

**OPINION 6**  
THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR  
IN PERSPECTIVE

**WORLD 8**  
NOBOA WINS PRESIDENCY  
IN ECUADOR

**MONEY 10**  
INDIA EXPECTED TO GROW AT 6.3  
PER CENT IN FY24: FICCI

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# THEATRE OF WAR EXPANDS IN WEST ASIA

## Humanitarian aid stalled as Israeli siege strains hospitals, water supply

AP ■ RAFAH (GAZA STRIP) / WASHINGTON

Palestinians in besieged Gaza crowded into hospitals and schools on Monday, seeking shelter and running low on food and water. More than a million people have fled their homes ahead of an expected Israeli ground invasion aimed at destroying Hamas after its fighters rampaged through southern Israel. As the enclave's food, water and medicine supplies dwindled, all eyes were on the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, where trucks carrying badly needed aid have been waiting for days as mediators press for a cease-fire that would allow them to enter Gaza and allow foreigners to leave. Rafah, Gaza's only connection to Egypt, was shut down nearly a week ago because of Israeli airstrikes. Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said Israel "has not taken a position to open the crossing from the Gaza side". The Israeli government did not respond to a request for comment. With a ground invasion of Gaza expected, Israel was preparing for the potential of a new front opening on its northern border with Lebanon, where it has exchanged fire repeatedly with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group. The

military ordered residents from 28 Israeli communities to evacuate.

Speaking to the Israeli Knesset on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Iran and Hezbollah, "Don't test us in the north. Don't make the mistake of the past. Today, the price you will pay will be far heavier," referring to Israel's 2006 war with Hezbollah. Meanwhile in Hamas' horrific killings, Israeli trauma over the Holocaust has resurfaced. Women, children and older adults hiding in safe rooms gunned down mercilessly. Homes set ablaze with terrified residents still inside them. Children, some bound, forced into a room and slaughtered. Jews, helpless.

For many Israelis and Jews around the world, the horrors committed by Hamas militants during their stunning onslaught on southern Israeli communities is triggering painful memories of a calamity of a far greater scale: the Holocaust. "I have been strict about not using the word Shoah" in any context other than the Holocaust," political commentator Ben Caspit wrote in the daily Maariv, referring to the Holocaust by its Hebrew name. "When Jewish children hide in a protected room and their anguished parents pray that



Israeli armored personnel carriers head toward the border with the Gaza Strip in southern Israel

AP/PTI

they won't cry, so that the marauders won't come in and set the house on fire, it's a Shoah."

At present, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians sheltering in UN facilities are on less than 1 litre (1 quart) of water per day. Hospitals warn they are on the verge of collapse, with

emergency generators that power machines like ventilators and incubators down to about one day of fuel and supplies of medicine almost exhausted. Israeli airstrikes have pulverized entire neighbourhoods as Palestinian militants continue to fire rockets into Israel. Israel is widely expected to

launch a ground offensive in order to kill Hamas leaders, recover captives and destroy the group's military infrastructure, much of which is in residential areas. Street-by-street fighting would likely cause mounting casualties on both sides. Israel has ordered more than 1

million Palestinians — almost half the territory's population — to leave Gaza City and the surrounding area for the enclave's south. The military says it is trying to clear away civilians ahead of a major campaign against Hamas in the north, where it says the militants have extensive net-

works of tunnels and rocket launchers.

Hamas has urged people to stay in their homes, and the Israeli military on Sunday released photos it said showed a Hamas roadblock preventing traffic from moving south. For a third day, Israel's military announced a safe corridor for people to move from north to south between the hours of 8 am and noon. It said more than 600,000 people have already evacuated the Gaza City area. Hospitals in Gaza are expected to run out of generator fuel in the next 24 hours, endangering the lives of thousands of patients, according to the UN. Gaza's sole power plant shut down for lack of fuel after Israel completely sealed off the 40-km (25-mile) long territory following the Hamas attack.

The World Health Organisation said hospitals are "overflowing" as people seek safety. "We are concerned about disease outbreaks due to mass displacement and poor water and sanitation," it said. Four hospitals in northern Gaza are no longer functioning and 21 have received Israeli orders to evacuate. Doctors have refused, saying it would mean death for critically ill patients and newborns on ventilators. The WHO said water shortages caused by Israel's decision to cut off water supplies, com-

bined with a lack of fuel for pumps and desalination stations, put thousands of hospital patients at risk.

"Water is needed to ensure sanitary conditions on inpatient wards, in operation rooms, and emergency departments. It is essential for the prevention of hospital associated infections and for the prevention of outbreaks in hospitals," the WHO said.

The UN health agency said life-saving assistance for 300,000 patients is currently awaiting entry through Rafah. On the Gaza side, crowds of Palestinians with dual citizenship waited anxiously, sitting on suitcases or crouched on the floor, some comforting crying infants.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden is considering a trip to Israel in the coming days but no travel has been finalised, a senior administration official said on Sunday. It would be a powerful symbol of sympathy and support following the brutal attack by Hamas.

Biden also made his strongest public statements yet to restrain Israel. "I think it'd be a big mistake," Biden said. "Look, what happened in Gaza, in my view, is Hamas, and the extreme elements of Hamas don't represent all the Palestinian people. And I think that it would be a mistake for Israel to occupy Gaza again."

## India's first RRTS to debut on Friday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's inaugural Regional Rapid Transit System is set to debut in the National Capital Region on Friday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurating the 17.5 km segment linking Sahibabad in Ghaziabad to the Duhai Depot of the 82.15 km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut section. In a symbolic tribute to the spirit of "Shakti" (women), the first train will be operated by a woman pilot, a fitting gesture that coincides with the auspicious occasion of Navratri. The initial phase of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor will commence operations, encompassing five key stations: Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai, and Duhai Depot. This milestone will revolutionise travel between the National Capital and Meerut, as the RRTS corridor will traverse 17 km in just 12 minutes, a journey that typically takes

over 35 minutes by road. Upon full implementation, the project will boast two multimodal transport transit systems.

Preparations for this historic event are in full swing, with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath personally inspecting the Ghaziabad site to oversee the project's progress. The Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System initiative is spearheaded by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), with the complete 82.15 km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS slated for full operational status by June 2025.

The RRTS trains are equipped with a range of commuter-centric amenities including overhead luggage racks, WiFi, and charging facilities for mobiles and laptops at every seat. Additionally, each train will feature a premium class car, offering wider seats, increased

legroom, and coat hangers, along with vending machines for added convenience. Officials have indicated that ten trains will ply this route, accommodating up to 1,700 passengers. The subsequent phase, extending from Shahibabad to Meerut South, will span 42 km and introduce four new operational stations. RapidX, boasting a maximum speed of 180 km an hour, is poised to be India's fastest train, whisking commuters from Delhi to Meerut in just 55 minutes. The service frequency will be every 5-10 minutes, providing a modern, sustainable, swift, secure, and comfortable mode of travel.

Upon the corridor's full completion, the RRTS is expected to slash travel time between Delhi and Meerut by a substantial 40 per cent. For convenience, a dedicated 'Lost and Found' centre has been established at the Ghaziabad RRTS station to

expedite the retrieval of misplaced belongings. If passengers inadvertently leave their items on RAPIDX trains or within station premises, they can promptly seek assistance from station staff. Further inquiries and support regarding lost items can be directed to the RAPIDX Customer Service Centre at 08069651515. Passengers will have a 24-hour window to claim their lost belongings from the station where they were misplaced or left. Following this period, any unclaimed items will be transferred to the designated "lost and found" centre at the Ghaziabad station, operational from 8 am to 8 pm daily.

The RRTS trains have been designed with an aerodynamic profile, featuring long noses and plug-in doors to minimize air resistance at higher speeds. Passengers will relish panoramic views through expansive window panes, enhancing their travel experience.



Australia's batter Marnus Labuschagne plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 match between Sri Lanka and Australia at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Monday. Australia beat Sri Lanka by five wickets in their ICC World Cup match here on Monday. Sent in to bowl, Australia dismissed Sri Lanka for 209 in 43.3 overs and then returned to overhaul the target in 35.2 overs, scoring 215 for five in a match that was briefly interrupted by rain. This was Australia's first win of the ongoing tournament. PTI

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# Dip in mercury after fresh spell of snowfall in J&K

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**  
A fresh spell of snowfall, the second in the last week, on Monday brought down mercury levels below 10 degrees Celsius in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir while several plain areas witnessed widespread rains signaling the arrival of the winter season. The impact of the Western disturbance, a phenomenon that brings a change in weather, was widespread as several parts of Kashmir valley including the ski resort of Gulmarg, Gurez Valley in Bandipora district, Sonamarg, Bangus valley, and Razdan top in the North Kashmir district of Kupwara witnessed several inches of snowfall during the day. The mercury in the region hovered

between 2 degrees to 8 degrees Celsius. The Meteorological Department in Srinagar has also predicted light rain/snowfall (over higher reaches) at scattered places on October 17. According to the weather forecast, overall improvement in weather is likely from October 18 onwards with a significant drop in temperature across J&K. The weather office advisory said farmers should put off crop harvest till Tuesday. "The precipitation may temporarily disrupt transportation, especially at vulnerable places such as Zoji La, Mughal Road, Sinthan Top and Sadnatop," it said. The Bandipora-Gurez road was closed for movement. Drass in Ladakh also



received the season's first snowfall on Monday. According to reports, a hailstorm on Sunday evening also caused extensive damage to the crops and fruit trees (apple crop) in Kulgam and Shopian districts. In the Jammu region, Pir ki Gali along the Mughal road, Mahu Vallu valley in Ramban district, and upper reaches of Kishtwar, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi and Kathua districts also witnessed fresh snowfall. Traffic via the Mughal road connecting Shopian in Kashmir valley also remained disrupted. However, the Jammu Srinagar National Highway remained operational despite witnessing landslides at a few places. The highway

authorities swiftly cleared the landslides to ensure smooth movement of traffic. Pilgrims visiting the famous shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi were equally thrilled as they encountered cold weather conditions following continuous rainfall. The Shrine board authorities have already made elaborate arrangements to welcome the pilgrims during the Navratri festival. The authorities in north Kashmir's Kupwara district have issued a weather advisory for residents living on the periphery of various Nallahs/streams that are prone to sliding and flash floods. The advisory recommends refraining from venturing into these areas until the weather conditions improve.

Based on the forecast provided by the Meteorological Department, there is a likelihood of moderate snowfall in higher altitudes and possible rain over the plains of Jammu & Kashmir between October 16th to 17th, 2023. These weather patterns are expected due to the influence of western disturbances. Given these weather conditions, it is advised that the general public, particularly those residing in areas such as Keran, Karnah, Machil, Budnamal, Jumugund, Nowgam, Kumkadi, and those living on the periphery of various Nallahs/streams prone to sliding and flash floods, should avoid entering these areas until the weather improves.

## Kolkata 1st to send Ram Mandir message to world, says Shah

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**  
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said Bengal is the flag bearer of the Ram Mandir message not only in India and worldwide after the inauguration of a replica temple in Kolkata. Shah on Monday evening inaugurated a Durga Puja marquee in North Kolkata shaped after Ayodhya's Ram Mandir which is likely to be inaugurated in the month of January by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "I won't make a political statement from this Puja pandal ... but I promise to keep coming back repeatedly and make political statements until Bengal witnesses a political transformation and is freed from corruption, injustice and violence," Shah said adding that "much before the world is to see the inauguration of the real Ram Mandir at Ayodhya in January Kolkata and Bengal has sent out a message of Ram temple to the world and the rest of the country by constructing this replica of a Ram Mandir in North Kolkata." The Raja Santosh Mitra Square Durga Puja committee has shaped its pandal after the newly constructed temple of Lord Rama at Ayodhya. A similar replica of the Temple has come up at the New Town colony Puja at Balurghat in North Bengal where State BJP



president is the patron. Apart from Shah, senior BJP leaders like its national president JP Nadda, Smriti Irani and Dharmendra Pradhan are also likely to inaugurate various Durga Pujas as a part of the party's social outreach programme ahead of the next year's general elections. Referring to the BJP's policy to use the Pujas as an opportunity to reach out to the masses Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said, "We have been instructed by Amit Shah ji to reach out to the people during the Durga Pujas ... to help the Puja clubs organize the Pujas successfully ... "So we have been visiting various pandals and clubs to be by their sides during the festive seasons." The BJP would even help the Puja committees financially if

there was a need, he said. However Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh hit back saying it was the same BJP which criticized Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee when she was donating money to the clubs organizing Durga Pujas and "now they are telling that they will donate money to the organisers ... if this is not hypocrisy then what is." Elsewhere TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee too attacked the BJP and particularly Shah, saying how he had his party men once spread false stories about how "during the TMC regime the people are not able to organize Durga Pujas and now they are shamelessly coming to inaugurate the Durga Pujas ... so if there is no Durga Puja taking place then what they are inaugurating."

## 'Passport racket busted by CBI linked to global woman trafficking'

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**  
The fake passport racket busted by the Central Bureau of Investigation a couple of days ago is linked to an international woman trafficking racket, sources in the agency say. According to reports some "definite clues" lead towards an international woman trafficking racket with victims mostly coming from lower or lower-middle economic groups of Sikkim, northern Bengal adjoining Siliguri, Alipurduar and even neighbouring Nepal. "It is gradually getting clearer that the economically weaker women were brought from Nepal, Sikkim and north Bengal, given fake passports and trafficked away to distant places not only in India but also outside --- mainly to the Middle-East where they have a good demand," sources said. Earlier, the Agency arrested a senior superintendent of Passport Seva Laghu Kendra at Gangtok --- while he was accepting a bribe of ₹1.90 lakh for making a fake passport. Subsequently it was found that it was not a simple case of bribery and a deeper investigation led to the arrest of one Varun Singh Rathor from Naxalbari area of Siliguri. Scores of fake documents, passports and related materials

were found from his vicinity during subsequent searches, officials said adding "most fake passports were in the name of women mainly from Sikkim, Nepal and Siliguri and Alipurduar areas of North Bengal." "The accused were found issuing passports on the basis of false and forged identity documents submitted by the middlemen on behalf of those persons/applicants who are non-residents of India in lieu of illegal gratification," a CBI release said. As part of the crackdown on the fake passport racket, searches were conducted at 50 places in Kolkata, Gangtok, Siliguri, Darjeeling, and Alipurduar which led to further discoveries, details of which have not been shared by the Agency for the sake of investigation. The busting of the fake passport racket further strengthens the story of how poorer women from Bengal's border areas were becoming victims of women trafficking for the past several years. "These women are sent from Bengal to Bangladesh and from there to the Middle-East either as domestic help or for flesh trade," a retired police officer said, not ruling out political protection behind the racketeers.

## Danish, Aiyar, Tyagi express solidarity with Palestinians

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
A group of Opposition leaders, including Mani Shankar Aiyar of Congress, K C Tyagi from JD(U), and Danish Ali of BSP, on Monday expressed solidarity with Palestinians during a meeting with Palestinian envoy Adnan Abu Al-Hajja who hoped that India being a friend of Israel and Palestine would exert "pressure" on Tel Aviv to lift the "siege" and allow humanitarian aid to reach civilians in Gaza. In a statement signed by 15 opposition leaders, some of whom met the envoy at the Embassy here, they strongly condemned the "indiscriminate bombing" of Palestinians in Gaza by Israel and said that it amounts to an attempt at "genocide". "We urge an immediate cessation of all hostilities to prevent further loss of innocent lives and the destruction of homes and infrastructure," the leaders said. "We urge the international community to recognise the establishment of an independent Palestinian state along the 1967 borders in accordance with the UN resolution. Such recognition is a crucial step towards ensuring a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, providing the Palestinian peo-



ple with the opportunity to determine their own destiny and live in peace and security," the opposition leaders said. Tyagi said it was a decision of like-minded leaders to meet the Palestinian envoy to convey their support for the people of Palestine at a time when they are suffering a lot. By cutting off the water and power supply to the Gaza Strip, Israel is forcing them to death, he said. BSP's Ali said the leaders' stand was consistent with that of the Indian government that an independent Palestinian state should be there. "We are against the atrocities being committed. The cycle of violence and counter-violence should stop," Ali said. In their statement, the Opposition leaders said they strongly believe in

the statement of Mahatma Gandhi that Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French." The opposition leaders said they believe that violence is never a solution as it leads to a cycle of destruction and suffering. "Therefore, we emphasise the need for increased efforts by the international community in bringing about a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The international community must exert pressure on the state of Israel to abide by international laws and respect the rights and dignity of the Palestinian people," the statement said. "We call for intensified diplomatic efforts and multilateral initiatives to ensure lasting peace in the region," the opposition leaders said.

## Gadkari biopic to hit screens on October 27

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**  
From being a Jan Sangh activist and subsequently an ordinary Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha worker from the orange city of Nagpur to becoming the 'Expressway Man of India', Nitin Jairam Gadkari has travelled a long way. Come October 27, a Marathi biopic on the senior BJP leader and



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways will hit the 70 mm screens across Maharashtra.

## Methotrexate can help provide relief to patients with arthritis in hands: Study

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
An affordable existing drug methotrexate can help provide relief to the patients with painful hand osteoarthritis (OA). Published in *The Lancet*, the paper investigated methotrexate, a low-cost, effective treatment for inflammatory joint conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis. It has been widely used in Australia and globally since the early 1980s. Researchers from Monash University and Alfred Health

found that a 20mg weekly oral dose over six months had a moderate effect in reducing pain and stiffness in patients with symptomatic hand OA. Hand OA is a disabling condition that causes pain and affects function, impeding daily activities such as dressing and eating. It can significantly reduce quality of life. About one in two women and one in four men will experience symptoms from hand OA by the time they turn 85. About half will have inflamed joints, which cause pain and are associated with significant joint damage. Despite the high



prevalence and disease burden, there are no effective medications. Senior author Professor Flavia Cicuttini, who heads Monash University's Musculoskeletal Unit and is The Alfred's Head of Rheumatology, said the study identified the role of inflammation in hand OA and the potential benefit of targeting patients who experience painful hand OA. "In our study, as with most studies of osteoarthritis, both the placebo group and methotrexate groups' pain improved in the first month or so," Professor Cicuttini said.

"However, pain levels stayed the same in the placebo group but continued to decrease in the methotrexate group at three and six months, when they were still decreasing. The pain improvement in the methotrexate group was twice as much as in the placebo group." "Based on these results, use of methotrexate can be considered in the management of hand osteoarthritis with an inflammatory pattern. This provides clinicians with a treatment option for this group, which tends to get more joint damage."

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Kavinder Dhingra is the sole owner of Second Floor Without Roof Rights area measuring 35 Sq. Yds., "Said Floor" Free hold Built up Property bearing No. F-56, area measuring 105 Sq. Yds., Situated in the area of Village, Basal Darapur, Colony Known as Sudhershan Park, New Delhi. This ownership was legally acquired through a Will dated 10.10.2013, executed by Mr. Mahesh Lal (area 35 Sq. yds. Out of Khassa No. 654). Mr. Kavinder Dhingra is now selling the the above said floor to Mr. Balam Singh and further Mr. Balam Singh is currently in the process of mortgaging the aforementioned property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Grihashakti), Our Client. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. 201301. Landline: +910120-3101683 / 4562909; e-mail: accounts@mvorth.in

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Prime Ministers late Indira Gandhi, Dr Manmohan Singh and late Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray, it is now the turn of Gadkari to become the material for a full-length biopic. Titled 'Gadkari', the film will dwell upon various aspects of his life involving an interesting political journey that saw him make a mark for himself as the Public Works Department (PWD) in the Shiv Sena-BJP government during 1995-99 when he spearheaded the construction of Mumbai-Pune Expressway -- India's first six-lane access-controlled toll expressway, and 55 flyovers across Mumbai, a project that eased road traffic problems in the country's commercial capital.

