**OPINION 6** 

DESPITE RESISTANCE

CHINA PUSHES BRI,

**WORLD 8** 

SIKH MAN DIES OF INJURIES AFTER

BEING ASSAULTED IN NEW YORK

**MONEY 10** 

SEBI EMPANELS 12 ENTITIES TO

PROVIDE DIGITAL FORENSIC SERVICES

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VERSTAPPEN EARNS HARD FOUGHT 50TH CAREER F1 VICTORY 11 SPORT

# NEW DELHI, TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3 the pioneer

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# With tens of thousands of rockets. Igraeli warplanes struck targical across Gaza on Monday, including in a reas where Palestinian civilians have been and the palesti

including in areas where Palestinian civilians have been told to seek refuge, after another small aid shipment was allowed into the besieged Hamas-ruled territory. Israel has still not allowed any

fuel to enter Gaza, where there has been a power blackout for nearly two weeks. Israel allowed a second convoy

of 15 trucks into Gaza on Sunday. Both entered from Egypt through the Rafah crossing, the only way into Gaza not controlled by Israel. India sent medical and disas-

ter relief aid for Palestinians on Sunday Hospitals say they are scroung-

to keep operating life-saving medical equipment and incubators for premature babies. Israel is widely expected to launch a ground offensive in Gaza following Hamas' brutal October 7 rampage into south-

ing for generator fuel in order

ern Israeli communities. Tanks and troops have been massed at the Gaza border, and Israel says it has stepped up airstrikes in order to reduce the risk to troops in the next stages. Fears of a widening war have grown as Israeli warplanes have struck targets in the occupied West Bank, Syria and Lebanon

in recent days.

if Hezbollah launches a war, "it will make the mistake of its life. We will cripple it with a force it cannot even imagine, and the consequences for it and the Lebanese state will be devastat-

Hezbollah's political movement is part of Lebanon's fractious government, but its fighters operate outside the state's con-

Israel heavily bombed Beirut's airport and civilian infrastructure during a 2006 war with Hezbollah. Israel is meanwhile evacuating some communities on its own side of the border. Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said Israeli forces had wiped out eight militant cells in Lebanon over the past 24 hours and more than 20 since the start of the war, without elaborating. More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed — mostly civilians slain during the initial Hamas attack. At least 222 people were captured and dragged back to Ĝaza, including foreigners. Two Americans were released Friday, hours before the first shipment of humanitarian aid. More than 5,000 Palestinians,

including some 2,000 minors and around 1,100 women, have been killed, Ashraf al-Qidra, a



Palestinians look for survivors of the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah on Monday

puted toll from an explosion at a hospital last week.

This  $\bar{i}s$  the deadliest by far of five wars fought between Israel It has frequently traded fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, which is armed spokesman for the Hamas-run Health Ministry, said on Monday. That includes the disited ground forays into Gaza, years. Israel has carried out limited ground forays into Gaza,

and on Sunday, Hamas said it had destroyed an Israeli tank and two armoured bulldozers inside the territory it has ruled since 2007.

The Israeli military said a sol-

ers were wounded by an antitank missile during a raid inside Gaza.

The military said the raid was part of efforts to rescue hostages abducted in the October 7 attack. Hamas hopes

to trade the captives for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

On Saturday, 20 trucks entered Gaza in the first aid shipment into the territory since Israel imposed a complete siege at the

start of the war.
An airstrike hit a residential building some 200 meters (yards) from the UN headquarters in Rafah on Monday, killing and wounding several people, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene, underscoring the perils scene, underscoring the perils of humanitarian operations. COGAT, the Israeli defense responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs, said the aid was allowed in at the request of the United States, and included water, food and medical supplies. It said Israel inspected everything before it

In a Sunday phone call, Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden "affirmed that there will now be continued flow of this critical assistance into Gaza," the White House said in a statement.

entered Gaza.

Relief workers said far more aid was needed to address the spiralling humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where half the territory's 2.3 million people have fled their homes.

The UN humanitarian agency said the 20 trucks that entered Saturday amounted to 4 per cent of an average day's imports before the war and "a fraction of what is needed after 13 days of complete siege.

World Health Organisation said seven hospitals in northern Gaza have been forced to shut down due to damage from strikes, lack of power and supplies, or Israeli evacuation orders.

The lack of fuel has also crippled water and sanitation systems. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians sheltering in UN-run schools and tent camps are running low on food and are drinking dirty water.

Israel repeated its calls for people to leave northern Gaza, including by dropping leaflets from the air. It estimated 700,000 have already fled. But hundreds of thousands remain. That would raise the risk of mass civilian casualties in any ground offensive. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Israel "can't go

back to the status quo" in which Hamas controls Gaza and is able to threaten it, but that Israel has "absolutely no intent" to govern Gaza itself. 'Something needs to be found that ensures that Hamas can't do this again, but that also doesn't revert to Israeli gover-nance of Gaza," he told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "It's something that needs to be worked even as Israel is dealing with the current threat." Israel captured Gaza, along with the West Bank and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for a future

Israel withdrew troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005, but Israel and Egypt have imposed a blockade of varying degrees since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in

state.

# Sardar of Spin passes away

Former India captain and country's greatest ever left-arm spinner Bishan Singh Bedi died on Monday after prolonged illness. He was 77 years old and is survived by his wife Anju, son Angad and

Born in Amritsar in 1946, Bedi played 67 Tests for India and took 266 wickets with 14 five wicket hauls and one 10-wicket haul. He was the part of Indian cricket's

golden quartet of spinners, others being Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chadrasekhar and Srinivas Venkataraghavan, who formed the core of India's bowling unit for more than a decade between 1966 and 1978.

Bedi was briefly the manager of the Indian cricket team in 1990 during tours of New Zealand and England. He was also a national selector and mentor to many talented spinners like Maninder Singh and Murali Kartik, who all swore by his technical insight.

He led the team for nearly four years in Test cricket between 1975 and 1979 after Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi's retirement.

The passing of this legendary spinner has elicited condolences and

tributes from various quarters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi mourned Bedi's death saying, "Deeply saddened by the passing of noted cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi. His passion for the sport was unwavering and his exemplary bowling performances led India to He will continue to inspire future generations of cricketers. Condolences to his family and

admirers. Om Shanti.' Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed his sorrow on X (formerly Twitter), stating, "Deeply saddened by the demise of the legendary spinner and former captain of the Indian cricket team, Bishan Singh Bedi... My heartfelt condolences to his family members and

his fans in this hour of grief." Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur called Bedi's demise a "loss to the cricket world". "Former captain of the Indian cricket team, Bishan Singh Bedi is no more with us. It is very sad news. We stand with his family. When I used to play for Punjab, he was the coach of our Ranji Trophy team. It is a big loss to the cricket world,"

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge describing him as one of the most

Gaza Strip due to the bombing at a

"Shared our deep concern at the ter-

rorism, violence and deteriorating

security situation in the region.

Reiterated India's long-standing

principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue," Modi said after

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,

Prime Minister Modi had said he

was "deeply shocked by the news of

terrorist attacks in Israel" and

expressed India's solidarity with

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

the country in the difficult hour.

Palestinians.

speaking to Abbas.

hospital

celebrated cricketers whose contribution to the sport in India will be cherished forever.

Kharge said Bedi, affectionately called "the Sardar of spin", left an indelible mark on Indian cricket and carved out his own space as a great exponent of the art of spin

"We are extremely saddened to hear the passing away of one of India's most celebrated cricketers, former India Test Captain, known affectionately as the 'The Sardar of Spin' to lovers of cricket, Bishan Singh Bedi.

"In the era dominated by pace bowling, he left an indelible mark and carved out his own space as a legendary left-arm spinner. A Padma Shri recipient and a forthright authority on the sport's administration, his contribution to Indian cricket shall always be cherished. Our deepest condolences to his family, friends and numerous fans," the Congress chief said in a post on X.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee wrote, "Saddened at the demise of the legendary Indian cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi. The iconic leftarm spin bowler had brought home many spectacular victories for us and his name is etched in the memory of millions of his fans. A great captain and a strong personality, he is a beacon light for Indian sports. Sincere condolences to his family, friends and countless admirers,

Film stars Shah Rukh Khan, Sanjay Dutt and Suniel Shetty on Monday paid homage to legendary cricketer remembered teaching the world about "sports &

"Growing up our lives are moulded by the spirit, the gusto and sheer grace of people who we see and experience around #BishanSinghBedi was one of them. May God bless his soul & thank u Sir for teaching us so much about sports & life. You will be missed immensely. RIP," Khan posted on

Shetty said he is "deeply saddened" about the loss of a true maestro like Bedi.

"A man who was adored not just for his cricketing prowess but also for the honesty and integrity he carried in his heart. He was a true maestro of the game and an inspiration to so many. May his legacy continue to inspire generations. Rest in peace, Bedi Sir," the actor posted on the microblogging site. Dutt said cricket has lost a legend

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

s conflict between Israel and A Hamas rages, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke with Jordan's King Abdullah-II and the two leaders shared concerns regarding terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives.

Modi said concerted efforts are needed for an early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation. "Spoke with His Majesty @KingAbdullahII of Jordan. Exchanged views on the developments in the West Asia region. We share concerns regarding terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives. Concerted efforts needed for early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation," he said in a social media post.

Incidentally, Prime Minister Modi on October 19 spoke to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud

The Pioneer wishes its readers a very Happy Dussehra.

# MODI SPEAKS TO JORDAI





@netanyahu for his phone call and providing an update on the ongoing situation. People of India stand firmly with Israel in this difficult hour. India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," Modi posted on X.

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.

As the Israel-Hamas conflict escalates, India on Sunday sent humanitarian aid to Palestine. An IAF C-17 flight carrying nearly 6.5 tonnes of medical aid and 32 tonnes of disaster relief material for the people of Palestine departed for El-Arish airport in Egypt, Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) said. Giving details here, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "An IAF C-17 flight carrying nearly 6.5 tonnes of medical aid and 32 tonnes of disaster relief material for the people of Palestine departs for El-Arish airport in Egypt."

The material includes essential lifesaving medicines, surgical items, tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, sanitary utilities, water purification tablets among other necessary items, he said. The items will be sent to Palestine via the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza.

