WORLD 5

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ENGLAND LOOKS TO BETTER RUN

RATE AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

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# INDIA DECIMATES PAKISTAN

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PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

 $I^{\text{ndia fired on all cylinders in}}_{\text{what was supposed to be war}}$ minus the shooting, blowing away arch-rivals Pakistan by seven wickets in a World Cup face-off that ended in a damp squib after causing unbridled hysteria and logistical hassles. In what is seen as the pinnacle of cricket by fans in the subcontinent, Indian captain Rohit Sharma emerged as the undisputed star of the match, scoring a 63-ball 86 to power his team to the modest target of 192 with as many as 19.3 overs to spare here on Saturday.

Jasprit Bumrah was a tiger on the prowl and Mohammed Siraj displayed wolf-like aggression before skipper Rohit completed the annihilation as India produced a near-perfect performance in one of the most lop-sided World Cup games between the arch-rivals. Rohit just casually flaunted his

repertoire of strokes, which included a pull shot behind square off Shaheen Shah Afridi and a square driven six off Haris Rauf, as India were home by 8.05 pm local time.

The win was India's eighth over their neighbours in the 50 over global event, where Pakistan had never been able to match their neighbours in terms of skill, strategy or execution since 1992.

Just like he brushes his teeth, drinks water, pulling and hooking is a part of Rohit's daily

The 1150 gram willow is an

extension of his arm and those strong but supple wrists do their job at his beck and call. On the day, they responded to his call 12 times, six of which went over the ropes.

People love to err on side of caution but Rohit is ready to err on side of risk, whether its spin of coin or dismissing a fast

bouncer from his presence. There will be days when he might fail and look silly but on days he succeeds, he would look regal, like he did on

Even as the fans rejoiced the Indian win the skipper said he won't get carried away.

"All in all, it is looking good. I want to keep my fingers crossed, and don't want to get too excited. I don't want to get too low as well. We want to stay balanced, keep calm and keep moving forward," he said after the match.

"Every opposition we come up against is all quality. You have to play well on that particular day, and that's what we are looking at."

It is very difficult to better perfection but if anything was synonymous with perfection, then decimating Pakistan for 191 in 42.5 overs would come

Five bowlers, showing different facets of bowling and sharing equal spoils is rarity but there couldn't have been a more opportune setting to tick all boxes like Rohit's men did on

Bumrah (2/19 in 7 overs), Siraj (2/50 in 8 overs), Kuldeep



India's captain Rohit Sharma plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 match between India and Pakistan at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on

(2/35 in 10 overs), Hardik Pandya (2/34 in 6 overs) and Ravindra Jadeja (2/35 in 9.5 overs) were relentless in their the depth to compete with

pursuit of choking the opposition into submission. This Pakistan team never had

Cup game which India lost in Dubai back in 2021 was just an

India and that one T20 World For the one-lakh plus spectators at the Narendra Modi Stadium, the garba started one day in advance and the story of

this absolute dominance by India will be remembered for times to come. For the rest of the country,

Bengal can celebrate an early

Durga Puja and in the northern part of India, it could an early Diwali. Motera was the Indian cricket fan's the 'Theatre of Dreams' on Saturday. One could be swayed

by such atmosphere but just

like Rohit, his team has also

learnt the art of staying in its bubble. It was imposing and in-yourface and at times intimidating. The vibe was felt when the entire stadium sang the nation-

al anthem. Siraj and Bumrah hoodwinked the Pakistan batters with the semi-old ball and a bagful of tricks for which they had no

This was Pakistan's second lowest score against India in ODI World Cup after the 180 all-out in 1999.

answer.

The two new ball bowlers made the semi-new ball talk by altering the length and using the wobbly seam to run through a circumspect middleorder and put India on course of their eighth victory in ODI

World Cups.
Kuldeep's role as the supporting protagonist was also laudable as he operated like a sly fox, removing Saud Shakeel (6) and Iftikhar Ahmed (4) in quick succession to hasten the slide.

Rohit's decision to bowl first after winning the toss might have raised a few eye-brows but the Indian team always had things under control despite a 82-run third wicket stand between skipper Babar Azam (50 off 58 balls) and Mohammed Rizwan (49 off 69

It was a matter of one wicket and once Siraj got one to just move in a shade from a shorter length, the Pakistan skipper misjudged it completely and remained rooted to his crease trying to steer it to third man. The sound of timber was what the entire Motera wanted to

Rizwan, on cusp of his half-century got a wobbly seam slow off-cutter from Bumrah which entered through the gap between bat and pad as Pakistan's resistance ended at that moment. Babar and Rizwan had a part-

nership going but if one looks at how the ODI landscape has changed, they were well behind par during the stand. With two new Kookaburras used from both sides, the balls don't generally get old but the

two Indian pacers, on a flat track, altered the length suit-ably to make the inroads at the right junctures.
In case of Kuldeep, he knew
Saud and Iftikhar aren't good at
sweeping and it brought about

their downfall. It only helped that Jadeja was parsimonious at the other end.

When the Indian innings commenced, it wasn't a question of how but when will they wrap up things. Rohit ensured it happened in a jiffy.

# Milestone in ties with Lanka

Describing the resumption of a ferry service between India and Sri Lanka after a gap of four decades as an "important milestone" in strengthening ties between the two nations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday embarking on a new chapter in diplomatic and economic rela-

Addressing the event to launch ferry services between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai near Jaffna in Sri Lanka, via a video message, Modi said the ferry service brings alive all historical and cultural connections.

"Connectivity is not only about bringing two cities closer. It also brings our countries closer, our people closer and our hearts closer," he said.

The ferry service was disrupted four decades ago due to the Sri Lankan civil war. The highspeed ferry operated by the Shipping Corporation of India has a capacity of 150 pax. The distance of about 60 nm (110 km) between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai will be covered in approximately three-and-a-half hours



Cheriyapani, a ferry which will run between Nagapattinam (India) and Kankesanthurai (Sri Lanka), during its flagging off ceremony on Saturday

depending on sea conditions. The Prime Minister said India and Sri Lanka are embarking on a "new chapter in diplomatic and economic relations" and the launch of a ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai is an "important milestone" in strengthening the relations.

Underlining the shared history of culture, commerce and civilisation between India and Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister pointed out that Nagapattinam and nearby towns have been

known for sea trade with many countries, including Sri Lanka, and the historical port of Poompuhar finds a mention as a hub in ancient Tamil litera-

He also spoke about Sangam age literature like Pattinappalai and Manimekalai which describe the movement of boats and ships between the two countries.

Modi also touched upon the great poet Subramania Bharti's song "Sindhu Nadhiyin Misai", which mentions a bridge con-

necting India and Sri Lanka. He said the ferry service brings alive all those historical and

cultural connections. During the recent visit of President Ranil

Wickremesinghe, a vision document was jointly adopted for an economic partnership with the central theme of connectiv-He emphasised that connectivity enhances trade, tourism and people-to-people ties, while also creating new opportunities for the youth of both countries. Modi also recalled his visit to Sri Lanka in 2015 when direct flights between Delhi and Colombo were

launched. Later, he said, the landing of the first international flight in the pilgrim town of Kushinagar from Sri Lanka was also celebrated. He also noted that direct flights between Chennai and Jaffna began in 2019, and now the ferry service between Nagapattinam

Kankesanthurai is vet another important step in this direction. "Our vision for connectivity goes beyond the transport sector," Modi said as he underlined that India and Sri Lanka collaborate in a wide range of areas such as fintech and energy.

# **SDPI** rallies against Israel backfire

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

sense of fear has gripped AKerala following Friday night's demonstrations and public rallies across the State by activists of the Socialist Democratic Party of India (SDPI), the frontal organisation of the banned Popular Front of The rally held by thousands of

SDPI workers carrying torches raised provocative slogans Central against the Government and India and expressed solidarity with Hamas, which was described by the rallyists as angels of peace. However, despite the rallies against Israel, there is a strong pro-Israeli wind blowing across Kerala, especially among Christians. "A section of the media and

political commentators are trying to portray Israel and Jews as villains and this is highly objectionable. These people do not know the history of Israel or the Jews," said Dr John Joseph, a medical doctor and (CASA) urged Keralites workhighly respected community leader for his selfless service. "It is time the Centre banned

even the SDPI as this is not the first time they are holding such rallies and raising provocative slogans against humanity," said a prominent CPI(M) leader who did not want his name to be quoted for

obvious reasons.
The CPI(M) leadership has gone public by expressing their support to Hamas and terming the Israeli attack as acts of terrorism. For the first time in Kerala's history, an outfit has requested expatriates working in Israel to stay put and not to return to the State at this critical juncture. The Marxists had swept the 2004 Lok Sabha polls from Kerala by displaying the pictures of Ahmed Yasin, the Hamas chief who was killed

by the Israeli Army.

(CASA) urged Keralites working in Israel not to leave the Jewish nation at this critical iuncture.

Kevin Peter, president, CASA, reminded Keralites working in Israel that the promised land required their services very badly and they should not leave that country now.

"Israel is facing a serious situation from outside forces. Many have lost their near and dear ones while there are thousands of injured people requiring medical aid. Those of you who are working in fields like telecommunication, transport, health care, trauma care and as home nurses should show your love and affection to Israel by remaining in that country and focusing on your field of work. Israel needs you and your ser-

vice," said Peter. He also told the expatriates working in Israel that the uncertain future.

CASA was making all efforts to protect their interests.

The Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is our only hope and we have been told by the Centre that the Modi Government is leaving no stones unturned to ensure your security and safety. Please understand that The Kerala Government is incapable of doing any help other than making you give up your job and return to the State. Israel is India's friendly country and past instances tell us that they are equally concerned about your well-being," Peter signed off with this statement. Recruiting agents charge any thing between ₹2 million to ₹3 million for jobs like nurses and home nurses in Israel

Most of the job seekers have mortgaged their properties to pay off the agents and if they choose to return home, they will be facing debt trap and an



16 herbs (Akarkara, Neem, Babool, Tomar, Mint, Cloves, Peepli (small),

Vajradanti, Bakul, Vidang, Turmeric, Peelun and Majufal etc.) it gives teeth

the power to fight cavities, foul smell, yellowness, pyorrhea and all other oral diseases.

Increase

# India will leave no stone unturned in No issue can hosting 2036 Olympics, says Modi

'aapka bahut-bahut swagat' (we

welcome you) in Hindi while

adding that the country has

been on the rise economically

"We are so pleased to be in

India — a country that is on the

rise in so many respects,

including Olympic sports.

India is a truly inspiring place

to hold our IOC Session. A

country which combines its

splendid history and dynamic

presence with a vigorous con-

fidence in the future," Bach

"India is an inspiring place.

The entire Olympic commu-

nity in India can be proud of

he said referring to country's

"Another illustration of the

growing Olympic spirit is the

outstanding performance of

the Indian athletes at the Asian

Games in Hangzhou

the Asian Games performance,

107-medal show

and also in sports.

said.

 $P^{\text{rime minister Narendra}}_{\text{Modi on Saturday asserted}}$  that India will leave "no stone unturned" in its efforts to organise the 2036 Olympics as the government expressed a strong desire to host the biggest sporting event in the world.

Modi spoke after declaring open the 141st Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), where India will present its roadmap for hosting the quadrennial extrav-

The IOC session is being held in the country after a gap of 40 years. The last time India hosted the session was in 1983 in

PM Modi also said that India wishes to host the 2029 Youth Olympics.

"Indians are very excited about hosting the Olympics Games. India will leave no stone unturned in organising the 2036 Olympics," said Modi during his address to the IOC Session delegation and a host of other invitees here at the Iio World Convention Centre.

"This is a dream of 140 crore Indians. We want to fulfil this dream with your support. We are willing to host the 2029 Youth Olympics. I am sure India will get constant support from IOC," PM Modi added.

The sports ministry had recently said that the government will back Indian Olympic Association's bid for hosting the



If India emerges winner in the bidding process, the city of Ahmedabad will most likely

The last time India hosted a multi-sport event was the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, although the country has organised several other prestigious tournaments such as the Boxing World Championship and the Asian Wrestling Championship in recent past. In his address to the gathering, PM Modi touched upon the importance of sports in India's illustrious history and said that there are hardly any festivals in the country which do not have any spots associated with them.

"The spirit of sports is universal. There are no losers there are only winners and learners in sports. Sports empower humanity. Whoever breaks records, everyone welcomes it,"said Modi.

IOC president Thomas Bach, who began his address earlier in the evening while greeting of your journey of change and reform of Indian sport in every

The IOC president, in his address, highlighted the importance of inclusion of e-sports in the Olympics program, emphasising on the need to trust the mindset of the young people and empower them.

Bach said artificial intelligence and e-sports are two new opportunities for the Olympic

"Over continued success depends on how we embrace the ever-accelerating development of technology and in particular, AI. This makes our Olympic agenda 2020+5 imperative - change or be changed — even more urgent," Bach said.

'There are 3 billion people playing e-sports and gaming around the world. Over 500 million of them are interested specifically in e-sports which includes virtual sports and sports simulation," he said.

What is even more relevant to us (is) that a majority of them are under the age of 34. This is why we took the strategic deciwhy we took the strategic decision to engage with e-sports in a holistic way," Bach added.
Bach said the governing body's approach while dealing with AI and e-sports will be in line with IOC's values.

'We choose an approach that will allow us to be active in the e-sports space while staying true to our values that have guided us over a century."

"I have asked our new IOC e sports commission to study the creation of Olympic e-sports games. AI and e-sports are our two opportunities, to seize them and manage the risks, we need a new mindset. We need the mindset of the young people. We have to trust and empower them because the pace of chance will be exponential. It is changed or be

changed once again. Bach spoke in detail on the possible impact of artificial intelligence on sports such as gymnastics, boxing and even fencing, saying an AI working group has been formed and added that more details on it will be revealed during the 141st IOC Session to be held over the next two days.

Bach also highlighted the impact that artificial intelligence is going to have on the future Games, saying, "Paris Olympics 2024 will be the last Games of the pre-artificial intelligence era."

Among those who attended the inauguration of the IOC Session here were Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, India's first individual Olympics gold medal winner Abhinav Bindra, FIFA president Gianni Infantino, the US ambassador to India Eric Garcetti, tennis legend Leander Paes, Indian cricket great Jhulan Goswami, incumbent Harmanpreet Kaur, Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan

# be viewed in isolation: Birla

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday said no issue can be viewed in isolation, particularly in an interconnected world, even as the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) saw leaders raising the West Asia conflict and other geo-political issues. In his closing statement at the P20 Summit, Birla noted that some members mentioned significant global challenges and recent geopolitical developments during the two-day deliberations that concluded here on Saturday. He said several members

moved away from the agenda of development listed for deliberations and raised matters related to global challenges and economic issues. "Many members mentioned the situation in West Asia, while some others talked about strengthening multilateralism, the need to encourage international trade and the need for resilient supply chains," he said.
"I have noted these refer-

ences carefully. In today's inter-connected world, we cannot look at any issue in isolation," Birla said, adding that he welcomed these additional comments.

The Lok Sabha speaker said paragraph 27 of the joint statement adopted at the summit talked about pursuing

parliamentary diplomacy for promoting international peace and supporting a peace-ful resolution of conflicts and disputes.

'We will continue to engage in parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue in relevant fora as a catalyst for promoting international peace, prosperity and harmony, including supporting the peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes," the joint statement adopted on Friday read. Birla said the adoption of the

joint statement has strengthened the P20 process. "I am confident that your valuable thoughts and inputs on sustainable development goals, green energy, women-led development and digital public infrastructure will further strengthen the G20 mechanism to ensure human-centric development," he said.

The Lok Sabha speaker also handed over the P20 presidency to the president of Brazil's Chamber of Deputies, Arthur Cesar Pereira de Lira. While the Ràjya Sabha pre-siding officer chairman Jagdeep Dhankar hosted a lunch for the P20 delegates, Deputy Chairman Harivansh in his remarks said in recent times, digital technologies have advanced more rapidly than any innovation in our history reaching around 50% of the developing world's population in just 2 decades, transforming societies.

J&K: Bhagwat

footprints of

**RSS** across



MOHIT KANDHARI 

JAMMU

 $R^{ashtriya}$  Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat Saturday urged the swayamsevaks (volunteers) to further expand the footprints of the organization across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a gathering of swayamsevaks (volunteers), representing different organizations of the Sangh Parivar, the Sarsanghchalak emphasized the need for further spreading organizational networks so as to reach out to every home with the message of the RSS ahead of the centenary celebrations (100th year) of the foundation of RSS. For a long time, the Jammu and

Kashmir Unit of the RSS was aiming to increase its footprints, especially in the Kashmir valley.

After the formation of the Bharatiya Janta Party-Peoples Democratic Alliance (BIP-PDP) alliance government in Jammu and Kashmir in March 2015, a large number of local volunteers were roped in to propagate the Sangh ideology

# LS Speaker Birla holds bilateral meetings on sidelines of P20

On the sidelines of P20 Summit, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Duarte Pacheco, presiding officers of Russia, European Union, Singapore, Turkey, Mexico, Netherlands and South Africa.

In his meeting with the IPU, Birla outlined that India pursues with the IPU a common agenda of promoting and supporting democratic goverparliaments to serve the peo-Birla also lodged a strong

protest with European Parliament Vice President Nicola Beer over its resolution on India's "internal issues". Birla told the European Parliament Vice President that every nation and Parliament is

sovereign and internal issues of other countries should not be discussed by others. In July, the European Parliament had adopted a resolution calling on the Indian government to act "promptly" to halt the violence in Manipur

and protect religious minorities. India's continued participation in the diverse activities of the IPU and its committees reflects our commitment to furthering the purpose of the IPU, added Birla. Birla suggested that democ-

ratic principles and multilateralism should be given priority and everyone should be given proper representation on global platforms.

Shared objective of both India and IPU is to democratise international governance structures that reflect current realities, informed Birla.

Birla also held bilateral talks with Valentina Matvienko, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Speaking on the



## **LOST & FOUND**

I, Rafat Hasan S/o. Mohammad Shahnawaz Hasan, R/o. L-80, 1st floor, Abul Fazal Enclave-I, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have actually lost my original Secondary School Certificate. Roll 16CSC0054, Enrolment No.-16-10079 Issued from Jamia Millia Islamia (2017)



occasion, Birla thanked Matvienko for her contribution in making P20 a success. He also commended her political experience and contributions towards Parliament and the Inter Parliamentary Union

Observing that India and Russia have long-standing deep relations, Birla said that both countries have stood together in times of crises. He added that India and Russia also have strong relations in diverse fields like military, agriculture, energy, and science and technology. Noting the mutual trust and close relations between leaders of India and Russia, Birla expressed hope that both India and Russia will continue to strengthen their mutual relationship by further

Birla also held bilateral discussions with the Vice President of the European Parliament Nicola Beer.

expanding parliamentary

On this occasion Birla underlined India's sovereignty and protested against bringing proposal in European Parliament on India's internal

He insisted that every nation and parliament is sovereign and their internal issues should not be discussed by others. Beer congratulated Birla for a successful P20 Summit and emphasised on closer relations of European Parliament with India. She also informed that Europe is going through challenging times and sought India's cooperation. Birla invited Beer to watch the festival of democracy during the Indian general elections next year.

In his bilateral with Turkey, the Lok Sabha Speaker held bilateral talks with his Turkish counterpart Kurtulmus, cles.

Speaker, Grand National

Assembly of Turkey. Birla expressed gratefulness to Kurtulmus for attending the P20 Summit and commended his views towards Mahatma Gandhi.

Noting the historic and civilisational ties between India and Turkey, Birla noted that Sufi and Bhakti traditions are a shared cultural heritage of both nations.

He added that the relationship between the two nations will be further strengthened through the efforts of their people and parliamentarians. Mentioning that Operation Dost is a symbol of India's friendship towards Turkey, Birla hoped that Turkey will soon recover after the damage caused by the recent Earthquake.

Recalling the frequent Indian film shoots in Turkey, Birla observed that Turkey has emerged as a favorite place for Indian destination weddings. He added that tourism and cultural relations between India and Turkey will also be strengthened through parliamentary diplomacy.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla further held bilateral meeting with Seah Kian Peng, Speaker of Parliament of Singapore. Commending Singapore's efforts in tackling climate change, Birla urged for promotion of clean and green energy by sharing technology. He also stressed on increasing cooperation in trade, industry and green technology between the two countries.

Mentioning that India is a fast growing economy undertaking massive infrastructure expansion, Birla called for Singapore companies to explore investment opportunities in India in fields like solar energy and electric vehi-

# Record spike in aerosol in Hindu Kush region: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Anew study led by researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Physical Research Laboratory and Research Institute for Sustainability has flagged that the eco-fragile region of Hindu Kush-Himalaya-Tibetan Plateau is witnessing a rise in aerosols, pesky suspended fine solid particles or liquid droplets. This is for the first and efficiency (ARFE) over Himalayas have been quanti-

Not only is the surge in aerosols heating up the area, driving climate change, and accelerating glacier retreat, but it is also altering rainfall patterns. This could lead to severe consequences for the Asian summer monsoon — a system

that has already been suffering over the last few years. This is a serious issue as water that flows downstream from its ten rivers is the lifeline for about 250 million inhabitants directly in the HKHTP region and over 1.5 billion people benefit

further downstream.

These findings have been published in the journal Science of The Total Environment. The study said that enhanced warming is likely contributing to an elevated trend in temperature in the

Aerosols alone account for >50 % of the total warming of lower atmosphere, with the remainder coming from greenhouse gases, the researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, and Helmholtz Centre Potsdam and the University of Leipzig, Germany found in the joint

# Government declares Chandrayaan 3 moon landing day as National Space Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Government has declared August 23, the day Chandrayaan-3 made a soft landing on the moon, as National Space Day. "...The Government of India has declared the 23rd Day of August of every year as the 'NATIONAL SPACE DAY' to commemorate this historic moment," said a notification issued by the Department of Space dated October 13.

India has become the fourth nation in the world to land a spacecraft on the moon and south pole of the lunar surface. The Vikram lander had also deployed the Pragyan rover on the moon to study the lunar surface.

