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PAPER WITH PASSION

## The right path

### IMF raises India's growth rate, validating that its economy is on a firm footing

In today's mad, mad world with ongoing wars in the Middle East, Russia-Ukraine and a few African countries, besides the obvious destabilising effects of plummeting economy in countries like Pakistan, Sri Lanka and a host of BRI indebtedors, India has come to stand out as a beacon of economic resilience. Despite the challenging geopolitical backdrop, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised India's growth rate upward to 6.3 per cent. This revised projection is a testament to India's steadfast progress and proactive economic policies despite global uncertainties. India is currently the world's fastest growing major economy and is projected to account for 12.9 per cent of global growth over the next five years, surpassing the United States' 11.3 per cent share. Though Indian economy is growing faster than China, it is still lagging in absolute terms. While the Middle East crisis has sent shockwaves across the world and the Ukraine war has seriously impacted food supply lines, India has been able to maintain its demand and supply and fulfil its export commitments. India's economic resilience comes from a combination of factors. India's economic diversification has made it less dependent on a single sector. While agriculture, manufacturing and services continue to play vital roles, India's strides in technology and digital economy have created new opportunities, reducing its vulnerability to external factors. However, the biggest contributors have been the Government policies that have built and supported strong business sentiment. The Indian Government has implemented several pro-growth reforms to attract foreign investment and stimulate domestic industries.



Initiatives like "Make in India," "Digital India" and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) have improved the ease of doing business and encouraged investment.

Despite these achievements, the Indian economy is not without its share of challenges. It faces issues like income inequality, infrastructure deficits and environmental concerns. The Middle East war poses potential threat to India's economy, primarily through rising oil prices. India is one of the largest importers of oil, and any increase in oil prices can lead to inflation and fiscal challenges. The IMF's revised growth rate is a vote of confidence in the nation's economic growth. However, economists caution that challenges such as rising inflation and geopolitical tensions could pose potential threats to India's economic growth. But for now, the IMF's projection will have a positive impact on Indian economy. It is likely to attract more foreign investment, bolstering India's economic growth which will help create more job opportunities. The improved economic outlook provides the Government with more fiscal space to invest in critical infrastructure, healthcare and education. India's robust economic performance strengthens its position as a significant global economic player, providing it with more influence at international forums.

### PICTALK



Participants at a state level bullock cart race at Hiremagalur near Chikmagalur

# Non-state actors are a threat to world peace



UMANG KOHLI

### The UN has the responsibility to resolve conflicts. But its failure should not be taken as an opportunity to abet terrorism in the name of freedom

The attack on Israel has an uncanny resemblance with 26/11 and to some extent with 9/11 as well. The use of sea and air to infringe on a sovereign state was on display in both these terrorist attacks, also on display was the planning and coordination of these attacks which is similar to the ones now carried out in Tel Aviv. Is there an external country involved like during the 26/11 attack? Was there a control room established during the raids by Hamas militants in a third country? Training for the attack and its execution has most definitely been supported by some external element. Are there any Iranian or Pakistani elements involved in the attack? All this remains to be seen but one thing is clear the Middle East is in for a big turmoil and it can change how the world looks today very rapidly. This conflict in Israel and the Gaza Strip is not likely to remain localised and is sure to have multiple repercussions across a wide spectrum of political, military, economic and diplomatic domains.

Everyone is talking about it as an intelligence failure, sure it is, however it almost becomes impossible to detect an attack if it is planned and executed from another country not exactly involved directly with the conflict. This involvement becomes quite clear if you see this statement from, Iranian state media ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaan "This operation is the spontaneous movement of resistance groups and Palestine's oppressed people in defence of their inalienable rights and their natural reaction to the Zionists' warmongering and provocative policies" he said. Hezbollah and Hamas don't work hand in hand and Hezbollah otherwise is a considerable force to reckon with. This kind of attack could not have been a handiwork of Hamas alone and Hezbollah may have also played a role in this attack. Hizbollah has always been openly supported by Syria and Iran. So this is an attack that has been planned elsewhere and hence very difficult for any intelligence agency to detect its full magnitude beforehand.

Hamas fighters invaded by



air, land and sea, penetrating at least four military bases along Israel's border with Gaza. The attack was coordinated and well-planned. Simultaneously drones and warriors with paragliders started targeting the armoured vehicles of the Israeli army. Drones could hit the armoured vehicles and even destroy the armour. Pinpoint attack on armoured vehicles indicates intelligence sharing of a very high degree. Though this is an intelligence failure on the part of Mossad however this points towards well-coordinated asymmetric warfare that has used most modern military technology in a most disruptive way. The conventional warfighting capability of Israel has been put to the test by a much cheaper modern technology driven by hybrid warfare given by an external element. This by no means can be carried out by Hamas in isolation.

Hamas used a form of a small kamikaze drone or loitering munition, an unmanned aircraft packed with explosives and employed as a miniature cruise missile, this is very deadly. It is no secret that Iran and Turkey have expertise in making various kinds of kamikaze drones, however, it remains to be seen if these drones were



**HAMAS FIGHTERS INVADED BY AIR, LAND AND SEA, PENETRATING AT LEAST FOUR MILITARY BASES ALONG ISRAEL'S BORDER WITH GAZA. THE ATTACK WAS COORDINATED AND WELL-PLANNED**

directly given to Hamas by them. Powered paragliders were also used by Hamas for the attack. The air attack was one of the methods used by Hamas as part of their multifaceted strategy to unleash casualties on the Israeli population. Paragliding also requires a considerable amount of training beforehand and Hamas cannot train its fighters in the Gaza Strip. It is also well known that arms, including Fajr-3, Fajr-5, and M302 rockets, used during the attack were made by Iran and Syria. It is also no secret that most of the rockets fired by Hamas are produced in the Gaza Strip but their technology has been provided by Iran. Quassam rockets are most rudimentary, are not target-oriented, have been banned internationally and are produced locally in Gaza. However, the Fajr-5 missile's technology has been supplied by Iran and produced locally by Hamas without needing direct shipment.

The hybrid warfare tactics employed by Hamas may shift the dynamics of conflict globally for it is also a propaganda tool, demonstrating their capabilities and determination to their supporters. This kind of warfare, if encouraged by countries in the Arab world and Middle East, could prove

to have disastrous consequences for the entire world. The violent non-state actors have no responsibility and ethics. We have seen that they are not even answerable to the worst kind of human rights violation. It was disgusting to see how civilian women prisoners were being treated by Hamas. Taking women and children hostages can not be acceptable and strangely no one can be held accountable for it. Empowering such elements in the name of religion or otherwise is a recipe for disaster.

Taliban has become a state actor from a non-state actor and the consequences are there for everyone to see. Responsible states must never indulge in sponsorship or support of elements that may not listen to any established norms of dignified human behaviour afterwards. No one would disagree that it's about time the Israel-Palestine conflict saw a resolution. The UN should play a prominent role in the conflict resolution. However, the failure of the UN on this account is not a licence for some countries to support or arm elements that do not believe in International Law.

(The writer is an expert on geopolitics and international Affairs. The views expressed are personal)

# India dominates the world turmeric trade

### The Turmeric Board will contribute to the well-being of growers if it ensures better prices for their produce

India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. After Covid, awareness about turmeric has increased and global demand has also increased. Today it is important to pay more attention professionally and take an initiative in the value chain of turmeric, from production to export... Looking at the necessity of turmeric farmers and future opportunities, the centre has decided to establish a National Turmeric Board.