The war in its 17th day on Monday is the deadliest of five Gaza wars for both sides. The Hamas-run Health Ministry said on Monday that at least 5,087 Palestinians have been killed and 15,270 wounded. Fears of a widening war grew as

Israeli warplanes struck targets across Gaza, two airports in Syria and a mosque in the occupied West Bank allegedly used by militants. Israel has traded fire with Hezbollah militants since the war began, and tensions are soaring in the West Bank, where Israeli forces have battled militants in refugee camps and carried out two airstrikes in recent

# Devotees throng Puja pandals on Mahanavami

Even as an alert on-duty Epolice officer at Ekdalia Evergreen Club Durga Puja pandal rushes to a foreigner lady seeing her snivel in the crowd and taking it to be a rowdy lumpen's work — he is taken

Much to his relief and astonishment the Italian woman says in broken English how the effusive face of Mother Durga and the imposing presence of her fem-inine self brought tears in her

Anxiously she inquires about the number of days left for the Pujas to end.

She is among the millions of pandal hoppers who have come out cocking a snook at the gloomy overcast skies.

Like most other Desi revelers the Sahibs and MemSahibs too have decided to defy the depressive "deep depression" Hamoon and the patches of sharp showthe Durga Puja pandals with

humanity.
"I did a lot of Net study back home but who expected this huge swarm of humanity ... it is mind boggling ... Durga Puja ... Hmmm ... I don't know how many people visit it?" asks Haris from the USA while he gets trapped in a crowd at Sri he gets trapped in a crowd at Sri Bhoomi Club where they have crafted a Disney Land of a pandal. When told that more than five million people walk that hive minion people wark the streets of Kolkata — pandal hopping —24x7 on any given day of the festivities he murmurs: "astounding."

Says Arpita Samant a tour operator, "ever since Durga Pujas were included in the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2021 the number of foreign visitors has gone up by any numbers," informing by a rough estimate Kolkata and Bengal has received about 17,000 foreigners this year round



And when you talk about the "deep depression" and the associated heavy intermittent showers, Susan, a IT personnel from Germany who has picked up five local college students as "friends indeed" during the Pujas to navigate her through the marquees says, "Cum on ... No depression ... no storm ... the Puja mood will drive all storms away ... the Goddess will subjugate the demon of storms ... I will go back and tell my colleagues ... never in life saw such a thing ... such enthusiasm, such art work ... such devotion and not least such management ... exquisite from start to end.'

"If at 4 am in the morning you have three million people on the road walking pandals then you call it ultimate revelling ... my goodness," says David, a British man recollecting how he was nearly suffocated at the Raja Santosh Mitra Square by a sea of crowd. "The policemen told

itors per hour in one pandal," he says adding, "your security agencies must be thanked for this wonderful crowd management... and the Goddess that brings so much happiness."

Then you bump into Laxmi Sivaramakrishnan, a homemaker from Chennai —who has just been married and for whom it is the first year in Kolkata -at Tridhara Sanmilani in South Kolkata. "Sir next year I will bring my parents, relatives ... friends, friends' friends and their friends and the whole of Madras ... to see Durga Pujas ... you won't believe it if you won't see it with your own eyes," the young bride of Ravichandran a bank officer

When reminded that Pujas were on its ninth day or Ma hanavami meaning thereby that there was not much left to the festivities her land lady Suparna Chatterjee — with whom the watch Pujas -first relates a story and then sounds metaphysical. She says: "You know there is a

mythological story where Apsara (nymph) Menaka and Uma pray to Mother Durga to hold back the Navami night and prolong her stay on earth so that the festivities do not end at all" and then sounds philosophical, "anyways you have the Mother inside you ... you take her out and worship during the Pujas and then put her back in ... she is with you throughout the year and throughout your life and death." Tears roll down her cheeks as Laxmi nods in acquiescence.

One wonders how tearful emotions — around a single word "Mother" (Durga) —unite the two souls from two different lands, Italy and India. Mother Goddess proves Kipling wrong as she makes the "Twain meet' in the City of Joy.

## NIA nabs key accused in human trafficking case

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a 39-year-old man, want-ed in a human-trafficking case involving Sri Lankan nationals, from Tamil Nadu after a hunt of more than two years, an official said Mohamed Imran Khan

alias "Haja Najerbheeden", allegedly a key figure in the case, was on the run since June 2021, a spokesperson of the federal agency said. The official said the

Absconder Tracking Team (ATT) from the NIA's Bengaluru office monitored Khan's movements for the last several months, leading to his arrest from Theni district in Tamil Nadu on Sunday.

The NIA spokesperson said a preliminary investigation has revealed that Khan, a resident of Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu, is a notorious smuggler with a long-standing history of illegal activities in the

region.
"He was a fugitive wanted by multiple law-enforcement agencies for his involvement in various illicit operations," said.The the official spokesperson said the instant case originated when the



Mangalore South Police acted on credible intelligence that a group of Sri Lankan nationals had arrived and taken residence in Mangalore in Karnataka without possessing valid documents. An operation led to the arrest of 38 Sri Lankan nationals from Mangalore on June 6, 2021. "Investigations revealed that Sri Lankan nationals were brought to Mangalore from Sri Lanka via Tamil Nadu and Bengaluru. Recognising the international dimensions of the case, the NIA intervened

the spokesperson said. The official said the investigation revealed that Khan, in collaboration with a Sri Lankan national, Eesan, formerly associated with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil

including bathrooms, com-

mon areas in dorms, and key-

boards in computer labs. The

swabs were then tested to

determine the types and num

In addition to swabs, researchers polled 1,000 stu-

dents about their personal experiences and hygiene prac-

tices. According to the study

public bathrooms were the

germiest area of all the cam-

pus not spots.
With 47 million colony-forming units (CFU), 64 per cent gram-negative rods and 34 per

cent type II, campus bath-

rooms were home to more

would-be infections than a

Saturday night party. While

germy bathrooms weren't sur-

prising, campus laundry rooms were shockingly germ-

infested, with 30.5 million

CFUs: 98 per cent gram-negative rods and 2 per cent

Laundry rooms were even

more germy than campus cafeteria tables, which had 100,000

The kitchen sink is one of the

dirtiest places in most homes,

with an average of just under 11.4 million CFUs -- but that's nothing compared to college library desks, which had 2.6

times more bacteria, the study

fewer CFUs.

bers of germs.

pus hot spots.

Eelam (LTTE), devised a plan to illegally transport 38 Sri Lankan nationals from their home country to various locations in Tamil Nadu.

They lured these individuals with false promises, including the prospect of obtaining legitimate documentation for emigration to Canada and securing employment opportunities. Khan, along with the other co-accused, trafficked Sri Lankan nationals to locations various Bengaluru and Mangaluru," the spokesperson said.

The investigation also revealed that Khan is a pivotal figure in a broader conspiracy involving international human trafficking.

"He acted as the main conduit responsible for transporting Sri Lankan nationals from their home country to India and subsequently, to other nations," the NIA spokesperson said.

The federal agency filed a preliminary chargesheet against five in dividuals — Dhinakaran alias "Ayya", Kasi Viswanathan, Rasool, Satham

and re-registered the case," Ushen and Abdul Muheetu on October 5, 2021, while a total of 13 suspects have so far been arraigned by it in the

## Delhi Labour Minister directs officials to frame new SOPs

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure speedy financial assistance to the children of the registered construction workers as envisaged under the law, the Delhi State Labour Minister Raaj Kumar Anand on Monday instructed his officials to frame a revised, worker-friendly Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which would also address the pending cases promptly.

The instructions were issued after he held a significant board meeting of The Delhi and Other on Workers Building Construction Welfare Board (DBOCWWB) Labour the Commissioner and other senior board officials and found that since 2020, a significant number of applica-tions are pending due to lack of verification.

The meeting was convened to address and resolve the pendency of the application forms due to lack of verification process. "The verification process should be streamlined to facilitate the hasslefree submission of application forms with all the required documents. Regular review meetings should be convened to assess the status of pending cases," Anand stated, as per the statement here.

The DBOCWWB offers financial assistance to the children of registered construction workers to ensure their safety, health, and wel-

"To expedite the disburse-ment of financial aid to these children, the Labour Minister has instructed to frame a revised, worker-friendly Standard Operating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) This is aimed at addressing the pending cases promptly," said the statement. The Labour Minister emphasized that the financial assistance to the children of Labour workers should be easily accessible within the specified time, without any challenges, as per the statement.

To promote awareness about Delhi Government schemes, printed materials will be distributed at all construction sites. The Minister also direct ed the development of a userfriendly App for the convenience of construction work-

#### LG approves promotion of 27 officers of finance department

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the promotion of 27 officers of the Delhi government's finance department. The promoted officers in different grades of the Accounts cadre included 13 senior accounts officers who were presently working as deputy controller of accounts on adhoc basis. They have now been regularised on the post (pay level 11) with effect from October 4, 2023.

The other promoted officers include 14 accounts officers who will now be upgraded as deputy controller of accounts on a regular basis with immediate effect, it said.

According to the Sub Rule-C of Rule 2 of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Accounts Service Rules, 2012, Delhi LG is the appointing authority in respect of the deputy controller of accounts, which a Group A gazetted post, it

Earlier, Saxena has approved the promotion of 263 doctors working as Senior Medical Officers to the post of Chief Medical Officers in various Delhi government hospitals.

## SRGH completes 100 surgeries with robotics system

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Within six months of the installation of Hugo Robotic System, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here has completed 100 successful cases with the new cutting-edge technology, claiming to set a new standard as the fastest in the Asia-Pacific region to reach this milestone.

This accomplishment highlights the department's versatility in handling a wide array of robotic surgeries across all medical specialties, said Dr Ajay Sharma, Director of

Robotic Surgery. He explained that one of the distinguishing features of our hospital robotic surgery program is its cost-effectiveness compared to existing alternatives.

"Despite being at the forefront of cutting-edge technology, we at the hospital ensure that these advanced medical procedures are accessible and affordable to a broader spectrum of patients," said Dr Ajay Swaroop, Chairman, SGRH.

Patients undergoing robotic



surgeries at the hospital benefit from a trifecta of precision, accuracy, and a minimally invasive approach. This results in reduced blood loss during procedures and contributes significantly to quicker patient recovery times. We started doing robotic surgery about 10 years back

and we keep improvising by adding a newer robotic platform this year and able to serve the patients with a more refined approach of surgery, added Dr Vipin Tyagi, Coordinator, Robotic Surgery, Consultant Urologist, Kidney Transplant and Robotic Surgeon, Depts. of Urology and Kidney Transplant Surgery at the hospital.

#### Cafe tables host more germs than toilet seat, says researchers



 $W^{
m hile}$  the public bathrooms or for that matter even household toilet seats are predictable hotspots for germs, there are much more other unpredictable surprising places — such as your average college cafeteria tables hosting comparatively more bugs as was found by a team of researchers from US-based College Rover.

They found that the college cafeteria harbors 60,000 times the bacteria than the average household toilet seat, said the study. It identified the germiest places on multiple campus-



#### CHANGE OF NAME

Pawan Kumar Suri S/o Late Madan Lal Suri Resi: 866, Sector-5, Vasundhara Ghaziabad-201012. I have changed my name from Pawan Suri to Pawan Kumar Suri for all purposes.