"The outcome of this historic mission will benefit mankind in the years to come," the noti-

fication said. It added that August 23 marked an important mile-



inspired younger generations towards enhanced interest in pursuing STEM and provided a major impetus to the Space

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) headquarters in Bengaluru on August 26, made the

stone in the country's advance- announcement to observe

"To encourage our younger generation to get involved in the field of science and technology and space, we have decided that August 23, the day when our Chandrayaan-3 lander touched the moon, will be celebrated as National Space Day," Modi had said in

# Experts stress need for shorter regimen than BPaL for TB patients

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Even as an ongoing ICMR study is evaluating the BPaL (bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid) regimen for treatment of TB in many centres across the country, a group of experts have stressed the need for introducing the shorter regimen, saying it offers not only a significantly shorter treatment duration but has a direct impact on treatment adherence, leading to improved outcomes.

The BPaL regimen has a treatment duration of just 26 weeks, against the conventional treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis which can require patients to take over 4,000 to 5,000 tablets over 18 to 21 months.

The BPaL regimen, which has received recommendations from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2019 World Health and Organization (WHO) in 2022, has been rolled out in over 70

countries, including South Africa, Ukraine, Indonesia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Highlighting the key advantages of the BPaL regimen, Dr Vikas Oswal, a National

Technical Expert on tuberculosis, stated, "This new regi-



icantly shorter treatment duration but also a drastic reduction in the number of tablets patients need to take. This has a direct impact on treatment adherence, leading to improved outcomes."

"Cure rates after completing 26 weeks of treatment are expected to exceed 89 per cent, compared to the 60-65 per cent cure rate seen with strict adherence to the conventional drug-resistant tuberculosis treatment," Dr Oswal stated.

Blessina Kumar from Global Coalition of TB Advocates, said, "Our tuberculosis patients have been suffering for far too long due to the gruelling and lengthy treatment regimens. The BPaL regime promises a chance for a better quality of

"We urge the Indian govern-

ment to prioritize the rollout of this regimen to help us achieve the End TB goals by 2025," Kumar said. Studies estimate an annual global savings of USD 740 million due to the adoption of this regimen, added Blessina Kumar. "Given that India accounts for

a third of the global multi-drug and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis treated patients, this could translate to savings of nearly USD 250 million per vear for our country. Beyond the economic benefits,

we cannot ignore the improved quality of life it promises to TB patients," Kumar added.

India remains one of the top 30 high TB burden countries and one of the 10 countries that have a high burden of all three: TB, HIV-associated TB and MDR-TB and rifampicin-resis-

## Coast Guard evacuates critically ill Chinese national off Mumbai coast



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Indian Coast Guard on ■ Saturday successfully rescued and evacuated a seriously ill Chinese off Mumbai. He is now undergoing treatment there, Coast Guard officials said here.

Giving details, they said the Indian Coast Guard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Mumbai, the maritime search and rescue coordinator on the Indian Western Coast, had on Friday night received a request from a Panama flagged vessel MT Hua Wei 8 regarding severe medical condition of 49 yrs Chinese crew onboard the vessel. The patient was reportedly suffering from stroke combined with Hemiplegia. The vessel was on its voyage from New Mangalore to Bin Qasim

Pakistan and was in position 122 nautical miles from Mumbai and was planning to altered course to head towards Mumbai for medical cover. On Saturday, the master of the ship and the local agent of the vessel's company requested Indian Coast Guard for evacuating the patient view non availability of the tug.
Considering the critical status

of the patient, Indian Coast Guard Ship C-439 was deployed at 0700 hrs for medical evacuation of the patient. Amidst the extremely low visibility conditions, C-439 successfully evacuated the patient from the vessel from Mumbai Anchorage at 0830 hrs and dis-embarked the patient at Mumbai harbour. The patient was subsequently handed over to the local agent at Mumbai Port berth for further medical management ashore.

# HELP CITY, NCR BREATHE EASY: LG TO HARYANA, PUNJAB

elhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has written to the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana expressing concern over the rise in stubble fires in their States and asked them to take remedial measures to protect the national Capital from increased air pollution during winter season. In his letter to Punjab Chief Minister

Bhagwant Mann, Saxena said it is "extremely worrisome" that the incidents of stubble burning between September 15 and October 11 have reached 1,063 -- 300 more than the figure for the corresponding period

Saxena had written to Mann last year as well when Delhi was choking under pollution caused by smoke

from across its borders. Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva has welcomed the initiative taken by the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr. PK Mishra and Delhi Lt Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena to help improve the air quality of Delhi by checking causes of pollution.

"Between October 24, 2022 and November 2, 2022, there had been an increase of 19 per cent in the incidents of parali burning in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year. You would also recall that last year, of the 5 states that affect Delhi's air quality, Punjab had remained the only non-performing outlier," said the LG.

Praising the Haryana government for the measures it took to contain stubble fires last year, the Delhi LG told Chief Minister Manohar Lal



Khattar that the incidents were on the rise this year.

It is extremely worrisome that the incidents of crop residue burning in Haryana from September 15 to October 11 this year have reached 340, which is 257 more than the fig-

ure of 83 in the corresponding peri-

od during 2022," Saxena said. The paddy stubble (parali) left in the fields after harvest is set on fire by the farmers in many states primarily Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh leading to a smoke cover shrouding Delhi in winter when the tempera-

The Delhi LG asked both the Chief Ministers to expedite remedial measures to prevent stubble burning and save Delhi from choking. "I am sure that you are seized of the matter and urge you to galvanise all available resources and make the farmers willing partners in defeating this deadly menace and help the capital as indeed the entire NCR breathe easy," he wrote in the letters. On its part, stakeholders in Delhi are

taking all steps to ensure that local causes of air pollution like vehicular emissions and dust from the roads and footpaths are fully addressed, he informed the two CMs.

Saxena pointed out that Delhi as the national capital houses the Parliament building, Supreme Court and diplomatic missions from across the globe, besides its 2 crore inhab-

It hosts lakhs of visitors, tourists and envoys coming to India for summits and conferences who are exposed to debilitating air pollution for no fault of theirs. This inter alia also has a bearing on the nation's internation-

al image and standing, he said. Criticising the AAP governments, Delhi BJP president said at a time when the Delhi's air quality has started to worsen its regrettable that the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is hopping from state to state with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann doing election campaign. "People of Delhi want to know from CM Arvind Kejriwal that how many meetings he has held with Punjab & Haryana Chief Ministers

to discuss steps to curb farm residual burning and check winter pollution during last 6 months,": said According to the Consortium for

Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modeling from Space (CREAMS) Laboratory, Division of Agricultural Physics, ICAR - Indian Agricultural Research Institute, a total 2271 burning events were detected in the six states between 15-Sept-2023 and 13-Oct-2023, which are distributed as 1230, 374, 259, 02, 174 and 232 in Punjab, Haryana, UP, Delhi, Rajasthan and MP, respectively. Satellites detected 262 residue burning events in the six study States on 13-Oct-2023 which include 154 in Punjab, 29 in Harvana, 19 in UP, 00 in Delhi, 28 in Rajasthan



# 21 construction sites get notices for pollution

 $D_{\text{Gopal Rai on Sunday said}}^{\text{elhi Environment Minister}}$ notices have been issued to 21 construction sites under the ongoing anti-dust campaign. A penalty to the tune of ₹8.35 lakh has been imposed for the violation of guidelines issued by the government to check air pollution and dust pollution. According to Rai, around 1108 construction sites have been

inspected so far. Delhi BJP Meanwhile Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has condemned Rai for doing nothing concrete to curb pollution except issuing daily inspection reports of visits to controlled construction sites. Kapoor said the Kejriwal Government has no vision to tackle air pollution in Delhi.

The national Capital's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 260, in the 'poor' category, around 8 am on Saturday morning, with the temperature in the

national Capital standing at 21.4 degrees Celsius.Earlier, in a press statement, Rai said 591 teams from 13 departments i.e. DDA, MCD, DPCC, DCB, Jal Board, DSIIDC, PWD, Revenue, Delhi Metro, CPWD, NDMC, etc. have been formed under the anti-dust campaign. Teams are instructed to constantly inspect sites and maintain vigil. It's necessary to follow all 14 anti-dust norms on construction sites, otherwise, strict action will be

taken against violators. "In order to reduce the pollution in Delhi during the winter season, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced the Winter Action Plan on September 29. On the basis of this, the concerned departments have started to implement it on the ground. We have launched Green War Room, from where it's being monitored. The Delhi government has succeeded in reducing pollution with the cooperation of the people," he

# 1,000 Delhiites booked for power theft

ALOK SINGH ■ PTI / NEW DELHI

 $M^{
m ore\, than\, 1,000\, people}$  booked in the case of power thefts are declared as proclaimed offenders out of 7,200 POs of the national Capital. Court declares an accused a Proclaimed Offender, or PO, if the person evades arrest and fails to appear in a court despite having a warrant issued against him.

Recently, a data of proclaimed offenders was compiled by the Delhi Police from various district courts and was submitted to the National Informatics Centre to develop a platform with a database of POs from Delhi.

The NIC was directed by the Delhi High Court in July to develop a software for uploading the names and details of such offenders so that the general public could assist the police with information on their whereabouts and help them take action against them.

The court had ordered that Delhi Police and the district courts would be responsible for uploading the data of proclaimed offender/proclaimed persons in criminal cases and the Director/In-charge of Inter-operable Criminal Justice System would ensure all possible technical and tactical support to the project.

The court also said that a court-appointed committee headed by the Principal District and Sessions Judge (Headquarter) here will monitor the implementation of its directions.

The court said the data will be uploaded initially on the internal servers and later on the public platform to be developed by the NIC after verification.

According to the data so far gathered, a total of 7,200 people have declared PO by the district courts over the past several years.

Out of these, about 2,300 were booked under check bounce cases, 1,050 under



electricity theft, 170 under other thefts. 104 under negligent driving, 144 under cheating, and 90 under drug-related cases. At least 40 of them were declared PO under murder and five under rape cases. The data reveals Delhi's Connaught Place Police Station has 320 POs, Tilak Nagar 206, Okhla Industrial Area 175, Barakhamba 168, Rajouri Garden 160, Punjabi Bagh 150, and Malviya Nagar

An official said out of the 7,200 POs, 5,000 have been verified by the Delhi police personnel, either by visiting their

addresses or other intelligence means. The verification of the remaining 2,000 POs is still on. The Delhi police officers do the verification to ascertain the existence of these POs, since the records from these 7,000 POs suggest that some of these POs are even from 1980-90s," said

The NIC has finished building the software for PO management system and it is ready to be used," the officer said.

But right now it is not available for people. Once the court gives its nod, it will be available for the public too," said the person. The NIC under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technolo gy is the technology partner of the Government of India

According to its website, the centre was established in 1976 with an objective to provide technology-driven solutions to central and state governments in various aspects of development.



**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

from her Chandni

Chowk house

**C**our people, including a Fwoman, allegedly held a girl hostage and looted ₹12 lakh from a house in central Delhi's Chandni Chowk area, police said on Saturday. The girl was alone in the house during the incident. A case has been registered at the Kotwali

police station, they said. According to police, Sarwan Hussain lives with his wife and four children in Kucha Rehman area, where he has a lehenga shop. The assailants forcibly entered the house when one of the daughters of Hussain was alone at home. They threatened the girl and tied tape around her hands, legs and mouth and locked her in a room, police said. They stole cash from the almirah, but left the jewellery. When Sarwan's wife returned home, she got to know about the incident and informed police, they said. Police have found CCTÝ

The victim's acquaintances are likely to be involved in the incident as the cash and jewellery were kept at a place where no one could reach without accurate information, police added.

# Govt bats for prisoners rights to conjugal visits

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Apetition filed in the Delhi High Court asserts that conjugal visitation, away from the scrutiny of prison officials, is a "fundamental right." Citing practices in several other countries. the Delhi Government told the court that a proposal regarding prisoners' rights to seek conjugal visits has been forwarded to the state's Home Department.

The Delhi Government has indicated that this proposal will also be sent to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for the issuance of necessary instructions.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula was hearing a petition urging the Delhi government and DG (Prisons) to make suitable arrangements in jails for conjugal visits by prisoners' spous-

This public interest litigation (PIL) was originally filed in May 2019, leading to the High Court issuing notices to relevant authorities. The abovementioned proposal is also set to be conveyed to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for the issuance of necessary guide-

The Bench has granted the



provide updates following its recommendation, and has posted the matter for hearing on January 15, 2024.

The PIL aims to challenge the state's prison rule, which cur-

Delhi government six weeks to rently requires the presence of a jail officer during prisonerspouse meetings, and also sought to declare conjugal visits a "fundamental right" for inmates

The petition highlights that

within a sexually active age bracket, they are denied conjugal visitation. It points out the progressive approach taken by courts in

despite most prisoners being

various countries, considering conjugal visits an important human right and their potential to reduce crimes within prisons.

The petition stresses that prisoners should not be denied prifootage in which some suspects vate meetings with their spousare seen, they said. es based on the existing provisions of parole and furlough within the Indian penal system, particularly as these options are not available to undertrial

# 3 held for running **World Cup cricket** betting racket

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Three people have been arrested for allegedly running a World Cup cricket betting racket in South Delhi's Neb Sarai area, police said on Saturday. The arrests were made on Thursday and the accused have been identified as Ravi Kumar, Amit Kumar and Shahid Khan, they said. Two laptops having a betting assistance software, seven mobilephones, one LED TV, three internet routers, one printer, one bill counter, one calculator, 12 packs of playing cards and writing material have been seized, a police official said. During interrogation, the accused persons disclosed that they used the betting assistance software to maintain books and accounts of "punters" (gamblers), police said.

"One person used to be present at the stadium with a phone to provide the actual (real-time) score as there is a delay during broadcast. They used this delay time for betting and passed the same to their punters," a police officer said. The betting rates fluctuated depending on the wickets, score or runs put out at real-time at the stadium and not on that shown on TV, the officer said. For every match the betting amounts used to range between ₹5 lakh and ₹7 lakh, police said.

"In the last nine matches of the World Cup 2023, around ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore was put on betting. They are betting since the beginning of this Cricket World Cup 2023 season," the officer added. Police said the betting soft-ware was bought from a shop in Nehru Place at ₹25,000.

# HC refuses to stay ED custody of Chinese national in Vivo case

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has refused to interfere with a trial court order sending Chinese national Guangwen alias Andrew Kuang to three-day Enforcement Directorate custody in a money laundering case against Chinese smartphone maker Vivo.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, in an order released on Saturday, dismissed a petition by Kuang — an office bearer of Vivo Mobile India — challenging the trial court order of remand, noting that as per the grounds of arrest and the remand application, the petitioner, "one of the main conspirators", was involved in the incorporation of the companies throughout the country for acquiring and siphoning off proceeds of crime.

"Ultimately, the investigating officer had concluded (in grounds of arrest) that the present petitioner was the prime conspirator of the formation of these companies through which acqui-



sition of proceeds of crime had taken place and which, after layering and integration, had been siphoned off by Vivo India," the court observed in an order dated October 13.

"This court does not find any infirmity in the order of remand dated 10.10.2023 challenged before this Court as the same takes into account the mandate of compliance of provisions of

BOYS HOSTEL

Section 19 of PMLA as well as Section 45 of PMI.A.

"Accordingly, the present petition stands dismissed along with pending application," ordered the court. On Friday, the trial court extended the custody of the petitioner with ED by three days in the case.

The petitioner, apprehended on October 10, had argued before the high court that his arrest was

carried out in a malafide manner and against the mandate of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and no case was

made out against him.
Rejecting the objections, the court observed that the remand application specifically mentioned that on the basis of the investigation carried out so far and material collected, the present petitioner was "guilty" of the offence of money laundering and therefore written grounds of arrest were also given to him. On October 10, the trial court

sent four people, including the petitioner, to three-day ED custody in the case.

The agency had raided the company and its linked people in July last year, claiming to have busted a major money laundering racket involving Chinese nationals and multiple Indian compa-nies.The ED had then alleged that a whopping ₹62,476 crore was "illegally" transferred by Vivo to China in order to avoid payment of taxes in India

## Woman dupes people by selling mineral seeds, held

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Saturday claimed to have arrested a woman accused of duping people, including an Army officer, on the pretext of selling mineral seeds that claim

to improve health. Assam native Gayatri Deori alias Arti Mukherjee alias Janet was arrested from Mayur Vihar on Saturday, the police said. Deori was wanted in two cheating cases, including one in Sarita Vihar for which she was declared a "proclaimed offender", Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Alok Kumar said.

The police had earlier announced a reward of ₹ 20,000 for information leading to her arrest. Deori admitted that she and her husband — Nigerian national Okeleke Frankline Vhbundum Zule – and some associates cheated people on the pretext of selling the mineral seeds, the officer said. "She disclosed that, in one

such case, she and her husband



duped Sanjiv Menezes, a businessman, of ₹44.25 lakh," he added

Zule first contacted Menezes with an offer to sell 10,000 packets of the seeds at ₹3.00 lakh per packet. Deori then contacted Menezes with a counter offer to sell the seeds

at ₹2.10 lakh per packet.

Menezes gave her ₹44.25 lakh
but never received any seed, the
police said. A case in this
regard was lodged at Sarita Vihar police station.

Deori and her husband used the same modus operandi to allegedly dupe Lt General Balbir Singh Sandhu of ₹10.50 lakh. This case was registered at Greater Kailash police station. The police said while Zule was arrested, Deori had gone underground to evade

# Hindu College hostel remake turns alumni nostalgic

HINDU COLLEGE HOSTEL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

More than mere brick and mortar to many, the Hindu College's boys hostel which is under demolition for a remake, has sent several alumni waxing nostalgic about the famed building which once nestled them.

The hostel building, which housed thousands of students over its eight-decade run, is too infirm to carry on in its present state and the college plans to "reconstruct" it, says Principal Anju Srivastava.

"The new building will be a four storeyed structure with a stilt and will be ready by 2026. This

growing intake of students in the college," Srivastava told PTI. Talking about the history of the structure, she said the current building is about 80 years old and the administration has spent a lot of money in different phas-

es to make it sustainable. "We also got engineers to test the foundation of the hostel to check if it can take additional two floors but the base isn't that strong. There's a huge amount of pressure on the hostel. Therefore, the governing body decided to direct the rebuilding of the hostel," she said.

will lead to doubling of its capacity to accommodate the a cost of  $\stackrel{<}{\sim}50$  crore, will house more than 500 students and is likely to be ready in two to three years, she added.

Sources said that the old building has been closed since the Covid-19 pandemic. After the news of "demolition" of the hostel building circulated among the alumni, Hindi film director Imtiaz Ali shared a post on Facebook recalling his days at the boys hostel.

being demolished and rebuilt

during a NAAC meeting at my

alma mater on Monday. It felt

like a friend had died. I felt sad

"I got to know that the hostel is

and nostalgic as I spent my youth in the boys' hostel. But the old order has to change to give path to the new. I am not going to stand in the way," Ali, an

alumnus of the Delhi University college, told PTI. However, he stressed, the college must keep in mind that a certain

aesthetic, reminiscent of the

past, is maintained in the new hostel. "The construction and architecture of the college in general has not followed the best planning in terms of visual aesthetics. It's a very important thing to keep that aesthetic in mind when they reconstruct anything in the college," he said. There are some alumni who plan to take parts of debris from the hostel and keep them as mementos. "Our soul still stays there. Talks

are on with the other alumni and very soon we will give a proposal regarding this to the principal," Film director Nalin Singh told PTI. Another alumnus wondered if there was no alternative to a complete wipeout of their memories. "Is demolition the only way out,

can it not be renovation in the secondary thought? People like us have spent five-six years in that hostel. Our emotions are intact there," Mukesh Kumar, director, Red Dot Entertainment, said.

Hindu College's former principal Kavita Sharma said that one could choose to look at this as a need to grow with time or move forward while preserving

the memory of the old. "When I was the principal, people used to come back with their families to show them their hostel. With the new construction, this will stop happening. 'The current alumni will not be

able to identify the building even though new students will make new memories. There is a need to preserve some part of the history. A balance should be maintained between the old and the new," she said.

The Hindu college's boys hostel was built in 1953 on Sudhir Bose Marg on North Campus. Several distinguished personalities including government officials, political bigwigs, artists, and famous actors have passed from

### NEW DELHI I SUNDAY I OCTOBER 15, 2023

# 2nd flight with 235 Indians from Israel lands in Delhi

**AGENCIES** ■ NEW DELHI/

Abatch of 235 Indian nationals, including two infants, arrived at the Indira Gandhi International airport here on Saturday after being evacuated from Israel as part of ongoing 'Operation Ajay.' This is second group to be brought out as the first batch landed here on Friday.

Air India, meanwhile, has extended the suspension of its scheduled flights to and from Tel Aviv till October 18, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. The full service carrier, which

normally operates five weekly scheduled flights to Tel Áviv, had earlier suspended the services till October 14. The carrier will operate chartered flights to bring back Indians depending on the requirements.

Normally, Air India operates five weekly flights to Tel Aviv from the national capital. The service is on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday, Minister of State for external affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh welcomed the evacuated Indian nations and greeted them with a warm handshake and folded hands. People were seen hugging and embracing their families and relatives.

"Received the second batch of Indians from Israel. Heartening to note that they are very appreciative of GoI's



#OperationAjay @MEAIndia for smooth coordination," the Minister said in a post on X.

As many as 447 Indian nationals, who were stranded amid the raging Israel-Hamas war have been brought back to India under 'Operation

'Second flight carrying 235 Indian nationals takes off from Israel's Tel Aviv," posted External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on X, on Friday-Saturday intervening night. Operation Ajay was launched on Thursday to bring out Indian nationals

willing to return. The Indian embassy in Israel is providing assistance to Indian companies and has set up a helpline for Indian citizens in need of assistance.

set up a 24-hour control room in view of the escalating conflict.

The control room will help monitor the situation and provide information and assistance.

Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan also visited the 24/7 control room set up in New Delhi as part of Operation Ajay.