## Babies with low birthweight have 4 times more chances of developing liver diseases

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
Babies with a low birthweight have four times more chances to develop non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, now known as metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) when they turn adolescents, a study has said. A team of researchers from Sweden had used the nationwide cohort and conducted a population-based case-control study of all people aged 25 years and younger, who had been diagnosed with biopsy-proven MASLD between January 1992 and April 2017, totaling 165 cases. To minimize confounding factors, each individual with MASLD was matched with up to five controls from the general population based on age, sex, calendar year and county of residence. "Those born as small for gestational age (SGA), falling below the 10th percentile, were over three times more



likely to develop MASLD early in life compared with those with an adequate (10th-90th) birthweight. In addition, the researchers found that individuals with a low birthweight, or those born as SGA, had an up to ~6-fold higher relative risk of developing more severe stages of MASLD in the form of liver fibrosis or cirrhosis. "While previous research has established the link between birthweight and major diseases, such as cardiovascular disease and metabolic syndrome, the connection to MASLD remained unclear. Our study now provides compelling evidence that fetal

developmental factors play a significant role in the development of MASLD and progressive liver disease," said Dr Fahim Ebrahimi, first author of the study. Amidst escalating rates of obesity, MASLD has become the most common cause of chronic liver disease worldwide. In Europe alone, it is estimated to affect over 25% of adults, and its prevalence is increasing among obese or overweight young people. It has also emerged as one of the fastest growing causes of end-stage liver disease, primary liver cancer and liver transplantation. However, only few will experience progression of the disease. Dr Ebrahimi said, "Further research is needed to fully understand the underlying immunological and metabolic mechanisms. Several studies suggest that both overnutrition and undernutrition during pregnancy can lead to lasting epigenetic changes that can affect an individual's metabolism for a lifetime."

## IIT-M researchers develop solar-thermal steam based medical equipment steriliser

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has developed a solar-thermal steam-based system that can help sterilise medical equipment in remote and rural areas, where access to electricity and water could be an issue. Funded by the Department of Science and Technology, the project uses portable steam cylinders charged by renewable energy-based stations (like solar energy) that are placed strategically in rural areas for power generation, steam generation and other uses. The team also designed special sterilisation chambers to utilise such portably stored steam and effectively sterilise the tools. A portable steam storage canister can be a great contribution by facilitating minor medical interventions in the developing world by sterilising surgical

instruments and combating infections in rural areas, said Prof. Sathyan Subbiah, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras, in a statement. The portable canister is developed with multi-layer insulation, which can retain useful heat of steam, generated via solar plants for longer duration thus making it a viable option to sterilise equipment in remote areas. The steam that is produced in the solar plant or any other means can be stored in the portable canister which can be transported to remote locations to carry out the sterilisation activities, he added. Safe sterilisation of surgical instruments and other medical tools are important aspects in the health care sector. It involves cleaning and disinfecting the previously-used contaminated surgical tools before subsequent use. Steam sterilisation is one of the best disinfecting methods.

## Students shine in Karate championship



**Amaravati:** Students from VIT-AP University displayed their martial arts prowess at the National Level Invitational South Indian Karate Championship held in Visakhapatnam on October 8, 2023. Outshining over 500 participants, our talented students clinched two Silver Medals and one Bronze Medal in this prestigious competition. **PNS**

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PD(177)A

# Child Welfare panel chairman dismissed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Arvind Kejriwal Government on Monday dismissed the chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee. Sources in the AAP Government said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took this action, adopting a zero-tolerance policy against those who show negligence.



While approving the proposal, the CM said the Delhi Government will not compromise on the care, safety, and betterment of children. Officers who display negligence will not be tolerated. He mentioned that the chairperson of the CWC plays a vital role in the care and safety of children, and irresponsible behavior by relevant individuals could have serious consequences. Commenting on the actions taken against the chairperson of CWC, Kejriwal stated that in the Kejriwal Government, there is a policy of 'zero tolerance' for officials' negligent behavior within the administration. The Child Welfare Committee deals with highly sensitive cases related to the care and safety of

children. The role of the CWC chairperson is crucial in this regard. Therefore, any laxity or irresponsible conduct by individuals in meeting the needs of children can have serious consequences. WCD Minister Atishi mentioned that several complaints were received against the CWC-IX chairperson, including delays in decision-making for critical cases involving children in need, improper conduct towards staff and committee members, misuse of powers and issuing orders without the consent of committee members. In response, an inquiry was ordered. Based on the recommenda-

tions, the Government has decided to terminate the CWC-IX chairperson with immediate effect. "Children's welfare is non-negotiable, and the Delhi government will continue to ensure that those in positions of authority uphold their duties with the utmost sincerity and dedication. Any laxity or misuse of power will not be tolerated at any cost," Atishi said. It is to be noted that the complaints against the chairperson of Child Welfare Committee-9 include allegations of mistreatment of fellow employees, committee members, negligence in meeting the needs of children requiring care and safety, and improper behaviour.

# School evacuated over gas leak threat in Naraina

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Students on Monday were evacuated from a school after a foul smell was reported emanating from a gas godown in West Delhi's Naraina area. Teams from NDRF, Delhi Police, and Delhi Fire Service (DFS) rushed to the spot and started the evacuation, police said.



"PCR calls were received regarding a foul smell in the area of C-block, Naraina. After getting calls, the concerned agencies have responded to the situation and taken required precautionary measures," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (west), Vichitra Veer. "We are examining the matter. Appropriate legal action will be initiated based on the facts," the DCP said. A senior police officer said there was an open plot where a certain type of chemical was kept. "The samples have been lifted and sent for the examination. Initially, the experts said it was thinner, however, the exact nature will be ascertained after the examination. A case in connection with the incident is being registered," the officer said.

The DFS said that it got a call at 12.18 pm from a person saying that some gas or chemical is leaking from drums kept in a godown. One of its officials said the department immediately rushed a fire tender. "And on further demand three more fire tenders were pressed into duty." The DFS had earlier suspected some type of chemical fumes/gas with a pungent smell was leaking from containers kept in the godown premises. "The gas/fumes are not identified yet. The area was cordoned-off by the teams of police, NDRF, and DDMA. Water sprinkling was done to stop the spread of gas leakage,"

said the DFS official. In August this year, 28 students of a municipal school in west Delhi's Naraina area were hospitalised on Friday with two of them requiring oxygen support after allegedly inhaling noxious fumes following a suspected 'gas leak' incident nearby. According to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), in a statement, said, 'The gas leak occurred at the nearby railway tracks.' However, the Railways, in a statement, said they have not received any report of gas leak from any station and asserted that their wagons never transport any toxic gas that may pose a health hazard.

## INBRIEF

### MAHARAJA AGRASEN JAYANTI CELEBRATED

New Delhi: Maharaja Agrasen College, a constituent college of Delhi University, celebrated the grand occasion of Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti. The keynote address was delivered by chief guest, Subhash Gupta, president of Maharaja Agrasen Hospital Trust, who emphasised the importance of Maharaja Agrasen's legacy. During the event, Prof Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, the Principal of the college, highlighted Maharaja Agrasen's visionary perspective and its relevance in today's context. Suresh Jain, the National Organisation secretary of Bharat Vikas Parishad, presided over the event and spoke about Maharaja Agrasen's contributions in uplifting the country and society through his social, economic, and entrepreneurial endeavours.



### STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY

New Delhi: Students of various schools and colleges from Delhi under the Sulabh School Sanitation club took part in the Global Handwashing day at Rajiv Chowk in the national capital on Sunday, according to a statement.



### 1,300 KG FIRECRACKERS SEIZED

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has seized around 1,300 kg of firecrackers and arrested three people in south Delhi, police said on Monday. Police received a tip-off that a huge stock of firecrackers was kept in two different locations in Kotla Mubarak Pur area, Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Chandan Chowdhary. Teams conducted raids at a shop in Punjabi Bazar, Kotla Mubarak Pur and Gurudwara Road Market, recovered the firecrackers and arrested Yogender (62), Akash Vashishth (35) and Kishan Lal (60), he said.

### GOVT DISBURSES ₹1 CR TO COVID WARRIOR'S FAMILY

New Delhi: The Delhi Government on Monday disbursed an ex-gratia of ₹one crore to the family members of 53-year-old employee of a city hospital who lost his life fighting Covid-19, an official statement said. It has been provided on behalf of the Delhi Government's scheme for Covid warriors who lost their lives during the pandemic, it said.

# AAP Govt lied on cleaning Yamuna for Chhath: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and MP Manoj Tiwari on Monday visited Yamuna Ghat located in Kalindi Kunj here and discussed about the alleged failure in Yamuna cleaning by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and inadequate preparations for the upcoming Chhath puja. The BJP leaders also slammed the Aam Aadmi Party Government in Delhi, saying Yamuna water was unfit for human use. They were accompanied by Delhi BJP State Spokesperson and environment expert Dr. Anil Gupta, Mayur Vihar District President Vijendra Dhama and others. Sachdeva said Indian people consider rivers as their mother and seeing the poor condition of Mother Yamuna today, one is surprised to hear the claims of Kejriwal that he has been making regarding clean-



ing Yamuna. Delhi Development Minister Atishi has been holding various meetings for the last several days regarding the preparations for Chhath and is spreading lies and confusion in the media regarding Yamuna cleaning. He said today in front of us at Kalindi Kunj, there is a white sheet of foam spread over the Yamuna and the condition of

the water is such that if someone touches it with his hand, he will fall ill. Delhi BJP president claimed the situation created by Kejriwal in Maa Yamuna is equal to killing her pious soul. Sachdeva said according to the government figures given by the chief minister, 242 MGD of untreated sewerage is directly falling into Yamuna. Not only

this, the work on cleaning 110 kilometers of sewer line has not been completed yet. Out of 1799 unauthorized colonies, sewer has not been installed in 1052. Due to this poor condition, faecal coliform of normal water which should be 2500 MPN/100 ml, today its level in Yamuna water has gone up to 200000 MPN/100 ml. Sachdeva said the people of Delhi want to know from Kejriwal where has he spent ₹8,000 crore in the name of cleaning Yamuna during his tenure, where was that money spent. He said every time before elections Kejriwal talks about taking a dip in Yamuna but today we cannot stand on the banks of Yamuna. In such a situation, you can imagine what is going to happen during Chhath Puja with the people of Purvanchal who worship Chhath festival. Delhi BJP President said for

Kejriwal the people of Purvanchal are just a vote bank and purvanchalis have seen Kejriwal's real thinking about them when on record he said people of Bihar and UP are a burden on Delhi's health infrastructure. Tiwari said the average age of people living in Delhi is continuously decreasing, the biggest reason for which is Kejriwal's ineffective attitude towards pollution and Yamuna cleaning. The age of people living in Delhi has reduced by 10 years in comparison to the average age of people living in the other parts of the country, Tiwari claimed. Whenever Kejriwal promises to the people of Delhi on cleaning the Yamuna, the Yamuna becomes worse than before. For any organism to survive in water, the dissolved oxygen standard should be 5, which is zero at present.

# LG approves creation of 571 posts to strengthen IT cadre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena has approved creation of 571 posts to strengthen and restructure the existing Information Technology (IT) cadre for all departments of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD). This includes 263 posts in Generic Category, 171 in Specialized Category and 137 posts for Data Entry Operators. While approving the proposal, Saxena also directed that for creation of posts in future, whenever, there is any requirement of creation of IT cadre posts in any Department, then the Department should make request to the IT Department i.e. the cadre controlling authority, which in turn, should follow the due

process for creation of the post, officials said here on Monday. A high-level committee, which was formed in September last year under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary (GAD) to study the existing cadre and propose a new and dynamic structure of the IT cadre, had created a sub-committee to do the same. The sub-committee after an extensive study, had prepared a Report on IT cadre and its restructuring for strengthening the IT cadre and submitted it to the High-Level Committee/Main Committee in October last year. The Main Committee had accepted all the recommendations of the sub-committee along with certain additional recommendations which included creation of the Dual

structure of the IT cadre i.e. (A) Generic IT domain for overall IT related requirements of Departments of NCT Delhi; (B) Specialized IT domain with five specialized domains as per domain specific requirements of the Department and IT projects for example, cyber and data security, cloud computing, computer networking, procurement and contract management and data science with certain additional recommendations and also to restart recruitment of the DEO posts which were stopped in the year 2004, officials said. Further, being a service matter the Main Committee had recommended, to obtain in-principle, approval of the Lieutenant Governor through the Chief Secretary, they said.

# 3 officers posted at Secretariat seeking transfer: Services Department

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's services department has clarified to the Assembly Secretariat that three officers posted there have sought transfer and submitted applications in this regard. In a letter to Delhi Assembly Secretary, a Deputy Secretary of the Services department said there were requests for transfer by three officers posted as deputy secretaries in the assembly on the completion of three years at the posts held by them. In fact, two officers were posted at the Assembly Secretariat for more than five years, said the Services department letter. The clarification comes in response to accusations by Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel in a press conference last month, that the officers of Services department were "threatening" officers of Assembly Secretariat with disciplinary action and transfer. The three assembly officers were Sadanand Sah, posted since September 4, 2019, Sunil Dutt Sharma, posted since July 20, 2018, and C Velmurugan, posted since February 19, 2015. "The above officers have submitted advance applications at their own. However, in view of the observations made by the Speaker, I am directed to request the Secretary, Delhi Legislative Assembly to take this factual status on record and to convey any comments within a week time so that the Services department process such requests," said the letter by deputy secretary of Services department. The tussle between the Delhi assembly and officers at Delhi government's Services and Vigilance departments has been going on since 116 fellows



recruited under the Delhi Assembly Research Centre Fellowship Programme at the Assembly Secretariat were removed on the orders of Lt Governor VK Saxena in July this year. "The Arvind Kejriwal Government has set the goal to plant 52 lakh saplings this year as well, which is being completed by green agencies of 21 related departments. About 77 percent of the target of tree plantation has been achieved. Apart from this, 50 lakh plants/shrubs are being planted by the New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC). Now, we are commencing phase two of the plantation drive, during which the remaining 12 lakh saplings will be planted in the winter season," Rai said. There has been a considerable increase in the green area (green cover) in Delhi, where the green area was 20% in the year 2013, it has increased to 23.06% in the year 2021. Rai stated, "Every year a tree plantation drive is carried out in the state under the Green Action Plan by the Government of Delhi. Due to this, Van Mahotsav was started from IARI Pusa on July 9 to give impetus to the tree plantation campaign. During the Van Mahotsav program, free medicinal plants were distributed to Delhiites, so that people could participate in promoting the green area of Delhi by planting trees in their homes."

# Phase 2 of plantation drive launched to curb pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai launched phase two of a sapling plantation drive in the city on Monday as part of efforts to reduce pollution during the winters and said the increase in green cover has improved the national capital's air quality over the last eight years. The second phase of the plantation drive began at Garhi Mandu in northeast Delhi. "The Arvind Kejriwal Government has set the goal to plant 52 lakh saplings this year as well, which is being completed by green agencies of 21 related departments. About 77 percent of the target of tree plantation has been achieved. Apart from this, 50 lakh plants/shrubs are being planted by the New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC). Now, we are commencing phase two of the plantation drive, during which the remaining 12 lakh saplings will be planted in the winter season," Rai said. There has been a considerable increase in the green area (green cover) in Delhi, where the green area was 20% in the year 2013, it has increased to 23.06% in the year 2021. Rai stated, "Every year a tree plantation drive is carried out in the state under the Green Action Plan by the Government of Delhi. Due to this, Van Mahotsav was started from IARI Pusa on July 9 to give impetus to the tree plantation campaign. During the Van Mahotsav program, free medicinal plants were distributed to Delhiites, so that people could participate in promoting the green area of Delhi by planting trees in their homes."

# 60 detained for Palestine protest sans police nod

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Scores of protesters, including students, held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar here, demanding diplomatic support for Palestine and actions against Israel for alleged violations of human rights. The Delhi Police said it detained around 60 people for not taking prior permission for the protest. The protest was held by CPI-ML-backed All India Students Association and other student organisations. Protesters, most of them students and teachers from Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, descended at Jantar Mantar and started raising slogans 'Justice for



Palestine,' and 'Gaza we are with you.' Some demonstrators

carried placards that bore the popular PLO slogan 'From

the sea, Palestine will be free.' The Delhi Police rounded the protesters up in buses and took them to an undisclosed location. "We are holding a demonstration and demanding diplomatic support for Palestine and actions against Israel, for violating human rights," said Hemant, one of the demonstrators. AISA in its statement demanded the release of the protesters and shared their bytes recorded on their phones from detention. A Delhi University Professor got into an heated argument with police when a team of female police chased down a student who was talking to the media. The professor, who criticised the police's heavy handedness, was also detained.

# 2 days after JNU biker dies in crash, pillion rider still critical

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two days after a 22-year-old student of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) died in a bike crash on the campus, his close friend and pillion rider is still critical and undergoing treatment at the AIIMS. Police said the deceased student's father, who lives in Bihar's Gaya, went into shock after hearing the news about his death and was admitted to a hospital. The accident occurred around 2.30 am on Saturday when Anshu Kumar and his 23-year-old friend Vishal Kumar rammed their KTM motorcycle into two other students crossing the road near Godavari Hostel on the campus. Anshu, hurt critically in the head, died, while Vishal was sent to hospital. The pedestrians were identified as Sachin Sharma, 25, and Mrigank Yadav, 24 - both students of MA Political Science in JNU.



They are also under treatment at the AIIMS. According to police, a preliminary investigation has suggested that Anshu was speeding and was not wearing a helmet when the accident took place. Anshu was a native of Bihar's Gaya and was staying in the campus's Sutlej Hostel. He was pursuing BA in Russian Language from JNU. A friend of Anshu said such an accident was never heard of on campus. "All students are shocked by the incident," he said. "Anshu had brought this

# Three kidnap, kill manager after withdrawing ₹3.5 lakh from account; arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Three people have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping and killing a private company's manager after withdrawing ₹3.50 lakh from his account here. The accused along with a co-worker of the victim held him hostage for five days and murdered him after withdrawing around ₹3.50 lakhs from his account, they said. Delhi resident Akshay (26), was arrested from Haridwar while Pradeep (29), from Mahendargarh, and Vinay (22), from Bhiwani, were arrested from Rampur flyover in Gurugram on Saturday night, police said. All the accused have been sent on a two-day police remand, they added. On October 9, a man filed a complaint at civil line police station that his brother Praveen Trivedi (45), who

worked as a manager at a private company in Manesar had been missing since October 5. On the basis of the complaint, an FIR was registered under section 346 (wrongfully confines) of the IPC at the police station, they said. Trivedi and Pradeep worked together in the same company. The accused knew that the victim had a lot of money, so he, along with his relative Vinay and one of his associates Akshay, hatched a plan to kidnap Trivedi and kill him after withdrawing money from his bank account, police said. According to Pradeep, he called Trivedi to Patel Nagar, Gurugram on October 5 and from there he took him to Manesar where the three accused took him hostage in a room, they said. After that, they withdrew about ₹3.50 lakh from Trivedi's account and bought an old car with the money.

# Nadda visits Rajasthan to shore up BJP prospects in poll

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 Ahead of Assembly polls in Rajasthan, BJP president JP Nadda held a meeting with party office bearers of Udaipur division on Monday as former Chief Minister Vasudhara Raje is reportedly not happy with absence of his loyalists name from the first list of candidates released by the party on October 9.  
 After holding talks in Udaipur, the BJP chief is also to visit Jodhpur to interact with party leaders and workers. Nadda held discussions with senior

party workers, present and former MPs and MLAs, office bearers of different morchas and cells of the party in Jodhpur division.  
 In the first list released by the party for Rajasthan, the BJP included royal scion and Rajasamand MP Diya Kumari and Jaipur Rural MP and former Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore which has already created flutter among those denied tickets by the party with some announcing contesting polls as independent candidates. The list of 47 candidates did not have Raje's followers which has apparently miffed the former Chief Minister.  
 BJP's decision to field Rajasamand MP Diya Kumari from Jaipur's Vidhayadhar Nagar seat, denying tickets to its five-term MLA and Raje Loyalist Narpal Sijng Rajvi, son-in-law of Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, has unnerved the Raje camp followers, according to sources.  
 The two-time former CM on Sunday suddenly reached Udaipur and met with Assam governor Gulabchand Kataria at his residence. Kataria has

held Udaipur seat four-times. Kataria, before being appointed as Governor, was leader of opposition in the Rajasthan assembly and has influence over 25 Assembly seats in south Rajasthan.  
 He is also a former State Home Minister. Raje had a 40-minute discussion with Kataria before leaving for Tripura Sundari. The meeting was confidential and no one in the city had any prior information about her visit.  
 Confirming his meeting with Raje, Kataria said both belonged to one family and

keep meeting each other. "Nowadays I don't discuss politics as I have changed my line," he said. The meeting, though, has triggered speculations that both the leaders may not be in "sync with the top leadership". Raje proceeded to Udaipur after her meeting. Elections to 200 Assembly seats is to be held on October 25 and the BJP is set to release its second list for Rajasthan by this week. Some more BJP MPs and Central Ministers are expected to contest Assembly polls, according to sources. Nadda's visit to Jodhpur holds significance in the run up to the Assembly elections in the State where it seeks to unseat the Congress Government headed by Ashok Gehlot.  
 "Party is already faced with unrelenting protests against party candidate Devji Patel from Sanchore constituency, the only name the party has announced so far, from 33 constituencies of Jodhpur division", said a party leader.  
 Six mandal presidents of Jalore have resigned to protest the party's decision to rope in Patel from Sanchore Assembly constituency.