PD(186)A

#### Shah exhorts cooperative societies to join NCEL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Jnion Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Monday exhorted the cooperative societies to join the National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) which has been set up with an aim to explore the global export market and handhold them to produce and manufacture prod-ucts that comply with global standards.

There are about 8 lakh cooperative societies in the country with over 29 crore members. Shah was addressing the 'National Symposium on Cooperative Exports' organized here by the NCEL.

On the occasion he also released the logo, website and brochure of NCEL and distributed membership certificates to NCEL members. The NCEL which was given go ahead early this year was formally launched at the event.

'The Modi government is working towards increasing exports as well as creating a smooth system to deliver its benefits to the farmers.

The NCEL has been launched in the cooperative sector with six objectives of increasing exports, prospering the farmer, changing the crop pattern, pro-viding a global market for organic products, gaining a place for India in the global market for biofuel and strengthening the cooperative sector," he added

Asserting that NECL will prove to be a very big and successful cooperative venture, he highlighted that in near future NECL will develop into a complete export ecosystem covering all aspects like procure-



keting, branding, labeling packaging, certification and

The government has already begun laying the groundwork for this endeavour, with temporary offices up and running ongoing personnel recruitment, and orders worth Rs 7,000 crore approved, with negotiations for Rs 15,000 crore underway, said Shah, exuding confidence that the entity would join the ranks of coop-erative success stories like IFFCO and Amul.

The NCEL has already bagged orders worth Rs 7,000 crore so far and the export body will share at least 50 per cent profit with member farmers over and above the support price. It is now negotiating orders worth Rs 15,000 crore, he said about the benefits of joining the central entity.

The NCEL will also work to connect the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of External Affairs and our embassies abroad with a Whole of Government Approach for market linkages said the Minister.

Shah lauded the substantial contributions made by cooperatives in various sectors, such as food production, sugar production, milk production, spindles, and grain.

#### Biker snatches Israeli national's bag, search on

**STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM** 

The Gurugram Police are looking for a bike-borne youth who snatched a bag from the hands of an Iraqi woman and made off with more than Rs 1 lakh in cash, a

officer said Monday. The woman, who has come to India for treatment, claimed the bag contained 1,500 US dollars and Rs 4,000 in cash, besides other items.

According to the complaint filed by Belsom, an Iraqi citizen, she came to India around 45 days ago for treatment of her liver. She is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Gurugram and is staying in a

hotel near the hospital.

"On Saturday around 7.30 pm, I went on foot with my mother, Miad Kamil, to buy bread from the market. While returning, a young man on a bike wearing a helmet came in front of plot number 433 in Sector 39, snatched my bag, and drove away," Belsom said in her com-

'I could not even see the number plate of the bike," she said. Her bag also had her hotel room key and sunglasses according to her complaint. An FIR was filed in the rob bery incident against an unknown person under sections of IPC at Sadar Police Station on Sunday, said police.

#### SFI students hold pro-Palestine demonstration near Israeli Embassy

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $M^{
m embers}$  of a left-wing student group, Students' Federation of India (SFI), on Monday held a pro-Palestine demonstration near the Israeli embassy in Delhi. Many of them were detained by the police at APJ Abdul Kalam road. A video of the protests, shared on the social media showed police officials dragging protesters away. The protesters were seen waving flags at the pro-Palestine rally.

According to police, scores of students from JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia and Delhi University had gathered to take part in the protest. Police had erected barricades to stop them from reaching the embassy at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road.

When some of the students tried to march towards the embassy, they were detained as they did not have the required permission to hold the protest, said a police officer, adding that 'no one was allowed to violate law and order".

The students were protesting in support of Palestine and try ing to reach the Israeli embassy when the police action took place, the officials said. All India Students Association (AISA) Delhi unit president Abhigyan said several students were detained and taken to a police station.

## Cops seize ₹36.9 crore mephedrone

The police have seized mephedrone (MD) worth Rs 36.9 crore and arrested seven persons in an operation spanning over the last five days, involving a raid at a drug manufacturing unit at a farmhouse in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Monday.

The police have recovered 18,453.7 gm of the banned drug, of which 18,100 gm was seized during the raid at the manufacturing unit and lab operated from a farmhouse in Mokhada Sunday,

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) MBVV police Avinash Ambure told reporters. Liquid and powder raw materials worth Rs 2.73 lakh, chemicals worth Rs 2.59 lakh, besides vehicles, two coun-

zines, and 14 cartridges were seized from seven accused, he Based on a tip-off, the police had

on October 18 raided a hotel and arrested Sunny Bharat Salekar, Vishal Godse, Deepak Dubey, and Shahbaz E and seized 251.7 gm of mephedrone, some firearms and cash, the official said. These arrests led the police to Tanvir Nissar Ahmed Choudhary, who was appre-hended with 102 gm of the contraband on Saturday and another accused Gautam Gunagar Ghosh who was also arrested on the same day, he said. Ghosh informed the police about Chandrashekar Pinjar who operated an MD manufacturing unit at his farmhouse in Mokhada, the official said.

## 20-year-old woman hacks boyfriend to death with axe for refusing to marry her

**PTI** ■ MEDININAGAR

A 20-year-old woman allegedly hacked her boyfriend to death with an axe when he was sleeping for refusing to marry her, police said on Monday.

The incident happened near Kolhua village in Patan police station area of Jharkhand's Palamu district, they said.

The woman, identified as Anjali Kumar, was arrested on Monday, and her bloodstained salwar-kameez and the axe used for the murder were recovered, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Surject Kumar

Anjali was in a relationship with Dharmen Oraon (24). he refused the proposal. A jilted Anjali planned the murder and called Dharmen to a secluded spot surrounded by bushes on Saturday, police After spending some time talking, Dharmen fell asleep on the

She wanted to marry her, but

ground. Anjali soon got the axe that she had kept nearby, and allegedly hacked Dharmen to death in his sleep, they said. She then hid the body in the bushes, and left the place. The body was found by locals on Sunday.

Police said they cracked the case within 48 hours, and gathered the required evidence, besides arresting the

# 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' from Thursday amid pollution woes

With the national Capital's air quality plummeting to 'very poor' Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced on Monday that the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign will start from Thursday (October 26). According to Rai, the government has identified eight more pollution hotspots in addition to the existing 13 in the national Capital, and special teams will be deployed there to check pollution courses. Pai check pollution sources. Rai also said odd-even vehicle rationing is not being considered at the moment. Under the odd-even scheme, private vehicles with registration plates ending in odd numbers ply on odd dates, and even numbers on even dates.

Sources in the city government's environment department said the LG's permission will not be required for the "Red Light On Gaadi Off" campaign this year as the participants will not receive any honorarium, unlike in previous seasons. The "Red Light

on Gaadi Off" campaign, first launched on October 16, 2020, aims to reduce vehicular pollution in the national capital by encouraging drivers to switch off their vehicles while waiting for traffic lights to turn green. With the dip in temperature, Delhi's air quality has been declined to the 'very poor' category on Monday. Delhi's air quality turned "very poor" on Sunday for the first time since May, mainly due to a drop in temperature and wind speed, which allowed pollutants to accumulate. Delhi has recorded the world's most toxic air, with stubble burning, pollution from vehicles, construction and coal-fired power plants said to be the contributing factors to this hazard. According to Bloomberg report, the national capital's air quality index rose to as high as 346 early on Monday, the highest among 110 global cities tracked by IQ Air. As per IQ Air data, Delhi recorded particulate matter (PM 2.5) of 296 micrograms per cubic meter of air, which is almost 20 times the WHO's recom-



mended level of 15. After a meeting with 28 departments to ensure the effective implementation of pollution mitigation measures in the capital, Rai said Rai has said that the next two weeks which include Dussehra, Deepawali and farm fires, are crucial for the capital

The government has also decided to use suppressant powder to prevent dust pollution in the city. In addition to the 13 existing air pollution

hotspots in Delhi, we are focusing on eight places where the AQI has exceeded the 300-mark. These locations include Shadipur, ITO, Mandir Nehru Patparganj, Sonia Vihar, Dhyan Chand Stadium, and

a press conference. He added that special teams will be deployed at the eight places to identify pollution sources and take corrective measures in collaboration with

Moti Bagh," the minister told

the Delhi Pollution Control tioned that district collectors have been instructed to conduct field visits on October 25 and ensure the strict implementation of pollution mitigation measures.

"Directions have also been issued to use dust suppressant powder in anti-smog guns to prevent dust pollution. The anti-dust campaign will be strengthened, and more field visits will be conducted," he

Action will be taken against diesel generator sets, Rai said, adding DG sets being used for emergency services are exempt. The minister said directions have been issued to the Delhi Traffic Police to decongest 95 identified traffic junctions which will help reduce vehicular pollution. He said the Delhi Metro Rail

Corporation and the Delhi Transport Corporation have been instructed to increase the frequency of their services. The Delhi government will also run additional buses in capital under the

"Paryavaran Bus Sewa" campaign to bolster public transport in a bid to reduce vehicular emissions, the minister

According to the Union environment ministry, the maximum share of farm fires in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution stood at 34 per cent on November 3 last year and 48 per cent on November 7 in 2021. Taking a dig at the Kejriwal government, the Leader of

Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the AAP government has failed in tackling air pollution. 'Neither the incidents of stubble burning has come down nor has been able to control dust pollution. There were no effective measures in place before, and there are none now," Bidhuri said. "Kejriwal spent crores on promoting bio-D composer, but its impact on the ground is minimal. The total cost of producing bio-D composer was 3.40 lakh rupees, but it's surprising that almost 24 crore rupees were spent on its promotion in the first year alone," he added.

#### 'Appoint sensitive officers': Minister claims several officials skipped meet on pollution

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday requesting the appointment of officers who are sensitive to the issue of air pollution after several department heads skipped a meeting to review pollution mitigation measures in the national capi-

Rai said a meeting of the National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA) should be convened as soon as possible to address the issue. The NCCSA takes a call on service matters, including transfers, postings and disciplinary action.

After the meeting with departments concerned earlier in the day, Rai expressed regret that several department heads did not attend the meeting and other senior officials appeared to be unaware of the deteriorating air quality and the measures their departments are taking to combat pollution. He urged the chief secretary to ensure that these officials work diligently for the next month when air pollution is expected to peak.

In his letter to Kejriwal, Rai said, "A K Singh, Principal Secretary of the Environment Department; Ashwani Kumar, DPCC Chairman and Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department; and Ashish Transport Commissioner, did not attend

the important meeting today. Their absence makes it extremely difficult to make any significant decisions and ensure their implementation."