The Board plans to amplify awareness and consumption, explore new international markets to boost exports, and champion research and development of new turmeric-based products. In the year 2022-23, turmeric was cultivated in an area of 3.24 lakh hectares in India with a production of 11.61 lakh tonnes (more than 75% of global turmeric production). More than 30 varieties of turmeric are grown in India and it is grown in more than 20 states of the country. The largest producing states of turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



Telangana is the major producing state of turmeric in India with 16.6 per cent of the total area with 28.4 per cent production and 6500 kg/ha productivity during 2020-21. Andhra Pradesh was left with an area of 30 thousand hectares with 73 thousand tonnes of production during 2020-21.

Union Tourism and Culture Minister Kishan Reddy announced the decision after a meeting of the Cabinet. Mr Reddy said the Centre fulfilled a long-pending demand of farmers from Telangana and other turmeric-growing States. He added that farmers in Telangana had been walking barefoot for the last 15 years protesting the delay in the establishment of the board.

Centre has decided to increase turmeric exports to

₹8,400 crore per annum by 2030 from the existing ₹1,600 crore. In the year 2022-23, an area of 3.24 lakh hectares was under turmeric cultivation in India with a production of 11.61 lakh tonnes. India's share in the world trade of turmeric is more than 62%. 1.534 lakh tonnes of turmeric and turmeric products worth USD 207.45 million were exported by more than 380 exporters during 2022-23.

The major export markets for Indian turmeric are Bangladesh, UAE, USA and Malaysia. The Government of India has notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board. The National Turmeric Board will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.

The National Turmeric Board will provide leadership on turmeric-related matters, enhance agricultural efforts and facilitate greater coordination with the Spices Board and other government agencies in the development and growth of the turmeric sector. The Board will also promote quality and food safety standards and adherence to such

standards. The Board will also take steps to protect and fruitfully exploit the full potential of turmeric for humanity. Turmeric will contribute to the better well-being and prosperity of growers, thereby providing better prices to growers for their produce.

The Board's activities in turmeric research, market development, increasing consumption and value addition will also ensure that our producers and processors continue to maintain their leading position in the global markets as exporters of high-quality turmeric and turmeric products.

The Turmeric Board will consist of a Chairman appointed by the Central Government, members from the Ministry. Whereas a secretary will be appointed by the Commerce Department. Thus "The National Turmeric Board will provide leadership on turmeric-related matters. It is anticipated that the export value of turmeric will surge to reach a remarkable \$1 billion by the year 2030.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

### CURB VOTE-BAIT PROMISES

Sir—A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed by Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyaya, and recently by one Bhattilal Jain, seeking a direction for political parties in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to refrain from making promises to garner votes on the pretext of providing freebies.

The Supreme Court bench, comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Manoj Mishra, and J.B. Pardiwala, issued notices to the Centre, Election Commission, and the Reserve Bank of India. As the election season draws near, the undue burden of freebie schemes is passed on to the taxpayers and citizens of India. Moreover, the promises to lure voters are akin to bribery and undue influence under Section 171B and Section 171C of the Indian Penal Code (I.P.C.).

A country that boasts itself as a vibrant democracy finds itself in a dilemma when considering that judicial activism, of late, is crippling other organs of the government, which are found wanting in making sound decisions. The common man, primarily responsible for electing individuals to occupy higher posts, is remembered only during the election season, providing them with undue advantages in the form of pensions and other facilities, while the citizens are left in the lurch. Striking a balance between Members of Parliament (M.P.), Members of Legislative Assembly (M.L.A.), and the common man is the way forward if we are to make our democracy more participatory and vibrant.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

### DOUBLE STANDARDS

Sir—The Chief of a particular political party in West Bengal accuses the West Bengal government for the verdict awarded by the independent judiciary (High Court), acquitting four accused persons and converting the death sentences of two persons into life imprisonment! Had the Calcutta High Court upheld the verdict of the Sessions Court regarding the Kamduni case (gangrape and murder of a young girl), would the particular leader have offered

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Hamas-Israel conflict



For years, there have been warnings about a potential Palestine group-Israel multi-front war. If this is the beginning of one, the deaths and destruction may surpass anything the world has seen in recent decades. Hamas has proven itself more operationally ambitious and tactically capable of taking on Israel. The

casualties that Israel has suffered now add up to a bigger blow than the one the United States experienced on 9/11, and the Israeli military response will reflect that reality. The likely result will be a significantly degraded Hamas and substantial destruction within Gaza. Just as 9/11 proved to be a long-term strategic mistake for Al Qaeda, 10/8 will likely prove to be a similar strategic mistake for Hamas.

The coming days and weeks are likely not only going to determine the future of Israel's security but also may shape its place in the region. The hopelessness of the continued confrontation between Hamas and Israel will only hinder any possible peace efforts. However, for now, world powers should counsel restraint, even as they publicly decry Hamas for the attack on Israel, lay the groundwork for attempts to bring about a ceasefire, and hope that the power balance opens space for a way forward that does not repeat the destructive patterns of the past.

R Sivakumar | Chennai

wholesome praise and congratulations to the West Bengal Government?

However, the "concern" of him and his mother party for the safety, honour, and sense of justice towards womenfolk is indeed "overwhelming," to say the least! But did such concern for the gang-raped and murdered women vanish into thin air in "role model" Gujarat when convicted gang-rapists cum murderers were set free by the state Government from prison, followed by felicitation of them with garlands and sweets!

How can an MP of that party remain absolutely untouched despite being accused of serious charges of sexual atrocities upon a large contingent of women wrestlers? What is the political identity of those leaders who tried their level best to divert the attention of all from the horrendous parade of two Kuki women, naked and gang-raped (with one of them murdered), by pointing out stray law and order violations in Rajasthan, West Bengal, and

Chhattisgarh, and are also "experts" in launching sexist attacks on women they detest.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

### EQUALITY AND DIGNITY FOR ALL GENDERS

Sir—In today's era, there is increasing recognition of the importance of treating all individuals with respect, regardless of their gender. Men should be treated with the same principles of equality, respect, and fairness as women. Men should be encouraged to seek help for their mental and emotional well-being without any stigma. It's essential to avoid making assumptions or stereotypes based solely on someone's gender. Instead, we should treat each person as an individual, respecting their individuality.

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### THE RAMIFICATIONS OF HAMAS ATTACK

Hamas attack has jeopardised many projects and the peace in the Arab world



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The terror strikes on Israel over the weekend by Hamas, have the potential of changing the geo-political equations for many nations in West Asia, with resonances felt all across the globe. Palestinian terror outfit Hamas, launched an all-out attack over mostly Israeli civilian targets including youngsters gathered for a music concert, killing many children, toddlers, and elder citizens in cold blood, besides taking hundreds hostage. Israel caught by surprise launched a defence, pounding the Gaza strip and disconnecting electricity, water and food lines, however, the Israeli hostages with Hamas, are preventing it from launching a full-fledged on-ground attack. Israel has vowed to take decisive action against Hamas, which would be a long-drawn war, and will potentially alter the regional dynamics in West Asia.

The Arab world in recent times particularly Saudi Arabia and UAE has indicated normalising relations with Israel. Former US president Trump's administration facilitated the normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab world through a bunch of bilateral agreements, commonly known as the Abrahams Accords. The declaration read "We, the undersigned, recognise the importance of maintaining and strengthening peace in the Middle East and around the world based on mutual understanding and coexistence, as well as respect for human dignity and freedom, including religious freedom. We encourage efforts to promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue to advance a culture of peace among the three Abrahamic religions and all humanity. We believe that the best way to address challenges is through cooperation and dialogue and that developing friendly relations among States advances the interests of lasting peace in the Middle East and around the world."