He said India continues to monitor the situation in Israel and provide necessary information and assistance.

He further said the government is always committed to the safety of Indians abroad. Reports from Jerusalem said the evacuation of Indian nationals will continue on

"The Embassy has emailed

Ladakh conflict, LOC situation to figure in Army Commanders conference



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Indian citizens for the special flight today. Messages to other

registered people will follow

for subsequent flights," the Indian Embassy posted the

The first charter flight to

facilitate the return of Indian

citizens from Israel left late

Thursday evening from the

Ben Gurion airport carrying

211 adults and an infant liv-

ing in the war-battered region

and reached the Indian capi-

The passengers were chosen

on a "first come first serve"

basis after a drive launched by

the Indian embassy for all

Indians to register at the mis-

The Government is bearing

There are about 18,000 Indian

nationals living and working

in Israel including caregivers,

students, several IT profes-

sionals, and diamond traders.

The evacuation of Indian

nationals was necessitated

after armed Hamas militants

based in the Gaza Strip blast-

ed through the Israeli securi-

ty fence and streamed into

Ísrael by land, air and sea on

Saturday, in what is now

described as an unprecedent-

Since then, the attack has

killed more than 1,300 people

in Israel while the Israeli

counter-airstrikes have killed

more than 1,530 people in

Israel has claimed roughly

1,500 Hamas militants were

ular Gujarati dance) song over

the last few days and will share

it with people during Navratri,

the nine days of worship of

goddess Durga, beginning

Modi also thanked artistes

Dhvani Bhanushali and

Tanishk Bagchi and the team of

Jjust Music for the musical ren-

dition of another 'Garba' song

that he had penned years ago.

"Thank you Dhvani Bhanushali, Tanishk Bagchi

this lovely rendition of a Garba

**Gadkari holds** 

killed inside Israel.

PNS NEW DELHI

October 15.

ed attack.

the cost of their return.

tal on Friday morning.

sion's database.

announcement on X.

The ongoing tension at the border in Ladakh and situation at the Line of Control (LOC) facing Pakistan are likely to figure prominently during the Army Commanders Conference here from October 16 to 20. The top brass will review the operational preparedness of the force to meet any challenge. The ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict may also be discussed.

Giving details of the upcoming meet, officials said here on Saturday,

the Army Commanders' Conference is scheduled from October 16 to 20. An apexlevel biannual event, it is an institutional platform for deliberations at the conceptual level, facilitating important policy decisions for the Indian Army. In continuation with the new format adopted this year, the upcoming Army Commanders' Conference is also being conducted in a Hybrid format wherein Army Commanders and other senior functionaries will meet virtually on the first day followed by remaining ready.

deliberations being conducted in a physical format.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to attend the conference on October 18. General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff, General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff will address the gathering. Dr Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal

Scientific Adviser to the Government of India will also deliver a talk on "Leveraging Technology for National Security".

The apex leadership will brainstorm current and emerging security scenarios besides reviewing the operational preparedness of the Indian Army. They will also delve into pivotal subjects including review of the ongoing transformation process, training matters, human resource management aspects and issues impacting serving personnel and veterans. The Army Commanders' Conference, with its broad scope, ensures the Indian Army remains progressive, forwardlooking, adaptive, and future

# Congress treating Karnataka as its ATM, claims BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

C tating that Congress is the Stating that Congress is the party which guarantees corruption, the BJP on Saturday alleged that it was a started to from party with a contractor from whose premises the Income Tax Department allegedly recovered ₹42 crore in cash during a search operation in Bengaluru.

Addressing a Press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, "We must remember the name of a person, Ambikapathy, the contractor who, on behalf of the Congress, had written to the prime minister in July-August last year labelling the erstwhile BJP government in Karnataka as 40 per cent commission government".

"A whopping ₹42 crore has been recovered from the house of Ambikapathy," Chandrasekhar said, adding," Ambikapathy and his group of contractors, acting on behalf of the Congress, had propagated a false narrative of corruption against the BJP, misleading the people in the state."

He said it was Ambikapathy who had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July-August last year, labelling the erstwhile BJP government in Karnataka as "40 per cent commission government" ahead of the state Assembly polls.



"It is clear that this was a massive drama they had orchestrated and behind the drama was a singular objective corruption," he charged.

'Unfortunately, the voters in

Karnataka were misled by this narrative and Congress grabbed power," he added. The BJP leader's allegation comes a day after the Income Tax Department recovered more than ₹42 crore in cash, stashed in a residential premise in Bengaluru, on Friday as part of its tax evasion searches against some Karnataka-based contractors

and people linked to them. "Congress believes in fake guarantees, lies and corruption. Corruption is embedded in the DNA of Congress. We saw this in Karnataka, and now they want to use the same political strategy in Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan," Chandrasekhar alleged.

The Union Minister accused the Congress of treating Karnataka as its "ATM to fund elections in other States". He said, "It's disheartening to see that Karnataka has, in the hands of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, transformed into an ATM for the 'INDI looto yatra".

#### OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN** Paras Tower, 2nd Floor, Majra Niranjanpur, Saharanpur Road, Dehradu

**DEMAND NOTICE U/S 25 TO 28** 

Notice Under Sections 25 To 28 Of The Recovery Of Debts Due To Banks And Financial Institutions Act, 1993 And Rule 2 Of Second Schedule To The Income Tax Act, 1961. Punjab National Bank Versus Chandresh Khosla

CD.1: Chandresh Khosla S/o Sh. Veer Chakradhari Khosla R/o H. No. 309 H. Parsavnath Prestige Sector No. 93, Noida Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradest 201301.

Permanent Address: Opposite Roadways Bus Depot Near Mata Mandin Ward No.17,Sikar Rajasthan- 3320001. CD.2: Maitreyee Gajrola W/o Chandresh Khosla R/o H. No. 309 H, Parsavnath Prestige Sector No. 93, Noida Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201301.

Second Address: 73-D. Pocket F. Mayur Vihar Phase-2. East Delhi, Delhi-110091 Third Address: H.No. 204, Konark Orchid Kesnand Road, Wagholi Pune.

Permanent Address: Opposite Roadways Bus Depot Near Mata Mandir Ward No.17.Sikar Rajasthan- 3320001.

CD.3: Pushpanjali Realms & Infratech Limited having its registered Office At Nath House Devpura Haridwar.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN in OA/530/2021 an amount of Rs. 45,17,181.86 (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Seventeen Thousands One Hundred Eighty One And Paisa Eighty Six Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 7.45% Simple Interest yearly w.e.f. 21.12.2021 till realization and costs of Rs. 78,000.00 (Rupees Seventy Eight Thousands Only) has ecome due against you (Jo ntly and severally).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets or

4. Your are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 03.11.2023 at 10.30

a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay.

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this

notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and arrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on: 18.09.2023 Recovery Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Dehradun

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction

of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand

notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in genera

that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise o

powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to dea

Description

Flat No 505, Second Floor, Block- A, Sector Mu

Unit No- NGH- 051 Tower-H, New Town Height, Sector-90, Manesar Gurgaon/ October 10, 2023

Flat No. B1/1202, 12th Floor Tower No. B1 "Tulip

Ace", Situated at The Revenue Village of Hayatpur, Sector 89 Gurgaon/ October 10, 2023

Flat No. 10107, Tower 10, 10th Floor, Synera, Sector 81, Block 10 Vill Nakhnaula, Sector-81

II, Greater Noida, Noida./ October 10, 2023

with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road,

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that we are investigating and verifying the title, in respect of Property no. 866 are measuring 90 Sq. Vds. Situated at Ward No. V Main Road, Na! Sarak, Delhi-110006 owned by M/S AA Boutique through its owner Mr. Ashish Goyal, Mr. Gautam Goyal, Ms. Megna Goyal & Ms. Renu Goyal vide Sale Deed dated 05.09-2005 executed by Mr. Pawan Kumar Shama in favor of Mrs. Megha Gogl in respect of Entire First Floor without roof rights (Doc. No. 6022), Decree Sheet in Suit No. 170/15 title as Mr. Gautam Goel (Plaintiff Vs. 1. Mr. Anand Goyal, 2. Mrs. Kamlesh Dev. 3. Mr. Naveen Goyal, 4. Mr. Nitin Goyal, 5. Mr. Raj Kamal Goyal, 6. Mr. Anil Goyal, 7. Mrs. Renu Devi, 8. Mr. Ashish Goyal, 9. Mrs. Megha Goyal and 10. Mrs. Megha Goel (Defendants). According to the Settlement Mr. Anil Goyal (Defendants). According the Settlement Mr. Anil Goyal (Defendants). According the Settlement Mr. Anil Goyal (Defendants).

objections/cialms/details of dispute/s within seven(7, days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party daims/objections/disputes in respect of the schedulec property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

MOHIT KUMAR SAXENA & ASSOCIATE

ADVOCATES
3-130, B.G.S BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI 11005Ph: 9811935415 | Email: adv.mohitsaxena@gmail.con

in Demand Notice (Rs.)

April 26, 2023

14,84,365/-

June 07, 2023

10,38,458/-

June 09, 2023

6,81,584/-

anuary 18, 2022

Rs. 5,81,215/-

May <u>2</u>0,2023

1,37,20,589/

June 21,2023

June 15,2023

Rs. 49,88,210/-

May 18,2023

Rs. 15,27,142/-

19, 2022 Rs

#### Wrote new Garba, will share during Navratri: Modi The Navratri festival begins on and Jageshwar Temples in the October 15 and Garba is a form Amidst the festive season and joyous air around, of Gujarati dance that is usually performed during the nine-day Prime Minister Narendra Modi festivities. Modi's post came in on Saturday said he has written response to Bhanushali, who a new "Garba" (a form of pop-



"I have not written for many during Navratri," he added.

I had penned years ago! It does years now but I did manage to if there is one place you must bring back many memories," write a new Garba over the last visit in Uttarakhand which

shared the rendition on X. "Dear Narendra Modi Ji,

Tanishk Bagchi and I loved Garba penned by you and we wanted to make a song with a fresh rhythm, composition and flavour. Jjust Music helped us bring this song and video to life," she said.

In another post, Modi shared pictures from his recent visit to Uttarakhand.

'If someone were to ask me --

Kumaon region of the state. The natural beauty and divinity will leave you spellbound," he said. "Of course, Uttarakhand has

many well known places worth visiting and I have also visited the state very often. This includes the sacred places of Kedarnath and Badrinath, which are the most memorable experiences. But, to return to Parvati Kund and Jageshwar Temples after many years has been special," the prime minister said.

Modi has written many books including those of poems itled 'Sakshi Bhav' and 'Journey', brining out the

titled you must visit Parvati Kund sions of his political persona.

## meet with National **Highway Builders Federation**

Branch

ratapgar

Delhi

Delhi

NCR

Delhi

& NCR

Delhi

NCR

NCR

hamparar (Bihar)

NCR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday held a High Level meeting with the National Highway Builders Federation to resolve their issues. In the meeting it was agreed that implementation of Vivad Se Vishwas' Scheme be taken in a campaign mode with a target to settle all eligible claims.

Secretary for Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Anurag Jain said 'Vivad se Vishwas' Scheme has been formulated to clear backlog of old litigation cases.

He said the scheme will help in freeing up locked working capital and stimulate fresh invest-

According to a MORTH statement, NHBF was requested to ensure that all contractors file their claims by October 25.

The Vivad se Vishwas Il (Contractual Disputes) Scheme of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India contains detailed procedure / modalities to arrive at the settlement amount that shall be offered to the Contractors and where the claim amount is ₹500 crore or less, procuring entities will have to accept the claim, if the claim is in compliance with the guidelines.

In case the claim is more than ₹500 crore, then the decision of not accepting the request for settlement from the contractor should be done after recording the reasons with the approval of the competent authority.

# 2 days coastal security EAM Jaishankar to exercise Sagar Kavach | begin 6 days visit to conducted by Navy



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

two-day comprehensive ACoastal Security Exercise Sagar Kavach 02/23 involving all maritime security agencies was conducted by the Indian Navy in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry for two days from October 11, Navy officials said here on Saturday. The exercise aimed to assess the

efficacy and robustness of the coastal security mechanism while dealing with asymmetric threat emanating from the sea. The exercise was executed under the aegis of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command, FOCINC (East) who also exercises the authority of Commander-in-Chief, Coastal Defence (East), they said. About 2,500 personnel from

the Indian Navy, Coast Guard,

state and UT Administration,

Marine Police, Fisheries,

Intelligence Agencies, Light Houses, Ports Forest and others were engaged in the exercise.

Indian Navy ships along with assets of the Coast Guard and other coastal security agencies were deployed to augment surveillance in the area. Enhanced security measures

were instituted and extensive aerial surveillance undertaken by Dornier aircraft and helicopters operating from Visakhapatnam, Chennai and Ramnathapuram. The exercise was closely mon-

itored at Joint Operations Centre (East) Visakhapatnam which is the nodal hub for all coastal security operations and exercises in the area of operations.

The exercise witnessed close coordination and synergy among all coastal security stakeholders. Lessons learnt from the exercise would be incorporated to strengthen the coastal security architecture.

# Vietnam, Singapore

PNS NEW DELHI

Singapore, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will embark on a six-day visit to the two countries from Sunday. In the first leg of his visit, Jaishankar will visit Vietnam from October 15 to 18 to discuss ways to review the progress in several areas and discuss ways to further enhance cooperation, Ministry of

External Affairs (MEA) said

Tn an effort to further enhance

 $oldsymbol{1}$ ties with Vietnam and

here on Saturday. Jaishankar's visit to the strategically-located Southeast Asian country comes less than three months after India gifted missile corvette INS Kirpan to the Vietnamese armed forces, in reflection of the growing bilateral strategic partnership amid common concerns over China's increasingly aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea. It was for the first time that India handed over a fully-

operational corvette to any friendly foreign country. "India and Vietnam share a robust comprehensive strategic

partnership. Vietnam is a key member of our Act East Policy. The External Affairs Minister's visit will provide an opportunity to review progress in several areas and discuss ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation," MEA said.

Jaishankar will also co-chair the 18th meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on economic, trade and scientific, and technological cooperation with his Vietnamese counter-



The external affairs minister

will visit Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and is expected to hold talks with the Vietnamese leadership," the MEA said in a statement. He will also meet members of the Indian community and unveil a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Ho Chi Minh city.

From Vietnam, Jaishankar will travel to Singapore for a visit from October 19 to 20. "During his visit, the external affairs minister will meet his Singaporean counterpart and the top leadership of the coun-

He will also chair the regional conference of Indian heads of missions," MEA said.

The India-Singapore relationship was elevated to a strategic partnership in 2015 and since then, the intensity of the bilateral cooperation has increased significantly. In 2023, both sides had sever-

al ministerial interactions on the sidelines of the G20 Summit held under India's presidency. Singapore was invited as a guest country to the G20 Summit. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited New Delhi to participate in the summit in September.

#### Jay Prakash Pandey/ Flat No. B-909, 9th Floor, Tower-B, Avi Heightss Sanju Pandey/ LBDEL00002017836 Situated at Plot No. GH12/2, Sector Zeta- I, Gautam Budha Nagar, U.P., Greater Noida./ October 10, 2023 Flat No. J- 603. 6th Floor, Plumeria Garder Seema Bhandari/ Sanjay Bhandari/ LBGHZ00001246637 Estate Greater Noida- 201308/ October 10, 2023 Flat No. 12A03, 13th Floor Sun-5 Migsun Vilaasa Plot No. Gh1B(2) Sector Eta-2, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh./ October 10, 2023 Gita./ Manish Kumar/ LBNOD00004975492/ LBNOD00004918731 Flat No. B-35, 2nd Floor Block- B, Village Wazirabad, Bindapur, Platinum Deluxe Floor, Ardee City, Sector- 52, Gurgaon Haryana/ Octobel 10, 2023

the date of receipt of the said notice.

Borrower/ Loan

Account Number

BNOD00005315336

Alok Mishra/ Laxmi

Kant Mishra/

Ashok Kumar Singh/ Seema Ashok Singh/ LBDEL00005335544/ BDEL00004045102 LBDEL00004045102/ LBDEL00004045101/ LBDEL00004045108 Umesh Kumar Singh/

Reena Singh/ LBGUR00001828313/ LBGUR00002013804 Ashish Sharma/ Unique Cooling Solutions Pvt Ltd/ Anju Kumari/

LBDEL00004964169 Md Zeeshan Akhtar/ Shadab Akhtar/ LBDEL00003276347 Sanjay Kumar Patel Kritika Patel/ LBNOD00001949666 County Situated At Plot No Gh-02, Sector 137, Noida/ October 11, 2023

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

Flat No. J1-606, 6th Floor, Tower- J1, Blosson

Date: October 13, 2023 Place: Delhi/ NCR

ICICI Bank Limited

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

Gurgaon Haryana/ October 10, 2023

Second Address: 73-D, Pocket F, Mayur Vihar Phase-2, East Delhi, Delhi-11009 Third Address: H.No. 204, Konark Orchid Kesnand Road, Wagholi Pune.

which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to hav been waived. **Adv. Vishal Mehan**, E-713, Karkardoom Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile no. 9811215181 PUBLIC NOTICE

Shop no.1, size measuring 7' X2'' sq. mits approx. 8 Shop no.2 size measuring 7' X2'' sq. mits approx. 8 Shop no.2 size measuring 8' X 16'' sq. mits approx. or the ground floor without roof rights being a part of freehold property bearing no. B-1/102, out of land area measuring 132, 52, Ardas, part of Khasra no. 18/16 stutated in the area of village (Khyala, Delhi State, Delhi, now abadi known as Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018.

# Hamas makes al-Qaeda look pure: Biden

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden has said}}_{\text{Palestinian militant group}}$ Hamas, which attacked Israel and killed over 1,000 people, is worse than al-Qaeda, the terrorist group behind the 9/11 attacks, as he reaffirmed that the US stands with the Jewish

At least 27 American citizens have died and 14 remain unaccounted for as a result of unfolding violence in Israel triggered after Hamas carried out unprecedented attacks in Southern Israel on last Saturday

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in response launched multiple attacks targeting Hamas' key infrastructure. So far, over 2,000 people have been killed in Israel and the Gaza Strip in the biggest escalation in decades between the

"The more we learn about the attack, the more horrifying it becomes. More than 1,000 innocent lives lost, including at least 27 Americans," Biden said in Philadelphia.

"These guys make -- they make al-Qaeda look pure. They're pure evil. Like Î said from the beginning, the United



States, make no mistake about it, stands with Israel. The United States stands with Israel," he said on Friday.

Biden said his administration is making sure Israel has what it needs to defend itself and respond to these attacks.

He also said it is his priority to urgently address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Israel yesterday, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin is there today," he said.

Biden said at his direction, his teams are working in the region, including communicating directly with the govern-ments of Israel, Egypt, Jordan

Islamic has gone viral. Lucy Aharish, an Arab Israeli news anchor on the mainstream Reshet 13 network who is married to leading Israeli actor Tsahi Halevi who recently acted in Nushrratt Bharuccha starrer Akelli, sent out an emotional

Jerusalem (PTI): A celebrity

Muslim news anchor's message

condemning Hamas' brutal

terror attack on Israel as bar-

baric, inhumane and un-

husbands, wives, and children are. You know, it's gut-wrenching. I assured them my personal commitment to do everything possible - everything possible to return every missing American to their families,'

Biden said his administration is working round the clock to secure the release of Americans held by Hamas, in close cooperation with Israel and US partners around the

"We're not going to stop till we bring them home," the president asserted.

During a press gaggle, White House Principal Deputy

message of unity and defiance attack of a brutal, barbaric and in her programme after Saturday's terror attack by Hamas on Israel. "I am sorry that I am using my microphone to send a message to the world. As a journalist, this is my only weapon," Aharish said. She also openly referred to Hamas as a terror organisation.

'Hamas attack on Israel barbaric'

'Since Saturday morning the State of Israel is under attack. Our beloved country is under attack. We are under the

Secretary Olivia Dalton said the US continues its significant engagement as it stands shoulder to shoulder with Israel and would make sure that they have every level of support in the days and weeks

The United States continues to aggressively work with Egypt and Israel to navigate the possibility and create the conditions for the possibility of corridors for both safe passage for civilians who want to leave Gaza and flee the danger and also for humanitarian corridors to allow humanitarian assistance that is critically needed to replenish stockpiles within

inhumane terror organisation. Not an entity, not a govern-ment, not a leadership, but a terror organisation," she said.

"Don't be mistaken, we experience difficulties, disagreements and major disputes like any other country on this globe. But it does not mean that we will not protect ourselves and our children, our homeland," the news anchor emphasised

Gaza, the senior US official

"Both of these things are critically important. We continue to talk to our Egyptian and Israeli allies about the importance of those things also with the UN," Dalton said.

"Hamas continues to engage in tactics like using tunnels under residential buildings to conduct their operations, holing up in hospitals and mosques and schools. This is a terrorist organisation with no regard for human life, with no regard for civilians. It is barbaric and brutal, and we've got to continue to call it out," he

## **WORLD BRIEFS**

UN TO REPATRIATE 9 PEACEKEEPERS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Lagos: The United Nations said it will repatriate nine peacekeepers from a South African contingent in eastern Congo who were accused of sexual assault and other abuse. The UN decided to immediately repatriate the peacekeepers and a senior officer of the South African army "due to the seriousness of the allegations against them," the organisation said in a statement on Friday. The senior officer allegedly tried to hinder a probe into the allegations and threatened other peacekeepers. Two other indicted senior officers will also be replaced, the UN said. More than 12,000 UN peacekeepers are deployed in eastern Congo, where more than 100 armed groups are active. The UN said its pre-liminary assessment found that the nine peacekeepers were "fraternizing after curfew hours" in prohibited bars where prostitution takes place. The soldiers were also alleged to have assaulted staff of the peacekeeping mission and the military police who were trying to arrest them, the statement added. South African authorities have indicated their "full cooperation, in particular through the deployment of a national investigator," the UN said, promising that victims would be assisted and that the peacekeeping mission would remain committed to upholding UN standards

11 SENT TO HOSPITAL AFTER AMMONIA LEAK IN CALIF Buena Park: An ammonia leak at a Southern California business sent 11 people to the hospital Friday morning, authorities said. The leak was reported shortly before 9.15 am in a commer-

cial building in Buena Park, the Orange County Fire Authority said. The building was evacuated and 12 people were decontaminated, with 11 being sent to hospitals where they were in stable condition, the fire authority said. A hazardous materials team determined that the chemical released was ammonia, firefighters said. Exposure to high levels of ammonia in the air can irritate the skin, eyes, throat and lungs and cause coughing and burns, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There was no immediate word on what caused the leak.