## PM to unveil Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 at maritime summit

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the third edition of the three-day Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS), aiming to outline strategic future initiatives, at Mumbai on Tuesday via video-conferencing and unveil "Amrit Kaal Vision 2047".  
 In line with this futuristic plan, the prime minister will inaugurate, dedicate to nation and lay the foundation stone of projects worth more than ₹ 23,000 crore, that are aligned with this vision for the Indian maritime blue economy, a statement from his office said.  
 Modi will lay the foundation

stone of the Tuna Tekra all-weather deep draft terminal, to be built at a cost of more than ₹ 4,500 crore at the Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat.  
 This state-of-the-art greenfield terminal will be developed in PPP mode.  
 It is likely to emerge as an international trade hub and will handle next-gen vessels exceeding 18,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), and will act as a gateway for Indian trade via the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), it said.  
 Over 300 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth more than ₹ 7 lakh crore for global and national partnership in the maritime sector will also be unveiled during the programme.  
 The summit will be the biggest maritime event in the country, the statement said.  
 It will witness participation of Ministers from across the globe, representing Europe, Africa, South America and Asia (including central Asia, Middle East and BIMSTEC region), said the statement.  
 It will also be attended by global CEOs, business leaders, investors, officials, and other stakeholders from across the world.  
 Several Indian states will also

be represented, it said.  
 The three-day summit will discuss and deliberate key issues of the maritime sector including ports of the future, decarbonisation, coastal shipping and inland water transportation, shipbuilding, repair and recycling, finance, insurance and arbitration, maritime clusters, innovation and technology, maritime safety and security, and maritime tourism among others.  
 The summit will also provide an excellent platform for attracting investment in the maritime sector of the country, it said.  
 The first edition of the summit was held in 2016 at Mumbai while the second was held virtually in 2021.

## Mulling making AAP accused in excise policy scam cases: CBI, ED tell SC

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
 The CBI and ED told the Supreme Court on Monday they are contemplating making the city's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) an accused in the Delhi excise policy cases.  
 Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the two probe agencies, told a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti he has instructions to State that the agencies are considering making AAP an accused, invoking legal provisions on "vicarious liability" and section 70 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).  
 However, the bench asked Raju to clarify his stand on Tuesday on whether there will be separate charge against the AAP in cases being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate.  
 Raju made the statement while the bench was



## SC rejects plea for abortion of 26 weeks old foetus

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
 The Supreme Court on Monday declined to permit a married woman, a mother of two, to terminate her over 26-week pregnancy as the foetus was healthy and the AIIMS medical board found no abnormality with it.  
 A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the length of pregnancy has crossed 24 weeks, the upper limit for allowing Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP), and therefore it cannot be permitted.  
 The apex court said the foetus is 26 weeks and 5 days old and there is no immediate threat to the mother. There was also no foetal abnormality, it said.  
 "The length of the pregnancy has crossed 24 weeks and it is approximately 26 weeks and 5 days old. The medical

## 1st State education achievement survey to cover 11 million students

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
 The first State Education Achievement Survey will be conducted on November 3 by the national assessment regulator Parakh and will cover 11 million students across the country. According to the Ministry of Education, the survey is aimed at identifying areas requiring improvement in learning will be held across states, targeting school students up to the block level. It will be a precursor to the Education Ministry's annual National Achievement Survey (NAS), which is conducted at the district level.  
 MoE said that it will be the first survey conducted by the Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH), an organisation under the NCERT. It is tasked with bringing the school boards across the states and the Union territories on a common platform.  
 Scheduled for November 3, SEAS (State Education Achievement Survey) 2023 has been designed to enhance the learning standards for students in Classes 3, 6 and 9. Operating at the block level, this survey encompasses a comprehensive range of competencies, spanning the foundational, prepara-

## India, UK hold first '2+2' foreign, defence dialogue

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
 India and UK on Monday reviewed the entire spectrum of their defence and strategic ties here in the inaugural India-UK '2+2' foreign and defence dialogue at the senior official level. The two sides focused on ways to boost cooperation in a range of key areas such as trade and investment, defence, critical technologies, civil aviation, health and energy.  
 The two sides also discussed international developments including in the Indo-Pacific region and considered the possibility of enhancing anti-terror collaboration, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The 2+2 dialogue at senior official level is a mechanism to discuss and review all aspects of India-UK comprehensive strategic partnership. The dialogue took place as the two sides are exploring the possibility of a visit to India by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak later this month.  
 The MEA said the two sides discussed "possibilities for further collaboration particularly in areas of trade and investment, defence, critical and emerging technologies, civil



aviation, health, energy, culture and strengthening peoples connect."  
 "The officials had an opportunity to exchange assessments about recent international developments including in the Indo-Pacific region, given their shared vision for peace, stability and prosperity and for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region," the ministry said in a statement.  
 "They also considered possibility of enhancing collaboration in areas of counterterrorism, HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) and maritime security," it added.  
 The India-UK relationship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the India-UK virtual summit held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his then British counterpart Boris

REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

### THE GAZETTE OF INDIA

CG-DL-E-11102023-249291  
 Extraordinary  
 PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)  
 PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY  
 [No. 4216] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023/ASWINA 18, 1945

#### MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(Northern Railway) (Construction Organization)

#### NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 10th October, 2023  
 (The Gazette Notification in this regard published on 06.09.2023 vide S.O. 3968 (E) may be treated as cancelled in view of some clerical mistakes. This Notification may be read in lieu of above mentioned cancelled Notification.)

S.O. 4387(E).—In Exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20A of the Railways Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose the land briefed discussion of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for execution of the special Railway project namely Development of Freight & Coaching Terminal at Bijwasan in the District South West, Village Bhartal of Delhi state hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette subject to the acquisition of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 20 D of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, Additional District Magistrate, South West District, Delhi in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner and may after hearing all such objection and after making such further inquiry, if any as the competent authority hence necessary, by order either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of section 20 D of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.

#### SCHEDULE

Brief description of land to be acquired with or without structure falling within the District-South West of Delhi for special Railway project namely Development of Freight & Coaching Terminal at Bijwasan

Sl. No.	Name of District/State	Name of Tehsil/Taluka	Name of Village/Hadbast/No. of Mustee	Khasra No.	Area to be acquired in Bigha-Biswa
1	District-South West, Delhi	Kapasheda	Bhartal	511/24	4-16
				521/4/2	1-10
				521/26/1	0-6
				521/4/1	3-0
Total = 9-12 (0.8075 hectare)					

[F. No. 190-W/Land/Misc./CSB-I(Kapasheda)]  
 3209/23 A. K. SINGHAL, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that (i) Mrs. Neeru Jain W/o. Late Mr. Sushil Jain and (ii) Mr. Samaksh Jain S/o. Late Mr. Sushil Jain, the owner of Portion of Upper Ground Floor, Area Measuring 100 Sq. Yards, being part of built up property bearing Municipal No. 4586/2B, total measuring 191 sq. yards, situated at 11 Darya Gari, New Delhi-110032, vide Registered Relinquishment Deed dated 12.04.2018 Book No. 01, Document No. 3620 Executed by Mrs. Shikha Jain D/o. Late Mr. Mohan Lal Jain & Grand Daughter of Late Mr. Virender Kumar Jain, Registered Relinquishment Deed Dated 12.04.2018 Sr. No. 8620 All Parties are hereby informed that the said property is being mortgaged to the said property with SMFG India Credit Company Limited (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Company Limited), General Public, hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Mrs. Praseem Lata, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm) FF 18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vaidhyanagar, Indraprastha, New Delhi-110014. E-mail: sgassociates@gmail.com

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Anita Bhatia, W/o Lalit Kumar Bhatia, R/o. 8/13 West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008, has Lost ORIGINAL DEMAND CUM ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER & NOC against File No. 2005/AA/NA/1369 dated 27.09.05 of LIG flat no. 604, PCKETE, SECTOR-A-10, NARELA, DELHI. The online FIR against has been lodged. SO No: 430/2014 P.S: Crime Branch, Delhi LR No. 860253/2023 Date 04/09/2023. Any person claiming any right interest or have any objection or found the above said original documents may write contact the above named person or call on phone no. 9654806047 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Pramod Kumar S/o. Mr. Balakrishna, the owner of PART OF PLOT NO. 109, AREA MEASURING 41 SQ. YARDS SITUATED IN VIKRAM ENCLAVE, PARGANA: LONI TRESHIL, AND DISTRICT: GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH, vide Registered General Power of Attorney Dated 17.05.1999 Book No. 03, Document No. 3077 Executed By Mr. Ashok Kumar S/o. Mr. Nand Lal, General Power of Attorney dated 17.05.1999 Sr. No. 3077 All Persons are hereby informed that MR. WINOD & MRS. SANTOSH DEVI mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Credit Company Limited (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Company Limited) General Public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Mrs. Praseem Lata, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm) FF 18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vaidhyanagar, Indraprastha, New Delhi-110014. E-mail: sgassociates@gmail.com

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY

##### E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2023-24-18. The details are as under:-

Name of Work	'Supply & fitment of additional safety sling for traction link of WAP-7/WAP-5 locomotives as per RDSO modification sheet no. RDSO/2023/ELMS/0493 Rev '0' dated 26.07.2023' at Electric Loco Shed, Ghaziabad
Approx. Cost of work	₹12,74,400/-
Earnest Money to be deposited	₹25,500/-
Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender	06.11.2023 at 11:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of opening of tender document	06.11.2023 after 11:00 Hrs.

Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Note: (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2023-24-18 Dated : 13.10.2023 3214/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## SC agrees to examine AAP leader Raghav plea

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
 The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine the plea of AAP leader Raghav Chadha challenging his indefinite suspension from the Rajya Sabha and sought the assistance of the attorney general in adjudicating the issue.  
 A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi and lawyer Shadan Farasat, representing Chadha, that the suspension cannot extend beyond the particular session during which the decision to suspend the member was made.  
 The top court issued the notice to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat only on the plea which will be heard on October 30. Besides the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Chadha had made the chairperson of the committee the parties to his petition. Dwivedi said he was not seeking any interim relief in the petition at the moment.

## Army top brass deliberates national security during Commanders' Conference

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
 The Army top brass on Monday here began deliberations on national security challenges including the situation at border in Ladakh and the Line of Control (LOC) facing Pakistan and ways to boost the overall combat capability of the force while kick-starting a five-day conference. Being chaired by Army Chief General Manoj Pande, the commanders are delving into a range of issues, including the ongoing reform process in the 1.3 million strong force, matters relating to jointness among the three services and key geopolitical developments. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to address the conference on October 18. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary are among those addressing the Army commanders.  
 Ajay Kumar Sood, the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, will also deliver a talk on "Leveraging Technology for National Security".  
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 Ajay Kumar Sood, the 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 or emerging security scenarios besides reviewing the operational preparedness of the Indian Army," the Army said on Saturday.  
 "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," it said.  
 The regional security situation and geopolitical developments, including the Russia-Israel conflict and the Hamas-Ukraine war, may also figure at the conference.  
 The overall situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China as well as along the frontier with Pakistan will be discussed, it was learnt.



## Defence Ministry signs contract for upgrade of INS Beas

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
 The Ministry of Defence on Monday here signed a contract for Mid Life Upgrade and Re-Powering of "INS Beas" with Kochi-based M/S Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) at an overall cost of ₹313.42 crores. INS Beas is the first of Brahmaputra class frigate to be re-powered from steam to diesel propulsion. After completion of mid life upgrade and re-powering in 2026, INS Beas will join the active fleet of the Indian Navy with a modernised weapon suite and upgraded combat capability, defence ministry officials said here.  
 The transformative maiden re-powering project marks a significant stride in the maintenance philosophy of the Indian Navy and repair capabilities of M/s CSL. The project would involve more than 50 MSMEs and would lead to generation of employment for more than 3,500 personnel.  
 The project will be a proud flag bearer of Atmanirbhar Bharat in consonance with the Make-in-India initiative of the Government of India, they said.

# Sansad Khel Pratiyogita Kashi-2023 begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After successful conducting of Kashi Sansad Sanskrit Mahotsav (KSSM) in which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself attended the closing function to award the winners, Sansad Khel Pratiyogita Kashi-2023 was inaugurated at UP College grounds here on Monday. The sports competition was inaugurated jointly by UP ministers Ravindra Jaiswal and Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' by lighting the lamp and hoisting of flag.

The function was also attended by Mayor Ashok Tiwari, city chief of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Vidya Sagar Rai, District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer Himanshu Nagpal, ADM (City) Alok Verma, RSO, BSA, Additional Municipal Commissioner and many other senior officials and BJP leaders. The inaugural function began with the presentation of Saraswati Vandana, welcome song and cultural programmes by the schoolchildren.

In the first event of the sports competition, the 100 metres race for girls and boys was started by both the ministers of state (Independent Charge) by flagging off the same. After this, the students' volleyball competition was also inaugurated by them, along with, Mayor and DM by play-



UP Ministers Ravindra Jaiswal and Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' inaugurating Sansad Khel Pratiyogita Kashi-2023 in Varanasi on Monday.

ing volleyball.

According to the district administration, it is expected that 1,64,250 male and 1,13,227 female players will participate in the competitions at different levels in the district. The competition will run till November 8. There is no age limit in this competition. Competitions of 27 sports and 35 events are being organised from village to city. Transgenders and disabled people will also showcase their talents in this sports event.

According to Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, a good

women's participation in the event is expected as there is enthusiasm among the girls and the attraction of the event will be the participation of 103-year-old Kalavati who will take part in a race event. He said that 2,77,642 people have registered for the event and the number of male participants in the competition is 1,64,250 while of female participants 1,13,227. Besides, 165 transgenders have also registered. The CDO informed that there will be 27 competitions in this sports competition.

The PM during his last visit in the city had launched the

Sansad Khel Pratiyogita Kashi-2023 portal while laying the foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium on September 23 from his parliamentary constituency. The aim was to connect sports with people, so that youth can also take sports as a career. To showcase the talent of players from village to city, sports competitions are being organised at gram panchayat, nyay panchayat, university and school/ college, development block, zone and district levels. The competition will be organised at the district level from November 6 to 8.

# BJP to launch voter awareness drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Regional (Kashi) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Dilip Singh Patel said that the party will launch a voter awareness campaign from October 29 under the Mission 2024. According to him, in this direction, the state unit of BJP has made a blueprint in which the party's first focus will be on the voter list. "For this, a mega campaign to be known as Voter Chetna Maha Abhiyan will be started simultaneously in the entire state from October 29 in which the party will knock every house," he said, adding that to make the campaign a success, a training camp for party workers has been started at the district level from Monday.

On his return after attending a state level meeting addressed by state chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary and general secretary (Organisation) Dharampal Singh, the regional president said that despite the alliance of the parties in the last Lok Sabha elections, BJP had got more than 50 per cent votes. "BJP achieved historic victory in urban body, panchayat and cooperative elections and in



Regional BJP chief DS Patel addressing party workers in Varanasi.

such a situation, the strong organisational structure of BJP is capable of accepting any challenge and giving positive results," he said.

Patel further said that during the campaign, the party workers will approach the concerned employees to add names of the youths in the voter list who have completed 18 years of age, change the residence addresses of married women voters and add new

voters and delete the names of deceased voters. He said that complete information about the proposed campaign would be given to the workers by the senior party office-bearers in the divisional workshops to be held in the coming days so that the work of voter verification can be done successfully and every eligible person can become a voter.

He said that participation of every party office-bearer,

worker and public representative will be ensured in the campaign.

Giving information about the two days training programme being organised at the district level from Monday, he said that training for voter revision will be given through divisional workshops on October 18 and 19. He said that the draft voter list will be published by the Election Commission on October 27.

"After listening to the next episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on October 29, all the party office-bearers, workers, MPs, MLAs and other public representatives will contact every house and get involved in voter verification work. Work has to be done to connect every worker with the campaign," he said, adding that the party would contact each voter by running a special door-to-door contact campaign from October 30 to November 5 and from November 25 to December 3.

He said that by contacting the new voters and connecting them with the party, victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be easy and BJP would achieve the target of winning 80 seats in the state.

# IIT (BHU) organises campus dialogue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

An engaging 'Campus Dialogue with Students' was organised by the Research Cell of IIT (BHU) on Monday with Padma Bhushan & Padma Shri Prof Padmanabhan Balaram, former Director of IISc Bangalore. The talk was titled 'Reflections on Science in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic'.

He spoke about the history of science and how we advanced from primal beings to using microscopes and telescopes to understand different worlds. He reiterated and explained Dr Richard Feynman's atomic hypothesis that in the event of a cataclysm where all knowledge were to be destroyed, humans should start their research with the fact that 'all things are made of matter'. The evolution of the pandemic was also talked about where he stressed on the importance of biotechnology in today's world. He considered the research on cells as the greatest feat of biological engineering and also that biology unifies all sectors of science. During his talk, Prof Balaram also discussed the interdisciplinary nature of science and the contributions of various scientists like Erwin Schrödinger, Richard Feynman, Lynn Sagan and many more.

The session was organised in the Annie Besant Lecture Theatre, with a capacity of



Padma Bhushan Prof P Balaram at 'campus dialogue with students' programme at IIT (BHU) in Varanasi on Monday.

300, brimming with students, research scholars, PhD applicants and professors. The audience was so pumped up that many students and the faculty stayed back even after the session ended and kept discussing the realms of science with Prof Balaram who kept answering their questions with utmost energy and excitement.

The programme began with a warm welcome of Prof P Balaram by the Dean (Research & Development), IIT (BHU), Prof Vikash Kumar Dubey and the Head of the Biomedical Engineering Department, IIT (BHU) Prof Sanjeev Kumar Mahto, with bouquet and shawl. The event proceeded with Prof Balaram's excellent and informative talk

on advancing science and research post-pandemic. Afterwards, the curious audience and the speaker had an engaging question and answer session. The questions were interesting, and the answers were vividly descriptive and inspiring.

Post the question-answer session, the eminent scholar was given a memento as a token of respect and appreciation. Assistant professor Aditya Kumar Padhi from the School of Biochemical Engineering concluded the talk with a heartfelt vote of thanks to the guest. The session was hosted by Muskan Gupta, Sophomitra head of the Research Cell, IIT (BHU) and third-year undergraduate student of the

Chemical Engineering department. Deans, senior faculty members, and a staggering strength of over 300 students brimming with curiosity and passion attended the talk.

A renowned scientist and a prolific author, Professor Balaram boasts an impressive career with nearly 1,000 publications and 25,000 citations spanning over five decades. After completing his postdoctoral training at Harvard under the Nobel Laureate Robert Burns Woodward at just 24, he later served as the Director of IISc, Bangalore, for over 10 years. Prof Balaram's legacy shines brightly, symbolising unparalleled dedication and scholarly brilliance in the scientific community.

# 2 brothers feared drowned in Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Two brothers were feared drowned in the Ganga in the rural area of Puramufi. Their friends raised an alarm and the local boatmen jumped into the river to trace them, but all their efforts went in vain.

Himanshu (20) of Akbarpur Sallahpur under Puramufi is the driver of the chief medical superintendent of Colvin Hospital. On Sunday he went to Fatehpur Ghat on a bike with his younger brother Mahendra Raj. They were accompanied by some neighbours. Suddenly Himanshu slipped into the area where water was deep. On seeing him drowning the younger brother came forward to save Himanshu, but both of them were swept away. Their friends raised an alarm. Some local boatmen responded but they could not save the brothers.

Efforts were made later to trace them but in vain.

**NABBED:** Samajwadi Party block pramukh from Kaudihar Mohammad Muzaffar tried to dodge the police by wearing a burqa but was nabbed and sent to jail. Muzaffar was wanted in a case of cow slaughter. On May 11, 2022, SO Soraon had intercepted a truck near HP petrol pump in Kurgaon. The truck was from Haryana and had 16 cows out of which eight were found dead. A case had been lodged against unidentified persons in this connection but investigation revealed that Muzaffar was the kingpin of the cow slaughter gang. Aslam has already been sent to jail in this connection. Muzaffar went missing since his name figured in the cow slaughter case. The police raided his hideouts several times, but he managed to escape every time. On a tip off

the police raided a place in the trans-Ganga segment of the district and caught Muzaffar while trying to escape wearing a 'burqa'. After being produced before the magistrate, he was sent to jail.

