OPINION 6

FOR FULFILLING LIFE,

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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY OCTOBER 19, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

PM Modi condemns Gaza hospital attack Carnage angers world leaders

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed shock over the death of nearly 500 people in an attack on a hospital in Gaza and offered condolences to the families of the civilian victims. He also said those involved in this act should be held responsible.

"Deeply shocked at the tragic loss of lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and prayers for speedy recovery of those injured," Modi said on X. "Civilian casualties in the ongo

ing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern. Those involved should be held responsible," the Prime Minister said. Incidentally, he was one of the first world leaders to call out the October 7 assault by Hamas on Israel as a terror attack

Hostilities between Israel and Hamas began after armed Hamas militants based in the Gaza Strip launched an unprecedented attack on Israel by land, air, and sea on October 7. Since the start of hostilities, as many as 2,778 Palestinians have been killed.

Media reports have cited official Israeli sources as saying that at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel.

In a post soon after Hamas launched 5,000 rockets at Israel in 20 minutes and began a multi-pronged attack by land, air and sea on October 7,



Riot police use a water cannon on protesters during a demonstration in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza, near the US embassy in Aukar, a northern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on Wednesday

Prime Minister Modi had said he was "deeply shocked by the news of terrorist attacks in Israel" and expressed India's solidarity with the country in the difficult hour.

Modi reiterated his support for Israel on October 10, when he had posted that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had called him and given him an update on the deadly con-

"I thank Prime Minister @netanyahu for his phone call and providing an update on the ongoing situation. People of India stand firmly with Israel in this difficult hour. India strongly and unequivocally condemns strict rules for hand gliders

terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," Modi posted

Speaking at the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit in New Delhi the same week, Prime Minister Modi said terrorism anywhere in the world and in any form was against humanity and emphasised that it was time for peace and brotherhood.

Calling for the world to move forward with a human-centric approach, he also said conflicts and confrontations in any part of the world impact everyone and do not benefit anyone. See Page 4: DGCA implements

WORLD 9

CHINA: US MOVES TO LIMIT

ACCESS TO CHIPS CAUSE LOSSES

the pioneer

Within hours after a blast was said to have killed hundreds at a Gaza hospital, protesters hurled stones at Palestinian security forces in the occupied West Bank and at riot police in neighbouring Jordan, venting fury at their leaders for failing to stop the carnage.

A summit planned in Jordan on Wednesday between US President Joe Biden, Jordan's King Abdullah II, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was can-celled after Abbas withdrew in protest.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had spent much of the past week meeting with Arab leaders to try to ease tensions, but those efforts are now in doubt following the hospital blast. The raw nerve of decades of Palestinian suffering, left exposed by US-brokered normalisation agreements between Israel and Arab states, is throbbing once again, threatening broader unrest.

This war, which has entered a dangerous phase, will plunge the region into an unspeakable disaster," warned Jordan's King Abdullah II, who is among the closest Western allies in the West Asia.

There were conflicting claims of who was responsible for the

hospital blast. Officials in Gaza quickly blamed an Israeli airstrike. Israel denied it was involved and released a flurry of video, audio and other information that it said showed the blast was due to a rocket misfire by Islamic Jihad, another militant group operating in Gaza. Islamic Jihad dismissed

that claim. Biden, speaking in Tel Aviv, said the blast appeared to have been caused "by the other team," not Israel.

But there was no doubt among the Arab protesters who gathered in several countries to condemn what they saw as an Israeli atrocity.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which has been under lockdown since a bloody Oct 7 rampage by Hamas militants ignited the war, protesters clashed with Palestinian security forces and called for the overthrow of Abbas.

Israel and the West have long viewed Abbas as a partner in reducing tensions, but his Palestinian Authority is widely seen by Palestinians as a corrupt and autocratic accomplice to Israel's military occupation of the West Bank.

Jordan, long considered a bastion of stability in the region, has seen mass protests in recent days. Late Tuesday, pro-Palestinian protesters tried to storm the Israeli Embassy. "They are all normalising Arab

rulers, none of them are free, the free ones are all dead!" one protester shouted. "Arab countries are unable to do any thing!

Egypt was the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, in the late 1970s. Jordan followed in 1994. Thousands of students rallied

at Egyptian universities on Wednesday to condemn Israeli strikes on Gaza. Protesters in Cairo, Alexandria and other cities chanted "Death to Israel" and "With our souls, with our blood, we sacrifice for you, Al-Aqsa," referring to a contested Jerusalem holy site. A smaller protest was held near the US Embassy in Cairo on Tuesday. Such protests are rare in Egypt, where authorities have clamped down on dissent for over a decade. But fears that Israel could push Gaza's 2.3 million residents into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, and soaring consumer prices due to runaway inflation, could prove a volatile mix in the country, where a popular uprising toppled a USbacked autocrat in 2011.

Protests also erupted in Lebanon, where Hezbollah has traded fire with Israeli forces at the border, threatening to enter the war with its massive arsenal of rockets. Hundreds of protesters clashed with Lebanese security forces on Wednesday near the US Embassy in Beirut, where riot police lobbed dozens of tear gas cannisters and fired water cannons to disperse demonstra-Protests have also been held in

Morocco and Bahrain, two countries that forged diplomatic ties with Israel three years ago as part of the Abraham Accords The Arab street has a voice. That voice may have been

ignored in the past by governments in the region and the West...But they cannot do this anymore," said Badr al-Saif, a history professor at Kuwait University. "People are on fire." As recently as a couple of weeks ago, the regional outlook seemed far different. In his address to the UN General Assembly last month,

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu boasted that the Abraham Accords, in which four Arab states normalised relations with Israel in 2020, were a "pivot of history" that "heralded the dawn of a new age of peace." He said Israel was "at the cusp

of an even more dramatic breakthrough" - a historic agreement with Saudi Arabia that the Biden administration had been focused on in recent months. The Abraham Accords, with

the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan, were reached with autocratic leaders willing to set aside the

Palestinian issue in order to secure their own benefits from the US.

The UAE hoped for advanced fighter jets. Morocco won US support for its claim to Western Sahara, and Sudan's ruling military junta got longstanding US sanctions lifted.

Saudi Arabia had asked for a US defence pact and aid in establishing a civilian nuclear programme, as well as a substantial concession to the Palestinians that the Saudis have yet to publicly spell out. Shimrit Meir, who served as a diplomatic adviser to former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, said "time will tell" what impact the war will have on normalization efforts.

"In the short term, they will suffer, especially the hope for a breakthrough" with Saudi Arabia, she said. "In the longer run, Israel's appeal and value to these countries comes from its military strength. Therefore, the need for it to restore its deterrence is above any other

considerations." Despite all the high-level diplomacy, ordinary Arabs and Muslims still express strong solidarity with the Palestinian

cause.

During last year's World Cup soccer tournament, for example, Palestinian flags were waved in abundance even though the national team did not compete.

Give proof of Cash for Query: Ethics Committee to BJP MP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha summoned BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and provide "oral testimony" on October 26, in relation to the ruling party leader's "cash for allegations against TMC MP Mahua Moitra.

The subject of the Lok Sabha secretariat's communication to Nishikant Dubey, MP, regarding a complaint dated October 15, 2023, made by him against Mahua Moitra, MP, for her alleged direct involvement in cash for query in Parliament read as follows

The letter from a secretariat official stated, "I have been directed to inform you that the Committee on Ethics has resolved to hear you on the aforementioned matter in person, on Thursday, October 26, 2023...

Dubey has accused Moitra of accepting "bribes" from a businessman to raise questions in



Parliament. He urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to establish an "investigation committee" to look into the charges against her.

Moitra responded by stating that she is open to any action against her once the Lok Sabha Speaker concludes dealing with the pending charges against him (Dubey)

Additionally, Moitra has approached the Delhi High Court seeking an injunction against Dubey, Dehadrai, various social media platforms, and media outlets from disseminating any alleged false and defamatory content about her. In his complaint to Birla against Moitra, Dubey referenced "irrefutable evidence" provided by advocate Dehadrai to support his claims.

In his letter to the Speaker, Dubey pointed out that out of the 61 questions Moitra recent-ly posed in the Lok Sabha, 50 were directed at the Adani Group, a business conglomerate that the TMC MP has frequently accused of misconduct. He alleged that she was targeting the Adani Group at the behest of a rival business-

The TMC has remained tightlipped on the cash-forqueries charges brought against its MP with some senior leaders privately communicating party supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's views that she should be left to "clean the mess she has created, if at all she has created it". A senior party leader and a State Cabinet Minister said all the party leaders were expected to follow the "austere lifestyle and valued principles of Mamata," and if anyone "deviates" from that then "it is for that person to explain her conduct... the party will not take any responsibility".

ARCHNA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI n a move set to mark a mile-

■ stone in the world of alternative medicine, "Ayurveda Day" is slated for November 10, coinciding with Dhanvantari Jayanti. This celebration is poised to take centre stage in nearly 100 countries around the globe. The Union Ayush Ministry has launched an ambitious mission to secure backing from various national ministries, underscoring the importance of this event and striving for its resounding suc-

Currently, over 30 countries recognise Ayurveda as a traditional system of medicine. The celebration of Ayurveda Day across these 100 countries is part of the government's plan to extend its reach to more corners of the world and provide recognition to this alternative

medicine system. An official from the Ministry stated, "The aim is to propagate and disseminate the ancient wisdom of India's traditional system of medicine at the international level with the central theme of "Ayurveda for One



Health", which revolves around three key pillars: Ayurveda for students. Avurveda for farmers. Ayurveda for public health". In this regard, the Union Ayush Ministry recently convened a meeting of various ministries to deliberate on a host of topics aimed at ensuring the successful organisation of the event. Presiding over the meeting, Secretary of the Ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, emphasised that, in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ayurveda Day should be organised as a national programme with the mutual cooperation and sup port of all the ministries of the

country Ministries and departments such as Home, Culture, Foreign, Tribal, Water Resources, Science and Technology, and CSIR shared their views and underscored the importance of making Ayurveda Day a global celebration through the utilisation of digital technology and the mobilisation of various involvement activities. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Science (CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush,

will serve as the coordinating agency for the Ayurveda Day programs in 2023. On October 10, Union Avush

Minister Sarbananda Sonowal

announced that the theme "Avurveda for everyone every day" has been selected with a focus on promoting Agrothrough empowering and encouraging self-participation, and inspiring professionals to harness the potential of Ayurveda. This encompasses a spectrum of areas, including sustainable agriculture, human, animal, plant, forest, and aquaculture health, as well as food Over the past eight years, the

Modi Government has implemented a series of measures to boost Ayush, including Avurveda, Kotecha informed that a total of 12,500 Ayush Health & Wellness Centres have been approved under the National Ayush Mission, with 8,095 of them already operational. Additionally, women and youth from rural areas across India are being provided training in Ayurveda courses and placed in positions at

used in IT executive Jigisha

Ghosh's killing had led to the cracking of Vishwanathan's

After Malik moved the Delhi

High Court in 2019 for a

speedy trial, it sought a report

from the trial court, asking why the trial had not concluded

even though the charge sheet

was filed nine-and-a-half years

The trial court had informed

the high court that the delay

murder case, police said.

various wellness centres, thanks to the Central Government's flagship Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently advocated for the promotion of Ayurveda domestically an global stage. During the 9th World Ayurveda Congress in Goa last December, he emphasised that yoga and Ayurveda have become sources of hope worldwide. He noted that while yoga is now celebrated globalv at health and wellness events. Ayurveda has historically taught a "system of living and how to remain happy," promoting the health of both body and

mind in harmony. The Prime Minister has said, 'With an amalgamation of knowledge, science, and culture, our goal is to promote the concept of the 'welfare of the world? Ayurveda serves as an effective medium for achieving

He emphasised the need to establish evidence-based scientific mechanisms to strengthen the Avurvedic system.

this.

Soumya gets justice after 15 long years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

More than 15 years after television journalist Soumya Vishwanathan was shot dead during a robbery bid at the heart of the national capital, a Delhi court on Wednesday convicted four persons of an organised crime syndicate for murder and other offences, saying charges against them are "duly proved beyond all reasonable doubt".

In one of the sensational incidents of 2008, Vishwanathan, who was working with a leading English news channel here, was shot dead in the wee hours of September 30 on Nelson Mandela Marg while she was returning home from work. Police had claimed that the motive behind the killing was

robbery. Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Ravindra Kumar Pandey convicted Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik and Ajay Kumar for offence of murder and common intention under

They were also held guilty under provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) for committing organised crime resulting in death of the person and the offences entail death penalty as the maximum sentence. The court also convicted fifth

accused Ajay Sethi under section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) and MCOCA provisions for conspiring to abet, aid or knowingly facilitate organised crime and for receiving the proceeds of organised The court would hear argu-

ments on quantum punishment to be awarded to the convicts on October 26.

Pronouncing the operative part of the verdict in a packed courtroom, ASJ Pandey said, 'The court is of the considered view that prosecution has duly proved beyond all reasonable

doubt that accused Ravi Kapoor and his other associates, co-accused Amit Shukla. Ajay Kumar and Baljeet Malik had committed the murder of the deceased or victim Saumya Vishwanathan with the intention to rob her on September 30, 2008, in between 3.25 am and 3.55 am at Nelson Mandela

Marg." The court, in its 261-page judgment, dealt with the testimonies of 97 prosecution witnesses in a case which hinged on circumstantial evidence and said the four accused were found guilty and convicted under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention)

'The prosecution has also duly proved beyond all reasonable doubt the charge of the offence punishable under Section 3 (1) (i) (committing organised crime resulting in the death of any person) of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against the



Regarding the fifth accused, Ajay Sethi, the court said the prosecution had "duly proved beyond all reasonable doubt" that accused Sethi retained "knowingly and intentionally" retained the offending vehicle or car, which was stolen in Vasant Kunj and hence, he was guilty under IPC section

stolen property). "The prosecution has also duly

proved beyond all reasonable doubt that accused Ajay Sethi abetted or knowingly facilitated the commission of organised crime by the organised crime syndicate led by accused Ravi Kapoor... And he also used

to hold the property derived or

obtained from the proceeds of organised crime.

'Accordingly, he is held guilty and convicted for the charges of the offences punishable under sections 3 (2) (conspiring to abetting, aiding in, or knowingly facilitating organised crime) 3 (5) (holding property derived or obtained from commission of an organised crime or which has been acquired through the organised crime syndicate funds) of MCOCA," the court said. Speaking to reporters after the

verdict, the victim's mother Viswanathan Madhavi demanded life imprisonment for all four convicts, saying they should suffer what her family went through. We lost our daughter. We

demand life terms for convicts, they should suffer what we went through," she said. Five people were arrested for the murder and they have been in custody since March 2009.

The recovery of the weapon

was primarily due to the nonpresence of prosecution witnesses and the time taken for public prosecutor.

the appointment of a special The trial court had given the death penalty to Kapoor and Shukla and sentenced Malik to a life term in the Jigisha Ghosh murder case in August 2016. In January 2018, however, the high court commuted the death

sentences of Kapoor and

Shukla to life imprisonment

and upheld the life term for

Speaking to reporters soon after the court convicted the four. Soumya Vishwanathan's mother Madhavi Vishwanathan said the verdict will act as a deterrent for other

such people who would have been emboldened had her daughter's killers gone unpunished. 'We lost our daughter... But I

must say this decision will act as a deterrent for others. Otherwise, these people would have gained courage. Now at least one such gang will get punished. We don't believe in death penalty. We demand life imprisonment for convicts, they should suffer what we went through," said Madhavi Vishwanathan said.

The journalist's father MK Vishwanathan, who spent a sleepless night on Tuesday ahead of the court order, said though his daughter will not come back now, he is happy that justice has been delivered.

'Digital Doctor Clinics' in UP villages soon Raghubar made Odisha governor,

⊣he Uttar Pradesh Government will establish 'Digital Doctor Clinics' in villages to improve healthcare services in rural and remote areas of the state.

These 'Digital Doctor Clinics' will function like primary health centres, where not only consultation of doctors will be available through online video conferences, but also medications along with laboratory facilities. Currently, Digital Doctor Clinic is part of a pilot project and will be opened soon in 20 centres in Lucknow and Bulandshahr. After this, it will be expanded across the entire state.

The government has signed an MoU of Rs 350 crore with Obdu Group for this project. Obdu

Group CEO Sanjai Kumar said that currently five doctors had been hired for this, while 10 other doctors were being lined

He further said that they were in talks with some other investors regarding the startup, and their goal was to scale this MoU up to a size of Rs 1,000 crore.

A digital doctor clinic is a primary health center that combines both telemedicine branches (consultation center and specialty centre).

It is designed to improve rural healthcare by providing not only online video conferencing but also a qualified health care assistant who will take care of the patient and facilitate communication between the doctor and the patient.

Using blockchain and artificial



intelligence technology, the best MBBS doctors will reach patients in villages and remote rural areas through technology and will provide the right treat-

ment and necessary medicines. During treatment in these clinics, all types of medicines will be made available to the patients at very low rates.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress leadership has hailed the Calcutta High Court order setting media guidelines for covering news related to party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, his wife Rujira Banerjee and similarly placed

Banerjee and similarly placed

persons who were presently

being interrogated for their

alleged roles in the school level

"There can be N number of

cases against people who are in

political life and everyone

knows how often such cases are

politically motivated ... in such

circumstances it is imperative

to safeguard the public honour

of these politicians ... the hon-

our and reputation that is being

recruitment scam.

done in just 3 to 5 minutes on prescription of doctors at a cost of only Rs 30-40. This test includes various fever profiles like malaria, dengue, chikungunya, liver function, jaundice, sugar etc.

Furthermore, keeping the income of people in rural and remote areas in mind, selected digital doctor clinics will also offer ultrasound services, which will cost between Rs 200 to 300. In each digital doctor clinic, there will be a health care assistant who will help patients log in to the digital doctor clinic using their mobile phones. After that, based on the patient's

illness, they will connect the patient to the best MBBS doctor through an online confer-

guidelines for covering

TMC hails HC media

school jobs scam

Indra Sena Reddy Nallu of Tripura

Former Jharkhand chief min-ister Raghubar Das and BJP leader Indra Sena Reddy Nallu have been appointed as the governors of Odisha and Tripura, respectively, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique on Wednesday.

The communique added that President Droupadi Murmu is pleased to make the appointments that will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices.

Das, currently a national vice president of the BJP, was the



chief minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019.

Indra Sena Reddy Nallu is a BJP leader from Telangana.

Centre hikes DA by 4 per cent; bonus for non-gazetted Railways employees

head of the festive season, A the central government on Wednesday decided to hike the dearness allowance for its employees by 4 percentage points to 46 per cent of the basic salary and pay 78 days of salaries as bonus for nongazetted railway staff.

Briefing reporters about the Cabinet decisions, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the dearness in

PUBLIC NOTICE

s Notice is hereby given to general public Bharat Sharma, Mrs. Maya Sharma & Mr. o claimed to be owners and in possession of ring no. A-1002, on First Floor without roof rig

ndoned and our client shall proceed with bursement of loan against the said property

PUBLICATION
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of

Uttar Pradesh)
600/1, University Road, Near
Hanuman Setu Mandir,
Lucknow-226007
DRC NO. 566/2022

DRC NO. 566/2022

NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF
SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE
INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ
WITH SECTION 29 OF THE
RECOVERY OF DEBT DUE TO
BANKS AND FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993.

ICICI BANK LTD.

Vs Mr. RAKESH KUMAR

Flat No. E- 63, 6th Floor Senior Citizen Housing Complex Sec - F Opp. Block, Noida- 201301.

B-Gf 01, Ground Floor, Tower-B,

Gardenia Gateway, Plot No.10 Sector -75 Noida-

201305. (Borrower)

2. Mrs. SUSHMA CHAUHAN

Flat No. E-63, 6th Floor, Senior Citizen, Housing Complex, Sec-P-3, Opp. Block, Noida - 201301

. Mr. RAKESH KUMAR

will benefit 48.67 lakh central government employees and 67.95 lakh pensioners, respec-

The release of the additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) will be applicable from July 1, 2023.

DA and DR are given twice a year to compensate employees and pensioners, respectively, for price rise.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both

allowance and dearness relief DA and DR would be Rs 12,857 crore per annum. In March this year and September last year also, the

> percentage points. The DA and DR hikes are applicable from January 1 and

> increase in DA and DR was 4

Thakur also informed that railway employees will receive a bonus equivalent to their 78 days' salaries, benefiting more than 11.07 lakh non-gazetted staff of the national trans-

PUBLIC NOTICE

10, be known to all that my client, SMT, ASHA KATYAL W/O
LATE SHRI NARENDER KUMAR KATYAL R/O FLAT NO.73,
THIRD FLOOR, POCKET-B, SUKHDEV VIHAR, NEW DELHI110025, is the owner of DB ASFS FLAT NO.73, ON THIRD
FLOOR, POCKET-B, SITUATED AT SUKHDEV VIHAR, NEW
DELHI-110025, VIDE DDA FILE NO.F78(607)82/SV/II. The
original. documents i.e. Original DEMAND LETTER,
FIFTH E FINAL DEMAND LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER,
NOC FOR WATER & ELECTRICITY CONNECTION and SITE
POSSESSION SLIP of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable insiste of his
best efforts. An FLK /NCR to this effect has been lodged in the
Police Station, Orime Branch, Delhi (LIR No.1365684/2023)

Delhi. Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate)
Ch.No. M-7, Near SBI, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

AT HYDERABAD

Having its office in Plot 1267/A Road 63/A Jubilee Hills.

Represented by its Chairman, Mr. C.L. Rajam

Radiant Cropscience Pvt. Ltd. Having its Registered and Corporate

Office at 105, 2nd Floor, Pocket-1, Jasola, New Delhi - 110025,

The Applicant has filed a Application under Section11 (5) & 11(6) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 vide Arb. Appl. No. 194 of 2022 seeking the appointment of a Sole Arbitrator to adjudicate the dispute between the Applicant (i.e. Intercontinental Publications Pvt. Ltd.) and the Respondent (Radian Cropscience Pvt. Ltd.) arising out of the Agreement dated 01-03-2019, in accordance with Clause 15 of the said Agreement. The Respondent has failed and neglected to nominate the Arbitrator in spite of request from the Applicant t initiate Arbitration Proceedings through notices dated 10-08-2022 and 25-08-2022 Since the notices could not be served on the Respondent, the Applicant ha obtained permission for serving notice on the above referred Respondentb substituted service vide orders from the Hon'ble High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad in I.A.No.1 of 2023 dated 13-10-2023

The Respondent is hereby informed that the above Arbitration Application will b listed on 24-11-2023 for admission at 10:30 AM. If the Respondent does not ente appearance either in person or through an Advocate duly instructed, the matte

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.

|VOIGS

B-Gf 01, Ground Floor, Tower-B, Gardenia Gateway, Plot No.10 Sector-75, Noida- 201305. (Borrower) 3. M/S FUTEC SHELTERS PVT Registered Office: R-19, 3rd Floor, Main Shaker

Pur Market, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092 Corporate Office at
Plot No. 9, Sector -75, Noida201301.Defendants

This is to notify that a sum of Rs. 66,71,984.00/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lacs Seventy One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Four Only) together with pendentelite and future interest @ 9.00% per annum monthly rest from the date of filling 11-12-2019 the cost and jointly severely of original application till full realization is made has become due from you as per the Certificate bearing No. 566/2022 dated 10-02-2022 in Original Application No 1695/2019 passed against you by

the D.R.T.Lucknow.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the sum within 15 days of the receipt of this Notice, failing which the processory shall be made in the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institution Act, 1993.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on Affidavit the particulars of asset on or before 11/12/2023 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 11/12/2023 At 10:30 A.M.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will also be liable to pay the following Costs. Details of costs:-

Application fee

Advocate fees Publication charges Rs. Miscellaneous Expenses Rs Given under my hand and seal at Lucknow this 29th, day of September, 2023.

