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VLADIMIR PUTIN'S
AFRICAN ODYSSEY

WORLD 8

SUNAK JOINS OTHER COUNTRIES
IN SUPPORTING ISRAEL

MONEY 10

TELECOM FIRMS INVEST
₹2,419 CR UNDER PLI

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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ISRAEL POUNDS GAZA

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli warplanes hammered the Gaza Strip neighbourhood by neighbourhood on Tuesday, reducing buildings to rubble and sending people scrambling to find safety in the tiny, sealed-off territory as Israel vowed a retaliation for Hamas' surprise weekend attack that would "reverberate...for generations".

Aid organisations pleaded for the creation of humanitarian corridors to get aid into Gaza, warning that hospitals overwhelmed with wounded were running out of supplies. Israel has stopped all access of food, fuel and medicines into Gaza, and the sole remaining access from Egypt shut down on Tuesday after air strikes hit near the border crossing.

The war began after Hamas militants stormed into Israel on Saturday, bringing gunbattles to its streets for the first time in decades. At least 1,600 lives have already been claimed on both sides, and perhaps hundreds more. Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza hold more than 150 soldiers and civilians hostage, according to Israel.

The conflict is only expected to escalate. Israel expanded the mobilisation of reservists to 360,000 on Tuesday, according to the country's media. After days of fighting, Israel's military said on Tuesday morning that it had regained effective control over areas Hamas attacked in its south, and of the Gaza border.

A looming question is whether Israel will launch a



Smoke rises from an explosion caused by Israeli air strikes on the border between Egypt and Rafah, in Gaza Strip PTI

ground offensive into Gaza — a 40 km long strip of land wedged among Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea that is home to 2.3 million people and has been governed by Hamas since 2007.

The Israeli military said it struck hundreds of targets overnight in Gaza City's Rimal neighbourhood, an upscale district that is home to ministries of the Hamas-run government, as well as universities, media organisations and the offices of aid organisations.

Palestinian Civil Defence forces pulled Abdullah Musleh out of his basement together with 30 others after their apartment building was flattened by the air strikes.

"I sell toys, not missiles," the 46-year-old said, weeping. "I want to leave Gaza. Why do I have to stay here? I lost my

home and my job."

After hours of nonstop attacks, residents left their homes at daybreak to find buildings torn in half by air strikes or reduced to mounds of concrete and rebar. Cars were flattened and trees burned out on residential streets that had been transformed into moonscapes.

The devastation signalled what appeared to be a new Israeli tactic: warning civilians to leave certain areas and then hitting those areas with unprecedented intensity. On Tuesday afternoon, the military warned residents of another nearby neighbourhood to evacuate and move into the centre of Gaza City.

"There is no safe place in Gaza right now, you see decent people being killed every day," Hasan Jabar, a Gaza journalist,

said after three other Palestinian journalists were killed in the Rimal bombardment. "I am genuinely afraid for my life."

The bombardments and Israel's threats to topple Hamas sharpened questions about the group's strategy and objectives. But it is unclear what options it has in the face of the ferocity of Israel's retaliation and the potential of losing much of its government infrastructure.

Hours after Saturday's incursion began, a senior Hamas official Saleh al-Arouri said the group had planned for all possibilities, including "all-out war," and was ready to suffer "severe blows".

Desperation has grown among Palestinians, many of whom see nothing to lose under unending Israeli control and increasing settlements in

the West Bank, the blockade in Gaza and what they see as the world's apathy.

Al-Arouri's comments suggested Hamas expected the fight to spread to the West Bank and possibly for Lebanon's Hezbollah to open a front in the north. But despite some eruptions of violence, neither has happened on a significant scale, especially amid a heavy Israeli lockdown on West Bank Palestinians.

In hopes of blunting the bombardment, Hamas has threatened to kill one Israeli civilian captive any time Israel targets civilians in their homes in Gaza "without prior warning", Israel's foreign minister, Eli Cohen, warned in response that "this war crime" would not be forgiven.

Israel, in turn, appears determined to crush Hamas no matter the cost.

The militants' attack stunned Israel with a death toll unseen since the 1973 war with Egypt and Syria, and those deaths happened over a longer period of time. It brought horrific scenes of Hamas militant gunning down civilians in their cars on the road, in streets of towns, and at a music festival attended by thousands in the desert near Gaza, while dragging men, women and children into captivity.

The Israeli military said more than 900 people have been killed in Israel.

The bodies of roughly 1,500 Hamas militants were found on Israeli territory, the military said.

India stands with Israel, Modi assures Netanyahu

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

India stands firmly with Israel and condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu during a telephonic conversation on Tuesday. Netanyahu briefed Modi on the situation in Israel.

In the meantime, Palestine has called upon India to mediate in order to bring an end to the ongoing conflict. Adnan Abu Alhaja, the envoy to New Delhi, highlighted India's long-standing solidarity with the Palestinian cause, tracing it back to the time of Mahatma Gandhi. He emphasised that India, being a friend to both Israel and Palestine, holds a crucial role in helping to resolve this crisis.

Reaffirming India's support to Israel, Modi said in a social media message, "I thank Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his phone call and providing an update on the ongoing situation. People of India stand firmly with Israel in this difficult hour. India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations."

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said Prime Minister Modi thanked his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu for updating him on the ongoing situation in his country.

Modi posted on X: "I thank Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his phone call and providing an update on the ongoing situation. People of India stand firmly with Israel in this difficult hour. India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations."

He also highlighted the issue of safety and security of Indian citizens in Israel. Netanyahu assured him of full cooperation and support.

There are some 18,000 Indian citizens in Israel, including about 900 Indian students. Many of the Indians primarily work as caregivers for elders, diamond traders and IT professionals.

The call between Modi and his Israeli counterpart comes at a time when the US, the UK, Germany and France have issued a joint statement expressing their "steadfast support" for Israel and unequivocally condemning Hamas and its acts of terrorism.

In a joint statement, the leaders of the US, the UK, France, Germany and Italy called Hamas' actions appalling and warned against any country trying to take advantage of the current crisis in Israel.

"We make clear that the terrorist actions of Hamas have no justification, no legitimacy, and must be universally condemned. There is never any justification for terrorism. In recent days, the world has

watched in horror as Hamas terrorists massacred families in their homes, slaughtered over 200 young people enjoying a music festival, and kidnapped elderly women, children, and entire families, who are now being held as hostages," the statement said.

"Our countries will support Israel in its efforts to defend itself and its people against such atrocities. We further emphasise that this is not a moment for any party hostile to Israel to exploit these attacks to seek advantage," it added.

Modi on Saturday had expressed solidarity with Israel after Hamas militants launched an attack on the country.

Modi condemned it as "terrorist attacks" in Israel.

The Indian embassy in Israel has asked its nationals living in the country to "remain vigilant" and "observe safety protocols as advised by local authorities."

"Deeply shocked by the news of terrorist attacks in Israel. Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. We stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour," Modi said.

Israel's ambassador to India Naor Gilon had said "Israel will repel this combined assault of rocket fire and ground infiltration of Hamas terrorists..." adding "We appreciate the support of the people of India as we stand firm in the face of terrorism."

Chabad House, Embassy fortified

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of escalating tensions between Israel and Hamas, the Delhi Police has increased the security around the Israeli embassy and Chabad House in the national Capital. Police stations around the embassy in New Delhi and Chabad House, located in Chandni Chowk in Central Delhi, have been directed to maintain a tight vigil.

There are two Chabad Houses in India, one in Mumbai and the other in Paharganj, Delhi. These Chabad Houses are like Jewish open houses and are open to every Jew. They feel like home here.

Sources said the security has been increased and additional police vehicles have been deployed outside the Israeli Embassy and the official residence of the Israeli Ambassador to India, Naor Gilon, and Chabad House in Paharganj area. Sources added that authorities have directed to increase the vigil around both the installations.

The move to increase the

security comes at a time when about 900 Israelis have been killed and over 2,600 injured in the surprise and unprecedented attack by Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip on Saturday morning.

The security measures were implemented in order to avoid any untoward incidents similar to the one that happened more than two years ago. In January 2021, a "very low IED device" was detonated near the Israeli embassy in Delhi, damaging nearby cars. But no injuries were reported in the blast.

The Chabad House in Paharganj is the first semblance of a home away from home for hundreds of Israelis landing in India. Conservative estimates put the number of Israelis visiting Delhi's Chabad House at 50,000 per year. The Chabad House is probably the first point of contact with their own people for Israelis visiting India. It is a comfort zone that allows them some familiarity, before venturing out to explore exotic, bewildering India.

It is noted that when terrorists attacked Mumbai 26/11,

the Chabad House was also targeted. The terrorists wanted to take revenge for Palestine and their aim was to kill Israeli civilians.

After that incident, strict security arrangements have been made at Chabad House in both Delhi and Mumbai. Now many CCTV cameras have been installed on the roads around Chabad House.

Israeli and Jewish tourists can relax at the Chabad House and enjoy Israeli cuisine. Also, if any kind of information or help is needed, that is also available. According to the information given on chabad.org, currently there are more than 3,500 Chabad Houses operating in more than 85 countries of the world.

In a way, Chabad House is a community centre for the Jewish community, where they are provided all kinds of help and facilities. Be it children's education, employment or helping the elderly. Programmes like special classes, workshops, lectures are organised at Chabad House for Israelis and Jews. Lectures are also given on religious subjects.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with hockey players while meeting with Asian Games medal winners at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on Tuesday. The Prime Minister assured all possible help to Indian athletes in their endeavour to achieve greater heights and expressed confidence that the country will better its performance in the next edition of the Asian Games. The Indian athletes produced their best-ever performance at the continental games, bringing home 107 medals, including 28 gold as the country finished fourth on the medals table. (Report on Page 4) PTI

Bidhuri skips Privileges Committee summons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri, who was scheduled to appear before the Privileges Committee of the Lok Sabha on Tuesday in connection with his controversial remarks against the BSP's Danish Ali, excused himself from the appearance citing prior engagements, according to sources.

The Privileges Committee, headed by BJP member Sunil Kumar Singh, addressed other matters on the agenda as Bidhuri, who was campaigning for the party in Rajasthan, was absent. The committee will soon determine the next date for their meeting. "I had a pre-scheduled commitment to be in Rajasthan for three days until October 11, and I am here fulfilling that commitment," Bidhuri explained.

When asked by *The Pioneer* over phone, the South Delhi MP did not comment on when he would present himself before the Privileges Committee following his return to Delhi. He said he has already answered the question regarding the committee.

A Gujarat by caste, Bidhuri has been drafted in by the BJP for poll work in Tonk, a district where members of his community are present in large num-

bers. The district has four Assembly seats. Assembly polls are due in Rajasthan on November 23.

The Privileges Committee had asked the South Delhi MP for "oral evidence" in relation to complaints received from several MPs against him and BSP MP Ali for "alleged improper conduct during the discussion on Chandrayaan-3 mission in the House".

A day after the special session of Parliament ended, the BJP sent a show-cause notice seeking a reply as to why action should not be taken against him. While several Opposition MPs demanded action against Bidhuri, some BJP members said Ali "incited" him and made objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Participating in the discussion in the Lok Sabha on September 21, Bidhuri fired a volley of objectionable words at Ali.

The BSP MP was later accused by BJP members of doing a "running commentary" while Bidhuri spoke and instigated him.

Bidhuri's derogatory comments were, however, condemned by his party colleagues as well, with BJP president JP Nadda issuing a show-cause notice to him.

Heart healer's odyssey beyond medical triumph

SWARN KUMAR ANAND ■ NEW DELHI

In the hallowed halls of Ahmedabad's medical community, Dr Anitesh Shanker is a name synonymous with skill, precision, and success. As a youthful cardiac surgeon, his hands have mended myriad broken hearts. Yet, beyond the sterile walls of operation theaters and accolades, Dr Shanker's own heart carried the weight of a hidden struggle — a battle against multiple mental disorders such as anxiety depressive disorder, borderline psychosis, attention deficit disorder, and the oppressive embrace of hypersomnia.

"The demanding post-graduate training in cardiac surgery, the challenges of conjugal life, and the weight of financial stress all came together to shape the crucible in which my mental health conditions were forged," says the cardiovascular surgeon.

"The pivotal moment came with a significant financial loss. My father entrusted me with a substantial sum from his retirement savings to support my advanced medical studies, but I lost that fortune in the abyss of ill-fated investments. I had six years of training left and a family to support with negligible income in the form of stipend. It was a turning point for my mental well-being. The loss shook me to my core," recalls Dr Shanker.

As the shadows of despair deepened, Dr Shanker withdrew from the world. "Every task became a Herculean effort, each page of a book an insurmountable mountain," he says. Dr Shanker teetered on the precipice of what felt like the lowest point of his life. He goes on to say, "I withdrew into myself, isolating from my family. I discovered myself becoming disinterested in everything and harbouring resentment towards everyone around me. Even reading a single page took me hours to finish and comprehend. It felt like I had reached the lowest point in my life."

However, it was then that he had a chance encounter with an herbal sedative. "It provided me with a glimmer of hope.

World Mental Health Day



It quieted the storm within me, enabling me to turn my gaze inwards. As a medical professional, I understood that external remedies could only offer temporary relief; the true path to healing lay within," recounts Dr Shanker.

Over the course of two

painstaking years, he sought solace in meditation and the wisdom found within the pages of books. "I dedicated myself to understanding the intricacies of my mind, resolute in my determination to supplant negative thoughts with positive ones. This process was akin to utilising the constructive energy of Chandra Naari, as opposed to the destructive energy of Surya Naari, a concept expounded in ancient texts," reflects Dr Shanker.

Dr Shanker came to a profound realisation that emotions such as fear, anger, complaint and jealousy breed self-destructive energy, whereas love, sympathy, and compassion foster self-constructive energy. "I grasped that life is essentially an interplay between

two fundamental forces of nature, encoded within us as 'fear' and 'belief'. Fear can erode both the mind and body, giving rise to innumerable diseases through the release of catabolic hormones. On the other hand, belief has the power to heal these ailments through anabolic hormones. This is scientifically validated. Every individual confronts their darkest hour, where fear can dominate their mental space, at least once in their lifetime. However, it is the strength of one's belief, whether in the highest power, God, or in oneself, that acts as the guiding force throughout this journey," says Dr Shanker.

In the midst of these tribulations and realisations, he was fortunate to have the unwaver-

ing support of his family. "Their backing was a beacon of light," reminisces Dr Shanker.

Once an avowed atheist, Dr Shanker's odyssey through mental health led him to a newfound understanding of divine power guiding him from within and the power of belief systems.

"I came to realise that the creator exists with all his grace within each one of us. Life is a process of exploration leading back to Him. He orchestrated the chaos in my mind, and He taught me to transform this chaos into harmonious music. He broke me down into pieces and guided me on the path to healing to fulfill His purpose. He was about to send many of His broken children to me, and my purpose is to help them

heal," shares Dr Shanker. With conviction, Dr Shanker asserts that medicine offers a temporary respite at best. "The true balm for emotional wounds lies in cultivating positive thoughts, positive emotions, and nurturing a supportive environment. This paves the way for holistic healing," emphasises Dr Shanker.

Dr Anitesh Shanker's story is not just one of professional triumph over mental health issues, but a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Through darkness, he discovered light; through struggle, he found strength. His journey stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us that within every individual lies the power to overcome, to heal, and to thrive.

Ajit claims late Chavan's legacy in letter to people

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Claiming the legacy of late Congress leader YB Chavan whom his uncle Sharad Pawar considers as his mentor, Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said on Tuesday that after considering the current political and social situation in the State, he had taken a decision to join the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP alliance Government on July 2, 2023.



Ajit Pawar speaking at a podium.

In an open letter to people across the State on his completing 100 days in the Eknath Shinde Government, Ajitdada, as Ajit Pawar is known in the state political circles, skipped the mention of his uncle and mentor Sharad Pawar in his letter and claimed that he was the national president of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), a party founded by the Sharad Pawar on June 10, 1999.

Following his decision to quit the parent NCP and join the Shinde government, he stated in his letter: "In Maharashtra's political history, several big leaders have taken different political decisions in the past. The political leaders had taken such major political decisions, after considering the political and social situations prevailing in the state then. Even the NCP - in my leadership - took such a decision to join the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government on July 2, 2023."

Staking claim over the legacy of Maharashtra's first chief minister late YB Chavan, Ajitdada said: "The NCP follows the ideals of Maratha warrior chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the ideology of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj and Dr BR Ambedkar. It follows the people-centric policy and legacy of late YB Chavan"

In line with the stern directive that his uncle had issued to his group not to use the latter's photographs on banners and posters and mention his name in the rebel group's propaganda material, Ajitdada chose not to mention Sharad Pawar's name in his letter. Ajit Pawar's move to stake claim on Chavan's legacy is aimed at establishing his group's identity independent of Sharad Pawar and the parent NCP.

Pledging his commitment to support Bahujan community, Ajitdada said: "I have spoken many times in the past that I have been inspired by late Yashwantrao Chavan's motto of 'supporting Bahujans through power and answerability towards people'. With this in mind, our Nationalist Congress Party will work in the government on the principle of 'commitment towards development and ideology of Bahujans' (Vasa Vikasafha aani Vichar Bahujanancha)."

15 assets of D Raja attached under PMLA in DA case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken possession of 15 immovable properties owned by former Union Cabinet Minister of Environment and Forest A Raja in the name of his beneficiary company Kovai Shelters Promoters India Pvt. Ltd. under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act in the matter of a disproportionate assets case.



Seal of the Enforcement Directorate.

The move after confirmation of the provisional attachment order by the Adjudicating Authority under PMLA. ED investigation revealed that A Raja, during his tenure as Minister of Environment and Forests (2004 to 2007), granted Environmental Clearances to a real-estate company, based out of Gurugram (one of the largest real estate companies in the country, also listed on BSE), the ED said in a statement.

"The real-estate company has given kickback to A Raja as quid pro quo for awarding the Environmental Clearance, around the same period in the year 2007, in the garb of land

commission income in the hands of the Benami Company of A Raja," it said.

Raja had incorporated the company in 2007 in the name of his family members and his close family friend, with the sole objective of using it as a vehicle to park the 'proceeds of crime'.

The said company never engaged in any business activity since inception.

ED investigation established that the properties measuring 45 acres of land in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (worth around Rs 55 crore) were purchased directly using the proceeds of crime generated by Raja.

"Therefore, in order to prevent the accused and his benamis from enjoying such properties, ED has invoked the provisions of Section 8(4) of PMLA and taken the possession of the properties attached vide Provisional Attachment Order dated 20.12.2022, which was subsequently confirmed by the Hon'ble Adjudicating Authority (PMLA), Delhi vide order dated 01.06.2023," it added.

Centre organises exercise on contemporary cyber threats

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Testing, Network Protocols and Data Flows and Digital Forensics.

As cyber is gaining importance in all spheres and may pose a security threat, the Government has organized a 12-day hybrid exercise ending October 20 to train senior management and technical personnel of Government, critical sector organizations and public and private agencies on contemporary cyber threats and handling cyber incidents and response.

The program is being conducted by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in strategic partnership with Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), officials said here on Tuesday.

This flagship event serves as a unifying platform for over 300 participants, representing a diverse spectrum of government agencies, public organizations, and the private sector, all resolutely committed to the safeguarding of critical information infrastructure through training sessions, Live Fire and Strategic exercises.

The participants will be trained on various key cyber security areas such as Intrusion Detection Techniques, Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP), Vulnerability Handling & Penetration

Principal Scientific Advisor to Government Ajay Kumar Sood inaugurated the 'Bharat NCX 2023' alongside Deputy National Security Advisor Rajinder Khanna and National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt General M U Nair.

The second edition of the National Cyber Security Exercise 2023 'Bharat NCX 2023' will be conducted as a hybrid exercise over a period of twelve days from Monday till October 20. Bharat NCX India will help strategic leaders to better understand cyber threats, assess readiness, and develop skills for cyber crisis management and cooperation. This will also help develop and test cyber security skills, teamwork, planning, communication, critical thinking, and decision-making.

Kerala body slams Hamas for Israel attack

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The world should stand with Israel at this hour, says the Hindu Janajagru Samiti, an umbrella organization of various Sanatana outfits in the country. A release by the Samiti issued by Ramesh Shinde, national spokesperson, HJS, on Tuesday 'strongly condemned' the atrocious terrorist act perpetrated by Hamas on innocent Israelis that has resulted in more than 700 deaths in the Jewish State.

"Indians peacefully coexist with Jewish brethren in India and HJS stands in their support. Jihadi terrorism is an international threat. Today Israel has been attacked and tomorrow it will be Kashmir and then it could be any other region in the world. Hence Jihadi terrorism must be condemned and repelled globally," Shinde said in the release.

He pointed out that the modus operandi carried out by Hamas in carrying out the terrorist attack has to be noted seriously by intelligence agencies as well as the people. Any unusual pattern in the neighborhood have to be intimated to the police as well as security agencies in the light of the Gaza experience.

Life term to artist, his 3 accomplices for wife, lawyer murders in 2015

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai court on Tuesday handed out life imprisonment to noted artist Chintan Upadhyay and three of his accomplices in the much-discussed twin murders of his sculptor-wife Hema Upadhyay and her lawyer Harish Bhamhani in December 2015.

Five days after he convicted Chintan and three others, Additional Sessions Judge S Y Bhosale pronounced life sentences to the four convicted persons.

On its part, the Prosecution had sought the death penalty for Upadhyay and the Rajbhar trio for the double-murder saying it was 'barbaric' crime falling in the 'rarest of rare' category.

Chintan's lawyer Raja Thakare had argued strongly against the capital punish-

ment on the ground that the Prosecution had not even a single circumstance pertaining to the offender before the court. He had told the court that Bhamhani's death could not be attributed to his client (Chintan) who was found guilty of abetment to the crime and not for having participated in the double-murder.

After considering arguments by both the Prosecution and defence lawyers, the Judge awarded life terms to Chintan (50) and three of his accomplices in the crime - a tempo driver Vijay Rajbhar and helpers Pradeep Rajbhar and Shivkumar Rajbhar.

The prime suspect in the case, Vidyadhar Rajbhar, a metal fabrication artist, who the police claimed had carried out the murders at the behest of Chintan, has remained untraceable since the crime.