The Joe Biden administration doubled down on its commitment towards normalisation of relations in West Asia and spent considerable diplomatic heft for bringing the two traditional warring sides together. It went a step further and established the I2U2 a regional grouping consisting of India, Israel, UAE and USA. In July 2022, after the first leaders summit for the group, a statement released read "We reaffirm our support for the Abraham Accords and other peace and normalisation arrangements with Israel. We welcome the economic opportunities that flow from these historic developments, including for the advancement of economic cooperation in the Middle East and South Asia, and in particular for the promotion of sustainable investment amongst the I2U2 partners."



Clearly, the aim was to use the economic leverage from the private sector of each country to bring their political leaders to lasting peace negotiations. The I2U2 directly benefitted India, especially in food security and clean energy commitments. India managed to secure investments for setting up food parks to prevent food wastage and conservation of fresh water, while also

moving closer to its stated target of generating 500GW of clean energy. Most of these investments were secured from UAE while being backed by Israeli and US advanced technologies. As a next step in the recently concluded G20 leaders summit the I2U2 group along with partners from EU nations signed on one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects connecting India with West Asia, and another corridor connecting West Asia to Europe. The initiative termed IMEC ( India Middle East Economic Corridor) has a blueprint for setting up transformational railway networks inside West Asia, connecting these directly to strategically located ports facilitating the movement of goods and people from India to Europe. The group is scheduled to meet next month to draw out the roadmap for the infrastructure projects to be undertaken. Now with Israel being drawn into a long conflict, the future for many of these transformational projects seems uncertain, as does its relationship with the Arab World.

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

# India's farm machinery has global market

Shortage of workers is pushing the demand for farm equipment. India can dominate the world market by leveraging its machine tools



AS MITTAL



SUSHANT MITTAL



Efficient and timely farming operations rely on a collaborative effort between man, machine, and materials. The integration of farm mechanization is crucial for achieving optimal output levels, efficient use of resources, and meeting the increasing demand for agricultural products. Transitioning from traditional to smart farming creates growth opportunities and attracts young talent to innovative agriculture, resulting in improved income and greater comfort.

Moreover, the global agricultural sector is experiencing a shortage of workers due to the migration of labourers to cities. In India, the percentage of farm workers has declined from 59% in 1991 to 54% in 2011 and 39% in 2022. To address this issue, the use of farming machinery has increased worldwide for more precise and timely field activities. India has emerged as a leading manufacturer hub and exporter of tractors, with a growing number of partnerships with Japanese and German manufacturers, and more are expected to follow suit.

The Asia Pacific region dominated the global market with a volume share of 69% in 2022. This growth was mainly driven by India's tractor industry, followed by China and the rest of Asia Pacific. India led the regional market with over 54% share in 2022 and is known for its excellence in farm machinery exports, with tractors contributing to more than 80% of the total value. The global agricultural tractor market totalled 29.42 lakh units in 2022 and is expected to grow at a compound annual rate of 7% from 2023 to 2030, attributed to the increased demand for farm tractors, particularly from Italy, Greece, and Lithuania. Furthermore, the market is expected to be driven by the high demand for autonomous tractors over the forecast period.

The demand for compact tractors on small farms and technical advancements, such as the integration of telematics with agricultural tractors, are expected to further drive growth. India's production share accounts for 33% of the global market of around 3 million tractors annually, with over one million units produced each year.



INDIA'S PRODUCTION SHARE ACCOUNTS FOR 33% OF THE GLOBAL MARKET OF AROUND 3 MILLION TRACTORS ANNUALLY, WITH OVER ONE MILLION UNITS PRODUCED EACH YEAR

(AS Mittal is vice-chairman of Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, and Sushant Mittal is ED Sonalika Group and a global business strategist. Views expressed are personal)

Out of one million units, approximately 9 lakh units were sold in the domestic market, while 1.31 lakh units (4.5% of the global share) were exported in 2022. To strengthen the "Made in India" initiative, Sonalika ITL currently holds the majority share of the export market at 40% and is organizing a global partners summit, called 'GPS 200', from October 12th to 14th in Delhi.

India has great potential for exporting tractors to countries such as the US, Brazil, Italy, Greece, Lithuania, Argentina, Turkey, SAARC countries, and African nations, with an expected export of over 200,000 tractors by 2025.

Aside from tractors, there has been a significant increase in non-tractor agricultural machinery, such as power tillers, combine harvesters, diesel engines, and electric motors, which have improved crop productivity. Sales of these items have increased by 0.50 million, 0.05 million, 11.50 million, and 7.50 million, respectively. Despite this growth, 53% of non-tractor agricultural machinery is still imported from China, making it essential for policymakers to take strategic actions to foster the growth of non-tractor farm machinery in India and turn it into a global production and export hub.

Since 2010, precision agriculture and post-harvest processing technologies revolutionized agricultural mechanization. However, India's farm mechanization level remains low at 45%, compared to the United States at 95%, Brazil at 75%, and China at 57%. Wheat has the highest mechanization level in India at 69%, followed by rice at 50%, maize at 45%, pulses at 41%, oilseeds at 38%, cotton at 35%, and millets and sugarcane at 33%. Small land holdings and financial constraints are major obstacles to efficient mechanization in agriculture. To over-

come these challenges, farmers, manufacturers, government, and non-governmental organizations recognize the need for smart farming technologies such as sensor-based embedded systems to monitor soil nutrients, temperature, fertility, and moisture gradients, as well as guidance systems enabled by GPS and automated tractors.

Challenges: Punjab produces one-third of India's tractors and a significant number of non-tractor farm machinery. Unfortunately, the state manufacturers incur over twice the logistical costs for exports compared to Southern and Western coastal states. As a result, a special freight policy for railways has been eagerly anticipated for a long time to boost Punjab's farm machinery exports.

Electricity duty, taxes and duties on petroleum products etc. are not yet refunded through the GST mechanism for the exporters. The government should offset the cost disadvantage arising out of these duties and levies.

OEMs are facing short-term challenges such as high raw material prices and semiconductor component shortages. These challenges are compounded by disruptions in the supply chain, which lead to delays in production. Additionally, the increasing popularity of autonomous tractors has prompted OEMs to adopt an inorganic growth approach to increase market presence.

No Incentives by Punjab Government: The Punjab government's goal of making the state's industrial sector an export hub is hindered by its lack of incentives for industries with "Inverted Duty Tax Structures." The Industrial and Business Development Policy-2022 fails to provide support to these industries. The policy contains the same mistake as the pre-

vious one, stating that any refund from the central government will be adjusted against the payment of state incentives. This means that if an industry pays 18% GST on input raw materials and 12% GST on the final product, it falls under Inverted Duty Tax Structures and is entitled to claim input tax credit from the central government. However, it is deprived of even a minimal incentive of 2.5% on Fixed Capital Investment (FCI) by the Punjab government. This policy dilutes the purpose of attracting new investment to the state and needs to be revisited. Clause no.12.26 of the new industrial policy needs correction.

Central Incentives to be Restored: The Central annual export incentive- the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), which amounted to Rs 51,012 crore, has been replaced by the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme. The new scheme offers a lower incentive of Rs 12,454 crore. As a result, the previous 3% export incentive on agricultural implements such as tractors has been reduced to 0.7%, and still, the disbursement of production-linked incentive (PLI) is also awaited.