Recovery Officer II **Debts Recovery Tribunal**

Rs. 69,000/-

Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No.1036684/202 dated 18.10.2023). Any person(s) claiming any right interest, having any objection or found in possession

PUBLIC NOTICE

round in possession of original documents, may write, contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (ABA Housing) LIG or Director (Housing), Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate) Delhi. Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate)
Ch.No. M-7, Near SBI, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA

ARBITRATION APPLICATION NO.:- 194 of 2022

Intercontinental Publications Pvt. Ltd.

Counsel for the Applican
Office Address:- 6-1-318/1, Flat No. 101, Sai RidahJeevan Residency Walker Town, Near Sai Baba Temple, Padmarao Nagar Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana- 500020

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

. 10/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, Mo Water Supply (Two Years Annual Repairing of Bowl Assly. & Tube Shaft Set of Network-74, 78, 112, 113, 115, 118 & Village-Sorkha) Noida. Cost Rs. 79.66 Lac

11/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Two Years Annual Repairing of PVC, AC/CI Water Lines, Repairing of Sluice Valves and Reflex Valves, C/o Chambers & Replacement of Old Chocked Water Lines at Different Locations in Network Sector-66, 67 and 68 74, 78, 112, 113, 115, 118 and Village- Sorkha), Noida. Cost Rs.

12/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, Water Chlorination (Two Years Annual Repairing, Operation and Maintenance of Chlorination Plants at UGR-78 and 105) Noida. Cost Rs. 36.97 Lac

10/S.M.(JAL)-III/E.T./2023-24, M/o Sewerage (P/F F.R.C. Cover Frame & Cleaning of Sewer line Manhole by Portable Re-cycler Jetting cum Suction Machine De-Silter equipment in Village-Garhi Shahpur, Sector-128, 5% Abadi Sultanpur & 5% Abadi Barola) Noida. (AMC with supply for Two Year) Cost Rs. 46.38 Lac . 05/S.M.(JAL-O.A.)/2023-24, O/M of Sewer Line and MSPS /IPS at

Expressway (Annual Cleaning of Sewer Line and Sewer Manhole between IPS/MSPS RHS along Noida Gr. Noida Expressway Green belt Ch. 0.00 to 10.00 KM) Noida. Cost Rs. 45.05 Lac Which can be uploaded by date: 25.10.2023 upto 5.00 PM.

Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date: 26.10.2023 at 11.00 AM.

Sector- 5

Office: Dy. General Manager(Jal) **NOIDA** CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

TO, be known to all that my client, SMT. PROMIL GROVER W/O SHRI ASHOK GROVER R/O FLAT NO.725, GROUND FLOOR, POCKET-A, SARTIA WHAR. NEW DELHI. Is the owner of DDA SFS FLAT NO.725, ON GROUND FLOOR, POCKET-A, CARTIGORY-III, STIUARED AT SARTIA VHARK NEW DELHI, VIDE DDA FILE NO. FL28(184)848/45FS/SV/III. The original documents i.e. Original DEMAND LETTER of the above said properly have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable inspite of his best efforts. An FLR /NGR to this effoct has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No. 1031332/0203 dated 17.10.2023). Any personts claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above

harmed by irresponsible media coverage often aided by selective leaking of half-baked information by central Agencies .. this thing should be stopped as no one can be called a convict till a case is proved against him or her," TMC leader Shantanu Sen said adding the Court order would work towards disciplining the media by making it more responsible and sensitive towards the honour and reputation of people in public

> The Court had on Tuesday issued guidelines for media coverage on Baneriee couples and other similarly placed suspects in the recruitment scam. In his interim order the Bench Bhattacharyya ruled that "with absolute power comes absolute

Court summons to board head

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

n yet another blow to the Mamata Banerjee Government the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to immediately interrogate West Bengal Primary Education Board Chairman Gautam Pal and the Board's Deputy Secretary Partha Karmakar for their alleged role in suppressing facts related to cash-for-job scam. The Court ordered Pal to appear before the CBI officials by six pm on Wednesday. In his stinging order Justice Abhihjit Gangopadhyay also directed the Agency to even arrest Pal should he not cooperate with the officials.

responsibility" and directed the Agency not to "not to disclose to the public or the media" the details, reasons and circumstances of interrogations or raids or similar such

The Court order came subse-

While the Court directed the Agency not to selectively leak information it also asked the media to stick to objective and not opinionated reporting so to say. The interim order would Banerjee Rujira approached the Court seeking an ordinary citizen.

quent to a submission by the CBI that Pal's office was misleading the Court and the investigating agency and trying to delay the investigation process by providing wrong copies of the digitized OMR sheets relevant to the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) examina-

tions. The recruitment scam however had taken place during Pal's predecessor and then Chairman Manik Bhattacharya, also a Trinamool Congress MLA who is presently in jail. After assuming charge Pal a former Pro-Vice Chancellor of Kalyani University had assured that though he would not be answerable for the acts of his predecessors he would ensure a transparent recruitment. process.

to restrain a section of the media which were reporting on the school recruitment scam. When a news item is presented as a news item, in whatever medium - audio, visual or print - the same has to be utterly truthful and be able to be corroborated by concrete materials and sources, the Court ruled adding not only the media had freedom of speech and expression but they are ov additional and bound had er standards of accuracy than

J&K sets up panel to identify foreigners staying illegally of 155 Rohingyas were found to

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir Government has once again set up a high-level panel to identify foreign nationals illegally/ overstaying in the Union Territory since January 01, 2011. According to a recent order issued by the J&K Home department, a committee headed by the financial commissioner/ additional chief secretary Home department has been constituted to identify foreign nationals illegally/ overstaying in the Union Territory since January 01, 2011.

The panel comprises Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO), Bureau Immigration, Amritsar(Punjab); Senior Superintendent of Police, CID, Special Branch, Jammu; Senior Superintendent of Police, CID, Special Branch, Srinagar; all district SSPs/SPs(FROs) and State Coordinator, IVRFT, NIC, J&K. As per its terms of reference, the panel shall prepare a monthly report of missing foreigners in Jammu & Kashmir and submit the same to the Ministry of Home Affairs by 7th of every month.

Earlier, in October 2018 the Union Home Minister had directed the states to collect biometrics of the illegal migrants living across the different states. After a gap of three long years, the UT administration in Jammu and Kashmir launched a special verification drive in the st week of March sports stadium in Jammu. At the end of the drive, a total number

be staying illegally in Jammu and all of them were lodged in the holding centre at Hiranagar. According to official sources, at present a total number of 260 Rohingyas have been camping in the holding centre out of which 50-60 are children. When Mehbooba Mufti was heading the BJP-PDP alliance

government in Jammu and Kashmir a comprehensive report, prepared by the J&K Home Department, was tabled in the state legislature on February 2, 2018. According to the report, "a total number of 6523 Rohingyas were found camping across 39 different locations spread across five districts of Jammu and Kashmir". According to this report, "6461 Rohingyas were staying in Jammu division and 62 in Kashmir division.

However, local activists and politicians, spearheading a campaign in support of their deportation often contest these figures claiming a large number of these illegal immigrants are scattered and even their bio metrics have not been properly collected by the security personnel. According to the report, out of 6523 Rohingyas, more than 400 were staying here without their refugee cards issued by the United National High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Recently, J&K police have booked FIR's in two cases where Rohingyas were found to certificate, Aadhar card, and

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Congress on Wednesday continued to attack BJP led Central government for allegedly going all out to support conglomerate Adani Group which has in recent times been in the thick of storm. Addressing a Press conference, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi questioned the silence of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi over reports of massive over invoicing in coal imports by the Adani group this leading to hike in electricity tariff for the

Rahul accuses BJP of silence on inflated invoicing by Adani firm

Indian consumers.

"Come clean, start the investigation, defend your credibility", Rahul asked the PM in a clear and categorical message, saying his Modi's credibility was at stake.

Rahul said the Congress, if voted to power, would order an investigation into the matter in

Asked whether the Congress, if it comes to power in 2024, will probe it, he remarked, why not as it is matter of Rs 32,000 crore. "This money has been stolen from the people of the country and if anyone steals Rs 32,000 crores, it will be probed", he asserted.

Rahul said, it is the question of Prime Minister Modi's credibil-

ity. He asked why the PM was not ordering a probe into it. Why is the prime minister silent on the issue, I am only helping the prime minister and asking him to come clean by starting an investigation and defend his credibility," he added.

Giving details, Rahul said, earlier the figure was Rs 20,000

crore that Adani's group had looted from the Indians and now the figure has gone to Rs

Ration card.

32.000 crore. He pointed out, it is the common Indians' money as they pay for the electricity that is generated from the coal imported by Adani. "Every time anyone switches on an electric switch, money goes to

Mr Adani," said Rahul. He pointed out, the SEBI which was probing the charges against Adani had claimed that it did not get any documents, while the Financial Times newspaper had managed to get all the doc-

Women outnumber men in organ donation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

They may have been the victim of discrimination at various spheres of life, but when it comes to donating their organs to save their dear ones, women have outnumbered men. This was evident in Aadhar-authenticated signing up for organ donation on a recently-launched website of the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) under the Union Health Ministry

group have pledged for organ donation, followed by 21,751 in

the 18-29 age group, 18,160 in

the 45-59 age group and 2,592

More than 82,000 people have pledged for organ donation sels and cartilage since September 16, with the Union health minister 30-44 years age group constituting the bulk of the pledges, according to data from the website -- notto.Abdm.Gov.In. According to the latest data, 40,320 people in the 30-44 age

aged above 60 years. Also, 47,094 women, 35,726 men and 12 transgenders have pledged for organ donation on the portal.

Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana have emerged as the top three states with the highest number of pledges at 23,369, 18,847 and 11,564 respectively. Maximum number of people have pledged to donate a kidney, followed by heart, liver, lungs, pancreas and intestine.

People have also pledged for tissues such as cornea, skin, bone, heart valves, blood ves-

Mansukh Mandaviya had recently urged more people to come forward to save lives. India faces the lowest organ donation rate worldwide, with a mere 0.1% of the population donating their organs after death in stark contrast to 70-80% in Western countries, say

2 arrested in mystery death of 5 of a family in Gadchiroli

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

n a significant development, Ithe Gadchiroli police on Wednesday unravelled the mystery behind the sudden death of five members of a family and hospitalisation of three others after they arrested two women relatives who had allegedly poisoned eight persons over a property dispute.

An atmosphere of mystery, fear and suspicion had gripped Mahagao village in Aheri taluka of Gadchiroli district over the past few days, after one Shankar Piru Kumbhare and his four family members - his wife Vijaya, daughters Komal, Varsha and son R0shan suddenly fell ill and died within a span of twenty days.

Wednesdav.

The two women behind the sinister murders-identified as Shankar's daughter-in law Sanghamitra and his brother-inlaw's wife Rosa Ramteke --were arrested by the police on

Tirupur losing textile hub tag

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Tamil Nadu has been rattled by the gains made by Bangladesh as India's tiny neighbour, and the State is losing its reputation as the textile hub and the knitwear capital of the country. The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between India and Bangladesh is derailing India's textile exports as well as its share in the home market. Fabrics imported from Bangladesh are exempted from customs duty. "Imports from Bangladesh are increasing on a monthly basis and this has upset the manufacturers in Tirupur.

In 2022-2023, the Knitted Fabric imports from Bangladesh increased to Rs 264 crore from Rs 212 crore recorded in 2021-2022. This is a hike of 24.3per cent and has put the domestic industry in trouble," said K M Subramanian, president, Tirupur Exporters Association, in a memorandum submitted to

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister in charge of textiles.

Last year (2022-2023), the import of Knitwear Garments from Bangladesh into India crossed the Rs 2489 crore mark while it was Rs 1576 crore in 2021-2022. "This is a growth of 57.9 per cent and has put the local manufacturers in a disadvantage," said Subramanian. Bangladesh imports cheap raw materials from China and export the finished products to European Market as well as US. "Being a least developed country, products from Bangladesh do not come under any kind of tax in Europe and USA," said S Sakthivel, executive secretary, TEA.

ering around the \$16.5 billion mark while Bangladesh has already crossed \$44 billion. "We do not have a level playing field," said Sakthivel. The TEA president said only the

He said Indian exports are hov-

Narendra Modi Government could help the knitwear industry to tide the present crisis.

In a first, Rapid rail to have Al enabled door frame

The 17-km priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor is slated to be opened for pas-sengers on October 21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate this section on October 20. For the first time, state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled Door Frame Metal Detector (DFMD) are being used for the security screening of commuters at the soon-to-open Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor stations. This system, by screening the com-

with artificial intelligence. "A day after the inauguration of the priority section, passengers services will begin from October 21 morning. RAPIDX trains will be operational between 6 am and 11 pm. Initially, trains will be available

muters, will help prevent any

suspicious item from reaching

the station. The luggage scan-

entry gates are also equipped

a requirement basis in the future," officials of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) said on

The priority section, between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot, has five stations -- Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai and Duhai Depot. The segment from Duhai to Duhai Depot is a spur from the main corridor. Every RAPIDX train will have six coaches, including a pre-mium coach. One coach in every train is reserved for women and it is the coach next to the premium coach. Also, there are reserved seats for women, specially-abled and senior citizens in other coaches, the sources said.

According to officials, ners installed at the station scanners installed at the RRTS stations have a dual-view generator X-ray baggage inspection system that will enable the dual screening of the luggage passing through the scanner. The images of both the upper and lower parts of the bag will appear on the computer screen.





item is scanned in the bag of a commuter, the conveyor belt Security Control Centre (SCC) at the Depot is a crucial element for the safe and smooth commute of people. It monitors the entire section of the Priority Section 24x7 through the CCTV cameras, gathers infor-

response by contacting the respective stations, field officers, local units etc. where required in undesired situations. Closed circuit TV screens will be installed in the stations through which CCTV footage will be visible to the commuters. With an operational speed of 160 kmph, these fully-

centric features for a safe and comfortable regional commute like ergonomically designed 2x2 transverse seating, wide standing space, luggage racks, CCTV cameras, laptop/mobile charging facility, dynamic route maps, auto control ambient lighting system, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System (HVAC) and other amenities.

"These trains will also facilitate the movement of patients and one general coach (the last general coach) in each train will have the facility to accommodate a medical stretcher and a wheelchair.

This is because many people travel from Meerut to Delhi for treatment, such as at the AIIMS or other hospitals. The RRTS will facilitate their movement, a senior official said. This way, they will also save time and beat the vehicular traffic on roads, he said.The RRTS ticketing system is compliant with the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), the

Modi to inaugurate priority section of rapid rail corridor at Sahibabad tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor at the Sahibabad RAPIDX station in Uttar Pradesh on Friday. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said he will flag off a RAPIDX train connecting Sahibabad and Duhai Depot, marking the launch of the RRTS in

Modi will also address a public meeting to mark the occasion and later inaugurate two stretches of the east-west corridor of the Bengaluru Metro. The PMO said the 17-km priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor, which will be inaugurated, will connect Sahibabad to Duhai Depot through stations



at Ghaziabad, Guldhar and Duhai.

The foundation stone for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor was laid by him on March 8, 2019. In line with the his vision to transform regional connectivity in the country through construction of new world-class transport infrastructure, the RRTS project is being developed, the PMO said in a statement.

The RRTS is a new rail-based, semi-high-speed, high-frequency commuter transit system with a design speed of 180 It is a "transformational"

regional development initiative, which is designed to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes, which can go up to a frequen-cy of every five minutes according to requirement, it said.

The PMO noted that a total of eight RRTS corridors have been identified for development in the National Capital Region, out of which three corridors have been prioritised to be implemented in

Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, Delhi-Gurugram-SNB-Alwar and Delhi-Panipat.

The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor is being developed at a cost of more than Rs 30,000 crore and will connect Delhi to Meerut with a travel time of less than an hour through urban centres of Ghaziabad, Muradnagar and Modinagar, the PMO said.

LG nod to hike in Kashmiri migrants' monthly relief to ₹27,000 per month

After 16 years, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved an increase in the Adhoc Monthly Relief (AMR) to Kashmiri migrants in the national capital from Rs 10,000 to Rs 27,000 per month. This enhancement in eligibility will increase the number of beneficiaries being covered by about 70%. The Adhoc Monthly Relief (AMR) was last increased in 2007 when the amount was doubled from Rs 5,000 per family fixed According to Raj Niwas official,

this enhancement comes after a long gap of 16 years, when the eligibility for AMR was doubled from Rs 5,000 per month to Rs 10,000 per month, in 2007.In 1995, the GNCTD had fixed the eligibility for AMR amount at Rs 5000 per month. At present, approximately 2,000 families in the national capital are being paid AMR at a rate of Rs 3,250 per person per month, subject to a maximum of four



people per family. This amount is shared by the Delhi government, which pays Rs 1,000, and the Centre, which pays Rs 2,250. The monthly expenditure incurred on AMR is AMR is provided to Kashmiri

approximately Rs 2.5 crore. migrants under the "Security Related Expenditure (Relief & Rehabilitation)", introduced by the central government in 1989-90 to support those who had to migrate from the Kashmir Valley due to militancy. In Delhi, AMR is provided to migrant families registered by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi from 1990-93.

declare their family and allow splitting of the family due to increase in size. Birth to a couple in the migrant family would lead to addition in the family and death of a member would lead to deletion of that mem-Apart from this, a non-migrant girl marrying into a migrant family will be added as a mem-"The number of beneficiaries ber of the Kashmiri migrant is, however, expected to family," they said. increase by nearly 70% after

Delhi BJP President Virendra factoring in increase in the Sachdeva has welcomed the number of "units" because of 170% increase announced in raising of the eligibility criteria Adhoc Monthly Relief by the and rise in the number of fam-Lt. Governor of Delhi Shri ily members due to splitting Vinai Kumar Saxena for and addition that will now be Kashmiri migrants. "This allowed," Raj Niwas official raise coming after 16 years is a proof of the Lt. Governor's said. "The LG also approved bifurcation / addition of names sensitivity towards the basic in the Kashmiri Migrant Cards issued by GNCTD to facilitate, needs of Kashmiri migrants many of whom are still financially struggling to meet both ends meet," he said. The Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri also welcomed the grown up and married children of migrants, to get their own cards made and accordingly become entitled for AMR as separate units / families. The registered Kashmiri Migrant LG's decision to this effect.

Soumya's mother demands life term for those convicted of daughter's murder

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Madhavi Vishwanathan, mother of journalist Soumya Vishwanathan who was shot dead 15 years ago, on Wednesday demanded life imprisonment for all four people convicted for her daughter's murder by a Delhi court, saying they should suffer what her family went through.

Earlier in the day, the court convicted Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik and Ajay Kumar for the murder of Soumya and also under provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Fifth accused Ajay Sethi was convicted under Section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) of the Indian Penal Code and under MCOCA provisions for conspiring to abet, aid or knowingly facilitate organised crime and for receiving the proceeds of organised crime. The court listed the matter for October 26 for sen-

We lost our daughter. We demand life term for convicts as they should suffer what we went through," Madhavi told reporters.

Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) HGS Dhaliwal, who was posted as DCP South earlier and whose team had cracked the Soumya Vishwanathan murder case, was also present in court with the slain journalist's family

He said it was a very challenging case and it took more than six months to work it out. 'Family members of Soumya

Vishwanathan kept faith in Delhi Police and did not want the case to be transferred to any central agency. However, the case was challenging as there was no physical contact between the victim and the accused

Only a bullet was fired from a moving vehicle that hit Soumya, killing her," HGS Dhaliwal told reporters.

DDA announces mega e-auction

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{or those seeking property in}}_{\text{the national capital, the}}$ Delhi Development Authority (DDA)on Wednesday announced a mega e-auction for prime plots, CNG sites, built up shops, kiosks and mobile tower sites and registration is open till November 6.

Giving details of the auction, officials said here it is the 18th phase of mega auction and the DDA has invited bids for 50 institutional plots, including 20 religious sites on leasehold basis, 12 industrial plots, 46 residential plots, 2 Group Housing Plots, 28 commercial plots and 19 small size residential plots at Rohini, all on freehold basis. Besides these, bids have also been invited for 2 CNG/Green

sites and 4 gas godowns on annual license fee, 145 freehold built up shops, 13 freehold Janak Place shops, 15 Kiosks, 16 Mobile Tower sites and 105 function sites on monthly license fee.

The DDA has provided QR

codes in the advertisement which are also being run on the social media platforms. By scanning these QR codes, all relevant information can be accessed. Interested bidders are required to register and then participate in the auction process online only through https://ddaeauction.ewizard.in and www.dda.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory for participation in the e auction.

The DDA has set-up a help desk in its office at the Nagrik Suvidha Kendra, Vikas Sadan, INA to help addressing queries and for providing assistance in obtaining digital signatures, registration/training of prospective bidders. The help desk can be approached from Monday to Friday, 11 Am to 5

Bidding for function sites, kiosks, mobile tower sites, CNG/Green fuel sites and Institutional plots will take place on November 07 while oidding for industrial, residential and small size residential plots will take place on

US Ambassador Garcetti rides Delhi Metro, interacts with passengers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

he Delhi Metro Rail L Corporation (DMRC) on Wednesday informed that US Ambassador Eric Garcetti took a ride in the metro and interacted with fellow passengers. The Delhi Metro shared pic-

tures of his metro travel on X. The US envoy to India travelled on the Magenta Line. "His Excellency Mr. Eric M. Garcetti, Ambassador of the United States of America to India, took a ride in Delhi Metro today from RK Puram to Okhla NSIC Metro Station



He also interacted with pas-

appreciated clean and efficient Metro system," the DMRC posted on X.

cials accompanied him when sengers during his travel & he interacted with passengers onboard the obliged a few passengers with



Some of the Delhi Metro offion Magenta Line.

A three day exhibition of 'Best out of Waste' is being held at National Bal Bhavan, based on theme cleanliness where children display their crafts made by them from recycling and reusing the waste materials. Some of the major artworks of this exhibition are dolls, houses and bicycles from old newspapers, flower from corn and pencil peels, chandeliers from threads and old bangles, coasters and baskets from old CDs, bags and toys from leftover clothes, turtles from coconut shells and many more interesting crafts. NBB Director Mukta Agarwal said the children and instructors kept in mind the government focus to create a sustainable environment and how recycled items can be shaped for best practices for generations to come. NBB is an autonomous body of Union Ministry of Education.