**TIGHT SECURITY:** Taking a lesson from the murder of mafia don Atiq Ahmed and his brother Khalid Azem alias Ashraf by sharpshooters in a hospital when they were taken there for a medical examination, the police did not allow mediapersons to interact with yet another kingpin of the crime world, Babloo Srivastava. He had been brought here from Bareilly jail under tight security to be produced in the court in connection with kidnapping and ransom demand of Rs 10 crore.

Babloo was fearing his murder while being transferred from Bareilly jail to Prayagraj court, and requested to record

his statement through video conferencing, but the court had turned down the request of the mafia don, who is quite close the 'D' gang.

Babloo was brought here on Sunday and kept in Kaushambi jail for security reasons. When he was produced in the court on Monday a good number of mediapersons and lawyers had gathered there to interact with him but no one was allowed to meet him.

Babloo was produced in a special Gangster Court here in connection with the kidnapping of a trader Pankaj Mahendra and asking for a ransom of Rs 10 crore. Statements of other criminals involved in this kidnapping — Vineet Parihar, Shachchidanand Yadav, Chandra Prakash and Sandeep Chaudhary have already been recorded by the court.

# Bid to ensure foolproof fire security arrangements

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In a bid to ensure foolproof fire security arrangements, the officials of the Fire department have asked all puja pandals to follow a set of directives. Moreover, all puja pandal committees must have NOC from the Fire department for setting up pandal.

Apart from security arrangements for visitors, the Fire department has asked committees concerned not to use synthetic material or ropes to construct puja pandals. Besides, every puja pandal has to leave around 4.5 metre space around it so that people could evacuate puja pandal in case of crisis.

Pandals must have more than three metres height and no pandal should be set up under the electric wire cable. The exit gate must have at least five metres width and distance of pandal from main road must be within 45 metres.

Chief Fire Officer (Prayagraj) RK Pandey told

mediapersons, "We have asked puja pandal committees to hire licensed contractors for lighting of pandals. There should be at least two exit points and both the gates should be opposite from each other". Besides, we have also asked all puja pandal committees to ensure emergency lighting services and there should be no fire crackers show in and around the pandal. Every pandal must have at least two advanced fire-fighting extinguishers and water storage of 200 litres near the pandal, he said.

The CFO said as many as eight teams are being constituted to check puja pandal at frequent intervals in Civil Lines, Naini, Bara, Meja Koraon, Handia, Phulpur and Soraon. Apart from security plan, police have also decided to use separate plan for crowd control or any other emergency, especially during evening hours. Senior cops have advised puja committee to depute additional volunteers to control the crowd thronging the pandals,

especially during peak hours (7 pm to 2 am).

These volunteers are being deployed in shifts to avoid any laxity. All the major puja pandals would be under police scanner and skilled volunteers would be assisting cops to handle emergency-like situation in case of stampede or fire break out.

There will be separate arrangement for water to ensure adequate supply to tackle any accidental fire. There are plans to utilise drone cameras for assessing crowd strength in pandals and also to keep an eye on security measures. Each policeman and private volunteer will be aware about their role and responsibility.

Besides, a reserve water storage facility will also set up to control any fire outbreak. "We are more focused on security arrangements and are coordinating with the local puja pandal committees," said a senior cop.

Majority of visitors throng pandals during evening hours

to enjoy the lighting arrangements and the grandeur of the Goddess while offering puja. There will be shift wise duties of policemen at static locations so that they remain alert to tackle any crowd problem.

On their part, the men-in-khaki have already drafted an elaborate security arrangement plan for Durga Puja pandals to prevent any untoward incident during the festival and the police station concerned will be coordinating with committee members regarding security arrangements. Installation of CCTVs will be mandatory to keep an eye on the visitors and additional security forces have been deployed to maintain law and order.

Puja committees have also been instructed to ensure proper lighting inside and outside the pandals during Durga Puja and Navaratra celebrations. A senior cop said, "There will be around 100 small and big puja pandals in the city and security will be reviewed on a routine basis."

# Devotees throng Brahmacharini Temple

VARANASI (PNS): Hundreds of devotees thronged Brahmacharini Devi Temple located near Brahma Ghat in Kotwali area on the second day of Shardiya Navratra here on Monday. Right from the morning hours, there was a long line of devotees in the nearby narrow lanes and only a few devotees were allowed to enter the temple premises at a time to avoid any awkward situation.

The devotees waited for a long time to reach the temple and offer prayers. Heavy rush of devotees was also seen throughout the day at the famous Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) as usual. Rush was also seen at some other temples of goddesses. This holy city is a rare place where there are separate temples of all the nine Gauris and

Devis where the devotees reach to offer prayers on different days during Basantik (Chaitya) and Shardiya Navratra respectively.

Besides, hundreds of devotees rushed to Vindhyaachal in Mirzapur district by Roadway buses or other vehicles to offer prayer on this auspicious occasion. Rush was also seen at Old Durga Mandir at Ramnagar, Sheetla Mata Mandir at Adalpur (near Chunar, Mirzapur) and others. Due to the high level of water in river Ganga, though it was recorded steady during the day, the devotees faced it tough to reach Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dashashwamedh Ghat. At both Durga Kund and Brahmacharini Devi temples, elaborate security arrangements were made.

# Two commit suicide

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): Two persons committed suicide in two separate incidents in the past 24 hours in the city. In the first case, a 27 year-old youth identified as Yashwant, a resident of Pratapgarh committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling at his rented accommodation near Bagh road under the Khuldabad police station. The police said Yashwant was preparing for the competitive exams and had not picked up phone for the past two days. The incident came to the fore when his uncle went to meet him but found door locked from inside. On being alerted, a team of Khuldabad police rushed to the spot and found the youth hanging from the ceiling. The police said foul smell was also coming from the room suspecting that youth might have hanged himself two days back. The body has been sent for the post

mortem. In second case, a 37-year-old man identified as Abhishek of Lukerganj committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence under the same police station. Initial police investigation revealed that he committed suicide due to domestic issues.

**PRAYAGRAJ JN BEING REDEVELOPED:** Prayagraj Junction is being redeveloped in view of the Mahakumbh to be held in 2025 here. Now work has started on platform numbers 9 and 10 from Sunday. No trains will operate on this route for 77 days. As many as 10 trains have been completely cancelled while around 30 trains were shifted to other platforms. Both these platforms are important because trains go to cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Surat from here. This change may also cause some inconvenience to the passengers.

# Millet need of the hour: Minister

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel before flagging off a rally to make people aware to promote the use and farming of 'Shree Anna' at Vikas Bhawan on Sunday said millet is the need of the hour hence it should be adopted not only in the larger interest of health but also of nature.

She said that the UNO has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Regarding the district she said farming of millet is the way to cope with the declining groundwater situation. Addressing the gathering District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan said millet needs less water for irrigation hence is very suitable for area like Mirzapur. On the occasion other experts also expressed their views and the vote of thanks was proposed by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS.

Flagging off the awareness rally taken out by the Agriculture department the minister appealed to farmers to



Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel flagging off the millet awareness rally at Vikas Bhawan on Sunday

not only make others aware but also adopt themselves first. The awareness rally which started from Vikas Bhawan passed through different localities and villages and concluded at the agriculture farm house in Bisundarpur.

**INAUGURATED:** Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel has inaugurated the Vindhya Darshan Mela app at Vikas Bhawan on Sunday. She praised the initiative of the district

administration which prepared the app for the convenience of the devotees. She said the app had many information, including medical facilities, police assistance, hotels as well as dhabas, rain baseras, toilet facility, CNG/petrol pump, contact number of district administration, medical camp etc. She said the entire information related to the 'darshan' route will be available to the devotee through one click. DM Priyanka Niranjan and CDO

Srilaxmi VS were also present on the occasion.

**COUPLES REUNITE:** Under Project Milan programme eight couples reunited through the Family Counselling Centre (FCC) located at Police Lines on Sunday. The couples were living separately due to misunderstanding over trivial issues and the case were brought to the police. The police had referred them to the FCC. After separate sittings eight couples agreed to live together. The staff extended their best good wishes to them for a successful life and bright future. Constable Sapna and colleague Sunita were present.

**ARRESTED:** The Madihan police arrested an accused of raping a minor girl on Sunday. A woman had lodged a case on September 22 in this connection. The police started the investigation. On being tipped off by an informer the police nabbed an accused of Belwan village under Padari police station from the Madihan area on Sunday and sent him to jail.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

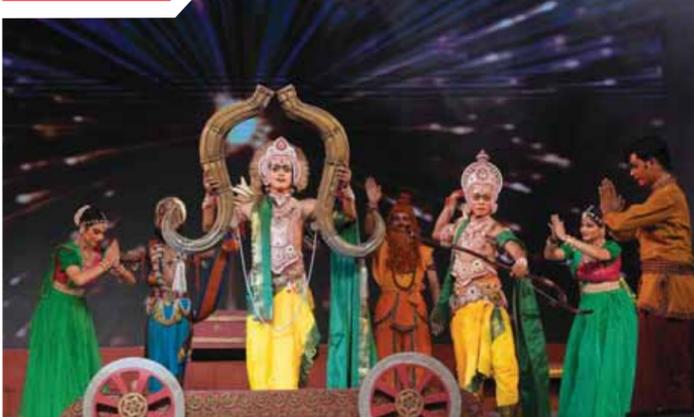
## Underdogs no more!

Buzkashi-playing Afghanistan has braved high odds to make a mark on world cricket, and how!

Ignoring long years of wars, conflicts and turmoil, Afghanistan's cricket team threw up the biggest upset in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, vanquishing defending champions England by a convincing margin of 69 runs. This victory marked only their second win in World Cup history. But it changes everything: Afghanistan's battle-hardened cricket team is now firmly established among the sport's elite. Of course, some credit is due to India, which has helped the Afghan team reach this position of strength. The journey of Afghan cricketers was shaped by their early training in Pakistan, with some even starting their cricketering careers in refugee camps across the border. As they played in dusty and makeshift grounds, they harboured dreams of representing their country on the international stage. The team from this war-torn country made its T20 and ODI debuts against Pakistan. However, the turning point came when the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) stepped in to play a pivotal role in the swift ascension of the sport within the strife-ridden nation. In 2015, the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Greater Noida served as a temporary "home ground" for the Afghans. In the world of cricket, few stories are as captivating and inspirational as the meteoric rise of the Afghan team. Over the past two decades, its journey has been a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Afghans and their unrelenting pursuit of excellence. From its humble beginnings to becoming a formidable force, Afghanistan has not only earned the confidence and respect of major cricketering nations but also made a mark in history.

Its remarkable progress in cricket came through their participation in domestic and international tournaments, such as the World Cricket League. Under the guidance of coaches and mentors, Afghan players honed their skills and developed a unique brand of cricket. Their bowlers, known for their pace and spin prowess, have become a force to reckon with, while their batters have shown glimpses of brilliance. One of the defining moments for Afghanistan was gaining Full Member status from the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 2017. It meant they were granted the same status as giants like India, England and Australia. The emergence of the Afghanistan cricket team is a story of resilience and dedication. It has captured the hearts of cricket enthusiasts and earned the confidence and respect of their peers. The fear factor now associated with Afghanistan's spinners and batters is a testament to their remarkable journey. As Afghanistan continues to take impressive strides in international cricket, it is crucial to celebrate its success as a reminder of the power of sports to bring people together, regardless of their background or circumstances. Afghanistan's cricketering journey is a story of hope and inspiration, one that demonstrates how determination can lead to triumph in the most challenging circumstances. To rephrase Shah Rukh Khan's famous dialogue from a Hindi movie: "Don't underestimate the grit of a war-torn nation!"

### PICTALK



Artists perform during the annual presentation 'Shri Ram', a dance drama on Sampurna Ramayana, in New Delhi. PTI

## Is it worth going to study in a foreign university?

Most students fall for the smart marketing tactics and the lure of getting good employment overseas, realising little that the jobs are scarce there

For the past few years, the craze for people from India to go abroad to gain admission to foreign colleges and settle there has been on the increase. According to the government, between 2016 and 2021, 26.44 lakh Indian students went abroad to study. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) estimates show that in the year 2020, 4.5 lakh Indian students went abroad for education and they spent \$ 13.5 billion in this process. In the year 2022, this expenditure was 24 billion dollars that is, about 2 lakh crore rupees. According to the report of Redseer Strategy Consultant, by 2024 this expenditure may reach US\$ 80 billion, that is, 7 lakh crore rupees, when an estimated 20 lakh Indian students will go abroad to study. If we make a state-wise analysis, till the year 2021, among the students going to study abroad, 12 per cent were from Punjab and Andhra Pradesh each; and 8 per cent were from Gujarat. If seen in proportion to the total number of youth, then 7 out of



every thousand youth from Punjab, 4 out of every thousand youth from Andhra Pradesh and at least 2 out of every thousand youth from Gujarat are going to study abroad in Punjab, 30 per thousand in Andhra Pradesh and 14 per thousand in Gujarat. The exponential increase in the number of students going abroad to study is a matter of concern for many reasons. The biggest concern is that these youth are migrating to foreign countries in search of education and employment and this migration is causing a shortage of labour for the economic activities in the country. There has been huge progress in the field of education in the country. If we

look at the admission of students in higher education, then in 1990-91, only 49.2 lakh students took admission in higher educational institutions; but this number reached 414 lakh in the year 2020-21. Broadly speaking, the number of students taking admission to higher education has increased more than 10 times in the last 30 years. If we talk about higher education institutions, we see that in the year 2021, there were 1113 universities and equivalent institutions, 43796 colleges and 11296 standalone educational institutions in the country. As far as the fee for admission into educational institutions is concerned, in most of the Indian educational institutions it's much lower than the fees in foreign institutions and most of the foreign institutions in which Indian youth are taking admission are of very low standard. So, the question arises why do Indian youth spend huge amounts of money and get admission to foreign educational institutions? The simple answer is that most of the students who go abroad to pursue higher education, actually don't go to

get a higher degree. The real intent of Indian students going to other countries including Australia, Canada, and European countries including the United Kingdom, is not too keen to get an education. Their real objective is to get employment there. But Indian youth fail to realise that there is a huge shortage of employment in these countries also. In many countries, incidents of violence by local people, against Indians and youth coming from other countries, generally from South Asia, are also being witnessed. Most of the young students leaving the country fail to get employment there and have to return home, due to which they are also facing frustration. The students are not able to realise that today in Canada, Australia and European countries, where they are taking admission to educational institutions, those educational institutions are giving easy admission to Indian students in their institutions, for profit. (The writer is a professor, at PGDAV college, University of Delhi, views are personal)



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

# The Israel-Hamas war in perspective

Religiosity woven into war has the automatic effect of rendering the ensuing bloodshed all the more bitter. The results are devastating



PRAFULL GORADIA

The world is used to the spectacle of scholars, academics and social and political activists propagating and conferencing for global peace, but it is increasingly difficult to dismiss the notion that peace is little more than an uneasy halt between wars. While civilians somehow cling to some unreal hope, those in charge of the political destinies talk of peace, but actually build and sharpen the weaponry for the next bout.

In the land of origin of the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, peace is currently the biggest casualty. Virtually everyone is concerned about the Israel-Hamas war. One, however, does almost immediately ponder as to how Tel Aviv was caught by utter surprise. Needless to add, the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad has been reputed to be one of the most efficient in the world, possibly the best spy agency.

On balance, it appears that Hamas was conscious that there are groups within Israel that desire the Jewish homeland and country to further expand into a Greater Israel, as large and great as possible. Undoubtedly, the Hamas leaders themselves yearn to wipe the Jewish nation out of existence. Curiously, like in love, so in hate; such desires are mutual. With the help of friends and allies, it is likely that Hamas has been, for a long time planning to strike a 'grand slam' at their Jewish neighbour.

Just as the Israeli leaders would like to get rid of Hamas from the country's neighbourhood. All of this lays the grounds for a conflict before the end of which the other side would supposedly be wiped out. A wounded enemy is more dangerous than one who hasn't been wounded. A grand slam, so to say, might have been thought to be necessary. The question is whether Israel too sees the Hamas invasion and barbarity as a great opportunity for "setting things right" in the Middle East.

An organized state in Tel Aviv would certainly be functioning round the clock and would not give its adversaries any chance to destroy it. As luck would have it,



Hamas perceived that its Jewish neighbour was divided over the political divide over the issue of judicial powers enjoyed by the country's Supreme Court. They needed to be reduced or restrained so that the democratically elected Knesset or Parliament could assert its will more effectively.

While the members of the Knesset could not readily reach a settlement, the people of the country took over and protested through public meetings and processions. Such scenes had not been seen ever before and were being played out again and again, on the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. When the adversary is divided, it is human nature for the other side to smell an opportunity. As we have discussed, the desire of Hamas has been intense. The images of an Israel divided in the streets of its cities would certainly have held out the temptation, to believe that this was the opportunity. A terrorist organization like Hamas is unlikely to be foresighted. In fact, terrorism per se can seldom win. For the simple reason that its adventures, however violent and apparently successful, do not

HAMAS HAS GIFTED ISRAEL WITH A JUSTIFICATION TO BLAME ANY COUNTRY OR ORGANISATION IT CHOOSES AS A PARTNER-IN-CRIME THAT EXPRESSES EVEN MINIMAL SYMPATHY FOR HAMAS

capture territory. And without territory, there is no lasting victory. And yet, terrorist after terrorist gives up his life, merely to temporarily devastate places and people. Evidently, such men or women cannot be far-sighted. To expect the Hamas to be, therefore, to have vision is to expect a bat to have eyesight. Regardless, the attacks launched by Hamas on October 7 Bloody Saturday were thoughtless, to say the least. The consequences from Sunday onwards were foreseeable and yet, were not seen by the terrorist fighters of Hamas. It is not impossible that their escape route may, in an eventuality, be the Mediterranean Sea. On the other hand, Hamas has gifted Israel with a justification to blame any country or organisation it chooses as a partner-in-crime that expresses even minimal sympathy for Hamas. Israel would also, and not without reason, feel justified to heap destruction on not any the Hamas but also the palaces of Qatar (which reportedly funds Hamas to some extent) and Iran's nuclear toys, as well as bomb places in Syria, most of which are in ruins anyway because of the latter's civil war. Fortunately for

Israel, ammunition has begun flying in from the USA; if necessary, even weapons would flow in. When Israel's Prime Minister says that his country will change the Middle East, he isn't bluffing.

Unfortunately, Israel—and India too—has been battling enemies who look upon war as a religious duty. Religiosity woven into war has the automatic effect of rendering the ensuing bloodshed all the more bitter. Such religious beliefs hold the promise of an eternal heaven with unending gratification of one's natural lust, in the pursuit of which the adherents of those dogmas have little hesitation in unleashing hell on earth.

For India, tightening our security, internal and external, in the wake of the war in Gaza will be imperative, for Hamas' initial boldness could well embolden elements in Pakistan to try something similar. This time, the Arab states have not supported Hamas, as several of them are seeking better relations with Israel and a different future.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author, and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### INDIA'S DEPLORABLE HUNGER INDEX

Sir—It's shocking news that the Global Hunger Index for 2023 ranks India 111th out of 125 countries, categorizing the level of hunger as "serious." While the Union government has rejected this index as erroneous, it can't be completely dismissed, considering that India ranked 102nd out of 119 countries in 2022. Despite maintaining buffer stocks, people dying of starvation is a disgrace, especially for the world's fifth-largest economy, ranking lower than nations like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sub-Saharan African countries. Hoarding food grains while thousands starve is extreme callousness. Hollow government slogans claiming that nobody will die of starvation are contradicted. Furthermore, this alarming ranking on the Global Hunger Index points to a harsh reality: millions of our fellow citizens are struggling to access their daily bread, with their basic human rights being compromised. The fact that India, often celebrated for its rapid economic growth and technological advancements, ranks below countries in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa in terms of hunger is a stark contradiction. It highlights the persistent disparities that exist within the nation and the urgent need for comprehensive policy reform. The government's rejection of this index as erroneous should not serve as a shield to deflect from the pressing issues at hand. It's imperative for the authorities to take this wake-up call seriously and delve into the root causes of this hunger crisis. They must work towards a more equitable distribution of resources, food security, and social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable among us.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

#### INDIA TO HOST 2036 OLYMPIC GAMES

Sir—Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 141st session of the World Olympic Committee in Mumbai, announcing India's readiness to host the 2036 Olympic Games. If the World

#### India beats Pakistan, again



An 8-0 verdict against Pakistan in World Cup matches has proven that the team from our neighborhood is not up to the challenge at this level. Even the Pakistan hockey team went

down tamely without a semblance of a fight in the Asian Games. The toss proved vital in the ODI games, and after losing it, the team was progressing at a slow pace.