Court gives 7-year jail to ISIS module case convict

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Special Court here has pronounced accused Adnan Hassan guilty in the case related to the ISIS Abu Dhabi module.

The court has convicted him under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and sentenced him to seven years rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 4,000.

The case relates to the criminal conspiracy involving three Indian nationals - Sheikh Azhar Al Islam Sattar Sheikh, Mohammed Farhan Mohammed Rafiq Shaikh, and Adnan Hassan.

"These individuals are members of the proscribed terrorist organization, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), along with other yet unidentified associates.

NewsClick founder, HR head sent to 10-day judicial custody

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Tuesday sent to 10-day judicial custody NewsClick founder Prabhuraj Purkayastha and human resources department head Amit Chakravarty, arrested in a case lodged under anti-terror law UAPA over allegations that the news portal received money to spread pro-China propaganda.

The prosecution sought 10 days judicial custody for the duo, which was firmly opposed by Purkayastha's counsel, who asserted "prima facie" no case was made out against his client.

"What terrorist act have I committed? How can I as a journalist commit such an act? What is the allegation in the FIR? That we have done critical reporting of (Government's) Covid policy and farmers protest. Is that terrorism?" the lawyer said. The counsel said if



there was even an iota of doubt about their guilt, sending them to judicial custody will be a "travesty of justice". The counsel for Chakravarty argued he was not a journalist nor had he received any payment.

"There is no such allegation that there is a map of India, published by newsClick, that shows India without Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh," he said. Countering the arguments, the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Atul Shrivastava said the case was at a stage when evidence was still being collected, and the prosecution has sought judicial custody for the accused in all "fairness".

ED arrests 4 in MLA probe against Chinese mobile company Vivo

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested four persons including the MD of the Lava International mobile company and a Chinese national as part of its ongoing money-laundering probe against Chinese smartphone-maker Vivo.

The four arrested persons are Hari Om Rai, the MD of Lava International company, Chinese national Guangwen Kyang, Chartered Accountant Nitin Garg and a person identified as Rajan Malik, officials said.

They have been taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Lava International, a domestic mobile device manufacturing company, claims to have 1-2 per cent share in the smartphone market.

Opposition rally demands restoration of J&K Statehood

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

The much-hyped Assembly of Opposition party leaders, for the first time after the Abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu under one umbrella, Tuesday failed to make an impact in the absence of National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti.

The peaceful protest dharna seeking restoration of democratic and constitutional rights in the Union Territory was proposed by Dr Abdullah at the end of the all-parties (opposition parties) meeting last week in Jammu.

The Opposition parties had carefully decided to organize their peaceful protest in the Maharaja Hari Singh Park, located on the banks of river Tawi in order to connect with

the common masses in the Jammu region.

Addressing the gathering, Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani said, "The Opposition parties have come together to demand immediate restoration of statehood, democratic and constitutional rights."

"We will continue our protest for the rights of the people and safeguarding their interests," he further said.

Wani alleged the BJP is delaying elections deliberately, knowing fully that it, along with its allies like the Democratic Progressive Azad Party and the Apni Party, will face the rout in the electoral battles.

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami said they have no hope from the BJP-led central government as all its promises have proved "false".

Maharashtra announces ₹1Lakh assistance scheme for girl child

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As part of its intent to empower girls, the Eknath Shinde on Tuesday announced an "Lek Ladki" incentive scheme for poor girls from the ration card-holding families - under which the beneficiaries will get an assistance of total Rs 1 lakh till the age of 18 years.



A young girl smiling.

In line with the announcement made by deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis in his budget for 2023-24 earlier this year, the State Cabinet --- at its weekly Cabinet meeting

- decided to implement the "Lek Ladki" incentive scheme with retrospective effect from April 1, 2023.

Under the scheme, the State government will give Rs 5,000 as an incentive after the birth of a female child in a yellow and orange ration card-holding families, it will be given to the family Rs 6,000 each when the girl joins first standard in school, Rs 7,000 each to the family when the female child is in sixth standard, Rs 8,000 when she is in the 11th standard and Rs 75,000 when the girl turns 18 years' old. "Together, each female child will get Rs 1 lakh till she turns 18 years," an official statement said.

Abhishek likely Bengal Deputy CM! Sources say

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With her eyes set on the Prime Ministerial chair Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is thinking of a "bigger role" for her nephew and Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, sources close to Kalighat (the official residence of the TMC supremo) say.

Insiders do not rule out the possibility of the Diamond Harbour MP getting the Deputy Chief Minister's post, post November. In that case Abdul Khaliq Molla the MLA from Metiabruz in south-western Kolkata will be asked to leave his seat for the junior Banerjee. In return Molla will be sent to Parliament from Diamond Harbour.

All this, in consideration of the fact that 2024 general elections could open new vistas of possibilities not only for the INDIA alliance but also for some of its powerful constituents like Mamata Banerjee, insiders say. Though the Chief Minister repeatedly said that she was an ordinary member of the Alliance, TMC mouthpiece Jago Bangla has often projected her as the PM candidate in case an opportunity arises.

Banerjee's calculation is simple. "If the TMC manages to get more than 30 seats and if a situation props up for her become the Prime Minister with the INDIA alliance needing her support to form an anti-BJP government --- the chances of which are not low by any means --- then it will be easier for her to elevate Abhishek as the Chief Minister without any serious challenge from any other sitting and senior ministers," a former IAS officer who has been very close to the Chief Minister said.

Till date, TeleMANAS counselled 3.5 lakh people through 44 cells: Madaviya

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's round-the-clock mental health helpline - TeleMANAS - since its launch last October refuses to stop ringing with more than 1000 callers in distress from across the country trying to reach out to the counsellors on the other side of the phone daily to seek solace.

Till date, the facility has counseled more than 3,50,000 people through 44 Tele Manas Cells, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said at the National Mental Health Conclave organized to mark World Mental Health Day, here on Tuesday.

Thus, revealing the urgent need to help those in distress

before they take the extreme step. However, his observation also raises a question about those patients who do not have access to such helplines or counsellors.

"Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres have facilitated the integration of mental health services with primary health services as priority services for mental health, neurological disorders and substance use disorders," he said after virtually inaugurating new facilities at NIMHANS and launching the logo of Tele-MANAS.

The Minister emphasized that "use of technology in mental health care is a force multiplier, as can be reflected in the reach of the National Tele-Mental Health Program

(Tele-MANAS)." He also urged all to leverage the use of digital technology so that health care reaches everyone, citing drug addiction and workplace stress as significant contributors to mental health issues.

Underscoring the importance and impact of mental health, Dr. K K Paul stated "the invisibility of mental health in some ways compromises our ability in reaching out to individuals, families and so on but at the same time we must not forget that nation's productivity, well-being, societal balance is also intricately linked to the feeling well mentally and spiritually."

In the hindsight, what Dr Paul meant was that more needs to be done in the sector given that approximately 10.6

per cent of population lives with mental health conditions in India, as per the data. Studies also point out that between 76 per cent and 85 per cent of those in need of mental health care do not receive any services or support. NCRB data is shocking: the number of suicides has increased from around 1.3 lakh in 2016 to alarmingly 1.64 lakh in 2021.

Dr Nand Kumar, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at AIIMS brings home the point. "Unless one realises that he or she is unwell or sick, how would they seek treatment?"

Often there is a huge gap between the time when symptoms are identified and treatment is initiated, thus aggravating the complexities.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME I, Manohar Lal S/o RD Chawla R/o 67 SFS Flats Hauz Khaz New Delhi-110016, have changed my name from Manohar Lal to Manohar Lal Chawla Vide Affidavit Dt. 05.10.2023 place Delhi. PD(174)C

PUBLIC NOTICE My Client, Sh. Pawan Kumar S/o Sh. Bhoop Singh is the Registered owner of Kheval/Khata No. 683/738 MU No. 44, Kila No. 2/3(7-5), 3/2(1-2) 2 Kila Measuring 8 Kanal 7 Marla Araz 61/1503 Part Bakkar of Manesar, Tehsil Manesar, Distt. Gurugram, Haryana vide Registered Transfer of property in Blood Relation Deed as Regd. No.1001 Dated 08.06.2016 SR-MANESAR. This Abovementioned Property is going to be Mortgage with FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED. Any Person/bank/financial Institution having any Claim/lien, on the above property, should notify to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 alongwith Documentary evidence under address through Registered Aid within 07 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 Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile no. 9811215181

PUBLIC NOTICE It is a Public notice that my client Mrs. Rajalakshmi Gangadhar W/o Shri B. Gangadhar D/o Late Shri G. Hariharan is the absolute owner of Flat No.46 situated at Parivar Apartments, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi -110092 after the death of her brother and sister-in-law namely Late H.S. Gopalan and Late Smt. Thangam Gopalan by the virtue of Relinquishment Deed Dated: 21/10/2022 duly registered in the office of S.R. VIII A, Delhi duly executed by remaining legal heirs i.e. Smt. R. Lalita and Smt. Srivalli Krishnan. That my client wants to transfer the membership of the said flat in her own name in the records of Parivar C.G.H.S. Ltd. It is therefore, Notified that anybody claiming any right, title, interest or lien over the aforesaid property may file such claim or objection to the undersigned within a period of 15 days from the date of Publication of this notice. Otherwise, it will be presumed that the said property is free from all encumbrances, charges and/or lien, etc. and my client is free to sell the said property. SAHIL ARORA (ADVOCATE) Add: Office No. 107, F/F, M.S. Chambers, Aruna Park Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.) // सर्व संबंधित को सूचना // भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (स्था - संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरसॉ स्प्रिंग्स एण्ड एस्पनडीओ इन्वॉल्ट एण्ड पावर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम - नकदी छपरो, तखलील-रिलवा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) द्वारा Greenfield Steel plant comprising of DRI Kilns (Sponge Iron-99,000 TPA), Induction Furnace with LRF & CCM (Hot Billets/ MS Billets/ MS Slab-1,48,500 TPA), Rolling Mill (TMT Bars, Structural Steel - Angle, Channels, Gutter, Coils, Flat Bars, Strips, MS Pipes, MS Tubes, Galvanized Pipes and angles (85% Hot charging with Hot Billets also remaining 15% through RHF with LDO/Producer Gas as fuel- 1,40,250 TPA), Coal Gasifier for Rolling Mill (1200 Nm3/hr), M.S. Pipe Plant- 1,00,000 TPA, Ferro Alloys- 29.9 MVA (FeSi-14,000 TPA/FeMn-50,400 TPA/SiMn-28,800 TPA/FeCr-30,000 TPA/Pig Iron-50,400 TPA) WHRB based Power Plant (3x2.5 MW) - 7.5 MW, FBC based Power Plant (1x5 MW) - 5 MW, Brick Manufacturing unit (3x2.5 MW) & 3 Briquetting Plant (Briquettes- 200 Kg/Hr) के पर्यावरणीय स्थितिगत बावत लोक सुवादीय दस्तावेज 12/10/2023 को प्राप्त: 11:00 बजे से श्रवण-गान नकदी छपरो, तखलील-रिलवा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) स्थित पर्यावरण परियोजना के स्थापित्व की रिक भूमि खसरा नंबर 79/2, 79/3, 79/4, एवं अन्य में निवृत्त की गई थी, जिसे आवासीय कलेक्टर एवं पिला एग्जाईक्यूटिव, रायपुर (छ.ग.) के पर क्रमांक 129/अ/सि.द./स्तेनो 2023 रायपुर, दिनांक 09.10.2023 के द्वारा अनधिकृत कार्यों से आगामी आदेश पर्यन्त रोकथाम किया गया है। रायपुर संरक्षण छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

UP, Karnataka, J&K top performers in digital OPD implementation under ABDM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir have emerged as the top-performing states in the implementation of the digital OPD registration service under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), using scan and share facilities within one year of its implementation.

Overall, the National Health Authority (NHA) on Tuesday said more than one crore tokens for OPD registrations have been generated. Data from the ABDM public dashboard show maximum usage of the service at the

AIIMS in the cities of Delhi, Bhopal and Raipur, the NHA stated, adding that nine out of the top 15 hospitals using this service are from Uttar Pradesh.

The paperless service, launched in October last year under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), allows patients to scan the QR code placed at the Out-Patient Department (OPD) registration counter and share their ABHA profile for instant registration.

This service is currently available in more than 2,600 health facilities across 419 districts of 33 states and Union Territories, the NHA said.

2 LeT terrorists neutralised by security forces in Shopian

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Two Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists were neutralised by the joint team of security forces in the South Kashmir district of Shopian in the wee hours of Tuesday. According to police, the security forces suffered no major collateral damage.

According to police, one of the LeT terrorists identified as Jazim Farooq alias Abrar of Shopian was involved in the killing of Kashmiri Pandit Sanjay Sharma on 26 February 2023. Sanjay Sharma was working as an armed guard in his village, in the Achan area of the

south Kashmir district of Pulwama.

According to a police spokesman the operation was launched on the basis of a specific intelligence input about the presence of terrorists in Alshipora village of Shopian. A joint cordon and search operation was launched by the Shopian Police, Army (44RR), and CRPF (178BN) in the said area late Monday night.

During the search operation, as the joint search party approached the terrorist hide-out past midnight, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon them, which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter.

LG nod to prosecution of Roy in 2010 provocative speech case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has accorded sanction for the prosecution of author Arunhati Roy and a former Kashmiri professor in a 2010 case related to alleged provocative speeches. According to Raj Niwas officials, the FIR against Roy and former professor Sheikh Showkat Hussain was registered following the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi.

"Delhi LG, VK Saxena has accorded sanction for prosecution of Arunhati Roy and Sheikh Showkat Hussain, u/s 196 Cr P C in case FIR No. 258/2010 dated 29.11.2010 u/s 153A, 153B and 505 of IPC.

The FIR in the matter was registered vide orders dated 27.11.2010 of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate," Raj Niwas official said.

"Saxena noted that prima facie a case is made out against Roy and Dr Hussain, former Professor, International Law, Central University of Kashmir, for commission of offence under sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of Indian Penal Code for their speeches at a public

function in the national capital," a Raj Niwas official said on Tuesday.

Under Section 196(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), a valid sanction for prosecution from the state government is a prerequisite for certain offences such as hate speech, hurting religious sentiments, hate crimes, sedition, waging war against state and promoting enmity among others.

Delhi Police, in view of the directions of the Supreme Court, had said that the decision on request for grant of prosecution sanction for offence under Section 124A of IPC may not be taken at present.

Two other accused --



Kashmiri separatist leader Sayed Ali Shah Geelani and a Delhi University lecturer Syed Abdul Rahman Geelani, who was acquitted by the Supreme Court in Parliament attack case on technical grounds -- died during the pendency of the case.

The case was also registered under Section 13 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967. Besides Roy, Hussain, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who was also Chairman of Tehreek-e-hurriyat, and S.A.R Geelani, others present on the occasion included Maoist sympathizer Varvara Rao, an accused in the Bhima-Koregaon case. Geelani and Roy, strongly propagated

that Kashmir was never the part of India and was forcibly occupied by Armed Forces of India and every possible effort should be made for the independence of the State of J&K from India.

Sushil Pandit, a social activist from Kashmir, had filed a complaint on October 28, 2010 with the Tilak Marg Station House Officer against various people and speakers involved in delivering "provocative speeches" in public in a conference organised by 'Committee for release of Political Prisoners (CRPP) under the banner of "Azadi - The only Way", on October 21.

The complainant had alleged that the issue discussed and propagated was

"Separation of Kashmir from India". It was also alleged the speeches were provocative in nature, thus jeopardising public peace and security.

The Prosecution Sanction under section 196 Cr.PC was sought by Delhi Police for offence under sections 153A, 153B, 504, 505 of IPC and Section 13 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 against Roy and Hussain. Section 13 of the UAPA which deals with punishment for unlawful activities states that Whoever - (a) takes part in or commits, or (b) advocates, abets, advises or incites the commission of, any unlawful activity, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to

seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

While Section 153A IPC deals with the offence of "Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony", Section 153B speaks about Imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration. Section 504 and 505 deals with intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace and statements conducing to public mischief.

Section 196 of CrPC states that Prosecution for offences against the State and for criminal conspiracy to commit such offence.

ED raids AAP MLA house in Delhi Waqf case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday launched a search operation at AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan's Delhi residence under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a corruption case involving illegal appointments within the Delhi Waqf Board. The 49-year-old MLA represents the Okhla constituency in the Delhi Assembly.

The ED searches are being undertaken under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and at least three premises are being covered in the search operation, according to preliminary inputs.

The ED has initiated action based on two FIRs filed by the Delhi Anti-Corruption Bureau



(ACB) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The cases are related to irregularities in recruitment for the Delhi Waqf Board, where Khan serves as the chairman. Khan was arrested by the Delhi ACB in September 2022.

The ACB FIR alleged that Khan, while working as chairman of the Delhi Waqf Board, illegally recruited 32 persons, violating all norms and government guidelines. It also accused him of corruption and favouritism. "The then CEO of

grants in aid from the Delhi government, it had alleged. In 2016, a case was lodged against Khan following a complaint from the sub-divisional magistrate (headquarters), revenue department, alleging that appointments to various "existing and non-existing posts" in the Waqf Board were "arbitrary and illegal". According to charges made by a man named Hafiz Irshad Qureshi, the Board hired 33 persons on a contract basis without following any laws or regulations. Some of those chosen to the board were said to be related to Khan, and the majority were from his area, Okhla.

The CBI had also booked AAP MLA from Okhla under the Prevention of Corruption Act and other relevant sections of the IPC after a complaint was filed against him in 2016. Khan was also accused of corrupt actions and criminal offences including deliberate

and criminal violation of rules and regulations, and misuse of position.

Reportedly, the CBI had probed the matter and found substantial evidence against the AAP MLA, following which the CBI sought permission from LG to proceed against him in July 2022.

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said the raid is not a surprise as there have been allegations of misappropriation against Khan. "Amanatullah Khan is a man of shady character and his role in the Delhi Waqf Board as chairman has been under inquiry," Sachdeva said. Taking a dig at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Sachdeva further said that Delhiites fail to understand that AAP starts playing the victim card as soon as any inquiry is launched against its leaders. "If Team Kejriwal is honest, then what does it fear?" he asked.

Special court extends Sanjay's custody in excise policy scam case to October 13

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A special court on Tuesday extended till October 13 the ED custody of AAP leader Sanjay Singh, arrested in a money laundering case related to alleged irregularities in the scrapped Delhi excise policy.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) now has three more days to interrogate Singh, a Rajya Sabha MP, in custody.

Special Judge for ED cases M K Nagpal passed the order on an application moved by the anti-money laundering agency.

The ED's application prayed for extension of Singh's custody, which was to end on Tuesday, by 5 days, accusing him of non-cooperation. A larger amount could be involved for which we need to interrogate him further, the ED counsel said.



Senior Advocate Rebecca John, who represented Singh, claimed the ED had no ground for seeking extension of the AAP leader's custody in the case which was based on "shifting statements" of co-accused Amit Arora. "I (Singh) will not plead guilty to your fanciful allegations," she told the court.

At the end of the arguments on extension of custody, Singh claimed before the judge that the ED tried to whisk him away from its office with "ulterior

motive".

"After you granted remand (to ED) on the last date of hearing, at 10 at night, I was told that I was being taken somewhere else. I asked why didn't they inform the court. They (ED officials) said there was some issue of chemical pesticide. They said they have got phone calls from people above. I told them I won't go outside without the court's order. They asked me to give that in writing.

"The next day they said the same thing. They had some ulterior motive. I asked what happens if I am killed in an encounter, who will be responsible? They said they will be responsible. What's the point of responsibility when I am dead. Again and again, I asked for court's order," Singh told the judge.

BJP holds demonstrations over excise policy scam, AAP protests ED action

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Tuesday witnessed protests and counter protests by the AAP and the BJP over the excise policy scam. The BJP's Yuva Morcha held demonstrations at 31 locations in Delhi under a campaign against alleged corruption of the Arvind Kejriwal government while the AAP workers held a demonstration on the DDU Marg to protest the Enforcement Directorate's action against its leaders.

The BJP's Yuva Morcha protesters assembled at major intersections and other prominent locations with placards bearing slogans against the AAP government's alleged corruption, including the "liquor scam". Under the campaign, youth workers stood at various places carrying placards on which slogans were written like - Sharab ki Yaari Paad Rahi



Bhari, Ab tou Yeh Spasht Hai Kejriwal Bhrasat Hai. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, attended a demonstration at ITO and said the real face of AAP and Kejriwal has been "exposed".

Citing an Enforcement Directorate (ED) raid on AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan's residence early on Tuesday, Sachdeva said, "AAP is a family of the corrupt and Kejriwal will also go to jail like other leaders of his party." Sachdeva said that after the raid on Amanatullah Khan's house,

there is a visible stir among all the leaders of AAP and Kejriwal and his leaders are repeatedly raising questions on the investigating agencies.

The ED raided the premises of the AAP's Okhla MLA as part of a money-laundering investigation against him and some others, official sources said. The searches are being undertaken under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and about three premises are being covered, according to preliminary inputs.

Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh are currently in jail in a money-laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the implementation of the now-scrapped excise policy.

On the other hand, AAP workers held a demonstration on the DDU Marg to protest the action of central agencies against its leaders. The protest took place hours after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan's residence here as part of a money-laundering investigation against him and some others. Several protesters were detained by the police as they tried to march from the AAP office to the BJP headquarters on DDU Marg. The protesters were carrying placards with slogans in their hands, raised slogans against the BJP and demanded the immediate release of MP Sanjay Singh.

Chadha moves HC challenging trial court order leading to his eviction from allotted bungalow

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP and AAP leader Raghav Chadha on Tuesday moved Delhi High Court challenging a trial court's decision to vacate an interim order that gave a nod and paved the way for the Rajya Sabha secretariat to evict him from the Government bungalow allotted to him. The counsel Warisha Farasat appearing for Chadha told the court that the AAP leader has been served with a notice and eviction proceedings are going on. The plea was mentioned for urgent hearing before a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula. The high court has agreed to list the plea for Wednesday.

Earlier, a city court in an order passed on October 5, noted that Chadha had no vested right to continue to occupy the premises after its allotment had been cancelled.

