatory frameworks, tax reforms, and removal of unnecessary and archaic compliance or laws.

As many as 39,000 unnecessary compliances have all been removed, along with 1,500 archaic laws, she said.

Since 2014, for the kind of FDI reforms that the government has undertaken, she said, India has received about USD 230 billion in the last three financial years, which means interest of companies to get invested in India and to run businesses here is now very clearly pronounced.

"And that's where corporate good governance, which you as company secretaries can bring in, makes a difference," she said.

Speaking on the occasion, Corporate Affairs Secretary Manoj Govil said, the number of companies and LLP incorporation during the year is higher by 11 per cent compared to last year.

With regard to the winding-up process, Govil said, it has come down from 180 days to 100 days during this year.

'Unsecured loan growth high, but RBI unlikely to put regulatory restrictions'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Unsecured loans are on the rise, but the Reserve Bank is unlikely to put regulations to curb the same, a top official of India Ratings and Research said on Wednesday.

The domestic credit rating agency, a part of the Fitch Group, feels there are no issues on asset quality as a result of the fast-paced growth in the portfolios as yet, its head for financial institutions Karan Gupta told reporters here.

Gupta said most of the unsecured lending by banks is to salaried individuals, especially ones with whom banks already have a long relationship, giving them a look into cash flows while making the lending calls, he said, adding events like major job losses can hurt the asset quality.

It can be noted that banks have been reporting very high growth in the retail unsecured books for the last few months, leading to concerns over its possible impact on asset quality. RBI's financial stability report also flagged the risk, pointing out that the credit card NPAs for state-run lenders is over 16 per cent.

There have been reports of the central bank mulling moves like upping the risk weights associated with such products, like credit cards, personal loans etc.

When asked about reports



of RBI mulling an increase in risk weights, Gupta said the worry surrounding the segment is not so high which may result in such a move.

In its mid-year review of the banking sector outlook, India Ratings said banks, especially the private sector ones, are focusing on unsecured lending products to protect their margins, which have come under pressure.

Gupta said the net interest margins are set to compress by 0.15-0.20 per cent to 3.41 per cent for the banking system as a result of the struggle for deposits, which will increase the rates offered to depositors.

The current spike in deposit growth to over 12 per cent due to the withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 notes that has got additional funds of over Rs 3.5 lakh crore to the system, the agency said, adding that the growth may be transitory.

The agency upwardly revised its FY24 deposit growth estimate to over 12 per cent, and maintained the view that credit growth will come at 13.5 per cent.

The NPAs will reduce further to 3.2 per cent at the end of the fiscal for the banking system, it said.

The private capital expenditure is at the cusp of revival, and companies can start to invest in the next six months, the agency said.

The non-bank lenders' loan growth will slow down to 15-16 per cent in FY24, as against 20 per cent, the agency said, adding that such lenders will experience an uptick in NPAs and also credit costs.

The microlending segment's growth has been retained at 20-30 per cent, but the agency said that there is a higher likelihood for it to come at the lower end of the expectation due to aspects such as upcoming general elections and over-leverage among borrowers, the agency said.

National action plan for green shipping promotes eco-friendly practices: DG Shipping

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The National Action Plan for Green Shipping promotes eco-friendly practices and incentives for low-emission ships, positioning India's maritime sector for a prosperous and environmentally responsible future, Director General of Shipping Shyam Jagannathan said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the 13th edition of the South Asia's largest maritime exhibition and conference — INMEX SMM India 2023 — here, Jagannathan also said that the sector's vision encompasses quadrupling port capacity, clean energy fuel hubs, and cruise tourism growth, among others.

The three-day conference, which is being hosted in the city in collaboration with German exhibition organiser Hamburg Messe und Congress, will cover several issues concerning the industry, including green shipping and digitalisation, among others.

"The plan promotes eco-friendly practices and incentives for low emission ships, positioning India's maritime sector for a prosperous and environmentally responsible future," Jagannathan said.

He said that the recent achievements in the shipping sector include doubling major ports' capacity, substantial waterway growth, increased cruise passengers and seafarers, expanded solar power, and lighthouse tourism.

Hindustan Zinc signs deal to deploy GreenLine's LNG-powered trucks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hindustan Zinc Ltd has signed a deal to deploy GreenLine Mobility Solution Ltd's LNG-powered fleet in its supply chain and transportation operations, India's first and the only LNG-fuelled heavy trucking logistics company said on Wednesday.

In a statement, GreenLine said it will invest Rs 200 crore for deploying LNG-powered trucks for Hindustan Zinc's road logistics.



commitment of our management and employees. Deployment of LNG vehicle align with our approved SBTi targets to reduce 50 per cent of absolute Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions and further reduction of 25 per cent of absolute Scope 3 GHG emissions by FY2030 from the base year FY2020."

By introducing LNG vehicles, the company is not just showcasing its commitment towards decarbonising Indian mining but also paving the way for a transport revolution, he said. "This is yet another step towards our vision of net-zero by 2050 or sooner, and we look forward to scaling this up in the coming months."