Road Ahead: India has a competitive advantage in tractor-mounted machinery, which is in high demand among large farmers in both domestic and developed markets. Self-propelled and hand-driven mechanised farm machinery has a local market among small and marginal farmers, as well as in developing nations with similar socioeconomic patterns, such as Asia and Africa. India can leverage this dual structure to benefit small and marginal farmers globally, while also becoming a leading provider of non-tractor farm machinery.

# Kerala's anguish over Hamas attacks has historical reasons

The Jews living in Kerala have emotional ties with the locals. Many Keralites have died due to Hamas attacks in Israel

Sufferance is the badge of our tribe, the Jewish businessman Shylock tells his rival Antonio in the Shakespeare play Merchant of Venice when the former is insulted and humiliated by the latter. Though Shakespeare wrote the play in 1596, the woes of Jewish people continue unabated even in 2023. There is a history of fighting against all odds for survival. The kind of pogrom and holocausts undergone by the Jews knows no end. While Shylock is portrayed as a villain in the play, it is not known how much effort has been taken by historians and social scientists to study the real Jews, a peace-loving and hard-working population. The media in India has not been fully sincere while



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

(The writer is a special correspondent of The Pioneer, views expressed are personal)

reporting about the happenings in Israel. Hamas, an Islamic terrorist outfit, has been tormenting the Jewish nation with missile attacks and suicide bombers which have claimed hundreds during the last two years. It was in May 2001 Soumya, a Kerala woman who was working as a nurse with an Israeli establishment, was killed in a Hamas attack in Gaza. The Israeli diplomats and officials based in New Delhi and Bangalore had accompanied the mortal remains of Soumya to her home and consoled her close relatives. She was described as an angel by the Israeli Government. But the "secular" Kerala Government and politicians stayed away from the bereaved family.

Hamas has been going ahead with the terrorist attacks against Israel for the last two years. Missile and rocket attacks have become a routine affair for the Jews. The media in India has failed to report these relentless attacks by Hamas. It is only when Hamas suffers some major casualties that the secular brigade in India wakes up "condemning the Zionist" hegemony and whatnot. The Communists had no qualms in portraying Ahmed Yasin, the quadriplegic chief of Hamas, who was killed in a counterattack by the Israeli Defense Forces in a counter-attack in 2004. This is the same person who ordered the Hamas soldiers to wipe out Israeli women and children from the face of the earth. The Communists described the

slain man as an embodiment of all that is good and a human rights activist. The larger-than-life-size posters of Yasin adorned all thoroughfares and ring roads in Kerala and nothing was surprising in the Communists winning all the seats they contested from the State in the 2004 Lok Sabha polls. Hamas helped him win the polls!

Though a Left Democratic Front MLA by the name of Mani Kappen expressed his condolences in a social media message over the death of Soumya in the hands of Hamas terrorists, he was forced to take off the same within minutes. What the civil society forgets is the fact that India was always a home away from home for the Jewish community. Late historian

Prof A Sreedhara Menon in his lively account of Kerala history says that Jewish settlements in the State date back to AD 68. "They arrived in thousands to escape from religious persecution and settled along the Kerala coast. The ancient Jews had trade relations with the Kerala coast even in BC 1000 and this has been substantiated by the arrival of Solomon's sailing vessels." Prof Menon has written in Kerala History. He also mentions that the then emperor Bhaskara Ravi Varma had presented the Jewish chieftain Joseph Rabban with special powers. The Portuguese who followed the Jews unleashed attacks on them and drove them away to places like Kochi. This is believed to have happened in 1565. The Jews who were

peace-loving people established brotherly ties with the locals and this developed into an emotional bond between them and the local population.

The synagogue at Kochi built in 1567 and the Jew Street, a hub of trading are standing monuments of the love and affection enjoyed by the Jewish community in the region. With the formation of the Jewish State of Israel in 1948, the community members started their migration to the Promised Land, though a minuscule of the community chose to stay put in Kochi.

The Jew Street is almost silent and the synagogue comes alive rarely. But the thoughts about Israel enliven the conversations, especially the memories of David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Moshe

Dayan, and Ariel Sharon. The new generation is ignorant of the 1972 massacre at the Munich Olympics when Black September, the predecessor to Hamas, took 11 Israeli athletes as hostages and killed them as the entire world stood watching helplessly. It is another thing that the Israeli Army went after the Black September and finished them off once and forever.

T G Mohan Das, thinker and political chronicler thinks that Hamas, Black September and Al Fatah are the organisations that institutionalised terrorism across the world. The 2008 Mumbai Terrorist attacks (known as the 26/11 attack) also saw eight innocent Jewish community members getting murdered by the LeT terrorists at the Chabad House.

Hamas attack on Israel deadliest day for Jews: Biden

Germany offers Israel military help

Berlin (AP): Germany is offering military help to Israel and promising to crack down on support for the militant Hamas group at home following the group's attack on Israel...

The Defence Ministry said it agreed to an Israeli request to use up to two of five Heron TP combat drones that are currently leased by the German military...

Scholz told the German parliament that he has asked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to inform Germany of any needs, for example the treatment of wounded...

Scholz noted that thousands of people have demonstrated in support of Israel in recent days, but said that "there were also other, shameful pictures from Germany last week-end..."

On Saturday, a small group handed out pastries in a Berlin street and dozens of people later demonstrated in celebration of the Hamas attack.

Scholz said that Germany will issue a formal ban on activity by or in support of Hamas, which is already listed by the European Union as a terrorist group.

Scholz said there will be "zero tolerance for anti-Semitism." The chancellor also questioned the lack of a clear condemnation of the Hamas attack by the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas...



Palestinians evacuate wounded after an Israeli airstrike in Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip on Thursday.

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has condemned the unprecedented attack by Hamas on Israel as the "deadliest day" for Jews since the Holocaust...

"We continue to monitor the situation in Israel very closely, and the vice president and I and the bulk of my security team spoke with the (Israeli) Prime Minister (Benjamin) Netanyahu, again this morning..."

Taiwan watching Hamas-Israel war for lessons as it faces intimidation from China

Taipei (Taiwan): Taiwan is closely watching the war in the Middle East sparked by the unprecedented attack on Israel by Hamas militants from Gaza...

In retaliation, Israel's increasingly destructive airstrikes in Gaza have flattened entire city blocks.

Taiwanese Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said on Thursday that the Hamas-Israel war "blew up so suddenly"...

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan...

China's long-running carrot and stick approach. Like Israel, Taiwan maintains close diplomatic and military ties with the US...

It is the first time this year that the Russian president has traveled outside Russia and Russia-held territories of Ukraine.

Late Mahsa Amini in final list for EU's top human rights prize

Brussels (AP): Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman who died in police custody in Iran last year, sparking worldwide protests...

and genocide against the Jewish people," he said. Over 1,200 people have been killed in Hamas' surprise attack on Israel...

"The attack was a campaign of pure cruelty ... not just hate, pure cruelty against the Jewish people. And I would argue it is the deadliest day for the Jews since the Holocaust..."

Nepal evacuates 253 stranded students

Kathmandu (PTI): Nepal's Foreign Minister N P Saud on Thursday left Israel along with 253 students who were stranded in the war-torn country...

"Rescue aircraft has just taken off from Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv," Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a post on X.

"We commend (the) tireless works of our Embassy in Tel Aviv and duly acknowledge support and cooperation received from various agencies back home to make this possible..."

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan...

Putin arrives in Kyrgyzstan on a rare trip abroad

MOSCOW President Vladimir Putin arrived in Kyrgyzstan on Thursday on a rare trip abroad for the Russian leader who was indicted earlier this year by the International Criminal Court...