#### **FIVE KILLED IN MEXICO PRISON RIOT**

Mexico City: Five men were killed in a fight between inmates at a prison in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Tabasco, authorities said on Friday. Four of the five inmates killed in the riot late Thursday were on trial or serving sentences for rape, homicide or other violent crimes, the state police department said. Police said control of the prison had been regained, and that nobody else had been injured or escaped. About 16 prisoners were detained in relation with the killings. The police department blamed a 'fight between groups' from different cell blocks. But photos and videos apparently made by inmates and posted on social media suggested the dead men may have been killed in retaliation for extorting money from fellow inmates. If confirmed, it would not be the first time that prisons in Mexico have erupt ed in violence for similar reasons. Inmates who are apparently connected to gangs with members on the outside routinely try to demand protection payments from prisoners. The gangs threaten prisoners or their families with violence to enforce payment

## MAN CHARGED FOR BOMB THREAT ON FLIGHT

Singapore: An Australian man was charged on Saturday with making a bomb threat that forced a Scoot flight bound for Perth to turn back to Singapore and delayed a number of landings at the Changi Airport, including Indigo flight 6E1013 from New Delhi. Hawkins Kevin Francis, 30, was charged with the offence of making false threats of terrorist acts and remanded in the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), Channel News Asia (CNA) reported, citing court documents. If convicted, he may face a fine of up to Singapore dollars 500,000 (USD 364,830), a jail term of up to 10 years, or both. He will return to court on October 27. On October 12, the police were alerted to a bomb threat on board Scoot flight TR16. During the flight, the man had allegedly informed cabin crew members repeatedly that he was in possession of a bomb, the police said in a press release. By this time, the plane had already departed Singapore and it had to turn back due to the threat. The plane was escorted by two Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) fighter jets.

## **GUNMEN KILL 6 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN PAK**

Quetta: Gunmen shot and killed six construction workers overnight in the volatile south-western Baluchistan province, Pakistani police said on Saturday. Police officer Hidayatullah Dashti said gunmen opened fire overnight at eight construction workers in the city of Turbat, about 606 kilometres south of Quetta the capital of the province. Two survived, he said, and were hospitalised for treatment. Dashti said the workers were part of a private construction project in the city. No group immediate-Baluchistan has been the scene of a low-level insurgency by the Baluchistan Liberation Army and other separatist groups demanding independence from the central government in the capital, Islamabad. Baluch separatists also often target people from Punjab. Punjabi and Sindhi workers were previously targeted. Although the government says it has quelled the insurgency, violence in the province has persisted. Islamic militants also oper-

## **NOBEL-WINNING POET GLUCK DIES AT 80**

New York: Nobel laureate Louise Gluck, a poet of unblinking candor and perception who wove classical allusions, philosophical reveries, bittersweet memories and humorous asides into indelible portraits of a fallen and heartrending world, has died at 80. Gluck's death was confirmed on Friday by Jonathan Galassi, her editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux. She died of cancer at her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, according to her publisher. A former student of Gluck's, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Iorie Graham, said that the author had only recently been diagnosed. "I find it very much like her that she only learned she had cancer a few days before dying from it," Graham said. "Her whole sensibility — both on and off the page — was cut that close to the spine of time."

## CHOPPER CRASHES IN NEPAL. PILOT INJURED

Kathmandu: A helicopter from Nepal's Manang Air crashed in a mountainous region on Saturday, injuring its pilot, a senior official of the country's Civil Aviation Authority has said. The chopper 9N ANJ, which had taken off from Lukla near the Everest base camp to pick up passengers, slightly overturned and caught fire while attempting to land in Lobuche in North-East Nepal, said Jagannath Niraula, deputy director at Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal. Pilot Prakash Sedhai, who was the only person in it, sustained injuries, the officer said, adding that the injured pilot had been airlifted to Kathmandu for medical treatment. The reason for the crash has not been ascertained yet. Six people were killed in July after a Manang Air chopper crashed at Lamjura of Likhupike Rural Municipality in Solukhumbu district. The chopper, with Captain Chet Bahadur Gurung and five Mexican nationals aboard, had gone out of contact on the morning of July 11 and was later found crashed at Chihandanda of Lamjura which lies between Jiri and Phaplu.

# demonstrating for **Palestine arrested**

Lahore (PTI): Police have arrested supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan in various cities for carrying his party's flag, which is now a crime in Pakistan, during protests to express solidarity with Palestinians.

The police arrested at least 50 workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Friday who gathered in Lahore, Islamabad, Vehari, Multan and Gujranwala cities to express solidarity with Palestinians, the party said. Although different religious parties held pro-Palestinian demonstrations across the country only those carrying PTI flags were rounded up. The PTI has strongly condemned the use of state machinery and unlawful detention of peaceful protesters in various parts of the country, who were expressing solidarity and support for the war-rav $aged\ and\ besieged\ Palestinians.$ 

A PTI spokesperson termed the use of state machinery against the peaceful protestors as shameful, expressing his surprise that the citizens are being arrested for their sole crime of expressing solidarity and support for the oppressed Palestinians and carrying the PTI flags. He said it is the continuation of the state coercive policy based on political revenge since Khan was ousted from power in April last

"Denying the right of peaceful protests to the most popular party is shameful, reprehensible," he said, lashing out at the authorities for their doubled standards. Since the attack on military installations in different parts of the country by the PTI workers in early May in reaction to the arrest of Khan in a corruption case, the party has not been allowed by the military establishment to take part in any political activity. Över 10,000 PTI workers are reportedly in jail including Imran Khan.

# 50 Imran supporters | Ex-bizman Luxon wins New Zealand poll as voters seek conservative change

AP AUCKLAND

onservative former businessman Christopher Luxon will be New Zealand's next prime minister after winning a decisive election victory Saturday. People voted for change after six years of a liberal government led for most of that time by Jacinda Ardern.

and other Arab nations, and the

United Nations to surge sup-

port and humanitarian conse-

help Israel.

quences for Hamas attacks to

fact that the overwhelming

majority of Palestinians had

nothing to do with Hamas and

Hamas' appalling attacks, and

their suffering as a result, as

well. This morning, I spoke with the family members of all

those Americans who are still

unaccounted for, on a Zoom

agony not knowing what the

status of their sons, daughters,

They're going through

call, for about an hour and 10-

15 minutes," he said.

We can't lose sight of the

The exact makeup of Luxon's government is still to be determined as ballots continued to be counted. Luxon arrived to rapturous applause at an event in Auckland. He was joined on stage by his wife, Amanda, and their children, William and Olivia.

He said he was humbled by the victory and couldn't wait to get stuck in to his new job. He thanked people from across the country. "You have reached for hope and you have voted for change," he said. Supporters chanted his campaign slogan which promised to get the country "back on track."

Outgoing Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, who spent just nine months in the top job after taking over from Ardern in January, told supporters late Saturday he had called Luxon to concede. Hipkins said it

wasn't the result he wanted.

"But I want you to be proud of what we achieved over the last six years," he told supporters at an event in Wellington. Ardern unexpectedly stepped down as prime minister in January, saying she no longer had "enough in the tank" to do the job justice.

She won the last election in a landslide, but her popularity waned as people got tired of COVID-19 restrictions and inflation threatened the economy. Her departure left Hipkins, 45, to take over as leader. He had previously served as education minister and led the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

With most of the vote counted, Luxon's National Party had about 40 per cent of the vote. Under New Zealand's proportional voting system, Luxon, 53, is expected to form an alliance with the libertarian ACT Party.

Meanwhile, the Labour Party that Hipkins leads was getting only a little over 25 per cent of the vote — about half the proportion it got in the last election under Ardern.

And in a result that would be particularly stinging for Labour should it lose the seat, National was in a tight race for Ardern's old electorate seat, Mount Albert. The seat has long been a Labour stronghold and was also held by another former Labour prime minister, Helen Clark.

The National Party candidate for the seat, Melissa Lee, told The Associated Press she was feeling excited but also nervous about the final result in Mount Albert. "It's been Labour since 1946. It has been the biggest, safest Labour seat forever," she said. "It would be fantastic if we won it."

Lee said that when she was door-knocking, people had told her they were tired of the current government and were concerned with the state of the economy and the spiraling cost of living.

conservative pollster, said there was still a good chance that Labour would end up holding the seat once all the votes were counted. However, he said, his initial impression of voting throughout the country was that it was turning out to be a "bloodbath" for the left.

David Farrar, a longtime

Luxon has promised tax cuts for middle-income earners and a crackdown on crime. Hipkins had promised free dental care for people younger than 30 and the removal of sales taxes on fruit and vegetables. Also at stake in the election is the government's relationship with Indigenous Maori. Luxon has promised to axe the Maori Health Authority, which he says creates two separate health systems. Hipkins says he's proud of such co-governance efforts and has accused Luxon of condoning racism. Within days of taking the reins in January, Hipkins found himself dealing with a crisis after deadly floods and then a cyclone hit New Zealand.

# France deploying 7,000 troops after deadly school stabbing

 $F_{7,000}^{\rm rance}$  will mobilize up to roots to increase security around the country after a teacher was fatally stabbed and three other people wounded in a school attack by a former student suspected of Islamic radicalisation, the president's office said on

Some children and personnel returned to the Gambetta-Carnot school in the northern city of Arras as it reopened Saturday morning, after a schoolday attack Friday that rattled France in a context of global tensions over the Israel-Hamas war. Counterterrorism authorities are investigating the stabbing, and the suspected assailant and several others are in custody, prosecutors said. The suspect is a Chechen who had attended the school and had been under recent surveillance by intelligence services for radicalisation.

The government heightened the national threat alert, and President Emmanuel Macron ordered up to 7,000 soldiers deployed by Monday

to bolster security and vigilance around France, his office said. The "Attack Emergency" threat posture allows the government to temporarily mobilise the military to protect public places among other measures.

At the school Saturday morning, police stood guard as adults and children trickled in. Classes were cancelled, but the school reopened for those who wanted to come together or seek support. One mother said she came with her 17year-old daughter in a show of defiance against extremism, and to overcome the fear of returning to a site where children were locked down for hours after the stabbing. The attacker's exact motive remains unclear, and he is reportedly refusing to speak to investigators. For many in France, the attack echoed the killing of another teacher, Samuel Paty, almost exactly three years ago near his Paris area school. He was beheaded by a radicalised Chechen later killed by police.

attack had been under surveil-

picion of Islamic radicalisation, French intelligence services told the Associated Press. He was detained Thursday for questioning based on the monitoring of his phone calls in recent days, but investigators found no sign that he was preparing an attack, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin

French intelligence suggested a link between the war in the Middle East and the suspect's decision to attack, the minister said. He said authorities have detained 12 people near schools or places of worship since the Hamas attack on Israel, some of whom were armed and were preparing to act. France has heightened security at hundreds of Jewish sites around the country this week. The prosecutor said the alleged assailant was a former student there and repeatedly shouted "Allahu akbar," or "God is great" in Arabic during the attack. Prosecutors are considering charges of terrorism-related murder and The suspect in this week's attempted murder against the

## All registered parties eligible to take part in polls: Pak PM

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has made it clear that all political parties duly registered with the election commission would be eligible to take part in the upcoming election. His statement comes as doubts were being expressed about the fate of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party of jailed former premier Îmran Khan.

With clouds hanging over the political future of 71-yearold Khan, who is in jail over alleged violation of secret laws of the country, some political pundits feared a ban on his party for the May 9 violence.

However, Kakar told the media in Peshawar on Friday that his government was in no mood to stop from participating in the election any political party which was duly registered with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). "Every political party registered with the ECP is entitled to file [nomination papers] for its candidate," he said. The ECP has announced that general elections will be held in the last week of January.

## **Fierce fighting persists** in Ukraine's east

Kyiv (AP): Ukrainian officials reported intense combat, characterised by relentless assaults by Russian forces, as the ongoing attack on an eastern Ukrainian city of Avdiivka entered its fifth consecutive day on Saturday. "The enemy has not stopped either assaulting or shelling positions" around Avdiivka, city head Vitalii Barabash said on Ukrainian television.

Barabash also reported that Moscow was deploying additional forces to encircle the strategically important city in the eastern Donetsk region, situated just north of the Moscowheld regional capital, also called Donetsk. Around 1,600 civilians remain within the city, a stark contrast to its prewar population of about 31,000.

Barabash's comments came after Russia's UN ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, told a UN Security Council meeting on Friday that the intensified attacks in the east amounted to a new stage in Moscow's campaign in Ukraine. "Russian troops have, for several days now, switched over to active combat action practically throughout the entire front line ... The so-called Ukrainian

counteroffensive can therefore be considered finished," he said. But Ukrainian President Voloydymr Zelenskyy said earlier this week that Ukrainian forces were keeping Russian troops at bay and "holding our ground."

Further north, fighting along the northern stretch of Ukraine's eastern front has "significantly worsened" in recent days, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, commander of Ukraine's land forces, wrote on Facebook Saturday. Syrskyi, who visited troops in the area, said that Russian forces had regrouped following losses and were mounting attacks around the village of Makiivka and pushing towards the city of Kupiansk, with the goal of encircling Kupiansk and reaching the

Oskil River. Also on Saturday, a 60year-old woman was killed in Russian shelling of the city of Beryslav in Ukraine's partlyoccupied Kherson region. In Russia, the country's Defence Ministry said air defense systems shot down two Ukrainian drones over the Black Sea near the southern resort city Sochi on Saturday morning.

# 'Ring of fire' solar eclipse will cut across the Americas, stretching from Oregon to Brazil Portland (AP): A rare "ring of fire eclipse. When the moon clear skies — part of the US where the population hovers get a double treat in At the Cancun and fill their gas tanks in case hours at any given spot. The

fire" eclipse of the sun cuts across the Americas on Saturday, stretching from Oregon to Brazil.

cities along its narrow path, there was a mix of excitement, worries about the weather and concerns they'd be overwhelmed by visitors flocking to see the celestial event, also

called an annular solar eclipse. Unlike a total solar eclipse, the moon doesn't completely cover the sun during a ring of lines up between Earth and the sun, it leaves a bright, blazing border. Saturday's path: Oregon,

For the small towns and Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Texas in the US, with a sliver of California, Arizona and Colorado. Next: Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Brazil. Much of the rest of the Western Hemisphere gets a partial eclipse.

path could see clouds. NASA and other groups planned to livestream it.

With a chance of rain in its forecast, the small town of Reedsport near Oregon's Pacific Coast moved its eclipse festival inside so that a bounce house and games wouldn't get soaked in the mud.

"But we're still hoping that we might get a glimpse of it," said city official Rosa Solano.

Weather was less of a con-

Viewing all depends on cern in tiny Baker, Nevada,

around 100. Inn and general store owner Liz Woolsey made T-shirts and planned a slate of activities including a drum circle and a dance party. Her seven rooms have been booked for over a year. "For a little place, we're

putting on a good show," said Woolsey, who became an eclipse enthusiast after seeing the 2017 total solar eclipse that swept the US from coast to

Tens of thousands could

Albuquerque, New Mexico. For the city's annual air balloon fiesta, which ends this weekend, hundreds of colorful hot air balloons lift off around dawn, hours before the eclipse briefly dims the skies.
Colombia's Tatacoa desert

was playing host to astronomers helping a group of visually impaired people experience the eclipse through raised maps and temperature changes as the moon blots out

Planetarium, young visitors built box projectors to indirectly and safely view the ring of fire. The ancient Maya — who called eclipses "broken sun" may have used dark volcanic glass to protect their eyes, said archeologist Arturo Montero of Tepeyac University in Mexico

Towns and national parks in the path braced for a huge throngs. Officials in Oregon's Klamath County urged residents to stock up on groceries traffic backs up on its two-lane highways. Utah's Bryce Canyon

expected Saturday to be the park's busiest day of the year, spokesperson Peter Densmore said. Brazil's Pedra da Boca state park, known for its rocky outcrops for climbing and rappelling was also expecting crowds.

The entire eclipse — from the moment the moon starts to obscure the sun until it's back to normal — is 2 1/2 to three

ring of fire portion lasts from three to five minutes, depending on location. Next April, a total solar eclipse will crisscross the US in the opposite direction. That

hours at any given spot. The

one will begin in Mexico and go from Texas to New England before ending in eastern Canada. The next ring of fire eclipse

is in October next year at the southernmost tip of South America. Antarctica gets one in

# **'India continues to be fastest** growing large economy'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday made a case for a strong, quotabased and adequately resourced IMF at the centre of the global financial safety net and climate action. The 16th General Review of

Quotas (GRQ) is expected to provide greater say to developing economies in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). As per an IMF resolution, the 16th GRO should be concluded by December 15, 2023. Any adjustment in quota shares would be expected to result in an increase in voting rights of emerging countries in line with their relative positions in the



Participating in a breakfast mee-

ting of the IMF Board of Governors on the theme of 'Dialogue on Policy Challenges' in Marrakesh, Morocco, Sitharaman expressed concerns with regard to slowdown in global growth.

Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable to foster cooperation on debt issues and reforms in IMF policy to engage with members in debt distress.

"FM Smt. @nsitharaman reiterated commitment to a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at the centre of the global financial safety net, and climate action on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities," the finance ministry said in a post

nated response of the global community will foster multilateralism in the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' — One



Venture Highway

sells 1.5 per cent

stake in Meesho

Seed fund Venture Highway has sold 1.5 per cent of its

stake in e-commerce firm

Meesho at an estimated valua-

tion of about USD 3.5 billion, making a stellar 50-times return.

Venture Highways in a state-

ment said that it recently con-

cluded a secondary sale of its part stake in Meesho to

"The transaction resulted in a

return of over 50 times to VH for

its investment from its 1st vin-

tage fund into the company," VH

According to sources, VH sold

its 1.5 per cent stake in Meesho

at an enterprise valuation of about USD 3.5 billion. VH did

not comment on the amount

raised or enterprise valuation at

which the sale was conducted.

Venture Highway invested dur-

ing the seed stage in Meesho and

remains an investor in the

Softbank-backed e-commerce

The firm did not disclose further

"Having firmly believed in

Meesho's culture and founding

principles, it has been a pleasure

to be part of its journey since

inception. We have closely witnessed how the company dis-

rupted and transformed Índia's

online e-commerce landscape

with its unparalleled vision. We

continue to remain excited for

the company's success," Venture

Highway, Founding Partner,

Venture Highway, an early and

long-term backer of Meesho,

invested in the company's first

seed round over eight years

The firm continued to invest in

Meesho in subsequent rounds.

"We are very impressed by

Meesho's strong focus on provid-ing superior value to a large base

of Indian consumers. This has

resulted in them making rapid

strides in the fast-growing

Indian e-commerce market,

WestBridge Capital, Managing

Partner and Co-Founder at

Sandeep Singhal said.

Neeraj Arora said.

details of the transaction.

. WestBridge Capital.

said in a statement.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

#### **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN** Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Financial Services 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Paras Tower. Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK-248171 BEFORE THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II, DRT, DEHRADUN

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE** 

However, she said, India contin-

ues to be the fastest growing

large economy with a growth of

7.8 per cent during the first

With regard to escalating glob-

al debt vulnerabilities, she high-

lighted the importance of the

guarter of 2023-24.

Public at large is hereby informed that under mentioned property will be sold by E-auction sale on 30.11.2023 ir the under mentioned case for recovery of amount outstanding on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" & "As is Whatever" Basis" prospective bidders may apply for auction till 24.11.2023 up to 4.00 P.M. Amount Recoverable

Hospitality Pvt Ltd. & Ors. <b>RC No. 80/2023</b> 17.02.2022 & other chareges as per R.C. Drawn in O.A. No. 118/2022.				
Date of Auction: 30.11.2023 Last Date for Bids: 24.11.2023 upto 04.00 P.M				
Lot No.	Reserve Price	EMD amount	Bid Increase amount	Time of Auction
I	Rs. 6.60 Crores	Rs. 66.00 Lacs	Rs. 15.00 Lacs	12:00 Noon to 01:00 P.M.
П	Rs. 1.70 Crores	Rs. 17.00 Lacs	Rs. 10.00 Lacs	12:00 Noon to 01:00 P.M.
III	Rs. 1.05 Crores	Rs. 10.50 Lacs	Rs. 5.00 Lacs	12:00 Noon to 01:00 P.M.
IV	Rs. 4.80 Crores	Rs. 48.00 Lacs	Rs. 15.00 Lacs	12:00 Noon to 01:00 P.M.
(With each extension of 5 minutes duration every time if a bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time or				

Punjab National Bank V/s M/s S & N Life Style Rs. 19,02,82,276.24 plus interest @ 11.00% p.a. simple Interest yearly w.e.t

such extended time of auction.)

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES TO BE SOLD:** 

All that property forming part of 111/2 (old No. 111-A) Rajpur Road, Dehradun, total area measuring 901 sq. mt. havin covered area 445.00 sq mtr. Butted and bounded as under: East: Property of Mr. V.K. Gupta, SM 90 ft., West: Land of others, SM 50 ft, North: Land of Other, SM 128 ft, South Partly 36 ft, wide entrance and partly common area for use of

All that land bearing Khasra No. 390, corresponding old Khasra No. whereof is 196, area mesauring 1000 sq. yards o 836,43 sq. mtrs, or 0.0836 hectares situated at Mauza Sinola Central Doon District Dehradun, Butted and bounded as under: East: land of Smt. Deepa Singh, SM 62 ft, West: Common road, 28 ft, North: Land of Mrs. Jain, SM 127 ft + 41 ft. South: Land of Smt. Deepa Singh, SM 154 ft.