"... the plaintiff (Raghav Chadha) has no vested right in the accommodation and his status is akin to that of a licensee, which can be revoked by the competent authority at any time," said Additional District Judge (ADJ) Sudhanshu Kaushik, Patiala house courts, while calling the allotment a privilege which can be taken away at any time. The ADJ noted that the AAP MP had failed to provide urgency to receive the interim relief. The ADJ also added that the court must give both sides time to argue to decide the urgency of the matter. The court was hearing a review application filed by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat seeking recall of the interim order. Chadha had filed an application against the Secretariat, challenging a letter issued on March 3 cancelling the accommodation allotted to him.

BJP releases audio clip to claim AAP spreading lies as agencies probe cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday charged the ruling AAP in Delhi of spreading lies and fraud as investigation agencies are doing their work and released an audio clip here.

Leveling these allegations, BJP President Virendra Sachdeva and Manoj Tiwari, MP, released the audio clip in a joint press conference and said the AAP is a bastion of criminals and corrupt people and when the investigation agency does its work their embarrassment and frustration hesitation is clearly visible.

All the parties of the country work for the expansion of their organization and give organizational training to their workers, but instead of organization expansion training, Aam Aadmi Party gives training to its workers in lying



and creating fraud. Delhi BJP President played the audio clip in the press conference and said that we have got it from a source related to AAP.

Sachdeva said the AAP, which is scared of the investigation, is now training its workers to mislead the investigating agencies and we have received this audio from one such source and we will immediately file complaint and demand a high-level investigation into this audio clip. We will hand it over to the appropriate investigating agency.

HC takes suo motu cognisance of security breach at DU college festivals, issues notices

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of security breaches at college festivals and demanded action by authorities after several female Delhi University students alleged that they were secretly filmed while changing in an IIT-Delhi washroom for a fashion show at the institute's fest.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, in an order passed on Monday, stated it was imperative that adequate security measures are put in place to allow students to attend such events without any impending fear of experiencing such acts of violation.

The court, which earlier also dealt with the incident of alleged sexual harassment of girl students during a cultural festival at the all-women Gargi College of Delhi University in February 2020, observed that "unfortunately" it has been confronted with several cases of student harassment during such festivals.

Such "recurrent instances", it said, show the "lackadaisical approach of authorities organising such



festivals in envisaging and enforcing protective mechanisms, aimed at ensuring safety of students participating or attending the event".

"Thus, in view of the afore-noted episode, this Court deems it appropriate to take suo motu cognisance of the issue of security breaches, particularly in respect of female attendees, at the festivals organised by colleges/universities in Delhi-NCR," said the bench, also comprising Justice Sanjeev Narula.

The court issued notice to IIT Delhi, IP University and Delhi University and asked them to submit a report indicating their existing policy qua security measures during college festivals held at their premises. With respect to the recent incident at IIT Delhi, the court directed the police here to file a status report in two weeks stating the action taken against the accused.

Animal birth control rules framed to achieve better efficacy: Delhi HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has said the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, are framed to achieve better efficacy of the animal birth control programme by systematising the approach and entrusting only recognised bodies.

The high court passed an interim order on a pending petition by three veterinarians -- Dr Anubhav Khajuria, Dr Simranjeet Singh and Dr Naveen -- challenging the ABC Rules, 2023, which exclude registered veterinary doctors and officers from participating in the process of immunisation, vaccination and birth control of animals. The court said the differentiation between veterinarians and animal welfare organisations (AWO) is purpose-driven and not arbitrary.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula said the stipulation of registration of an AWO implies a formal and legal structuring and is intended to ensure the organisation has defined objectives, accountability mechanisms and is amenable to legal oversight.

The court clarified that



"A close examination of the ABC Rules, 2023 reveals that veterinarians are integral to animal birth control programme. Their expertise in sterilisation, immunisation, and animal care remains crucial and inclusive. The ABC Rules, 2023 do not outrightly prohibit veterinarian participation, instead, they advocate for a formalised, structured approach via the mechanism of Project Recognition from Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)," the bench said.

The three veterinarians in the interim sought directions to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to grant them the authority to execute sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs in a manner analogous to NGOs and AWOs under the Rules.

The court clarified that

an AWO under the ambit of ABC Rules, 2023.

"However, we emphasise that registration alone is not sufficient. Such entities, desirous to partake in tenders of this nature, must also secure recognition from the AWBI, underscoring their commitment to AWBI's standards and norms. Furthermore, they must satisfy all additional criteria related to their credibility and experience, as set forth in the ABC Rules, 2023," the bench said and listed the main petition for further hearing on December 4.

The petitioners have stated in their petition they are challenging the legality and constitutionality of Rules 3, 5, 6 and 8 of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, as notified by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying on March 10.

The plea, filed during the pendency of the plea, titled as "Project Recognition", the duly registered veterinary doctors and officers have been excluded from participating in the process and occupation of immunisation, vaccination and birth control of various animals, especially dogs and cats.

Issue notice to NBCC for violating anti-dust norms, Rai directs DPCC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to issue a notice to the central government-owned construction company NBCC India for allegedly violating dust control norms at a project site. He also said that monetary Penalty will be imposed for non-response.

As part of the Delhi government's anti-dust campaign, Rai inspected the NBCC construction site near the Karkardooma Metro Station on Tuesday and found that construction waste was being dumped in the open and anti-smog guns were not operating.

The minister directed the DPCC to issue notice to the firm and said a penalty will be imposed on the violators if they fail to submit a satisfactory reply within 24 hours.

Kejriwal inaugurates lighthouse at Matia Mahal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday inaugurated a 'lighthouse' in Matia Mahal saying many more such centres will come up soon in the national Capital.

The cost of the Matia Mahal centre will be borne by Dell Foundation, with skilling work being taken care of by the Lighthouse Foundation, the CM said.

The Lighthouse Foundation website describes a 'lighthouse' as a centre to run sustainable livelihood programme for the urban disadvantaged youth.

Kejriwal at the inauguration spoke about the state of the economy and rising unemployment to highlight the need for such centres.

"Today, the biggest challenge is to provide employment to youth. On the other hand, the country's economy is gradually getting worse. Data shows that about 12 lakh high net worth individuals migrated from India in the last few years," Kejriwal said.

POWERGRID signs pact with dist administration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) on Tuesday signed an agreement with the district administration to make 5000 desks-benches to as many as 200 Parishadiya Schools and 200 Anganwadi kits available to as many as 200 Anganwadi Centres of the district.

In the presence of the Mayor Ashok Tiwari, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam and Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, the Basic Shiksha Adhikari Arvind Pathak & District Programme Officer Dinesh Kumar Singh and Senior Manager Arun Kumar Rai signed on the agreement on the behalf of the district administration and POWERGRID respectively at a programme organised in Vikas Bhawan here.

As per agreement, the POWERGRID will make available 5000 desks-benches to as many as 200 Parishadiya Schools and 200 Anganwadi Kits to as many as 200 Anganwadi Centres with an estimated cost of Rs 2.27 crore under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The Mayor Tiwari said on the occasion that the city is now changing as far as the arrangement, facility and responsibility are concerned and added that we should think in the morning each day what we could give to the city and so, we should discharge our duties



Mayor Ashok Tiwari, DM S Rajalingam and CDO Himanshu Nagpal on the occasion of the agreement signed between the Power Grid and the District Administration.

honestly.

The DM Rajalingam said that the officers should understand our responsibilities and provide the best service to the public and added that the district administration is consistently making efforts to ensure qualitative education to the children and facilitate the Anganwadi Centres so that the district could be made free from malnutrition. Expressing his thanks to the POWERGRID, the DM said that the cent per cent saturation of the Parishadiya Schools and Anganwadi Centres would be soon.

The Senior Manager of

POWERGRID Rai informed that it is an enterprise of public sector and is the biggest electric transmission utility of the country which operates 176180 circuit km transmission line and 275 power sub stations linked to the national grid with 99.85 per cent availability and added that it is Maharatra of the Government of India.

The Government of India has honoured the POWERGRID with Prithvi Award-2023 for its contribution in the fields of environment, social and governance, Rai informed, adding that it has established a power dub station of 765/400

kv capacity with GIS facility in Varanasi through which many interstate transmission lines are operated and this eastern belt of the state gets electricity from Sarnath and Jaunpur power sub stations of UP Power Corporation.

The POWERGRID made this agreement with the district administration at the initiative of the CDO Nagpal and this work would be completed by September, 2024, Rai informed. The DGM of POWERGRID Raj Kumar, Chief Manager Alok Jaiswal, HR-Incharge Binod Kumar and other officers were present on the occasion.

Atiq's sons released from juvenile home

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Sons Aizam and Aaban were released from the juvenile home in Rajrooppur here after 221 days. They were handed over to Atiq's elder sister i.e. Parveen Qureshi. Now they will live in their aunt's house in Puramufti's Hatwa. After leaving the juvenile home, they went straight to the ancestral graveyard in Kareli. Both the sons of Atiq have been in the juvenile home since the Umesh Pal murder case in February.

Both were calm while coming out of the juvenile home. When the media tried to talk to them, they were also stopped. The Dhoomanganj police had picked up Aizam and Aaban from home on March 2 after the murder of BJP leader and advocate Umesh Pal on February 24 this

year. Shaista Parveen had filed an appeal in the district court on February 27 requesting to find her children.

Shaista had said that the police had taken away her minor sons Aizam and Aaban from the house and their whereabouts were not known. The court gave strict orders to the Dhoomanganj police station in-charge as to where the two minor sons were kept and a detailed report stating this clearly should be submitted, otherwise a case of contempt of court will be initiated.

The Dhoomanganj police presented its report in the court and told that both the children are safe and in the Government Child Protection Home, Rajruppur since March 2 this year. Both of them were found abandoned in Chakia area on March 2.

A hearing was held in the Supreme Court in the case of

custody of the children of Atiq Ahmed. The Supreme Court has disposed of the petition of Atiq's sister. The court was told that the custody of Atiq's children has gone to his sister. The Supreme Court said that after getting the custody of the children, the petition no longer has any merit.

Principal of St Joseph's School and College, Father Thomas Kumar said Aizam's admission was in class XII here. He could not give even a single board paper. Aaban was a student of class IX in the school. He had given home exam and he has passed class IX. No one has contacted the school yet, but if anyone comes, we will give them a chance to study as per the board rules, he said.

RECRUITMENT: The Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) has released the advertisement for

recruitment to 411 posts of review officer and assistant review officer (RO-ARO) on Monday. With this the process of online application has started. The application will be done only through OTR (One Time Registration) number. The last date for acceptance of online applications and deposit of online examination fee in the bank has been fixed as November 9, 2023. Preliminary (Pre) and Main examination will be conducted for selection. In this candidates applying for RO-ARO posts will also get a chance to make amendments.

If any error is found in the essential and preferential qualifications after the application, then the candidate will be able to make amendments in the essential and preferential qualifications of the post applied for only once. Applications are invited for a total of 411 posts

Man murdered, body found in field

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A middle-aged man was murdered by slitting his throat. His body was found in a field on the roadside. He used to work as a clerk.

After spotting the body the passersby informed the police. The forensic and dog squad teams also reached the spot and reviewed the situation. The reason for the murder is not clear yet.

Urmila Singh, wife of deceased Shiv Bahadur Singh, has given a complaint at Meja police station. She said her husband used to work as a clerk.

RESENTMENT: The promotion list of the Electricity department includes the names of many technicians who have 'died' but have been promoted. This has led to resentment among the employees. State Electricity Council Technical Employees Union said 'wrong promotion' has been done which needs immediate reforms.

Purvanchal president Satya Upadhyay said the names of personnel prima facie 'unsuitable' for promotion should be removed from the eligibility list and after that an order should be given to issue the eligibility list. There was also a discussion regarding this in the Central Executive of the State Electricity Council Technical Employees Union.

Upadhyay said Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited and its associated distribution companies have already lodged their objections but the revised eligibility list has not been released yet due to which there is resentment.

Upadhyay said due to 'irregularities' in the selection process, eligible candidates are being deprived of selection for promotion. In such a situation, there are preparations to approach the court. An appeal has been made to the management that the decision should be taken only after improving the eligibility list for promotion from the post of technician to

junior engineer in compliance with the instructions issued earlier from the government level and receiving objections on it as per rules.

He said, the selection should be completed with transparency by including all the personnel who fulfil the eligibility criteria regarding 10 years of service experience as a technician prescribed by the Power Corporation so that the eligible people get a place in promotion.

ARRESTED: The Bahria police nabbed district panchayat member Ashish Yadav on the charges of car theft. He was apprehended with the help of CCTV footage. One stolen illegal pistol and two live cartridges were recovered from his possession. The accused is being questioned by the police. Jai Singh Yadav of Khankhapur police station, Raniganj, Pratapgarh, used to drive his Ertiga car. On September 26 Jai received a booking through the mobile phone. The booking was done from Fatanpur,

Pratapgarh to Prayagraj which was done by Ashish Yadav. There were two more people with him. Jai Singh had reached Mubarakpur under Bahria police station with the car when the people it looted it and threatening to kill him.

Jai had lodged a report at Bahria police station. DCP Ganganagar Abhishek Bharti said in a press conference that with the help of cameras installed under Operation Trinetra, this incident could be exposed. SOG Ganganagar and Baria police team arrested Ashish Yadav of Pratapgarh. After his arrest, the looted Ertiga car was recovered near the petrol pump. Besides one countrymade pistol of 315 bore and two live cartridges of 315 bore have been recovered from him. Eight cases were registered against the arrested accused in different districts. The accused is a person of criminal nature and also a district panchayat member from Raniganj. The police is still trying to arrest the two other accused.

BHU V-C for strict compliance of rules

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain has said that strict compliance of rules and ensuring discipline are the keys for effective and smooth functioning of any institution. He was speaking during a day-long workshop on disciplinary proceedings organised at the Senate Hall of Swatantra Bhawan for the senior officers and functionaries of BHU here on Tuesday.

He said that administrative officers must be well aware of the rules and provisions required for smooth functioning of the system. Two distinguished speakers and retired senior officers of Gujarat government, former Additional Chief Secretary Anand Mohan Tiwari and ex-Deputy Secretary Mahendrakumar Ratilal Soni delivered their lectures on various aspects of disciplinary proceedings. In the beginning, the V-C welcomed the distinguished speakers and felicitated them.

Anand Mohan Tiwari, who is also an alumnus of BHU, shared his fond memories during his student days at the varsity. He said that BHU played a defining role in his life and career and helped him achieve what he aspired for. He



V-C Prof SK Jain addressing a workshop on disciplinary proceedings at BHU in Varanasi on Tuesday.

talked about constitutional provisions and legal framework, useful legal terms, expectations from government servants, administrative actions, minor penalties and related rules and provisions. He also underlined the qualities supervisory officers are expected to have. Tiwari enlightened the participants about the scenarios when actions are required and the quantum of the action in different circumstances.

Mahendrakumar Ratilal Soni explained the procedures of disciplinary proceedings.

He cautioned against the practice of using the power associated with a position rather than focusing on the responsibilities and expectations attached with it. He underlined the need to have a better understanding of conduct rules and elaborated on departmental enquiries and major penalties.

Rector Prof VK Shukla also addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of such programmes to ensure smooth functioning of administrative machinery. Among those present during

the workshop were Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh, Finance Officer Abhay Kumar Thakur, Directors of Institutes, Medical Superintendent of Sir Sunderlal Hospital, Principal of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Joint Registrars, Deputy Registrars, all the consultants, Coordinator, Computer Centre, and members of the Vigilance section. Dr Sanjay Kumar and Dr Nand Lal, Joint Registrars, coordinated the programme. Assistant Registrar Ashok Sharma conducted the sessions.

Mental Health Day observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The students and faculty members of Mahila Mahavidyalaya (MMV), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), observed the World Mental Health Day here on Tuesday with a special programme under the banner of student well-being initiative. The programme aimed to raise awareness and support for mental health issues among the students and the society and it featured speeches by two eminent mental health professionals, Dr Dwarka Pershad and Dr Tarlochan Singh, who shared

their valuable insights and expertise on mental health with the audience. Dr Dwarka Pershad is a retired professor of clinical psychology from PGI Chandigarh who has developed indigenous psychological measurement tools and written books on the Rorschach inkblot test. Dr Tarlochan Singh is a clinical psychologist who practices in Ludhiana and has experience in dealing with all kinds of psychological and behavioural problems. The speakers highlighted the importance of mental health as a basic human right for all people, regardless of age, gender, culture, or

background. They also discussed the various challenges and barriers that prevent people from accessing quality mental health care or enjoying their mental health rights, such as stigma, discrimination and lack of awareness, resources, trained professionals and support. They urged the students to take care of their mental health and well-being by seeking help when they need it and offering help when they can. They also suggested some tips and habits that can help students to cope with stress, anxiety, depression, and other common problems, such as eating and sleeping

well, exercising regularly, meditating, engaging in hobbies that make them happy, expressing their emotions in healthy ways, and communicating with others who care about them. The programme also included an interactive session where the students asked questions, cleared doubts, shared experiences, and sought guidance on any mental health issue that they may have or know someone who has. The students also enjoyed a movie screening in the evening session, where they watched 'the perks of being a wall flower', a movie related to mental health issues.

DM: Take effective action to control illegal mining

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana while holding the meeting of the mining task force to review revenue collection of three years at Collectorate on Monday directed the officials concerned to take effective action to control illegal mining as well as transportation. The district magis-

trate said complaints about transportation through Narainpur check gate and through Sherwana road were coming to notice so sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) and circle officer (CO) concerned were directed to conduct joint patrolling and ensure effective action. She directed all SDMs and COs to patrol the routes at

night on which there is a possibility of illegal transportation and upload the site photograph on group.

She said action will be taken against SOs concerned in the area where illegal transportation was found. She directed to take action against blasting if found without proper permission. She said the routes should be identified and Superintendent of Police (ASP) Srikant Prajapati and others.

ARRESTED: The Katra Kotwali police arrested two accused of theft and recovered stolen goods on Monday. On October 7 Keshav Chand Kasera of Basanayi Bajar under City Kotwali had lodged a case stating that decorative items were stolen from his godown located under in an area under Katra Kotwali police station. After registering the FIR SHO Shiv Shankar Singh took the matter seriously and the police succeeded in nabbing two accused along with stolen goods. After taking possession of the items the police sent the accused, Uma Shankar of Naipura and Mahendra Yadav of Durga Bazar, to jail.

MEANWHILE: The Chilh police on Monday arrested two accused of enticing away a girl. On Saturday one person had lodged a named FIR at the police station alleging that his daughter was enticed away by the accused. As per the SO Reeta Yadav the police recovered the girl and had arrested Aamil of Rampa, Jaunpur, and Fareeda of Jalalpur Maufu under Chunar, police station. After completing the legal formalities the accused were sent to jail.

a communique that the pensioners could submit their life certificate any day during office hours as per government orders. After its submission the pension will be sent to the account continuously for one year.

FELICITATED: DM Priyanka Niranjana said the honour was not only a certificate but it a catalyst which inspires the person to work for a positive cause with more dedication. These views were expressed by her as the chief guest in a programme organised under the aegis of Prabodhini Foundation at Vindhyaachal to felicitate renowned social worker Vibhuti Kumar Mishra after being conferred the 'Shanti Suddhavana Samman' by Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha recently. She appreciated the spirit of Mishra who successfully conducted week long programmes in Srinagar as part of series of programmes under Amrit Mahotsav in August last year. Commandant PAC as the guest of honour said it is a matter of pride that a youth brought laurels to the district with his work in J&K.

DIRECTOR: Obeete Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Mohan Swami, Lalit Khandelwal, Akash Dubey, Sameer Varma and others were present.



District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana holding the meeting of mining task force at Collectorate on Monday

DC unhappy over roadside encroachments

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Expressing dissatisfaction over the encroachment on the roadside and the operation of unauthorised street vending in the urban placemaking work under the Lahartara-Chowk Ghat flyover, the Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma has directed the Municipal Commissioner (MC) Sipu Giti to limit the night market as per the actual requirement and cover the other areas in the both sides of the road by declaring the route under the flyover as no-vending zone and get the work of greenery done by the beginning of Shardiya Navratri. And also ensure the area free from encroachment by making coordination with the police, he directed the MC while reviewing the ongoing and proposed works of Varanasi Municipal Corporation and Varanasi Smart City at his office here on Monday.



The DC Kaushal Raj Sharma reviewing the ongoing works and proposed projects of VMC and Varanasi Smart City.

To decide the allotment process, rate etc. of the shops after talking to the established shopkeepers for the project at the zonal officer level and the nodal officer should be appointed for the project from the Municipal Corporation level. The construction work of the complex should be completed by February, 2024, he directed to the CGM of Smart City.

The DC directed the MC to ensure the shifting of unclaimed cattle to Kanha Upvan Cow Shelters situated in

before the upcoming festivals by making available the mud pumps available at each ghat in sufficient quantity.

To ensure the work of light synchronization, pattern, etc at all ghats within a month, he directed regarding the lighting at ghats and added that the action plan should be chalked out for the colour-coding of street lights installed on the routes approaching to ghats. The DC directed the MC to coordinate with the corporators to install ward-wise street lights.

Regarding the four-door collection of wastes, the DC directed for the cent per cent saturation in the area of VMC by getting mapping through the implementing agency and added that the monitoring of door to door collection of wastes in the morning and at night should be made.

The Additional MC Dushyant Maurya, Chief General Manager of Varanasi Smart City Dr D Vasudevan, Nagar Swasthya Adhikari Dr NP Singh and others were present in the meeting.

Chhitauani before Navratri. The allotment of cent per cent shops in Dashashwamedh Bhawan (Dashashwamedh Tourist Plaza) should be ensured by the festival of Diwali on the basis of first come-first serve, he directed.