The Kremlin has said that Russia doesn't recognise the jurisdiction of the ICC and considers the warrant null and void.

Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson, as well as the annexed Crimean Peninsula. In March, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Putin over the deportation of children from...

Ukraine. Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute, which created the ICC, are now bound to arrest the Russian leader if he sets foot on their soil.

but again this morning," he said. The US is extending additional military assistance to the Israeli Defence Force, including ammunition, and interceptors to replenish the Iron Dome.

Biden also slammed "the downplaying of Hamas' atrocities and blaming Israel," terming it as "unconscionable."

Netanyahu let us down before airstrike in 2020, says former US President

MIAMI Former President Donald Trump has accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of betraying him just before the US killed a top Iranian general in 2020...

"Israel was going to do this with us, and it was being planned and working on it for months," he said about the coordination to kill Gen. Qassem Soleimani...

Netanyahu's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But communications minister Shlomo Karhi told Israel's Channel 13 that it is "shameful that a man like that, a former US president, abets propaganda and disseminates things that wound the spirit of Israel's fighters and its citizens..."

'Russia views Finland as hostile nation'

Helsinki (AP): Finland's relationship with Russia has significantly deteriorated due to the Nordic country's membership in NATO and over Russia's invasion of Ukraine...

The agency, known by the abbreviation SUPO, said in a national security review that Russia was "prepared to take measures against Finland" and was likely to continue influencing operations and undermining bilateral links.

After decades of military non-alignment, Finland — a European Union nation of 5.5 million people that shares a long border with Russia — became NATO's 31st member on April 4.

Moscow's hostility toward Helsinki is evident in Russian media's negative coverage of Finland and in Russia's decision to close Finland's consulate general in St. Petersburg this month...

More than 90 pc killed by Af quake were women & children

ISLAMABAD More than 90 per cent of the people killed by a 6.3-magnitude earthquake in western Afghanistan last weekend were women and children...

Refugee Council described the devastation as enormous. "Early reports from our teams are that many of those who lost their lives were small children who were crushed or suffocated after buildings collapsed on them..."

During a news conference, Pelttari declined to say whether Russia could be behind a possible sabotage on an undersea gas pipeline between Finland and Estonia. He said the involvement of a state actor cannot be ruled out in the case involving two NATO members.

that his prayers were with Israel and vowed to stand by the country and not let it fail — before he went on to describe a "bad experience" with its leaders.

"I'll never forget that Bibi Netanyahu let us down," he said. "We were disappointed by that. Very disappointed," he said. "But we did the job ourselves, with absolute precision..."

Turkiye may not honour its pledge to help Sweden join NATO

BRUSSELS Three months after NATO announced that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had agreed to let Sweden become a member of the military organisation...

Sweden and its neighbour Finland turned their backs on decades of military non-alignment after President Vladimir Putin ordered Russia troops to invade Ukraine in February 2022.

It had been hoped that the long-awaited ratification would come soon after October 1, when Türkiye's parliament resumed work. But on the same day, a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the interior ministry in Ankara.

Mahsa Amini in final list for EU's top human rights prize



Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman who died in police custody in Iran last year, sparking worldwide protests against the country's conservative Islamic theocracy...



Will not leave Pakistan: Imran Khan

PTI LAHORE
Pakistani jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday said he will neither leave the country nor back down even an inch from his quest for real freedom for the upholding of the rule of law and the Constitution.

Pak court clubs ex-PM's pleas against cipher case, trial court proceedings

Islamabad (PTI): A top Pakistani court on Thursday combined jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's separate petitions seeking to stay the trial court proceedings in the cipher case and dismiss the case altogether. The cipher case pertains to a diplomatic document (cipher) that reportedly went missing from Khan's possession. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief repeatedly said before and after the no-confidence motion against him last year that the cipher pointed to a conspiracy to remove him from the prime minister's office. Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq took up a separate plea seeking the stay of Khan's trial in the cipher case and clubbed it with the main plea, under which the 71-year-old former



premier has sought the dismissal of the case and a date be fixed for hearing. Khan has filed several petitions in the IHC, including one seeking to stay his trial in the cipher case, another seeking to suspend the Toshakhana verdict, and a third against his indictment in the cipher case, which is set for October 17. Senior lawyer Sardar Latif Khosa appeared as Khan's

counsel and informed the court that the pleas were seeking the stay of the trial court proceedings and challenging the special court order of indictment, the Dawn newspaper reported. He further said that the matter was pending before the IHC and a verdict had been reserved, adding that the Lahore High Court has also issued a stay order in a case by the Federal Investigation Agency, the report said. 'My client is a national hero and the world knows and believes that. Now, he is in jail [while] innocent,' Khosa asserted. Justice Farooq then asked him if the separate plea should be combined with that seeking dismissal of the case, to which Khosa agreed on the condition that it would be fixed before October 17, the report said. Khan, who served as the country's prime minister until April last year, currently faces around 180 cases. These cases primarily stem from incidents that occurred following the attack on the Lahore Corps Commander's House on May 9. Supporters of Khan launched a series of attacks on key military installations and government properties following the arrest of their leader in an alleged corruption case. General elections are expected to be held in the last week of January 2024.

filed against me for informing the people of Pakistan, the real protectors of this country, about this treason.' On the arrest of his party workers in the wake of attacks on military installations, Khan said: 'If there's one thing that bothers & pains me, is the suffering of my workers who have been illegally imprisoned, especially our women workers who have been in captivity for months, by a few people who abuse their power to satisfy their egos. I appeal to the judiciary to provide justice and order the immediate release of our workers.' he wrote. The PTI chief urged his followers not to give up their struggle and keep demanding a 'fair and transparent election in the country.' Khan also said he is 'predicting' that on whatever day the election is held, the people of Pakistan will come out in huge numbers 'to vote for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf' and defeat all these parties combined. 'No matter how much these people cheat, their only destiny is defeat,' the PTI leader said.

US aircraft carrier arrives in S Korea

Seoul(AP): A US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier arrived in South Korea on Thursday in a demonstration of strength against North Korea, as the North's leader reaffirmed his push to bolster ties with Russia. The USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group came to the southeastern South Korean port of Busan after participating in a trilateral South Korea-US-Japanese maritime exercise earlier this week, the South Korean Defence Ministry said. The aircraft carrier is to stay in Busan until next Monday as part of a bilateral agreement to enhance 'regular visibility' of US strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear programme, according to an earlier Defence Ministry statement. It's the first arrival of a US aircraft carrier in South Korea in six months since the USS Nimitz docked at Busan in late March, the statement said. The arrival of the USS Ronald Reagan is expected to enrage North Korea, which views the deployment of such a powerful US military asset as a major security threat. When the USS Ronald Reagan staged joint military drills with South Korean forces in October 2022, North Korea said the carrier's deployment was causing 'considerably huge negative splash' in regional security and performed ballistic missile tests. The US carrier's latest arrival comes as concerns grow that North Korea is pushing to get sophisticated weapons technologies from Russia in exchange for supplying munitions to refill Russia's conventional arms stores.