# Part of foot overbridge collapses in Laxmi Nagar

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

A part of a foot overbridge in Aeast Delhi's Laxmi Nagar collapsed late on Sunday night after it was hit by a crane that was being transported on a carriage truck. A case under negligent driving has been lodged and Neeraj, 28, the driver of the crane, has been arrested. According to police, no injuries were reported in the incident, eyewitnesses told police that three persons were sleeping on the bridge and fell when the bridge collapsed.

According to a report from the Delhi government's public works department (PWD), the road stretch from Akshardham to the Sabhapur Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border, including Pusta Road, has already been handed over to the National Highways Authority of India

Police said that a case under section 279 (rash driving) and 427 (causing damage) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered and offending driver identified as Neeraj Khani (28), resident of Uttar Pradesh's

Jaunpur, was arrested in the

Around 12:34am, a control room call was received at Laxmi Nagar police station regarding a footover bridge collapsing on the road near When police reached the spot,

they found a trailer loaded with a crane near Akshardham

Police said when the truck was transporting the crane from the Akshardham Temple area to Burari, a part of the crane hit the foot over-bridge, causing it

to collapse partially. The crane got stuck to it briefly due to Highway.' which a portion of the bridge

collapsed The truck dragged the collapsed portion of the overbridge on for a few metres before coming to a halt, the officer added.

In a report, the PWD said: "It is to note that the road stretch from Akshardham to Sabhapur Delhi-UP Border, including Pusta Road, has already been handed over to NHAI by superintending engineer (East) in June 2022 for development of Delhi-Dehradun National

Thereafter, all the maintenance and construction work on the road stretch is being taken up by the NHAI. The PWD is coordinating with the NHAI for needful action in the matter, the report stated. It said according to the NHAI project director, a heavy vehicle damaged a portion of the foot overbridge and on inspection, it was found that the road was clear for traffic movement. The Project Director of NHAI was contacted and he informed

that some overdimensonal vehicle damaged the half portion of this FOB in the last night hours so this portion has been shifted by NHAI to road side. On inspection, it is found that the road is clear for movement of traffic," said official said. No immediate reaction was available from the NHAI. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva has expressed concern over the collapse of a large section of foot over bridge at Laxmi

Sachdeva said that this foot overbridge had a very high usage and I thank God that the Laxmi Nagar foot overbridge collapsed late at night or else it would have proved a fatal accident. The BJP leader further accused the Arvind Kejriwal government for failing to do regular maintenance of its capital assets. Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the Kejriwal government should come out with a white paper on the status of flyovers, skywalks and foot over bridge in Delhi.

## DU Vice Chancellor inaugurates construction of Pragyan Bhawan

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University Vice Chancellor Professor Yogesh Singh on Monday inaugurated the construction work of "Pragyan Bhawan." It is an 8-storey building will be built in the Delhi School of Economics (DSE) and

Geography department campus at a cost of Rs 29.73 crore. The Vice Chancellor inaugurated the construction work by unveiling the plaque for the building and breaking a coconut. He said this building will be ready in about 24 months.

The Vice Chancellor said according to the current number of students in the university, there seems to be a lack of building facilities at some places. With the construction of this new building, while the seating arrangements for studies will be expanded, modern level infrastructural facilities will also be available to the stu-

He said for education, it is necessary to have a favorable edu-



cational environment and infrastructural facilities along with qualified teachers. That is why new buildings are being constructed in Delhi University to expand these facilities. Seventeen rooms will be built in 4600 Sq. M. built up area. The estimated cost of this project, with 804100 square meter plot area, is Rs 29.73 crore. It will have One block named "Pragyan Bhawan" whose building will have seven floors in addition to the ground floor. The total built up area (including mumty and machine room) of this building will be 4600 square meters including UGT

square meters. In this, a total of 17 rooms will be constructed including the proposed 9 class rooms and 8 tutorial rooms. The maximum height of this building (including the machine room) will be 36.8 meters. The total estimated time for construction of 'Pragyan Bhawan" has been kept at 24 months. Keeping in mind every facility, there will be 2 lifts in this building. Provision for VRV centralized air conditioning system, UPS system, solar panel system and Gas based fire suppression system will also be made.

#### Accused in Swiss woman murder case will undergo psychoanalysis: Police

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{our days after a woman}}_{\text{was found dead with her}}$ limbs tied with chains in west Delhi, police are planning to conduct a psycho-analysis test of accused Gurpreet Singh who has been frequently changing his statements, sources said. According to sources in the

Delhi Police, the investigators are planning to take the help of a team of doctors to conduct the psychological test on the 30-year-old accused, who has confessed to murdering the woman, to ascertain his mental fitness. The accused claimed that the woman was a Swiss national

The police has recovered the woman's documents like passport and visas from the possession of Gurpreet who had confessed to killing the woman named Nina Berger and dumping her body near the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) school in Tilak

Gurpreet had told the police he was in love with Berger, whom he befriended in 2021 during a visit to Switzerland.

Gurpreet further told the investigators he had given her a marriage proposal, which she turned down. He also said that when he came to know she was having an affair with someone else, he planned to kill her, police said. He called her to India and strangled her to death, Gurpreet told the inves-

"But there are certain dots which are yet to be connected and Gurpreet is not revealing everything it seems," a police official said.

During interrogations, he first said two more people were involved in killing Berger. But later, he retracted his statement. The police has so far not found



anyone else's role in the murder, an officer said. Gurpreet is in a four-day police custody and is being interrogated.

The postmortem examination of the body is yet to be conducted as the deceased's family members could not be contacted. The police has tried tried to approach her family through the Switzerland

On Sunday, the embassy officials met the Delhi Police officers to know about the details of the case. The police also said they were investigating the case from multiple angles, including human trafficking and money trail as Rs 2.10 crore cash was recovered from Gurpreet's house in Janakpuri.

Gupreet's father runs astrology and gems business and the family owns multiple properties. Transactions of a large amount were also done in his bank accounts. The Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) and the Income Tax department have been informed to track the money

The police has seized three mobile phones from his possession. According to Gurpreet, one of the phones belonged to Nina, while two belonged to him. The data recovered from his mobile phone indicates that he might be involved in a network of human trafficking. Is being verified whether the woman too was a part of that network, police said.

#### LG directs NDMC, MCD to mitigate Students outfits raise voice against mosquito breeding on war footing

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena Municipal Council (NDMC), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and city Government on Monday to ensure proper sanitation and mitigation of mosquito breeding on a war footing. He called the rising number of dengue cases and related hospitalisa-tion in the national capital "worrying".

According to reports,
Dengue cases are increasing in the national capital and its surrounding areas this year. 'The rising cases of dengue and related hospitalisation in Delhi, despite a dip in temperature, are worrying. "Spoke to the Chief Secretary, NDMC Chairman, MCD Commissioner and Secretary (Health), GNCTD to ensure proper sanitation and mitiga-

tion of mosquito breeding on

a war footing," Saxena said in



He appealed to people to take all necessary precautions. "Also asked them to ascertain adequate facilities at dispenseries and hospitals. I appeal to the people to take all necessary precautionary measures," the LG

Asked about Saxena's post, Mayor Shelly Oberoi told a press conference that a highlevel meeting of the departments concerned will be held soon to take stock of the situ-

As per September's data, Delhi recorded 937 dengue cases.

2021; 212 in 2020; 282 in 2019; 481 in 2018; 1,807 in 2017; and 1,692 in 2016. It was only higher in 2015, when Delhi clocked 5,982 dengue cases between January 1 and September 26. Nine people died of the disease last year, a dip from 23 in 2021, but higher than the counts in 2020 (1). 2019 (2) and 2018 (4). The city saw 10 deaths of the infection each in 2017 and 2016.

Dengue has four major strains-- DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4 and currently DENV 2 or the D2 variant is the dominant strain in the country. Until 2012 D1 and D3 were predominantly found in samples. D4, which is said to be the least infectious one, is also spreading fast. Usually in several infections, people get immune after the first infection. However, in the case of dengue, the immunity obtained after the infection from a particular dengue variant does not confer immunity against other variants

# RSS march at JNU, seek action

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $S^{\rm everal\ students'\ outfits\ have\ raised\ their}_{\rm voice\ over\ a\ "Pathsanchalan"\ (march)}$ organised by RSS volunteers on the JNU campus, seeking action against the organisers by the university administration. Members of some Left-affiliated students' outfits claimed on Monday that it was the first time that such a parade was conducted by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus.

The march by the RSS volunteers in their trademark uniform was taken out on the campus on Sunday night and it concluded at the university's administrative block, said members of the organisation's students' wing, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) 'The pathsanchalan was held by the RSS vol-

unteers to mark Vijaya Dashami," said Vikas Patel, secretary of the JNU's ABVP unit.No immediate reaction was available from the INU administration over the march and whether any permission was sought for it by the organisers.

This was the first time in the history of the university that the RSS was allowed to organise a march on the campus, a representative of the Left-affiliated All India Students' Association (AISA) told PTI.

The swayamsevaks sung and chanted "com-



munal songs and slogans" and held a gathering near the administrative block, where mobilisation has been prohibited by the Delhi High Court, AISA leaders alleged. In a video shared with reporters by the JNU's Students' Federation of India (SFI) unit, people in the RSS uniform can be heard raising slogans such as "Jago to ek bar Hindu (rise up Hindus)" while they were seated near the administrative block.
The men can also be seen parading on the

roads of the campus dressed in the traditional khaki attire of the RSS. "It was for the first time that the RSS held a

march on the JNU campus," AISA Delhi president Abhigyan claimed. Protests within 100 metres of the administrative block were prohibited by the high court in 2017.