Delhi Government to run month-long campaign to curb industrial pollution: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

¬he Delhi government will I run a month-long campaign to curb industrial pollution starting October 20. According to environment minister Gopal Rai, 66 teams have been set up to keep an eye on the fuels being used in over 1,700 industrial units in the capital.
"Though these units have

shifted to natural gas, we will ensure that there's no laxity on their part," said Rai directing officials to ensure regular lifting and proper scientific disposal of industrial waste from industrial areas.

The environment minister further said 1753 registered industrial units of Delhi have been converted into PNG and any industrial unit that violates environmental regulations will face severe and appropriate repercussions from the rele-



Pollution Campaign, it has been decided to deploy patrolling teams to monitor the dumping of industrial waste in the whole of Delhi. Periodic reports will be submitted to the Environment Department based on their

The DPCC team has been

against any violation of environmental regulations by industrial units," he added. Taking a dig at Rai, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said except for holding press conferences every day, this government has done nothing to tackle pollution.

Rai had on Tuesday demanded that the Centre impose a complete ban on firecrackers and allow the movement of only CNG and electric vehicles in the entire National Capital Region in a bid to curb air pol-

Rai, in a letter to Bhupender Yadav, his counterpart at the Centre, said the Delhi gov-

ernment has taken numerous steps to curb air pollution during the winter season. "But these steps will not be effective until Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh deal with the

sources of pollution in the NCR region," he said. A report by independent environment think tank Centre for Science and Environment shows that 31 per cent of Delhi's pollution comes from sources within the national capital while 69 per cent is from sources in NCR states, he said.

Rai demanded that the Centre convene an emergency meeting to discuss solutions to the factors contributing to air pollution in the national capital. The states in the National Capital Region (NCR) should impose a complete ban on firecrackers and stubble burning in the entire region and allow only CNG and electric vehicles, the Delhi minister said.

Atishi inspects construction of new school building

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Education Minister Atishi on Wednesday inspected the construction work of the new school building in Paschim Vihar on Wednesday morning along with education department and public works department (PWD) officials.

This upcoming four-storey world-class school in Paschim Vihar has approximately 129 rooms.

The school is equipped with 13 excellent labs, 2 libraries, an auditorium, and more. During the inspection, officials informed the Education Minister that the construction work of the school is nearly 90% complete. After the inspection, the Atishi direct-

ed the PWD officials to expedite the

pending work on the school and pre-

that the building should be ready by

construction work is in its final phase, December so that it can be dedicatattention to every detail is essential. pare a checklist for it. She emphasized ed to Delhi's children this year. As Speaking on the occasion, the minis-

building of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Specialized Excellence, being built in Paschim Vihar, will provide specialized education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Humanities to students in the area.

"Through this, we will ensure world-class education for children from all walks of life, rich and poor alike.

This school, equipped with world-class facilities, will become a hub of quality education in the area, sur-passing even private schools in terms of academic excellence. The Delhi government has begun this by making Delhi's schools excellent.

Our government has assured Delhi's parents that a lack of money will never come in the way of their children's quality education," she added.

DGCA implements strict rules for hand gliders

In response to a recent aerial attack carried out by Hamas, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has swiftly implemented rigorous regulations governing powered hang gliders. DGCA also made it clear that no person shall carry out test flight on a powered hang glider without a commercial pilot licence with 25 hours of flying on powered hang glider.

The move comes as part of a concerted effort to bolster aviation safety and security measures in the aftermath of the unprecedented incident.

motor-powered hang gliders to infiltrate Israel has become a attack, which has shown that even the mightiest military can be caught off guard by unconventional means of infil-

The Hamas attacks mark the second time that Palestinian



to invade Israel. In 1987, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command launched two paragliders from Lebanon, one of which landed in Israel.

The revised regulations read that no person shall fly a Powered Hang Glider without being authorised by a DGCA approved examiner or instruc-

"No person shall carry out test flight on a powered hang glider unless the person me ets the following criteria- a pilot hold-

ized hang gliders. The updated rules further read that powered hang gliders can't be sold or disposed of to any person or firm without producing a cer-tificate issued by DGCA.

"The details of flight plan and flying shall be notified by the pilot to the nearby aerodrome, defence establishment and district local authorities concerned as applicable and obtain necessary clearance. No person shall operate a Powered Hang Glider at night. The Powered Hang Glider shall not be used for public transport or aerial work or any commercial activity," DGCA said.

DGCA will grant the certificate after checking the background of the buyer from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Any person or firm intending to acquire/manufacture or register a Powered Hang Glider is required to obtain security clearance from MHA through DGCA and comply with the requirements specified by MĤA, as per the regulations.

Rajnath urges armed forces to plan according to complex world situation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday urged the armed forces to strategise and plan accordingly in the backdrop of present complex and ambiguous world situation which affects everyone globally.

He made these assertions while addressing the Army Commanders' Conference here and said "unconventional and asymmetric warfare, including hybrid war will be part of the future conventional wars and the same is evident in the recent conflicts happening in various parts of world.

This necessitates that Armed Forces should keep all these facets in consideration while planning and formulating strategies. We must keep learning from the incidents to include the global ones, happened in present as also in past. Expect the Unexpected and thereby plan, strategize and prepare accordingly.

Commenting on the current situation along the Northern



borders at the Line of Actual Control(LAC)in Ladakh and elsewhere, Rajnath expressed full confidence in the army for any contingency though, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution will continue at all lev-

Referring to the situation along the Western borders facing Pakistan, he complimented the

cross border terrorism, however the proxy war by the adversary continues.

The defence minister commended the Army for the high standard of operational preparedness and capabilities which he has always been experiencing first hand during his visits to forward areas. He also

paid tributes to all the brave hearts for making the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of the motherland.

He complimented the significant contributions made by the Army in military diplomacy to further our national security interests by creating sus-tainable cooperative relation-ships with foreign Armies.

He also applauded Indian Army for the stellar performance by the Army Sportspersons in the recent Asian Games 2023. The second five-day

ArmyCommanders Conference this year, commenced in a hybrid format on October 16. During the event, IndianArmy's apex leadership comprehensively deliberated upon all aspects of existing security scenarios, situation along the borders and in the hinterland and challenges for the present security apparatus. In addition, the conference is also focusing on issues pertaining to organisational restructuring, logistics, admin-

istration and human resource

BJP raises corruption charges against Gandhi family after Rahul attack

The BJP on Wednesday highlighted corruption charges against the Gandhi family as it hit back at Rahul Gandhi for his attack on the government over the reports of inflated invoicing by the Adani Group in coal imports.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed the matter involving the business conglomerate is in the Supreme Court and Gandhi's comments on the issue shows he has no faith either in the Constitution or in the apex court.

Alleging that the Gandhis are the "most corrupt" family in the world, Bhatia said at a press

is himself on bail in the National Herald case.

The Congress leader never speaks on the corruption charge against him and the alleged scams of his brother-inlaw Robert Vadra, the BJP leader said.

Earlier in the day, Rahul Gandhi cited a media report to accuse the Adani Group of over-invoicing in coal imports and fleecing people to the tune of Rs 12,000 crore in electricity rates. He attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to come clean on the Adani issue by initiating a probe into the matter.

Bhatia took a swipe at



some opposition leaders also on their stand on the Palestine issue amid hostilities between Israel and Hamas, which con-

flying experience on powered

hang glider; or a person hold-

ing authorisation with 50 hours

of flying experience on pow-

ered hang glider, the revised

DGCA also described the eli-

gibility for becoming an exam-

iner or instructor. It said he/she

shall be a person with 50 flying

hours on a powered hang glid-

er and 10 hours on dual

After being approved by the

DGCA, such a person can

regulations reads.



ment, some opposition parties are only interested in appeasement politics and can't conhe said in a reference to the attack by Hamas militant on Israel that killed hundreds of

Some MPs consider themselves above the country and made statements ignoring the country's interests, he said. Several opposition leaders

had recently met the Palestinian envoy here in an expression of solidarity with the people of Palestine and were critical of Israel for its "indiscriminate bombing" on Gaza.

The BJP has also been taking swipes at the Congress after its CWC resolution on the issue made no reference to the At the press conference, Bhatia raised the issue of Karnataka minister and Congress leader Shivanand Patil being showered with currency notes in the poll-bound Telangana and accused the party of defiling democracy

Patil, he said, has acknowledged that it was he in in the viral video but there has been no reaction from the Congress

and elections with its alleged

Corruption is in the DNA of the Congress, he alleged. The Congress has made Karnataka an ATM for its cor-

use of corrupt money.

He must be immediately sacked as the continuation of such a "corrupt" minister is a threat to democracy, Bhatia

On the one hand there is

the BJP serving people under his leadership, on the other there is massively corrupt Congress, he claimed.

ruption, he said, questioning the presence of ministers from the state in Telangana where the assembly polls are scheduled to be held on November 30. The BJP leader spoke of a Congress leader in Rajasthan allegedly kicking off the headgear of a person and asserted that people will demolish the party's arrogance in the upcoming polls.

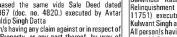
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Bhu Parkash and Atul Kumar are the owners of House no. A720 area measuring 125 sq. Yards of Plot no. 68, Part of Khasra no. 118446, 1186/7, situated in the area of Village of Sadhora Khurd in Shastri Nagar, in Block D-2, Delhi State, Delhi having acquired the same after the death of Chatar Lal vide will dated 16.09.1988 (doc. No. 15436) and whereas chatar lal purchased the same wide Sale Deed dated 05.05.1967 (doc. no. 4820.) executed by Avtar Singh, Kuldio Singh Datta. All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Rajender Khandelwal & Sangeeta Khandelwal are in process to purchase the Piot No. 29-0. having land area measuring 76 Sq. Yds., pertaining to the Khasra No. 1017/342, situated at Gali No. 4, Industrial Estate, New Rohtak Road, in the area of Village Sadhora Khurd, Delhi (availing loan from PCHFL) from Mrs. Balvinder Kaur, who acquired the same vide Relinquishment Deed dated 09-10-2023 (doc. 11751) executed by Mr. Sukhwant Singh, Mr. Kullwant Singh and Mrs. Ravinder Kaur All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, icense, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have

Kamal Kart Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351



INS Sudarshini arrives at Ho Chi Minh City port



■ NEW DELHI

In consonance with the gov-Lernment's policy of 'Act East' and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), the Sail Training Ship of Indian Navy, INS Sudarshini arrived at Saigon Port, Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) on Wednesday. The ship is currently on deployment to South East Asia

tives of Ministry of National Defence (Vietnam) and members of diplomatic community. The visiting dignitaries witnessed demonstration of sail operations and were briefed on various aspects and methodologies adopted during 'Tall Ship' operations, they said. During media interaction Jaishankar highlighted the diplomatic, cultural and historical values attached to the Indo - Vietnamese ties.

He further emphasised strong mutual co-operation and bilateral engagement between Indian Navy and Vietnam People's Navy.

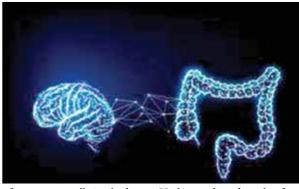
to Alzheimer's disease: Study PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Gut microbiome and Alzheimer's disease, the most common cause of demenstudy led by University College Cork (UCC) in Ireland. It supports the emergence of the gut microbiome as a key target for investigation in Alzheimer's disease due to its particular susceptibility to lifestyle and environmental influences.

Published in Brain, the study shows that the memory impairments in people with Alzheimer's could be transferred to young animals through transplant of gut microbiota.

Alzheimer's patients had a higher abundance of inflammation-promoting bacteria in faecal samples, and these changes were directly associated with their cognitive status.

"The memory tests we investigated rely on the growth



Gut microbiomes have a link

of new nerve cells in the hippocampus region of the brain. We saw that animals with gut bacteria from people with Alzheimer's produced fewer new nerve cells and had impaired memory," Professor Yvonne Nolan from the varsi-

"People with Alzheimer's are typically diagnosed at or after the onset of cognitive symptoms, which may be too late, at least for current theraapproaches.

Understanding the role of gut microbes during prodromal -or early stage- dementia, before the potential onset of symptoms may open avenues for new therapy development, or even individualised intervention," said Professor Nolan. Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia, a general term for memory loss and other cognitive abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life. As our population ages, one in three people born today

Alzheimer's.

"The study represents an important step forward in our understanding of the disease, confirming that the make-up of role in the development of the disease," said Sandrine Thuret, Professor of Neuroscience at King's College London.

According to health experts, trillions of microbes live in our gastrointestinal tract. These different types of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other microorganisms - collectively known as the gut microbiome - play a vital role in maintaining overall health by helping to digest food and make nutrients.

They also support the body's immune system and produce chemicals that affect brain function. When it gets out of balance, the gut microbiome can contribute to disease, they said giving the instance of the present study.

LOSS OF ID CARD Public Notice

Central Coalfields Limited 626

"A Miniratna Company" (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for

procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on

website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective

Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in),

CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in

and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in

in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of **Tejshree Malhotra** issued by ICICI Bank Itd. having ID card no. **2347597** has been found missing and/or lost on October 17, 2023 10:00 AM Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID CARD to the Reliable Debt Management Legal Services, Plot Num Office Num 101 Gali Num 3 East Guru Angad Nagar Delhi 110092 Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no 2347597. Please take further notice that anybody making payment any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her owr costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and /o responsible for any payment... ICICI Bank Ltd New Delhi

Sr Mode/process of REP

https://gem.gov.in".

ICICI BANK LTD



NDMC invites agency for conducting Demand Survey & MIS Entry of Vendors/Hawkers in different zones in NDMC area through e-Tender. The schedule of e-Tender with complete details and terms & conditions are available on e-procurement web portal i.e. www.govtprocurement. delhi.gov.in with the following criteria dates:

l	No	mode/process of Ref	system
	1	e-Tender ID	2023_NDMC_248846_1
	2	Tender Amount	Rs.10,00000/-
	3	Date of Release of RFP	14.10.2023 at 1600 hrs
	4	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	17.10.2023 at 1600 hrs
	5	Last date & time for online submission of BID	23.10.2023 at 1500 hrs.
	6	Bid opening date and time	23.10.2023 at 1600 hrs.
Corridendum if any shall only be			able on above website. The

details/information of the above tender be asked the same may be contacted to Director (Enforcement)-North, NDMC, 9th Floor, Palika Kendra, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001. Mob./Contact No: 011-23364699 Email: director.enforcement.north@ndmc.gov.in and

New Delhi Municipal Council

as part of her long range training deployment, navy officials said here. The day was marked with the visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar onboard ship along with representa-

PM Modi to launch 511 rural skill development centres in Maharashtra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 511 rural skill development centres in the name of late BJP leader Pramod Mahajan in Maharashtra on Thursday via video conferenc-

The PMO said in a statement that these centres are being established across 34 rural districts of Maharashtra. They will conduct skill development training programs across various sectors to provide employment opportunities to the rural youth, it said.

"Each centre will train

about 100 youngsters in at

least two vocational courses.

The training is being provided

by empanelled industry part-

ners and agencies under National Skill Development

power, it said. Mahajan was a leading national leader of the BJP and died at



Council," the statement added. They will help the region make significant strides towards developing a more competent and skilled man-

the age of 56.

India, Lanka discuss safety measures at coast guard meet PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Tndia and Sri Lanka on **▲** Wednesday here discussed all aspects including safety of mariners, cross-border fishing and regional maritime contemporary issues during the 6 th Annual High-Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG).

Giving details, ICG officials said the meeting marked a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and promote regional cooperation.

The meeting follows the institutionalized mechanism outlined in the Memorandum Understanding (MoU) between the ICG and SLCG.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard Director General Rear Admiral

Pujitha Vithana, held meeting with ICG chief Pal PTM with focus on a range of regional maritime contemporary issues, including cross-border fishing, safety of mariners, the adoption of best practices, capacity-building programs and other collaborative arrangements. Both sides expressed their commitment to enhancing mutual coopera-tion in addressing these challenges, thereby strengthening the maritime safety and security framework in the region. The 6 th Annual ICG-

SLCG High-Level Meeting underscores the commitment of both the Coast Guards to jointly address maritime challenges and foster regional cooperation, ultimately contributing to the safety and security of the maritime domain in the region. The 7 th annual ICG-SLCG meeting will be hosted by Sri

2-day India-France military meeting organised



NEW DELHI

S ignifying the close defence and strategic ties between the two countries, the 21st edition of India-France Military Sub Committee (MSC) meeting was held here for two days starting Monday, defence ministry officials said here on Wednesday.

India-France MSC is a forum established to progress defence cooperation between both nations through regular

tional levels between Headquarters(HQ), Integrated Defence Staff(IDS) and the Joint Staff HQ of French Armed Forces. The latest round of meet-

ing was conducted in a friendly, warm and cordial atmosphere. The discussions focussed on new initiatives under the ambit of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism and strengthening ongoing defence engagements,

Fire safety guidelines issued for Durga Puja pandals

s just a couple of days left Awhen the Durga Puja festival would reach its peak with the installation of idols of Goddess Durga in about 250 puja pandals in the city, known as 'Mini Kolkata' by Saptami of ongoing Shardiya Navratri, the Fire Brigade department has issued necessary fire safety guidelines to the puja pandals in view to avoid any untoward

Meanwhile, hectic preparations are going on to complete the Durga Puja pandals as about a dozen committees spend lakhs of rupees in giving grand shape to their pandals. All the five Durga pandals, where nine days long puja is celebrated, saw a good number of visitors and various religious the fourth day of the Navratri. The idols of Goddess Durga have already been installed at five places on the very first day of Navratri and they are Sarvajanik Durgotsav Samiti at Townhall, Maa Durga Pujanotsav Samiti at Daranagar, Maa Durga Puja Navyuvak Samiti at Navapura, Sarda Mandir at Ghai Ghat and SB Durgotsdav Samiti at Sudia. In a few puja pandals, the idols would be installed on the occasion of Panchmi and

on Saptami.

Issuing necessary guidelines to the puja pandals, the chief fire brigade officer has directed all the puja commit-tees to use such materials in the structure of pandals that do not catch fire quickly. "Non-burning metal or wooden or bamboo sticks should be tied firmly with nut bolts or wire. The thickness and strength of all poles should be satisfactory from a safety point of view. The height of the structure or panshould not be less than three metres. In pandal construction, instead of using synthetic clothes or ropes etc, only materials made of natural fibres like coconut and silk ropes should be used," he

He further instructed that the barricading of tin sheds should be done on three sides except the main gate at a distance of 3.5 metres of all the

"Under no circumstances, the height of corridors or passages should be less than three metres. The structures or pandals should be at a minimum distance of 4.5 metres from the adjacent buildings or other structures and the front parts

nent/ temporary pandal should be at a minimum distance of 4.5 metres from railway line, electrical substation, high tension wire etc.

"There should be a five metres wide path without any obstruction for the fire fighting unit to reach the pandal and if an arch gate is made then it should be five metres high and wide five metres wide. There should be one three metres wide exit gate for every 250 persons in the pandal and in each raft there must be at least two such exit doors. The distance from any point of the pandal to the exit door should not be more than 15 metres and the exit doors must be clearly marked and illuminated from the alternative power system (battery inverter). Temporary electrical arrangements should be made only by licensed contractors and safety certificates must be obtained from the Executive Engineer of Electrical Department," he said.

According to him, the uses of hydrogen lamps inside the pandals are completely prohibited. "Electrical circuits and decorative electrical equipment or inflammable materials should be completely open.
No pandals should be built under the power lines," he should not be kept at a distance of less than 15 square metres from the pandals and no

inflammable materials like fire firecrackers, explosives etc be used within a distance of 4.5 metres in the temporary structures. Two dry chemical powder (DCP) extinguishers of nine kg capacity which are as per ISI standard-15683:2006 should be provided at generally accessible and safe places in the pandals.

Apart from general use, four drums of water, six sacks of sand and four fire buckets must be kept near the pandals for fire fighting," he said. He further asked the puja

committees not to keep heaps of garbage etc near the pandals and make proper arrangements for cleanliness. "No open burning of any kind is permitted in or near temporary structures. Separate arrangement for nonflammable materials should be made from the temporary structures (GI sheets) in the kitchen areas," he said, adding that the telephone numbers of all the fire stations/ police control rooms of the district including CUG Number 454418602 of Fire Station Chetganj and CUG No 9454418604 of Fire Station Bhelupur and Police Control Room No 100 and CUG No 9454401645 should be marked clearly, so that they should be informed immediately in case of any fire incident.

Progress in prevention of communicable diseases reviewed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Health), Varanasi Division, Dr Manjula Singh held a virtual meeting with Additional Chief Medical Officers (ACMOs), Nodal Officers, District Malaria Officers, Assistant Malaria Officers and Vector Borne Disease (VBD) staff of all the four districts here on Wednesday to review the progress made in the prevention of communicable and vector borne diseases.

A special communicable disease control campaign is being conducted from October 3 for the prevention and control of communicable and mosquito-borne diseases. Along with this, under the door-todoor Dastak campaign from ble symptoms like TB, leprosy etc are being identified through source destruction, fever, influenza like illness (ILI) symptoms. The campaign is being continuously monitored and reviewed.

Dr Singh reviewed the action taken so far under the communicable disease control campaign of the divisional



AD (Health) Dr Manjula Singh reviewing progress in prevention of communicable diseases in Varanasi on Wednesday

level districts and during the Dastak campaign. Along with this, she also sought detailed ing has been given to all the admitted in various government hospitals, status of platelets in blood banks, dengue based public awareness activities, availability of fogging machines, anti-larva pumps and medicines, domestic breeding checkers (DBCs) and regular data feeding.

In the meeting, the District

Malaria Officers of Chandauli,

Ghazipur, Jaunpur and Varanasi informed that trainvector borne disease.

They said that the health and ASHA workers are making the people aware by going door-to-door in rural and urban areas. Patients suffering from fever etc are being identified and motivated to get tested and they are also pasting posters etc at homes apart from this, monitoring and During this, the AD (Health) directed all the officers

held every evening, they

and health workers to give emphasis to dengue based activities. Attention should be paid to contract tracing. Patients admitted in hospitals should be continuously tracked. By establishing coordination with the Municipal Corporation, Municipalities and Zila Panchayat, a more intensive action plan should be made on dengue prevention action. She also directed the officers that emphasis should be laid on increasing surveillance regarding these diseases and along with dengue, special attention should also be paid to testing people with symptoms of other vector borne diseases like chikungunya, malaria,

Apart from this, maximum emphasis should be laid on wide publicity etc among the public regarding prevention of these diseases, she added. Divisional Nodal Officer (VBD) and Joint Director Dr GC Dwivedi, Divisional Entomologist Dr Amit Kumar Singh were also present.

Hindalco honoured with CSR Impact Award

 $H^{indalco,\ Renukoot}_{(Sonbhadra\ district)\ was}$ awarded the prestigious 'Dalmia Bharat-CSR Box Impact Award-2023' for the successful implementation of 'Project Unnati' in the field of rural development. Managing Director and CEO Mahendra Singhi, Commissioner of Technical Education, Gujarat Government Banchha Nidhi Pani, Revenue Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Government Naveen Kumar and President of BML Munjal University Swati Munjal were present at the award ceremony held in New Delhi recently. The award was presented to Avijit, CSR Head of Hindalco.