Anand Mimani, CEO, GreenLine, said, "Indian corporate leadership is committed to reducing their carbon footprint, and we are enabling their mission with our green logistics solutions. Clean, green mobility

Adani firm shares climb 3 per cent as IHC hikes stake

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Adani Enterprises Ltd climbed more than 3 per cent on Wednesday after Abu Dhabi conglomerate International Holding Company (IHC) raised its stake in the Adani group's flagship firm.

The stock jumped 3.22 per cent to Rs 2,464.40 on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 4.76 per cent to Rs 2,501.40.

On the NSE, it climbed 3.22 per cent to Rs 2,464.30.

Days after selling its stake in two of Adani group companies, Abu Dhabi conglomerate IHC on Tuesday said it has raised its stake in Adani Enterprises Ltd to above 5 per cent. IHC raised its stake from 4.98 per cent to 5.04 per cent through open market purchase, according to a stock exchange filing by AEL.

IHC separately said, "This strategic increase reflects IHC's conviction in the world leading incubation model of AEL."

Stating it has increased its stake in AEL to above 5 per cent, IHC said it believes that "the inherent strength of airports, data centres, green hydrogen, and various other verticals being incubated under AEL and that AEL is poised to uniquely capitalise on India's robust growth journey."

NPCI to sign pact with Al Etihad Payments for cross-border ties

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NPCI International Payments Ltd, the international arm of the National Payment Corporation of India, will ink an agreement with Al Etihad Payments on Thursday in Abu Dhabi to facilitate cross-border transactions, an official said.

The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) will be signed on development of domestic card scheme of UAE based on India's RuPay debit and credit card stack, the official added.

The agreement will be signed in the presence of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is leading a business delegation to Abu Dhabi from October 5 to October 6.



Goyal will co-chair the eleventh meeting of India-UAE High-Level Task Force on Investments along with Sheikh Hamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

The meeting will be attended by Mohamed Hassan Al-

waidi, Minister of Investment, MD and CEO of ADQ; Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade; Khaled Mohamed Balama, Governor of the Central Bank of the UAE; and Ambassadors of both countries (Abdulnasser Alshaali, UAE Ambassador to India, and Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to UAE).

Goyal will also hold bilateral meetings with Khaldoun Al Mubarak, CEO and MD, Mubadala, besides members of UAE-India Business Council, top business leaders from both countries, and major food importers from GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) and Egypt.

In 2022, the National Pay-

ments Corporation Of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation that offers UPI services, signed an MoU with France's fast and secure online payment system, called Lyra.

In 2023, UPI and Singapore's PayNow signed an agreement, allowing users in either country to make cross-border transactions.

The UAE, Bhutan, and Nepal have already adopted the UPI payment system.

NPCI international is in talks to extend the UPI services in the US, European countries, and West Asia.

UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI facilitating inter-bank transactions.

IN BRIEF

RITES OBSERVES 'SWACHHATA HI SEVA' CAMPAIGN

Gurugram: RITES Ltd, a prime transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering firm, organised "Shramdaan" for the mega cleanliness drive "Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" across its offices and sites. The cleanliness drive was a run-up to the nationwide "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.



POWERGRID ACQUIRES PROJECTS IN RAJASTHAN, ANDHRA

New Delhi: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India, has acquired Bhadla III Transmission Limited (BIITL) from PFC Consulting Limited under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) for establishment of Transmission System for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20GW) under Phase-III Part B1. POWERGRID has also acquired Ananthapur Kurnool Transmission Limited (AKTL) from PFC Consulting Limited under TBCB for establishment of Transmission Scheme for Solar Energy Zone in Ananthapuram (Ananthapur) (2500 MW) and Kurnool (1000 MW), Andhra Pradesh.

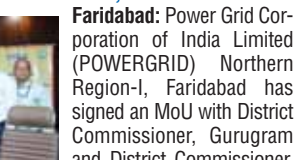
VIT-AP UNIVERSITY HOLDS MUSICAL CONCERT

Amaravati: In a ground breaking and awe-inspiring event, the Null (Infosec) Chapter — VIT-AP University, in collaboration with the Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (AIR Centre) and the IIEC in VIT-AP, proudly presented "Harmony Unleashed", India's first-ever AI musical concert". This event was a true testament to the power of technology and innovation in the world of music.



POWERGRID SIGNS MOU WITH GURUGRAM, JHAJJAR

Faridabad: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) Northern Region-I, Faridabad has signed an MoU with District Commissioner, Gurugram and District Commissioner, Jhajjar on September 27, 2023. The MoU with District Commissioner, Gurugram aims at providing financial assistance towards procurement of medical equipment (One Basic Life Support Ambulance & One X-ray Machine); Sanitation equipment (Two Garbage Collection Vehicles, 50 dustbins) for Village Jamalpur District Gurugram, while the DC Jhajjar MoU included financial assistance towards procurement of 2 Advanced Life Support Ambulances for the use of District Hospital Jhajjar.



Strides Pharma gets USFDA nod to market HIV drug

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Strides Pharma Science on Wednesday said its subsidiary has received approval from the US health regulator to market a generic version of Gilead Sciences' Atripla tablets which are indicated to help control HIV infection. Singapore-based Strides Pharma Global, a stepdown wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, has received approval for Efavirenz (600 mg), Emtricitabine (200mg), Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (300mg), (EET) tablets from the US Food & Drug Administration (USFDA), the drug firm said in a statement.