Japan govt will ask court to revoke legal status of Unification Church

AP TOKYO
The church has faced hundreds of civil lawsuits and acknowledged excessive donations but says the problem has been mitigated for more than a decade. It also has pledged further reforms. For decades, the church restrained followers' mental state to incapacitate their decision-making, making them buy expensive goods and donate beyond their financial ability, also affecting the lives of their families, Moriyama said. The systematic fundraising tactics caused fear and confusion and seriously deviated from the law on religious groups, in which the purpose of the churches' legal status is to give people peace of mind, he said. 'The activities are wrongful conducts under the Civil Code and their damages are immense,' Moriyama said. The Agency for Cultural Affairs found 32 cases of civil lawsuits acknowledging damages totalling 2.2 billion yen (USD 14.7 million) for 169 people, while the amount of settlements reached in or outside court totalled 20.4 billion yen (USD 137 million) and involved 1,550 people, Moriyama said. Moriyama said the ministry will submit its request with the Tokyo District Court as early as Friday for a revocation order. The process involves hearings from both sides and would take a while. Japan has in place hurdles for restraining religious activities due to lessons from the prewar and wartime oppression of freedom of religion and thought.

Pak interim PM Kakar to visit China to participate in Belt and Road Forum

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's interim Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar will visit China to participate in the third Belt and Road Forum commencing in Beijing later this month, the Foreign Office said on Thursday.



Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at the weekly briefing said Kakar was undertaking the trip at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. 'The prime minister will attend the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum on October 17 and hold bilateral meetings with President Xi

tiative. The CPEC, announced in 2013, is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a giant connectivity initiative planned by China to revive the ancient Silk Road across Eurasia and Africa. The CPEC enters Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) through the Karakoram Highway in Gilgit Baltistan and aims to circumvent the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea to improve infrastructure within Pakistan for better trade with China and to further integrate the countries of South Asia. The prime minister will also meet with other

Chinese entrepreneurs to expand bilateral trade and investment. He will also visit Urumqi to meet with local leaders and businessmen aiming to enhance trade, investment and people-to-people relations. The visit comes in the backdrop of the ongoing celebrations marking the ten years of the CPEC. Baloch in her press briefing also said that repatriation of illegal foreign nationals was not specific to any nationality, as the decision was taken in view of the country's own interests to curb illegal activities and terrorism.

Indian-American teen inventor honoured by Jill Biden

Washington (PTI): Teenage Indian-American inventor Gitanjali Rao was honoured by US First Lady Jill Biden, along with 14 other young women leaders, for leading a change and shaping a brighter future in their communities across the nation. The 17-year-old scientist was honoured on Wednesday in the first-ever 'Girls Leading Change' celebration at the White House, marking the International Day of the Girl.

'These young women are protecting and preserving the earth, writing and sharing stories that change minds, and turning their pain into purpose. Together, they represent the potential of young people across the country, and it is my hope that others can learn from the power of their innovation, strength, and hope,' she said. Rao, from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, is a scientist whose groundbreaking lead contamination detection tool won her an EPA Presidential Award and America's Top Young Scientist by Discovery Education/3M. Her book 'Young Innovator's Guide to STEM', which offers a prescriptive five-step innovation process, is used as a STEM curriculum globally in selected schools, according to the release.

Sri Lanka confirms major debt deal with China

Colombo (PTI): The Sri Lankan government has confirmed that it has concluded a preliminary deal with China on the restructuring of its debts to Beijing, seen as a 'big step' in the cash-strapped country's economic recovery. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Ministry of Finance said 'The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is pleased to announce that it has reached an agreement on the key principles and indicative terms of a debt treatment with the Export-Import Bank of China. China holds about 52 per cent of Sri Lanka's USD 46 billion external credit. The agreement in principle covers approximately USD 4.2 billion of outstanding debt, it said adding that

it constitutes 'a key step towards restoring Sri Lanka's long-term debt sustainability and will pave the way to a prompt economic recovery.' The terms of the restructuring agreed upon will provide the space for Sri Lanka to implement its reform agenda. The government has expressed hope that it should also facilitate approval by the International Monetary Fund of the second tranche of the USD 2.9 billion bailout of approximately USD 334 million. 'Yesterday marked a big step for Sri Lanka as we reached this landmark agreement in principle on debt treatment terms with our largest single creditor. We thank China Exim Bank for its support in resolving our country's debt situation.

Auto workers escalate strike, walking out at Ford's largest factory, threatening Stellantis

AP DETROIT
The United Auto Workers union significantly escalated its walkout against Detroit's Three Automakers, shutting down Ford's largest factory and threatening Jeep maker Stellantis. In a surprise move on Wednesday night, 8,700 members left their jobs at Ford's Kentucky truck plant in Louisville. And Thursday morning, union President Shawn Fain hinted at further action against Stellantis. 'Here's to hoping talks at Stellantis today are more productive than Ford yesterday,' Fain wrote on X, formerly Twitter, without saying what might happen. Ford's truck plant makes heavy-duty F-Series pickup trucks and large Ford and Lincoln SUVs, hitting the com-

pany's most lucrative products. The vehicles made at the plant generate USD 25 billion per year in revenue, the company said in a statement. Fain said in a statement that the union has waited long enough 'but Ford hasn't gotten the message' to bargain for a fair contract. 'If they can't understand that after four weeks, the 8,700 workers shutting down this extremely profitable plant will help them understand it,' Fain said. The strike came nearly four weeks after the union began its walkouts against General Motors, Ford and Stellantis on September 15, without any assembly plant from each company. The company, however, called the strike expansion 'grossly irresponsible' and said it has made strong wage and

benefit offers to the union. It said the move puts about a dozen other Ford facilities at risk, as well as parts supply plants that together employ over 100,000 people. A Ford executive said the union called a meeting at the company's Dearborn, Michigan, headquarters Wednesday afternoon where Fain asked if the company had another offer. High-ranking Ford executives responded that they are working on possibly bringing electric vehicle battery plants into the UAW national contract, essentially making them unionized. But they didn't have a significantly different economic offer, the executive said. Fain was told the company put a strong offer on the table, but there wasn't a lot of room to increase it and keep it afford-

able for the business, the executive said. Fain responded by saying, if that's the company's best offer, 'You just lost Kentucky Truck Plant,' said the executive. The meeting only lasted about 15 minutes, he said. In a video, Fain said the union moved because Ford didn't change its offer. 'We've been very patient working with the company on this,' he said. 'They have not met expectations, they're not even coming to the table on it.' The escalation against Ford shows that Fain is trying to increase pressure on the company, said Marick Masters, a business professor at Wayne State University who follows labour issues. But Ford and the other automakers have made concessions and raised wage offers, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Rehana Shahzad is the owner of Residential Flat on Upper Ground Floor of Property No. 215-A, Area Measuring 150 sq. Yds. Khadra No. 54/17, Situated in the Abadi of B-Block, Extn. Laxmi Nagar in the area of Village Khureji, Khasra, Ilaqa Shahzara Dehli-110092, vide GPA, ATS & Will dated 16.12.2009. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its sale/mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days from the date of the advertisement.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Short Term e-Tender Notice for Highly-Skilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled and Highly-Skilled Manpower through outsourcing
E-Tender No. GNDU/REG/2023/01 Date 11-10-2023
Online bids are invited for providing Un-Skilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled and Highly-Skilled workers at Guru Nanak Dev University Main Campus, its Regional Campuses and Associated / Constituent Colleges on monthly wages on contract basis for a period of Two years. Tender Documents can be purchased through online mode only from website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in. Last date for closing the online tender is 28-10-2023 upto 5:00 PM. For more details visit the above mentioned portal.

APPENDIX IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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FM, Brazil Minister hold talks

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday met Brazil's Minister of Economy Fernando Haddad and discussed various issues of mutual interest...



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (left) and Brazilian Minister of Economy Fernando Haddad (right) shake hands after their meeting in New Delhi.