Under 'Project Unnati', Hindalco had to increase the income of the poor residents and villagers of Renukoot and surrounding areas by running beneficial schemes like agriculture development, vocational training, watershed management and health care etc so that there can be positive and permanent changes in their lives. The 'CSR Impact Awards' recognises organisations and projects that have created positive and lasting social impact through corporate social responsibility.



Hindalco team being greeted by Clustre Head N Nagesh and HR Head Jasbir Singh at Renukoot (Sonbhadra) on Wednesday for receiving CRS Impact Award

University (SSU) next year.

Hindalco's Cluster Head Nagesh and Cluster HR Head Jasbir Singh along with other senior officials congratulated the CSR team for the prestigious award received by Hindalco and inspired them to continue running such projects in future also.

MURMU MAY VISIT

SSU NEXT YEAR: President Droupadi Murmu has assured the Vice-Chancellor Prof Bihari Lal Sharma that she may visit the Sampurnanand Sanskrit

She gave this assurance while the SSU V-C paid a courtesy call on the President at Rashtrapati Bhawan in Delhi on Tuesday. During her talks with the V-C, she said that this time it may have been delayed but she will definitely try to attend any programme of the university in the coming year.

The President lauded her dedication towards education, Sanskrit, culture, social harmo-

ny and the uplift of the

oppressed, exploited, deprived and needy people apart from her commitment towards the preservation and promotion of Indian cultural tradi-

Prof Sharma greeted the President by giving her a bouquet and angavastram. He also presented a university souvenir, highlighting the SSU achievements and continuous development journey of this leading centre of oriental studies for 233 years.

Firefighting arrangements being inspected at pandal sites

he teams of Fire depart-The teams of Fire department are inspecting Durga puja pandal sites to take complete stock of firefighting arrangements before issuing a

The authorities of the Fire department claimed to have issued 305 NOCs till now and rejected 22 others. However, over 500 committees and organisations have applied for the NOC for setting up pandals. Last year, 468 committees and organisations were given

Chief Fire Officer (Prayagraj) RK Pandey said "Eight teams have been consti- tance of pandal from main road

tuted to check puja pandal at frequent intervals once the NOC was issued for compliance with guidelines".

The Fire department in an attempt to ensure fool proof fire security arrangements, have also issued a eight point set of directives to all puja pandals with strict norms that there would be no use of synthetic material to decorate puja pandal. CFO, meanwhile, said, 'While carrying out physical verification, we are ensuring that pandals must be above three metres in height. Besides, stress was being laid that the main exit gate must have at

least five metres width and dis-

must be within 45 metres. All prominent and big pandals should have two exit points and both the exit gates should be opposite from each other. Arrangements for emergency lighting services have also been checked?

Moreover, strict provision has been made that there should be no fire crackers show in and around the pandal. Besides, every pandal must have at least two advanced firefighting extinguishers and water storage of 200 litres near the pandal. Meanwhile, senior cops have also reviewed security arrangements and asked puja committee to coordinate with police official concerned

to discuss crowd management plan. Asserting that visitors will start visiting pandal from October 20 onwards and rush will increase especially during peak hours (7 pm to 2 am), volunteers are being roped in shifts to manage flow of devo-

All the major puja pandals will be under police scanner and skilled volunteers will be assisting cops to handle emergency-like situation in case of stampede or fire break out.

On their part, the men-inkhaki have drafted an elaborate security arrangement plan for each Durga Puja pandal (thana wise) to prevent any untoward incident during the festival.

Pandal being decorated on theme of 'Sheesh Mahal'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The pandal of Darbhanga barwari is being decorated on the theme of 'Sheesh Mahal' this year. This pandal will have lakhs of mirror pieces pasted together in different designs all around, from the main gate to the interior walls of the pandal.

This barwari is celebrating its 66th anniversary this year. The outer structure, which is 70 feet high, resembles a royal palace. General secretary of the barwari Debobroto Basu said the artist were given full freedom to make the outer structure and they insisted on making a structure which does not resemble any temple or shrine or famous place so that the artistic work of mirror is not constrained or associated with that particular structure.

Basu says, "It took around

were collected as scrap from the industry". These mirrors have been pasted on a piece of cloth with a base of plywood, he

The artists have taken care to make sure that mirrors do not fall and remain in place and in fact the strong winds, witnessed in the city was a test for the artwork which remained intact, he said.

The entire pandal is dominated by blue colour and the main gate will have facade lighting which will change its colours at an interval of half an hour, giving different colours to the outer gate. "Our pandal sees very disciplined crowd and this year we will make sure that the visitors do not touch the art work made by mirrors", says the office-bearer. The interiors and exteriors

of the pandal is an ensemble of three months to cut the designs numerous pieces of artistic

expert artisans from Nadia district of West Bengal and will remind the visitors of the grandeur of royal palaces, he HECTIC DAYS AHEAD

FOR MAKEUP MAN: Ready to enliven Ramlila with his brush, the lone Muslim make-up man of Patharchatti Ramlila committee, Mohammad Hameed has hectic days ahead. As the city's oldest Patharchatti Ramlila began from Sunday itself, Hameed along with his three members team is doing make up of at least 40 to 50 artistes daily. Hameed however, feels that the entire makeup team will have to work hard as several TV artistes from tinsel town have arrived here to perform different roles at Patharchatti Ramlila.

Hameed, who once worked in Anupam Kher-starrer Laila Majnu, however, says. "I am associated with Ramlila committee for over two decades as I had also enacted the roles of Parshuram and Kevat. I understand the significance of makeup in Ramlila. It is much more than just beautifying artistes. The objective is to bring alive the characters. My job becomes hectic when there are several characters at a time on stage and deadlines become strin-

gent," said Hameed. His brother, Arshad along with Chandan Malviya and Vikas Nishad lend their support, but the final touches are done by him, said Hameed. Hameed does makeup of prominent Ramlila characters and his team does for supporting actors. "Hours are being spent to achieve perfection," said Hameed adding ,"Each character in Ramlila has a different look and our primary job is to do justice with characters",

Awareness rally flagged off

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

dditional DG (Prayagraj Additional Do Carlos Azone) Bhanu Bhaskar flagged off an awareness rally in Kaushambi to educate and aware women and girls about government schemes being launched for their empowerment. The rally was organised phase-4. IG (Prayagraj range) Chandra Prakash, SP Brijesh Kumar Srivastava and DM Sujeet Kumar were present on the occasion.

The rally passed through Manjhanpur crossing, Roadways bus stand, OS crossing and ended at Samda crossing. Scores of girl students participated in it.

Srivastava told mediapersons that under Mission Shakti phase-4, women cops are holding jan chaupals, visiting bus stands, markets, villages, blocks, schools, colleges and other public places, interacting with women folks and briefing them about women empowerment schemes

They are briefing women about security measures like Women Power Line 1090, mahila helpline, CM helpline

equipped with fire arm attacked an advocate in his chamber. He was immediately overpowered by lawyers and was given a severe thrashing before being handed over to the police on Tuesday evening. According to Asif, an advocate by profession who lives in Kareli, a man accompanied by two others opened fire on his

The other advocated in the court premises reached the spot and caught hold of one of the culprits, while two others

managed to escape.

The arrested person was

identified as Shoeb Ansari of Kareli. The advocate while filing an FIR did not mention why his senior was attacked by Shoeb in his cham-

The police recovered a pistol and two live cartridges matter is being investigated and efforts are being made to nab two other persons involved in this attack 25-YEAR-OLD YOUTH

KILLED: A 25-year-old youth was killed by some unidentified The deceased identified as

Durgesh Kumar Mishra of Deoria, was preparing for IAS examination while staying here. He was returning by car to his Kapuripar village on Friday to celebrate Navratri.

that his motorcycle was stolen

from outside the house. After

registering the case the police

On the way he gave lift to

some youths who looted his belongings, killed him and threw him in a bush on the road side.

After this they ran away with Durgesh's car. When Ahirauli police station of Azamgarh received information about a body lying in the bushes, it immediately reached

Many injury marks were found on the neck and face of the deceased. When there was no identification, the police sent the body for the postmortem and posted the photo on the social media. After this the body was identified as that of Durgesh.

SP Anurag Arya said the body found on October 16 has been identified. The deceased was a resident of Deoria. Whoever is involved in his murder will be arrested soon,

DM inspects mela arrangements

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

istrict Magistrate Priyanka District iviagistime I... inspected the mela arrangements at Sheetladham Adalpura, 35 kilometres from the district headquarters. She cleaning of the area. On the occasion she inspected the pump canal. During her visit she was accompanied by Additional District Magistrate (ADM/Finance & Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla and subdivisional magistrate (SDM)



DM Priyanka Niranjan inspecting the mela at Sheetladham Adalpura on Tuesday

said the place is very important as it is located near Varanasi city so all arrangements should be done keeping the large number of devotees in mind. Seeing the filth on the Ganga ghat she directed the officials concerned to ensure regular

Neerai Patel ARRESTED: The Lalganj

police on Tuesday arrested two thieves and recovered two stolen motorcycles. Karan Singh of Newada village under Lalganj police station had lodged a case on October 16

became active to recover the motorcycle and arrest the thieves. During routine patrolling the police was informed about the location of two suspects having motorcycles. The police raided the spot and nabbed two suspects along with two motorcycles. The police took the motorcycles into possession. The suspects failed to show the proper papers of motorcycles. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused identified as Neeraj Kumar of Balampur village and Maksood Alam of Amdah under Dramondganj police station to jail. Meanwhile the Adalhaat police on Tuesday arrested an accused of enticing away a minor girl. One person had lodged a named complaint on October 9 alleging that the accused had enticed his minor daughter away. After registering the case the police launched a search for the accused and nabbed him. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused of Aheyee Pashchim under Pannuganj police station, Sonbhadra, to

INAUGURATED: Uttar

Pradesh Minister of Technical Education, Consumer Protection, Weights and Measures Ashish Patel while inaugurating the Vindhya Mahotsav at Vindhyachal on Tuesday said the purpose behind various festivals was to keep the society intact and it could be seen during the Navratri functions. He prayed to the Goddess to make the nation a super power and exhorted the people to contribute through their activities.

Addressing the gathering Padmashree Malini Awasthi said that it is our culture which thought about the betterment of the entire world and among the series of the festivals Navratri was dedicated to the Matrishakti (women). She enthralled the gathering during her stage show. Padmashree Aiita Srivastava and other renowned artists also performed on the stage. The entire programme was convened by District Information Officer Om Prakash Upadhyay and his team. Chairman Cooperative Bank Jagdeesh Singh Patel, Chairman Nagar Palika Parishad Mirzapur Shyam Sundar Keshari, DM Priyanka Niranjan, Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhinandan and others were present.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

The final frontier

Going forward, India's space foray is poised to be even more daring and challenging

aving already won accolades for its space programme, India is now eyeing greater glory. Since 1962 when ISRO transported rockets on bicycles to launching 100+ giory. Since 1902 which followed roshots on 20, 20, 20, and satellites on homegrown rockets, its space programme has come a long way. With its lunar odyssey and Mars rendezvous, Indian space scientists have amassed the confidence and mettle to take on more challenging jobs, hitherto considered the prerogative of only developed nations. In a bold and visionary move, ISRO has raised the bar by announcing the planned launch of an Indian Space Station by 2035 and landing of an Indian on the Moon by 2040. The development will make India one of the few countries, including the US, Russia and China, to have its own space station. Such a station will serve multiple purposes, from conducting experiments in microgravity to testing life support systems for future deep-space missions. It will also provide an ideal platform for international collaboration in space research, strengthening



India's global standing in the space community. More, it will create opportunities for commercial ventures and further technological advancements, making it a significant investment. While India's aim of sending its first astronaut to the Moon is an incredibly ambitious goal, it is entirely feasible given ISRO's track record. Chandrayaan-2, launched in 2019, was a monumental success and has significantly advanced India's lunar exploration capabilities.

India's space missions hold great promise. These not only demonstrate the nation's technological prowess but also provide invaluable insights into lunar resources, geology and potential future colonisation.

Additionally, the missions will open doors to lunar commerce, with the Moon potentially serving as a source of minerals, water and even a staging point for future deepspace exploration. Indeed, the grand success of the Indian space program would not have been possible without the efforts of Vikram Sarabhai and the vision of first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who was keen on building a progressive country with a 'scientific temper' in line with the great Indian tradition of exploring and finding the truth. The Indian space programme is one of the best examples of excelling through sheer hard work and innovation and achieving great success with a fraction of the cost that other countries incur. The space programme is no longer an experimental venture but an economically viable project that opens up tremendous economic prospects, from satellite manufacturing and launch services to space tourism. India's space ventures will create jobs and stimulate economic growth. Besides, collaborating with other spacefaring countries on the Indian Space Station will create opportunities for international partnerships and research. It will help foster goodwill and diplomacy, strengthening India's position in global politics. As ISRO works tirelessly to break fresh ground, India's future in space is brighter than ever.



Devotees take part in a 'Garba' performance during nine-day long Navratri festival in Bhopal

For fulfilling life, accept it as it comes



Life is a strange experience not only because of its brevity but also for the disproportionate sense of importance that people ascribe to their own being



ssuming that the average life of an individual is about 80-90 years (at an optimistic level) the proportional level of work experience may not be more than about 40 years or so. This calculation is difficult to derive empirically but is common meniscal if you consider the following: One spends about one-third (1/3) of the 80 or 90 years simply sleeping or taking rest; another 1/5 is spent eating, dressing, commuting, and all that goes with it. The first 10 years or so before adulthood are part of growing up. A rough calculation like the one in the preceding lines would show that even the figure of 40 years of operational active life is a generous projection and assessment of the years allotted to 'experience'. Of these 40 years' a substantial part is spent preparing for life, such as studying, searching for information, and more. Hence, the conclusion is that roughly, only, about 50% is the active man-years in a human life of 80-90 years.

To spend this on feeling jealous, being petty, or simply idling would be such a waste. There is a need to be constructive, positive, and joyful. Anger comes everywhere else. easy, and dissatisfaction even It is amusing, to say the least,

easier. People pack in these 30 years or more with a lot of other sentiments such as envy, hate, pedanticism, showing off what little they have, or simply displaying power in the limited space that the Almighty may have given them power.

A simple reflection would ask a basic question of whether this pedanticism is worth it or not. All said and done, power itself is a passing phenomenon. Nobody does or can stay in power forever. Then why the pedanticism? Qualities of humility, helpfulness, understanding, and supportiveness are not meant for saints only. They are meant for normal, everyday people who go through the grind of life. The vicissitudes of everyday life can be quite demanding.
Whether we like it or not, we

all have our share of disappointments, emotions, and some experiences of not having achieved, not having received enough, or getting nowhere near where we wanted to get. This happens **ACCEPTING THINGS**

AND ACTING ON THEM WITH A SENSE OF **FULFILMENT** SEEMS TO BE THE WAY FORWARD

AS THEY COME

that people gloat at their few successes and feel so bruised, hurt, and unhappy about their setbacks and disappointments. This is an unusual feeling because nothing lasts. Life is as simple as hav-ing it. There is a constant feeling of change in the experience of the individuals. Because of this, to see joy or pain larger than in a temporary frame would be unrealistic. However, life is a testimony to the fact that many have the illusion of permanence when, largely speaking, the concept of permanence is itself an illusion.

There enters spirituality and religion. The spirit is accepted as a continuance in most religions, and the body is a passing phase. Some religions believe that the body will come alive on the date of judgment, and then eternal life will follow. Other religions believe in Atma-'soul' and Paramatma-'supreme existence.' This need not be a place to get into the details of the philosophy of the other world. Suffice it to say that those who do not believe in the day of judgement believe that 'Atma' must ultimately merge in the 'permanence' and, therefore, the cycle of

birth and rebirth. Be that as it may, it is true that there is an existence of the spirit, the soul, or whatever phraseology one chooses to use after the body runs its course. The body, therefore, becomes a passing experience. It works through sensory life. Embedded in this body is the experience of joy and happiness, sadness, or melancholy. It was so worthwhile to reflect that all these are passing experiences, as enumerated above. They should not be taken too seriously nor should they be taken to heart. Accepting things as they come and acting on them with a sense of fulfilment seems to be the way forward. This is being facilitative. The relatedness and relativity of life are reflected in the seconds, minutes, hours, and days, and it is that which one tries to live with such intensity! A sense of support is all that one needs to lead a healthy, fulfilling, and complete life. This can be stated simply, but it is a lifetime struggle, let alone fulfilment, to acnieve.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant. The views expressed are personal)

Accelerating green innovation through EVs



CHOUDHARY

As the wheels of innovation turn, EVs are not only driving us forward but also steering us toward a greener horizon

n the wake of the global climate crisis, the need for Linnovative solutions to combat environmental challenges has never been more pressing. India, a country known for its vibrant startup ecosystem, finds itself uniquely positioned to drive a transformative change through electric vehicle (EV) companies. These enterprises are not just shaping the future of transportation but also revolutionizing the nation's startup landscape, with far-reaching implications for sustainability, economic growth, and technological advancement. Thriving startup ecosystem India's startup ecosystem has undergone a remarkable evolution over the past decade, establishing itself as a fertile ground for innovation. Within this ecosystem, the EV sector has emerged as a dynamic force, leveraging technology and green initiatives to redefine mobility and address environmental concerns. A recent report by the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)

predicts that India's EV indus-

try could reach a staggering

by 2030, with startups contributing significantly to this

Environmental imperative As India strives for sustainable development in the face of rising pollution and climate change concerns, EVs offer a viable solution to mitigate carbon emissions and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. With the nation's commitment to the Paris Agreement, targeting 40% of energy generation from renewables by 2030, the role of EV companies becomes pivotal in achieving this goal. By transitioning from conventional internal combustion engines to electric propulsion, India can substantially reduce its carbon footprint and pave the way for

Job creation The surge in EV startups market value of \$206 billion isn't merely an environmen-

a cleaner, greener future.

tal endeavour; it also carries significant economic implications. A report by the World Economic Forum highlights that the electric vehicle value chain could potentially generate up to 10 million jobs worldwide by 2030. Addressing challenges

While the potential of EV startups to drive green innovation is undeniable, several challenges must be addressed. The lack of charging infrastructure is a primary concern, impeding the widespread adoption of EVs. However, this challenge also presents an opportunity for startups to innovate by developing efficient charging solutions and collaborating with the government to expand the charging network. Moreover, integrating renewable energy sources into charging infrastructure can further enhance the sustainability of the EV ecosystem.

Government support

The Indian government's recognition of the importance of EVs is reflected in its policies and initiatives. The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, along with tax incentives and

subsidies, aims to encourage EV adoption and domestic manufacturing. However, a sustained collaboration between the government and startups is essential to address regulatory hurdles, standardize policies, and create an environment conducive to innovation.

India's endeavours to foster a green startup ecosystem transcend national boundaries. The success of its EV startups can serve as a global inspiration, showcasing how technological innovation can be harnessed to address pressing environmental challenges. The accelerating growth of EV companies within India's startup landscape holds the promise of transformative change. With strategic government support, robust private sector innovation, and heightened public awareness, India's EV startups can steer

the nation towards a sustain-

able, eco-friendly, and economically prosperous future. Olympics. As the wheels of innovation turn, EVs are not only driving us forward but also steering us toward a greener horizon. (The writer is the Founder & CEO, of Motovolt Mobility, views are personal)

for world champions. Presently, cricket is

BIDEN BETRAYED ISRAEL

Sir-The Biden administration should reassert its unwavering commitment to Israel's security and well-being while actively striving for a lasting peace that safeguards the interests of all involved parties. It is disheartening to witness what appears to be a breach of trust with our long-standing ally, Israel. Throughout history, the United States has consistently extended robust support to Israel's right to selfdefense. However, recent developments suggest a departure from this policy. The administration's calls for a ceasefire during the conflict, without addressing the provocations and attacks launched by terrorist organizations against Israel, raise questions about our dedication to the secu-

rity of our ally. Israel has faced a relentless barrage of rocket attacks, endangering the lives of its citizens. It is imperative that the United States stands firmly beside Israel in unequivocally condemning these acts of terror. Any perception of wavering support sends a troubling message to Israel's adversaries and threatens the stability of the entire

Md. Ali Gori | Jharkhand

CRICKET IN THE OLYMPICS

Sir—In a significant development at the International Olympic Meeting in Mumbai, cricket has been approved as a sport for the 2028 Olympic competition in Los Angeles, USA. Following its inclusion in the Commonwealth and Asian Games, T20 cricket is now set to take center stage in the Olympics. Remarkably, only two out of the 99 assembly members opposed this move. Cricket boasts nearly two and a half billion fans worldwide, and after a hiatus of 128 years, it's making a grand return to the

This fournament will feature six women's and six men's cricket teams. Interestingly, while the United States may not currently be a prominent figure in cricket, they will have an automatic entry as the hosts. There's also a proposal to guarantee entry

THE EDITOR



tribal district in Odisha is garnering recognition for its coffee production. At the recent 5th World Coffee Conference in Bangalore, Kruti Coffee from Koraput received India's Best Natural Coffee Award. Their "Kindiriguda Naturals" originate from a village in Koraput, where 40 families are dedicated to coffee farming. Koraput coffee boasts both filter and instant ground varieties, the latter being a recent addition in August. This venture has not only empowered farmers but also uplifted the entire district's economic prospects.

The majority of tribal farmers are now engaged in coffee cultivation, with approximately 3,500 hectares dedicated to coffee farming by 4,300 growers, including 800 tribal farmers, according to government data. In 2017, Ajit Rout, a former senior liaison officer of the Coffee Board in Koraput, breathed new life into Koraput coffee by establishing the Coffee Development Trust in May 2017.

Their primary challenge remains reaching urban buyers with Koraput coffee. A total investment of 50 lakhs has been made to produce this exceptional coffee from Koraput. This accomplishment stands as a remarkable achievement for Odisha, especially in a district known for its tribal population and economic challenges. The once bitter taste of coffee has now become sweet for the state

Akankhya Rout | Dhenkanal

from adolescence through youth to old age.

This plan should facilitate a seamless tran-

sition, free from government or group

interventions, making it a natural phenom-

enon. It should also mitigate the risks of

landslides, floods, earthquakes, and fires

within our homes. The true essence of this

concept began to emerge when it gained

popularity. In this context, the environ-

ment's success is measured by its ability to

support both reproduction and survival.

Are you intrigued to delve into this con-

Natural selection, first theorised by Charles

Darwin, focuses on the factors that aid liv-

ing organisms in adapting their genes over

cept further with just a few insights?

competing with football at the global level. The ICC men's T20 cricket rankings comprise 87 countries, and there are 66 women's teams. In contrast, the Football Federation's list includes 207 men's teams and 186 women's teams. Hence, cricket's journey to the pinnacle of global sports may take some time.

After the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, the spotlight will shift to Brisbane in 2032. Following that, there's a possibility that the 2036 Olympics will grace India. Overall, while cricket has secured a place in Los Angeles, its permanence in the Olympic arena must be ensured. Cricket enjoys immense popularity in India, and the quest for an Olympic gold medal is now the dream of every Indian.

Sir—We must establish a comprehensive

360-degree survival plan that encompass-

es the care and nurturing of individuals

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

Shantaram Wagh | Sangli

generations, leading to the survival of the fittest. It involves the adaptation of species that, in certain aspects, are better suited to their environment.