The company's product is bioequivalent and therapeutically equivalent to Atripla Tablets of Gilead Sciences LLC, it added.

As per IQVIA, Efavirenz, Emtricitabine and Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate tablet (EET) has a market opportunity of USD 7.5 million in the US.

Shares of Strides Pharma Science ended 2.51 per cent up at Rs 508.20 apiece on the BSE on Wednesday.

'Significant growth opportunities in battery storage'

PTI ■ NOIDA

There is significant growth opportunity in the Indian Battery Energy Storage System market largely driven by technological advancements in new battery technologies, experts believe.

Moreover, adopting sustainable recycling methods is crucial because the market for recycled EV batteries in India is predicted to reach 128 GWh by 2030, said Yogesh Mudras, MD of Informa Markets in India, the firm that organised the Renewable Energy India Expo here. Over 700 exhibitors, more than 900 brands have converged for the expo, which is expected to attract around 40,000 visitors over the next three days.

The upcoming period is expected to bring lucrative growth opportunities for the Indian BESS market (Battery Energy Storage System), driven by technological advancements in new battery technologies aimed at energy storage and India's ambitious goal to achieve approximately 500 GW of renewable capacity by 2030," Mudras said.

Markets fall for second day on unabated foreign fund outflows

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices ended lower by 286.06 points on Wednesday, extending their previous day's fall, due to unabated foreign fund outflows and weak trends in the US and Asian markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 286.06 points, or 0.44 per cent, to settle at 65,226.04. During the day, it plunged 633.33 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 64,878.77.

The Nifty declined 92.65 points, or 0.47 per cent, to end at 19,436.10. Among the Sensex firms, Axis Bank fell over 4.38 per cent, emerging as the biggest laggard. State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Maruti, and Larsen & Toubro were the other major laggards.

Nestle, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL Technologies, and Asian Paints were among the gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge fell 1.52 per cent and smallcap index declined 0.96 per cent.

Among the indices, metal tumbled 1.98 per cent, realty declined 1.83 per cent, utilities (1.42 per cent), capital goods (1.33 per cent), industrials (1.22 per cent), services (1.02 per cent), commodities (1 per cent), and oil & gas (0.87 per cent).

FMCG, IT and teck were the gainers.

Overseas investors are pulling out funds from the Indian equity markets as the current rally in US dollar and bond yields is making emerging market assets less attractive," Shrikant Chouhan, head of research (retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said. "Despite our strong macroeconomic growth performance, India is not insulated from global problems, and hence any correction in global markets due to worries over further rate hikes would have a rub-off effect here," he said.

"Strong US jobs data is reinforcing Fed's hawkish stance and multi-year high US bond yields is signalling an impending interest rate hike. Globally, investors are adopting a risk-averse strategies due to inflation concerns and the strengthening US dollar," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.



National Turmeric Board: Exports may touch USD 1 bn by 2030

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday set up National Turmeric Board with a view to promoting production of the herb having medicinal value and increase its exports to USD 1 billion or Rs 8,400 crore by 2030.

"With the focused activities of the board, it is expected that turmeric exports will reach USD 1 billion by 2030," a commerce ministry statement said.

According to the statement, the Centre on Wednesday notified the constitution of National Turmeric Board.

The board will focus on development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country, it added.

Briefing media about the issue, Union Minister Kishan Reddy said the decision fulfils the long-pending demand of farmers of Telangana.

He said the board will not only help farmers of Telangana but also of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Assam, Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal.

He also said farmers in Telangana did not wear slippers or shoes for the past 15 years to press for their demand of setting up of a dedicated board for turmeric.

"Our cadres have distributed slippers to the farmers of Telangana after this announcement," he said.

The government has chalked out a plan to increase turmeric exports to Rs 8,400 crore, or USD 1 billion, per annum (by 2030) from the existing Rs 1,600 crore, said Union Minister Anurag Thakur, while briefing the media about the Union Cabinet decision in its meeting on Wednesday.

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
Nishtha Parisar, Bijalje Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-23
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636

Ref. : MD/MK/04/NIT/ _____ Date : 04.10.2023

TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from manufacturers through e-tendering :-

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lacs)	Tender Fee including GST (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/989	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for SCADA Part-B Line Equipments namely Auto Reclosure, Sectionalizer, 2/3/4 Way RMUs and 11kV & 33kV Fault Passage Indicator (FPI) installed under MPMKVCL, Bhopal.	357.00	11,800/-	20.10.2023 at 3:00 PM	31.10.2023 at 3:00 PM
MD/MK/04/990	Supply & installation of wireless technology enabled energy meters alongwith consumer indexing, monthly meter reading & energy Audit in selected areas under MPMKVCL Bhopal on DBFOOT basis	4766.00	17,700/-	16.10.2023 03:30 PM	30.10.2023 03:30 PM

Other details and full Tender documents would be available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & Govt. Website <https://mptenders.gov.in> shortly.
M.P. Madhyam/112420/2023 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)**

MAN UTD RISK EARLY CL EXIT

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United crashed to a 3-2 defeat at home to Galatasaray on Tuesday to leave the Red Devils in danger of an early exit from the Champions League.

United have lost their opening two games of a Champions League group for the first time as new goalkeeper Andre Onana had another night to forget in Europe.