As the team across the border failed to accelerate the scoring, danger lurked. Once Babar, the star batsman, was out, the wickets started tumbling, and the end was in sight. Instead of boosting their scoring with pinch hitters to upset Indian spin bowling, the lower-order batsmen fell into the trap and perished. The Indian batting did not retreat against Afridi but instead wielded the willow with great effect, hitting fours and sixes, bringing the target within reach. Captain Rohit Sharma's batting and his ability to handle both bowlers and field placements received appreciation. In the end, Pakistan was soundly defeated. However, Pakistan has had a great tradition of cricket and this is not the end of it as they can and will bounce back to the height they once were.

Chk Ramani | Trichy

Olympic Organization accepts this demand, it will be a significant honor for India. India is rapidly emerging as a global superpower, rising from the tenth to the fifth largest economy in a few years. It is expected to be ranked third soon. Hosting the Olympics will introduce India's tourism to the world and be a source of pride for athletes. India's successful organization of the Asian Games and the inclusion of cricket in the World Olympic Games are positive developments. However, India's permanent membership in the UN Security Committee is still pending, which is crucial for maintaining world peace. The Olympics in India will be a momentous occasion with numerous benefits.

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

#### GAZA'S WORSENING CONDITION

Sir—Gaza and the West Bank are becoming a new battleground as we saw in Bucha, Kyiv, and Donetsk region of

Ukraine at the start of 2023 when Russia invaded Ukraine. The condition of Gaza is dire after the Israeli Air Force occupation. The Iron Sword operation by Israel's defense ministry and the suffering of Palestinians paint a grim picture.

The world is marred by struggles for superiority and ethnic and religious tensions. Gaza has seen no peace for years, only shelling, tears, plight, fear, and anger. Wars persist without solutions, causing destruction and suffering. We must shift our mindset from war to peace, as India opposes the erasure of the Palestinian community. The world needs de-escalation, not war. We must focus on peace in conflict zones, or the world will continue fighting for unnecessary supremacy.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

## MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION

Forbearance and endurance are paramount keys to achieving success



RAVI VALLURI

Anand was a mere mentee at a celebrated flautist's music school. The youngster was bewitched by a damsel who too was learning to play the flute under the expertise of the legendary musician.

Anand and Bhairavi were ensnared by craving; they were in a tearing hurry to achieve stardom through soulful renditions of the fabled Ananda Bhairavi raga. Their respected Master was however certainly not impressed at the proffer of his novitiates and admonished them.

"One needs enormous tapas to arrive at the world stage," he added.

**A Zen Story:** Years ago, a greenhorn was learning various nuances of breathing techniques and meditation at a temple of knowledge. After acquiring some basic skills, he approached his monk as to how soon he could graduate from the monastery and begin to spread the knowledge of Zen Buddhism. The impassioned monk was to say impassively, "It will take you ten more years."

"Master, I will practice twice the number of hours, then how long will it take me to become a suzerain of Buddhism?"

"Thirty years," was the bland reply.

**Learning to Learn:** Forbearance and endurance are paramount keys to achieving success. Tearing hurry and sheer desperation to climb the ladder to achieve fame in any field leads only to severe psychological problems.



**Psychotherapy:** The intent of a therapeutic approach is to upend the pyramid. It is to ensure the betterment of the victim's life. The therapy reinforces the client's resolve for mitigating distress leading to an improved lifestyle. By adopting a holistic line of treatment, the mind is blessed with positivity, becomes robust and develops the ability to eschew unwelcome habits.

There is astonishing progress in the victim who undergoes a mental transformation; the thinking pattern changes dramatically and becomes empowered to make mindful decisions on the voyage of rehabilitation. Gifted and trained psychotherapists combine their clinical insights and their mental GPS to zero in on suitable psychodynamic therapies.

**Dynamics of Rehabilitation and Recuperation:** Fundamentally, psychodynamic therapy cogitates that it is an intra-psychic conflict that is primarily responsible for the psychological malady. The fountainhead of the problem lies within the psyche of the individual. Research in the field opines that querulous desires of childhood and unmitigated childhood fears are essentially responsible for intra-psychic disorders. Keeping in mind the above two factors, psychotherapists deploy the technique of free association and eliciting information through visualisation, dreams, thoughts, and feelings to create a database. The cutting edge of the therapy is provided as the therapist glides and floats from the intellectual frame to an emotional plane. Psychodynamic therapy enfranchised the therapist to understand the mind of the patient and provide emotional succour.

Last but not least, the duration of treatment is of tremendous significance. The magnitude of the problem is obviously a key determinant of the span of treatment. However, around 15 to 20 vigorous sessions put the patient well on the road to renascence.

**Alternative therapies**

Unbridled ambition could also trigger alcoholism, bulimia, heavy smoking, and substance abuse among others. In such cases, alternative therapies such as practising the unique rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya, Vipassana, sessions of yoga and pranayama, and meditation techniques of Yoga Nidra, help in the relaxation of the mind and body immensely.

*(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd and is a faculty at the Art of Living. Views are personal)*

# Igniting the passion of traditional entrepreneurs



DINESH SOOD

'PM Vishwakarma' is an attempt to empower the self-employed traditional entrepreneurs who contribute to their communities and create employment



Many people strive to secure their dream job and are unwilling to risk becoming an entrepreneur. However, it is notable that professions such as blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, carpenters, sculptors, barbers, cobblers, and others are a significant part of India's workforce. These traditional tiny entrepreneurs work with their hands and tools and are usually self-employed individuals whose skills are passed down from generation to generation. This proves that entrepreneurs are born, not made. The culture in which these individuals are raised plays a significant role in shaping their entrepreneurial mindset. They witness the ups and downs of entrepreneurship and choose to live their lives similarly. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme worth Rs 13,000 crore to promote such traditional tiny entrepreneurs to create more employers than employees. The aim is to integrate traditional tiny entrepreneurs into the domestic and global value chains by providing skill upgradation and modernisation. This will help to enhance their already existing traditional skill sets and make them more relevant, thereby improving their socio-economic status and quality of life.

Successful entrepreneurs are not limited to those who inherit family businesses. An individual's mindset towards entrepreneurship is crucial and develops with age and experience. As people mature, they become aware of the advantages of entrepreneurship and often choose it as a career path. However, how can we motivate those who do not come from entrepreneurial backgrounds to become future employers and contribute to our sustainable econo-



SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS ARE NOT LIMITED TO THOSE WHO INHERIT FAMILY BUSINESSES. AN INDIVIDUAL'S MINDSET TOWARDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS CRUCIAL AND DEVELOPS WITH AGE AND EXPERIENCE

*(The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International and a network member of India International Skill Centres, Views are personal)*

my? It is our responsibility to take the necessary steps to make this happen. Can't we start at least with these initial steps?

Home; the parents should start from the early school days of their young ones, read to them the stories of successful entrepreneurs, ones their young buds could relate to and get them acquainted with their day-to-day life attributes and the attributes and benefits they pass on to the society. Well, it is better to tell your bud to aim at making a hospital or hotel than just being a doctor or a chef, in the process, the young mind will keep his trajectory not confined to just being a doctor or a chef but keep his horizons much open and farther even after turning a successful super specialist doctor or a celebrity chef.

Schools; To fuel the entrepreneurship spirit among job seekers, multi-faceted efforts are needed to accelerate the creation of more job providers in the bustling industrial, services and tertiary sectors. Unfortunately, our education system did not focus on the development of essential entrepreneurial skills in school students, while entrepreneurial skill is the main pillar of job providers, intend to march forward.

Thus, to support the entrepreneurial spirit must give a nod to the Business Blaster Young Entrepreneur Programme in schools to encourage school children from class 11 to become entrepreneurs. Successful entrepre-

neurs and unicorns who bring with them years of entrepreneurial experience can play a vital role as mentors and can contribute the angel funding to build entrepreneurial orientation and mindset among the youths, especially school dropouts can be skilled and would equip their budding entrepreneurship to take charge as a job provider.

Colleges; there should be a structured curriculum with frequent seminars and workshops on entrepreneurship, emphasizing hands-on experience rather than just classroom learning. Encouraging idea sponsorships and mentorship from entrepreneurs would be beneficial. Additionally, students should be encouraged to visit actual facilities to better understand the entrepreneurial culture.

Business schools; should place equal emphasis on teaching entrepreneurship as they do on teaching business. Mock drills should be implemented, where students spend an equal amount of time shadowing an entrepreneur as they do during internships with organizations. Evaluations should hold equal weight in determining the student's level of business acumen and entrepreneurial spirit. Skill Development Centres; we have some of the brightest minds who are driving change in skill development. These leaders should focus on imparting entrepreneurship skills with the same energy and dedication as employability skills. Entrepreneurship

Development Institutes; how many successful entrepreneurs have we connected with to mentor our future entrepreneurs? We don't need teachers to teach how to be an entrepreneur; if they knew, they would already be one. We need proven entrepreneurs to guide and support our future entrepreneurs and set them on the path to success. Providing resources is only part of the equation, providing expert guidance is equally important.

Lastly; successful entrepreneurs must step forward and make time in their busy schedules to mentor future entrepreneurs regularly. This can be done for a specific period until the mentee establishes their trajectory, after which the mentor can move on to the next aspiring entrepreneur. This would be a more effective and impactful form of corporate social responsibility.

Entrepreneurship is driven by aspirations that exceed available resources. Entrepreneurs do not start businesses because everything falls into place perfectly. Even the self-employed, or "Vishwakarma" in traditional terms, continue to hone their skills for personal fulfilment and to contribute to their communities. Society as a whole should come together to support these individuals and in doing so, benefit itself. The goal should be to create more employers than employees, and it is hoped that "PM Vishwakarma" will help make this a reality.

# Developing argumentative skills with Moot Courts

In a bid to improve the argumentative skills of budding lawyers, law colleges and schools across India are choosing 'Moot Court' competitions

The syllabus of the law universities features 'Moot Court' as a compulsory topic, the marks scored in it playing a crucial role in determining the grade with which the students pass out of the LLB degree examination. Persons outside the legal fraternity or law colleges may stare back when they are asked about Moot Court. "Though Moot Courts are as important and interesting as Mathematics Olympiad, they are yet to get the public recognition. For those interested in legal affairs, this is an event equal in status to the Mathematics Olympiad," said Prof V R Jayadevan, principal, of Government Law College, Thrissur, who successfully conducted an all-India Moot Court event in his college in



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

*(The writer is a special correspondent at The Pioneer; views expressed are personal)*

the last week of September. Though planned as a low-profile event the Thrissur Moot Court Competition drew 36 teams from all over India. The winners walked away with the Justice T Ramachandran Memorial Trophy. The event saw intense competition as participating undergraduates switched over from one section of the law to another section with elan and poise.

If you ask a person without a legal background what moot court is about, chances are that you will get a grumpy look. No one can blame him/her because persons without knowledge of legal education are not at all familiar with the term. Moot Courts are simulated lessons held in law schools to make budding lawyers ready to face

real-life battles in courtrooms. It is an intellectual bout conceived to test the prowess of law students in their academic pursuits.

The organisers take out subjects of national and international events, put them as a legal issue and ask the students to argue for and against the topic. Classrooms in law schools are converted into real-life courtrooms with all resplendent ambience. These bouts turn out future Jethmalanis, Servais, Narimans and Sorabjees! Those familiar with the nuances of law and legal codes are sure to take a liking to the event. "I always feel that Moot Courts resemble Kathakali, a pantomime of Kerala, which could be enjoyed only by the connoisseurs of art. For those

who are uninitiated about Kathakali, watching it is a futile exercise. There is a saying in Malayalam that watching the art form without knowing the story is a waste of time," said Parvathi Sreejith Valliathan, Assistant Professor, SRM Law School, Chennai. The Thrissur event was the 12th edition of the annual Moot Court competition held by the College. "This year we selected a topic right out of a real-life event. Dharmanchal, a State in the Union of India, enacted Dharmanchal Infrastructure Investment Fund Act 2001. The preamble of the Act states that it was expedient to constitute a fund for investment in infrastructure projects in the State. The Act was similar to the provisions of the

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Act 1999," explained Prof Sonia K Das, the livewire of the event.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India took strong objections to the way the KIIFB was functioning and the availing of loans beyond the repaying capacity of the State. The Articles concerning the federal structure and the freedom of the States were used as weapons by the participants in simulated courtrooms which were presided over by judges who needed the counsels appearing for the petitioners and respondents with questions that went deep into the subject. The expressions on the faces of the audience spoke a lot. They too were taken to the hitherto undebated issues in the Indian

Constitution. "Our intention is to tone up the skills of advocacy," said Prof Jayadevan. The competition witnessed high-pitch arguments and counter-arguments. "Besides arguments, Moot Courts are the path for law students to have practical knowledge in drafting, pleading and conveyancing. The Moot Courts will intellectually stimulate students to develop skills that will be of great importance in future. The participants (addressed as Mooters) should possess sharp analytical skills to dissect complex legal issues, identify key arguments and develop logical frameworks," said Parvathi Kumar, who has more than a dozen Moot Court events to her credit.

Moot Court also have a

number of participants performing various tasks like researching and drafting which are put to the Court for approval/consideration. The participants are hopeful that one day they will be able to compete in the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court hosted in Washington DC. Considering the fact that there is no empowered body to ask the global community of nations to follow the dictat of the International Court of Justice, it is for the Gen Next to come up with ideas and solutions that make the States obey the orders issued by it. The progress made in science and technology has brought together warring nations of Europe is a hopeful signature. Let the Moot Courts flourish in India.

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DL7S35368	DL3SAL0528	DL4CAF3389
DNF1271	DL7SANS797	DL3CAC9306
DL3SAB8024	DL9C0S9105	HR51AW0519
DL4SBJ9683	DL3SAG5624	DL3CAW8661
DL3SAR9366	DL3SAR2861	DL4CAB7758
DL3SAL8401	DL5S17773	DL3SBN1589
DL3S2337	DL4SAG9675	DL3SAT7845
DL3S17176	DL8SAAH6758	DL3SAX1912
DL3FN1818	DL1S83090	DL9SM6691
DL1K0242	DL8SAM1767	DL3SBJ1992
DL1K0287	DL6S2555	UP14S9018
DL1LK2175	DL9SH2031	DL3SMB0325
DEE64	DL9SN8410	DL3SAL0610
DL9CN9725	HR51J5126	DL9S05785
DL9S1637	DL4SBE6998	HR01V1087
DL6S7026	GLCC1937	DL3CAW6721
DL9S1287	DL7SJA9933	UP32BA6629
DL9S8804	UP6S3562	HR51Z1765
DL9SU474	DL7SAH3787	DL3S1766
DL7S2324	DL4SAU0124	DL3S15162
DL9SL3491	DL9SU2435	DL6CM0265
DL4CNC2709	UP8S1695	DL8SF6837
DL4CND5087	DL2SM1276	

# Muslim boy killed, woman hurt in Illinois hate crime

AP ■ CHICAGO

A 71-year-old Illinois man accused of fatally stabbing a 6-year-old boy and seriously wounding a 32-year-old woman was charged with a hate crime Sunday. Police allege he singled out the victims because of their Islamic faith and as a response to the war between Israel and Hamas.

In recent days, police in U.S. cities and federal authorities have been on high alert for violence driven by antisemitic or Islamophobic sentiments. FBI officials, along with Jewish and Muslim groups, have reported an increase of hateful and threatening rhetoric.

In the Chicago-area case, officers found the woman and boy late Saturday morning at a home in an unincorporated area of Plainfield Township, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) southwest of Chicago, the Will County Sheriff's Office said in a statement on social media.

The boy was pronounced dead at a hospital. The woman had multiple stab wounds and was expected to survive, according to the statement. An autopsy on the child showed he had been stabbed dozens of times.

"Detectives were able to determine that both victims in this brutal attack were targeted by the suspect due to them being Muslim and the on-going Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis," the sheriff's statement said. According to the Will County sheriff's office, the

woman had called 911 to report that her landlord had attacked her with a knife, adding she then ran into a bathroom and continued to fight him off.

The man suspected in the attack was found Saturday outside the home and "sitting upright outside on the ground near the driveway of the residence" with a cut on his forehead, authorities said.

Joseph M. Czuba of Plainfield was charged with first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder, two counts of hate crimes and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, according to the sheriff's office. He was in custody Sunday and awaiting a court appearance.

Attempts to reach Czuba or a family member were unsuccessful Sunday. His home phone number was unlisted. Messages left for possible relatives in online records and on social media were not immediately returned. The sheriff's office and county public defender's office did not immediately return messages about Czuba's legal representation.

Authorities did not release the names of the two victims. But the boy's paternal uncle, Yousef Hannon, spoke at a news conference Sunday hosted by the Chicago chapter Council on American-Islamic Relations.

There the boy was identified as Wade Al-Fayoume, a Palestinian American boy who recently had turned 6. The organization identified the other victim as the boy's mother.

# UNRWA sends advance team to Egypt

PTI ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday visited a Jewish school here and reiterated his government's commitment to protect Britain's Jews from antisemitic attacks amid the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict. The British Indian leader also stressed that Israel's operations must centre on the terrorist group Hamas to avoid an escalation of conflict in the region. He pointed to the spy planes deployed by the UK to the eastern Mediterranean region to monitor and prevent arms shipments from landing in terrorist hands.

"I'm determined to ensure that our Jewish community is able to feel safe on our streets, that there is no place in our society for antisemitism, and we will do everything we can to stamp it out and where it happens," said Sunak during his visit to the Jewish school in north London. He attended an assembly at the secondary school before answering a few questions from those present.

"I stand with all of you, the Jewish community, not just today, tomorrow but always, and I really mean it. Like many of you, I am different; I come from a different background, and our society is strongest when that diversity is respected. There are people who are trying to stir up hatred and division, and I will always strive very hard to protect that diversity," he said.

# Rishi Sunak visits UK's Jewish school to reassure community

PTI ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday visited a Jewish school here and reiterated his government's commitment to protect Britain's Jews from antisemitic attacks amid the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict. The British Indian leader also stressed that Israel's operations must centre on the terrorist group Hamas to avoid an escalation of conflict in the region. He pointed to the spy planes deployed by the UK to the eastern Mediterranean region to monitor and prevent arms shipments from landing in terrorist hands.

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Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak signing messages and prayers for Israel during a visit to a school in north London, England Monday. AP/PTI

# Biden postpones trip to Colorado

Washington (AP): President Joe Biden postponed a trip to Colorado on Monday to stay in Washington and focus on the growing conflict in the Middle East.

Biden had been heading to the Colorado district of Rep. Lauren Boebert, where he was to visit CS Wind, the world's largest facility for wind tower manufacturing. The White House said just a few hours before Biden was set to take off for the trip that it would be rescheduled.

Instead, Biden is expected to hold a series of high-level meetings with aides on Israel and the growing humanitarian concerns in Gaza. The Democratic president is weighing a decision to visit the region in a powerful symbol of support for Israel following the October 7 attack by Hamas that killed more than 1,400 people including at least 30 US citizens.

The decision reflects the competing pressures for the president, heading into an election year in which he is trying to showcase his domestic agenda as conflicts abroad in Ukraine and now Israel grow.

# EU leaders to hold emergency summit

Brussels (AP): European Union leaders will hold an emergency summit on Tuesday as concerns grow that the war between Israel and Hamas could fuel inter-communal tensions in Europe and bring more refugees in search of sanctuary.

"This conflict has many consequences, including for us in the European Union," EU Council President Charles Michel said in a video statement announcing that he had convened the virtual meeting. "The conflict could have major security consequences for our societies."

Since the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked southern on October 7, triggering the latest Gaza war, France has ordered a ban on pro-Palestinian demonstrations and the number of antisemitic acts has risen. Low-level rallies have been held in other EU countries. Both the 27-nation bloc and the United States consider Hamas as a terrorist organisation.

The Louvre Museum in Paris evacuated people after receiving bomb threats over the weekend.