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain

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FIRST COLUMN

EMOTIONS AND GOD ARE SYNONYMOUS

Spiritual acts will always supersede material acts, but only God can exercise this power



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

aven't we all wondered about God not showing any emotion when major disasters take place? How else did they happen when God is in control? For example, a plane crashes and all occupants die. World Trade Centre's two buildings were left in ruins when planes hijacked by terrorists crashed into them. A tsunami comes and many are washed away. A major earthquake causes mayhem when thousands die and are helplessly buried in houses, etc, they were occupying. The worst possibly took place when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed to extinction with nuclear weapons.

Before I answer this very important question, let us become aware of what emotion is. The definition of this word is strong feelings of any kind, e.g. love, joy, anger, hate, fear, etc. This includes excitement or disturbance of feeling on account of certain important events/thoughts. There are three types of emotions: good like appreciation, such as attachment and bad like greed.

God doesn't interfere in the cited occurrences due to the following reasons. The first one is the 'Karmaphala Principle', which is what you sow you reap. Our 'karmaphalas' are carried over life after life till they come to fruition. We cannot see that, because we have no memory of our past lives; God has; He knows our past, present and future also. For example, a police officer catches a habitual thief and deals with him harshly. As a bystander, you may feel a little emotional seeing a man being dealt harshly, because we don't know the background.

Why is the 'karmaphala' principle so important to God? Because this creation can only function on this basis. Imagine good people getting punished and bad ones getting away with murder. Sometimes it may seem that way, because good people have also got a bad past, and bad ones have not always been bad. However, what we do in our present lives get us reward and punishment in our future and, if not in the present life; the 'karmaphala' system is unfailing. Similarly, dharma must be paramount. Dharma is so dear to God that He even incarnates to reestablish it. It is dharma, not emotion, which is required for the creation to exist for billions of years



one free of fear. And in the absence of fear, do you think any kind of order can be maintained? We all know that ultimately fears only make us behave. Justice cannot be administered by a soft God; He must always be just, which God is.

Now some explanation of terrible occurrences. There is a training institute for successful IAS candidates in Mussoorie, where they assemble for training. Don't they come from different parts of the country? Similarly, all those destined to die get on the ill-fated plane. The same, however, does not happen in each case of catastrophe. Many survive in case of major earthquakes, as they do in tsunamis. Did you know that many escaped from the twin World Trade Center buildings after planes hit?

Now the important question: does God ever get emotional? Yes, He does. Yes, God shows emotions wherever appropriate. Rather God is so emotional that He is pleased by simple acts like doing 'namaskar' to His deity or photo, which even a child can do. But God will never get emotional when dharma is being infringed upon or someone is being justly punished for bad 'karmas', except in the case of devotees surrendered to Him. God helps them come out of their troubles. Why? Spiritual acts will always supersede material acts, but only God can exercise this power.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

A long road to economic recovery for Sri Lanka

While Sri Lanka is getting international help in dealing with its economic crisis, it needs to find ways to repay its debt







uch is being written and talked about debt restructuring, bailouts, and direct investment into Sri Lanka. While the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout is on course, seventeen countries promised support in May this year. China is supporting and India is constantly sending money and material as a neighbouring large economy. The World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are also coming up with equal measures (Almost \$ 3.75 Billion) as external help to resuscitate the Sri Lankan economy. While all this is welcome, we also need to see what additional can be done to make this economic revival less punitive and sustainable for Sri Lankan people. For that, we need to answer the 'what' and 'how' of sustainable options and see what may be applicable to the evolving scenario in Sri Lanka and in which time frame The economic crash has impacted Sri

Lankan institutions and financial companies in a big way, and they have apparently become disconnected from fundamental values and long-term sustainable thinking. Instead of nurturing sustainable collaborations, banks, lenders, borrowers, and shareholders seem to be pursuing short-term relationships founded on situational values. For practitioners of sustainability, this is the opportune time to get out of this cycle of crises and think long-term and with sustainable human relations and get out of the crisis smooth-

ly in this interconnected world. **Funds** extended by International Financial Institutions (IFI) are loans and would need to be returned, though over a long duration. Further, these loans may be denominated in US dollar (USD), Euro, Japanese Yen, Chinese RMB, ADB SDRs or Indian Rupees (INR), all foreign currencies having only a market-based relationship with the Sri Lankan rupee (SLR). Such a relationship subjects the repayment of



DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPITAL MARKET AND **RAISING** REGIONAL **FUNDS WILL GIVE REGIONAL INVESTORS A** CHANCE TO EARN RETURNS **INVESTMENTS**

(Naresh is Vice Chairman of the Indo-Sri Lanka Čhamber of Commerce and Industry. Talal Rafi is an Economist, a member of the Deloitte Global Economist Network and a regular columnist for IMF; Views expressed are personal)

these loans to currency risk as SLR is traded and subjected to the vagaries of the currency market. Prevailing political risk in the country makes it even more complex and challenging. Such external funds when applied to sustain/boost economic activity where earnings are in SLR, an asset-liability currency mismatch happens due to currency trade and inflationary pressures. For example, if the SRL depreciates against USD by 10%, revenues in Sri Lanka remain the same while liabilities get enhanced by 10% on the high-

Even with a free float regime, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka does have some control over the exchange rate through its monetary policies, but the overall effective control of the exchange rate is most limited due to the precarious situation of forex reserves and import commitments. The funds which will be used in various development works or infrastructure projects where developers may earn revenue to repay the loans (extended to them in foreign currency) will either manage the currency risk by hedging or factor it in their project tariff thereby leading to additional burden on the user of the infrastructure eventually eroding the purchasing power of the common person, finally, denting the repayment capacity of the nation. At the same time, the currency risk can have an upside as well and it may generate revenues much in excess of the projections if the infrastructure gets extra utilized or exchange rates go in favour of Sri Lanka. Though it may not excite the lenders much beyond receiving

interest on payments on the principle there is little potential for upside, while the developers harvest profits. In view of the uncertainties asso-

ciated with the exchange rate,

currency risk could be a difficult and sensitive issue to be effectively assumed by the government of Śri Lanka. It is at this stage that time tested, and innovative strategies are put into practice to hedge and ameliorate currency risk. The conventional hedging strategies being used are (a) Natural hedge (b) Local currency swap (c) Exchange-rate Indexed contracts and (d) Loan in pegged currency. Most of the above options load hedging costs onto the end user i.e., the common person, directly (rates/tariff increase) or indirectly (ennanced taxation). The way out is having more of 'local currency i.e., Sri Lankan Rupee.' But when internal debt is already at sky-high levels how does the local currency become available to users to sustain and grow the economic activity? That is where external support can be of help. Committed leadership and good diplomacy can play a key role. These are extraordinary times and solutions too need to be

extraordinary. In addition to the IFIs, there is a definite role to play for the growing regional economies of Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries. Firstly, together with IFIs, these economies can help enhance local currency availability in Sri Lanka i.e., subscribing to Śri Lanka sovereign bonds denominated in any stronger currency of the region with whom Sri Lanka has a fairtrading activity. Secondly, this is nificant and could jeopardize the the time to refurbish and resusci-

tate Sri Lankan capital markets to enhance transparency and credibility, which not only would bring more remittances and deposits from non-resident Sri Lankans but also help these markets to engage with other regional markets and regional investors and draw on their strength. Both activities may enhance the availability of local money without any currency risk and thereby render maximum sustainability with the least pain for the economic resuscitation of Sri Lanka.

The optimism of drawing equity investment from IOR countries is based on the apparent cohesiveness that emanates from shared cultural and trade ties between the neighbours. Among many IOR countries, particularly Maldivians, Maiaysians and Indians would like to invest in Sri Lanka and see that the economy does well as there are shared investments in either country which suffered badly during the economic crisis. Development of the capital market and raising regional funds will give regional investors a chance to earn returns on investments which is nothing but helping their own investments give better returns. Such financial instruments of Sri Lanka may be supported by more credible regional financial institutions or by regional sovereigns. Those who invest do know that Sri Lanka is always bankable and will give better returns on investment in future. On the part of Sri Lankan people, they need to elect caring, credible and committed leaders to minimize the political risk which is sig-

India has the will and capacity to host Olympic games

India has the potential to stage the Olympic Games. But would we be able to compete in the Olympics we host, is the moot question

The declaration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday that India would not leave no stone unturned in hosting the 2036 Olympic Games is music to the ears. A prime minister of the country is bold enough to make a commitment like this is proof of India's odyssey during the last decade. The Olympic Games, a quadrennial event, is the world's biggest sporting competition that draws athletes from all the countries in the comity of nations. It may not be a big challenge for a country with a track record of successfully hosting the Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games, World Cup Cricket and Hockey. There is a reasonably good infrastructure in place and if a mission is launched right now, it may not



(The writer is a correspon-

dent at The Pioneer; views

expressed are personal)

be that difficult to supplement the existing stadiums with additional facilities. The Centre has the capability to build more airports to strengthen connectivity and set up hotels and the Ólympic Village of global standards across India.

The only question that disturbs the mind is do we have worldclass athletes capable of making it to the podium. Agreed, we have Neeraj Chopra, who emerged as a national icon after winning a gold medal in javelin throw in the Tokyo Olympics 2020 (held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020). Neeraj's was the only gold medal won by India as the country finished in the 48th position in the medal tally. The United States led the table by winning 39

gold medals and 41 silver medals while China finished close with 38 gold and 32 silver. Japan, the host nation finished third by bagging 27 gold and 14 silver medals. The Tokyo Games saw the participation of 11, 420 athletes representing 206 nations vying for the honors.

Staging a sporting event like the Olympic Games is by no means a tough job for India. The country has the political and executive leadership to make it happen. But the major question is whether the host country would figure at least in the first 20 positions in the medal tally. 2036 is just 12 years away and India does not have a sporting system in place to groom gold medal winners by that time. How many among our athletes have

the capability to finish in the first six positions in the track and field events? Neeraj Chopra was a flash in the pan. The policymakers and those heading the sports associations should take a look at the performance of the Indian athletes before venturing out to host the global sporting event. The lackadaisical and irre-

sponsible attitude of persons heading various sporting events has contributed a lot to the fall in standards as well as the stagnant growth of sports in India. It is time we took the performance of Indian teams in events like football, volleyball, basketball, track and field events and aquatics to understand the abyss to which we have fallen. The Indian football team which finished fourth in

was seen struggling even in the Asian Games. The less we speak about other events, the better. More than the track records of the teams, we should also look into the performance of the association office bearers to understand the fall in standards.

The question is should we waste scarce resources to host an event where the Indian stars would not be able to make any impact and finish as alsorans? The present association office bearers or coaches are incapable of moulding star performers in the next ten or twelve years. Do we have a sports culture in the country? How many sports magazines or weeklies are there in India? The 24/7 sports channels are for action-packed events from the 1956 Melbourne Olympics Europe and the American declined. We have to go miles

When we take up a mission

like the Olympic Games, it should with the objective of leaving behind a sterling history for future generations to get inspired. Despite winning gold medals in the Olympics and Asian Games, Neeraj Chopra has to contend with the job of a junior commissioned officer in the Indian Army. Had he been a cricket star, the corporates would have offered him the post of a senior executive and a six-digit take-home pay. It is said that Adolf Hitler was so impressed with the artistry of hockey wizard Dhyan Chand in the 1936 Berlin Olympics and offered him German citizenship and the rank of colonel in the German army which the latter

and miles before we can boast of world-class sportsmen. It is for that we should give importance. Hosting the Olympics could wait for some more

It is interesting to hear what late Olympian Abdul Rehman said after watching India getting trounced by the then USSR (6-0) in the opening match of the 1986 Jawaharlal Nehru Cup International Football tournament. "Thank God for the accord signed between India and USSR in 1971. Had that treaty not been there, the Russians would have scored at least 12 goals". There are sporting fans who ask what would happen if the Indian basketball men's team were pitted against the women of the USA! You cannot blame

Gaza conflict: How children's lives are affected on every level

AP ■ BATH (UK)

hildren living in Gaza have never known anything but overcrowding, shortages, conflict and danger. It's been 18 years since the then Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, moved all Israel's settlers and military personnel out of the Gaza Strip. The country's official narrative then became that they were no longer an occupy-ing force.But two years later, following the election of Hamas, the Israeli government imposed a blockade on the entire Gaza Strip. So today's 18-year-olds have suffered in a state of privation for pretty much their whole lives. Relocation of settlers and soldiers and the imposition of the blockade did not release Israel from its responsibility under international law towards the civilian popula-

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, Israel is still "bound by certain obligations under the law of occupation". As detailed

Geneva convention, this includes ensuring that the population of Gaza receives food, medicines and other basic

the pioneer

But over recent days the Israeli government has tightened the blockade so that even commodities essential for survival are denied to the civilian population. As researchers on the protection of children in Gaza, we – the authors of this article – are receiving messages from families that they are surviving on bread and contaminated water.

The world is learning, almost in real time, about the impact on the children of Gaza of the latest siege-like conditions imposed by Israel in the wake of Hamas' attacks. The lack of water and food is inevitably affecting the young more immediately and more severely than adults. Those children who fall sick or are injured seek treatment in a collapsing health system, with multiple facilities



Wounded Palestinians sit in al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City, central Gaza Strip, after arriving from al-Ahli hospital following an explosion there on Tuesday.

must manage an impossible level of demand along with a drastic shortage of medicine. In such circumstances many children are vulnerable to severe harm and death.

But it would be a mistake to assume that even prior to the current tightening of the block-

about the incident to say whether it contravened interna-

tional law. In contrast, Michel said an attack on civilian infra-

structure would clearly be "not

in line with international law."

They both spoke just before

Israel's denial of involvement. In

a post on X, formerly Twitter, while in Israel, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz wrote:

Brutal terror. The execution of

defenseless civilians. Murdered

infants, abducted children.

Humiliated Holocaust survivors

It makes our blood run cold.

Israel has the right to defend

itself against this. A state has a

Dutch Prime Minister Mark

Rutte wrote on X that "Europe

supports Israel's right to defend

itself against the Hamas terror,

exercised proportionately and in

compliance with the humanitar-

ian law of war. The need to pro-

tect innocent civilians is self-evi-

dent." Over the last week, many

member states have felt that von

der Leyen overstepped her

authority by visiting Israel on Friday without a pre-agreed

political message and then toed what critics called an excessive-

ly pro-Israeli line.

duty to protect its citizens.

healthy lives.

of the Israeli blockade.

Regular exposure to direct military attacks affects both the physical and mental health of the young. Older children will including the current one in their brief lifetimes (2008-9, 2012, 2014, 2021, 2022 and

Since Israel imposed its blockade in 2007 up until the current war, Defense for Children International -Palestine (DCIP), a Palestinian human rights organisation specifically focused on child rights, has counted 1,189 Palestinian children killed in Gaza by Israeli military attacks.

These wars have also created long-term threats to chil-dren's survival and wellbeing. In the aftermath of each war, Israel has tightened access to Gaza via the main commercial crossing for construction materials, generators and water.

Without these materials, it has been impossible to clear the debris fully, and to rebuild homes, schools, hospitals and public spaces. The lack of reconstruction poses severe risks to children playing outside. A report conducted by the UN Environment Programme fol-

lighted the serious health issues due to the debris that would particularly affect children. Polluted water supplies, contaminated soil, extensive rubble, including exposed metal rods, have all created grave risk for the young. Blockade has also made it impossible to develop vitally needed infrastructure. The provision of clean water and adequate sewage and waste disposal requires massive investment to meet the needs of the popu-

Meanwhile, the electricity shortages and shortage of sanitation structures mean that the sea in Gaza is highly contaminated by sewage and poorly treated wastewater.

With very few safe public play spaces for children, the beach is one place that many have turned to for relief. According to a 2018 report by the RAND Corporation, however, water-related diseases are a primary cause of child and infant mortality in Gaza. Some children require complex med-

Gaza. Under international law, children's access to adequate medical care is the responsibility of Israel. According to human rights organisations, requests for medical permits for children to access necessary care in Israel are routinely denied. The need for rehabilitative support for disabled children grew in 2018 and 2019 when thousands of children and youth participated in demonstrations during the "great march of return". Israeli forces responded with live and rubber bullets, killing 46 and injuring nearly 8,800 children. Many children who sustained life-altering injuries, including loss of limbs, were not granted permits to leave Gaza to receive the rehabilitative care they required.Palestinian doctors, nurses, other medical practitioners, social workers and civil society organisations have spent 16 years doing their utmost to provide for the health and wellbeing of Palestinian children in

Olaf Scholz flays attack on Berlin synagogue

Berlin (AP): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz strong-ly condemned a firebomb assault on a synagogue in Berlin on Wednesday, saying "we will never accept when attacks are carried out against Jewish institutions.

Assailants threw two Molotov cocktails early Wednesday at the synagogue in the center of the German capital, police said, as antisemitic incidents in the country have been rising following the violent escalation in the Middle East.

"Unknown persons threw two Molotov cocktails from the street," the Kahal Adass Jisroel community wrote on X, former-Dozens of police officers

were investigating in front of the synagogue in the city's Mitte neighbourhood, and the entire street next to the building was cordoned off and blocked for traffic. Germany's leading Jewish group said two people were involved in the attack, but didn't give any further details. "We are all shocked by this terrorist attack," the Central Council of Jews said in a statement. "Above all, the families from the neighbourhood around the synagogue are shocked and unsettled. Words become deeds. Hamas ideology of extermination against everything Jewish is also having an effect in Germany."

The building complex of the Kahal Adass Jisroel community in the centre of Berlin houses a synagogue, a kindergarten, a yeshiva school and a community centre. Police also said there were riots overnight between Muslim immigrants and police in the city's Neukoelln and Kreuzberg neighbourhoods and Berlin's landmark Brandenburg Gate in which sev-

Scholz, who was speaking to reporters during a trip to Egypt on Wednesday, said that Germany would not accept violent and antisemitic protests and that the protection of Jewish institutions would be further

AP BRUSSELS

European Union leaders Struggled Tuesday to paper over their differences as a cacophony of opinions and reactions marred the bloc's response to the Israel-Hamas war. But they did claim to be united behind Israel's right to defend itself within the bounds of international law.

Since the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, triggering the latest Gaza war, with over 4,000 dead on both sides, France has banned on pro-Palestinian demonstrations and the number of antisemitic acts has risen. Germany has ramped up security. It has offered military help to Israel and promised to crack down on support for Hamas at home. Low-level rallies have been held in other EU countries. Both the the 27nation bloc and the United States consider Hamas to be a terrorist organization. EU officials, meanwhile, have sent mixed messages about sending aid to the Palestinians. The bloc is their biggest aid donor and provides around 10% of the

Palestinian Authority's budget, but it has little leverage over Israel. The EU has also been unclear about where it stands on Israel's siege of Gaza.

"We have to guide our actions around two principles: unity and consistency," EU Council President Charles Michel told reporters in Brussels after hosting an emergency leaders' summit. EU Commission President

Ursula von der Leyen, who was criticized for visiting Israel last week without consulting the member countries, said: "Hamas terror is now bringing immense suffering to the Palestinian people. There is no contradiction in standing with Israel in solidarity and acting for the humanitarian needs for the Palestinians."

The leaders immediately faced the challenge involved when reports came in that a hospital in Gaza City had been hit by an explosion, killing hun-dreds of people. Hamas said it was caused by Israel. The Israeli military denied involvement, saying it was a misfired Palestinian rocket. Von der Leyen, who is from Germany, said she did not know enough

Within the densely populated Gaza Strip, the health needs of children have grown exponentially due to the conditions

EU leaders paper over differences Gaza carnage spreads anger across Mideast, alarming US allies

Within hours after a blast was said to have killed hundreds at a Gaza hospital, protesters hurled stones at Palestinian security forces in the occupied West Bank and at riot police in neighbouring Jordan, venting fury at their leaders for failing to stop the carnage. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt, King Abdullah II of Jordan and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas — friends of the US who normally relish the chance to meet with American presidents — called off a planned Wednesday summit with Joe Biden, who will now only visit Israel. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spent much of the past week meeting with Arab leaders to try to ease tensions, but those efforts are now in doubt following the hospital blast.

The raw nerve of decades of Palestinian suffering, left exposed by US-brokered nor-

malisation agreements between Israel and Arab states, is throbbing once again, threatening broader unrest. "This war, which has entered a dangerous phase, will plunge the region into an unspeakable disaster," warned Abdullah, who is among the closest Western allies in the Mideast.

Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on the hospital killed hundreds of people.

Israel said the blast was

caused by a rocket fired by Palestinian militants that fell short, and it released aerial photos and other evidence that says support its claims.

Biden, after arriving in Tel Aviv, said the blast appeared to have been caused "by the other team," not Israel, but that there were "a lot of people out there" who weren't sure. There was no doubt among the Arab protesters who gathered in several countries late Tuesday to condemn what they saw as an Israeli atrocity.

US announces sanctions against group of 10 Hamas members

Washington (AP): The US announced sanctions on Wednesday against a group of 10 Hamas members and the Palestinian militant organization's financial network across Gaza, Sudan, Turkey, Algeria and Qatar as it responds to the surprise attack on Israel that left more than 1,000 people dead or kidnapped.

Targeted for sanctions by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control are members who manage a Hamas investment portfolio, a Qatar-based financial facilitator with close ties to the Iranian regime, a key Hamas commander and a Gaza-based virtual currency exchange. Iran is Hamas' main sponsor.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the US "is taking swift and decisive action to target Hamas's financiers and facilitators following its brutal and unconscionable massacre of Israeli civilians, including chil-The US Treasury has a long

history of effectively disrupting terror finance and we will not hesitate to use our tools against Hamas," she said in an emailed Treasury Deputy Secretary

Wally Adeyemo told reporters on Wednesday that Treasury officials will be travelling to the region in the coming days to further their sanctions work. President Joe Biden, who arrived in the Middle East early

eral officers were injured. Wednesday to show support for Israel, has tried to tamp down tensions in the escalating war between Israel and Hamas, but those efforts have faced massive setbacks, including an explosion at a Gaza hospital that killed about 500 people.

Three French airports forced to evacuate after security alerts

Paris (AP): Three French airports in the cities of Lyon, Toulouse and Lille were evacuated on Wednesday following security alerts, police

They were the latest in a series of evacuations around France this week that included popular tourist attractions the Louvre Museum and Versailles Palace following the killing of a teacher in the northern city of Arras on Friday. All the threats up to Wednesday proved false.

Emailed threats of an attack were received at the airports in the southeast city of Lyon, the southern city of Toulouse and Lille in northern France, police said, without elaborating on the contents of the emails.

The prefecture for the Lyon region said Wednesday that the threat at the airport was a false alarm and reminded the public that communicating false information can lead to prison and a heavy fine.

Meanwhile an abandoned piece of luggage briefly disrupted operations at the airport in the Riviera city of Nice, the airport

The Louvre Museum and the Palais de Versailles were evacuated Saturday, and the royal palace was again evacuated Tuesday.