Rasmus Hojlund twice gave United the lead, but Galatasaray fought back to win away from home in the Champions League for the first time in 10 years thanks to goals from Wilfried Zaha, Kerem Akturkoglu and Mauro Icardi.

"We were totally in control and then we shot ourselves in the feet by giving goals away," said United boss Erik ten Hag.

"We have to defend in such moments and in certain areas better than we did."

Onana accepted responsibility after his error allowed Bayern Munich to open the scoring in United's 4-3 defeat in Germany to start Group A.

The Cameroonian was at fault once more for the crucial moment that saw Casemiro sent-off for conceding a penalty on 77 minutes.

Icardi missed the spot-kick, but quickly made amends to score the winner against 10 men.

United's 1-0 defeat at home to Crystal Palace on Saturday meant Ten Hag's men are also off to their worst ever start to a



Premier League season with four defeats from seven games. Progress to the last 16 of the Champions League now looks an uphill task.

Bayern beat FC Copenhagen 2-1 away to move onto six

points, with Galatasaray four clear of United with four games to play.

Hojlund provided the one note of positivity on an otherwise costly night for United.

The young Danish striker's

start to life at Old Trafford was hampered by a back injury, but he is quickly showing why United splashed out €64 million (\$78 million) for a 20-year-old.

"He scored two brilliant goals," added Ten Hag. "I think

especially the second where he was on his own and used his power and strength. It was a great finish."

"It was my first match in the Champions League, it was an explosion of emotions at that

moment," said Zaha, who surprised many by turning his back on the Premier League to move to Turkey.

"What is important for me is to raise Galatasaray's name to the place it deserves - that is at the top."

CASTRO STRIKES LATE
Braga overturned a two-goal deficit to win 3-2 at Union Berlin on Tuesday, an injury-time strike from Andre Castro helping to spoil the German side's home Champions League debut.

Sheraldo Becker took advantage of Union's early dominance to score a first-half brace.

Braga, top scorers in the Portuguese league this season, fought back immediately, Sikou Niakate pouncing on a rebound to score, before Bruma unleashed a stunner to level the scores early in the second half.

In the fourth minute of injury time, Castro, subbed on with three minutes remaining, slid a fierce shot into the bottom left corner, to give his side the win.

PSV Eindhoven snatched a 2-2 draw at home against Sevilla in the other game in the group courtesy of Jordan Teze's stoppage-time equaliser after a late flurry of goals in the Netherlands.

Marcus Thuram struck the only goal as Inter Milan won 1-0 at home to Benfica in Group D. Inter are level on four points with Real Sociedad, who beat Salzburg 2-0 earlier in the day in Austria.



RC Lens comeback stuns Arsenal in CL

AP ■ LENS

Arsenal slumped to a first defeat of the season on Tuesday as Lens came from behind to win a pulsating Champions League clash 2-1 in France thanks to a fine second-half strike by Elye Wahi.

Gabriel Jesus gave the Premier League side an ideal start when he opened the scoring in the 14th minute to silence a raucous Stade Bollaert.

But Adrien Thomasson soon brought last season's Ligue 1 runners-up back on level terms and the visitors saw Bukayo Saka limp off before half-time.

Wahi, the 20-year-old striker who became Lens' club-record signing when he joined at the start of the campaign, then fired home in the 69th minute and his side held on for a famous victory.

"I am very proud of the players," said Lens manager Franck Haise, who took over the team in the second division in 2020.

"To beat Arsenal certainly makes it one of the most memorable games in my time at Lens."

The result lifts them above Arsenal to the top of Champions League Group B on four points, one above Mikel Arteta's side.



Lovlina settles for silver

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Tokyo Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain put up a lacklustre display to settle for a silver as Indian boxers signed off with a haul of five medals at the Asian Games here on Wednesday.

Parveen Hooda couldn't overcome the height disadvantage against two-time world champion Lin Yu Ting of Chinese Taipei in the women's 57kg semifinal to sign off with a bronze.

Borgohain's defensive performance cost her the gold as she was out-punched in the lopsided final. The reigning world champion was thrashed by home favourite and two-time Olympic medallist Li Qian in the 75kg final.

With Borgohain's loss, India's campaign came to an end. The country's boxers thus signed off with five medals, including one silver and four bronze. In the last edition, India had won a gold and a bronze.

"I gave my best but could not bring the gold. I am happy with my performance. I will try to change the colour of the medal in the Olympics," Borgohain said after the bout.

Bayern come from behind to beat Copenhagen

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Teenage Bayern Munich striker Mathys Tel struck late as his side came from behind to beat FC Copenhagen 2-1 in their Champions League clash in the Danish capital on Tuesday.

Bayern lacked fluidity and struggled against an impressive Copenhagen side, who grabbed the lead early in the second half thanks to Lukas Lerager's opener.

With Bayern in danger of losing their first Champions League group stage match since September 2017, Thomas Tuchel's men upped the ante, Jamal Musiala equalising with a superb solo effort.

Tel, brought on in the 77th minute alongside Thomas Mueller with just seven minutes remaining, collected the ball from the Bayern veteran before unleashing a winner past the helpless home goalkeeper Kamil Grabara.