Industrial production rises 10.3 per cent in Aug

India's industrial production increased by 10.3 per cent in August, according to the official data released on Thursday. Factory output measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had contracted by 0.7 per cent in August 2022...

Sensex snaps two-day rally on selling in IT, tech shares

Equity benchmark BSE Sensex declined in a volatile trade on Thursday, reversing the two-session rally, mainly due to selling in IT and tech stocks. However, heavy buying in energy, metal and auto counters capped the losses, traders said...



A person holds a large Indian Rupee banknote, symbolizing the financial market's volatility.

Retail inflation eases to 3-month low of 5 per cent in Sept

Retail inflation declined to a three-month low of 5.02 in September, mainly due to easing food prices, according to the government data released on Thursday. The inflation has come back to the Reserve Bank's comfort level of below 6 per cent after a gap of two months...

JLR reports best-ever H1 performance; sales grow two-fold to 2,356 units

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) India on Thursday reported its highest-ever performance in the first half of this fiscal with sales of 2,356 units. The automaker had retailed around 1,194 units in the April-September period of the last financial year...



A Jaguar Land Rover SUV, showcasing the company's growth in the Indian market.

Gold climbs ₹350; silver rises ₹200

Gold prices climbed by Rs 350 to Rs 59,050 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid positive global cues, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal had ended at Rs 58,700 per 10 grams...

NCLAT adjourns Jet Airways hearing as creditors seek time

The insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT on Thursday adjourned its hearing on Jet Airways matter to November 1, as the creditors sought more time to file a reply over the compliance affidavit filed by the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium...



A Jet Airways airplane on the tarmac, representing the airline's financial challenges.

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Government opens 12th city gas bid round

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) offered eight geographical areas (GAs) under the 12th city gas distribution (CGD) bidding round for retailing of CNG to automobiles and piping the fuel to household kitchens and industries...



Officials in a meeting, likely related to the city gas bid round.

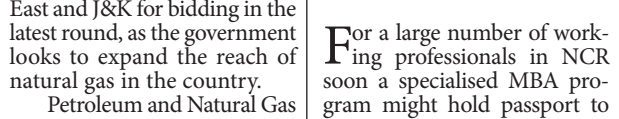
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JKLU starts MBA in Product Management

For a large number of working professionals in NCR soon a specialised MBA program might hold passport to their growth opportunities. JK Lakshmiipat University's (JKLU) Hari Shankar Singhania School of Business (HSB) has introduced India's first and only two-year fully residential MBA programme with a specialisation in Product Management...



People at an event, likely the launch of the MBA program.

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SRMIST Vadapalani felicitates Asiad Gold Medallist

Chennai: SRMIST Vadapalani felicitated its former student and Asian Games Gold Medal winner R Prithviraj Tondaiman. The auditorium on the institution's premises was filled with thunderous applause as the sports person received honours in the presence of Harini Ravu, Correspondent, SRM Valliammai Engineering College. Prof S Ponnusamy, Registrar of SRMIST also honoured the medal winner and former student.



A group of people at a felicitation ceremony, honoring a gold medalist.





# SOUTH AFRICA THRASH AUSTRALIA



**PTI ■ LUCKNOW**

South Africa thrashed Australia by 134 runs to continue their good start in the ICC World Cup here on Thursday.

Asked to bat first, South rode on a fine century by opener Quinton de Kock and a 44-ball 56 from Aiden Markram to post 311 for seven in the stipulated 50 overs.

In reply, the Australians were bowled out for 177 in 40.5 overs with Kagiso Rabada picking three wickets for 33 runs.

Earlier, De Kock, who had made an 84-ball 100 against Sri Lanka in New Delhi, smashed a 106-ball 109 at the Ekana Stadium, a venue he considers his backyard, courtesy the left-hander's IPL stint with the Lucknow Supergiants.

The 30-year-old de Kock, who will retire from the format after the World Cup, oozed confidence as he fetched 109 off 106 balls with the help of eight boundaries and five maximums, while Markram smashed 56 off 44 to help South Africa post the highest ODI total in Lucknow.

De Kock paced his innings well and troubled the Australian bowling attack, which cut a sorry figure, on a difficult Ekana pitch.

The rub of the green also went the Proteas' way as the Australians were guilty of spilling numerous catches.

Off-spinner Glenn Maxwell (2/34) was their most successful bowler while the others managed to get some wickets at the fag end of the innings.

After a rather sedate start, De Kock, who calls this stadium 'home' during the IPL, put a move on things.

He used Mitchell Starc's pace to flick one over deep backward square leg to get the

Both Temba Bavuma (35) and de Kock skilfully nullified the early threat that the Australian pacers generally pose.

In fact, skipper Pat Cummins was at his wit's end and kept shuffling between all his bowlers to find a breakthrough.

After playing the role of the sheet anchor with 35 off 55 balls, Bavuma decided to pull the trigger.

**BRIEF SCORES:**  
**South Africa:** 311 for 7 in 50 overs (Quinton de Kock 109, Aiden Markram 56; Glenn Maxwell 2 for 34; Mitchell Starc 2 for 53)  
**Australia:** 177 all out in 40.5 overs (Marnus Labuschagne 46; Kagiso Rabada 3/33).



## NZ eye hat-trick of wins

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**

Fortified by the return of inspirational captain and premier batter Kane Williamson, a high-flying New Zealand will believe that they can ward off a spin-heavy Bangladesh to consolidate their position on top of the table during their World Cup match here on Friday.

The Kiwis (NRR: +1.958) have four points now, same as India (NRR: +1.5) and Pakistan (NRR: +0.92) but a better Net Run Rate has kept them ahead, and a win here will free them from the chasing pack for the time being.

In that context, the arrival of Williamson, who has sufficiently recovered from a post ACL injury surgery, benefits them on two counts.

Williamson is a shrewd captain who knows the ebb and flow of ODIs, and he is an excellent batter against spin, a quality that he might have to conjure against a capable Bangladesh unit on a slow Chepauk pitch.

Williamson had missed the Kiwis' matches against England and Netherlands as Tom Latham had stood in as New Zealand captain in those games.

But the Black Caps will continue to miss the services of senior pacer Tim Southee, who is still recovering from a procedure on his fractured thumb that he suffered during the recent ODI series against England.

However, Williamson's comeback will pose the Kiwis with a selection dilemma as well.

Rachin Ravindra, who batted at No. 3 in the absence of Williamson, has notched up a hundred and fifty in two World Cup outings, and the Kiwis management will have to think hard as to who to be benched to accommodate the returning 33-year-old.

While keeping that minor headache for later, New Zealand will be pleased to see the form of their top-order batters like Will Young, Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell.

However, New Zealand will want every bit of runs from them as the MA Chidambaram track could offer another turner like it did in the match between India and Australia the previous Sunday.

In that match, the Indian spinners had taken six wickets and the tweekers could come into focus on Friday as well.

Despite a walloping at the hands of England in their last match, this could be Bangladesh's secret point of joy going against the Kiwis.

Their spin trio of captain Shakib Al Hasan, Mahedi Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz has taken 11 wickets among them from two matches.

The Tigers will pin their hopes on those three to weave their magic on New Zealand to notch up a crucial victory.

However, New Zealand also will feel quietly confident about their chances in such kind of surface because of the presence of Mitchell Santner.

The left-arm spinner is currently the highest wicket-taker in this World Cup with seven wickets, including a fifer against the Netherlands.