A high school in Arras, in northern France, was evacuated on Monday ahead of a moment of silence in schools around France, three days after the murder of a teacher at the Arras school allegedly carried out by a former student and suspected Islamist extremist. France has raised its threat alert to its highest level. The anti-terrorism prosecutor said on Tuesday that the suspect declared his allegiance to the socalled Islamic State group before the fatal stabbing.

Drone attack on US troops intercepted

T wo suicide drones launched at a base hosting US troops Wednesday, a defence official said. Hours later, an Iranianbacked militia in Iraq announced it had launched another drone attack on a second base. No injuries were reported in either incident.

The salvos came at a time of increasing tension and fears of a broader regional war in the wake of the latest Hamas-Israel war. Since the beginning of the war on October 7, all eyes have been on Hezbollah, the powerful Hamas ally across Israel's northern border in Lebanon and its formidable arsenal. The group has traded so-far limited strikes with Israel on the border in recent days.

But Iranian-backed militias in Iraq have also threatened to attack US facilities over



American support for Israel. "Our missiles, drones, and special forces are ready to direct qualitative strikes at the

American enemy in its bases and disrupt its interests if it intervenes in this battle," Ahmad "Abu Hussein" al-Hamidawi, head of the Kataib Hezbollah militia, said in a statement last Wednesday. He also threatened to launch missiles at Israeli targets.

Following Tuesday night's blast that killed hundreds at a

hospital in Gaza, the group issued another statement in which it blamed the US and its support for Israel for the catato the US presence in Iraq. "These evil people must

leave the country. Otherwise, they will taste the fire of hell in this world before the afterlife," the statement said. No group claimed respon-

sibility for the first drone attack Wednesday. A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment to the press, confirmed the attack and interception but would not say which base was target-

Tashkil al-Waritheen, another Iranian-backed militia, claimed responsibility in a statement for a second drone attack, which they said had targeted the al-Harir airbase in northern Irag.

US officials did not immediately comment on the claim of a second attack.

Also on Wednesday, Iranannounced that they had formed a "joint operations room" to help Hamas in its war effort.

Two officials with Iranianbacked militias in Iraq, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly about the issue, said that the armed groups were on alert and prepared to join the battle, but that Iran had not yet given approval for them to open a new front.

Leadership figures from some of the factions are now in Lebanon and Syria in case they get orders to proceed, one of

the officials said. Officials with the US embassy in Baghdad declined to comment.



President Joe Biden meets with victims' relatives and first responders who were directly affected by the Hamas attacks

'Let's live in spirit of Gandhi, Sita and Ram'

HK protester shot by police in 2019 gets 47-month jail term

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong man who was Ashot by police during prodemocracy protests in 2019 was sentenced on Wednesday to 47 months in prison on charges of rioting, assaulting a police officer and perverting the course of justice, in the latest court ruling that severely punished participants in the anti-govern-ment movement. Tsang Chikin was the first known victim of police gunfire during the months-long protests begin-

ning in June 2019. Then a secondary school student, he was shot at close range after he swung at a police sergeant with a rod. His shooting further inflamed already widespread public anger against the police, who were condemned as being heavy-

handed in quelling the unrest. Tsang was charged with rioting and assaulting police. But after he was released on

bail, he failed to appear in court. In October 2020, he tried to seek asylum at the US Consulate but was turned away.

He hid in various locations in the city with assistance from members of a YouTube channel that was critical of the Hong Kong government, and then attempted unsuccessfully to flee by boat to Taiwan.

He was recaught by police in July 2022.

Deputy District Judge Ada Yim said the sentencing had to reflect the court's determination to safeguard public order.

She said Tsang was wellrepared for his acts as shown by the gear he was carrying, including the metal rod, and that he ignored a police warn-

Tsang, 22, appeared calm as the sentence was delivered. Yim said he had written in a mitigation letter that he regretted his acts. He cooperated with the police investigation after his

arrest in 2022, and that showed he was sincerely remorseful, she said. Yim also sentenced two

other defendants who skipped their court proceedings and hid with Tsang, one to 10 months in jail and the other to a correctional training center. She gave a fourth defendant who helped hide the trio a 20month jail term.

The 2019 protest movement was the most concerted challenge to the Hong Kong government since the former British colony returned to China's rule in 1997. It was sparked by a proposed extradition law that would have allowed Hong Kong criminal suspects to be sent to the main-

land for trial. The government later with-drew the bill, but the protesters widened their demands to include direct elections for the city's leaders and police accountability.

PTI NEW YORK Diwali is a reminder for all to push away darkness

and usher in light, New York City Mayor Eric Adams has said, calling on people to embrace the spirit of Lord Ram, Goddess Sita and Mahatma Gandhi and be better human beings. In his remarks at the annu-

al Diwali celebration hosted at his New York residence, Gracie Mansion, on Tuesday, Adams asked people to embrace the endeavour to remove the darkness engulfing the world, which is witnessing the loss of innocent lives.

"Diwali is more than just a holiday. It is a reminder to all of us that we must push away the darkness wherever we see it and bring light. That is what the Festival of Lights is about," Adams said. At the annual celebration

that we are seeing every day. So if we truly believe in the life of Ramayana, if we truly believe in the life of Sita, if we truly believe in the life of Gandhi, then we must continue Gandhi's steps. We cannot only attended by hundreds of be worshippers; we must be prominent members of the practitioners," he said

diaspora from other national

ities and government officials,

Adams said that Diwali is more

than lighting a candle or oil but

about "lighting up our lives". "There is so much darkness

Indian-American and South Adams said that at a time Asian community as well as when there is darkness all

across the globe, and the world is witnessing the loss of innocent lives, "we cannot continue to watch this engulf our future and engulf humanity."

"Let's be better human beings. Let's live in the spirit of Diwali. Let's live in the spirit of Gandhi. Let's live in the spirit of Sita. Let's live in the spirit of Ram, and then we will live up to the expectations of what this holiday really means," he said.

York Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, who led efforts to máke Diwali a school holiday in New York City, said that the Indian-American community has never been as powerful as it is now.

"We are unstoppable, and we have arrived at the table of power in this state," she said. She added that with every-

thing going on in the world, in the Middle East where there is terrible violence, and amid the hatred and bigotry against different groups, "we are the ones that can lead the way to peace.

"Ours is the culture of

Martin Luther King Jr, who was famously inspired by Gandhi," Rajkumar said.

"We feel equally at home in a synagogue, in a mosque, in a church because as Hindus, we don't just tolerate people that are different from us, we go one step further and actively love people that are different from us," she said. "So now it's time to spread

our beautiful Dharmic light across the city, the nation, the Middle East and the entire world," she added. Deputy Commissioner at the New York City Mayor's

Office for International Affairs, Dilip Chauhan, urged people to spread love and peace in their communities and worldwide, emphasising that hate has no place in New York City or anywhere else.

Chauhan recalled the hard work and efforts of the Indian-American community members and city and state officials over the last 20 years to make Diwali a public holiday in NYC

Xi promises more market openness

Chinese President Xi Jinping promised greater access to China's market for international firms and new financing exceeding USD 100 bil-lion for other developing economies as he opened a forum Wednesday on his signature Belt and Road infrastructure policy. The initiative has built

power plants, roads, railroads and ports around the world and deepened China's relations with Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Mideast, But the massive loans that funded the projects have burdened poorer countries with heavy debts, in some cases leading to China taking control of those

At the forum's opening ceremony at the cavernous Great Hall of the People, Xi promised two Chinese-backed development banks - the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China - will each set 350 billion yuan (USD 47.9 billion)



From left, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev head to a group photo session at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing on Wednesday, 2023.

financing windows, while an additional 80 billion yuan (USD 11 billion) will be injected into the Silk Road Fund to

support BRI projects.

ufacturing sector," Xi said, adding that China would fur-We will comprehensively ther open up "cross-border remove restrictions on foreign trade and investment in ser-

vices and expand market access for digital products", as well as carry out reforms of stateowned enterprises and in sectors such as the digital economy, intellectual property rights and government procurement. Representatives from more

than 130 mostly developing countries are attending the forum, including at least 20 heads of state and govern-Russian President Vladimir Putin is attending, in a sign of China's economic and diplo-

amid the isolation brought by its war in Ukraine. Addressing the forum right after Xi, Putin praised BRI as leading to a "fairer, multipolar world", according to a translation of his speech by state

broadcaster CGTN.

matic support for Moscow

On Tuesday, Putin met with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who is the sole government leader attending from the European Union. Their meeting was a rare instance of the Russian president meeting a European

war in Ukraine in February

Also in attendance are the presidents of Indonesia, Argentina, Kazakstan, Sri Lanka, Kenya among other countries, as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who has in the past praised the Chinese policy as bringing development to neglected areas. Most Western European countries and US allies sent lower level or former officials to the forum. China became a major financer of development projects under BRI, on par with the World Bank.

The Chinese government says the initiative has launched more than 3,000 projects and "galvanised" nearly USD 1 trilion in investment.

It has also attracted criticism from the US, India and others that China was engaging in "debt trap" diplomacy: Making loans Beijing knew governments would default on, allowing Chinese interests to take control of the assets.

Putin, Xi call for close policy coordination

The leaders of Russia and The leaders of Russian in China met Wednesday in Beijing and called for close foreign policy coordination, as concerns grow about possible conflicts with the West over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and Beijing's rising threats against Taiwan.

At their morning meeting, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin discussed trade and the 10th anniversary of Xi's trademark Belt and Road Initiative that has built highways, ports and power plants across Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere. The policy has left many states deep in debt to Chinese banks, and the attempt to pump new life into it comes at a time when China's own economy has slowed considerably due to huge over-investment in real estate. "In the current difficult conditions, close foreign policy coordination is especially required," Putin said in his opening remarks.

relations, we are moving forward very confidently," he said, noting that bilateral trade was on track to surpass a record USD 200 billion this year.

China is a key customer for Russian oil and gas, providing Moscow with an economic lifeline in the face of punishing Western sanctions imposed over its campaign against

Ukraine. Just weeks before Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February, Putin met with Xi in Beijing and the sides signed an agreement pledging a "no-limits" relationship.

Beijing's attempts to present itself as a neutral peace broker in Russia's war on Ukraine have been widely dismissed by the international community.

China, meanwhile, has increased military harassment of self-ruled Taiwan, the island democracy it claims as its own to be united by force if neces-

Pakistan govt challenges SC decision nullifying anti-graft law amendments

The Pakistan government has challenged the Supreme Court's majority verdict, declaring illegal the amendments made in the anti-graft law by the previous government, a ruling that will impact many prominent politicians like Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari. The government filed an intra-court appeal (ICA) with the apex court on Tuesday, the Dawn newspaper reported on Wednesday.

It also sought 15 days to file additional documents with a plea that the majority decision was against the facts of the case and contrary to the law.

The government adopted the stance that fundamental rights have not been violated through the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments, and Parliament reserves the right to legislate,

Samaa TV channel reported. On September 15, the Supreme Court, by a majority of two to one, ruled that the public representatives who benefited from the amendments made by the previous Shehbaz Sharif-led government in the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) will have to face corruption references country's anti-graft laws were scrapped, and the verdict resulted in the reopening of corruption references, inquiries and investigations against dozens of politicians belonging to all major political parties.

The Supreme Court verdict will have implications of vary-

ing levels for several politicians, including former president Asif Ali Zardari and ex-premiers Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, Yusuf Raza Gilani, Raja Pervez Ashraf and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. Pakistan is expected to go to polls in January 2024.

Raising objections to the order, the government's appeal stated that the majority judgment suffers from procedural impropriety and is, therefore, liable to be set aside, The Express Tribune newspaper Through the ICA, the gov-

ernment argued that former prime minister Imran Khan, who had challenged the amendments, was given opportunities during the hearing to make verbal submissions for 27 hearings and rebuttal submissions. In contrast, the government was restricted only to answering queries from the

Similarly, the ICA said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman was allowed three months to file his written submissions, but the government's request for a grant of the same time or at least three weeks was not entertained. The appeal said that the government hurriedly prepared and filed the written submissions with no other option, the report

It said that another of the government's requests seeking postponement of the case or constitution of a full court bench for hearing the petition in view of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, was also not decided.

The appeal said that the court's majority judgement was contrary to the principles of natural justice and due process of law and added that it was also against the dicta law laid down by the SC larger bench in the 1990 Amanullah Khan

The ICA emphasised that a number of references were returned or transferred to other fora under the amendment act, and as per the information provided by NAB, no acquittals were ordered under the act. On the contrary, a number

of acquittals were ordered under the amendment ordinances promulgated during the PTI government and in some cases, the NAB had gone in appeal and in others, the accused had, the appeal said. The majority of these

appeals and petitions are pending before the high court, but none of the accused, whose references were returned or transferred pending to other fora or appeals, were parties before the Supreme Court, and the facts of their cases were not before the top court, the ICA said. It stated that the entire

premise of the majority judgement was flawed as it assumed that the cases, if transferred to against elected public office holders. It also ignored that a proper mechanism and procedure for the transfer of inquiries, investigations, trials and proceedings was prescribed by sub-section 4 of Section 4 of the Third Amendment Act.

Lower house of Russian parl votes to revoke ratification of N-test ban

Moscow (AP): The lower house of Russia's parliament on Wednesday gave its final approval to a bill revoking the ratification of a global nuclear test ban treaty, a move Moscow described as putting it on par with the United States. The State Duma lawmakers voted unanimously to revoke the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in the third and final reading on Wednesday. The bill will now go to the upper house, the Federation Council, which will consider it next week. Federation Council lawmakers have already said they will support the bill. The legislation was introduced to parliament following a statement from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who warned earlier this month that Moscow could revoke its 2000 decision to ratify the treaty to "mirror" the stand taken by the United States, which has signed but not ratified the nuclear test ban. The treaty, adopted in 1996, bans all nuclear explosions anywhere in the world, although it has never fully entered into force. In addition to the US, it is yet to Pakistan, North Korea, Israel,

Iran and Egypt. There are widespread concerns that Russia could resume nuclear tests to try to discourage the West from offering military support to Ukraine. Many Russian hawks have spoken in favour of a resumption.

China: US moves to limit access to computer chips cause huge losses

AP ■ BEIJING

China vigorously protested Wednesday the US Commerce Department's latest update of export controls to prevent exports to China of advanced computer chips and the equipment to make them.

The revisions to the US rules were announced Tuesday, roughly a year after the export controls were first launched to counter the use of the chips for military applications that include the development of hypersonic missiles and artificial intelligence. China's Commerce Ministry said the controls were "improper" and urged that Washington lift them as soon as possible.

It said that since the semiconductor industry is highly globalised, the restrictions on chips used for artificial intelligence and other advanced applications were hindering normal trade and economic activities. They violate international trade rules and "seriously threaten the stability of industrial supply chains," it said according to a transcript of a briefing on the ministry's website. US semiconductor companies have suffered huge losses and semiconductor comalso been affected," it said.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry said Beijing would take "all necessary measures" to safeguard its rights and interests, without giving any details. In a call with reporters, US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said the restrictions



are meant to protect technologies with clear national securior human rights implicat⊠ons. The vast majority of semiconductors will remain unrestricted. But when we identify national security or human rights threats, we will act decisively and in concert with our allies," she said.

The updates stemmed from consulting with industry and conducting technological analyses. There will now be a gray zone that will be monitored for chips that could still be used for military aims even if they might not meet the thresholds for trade limitations. Chip exports to companies headquartered in Macao or anywhere under a US arms embargo can also be restricted to prevent countries of concern from circumventing the con-China. The updates also introduce new requirements that make it harder for China to manufacture advanced chips in other countries. The list of manufacturing equipment that falls under the export controls also was expanded, among other changes.

China's leaders view the design and manufacturing of high-level semiconductors as essential for its economic and geopolitical goals. Raimondo has said the limits on these chips are not designed to impair China's economic growth. In an August meeting, Raimondo and her Chinese counterparts agreed to exchange information about the export controls. But a senior administration official, insisting on anonymity to discuss the policy, said the US government did not discuss with China the parameters of the revised export controls.

Chinese officials are scheduled to attend a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in San Francisco in November.

President Joe Biden has sidelines of the summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping, though a meeting has yet to be confirmed. The two leaders met last year following the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, shortly after the export controls announced.

Pentagon releases footage of aircraft

intercepts by

Chinese planes

Washington (AP): The Pentagon has released footage of some of the more than 180 intercepts of US warplanes by Chinese aircraft that have occurred in the last two years more than the total amount over the previous decade and part of a trend US military officials called concerning. The photos and video were released in advance of a soon-to-be issued annual report by the Pentagon on the China's military power and the security threats it may pose to partners in the Indo-The Pentagon has tried

for years to posture itself to be

ready for a potential conflict with China over Taiwan even as it now finds itself supporting allies in two hot wars, Ukraine in Europe and Israel in the Middle East. Admiral John Acquilino, head of US Indo-Pacific Command, said at a Pentagon press briefing Tuesday that despite the US surging carrier strike groups and amphibious ships to support Israel, and now almost 20 months of war in Ukraine, "I haven't had one piece of equipment or force structure depart" his command, refermilitary units. "We have been taking a number of steps to strengthen our commitment to the region, strengthen our deterrence in the region and we will continue to do that," he said.

'Pak successfully conducts flight test of Ababeel Weapon System'

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan on Wednesday successfully conducted the flight test of Ababeel Weapon System to further strengthen its deterrence, the army said. The latest test of the ballistic missile system was aimed at "re-validating various design, technical parameters, and performance evaluation of different sub-systems," said a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of army.

"The missile system is aimed at strengthening deterrence and enhancing strategic stability in the region through the operationalisation of Full Spectrum Deterrence in the overall construct of Credible Minimum Deterrence," it stated.No details about the missile system have been provided by the army. The launch was witnessed' by General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CICSC), and senior officers, scientists and engineers of strategic organisations. Gen Mirza appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of all those who contributed towards the successful test. President Arif Alvi, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and the services chiefs congratulated all members of the strategic forces on the achievement.

Pak court allows Imran to speak with sons

PTI ISLAMABAD

special court in Pakistan A special court in Pakistan on Wednesday granted permission to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan to have a phone conversation with his two sons, according to a media report. In a one-page written order, special court judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain, directed the superintendent of Adiala Jail, where Khan is currently lodged, to ensure that Khan speaks to his sons, Sulaiman Khan and Qasim Khan, over the phone, Geo News reported. The 71-year-old Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, who has been at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi in the cipher case, was arrested in August

after a case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington in

March last year. The court last week 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. However, on Tuesday, the Special Court had adjourned till October 23 the indictment of Khan and his close aide Qureshi.

The deposed prime minister had submitted a plea to the special court on September 11, seeking contempt of court

against Attock jail superintendent who refused to allow him to speak with his sons, despite court orders issued previously in this regard, GeoTV said."(Khan) was earlier granted permission by the special court, formed to hear cases registered under the Official Secrets Act, to speak to his sons. However, the PTI chief in the petition sought contempt of court proceedings against the Attock jail superintendent for violating the court's order," the media report said. Ousted through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022, Khan was incarcerated on August 5 this year, after an Islamabad court sentenced him to three years in prison in the

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief was lodged in the Attock District Jail to serve his prison term. Later, his sentence was suspended by the Islamabad High Court, but then, he was arrested in the cipher case and remained in the Attock jail on judicial remand. Giving the chronology of events, Geo News described how, at the time of filing the plea, Khan was in judicial custody at the Attock jail. He was there till September 13 in the cipher case since his arrest on August 5 after a trial convicted him in the Toshakhana case."Khan was earlier granted permission by the special court, formed to hear cases registered under the Official Secrets Act, to speak to his sons.

Nawaz Sharif seeking protective bail ahead of his return to Pakistan

Islamabad (PTI): Ahead of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's scheduled return to Pakistan on Saturday, two protective bail petitions have been filed in the Islamabad High Court by his legal team to restrain the authorities from arresting the PML-N supremo on his arrival, it emerged on

Wednesday. The 73-year-old politician was convicted in the Avenfield League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Al-Azizia cases and was supremo is scheduled to return

declared a proclaimed offender in the Toshakhana vehicle case, which is pending before an accountability court in Islamabad, Nawaz was on bail in these cases when he left for the UK in 2019 for medical treatment.

Nawaz's legal team has sought protective bail in Al-Azizia and Avenfiled cases. The Pakistan Muslim

to Pakistan on October 21, ending his four-year-long selfimposed exile in the UK. According to the petitions,

Nawaz was seeking protective bail in order to surrender before the court and "submit to due process of justice and avail remedies permissible under the law". The pleas sought the

port on his return to the country on October 21 to allow him to surrender before the court.

The petitions stated that Nawaz could not return on time due to health issues, which were further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The petitions also stated that "any hypothesis of deliberate abscondence is not rec-Islamabad High Court's direconcilable with the petitioner's tion to stop authorities from conduct and track record, arresting Nawaz from the airwhich is exemplary".

PUBLIC NOTICE

CORRIGENOUM
This is to inform general public at large that a Public
Notice was issued on 6/10/23 in "The Pioneer"
newspaper where my client, Anita Devi intends to
avail loan against her Entire Ground Floor (without roofiterace rights) Part of Property No. 3-A, area measuring 87 Sq. Yds. part of Khasra No. 350, situated in the Lal Dora of Village Pitam Pura, Delhi from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited, th documents pertaining to the property have been los and in lieu of which FIR was already lodged or and in filed of which Fire Was a Bready Quiget bit 3.10.2023 and the Public Notice was published. In the Public Notice, The lost Original Relinquishment Deed dated 22.09.2005 is in favour of Mr. Surender Singh Slo Late Ram Chander only, the name of rohtash came inadvertently
This Corrigendum is to be read with Public Notice
issued on 6/10/23

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate
Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower

Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mcb. 9810063351

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. D. Manjula D/o Shri E Ethiraj is the owner of Residential Flat No C-97, Saraswati Kunj Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd, known as Easten Apartments, Chilla, MayurVihar-I, Extension Dclhi-110091 who had lost/misplaced th original Share Certificate dated 19.10.198 ssued by the Society in the name of Br Mohan Bhasin for which FIR has been lodg on 11.09.2023 with P.S. Crime Branch, Dell and duplicate of Share Certificated has been issued on 12.09.2023 by the Society, I anybody including Bank, Financia Institutions, persons, relative has any claim ight, interest whatsoever in the sai property shall inform within 7 days to the undersigned with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, that our client shall presume that title of the said roperty is unencumbered and clear.

Karnail Singh, Advocat -8, Basement, Jungpura Extension New Delh Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE FILE NO. -CE/R&B/ACCTS-72/19(Pt-

III)/349 Date: 11.10.2023 Name of the Work: Construction of 350qtrs. for Port employees and also to facilitate and reserve land for the future expansion of the Port in Nuabazar area-1st Phase (91qtrs), Estimated Cost: Rs. 61,69,64,158/ Last date & time of submiss bid: 05.12.2023 up to 18:00 hrs Refer our Website for details https:// eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Sd/-Executive Engineer Roads & building Division, PPA PPA/PR/54/2023-24 dtd.16.10.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all general public that Shop No. 63, Sector-49, Sainik Colony Faridabad allotted to Shri Bhagwat Prasad S/o Shri Niranjan Sarup is being transferred in the name of our client Smt. Aruna D/o Late Shri Dal Chand through a registered will. Any person having any objection in this regard may send same in writing with documentary proof within 30 days of publication of this notice to Estate Officer, M.C.F. Faridabad. After that any such claim will be treated as null and void and our client will not be responsible in any manner for any

> Vikas Thukral Advocate

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala) Phone No. 0175-2207649, Email id:- se-it1@pspcl.in Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry no. 306/DIT-726/Vol-2 dated 18-10-2023 Dy. CE/IT (A&PM), Ground Floor PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala invites e-tender for Procurement of Digitization of Employees'/ Pensioners Service Books/ Personal files and cases of Consumers having sanctioned load> 100KW, MS and SP categories for PSPCL.