Reviewing the works to clean ghats and remove silts, the DC expressed dissatisfaction over the unavailability of mud-pumps in sufficient quantity and directed the MC to nominate one modal officer on each 10 ghats and ensure the removal of silts from ghats

checked not only at night but during the day too by the joint team comprising mines officer etc and ensure the effective action in the form of a campaign. The meeting was attended by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS, Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla, Additional

trate said complaints about transportation through Narainpur check gate and through Sherwana road were coming to notice so sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) and circle officer (CO) concerned were directed to conduct joint patrolling and ensure effective action. She directed all SDMs and COs to patrol the routes at



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Caste cauldron

Rahul's insistence and BJP's reluctance may push the issue into a free-for-all, damaging our social fabric

In a highly significant but poorly timed development, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has announced that the party-ruled States would conduct a caste census. Asserting that he is "100 per cent" in support of a caste census, Rahul has likened the exercise with an "X-Ray" and said it would give a clear picture of the number of Dalits, tribals, OBCs and upper castes which, in turn, would help decide the future course. This announcement has reignited the debate on the implications of conducting a caste census. The last time such a comprehensive caste-based enumeration was conducted was in 1931 during British rule; since then, caste data has been excluded from official census reports. Proponents argue that the social and economic data of various caste groups can help in formulating more affirmative action programmes for marginalised communities. Besides, a caste census can provide a solid foundation for determining the allocation of resources and benefits under India's reservation system. It definitely gives an edge to Congress and to the INDIA bloc to counter religious politics by bolstering caste identities, which have always been at the core of Indian politics.



The BJP's success in dissolving caste identities of OBCs resulted in almost doubling its vote share. It has understandably expressed reservations on caste census as it could erode its electoral vote by buttressing caste identities again. However, the Congress' decision to announce it now is more to do with the politics of caste rather than the issue's real advantages. Any caste census, though with all its theoretical positives for underprivileged sections of society, is fraught

with danger. It can, and we have had instances to prove it, cause a rift in society and divide it vertically on caste lines. A case in point: VP Singh's Mandal Commission politics led to chaos and divided the nation on caste lines. It must not be forgotten that divisive politics, whether based on caste, region, religion or language, harms the country. In undertaking a caste census, the Congress and for that matter the entire INDIA bloc see a winning election strategy but it could open floodgates of caste politics, which the founding fathers of the Constitution wanted to suppress. Jawaharlal Nehru was against caste census and never in his lifetime allowed it. The BJP argues that collecting caste-based data can be a complex and sensitive process, leading to inaccuracies. The party is concerned that an emphasis on caste data could lead to the further fragmentation of Indian society along caste lines, which might not align with its vision of a unified and culturally integrated India. But realpolitik is at play here, and by harping upon caste census, the INDIA bloc has certainly put the BJP on the backfoot. Ultimately, caste census will have far-reaching implications for India's socio-political landscape, and it remains to be seen whether it will come to fruition in the near future. How far it will help social justice and targeted policy making would be interesting to watch.

PICTALK



People in traditional attire during rehearsals for 'Garba', ahead of the upcoming Navratri festival, in Ahmedabad. PTI

Urban renewal through open spaces

Credit goes to the meticulous planning and infrastructure development by Haryana state authorities, which have been pivotal in Gurgaon's transformation

If any tale of true transformation were to be mirrored in reality, then Gurgaon would be a fitting embodiment. Indeed, Gurgaon has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis into a stunning self-assured city, capturing the admiration of all who pass through its imposing megastructures. Historically a modest town, Gurgaon has experienced a profound transformation over the past few decades. It evolved from a quaint cluster of rural homes into a thriving symbol of urban rejuvenation and development, almost as if by enchantment.



ations. This has not only enhanced Gurgaon's reputation but also driven up the value of its real estate. The economic vitality and job prospects in the city naturally drew people from near and far, further boosting commercial activities.

However, the major share of credit goes to the meticulous planning and infrastructure development by Haryana state authorities, which have been pivotal in Gurgaon's transformation. The transportation networks, characterized by well-constructed roads and flyovers, facilitate the rapid movement of people and goods, providing the city with a world-class urban character. The Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, connecting the city to the national capital, has significantly reduced travel time and improved connectivity. The Rapid Metro, operational in some parts of the city, offers a reliable and efficient mode of transportation

for residents and commuters alike. Today, Gurgaon can easily compete with cities in the West. This vertical expansion hasn't just enhanced the city's aesthetics; it has also accommodated its growing population. Interestingly, despite its exponential growth, Gurgaon remains remarkably green, featuring open spaces, extensive green belts, golf courses, parks, and sports arenas. These green areas and recreational spots have played a crucial role in Gurgaon's urban revival, offering residents and visitors a welcome escape from bustling city life and a chance to reconnect with nature. Builders and developers in Gurgaon have capitalized on these open spaces by promoting yoga parks, herbal gardens, and similar greenscape features to attract discerning customers. These green areas have cemented Gurgaon's reputation as a city that's not just livable but also free from pollution, offering residents a sense of spaciousness and tranquility. Moreover, sustainable development has been one of Gurgaon's core strengths from the outset.

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The city has placed considerable emphasis on eco-friendly practices and initiatives, such as rainwater harvesting, waste management systems, and solar energy. Gurgaon authorities have actively encouraged cycling and pedestrian walkways to promote a healthier lifestyle and reduce vehicular pollution. Urban renewal and development in Gurgaon have profoundly impacted its economy. The right blend of infrastructure and amenities has triggered a surge in commercial activities, significantly benefiting the local population and escalating real estate values. Multinational companies operating in Gurgaon have led to a substantial increase in tax revenues. The presence of professionals has also invigorated the service industry, encompassing the hospitality, retail, and entertainment sectors. Consequently, Gurgaon has evolved into a thriving economic centre, attracting investments and making a substantial contribution to the state's revenue.

(The writer is the chief business officer Ambience Group, views are personal)



ANKUSH KAAL

Vladimir Putin's African odyssey

Russia's increasing involvement in Africa is about its geopolitics, economics, and intricate security concerns

Russia has long considered African nations as critical players in its efforts to enhance global influence and rebalance the international order. Highlighting Russia's historical relations with Africa, over the past decade, Moscow has expanded its presence in Africa more than any other external actor. These engagements range from strengthening ties in North and West Africa to extending its reach into the Central African Republic and the Sahel, as well as rekindling Cold War-era relationships in the Southern and Eastern African regions.

Russia sees immense potential in the dynamically developing African continent, particularly in terms of political engagement, diplomatic relations, economic opportunities, military cooperation, and supporting Africa's positions in multilateral forums. Most importantly, it aims to garner African support for its diplomatic goals, both within Africa and on the international stage. Current mega-trends in Africa support Russia's proactive engagement in the region. Africa's large working-age population, its growing middle class, and its significant share of abundant natural resources offer economic and investment opportunities for Moscow to expand its presence on the continent. Against this backdrop, Russia's strategy in Africa is guided by clear principles and areas of focus, with a particular emphasis on the defence, energy, food, mining, logistics, and infrastructure sectors. Scientific cooperation, skill development, capacity building, healthcare, agriculture, IT-financial technology, and the digital revolution also play central roles in this strategy.

Russia's growing engagement with Africa is driven by a desire to exploit an opportunity to enhance its geopolitical, military, and economic position on the continent amid the ongoing power struggles in the region. Given that Russia lacks the economic resources to match other competitors in African countries, it strategically leverages its strengths in defence, energy, food, and critical infrastructure sectors



to execute its expansive strategy in Africa. Russia has entered into military cooperation agreements with more than 20 African states, making it the primary supplier of arms to the continent. Russia accounts for 40% of African imports of major weapons systems between 2018 and 2022. In 2023, participants in the Russia-Africa summit agreed to establish a new permanent Russo-African security mechanism aimed at addressing the challenge of terrorism and extremism on the continent. Over the past years, the Wagner Group, in particular, has played a pivotal role in engaging with approximately 40 African sovereign defence forces, forging security partnerships, and providing diverse training and operational services, thus reinforcing Africa's security requirements.

In addition to strengthening diplomatic and defence ties with African states, Moscow has expanded its economic presence on the continent. African trade now accounts for 3.7% of Russia's total trade, showing a 30% increase in 2022. For instance, trade revenue between Russia and African countries nearly doubled from US\$9.9 billion in 2013 to US\$17.7 billion by



IN ADDITION TO STRENGTHENING DIPLOMATIC AND DEFENCE TIES WITH AFRICAN STATES, MOSCOW HAS EXPANDED ITS ECONOMIC PRESENCE ON THE CONTINENT

2021 and is expected to double by 2030. Russian investments in Africa constitute less than 1% of the total foreign direct investment flowing into the continent. Consequently, energy diplomacy plays a central and pivotal role in Russia's overarching strategy for Africa, as manifested in its investments across the oil, gas, and nuclear energy sectors. Moscow is actively engaged in assisting within the energy sector, with a particular emphasis on promoting nuclear energy as a means to address the escalating energy demands of the African continent. Notably, there has been a substantial 2.6-fold increase in Russian energy exports to Africa in the year 2023. Russia's nuclear agency, Rosatom, has entered into nuclear cooperation agreements with eighteen nations, contributing significantly to Russia's energy exports. Additionally, Africa constitutes a substantial market for mineral fuels, including coal, oil products, and natural gas, imported from Russia. On the other end of the spectrum are Africa's food security challenges which have been further compounded by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, disruptions in global supply chains, regional conflicts, and

extreme weather events. These vulnerabilities have significantly hindered the capacity to satisfy the dietary needs of a rapidly expanding population. Of particular significance is Africa's dependence on grain imports, given that approximately 30% of Africa's grain supplies are sourced from Russia. However, Russia's recent withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Agreement has raised the prospect of Moscow assuming a potential role as a guarantor of food security for numerous African nations. During the 2023 Russia-Africa summit, President Putin went as far as pledging to provide free grain shipments to six African countries that were notably affected by the termination of the grain agreement. As Moscow seeks to strengthen its presence on the continent, African leaders must carefully navigate their roles, balancing their global positioning while addressing pressing issues like food security. The outcome of these strategic efforts will influence the evolving dynamics between Russia and Africa in the years ahead.

(The writer has worked as an Associate Fellow at the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), Delhi; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A CALL FOR THE INDIA SPORTS FUND

Sir—I am writing to propose a revolutionary idea that could transform the landscape of sports in India. It's time we come together as a nation and establish the "India Sports Fund." This fund would require every Indian to contribute a minimal amount, just Re.1 per day, until the Olympics in 2028. By doing so, we can recreate the magic of our impressive 107-medal haul at the Asiad in 2023.

Imagine the potential of such a fund! It could accumulate a minimum of Rs.140 crore per day, providing much-needed resources for the development of sports across the country without burdening the government. Our athletes could receive top-notch training with the latest scientific equipment and have access to nutritious food. With these resources and happy minds, India could dominate in world championships.

The impact of this initiative would be groundbreaking, setting India on a path of unprecedented success in the world of sports. We could evaluate the continuation of this funding after 2028 through scientific analysis. Moreover, pairing individuals with sports based on their strengths, stamina, likes, skills, and suitability can significantly increase our medal count. Even those less fortunate, who cannot afford daily contributions, can contribute Re.1 per month, still accumulating at least Rs.100 crore per day for the sports fund. Let's come together and invest in the future of Indian sports, ensuring our athletes have the support they need to shine on the world stage.

PV Srinivas Sreelekha | Secunderabad

POSTER WAR

Sir—I am writing to express my concern over the recent poster war between political parties, particularly the irresponsible actions of the BJP. The BJP's decision to publish a poster justifying Rahul Gandhi has stirred controversy and could have serious consequences.

KC Venugopal, the Congress General Secretary, rightly pointed out that such actions by the BJP could lead to repercus-

Nobel Prize 2023



I am thrilled to share the remarkable achievements of the Nobel Prize 2023 laureates in Physics. Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier have been honored for their groundbreaking work in experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light, shedding light on the dynamics of electrons in matter.

Anne L'Huillier's pioneering experiment in 1987, involving infrared laser light passing through a noble gas, revealed an astonishing phenomenon. This experiment led to the creation of various light

overtones, analogous to musical notes, each representing a specific number of cycles within the laser light. These overtones provided insight into the interaction between laser light and gas atoms, significantly advancing our understanding of electron dynamics.

In 2001, Pierre Agostini achieved a major breakthrough by generating consecutive ultrashort light pulses, each lasting a mere 250 attoseconds. Concurrently, Ferenc Krausz isolated a single light pulse lasting 650 attoseconds. These achievements enabled us to capture moments in time with unprecedented precision, offering invaluable insights into phenomena on a minuscule scale. The contributions of these laureates have paved the way for a multitude of discoveries, opening new frontiers in our exploration of the quantum world. Their work exemplifies the spirit of scientific inquiry and innovation.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

sions, with the people of the country bearing the brunt of this behavior. Protests by Congress workers in Delhi and state capitals have highlighted the anger and frustration caused by the BJP's offensive poster. The police are struggling to control the situation as tensions escalate. The BJP's sharing of an objectionable picture of Rahul Gandhi on their official social media platform is seen as a desperate attempt to undermine Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' campaign. We need healthy debates and discussions to address the pressing issues facing our nation.

MD Nasim Gazi | Howrah

STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE

Sir—The Palestine-Israel conflict is a stark reminder of the unequal power dynamics at play in our world. It resembles a battle between an ant and an elephant, with Palestine representing the vulnerable ant and Israel the mighty elephant.

In this ongoing struggle, it's essential to recognize that not all wars are defined by the number of casualties, burnt homes, or cap-

tured land. Some wars hold a greater purpose, shaping history and paving the way for future generations.

Palestine, a tiny and feeble nation, is courageously fighting to free its illegally occupied land from the clutches of Israel, with unwavering support from the USA and the UK. The repeated desecration of Masjid Al-Aqsa is a poignant symbol of the oppression faced by the Palestinian people. While actions like the Aqsa Torrent may cause further damage to the already besieged Gaza Strip, it is essential to understand that this struggle is driven by the right cause and supported by those who have been victims of extreme brutality for the past 77 years. We stand with the Palestinian people in their quest for justice and peace. It's a testament to the enduring human spirit that even in the face of overwhelming odds, the call for freedom and justice remains unwavering.

Afazuddin Kazi Qasmi | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN ATTACHMENTS DERAIL US

The feeling of detachment helps control our senses and cleanses us



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

They do and unfortunately, all of us have plenty of them. I, myself, am attached to my body, family and business to name just a few. Surprised? Not really. What is this attachment? It is defined as affection, fondness or sympathy for someone or something. This word is also defined as a feeling of love and need for another person. This definition gives a clue about what attachment should be. How is the word love defined? It is a sincere interest in the well-being and happiness of another person. Love evokes action, whereas attachment may not. For example, I love my wife. This forces me to think about how best to help her. On the other hand, I am attached to my body. I am always afraid of it, and not doing much about it.

Yes, attachments mostly derail us only. Not surprisingly, Lord Krishna has warned about the harm done by attachment in multiple verses of the Bhagavad-Geeta. Sample these, "Those, who are attached to lustful enjoyments and material opulences their intelligence is fickle." "Attachment for sense objects causes lust to manifest. Lust in turn results in anger upon non-fulfilment." And we know what anger can do to us.

How do attachments derail us? These examples will highlight how attachments hurt and hurt badly. The first example is of a politician, who was respected for his moral standards. He enjoyed power for a long time, but things change, as does everything in this material world. He was no longer so popular anymore. So, what did he do? He took help from a highly corrupt party, whom he never tired of criticising, to stay in power. And the result is ill fame, which is worse than death. The second example is of a famous billionaire, who gets hold of lots of cash once partition takes place with his brother. He went ahead and invested in films. These failed at the box office, and he was branded a failure. What did he get by being attached to fame? Some 'akiri'.



The third example is that of ego. One person known to me prides himself as one who never takes favours from anyone; he is severely attached to this notion. What he has effectively done is to block any help from anyone even from God, because God uses some medium to extend help. And he suffers a lot despite being a good person.

The fourth example is of a famous TV artist, who became quite well known by doing roles of a morally upright person. And what did she do? Started an affair with a married person, and she became attached to him. And what ultimately happened? That person left her when she forced him to choose between her and his family; she committed suicide.

How do you stop yourself from getting seriously harmed by attachments? The Geeta has the answers.

The first requirement is to be aware that attachments will be there as long as we are in material bodies. They can be controlled, but not eliminated. Just as our senses will always be attracted to sense objects, we will have attachments also. How do you control your senses from harming yourself? You make proper use of sense objects by disciplining your senses. Such disciplining becomes more difficult in good times when desires for a sense of enjoyment become very strong. In the case of attachments, God's help is essential. I have benefited greatly from this instruction of the Lord. I have set higher goals in life like being useful to others. I also try to be satisfied with whatever comes of its own accord, after having done what I could do. Higher goals have helped me to get over my 'ahankar' to a great extent; I have realised that I am not the 'karta' in the real sense; only God is. This feeling of detachment is also helping me to control my senses. My attachments have been reduced to an appreciable extent.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)

Solving the public stockholding riddle



UTTAM GUPTA

The EU countries want India to be more transparent about its public stockholding (PSH) program and put in place safeguards to prevent illegitimate exports



In a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) - held on October 2, 2023, in Geneva, the European Union (EU) agreed to consider India's demand for a permanent solution to public stock-holding (PSH) programme for food security. This is a significant change of stance since March 2023, when the EU along with the USA and Canada had challenged it.

India has urged WTO members to start text-based negotiations on the issue "as soon as possible, preferably in the senior official meeting scheduled during October 23-24, 2023". Under text-based negotiations, an agreement is finalised around draft texts floated by the chair of a particular committee dealing with the subject. The draft is based on discussions amongst the member countries and is fine-tuned till all the nations are in agreement with it. India is keen to get this deliberated at the WTO ministerial conference (MC) slated to be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. What is the PSH program? What is a permanent solution? Why have developed countries opposed it so far? What has led to their change in stance now? Are they serious? Under the PSH program, government agencies like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) buy agri-produce such as wheat, rice/paddy, and coarse cereals from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP) and distribute it at a subsidised price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg respectively to meet the needs of India's poor and vulnerable population under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The excess of MSP plus handling, storage and distribution cost over the realisation from the sale (that is, Rs 2/3/1 per kg) is paid as a subsidy from the Union Budget. This includes (a) subsidy to the farmer, being the excess of MSP of, say, rice over its international price also known as External Reference Price (ERP) in WTO parlance and (b) subsidy to the food consumer, being the excess of ERP over the price paid (Rs 3 per kg rice). The WTO is concerned with (a) branded as "product-specific" subsidies. It is also concerned with subsidies on agricultural inputs like fertilizers, seeds, irrigation, power, etc.,



INDIA HAS INVOKED THE 'PEACE CLAUSE' SEVERAL TIMES AT THE WTO FOR BREACHING THE 10 PER CENT CEILING IN CASE OF SUBSIDY ON RICE. HOWEVER, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE OBJECTED TO SUCH INVOCATION

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

referred to as "non-product specific" subsidies. The developed countries (most of them also happen to be exporters of agricultural products) argue that such subsidies distort international trade; hence these need to be curbed. Their argument found acceptance at the WTO. Accordingly, Under the AoA, the total of product and non-product-specific subsidies or aggregate measurement support (AMS) is capped at 10 per cent of the value of agricultural production for a developing country. If a member country gives AMS over 10 per cent, it is a violation.

The AoA came into force in 1995. For India, until 2005, MSP was less than ERP. Thereafter, MSP has been higher than ERP and, in the last decade, this gap widened. During 2018-19, in the case of rice, for instance, AMS was at 11 per cent, exceeding the 10 per cent cap. During 2019-20, it was even higher at 13.7 per cent.

For over a decade or so, India along with other developing countries has been making efforts at WTO to wriggle out of the situation. In the 9th Ministerial Conference (MC) held in Bali (2013), it secured sanction for a "peace clause". It said, "If a developing country gives AMS in excess of 10 percent, no member will challenge this until 2017 when the WTO would look for a permanent solution."

In the General Council (GC) held in December 2014, this sanction was modified to say "The peace clause will stay till a permanent solution was found." However, the peace clause comes with several riders, such as the submission of data on food procurement, stockholding, distribution and subsidies. These also include establishing that subsidies are not "trade distorting."

India has invoked the 'peace clause' several times at the WTO for

breaching the 10 per cent ceiling in case of subsidy on rice. However, developed countries have objected to such invocation. Their argument is that stocks procured under the PSH program are finding their way to the international market resulting in trade distortion. The US has gone so far as to say that India has become a top rice exporter of rice, courtesy of excessive subsidies given under PSH. India's stand that it exports premium rice varieties which are not part of public procurement fails to cut ice as exports of non-basmati rice are also substantial (during 2022-23, it was 17.8 million tons valued at US\$6.4 billion).

If the EU countries are now open to negotiations, this is because they want India to be more transparent about its PSH program and put in place safeguard mechanisms to prevent illegitimate exports from excessive food stocks. They would also want India to demonstrate conclusively that its "domestic support" doesn't turn into what they term as 'trade distortion support'.

In view of the above, it won't be easy for India to avail of the 'peace clause'. This is all the more because India's PSH program is open-ended under which the government's agencies buy the highest possible quantities of wheat and rice from the farmers at ever-increasing MSP (courtesy, vote bank politics). These purchases are unrelated to the requirement under NFSA, surplus stocks with agencies are unavoidable which they dispose of by auctioning to private traders etc under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). Under OMSS all the bidders are compulsorily asked to give an undertaking that they won't export it. One wonders whether a mere declaration by private traders acquiring such stocks would satisfy the developed countries. This brings us to the need for a permanent solution. In this regard, last

year, India spearheaded a proposal by G-33, the African Group, and the ACP (Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific) asking WTO for 'total exemption for support to PSH for food security'. This coalition of developing countries and LDCs wanted the MC-12 held in Geneva (June 12-17, 2022) to be taken up for consideration. But, the issue was not even put on the table.

The proposal makes perfect sense for a country that produces food essentially to meet the domestic requirements of its population but doesn't export. However, India is a major exporter of agricultural produce as well. That is where the line between its role as a protector of 'food security' and as an 'exporter' gets obliterated. So, at WTO it is unlikely to get a blanket exemption. Now, India has asked for (a) the inclusion of programs implemented after 2013 under the ambit of the 'Peace Clause' and (b) amendments in the formula to calculate the food subsidy cap. When agreed to at Bali MC (2013), the 'Peace Clause' was meant only for programs existing prior to 2013. It is unlikely that developed countries would agree to the inclusion of programs implemented after 2013. However, India's best bet lies in (b). The formula for the computation of AMS under the AoA suffers from several flaws. These include (i) taking ERP for the years 1986-88; (ii) not excluding subsidies given to the resource-poor farmers; and (iii) using the entire output instead of quantity procured for PSH. These flaws "artificially" inflate the subsidy beyond the 10 per cent threshold. India should ask for amendments to get rid of these flaws. Meanwhile, the government should rein in open-ended procurement to avoid landing in a situation whereby even as per the amended formula, the subsidy could exceed 10 per cent.