Bangladesh will require senior batters like Shakib, Mushfiqur Rahim, Litton Das and Najmul Shanto to rise to the occasion and counter Santner, a massive threat in white-ball formats with several tricks up his sleeve.



## Hasan not the best new ball option in absence of Naseem, says Aaqib

**PTI ■ AHMEDABAD**

Hasan Ali is not the most potent new ball option in the absence of Naseem Shah and Pakistan cricket establishment has erred in not grooming a quality fast bowler for desperate times, feels former pacer Aaqib Javed.

Aaqib, who is currently a fast-bowling coach with PSL side Lahore Qalandars, has played a pivotal role in the emergence of Haris Rauf as a quality white ball operator.

"If you look at the new ball pairing, they haven't groomed anyone in the last 12 months. The selectors didn't know if not Naseem, who could be the third new ball bowling option. They didn't try anyone during the Asia Cup," Aaqib said.

Pakistan have won both their World Cup matches so far. They had defeated Netherlands in the opening game, and then went past Sri Lanka in Hyderabad but the 344 runs conceded in that match remains a genuine concern.

"Hasan Ali, if you look at his record, has never been out-

## We relied lot on data from other sports: Williamson on recovery

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**

The team looking after Kane Williamson post his knee injury relied a lot on data from injuries in other sports to get him back in shape for the ICC World Cup, the premier New Zealand batter said on Thursday.

The skipper will be playing his first match of the World Cup here on Friday, having recovered from a surgery to treat a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his right knee.

"A lot of data around it, mainly from other sports that were relied on and different strength numbers and heights and jumping and just heaps of different bits," Williamson said on the eve of their match against Bangladesh.

Returning to international cricket after a long layoff, he said it has been "quite a journey".

"As for my recovery, it's been quite a journey, but largely a good one that's had some really good progress, and you know, I've said a number of times, really excited to be named in the World Cup squad, be sitting here now and really excited at the prospect of tomorrow, which is another big challenge for us," he said during the pre-match press conference.

Williamson suffered the injury while playing for Gujarat Titans in IPL 2023 and has not played cricket since then.

Elaborating on his recovery phase, Williamson added, "The recovery journey certainly started with strength and range in terms of the knee and then gradually trying to improve that and control a bit — some of the pain around it as the load increases, and we could be here all day talking about it.

"But, I'll fast forward a little bit — and great to be here and then get involved in those warm-up games which were really, really enjoyable and then during those and post that were a lot of sort of return to play fitness parts which were perhaps a little bit more related to fielding, time on feet and looking to try and execute some of those skills.



## Indian High Commission contacts Pak scribes for ODI World Cup visa

**PTI ■ KARACHI**

The Indian High Commission in Islamabad has started contacting Pakistani journalists to issue them visas for the ongoing World Cup. A number of journalists said about their visa situation and two of them confirmed receiving their visas.

The others said they got calls asking them to submit their applications for the visa process. "Out of those journalists whose passports are already submitted with the Indian authorities some have been contacted by the high commission, assuring them visas would be issued on the basis of a list prepared by the authorities of the journalists," a journalist said.

## I am not result oriented: Bumrah

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Jasprit Bumrah produced his best World Cup performance on a batting beauty but that doesn't give him a lot of satisfaction. For him, "process" is paramount. On a belter of a pitch, where 350-360 was a par score, Bumrah ended with figures of four for 39 in 10 overs, allowing India to limit Afghanistan to 272 for 8, a target the hosts gunned down in 35 overs.

His new-ball partner Mohammed Siraj was taken to the cleaners both in the powerplay and later on in the innings but the Afghanistan batters could not flex their muscle against the wily Bumrah, who has looked as sharp as ever since his comeback in August. He has also added an outswinger to his already lethal armoury.

While Siraj was looking for some swing and seam early on, Bumrah knew there was none coming. Therefore, he just focused on bowling the hard lengths. Asked to rate his performance after the game, Bumrah was modest to say the least.

"I am not result oriented. Just because I have taken four wickets, that doesn't mean that I am very, very happy or I have done something extraordinary. I just go with my preparation. I go with the process that I feel is right. I try to read the wickets and try to find the best answers that work on that wicket.

"As simple as that, not thinking about the results because I've got results today. I'm very, very good, that doesn't work in my book. I try to back my strengths, try to read the wicket, and try to give my best," he said in a matter-of-fact way after India's emphatic win on Wednesday.

If the wickets don't make him "happy", what else does? Bumrah harped about his "process" again.

"See, obviously in this format you have to understand what is working. So, some days there would be some swings, so your lengths would change. But this wicket was quite a batting track that we realised early on as well when we started bowling.

"There was a little bit of seam but the ball was coming on to the bat really well from the first over so we realised that. So, we are just trying to hit the hard length, try to make it as difficult as possible and try to make them hit difficult shots. So that was the



plan and probably trying to do that," said the 29-year-old. Bumrah was out of action for almost a year before making a comeback with the T20s in Ireland. His performance in the Asia Cup too met his high standards.

Ahead of his much-awaited return, Bumrah had insisted that he was getting ready to bowl 10 overs in a game and not the four he would require in a T20.

When he was asked to assess his progress over the last 45 days, Bumrah was expectedly not intrigued.

"See, at the end of the day, you (media) guys will anyway decide that this is, I was like this, I was like that, what I am doing, but I don't work like that. As I told you, I just look at my preparations. And I am a little detached person. I don't know what's going around in the world. So, I just looked at what I have to do on that particular day and obviously reading the game, reading your strengths that's what has worked for me in the past as well, keeping all of those things in mind, keep going forward."

## Zaka looking to explore ways to 'promote cricket relations'

**PTI ■ LAHORE**

The chairman of the PCB's cricket management committee, Zaka Ashraf, is hoping to meet with top officials of the Indian board in Ahmedabad and explore ways to "promote cricket relations" between the two countries.

Ashraf is leaving for Ahmedabad on Thursday night on the invitation of the BCCI to watch the highly-anticipated World Cup match between and India World Cup.

The Pakistan Cricket Board in a handout said that BCCI secretary, Jay Shah, had extended a warm welcome to the PCB chairman who will also be meeting with members of the Pakistan squad too.

Ashraf said that he had spoken to Shah on Wednesday. "We both discussed how the forthcoming match is an opportunity to explore ways in which we can further enhance and promote the cricketing relations between our countries," said Ashraf.

## I've taken leaf out of Gayle's book: Rohit after smashing 6s record

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

After surpassing Chris Gayle's record of most sixes in international cricket on Wednesday, Indian captain Rohit Sharma said he has taken some inspiration from the 'Universe Boss' himself in his journey.

During his record-breaking 81-ball 131 against Afghanistan at the Ferozshah Kotla, Rohit hammered five sixes to reach 556 maximums across three formats, three more than the West Indian left-hander.

Rohit reached the landmark in 453 matches, precisely 30 games less than Gayle.

posted by the BCCI.

Rohit said a lot of work has gone into developing his six-hitting skills over the years.

"When I started playing this game, I never thought I would be able to hit sixes, leave alone that many sixes. Obviously, a lot of work has been put into it over the years. So, I am quite happy with the work that I have done.

"I am the sort of person who is not satisfied (with what he has been doing), and I want to continue what I am doing. My focus is on that. Yeah, it is a small happy moment for me," said the right-handed opener.

"Universe Boss is Universe Boss. I have taken a leaf out of his book. Over the years, we have seen him, such a six-hitting machine he is wherever he plays.

"We wear the same jersey (No. 45). I am sure he is happy about it because jersey No. 45 has done it (breaking his record)," said Rohit in a video