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 18-10-2023, 11:00 AM onwards.

For detailed NIT & tender specification

76155/12/2304/2023/28970 Dated CHD :- 10/18/2023

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

please refer to

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, **Faridkot**

Advt. No. BFU-23/20 **Vacancies**

Online applications are invited on regular basis w.e.f. 21-10-2023 to 10-11-2023 from eligible candidates through University website for the recruitment of Radiographer-09 under Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. details / Updates/ Legibility/ No. of Posts/ Terms & conditions visit webite www.bfuhs.ac.in

nil/12/165/2023/28982 Dated CHD :- 10/18/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

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longwith documentary proof fo his/her/their claim either to us or our clien vithin 02 weeks from the date of the presen publication, failing which any further o uture claim, objection/s shall be rejected and my client (prospective buyer/s) shall conclude the transfer/Sale transaction proposed to be executed in his/her/thei favour or in the name of his/her/thei ominees and the ownership of our clien prospective buyer/s) deemed to be clea and marketable without any defect nd marketable without any defect ncumbrance, flaw and impediment hatsoever.

FOR S.K. ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS Ch. No. 537, Sec-10, Dwarka Court Complex New Delhi-110075 M. No. 9899445060

Sensex slips below 66K on spike in crude oil prices, weak global trend

quity benchmark index Sensex tumbled 551 points to close below the 66,000 level on Wednesday due to profit-taking in banking, financial and energy stocks amid a sharp jump in global crude oil prices. A sluggish trend in global equity markets following lingering geopolitical worries also sapped the risk appetite of investors, traders said.

After a day's breather, the 30share BSE Sensex plunged 551.07 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 65,877.02. During the day, it fell 585.99 points or 0.88 per cent to 65,842.10.

The Nifty declined 140.40 points or 0.71 per cent to 19,671.10. "Profit booking ensued in Indian markets, spurred by weak global sentiments and escalating Middle East tensions. A sudden rise in the tension has led to



instability in energy prices; Brent prices rapidly rose above USD 92.5 by the day's closing time. "The initial Q2 earnings disappointments by the IT and financials sector may have prompted attention in the domestic markets. All these factors are presumed to be a knee-jerk reaction as the total outlook on the domestic market is stable, underpinned by healthy Q2 result forecast and favourable fiscal position," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance fell by nearly 3 per cent, the most among the 30 frontline companies. Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, NTPC, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were the other major laggards.

NSE Nifty

19,811.50

"Fresh weakness in banking and financial majors combined with a downtick in other heavyweights like Reliance is pointing towards further slide," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

TOP GAINERS

Dr Reddys Labs

1.95 Tata Motors

Sun Pharma

OLS SBI Life Insu

2.80 Bajaj Finance

HDFC Bank

LOSERS

Pharma, Maruti and Mahindra & Mahindra were the gainers.

The market is showing early signs of fatigue within the mid and small-cap space and there is a clear investor shift to large caps and safe havens. While the geopolitical events have not yet cracked the Indian market, it has definitely slowed the momen

The Indian markets hence appear relatively better placed compared to its regional peers. US markets have caught a bit of a tailwind with the Fed speakers highlighting that there is a lower need to raise rates going forward," Jaykrishna Gandhi, Head - Business Development, Institutional Equities, Emkay Global Financial Services, said In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.85 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.32 per cent.

GreenGrahi, Foods and Inns

Ltd, St Peter & Paul Sea Food

Exports as well as US-based

A verbal investment commit-

ment has been received from

Swiss-based Buhler Group,

US-based Mondelez and Coca

Cola and UAE-based Lulu

"We are expecting to cross

₹75,000 crore investment this

time," Alam told PTI on the

sidelines of the press briefing.

investment received in the first

edition of the World Food

India, the official said, "We had

received a commitment for an

investment of ₹75,000 crore,

out of which ₹23,000 crore has

Asked about the status of

General Mills so far.

Group, he said.

come.



India to grow at 6.5-6.8 per cent; Government spending to drive growth: Deloitte

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Deloitte India on Wednesday said it expects GDP growth in the current fiscal to be in the range of 6.5-6.8 per cent primarily due to upcoming festive spending as well as higher government expenditure before the national elections mid-next year.

In its India economic outlook report, released earlier this month, Deloitte said India will need at least 6.5 per cent growth every fiscal to become the world's third largest economy by 2027, with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) crossing USD 5 trillion.

The country needs 8-9 per cent economic growth to become a developed country by 2047, it added.

The Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the June quarter, higher than the 7.2 per cent in

the year-ago period.
"In light of the Q1 GDP growth, we have revised our growth estimate for this year to reflect it. We expect GDP to grow in the range of 6.5-6.8 per cent primarily due to festive spending in the coming months followed by higher government spending before the upcoming national elections mid-next year," Deloitte India said.

Deloitte India Economist Rumki Majumdar said navigating geopolitical uncertainties and the slowdown in global economy, undoubtedly, would not be easy. India will have to rely on its

own domestic demand to firepower its growth, specifically, private consumption and nvestment spending, she said.

"What works in India's favour on the private consumption front are the size of its consumer base, the rising income, and the aspirations of its young population, which is the largest in the world.

"As for investments, with the size and scale of operations it has to offer to global companies, the availability of skill and talent, technology and innova-tion capabilities, India continues to be an attractive investment destination," Majumdar

India, with a GDP size of USD 3.4 trillion, is the fifth largest economy in the world, after US, China, Japan, and Germany. Deloitte said India's GDP

growth will be over 6.5 per cent next year as geopolitical uncertainties subside, and the global economy bounces back on a stronger growth path.

Deloitte said India's micro, small, or medium enterprises (MSME) will be key in generating income, capabilities, capacities, and ecosystems needed for sustained growth in consumption and investment that is broad-based and comes from all sections of the econ-

The MSME sector will also drive innovation and new opportunities in a cost-effective manner. It will drive job creation and entrepreneurship, especially for women in rural India, it added.

Realty sector accounts for 19 per cent of total realisation via insolvency proceedings

 $R_{ ext{ly 19}}^{ ext{eal estate accounts for near-}}$ realisation under insolvency proceedings, according to a report by Anarock and Khaitan

Real estate consultant Anarock and law firm Khaitan & Co on Wednesday released a report 'Update on IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) in Indian Real Estate'. "The real estate sector on a

reported basis accounted for more than 50 per cent of the total realisations under IBC. However, subsequent to the release of data by IBBI, a large key case went sub-judice following the admission of an appeal before the NCLAT, resulting in the real estate sector accounting for 18.8 per cent of total realisations under IBC. Anarock said in a statement. Anarock's arm Anarock Capital MD and CEO Shobhit Agarwal said the total number of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) cases filed has risen from an average of 208 per quarter in FY22 to an average of 313 in FY23.

"FY24, however, has commenced on a weak note with the first quarter. Real estate cases have averaged about 18-20 in each quarter between October 2021 and December 2022. However, this jumped sharply in March 2023 to 44 corporate debtors being admit-



& Co, said the CIRPs of real estate companies have increased in the last few quarters. Positive outcomes in the ongoing CIRPs of real estate companies would be the key to drive the confidence of home-

Kumar Saurabh Singh, Partner, Khaitan & Co, pointed out that one of the key reasons for the prolonged delay in the resolution of insolvencies has been the large number of vacancies in the NCLTs.

With a view to strengthen the bench, Singh said the government has recently appointed 21 members, which will take the bench strength closer to the sanctioned number of 63. On the report, Mani Gupta, Solicitor, said, "As of June 2023, according to the IBBI's quarterly newsletter, there were a total of 6,815 insolvencies admitted. Among these, approximately 21 per cent or 1,431 were related to the real

Government expects over ₹75,000 cr investment during World Food India to be held from Nov 3

Change -140.40

The Centre on Wednesday said more than ₹75,000 crore investment is likely to be attracted in the food processing sector during the second edition of the World Food India to be held from November 3-5 in the national The first edition was held in

2017, but in consecutive years the international event could not be organised due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it said. "We have requested Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) to inaugurate World Food India (WFI) 2023 to be held at Pragati Maidan here. For the valedictory function, the President of India will be present," Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel said. There are a lot of opportuni-



2023, he said. The minister said, "China has not been invited for the event due to strategic reasons.'

Around 16 countries, 23 state governments, 11 Union ministries and central bodies will

participate in the event that is likely to have 950 exhibitors and 75,000 visitors, he said. The Netherlands will be a

partner country for the World Food India 2023, while the focused countries will be Japan and Vietnam, he added. Additional Secretary in the

Food Processing Industries Minhaj Alam, in his presentation, said about ₹642 crore indicated investment has been

The investments were expected to fructify in three years. Due to the pandemic, there was a delay, he added.

Curbs on sugar exports extended beyond Oct

The government on Wednesday again extended restrictions on sugar exports and till further orders, a move aimed at increasing the availability of the commodity in the domestic market during the

Earlier, the restrictions were imposed until October 31 this

Sugar (Raw Sugar, White Sugar, Refined Sugar and Organic sugar) is extended beyond 31.10.2023 till further India is the highest producer trends in wholesale and retail markets all over the country. 328 lakh tonnes after the remain unchanged," the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification.

However, it said these restrictions will not be applicable to sugar being exported to the EU and the US under CXL and

TRQ duty concession quotas.

exported to these regions under CXL and TRQ (tariff

exporter of sugar in the world. An exporter would require a licence or permission from the government to export sugar, which is in the restricted category. The government has been

continuously monitoring the

"Restriction on export of A specified amount of sugar is situation in the sugar sector, including production, consumption, exports, and price keting year (October-September), Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has projected sugar production at 317 lakh tonnes after the diversion of 45 lakh tonnes for ethanol. at 280 lakh tonnes. The open-

lakh tonnes.

The production in the 2022-

In 2022-23, the industry exported 61 lakh tonnes of sugar, the entire quantity permitted by the food ministry. India had exported a record The domestic demand is seen 112 lakh tonnes in the 2021-22

Horticulture output rises to 352 mn tonne in

ndia's horticulture produc-Ition is estimated to have risen annually by 1.37 per cent to 351.92 million tonne in 2022-23 due to better productivity, according to government data.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on Wednesday released the second advance estimates of the area and production of various horticultural crops for the year 2022-23.

According to this estimate, total horticulture production in the country is expected to be a record 351.92 million tonne in 2022-23, with an increase of about 4.74 million tonne (1.37 per cent) as compared to the previous year, an official state-

ment said. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that "along with food grains, horticulture is also continuously recording record production in the country, which is the good result of the hard work of our farmers, the efficiency of scientists and the farmer-friendly policies of the central government under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who

is committed to the welfare of farmers." Production of fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, flowers and honey is expected to increase.

BUSINESS

BLS SIGNS CONTRACT FOR VISA OUTSOURCING

New Delhi: BLS International Services Ltd, a global leader in outsourcing services for governments and diplomatic missions, has signed an exclusive global visa outsourcing contract for Slovakia in 18 countries with more than 54 offices. According to industry data, 2.64 million tourists visited Slovakia in 2021, and this number is expected to increase in line with travel trends. Shikhar Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director of BLS International Services Ltd, said, "We extend our sincere appreciation to the Slovakia government for entrusting BLS International as their visa outsourcing partner. This collaboration reflects our steadfast commitment to excellence and unwavering dedication to delivering efficient, secure visa services.

POWERGRID HOLDS TALK ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

New Delhi: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power organized a talk on 'Corporate Governance, Business Ethics, Preventive Vigilance in PSUs' at its corporate center on 16 th October 2023, as precursor to Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) - 2023. P Daniel, Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission and M. Damodaran, Ex-Chairman, SEBI were the eminent guest speakers in the talk. In his address Daniel gave an overview of Central Vigilance Commission jurisdiction, functioning. He interacted and stressed upon Preventive Vigilance measures and adoption of ethical conduct in the organizations. He appreciated work carried out by POWERGRID.

Committed to fostering PPP model to drive growth in inland water transport sector: Gadkari

The government is committed to fostering public, private partnership to drive further growth in the inland water transport sector, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

Addressing the third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit via video conference here, Gadkari said several national waterways are proposed under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode. The three-day mega maritime

event commenced here on Tuesday. The Minister for Road Transport and Highways said "the development of waterways is very important for the development of Bharat. We are committed to fostering public-pri-

vate partnership (PPP) to drive further growth in the inland water transport sector. Several national waterways are proposed under PPP modes.

"Another major initiative, which has been

taken by the government is the Sagarmala project with port modernisation and new port development, port connectivity investment, port-led industrliastion and coastal community development as its four pillars," Gadkari said.

He said the objective of the Sagarmala project is to reduce the logistic cost, which is 14 per cent of the GDP, compared to 8 per cent of GDP in developed countries and take maximum advantage of India's vast 7,500 kilometer-long coastline and 1,400 kilometer of potential waterways.

"The Global Maritime India Summit 2023 is a platform for India to showcase its strength and to encourage global maritime stakeholders. This is an opportunity for India to take the leading role in shaping the future of the global maritime industry," Gadkari said. Stressing that new changes, new technology is very important for the country, he suggested Cochin Shipyard Ltd to develop new technology available in the world -- hydrogen, electric and methanol.

Wipro Q2 net profit remains almost flat at ₹2,667.3 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

T company Wipro on Wednesday reported almost flat growth in consolidated net profit at ₹2,667.3 crore for the September 2023 quarter and projected a 3.5 per cent fall in revenue in the current quarter on a weak global economic outlook.

The company had posted a profit after tax of ₹2,649.1 crore a year ago.

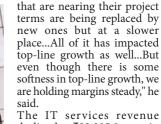
Its lower IT services growth estimate for the December 2023 quarter by 3.5-1.5 per cent is in the range of USD 2,617-2,672 million in constant currency terms or about ₹21,642.59 -- ₹22,097.44 crore. The consolidated revenue from operations declined marginally to ₹22,515.9 crore during the reported quarter from ₹22,539.7 crore it registered in the September 2022 quarter. "The business environment



has been uncertain, inflation and interest rates have stayed high. Clients are continuing to take a much more rigorous look at their investments, they are hyper-focused on efficiency, on optimisation of existing investment and faster return on new ones," Wipro CEO Thierry Delaporte said.

The lower discretionary spend is a reality today, the Wipro top honcho said, adding that conversion of order books has become slower.

"Transformation programmes



The IT services revenue declined to ₹22,395.8 crore in the September 2023 quarter from ₹22,520.5 crore in the year-ago period.

The company's business in the rest of the region increased marginally

Wipro business from top contributing verticals, including banking, financial services and insurance, manufacturing, and consumer declined.

While attrition at the company declined to the lowest level of 15.5 per cent in the last six quarters, the total headcount fell by about 7 per cent to

Biocon shares decline over 6 per cent; mcap plunges ₹1,896.95 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Biocon Ltd fell over 6 per cent on Wednesday after the company said the US health regulator has classified as "official action indicated" for the manufacturing facility of group firm Biocon Sdn Bhd at Johor, Malaysia following an

The stock fell 6.21 per cent to settle at ₹238.55 on the BSE. During the day, it declined 6.91 per cent to

At the NSE, it fell 6.17 per cent to end at ₹239.15. The company's market valuation

tumbled ₹1,896.95 crore to ₹28,640.31 crore.

In traded volume terms, 3.39 lakh

shares of the firm were traded at the BSE and over 1.30 crore shares at the NSE during the day. The OAI (official action indicated)

status may cause delay and/or withholding of pending product approvals or supplements from the facility, Biocon Ltd said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday. "Biocon Sdn Bhd, a step-down sub-

sidiary of Biocon Biologics Ltd, has received a communication from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) pursuant to its July 2023 CGMP inspection at its insulins manufacturing facility at Johor, Malaysia," a company spokesperson said in the filing. The USFDA has 'determined the inspection classification as 'OAI'. The OAI status

may cause delay and/or withholding of pending product approvals or supplements from the facility", the spokesperson added.

As per the USFDA, OAI implies that the regulator may withhold approval of any pending product applications or supplements filed from such facility till the outstanding observations related to

non-compliance of manufacturing norms laid down by it. The spokesperson said the com-

has submitted a Comprehensive Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) plan to the USFDA in response to observations from the July inspection and believe it is on track to complete all actions as committed.

ENGLAND QUALIFIES FOR THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

AP LONDON

ngland became the ninth Leam to book a place at next year's European Championship after beating Italy 3-1 at Wembley Stadium, two years on from losing the final to the Italians at the same

Denmark and Hungary also could have qualified on Tuesday but both must wait until the next qualifying games in November. And tiny San Marino briefly looked on track for a historic draw in its narrow loss to the Danes.

Italy took the lead with a goal for Gianluca Scamacca -- his first for his country -- but England turned the game around with two goals from captain Harry Kane and one from Marcus Rashford.

England joins host nation Germany and previously qualified Austria, Belgium, France, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Turkey at next year's 24-team tournament.

Defeat to England deepened the gloom around the Italian team amid a scandal around players' alleged involvement in an illegal betting ring. Premier League midfielders Sandro Tonali and Nicolò Zaniolo left the Italy camp last week after being questioned by

İtaly's game with Ukraine on Nov. 20 will decide which team gets the second qualifying spot in Group C along with er from a goal down to beat with Denmark at 1-1 until



England. Italy is seeking to avoid missing a second tournament in a row after failing to qualify for the World Cup last year. The decider is officially a home game for Ukraine but will take place in Germany because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The Ukrainians had to recov-

Malta 3-1. The win was sealed when Chelsea winger Mykhailo Mudryk scored a powerful long-range shot for his first international goal.
NEARLY SAN MARINO'S

MOMENT San Marino threatened the greatest shock in its soccer history as it held the score level

Denmark scored again to seal a 2-1 win that leaves it on the verge of qualification.

San Marino captain Alessandro Golinucci scored his country's first goal in a competitive game for two years to level up the score in the 61st minute - with substitutes charging onto the field to join the celebrations -- but Yussuf Poulsen's header nine minutes later put Denmark ahead again.

San Marino has tried to qualfor the European Championship nine times and has lost every game with the sole exception of a 0-0 draw with Estonia in 2014. San Marino has won only one game ever, beating Liechtenstein 1-0

Denmark could have secured qualification Tuesday but needed other results to go its way. A 2-1 win for Kazakhstan against Finland earlier ensured Denmark would have to wait until next month's games. Group leader Slovenia won 1-0 against Northern Ireland. Kazakhstan is trying to qualify for its first-ever European Championship and upset Finland with two late goals from Baktiyor Zainutdinov including an 89th-minute winner. Kazakhstan must win its last two games against San Marino and Slovenia next month to have any chance. HUNGARY WAITS Hungary needed a win over

Lithuania to qualify but instead drew 2-2 after recovering from being 2-0 down at halftime. Serbia is second in Group G and edged closer to qualifying by beating Montenegro 3-1. FRANCE BEATS SCOTLAND France recovered from a glaring defensive error to beat Scotland 4-1 in a friendly between two teams that have already qualified for the European Championship. An errant pass from Eduardo Camavinga allowed Billy Gilmour to score Scotland's opening goal before France responded with two goals from defender Benjamin Pavard, one by Kylian Mbappé and another for Kingsley



Neymar leaves match with **knee injury**

AP ■ MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY)

Neymar was in tears as he left the field with a left knee injury at the end of the first half of Brazil's 2-0 World Cup qualifying loss at Uruguay.

The 31-year-old striker tripped and fell during a run in the 44th minute at the Centenario Stadium on Tuesday and was immediately surrounded by players from both teams as he held his knee.

Neymar was carried off on a stretcher with both of his hands on his face. Richarlison came on to replace him.

Neymar used crutches as he left the stadium. Brazil's doctor Rodrigo Lasmar told reporters it was too early to determine the severity of

Neymar's injury. will repeat them tomorrow. Those 24 hours are key to see how his knee will respond, how swollen it will

"Let's wait for the exams with calmness, evaluate with calmness and tell you once we have a diagnosis.' Uruguay led 1-0 when

Neymar was hurt. Brazil

went on to suffer its first loss

in 37 matches in World Cup qualifying. Neymar did not speak to reporters in Montevideo. After leaving the stadium, he posted on Instagram that God

knows about all things.' "All the honour and all the glory will always be yours, my Lord. No matter what, I

have faith," he said in the

Neymar, who plays for Al Hilal of the Saudi Pro League, was criticised by fans before the World Cup qualifier because of his subpar performance during Thursday's 1-1 draw between host Brazil and Venezuela. He recently ankle injury that sidelined him for almost six months. Neymar made his national team debut in 2010 and has

79 goals in 128 appearances

for Brazil.

in World Cup, qualifying win

AP ■ MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY)

Lionel Messi scored twice in Argentina's 2-0 win at Peru in a World Cup qualifier on ionel Messi scored twice in Tuesday, playing the entire match for his national team. The 36-year-old appeared fit

after he was sidelined for several matches with his club Inter

Elsewhere, Venezuela beat Chile 3-0. Yeferson Soteldo opened the scoring shortly before the break, Salomón Rondón added a goal in the 72nd minute, and Darwin Machis scored seven minutes later. Last week, Venezuela earlier had a 1-1 draw against

Ecuador and Colombia had a scoreless draw, and Paraguay beat Bolivia 1-0 on Antonio Sanabria's goal in the 69th minute.

Argentina leads South American qualifying with 12 points in four matches. Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela have seven points and are separated by goal difference. Colombia has six points, and Ecuador, Paraguay and Chile have four each. Peru has one point and Bolivia has zero.

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

Two more rounds of South American World Cup qualifying will be played in November. Brazil and Argentina will face off at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Nov. 21.

ARGENTINA 2, PERU 0

Messi increased his total to 106 goals in 178 international appearances, moving within two of Iran's Ali Daei for second on the career list behind Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo at

The defending World Cup champion never faced risks at Lima's National Stadium against a Peruvian team that has yet to score in four qualifying matches. Argentina's confident performance could be traced to Messi finally playing as a starter and appearing fully healthy.

The 36-year-old made it 1-0 after a counterattack in the 32nd minute. Enzo Fernández passed to Nico González on the left. A low cross found Messi at the edge of the box, and he shot



it to the left angle of goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

Messi scored again 10 minutes later after Enzo Fernández found him nearly at the same spot. Messi shot it on Gallese's right corner. He later had a goal disallowed for a low margin offside caught by video review in the 57th minute.

"Yes, we have a good group and a good environment in our dressing room and things are much easier. We enjoy being together and playing together," Messi said. "After we won the World Cup we got confidence, we are more united and firm. I hope we can keep growing.' Peruvian and Argentinian fans

tried to invade the field after the match to hug Messi, who led the World Cup champions to their eighth straight victory since they won last year's title in

Last Thursday, Messi played for almost an entire half of Argentina's 1-0 victory over Paraguay.