Social entrepreneurship to combat human trafficking

There is a need to combat and prevent all forms of human trafficking by engaging in a multi-stakeholder consultative process

In September 2023, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, while inaugurating the Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Human Rights in New Delhi, urged all not to treat the issue of human rights in isolation. She further insisted on paying equal attention to nursing Mother Nature, who is deeply wounded by the indiscretions of human beings. Ancient Indian scriptures consider that every particle of the universe is a manifestation of divinity, and protecting it is a primary duty of every citizen, which delineates that Indian ethos goes beyond the rights of homo sapiens. Much before the Western world got acquainted with the concept of equal human rights through



SUMIT KAUSHIK



VEERENDRA MISHRA

(Mishra is an IPS, MP cadre and a Fulbright fellow, Sumit Kaushik is a PhD candidate at OP Jindal Global University; views are personal)

the Magna Carta, a revered sage and philosopher from southern India, Basavanna, promoted the concept of individual liberty and equality. He created an assembly of people called "AnubhavaMantapa," where people irrespective of their class and gender would participate and determine their collective fate. Similarly, the concept of a republic may appear modern, but nearly 2,800 years ago, India had the world's first people's representative government in Vaishali. Since the Republic's inception, our Constitution has recognised universal adult franchise rights, allowing us to usher in numerous silent revolutions in the fields of gender justice and the protection of life and dignity. India has been sharing its developmental

experiences and technical expertise with other countries in the spirit of "VasudhaivaKutumbakam". India's approach to development is mainly human-centric and marked by respect, diversity, care for the future, and sustainable development. Today, the world is India's oyster. While the world is expansively expanding and extensively talking about development indicators, human trafficking, the worst kind of human rights violation, is still predominant, and it needs attention from world governments as it needs to be tackled globally. Human trafficking is a silent crime that often goes either unnoticed or ignored; this is becoming more complicated and prevalent in today's warfare world, where

the most vulnerable communities have faced severe socio-economic hardship, giving rise to incidents of all types of human trafficking. There is a need to combat and prevent all forms of human trafficking by engaging in a multi-stakeholder consultative process to amplify their voices and create coordinated and comprehensive social justice and entrepreneurial systems. Human trafficking is a heinous crime and a grave violation of human rights that affects thousands of men, women, and children. Although the Government of India has made considerable efforts to tackle trafficking in the country, the existing legal framework is inadequate to deal with the menace of trafficking on account of the enormous

social, economic, and educational vulnerabilities that exist in society. Social entrepreneurship can become a potent tool for reducing vulnerability and effectively addressing the problem of human trafficking. Social entrepreneurs don't just build organisations; they change systems. We tend to think of charities and governments when we think about ending human trafficking. But what do we think of businesses? Let us understand how social enterprises can act as a form of rehabilitation for survivors in high-traffic communities. There has been much discussion and writing on the benefits of social entrepreneurship as well as the importance of early access to this type of learning. But how can

the entrepreneurship ecosystem train and inspire the next generation of anti-trafficking leaders? How can entrepreneurship also be a driver for prevention and a source of economic stability for those at-risk and survivors of human trafficking? The anti-trafficking movement must advance its innovative efforts and force a true systemic transformation. Potential victims and survivors of human trafficking must be ASSESSED (Aware, Skilled, Self-employed, Empowered, Supported, Educated, and Dignified). To enable and inspire human trafficking survivors and to support them in developing their small business models, they should be provided with the right skills, capacity build-

ing, relevant information, and assistance based on their respective interests. It is significant to build a conversation about the significance of survivors' involvement in legislating social entrepreneurship, legislation, and public policies on human trafficking to facilitate single-minded work towards promoting the cause of human trafficking prevention. To do this, it is recommended that a multi-stakeholder dialogue be held to hear opinions on how best to combat human trafficking in India through social entrepreneurship. The time is now to act and create social enterprises that will provide innovative goods and services to the public across the nation and even internationally.

Sunak joins other countries in supporting Israel

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke to the leaders of the US, France, Germany and Italy to discuss the conflict in Israel soon after he joined prayers at a north London synagogue and reassured the country's Jewish community he would ensure their safety.

In his joint statement with US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Sunak expressed "steadfast and united" support to the state of Israel and the "unequivocal condemnation" of Hamas for its appalling acts of terrorism. "We make clear that the terrorist actions of Hamas have no justification, no legitimacy, and must be universally condemned. There is never any justification for terrorism," reads the joint statement.

"Our countries will support Israel in its efforts to defend itself and its people against such atrocities. We further emphasise that this is not a moment for any party hostile to Israel to exploit these attacks to seek advantage," it said.

The five leaders said they "recognise the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, and support equal measures of justice and freedom for Israelis and Palestinians alike. But make no mistake: Hamas does not represent those aspirations, and it offers nothing for the Palestinian people other than more terror and bloodshed."

The US, the UK, France, Germany and Italy vowed to ensure that Israel is able to defend itself.

"Over the coming days, we will remain united and coordinated, together as allies, and as common friends of Israel, to ensure Israel is able to defend itself, and to ultimately set the conditions for a peaceful and integrated Middle East region," it added.

The statement came on Monday night soon after Sunak joined the British Jewish community for a prayer service at the Finchley United Synagogue in London, wearing the Jewish yarmulke headgear.

"The people who support Hamas are fully responsible for this appalling attack.



A view of the rubble of buildings hit by an Israeli airstrike, in Gaza City, Tuesday.

AP/PTI

'Iran, Hezbollah had no role in Israel incursion, but will help if needed'

Beirut (AP): A senior Hamas official on Monday said only a small number of top commanders inside Gaza knew about the wide-ranging incursion launched into Israel, but that allies like Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah "will join the battle if Gaza is subjected to a war of annihilation."

Ali Barakeh, a member of Hamas' exiled leadership, spoke to The Associated Press in his Beirut office as Israel bombarded Gaza and vowed a total blockade of the Hamas-ruled territory.

The surprise attack on Saturday caught Israel's vaunted military and intelligence services completely off guard, as hundreds of Hamas gunmen poured through holes blown in the border fence and rampaged through several towns, killing hundreds of soldiers and civilians, and capturing scores of others.

Barakeh said the attack was planned by around a half dozen top Hamas commanders in Gaza and that even the group's closest allies were not informed in advance about the timing.

He denied reports that Iranian security officials helped

plan the attack or gave the go-ahead at a meeting last week in Beirut.

"Only a handful of Hamas commanders knew about the zero hour," Barakeh said, adding that no one from the central command or the political bureau of Hamas was in the Lebanese capital last week.

He acknowledged that Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group have helped Hamas in the past, but said that since the 2014 Gaza war Hamas has been producing its own rockets and training its own fighters.

He also denied speculation that the attack, which had been planned for more than a year, was aimed at derailing US efforts to convince Saudi Arabia to normalize ties with Israel.

Instead, he said it was driven by a range of actions taken by Israel's far-right government over the past year, including provocative visits to a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site and increased pressure on Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

He also said Hamas believed Israel had plans to kill its top leaders.

Israeli airstrike kills 19 of same family

Rafah (AP) The evacuation warning came shortly after dark. The Israeli military fired the shot just a short distance from Nasser Abu Quta's home in the southern Gaza Strip.

A precautionary measure meant to allow people to evacuate before airstrikes.

Abu Quta, 57, thought he and his extended family would be safe some hundred metres (yards) away from the house that was alerted to the pending strike. He huddled with his relatives on the ground floor of his four-story building, bracing for an impact in the area.

But the house of Abu Quta's neighbour was never hit. In an instant, an explosion ripped through his own home, wipping out 19 members of his family, including his wife and cousins, he said. The airstrike also killed five of his neighbours who were standing outside in the jam-packed refugee camp, a jumble of buildings and alleyways.

The airstrike in Rafah, a southern town on the border with Egypt, came as Israeli forces intensified their bombardment of targets in the Gaza Strip following a big, multi-front attack by Hamas militants Saturday that had killed over 700 people in Israel by Sunday night.

US President's hopes for Israel-Saudi relations could become a casualty of war

Washington (AP): Less than three weeks ago, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sat beside President Joe Biden and marvelled that a "historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia" seemed within reach — a diplomatic advance that he predicted could lead to lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Biden was equally optimistic, telling Netanyahu during their meeting in New York, "If you and I — 10 years ago — were talking about normalisation with Saudi Arabia, I think we'd look at each other like, 'Who's been drinking what?'" Now, the outbreak of war between Israel and the Palestinians after a devastating Hamas attack on Israeli soil is threatening to delay or derail the yearslong, country-by-country diplomatic push by the United States to improve relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

The so-called normalisation push, which began under former President Donald Trump's administration and was branded as the Abraham Accords, is an ambitious effort to reshape the region and boost Israel's standing in historic ways. But critics have warned that it skips past Palestinian demands for statehood.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the Hamas attacks may have been driven in part by a desire to scuttle the United States' most ambitious part of the initiative: the sealing of diplomatic relations between rivals Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The Middle East's two greatest powers share a common enemy in Iran, a generous military and financial sponsor of Hamas. Such a pact between Jerusalem and Riyadh would be a legacy-defining achievement for Biden, Netanyahu and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. It's one that could pave the way for even more Arab and Muslim-majority nations to abandon their rejection of Israel since its 1948 founding in lands long inhabited by Palestinians.

EU reverses announcement on suspending development aid to Palestinians

Brussels: The European Union late Monday reversed an earlier announcement by an EU commissioner that the bloc was "immediately" suspending development aid for Palestinian authorities and instead said it would urgently review such assistance in the wake of the attacks on Israel by Hamas to make sure no money was misused.

"There will be no suspension of payments" at the moment, a terse European Commission statement said late Monday, five hours after EU Commissioner Oliver Varheli had said that all payments from the development programme for Palestinians would be "immediately suspended. All projects put under review. All new budget proposals ... postponed until further notice."

No immediate explanation for the reversal was given. A full European Commission statement always trumps a statement from an EU commissioner, but the reversal on a 691 million-euro (USD 730 million) programme capped an embarrassing day at the EU's executive at a time of extreme geopolitical sensitivities.

Since Saturday, support of the 27-nation bloc for Israel had been steadfast, including that the country had now every right within international law to defend itself in the war with Hamas.

The surprise announcement by Varheli on development aid came just hours after EU officials stressed that no EU money whatsoever was going to Hamas in the first place and that contacts had been frozen for 16 years. AP

Myanmar military accused of bombing displacement camp Children among 30 killed

AP ■ BANGKOK

Myanmar's military was accused of launching an airstrike on a camp for displaced persons in the northern state of Kachin late on Monday that killed about 30 people, including about a dozen children, Kachin militants and activists and local media said.

Col. Naw Bu, a spokesperson for the Kachin Independence Army, said 29 people including 11 children under the age of 16 were killed and 57 others injured in the attacks carried out by air and artillery. The casualties occurred at the Mung Lai Hkay displacement camp in the northern part of Laiza, a town where the headquarters of the rebel KIA is based.

A spokesperson for Kachin Human Rights Watch gave slightly different figures, saying 19 adults and 13 children were killed in the attack, which occurred shortly before midnight. Laiza is about 324 kilometers (200 miles) northeast of Mandalay, Myanmar's second-biggest city.

Myanmar's National Unity Government, the main nationwide opposition group that considers itself the country's legitimate administrative body, said a kindergarten, school, church and many civilian houses were destroyed at the camp.

"This deliberate and targeted attack by the terrorist military council on civilians fleeing conflict constitutes a blatant crime against humanity and war crime," it said.

Myanmar's military government "has taken advantage of the moment of the international community's attention on the recent developments of the Israel-Hamas conflict to commit yet another crime against humanity and war crime," it added.

Naw Bu said it was unclear how the attack was carried out because people did not hear a jet fighter on a bombing run.

The absence of such a sound, familiar in many parts of the countryside, could indi-

cate that the camp was hit by air-to-ground missiles fired from a distance or by an armed drone.

He said the army used artillery to shell an area including the camp and nearby villages where about 400 people live.

In a statement over the phone to state television MRTV, military government spokesperson Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun denied responsibility for the attack but said the military is capable of attacking the headquarters of all of Myanmar's insurgent groups.

Zaw Min Tun said the area where the explosions occurred may have been used to store bombs for drones and unmanned aircraft for the Kachin fighting forces.

It was impossible to independently confirm details of the incident, though media sympathetic to the Kachin posted videos showing what they said was the attack's aftermath, with images of dead bodies and flattened wooden structures.

Myanmar Witness, a non-governmental organisation that collects and analyzes evidence related to human rights incidents, said it confirmed the camp was damaged but that it was still investigating the cause.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military overthrew the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, triggering widespread popular opposition. After peaceful demonstrations were put down with lethal force, many opponents of military rule took up arms, and large parts of the country are now embroiled in conflict.

The military government in the past year has stepped up the use of airstrikes in combat against two enemies: the armed pro-democracy Peoples Defence Forces, which formed after the 2021 takeover, and ethnic minority guerrilla groups such as the Kachin that have been fighting for greater autonomy for decades.

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming festival season, Northern Railway has decided to run the following Festival Special Trains as per details given below:-

04518/04517 Chandigarh-Gorakhpur-Chandigarh Reserved Festival Special Express		10 Trips
Train No. 04518	STATIONS	Train No. 04517
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 23:15	Chandigarh	14:10 —
18:20 —	Gorakhpur	— 22:05

Days of Run : 04518 Ex Chandigarh from 02.11.2023 to 30.11.2023 on every Thursday and 04517 Ex Gorakhpur from 03.11.2023 to 01.12.2023 on every Friday.

Stoppages: Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gonda and Basti stations.

Accommodation: 1st AC Cum 2 Tier AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

04530/04529 Bathinda-Varanasi-Bathinda Reserved Festival Special Express		16 Trips
Train No. 04530	STATIONS	Train No. 04529
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 20:55	Bathinda	19:10 —
17:30 —	Varanasi	— 20:40

Days of Run : 04530 Ex Bathinda from 05.11.2023 to 29.11.2023 on every Sunday & Wednesday and 04529 Ex Varanasi from 06.11.2023 to 30.11.2023 on every Monday & Thursday.

Stoppages: Rampura Phul, Barnala, Dhuri, Patiala, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow and Pratapgarh stations.

Accommodation: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

04646/04645 Jammu Tawi-Barauni Jn.-Jammu Tawi Festival Special Express		14 Trips
Train No. 04646	STATIONS	Train No. 04645
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 05:45	Jammu Tawi	22:30 —
12:10 —	Barauni Jn.	— 15:15

Days of Run : 04646 Ex Jammu Tawi from 19.10.2023 to 30.11.2023 on every Thursday and 04645 Ex Barauni Jn. from 20.10.2023 to 01.12.2023 on every Friday.

Stoppages: Pathankot Cantt., Jalandhar Cantt., Ludhiana Jn., Ambala Cantt. Jn., Saharanpur, Laksar Jn., Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree and Bachwara Jn stations.

Accommodation: 3 Tier AC & AC Chair Car

04678/04677 Firozpur Cantt. Jn.-Patna Jn.-Firozpur Cantt. Jn. Reserved Festival Special Express		12 Trips
Train No. 04678	STATIONS	Train No. 04677
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 13:25	Firozpur Cantt. Jn.	22:40 —
17:00 —	Patna Jn.	— 18:45

Days of Run : 04678 Ex Firozpur Cantt. Jn. from 25.10.2023 to 29.11.2023 on every Wednesday and 04677 Ex Patna Jn. from 26.10.2023 to 30.11.2023 on every Thursday.

Stoppages: Kot Kapura Jn., Bathinda Jn., Rampura Phul, Dhuri Jn., Patiala, Rajpura Jn., Ambala Cantt. Jn., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Pratapgarh, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara and Danapur stations.

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

04012/04011 New Delhi-Darbhanga-New Delhi Festival Special Express		14 Trips
Train No. 04012	STATIONS	Train No. 04011
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 19:20	New Delhi	16:40 —
16:45 —	Darbhanga	— 18:00

Days of Run : 04012 Ex New Delhi from 07.11.2023 to 28.11.2023 on every Tuesday & Friday and 04011 Ex Darbhanga from 08.11.2023 to 29.11.2023 on every Wednesday & Saturday.

Stoppages: Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Narkatiaganj, Raxaul and Sitamarhi stations.

Accommodation: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

04060/04059 Anand Vihar (T.)-Jaynagar-Anand Vihar (T.) Reserved Festival Special Express		14 Trips
Train No. 04060	STATIONS	Train No. 04059
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 10:30	Anand Vihar (T.)	19:55 —
15:15 —	Jaynagar	— 17:00

Days of Run : 04060 Ex Anand Vihar (T.) from 07.11.2023 to 28.11.2023 on every Tuesday & Friday and 04059 Ex Jaynagar from 08.11.2023 to 29.11.2023 on every Wednesday & Saturday.

Stoppages: Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Raebareilly, Amethi, Pratapgarh, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn and Madhubani stations.

Accommodation: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

04488/04487 Anand Vihar (T.)-Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar (T.) Special Express		08 Trips
Train No. 04488	STATIONS	Train No. 04487
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 23:15	Anand Vihar (T.)	10:40 —
14:00 —	Gorakhpur	— 17:25

Days of Run : 04488 Ex Anand Vihar (T.) from 04.11.2023 to 25.11.2023 on every Saturday and 04487 Ex Gorakhpur from 05.11.2023 to 26.11.2023 on every Sunday.

Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Chandausi Jn., Bareilly Cantt., Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn and Basti stations.

Accommodation: 1st AC Cum 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper

04010/04009 Anand Vihar (T.)-Jogbani-Anand Vihar (T.) Special Express		08 Trips
Train No. 04010	STATIONS	Train No. 04009
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 23:45	Anand Vihar (T.)	16:05 —
05:20 —	Jogbani	— 09:00

Days of Run : 04010 Ex Anand Vihar (T.) from 07.11.2023 to 28.11.2023 on every Tuesday and 04009 Ex Jogbani from 09.11.2023 to 30.11.2023 on every Thursday.

Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Chandausi Jn., Bareilly Cantt., Sitapur, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Sitwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Kathiari Jn., Purnea, Araria Court and Arariya stations.

Accommodation: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

01664/01663 Anand Vihar (T.)-Saharsa Jn.-Anand Vihar (T.) Festival Special Express		14 Trips
Train No. 01664	STATIONS	Train No. 01663
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 11:10	Anand Vihar (T.)	13:55 —
11:20 —	Saharsa Jn.	— 14:30

Days of Run : 01664 Ex Anand Vihar (T.) from 16.10.2023 to 27.11.2023 on every Monday and 01663 Ex Saharsa Jn. from 17.10.2023 to 28.11.2023 on every Tuesday.

Stoppages: Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Sitwan Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Dalsingh sarai, Barauni Jn., Begu sarai, Khagaria Jn. and S Bakhtiyarpur stations.

Accommodation: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

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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Afghans still hope to find survivors from quake that killed around 2k

AP ■ ZINDA JAN (AFGHANISTAN)

Clinging to hope that finding survivors was still possible, Afghan rescuers and villagers kept digging through rubble in western Herat province on Tuesday, three days after one of the deadliest earthquakes in the region left more than 2,000 dead. Elsewhere in Herat, people were digging graves for loved ones killed in Saturday's 6.3 magnitude quake.

On a barren field in the district of Zinda Jan, a bulldozer removed mounds of earth to clear space for a long row of graves.

"It is very difficult to find a family member from a destroyed house and a few minutes to later bury him or her in a nearby grave, again under the ground," said Mir Agha, from the city of Herat,



who had joined hundreds of volunteers to help the locals.

Across kilometres (miles) of dusty hills, there was little left of villages besides rubble and funerals.

In Naib Rafi, a village that previously had about 2,500 residents, people said that almost no one was still alive besides men who were working outside when the quake struck.

Survivors worked all day with excavators to dig long trenches for mass burials.

Janan Sayiq, a spokesman for the Afghan Taliban government's national disaster authority, said the quake killed and injured thousands but couldn't provide a breakdown for the casualties.

Earlier, Taliban officials said more than 2,000 had died across Herat.

The epicenter was about 40 kilometres (25 miles) northwest of the city of Herat, the provincial capital, the US Geological Survey said.

'Russia to only resume N-tests if US does it first'

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia will move to revoke the ratification of a global nuclear test ban to put itself on par with the United States but will only resume nuclear tests if Washington does it first, a senior Russian diplomat said on Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told reporters that Moscow will rescind the ratification of the nuclear test ban treaty to "mirror" the action by the US. He added that if the US conducts a nuclear test, "we will be forced to mirror that as well." The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, adopted in 1996 and known as the CTBT, bans all nuclear explosions anywhere in the world, although it has never fully entered into force.

'Biden interviewed over classified documents found at his residence'

Washington (PTI): US President Joe Biden has been interviewed over two days by a Special Counsel as part of a probe into his handling of classified documents, the White House has said.

The interview was conducted at the White House on Sunday and Monday, Ian Sams, the spokesperson of the White House Counsel's Office said on Monday.

"The President has been interviewed as part of the investigation being led by Special Counsel Robert Hur. The voluntary interview was conducted at the White House over two days, Sunday and Monday, and concluded Monday," Sams said.

The White House said in January that documents with

classified markings were found at Biden's Delaware home and at a Washington office he used after he was vice president.

"As we have said from the beginning, the President and the White House are cooperating with this investigation, and as it has been appropriate, we have provided relevant updates publicly, being as transparent as we can consistent with protecting and preserving the integrity of the investigation," Sams said.

He refrained from providing any other further details of the probe against 80-year-old Biden.

The interview, scheduled weeks ago, marks the first significant development in the case known to the public in months, a report by CNN said.