All that land bearing Khata Khatauni No. 112 (fasli Year 1417 to 1422) forming part of Khasra No. 936 Ka area measuring 490 Sq. Mts and Khasra No. 936 Kha 140.25 sq. mtrs or 0.140 Hectare total area measuring 630.25 sq. mt. or 750 sq yards or 0.0630 hectares situated at Mauza Chalang, Pargana Parwadoon District Dehradun. Butted and bounded a under: East: 39 ft wide road, west: Green Area, North: Green Area, South: Land of Tanveer Rashad Khar Lot No. IV

(a) All that land bearing Khata Khatauni No. 23 (fasli year 1420 to 1425) forming part of Khasra No. 164, area measuring 156.62 sq. mts or 0.0156 hect, Khasra No. 225 area measuring 15.00 sq. mtrs or 0.0015 hectare, Khasra No. 256 area measuring 40 sq. mtrs. or 0.0040 Hectare, total area measuring 211.62 sq. mtr. Or 0.0211 hectare situated at Mauza Kervan Karanpur, Pargana Parwadoon, District Dehradun. Butted and bounded as under: East: 15ft. wide road, West Land of Other, North: Land of others, South: Land others.

(b) All that land bearing Khata Khatauni No. 23 (fasli year 1420 to 1425) forming part of Khasra No. 308, area meas 16.00 sq. mtrs or 0.0016 hectare, Khasra No. 309 area measuring 100.00 Sq. mtrs. or 0.0100 hectare, Khasra No. 310 area measuring 100.00 sq. mtrs. or 0.0100 Hectare total area measuring 20.00 sq. mtrs. or 0.0216 hectare situated a Mauza Kervan Karanpur, Pargana Parwadoon District Dehradun. Butted and bounded as under: East: Land of others West: 15 ft wide road, North: Land of others, South: Land of others

(c) All that land bearing Khata Khatauni No. 06 (fasli year 1420 to 1425) forming part of Khasra No. 94, area measuring 43.00 sq.mtrs or 0.0043 hectare, Khasra No. 17 area measuring 124 sq. mtrs. or 0.0124 Hectare, Khasra No. 23 area measuring 235 sq. mtrs. or 0.0235 Hectare, Khasra No. 34 area measuring 40 sq. mtrs. or 0.0040 Hectare, Khasra No The starting 28 sq. mitrs. or 0.0008 Hectare, Khasra No. 8 Cha- Min area measuring 2470 sq. mitrs. or 0.2470 Hectare and Land bearing Khata Khatauni No. 20 (1420 to 1425 fasli) formign part of Khasra No. 08 Ga area measuring 120 sq. mtr. or 0.0120 hectare, Khasra No. 09 area measuring 800 sq. mtrs. or 0.0800 hectare, Khasra No. 10 area measuring 900 sq. mtr. or 0.0900 hectare and land bearing Khata Khatuni No. 19 (1420 to 1425 fasli) forming part of khasra no. 91, area measuring 36.00 sq. mtr or 0.0036 hect, khasra No. 93, area measuring 07.00 sq. mtr. or 0.0007 nectare, total area measuring 4783 sq. mtr. or 0.4783 hectare situated at Mauza Kervan Karanpur, pargana Parwadoo

**(d)** All that land bearing Khata Khatauni No. 20 (fasli year 1414 to 1419) forming part of Khasra No. 26, area measurinç 120.00 sq. mtr. or 0.0120 hectare, khasra no. 31 kha, area measuring 120.00 sq. mtr. or 0.0120 hectare, khasra no. 33, area measuring 120.00 sq. mtr. or 0.0120 hectare, khasra no. 25, area measuring 40 sq. mtr or 0.0040 hectare total area measuring 400.00 sq. mtr. or 0.0400 hectare situated at Mauza Kervan Karanpur, Pargana Parwadoon Distric Dehradun, butted and bounded as under: East: Land of sellers. West: Land of sellers. North: Land of Sellers. South

(e) All that land bearing Khata Khatauni No. 20 (fasli year 1414 to 1419) forming part of Khasra No. 8 Ka, area measuring 430.00 sq. mtrs or 0.0430 hectare and Khasra no. 8 Kha area measuring 570.00 sq. mtrs.or 0.0570 Hectare, total area measuring 1000.00 sq. mtr. or 0.1000 hectare situated at Mauza kervan Karanpur, pargana Parwadoon Distrit Dehradun Buted and bounded as under: East; Land of sellers. West; Land of Sellers. North; Land of sellers. South; land of sellers. The above properties are being sold in single lot at the reserve price of Rs. 4.80 Crores collectively for all of them.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1. The auction will be conducted by way of e-auction and bidding shall take place through Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://drt.auctiontiger.net. of M/s E-Procurement Technologi Ltd. (Auction Tiger) on 30.11.2023 between 12:00 Noon to 01:00 P.M. with extension of 5 minutes duration after

01:00 P.M. if required.

2. The Properties shall not be sold below the reserve price fixed here under

(a) The interested bidders are required to deposit EMD along with documents PAN Card, Identity Proof, Address Proof etc. and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the Board Members of the Company or any other documents. claiming representation/attorney of the company also, latest by 24.11.2023 before 4:00 PM in the office of the Recovery Officer, DRT, Dehradun and thereafter they shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 12:00 Noon to 01:00 P.M. on 30.11.2023. In case, bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, th osing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes

(b) The EMD shall be deposited by way of demand draft only favouring "Recovery Officer, Debts Recovery Tribuna Dehradun", in the office of the Recovery officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Second Floor, Paras Tower, Saharanpur Roac

(c) The relevant details for participation in the process of the e-auction are furnished hereunder for the information of th prospective bidders/participants & general Public.

Name of the service provider ortal of service provider

Helpline number

e-procurement technologies ltd. https://drt.auctiontiger.net +91-79-68136880/881/837/842, 09265562821, 09265562818, 09265562819 Email ID of Service provider support@auctiontiger.net

https://drt.auctiontiger.net For further detail contact: Office to The Recovery Officer, Debts Recovery Tribuna, Dehradun contact No. 0135-297407

and for property inspection contact Smt. Alka Anupam, Chief Manager, Punjab National Bank, Zonal Sastra, Zona Office Dehradun, Uttarakhand. 3. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be as mentioned above in the event of any dispute ar

to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auctior 4. The unsuccessful bidder shall take EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer, DRT, Dehradun Immediately o

closure of the e-auction sale proceeds. 5. The successful/highest bidder shall have to prepare Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount after

adjusting the EMD, favouring "Recovery Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Dehradun or through NEFT/RTGS to Current Account No. 7360878086, Indian Bank, ISBT Dehradun Branch, Dehradun, IFSC Code- IDIB000D557" by next bank working day i.e., by 04:00 PM with this Tribunal failing which the EMD shall be forfeited. The successful/highest bidder shall deposit through Demand Draft/Pay Order favouring "Recovery Officer, DRT

ehradun" or through RTGS to Current Account No. 7360878086, Indian Bank, ISBT Dehradun Branch Dehradun IFSC Code-IDIB000D557", the balance 75% of the sale proceed before the recovery Officer, DRT, Dehradun on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then or the first office day after the 15th day along with poundage @ 2% up to Rs. 1,000/- and @ 1% on the excess of such gros amount over Rs. 1,000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT, Dehradun. (In case of deposit or balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above).

7. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh

Proclamation of Sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit be forfeited to he Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property of to any part of the sum for which it ma subsequently be sold. 8. The highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser provided that the amount bid by him is not less than the reserv

price. It shall be in the discretion of the undersigned to decline/acceptance of the highest bid when the price offere pears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so. . The property shall remain open for inspection by prospective bidder on any bank working day after 03:00 P.M. The

Facilitation Officer, Smt. Alka Anupam, Chief Manager, Punjab National Bank, Zonal Sastra, Zonal Office Dehrad Uttarakhand will make necessary arrangement for inspection by the prospective bidders.

10. The property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "AS IS WHATEVER" BASIS. The

outstanding dues if any, of any authority on the property/Properties shall be borne by the au 11. There is no updated details of revenue/encumbrance or claim against the properties in the knowledge of undersigned at this stage. However, prospective bidders are advised to make their own due diligence w.r.t. dues

ectricity/water/house tax bills or any other encumbrance etc., in their own interest, before deposit of EMD. 12. The successful bidder shall bear charge/fee for conveyance, registration free, stamp duty, etc 13. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/postpone the sale without assignin any reason thereof subject to the provisions of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961. 14. The sale shall be subject to confirmation by Recovery Officer-II, Debts recovery Tribunal, Dehradun which can be

ancelled for any reason or without assigning any reason. 15. The Recovery Officer is empowered to add any part or take out any part of the property from the auction proceedings a

Recovery Officer-II, DRT, Dehradun

Growing e-waste opportunity for manufacturers: Tech product makers

The increase in the amount of e-waste generation is an opportunity for manufacturers, according to technology product manufacturers. E-waste is an electronic product

that is no longer needed, worn out, not working, or nearing the end of its utility for the user. These include wires to devices. "While e-waste is a growing environmental issue, this is an opportunity for manufacturers, customers and general public to come together and address the issue. At Dell, we employ closedloop strategies... To create new products by recycling select materials from out-of-use technology," Nick Abbatiello, DELL Technologies' Experience Innovation Group Senior Distinguished Engineer, said. As various parts of the world embrace sustainable lifestyles, companies are recognising the need for a circular economy, where one waste ends up reused to become another product.

sonal computers, smartphones, televisions, and wearable devices Lenovo — manages disposed of IT assets and data centre infrastructure through the Lenovo Asset Recovery Services. According to Lenovo India Director, Solutions and Services

Another manufacturer of per-



Group, Rohit Midha, "To minimise e-waste one way is to choose the right service provider who understands the technicalities of device disposal and offers options for recycling, and possible remarketing covering pan-India locations.

Lenovo said their sustainability efforts include incorporating recycled material in the product design, compostable packaging, energy efficiency in our products for optimising usage, and solutions to help retire assets responsibly and offset carbon footprint.

We've set ambitious targets and are taking the right actions to address climate change and drive a more circular economy. Our 2030 circular economy goals span the full lifecycle of our products — from design through manufacturing, shipConsumers play an important

role by returning old electronics, and Dell offers a variety of options to conveniently return and recycle end-of-life technology and support e-waste reduction," Abbatiello added.
"By 2025-26, we will have

enabled the recycling and reuse of 800 million pounds (362,874 MT) of end-of-life products (cumulative since 2005)... While 84 per cent of repairs can be done at the customer site, without having to send their PC to a service centre," Lenovo said. About 76 per cent of repairable PC parts returned to each service centre will be repaired for future use by 2025-26, it said. In India, nearly 300 Lenovo products include content from recycled electronics, the compa-



## Morale of industry at all time low: ICEA on Lava MD arrest

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Morale of the mobile manufacturing industry has hit an all-time low with the arrest of Hari Om Rai, founder of homegrown device maker Lava International, industry body ICEA said on Saturday.

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Rai in an alleged money laundering case against Chinese smart devices maker

'We understand that the morale of the industry has hit an all time low and national champions are feeling very demoralised. We want to assure them that we have full confidence in India's regulatory and judicial system and we are sure that he (Rai) will emerge from the clouds and continue to champion the development of our industry which is critical in building the nation," ICEA chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said in a statement. ED raided Vivo and its linked persons in July last year, claiming to have busted a major money laundering racket involving Chinese nationals and multiple Indian companies. The ED had then alleged that a

whopping Rs 62,476 crore was "illegally" transferred by Vivo to China in order to avoid payment of taxes in India.

ICEA said that Rai is one of India's tallest and most inspirational business leaders.

"His contribution in the massive growth in mobile phone manufacturing in India is well acknowledged by all the stakeholders which has resulted in creation of USD 44 billion mobile manufacturing ecosystem with more than I million new jobs. He made sure that Lava survived as a national brand and is the last man stand-

ing," Mohindroo said. Lava is the only Indian mobile phone company that has survived the post influx of Chinese device makers in the country with aggressive pricing.

The company currently has less than two per cent market share in the smartphone segment but per industry estimates.

ture 10 per cent market share in sub-Rs 30,000 smartphone seg-

## PVR INOX Ltd launches monthly subscription pass at ₹699 PVR INOX first addressed the

Leading cinema chain PVR INOX Ltd on Saturday announced a new initiative "PVR INOX Passport", a first of its kind movie subscription pass aimed at "irrigating the film industry" and motivating the consumers to frequently visit

As per the monthly subscription pass, which will be available from October 16, cinema goers will be able to watch up to 10 movies per month for just Rs 699. The offer will be applicable from Monday to Thursday, and excludes premium offerings like IMAX, Gold, LUXE and Director's Cut

Gautam Dutta, co-CEO of PVR INOX Ltd, said the company has been engaging with the customer base to know more about their movie watching habits.

'There is a sentiment, the consumers are saying that we love the movie experience and we love to come out to a cinema. slotting what are the event films and what are the movies that can be consumed on TV, iPad and

"So in their mind, 'Pathaan'. 'Jawan', 'Salaar', 'Leo', are some of



there are certain films that they really want to watch but don't mind waiting for them a little longer... So when we probed and said, 'why can't you come to a cinema hall every week?' They said it becomes expensive, Dutta told PTI. Such a trend is not healthy for

the film industry, especially for the mid-level and smaller budget films, believes Dutta.

The events films are becoming bigger and bigger and bigger. The smaller midsize films are getting squeezed out. So we needed to actually have a kind of a product that worked with back into the cinema, a lot more and which will propel better smaller films because we have close to about 13 to 16 films, which get released every week,"

the food and beverages, slashing their prices by 40 per cent recently. The film exhibitor also introduced food combos starting from Rs 99 from Monday to Thursday between 9 am and 6 pm, while on weekends it offered

consumers' concern regarding

The movie subscription plan is another step that will have a positive impact, Dutta said. "The fact is we wanted to truly

bottomless popcorn with "unlimited refills".

irrigate the market and get people who are coming to us once, twice or thrice in a month... More films will get consumed. More films will get produced. A larger audience will get created. And after some time, you will create this habit of consumers coming back to the cinema. So it's really a momentum shifter, not just a price promotion." Dutta also decoded the target audience of the movie subscrip-

tion offer, saying it is aimed at and senior citizens". "It's not (for) the time-poor and cash-rich people. It's the other way around. Time-rich and

cash-poor are my target audi-

ence," he said

leads the feature phone segment with about 25 per cent share, as Early this month, Lava Rs 600 crore in product devel-

opment and marketing to grow business about 5-fold and cap-

## D-Mart Q2 net profit down 9 per cent to ₹623.35 crore, sales up 18.7 per cent to ₹12,624 crore

PTI NEW DELHI

venue Supermarts Ltd, Awhich owns and operates the retail chain D-Mart, on Saturday reported a 9.09 per cent fall in consolidated net profit at Rs 623.35 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, as gross margins were impacted due to lesser contribution from general merchandise and apparel business.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 685.71 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, said Avenue Supermarts in a regulatory filing.

ations was up 18.66 per cent to Rs 12,624.37 crore during the quarter under review, as against Rs 10,638.33 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal. Avenue Supermarts' total expenses in O2/FY24 were at Rs 11,809.35 crore, up 18.97 per The total income of Avenue

Supermarts in the September guarter was at Rs 12,661.29 crore, up 18.61 per cent. For the first half of this fiscal,

Avenue Supermarts' revenue from operations was at Rs 24,489.81 crore and its net prof-



"PAT margin stood at 5.2 per cent in H1FY24, as compared to 6.4 per cent in H1FY23," it said. Avenue Supermarts CEO & Managing Director Neville Noronha said: "Q2 FY2024 saw revenue growth of 18.5 per cent,

as compared to the corresponding quarter of last year. 'Our gross margins continue to

be lower compared to the same period in the previous year, due to lesser contribution from the higher margin general merchandise and apparel business.' During the June quarter, D-Mart opened nine new stores taking the total count to 336.

D-Mart operates across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, NCR, Chhattisgarh and Punjab.

# 'Unsold housing stock dips in Q2 across top 9 cities'

Unsold housing stock fell 3 per cent in nine major cities during the July-September period to 5.08 lakh units, compared to the previous quarter, as sales were higher than supply, according to PropEquity.

According to a report by data analytic firm PropEquity, unsold housing inventories have fallen to 5,08,464 units at the end of the September quarter, as against 5,26,497 units as on June 30, this

During the July-September quarter, PropEquity data showed that housing sales were 1,15,904 units, while new supply was at 97,871 units across nine major cities. As a result, the number of

"Housing prices have been increase of 1 per cent in unsold climbing in major Indian cities homes to 54,404 units from

in post-COVID years. While this upward trend in capital values is attracting investors to India's key real estate markets, there is reduction in unsold housing stock," said Samir Jasuja, Founder & CEO of PropEquity. Housing demand is currently facing challenges due to appreciation in both prices and mortgage rates, he noted. "Going forward, if interest rates

on home loans remain stable or even soften in the coming months, we anticipate an increase in housing demand," Jasuja said. Among nine cities, unsold hous-

ing stocks rose 6 per cent in Hyderabad to 1,05,240 units in September quarter, from 99,589 units at June-end. Bengaluru saw a marginal

54,084 units during the period under review. Navi Mumbai too witnessed a 1

per cent rise in unsold housing stocks to 34,983 units, from 34,780 units. However, the number of unsold homes fell 6 per cent in Thane

to 1,04,959 units from 1,12,100

Pune witnessed a 10 per cent fall in unsold homes to 71,220 units, from 79,405 units, while Mumbai saw a 4 per cent drop to 61,142 units from 63,637

In Delhi-NCR, the unsold housing inventories decreased 7 per

cent to 37,356 units from 40,211

units. Unsold homes in Chennai

from 21,663 units. In Kolkata, the number of

unsold housing inventories declined 9 per cent to 19,112 units at the end of July-September period, as compared to 21,028 units in June-end of this year.

The data includes apartments, independent floors and villas/row houses.

On the housing market data, realty firm Ambience Group chief business officer Ankush Kaul said consumer sentiment continued to stay robust as the pandemic reshaped the importance of owning a home rather than renting one.

"Despite increasing interest rates and marginal property prices, there is still parity between the prices and affordability," Kaul

any stage.

16. That particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to be correct to the information of the undersigned. unsold homes fell

# Kylian Mbappé scores 2 as France qualify for European Championship

ylian Mbappé helped France seal qualification for next year's European Championship by scoring twice in a 2-1 win over the Netherlands on Friday for a perfect sixth win in

There had been talk before Friday's match at the Johan Cruyff Arena of the 24-year-old France captain being out of form after failing to score in four matches for Paris Saint-Germain, but international duty quickly put an end to the goal

Mbappé opened the scoring in just the seventh minute when he beat Lutsharel Geertruida to a cross from the right by Jonathan Clauss to volley past Brighton goalkeeper Bert Verbruggen, who was making his debut for the Netherlands.

It was Mbappé's 41st international goal, drawing him level with France great Michel Platini. France's all-time top scorer, Olivier Giroud, came off the bench in the second half but could not add to his 54 goals.

Mbappé doubled the lead in the 53rd minute when he exchanged passes with Adrien Rabiot on the edge of the Netherlands' penalty area before curling a shot over

Feyenoord midfielder Quilind-



schy Hartman, capped a strong first full international appearance with a goal when he made it 2-1 with 10 goal when he made it 2-1 with 10 minutes to go by beating Mike Maignan at the France goalkeeper's near post. It was the first goal World Cup runner-up France had conceded in the qualifying group.

The Netherlands' second defeat

to France in qualifying left it in third place behind Greece, which beat Ireland 2-0 Friday to move up to second. The Netherlands plays Greece on Monday in a match that could decide the second team to progress to next year's tournament in

Germany.

Substitute Donyell Malen thought he had cut the lead shortly after Mbappé's second, but his effort was ruled out because Nathan Aké was offside in the buildup.

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman gave debuts to Verbruggen and Hartman in his injuryabit start.

and Hartman in his injury-hit starting lineup that was without Barcelona playmaker Frenkie de Jong and striker Memphis Depay.

Bayer Leverkusen wing back Jeremie Frimpong became the third new international on the night for Oranje when he came on for Denzel Dumfries in the 62nd minute and Tottenham defender Micky van de Ven became the fourth debutant in the 80th minute when he replaced

The 27-year-old striker has now

scored eight goals for club and country

in 14 appearances this season. His

England call up came after hat tricks for

Villa against Hibernian in the Europa Conference League and Brighton in the

called up and didn't think I deserved it,

but now I am coming in confident in

There was a few times before I got

# Belgium, France and Portugal become the first teams to qualify for the 2024 European Championship

Kylian Mbappé and Cristiano Ronaldo both scored twice to help France and Portugal secure a spot at next year's European Championship with a perfect record in qualify ing, with Belgium also clinching a berth in Germany on Friday.

The three European powerhouses all needed a win to qualify for the tournament and their star strikers made sure they got

Mbappé's two goals including a long-range strike for the second — helped secure a 2-1 win over the Netherlands in Amsterdam for a perfect sixth win in Group B.

Mbappé opened the scoring in just the seventh minute when he beat Lutsharel Geertruida to a cross from the right by Jonathan Clauss to volley past Brighton goalkeeper Bert Verbruggen, who was making his debut for the Netherlands.

It was Mbappé's 41st international goal, drawing him level with France great Michel Platini. Mbappé doubled the lead in

the 53rd minute when he exchanged passes with Adrien Rabiot on the edge of the Netherlands' penalty area before curling a shot over Verbruggen. Feyenoord midfielder Quil-

indschy Hartman, in his first full international appearance, made it 2-1 with 10 minutes to go. It was the first goal France has conceded in the campaign. Greece moved up to the sec-

ond place with 12 points after Giakoumakis and Giorgos Masouras scored a goal a piece to beat Ireland 2-0 in Dublin. The Netherlands remains

on nine in third with a game in

The top two teams in each group directly qualify.