URŬGÚAY 2, BRAZIL 0

After a slow start to the match in Montevideo, Maximiliano Araujo easily beat Marquinhos on the left flank and crossed the ball to Darwin Núnez, who headed it into the net.

The second half started with Brazil still doubtful and Uruguay ready to counterattack. One of those transitions was enough for a close-range finish by Nicolás de la Cruz in the 77th minute. "In the short run we need to be realistic, we need to improve,' Brazil captain Casemiro said. "For Neymar to leave the match it is surely something serious. But I hope it isn't at the end. He has had those injuries whenever he starts picking up his pace again, it is hard."

Messi scores 2 | Pakistan claims its first-ever win in soccer World Cup

AP ISLAMABAD

Dakistan's national soccer Pteam won a World Cup qualifying game for the first time, beating Cambodia 1-0 here to advance to the second round in Asia.

After the first leg in Phnom Penh finished 0-0, an angled leftfoot half-volley from Harun Hamid on Tuesday was enough to secure victory at Jinnah Sports Stadium in a first home game for

It was also the first win for Pakistan, ranked 197th, since 2018. It joins Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Jordan in Group G of Asian qualifying, which kicks off next month.

Pakistan was banned by FIFA in April 2021 for 15 months because of "undue third party interference" - its second ban in four years.

Pakistan will be joined in the second stage by nine other teams after two-leg, home-andaway series for the Asian Football Confederation's 20 lowest-ranked teams.

With no domestic league since 2018, Pakistan's English coach Stephen Constantine, appointed qualifying games last week, faced a difficult job.

Ahead of the games against Cambodia, Constantine had promised: "If we get the combination right, watch out."

Federation posted a video on social media of Constantine celebrating with the team after the historic win, with the message: "The floor is all yours, Coach. We've made history."

beat Mongolia 1-0 to advance 2-0 overall. Yemen was held 1-1 at Sri Apart from Vo Minh Trong's

Lanka, Asia's lowest-ranked own-goal, all the scorers for enough in its home leg to advance 4-1 on aggregate. The other teams to advance to

the 36-nation second round are Bangladesh, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Nepal, Indonesia and

Pakistan Football Myanmar. Myanmar will open the next stage against Japan, which beat Tunisia 2-0 in a friendly at Kobe, a sixth successive victory, thanks to a goal in each half from Celtic's Kyogo Furuhashi and Junya Ito.

Singapore beat Guam 3-1 on aggregate after winning 1-0 on Tuesday, and Afghanistan also just south of Seoul, in coach Jurgen Klinsmann's third straight win.

based players: Bayern Munich's Kim Min-jae, Hwang Hee-chan of Wolverhampton, Tottenham's Son Heung-min, Lee Kang-in of Paris Saint-Germain and Stuttgart's Jeong Woo-yeong.

be and what images will show," Lasmar said.

Third-seeded Marie Bouzkova

Aliassime wins matches for first time since March

AP TOKYO

 $F_{\text{defeated Sebastian Ofner 6-}}^{\text{elix}} \quad \text{Auger-Aliassime}$ 4, 6-1 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Japan Open on Wednesday, winning consecutive matches for the first time since March.

The 23-year-old Canadian, who had not won back-toback matches since Indian Wells, rallied from a break down in a tight first set before racing through the second by winning the final six games.

"I need results like this," said Auger-Aliassime, after backing up his win over Aleksander Vukic in the first round.

"I believe in my game and I believe in myself that I have what it takes to win at this level. I have done it before but it is about doing it and having a lot of belief and a positive mind. I am happy that my level is translating to the match court after a couple of months.

Auger-Aliassime next plays American qualifier Marcos



Giron, who upset eighthranked Casper Ruud 6-3 6-4. Fifth-seeded Tommy Paul beat fellow American Mackenzie McDonald 6-4 6-2. The 12th-ranked Paul will play Ben Shelton or Jordan Thompson.

Also, Shanghai Masters winner Hubert Hurkacz lost his first-round match to No.57 Zhang Zhizhen 3-6 6-4 7-6(4). Zhang fired 10 aces and broke

serve three times to avenge his defeat to the 11th-ranked Hurkacz in Shanghai last week.

advanced to the quarterfinals of the Jiangxi Open in China by beating Amina Anshba 7-

Nao Hibino of Japan followed her victory over top-seeded Beatriz Haddad-Maia in the first round with a 6-3 7-5 win over Kimberly Birrell. The 93rd-ranked Hibino will play Diana Shnaider in Friday's quarterfinals after the Russian advanced when Vera Zvonareva retired due to illness when trailing 6-3 0-1.

 $E_{\text{next summer's European}}^{\text{ngland booked its place at}}$ Championship with a 3-1 win over defending champion Italy at Wembley Stadium.

England had to come from behind following Gianluca Scamacca's first goal for the Azzurri on Tuesday. But two goals from Harry Kane -including a penalty -- and a Marcus Rashford strike gave Gareth Southgate's team the victory it needed to secure at least a top-two finish in its

"It's never as easy as it looks," Kane told Channel 4.

"We have had a really tough group this time but credit to the lads, some of the results we've had, performances and we topped it off here today. We went 1-0 down, we stayed calm and we stayed steady, we knew we had enough to get the win

to go is credit to everyone involved," the Bayern Munich striker added.

Italy, which is embroiled in another soccer scandal, could face the prospect of playoffs and even failure to qualify for a second straight major tournament. The Azzurri lost a playoff to North Macedonia last vear and didn't qualify for the World Cup, just a year after winning the pandemic-delayed Euro 2020. It also missed out on the 2018 World Cup after losing a playoff to Sweden. England leads Group C, three points ahead of Ukraine, which

points above Italy. The Azzurri play North Macedonia and Ukraine in their final qualifying matches next month. Italy travelled to England with-

won 3-1 at Malta, and six

fielders Sandro Tonali and Nicolò Zaniolo left the Italy camp last week after being questioned by police over alleged involvement in an illegal betting ring.

It was the first time Italy had played England at Wembley since beating Southgate's team on penalties to win the European Championship in And the Azzurri took the lead

in the 15th minute when Giovanni Di Lorenzo rolled the ball across from the right and Davide Frattesi completely missed the ball but Scamacca fired into the roof of the net. That was Scamacca's first goal for Italy - coming in his 13th appearance - and he nearly had a second eight minutes later but

he fired just wide of the left

Kane: It's never as easy as it looks AP LONDON and we did it. "It has been a tough journey and to qualify with two games" out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal. Premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal premier League mid out a number of players through injury and a betting scandal premier League mid out a number of pla

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and we stayed steady, we knew we had enough to get the win and we did it. "It has been a tough journey

and to qualify with two games to go is credit to everyone involved," the Bayern Munich striker added.

Italy, which is embroiled inGeneva, Oct 18 (AP) Saudi Arabia's FIFA-favored bid to host the men's World Cup in 2034 passed on Wednesday one of the few barriers left in what seems an inevitable win. One week after revealing talks with Australia about bidding to co-host the 2034 World Cup, Indonesian soccer leader Erick Thohir said his federation is

now with Saudi Arabia. Thohir's change of plan was detailed in a statement on the Indonesian soccer federation

meeting of the Asian Football Confederation, whose 47 members include Australia, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, FIFA President Gianni Infantino urged AFC members to "be united for the 2034 World Infantino has long been a close

ally of Saudi soccer and the kingdom's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and FIFA's surprise decision two weeks ago to fast-track bidding for the 2034 men's tournament was seen as favorable for them. AFC members responded quickly to Infantino's urging and the Japan federation proposed united support behind the Saudi bid backed by Uzbekistan, Lebanon and

INDIA AIMS TO EXTEND WORLD CUP DOMINANCE VS BANGLADESH

oing by the current form of the teams, the popular pre-match prediction of India's World Cup game against Bangladesh here on Thursday will be a romp for Rohit Sharma's men.

But if the glossy surface is scratched, one will have to tear away that view based on the form book.

Bangladesh have beaten India three times in the last four ODIs -- twice in a bilateral series in December 2022 and then in the Asia Cup Super Four match recently.

In this tournament, the underdogs have already shown how to slay the giants. If in doubt, check with England and South Africa about their feelings after their shock losses to Afghanistan and Netherlands respectively. India would certainly want to avoid that banana peel and keep their good run intact in this World Cup.

In the batting front, captain Rohit will look to continue his imperious form while top order batters Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli will be eager to score big. Rohit has been at the forefront of India's domination in the last couple of matches with stunning knocks of 86 against Pakistan and 131 against Afghanistan. India are perched on the top spot in the points table and they



would aim to extend their winning run.

While the two knocks of highest quality have put Rohit in the limelight, his younger opening partner Gill would be itching to get a big score for himself, given that he is back to full fitness and has had an impressive run in the ODIs this year.

For Kohli, a mistimed hit against Pakistan led to an early dismissal but that was a minor blip, as the batting maestro previously produced a masterful 85 against Australia and a match-winning 55 not out against Afghanistan.

unbeaten fifty against Pakistan has signalled that India's batting is firing in unison and there are no real concerns. As such, the team may not want to tinker with the winning combination

While India will look to make the most of batting-friendly conditions here at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, their mixed record of four wins in seven matches at this venue in ODIs, combined with the recent run against Bangladesh -- three defeats in the last four one-dayers -- makes the bowlers' role all

the more important. No doubt, Îndia will be firm favourites against Bangladesh, considering their bowlers' top class performances in restricting

Australia for a mere 199 and

Pakistan for a poor 191.

Indian bowlers too have done a collective job though Jasprit Bumrah's brilliance and Kuldeep Yadav's guile made them a stand out attack from the rest in the competition, in their sheer ability to keep the opposition team's scoring rate in check and making regular inroads even on the flattest of decks.

Bangladesh are not to be blamed

wicket and it could well prove to

preparation time drawing up plans against Rohit, whose redhot form promises a third century in a row in World Cup encounters against the 'Tigers'. Rohit's stupendous 137 in the quarterfinal in Melbourne (2015 World Cup) and 104 in Birmingham (2019) ensured his side exceeded the 300-run mark for a third consecutive time since 2011 edition against Bangladesh, with India burying their opponents under a mountain of runs on each of these occasions.

The Indian captain has hit seven centuries, the most for any batter in World Cup history, and it remains to be seen how soon he enters double-digit figures in terms of hundreds, given his magnificent form.

Notwithstanding their impeccable run so far, India will look to guard against any complacency knowing that this World Cup has already produced two sensational upsets, with defending champions England hunted down by Afghanistan and South Africa stopped in their tracks by a spirited Netherlands.

The knowledge of conditions and an expected packed house at the MCA Stadium promises India the best atmosphere once again to record another win in this World Cup and continue their march towards the semifinals, but Bangladesh are no

New Zealand sets target 289 for impressive Afghans

pushovers and they have been a tricky side to face for India. For Bangladesh, it is imperative

that their best player and captain Shakib Al Hasan overcomes the challenge of a quad injury to his left leg and is available for selection on Thursday. Shakib, who did not bowl on

Tuesday during the team's training session, will be essential for Bangladesh to take the fight to

A comprehensive win in the World Cup opener followed by two defeats against better teams has put Bangladesh in a position of some desperation, given that a third loss on the trot will only dent their hopes.

Litton Das and Mehidy Hasan Miraz have one half-century each to show at the top order from the first three games but more will be expected from young players Najmul Hossain Shanto and Towhid Hridoy, as only Mushfigur Rahim has done the heavy-lifting in the middle order.

Taskin Ahmed's sudden dip in form has piled up pressure on the team which has been scampering for bowling options, with the right-arm seamer managing only two wickets in three out-

For someone as experienced as Mustafizur Rahman, the returns have largely been disappointing, as he also has only two wickets



Kohli: No big teams in World Cup, beware of upsets

There are no "big teams" in the World Cup and upsets at the mega event happen when the conversation revolves around the more successful teams, star India batter Virat Kohli said on Wednesday. Kohli's statement comes following two major upsets in the ongoing World Cup. While Afghanistan stunned holders England by 69 runs in New Delhi on Sunday, Netherlands recorded their biggest win in the history of the game when they shocked South Africa by 38 runs in rain-curtailed affair in Dharamsala on Tuesday.

There are no big teams in the World Cup. Whenever you start focusing only on bigger teams, an upset happens," Kohli told Star Sports ahead of India's World Cup match against Bangladesh.

India have dominated Bangladesh in World Cup and have not given them much after losing to the Asian neighbours in 2007 in the Caribbean but Kohli reminded of the threat skipper Shakib Al Hasan poses with the ball on Thursday.

"Over the years, I've played a lot against him (Shakib). He's got amazing control. He's a very experienced bowler. He bowls very well with the new ball, knows how to deceive the batsman, and is also very eco-

nomical," Kohli said. 'You have to play your best against all these bowlers, and if you aren't able to, these bowlers are able to create pressure and increase the chances of getting you out." India all-rounder Hardik

Pandya agreed with Kohli. "He is a very street-smart cricketer. He has been carrying Bangladesh on his shoulders for the longest years,"

Shakib, on the other hand, feels that Kohli is the best batter in the modern era.

Pandya said.

'He's (Kohli) a special batsman, probably the best batsman in the modern era. I think I'm lucky to get him out five times. Of course, it will give me great pleasure, taking his wick-

Scott: We can beat any side at our best

PTI DHARAMSALA

 $T^{\text{he historic upset win over}}_{\text{South Africa is not a fluke}}$ as Netherlands have the potential to beat any side in the ongoing World Cup if they play their best brand of cricket, asserted captain Scott Edwards The Dutch stunned South Africa by 38 runs in their round-robin league clash here on Tuesday, their first win against a Test playing nation in was reduced to 43-over-a-side affair due to rain.

"We go into every game with our plans and our ways that we're going to try and win the game. For us it's just about playing our best brand of cricket and we feel like if we play well enough on the day, we can beat any side," Edwards said at the post-match press confer-

It was also Netherlands' third 50-over World Cup win and first in 16 years. They recorded their maiden victory against Namibia in the 2003 edition in South Africa. Their second win was against Scotland in the 2007 edition in the West Indies. Netherlands made it to the main tournament in India through the qualifying round and Edwards said his side did not come here just to make up numbers.

"Yeah, absolutely. I think after qualifying we were pretty quick to set our minds to what we wanted to do at this tournament. We weren't coming here just to have fun and enjoy it. We're here to win games of cricket and give ourselves the best chance to make the next stage," Edwards said.



wicketkeeper.

neered a remarkable recovery balls to take his side to a fightin 42.5 overs.

they were looking down the barrel, Edwards said, "As a group we pride ourselves on

those partnerships. "But out there batting with them, it was just about giving ourselves a chance to go harder later in the innings. And luckily enough, Roelof (van der Merwe) and Aryan (Dutt) in there played some unbelievable cameos to get us to what we thought was probably a par



"South Africa is obviously a very strong side and they'll be close to that semi-final spot. So, if we want to be amongst them, we've got to beat sides like this," said the 27-year-old

The Dutch were reeling at 140 for seven in the 34th over before Edwards himself engiwith an unbeaten 78 off 69 ing 245 for eight. They then shot South Africa out for 207

Asked what transpired between him and other batters when playing total cricket which is guys that are coming in at number 8, 9, 10 have just as much of the ability to put on



be a game-changer. $N^{
m ew}$ Zealand recovered well from a mini mid-innings Put into bat first, the Kiwis lost opener Devon Conway (20) in

slump to post a commendable the seventh over, with spinner 288 for six against a gritty Afghanistan in a World Cup Mujeeb Ur Rahman trapping him leg-before. group league match here on Wednesday. However, the pair of opener

Young and in-form batter Will Young (54), Tom Latham (68) and Glenn Phillips (71) Rachin Ravindra (32) took charge and put on a convincing scored half-centuries to ensure 79-run stand for the second wicket. A chance to stump that the Black Caps posted an above-par total on a track where Ravindra was missed, whereas spinner Mohammad Nabi was stroke-making isn't the easiest of proposition. put under pressure by the Black Phillips and Latham put on 144 Caps batters, as he was attacked invaluable runs for the fifth quite regularly. Eventually, it was



pacer Azmatullah Omarzai who got the partnership broken in the 21st over, cleaning up Ravindra off a straight delivery, as the batter attempted to swing it towards mid-wicket, but missed it completely in the process. It was at this moment the New

Zealanders had a brief collapse, losing Young and Daryl Mitchell (1) by the 22nd over to Omarzai and spinner Rashid Khan, respectively, as the score read 110 for four. While Young had already scored

his seventh ODI half-century, he was notably dropped in the second over by Rahmat Shah off er soon as skipper Latham and Phillips put up another fine stand that defined the tone for the rest of their innings. The duo also brought up their

Fazalhaq Farooqi. Nevertheless,

New Zealand managed to recov-

respective 23rd and third ODI half-centuries each, despite the Afghani bowlers keeping the Kiwi scoring rate in check. As the pair began upping the

ante and the scoring rate post the 45th over, the partnership was broken by pacer Naveen-ul-Haq in the 48th, with both the set batters departing in the same

But, there was still some work to be done, and it was Mark Chapman (25 not out) who came up with some late blitz, including two fours and a six, to ensure that the Black Caps went past the 275-run mark on this track. For Afghanistan, Omarzai and Naveen were the stars with the ball, seizing a couple of wickets each, whereas Rashid was a no-brainer with his economical

However, a total of three dropped catches did make things a bit hard for the Afghans, especially Rashid, who saw a couple of his chances go abegging.

SA coach blames batting, defeat to Netherlands

PTI DHARAMSALA

outh Africa coach Rob Walter Shas blamed the shock 38-run defeat at the hands of the Netherlands in the ongoing World Cup to his side's disappointing death bowling and poor start with the bat.

The Netherlands recovered from 140 for 7 to post 245 for eight in the rain-hit match on Tuesday and then bowled out South Africa for 207 in 42.5 overs to cause the second major upset of the ongoing showpiece. Afghanistan pulled off the first

upset on Sunday, shocking defending champions England by 69 runs in New Delhi. The 38-run win was also Netherlands' first against a Test

playing nation in their World Cup history. A disappointed Walter minced no words, saying his side were below-par against the Dutch. "At 140 for 7, you're in control

of the game really. So, to not be



able to close it out at the death is disappointing, of course, and certainly the momentum shifted in the game then," Walter said at the post-match press confer-

"But at the end of the day, we back ourselves still to be able to chase 240 but then we probably you know we got off to a very poor start and they put us on the back foot," he added.

He said strategically also South Africa committed mistakes. "Maybe I've got our ratios a little bit wrong in terms of the slow balls versus hard length and on pace deliveries. From extras point of view, there's definitely more extras than we would want to bowl."

South Africa were unbeaten coming into the match and looked a confident lot having registered convincing wins over Sri Lanka (by 102 runs) and Australia (by 134 runs).

Walter said the two upsets so far proved that no team can be taken for granted in a tournament of this magnitude.

"Four days ago, we played outstandingly well, and then today, not well. Just ultimately, we weren't good enough, specificallv at the back end of the innings. And then at the start with the bat, and we put us on the back

"As I said before the World Cup started, I don't think there's any weak teams in this tournament. And if you're not switched on and you don't win the key moments in the game, you find yourself on the wrong side of the result. We learned that today," he

Warner 'annoyed' at **DRS** decision against him in SL match

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran Australia opener David Warner is "annoyed" and "frustrated" at the DRS call which went against him in his side's World Cup match against Sri Lanka and has called for more "accountability" in the system, according to a report. In the match, which Australia won by five wickets in Lucknow on Monday, Warner fell LBW to Sri Lanka pacer Dilshan Madushanka. The lefthander went for review but the DRS call went in favour of the on-field umpire, who had orig-

inally given him out. The prolific southpaw, who was batting on 11, left the ground fuming. He was seen smashing his bat against his pad and turned back to yell towards the wicket as he walked off.

Warner said he wanted greater why he's given a decision.

transparency on how DRS decisions were adjudicated.

"I've never had Hawk-Eye come in and explain to us how the technology actually works, it's just for the TV," the 36-yearold was quoted as saying by 'cricket.Com.Au' Australia's five-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Monday.

"If they could come in and explain to us how it works, then sometimes we might (choose) not to refer or to refer.

According to the report, Warner suggested that the ball-tracking did not match what he saw on the ground's replay screen after he called for the review.

"I asked Joel (field umpire) when I was out there just what happened, why did he give it out. He said the ball was swinging back so to his credit, if he thinks that then that's



PTI MUMBAI

 $F^{\rm ormer\ New\ Zealand\ pacer}_{\rm Shane\ Bond\ has\ ended\ his}$ nine year association as Mumbai Indians bowling coach, the Indian Premier League (IPL)franchise announced on Wednesday. Bond, who has been associated with MI since 2015, won four IPL trophies as the bowling coach of the team.

Bond made the decision to part ways with MI after the fivetime IPL champions appointed Lasith Malinga as their bowling coach for season 2024. Malinga, who retired in 2021

and had played for MI, worked with the Rajasthan Royals until this year. The 48-year-old Kiwi also quit

as MI Emirates head coach. He was at the helm of affairs of MI Emirates team in the inaugural season of ILT20 this year.

Rohit rises to sixth place in ODI batters' rankings

India captain Rohit Sharma on Wednesday jumped five places to sixth in the ICC ODI batters' ranking on the back of his imperious form in the ongoing World Cup at home. Rohit amassed 131 runs against Afghanistan and then backed it up with an imperious 86 from 63 balls against arch-rivals Pakistan to be one of the in-form batters in the showpiece.

South Africa wicketkeeper batter Quinton de Kock rose three spots to third after back-to-back tons (100 against Sri Lanka and 109 against Australia) in the World Cup as he leapfrogged teammate Rassie van der Dussen in fourth.

De Kock missed an opportunity to climb even closer to top spot after he was dismissed for 20 against Netherlands

Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz (up 19 spots to 18th) and



Netherlands captain Scott Edwards (up 16 spots to 27th) have also surged in the batting rankings following superb innings that inspired each of their teams to shock victories.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam has edged up to 836 rating points and stretched his lead in the ODI batting rankings to 18 points. India opener Shubman Gill remained

in second spot after overcoming illness to kick off his World Cup campaign with 12 runs against Pakistan.

Veteran New Zealand pacer Trent Boult is within reach of the No.1 spot in the ODI bowling rankings following a destructive spell against Bangladesh. He finished with 2/45 against Bangladesh after also dismissing Towhid Hridoy for his 200th wicket in ODIs.

Boult is only one rating point behind current leader Australia's Josh Hazlewood (660 rating points) after moving up one place in the latest update.

Afghanistan magician Rashid Khan climbed two spots higher to fourth place in the bowling rankings, while South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj made a bigger move of seven spots to equal fifth alongside Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

Among the quicks, India's Jasprit Bumrah (up seven spots) and South Africa's Kagiso Rabada (up one spot) have risen to equal 14th, as Lungi Ngidi jumps six spots to

"I would like to thank the Ambani family for the opportunity to be part of MI One Family for the last nine seasons. Ít has been an incredible experience with so many great memories on and off the field," Bond said in a statement issued by the franchise. Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any

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