Car rams into Chinese consulate in US, police shoot driver

AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

A car rammed into the Chinese consulate in San Francisco on Monday, coming to a stop in the lobby and creating a chaotic scene that ended with police shooting the driver, who later died at the hospital, officials said. Police descended on the consulate building after 3 pm on a report of a vehicle crashing into the building and urged people to avoid the area. Officers entered the lobby of the consulate's visa office, made contact with the suspect and there was a shooting involving an officer and the driver, police Sgt. Kathryn Winters said during a short news conference. Despite "life-saving efforts," the suspect was pronounced dead at the hospital, police said.

Television cameras showed a Honda sedan crashed into the visa office and the doors in front of the building were cordoned off.

Winters said they didn't know why the vehicle crashed into the building or how many people were inside at the time but said they had no reports of other injuries.

Police are working and coordinating with investigators from the US Department of State and the Chinese consulate. "I wish I could give you more but this is a very complex investigation," Winters said.

A statement from the Chinese consulate denounced Monday's incident.

"On the afternoon of October 9, 2023, local time, an unidentified person drove a vehicle and violently crashed into the document hall of our consulate, posing a serious threat to the safety of staff and people on site, and damaging the facilities of our consulate," the statement said. "Our embassy severely condemns this violent attack." The consulate said that it has demanded more details about the incident and asked that it be "dealt with seriously in accordance with the law."

Russia claims 'neo-Nazis' were at wake for Ukrainian soldier

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Russia's UN ambassador alleged Monday that "neo-Nazis" and military-age men were at the wake for a Ukrainian soldier in a village cafe where a missile last week killed 52 people, even as Security Council members retorted that Russia was responsible for starting the war and committing crimes.

Vassily Nebenzia told a UN Security Council meeting called by Ukraine that the soldier was "a high-ranking Ukrainian nationalist," with "a lot of neo-Nazi accomplices attending."

In Thursday's strike by a Russian Iskander ballistic missile, the village of Hroza in the northeastern Kharkiv region, lost over 15 per cent of its 300 population. The cafe, which had reopened for the wake, was obliterated, and whole families perished. Albania's UN Ambassador Ferit Hoxha, this month's council president who presided at the meeting, said the missile strike and deaths in Hroza underscore again "the terrible price civilians are paying 20 months after the Russians invaded."

He said Russia may deny responsibility, but it started and is continuing a war and committing "horrible crimes," and "it has also broken the universal ancestral law of absolute respect for those mourning."

US deputy ambassador Robert Wood asked everyone in the council chamber to take a moment and let the appalling fact sink in: "People gathered to grieve their loved ones must now be grieved themselves."

"This is one of the deadliest strikes by Russia against Ukraine since the beginning of its full-scale invasion last year," he said, stressing US support for investigators from the UN and local authorities who have gone to Hroza to gather possible evidence of war crimes.

China's deputy UN ambassador Geng Shuang, whose country is a close ally of Russia, said Beijing finds the heavy civilian casualties in the attack on the village "concerning."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied last Friday that Russia was responsible for the Hroza attack. He insisted, as Moscow has in the past, that the Russian military doesn't target civilians and civilian facilities.

Nebenzia reiterated that the Russian military doesn't tar-

get civilians and civilian facilities. "We remind that if the Kyiv regime concentrates soldiers in a given place they become a legitimate target for strikes including from the point of view of IHL, the initials for international humanitarian law, he told the Security Council.

He also said that putting heavy weapons and missile defences in residential areas "is a serious violation and leads to the type of tragedy that we've talked about today."

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly painted his enemies in Ukraine as "neo-Nazis," even though the country has a Jewish president who lost relatives in the Holocaust and who heads a Western-backed, democratically elected government. The Holocaust, World War II and Nazism have been important tools for Putin in his bid to legitimise Russia's war in Ukraine, but historians see their use as disinformation and a cynical ploy to further the Russian leader's aims.

Ukraine's UN Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya told the Security Council that Ukrainians remember similar stories of entire settlements destroyed and erased from the

map during the Nazi invasion 80 years ago.

He accused Russia of using Nazi Germany's Third Reich as "its role model" by killing people, attempting to annex territory, "fueling imperial sentiments," and trying "to whitewash their aggression by pretending to defend themselves from imaginary attacks."

The wake in Hroza was for Andriy Kozyr, a soldier from Hroza who died last winter fighting Russia's invading forces in eastern Ukraine. According to Ukrainian news reports, he was initially laid to rest elsewhere in Ukraine, as his native village remained under Russian occupation. Kozyr's family decided to rebury him in Hroza more than 15 months after his death, following DNA tests that confirmed his identity. Among those who died in the missile strike were his son, Dmytro Kozyr, also a soldier, and his wife Nina, who was just days short of her 21st birthday.

Nebenzia claimed that Ukraine's government wrings its hands about civilians who died in airstrikes on hotels, hostels, cafes and shops, "and then a large number of obituaries of foreign mercenaries and soldiers appear."

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Zelenskyy visits Romania to discuss security, boost ties

AP ■ BUCHAREST

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with his counterpart in Romania Tuesday for talks on regional security and to strengthen bilateral ties against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of his country.

He described the partnership between the two countries as key to "stability for Europe and beyond" on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, after meeting with President Klaus Iohannis in the capital, Bucharest. The two discussed security in the Black Sea region, economic cooperation, shared infrastructure projects, and Ukraine's requests for military support, Zelenskyy told reporters after the meetings.

He also thanked Romania for providing both military and humanitarian support to his war-torn country.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Ukrainian president described the NATO and European Union member country as "a friend who came to our help on our darkest day and whose support gets stronger with time," on X.

In recent weeks, Russia has carried out sustained attacks on Ukraine's Danube



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, attends a welcoming ceremony at the Cotroceni Presidential Palace together with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, in Bucharest, Romania, on Tuesday

River ports — located just across the river from Romania — as Moscow aims to disrupt Ukraine's ability to export grain to world markets.

Romania has confirmed drone fragment findings on its territory, the type used by the Russian army near its border with Ukraine. "In Romania, it is well-known how dangerous Russian terrorism is, how dangerous the drones and missiles are that attack the villages near the Romanian border," Zelenskyy said.

"Ukrainian pilots will be trained in Romania and I discussed this with the Romanian

president. We discussed our military requests."

In July, Romania's Supreme Council of National Defense said that the country aims to open a regional training hub for F-16 fighter jet pilots from other NATO countries and other partners, including Ukraine.

For his part, Iohannis said that Romania is "focused on helping Ukraine win the war" against Russia and that supporting Ukraine is in his country's strategic interest. "Strengthening Ukraine's security means strengthening Romania's security."

Covid-like curbs in Lahore likely as air quality deteriorates

Lahore (PTI) Pakistan's Punjab government may impose coronavirus-like restrictions here in the provincial capital to control the worsening smog situation, according to a media report on Tuesday. Quoting the sources, Geo News reported that the authorities are likely to announce a complete shutdown on Wednesdays when all schools, markets, and factories will be closed.

The city's Commissioner said the authorities will also announce a work-from-home policy for two months to combat smog in the Lahore Division. The decision came after a meeting with traders to discuss the proposal to keep markets closed on Wednesdays.

"Traders can open markets on Sundays if they want," Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa said.

Under the new policy, the government departments will operate with 50 per cent strength on Wednesday, the report said, adding that it has also been advised to carry out snap-checking on weekends - Saturday and Sunday. The report also said that the administration has been advised to impose heavy fines on factories violating the law and shut them in case of continuous ignorance of the directives.

Chinese coast guard chases away Philippine Navy ship from SCS shoal

AP ■ BEIJING

China's coast guard claimed Tuesday to have chased a Philippine navy ship from a disputed shoal in the South China Sea as tensions between the two countries over rich fishing areas escalate. Coast guard spokesman Gan Yu said the Philippine ship had sailed into waters next to the Scarborough Shoal, which China calls Huangyan Island, and ignored "multiple calls" to turn back.

"The Chinese coast guard took necessary measures to expel the Philippine ship in accordance with the law, such as following it and forcing it out and controlling its route," Gan said.

In Manila, the Philippines' military chief of staff, Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., said authorities were still looking into the alleged incident but think it was more likely "propaganda from the Chinese" than an actual confrontation.

"If we ever have a ship there, we will not agree to be driven away (from our) exclusive economic zone," Brawner told reporters. "It's our right to make sure that our fishermen can fish in our economic zone."

The Scarborough Shoal lies within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, just west of the

country's main Luzon Island. It has been occupied by China since 2012 as part of a Beijing's push to lay claim to almost the entire South China Sea, which has also sparked disputes with Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

The conflicts have long been regarded as a potential Asian flash point and a delicate fault line in the United States-China rivalry in the region.

Washington has no claims of its own, but US Navy ships and fighter jets have carried out patrols for decades to challenge China's expansive claims and promote freedom of navigation in the important waterway.

Last month, China's coast guard laid down a 300-metre-long floating barrier to block the entrance to the Scarborough Shoal lagoon to prevent Filipino boats from entering.

A few days later, the Philippine coast guard, acting on orders directly from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., covertly removed the barrier, infuriating China. Gan, the spokesman for China's coast guard, insisted that "China has indisputable sovereignty over Huangyan Island and its adjacent waters," and that chasing away the Philippine ship on Tuesday was "legitimate and legal."

China touts its Belt and Road infra lending as an alternative for int'l development

AP ■ BEIJING

China is touting its 10-year-old Belt and Road Development Initiative as an alternative model for economic development, releasing a government report that praises the program while glossing over criticism that it has saddled poor countries with too much debt.

The program championed by Chinese leader Xi Jinping has financed construction of ports, power plants, railroads and other projects around the world. "Over the past 10 years, the fruitful results of building the Belt and Road together and the growing circle of friends have fully proved that the Belt and Road does not engage in a closed and narrow circle, transcends the old mindset of geopolitical games and creates a new paradigm of international cooperation," Li Kexin, the Foreign Ministry's director for international economics affairs, told reporters in Beijing.

Since it was launched, the Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI, has backed projects carried out mostly by Chinese construction companies, financed by loans from Chinese development banks.

Its official goal is to boost trade and investment by improving China's transport links with the rest of the world. Analysts credit the program with directing needed funding

to poor countries but say that came at a cost.

A study released Monday by Boston University's Global Development Policy Center said the BRI had delivered more than USD 330 billion in loans to developing country governments through 2021, lending more than the World Bank in some years.

"On some level, China has added a World Bank to the developing world, and that is no small feat and very appreciated by developing countries," said Kevin Gallagher, the center's director.

But the same study noted that many recipients of Chinese loans are now struggling with their overall debts. Also, Chinese-funded power plants are emitting about 245 million tons of carbon dioxide a year, adding to emissions of climate altering greenhouse gases. Gallagher says the initiative has switched to a new focus, dubbed "small and beautiful," that favours smaller projects and renewable energy. China's development lending has slumped in recent years, in part because China has learned from the debt crises in multiple countries and also because it has less money to lend as its own economy slows down.

Cong Liang, a senior official of China's main planning agency, said during the release of the BRI report that the

country would adhere to "the principle of sustainable debt" and work with indebted countries toward "a sustainable and risk-controllable investment and financing system."

The Belt and Road Initiative is part of China's efforts to raise its international stature and push back against US criticism of Communist Party rule and Beijing's human rights record.

China's leaders accuse the US of trying to impose their principles on everyone else — including China. They say their system offers a different approach that accepts other countries as they are.

A delegation of US senators said that during a visit to China this week they emphasized to Chinese officials that they would "remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting stability in the region, freedom and democratic principles and vigorously defend our values."

The BRI report says the program transcends differences in ideologies and social systems, offering an alternative to the current path of globalisation that Beijing says has just widened the gap between rich and poor countries.

"It is no longer acceptable that only a few countries dominate world economic development, control economic rules, and enjoy development fruits," the report said.

Nawaz Sharif to perform Umrah before returning to Pak: Aide

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif would leave London for Saudi Arabia on Wednesday to perform Umrah pilgrimage before returning to Pakistan next week, ending a four-year "self-imposed exile," a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz said on Tuesday.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui told journalists that the PML-N supremo would perform Umrah (pilgrimage to Mecca) and spend time with his son Hussain Sharif during his stay in the Gulf Kingdom.

"I don't have any reports of his meeting with the Royal family... But he will perform Umrah, spend time with his son... most of his stay would be in Medina," Siddiqui said.

He added that Sharif, 73, would leave for the UAE two days before his expected arrival in Pakistan on October 21. "He will rest there and is also expected to meet some party leaders."

When asked about the media reports that Sharif would visit China and Qatar, Siddiqui

said no such trips were scheduled before October 21.

The PML-N senator rejected the impression that the party was changing its narrative "vote ko izzat do" (honour the vote) by saying that Sharif never can never reject the narrative as it enjoys the support of the people.

"But let me tell you one thing, his speech would not be that of a conventional political leader. He will show the nation the path forward like a political visionary... and his speech will determine a new way for us," Siddiqui said while talking about Sharif's planned speech after landing in Lahore.

Sharif recently said that he is excited to return to Pakistan to lead his party in the election likely to be held in January 2024.

Earlier this month, Samaa TV reported that Sharif had booked a business class ticket on flight EY243 of Etihad Airways in advance. The Etihad Airways flight will land at the Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore at 6:25 p.m. on October 21.

Sharif stepped down as the country's prime minister in 2017 after he was disqualified for life from holding public office by the Supreme Court for not declaring a receivable salary. He has been living in London since 2019 after the LHC granted him four-week permission allowing him to go abroad for his treatment.

He was serving a seven-year imprisonment at Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail in the Al-Azizia Mills case before he was allowed to proceed to London in 2019 on "medical grounds."

In 2020, an accountability court declared him a proclaimed offender in the Toshakhana vehicles case. He is also accused of obtaining luxury cars from the treasury house by paying just 15 per cent of the price of these vehicles.

He was convicted in the Al-Azizia Mills and Avenfield corruption cases in 2018.

There are question marks on his fate as he had already been declared as an absconder and could be arrested after coming to Pakistan.

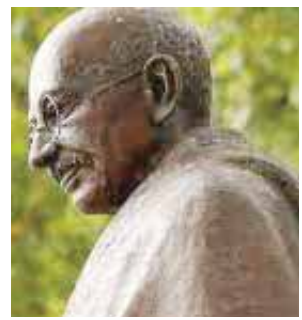
Eight-foot statue of Mahatma Gandhi unveiled in Jo'burg's Tolstoy Farm

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

An eight-foot-tall statue of Mahatma Gandhi has been unveiled at Tolstoy Farm, the commune that he had started during his tenure as a lawyer here in South Africa in the early 20th century. The larger-than-life clay statue, unveiled on Sunday by the High Commissioner of India, Prabhakar Kumar, now joins large busts of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, both commissioned by sculptor Jalandharnath Rajaram Chhannore, from the Sevagram Ashram in India.

"This statue probably resembles Mahatma Gandhi when he left South Africa at that time. We have seen Mahatma Gandhi's photographs from 1914, and here he is much older. I think it's a grand tribute to him at Tolstoy Farm, where he lived for five or six years. From 1910 to 1914, he intermittently lived here," said Kumar as he unveiled the statue. Kumar recalled that Gandhi's friend Herman Kallenbach had donated the farm to establish a self-sufficient commune.

"This was because the people from our community here were struggling against the (discriminatory) pass laws and other laws," he said, referring to the laws that required non-white citizens to carry pass-



thing was stripped bare, including the iron and wood house that Gandhi had lived in. Only the foundation, hidden by shoulder-height grass, remained.

Hira, now 84, almost single-handedly started a drive to restore Tolstoy Farm. For his efforts, Hira received the Pravasi Bharatiya Award, India's highest civilian award for Diaspora Indians, in January this year.

"For the last few years, the MGRO has brought the attention of Tolstoy Farm back to all of us and the High Commission (in Pretoria) and the Consulate General (in Johannesburg) will spare no effort in making Tolstoy Farm self-sufficient in future. This will be our task," Kumar said. Kumar also appealed to the local community to get involved in and support this venture as he shared how he had been inspired by reading about and hearing from freedom fighters who had been there what Tolstoy Farm was like. For this statue, Hira brought out Channore, who first did a cycle tour of Gandhian sites in South Africa before spending three weeks at Hira's residence in the nearby sprawling Indian township of Lenasia, where the white minority apartheid government forcibly resettled Indians from all over Johannesburg for decades.

books for the indigenous Black African community and Astatic registration papers for Indians. Many men and some women voluntarily went to jail with Gandhi to resist these laws.

"They had to also bring up their families and to sustain those families, Kallenbach bought this farm and donated it to Mahatma Gandhi," Kumar said as he recounted how these families grew fruits and vegetables on Tolstoy Farm with which they sustained themselves. The envoy said that the same community spirit had to be re-established at Tolstoy Farm as he commended the Mahatma Gandhi Remembrance Organisation (MGRO) and its head, Mohan Hira, for what they had done to revive Tolstoy Farm. By the 1990s, Tolstoy Farm had been wholly vandalised and left derelict after the last tenants had moved out. Surrounded by informal settlements, every-

thing was stripped bare, including the iron and wood house that Gandhi had lived in. Only the foundation, hidden by shoulder-height grass, remained.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SSA-372/2023-MIS-SSA/1304313/2023 Date 10.10.2023

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites following bids through GeM portal vide No. :- 1.GEM/2023/B/4057934 Dated : 09-10-2023 for Annual Maintenance Service for Aadhar Enrollment Kit

2. GEM/2023/B/4062432 Dated : 09-10-2023 for Supply Installation Commissioning Operation Management support for setting up Smart Classrooms.

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

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

Janasanyog/CF/3031/23/ 11-October-23

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BUILDING & GARDEN)

Tel. No. (0240)2333536-40 Address:- Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Executive Engineer (Building & Garden) (Building & Garden) Head Office:- Town Hall Pin-431001 E-Tender Call AMC (For Help): Cell No. 9764999592

No/AMC/DyEng/B&G/337/2023 Date :- 06/10/2023

Sr. No	Work Name	Last Date of Tender Submission
1.	Appointment of the Architectural Consultant for Proposed Development of CSMC Land Bearing S.No - 35 Jaswantpura Central Naka By Construction of Commercial & Office Complex	03/11/2023

Note :-
1. For the above started work is available on website :- www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Building & Garden) Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

RO no. जा. क्र मनापा रजपि जति /337/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that **Mohd. Nasim**, son of **Mohd. Elyas**, resident of F-339 & F-340, **Dakhnupur, New Delhi-110062**, have lost /misplaced the original documents issued by DDA (J SLUM) Delhi (i.e. Original Slip/ Documents, etc.) in respect of Property Nos. F-339 And F-340 Dakhnupur New Delhi-110062. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in PS-Crime Branch, Delhi bearing LR No. 964779/2023 dated 03/10/2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest over documents or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact above named person at above address/phone no. 9797439686 or to Dy. Director, DDA-Slum, New Delhi, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector 2 Noida, UP-201301, Contact # 0120-4289370

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Shammi who is purchasing the Plot No. 22, Land Area Measuring 183.33 Sq. Yds., E 153 28 Sq. Mtrs. Out of Khassa No. 24mi, Village Sahibawa Marfi, Sidhartha Enclave, Pargana Jalalabad, Tehsil Modnagar, District Ghazabad, U.P. from Mohd. Javed who is owner vide Sale deed dated 30.06.2022, duly registered as doc. No. 1397, SRC-Modnagar and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. That Original Sale Deed dated 19.03.2007 executed by Mr. Sharifat Khan, Mr. Kamyaab Khan, Mr. Mehtab Khan and Mr. Atab Khan in favour of Mrs. Poonam John and Mrs. Rajabala Vaidi Doc. No. 3436-SRC-Modnagar, have been lost and not available and an FIR has been lodged on dated 10.10.2023 with LR No. 20230006/5217/2023, Uttar Pradesh Police for loss of document. If any Person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property may inform in writing at the address mentioned below, about his objections within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, Charge, disputes etc.

Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector 2 Noida, UP-201301, Contact # 0120-4289370

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Kanta Devi W/o. Mool Chand Sharma, was the owner of the property Upper Ground Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 62.50 sq. Yds. i.e. 52.25 Sq. Mtrs. out of total area measuring 125 Sq. Yds. built on Property Bearing No. B-15-A (built on Plot No. B-15), old built on Plot No. 17-A, out of Khassa No. 477, towards Gali No. 1 side, situated at Chakia, Aurang Pargana, District Ghazabad, U.P. in the area of village (Mardawal) Fazalpur, Delhi-110092, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 08.12.1969, regd. at doc. No. 7678, and Mrs. Kanta Devi, along with his husband Mr. Mool Chand and daughter Mrs. Usha Sharma dated on 24.10.2000, 25.08.2007 & 15.03.2013, respectively. The above said property is to be financed & mortgaged with my client i.e., M/s. Tota Capital Housing Finance Ltd. and the only surviving heirs of late Mrs. Kanta Devi & late Mrs. Usha Sharma are late Mr. Satish Kumar, Mr. Subhash Chandra Sharma, and Mrs. Bhawna Sharma (if any persons) having any objections or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghav Tiwari, Advocate Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001 Mob. :- 91-9876188328

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client Mr. Shahzad is in process to purchase the Second Floor, Front Side (Said Floor) built on Plot No. A115E, area measuring 100 sq. yds. out of total area 500 sq. yds. out of Khassa No. 15/25 situated at Village Asat Pur Khadar, Colony known as Chanakya Place, New Delhi (availing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd.) from Smt. Praveesh Saluja, who purchased the same from Jai Bhagwan as G.P.A. of Sh. Mukhtiar Singh & Sh. Karan Pal Singh vide G.P.A. A1S and Will dated 18.11.1996. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahatma Metro Tower Sec-4, Vasthali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063551

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client Smt. Soni is in process to avail the LAP against her Plot bearing No. 10 & 20 area measuring 40 sq. yards (33.44 sq. meters) (having total covered area measuring 100.33 sq. meters), situated in Shalimar Housing Complex, Shalimar Garden Village, Pargana Gurgaon, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana. If any person(s) having any claim against or in respect of the said shares certificates should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office A-1, Industrial Area, Bazpur Road, Kashipur, Udhham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhnad- 244713 within 15 days of the publication of this notice, after which no claim will be entertained and the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates.