Ronaldo's double improved his record tally of international goals to 125 in 202 appearances and led Portugal to a 3-2 win over Slovakia.

Ronaldo converted from the penalty spot in the 29th minute, sending Slovakia goalkeeper Martin Dúbravka the wrong way to double the lead to

Forward Gonçalo Ramos had given the hosts the lead with a header 11 minutes earlier.

After David Hancko pulled one back for Slovakia in the second half, Ronaldo restored a two-goal advantage off a low cross from Bruno Fernandes that found him at the far post.

He jumped high in his trademark celebration in front of the roaring fans in Porto after his seventh goal in six qualifying games.

Stanislav Lobotka scored the second for Slovakia in the

With three games to go, Portugal has 100% record after seven straight wins with a 27-2 goal difference, the best-ever performance in a European qualifying campaign. Slovakia was the first team to score against Portugal.

"The objective has been achieved, the first half was extraordinary and in the second we could have scored more goals," Fernandes said. "Being in the European finals is the fulfilment of another dream.

Slovakia remains on 13 points in second with Luxembourg trailing by two in third after holding Iceland to a 1-1 draw in Reykjavik.

Bosnia won 2-0 at pointless Lichtenstein and is fourth on nine with Iceland another two

Romelu Lukaku scored again and Dodi Lukebakio added two more for Belgium, which had to hang on with 10 men to beat Austria 3-2 in Vienna and secure advancement from Group F.

Lukaku beat goalkeeper

Alexander Schlager to make it

3-0 after collecting a precise pass from Jérémy Doku in the 58th, just three minutes after Lukebakio scored his second. Lukaku tops the scoring

table in qualifying with nine goals from six games to take his international tally to 79. Lukebakio broke down the

right before netting inside the far post from a tight angel to put the Red Devils ahead in the 12th. It was the first international goal for the Sevilla forward.

"I was waiting for these goals for a long time," Lukebakio said. "I could not have thought of a better moment for my first Belgium

Konrad Laimer pulled one back for Austria in the 72nd and Belgium then went down to 10 men six minutes later when midfielder Amadou Onana was sent off for a second booking. Marcel Sabitzer netted Austria's second from the penalty spot in the 84th but the hosts couldn't find an equaliz-

Belgium has 16 points from six games, with Austria three points behind after its first loss

n qualifying. Sweden, which was idle Friday, is in third on six points from five games and still has a

small chance of overtaking Austria.

In the group's other game, Azerbaijan won 2-0 at Estonia to register its first victory and climb to four points.

# England beats Australia, hot streak continues with winning goal cross to the far post. Watkins slid in to meet it, break the deadlock and ultimate-

In the absence of Harry Kane, Ollie Watkins continued his hot goal-scoring form on Friday to lead England to a 1-0 win against Australia at Wembley

Watkins has already scored two hat tricks for Aston Villa this season and seized his chance to make an impression ahead of next year's European Championship as Three Lions coach Gareth Southgate named an experimental team for the friendly match. In his first appearance for his nation

in 19 months, he slid in to convert from close range in the 57th-minute for the only goal of the game as England warmed up for Tuesday's Euro 2024 qualifier against Italy with a win.

"I knew I wasn't going to come off this pitch without the goal, that was in my mind," Watkins said. Southgate showed his appreciation by

greeting the striker with a hug when he was substituted later in the match. Watkins is one of a host of forwards

hoping to make Southgate's squad for the Euros, should England qualify for the tournament in Germany. Along with the likes of Callum Wilson, Eddie Nketiah and Ivan Toney, he is competing to take

**AP** ■ LAS VEGAS

at the TPC Summerlin.

"Playing with the guys

But the biggest thing was seeing

the kids out there outside the

ropes and then meeting a few of the Shriners ambassadors. That

birdies in a 10-hole stretch,

only to make two bogeys toward

the end and missing a 6-foot

birdie putt on her final hole. She

had rounds of 73-69 to finish at

even-par 142, already two shots

out of the cut with half the 132-

player field still on the course in

ly well today," said Thompson,

who hit 12 of 14 fairways and only missed four greens. "As the

day went on, I tried to stay com-

mitted to my targets out there

and to my swing thoughts and

just enjoyed the whole experi-

"Very proud. I played real-

good scoring conditions.

Her golf was a close second

Thompson made five

was the most special."



the role of understudy to Kane, England's captain and all-time leading scorer. That is why games like this, with Kane among a host of regulars rested, take on extra meaning for the players who need to make a point to Southgate.

"It has been a long time coming. I have been waiting a long time for the next call up. I was looking forward to it and I wasn't going to let this opportunity slip,' Watkins said. "There's so many good forwards around scoring goals and it is about taking your opportunity when you are on

then again on his first start for his nation against Ivory Coast the following year.

He hadn't played for England since then, but his impressive club form earned him a second start and he was on the scoresheet again for his third international goal.

Alexander-Arnold's diagonal ball into the box found lack Grealish, who drove a low

Watkins had scored on his England debut against San Marino in 2021 and

Watkins capitalized when Trent

### myself off the back of good form," he said. "I was not nervous and just tried to perform in front of all these fans. I scored, it was a good night. Watkins was part of a much-changed

ly secure the win.

Premier League.

England team against Australia that ncluded a senior debut for Chelsea defender Levi Colwill. Sam Johnstone, Lewis Dunk, Fikayo Tomori and Jarrod Bowen were also named in the lineup as Southgate benched many of his regulars.

Watkins might have added another goal when he was fractions away from opening the scoring in the first half after taking the ball around Australia goalkeeper Mathew Ryan and hitting the post. Australia then came close to taking a halftime lead, but Dunk cleared Ryan Strain's shot off the line.

# Lexi Thompson makes bold run Indian sub-junior hockey teams excel in opening matches on Dutch tour

The Indian men's and women's sub-junior (U17) hockey teams began their maiden international tour on a positive note with victories against the Senior EDE teams in the Netherlands.

The women's team defeated the Senior EDE side 3-2, while the men's side thrashed their Dutch counterparts 8-0.

In the women's game, despite EDE taking the early lead, goals from Ravina, Karuna Minz, and Bhavya helped India fight back and lead 3-1.

The third quarter saw EDE reduce the deficit to 3-2, but a determined India ensured that there were no more defensive lapses in the final quarter.

Former India skipper and

out in the contest.

coach Rani Rampal said the resilience of the players stood

"On the pitch, their determination, teamwork and

resilience were truly inspiring.

This victory demonstrates that

we are on the right track. Of

course, the work is not finished the current women's sub-junior vet, and we have a lot more to do. But we are pleased with their performance because this victory reflects not only their abili-

> "We will carry on this momentum and strive for excel-

ties but also their heart and spir-

lence in the upcoming matches. The future of Indian women's hockey is bright," said Rampal.

The men's game saw comolete dominance from the Indian side with Aashu Maurya scoring the first goal followed by a hat-trick from Ajeet Yadav, a brace from Rohit Irengbam Singh, and goals from Srijan Yadav and Rahul Rajbhar.

Their performance on their first international tour illustrates their potential and the bright prospects of Indian men's hockey," said men's sub-junior coach Sardar Singh, the former

India captain.

The Indian sub-junior women's team will next play the Netherlands Girls' U18 side, while their male counterparts will take on the Netherlands

Boys' U18 side later today.

# Delhi Half Marathon: Asian Games silver medallist Kartik Kumar eager to compete with top-level runners

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ong distance runner Kartik Kumar, a Long distance runner at the 10000m silver medal winner at the Hangzhou Asian Games, said he wanted to expand his experience base while competing against international athletes during the 18th Delhi Half Marathon, scheduled to be held here on Sunday.

Kartik won the silver at the Asian Games with a timing of 28:15.38, while compatriot Gulveer Singh bagged the bronze clocking 28:17.21 in the 10000m race. "I am looking forward to competing with the international athletes in the

Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon. We can learn a lot from them, and it's fun to run with them as well. I am aiming for good timing, and it would be great if I



A total of 36,194 people are expected to participate in the Delhi Half Marathon, which offers a total prize money of USD 268,000 and the top 10 International Elite winners will take USD 27,000 each in men's and women's segments.

They can also pocket an additional USD 12,000 for creating a new Event Record.

The Indian elite winners in men's and women's categories will be richer by Rs 4,00,000 each. They will get an Event Record bonus of Rs 1,00,000, along with a performance bonus for those who finish under a certain time. Abhishek Pal, the Delhi Half Marathon

2018 winner, said, "This is my fourth Delhi Half Marathon. I am hoping to repeat my feat in the 2018 edition. I have prepared well and I am confident of having a good race on Sunday.

Sanjivani Jadhav, the defending Indian Elite Women's race champion, said: "I want to improve my personal best at the Delhi Half Marathon and defend my title. I am very excited about the run on Sunday."



Her 69 was one short of the record by a female on the PGA Tour - Michelle Wie twice shot 68 in the Sony Open, once as a 14-year-old when she missed the cut by one shot.

"I knew I had to play my A' game," Thompson said, adding that golf was only part of her being in Las Vegas. "Just coming into the week there was more of a message than just playing golf. To inspire the kids,

that's what I enjoy most."

Thompson looked as though she might be around for

She finished the opening round, which had been suspended by darkness, by missing a 20-foot par putt on the 17th hole and making a tough par save on the 18th for a 73. Then, she began her second nine with

American came to life. She stuffed her approach to 4 feet on the 11th for a birdie. She was just off the green on the par-5 13th and took two putts for birdie. She drove the 296-yard 15th green for a two-putt birdie.

Thompson made the turn and promptly holed a birdie putt from just inside 25 feet for birdie, and then she poured in a birdie putt from just inside 30

She was 4 under for the round through 11 holes, and 2 under for the tournament. "I knew once I had made a

few birdies in a row that I would be somewhat close, but I knew the cut line would keep on going lower and lower with these guys, especially with not that much wind out there," Thompson said.

ogey on the 10th hole.

But the 28-year-old my game and focused on my

swing thoughts, picking small targets and staying 100% committed."

It all changed with one swing - and one smart decision. Her tee shot on the par-3 fifth was well to the right into the native area, the pin toward the right side of the green. Instead of taking a big risk by trying to hit out of the desert, she took a penalty drop for a clean lie 98 yards from the hole and hit wedge to 5 feet to escape with

bogey.

Her hopes faded on the long par-3 eighth. Her 2-iron went just over the green, chipped weakly to 12 feet and missed the par putt. Needing a birdie on the par-5 ninth to have any chance, she chipped 6 feet by the cup and missed the putt.

The cut was at 1 under when she walked off the ninth green, but already was at 2 under after she had signed her card. Scoring conditions were ideal, and cut was not expected to come back.

Thompson was the sev-

enth woman to play on the PGA Tour. Babe Didrikson Zaharias

was the last to make a 36-hole

cut in 1945. This was never about winning. Thompson was 11 shots out of the lead after the first round, and Cameron Champ had posted a 12-under 130 after 36 holes midway through

the second round.

Even so, Thompson delivered a highlight in an otherwise rough year. She hasn't won on the LPGA Tour in more than four years, and she was in jeopardy of losing her LPGA card until posting a pair of top 10s before arriving in Las Vegas.

Thompson said she would

take the next few weeks off before returning to the LPGA in can do better than an international athlete, Florida for the conclusion of the Kartik stated in a media release.

# **ENGLAND LOOKS TO BETTER RUN RATE AGAINST AFGHANISTAN**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Their campaign back on track after the humiliating loss in the opener, title holders England the opener, title holders England would look for a dominating allround effort against a battered Afghanistan in the World Cup here on Sunday, with eyes firmly set on bettering their net run rate Defending champions England's campaign started on a disappointing note as they lost by nine wickets against New Zealand in the tournament opener in Ahmedabad on October 5.

But the Jos Buttler-led side bounced back in style, humbling Bangladesh by 137 runs in Dharamsala on Tuesday.

Despite putting up a competitive 282 for nine in the opener at a batting-friendly Narendra Modi Stadium pitch, England bowlers were taken to the cleaners by Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra as New Zealand romped home in 36.2 overs.

But England made a superb comeback in their next match with both the batting and bowling departments clicking in uni-

It was not the batting unit which was the cause for concern for England against New Zealand, but their bowling, comprising Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, Sam Curran, Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid, which looked ordinary when Conway and Ravindra bat-

But in their next match against Bangladesh, England showed their might with a clinical perfor-

Opening the batting, Dawid Malan smashed 140 off 107 balls, while Joe Root continued his fine form with consecutive halfcenturies. Jonny Bairstow too contributed a valuable 50 up the

They would be banking on another good start from their openers to post a massive total on a flat pitch at the relatively smaller Arun Jaitley Stadium that has witnessed huge scores in all the matches it has hosted so far in the tournament.

Besides, skipper Buttler, Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone would also want to mark their arrival in the tournament with substantial contributions in the



England's decision to replace an ineffective Moeen Ali with Reece Topley paid rich dividends against Bangladesh as the left-arm pacer inspired the bowling attack with figures of 4/43 from his 10 overs. Woakes, Wood, Curran and Rashid all returned to form and, not just were they economical, they also picked up wickets. England would look for a repeat performance from its players.

England would not just look for a victory against Afghanistan but would also want to win the match handsomely to boost their net run rate (NRR), which took a beating

in their opener. The Afghans, on the other hand, are low on confidence after successive defeats.

Dark-horses Afghanistan lost by six wickets against Bangladesh

before they were thrashed by hosts India by eight wickets. Come Sunday, they would look for a reversal and cause the first upset of the tournament.

But it is easier said than done. Afghanistan's concern lies in all departments of their game. In their first outing against Bangladesh, the batters faltered, making a below-par 156. Then, against a batting-heavy India, the bowling attack fumbled despite posting a competitive 272 for

Afghanistan's main concern is the performance of their openers. In the two matches they have played so far, both the openers, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, have failed to provide a decent start, which resulted in the team's downfall. After a below-par show in their opener, skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi and Azmatullah Omarzai rose to the occasion with half-centuries to post a decent total on the

board against India. But Shahidi would desperately want his openers to take the responsibility upfront.

Afghanistan's bowling too looked ordinary in both the matches and the team would look for a muchimproved outing from the likes of Fazalhaq Farooqi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Naveen-ul-Haq and Rashid Khan in the upcoming games to match the might of teams such as England, New

# Williamson soaked up some pressure with his knock

New Zealand pacer Trent Boult conceded that returning skipper Kane Williamson made the job of winning against Bangladesh in their ODI World Cup match here easier by "soaking up some pressure".

Williamson, 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, scored 78 as the Kiwis made light of the 246-run target and defeated Bangladesh by eight wickets.

Williamson was out for five months, having suffered the ACL injury during IPL 2023.

The skipper came at a time when New Zealand had lost opener Rachin Ravindra for 9 and he then built a strong 80run partnership with Devon Conway to lay the platform for the Kiwi win.

"He's very comfortable out there in the middle, and yeah, quality knock after six or so months off. Great to have him back, and obviously a key player for us, said Boult during the postmatch press conference.

"The guy's very comfortable at the crease, very familiar with ing up some pressure at the start to begin with.

"But yeah, he plays good cricket shots, puts pressure on the bowler and generally that's a pretty good recipe. However, Williamson was hit on

the thumb during a Bangladesh fielding effort, which saw him retire hurt at 78. It is learnt that the skipper will

undergo scans on Saturday. The Chepauk track for the encounter assisted the pacers with some bounce, unlike the one that was slow during the

India-Australia tie.

"I think you can always gauge a wicket by the nets in a way, and I thought the nets were very good. It's hot; I thought the wicket was very hard and offered a little bit of pace, which is probably not the description you normally take coming here to Chennai," added the pace bowler who took two wickets in

the match. Pacer Lockie Ferguson was the star of the Kiwi bowling attack, grabbing three wickets, and Boult backed him to play a sig-

nificant role deeper into the competition.

how he wants to play his crick-et And veah touched on soak-150K and has some great skills. It's nice to see him get some reward today (Friday

"He's very clever with his plans. And, he likes to attack in the role that he's in. Hopefully, he's going to play a big role for us over the next couple of weeks." The New Zealanders play Afghanistan next here before moving to Dharamsala for matches against India and Australia.

Boult affirmed that playing two matches at a venue does give them breathing space.

"I think the way the draws panned out for us to be able to settle into the same venue a couple of times is probably a positive. Those conditions are going to be the big challenges as you move around the country.

"But yeah, obviously each venue brings a different opposition. Big match again against Afghanistan with some guys that know these conditions very well as well.

"So, we'll go away and have a bit of a chat, but understanding those conditions and understanding how to, I suppose, bowl and take the game deep with the bat is going to be a big thing, "Lockie plays a huge role for us he signed off.

## Top order needs to bat more responsibly, says Najmul The pitch at Chepauk was a bit

PTI CHENNAI

Rangladesh vice-captain asked his batters, especially the top-order, to "bat more responsibly" as his side lost its World Cup match to New Zealand here by eight wickets.

Bangladesh have lost two of the three matches in this World Cup with the main concern being their top-order's inability to score runs and challenge the big teams in the tourna-

they While defeated Afghanistan in a low-scoring opening match, they came up woefully short against defending champions England, who won by 137 runs, and New Zealand, who won hands down

here on Friday. The Asian side could only post 245 here, which the Kiwis overhauled in just the 43rd over for the loss of two wickets.

"We do always plan how to bat, but we should bat more responsibly. There is always a challenge for the top order, especially with the new ball," said Najmul during the post-match press conference.

The top-order batter himself scored just seven runs in the



However, he expressed confidence of a comeback from the side, currently placed sixth on the 10-team table with two "Obviously, we can make a

comeback from here. All we need to do is to give a reasonable total for our bowlers to defend. More than pondering

about what to do, it's vital to know how good are we playing." Also, while defending the paltry total, experienced skipper Shakib Al Hasan surprisingly bowled out his quota of spin bowling quite early.

Explaining the logic behind that, Najmul said: "We did not score enough runs and did not bat well, so we needed early wickets. The pacers did bowl well, while the reason Shakib bowling his spell quickly was to gain quick wickets." Providing an update on Shakib's

condition, who seemed to be struggling while batting, Najmul said that the skipper had gone for scans for a left quad niggle.

different than the one offered for the India-Australia match, as However, Najmul said it didn't come as a surprise to the team "Not really surprised by the track; the wicket looks pretty good. We didn't bat well. Had we scored at least 280-300, we could have defended it."
One of the notable things about Bangladesh in this tournament

has been their batting order, which has not been stable and seen a bit of shuffling. Najmul said that while the captain and the coach decide the

batting order, he and every member in the side should be comfortable and ready to bat in any given position.

"I am always ready to bat at any position as per the team's requirement. I have scored runs in the past at number four. But, it is the captain and the coach who decide the batting order. Everyone in the team must be ready to bat at any position and any given match.

Everyone in the team is informed beforehand about which position they would be batting in a particular game. It was this very move that allowed us to score a decent total against Afghanistan," he said.

# Exciting to be able to test our skills against the best: Pothas on India game

PTI ■ CHENNAI

 $B_{\text{Nic Pothas rated India as the}}^{\text{angladesh assistant coach}}$ best team in the world and called it a great opportunity for its side to test its skills against the hosts in the ongoing Cricket World Cup. The Tigers have lost two of their opening three ties, with the latest defeat coming to New Zealand here on Friday.

The Bangladeshis have nearly a week to prepare for the fixture against the Indians in Pune on Thursday.

"Where do I start? They are the best team in the world, and they are in their own conditions.

From our point of view, it's exciting to be able to test our skills against the best," Pothas said during a media interaction on Friday after failure against the Kiwis

Describing how Bangla-desh can regroup before the vital India clash, he noted, "We have a good rest, because the games here at the World Cup come thick and fast with high pressure, and these games take a lot out of you.

"The danger is you might think more practice helps, but it does not. We will be giving the players a good amount of mental and physical rest while



preparing to play against India." When asked about the reason for the Tigers' batters' below-par show against the New Zealanders, Pothas clarified that the players need to be at their best, with no time and freedom.

"When you are playing against high-quality attacks, you have to be at your game; there's no time. Also, there's no freedom to be able to find your game." Elucidating the shortball tactic by NZ, Pothas voiced, "No, not at all (surprised). Lockie Ferguson has got pace, (and he got it) as soon as the ball carried early."