#### Faridabad NIT Dussehra ground unique example of Hindu-Muslim harmony

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{Ground is a unique exam-}}^{\text{aridabad's NIT Dussehra}}$ ple of Hindu-Muslim communal harmony, where the effigies of Ravan, Meghnath and Kumbhkaran are made by hundreds of Muslim artisans in the Hanuman temple com-

The Dussehra fair organised every year at the ground attracts people not only from Faridabad, but also from Ballabgarh, Gurugram and

Noida to watch Ravana dahan. Effigies of the Ravana family have been made in Shri Siddhpeeth Hanuman Temple NIT campus for years. The

temple's head Rajesh Bhatia

gies made by Muslim artisans are unmatched, no one else can make such effigies." Bhatia said that the effigies

are made away from the place where the idol is installed or where the puja takes place in the temple premises, though that is also the area of ??the temple complex. He said, "All Muslim artisans

respect our religious senti-ments. This is the reason why the work of making effigies in the Hanuman temple by Muslim artisans has been going on from generation to generation for the last 74 On being asked whether

objection was ever raised. Hindus ever raised any objec-Ravan family belong to famtion to this, Bhatia said ilies who have expertise in it.



al brotherhood and no such The artisans who make more than 50-feet-tall effigies of the

engaged in making effigies of Ravan, said that his grandfather Rahman Ali came to Faridabad in 1950, and started making Ravan's effigies. Shakeel, who started making

eight along with his father Rahmat Ali, said that his son Annan Abdul has also joined the same profession now in the fourth generation. Bhatia said that this year

Ravan dahan will not take place in the NIT ground because the administration has not given the permission for it, and hence it will take place in the Hanuman temple

premises only.
Bhatia said, "These artisans are so skilled that it seems as if they infuse life into the effigies." This is the reason why there is a huge demand for them in various Dussehra committees of the city. Making effigies is not their

only skill, they also make the

these artisans from far and wide so that their Ravan is the tallest and most beautiful. Shakeel Ravanwala said that the firecrackers used in Ravan's effigies are tied in a row in such a way that when they are set on fire, they start burning first from the top (head) because the longer the firecrackers burn, the more the audience enjoys.

Dussehra, which is also not an

easy task. Sometimes depend-

ing on the direction of the

wind, the help of a crane is

also required for the same. This time a 100-feet high Ravan has been built in

Faridabad's Sector-28.

Different Dussehra commit-

tees search for and bring

# India committed to safe use of nuclear energy, says Modi

 $P_{\text{Modi on Monday under-}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ scored India's enduring commitment to safe and secure use of atomic energy for peace and development in a meeting with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi

Grossi, who called on Modi, commended the country's impeccable record as a responsible nuclear power and praised its progress in nuclear science and technology, particularly highlighting the development and deployment of indigenous nuclear power plants, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

In the meeting, Modi shared India's ambitious goals to enhance the share of environmentally friendly nuclear power generation capacity as part of its energy mix.



Grossi, the statement said, acknowledged India's global leadership role in civil nuclear applications for societal benefits. This includes the remarkable progress that India has made in utilising nuclear technology to address the challenges faced by humankind including those

related to health, food, water treatment, plastic pollution and climate change, it added. Views were exchanged between them on expanding the role of nuclear energy in meeting net zero commitments, including through small modular reactors and

tion for the outstanding partnership between the IAEA and India, praising India for its training and capacitybuilding programmes that have helped many countries,

Both sides agreed to explore avenues of cooperation between India and the IAEA for extending civil nuclear technology applications in the Global South, the statement

Meanwhile, the IAEA director general also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. "Good to see my friend DG IAEA Rafael M Grossi today. Congratulated him on his reappointment.

"Discussed the developmental significance of nuclear energy. Also exchanged views on nonproliferation and international cooperation. India will always be a strong and reliable partner of IAEA," Jaishankar

#### Governance reforms initiated by Centre have far reaching impact: Jitendra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said governance reforms initiated by the Central Government since 2014 have a far reaching positive social impact. Administrative initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, such as the pre-retirement counselling workshops, "Anubhay awards and pen-

sion adalat have ensured timely disbursal of pensionary benefits to the large number of retiring employees every year,"

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said the "whole of government" approach is evident from the fact that even during the Covid pandemic years, there was not a single case of delay in pension payment due to the uninterrupted services provided by the department of posts.

"Governance reforms initiated by this government since 2014 have a far reaching positive



social impact," he said, addressing the Anubhav awards -2023 presentation ceremony, all India pension adalat & preretirement counselling (PRC) workshop here.

Anubhav is an initiative of the central government to acknowledge and recognise experience of retired central government employees. Singh said banks are providing doorstep service for submission of Digital Life Certificates (DLC) annually to retired employees.

'Now, the government of India is the first to use the Aadhaarbased face identification technology. Due to such technologies, senior citizens do not have to go through the tedious process of submitting the life certificate. Most of the functioning has been converted online and in order to bring in transparency, accountability and citizen participation, the human interface has been reduced to the bare mini-

Singh said that the Modi government has scrapped more than 1,500 redundant laws since 2014 and provisions such as self-attestation introduced.

mum," he said.

WHO releases key regulatory considerations on AI for health

PNS NEW DELHI

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes a buzzword in the health sector promising to offer an array of advantages in diagnostics, drug development, clinical trials, and healthcare analytics, the World Health Órganization (WHO) has released a new publication listing key regulatory considerations for its responsible management by the member states aiming to ensure its effective implementation.

"With the increasing availability of healthcare data and the rapid progress in analytic techniques — whether machine learning, logic-based or statistical — AI tools could transform the health sector.

The WHO recognises the potential of AI in enhancing health outcomes by strengthening clinical trials; improving medical diagnosis, treatment, self-care and person-centred care; and supplementing health care professionals' knowledge, skills and competencies," said the WHO.

## PM pays tribute to former VP Shekhawat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tributes to former Vice President and Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhairon Singh Shekhawat on his birth centenary saying India will always be grateful to him for his exemplary leadership and efforts towards its progress. "Today is a very special day it is the 100th birth anniversary of the respected statesman Shri Bhairon Singh

Shekhawat. India will always be grateful to him for his exemplary leadership and efforts towards our nation's progress," Modi said on X.
The prime minister also recalled the respect

respect



Shekhawat enjoyed across the political divide.

He was someone who was liked across the political spectrum and by people from all walks of life, Modi said, sharing his old pictures with Shekhawat on the microblog-

ging website.
"Bhairon Singh Ji was a visionary leader and effective

administrator. He distinguished himself as an excellent Chief Minister, taking Rajasthan to new heights of

What stood out was his emphasis on ensuring a better quality of life for the poor, farmers, youth and women of

He initiated numerous measures to further rural development," he said in a series of

As the vice president, Shekhawat played an instrumental role in enhancing India's democratic fabric, the Prime Minister said, adding that his tenure is remembered for its commitment to furthering the standards of parliamentary debates and discussions.

## French envoy presents credentials to Murmu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DEI HI

Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, on Monday presented his credentials to President Droupadi Murmu Rashtrapati Bhawan.

On this occasion, the French Ambassador underscored the historic ties of friendship, solidarity and trust between India and France, which in the past 25 years have led our two countries to develop an exceptionally successful strategic

partnership. President Murmu on Monday also accepted credentials from four other envoys.

They included Evagoras Vryonides, Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikolay Hristov



Yankov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria, Herve Delphin, Ambassador of European Union and Ana Taban, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova, a statement issued by the President's office said. Mathou recalled the historic

visit of Prime Minister nership, all the way to 2047, Narendra Modi to Paris as Guest of Honour of France's

National Day on July 14, and President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India for the G20 Leaders Summit in September. He stressed his commitment to delivering on the ambitious vision that the two leaders have set for the future of the France-India strategic partaccording to a statement by

#### Sadhna first woman IAF officer to take charge as DG, Hospital Services and has undergone a two

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■

Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair became the first woman to assume charge of Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces). She assumed the new responsibility on Monday. Prior to this appointment, the Air Officer was tenanting the appointment of Principal Medical Officer (PMO) at HQ Training Command (Air Force), Bangaluru.

A graduate from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in Dec 1985. She holds a Post Graduate degree in Family Medicine

year training programme in Medical Informatics at AIIMS, New Delhi, IAF officials said here.

She was trained in CBRN Warfare with the Israeli Defence Forces and in Military Medical Ethics in Switzerland. She is the first and only woman Principal Medical Officer of Western Air Command and Training Command.

For her meritorious service she has been awarded the AOC-in-C (WAC) and CAS Commendations as well as the Vishisht Seva Medal by the President of India. Three generations of her family have served in the IAF over the last

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Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been eceived by the Company. Shareholder(s)/Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Share the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority

| No.  | FOIIO NO.  | Legal Heir (Claimant)  | Cert-No.    | (from)    | (to)      | Shares |  |
|--|------------|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------|--|
| 1  | S 0001746  | SAVITRIBAI GORDHANDAS<br>THAKKAR(Holder)   | 338886      | 16498365  | 16498369  | 5      |  |
|  |            |  | 90038215    | 7531130   | 7531169   | 40     |  |
|  |            |  | 1132458     | 295317854 | 295318033 | 180    |  |
| 2  | SRF0021143 | VILASBEN M PATEL (Holder)  | 354228-30   | 16805662  | 16805696  | 35     |  |
|  |            | MANUBHAI MOHANBHAI   | 503228-30   | 24825454  | 24825488  | 35     |  |
|  |            | PATEL (Deceased)   | 1138050     | 296455186 | 296455465 | 280    |  |
| 3  | R 0004792  | JYOTI SURESH (Claimant)  | 52656       | 2777776   | 2777800   | 25     |  |
|  |            | RAMAIER NATARAJ  | 76609       | 3562599   | 3562609   | 11     |  |
|  |            | (Deceased)   | 335780-83   | 16429280  | 16429346  | 67     |  |
|  |            |  | 484780-83   | 24449072  | 24449138  | 67     |  |
|  |            |  | 90035653-54 | 7440314   | 7440393   | 80     |  |
|  |            |  | 90008307    | 5730064   | 5730081   | 18     |  |
|  |            |  | 1133323     | 295484202 | 295485273 | 1072   |  |
| 4  | S 0008504  | SUDERSHAN MALIK  | 1115        | 1153361   | 1153410   | 50     |  |
|  |            | (Holder)   | 3938        | 1249576   | 1249625   | 50     |  |
|  |            |  | 20672       | 1882701   | 1882725   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 20712       | 1883701   | 1883725   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 21074       | 1893876   | 1893900   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 22632       | 1937776   | 1937800   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 47337       | 2629426   | 2629450   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 48808       | 2670001   | 2670025   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 50456       | 2715651   | 2715675   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 51076       | 2732426   | 2732450   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 81521-22    | 3638493   | 3638592   | 100    |  |
|  |            |  | 147073-76   | 5859168   | 5859367   | 200    |  |
|  |            |  | 1134056     | 295647074 | 295649473 | 2400   |  |
| 5  | SRF0036061 | MOOL CHAND KUMRA<br>(Joint Holder 1) MADHU<br>SUDAN KUMRA (Joint<br>Holder 2)<br>TRIPTA KUMRA (Deceased) | 90076031-32 | 9235610   | 9235669   | 60     |  |
|  |            |  | 1137331     | 296299554 | 296299793 | 240    |  |
| 6  | SRF0103856 | GIRDHARILAL BOOB<br>(Holder 1)<br>ASHOK KUMAR<br>DAMANI(Joint Holder)                                    | 90145409    | 8785422   | 8785471   | 50     |  |
|  |            |  | 1138486     | 296549382 | 296549581 | 200    |  |
| 7  | SRF0026149 | MALTI NEHRU (Holder 1)   | 361098-102  | 16912903  | 16912980  | 78     |  |
|  |            | ASHOK KUMAR NEHRU  | 510098-102  | 24932695  | 24932772  | 78     |  |
|  |            | (Joint Holder)   | 90057609-11 | 8654562   | 8654661   | 100    |  |
|  |            |  | 90186204    | 14802040  | 14802084  | 45     |  |
|  |            |  | 1134017     | 295641490 | 295642693 | 1204   |  |
| 8  | SRF0100755 | AJIT KUMAR MAYOR   | 92808       | 3325347   | 3325396   | 50     |  |
|  |            | (Holder)   | 143243      | 5784390   | 5784414   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 149914      | 5948984   | 5949008   | 25     |  |
|  |            |  | 1134149     | 295668174 | 295668573 | 400    |  |
| Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/ |            |  |             |           |           |        |  |

objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests. Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates

For SRF LIMITED **RAJAT LAKHANPAL** Place: Gurugran

Tel. No (Regd office): (+91-11) 49482870; Fax: (+91-11) 49482900 E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Chirag Jain is purchasing the Entire Third floor, with roof rights said floor part of Property bearing No. C-46/1-7, Old Plot No. 10, area measuring 100 Sq., Vds., Stualed in the area of Wilage Chonodii, in the aboati of East Azad Nagar, Gali No. 5, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110015 purchased from Mr. Web Parksan Singh(undiwided 50% share) and Mr. Ved Parksan Singh(undiwided 50% share) who is recorded owner vide Sale deed dated 06.05.2022. Sub Registrar IV 8 Virek Nihar and same to be finance & mortgage by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, That I he Surriving Member Certificate (SNC) of Late Mr. Raksek Jainis Lost Administration (SMC) of Late Min. Rakesin Jamins Lbs. displacedNot available. To comply the requirement of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if an Person having any type of claim /nightitlis/Interes reating mortgage over the said property, may inforn in writing, at the address mentioned below, about hi objections, within 7 days from today, falling which shall be presumed that the said property is free from a type of Encombrances, lienetc. Lucem Legal LL SI. Folio No. Name of the Share Holder / Cert-No. Dist-No. Dist-No. Lost

> OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED CIN No: L28219HR1988PLC030347 Regd. Office: 17-18, Roz- Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District Mewat, Haryana. - 122103 Vebsite:www.okplay.in,Email:info@okplay. Tel: 011 46190000 Fax: 011 46190090 NOTICE

> Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is being convened on Thursday, the 09th day of November, 2023, (i) To consider and approve inter – alia, the Unaudited Financial Results (Standalone and Consolidated) of the Company for the guarter and half year ended or 30th September, 2023, (ii) Sub-division/split of existing equity shares of face value of Rs. 10/each, fully paid-up, by alteration of Capital Clause of the Memorandum of Association of the Company;

For OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED. Meenu Goswam Date: 23.10.2023 Place: New Delhi Company Secretary

Notice is hereby given that my client Gagan Goyal & Mrs. Ankita Goyal are in process to purchase the DDA Janta Flat No. 906, on First Floor, in Pocket B, Category-A, Group-Z, situated at Sector-16-8. Dwarka, Phase-II, New Delhi (availing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited) from Ruchika Sharma and whereas she has lost the following documents pertaining to the said property (online FIR has aiready been lodged in lieu of that on dated 17/23)

a) Driginal Allotment Cum Demand Letter dated 08-04-05 issued by DDA in favour of Philonina Alosious

b) Original Transfer of Allotment Letter issued by DDA in favour of Jasmine Alosious

c) Original Conveyance Deed dated 23-11-07 executed by the President of India through DDA in favour of Ms. Jasmine Alosious (Doc No. 21962)

d) Original Sale Deed dated 14-12-2007 executed by Ms. Jasmine Alosious in favour of Mr. Vijay Sethi (Document No. 21962) PUBLIC NOTICE

e) Original Sale Deed dated 26-02-2008 executed by Mr. Vijay Sethi in favour of Anita Kohli (Document No. 4282) No. 4282)
f) Original Sale Deed dated 08-10-2010 executed by Mrs. Anita Kohli in favour of Mr. Manoj Kumar Pandey (Document No. 25803).
g) Original Sale Deed dated 23-07-2012 executed by Mr. Manoj Kumar Pandey in favour of Mrs. Seema Bhaskar (Occument No. 18768)

Bhaskar (Document No. 18768)
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 been waived and/or abandoned.

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

& Company Secretary

#### 15 days exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 to strengthen Indo-Malaysian ties begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Tn an effort to further strengthen Ities between the two countries, the nearly 15-day long joint bilateral training exercise "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023", between Indian and Malaysian Army commenced on Monday in Umroi Cantonment, Shillong, army offi-

cials said here. Giving details of the drill, they said the Malaysian Army contingent comprises troops from 5th Royal Battalion of Malaysian Army. The Indian contingent comprises a battalion of the Rajput Regiment. Last edition of the exercise was conducted in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia in November 2022.

Exercise 'Harimau Shakti,' scheduled till November five, will engage approximately 120 personnel from both sides. It is aimed at enhancing



multi domain operations in a sub conventional scenario. During the exercise, both contingents will establish a Joint Command Post and establish an integrated surveillance grid along with a Joint Surveillance Centre, officials said.

urban / urban environment. In

addition, intelligence collection,

Both sides will rehearse employment of joint forces in jungle/semi collation and dissemination drills will also be rehearsed. The Exercise

Drones/UAVs & Helicopters. Two sides will also practice casualty management and evacuation drills. Both the contingents will discuss logistics management and practice survival training at the bat-

The training will focus primarily on high degree of physical fitness, conduct of drills at tactical level and sharing of best practices with each other. The Exercise will culminate with a 48-hour long validation exercise in a semi-urban area, they said

"Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI" is aimed to enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and the Malaysian Army, which will also foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

## EPFO officers resent denial of Class I services category

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Employees
Provident Fund Officers' Association (EPFOA) has expressed its dismay over

the removal of categorisation of services such as Group A, B and C by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for the EPF Organization which falls under the purview of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The EPFOA has termed the denial of categorization of Group A//B/C to EPF officers and staff an act of administrative misadventures by DoPT which is indeed an outcome of an unwarranted reference by EPF controlling ministry to the DoP&T. The officers claimed EPFO is statutory mandate of the Act that service conditions of EPFO officers and staff mirror those of Central

Government employees The association of officers led by Secretary General Saurabh Swami has sought an immediate intervention of the controlling Ministry and Chairman EPF and has lodged a protest over the unwarranted reference to the chain of



between MoLE and DoPT over non-grant of classification of services as the EPF too is a government organiza-

EPFOA in statement dated October 18 said the entire issue started couple of years back by MoL&E which said classification emanates from CCS (CC&A) Rules 1965 and since EPFO has not adopted the same criteria the said classification cannot be applied to EPF service rules.

'This stand of MoL&E is so contrary to all the notifications, approved and issued by MoL&E, Government of India since 1962. We are completely at loss to understand as to what triggered this change of stance by MoL&E. The stand has no administrative or business case and will only create confusion and may lead to needless litigation. We submit that it is the statutory mandate of the Act that service conditions of EPFO officers and staff mirror those of Central Government employees," said Swami's letter to Chairman, Central Board of

Trustees, EPF

#### E-auction of PM mementos: Statue of Ram Darbar, souvenir of Jerusalem among popular items

 $A^{\text{statue of Ram Darbar, a}}_{\text{model of Golden Temple of}} \\$ Amritsar, Kamdhenu and the souvenir of Jerusalem are among the popular items in the latest round of e-auction of gifts and mementos given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union minister Meenakashi Lekhi said on Monday.

The e-auction that began on October 2 will end on October 31. Minister of State for Culture Lekhi interacted with media at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) here and shared about the cultural significance of the items under the e-auction, and urged people to come forward and take part in it.

The minister emphasised that the statue of Ram Darbar, a model of Golden Temple of Amritsar, Kamdhenu and the souvenir of Jerusalem, are among the popular items in this auction and attracting a lot of bidders. A statue of Lord Laxmi Narayan

Vitthal and goddess Rukmini, the Aranmula Kannadi, a brass statue of Lord Rama, Sita, Laxman, and Lord Hanuman, are also among popular items, according to the Culture Ministry.

Replicas of the Sun Temple at Modhera and Vijay Stambh of Chittorgarh, Chamba rumal, Pattachitra, a rich painting depicting a ghat of Varanasi are among the 912 items which are part of the latest round of e-auction of gifts and mementos given to the Prime Minister. Some of the items have been dis-

an exhibition starting October 2, which has attracted more than 15,500 visitors, the ministry said in a statement. To ensure inclusivity, the exhi-

played at the NGMA as part of

bition offers curated walkthroughs and tours, it said. Lekhi also highlighted the indigenous art forms of high artistic value that are suitable for display in museums or at homes of art enthusiasts.



## **Durga Puja pandals see heavy** rush on last day of Navratri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Amidst tight security arrangements, Durga Puja in this holy city which is famous for its grandeur of this festival and is known as 'Mini Kolkata' witnessed rush of lakhs of people in its 250-odd pandals in different parts of the city on the last day of Shardiya Navratra here on Monday. To avoid the rush, several families preferred to visit these pandals during the day time but the real rush was seen in the evening hours when the city was glittered with attractive lighting arrangements. In view of the heavy rush of visitors, elaborate security and other arrangements have been made. The activities of trouble makers and anti-social elements were watched through CCTV cameras installed at almost all the big pandals. Several traffic restrictions were also imposed.

The rush was mainly seen in Lahurabir, Sigra, Luxa, Godowlia, Sonarpura, Bhelupur, Maidagin, and many areas in trans-Varuna area including Shivpur, Pandeypur, Orderly Bazar, Pahadhiya and some others where several idols of Goddess Durga were installed within a short disals were performed at different pandals and a good rush of people was seen throughout the day at almost all the pandals of Bangiya Samaj including Ramkrishna Mission and



Bengali families presenting programme at a Durga Puja pandal in Varanasi on Monday.

Bharat Sewa Sangh where the people performed rituals with traditional gaiety and religious

This year, the glimpse of temples of the country was seen as the pandals were built as replicas of some famous temples. The shape of under-construction grand Ram Lalla which landed on the south pole Temple of Ayodhya was given Mini Stadium Shivpur in trans-Varuna area while the pandal of famous Premier Boys Club (Hathua Market) got the replica of famous Murudeshwar Mahadev Temple of Karnataka

and Vishwanath Temple of Banaras Hindu University (BHU), which is also known as Birla Temple, was the shape of puja pandal at Machaudhari.