Krishna Saran Dass

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Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahatma Metro Tower Sec-4, Vasthali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063551

AXIS BANK LTD. CORRIGENDUM

PLEASE REFER TO OUR EARLIER ADVERTISEMENT OF "PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS" PUBLISHED IN THIS NEWSPAPER ON 06.10.2023. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING THE FINAL VERSION OF ADVERTISEMENT A TYPOGRAPHICAL PRINTING ERROR HAS INADVERTENTLY HAPPENED WHEREIN THE DETAILS OF "GROSS WEIGHT" & "NET WEIGHT" OF FOLLOWING LOAN A/C. SHOULD BE READ AS DETAILS GIVEN BELOW AND NOT AS PUBLISHED EARLIER.

SR. NO.	CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	GRS WT	NET WT	BRANCH NAME
1	RAHUL KUMAR SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXX2550	74.000	71.950	DARYAGANJ, DELHI [DL]
2	MUSKAN	XXXXXXXXXX07106	22.400	21.600	JYOTI NAGAR DEL DEL
3	SUMIT BIDHURI	XXXXXXXXXX08542	176.600	165.200	KALKAJI, NEW DELHI [DL]
4	SANJAY SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX07825	18.700	18.160	MAYUR VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]
5	JAGJIT KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX05632	16.500	15.600	ROHINI, DELHI [DL]
6	BOBI	XXXXXXXXXX00498	17.800	17.000	ROHINI, DELHI [DL]
7	SARABJEET KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX06879	72.100	68.850	ROHINI, DELHI [DL]
8	ABHISHEK	XXXXXXXXXX08412	18.600	18.140	FARIDABAD [HR]
9	MONU	XXXXXXXXXX00932	47.300	45.200	FARIDABAD [HR]
10	RAHITHI SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXX00659	122.700	102.780	FARIDABAD [HR]
11	KSHINDRA SHISHRAM	XXXXXXXXXX00460	27.100	26.100	PARADISE MALL S GUR HR
12	MONIKA	XXXXXXXXXX04672	42.100	40.200	SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR]
13	ANIMESH ADITYA	XXXXXXXXXX02904	36.400	34.900	NOIDA [UP]

THIS CORRIGENDUM SHOULD BE READ IN CONTINUATION OF THE SAID PUBLICATION AND ALL THE OTHER ITEMS SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

PLACE: DELHI, DATE: 11.10.2023

Sd/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER, AXIS BANK LTD.

Telecom firms invest ₹2,419 cr under PLI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Investment by telecom companies under the production-linked incentive scheme has crossed the halfway mark of ₹2,419 crore, resulting in the employment of 17,753 people, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday.
The government shortlisted 42 companies in October 2022 that committed a total investment of ₹4,115 crore and are likely to generate additional sales of ₹2.45 lakh crore and employ over 44,000 people during the six-year scheme period ending 2025-26.
"Today, in the telecom sector, we have crossed a major milestone where PLI-supported companies have already completed an investment of ₹2,419 crore, where the sales are at ₹34,516 crore, exports are ₹7,600 crore, and employment is 17,753. This is a great milestone

for the telecom industry," Vaishnaw said.
He was speaking during the virtual inauguration of a production line to manufacture 4G and 5G connectivity modules and data cards for US-based Telit Cinterion by domestic firm VVDN.
"Very complex manufacturing has started, and young girls are getting trained in handling complex machines. This is the success of Make in India, and this is the success of our Prime Minister's vision," Vaishnaw said.
VVDN is one of the companies shortlisted under the PLI scheme.
In a veiled attack on former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, the minister said critics of "Make In India" should visit VVDN plants to see the depth that the country is acquiring in telecom and electronics manufacturing.



Rajan in a social media post a few months back had raised questions on value addition taking place in electronics manufacturing. The minister said telecom equipment was being imported into the country for a long time, and it was unimaginable to manufacture and export telecom equipment from the country.

"Today, telecom equipment manufactured in India is exported to many countries, such as the US, European countries and Japan. These are highly developed countries and we feel proud that our products are accepted as high quality in these countries. We should continuously strive to maintain the quality of the products and consistency in our production system," Vaishnaw said.
He said that 5G was launched last year, and within a year, Bharat has become the third largest ecosystem for 5G in the world.
"The speed at which things were done is a matter of great pride. ITU has accepted our inputs in the standardisation of 6G. This process will be further strengthened in the coming years. We are working towards positioning in India as a leading standard and IT contributor to the 6G journey," Vaishnaw said.

Sensex, Nifty rebound 1 per cent on gains in financial, auto shares

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied nearly 1 per cent on Tuesday following gains in financials, auto and IT shares after recent sharp losses and positive global trends.
The 30-share Sensex spurted by 566.97 points or 0.87 per cent to close at 66,079.36 as 26 of its constituents ended in the green and four declined. The index opened sharply higher by 400 points and surged further to touch the day's high of 66,180.17.
The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange jumped 177.50 points or 0.91 per cent to settle at 19,689.85, driven by gains in Coal India, Adani Ports and Bharti Airtel.
According to analysts, moderation in US bond yields on expectations that interest rates are likely to remain stable in the short term revived demand for rate-sensitive shares even as the Israel-Hamas conflict escalated.
Stock markets had dropped sharply on Monday with benchmark indices tanking up to 1 per cent as the attack by Hamas on Israel raised fears of a broader conflict.
"The Indian market com-pletely recovered yesterday's losses, which were mainly due to the Hamas-Israel conflict. Moderation in crude prices and positive global cues on account of dovish remarks from Fed officials, which restrained US bond yields, aided the rebound," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.
The domestic market's primary focus is currently on the approaching result season, with optimistic expectations on earnings, Nair added.
Among Sensex gainers, Bharti Airtel rose the most by 2.9 per cent. Kotak Bank jumped 2.15 per cent, Tata Motors by 2.14 per cent and JSW Steel by 2.09 per cent.
ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Infosys, M&M, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, SBI and Maruti were also among the gainers.
On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, TCS, Titan and Asian Paints declined.
Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd stated that the majority of sectors participated in the move wherein realty, metal and financials were among the top gainers. Rebound in the broader indices further added to the positivity.

Competition Commission probing Google, Apple, says chairperson Kaur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Competition Commission of India (CCI) is probing Google and Apple for alleged unfair business practices, the regulator's Chairperson Raveet Kaur said on Tuesday.
The watchdog had ordered detailed investigations against Google with respect to its alleged abuse of dominance in the smart television segment and in the news content space.
Speaking to reporters here, Kaur said the matter related to Google and smart television is under the commission's inquiry. Currently, the investigation is on in the matter of the news publishers' complaint against Google, she said.
To another query, Kaur said that Apple is also under investigation. "Once we receive the report from the DG, (and) CCI, we will take action," she added. The regulator had ordered an investigation against Apple for alleged anti-competitive practices with respect to its App Store.
The Director General (DG) is the investigation arm of the CCI. Cases where the regulator finds prima facie evidence of anti-competitive practices are referred for detailed probes by the DG. Earlier, the regulator



had passed orders against Google in cases related to the Android system and PlayStore. "In the Android systems case, the CCI had passed a cease and desist order for abuse of dominant position in that segment. Besides, ten behavioural remedies were also directed by the regulator and thirdly, a penalty of ₹1,337 crore was imposed.
"Google has deposited the penalty along with interest. On the behavioural remedies, the company had taken up the matter with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The NCLAT had upheld the cease and desist order and six of the CCI's directions. Now, the matter is pending before the Supreme Court where both the CCI and Google have filed petitions," she said.

IMF raises India's GDP growth forecast marginally to 6.3 per cent for FY24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday raised India's GDP projection marginally by 0.2 per cent to 6.3 per cent even as it slashed the global growth forecast to 3 per cent. IMF in July had estimated India's GDP forecast at 6.1 per cent for 2023-24. However, this is lower than the RBI's latest estimate of 6.5 per cent for the current financial year.
However, India's growth is projected to be higher than China's, the second-largest economy in the world.
IMF's 'World Economic Outlook' revised China's growth forecast downward by 0.2 percentage points for 2023 and by 0.3 percentage points for 2024 to 5 per cent and 4.2 per cent, respectively.
With the property market crisis in that country, lower investment is the main contributor to the revision, it said.
"Growth in India is projected to remain strong, at 6.3 per cent in both 2023 and 2024, with an upward revision of 0.2 percentage point for 2023, reflecting stronger-than-expected consumption during April-June," the 'World Economic Outlook' said.
Monetary policy projections are consistent with achieving the Reserve Bank of India's inflation target over

the medium term, it noted.
The government has mandated the RBI to keep CPI inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. Observing that the food security concerns prompted recent export restrictions in the world's largest rice exporter India, it said, risks to prices are tilted to the upside, stemming mostly from the ramifications of the end of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and uncertain effects of El Nino, possibly exacerbated by the proliferation of food export restrictions.
On the oil import, it said about 35 to 40 per cent of India's crude oil imports came from Russia during April-June 2023, a stark rise from less than 5 per cent before the war in Ukraine. "While India's oil exports (mostly petroleum products) are small relative to its oil imports (mostly crude oil), India increased its oil exports to the European Union substantially," it said.
Last week, the World Bank retained India's growth forecast at 6.3 per cent for the current financial year on the back of robust service activities despite global headwinds. In India, which accounts for the bulk of the South Asia region, growth is expected to remain robust at 6.3 per cent in 2023-24, India Development Update of the World Bank said.

E-commerce trends event held

New Delhi: Payoneer, the financial technology company organised Forum, its global flagship event in New Delhi. The event centred around the theme "Elevate, Expand, and Excel," with the goal of delivering valuable insights into the evolving landscape of e-commerce trends. "Indian eCommerce exporters have experienced a 42 per cent increase in their customer base in international markets since 2022," said Gaurav Shisodia, vice president - India at Payoneer.

Ambani pips Adani to become richest Indian on Hurun list

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Mukesh Ambani has raced ahead of Gautam Adani to become the richest Indian on a list of wealthiest people in the country.
The 66-year-old chairman of the diversified Reliance Industries saw his wealth growing by a marginal 2 per cent to ₹8.08 lakh crore, while Adani's fortune plummeted by 57 per cent to ₹4.74 lakh crore, as per the 360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023.
Anas Rahman Junaid, managing director and chief researcher at Hurun, attributed the decline in Adani's wealth to the Hindenburg report published in January.
In January, the US-based short seller came out with a damning report on the Adani Group, alleging a slew of irregularities which led to a sharp correction in the group stocks

and consequent wealth erosion for the promoter family. Adani has denied all the allegations.
A total of 1,319 individuals from 138 cities feature on the list which uses August 30 as the base date to assess fortunes.
Pune-based Cyrus Poonawalla of vaccine maker Serum Institute of India has retained the position as the third wealthiest Indian, with a 36 per cent jump in the fortune

at ₹2.78 lakh crore, while Shiv Nadar of HCL Technologies has retained his position as the fourth richest with a 23 per cent increase to ₹2.28 lakh crore.
A majority of individuals among the top-10 climbed up on the rankings, including Gopichand Hinduja who is ranked fifth now, Dilip Shengvi (sixth), L N Mittal (seventh), Kumar Mangalam (ninth) and Niraj Bajaj (tenth).
However, D-Mart's Radhakishan Damani witnessed an 18 per cent decline in his net worth to ₹1.43 lakh crore, which resulted in him slipping three ranks to become the eighth richest Indian.
Radha Vembu of Zoho has overtaken Falguni Nayar to become the richest self-made Indian woman, while Zepto's Kaivalya Vohra is the youngest on the list.
At the age of 94, Mahendra Ratil Mehta of Precision Wires India company debuted on the list.
India added two new billionaires every three weeks in the past year and now boasts of 259 billionaires, which is a 4.4-fold increase in 12 years, Hurun said.
Amid concerns about inequalities, the list said 51 individuals saw their wealth double this year compared to 24 last year.

PE inflows plunge to \$1.81 bn in July-Sept

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Private equity (PE) investments in India fell 65.4 per cent to USD 1.81 billion in July-September 2023 as compared to the year-ago period, according to an industry report.
In the year-ago period, PE investment was USD 5.23 billion.
The number of deals also declined steeply by 50.1 per cent to 232 from 465 deals in Q3 2022, according to the data collated by Refinitiv, which is a London Stock Exchange Group (LSG) business.
On a sequential basis, the number of deals fell 34.2 per cent from 353 in Q2 2023, and in value term it declined by 35.2



per cent from USD 2.79 billion.
For the first nine months (January-September 2023), the Internet specific and computer software companies continued to attract maximum PE interest with USD 2.80 billion and USD 1.48 billion invested. But this is 63.2 per cent down from the year-ago period with the number of deals declining to 283 from 414 in the first nine months of 2022. PE investment in computer software was down 74.9 per cent, financial services (down 79.9 per cent) and consumer-related companies (down 72.1 per cent) in the first nine months of 2023 as compared to the same period of 2022.

However, PE investment in industries catering to industrial/energy was up 30.8 per cent and semiconductor & electrical (up 64.2 per cent).
Fundraising activity in the country saw 31 per cent decline compared to the year-ago period and amounted to USD 6 billion during the first nine months of 2023.
The top 10 PE deals in the first nine months included Lenskart Solutions (USD600 million), Ola Electric Mobility (USD300 million), Serentica Renewables (USD250 million), Perfios Software Solutions (USD229.3 million), Kiranakart Technologies (USD199.9 million), among others, according to Refinitiv.

EV maker Tork Motors partners with Bolt.Earth for charging points infra

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Pune-based EV maker Tork Motors has partnered with EV software and charging infra provider Bolt.Earth to provide as many as 30,000 charging points to its customers, the company said on Tuesday.
Bolt.Earth currently operates across over 1100 cities in the country and its network will now be available to Tork customers, it said.
Both Tork Motors and Bolt.Earth are part of the Bharat Charge Alliance to offer interoperable DC charging infrastructure for light electric



vehicles, it said.
This partnership is aimed at giving flexibility to Tork customers in finding a charging point closer to them at their convenience. These charging points will be embedded in the existing charging infrastructure map on Tork's mobile app and customers will be able to locate them without the need of downloading multiple apps, the company said.
The range anxiety is still a prevailing concern among EV users. While most people charge their vehicles at home, access to charging stations at other locations throughout the day minimises their worries, Kapil Shelke, Founder and CEO of Tork Motors.
Tork Motors offers its premium commuter segment electric motorcycle KRATOS-R with standard as well as urban trim o

Adani SEZ firm shares over 3 per cent high

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Shares of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) settled more than 3 per cent higher on Tuesday.
The port operator on Monday said it has taken measures to ensure safety of its employees in Israeli port of Haifa and all of them were safe.
Hamas militants attacked Israel and an intense conflict is going on between both sides.
In late morning trade, shares of APSEZ climbed 2.99 per cent to ₹813.50 apiece and rose further to ₹819.20 apiece, registering a 3.71 per cent rise during the day on the BSE.
On the NSE, APSEZ's shares rose 2.95 per cent to ₹813.35 apiece, and rose further to ₹818 each, a rise of 3.54 per cent.
In volume trade, 5.20 lakh equity shares were traded on the BSE, while 75.91 lakh shares were on the NSE, during the day.

Sebi extends timeline for confirmation or denial of market rumours

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
To streamline disclosure requirements, Sebi has notified new rules and extended the deadlines for mandatory confirmation or denial of market rumours by listed companies.
This came after Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), through a circular in late September, gave more time to listed companies to comply with the deadlines.
The deadline to confirm, deny, or clarify any market rumour reported in the mainstream media has been extended to February 1, 2024 for top 100 listed companies by market capitalisation, as per the circular.
Earlier, it was scheduled to come into force from October 1, this year.



Under the disclosure requirements, these companies will have to "confirm, deny or clarify any reported event or information in the mainstream media, which is not general in nature and which indicates that rumours of an impending specific material event" are circulating amongst the investing public within 24 hours from the reporting of the information.
Separately, the regulator has relaxed rules pertaining to enhanced qualification and experience requirements for investment advisers.
The move came after Sebi's board last month approved a proposal to extend the timeline by two years till September 2025 for compliance with enhanced qualification and experience requirements for investment advisers.

Global coal industry expected to layoff over 4 lakh miners by 2035: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The coal industry is expected to shed more than four lakh mining jobs, equivalent to nearly 100 workers per day, by 2035, even without climate pledges or policies to phase out coal, with China and India likely to be the hardest hit, according to a new report.
The primary reason will be the market shift toward cheaper wind and solar power generation and a lack of planning to manage a transition to a post-coal economy, said the report compiled by Global Energy Monitor, a US-based NGO that analyses the evolving international energy landscape.
The report suggests that 9,90,200 coal-mining jobs will cease to exist at operating mines given the foreseeable closures of coal facilities, potentially laying



off more than one-third (37 per cent) of the existing workforce.
China and India are expected to be the hardest hit. China's Shanxi province would witness the largest number of job losses globally -- 2,41,900 by 2050 -- while Coal India is the producer facing the largest potential job cuts of 73,800 by the mid-century.
The report highlights that data shows 4,300 active and proposed coal mines and projects around the world are cumulatively responsible for more than 90 per cent of global coal production.
Climate commitments to phase out coal power generation could accelerate ongoing trends in coal-mining job losses, even as employment in renewable energy and construction now

exceeds 50 per cent of total energy employment.
Coal-mining jobs play a significant role in remote coal regions, acting as anchors of economic activity and sustaining ancillary workforces and employment in local consumer and information economies.
The vast majority of these workers are in Asia, with 22 lakh jobs in the region, and China and India are expected to bear the brunt of the coal-mine closures.
China has more than 15 lakh coal miners who produce over 85 per cent of its coal, accounting for half of the world's output. Meanwhile, the northern provinces of Shanxi, Henan and Inner Mongolia mine more than a quarter of the world's coal and employ 32 per cent of the global mining workforce, approximately 8,70,400 people.

KSB to supply solar water pumps to UP

New Delhi: KSB Limited, a leading Pumps and Valves manufacturer in India, secured a significant Letter of Award worth Rs 27.78 crores from the UP Department of Agriculture for the supply of 800 solar water pumping systems under PM-KUSUM III scheme. "KSB's focus has always been on driving sustainability and excellence in the renewable energy sector. We are looking forward to partner the PM-KUSUM III scheme in other states across India," said Sunil Bapat, Sr General Manager & Plant Head-Sinnar, KSB Limited.

Host nations from UK, Ireland set to enter Euro 2028 qualifying

AFP ■ NYON (SWITZERLAND)

The United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland will co-host Euro 2028, while Italy and Turkey will be joint hosts of the 2032 tournament, UEFA announced on Tuesday.

Both bids ran unopposed but still needed official approval from European football's governing body, which they received at a meeting in Switzerland.

Turkey last week withdrew from the bidding process for Euro 2028, clearing the path for Britain and Ireland, who shelved plans to bid to host the 2030 World Cup to focus on staging the European Championship.

"The UK and Ireland thanks UEFA for its confidence to award UEFA EURO 2028 to the five Association partnership, and congratulates Italy and Turkey on their appointment for UEFA EURO 2032," read a joint statement from the five football associations.

FIFA last week announced



that Morocco, Portugal and Spain will stage the 2030 World Cup but games will also be played in Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay as the

footballing showpiece celebrates its centenary.

Saudi Arabia subsequently revealed it plans to bid to host the 2034 World Cup.

FINALLY FOR TURKEY

Turkey, which has bid unsuccessfully to stage every European Championship going back to 2008, was initially a can-

didate for both Euro 2028 and 2032. However, in July it agreed to join Italy in a bid for the 2032 edition, without saying at the time if it would pull out of the

running for 2028.

England, which hosted the women's Euro last year, last organised a major men's tournament in 1996, when the European Championship involved just 16 teams.

It also hosted the final of the 24-team Euro 2020, delayed by a year due to the pandemic and held in venues across Europe, at Wembley.

Between them, England and Scotland hosted 12 games during that tournament.

Six of the proposed venues for the 2028 tournament are in England, with two stadiums in London and others in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle and Birmingham.

Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow and Cardiff are also in line for matches.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said on X, formerly Twitter, that he was "over the moon that Ireland and the UK will co-host Euro 2028".

"It will be the biggest event ever hosted by our two islands working together."

At next Asian Games, Indian athletes will perform even better: PM Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday assured all possible help to Indian athletes in their endeavour to achieve greater heights and expressed confidence that the country will better its Hangzhou performance in the next edition of the Asian Games.

The Indian athletes produced their best-ever performance at the continental games, bringing home 107 medals, including 28 gold as the country finished fourth on the medals table. Modi also congratulated the women athletes, saying they had given some amazing performances and accounted for half the medals won by the 660-member contingent.

"The government will pull all stops to ensure the athletes get the best. You have crossed 100 medals. Next time, we will go way past this record. Put your best effort for the Paris (Olympics)," Modi said while felicitating the Asian Games contingent here on Tuesday.

The next edition of the Games will be held in Japan in 2026.

"The athletes tried to give it



their best shot. There was never a dearth of talent in India. The will to win was always there. They used to do well earlier as well, but there were a lot of hurdles which came in their way.

"But after 2014, Indian athletes are getting the best training, facilities and competitions abroad," said Modi.

The PM said that the Asian Games haul was a good marker for the future of the sport in the country and added that the medal winners had opened 'new avenues' which will motivate a whole 'new generation'.

"Whatever event we competed in, we won medals. The canvas is growing, which is a good indication for India."



Gameplan evolution takes South Africa back to World Cup quarters

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

The shocks kept coming at the Shanghai Masters on Tuesday as the 91st-ranked Fabian Marozsan gave himself a belated birthday present by beating eighth-seeded Casper Ruud to reach the quarter-finals.

The unseeded Marozsan won 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-4 and will face Poland's 16th-seeded Hubert Hurkacz or home player Zhang Zhizhen in the last eight.

Marozsan was joined in the

quarter-finals by the 26th seed Sebastian Korda, who fended off a late fightback from the 20th seed Francisco Cerundolo of Argentina to go through 7-5, 7-6 (8/6).

Marozsan sealed the deal against the more fancied Ruud in two hours and 38 minutes with a stinging forehand down the line on his second match point.