New Delhi, October 15, 2023

# The pioneer of the pi

Be happy with being you.
Love your flaws. Own your
quirks. And know that you
are just as perfect as
anyone else, exactly as
you are





# BLACK HOLE OF NEPOTISM

Kerala University, once envisioned by Sir CP Ramaswami Aiyar for quality education, now grapples with scandals and declining standards. Political favoritism, subpar theses, and controversial appointments plague the system. Scholars call for reform as the legacy of excellence gives way to a grim reality of nepotism and educational decay, writes **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** 

ir CP Ramaswami Aiyar, former Diwan of the princely State of Travancore, may be turning in his grave if he were to read about the happenings in Kerala University, which he founded in 1937. All colleges in the provinces of Travancore, Kochi, and Malabar (predecessors to present-day Kerala) were affiliated with Madras University until 1937, which had made higher education inaccessible for students from average and middle-income families. When the university was launched as Travancore University (its name was later changed to Kerala University after the formation of the State of Kerala), Sir CP brought in the best teachers in the country as faculty members. He even approached Albert Einstein with an offer of Rs 6,000 per month as salary to head the physics department. However, for reasons best known to him, Einstein preferred to join Princeton University in the US

Gone are the days of the Maharaja of Travancore and the Diwan. Sir CP, who aimed to establish a modern Kerala, faced a multitude of calumnies from vested interests, and there was even an attempt on his life. Immediately after the country was liberated from the shackles of colonialism, Sir CP tendered his resignation and returned to his ancestral house, The Grove in Chennai. Soon after the swearing in of the popular governments, Kerala University began its descent into an abyss. The institution has fallen into a Black Hole. Not only Kerala University, but all universities in the State have become cesspools of political manipulations, favoritism, and the appointment of near and dear ones of comrades to senior positions and teaching posts. The

appointment of the wives of CPI(M) minister MB Rajesh, Speaker Shamseer, and Chief Minister's secretary Rakesh in violation of all norms has reached the Supreme Court. Most universities are functioning with temporary vice chancellors following the standoff between the CPI(M) Government and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan. The Governor, famous for his no-nonsense approach to all issues and a stickler for norms, has questioned the double standards of the CPI(M) in the selection of vice chancellors, which has infuriated the commissars and comrades. What comes next is literally shocking. The degrees, especially the PhDs in humanities, represent the pinnacle of callousness, irresponsibility, nepotism, and spinelessness among the senior staff members. Chintha Jerome, the youngest CPI(M) state committee member, obtained a PhD in English literature by submitting a thesis riddled with spelling and grammar mistakes, as well as factual errors. She couldn't differentiate between Vailoppilli Sreedhara Menon and Changampuzha Krishna Pillai, two romantic poets in the Malayalam language. Even schoolchildren in Kerala are familiar with the significant works of Changampuzha and Vailippilli. Addressing them as Vailoppalli and Krishna Menon is an unpardonable error. Despite her thesis being packed with factual errors, grammatical and spelling mistakes, university authorities gleefully awarded her the PhD. There is a clamour for PhDs among students, as a research degree is essential for a teaching profession according to University Grants Commission guidelines. The Higher Education Department of the Kerala Government has discarded the UGC's

directives in the selection procedures for faculty and awarding of doctoral degrees. Jerome has become the subject of jokes on social media due to her subpar English speeches. "There is nothing surprising in the British leaving India in haste, as they were taken aback by the way we speak English," remarked an academic in the State. Chintha's case is not a "flash in the pan" example of a substandard doctoral thesis. Sunil Elayidam, a professor at Sree Sankara Sanskrit University, obtained a PhD in Malayalam language only after the intervention of a Marxist minister who requested that he be awarded the doctoral degree. The examiner who reviewed Elayidam's work candidly admitted that the thesis was substandard and did not meet the minimum requirements for a creative

work.
He had already made headlines for plagiarising "Bharatanatyam, A Reader", a work by Davesh Soneji, a social historian based in the US working in the field of performing arts. This earned him the nickname "Suniladi", rhyming with "Coppiyadi", Malayalam for copying an original work. Many Marxist leaders in Kerala consider a PhD a status symbol, granting access to the intellectual elite.

"A PhD in the field of art and literature should embody creativity, and the thesis should serve as a reference point for researchers and critics alike," said Professor Ravi Shankar S Nair, an avant-garde critic in Malayalam literature.

Professor Nair, who meticulously evaluates all PhD theses in the state, highlighted a recent "research work" by a student of Sree Sankara Sanskrit University at Kalady. He remarked that the thesis, titled "Onam: A Cultural Analysis", is of lower quality

SREE SANKARA SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY AWARDED A PHD TO A MARXIST LEADER FOR HER THESIS, WHICH IS RIDDLED WITH ERRORS. PRINCY KURIAKOSE WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE KERALA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, CLAIMED IN HER THESIS THAT ADI SANKARA LIVED DURING THE PERIOD 1800 TO 1900. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS MISTAKE THE VICE CHANCELLOR WHO OVERSAW THE RESEARCH TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT. "SEE, I AM TRAVELING AND DID NOT SEE ANY REPORTS ABOUT THIS INCIDENT. LET ME GET BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY AND

STUDY THE ISSUE," SAID DHARMARAJ ADAT, THE

THEN VICE CHANCELLOR

Government-funded Onam-Tourism week with enthusiasm. There is no permanent crowd for this festival; it is a mobile crowd. Since food is freely distributed by temples, all hotels remain closed... these are the findings for which the 'researcher' has been awarded the Ph.D.!" stated Professor Nair.

Appalled by the decline in the quality of higher education, CK Anandan Pillai, a septuagenarian scholar and chief editor of Sahitya Vimarsam, a quarterly magazine, sent a questionnaire to ten academics in the State regarding the selection process of faculties pursued by university authorities and the quality of research theses. All those who responded to Pillai's inquiries were unanimous in their belief that the selection of

than an essay authored by a high

school student. "The main findings of

this PhD thesis assert that thousands

of people participate in the Kerala

questionnaire to ten academics in the State regarding the selection process of faculties pursued by university authorities and the quality of research theses. All those who responded to Pillai's inquiries were unanimous in their belief that the selection of faculties in universities is the most significant scam of modern times. "Most of the PhD theses submitted to the universities lack the value of the papers on which they are written. Dustbins are the ideal place for them," remarked RS Sasikumar, an academician with more than three decades of experience. According to KV Thomas, an educationist, PhD theses could be described as the best comedies. "Since none but the candidate reads these creations, there are no complaints," added Thomas. Rasheed Panoor, a teacher with a three-decade-long outstanding track record, suggested that Kerala may be the only State in India where the appointment of vice chancellors is based on caste, community, and religion.

True to what Rasheed has said, the names of vice chancellors are discussed in the liaison committee of the Left Democratic Front before being presented to the Governor. Sasikumar and his fellow academics have formed a Save University Campaign Committee and submitted a memorandum to Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, who is leading a battle against the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government, requesting him to intervene immediately to rescue the higher education sector in the State from the shackles of Marxists. As this article is being written, yet another PhD scandal has come to light, this time from Sree Sankara Sanskrit University in Kerala. The university awarded a PhD to a Marxist leader for her thesis, which is riddled with errors. Princy Kuriakose, who has been appointed as a member of the Kerala Public Service Commission, claimed in her thesis that Adi Sankara lived during the period 1800 to 1900. When asked about this mistake, the vice chancellor who oversaw the research took the easy way out. "See, I am traveling and did not see any reports about this incident. Let me get back to the University and study the issue," said Dharmaraj Adat, the then vice chancellor. The Malayalam term for University

is "Sarva Kalaa Saala", which means an institution that encompasses all forms of arts. However, Anandan Pillai suggests that the ideal Malayalam term should be "Sarva Kalla Saala" (a comprehensive institution for all kinds of thefts -'Kalla'). There have been instances in the past where individuals going to oil-rich West Asian countries managed to secure employment by presenting wedding invitation letters to Sheikhs as if they were degree certificates from engineering colleges. Welcome to God's Own Country.

(The writer is Chennai-based Special Correspondent of The Pioneer)

# STATES STEAL A MARCH

A Parliamentary panel that looked into the implementation of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA) has recommended the Centre to consider emulating the best practices/innovation being implemented by some States/UTs to curb the deadly infection. ARCHANA JYOTI gives a glimpse of these pioneering approaches being adopted in some pockets of the country. India has kept 2025 as the TB elimination target

fficials in the Union Health Ministry agree that the practices mentioned in the reports have been designed in response to specific problems in various geographies to address health system- related challenges. "Yes, we are looking into ways to replicate such ideas where these can be implemented," said an official. For instance, the involvement of

Neighbourhood Groups and Self-help Groups in TB control activities, as undertaken in Kerala, can prove a silver bullet to curb the menace in other states with the active participation of women where the disease is mired with the stigma and unawareness.

The parliamentary committee was equally appreciative of an integrated approach through workplace policies similar to the employer-led model of BEST, Mumbai. It said it must be encouraged in all public and private organisations.
TB is a silent killer that affects

over 2.7 million people in India. Those with lifestyle disorders like diabetes, and lung and kidneyrelated diseases are vulnerable to

## **INNOVATIVE MODELS**

Nalumanipookal (Flowers that bloom at 4 o'clock) is an innovation conceptualised in Kerala, combining community participation and peer education to fight against TB stigma. Neighbourhood groups (NHGs) of women were formed to target TB- free neighbourhoods.

Handbooks with 51 information regarding TB in the local language were given to 12,536 NHGs, which were to be discussed by the NHG leader with the group of 10-15 women assembled in the weekly meeting. This has catered for making TB a household discussion topic and helped screen family members through the NHG members. Similarly, Nupaal sample collection unit is a microenterprise by a group of women spearheading a cost-effective sputum hub and spoke mechanism in the

When the direction for upfront molecular testing came from the state TB cell, the challenge was to find a cost-effective and efficient way of arranging sputum transportation across the Idukki district from the periphery to the nearest NAAT site, where 90% of the area is covered by forests and mountainous terrains with activities through programmatic collaborations



women agreed to be sputum transporters trained and provided with customised bags to hold the tubes containing the sample from the periphery to the molecular testing sites. This has ensured giving upfront molecular testing to all vulnerable groups at a very economical cost of transportation.

Employer-led model for TB and Diabetes care in Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST), Mumbai, is an exemplary model that can be emulated in other

BEST intensified TB and diabetes screening

District TB Control Society of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Timely transportation of sputum samples and TB drugs is a challenge in the mountainous terrain of Himachal Pradesh. In the Mandi district, an MoU was executed with a private service provider company for the use of a drone for the transportation of sputum sample and TB drugs between the district centre at Mandi and the block reduced both transportation time and operational costs to one-fourth.

## **IITTAR PRANESH**

The State Government is observing the 15th day of every month as Ni-kshay Diwas across all health establishments, including private 2022.

practitioners. Under the initiative, the following activities inter alia were envisaged: attempted to refer 10% of total OPD cases for presumptive TB testing, enrolment on the Nikshay platform, private practitioners encouraged to notify TB cases and retrieval of lost to followup patients with involvement of gram pradhans and ASHA workers. This resulted in the examination of 31,030 pre-

sumptive cases, diagnosis of 1312 TB cases and retrieval of 1142 lost to follow-up patients across 52 the state in two rounds of Ni-kshay Diwas during December 2022 & January 2023.

In Tamil Nadu, the FAST (Find, In Tamil Nadu, the FAST (Find, Assess, Support and Treat) centre is being organised as a single window system for notification of patients diagnosed with TB, linkage for public health actions and treatment adherence support to ensure standards of TB care as well as enhance the participation of all private hospitals and profesof all private hospitals and professional organisations in TB control activities.

It is seen that notifications from FAST centres have increased by 47% as compared to an increase of 19% in non-FAST centres during the period from 2019 to 2022.

### **WEST BENGAL**

A systematic and structured approach to TB death analysis within the ambit of Tuberculosis Death Surveillance & Response, has been initiated.

It captures all TB deaths both from public and private sector, identify level of delays (both at community & facility level), ascertain knowledge, attitude and health seeking behaviour in the community regarding TB disease, socio-demographic factors related to TB deaths and take corrective measures to avert such deaths in future.

Officials say, TB-DSR process envisages prompt reporting of TB deaths within 24 hours in a prescribed First Investigation Report format, conducting community-based review by a team of fieldlevel workers led by a MO and a facility-based TB death review within the stipulated time frame of 21 days. Thereafter, districts and a few select cases are reviewed by District Magistrate in presence of relatives of the deceased.

The officials further said, the identified preventable causes are being addressed. TB death rate has declined from 6% in 2021 to 5% in

## **HEALTH BRIEFS**

## **DOCS REMOVE BENIGN TUMOR USING ROBOTIC SURGERY**

Using robotic surgery, doctors at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi have successfully removed a hemangioma -- a benign tumour made up of blood vessels -- from the base of the tongue of a 33-year-old patient, hailing from Bihar. He had been complaining of blood stained saliva, difficulty in swallowing, and difficulty in swallowing, and difficulty in breathing at night.

The doctors first performed an endoscopy of the throat and identified a mass in the back side of his tongue.

They felt that the growth could be of two types, a neoplastic tumour (characteristic of cancer) or a benign hemangioma.

Hemangiomas at the base of the tongue are extremely challenging to treat due to the

risk of severe bleeding during surgery," said Dr. Kalpana Nagpal, Senior Consultant, ENT and Robotic Surgery, at

the hospital.

Normally, blood is arranged in the blood bank prior to surgery, but this was not required since it was robotic. required since it was robotic

The robotic technology did not involve any cuts in the front of the neck and the 3D vision and magnification, used by Nagpal allowed for precise and minimally invasive removal of the heman-

Unlike traditional surgical methods, the robotic surgery resulted in almost no blood loss and zero visible scarring. The patient also did not require a tracheostomy or

## **MOBILE APP FOR EFFICIENT** MANAGEMENT OF BICYCLE FLEET



In a move aimed towards promoting sustainable transportation, AIIMS-Delhi has come up with a mobile application for the efficient management of its recently-introduced fleet of over 1,000 bicycles as part of the Green AIIMS initia-

The move is aligned with AIIMS-Delhi's commitment to sustainability, promoting a healthier environment and reducing carbon footprint, Director Dr M Srinivas said. The hospital received feedback that emphasised the need for a modern, technology-driven solution to efficiently manage and monitor the bicycle inventory and streamline the process of their issuance and deposit.

"In response to this feed-AIIMS-Delhi announces the development of a state-of-the-art mobile application, which is slated for completion by November 30," said Prof Dr Rima Dada, the media cell in-charge

## **'IKRIS RUN' FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS HELD**

Hundreds of passionate individuals, athletes, and supporters participated on October 11 in the IKRIS Pharma's "Ikris Run 2023" held in Noida with an aim to create awareness about the breast cancer. Dr (Prof) Meenu Walia, Senior Oncology, Max Hospital said a statement here.

was the chief guest at the event organized by the IKRIS Pharma Network, a rare disease and innovator drug access facilitator, along with Sattva Shilp and Noida Entrepreneurs Association. The run also aimed promoting the importance of early

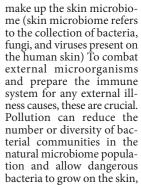
## **AIR POLLUTION CAN TAKE TOLL ON YOUR SKIN**

Astitch in time can save nine. This holds true for our appearance as well, dermatologist says Dr Chandni Jain Gupta, who heads ELANTIS Healthcare She advises one must urgently address skin damaging culprits before it's too late. Human skin can suffer serious consequences from pro-longed air pollution exposure. Severe impacts on human skin can result from prolonged exposure to dif-ferent air pollutants and elements that contribute to air pollution such as UV radiation, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, oxides, particulate matter, ozone,

and cigarette smoke. Through oxidative damage, air pollutants alter the way lipids, deoxyribonucleic acid, and proteins in human skin function. This results in wrinkles, premature skin ageing and inflammatory or allergic disorders such contact dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, acne, and skin cancer The skin's living tissues and cells are weakened by oxidative damage, which also makes you more susceptible to certain skin conditions and speeds up the premature ageing process. The term "oxidative damage" refers to an imbalance between unstable chemical molecules found on our skin and antioxidants that can damage our skin cells.

The ageing process of the skin is accelerated by an extended state of oxidative damage resulting in texture changes and wrinkle for-

mation on skin. Millions of different types of bacteria, fungus, and viruses live on human skin and



DR CHANDNI JAIN GUPTA

Ćutibacterium acnes can develop in an airless, oily and sticky environment caused by pollution particles physically settling on the skin and blocking pores. How to protect your skin from air pollution? There are

which can result in a num-

ber of skin conditions. One

of the main bacterial strains

responsible for inflammato-

a variety of ways one can protect the skin from ageing due to air pollution. The problem occurs when we're exposed to chronic or high levels of airborne pollutants and those systems get overwhelmed and can't function properly; that's where topical antioxidants come up huge. Moreover, one should contact the dermatologists for best skin barrier-forti-

# Maiden gene therapy to cure rare type deafness in kids begins

Can gene therapy provide hearing for children born with hearing impairment due to auditory neuropathy, a condition caused by the disruption of nerve impulses travelling from the inner ear to the brain? Pioneer Health shares details of the world's first trial to provide hearing for children with a rare type of genetic hearing loss kicked off in a UK hospital

to 18 children under Children with a variation in the age of 18 years from three participating countries - the UK, Spain and the USA – will be included in the trial and followed up for five years to see the extent to which their hearing improves. Auditory neuropathy can be due to a variation in a single gene - known as the OTOF gene - which produces a protein called otoferlin. This protein typically allows the inner hair cells in the ear to communicate with the hearing nerve. Mutations in the OTOF gene can be identified by standard

NHS genetic testing. Children with profound hearing loss face barriers develop-ing communication skills and may miss developmental milestones if the right support is not provided from the start. Professor Manohar Bance, an ear surgeon at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, is the chief

investigator for the trial. The aim is to see if the treatment can provide them with better quality hearing compared to cochlear implants.

the OTOF gene are born with severe to profound hearing loss, but they often pass the new-born hearing screening so everyone thinks they can hear. The hair cells are working, but they are not talking to the nerve. Gene therapy for otoferlin deficiency is the right starting point for young children because it's among - if not the most – simple approaches for treating hearing loss; everything else should be intact and working normally. Although experimental, the therapy could also potentially result in better quality hearing compared to cochlear implants. But we have a short time frame to intervene because the young brain is developing so fast, says Professor Manohar Bance Intervening later in life becomes less effective as children may never fully form the ability to process the sounds of speech. If successful for OTOF-related hearing loss, gene therapy treatments could be extended to include people with hearing loss due to other



more common genetic condi-

tions.

It's really important that we get the first gene therapy treat-ment right because it will allow us to proceed to treating other genetic conditions, he

Gene therapy aims to deliver a working copy of the faulty OTOF gene using a modified, non-pathogenic virus. It will be delivered via an injection into the cochlea during surgery under general anesthesia. The procedure is similar to cochlear implant surgery, the current standard of care for OTOF-related hearing loss.

## CURRENT **OPTION**

The gold standard treatment for the condition is currently cochlear implants but they have limitations. They do not filter out background noise in complex hearing environments, such as when multiple people are speaking, often making it difficult to participate in group conversations or to enjoy music.

The trial will consist of three parts, which must be done in order, with children receiving: A starting dose of gene therapy (DB-OTO) in one

ear only.
A higher dose of gene therapy in one ear only, following proven safety of the starting dose. Gene therapy in both ears

with the optimal dose

selected after ensuring the

safety and effectiveness of

DB-OTO in parts 1 and 2. • If the gene therapy is not effective for a child 6 months after treatment, the family can choose to receive a cochlear implant in the treated ear(s). Participants will be monitored

for five years to gauge whether their hearing improves, with initial results expected to be published next February.

"At RNID we are committed to a future where effective treatments for hearing loss are available for those who need and want them. Gene therapies have the potential to offer long lasting and permanent treatments for hearing loss, rather than merely managing the symptoms as hearing

aids do. "We welcome this pioneering trial, which we hope will lead to a treatment for children with OTOF related hearing loss and pave the way towards treatments for other genetic conditions," said Ralph Holme, Director of Research and

Insight at RNID said. This is a significant development that will be of great

interest to families of deaf children whose deafness is caused by a variation in the OTOF gene. The trial will help us to understand more about the effectiveness of gene therapy in improving hearing where deafness has a specific genetic cause. While some families will welcome being able to access this trial, it should be emphasised that with the right support from the start, deafness is not a barrier to achievement or happiness. Our role is to support families to make informed choices on whether they want to take up new treatments like this one which have the potential to mitigate the challenges their child might face, said Martin McLean, Senior Policy Advisor at the National Deaf Children's Society

The trial is sponsored by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc and supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Cambridge Clinical Research Facility and NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre.



# Another war, another successful Indian evacuation

The sudden and audacious attack by Hamas in the early hours of October 7, 2023, took Israel by complete surprise and shocked the world. With more than 1,300 killed by Hamas on the first day, including infants, women, and the elderly, it marked the single bloodiest day in Israel's history. After the initial setback, Israeli forces quickly regrouped to take back control of the military situation. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to condemn the terror attack and extend support to its strategic ally, Israel. On October 13, as it prepared for a massive counterattack, Israel gave a final warning to citizens in Gaza to evacuate 1.1 million civilians as it finalises plans to punish Hamas for the dastardly terror attack.

Terror attacks are an absolute redline for India and having its voice heard against any form of terror is important. It was highlighted during PM Modi's speech during the P20 Summit in Delhi on October 13, where he stated: "Wherever terrorism happens, for whatever reason, in whatever form, it is against humanity".

Another very important foreign policy priority of India is to evacuate its trapped citizens in any war-torn area. In recent years, wherever there has been conflict or war, India has been among the first to launch operations to evacuate its citizens. Living up to it, India launched "Operation Ajay" on October 12, 2023. With an estimated 18,000 citizens, including students and tourists, trapped in the war zone in Israel and only air route available to evacuate, it is going to be a long haul. Already, by October 14, two Indian air Force planes have landed back carrying more than 200 passengers each. The stories of these people evacuated from the war zone are heart rendering as they describe the destruction caused by war and their immeasurable gratitude that the Indian Government has been able to pull them out

İt is, however, not the first time that such dare devil rescue operations have been undertaken by India. Only last year, when the Russia-Ukraine war broke out, India made its first priority to get its people out. Despite pressure from the western world, India made it clear that among its national interests and priority, topmost was to get its people out. "Operation Ganga" launched therein evacuated almost 20,000 Indians, mostly students. It was an operation of mammoth proportions as it entailed not only a combined civilian and military air coordination but it tested India's deft diplomacy skills to the fullest as the citizens had to be moved by road to different border points and then brought back home from Romania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and

Moldova. Over a period of over 15 days from February 22, 2022 to March 10, 2022, more than 80 military and civilian flights were operated to rescue strand-



A flight carrying 235 Indian nationals takes off from Tel Aviv, Israel on Saturday

ed Indians. It may be recalled that Russia and Ukraine, despite being engaged in a bloody war, agreed to stop firing whenever and wherever Indians were being evacuated from. Also, multiple stories from evacuees of how well they were treated and cleared promptly at border points in Poland, Hungary, etc, whenever they were seen with the Indian flag, is a testimony of India's goodwill and global Just a few months earlier

this year, in April 2023, when a civil war broke out in South Sudan, India was again quick to evacuate its citizens. In a wellcoordinated operation and in close consultation with Saudi Arabia, India launched Operation Kaveri" and brought back over 2,000 citizens. It arranged to transport its citizens in buses from the con-

flict zones of Khartoum to Port Sudan, from where they were taken to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in Indian Air Force heavy-lift transport aircraft and Indian Navy ships. From Jeddah, Indians were subsequently brought back on commercial flights and Air Force aircraft. Earlier, in 2016, India evacuated its citizens from South Sudan in "Operation Sankat Mochan", carried out by the Indian Air Force to evacuate Indian and other foreign

civil war. In 2020, when Covid-19 pandemic broke out, once again India was among the frontrunners to get its citizens back through sea corridors created across the globe as a part of "Operation Samudra Setu", launched in May 2020. The operation successfully brought back almost 4,000

nationals amid the ongoing

Indian citizens by sea. The Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa, Airavat, Shardul, and Magar participated in this operation, which lasted for over 55 days.