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**NOTICE**  
 Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder/ Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares
1	SRF0147008	RAJAN SHARMA	781664	62251742-91	50
			1125163	308181114-2113	1000
			90102749-51	10052650-749	100
2	SRF0147282	RAJAN SHARMA	572159	26206766-815	50
			1125164	308182114-313	200
			90202074-75	15392885-984	100
3	SRF0031890	PARAMESWARAN MANGATE VELAYUDHAN NAIR V SARASWATHI P NAIR	1130477	310215874-6341	468
			915478	21489909-90008	100
			915478	29509251-300	50
4	SRF0151298	DEV PRAKASH BAHETI	1130563	310258974-93	720
			915478	29509251-300	50
			915478	29509701-750	300
5	SRF0029322	VARUN PAWHA	1131294	310555110-7109	2000
			335408-10	16422054-76	23
			484408-10	24441846-68	23
6	R 0004284	RAMESH CHAND ARORA	976704	18593723-35	13
			1126545	308656454-761	308
			1130540	310245034-5034	1000
7	SRF0024422	SARITA BAHETI	9614	1565426	25
			9733	1569076	25
			11200	1611526	25
8	S 0011779	KM SONU BHANOT	11357	1616076	25
			11761	1627451	25
			13749	1687876	25
9	SRF0116327	MENABAI VISHANJI SAMPAT VISHANJI NARSHI SAMPAT	29028	2126801	25
			36462	2335676	25
			149582-83	5936824-923	100
10	K 0000360	KIRON PRAVIN SHETH	1124597	307972818-4017	1200
			52292	2767976-8000	25
			55599	2820664-74	11
11					

# Leaders from emerging economies arriving for 'Belt and Road' forum

AP ■ BEIJING

Leaders of emerging market countries are arriving in Beijing for a meeting organised by the Chinese government that will mark the 10th anniversary of its Belt and Road Initiative.

More than a dozen leaders from Africa, Asia and the Mideast were flying into Beijing on Monday, following the arrivals of Chilean President Gabriel Boric and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on Sunday. Others are coming on Tuesday.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative, a signature policy of President Xi Jinping, Chinese companies have built ports, roads, railways, power plants and other infrastructure around the world in a bid to boost trade and economic growth.

But the massive Chinese development loans that funded the projects have also burdened some poorer countries with heavy debts.

A flurry of diplomacy is expected on the sidelines of the third Belt and Road Forum, whose main events are on Wednesday. Orbán met with Xi and Premier Li Qiang, Hungary's state news agency MTI said. The forums also were held in 2017 and 2019.

Kenyan President William Ruto will be seeking additional loans for stalled road projects despite the country's already high public debt, and an easing of the repayment of a Chinese loan for a railway project that has not proven commercially viable.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to attend the forum, as are representatives of the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Putin downplayed the idea that China, through its Belt and Road projects in Central Asia, is competing for influence in a region that Russia has long considered its backyard.

"Our own ideas on the development of the Eurasian Economic Union, for example, on the construction of a Greater Eurasia, fully coincide with the Chinese ideas proposed within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative," he told Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, according to a transcript posted on the Kremlin website.



Waitresses prepare for meal time at the media center near a display depicting China's Silk Road during the Third Belt and Road Forum held at the China National Convention Centre in Beijing, on Monday

# Kenya seeks more loans despite rising public debt

AP ■ NAIROBI

Kenya's President William Ruto sought \$1 billion more in loans from China Monday, despite rising public debt that has now reached \$70 billion in the Eastern African country, according to National Treasury figures for 2022/2023. President Ruto was one of a number of global leaders in Beijing to attend the tenth anniversary meeting of China's Belt and Road Initiative, the ambitious plan that aims to connect Africa, Asia and Europe through massive infrastructure and energy projects.

A statement from Kenya's State House Spokesman Hussein Mohammed said, "The president will deliver a keynote address headlined Digital Economy as a New Source of Growth" at the High-Level Forum.

"Additionally, the president will participate in a Kenya-China investors round-

table to emphasise Kenya's standing as an investment hub for Chinese companies," said the statement. One of the signature BRI projects in Kenya is the Standard Gauge Railway line, which runs from the port city of Mombasa to the Rift Valley via the capital, Nairobi. It cost \$4.7 billion dollars to build but has faced numerous challenges, including delays and a low uptake of its freight service. The SGR which started operations in 2017, was initially intended to go all the way to neighbouring Uganda to the west, as well as serving other landlocked countries in eastern and Central Africa.

However, those plans were cancelled after Kampala pulled out and opted instead for partnership with a Turkish firm for the construction of its main line. Kenya's SGR was mainly constructed using Chinese banks loans and last week, Deputy President Rigathi

Gachagua told a local radio station that the president will be asking Chinese officials "to repay the loans slowly, while also borrowing a little money to finish stalled road projects."

"The Kenya SGR desperately needs cross-border expansion to make it a financially sustainable project. This is another key element in Kenya's negotiation," said economist Aly Khan Satchu. "The SGR as is a dud. To make it sustainable it needs to connect Uganda's oil to the sea and (Congo) minerals. Therefore, to take the SGR from a negative return on investment into a positive ROI, he needs to increase leverage," added Satchu. Kenya has been struggling with ballooning public debt, with \$6 billion owed to Chinese creditors, according to national data. Some of the loans will mature in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, putting further pressure on the government.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou

Nguesso, Papua New Guinean Prime Minister James Marape and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet.

# Oz watchdog fines 'X' \$385,000 for not tackling child abuse content

Canberra (AP) — Australia's online safety watchdog said on Monday it had fined X — the social media platform formerly known as Twitter — 610,500 Australian dollars (USD 385,000) for failing to fully explain how it tackled child sexual exploitation content.

Australia's eSafety Commission describes itself as the world's first government agency dedicated to keeping people safe online. The commission issued legal transparency notices early this year to X and other platforms questioning what they were doing to tackle a proliferation of child sexual exploitation, sexual extortion and the livestreaming of child sexual abuse. eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said X and Google had not complied with the notices because both companies had failed to adequately respond to a number of questions. The platform renamed X by its new owner Elon Musk was the worst offender, providing no answers to some questions including how many staff remained on the trust and safety team that worked on preventing harmful and illegal content since Musk took over, Inman Grant said.

"I think there's a degree of defiance there," Inman Grant said. "If you've got a basic H.R. (human resources) system or payroll, you'll know how many people are on each team," she added. X did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

After Musk completed his acquisition of the company in October last year, he drastically cut costs and shed thousands of jobs. X could challenge the fine in the Australian Federal Court. But the court could impose a fine of up to AU\$780,000 (USD 493,402) per day since March when the commission first found the platform had not complied with the transparency notice.

The commission would continue to pressure X through notices to become more transparent, Inman Grant said. "They can keep stonewalling and we'll keep fining them," she said. The commission issued Google with a formal warning for providing "generic responses to specific questions," a statement said.

# 'Russia's assault on eastern Ukraine city is weakening'

AP ■ KYIV

A dayslong attempt by Russian forces to storm a strategically important city in eastern Ukraine appears to be running out of steam, Kyiv officials claimed Monday, as the Kremlin's war entered its 600th day. Ukrainian forces repelled 15 Russian attacks from four directions on Avdiivka over the previous 24 hours, the Ukrainian General Staff said.

That compared with up to 60 attacks a day in the middle of last week, according to Vitalii Barabash, head of the city administration. The slackening suggests the Russian effort to capture Avdiivka has "deflated", Barabash said.

A Washington-based think tank broadly concurred with that assessment. "Russian forces continued offensive operations aimed at encircling Avdiivka... but have yet to make further gains amid a likely decreasing tempo of Russian operations in the area," the Institute for the Study of War said in analysis published late Sunday.

Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, told a UN Security Council meeting last Friday that the ramped-up attacks in the east amounted to a new

stage in Moscow's campaign in Ukraine.

With the looming onset of wintry conditions that will limit military operations, both sides have been seeking battlefield breakthroughs that could invigorate their efforts and raise morale.

Ukraine launched its own counteroffensive about four months ago. It has made some headway but the limited success has underlined the daunting challenge of taking on the Kremlin's more numerous forces. Kyiv's Western allies insist that their military and financial support for Ukraine will continue, even as the Israeli-Hamas war rages and competes for resources.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said Sunday the Biden administration will ask Congress for a combined aid package for Ukraine and Israel worth more than \$2 billion.

Ukrainian officials have said their troops are holding out against fierce Russian efforts to wrest control of Avdiivka, a heavily fortified city. Avdiivka lies in the northern suburbs of the city of Donetsk, in a region of the same name that Russian forces partially occupy. Avdiivka's location grants Ukrainian forces artillery advantages over

the city and could serve as a springboard for them to liberate Donetsk.

It is not possible to verify battlefield claims by either side. Misinformation and disinformation have played a central role in the war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in an interview with the China Media Group released Monday, claimed that Ukraine's counteroffensive has achieved "no results so far, only massive losses".

Meanwhile, Russian children's rights ombudswoman Maria Lvova-Belova claimed Monday that her office has helped 35 Ukrainian children reunite with their relatives in Ukraine and other countries.

Lvova-Belova, who was indicted along with Putin by the International Criminal Court for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, claimed Russia never opposed reuniting children with their families.

Qatar's foreign ministry issued a statement saying it had been involved in recent family reunifications through its embassy in Moscow but it provided no details.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Kamlesh w/o. Mr. Naresh who is purchasing New Property No. 57-B & Old No. 53, measuring 176 sq. yds., Kallawalla Rihgal, Puri, Chander Pur, New Sundarwa, Chhatrabad, UP-201001, from Mr. Mahesh Chand who was the co-owner of the aforesaid property vide Will dated 20.08.1992, Document No. 640, with execution by the father Mr. Harsharan Dass, after demise of Mr. Harsharan Dass, Mr. Mahesh Chand & Mr. Naresh Kumar became joint owners of the aforesaid mentioned property, and intend to mortgage the aforesaid property against the financial assistance from Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim / right / title / interest / creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP, 136, Basement Floor, Uday Park near Mother Dairy New Delhi-49. Contact: # 011-4096316 & 4169732

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Salman Khanis the sole owner of Second floor (without roof rights), "said floor" area measuring 140 Sq. Yds., portion bearing no. K, property bearing no. 252, 254, 215, out of Khara no. 61921, situated within abadi of Lal Dora of village Chhattarpur, New Delhi-110074. This ownership was legally acquired through a Sale Deed dated 11.09.2023 vide doc No. 7470 executed by Mohd. Ahsan Ali. Mr. Salman Khanis currently in the process of mortgaging the aforementioned property with SMO India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Fullerton). Our Client. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Lav Veritas: North at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +911020-3101063/4562809; e-mail: accounts@north.in

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**Press Tender Enq. No. 493P/3-EMPV-W-12461 dated 13-10-2023**  
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Press Tender for Outsourcing of 1 No. Truck (Capacity 9.0 MT) along with 1 No. Driver and 1 No. Unskilled Worker in GGSSTP, Ropnagar.  
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://pspcl.in> Website  
Note:- Corrigendum & Addendum, if any will be published online at <https://pspcl.in> RTP-117/23  
76155/12/2288/2023/28892 Dated CHD :- 10/16/2023

# Court rejects Imran Khan's plea against jail trial in cipher case

Islamabad (PTI): A top court in Pakistan on Monday rejected a plea by Imran Khan against holding his trial in the cipher case in jail, saying in-prison hearing was "in favour" of the former prime minister keeping in mind security-related matters. The case pertains to a secret diplomatic document that Khan used to criticise his opponents for allegedly orchestrating his ouster from power in April last year. The document reportedly went missing from his possession.

A special court is hearing the case against Khan, 71, in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi where he was shifted on September 26 from the District Jail Attack.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman in a petition filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on October 4 sought to stay the jail trial.

The IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq announced the reserved verdict, dismissing the plea against the holding of the cipher case trial in Adiala

Jail while directing Khan to approach the special court instead for the same. The verdict stated that the jail trial was "in favour" of the former premier keeping in mind security-related matters. "There is no ill will apparent on the matter of jail trial," it observed.

The court in its order recalled that Khan had voiced his reservations relating to his security "numerous times". "If the PTI chairman has reservations about the jail trial, he may approach the trial court," the order stated.

Earlier this month, the court declared that Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi would be indicted during the next hearing on October 17, which would mark the official start of the trial. Khan was ousted through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022. He was incarcerated on August 5 this year, after an Islamabad court sentenced him to three years in prison in the Toshakhana case.

# Nawaz Sharif to unveil 'recovery plan' at Minar-e-Pakistan gathering on Oct 21

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan's self-exiled former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will give a road map to pull the cash-strapped country out of the economic mess during his gathering here in the capital of Punjab province on October 21, a media report said on Monday.

The Lahore district administration on Sunday allowed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party to hold a gathering at the Minar-e-Pakistan after the former ruling party sought permission in a bid to whip up support for its supreme leader's return later this week, Dawn news reported. Speaking to workers at a party convention in Mustafabad, PML-N Vice President Hamza Shehbaz said Pakistan will "restart its journey towards progress and prosperity" with the return of the PML-N supreme leader later this week.

"In his address at Minar-e-Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif will give a road map to pull the country out of the economic mess," Hamza Shehbaz, the nephew of Nawaz Sharif, said.

He said the PML-N and its allies saved the country while risking their political capital. Had there been no agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan would have gone bankrupt, Hamza said, adding that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government led by its chief Imran Khan brought the country to the verge of default. Hamza, the son of former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, said while the politics of the PML-N revolved around development, jailed former prime minister Khan-led PTI indulged in politics of hate.

He referred to the May 9 incidents to back his point. PML-N leader Malik Ahmed, who was a former aide to ex-premier Shehbaz

Sharif, said October 21 would not be "an ordinary day in fact this would be the day when the country would start its journey towards glory and prosperity". The PML-N is all set to hold the mass public meeting not only to welcome Nawaz Sharif but also to give a befitting reply to the PTI that used the venue to show its massive popularity among the masses, the report said.

In response to the request for holding a public meeting at Minar-e-Pakistan and the submission of an affidavit by PML-N leader Bilal Yasin to take full responsibility for the public gathering in case of any untoward incident, the deputy commissioner's office issued a no objection certificate (NOC) to the party. The organisers have been instructed to ensure stage security, security of ladies' and gents' enclosures, emergency exits, measures for avoiding/controlling stampedes and adequate parking through the hiring of private security and volunteers.



A harvesting machine mows down rows of corn in fields near Dingelstaedt, Germany, on Monday

# Unification Church slams Japan's dissolution request as threat to religious freedom

Tokyo (AP): The Japanese branch of the Unification Church on Monday criticised the Japanese government's request for a court order to dissolve the group, saying it is based on groundless accusations and is a serious threat to religious freedom and human rights of its followers.

Japan's Education Ministry on Friday asked the Tokyo District Court to revoke the legal status of the Unification Church after a ministry investigation concluded the group for decades has systematically manipulated its followers into donating money, sowing fear and harming their families.

The investigation followed months of public outrage and questions about the group's

fundraising and recruitment tactics after former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's assassination last year. The man accused of shooting Abe allegedly was motivated by the former prime minister's links to the church and blamed it for bankrupting his family.

The government's request is "extremely disappointing and regrettable," said the church's legal affairs department chief, Nobuo Okamura. "We believe the request for a dissolution order is a serious development not only for freedom of religion but also human rights." The request asks the court to issue a dissolution order revoking the church's status as a religious organisation.

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Tel No: 0120-4983851, E-mail: cs@ksolves.com, Website: www.ksolves.com

**Extract of the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year ended on September 30, 2023 (Amount Rs. in Lakhs)**

Particulars	Quarter ended on		Year to date figures for the year ended on		Year to date figures for the previous year ended	
	30/09/2023	30/06/2023	30/09/2022	30/09/2023	30/09/2022	31/03/2023
Revenue from operations	2598.35	2378.82	1850.26	4977.17	3501.49	7,831.16
Profit before tax	1114.57	1012.73	802.36	2127.30	1511.37	3293.56
Profit after tax	823.09	758.96	591.59	1582.05	1120.80	2472.04
Total comprehensive income for the period	818.16	757.19	583.53	1575.35	1105.25	2444.98
Paid up equity share capital (Face value: Rs. 10 per share)	1185.80	1185.80	1185.80	1185.80	1185.80	1185.80
Total reserves (including non-controlling interests)	1679.82	1809.94	838.80	1679.82	638.80	1052.75
Earnings per equity share Basic and diluted	6.94	6.40	4.99	13.34	9.45	20.85

**Extract of the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year ended on September 30, 2023 (Amount Rs. in Lakhs)**

Particulars	Quarter ended on		Year to date figures for the year ended on		Year to date figures for the previous year ended	
	30/09/2023	30/06/2023	30/09/2022	30/09/2023	30/09/2022	31/03/2023
Revenue from operations	2598.79	2366.14	1826.27	4955.93	3437.31	7711.65
Profit before tax	1113.56	1007.95	808.63	2121.51	1544.76	3299.31
Profit after tax	825.72	754.95	597.33	1580.67	1155.57	2487.03
Total comprehensive income for the period	820.79	753.18	589.28	1573.97	1140.02	2459.97

1. The full format of the quarterly Un-audited financial results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and also on the Company's website [www.ksolves.com](http://www.ksolves.com)

Date : 17.10.2023  
Place : Delhi

By order of the Board  
For Ksolves India Limited  
Sd/-  
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Managing Director

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2.	For Verka Mohali Dairy Pest Control Service	Annual One job
3.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy a) Outsourcing of man power Unskilled/Semi-skilled/Skilled/Highly skilled & other Categories. b) Hiring of Insulated vehicles for supply of packed milk and fresh milk products in Bathinda Milkshed area.	Annual Annual
4.	For Verka Mohali Dairy Hiring of Road Milk Tankers for Transportation of milk all over Punjab, Chandigarh, U.P., Delhi & Haryana.	08 No's
5.	For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) Purchase of :- • Total Mixed Ration Machine (TMR). • Conduction Lid Film b) Hiring of Powder plant for Conversion of skimmed milk to SMP	Annual Annual 06 month
6.	For Verka Sangur Dairy Hiring of :- • Godown (store) for storage of Skimmed Milk Powder. • Cold Store for storage of White Butter. • Vehicle (older than seven years will not be consider for employment)	Annual/12000 sq. feet to 14000 sq. feet Annual/Approx. 1000 MT 01 No.
7.	For Verka Ferozpur Dairy Unusable material & plant machinery scrap.	-
8.	For Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy a) Supply of rice husk b) Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of fully automatic SCADA based CIP System.	2000 MT 01 No.
9.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy Providing :- • Labour through service provider who is having EPF/ESI No. and Security Personnel • Labour Providing License.	As per requirement
10.	For Verka Mega Dairy, Bassi Pathana Hiring of Service Contract for packing of Tetra Pak Products.	Annual

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1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop) & e Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in).  
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# 'India expected to grow at 6.3 per cent in FY24'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic growth is expected at 6.3 per cent during 2023-24 on the back of good health of the financial sector and uptick in private investment even as downside risks remain, said a survey by industry body Ficci unveiled on Monday.

The latest round of Ficci's Annual Outlook Survey pegs annual median gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2023-24 at 6.3 per cent - with a minimum and maximum growth estimate of 6 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, the chamber stated.

The median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activities has been put at 2.7 per cent for 2023-24. This marks a moderation vis-a-vis growth of about 4 per cent reported in 2022-23. The El Nino effect has had an impact on the spatial distribution of rainfall this monsoon. Industry and services sector, on the other hand, are anticipated to grow 5.6 per cent and 7.3 per cent, respectively in current fiscal year, the survey shows.

Ficci said the survey was conducted in September 2023 and drew responses from lead-



ing economists representing industry, banking and financial services sector.

"Persisting headwinds on account of geopolitical stress, slowing growth in China, lagged impact of monetary tightening and below normal monsoons pose downside risks to growth," it said.

According to survey results, median GDP growth is estimated to slow down to 6.1 per cent and 6 per cent in Q2 2023-24 and Q3 2023-24, respectively - after posting a four-quarter high growth of 7.8 per cent in Q1 2023-24.

Further, the chamber said

the median forecast for CPI based inflation has been put at 5.5 per cent for 2023-24, with a minimum and maximum range of 5.3 per cent and 5.7 per cent, respectively.

The survey participants opined that the course of inflation remains uncertain.

"There was an unanimous view among the participants that global growth is poised to slow in the current year vis-a-vis 2022, and this trend is expected to continue in the year 2024 as well," Ficci said, and added significant downside risks continue to remain on fore that could hamper the momen-

tum in recovery.

Back home, the survey said though India's economic performance has remained relatively steady amid recent challenges, the country has not been unscathed from the external shocks. Weak external demand is already reflecting in India's merchandise exports performance and is expected to be a drag on domestic growth, it added.

"Nonetheless, growth in India is expected to hold ground on the back of good health of the financial sector, robust urban demand, uptick in private investment as a result of government's front-loading of capex, pick up in real estate/construction sector and the forthcoming festive season," the survey said.

It further said Reserve Bank's policy repo rate is expected to remain unchanged until the end of current financial year. The latest survey results forecast repo rate at 6.5 per cent as at March-end 2024.