Super-sub Tel has now scored five of his six goals after coming off the bench and ensured Bayern won their 15th group stage match in a row.

Tuchel told Amazon Prime he had been trying to replace Musiala when the forward scored the equaliser.

"He's returning from a muscle injury and we'd tried to take him off," Tuchel said with a smile.

Bayern captain Joshua Kimmich thanked Mueller and Tel, who came off the bench to combine for the winner. "We've got great quality on the bench and they've saved us often this season."



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Burnley beat Luton to earn first PL win this season

AP ■ LUTON

Burnley won for the first time in the Premier League this season as Jacob Bruun Larsen's late blast clinched a 2-1 win against fellow strugglers Luton on Tuesday.

In a clash between two clubs fighting to find their feet after promotion from the Championship last season, Vincent Kompany's side earned three valuable points.

South Africa forward Lyle Foster put the Clarets ahead late in the first half at Kenilworth Road.

Luton's Elijah Adebayo equalised with just six minutes left, but Norway midfielder Bruun Larsen's first Premier League goal stole the points seconds later.

Championship winners



Burnley had taken just one point from their first six games, losing five times.

But their long-awaited first victory gave them renewed hope, lifting them to 18th place, behind Luton on goal difference.

"It feels great, three points in the Premier League. We had to battle for it and I am proud of the team for what they showed," Kompany said.

Luton became the first of last season's three promoted sides to win a league game this term when they beat Everton at Goodison Park on Saturday.

But the end of Luton's two-game unbeaten run served as a reality check for the Hatters, who last played in the top-flight in 1991-92.

Neymar scores first Al Hilal goal

AP ■ TEHRAN

Brazil star Neymar opened his account for Al Hilal finally on Tuesday, scoring in his side's 3-0 victory in the Asian Champions League against Iran's Nassaji Mazandaran in Tehran.

The former Paris Saint-Germain forward, signed in August for a reported 90 million euros (\$94 million), grabbed the second in the record Asian champions' win at the Azadi Stadium.

The goal, a sweeping left-footed finish on 58 minutes, represented Neymar's first for Hilal in five matches. Former Fulham striker Aleksandar Mitrovic had opened the scoring on 18 minutes with a header, with substitute Saleh Al Shehri securing the result in injury-time to lift the four-time winners, runners-up last year, top of Group D.

Navbahor, 2022 Uzbekistan Super League runners-up and Champions League debutants, had earlier on Tuesday secured a 3-0 win at home to India's Mumbai City in Nangan.

In Group A, 2003 winners Al Ain maintained their 100 per cent record with a 4-2 home success against Turkmenistan's Ahal, while Saudi side Al Fayha ran out 2-0 winners at home to Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor. Al Ain



of the UAE are top, three points ahead of Ahal and Fayha.

In the East Asian side of the draw, South Korea's Incheon United made it two wins from two in Group G with a 4-0 victory at home to Filipino side Kaya-FC Iloilo. Japanese champions Yokohama F Marinos are second in the group after rebounding from an opening defeat to Incheon by defeating

Chinese side Shandong Taishan 1-0 on Tuesday.

In Group I, Japan's Kawasaki Frontale sit top following a 1-0 victory at home against South Korean champions, and 2020 Asian Champions League winners, Ulsan Hyundai. Malaysian club Johor Darul Ta'zim jumped into second with their 4-2 win away at Thailand's BG Pathum United.

Satwiksairaj-Chirag, Sindhu & Prannoy in last eight; Srikanth out

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Kidambi Srikanth bowed out but top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty came up with a smashing performance to enter the quarterfinals as India had a mixed day in office in badminton competition of the Asian Games here on Wednesday.

In a contest that lasted a marathon 84 minutes, Satwik and Chirag prevailed 24-22, 16-21, 21-12 against Indonesian duo of Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin, who were not willing to concede even an inch to the celebrated Indian duo, ranked No. 3 in the world.

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and world championships bronze medallist HS Prannoy also sailed into the quarterfinals of the women's and men's singles events respectively with straight game wins.

However, it was curtains for Srikanth as he went down against Japan's Kodai Naraoka, a world championships silver medallist, 16-21, 17-21 in pre quarterfinals.

Former world champion Sindhu won the round of 16 match against Putri Kusuma Wardani 21-16, 21-16, sealing it in her favour without breaking a sweat against the hapless Indonesian.

Sindhu will line up against China's He Bingjiao in the quarterfinals, and will fancy her chances against the Chinese having denied her a medal at the Tokyo Olympics two years ago.

Bingjiao won 21-10, 21-4 against Rasila Maharjan of Nepal.

Prannoy also booked his spot in the quarterfinals as he beat Kazakhstan's Dmitry Panarin 21-12, 21-13.

However, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand were knocked out in the round of 16 by the Korean pair of Kim Soyeong and Kong Heeyong. The Koreans won 21-15, 18-21, 21-13.

Earlier, India's Tanisha Crasto and Sai Pratheek Krishna Prasad were also bowed out in the Round of 16 after a defeat to Malaysia's Toh Ee Wei and Chen Tang Jie.

The Malaysian duo won 21-18, 21-18.

The Malaysian duo won 21-18, 21-18.