In August 2021, who can forget the absolutely shocking and disturbing images beaming on TV of Taliban taking over Kabul, US forces leaving Kabul airbase amid total chaos and Afghan civilians trying to flee Afghanistan, hanging onto wheels of aircraft and falling to their death. Once again, amid total anarchy and conflict, India managed to evacuate 669 people from Afghanistan, including 448 Indians and 206 Afghans, which include members of the Afghan Hindu/Sikh minority community. Later too, when Taliban was in full control of Kabul, India operated a special flight in December 2021 and brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghans, including

members of Afghan minority community which carried with them 2 Swaroopas of Guru Granth Sahib and some ancient Hindu manuscripts.

While discussing rescue operations, we can't forget "Operation Raahat" conducted in Yemen in March 2015 in which India safely evacuated almost 6,700 people through air and sea. It included 4,741 Indians and 1,947 foreign nationals from 48 countries. Why foreigners? Because India was the only country trusted and permitted by the warring parties to evacuate people! The no-fly zone imposed on the Yemeni airspace and blockade of sea route by the coalition forces made the evacuation exercise a complex and very difficult task.

Once again, the warring parties agreed to provide a safe corridor while Indians were being evacuated, no mean feat considering that the mighty US and other western nations could not even land a plane or ship in the war zone.

During the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, almost 1,75,000 Indians were evacuated. Air India operated 488 flights between August and October to airlift Indians stranded in Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion. The 63-day operation is still called the largest air evacuation and found its way into the Guinness Book of World Records.

In March 2011, after the outbreak of the "Arab Spring," almost 15,000 of the total 18,000 Indians were evacuated from Libya through a combi-

nation of navy and charter ships operating from Tripoli and Benghazi to Alexandria, Egypt. From there, Air India aircraft flew the passengers to India. There have been a few more too, like "Operation Sukoon" launched in 2006 to evacuate Indians from Lebanon.

However, the Indian rescue story does not end with Indians only. Even in global disasters, India has been at the forefront in rendering assistance to nations in need. "Operation Maitri" launched after massive earthquakes in Nepal in 2015 and "Operation Dost" launched in February 2023 in support of people in Syria and Turkey devastated by Earthquake are prime examples where India was the first global responder in aid of grief-struck people. India has proved time and

again that "Indians First" is its primary focus. As the world recognises India as a Vishwa Guru, India is ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Indians anywhere in the world obviously come first. In PM Modi's own words, India is presenting itself as a Vishwa Mitra, which can be trusted and depended upon no matter what the circumstances and no matter where in the world. As the unfortunate war unfolds in Gaza, Indians can feel safe that Bharat is to their rescue.

(The writer, a retired Colonel, is Assistant Director at MP-IDSA, New Delhi. He has served as Director Military Intelligence and as Director in the Ministry of External Affairs)

India's steadfast commitment to the safety of its citizens, both at home and abroad, is exemplified through a series of daring rescue operations. From evacuating citizens in conflict zones like Yemen and Afghanistan, to aiding nations in distress after disasters. India's 'Indians First' policy remains unwavering.



RAJEEV AGARWAL

latter rejected the "forced dis-

placement of the Gazans" from

idea of evacuation and to him

such a move would lead to

"Second Nakba". Naqba

(Palestinian Catastrophe) is an

Arabic word that refers to the catastrophe brought by the

creation of the Zionist State in

1948 and the displacement of

nearly 7,50,000 Palestinians

after the end of the historic

British Mandate and the estab-

lishment of Israel on May 14,

1948. This finally resulted in

the beginning of the first Arab-Israeli War. Subsequently, the

Zionist military forces cap-

tured 78 per cent of the historic

lands of Palestine and today the

remaining 22 per cent are left as the occupied West Bank and

tion of the Northern Gaza as

per the order of Israel for beginning its ground offensive

to crush Hamas and to rescue

the hostages taken might lead

At the moment, the Israeli

to another Naqba.

So now, with the evacua-

the besieged Gaza Strip.

This all happened only

He strongly opposed the

the northern Gaza.

from their homes.

## **PERSPECTIVE**

# Precarious path forward for Israel, Hamas

The escalating conflict between **Israel and Hamas** has become a critical juncture in the West Asian region. Hamas' audacious attack has exposed vulnerabilities in Israel's security apparatus, triggering a humanitarian crisis. **Controversial** evacuation orders have rekindled memories of historic displacements. As tensions mount, there are growing concerns about the potential for a



broader regional

crisis.

State of Israel by launching one of the deadliest terror attacks on it last week, since its foundation in 1948. This brazen assault by the terror group is viewed as a turning point in Israel-Palestinian conflict. The multipronged war is now seen as iong planned and clearly failed the sophisticated Israeli security network, known for decades for its stealth work and extensive espionage activities against its enemies like Hamas and Hezbollah. This crisis is crucial for the

US. No US President can ignore a conflict in which Israel is at stake or directly involved in the war. Also, for President Joe Biden, who is fighting reelection next year, the quagmire in West Asia is decisive. This crisis is virtually challenging the world order led by the US, since the end of the Second World War and the establishment of the UN.

Well, Hamas knows its limits. And Israel can easily assess how far it can push. With an annual military aid of about \$3 billion to the country, the Israelis will be giving a tough fight to Hamas. Only time will tell how the current crisis unfolds and how bloodier and costlier it is going to be. But for most serious humanitarian tragedies in recent days in West Asia.

Who is Hamas? Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni militant group that was founded on December 10, 1987, after the first intifada (uprising). Its name is an acronym which comes from Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya. Its English translation means Islamic Resistance Movement.

For Hamas, the main objectives since its inception have been the creation of an independent Palestine state and the destruction of the Israeli state. It will fight till the end. However, sustaining a prolonged conflict with an armed Israel would inevitably lead to further loss of lives, both in the Gaza Strip and the West

Bank, in the days to come.

Is it possible for Israel to fortify the nation adequately? It is an extremely challenging task for any nation, including



Israelis take cover as a siren sounds a warning of incoming rockets fired from the Gaza Strip in Rehovot in Israel on October 13, 2023

sure, it will lead to one of the Israel. Israel has been under threat from all its neighbours since its inception. However, the country has built an excellent security system over the years to counter attacks from non-state actors like Hamas and Hezbollah. This attack by Hamas indicates a near-total security and intelligence failure on Israel's part, as experts sug-

> Meanwhile, there has been a deluge of international reaction to the ongoing war between Hamas and Israel. The international victims of assault on Israel by Hamas come from the US, the UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Canada, Thailand, Nepal, the Philippines, Cambodia, China, Tanzania, Brazil, Paraguay, Mexico, etc.

It is certain that Gaza Strip will soon turn into a hotspot of humanitarian tragedy. Israel has asked more than one million Gazans to vacate the North Gaza in no time and to move

towards the south. But the UN says the Israeli evacuation order is impossible without a major humanitarian catastrophe.

The UN also warns that Gaza is becoming a "hell hole on the brink of collapse" signalling that war clouds hovering over the Gaza Strip, the people might face all the hardships simply to survive. On the other hand, Hamas told Gazans not to leave their homes.

By now, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is deepening, as Israel has already cut off food and electricity to the besieged territory. Most of the common people are at risk of starvation. According to the estimate from the Palestinian Ministry of Health, more than 1,800 people have died so far. The UN reports that over 4,23,000 people are internally displaced due to the massive air raids conducted by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) since

US President Joe Biden

strongly criticised Hamas for its military mission against Israel. In an official message delivered immediately after the offensive, he said, "We are with Israel. Let us make no mistake." He further emphasised that Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people's right to dignity and self-determination. Its stated purpose is the annihilation of the State of Israel and the murder of Jewish

However, Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin has criticised Israel for employing "quite cruel methods" in its response to the Hamas attack. He said, "In my view, it is unacceptable. More than two million people live there. Not all of them support Hamas by the way, but all of them have to suffer, including women and children. Of course, it is difficult for anyone

to agree with this." This shows that Putin is fully aware of the chaos left

behind by the relentless aerial bombing carried out by Israel over the Gaza Strip.

Previously, he also stated that an Israeli ground operation would be entirely unacceptable, as it would result in significant casualties. He advocates for the resolution of this crisis through negotiations, with Russia playing a role in the peace process due to its longstanding relations with both parties. These lofty words coming from a crude statesman who has been at war with his neighbour and creating another global crisis leading to thousands of deaths and displacement of lakhs in Ukraine. Before offering solutions to clash between Hamas and Israel, he must first deescalate the Ukraine crisis that he had started in February 2022.

The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, visited Israel and reaffirmed his country's unwavering support for the latter. However, he also

acknowledged the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians that are not represented by Hamas militants. While meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Blinken said, "You may be strong enough to defend yourself on your own. But as long as America exists, you will never ever have to. We will always be

there by your side." This shows how the US is directly providing aid to the Jewish state, while all other Western allies of Israel remain relatively quiet. Washington has taken one step further by sending its Defence Secretary Llyod Austin both to bolster support for Tel Aviv and assure all possible help to its ally.

By pledging full support to Israel, Austin said, "This is no time for neutrality, or for false equivalence or for excuses for the inexcusable."

When Blinken met the President of Palestinian Mahmoud Abbas in Jordan, the

security forces are conducting local raids in Gaza to locate the hostages taken by Hamas. And as per some media reports, the IDF is able to free nearly 200 hostages from the hands of Hamas so far. The battle is on, and it is certainly going to be bloodier than ever before. The road ahead is complicated and filled with dangerous

twists and turns for both Israel and Hamas. There will be no solution until an independent state of Palestine is created. But this will not be feasible given the circumstances that have led to the current hostilities between Israel and Hamas. Furthermore, a counteroffensive by Hezbollah and involvement of nearby Arab nations against Israel might further complicate the situation. However, while dealing

with Hamas, the IDF and the Israeli State is careful to minimise civilian casualties. Otherwise, the Israel-Hamas conflict may escalate into a larger regional quagmire.

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research

























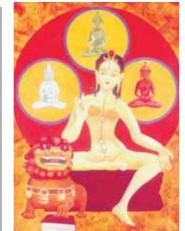




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

As the stars align this week, there's a cosmic focus on your financial energies. If your thoughts are consumed by finances, the Universe nudges you toward prudent savings. Observe the ebb and flow of your resources. Prosperity is on your horizon, but with Jupiter's playful influence, you may find expenses overshadowing gains. The Wheel of Fortune tarot card suggests that many areas of your life are in motion-domestic matters, property, education, and career beckon your insights. The Hermit card's energy advises inward reflection and a pause in social engagements for the majority of this week. As the week culminates, expect a shift. The Sun card heralds a time of vitality, joy, and renewed passion. Navigate your journey with wisdom, and stay vigilant of potential

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Sunday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week, you'll showcase your innate courage and resilience. Despite facing potential setbacks, including unforeseen circumstances, misunderstandings with friends, or health concerns within the family, your patience and strength will shine through. Financial outcomes, particularly from loans or property investments, might not meet expectations, leading to contemplation. However, it's essential to remember that such phases are transient. To navigate health challenges, consider seeking prompt medical counsel, and incorporating meditation and yoga into your routine. Devotion, whether to Lord Shiva or another cherished deity, may provide solace during trying times. Your equilibrium will guide you through disruptions, reminding you of your agency to influence outcomes. Embrace the support and strength that surround you, ensuring you remain fortified during the week ahead.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Monday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

While your stamina is commendable, channeling that energy effectively is essential for optimal outcomes. Addressing certain oversights should be a priority. Consider delegating tasks and refining your daily schedule. What you need is astute time and energy management. If you've been awaiting a promotion, this week looks promising. Financial gains are on the horizon. Work or business-related travels will be fruitful, introducing you to valuable long-term connections. Harness your self-confidence and tenacity; they are your ladder to success. As the week concludes, anticipate considerable financial rewards, paving the way for indulgences. Contemplating a property purchase? Proceed with diligence and thoughtful decision-making. Concerning your career, remember, you're on the brink of a significant leap. Stay centered and driven.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Lavender Lucky day Wednesday



### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

In celestial patterns, a period of challenges beckons. One may encounter sharp tongues, be it from coworkers or close kin. Yet, the week initiates with auspicious energy, a beacon of positivity. Though a passionate overture might be met with resistance, casting a shadow of solitude and introspection. Be wary of building castles in the sky; it's wise to stay anchored. A budding connection might experience turbulence before truly taking root. The key lies in mastering one's emotions and keeping a calm disposition, as succumbing could lead to unease and fatigue. But remember, like a fleeting card in a tarot spread, this phase is transitory. A guiding light emerges soon, and you'll reclaim your equilibrium. A maternal figure, or perhaps a distant kin, could be the anchor in these turbulent tides

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Coral Lucky day Tuesday



### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, emotions run deep within you, sparking a longing for cherished memories and connections. You might find yourself reminiscing about old friends or feeling a strong pull towards family if you're currently distant from them. A trip back to your roots or reconnecting with loved ones could be on the horizon, with memorable exchanges and shared moments. However, the realm of love might present challenges. You could experience feelings of heartache or disappointment, especially if there were hopes of finalizing significant relationship commitments. It's essential to remain grounded, refraining from overly possessive tendencies. To navigate these emotional waters, maintain equilibrium and consider embracing calming practices like meditation. Immersing vourself in artistic or spiritual activities can be therapeutic. transforming moments of gloom into purposeful engagement.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Olive Lucky day Wednesday



### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week presents a blend of highs and lows. Guidance may come from a mentor or an elder family member. providing clarity for your future. High aspirations and desires might cloud your judgment, leading to moments of confusion. Concerns regarding property may surface, and be wary of potential deception or unsolicited opinions. It's essential to stay grounded and not get lost in unrealistic dreams, as they could further complicate matters. Challenges in personal relationships may arise, but giving yourself and your partner space and time before making decisions will prove beneficial. Prioritize honesty, wisdom, and discernment to truly see the reality before you. A shadow seems to loom, obscuring joy; dispelling this negativity will be crucial. Trust in your strengths and capabilities as you navigate this period.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Brown **Lucky day** Tuesday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

Guided by the stars, the Universe has set forth a period of abundance for you. The Lovers card heralds a time of deep connections and romance, while the Cups suite signifies flourishing emotions and heartfelt recognition. As the week unfolds, the energy of the Two of Cups resonates, symbolizing union and a harmonious bond with your partner. Through this journey, the strength of the Ten of Cups is evident, enhancing existing relationships with pure love and understanding. This positivity acts as a shield, deflecting any lingering negative vibes. The Seven of Wands reinforces your inner strength, allowing you to rise above challenges and earn respect, even from adversaries. Your aura inspires, echoing the Star card's hope and guidance. Embracing the healing power of the Temperance card, you find balance in body and soul.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Grev Lucky day Thursday



## LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you're bursting with vitality, innovation, and a resolute drive to accomplish your work objectives. If you've been waiting on communication from abroad, the time seems ripe for favorable news to reach you. As the week progresses, financial matters come to the forefront. Whether it's transactions, investments, or payments, be mindful and remember that generosity towards the less fortunate can usher in blessings. You'll find fulfillment in imparting knowledge and insights you've amassed over the years, becoming a beacon for others seeking guidance. As you embark on this new chapter filled with endless potential, a significant shift in your mindset or behavior could be the catalyst for tangible positivity. While challenges may arise, trust in your seasoned wisdom and intellectual prowess to navigate and overcome them

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Teal Lucky day Sunday



## **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week promises progress both professionally and romantically. Unexpectedly, a promotion or salary boost may be on the horizon. Be prepared for sudden workrelated travel, which, in hindsight, will prove highly beneficial. As mid-week approaches, romantic sentiments will stir within, leading you to engage wholeheartedly in matters of the heart. You may encounter moments of uncertainty in relationships or circumstances, but it's crucial to let your heart guide your decisions. As the week concludes, you'll find emotional balance and clarity, with a broadened perspective that welcomes incoming opportunities. These could relate to professional advancements, the joy of welcoming a new child, or creative endeavors. The seed of a transformative idea may take root, pushing you towards grand aspirations.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Cyan Lucky day Thursday



## **CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week brims with rejuvenation and positivity, enveloping you in an uplifting aura. Many of your hopes seem to come to fruition, with moments like welcoming a new child into the family amplifying the joy. In the professional realm, you'll enjoy harmonious interactions with superiors, setting the stage for smooth endeavors. However, as mid-week approaches, be prepared for an influx of responsibilities. These might be indications of upcoming promotions or key roles. As the week winds down, you'll find yourself faced with new opportunities, leading to introspection and potential dilemmas. In times of uncertainty, confide in trusted family members. Remember to approach situations with grace and tact, seizing the moment for your benefit.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Maroon **Lucky day** Saturday



## SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

The unfolding week spins tales filled with laughter and pure joy. Immersing yourself wholly in a challenging task becomes not a burden, but a uniquely uplifting experience Collaborating in a group will weave not only successful outcomes but also embed new virtues within you. Through this journey, you'll unearth new skills and realizations about your own potential, as the needed focus and determination flow effortlessly within you. As midweek approaches, an international connection, perhaps through friendship or potential travel, will emerge. Your eyes steadfastly remain on your goals; distractions like love or leisure will not sway your committed heart. Ambitions of significant financial gains and establishing your reputation steer your pursuits Recognition for your diligent efforts patiently waits, ready to manifest as promotions or salary enhancements.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Friday



## PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week will be a time of reflection, as you assess the work and efforts of recent weeks. Recognizing past missteps will provide invaluable lessons for your journey ahead. While you've dedicated considerable energy to your endeavors, the full rewards of your hard work remain untapped. Be mindful of pessimistic thoughts that may arise during this period. Come mid-week, your spirits will lift with unexpected opportunities, perhaps a promising business proposal, a fresh assignment, or an enticing job offer. It's a favorable phase for financial growth, investments, and launching new ventures. Exercise caution with your finances, as there's a tendency for overspending. As the week concludes, the prospect of travel emerges. Whether it's a leisurely escape, a romantic outing, or a simple day

ucky number 16 | Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Saturday

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story related to Gautam Budha will help explain the rationale behind the process to calm down the mind. Once Gautam Buddha was thirsty. So, he asked one of his disciples to fetch water. As the disciple approached the nearby water stream, an animal had stirred up muck at its bottom and water had become muddy. So, he returned empty handed. Later Buddha reminded his disciple for water. "Well, water was muddy when I approached the stream", he answered. Go again, the dirt must have settled by now. The disciple went again to find that water had become relatively clearer, but it was still not potable. The third time he went, all the muck had settled down and water had become clean. Mind's flow is almost like a running water stream. If you leave the water flow undisturbed for a while, all the muck will settle down. In mind, instead of water, thoughts keep continuously flow-

ing. Unwanted negative thoughts and feelings are like muck, which make you restive. If, however, without paying any attention, if you let the thoughts naturally flow in and out, with time they go out of cognitive reach.

The stage is now set to get into Mind-Detoxification process. It is purposely designed to consciously invoke the thought-seeds parked at still deeper layer of mind and resolve them. Here comes the role of a Guru who offers a two-syllable/words simple mantra, which is individual specific, based on the callings of one's inherent tendencies of mind.

Sit with your back firm and straight. The focus must be on the breath cycle inhaling and exhaling. Now begin reciting the mantra inwardly, one syllable/word while inhaling and the other while exhaling. Mantra as already discussed has no religious implication; the consciousness underlying it is

# Detoxify your mind to improve focus



important. When you inhale, reciting opening syllable of the mantra, you draw extra life-forces from nature. That triggers the inlaid memory imprints registered in energy-format – meaningful ones as positive and unseemly ones as negative. The churning that follows helps expel negative imprints where the vibration of the second syllable plays a

pivotal role. Continue this practice for at least 20 minutes.

Obviously, as you take up Mind-Detoxification process, you will be again flooded with thoughts. They, however, would mostly relate to those parked at deeper layer of mind. Simultaneously, some thoughts generated in response to engagement with the outer world in immediate terms may also arise. They, however, may soon go out of your cognitive reach as our minds are already trained to remain disengaged from them. Here, it needs to be appreciated that what lies deep inside, needs to be allowed necessary passage to get away. Don't pay attention to those thoughts. Keep reciting the mantra with focus on the breath cycle. When a thought impression is driven away, in passing you will have a feel of it. That too, proves purposeful. You will see definite patterns in them, out of which, you may figure out your inherent

habit tendencies. Becoming aware thus, you could consciously make amends

through fresh educative inputs. The driving spirit of the process is to root out all such thought-seeds that may disorienting our thought process. As the seed gets a congenial ground, it will grow into a plant. If, however, the seed is fried, it loses its productive ability. Similarly, the thought seeds parked at deeper layers of mind are invoked and then resolved through fresh educative inputs, where after they don't chase anymore. It is however an admitted fact that it will be difficult to remain oblivious to the thoughts visiting the mind space. To remain disengaged, give an auto suggestion by inwardsaying 'neti-neti', which means 'not this'. In a way you make yourself understand that the distracting thoughts are unworthy of attention. This process is not meant to develop concentration. In fact, distraction is a necessary part of the

process. More you distract, faster the

mind becomes unburdened. Here is a case study of two medical graduates who earned their degree from a foreign university. But they could not clear off the mandatory qualifying examination necessary for becoming eligible for practising medical science here in India. Frustrated, they came seeking guidance. They were advised to pursue mind detoxification process before sitting for study. Following the process, all distracting thoughts that disturbed their focus got temporarily driven away. The sense of fear and insecurity also went away. So, their focus improved and were able to absorb their lesson better. Confidently, they faced the very next examination, and came out with flying colours.

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