He called his maiden Masters quarter-final the perfect present, having turned 24 on Sunday.

"This is just only my sec-



ond Masters tournament, so it's kind of a new tournament series for me," said the Hungarian, who beat Carlos Alcaraz at the Italian Open in May.

"I'm really enjoying this, I'm very proud for this one," added Marozsan, who is playing in Asia for the first time.

The Shanghai event, which is back on the ATP calendar for the first time since the Covid pandemic, has witnessed several shocks.

Korda, who faces fellow

American Ben Shelton or in-form Jannik Sinner in the quarter-finals, dumped out second-seeded Daniil Medvedev on Sunday.

Stefanos Tsitsipas, the fourth seed from Greece, lost on Monday to France's 32nd seed Ugo Humbert in a three-set battle that stretched beyond midnight.

The upsets have paved the way for top seed Alcaraz, who faces 18th seed Grigor Dimitrov in the last 16.

World number one Novak Djokovic is not in China.

Gameplan evolution takes South Africa back to World Cup quarters

AFP ■ PARIS

South Africa's Rugby World Cup success in 2019 was littered with iconic images from during and after the tournament win.

Captain Siya Kolisi lifting the Webb Ellis trophy to wild celebrations across the country are two examples, but memories of the Springboks' simple, clinical, well-executed game-plan also stick in the mind.

Rassie Erasmus had only been head coach for 18 months and told his side to do the basics, including a well-functioning rolling maul, as they lifted the title for a third time.

"When you play rugby it's all about using your opportunity, territory, good defence, good set-piece, Springboks assistant coach Dean Davids told reporters on Monday.

"Over the past few years we said to ourselves that we have to evolve our game.

"Mauling will always be a part of the Springboks," he added, before Sunday's World Cup quarter-final with hosts France. Erasmus has moved up to the director of rugby role with Jacques Nienaber replacing him as head coach.

Their strategy has become more expansive and less dependent on things such as box kicks from scrum-half Faf de Klerk.

"I think it's a good blend that we've brought into our game," De Klerk said.

"In 2019 we were basically just mauling, scrummaging and kicking and backing our defence to do the work.

"This last year we've worked really hard on getting other aspects into our game.

"It's been fun to see how the guys have evolved the skillset," he added.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asian Games-winning Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh doesn't fancy comparisons with the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni and feels he is not as calm on the ground like the cricket legend.

Harmanpreet, who led the team from the front and returned as the top scorer in the Asian Games with 13 goals, has been compared to Dhoni by hockey great Dhanraj Pillay but the star drag-flicker begs to differ.

"On ground, I am never calm. I am aggressive unlike Dhoni but off the field, I try to remain as calm as possible," Harmanpreet said during a visit to PTI headquarters here on Tuesday.

Dhoni, who led India to the 2011 ODI World Cup title, is known as 'Captain Cool' for his calm demeanour during pressure situations.

Harmanpreet feels aggressiveness on the hockey turf comes to him naturally but he is honoured to have been

Marozsan stuns Ruud to reach Shanghai Masters last eight

compared with Dhoni.

"Aggressiveness is must in my game but I am honoured to have been compared with the great Dhoni. But I don't feel I that calm on the pitch."

The ticket to Paris Olympic secured, the monkey is off the back of the India men's hockey team and a relieved Harmanpreet has now trained his eyes on bettering the colour of the medal they won in Tokyo in next year's Paris Games.

A dominant India thrashed Japan 5-1 in the final to clinch their fourth Asian Games gold medal in Hangzhou on last Friday, thereby directly qualifying for Paris Olympics.

With the pressure of qualification off its back, Harmanpreet said the team



can focus on preparations for next year's quadrennial extravaganza

"As a player, you are never satisfied, you know your dream. If you win a gold

medal, next time you will again try to repeat the feat. That is precisely on our mind."

"Last time we experienced the pressure of not qualifying directly for the Olympics. Now our mind is clear and we know we have qualified. Now we have time to prepare for the Olympics without thinking about qualification and give our best shot at bettering our Tokyo performance."

India won a historic Olympic bronze in Tokyo, their first podium finish in 41 years since the gold medal in Moscow, back in 1980.

Harmanpreet is happy with the bonding between players and progress of Indian hockey, saying competition for places augurs well for the game.

"The good thing about team is we have open conversations. There is plenty of competition in the camp and every player in the core group is good. A player, who is not selected also inspires and says if you have been given the responsibility, so go and perform. They don't think they are dropped although it is there in the back of the mind.

"All the players are aggressive, fight against each other, support each other because most of the time, we stay together in camps away from our families. We share everything with each other," he said.

Harmanpreet feels their feats will motivate youngsters to pick up the hockey stick. "We know youngsters are looking up to us, they are picking up hockey sticks after

being inspired by our feats and it is our responsibility to keep on performing and motivating the next generation. We just want to give our best in every match, in every tournament."

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, who also visited PTI headquarters, along with Harmanpreet, veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, women's team captain Savita Punia and defender Sushila Chanu, the presence of quality drag-flickers has made India a potent force in world hockey.

"This time we got to see consistent performance from the team. We were never under pressure in any match. Against Korea in the semi-final, we were little taken by shock but the players stood up and delivered," Tirkey said.

"In the past, we had good teams, quality players but what we lacked is a drag-flicker. Pakistan that time had Sohail Abbas but now we have quality drag-flickers in Harmanpreet, Amit Rohidas, Varun Kumar. We didn't get quality drag-flickers in our time."

Satwik and Chirag become world No. 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star pair of Satwiksairaj Sankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Tuesday became the first Indian doubles pair to achieve the coveted world number one ranking following their gold medal-winning feat at the Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Satwik and Chirag, who earned India's first-ever badminton gold medal at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last Sunday, climbed two spots to achieve the numero uno position in the latest BWF World Rankings.

The duo thus joined the elite list of former world number ones, including legendary Prakash Padukone, Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth.

Satwik and Chirag, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion and Asia Championships gold medalist, had defeated South Korea's Choi Solgyu and Kim Wonho 21-18 21-16 in the final on Sunday to add another title to their brimming cabinet.



Satwik and Chirag, who had won a world championships bronze last year, claimed their first title of 2023 at Swiss Open in March, before adding a gold at the Asian Championships in Dubai in April.

The duo then became the first Indians to win a BWF Super 1000 tournament when they clinched the Indonesia Open in June. Satwik-CHirag then secured the Korea Open Super 500 title to keep moving up the ranking ladder.

Among other Indians, PV Sindhu climbed two places to take the 13th spot in women's

singles despite missing out on a medal at the Asian Games, while HS Prannoy, who won a men's singles medal after 41 years in the continental showpiece, slipped a place to world no 8.

Lakshya Sen, who won both his matches to play his part in the silver medal-winning effort in men's team event, too dropped one spot to world number 15. Kidambi Srikanth gained a spot to 20th.

Women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly gained one place to grab the 16th position.

How the greed of 60 marks lured Sreejesh to hockey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A "flat-footed" athlete, PR Sreejesh had a specific aim in his mind when he decided to become a hockey player -- securing 60 marks in annual exams without having to study.

The athletes in Kerala are awarded 60 marks if they make the state team in any sport. So he picked up the stick sport not for the love of it but for the greed of some free marks.

But as fate would have it, the affable Sreejesh grew into one of India's finest hockey goalkeepers.

He wanted to be a shot putter but that did not happen. Even then hockey was not his choice. He tried his hands at becoming spiker too but that also did not materialise.

"In childhood I tried every sport. I started my career in athletics, shot put to be precise. But when I went to sports hostel I got to learn that I have flat foot and coaches told me people with flat foot can't excel in athletics," Sreejesh said during a visit to PTI headquarters along with Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey and skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

Flat-foot is a common con-



dition in which the arches on the inside of the feet flatten when pressure is put on them. When a person with flatfoot stand up, the feet point outward, and the soles of the feet fall and touch the floor.

It happens because the tissues holding the joints in the foot together (called tendons) are loose. The tissues tighten and form an arch as children grow older.

"Then I opted for volleyball because parents told me if you play volleyball you will get job. I also tried my hands in basketball. There is a system in Kerala, if you play for Kerala state team you get 60 marks in 10th and 12th.

Belgian football star Eden Hazard announces retirement

AFP ■ PARIS

Belgian attacking midfielder Eden Hazard announced his retirement on Tuesday after failing to find another club following his release by Real Madrid.

The 32-year-old endured an injury-plagued spell at Real Madrid after his 89-million-pound (103 million euros, \$110 million) move from Chelsea in 2019, playing just 76 matches in all competitions across four seasons.

"You must listen to yourself and say stop at the right time," Hazard wrote on Instagram. "After 16 years and more than 700 matches played, I have decided to end my career as a professional footballer."

Hazard had a far happier time at Chelsea, winning both the Premier League title and Europa League twice as well as the FA and League Cup from 2012-2019.

He was also integral to Belgium's impressive run to the 2018 World Cup semi-finals, beating Brazil in the quarter-finals but bowing out to eventual champions France in the semi-final.

However, he was unable to



rouse himself for last year's World Cup finals when along with fellow stars Kevin de Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku, Hazard and a below-par Belgium bowed out in the group stage.

Nevertheless Hazard -- who also won a Ligue 1 crown with Lille and two La Liga titles with Real and picked up a Champions League winners'

medal as an unused substitute in 2022 -- was in grateful mood as he signed off.

"I was able to realise my dream, I have played and had fun on many pitches around the world," he said.

"During my career I was lucky to meet great managers, coaches and teammates -- thank you to everyone for these great times, I will miss you all."



INDIA AIM FOR HICCUP FREE OUTING AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Navigating their way through some extreme pressure moments in their tournament opener, India will be eyeing a perfect game against a sprightly Afghanistan in the ODI World Cup here on Wednesday.

As pointed out by skipper Rohit Sharma, India's biggest challenge over the course of the league stage will be to quickly adapt to the conditions in nine different venues.

After a slow and spinning track at Chepauk, a belter of a surface is expected at the Feroz Shah Kotla, where more than 700 runs were plundered in a high-scoring affair between South Africa and Sri Lanka last week.

With Shubman Gill ruled out of the game due to dengue, Ishan Kishan will get another opportunity at the top of the order alongside Rohit.

Kishan and Shreyas Iyer's questionable shot selection against Australia contributed to India's disastrous start and they



both would be wiser going into the Afghanistan game.

If Gill is not able to regain full fitness by the Pakistan game three days later, runs on Wednesday will do Kishan a lot of good in his debut ODI World Cup campaign.

Comparatively, facing the

Afghan attack upfront would be easier than negotiating the likes of Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc.

The smaller dimensions of the ground, where 31 sixes were hammered in the previous game, would also aid strokeplay. The main square was relaid

ahead of the World Cup and that has clearly changed the nature of the surface.

The game will also be a homecoming for chase master Virat Kohli who reinforced his credentials batting alongside K L Rahul in Chennai on Sunday night.

Batting in front of pavilion named after him, Kohli will be expected to give his fans another night to remember.

Rahul has been the story of India's batting since Asia Cup last month. Despite criticism, the team management showed unwavering faith in him and he has repaid that and how. He made a fine hundred against Pakistan in his comeback and on Sunday, emerged unscathed in another high pressure situation.

In the bowling department, India could be forced to make a change considering the conditions. India ticked all boxes on the bowling front against Australia and got as many as six wickets in the middle overs.

If India don't go in with three spinners, then Mohammad Shami can make way for R Ashwin who had a decent outing in Chennai. That could be the only change in the playing eleven.

Coming from a heavy loss against Bangladesh, Afghanistan will be aiming to turn things around in Delhi.

With a sizeable number of Afghans residing in Delhi's Lajpat Nagar, one can expect good support for Hashmatullah Shahidi and his men.

Bowling, mainly spinners, has been seen Afghanistan's strong suit over the years and if they are to make an impact in this World Cup, their batters too must step.

Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz seems to be the only one in top form. An effort of 156 all out against Bangladesh was not acceptable and the batters will be looking for immediate course correction.

Spinner Mujeeb Zadran usually opens the bowling alongside a pacer while trump card Rashid Khan comes into the attack after the powerplay.

While the teams are forced to take chances against Rashid in the shortest format, batters have time to play him without risk in ODIs. That was evident in the game in Dharamsala where Bangladesh batters collected 48 runs from his nine overs and did not concede a wicket.



Gill discharged from hospital but likely to miss match against Pakistan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Recovering from a bout of dengue fever, Shubman Gill has been discharged from a hospital in Chennai but the India opener will most likely miss the marquee World Cup clash against Pakistan on Saturday in Ahmedabad.

Gill had to be admitted to a hospital on Sunday night after his platelet count dropped below one lakh.

It has been learnt that Gill was admitted to well-known multi-care speciality hospital 'Kauvery' and the Indian team's doctor Rizwan monitored his progress.

He had tested positive for the viral infection upon his arrival in Chennai last week and ended up missing Indian team's World Cup opener against Australia on October 8.

Gill is also set to miss Wednesday's game against Afghanistan in Delhi. He is required to rest for at least one more week and that effectively rules him out of match against Pakistan. He might miss the match against Bangladesh in Pune on October 19.

"Shubman Gill was on drip at the Chennai team hotel for the last couple of days. His platelet count dropped to 70,000 and he was admitted to a medical facility as a precautionary measure. He was admitted

for all mandatory tests on Sunday night when India played Australia but by Monday evening he was discharged," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

A bout of dengue weakens the body considerably and even elite athletes take time to recover completely.

For a normal person, the range of platelet count needs to be between 150,000 to 450,000.

Skipper Rohit Sharma had said that his first priority for him is to see that Gill is no longer sick.

"I feel for him. But in terms of, you know, me being the human being first, I want him to get well, not the captain thinking, oh, I want Gill to play tomorrow. No, I want him to get well he you know he's a young guy he's got fit body so he'll recover he'll recover quick," Rohit has said before the game against Australia.

There is a possibility that selectors might call up a cover for Gill.

The first option will be Rituraj Gaikwad, who was selected as an opener during the Australia series and also scored a half-century in Mohali.

As per the succession line created, Gaikwad is next but left-handed sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has been in fantastic form, will also be in mix.

India and Afghanistan should have shared Asian Games gold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Left-arm pacer Fareed Malik, one of the travelling reserves in the Afghanistan contingent here for the World Cup, still can't get over the outcome of the Asian Games final against India in Hangzhou.

Put in to bat, Afghanistan were 112 for five before rain arrived at Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket Field on Saturday. No play was possible after that and India were awarded the gold medal on the basis of their superior world ranking.

The no result meant that Afghanistan had to settle for silver for their third consecutive Asian Games after 2010 and 2014. Cricket was not played in the 2018 edition at Jakarta.

Malik, who is 15 ODIs



and 28 T20s old in his Afghanistan career, had played a major role in the win over Pakistan in the low-scoring semifinal with figures of three for 15 in three overs.

"Aadha aadha kaat dena chahiye tha (laughs). The gold should have been shared as the game was abandoned. Awarding on the basis of rankings, lets just say it wasn't ideal. Match hota to maza aata. It would have been a lot of fun,"

Malik, who linked up with the Afghanistan team on Tuesday, told PTI.

Sharing the medal is not unprecedented in multi-sport events. Legendary Italian high jumper Gianmarco Tamberi and Qatar's Mutaz Barshim had shared gold in the Tokyo Olympics after both jumped 2.37 metres. However, that competition was not hit by weather like the Asian Games cricket final.

Our team is far better at playing spin: Shahidi ahead of India game

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After struggling against spin in their tournament opener, Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi on Tuesday said it was a one-off and his batters are well equipped to deal with the likes of Kuldeep Yadav and Co in the World Cup game against India here on Wednesday.

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan had taken three wickets each as Afghanistan were bowled out for 156 in Dharamsala.

Afghanistan have world class spinners in their ranks with Rashid Khan and Mujeeb Zadran bowling in the nets regularly.

"We play better spinners in the net sessions. Like if you see Rashid, Nabi, Noor and



Mujeeb, we play them every day. So, I think our team is far better in playing spin bowling.

"So that game you know we struggled but you can't say that you are not good enough on one game. So that game is gone now and we know we can play spinners better and we

will try to come back in next game in every department," said Shahidi on the eve of the game.

Shahidi is well aware that Afghanistan can't go deep in the tournament relying solely on the spinners. The batters must step up.

"Yes, I made a statement at the beginning that we will play good cricket as a batting side. We have a good spin bowling attack, but only one department can't win you games.

"You have to score runs for that, to win the game. Also in Bangladesh game, I know we didn't do well batting, but we still believe, I still believe and as a team we have that belief that we can come back in the next game and throughout the tournament," said the skipper.

England crush Bangladesh by 137 runs to record first win

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

Defending champions England flexed their muscles to crush Bangladesh by 137 runs and record their first win in the World Cup with Dawid Malan smashing a 107-ball 140, here on Tuesday.

After posting a formidable 364 for nine, Reece Topley (4/43) ran through Bangladesh's top order as they could muster only 227 in 48.1 overs, with Litton Das (76) and Mushfiqur Rahim (51) standing out in a largely disappointing batting show.

England's batting stars Malan, Jonny Bairstow (52) and Joe Root (82) contributing significantly in the first half of the contest to take their team to a mammoth total.

It was a game of contrasting halves, where England's mighty batting power served a reminder to its rivals in the first half, while in the second, Bangladesh wilted after taking some early blows and could muster a mere 67 runs in the last 18.1 overs, losing five wickets.

Bangladesh could never recover after Topley struck thrice at the start of their chase, which derailed the Asian side and forced them into a damage-control mode.

For the remainder of the innings, Bangladesh's approach was conservative, lacking any signs of a fight-back or taking the attack to the opposition



even as the run-rate surged.

Tanzid Hasan (1) played an ordinary shot to be caught at slip off Topley, while Najmul Hossain Shanto did no better when he played one away from the body to be caught at point for a first-ball duck.

Topley then bamboozled Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan (1) as he got one past his defence to hit the off-stump and reduce the rivals to 26 for three inside the first six overs.

With the top order blown away, Das did well to make a 66-ball 76 - studded with seven fours and two sixes - to wage a lone battle, while adding 72 for the fifth wicket with senior pro Rahim.

But with not much batting

left in the tank, Rahim dropped the anchor and played a knock that lacked any signs of acceleration. His vigil ended when Topley had him caught at third man, after a 64-ball 51 laced with four fours.

The intent to attack was also missing in Towhid Hridoy's (39 off 61 balls, 2x4s) innings. The batter got his first boundary off the 27th delivery he faced. It was more of a gift as Topley had strayed down the leg side.

With Rahim dismissed at the score of 164 after 31 overs, Bangladesh crossed the 200-run mark as late as in the 43rd over and were soon bundled out.

Earlier, Malan continued

his dream run in ODIs with a disdainful hundred against a hapless Bangladesh, propelling England to a commanding 364 for nine.

After a subdued batting show against New Zealand in the opening match, Malan's 107-ball 140 became the cornerstone of England's sizeable total after Bangladesh elected to bowl.

Bangladesh bowlers could not repeat their impressive showing against Afghanistan in the previous game.

Malan added 115 for the opening wicket with Jonny Bairstow (52 off 59 balls) and another 151 in just 19.3 overs with Joe Root (82 off 68 balls) to set up the big total.

Pakistan script highest run chase in World Cup history

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Mohammad Rizwan battled severe cramps to smash an unbeaten century, while young Abdullah Shafique hit a maiden ton as Pakistan scripted a world-record chase to edge out Sri Lanka by six wickets in a high-scoring ODI to continue their winning run in the World Cup here on Tuesday.

Rizwan paced his innings superbly as he shared a match-winning 176-run stand for the third wicket with the 23-year-old Shafique (113) to first resurrect their chase of a stiff 345 and then added another 95 runs with Saud Shakeel (31) as Pakistan romped home in 48.2 overs.

This was the highest successful run-chase in the history of the World Cup as Pakistan extended their winning streak against Sri Lanka in World Cups to an overwhelming 8-0.

Ireland had previously held the record for the highest run chase in ODI World Cups when they successfully chased down 329 versus England during the 2011 World Cup in India.

Opting to bat, Sri Lanka dished out a dominating batting performance to post a challenging 344 for nine, built around the superlative hundreds by Kusal Mendis (122) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (108).

Sri Lanka then left Pakistan reeling at 37 for 2 in 7.2 overs with Dilshan Madushanka claiming both the wickets. While



a pull shot became Imam-ul-Haq's undoing, skipper Babar failed again after trying to play one down the legside. However, Shafique, playing only his fifth ODI, showed great maturity as he and Rizwan steadied the ship, bringing up the team's 100 in the 19th over.

Shafique, who replaced Fakhar Zaman, and Rizwan looked for damage control initially but slowly picked up pace with the former scoring his fifty off 58 balls.

Soon, the 100-run stand between the two was up as Pakistan reached 138 for 2 at the halfway mark with Sri Lanka desperately looking for a breakthrough.

While Shafique deposited two sixes over midwicket and

year-old kept going and reached his third hundred in the 42nd over.

Rizwan and Saud Shakeel (31) brought the equation down to 62 off 48 balls with Sri Lanka too missing a few catches as 300 was up in the 44th over.

Rizwan clobbered a six over deep midwicket to take Pakistan closer but Maheesh Theekshana dismissed Shakeel but it was too late by then.

Needing 20 off 18 balls, Iftikhar Ahmed then smashed three fours off Matheesha Pathirana to dash the Islanders' hopes.

Earlier, Mendis' 77-ball 122-run knock was the fastest hundred by a Sri Lankan in World Cup history, while Samarawickrama picked up his maiden ODI ton with a 89-ball 108 as the islanders posted their highest World Cup total against a Full Member.

The 28-year-old Mendis batted with absolute authority, clobbering six maximums and 14 fours. He starred in two 100-plus partnerships with Pathum Nissanka (51) and Samarawickrama to take Sri Lanka across the 200-mark in the 28th over.

Once Mendis was dismissed, Samarawickrama took the onus and paced his innings superbly, using his cuts and drives as Sri Lanka kept accumulating runs with ease. He cracked 11 boundaries and two sixes in his 89-ball knock.

Needing 132 runs off 102 balls, Rizwan hit two fours and a six before he fell down writhing in pain due to cramps. Despite the discomfort, the 31-