Besides, there were shows of electronic gadgets at some pandals too. The Lander Vikram and Rover Pragyan of the Moon were seen in elecat Kutchery, Orderly Bazar, Chetganj etc. In the 150-feet high pandal of Sanatan Dharm Inter College, the idol attracted the attention as 24-feet high Maa Durga was shown killing Mahishasura. Besides, the cave of Maa Vaishno Devi was seen at the pandal of the New Varanasi Sporting Club located in Visheshwarganj Bengali

The tableaux of Kalbhairav Temple was also decorated in the 70 feet long cave. The puja pandals of Town Hall, Lohatia, Bageshwari Mata Temple, and Rajghat in the northern city areas while at Shivala, Bhelupur and other places in the southern city areas also attracted rush of the visi-

Sanjay Kumar Singh was the Daraganj police incharge and was removed from there. One SI, who had been in Magh Mela at that time, was also shunted and an FIR was lodged against him for pos-

sessing 'disproportionate' properties. Sanjay was posted in Amethi last month but he has been transferred from there. Sub-Inspector Sunil Rai who was in Pratapgarh a couple of months back, is attached to CB-CID at present, while Deshraj Singh deputy SP is

PROTEST: The family

now retired.

A named FIR has been lodged against two for kidnap-

a road accident.

a High Court employee who lived in Teliyerganj, was doing his graduation from a college of Aligarh.

see off a relative in the late night hours. Around 12.30 am he told his family on phone that he will return in half an

road accident and was taken they were told that owing to

and 55,000 upper primary schools, including government-run, government-aided institutions and madrassas in the state. Around 1.28 crore students from these primary schools and another 58.45 lakh students from upper primary schools are being benefitted by the MDM in the state.

over 1.15 lakh primary schools

Yogi to address 'Anusuchit Samaj

Mahasammelan' on Oct 30

has decided to conduct people

connect programme in two

phases - October 30 and

November 5 and November 25

to December 3. This campaign

ise 'nari shakti vandan samme-

lan' in the city west assembly segment on October 29 to gar-

ner support from women vot-

authorities of Govind Ballabh

Pant Social Science Institute

(GBPSSI), Jhunsi, will be con-

ducting a comprehensive social

(MDMs) scheme of the state

government. In a letter dated

October 4, Vijay Kiran Anand,

Director General (School

Education) had asked GBPSSI

to undertake the special social

Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Fatehpur,

Kaushambi, Pratapgarh and

The party will also organ-

SOCIAL AUDIT: The

aims at adding new voters.

As per the letter, the social audit will be undertaken in schools that have a record of average to least performance in this regard and have never been audited before.

audit of mid-day meals Moreover, at least one unaided school or madrasa is to be selected in every development block where the schools have been selected for the exercise. The final selections of audit of MDMs at 25 schools these schools are to be made on the DM's recommendations by each of Prayagraj and Amethi the basic siksha adhikaris besides social audit of 160 schools, including 20 schools of (BSAs) of those districts, the two developments blocks each letter reads. The exercise will be of Varanasi, Chandauli, undertaken by the social audit team by contacting all stakeholders including schoolteachers, students, cooks, members

of the school management committees, parents/ guardians as well as gram pradhans and even the owner of shops from where the ingredients for cooking the meals are procured, officials shared.

Social audit is a democratic process that ensures public accountability of agencies through a systematic demand of information by the community in response to the works or programmes that have already been implemented by the government or other agencies for that particular area or community. Social audit is not only an audit of expenses or decisions but also covers the issues of equity and quality in programme implementation.

It is an empowering process for the people to be informed regarding the plan, to participate in the process of implementation and make the implementing agency accountable for the work.

Thus, it helps maintain transparency, ensures participation and culminates in

## Action to be taken against three in audio leak case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will address

Kashi Prant 'Anusuchit Samaj

Mahasammelan' at Mewalal

Inter college in Soraon assem-

bly segment on October 30 in

a bid to reach out to SC community members ahead of the

Party spokesman Rajesh

Keswarani told mediapersons

that around five lakh people are

likely to attend the convention

which will also be attended by

Deputy CM Keshav Prasad

Maurya and state BJP chief

ed a plan to ensure grand suc-

cess of the mahasammelan and

leaders of 17 districts of Kashi

prant are working in this direc-

party leadership organised

workshops in all its 15 mandals

to chalk out a strategy for the

forthcoming events, including

door-to-door campaign.

A senior leader said party

Meanwhile, the district

He said the party has draft-

Bhupendra Chaudhary.

2024 parliamentary polls.

A fter six years action will be initiated against deputy SP, inspector and an SI in connection with an audio leak regarding 'bribe' for posting of SO at Handia and Ghoorpur.

The anti-corruption organisation of the police came into action and a report against the above three has been prepared. On the basis of the above report, an FIR had been lodged by the ACO.

The audio leak is of 2017 when inspector Deshraj Singh was the steno of the then SSP, SI Sunil Rai was in confidential section, and Sanjay Kumar Singh was inspector. The audio is regarding the alleged conversation between the three on the rates of posting as incharge of Handia and Ghoorpur police stations.

The then SP of Pratapgarh Shagun Gautam during investigation found that the leaked audio was genuine and not

The then IG of Prayagraj to the Pratapgarh SP. This report was sent to the police headquarters and the investigation was handed over to the

members and relatives of slain Ankur Singh blocked the Lucknow highway by placing his body on the road in Teliyerganj. The blockade was lifted after the assurance of the higher police officers that the case will be investigated thor-

ping Ankur and giving him severe thrashing which became the cause of his death.

The police had earlier mentioned this case as that of

Ankur, son of Munna Lal, On October 16 he had

Around 1 am the family received a call from the police that Ankur was injured in a to SRN Hospital for treatment. When they reached there, critical condition, Ankur had been referred to a private hospital. When he did not show

any sign of improvement, Ankur was taken to Lucknow, where he died on The family arrived here with the body of Ankur and

placed it on Lucknow highway near TB Hospital in protest against the 'police report' which suggested that Ankur had sustained fatal injuries in a road accident. The family believes that

Ankur was kidnapped, given brutally thrashing and later thrown on the road by the miscreants. On the assurance of police

officers that the case will be investigated thoroughly, and after an FIR of kidnapping and murder, the body was lifted from the road.

PAYMENT PROCESS: The entire process of payment of salary and arrears of teachers and other staff of all 4,512 government-aided secondary schools in Uttar Pradesh will be done online soon. transfer of salaries and arrears in the accounts of the teachers and staff, the entire processing part is offline and time consuming.

Additional Secondary Secretary, Education, Deepak Kumar has written to Director General, School Education, Vijay Kiran Anand in this regard on September 29.

Once the online payment process starts through Manav Sampada or e-Human Resource Management system portal, thousands of teachers and staff will get their salaries and arrears on

Under the new system, the

staff will be uploaded on the portal by 24th or 25th of every month with the signature of the principal or the manager concerned. The bill will then get locked at district inspectors of

salary bill of teachers and

schools (DIOS) level between 26th and 29th of each month and after verification, the finance and accounts officer will send the bill to the trea-

Thereafter, the payment will be made directly into the accounts of teachers and

employees. This will ensure that there is no rush of sending salary bills from schools to the offices of the respective DIOSs every month.

Under the new system, all arrears will be paid within 15

The missive makes plain that payment of increment, promotion pay scale, selection pay scale, time scale pay scale, promotion, grade pay, maternity leave, medical leave, DA, suspension period pay or arrears, arrears due to delay in verification of educational certificates after first appointment, all will be made within

## Devotees throng Siddhidatri Temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Hundreds of devotees thronged Siddhidatri Devi Temple at Golghar in Bulanala area on the auspicious occasion of Navami, the last day of the Shardiya Navratra here on Monday. Right from the morning, the devotees started thronging the temple to offer prayers. This holy city has nine temples each of all the Devis and Gauris where the devotees offer prayers on different days during Shardiya and Basantik Navratri respectively.

Besides, heavy rush was also seen throughout the day at Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) as usual. Due to rush, several



Devotees offering prayers at Siddhidatri Temple on the occasion of Navami in

traffic restrictions were imposed and vehicles were diverted. As it was the last day of Durga Puja, a large number of people visited the puja pandals and also visited the Durga Mandir.

Rush of devotees was also seen at all other temples of goddesses including the old Durga Mandir in trans-Ganga Ramnagar and Maa Sheetla Mata Mandir at Adalpura near Varanasi-Mirzapur borders. Hundreds of people also went to Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district. On the last day of Navratra, rush was seen at almost all temples of goddesses in different parts of the

## Navratri ends with Kanya Puja

VARANASI (PNS): Traditional Kanya Pujan marked the end of the Shardiya Navratri at Baba Keenaram Ashram, Krim-Kund near Shivala here on Monday. As the worship of girls is of special importance in Navratri, the girls were worshiped at this famous religious place by its chief and Peethadhishwar Aghoracharya Maharajshri Baba Siddharth Gautam. On the occasion, as per the tradition, Bhairav Puja programme was also held at the ashram. Kanya Pujan was also performed at many places in the city not only on this occasion of Navami, but also on Ashtami earlier.

For nine days, hundreds of devotees along with all the followers of this ashram, saints



and meditation is seen every-

where in the premises. After

the havan-puja on the night of

Ashtami, the programme of

try and the world visited here to join the festival. During this period, the atmosphere of chanting, penance, worship

Kanya was also completed on Navami, the last day of Navratri Prior to this, a massive cleanliness drive was launched

there under the guidance of

Baba Siddharth Gautam Ram

in the morning and after the

gramme of Kanya Puja started. Under the guidance of Krim-Kund chief, the devotees washed the feet of Bhairav Baba and the goddess-like lit-tle virgin girls and did divine adornment on them. These goddesses and girls were covered with red chunaris and their feet were washed, followed by performing aarti. After that, they were offered satvik (vegetarian) food like puri, vegetables, sweets, curd and fruits etc. After the aarti puja, prasad was distributed. During the entire programme, slogans like Maa

Sarveshwari ki Jai' and 'Har Har Mahadev' were continuously chanted by the devotees present

#### Officials told to ensure quality in works Corridor project the CS was apprised that about 85 per chief secretary accepted the guard of honour and was incidents of motorcycle theft

CORRESPONDENT MIRZAPUR

Tttar Pradesh Chief Secretary (CS) Durga Shankar Mishra while holding the meeting of the divisional and district level officers at the meeting hall of the divisional commissioner on Sunday directed the officials to make the farmers aware to decompose the

cent works had been done. He asked the officials to ensure quality in works. He expressed satisfaction

over the digital crop survey validation. Reviewing Jal Jeevan Mission he was satisfied with the progress. In the meeting he reviewed all the



Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra holding a meeting on Sunday

stubble instead of burning it. He said that 16,000 waste decomposers are being distributed to the farmers.