Economists were of the view that a cut in the repo rate is expected only by the end of the first quarter or second quarter of next fiscal year 2024-25, Ficci added.

# Experts see WPI inflation rising in second half this fiscal

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India is likely to rise in the second half of the ongoing fiscal and a prolonged deflationary trend could impact growth, experts said on Monday.

Wholesale inflation remained in the negative territory for the sixth straight month in September at (-) 0.26 per cent on easing prices of food items, especially vegetables.

Deflation in WPI in September is primarily due to the fall in prices of chemicals and chemical products, mineral oils, textiles, basic metals, and food products as compared to the year-ago period, the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

"In September, the WPI exhibited its sixth consecutive month of contraction, with a decline of 0.3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), lower than the previous month's contraction of 0.5 per cent," CareEdge Chief Economist Rajani Sinha said.

"The continued contraction in WPI can be attributed to the deceleration in food prices, as well as the ongoing decline in fuel and manufactured product prices," Sinha said.

She suggested that while the fading impact of a high base may lead to a "slight increase" in WPI in the second half of the fiscal year, the overall WPI inflation is expected to remain low.

Elevated global crude oil prices and potential risks to kharif harvest due to uneven rainfall also pose upside risks to WPI inflation, Sinha said.

Abhirup Sarkar, an economist and professor at the Indian Institute of Statistics, told PTI that while the decrease in fuel prices is positive news, geopolitical conflicts in Russia and the Middle East could lead to an increase in international oil prices, affecting wholesale price inflation in India.

He said although wholesale food prices have seen a decline, it may take time for this to be reflected in retail prices, as it depends on traders



and their ability to pass on the price reduction to consumers.

Sarkar cautioned that prolonged deflation in WPI can have a negative impact on the economy, indicating lack of demand and potentially slowing down growth.

The WPI-based inflation rate has been in the negative zone since April and was (-) 0.52 per cent in August.

In September last year, it was 10.55 per cent. Inflation in food articles eased to 3.35 per cent in September, after remaining in double digits in the previous two months. It was 10.60 per cent in August.

"Deflation in September 2023 is primarily due to fall in prices of chemical and chemical products, mineral oils, textiles, basic metals and food products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

Fuel and power basket inflation was at (-) 3.35 per cent in September, against (-) 6.03 per cent in August. In manufactured products, inflation rate was (-) 1.34 per cent, as against (-) 2.37 per cent in August.

Data released last week showed that the annual retail, or consumer price inflation, was at 5.02 per cent in September, which was a three-month low.



# JK Paper to acquire Manipal Utility Packaging Solutions for ₹90 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

JK Paper Ltd on Monday said it will fully acquire Manipal Utility Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd for nearly Rs 90 crore.

The company has entered into a share purchase agreement (SPA) for the acquisition of 100 per cent shares of Manipal Utility Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd (MUPSPL), JK Paper said in a regulatory filing.

Under the SPA, JK Paper will acquire 4.07 crore equity shares representing 100 per cent of capital of MUPSPL at Rs 21.80 per equity share of Rs 10 each, subject to adjustments as per terms of agreement, it added.

The acquisition is expected to be completed within six weeks of execution of the SPA with the target entity and its promoters/shareholders, subject to fulfilment of conditions mentioned in the SPA, the company said.

JK Paper Vice Chairman and Managing Director Harsh Pati Singhania said, "This acquisition is in line with the long-term strategic objective of the company in the packaging business and gives us an opportunity to offer combined solution to the customers with respect to secondary and tertiary packaging, improve operational efficiencies and ensure that MUPSPL grows and adds value to stakeholders."

MUPSPL is engaged in the business of manufacturing packaging products like folding cartons, corrugated boxes and labels with four manufacturing plants across India. It had a revenue of Rs 147.77 crore in FY 2022-23, the company said.

Packaging business is amongst the fastest growing segments in the Indian paper and packaging industry driven by growth in end use industries such as food and beverage, and FMCG, it added.



# Markets fall for 3rd day on weak global equities

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices ended lower on Monday, falling for the third day running, amid weak trends in global markets and spike in Brent crude oil prices due to geopolitical tension in the Middle East.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 115.81 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 66,166.93. During the day, it fell 243.36 points or 0.36 per cent to 66,039.38. The Nifty slipped 19,30 points or 0.10 per cent to 19,731.75.

From the Sensex pack, Nestle, Tata Consultancy Services, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Hindustan Unilever were among the major laggards.

Tata Steel, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, Power Grid and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the gainers.

"Markets continued to witness range-bound trend with a negative bias amid weak Asian cues as selective profit-taking was seen in banking, realty and IT stocks, whereas buying in metal, auto and consumer durable stocks helped markets curb losses.

"Investors are trading cautiously in an uncertain global environment as ongoing Israel-

Palestine conflict coupled with weak overseas fundamentals and persistent FII selling have dampened sentiment," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.34 per cent and midcap index gained 0.25 per cent.

Among the indices, telecommunication fell by 0.74 per cent, realty (0.39 per cent), teck (0.32 per cent), FMCG (0.28 per cent), services (0.17 per cent), bankex (0.11 per cent) and IT (0.10 per cent).

Commodities, consumer discretionary, energy, industrials, auto and metal were among the gainers.

"Persistent geopolitical tensions continue to weigh down the sentiment on equity, yet the mid and smallcap index witnessed bargain hunting ahead of festival-driven demand and optimistic Q2 results. If oil price moves higher in a sustained manner, it may elevate yields and operation cost, potentially straining margins in H2 FY24," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading mostly in the negative territory. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Friday.

# Sidbi announces growth accelerator programme for small NBFCs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

National development bank Sidbi on Monday announced a growth accelerator programme for small NBFCs to help them become eligible for bank funding.

Under the initiative, being carried out in association with the global alliance for mass entrepreneurship and national NBFC lobby FIDC (Finance Industry Development Council), it has onboarded 18 small NBFCs as the first cohort of the programme.

The five-month-long programme is designed to scale small NBFCs (Non Banking Financial Company) through design interventions, enabling them to apply for institutional funding based on holistic evaluation parameters, Sidbi chairman & managing director Sivasubramanian Ramann told reporters here.

The programme includes mentorship from domain experts on risk, operations, governance, and technology and is structured to encourage and facilitate peer learning, reviews and networking through a blend of in-person, virtual and individualised sessions, Umesh Revankar, FIDC chairman and executive vice-chairman of Shriram Finance, said.

Of the nearly 80 million small businesses, only 15 per cent get access to formal credit, showing the large addressable market for MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise) funding, Ramann said.

Further, he said in the past three years, Sidbi's lending to MSMEs doubled to cross the Rs

50,000 crore-mark, while the system wide MSME loan book is Rs 25 lakh crore, which is slated to double over the next three years. Of the present MSME book, only 28 per cent are met by NBFCs.

The objective of the programme is to design a replicable model to enable MSME-focused NBFCs to become eligible for formal funding and future-ready, Ravi Venkatesan, founder of the global alliance for mass entrepreneurship, said.

When asked how much Sidbi will be lending to NBFCs under the initiative, Ramann said that there is no target or cap. All depends on how many of them clear the programme.

The programme will enhance the fund flow for the MSME sector by enabling NBFCs to get institutional funding. In this cohort, the participating 18 NBFCs will benefit significantly from specific advice, informal interactions with peers, structured reviews and evaluation.

We have built in the process to ensure that participants demonstrate action to be eligible for continuing to the next stage and mentors endorse and support them ensuring accountability, he said, adding that over the next three years, the plan is to prepare 100 non-banks future-ready.



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# Coal India's fuel supply to thermal power plants rises 6 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Coal India on Monday said its supply of fossil fuel to the country's coal-fired electricity generating units increased by six per cent to 23.5 million tonnes in the first half of October, ahead of the festive season.

The supply was increased amid a sudden rise in power demand even as unseasonal rains hit the operations in coal bearing areas of Coal India's arms based in the eastern part of the nation.

Chattishgarh-based South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) also bore the brunt of the inclement weather, it said.

Coal supply to thermal power plants stood at 22.2 million tonnes during the same period of the last financial year.

"Coal India's (CIL) supplies to thermal power plants of the country shot up close to six per cent to 23.5 million tonnes



(MTs) during the first fortnight of October 2023... Comparatively the supplies were 22.2 MTs in the same period of October 2022," the public sector coal producer said in a statement.

The overall supply of dry fuel by CIL to the country's coal-fired plants was nearly 319 MT till October 15 of the ongoing fiscal, which was 12 MT higher in volume terms compared to 307 MTs supplied during the corresponding period of FY23.

"On a cumulative basis CIL's targeted commitment was 316 MT to power sector till 15th October FY 2024, against which the company's supplies were ahead by 3 MTs at 319 MTs. CIL is confident of meeting the tasked target to the power sector," it said.

Coal is the largest source of electricity in the country and CIL produces over 80 per cent of the fuel in India.

"CIL's supplies to all consuming sectors were 389.3 MT during the referred period posting nine per cent growth compared to 356.6 MT of same period last fiscal year," it said.

"With no letup in the output tempo, CIL's progressive production of 360 MTs till 15th October FY 2024 has logged a robust 11.6 per cent year-on-year growth with 37.6 MT expansion in volume terms. This growth is again higher than the fiscal's asking rate of around 11 per cent," the company said.

Petrol and diesel sales fell in the first half of October ahead of the start of festive season. This had led to a fall in diesel consumption in the last three months. And once the monsoon ended, consumption has risen month-on-month.

Consumption of diesel had soared 6.7 per cent and 9.3 per cent in April and May, respectively, as agriculture demand picked up and cars yanked up air-conditioning to beat the summer heat. It started to taper in the second half of June after the monsoon set in. It has continued to fall since.

Suppliers' group OPEC sees India's oil demand expanding on average by 2,20,000 barrels per day on the back of vigorous economic growth.

Consumption of petrol during October 1-15 was 12 per cent more than in the COVID-marred October 2021 and 21.7 per cent more than in pre-pandemic October 2019.

Diesel consumption was up 23.4 per cent over October 1-15 in 2021 and 23.1 per cent compared to October 2019.

With the continuing rise in passenger traffic at airports, jet fuel (ATF) demand rose 5.7 per cent to 2,95,200 tonnes during first fortnight of October against the same period last year.

# Delta Corp shares plunge

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Delta Corp plunged nearly 9 per cent on Monday after the company received a GST notice for short payment of tax to the tune of Rs 6,384 crore.

The stock tanked 8.79 per cent to settle at Rs 127.70 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it fell 11 per cent to Rs 124.60 — its 52-week low. On the NSE, it plummeted 8.17 per cent to end at Rs 128.55 per piece.

On the volume front, 28.26 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 2.93 crore shares were traded on the NSE during the day.

In another blow to the company, Delta Corp has received a GST notice for short payment of tax to the tune of Rs 6,384 crore, taking the over-



all tax demand on the firm to over Rs 23,000 crore.

The company said that the tax demands are arbitrary and contrary to law, and added it will challenge them. DGGI (Directorate General of GST Intelligence) Kolkata on October 13, 2023 has served an intimation notice on Deltatech Gaming, a subsidiary of Delta Corp, seeking GST of Rs 6,236.8 crore for the period January 2018 to November 2022, the company said in a filing on Saturday.

For the period July 2017 to October 2022, another demand worth Rs 147.5 crore has been served, it said.

# NDDB Dairy Services' semen station in Maharashtra emerges top in quality parameters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NDDB Dairy Services-owned Rahuri Semen Station in Maharashtra has got highest mark among 55 such facilities across India in an audit report submitted by the government-constituted Central Monitoring Unit.

National Dairy Development Board's (NDDB) arm NDS said in a statement that Rahuri Semen Station has emerged first on parameters ranging from quality, animal genetics to health and safety protocols.

NDS is NDDB Dairy Services. Earlier this month, NDS said that the CMU has submitted a technical audit report of 55 semen stations across the country for 2022-23 to the Union government's Depart-



ment of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development.

In the audit report, Rahuri station was given a mark of 97 followed by 95 for Animal Breeding Centre Salon, a NDS station, in Uttar Pradesh.

The CMU report accorded a total of nine semen stations a score of 90 and above under Grade A.

The other seven include the two NDS stations — Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala, Bidaj in Gujarat and Alamadhi

Semen station in Tamil Nadu.

NDDB Chairman Meenesh Shah, who is also the Chairman of NDS, said "credit to this goes to the dedication of the teams of veterinary experts and scientists who are working for enhancing the productivity of the milch animals and propagation of the genetics of the indigenous breeds".

The semen stations run by NDS adhere strictly to the quality protocols and have in-place stringent bio-security measures

to produce disease-free semen, he said.

NDS functions as a delivery arm of NDDB for field operations relating to promoting Farmer Producer Organisations and Productivity Enhancement Services. This includes supply of high genetic merit semen doses, Artificial Insemination Delivery Services, Embryo Transfer Services, Animal Nutrition Services and induction and supply of high genetic merit live animals under the brand 'SAG Live'.

NDS stations have close to 1,800 high genetic merit bulls of 35 breeds and together sold over 5.2 crore semen doses during the evaluation period 2022-23. These stations are also actively involved in In vivo and Invitro embryo production and transfers.

# LIONEL MESSI REMAINS A DOUBTFUL STARTER

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Lionel Messi's involvement in a 1-0 win over Paraguay last week doesn't necessarily mean he'll be fit for Argentina's next game in World Cup qualifying against Peru.

Messi played most of the second half against Paraguay last Thursday despite struggling with muscular pains in the weeks leading up to the game.

But there's no certainty he'll play against Peru on Tuesday despite practicing with the squad.

Meanwhile in Brazil, Neymar is under fire for his lackluster performance in a 1-1 draw against Venezuela last week that ended with some fans throwing popcorn at the Arena Pantanal in Cuiabá. He will have a tough challenge at Uruguay to show he is back in form.

The next World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada is expanding to a 48-team format, meaning direct entry to the top six teams in South America. The seventh-place team will contest an intercontinental playoff for a berth.

World Cup winner Argentina leads continental qualifying with 9 points, followed by Brazil (7), Colombia (5), Uruguay, Chile and Venezuela (4), Ecuador (3), Paraguay and Peru (1), and Bolivia (0).

The fourth match day in South American qualifying also features Ecuador against Colombia, Paraguay against Bolivia and Venezuela taking on Chile.

## PERU vs. ARGENTINA

Argentina's practice on Sunday didn't show whether the 36-year-old Messi will play against Peru. He took part of the morning session at his national team's training ground, but has



recently felt muscular pains in his right leg that have sidelined him for several MLS matches for his club, Inter Miami.

If Messi plays at Peru, coach Lionel Scaloni might have to remove either Julián Alvarez or Lautaro Martinez from the lineup that beat Paraguay. Keeping the captain in the starting lineup will likely mean Argentina playing Nico Gonzalez again in Lima.

Messi substituted Julián Alvarez in the 52nd minute

against Paraguay, when Argentina was already in the lead. He hit the post twice, but had a low key performance overall at the Monumental de Nuñez Stadium in Buenos Aires.

Peru has lost its latest two qualifying matches in South American qualifying. The squad arrived in silence shortly before dawn so no fans could be at the airport protesting after its 2-0 loss at Chile. Players and coach Juan Reynoso know they will face a much tougher challenge

against the World Cup champion.

"May this defeat today suit us for what is coming," Reynoso said in a news conference after the match in Santiago. "You don't qualify by playing beautiful soccer, you do it by playing well. For us to do that, we need to be a chameleon team that adapts to various circumstances."

## URUGUAY vs. BRAZIL

Brazil fans were frustrated with the draw against Venezuela,

a team that has never qualified to a World Cup. The 31-year-old Neymar was the team's most criticized player after that encounter because of several missed passes and floppy finishes.

The Al-Hilal striker was filmed leaving the pitch in anger as some fans threw popcorn at him. Brazil's soccer tradition calls "pipoqueiro" (popcorn man) the players who fail to deliver in big matches. He is likely to face Uruguay at the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo on Tuesday.

Neymar is Brazil's all-time top goal scorer with 79 goals in official matches.

Brazil's new coach Fernando Diniz, who was also criticized after the draw with Venezuela, is likely to make three changes for the next round of qualifying.

Right-back Danilo is injured, and is set to be replaced by Yan Couto. Left-back Guilherme Arana is expected to be replaced with the 24-year-old Carlos Augusto, who will make his national team debut. And striker Richarlison, on a six-match goal drought for the national team, could lose his position to Gabriel Jesus.

Uruguay has not beaten Brazil in World Cup qualifying since 2001. Captain Federico Valverde is optimistic about the match after a 2-2 draw at Colombia. He said he and Real Madrid teammates Vinicius Júnior and Rodrygo of Brazil have spent weeks talking about the encounter.

"We could have gotten a better result, but at least we returned with one point, which always suits us," Valverde said of the draw. Uruguay has been coached by Argentine Marcelo Bielsa since the start of South American qualifying.



# Gavi goal against Norway, secures 1-0 win

AP ■ LONDON

Gavi's winning goal for Spain against Norway in a European Championship qualifier on Sunday will likely have been cheered as wildly in Glasgow as it was in Madrid.

The Barcelona midfielder's strike at Ullevaal Stadium in Oslo secured a 1-0 win that means both Spain and Scotland have qualified for Euro 2024.

Gavi's goal came in the 49th minute and ensured the three-time European champions will be at next year's tournament in Germany when they will be among the favorites to lift the trophy for the first time since 2012.

Scotland might not harbor realistic ambitions of winning Euro 2024, but it has arguably exceeded expectations by qualifying from Group A. Indeed, until losing to Spain on Thursday, the Scots had made a 100% start to qualifying.

Scotland has now qualified for back-to-back Euros, having

failed to reach the finals from 2000-2016. In Germany it will be aiming to advance from the group stages for the first time in its history.

Turkey also qualified with a 4-0 win against Latvia at the Konya Metropolitan Municipality Stadium, while Croatia made it back-to-back losses in Group D after a surprise 2-1 defeat to Wales.

## CROATIA STRUGGLES

Less than a year after a third-place finish at the World Cup in Qatar, Croatia is making hard work of qualification for the European Championship.

The Croatians went into this latest batch of qualifiers atop Group D, with the chance to put daylight between them and Turkey. But a 1-0 loss to Turkey on Thursday has now been followed by defeat to Wales.

Even with stars like Luka Modric, Josko Gvardiol and Marcelo Brozovic in the team, Croatia was trailing 2-0 to goals from Harry Wilson in each

half. Mario Pasalic halved the deficit, but it wasn't enough to spark a comeback. Wales moved up to second in the group ahead of Croatia in third, with both teams on 10 points.

Yunus Akgun set Turkey on course for victory against Latvia, with substitute Cenk Tosun scoring two and Kerem Akturkoglu also grabbing a goal.

## ALBANIA WAITS

Four teams are separated by four points in Group E as results on Sunday meant Albania was left waiting to seal qualification. Czech Republic's 1-0 win against Faroe Islands leaves it two points behind leader Albania in second place.

Poland drew 1-1 with Moldova to leave those teams three points and four points off the top respectively.

Romania is top of Group I after a 4-0 win against Andorra - ahead of second-place Switzerland, which needed goals in the 89th and 90th minutes to draw 3-3 with Belarus.



# Spain coach De la Fuente able to silence doubters

AP ■ MADRID

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente has found a way to turn the doubters into supporters.

Nearly a year after he was appointed amid a wave of skepticism, De la Fuente now has widespread backing at the helm of La Roja, having turned Spain into a contender again and comfortably securing the team a spot in the 2024 European Championship.

Spain qualified for next year's tournament in Germany on Sunday with a 1-0 win at Norway - the team's sixth straight triumph since a loss at Scotland in March had left De la Fuente under pressure just two games into his stint.

"We are always learning," De la Fuente said. "At that moment the analysis was different than it is now. We've just reached an important objective and we have to keep working and learning. We recognize what was done well, but we know there are still things to improve."

The 62-year-old De la Fuente replaced Luis Enrique after the team's loss to Morocco in the round of 16 of the World Cup in Qatar. He was then relatively unknown in Spain after spending years coaching the nation's youth squads.

His first match in charge was a home win in a qualifier against Norway in which Spain struggled from the start, and the subsequent loss to Scotland put

De la Fuente on the hot seat early on. Many didn't think he had the experience to take charge of the national team at the time.

But after the slow start, De la Fuente also helped Spain win the Nations League with victories over Italy in the semifinals and Croatia in a penalty shootout in the final. Spain then routed Georgia 7-1 and Cyprus 6-0 in qualifiers, and defeated Scotland 2-0 at home last week before securing its spot at Euro 2024 against Erling Haaland's Norway on Sunday.