INTRODUCTION OF DELHI JN.-JAISALMER-DELHI JN. RUNICHA EXPRESS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to introduce a regular train service between Delhi Jn. and Jaisalmer w.e.f. 06.10.2023 (from Delhi Jn.) and 07.10.2023 (from Jaisalmer) as per following stoppage and timings:-

Train No. 14087/14088 Delhi Jn.-Jaisalmer-Delhi Jn. Runicha Express Train				
TRAIN NO. 14087	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 14088
—	08:55	—	Delhi Jn.	10:35
09:23	09:25	—	Delhi Cantt.	09:37
09:41	09:43	—	Gurgaon	09:21
10:35	10:37	—	Rewari Jn.	08:33
11:14	11:16	—	Ateeli	07:42
11:30	11:32	—	Narnaul	07:25
11:52	11:54	—	Dabla	07:03
12:14	12:16	—	Nim ka Thana	06:42
12:32	12:34	—	Kanwat	06:15
12:48	12:50	—	Shri Madhopur	05:58
12:59	13:02	—	Ringas Jn.	05:45
13:42	13:45	—	Renwal	05:13
15:20	15:25	—	Phulera Jn.	04:40
16:18	16:20	—	Kuchaman City	03:13
16:32	16:35	—	Makrana Jn.	03:00
17:12	17:15	—	Degana Jn.	02:25
18:35	18:40	—	Merta Road Jn.	01:40
20:00	20:02	—	Rai ka Bagh Palace Jn.	00:28
21:00	21:30	—	Jodhpur	00:05
00:03	00:05	—	Marwar Lohawat	21:34
00:30	00:35	—	Phalodi Jn.	21:05
01:45	01:50	—	Ramdevra	20:25
02:00	02:05	—	Ashapura Gomat	20:15
04:00	—	—	Jaisalmer	—

Note: The inaugural run of this service will take place from Jaisalmer at 11:10 hours on 05.10.2023 with Spl. Train No. 04088.

Days of Run : 14087 Ex Delhi Jn. on 06.10.2023 (Friday) and 14088 Ex Jaisalmer on 07.10.2023 (Saturday)

Accommodation: First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

* Due to introduction of 14087/88 Runicha Express the timings of train no. 04041 (74033) Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Farrukhnagar will also be revised w.e.f. 06.10.2023 as per detail mentioned below:-

STATIONS	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
Delhi Sarai Rohilla	—	09.18
Patel Nagar	09.24	09.25
Delhi Cantt.	09.40	09.41
Palam	09.46	09.47
Shahabad	09.52	09.53
Muhammadpur Halt	09.58	09.59
Bijwasan	10.06	10.07
Gurgaon	10.12	10.13
Basai Dhankot	10.25	10.27
Garhi Harsaru Jn.	10.40	10.41
Sultanpur Kaliawas	10.55	—
Farrukhnagar	—	—

For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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ENG FACE NZ IN WC OPENER

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A golden generation of England cricketers who have transformed the white ball format template forever will begin their 50-over World Cup title defence against an injury-battered New Zealand in a repeat of the 2019 final here on Thursday.

England are an ageing side alright, but few will dare to bet their green bills against Jos Buttler's outfit to add a third World Cup to their shelf in four years, as they are also the current T20 World Cup holders.

Trying to win that elusive ICC World Cup, New Zealand will be in a state of worry for more than one reason.

They will not have captain Kane Williamson, who though had played the warm-ups, and senior pacer Tim Southee in their ranks as both are still on the recovery path after respective surgeries.

Southee's fitness will be monitored closely as he is recuperating from a recent surgery on his fractured thumb. He had dislocated his finger during the ODI series against England.

But that is only a tip of their bigger concerns. The Ahmedabad pitch is generally an ally of batsmen, and England have a bionic batting line-up for whom skull-crushing their rivals is a favoured hobby.

The whole ferocity surrounding their batting has only gone up after the return of Ben Stokes, as he had decided to come out of retirement for the big event.

The maverick all-rounder has a troublesome knee that may curtail his role as a bowler in the tournament, but Stokes loves big occasions.

He had left indelible marks on two World Cup finals in 2019 and 2022, and to count him out to do an encore will be naïve.



But Stokes will not be the only batting Cyclop, the Kiwis will have to negate on the morrow. England have one of the longest batting orders. They have explosive batters in Liam Livingstone, Jonny Bairstow and Harry Brook and then more conventional batters like Joe Root and Dawid Malan.

Additionally, their experience of playing in the IPL will certainly add to their ability to understand and adapt to the varied conditions at eight different venues for nine group stage games.

Then they have a slew of all-rounders like Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes and Sam Curran, who played a decisive role in Australia during last year's T20 World Cup.

Their bowling unit also not to be undermined. Mark Wood's express pace and IPL experience give England some edge, but leg-spinner Adil Rashid will also be a vital cog in their bowling department.

However, England will miss their leading wicket-taker from the 2019 edition - Jofra Archer. The pacer is on a comeback trail after injury, though he has been included in the squad as a reserve.

On the other hand, without Williamson and Southee, New Zealand certainly lost a big chunk of experience and fire but the Kiwis have consistently punched above their weight in the ICC tournaments.

Their final appearances in the 2015 and 2019 50-over

World Cups and in the 2021 T20 World Cup will underscore that point.

Daryl Mitchell's form combined with the sturdy Devon Conway at the top will give New Zealand confidence, but stand-in captain Tom Latham's lean run could be of some concern as the left-hander has averaged just 25.93 with only three fifties in 17 ODIs this year.

But they have some strength-boosters in their line-up. James Neesham and Glenn Phillips are hard-hitters and they also know the Indian conditions well, courtesy the IPL stints.

Will Young is also having a good run this year in ODIs, scoring 578 runs in 14 matches at 44.46 and he can provide the

Kiwis with a solid option at No. 3, where he averages over 53.

The absence of Southee is a big miss for the Kiwis especially with new ball.

But the Black Caps will hope that pacers Matt Henry, who has 10 wickets from 14 matches, veteran Trent Boult and Lockie Ferguson, last edition's highest wicket-taker for them with 21 wickets, can make their presence felt.

Boult's form is encouraging too for them, as the left-arm pacer has warmed up well for the World Cup with 10 wickets in five games.

On paper, England might have an edge as it was shown in the recent ODI series which they won 3-1. But when it comes to England and New Zealand, past

records can be safely tossed away through the window.

SQUADS:

England: Jos Buttler (captain & wk), Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow (wk), Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Ben Stokes, Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Sam Curran, David Willey, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood, Reece Topley, Gus Atkinson.

New Zealand: Tom Latham (captain & wk), Devon Conway (wk), Will Young, Kane Williamson (not available vs England), Mark Chapman, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Glenn Phillips (wk), Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Trent Boult, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry.



Southee 'unavailable' for 1st match: Latham

AP ■ AHMEDABAD

New Zealand's Tim Southee will miss the World Cup's opening match against holders England and potentially some of the following matches due to an injured thumb, stand-in skipper Tom Latham said on Wednesday.

Southee, who dislocated his thumb in a one-day against England more than three weeks ago, underwent surgery and said doctors had to "chuck in some screws and a plate" to boost his chances of playing in the 50-over showpiece event.

Southee played a key role in his team's runners-up finish in the 2019 edition but missed the dramatic final defeat to hosts England at Lord's.

The Kiwis are still hunting for their first World Cup title after making eight semi-final appearances in 12 editions.

They come into the tournament as the underdogs, with most pundits handing the favourites tag to either India or England. "We are not focused on what people are predicting; from our point of view we are solely focused on what we have to do," said Latham.

"If we can play our brand of cricket in these conditions -- which is pretty different to the last two ODI World Cups, in Australia and England."

He added: "If we play to the best of our ability then we are hard to beat on the day."

OTHER SPORTS

India enter Asian Games men's hockey final

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

India defeated South Korea 5-3 in a hard-fought semifinal to enter the title clash of the men's hockey competition at the Asian Games here on Wednesday.

The Indians, who had an easy run in the pool stages recording big wins, were made to toil by the Koreans despite taking a 3-0 lead in the first quarter.

India, who won a bronze in the last edition, will be eyeing a repeat of the 2014 Incheon Asian Games, where they won the yellow metal. A gold in the ongoing Asian Games is of huge significance for the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists as it will ensure their direct entry into the 2024 Paris Games.

Hardik Singh (5th minute), Mandeep Singh (11th), Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (15th), Amit Rohidas (24th) and

Abhishek (54th) were the goal-getters for India, while Manjae Jung (17th, 20th, 42nd) scored a hat-trick for Korea but it went in vain.

The Indians started from where they had left in the pool stages and came out attacking from the onset.

It was all about Indian attack and Korea's defence in the opening quarter as the Harmanpreet-led side mounted continuous raids on the opposition defence.

It took just five minutes for India to take the lead through Hardik, who scored from a rebound after Lalit's initial try was saved by Korean goalkeeper Jaehyeon Kim.

The first quarter saw fast-paced continuous attacks from the Indians and their tactics bore fruit again in the 11th minute when Mandeep deflected in his 10th goal here from a Gurjant pass.



Just at the stroke of the first quarter, Lalit was at the right place to push in a rebound after Harmanpreet's reverse hit was saved by the Korean goalkeeper to hand India a 3-0 lead. The Koreans looked more purposeful in the second quarter and got their act together to put pressure on the Indians

with two quick goals.

Stunned by Korea's fight-back, the Indians got their composure back and went back to their tried and tested possession hockey, which yielded results when Rohidas stepped up in Harmanpreet's absence to flick in a penalty corner.

Known for their fighting spirit, the Koreans looked in no mood to give up and put relentless pressure on the Indian goal after the change of ends.

Korea's pressure jolted the Indians as they conceded another penalty corner and another variation was perfectly deflected in by Jung to register his hat-trick and reduce the scoreline.

Trailing by just one goal, the Koreans played high-pressure hockey in the fourth and final quarter but the Indians defended in numbers to keep their opponents at bay.



India men and women thrash Thailand in kabaddi

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

India continued their impressive run in kabaddi with both the men's and women's teams thrashing their Thailand counterparts in the Asian Games here on Wednesday.

While the seven-time champions men's team outclassed Thailand 63-26, the women's side prevailed 54-22 in two Group A matches at the Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre.