"I'm happy with the work that we've done," De la Fuente said. "When you achieve something like this, things must have been done right. But in soccer one day you are up and the other you are down again, so we have to stay balanced. I'm happy now, but I also stayed composed in the tougher moments."

De la Fuente put Spain back on track in part by betting on the talent of some younger players. He kept players like Gavi, Ansu Fati and Pedri - who played at the World Cup - and brought in others such as 16-year-old Lamine Yamal, the Barcelona sensation.

His experience with the nation's youth squads proved important, and he now has his job secured for a while.

"We have a team for the future, it's what I'm most excited about," he said. "We worked hard to be where we are and we deserve it."

# Tom Kim wins PGA Tour, 2nd time in the same season



AP ■ LAS VEGAS

Tom Kim now has something in common with Byron Nelson as the only players to have won the same PGA Tour event twice in the same season.

Kim successfully defended his title Sunday in the Shriners Children's Open when he closed with a 5-under 66 to emerge from a pack of a dozen players who had a chance in the final hour. Kim wound up winning by one shot over Adam Hadwin, who birdied the final hole for a 67.

Kim now has three PGA Tour titles in the last 15 months, at 21 the youngest player since Tiger Woods in 1997 to have three tour wins.

"I really felt confident in myself," Kim said. "I knew that if I did me I was going to be able to do it. I'm stoked to get this one."

He won in Las Vegas a year ago, beating Patrick Cantlay in a play-

off at the TPC Summerlin, when the Shriners Children's Open was early in the season. Now, the Las Vegas event is still part of the same season because the PGA Tour goes to a calendar season starting in 2024.

Nelson won the San Francisco Open in January 1944, and the same tournament in December of 1944, both times at Harding Park. This one was up for grabs until Kim seized control on the par-5 16th.

With an hour left in the tournament, there was a six-way tie for the lead and 12 players were separated by a single shot. The key stretch at the TPC Summerlin was holes No. 13 through No. 16, which ranked as four of the five easiest holes in the final round.

Taylor Pendrith was tied for the lead with a birdie on the 13th, but had to settle for pars the rest of that stretch. K.H. Lee made all pars.

Then, it became a two-man

race between Kim and Hadwin, playing in the final group with Kim holding a one-shot advantage.

Both birdied the 13th, Hadwin with a 35-foot birdie putt that rimmed all the way around the cup before dropping. Both birdied the reachable par-4 15th, Kim with a tough up-and-down and birdie putt from 12 feet, Hadwin narrowly missing a 25-foot eagle attempt.

It turned on the par-5 16th. Kim hit to the fat of the green in two, 50 feet away for eagle. Hadwin knew he missed his shot right after contact and it came up well short and into the water. Hadwin missed a 6-foot par putt after his penalty drop, and Kim three-putted - he had to make a 5-footer on his third one - for par.

"I completely whiffed it, up and out of it, and unfortunately one of my worst swings of the day at the least opportune time," Hadwin said.

"I feel like you dump it in the water there on 16, and I certainly by no means gave the tournament, but I would have liked to have hit a more quality golf shot and put a little bit more pressure on Tom coming down the stretch."

That gave Kim a two-shot lead with two to play, and he closed with solid pars. Kim finished at 20-under 264.

Eric Cole boosted his bid to be PGA Tour rookie of the year by closing with a 62 to finish two behind, along with Alex Noren (65), J.T. Poston (66) and Pendrith (67). Pendrith came into Las Vegas at No. 123 in the FedEx Cup and was projected to move to No. 90, all but assuring a full card for 2024.

Ludvig Aberg, who made his Ryder Cup debut two weeks ago, also shot 62 and tied for 13th. Kim, born in South Korea and raised primarily in Australia, won for the first time in 2023. He had a hot run last summer that included victories in the Wyndham Championship and in Las Vegas, followed by a dynamic debut in the Presidents Cup.

But he said he felt the pressure to live up to the expectations, and it turned this year into a grind. He was a distant runner-up in the British Open, though he injured his ankle during the week that kept him from defending his title in the Wyndham Championship.

"It's been a grind trying to figure it out," Kim said. "My first full season, trying to live up to expectations of a great year. It's been humbling sometimes."

The victory moves Kim to No. 11 in the world ranking.

Isaiah Salinda, who got into Las Vegas as a Monday qualifier, had a 63-67 weekend and tied for seventh, which gets him into the next full PGA Tour event Nov.



# Brooks Koepka defends LIV Golf title

AP ■ KING ABDULLAH ECONOMIC CITY (SAUDI ARABIA)

Brooks Koepka held it together at the end for a 2-Bunder 68 and defended his title at LIV Golf-Jeddah with a birdie on the second playoff hole to beat Talor Gooch on a day when both had reason to celebrate.

Koepka had to birdie two of his last three holes to finish at 14-under 196 and tie with Gooch, who closed with a 62. With his playoff loss, Gooch moved past Cameron Smith and won the season points title and the \$18 million bonus.

Koepka not only won \$4 million from the tournament, his victory bumped Bryson DeChambeau out of the top three in the season standings. Koepka picked up an additional \$4 million for finishing third in the points race.

DeChambeau fell back Sunday with a 70. Smith had a 66 and tied for 24th.

The LIV Golf League wraps up its second season next week at Doral in South Florida with the team championship.

Koepka ends his year with two LIV Golf titles, along with his fifth major at the PGA Championship.

# Rod Pamplung ends a marathon day at SAS

AP ■ CARY (NORTH CAROLINA)

Rod Pamplung of Australia had to play 33 holes Sunday in the rain-delayed SAS Championship and it was worth every step when he finished off a 68 and then closed with a 5-under 67 for his second career PGA Tour Champions title.

The SAS Championship was the final tournament before the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs begin for the top 72 players. Pamplung's victory moved him up 13 spots to No. 17. David Duval shot 71 and tied for

11th, just enough for him to move up seven spots and finish at No. 71 in the Schwab Cup to qualify for the post-season.

Pamplung finished with a bogey for a two-shot victory over Steven Alker, who moved up to No. 2 in the standings behind Steve Stricker.

The Australian finished off 15 holes of the second round in the morning with back-to-back birdies, and then he played bogey-free in the final round until the end, when it only affected his margin of victory. "I just walked as slow as I could,"



Pamplung said. "It was a long day. We knew what we were going to be in for. Just eat the food, take your time. Thankfully, it wasn't too quick out there."

Pamplung had a one-shot lead over Alker, Paul Broadhurst and Vijay Singh when the second round was finished. Singh and Broadhurst fell back early in the final round, and Pamplung had three birdies in a four-hole stretch around the turn to seize control.

"We've been working hard," Pamplung said. "We got rid of our bad

stuff about a month-and-a-half ago. Been closer and closer and this week it was just a great ball-striking week, putting well, everything. It's a great feeling to win again."

Ernie Els had a 68 and tied for third with Mario Tiziani, who closed with a 65.

Tiziani, the brother-in-law of Stricker, split time this year playing on the PGA Tour Champions, managing his wife's brother and occasionally caddying for Stricker. He made it to the postseason for the second straight year.



# Zampa bags four wickets against Sri Lanka

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa roared back to form with a four-wicket haul as Australia bowled out Sri Lanka for 209 in the World Cup here on Monday.

An out-of-form Kusal Perera (78) got some much-needed runs while Pathum Nissanka struck 61 for his second consecutive fifty.

Australia benefitted from the timely return to form of Zampa, who had been having an awful tournament. The wrist spinner enjoyed an excellent outing to help bundle out Sri Lanka in 43.3 overs.

Looking on course for a 300-plus score, the 1996 winners faced a bizarre batting collapse and went from 125 for no loss to 209 all out.

There were lots going on in the field as Mitchell Starc aborted his delivery stride thrice to warn Perera to not leave his crease early on at the non-striker's end.

Perera was also struck in the head by a Marcus Stoinis bouncer which caught the Sri Lankan off guard.

But the experienced south-paw didn't let the blow deter him and went on to send Stoinis slower cutter down the ground to bring up his fifty.

With both openers piling on the runs, the Australian



bowlers looked clueless. But skipper Pat Cummins kept shuffling his bowlers in search of that first breakthrough.

Cummins, who has been far from his best with the ball, stood up at the opportune moment to give Australia the breakthrough they needed.

Cummins cramped Nissanka for room and the Sri Lankan hit it high and in front of square only for David Warner to run and complete a stunning catch.

Cummins bowled a peach of a delivery five overs later to clean up the other set batter in Perera, who picked the wrong line to swing his bat.

The dismissal marked the beginning of Australia's dominance as the Sri Lanka batting unraveled and the five-time champions grew in confidence.

Zampa got rid of the in-form Kusal Mendis. But the wicket belonged to Warner who ran across from deep midwicket, covering about 25ms to complete a spectacular diving catch.

Sadeera Samarawickrama, Chamika Karunaratne and Maheesh Theekshana were Zampa's other victims with Mitchell Starc pitching in with two wickets.

Apart from the openers and Charith Asalanka's 25, no other Sri Lankan batter reached double digits.



# Cricket is included in 2028 Olympics

PTI ■ BENGALURU

For long, cricket remained a statistical global sport sans a true global footing. A solid fan base of 2.5 billion and an ever-swelling TV revenue formed its axis to be labelled as a sport with a worldwide appeal, second only to football.

However, in reality, all of it is parked in the Commonwealth countries and even among them India alone helm around 70 per cent, if not more, of those numbers.

But now, all this could change as cricket, in its T20 avatar, has made its re-entry into the Olympic fold through the 2028 edition at Los Angeles, and it is a mutually beneficial association from sporting and commercial angles.

From a sporting perspective, the Olympics provides an unmatched platform for cricket, perhaps even bigger than a World Cup.

Standing on the podium wearing an Olympic medal around the neck is an unmatched feeling for any sportsman, as it is a reverential warm handshake with history that dates back to 1896.

"It is an excellent piece of news for cricket to be part of the Olympics. It will certainly add to the global image of cricket," says Keith Joseph, president of the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC), who gave a strong backing to ICC's efforts to get cricket included in the LA Olympics.

"T20 provides an excellent platform too in terms of duration and connection with younger audiences. That USA will be co-hosting the T20 World Cup in 2024 will also work as a very good precursor to cricket ahead of the Olympics," he points out.

However, expecting cricket to match the universal appeal of football, something the sport always cherished, just because of an Olympic appearance is quite naïve.

Sample this: The ICC men's T20 ranking list features 87 nations in the men's section and 66 in the women's segment. But the FIFA ranking list touches 207 men's teams and 186 women's outfits, the numbers reveal the vast gulf between the two sports.

Of course, this is not to deny that the T20 format has helped cricket to reach some hitherto

unexplored corners of Africa, Europe and Latin America.

"Yes, it is a good first step to take cricket to a global audience. As the USA is a big market and there is a strong presence of sub-continent crowd. But as of now, it has been included only in Los Angeles, and hopefully it will figure in Brisbane as well (in 2032).

"It is important because Australia is a traditional cricketing nation, and being able to play there will be a big boost to the sport. It may even open doors to cricket being a permanent Olympic sport," opines a veteran BCCI administrator.

However, cricket had to leap over several self-imposed hurdles to make its return to the Olympics.

Both the officials and players did not want to follow several clauses, especially the one pertaining to their whereabouts that is mandatory for random dope testing, laid out by the IOC, IOA, WADA etc.

England, the champion side when cricket was last staged in the Olympics in 1900, was another country which was initially reluctant to take this plunge.

"Yes, there were some difficulties in reaching an understanding for some time over certain issues such as the whereabouts clause.

"However, most importantly, the BCCI and ICC and few other boards have found a common ground to take cricket to a global stage," said the administrator.

Beyond the sporting field, the IOA also might have thought about the crowd-pulling power of cricket, especially in the USA, a country with a large Asian diaspora.

An industry insider, whom PTI contacted, said the million eyeballs that cricket ensures will have a massive influence on the purchase of broadcasting rights of the LA Olympics.

"It is great news (cricket in Olympics) if you are a businessperson. America has a large section of Asian expats, who are crazy about cricket and they will fill the stadium and of course will follow the game on TV or streaming apps.

"Since cricket is in LA, our estimate is that the selling price of broadcasting rights might see at least a 20-30 per cent jump from the existing one, which is huge for a single edition," the expert said.

# South Africa looks strong against Netherlands



PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

South Africa are making quite a statement at the World Cup, playing entertaining cricket and plundering tons of runs as they steamroll rival teams.

As the Proteas take on the Netherlands in this hilly paradise on Tuesday, the perennial under-performers and 'chokers' have shown in the last two games their determination to go the distance in the tournament.

Their 102-run win against Sri Lanka in the opener in New Delhi after putting a record 428/5 on the board, followed by 134-run victory against five-time champions Australia in Lucknow, have made South Africa the team to beat in the competition.

From staying under the radar in the lead-up to the ODI showpiece to becoming high-flyers, the Proteas have started playing to potential and will be firm favourites against the Dutch.

Unlike the Australian and England cricket teams, whose patchy performance so far has left a lot to be desired, the South Africans have come

out with full combat capabilities -with the likes of wicket-keeping stalwart Quinton de Kock, top-order batter Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram making a massive impact here.

The trio smashed a century each against Sri Lanka to pile up a mountain of runs with Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller playing useful cameos in the 428-run total.

Though their bowlers did take a beating from the Sri Lankans, they hit back with full force against the Australians in the next match. A second consecutive century by De Kock and a massively improved performance from tall pace bowler Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada floored Pat Cummins' side.

The 177-run loss for the five-time champions following the humiliating loss to India in the opener has put the Kangaroos on the mat.

The Proteas would look to attack with even more firepower against the Netherlands, a side that has very few recognisable faces in mainstream cricket. But they have posed a challenge occasionally, like the huge upset they made during the 2009 T20 World Cup, defeating England at Lord's.

Last year, the Dutch eliminated the Proteas, handing them a shocking 13-run defeat in the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

The Scott Edwards-led side will certainly take inspiration from that victory, though T20 and 50-over formats are like chalk and cheese.

But, on a cricket field, where miracles happen, the Dutch too would want to aim for a victory for the ages after seeing Afghanistan over-run defending champions England on Sunday night in New Delhi.

The Proteas, once bitten twice shy, would be looking to opener De Kock, Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram to once again set the stage on fire and then give their bowlers a big total to defend.

# England have to show resilience: Buttler

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

England will have to play some of their "best cricket" to come out of the hole they find themselves in following their shock defeat to Afghanistan in the ODI World Cup.

England suffered a shock 69-run defeat to the Hashmatullah Shahidi-led side with the defending champions faltering in their chase of the 285-run target at the Ferozeshah Kotla on Sunday.

The win was Afghanistan's second-ever in a World Cup match and lifted them to sixth position on the points table behind England.

On whether it was premature to say that England's World Cup defence was under threat, Buttler, whose team is yet to face India, Australia and South Africa, said, "Yeah. As I mentioned just before, it's not been the way we wanted to start the competition, but this is the situation we find ourselves in and we're going to have to play some of our best cricket moving forward."

The skipper said he had full faith in his team to pull through this crisis. "Yeah, it's a big setback obviously. Before the tournament starts you have a different idea of how the first three games would pan out. We've got to show a lot of character, a lot of



resilience within the team and most of all a lot of belief. There was a lot of excellent players in there and we haven't played well enough today but we must keep that belief," said Buttler.

Afghanistan were helped on their way to their second-highest World Cup total by a fine 80-run innings from Rahmatullah Gurbaz at the start and a superb 28-run cameo by Mujeeb Ur Rahman in the final overs.

Afghanistan didn't lose a wicket till they had crossed the century mark. England, on the other hand, were 91/4 at one stage.

Asked if he could pinpoint where things started going wrong for England, Buttler said, "No, we didn't, no we started poorly, first ball of the game I missed one and it sort of set the tone for that first 10 overs, we didn't hit the areas that we wanted to and credit to Gurbaz (80 runs) as he put us under a lot of pressure, played some

good shots, but maybe a few too many easy boundaries in there."

England's aggressive style of batting, called 'Bazball', has come to epitomise their cricket in all three formats, more so in Tests under coach Brendon McCullum.

Asked if the team could not "execute properly" the style he wanted it to play, Buttler said, "We always want to play positive and be aggressive and some days you don't play as well as you want to. Though Afghanistan built good pressure on us, maybe the wicket didn't play exactly how we thought it would play and maybe the dew didn't come in as much as we thought as well."

England have played their best cricket when their backs are to the wall of late, with the fight-back during the Ashes this year being fresh in the mind.

Asked if the two losses in three World Cup matches will sharpen the team's focus a little bit more, Buttler added, "We've played some good cricket in all scenarios, whether we've been on top and frontrunners and fancied or whether we've had our backs against the wall. It's a position you find yourselves in, it's not the position you wanted to be in three games ago but the character is excellent as I've mentioned, there'll always be belief and we'll dust ourselves down and go again."

## OTHER SPORTS

### Jordan Thompson upsets Zverev in first round



AP ■ TOKYO

Jordan Thompson upset ninth-ranked Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-4 in the opening round of the Japan Open on Monday for his second win over a top-10 opponent this season.

The 29-year-old Australian saved four of the five break points he faced to claim his first career win over Zverev after losing their only previous meeting six years ago. He also beat seventh-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas at Indian Wells in March.

"I fought off 0-40 first game and I really got into the match after that," the 60th-ranked Thompson said. "But I held on, I was playing an unpredictable style of tennis, and I think he didn't handle it that well in the first set and adapted in the second. But I somehow hung around."

Thompson will next play either Shanghai

Masters semifinalist Ben Shelton or qualifier Taro Daniel.

The other three Australians in action Monday all lost as eighth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime defeated Aleksander Vukic 7-6 (3), 6-7 (2), 6-2, while Mackenzie McDonald beat Max Purcell 7-5, 6-4 and Sebastian Ofner outlasted Christopher O'Connell 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5), 7-5.

Fifth-seeded Tommy Paul plays Daniel Altmaier in a late match. Top-seeded Taylor Fritz plays his first-round match against Cameron Norrie on Tuesday, while second-seeded Casper Ruud meets wild-card entry Yosuke Watanuki.

Shanghai Masters winner Hubert Hurkacz is also in the draw. He opens against Zhang Zhizhen on Wednesday.

### JIANGXI OPEN

Tour veteran Vera Zvonareva beat Arianne Hatano 6-1, 6-2 in her opening match of the Jiangxi Open.

The 39-year-old Zvonareva, who made her tour debut in 2000, broke her 166th-ranked opponent's serve six times as she cruised to victory in 61 minutes. Zvonareva next plays fifth-seeded Zhu Lin or Diana Shnaider.

Also, eighth-seeded Sara Sorribes Tormo beat wild-card entry Jiang Xinyu 6-4, 6-0. The Spaniard will next play Camila Osorio, who beat Ma Ye-Xin 6-1, 6-0.

### Injured Prannoy withdraws from Denmark and French Open

PTI ■ ODENSE (DENMARK)

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy has pulled out of the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament due to a back injury that troubled him during his maiden bronze medal-winning run at the recently-concluded Asian Games.

The 31-year-old Indian had battled excruciating back pain to secure India's first medal in men's singles in 41 years at Hangzhou but now he will have to sit out for two to three weeks due to the injury.

"We are not looking at playing any tournament this month. Something also came up in the MRI as well, so I will have to be out for 2-3 weeks, so I will not be able to play Denmark and France," Prannoy told PTI.

"I will need to rest and then start with rehab."

In his absence, India's charge will be led by Lakshya Sen, who will be back on the



court after playing a vital role in India's first-ever silver medal in men's team event at the Asian Games.

World No. 15 Sen, who remained unbeaten at the Asian Games, will open against Thailand's Kantaphon Wang-

charoen and is likely to meet sixth seed Shi Yuqi of China in the second round.

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu too will look for a good outing after a semifinal finish at the Arctic Open last week. She will be up against

Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour.

World No. 20 Kidambi Srikanth, who is also desperately looking to accumulate ranking points to make the cut for the Paris Olympics, will take on China's Weng Hong Yang in his opening game.

It is going to be a tricky affair for the former world No. 1, who has blown hot and cold throughout the season.

Priyanshu Rajawat, currently ranked No. 30 in the world, will also have his task cut out as he faces world No. 14 Lee Zii Jia, who is brimming with confidence following his title-winning run in the Arctic Open.

Newly-crowned world No. 1 pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who claimed an epic gold at Hangzhou, is pitted against Malaysia's Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi.

MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila will also miss out after the former suffered a back injury at Hangzhou.

The women's pairing of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, however, will be back on the court after the Asian Games and will take on Thailand's Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard.

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