Looking to regain its Asian Games gold medal, the Indian men's team, which had slipped to a bronze medal at the 2018 Jakarta edition, took a commanding 37-9 lead at half-time.

India did not take much time to inflict the first 'all-out' on Thailand within the first few minutes of the start of the contest.

Soon, India got a point in the raid before tackling the last man in from Thailand to force a second 'all-out'.

Pramot Saising, the last man in for Thailand, went for the raid but was thumped down as India inflicted a third 'all-out' at the stroke of half-time.

India continued their domination in the second half and inflicted another 'all-out' on Thailand to take a 53-17 lead.

The Thai players faltered in their raids time and again as India continued to extend their lead in the second half.

But Thailand showed some fight in the second half as India won the half 26-17 to seal the contest.

The Indian men's team had earlier registered an emphatic 55-18 win over Bangladesh on Tuesday. After the men's team recorded a fine victory, the women's side, last edition's silver medallists, got on the mat against Thailand and dished out a solid performance, grabbing a dominating 32-9 lead in the first half before leading 22-13 in the second half.

The team thus topped their group to qualify for the semifinals.

On Tuesday, the women's side had recorded a 56-23 win over South Korea in their second Group A game. In the men's event, India are clubbed with Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Japan in Group A, while Iran, Korea, Pakistan and Malaysia form Group B.

Sunil wins India's first Greco Roman medal since 2010

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Sunil Kumar won India's first Greco Roman medal in 13 years at the Asian Games, bagging a bronze in the 87kg category even as three of his compatriots exited the tournament here on Wednesday.

Up against Kyrgyzstan's Atabek Azisbekov, the Indian wrestler fought a strategic bout in which twice he defended well from 'par terre' position, denying his opponent a scoring opportunity from the ground position for a 2-1 win.

The Indian also successfully challenged the referee's two-point decision given in favour of Azisbekov, who had managed to push Sunil out but was not in control of the push-out move.

Sunil was already ahead on criteria and got the decisive point towards the end.

India had won two medals in Greco Roman in the Guangzhou edition with Ravinder Singh (60kg) and Sunil Kumar Rana (66kg) winning a bronze each in 2010.

Squash: India on course for best ever showing

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

India's Saurav Ghosal outclassed Henry Leung of Hong Kong in the men's singles semifinals to remain firmly on course for a second gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games here on Wednesday.

Having played his part in the men's team triumph, the world number 19 from India was far too good for the 52-ranked Henry and completed a dominating 11-2, 11-2, 11-6 victory in 33 minutes.

India could end up with an unprecedented three gold medals from the squash courts with the mixed doubles duo of Dipika Pallikal and Harinderpal Sandhu also reaching the title clash, to be played on Thursday.

Second seed Ghosal will meet top seed Eain Yow Ng in the final on Thursday. The Indian had beaten his Malaysian rival in four games in the team semifinals.

Having missed a golden chance to step on the top of the singles podium in 2014, the 37-year-old Ghosal will be determined to end his sixth and probably last



Asian Games on a high. Though his Hong Kong opponent was much younger, Ghosal was superior on both tactical and physical side of the game.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Indian pairing of Dipika and Harinderpal won 7-11, 11-7, 11-9 against Hong Kong's Lee Ka Yi

and Wong Chi Him to make the final. However, it was heartbreak for the second Indian pair of Abhay Singh and Anahat Singh as they lost to Aifa Binti Azman and Mohammad Syafiq Bin Mohd Kamal of Malaysia 11-8, 2-11, 9-11 in the other mixed doubles semi-final.

"It's good to have won. Every round is important. I feel like everyone has come prepared. We knew that we had to stick to our plan, play to the best of our ability and just forget about the results. The results will come," Dipika said.

Afghanistan dump SL out of Asiad, B'desh survive

AP ■ HANGZHOU

Afghanistan skipper Gulbadin Naib hailed his "superstar" side on Wednesday after they beat defending champions Sri Lanka by eight runs to book an Asian Games semi-final against Pakistan.

offering pace, sharp turn and fierce bounce.

Seamer Nuwan Thushara bagged 4-17 with Noor Ali Zadran's 51 the only resistance.

Sri Lanka's target looked gettable, but they blew the run chase with experienced quick Naib's 3-28 and young leg-spinner Qais Ahmad's 3-16 doing the damage as they were bundled out for 108.

"Every guy in the team is like a superstar in Afghanistan. A lot of our players are playing franchise league cricket (around the world) so they have



a lot of experience now," said Naib. "We didn't put a good total on the board, but the guys on the field out there were brilliant and have really shown their class."

T20 cricket has been played at the Asian Games twice before, at Guangzhou 2010 and Incheon 2014, with Afghanistan runners-up both times, to Bangladesh and then Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh stayed on track for a second title, but only just, after managing a miserly 116-5.

They were on the brink of defeat

with Malaysia needing five runs off the final over, after Virandeep Singh's sumptuous 52 put the Malaysians within reach of a major upset.

But Bangladesh held on thanks to a tight last over from Afif Hossain, who called on all his experience from 63 T20s to keep his country alive.

"One good thing was we didn't lose hope, we didn't give up the game until the last ball," said Bangladesh skipper Saif Hassan after Malaysia were restricted to 114-8.

"Everyone, especially Afif, held their nerve."