Reviewing the progress in the development works DM Priyanka Niranjan informed him that the progress was about 90 per cent in most of the projects against the allo-

About the Vindhya

schemes point wise and patted the back of the officials concerned for satisfactory Divisional Commissioner

(DC) Dr. Muthukumarasamy B, Deputy Inspector of General (DIG) RP Singh, Joint Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mishra, all divisional and district level

officers also were present. The

accorded a warm reception by the district officials.

As part of the series of inspections he started it from Medical College and held a meeting there, became aware of the availability of faculty, staff, building, mess, laboratory, hostel etc. About the proposed construction of the women hospital he directed the working agency to construct the basement for park-

ARRESTED: Under the joint operation of SOG, surveillance and Lalganj police three members of an inter-district gang were arrested on Sunday and 12 motorcycles were recovered. Addressing the media at

Police Lines Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP/ Operation) Om Prakash Singh said the police was already active to arrest the accused of bike theft in connection with the already registered cases. On being tipped off by an

informer the police was informed about the presence of suspects who were talking about the sale of the stolen motorcycles. Acting on the information the police team rushed to the spot and nabbed three suspects along with two motorcycles. During interrogation they confessed that that they were part of a gang which was involved in the several

not only in the district but in adjacent districts too. On their identification 12 motorcycles and a few spare parts were recovered. **DISTRIBUTED:** District

Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan while distributing fruits to the devotees in a camp organised under the aegis of Rotary Club Mirzapur Gaurav at Patengara in Vindhyachal town on Sunday praised the spirit of the organisers which came forward to serve them. She said it is the grace of the goddess through several camps medical service, meal, 'falahaar' etc were being provided to the needy who came to the mela. City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh, Raj Bahadur Singh, Raveesh Agrawal and others were also present during the distribution of fruits. COUPLES REUNITE:

Under Project Milan programme five couples who were living separately over petty issues reunited at the Family Counselling Centre located at Police Lines on Sunday. A family counselling centre has been set up by the police to settle the disputes between the couples in case any party approached them. After several sittings the

centre succeeded in convincing five couples to live together. The entire process was carried out by constable Sapna and her colleague Sunita.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

#### Mian is back

Nawaz returns after four years to a grand welcome while bete noire Imran licks his wounds

s they say, three 'A's decide the fate of Pakistan – Army, America and Allah! Depending Minister Nawaz Sharif, who has been in self-imposed exile in the UK, has returned to a grand welcome after he was granted protective bail in corruption cases. His return has not only ignited fervour within his party, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), it also holds significant implications for the country's politics. Nawaz's return has been nothing short of a grand spectacle; the PML-N has spared no effort in making this a memorable homecoming for their leader. The display of strength and unity within the party sends a strong message to the electorate, asserting its enduring influence. Nawaz last came to power in 2013 and, at the time, it appeared as though he might become the first Prime Minister of Pakistan to complete a full term but that was still not to be.



The graft cases did him in. His Government faced several challenges, including an Opposition-led blockade in Islamabad that led to political and economic turmoil. Furthermore, as his relationship with the all-powerful Pakistan Army changed and allegations of corruption and graft surfaced, Nawaz found himself ousted from office. He has not set foot in Pakistan since leaving for London in 2019 to receive medical treatment while serving a 14-year prison sentence for corruption.

His convictions remain in force, but a court has barred authorities from arresting him until Tuesday when he is to appear in court. Nawaz's ouster paved the way for Imran Khan to take the helm as Pakistan's Prime

Minister. However, today the PML-N, under Nawaz's leadership, again comes across as a formidable political force in Pakistan. His return may energise the party's base and significantly influence the upcoming elections. Nawaz's reappearance could intensify the power struggle among political parties, particularly with the Imran-led Tehreek-e-Insaf. Nawaz's biggest headache would be the graft cases, which will continue to be a focal point for political debate and legal battle. Perhaps to circumvent this, he has named his daughter as his political heir. Though he cannot run for or hold public office because of his convictions, his legal team says he plans to appeal. Nawaz's return will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the nation's governance. Imran, who was forced out of power through a no-confidence vote, is embroiled in serious court cases. Ostensibly, he fell from the graces of the Army and America but his political clout has surged. But right now, Nawaz looks like Pakistan's Man Friday. He could not have returned without a covert deal with the Army, which wants to keep Imran out of power. He is also striking the right chord when he says that Pakistan must engage with India for its own progress. Now who would be blessed by Allah in the next elections is difficult to say without seeing Pakistan Army intercepts or an American embassy fax from Islamabad!



# China pushes BRI, despite resistance



China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is being perceived by many countries as a threat to their economies but for China it is a way to corner the US

hile issuing a warning to the Western countries including America and the European Union against their concerted efforts of decoupling some nations from China to reduce their dependence on the Chinese economy through the Belt and Road (BRI) initiative, Xi Jinping emphasized mapping out the way forward policy to ensure the success of the gigantic project involving 3 Trillion USD investment in more than 150 countries in the world.

Amidst the negative reports of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) gradually losing its steam coupled with the economic slowdown in the country, China organised a mega show of 140 nations associated with the ambitious project to reaffirm its faith in its investment of over 1 trillion USD in ten years which was aimed at enhancing the economic cooperation besides generating momentum for new economic growth in the world. The critics visualised that the plan was aimed at recreating the ancient Silk Road to boost global trade infrastructure thereby helping China to spread its economic and geopolitical influence besides inspiring it to become a superpower in the world.

Xi exhibited his commitment during two days recently concluded conference in Beijing which also witnessed the appearance of Russian President Vladimir Putin for, the first time after the outbreak of the Ukraine War besides Sri Lankan President, Ranil Wickremasinghe, Pakistan acting PM, Anwar-Hul-Haq-Kakar and representatives of over 140 countries, 30 international organizations including state leaders, ministerial officials and representatives of the business sector, academia and non-governmental organisations.

India's Security Concerns India, boycotted BRI citing the security reasons h about the Chinese flagship 60 billion USD project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) in violation of sovereignty. China does not miss an oppor-



**BRI Vs IMEEC** Keeping in view the sweet ties of India with signatories of the Corridor Economic (IMEEC)during the G20 summit including the United States, the EU, Italy, Germany, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and France as a connectivity scheme which is aimed at boosting the economic integration of the nations like the Middle East (West Asia), South Asia, and Europe. The corridor's areas of operations wiii de the ports, raii ilnes, shipping network and roads. Experts say that it will have Geo-political implications and the main aim is to counter the

A HUGE INVESTMENT OF \$ 1.4 TRILLION THROUGH BRI AIMS AT CREATING A MODERN-DAY India-Middle east-Europe ROAD CONNECTING ASIA, AFRICA AND **EUROPE** 

impact of BRI which is advancing despite its negative fallout on the economics of some countries.

**BRI Strategy** 

Economists opine that owing to a slide in the domestic economy and an increase in default in repayment of huge loans by several nations due to several factors including the continuing impact of COVID-19, there seems to be a shift in the approach of Chinese strategists. China's influence may further slide unless external loans and assistance poured into the kitty's various nations attain its peak level in times to come. . Crisis Due to 'Hidden Debts' President XI has presented an ambitious plan to ally the fear of "Hidden Debts" of BRI and an attempt by China to allure low-middle-income nations into a 'Debt Trap Policy' that is being exploited by the West and EU. According to a study undertaken by Aid Data, more than a third of the projects face such problems. A growing backlash has prompted some countries like Malaysia and Tanzania to cancel BRI deals. But observers have also raised concerns of possible economic coercion, where foreign governments feel pressured to Nepal. follow Beijing's agenda or risk China pulling out of analyst and senior journalist, investment. Another study

by Aid Data found that Chinese state-owned entities' loans to foreign governments found contract clauses that "potentially allow the lenders to influence debtors' domes-

tic and foreign policies". Economists say that President Xi's Expansion Policy of developing infrastructure through BRI spreading over 150 nations is intended to the fulfilment of the ambition to replace the United States as a Superpower. A huge investment of \$ 1.4 trillion through BRI aims at creating a modern-day Silk Road connecting Asia, Africa and Europe. It has brightened the chances of walking into the Debt Trap Policy of China and countries like Pakistan have already become victims of this dangerous strategy. As per reports, South Asian Countries have been pushed into a debt trap policy and the fallout has been serious vis- a -vis accumulation of loans that have burdened their economies. Except for India and Bhutan, several nations have walked into the debt policy of China through BRI and signed a 25.4 billion USD agreement in 2013 which has slowed down and the same dilemma is being taced by

(The writer is a political views are personal)





India's Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) is a historic step in promoting clean energy and may a go a long way in making country self reliant in clean energy

A imed at promoting the use of clean fuel, this global biofuel alliance built on ethanol has the potential to effectively address the issue of climate change and limit its devastating impacts across the globe. This historic step in the global energy sector also bodes well for the agriculture sector, which could bring new prosperity to millions of farmers in India as well as other agriculture-intensive countries. Additionally, the United States and Brazil, along with India, being its founding members, will help accelerate global efforts to meet the net zero emissions target by facilitating trade in biofuels derived from sources including plant and animal waste. This will help.

By announcing the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), India has made it clear that by developing a coalition of governments, international organizations and industry to facilitate the adoption of biofuels, India wants to effectively mitigate catastrophic climate change. be addressed. This new organization brings together the largest consumers and producers of bio-

fuels to drive the development and deployment of biofuels, an initiative that aims to position biofuels as key to the energy transition and con-

obal Biofuels Alliance

tribute to jobs and economic growth. have to give. The India-led GBA also reflects the action-oriented nature of India's positive agenda as the G20 Chair and representing the "Voice of the Global South". The GBA will support the worldwide development and deployment of sustainable biofuels by promoting capacity-building exercises across the value chain, technical assistance to national programs and policy lesson-sharing. It will also facilitate mobilizing a virtual marketplace to connect industries, countries, ecosystem players and key stakeholders to assist in mapping demand and supply, as well as connecting technology

providers to end users.

The GBA will also facilitate

nationally recognized standards, codes, sustainability principles and regulations to encourage biofuels adoption and trade. This initiative will be beneficial for India on many fronts. The GBA, as a concrete outcome of the G20 Chairmanship, will help strengthen India's position globally. Furthermore, the alliance will focus on cooperation and provide additional opportunities to Indian industries in the form of technology exports and equipment exports. This initiative will also help in accelerating the country's existing biofuel programs such as PM-Jeevan Yojana, Saatand and Gobardhan Yojana, thereby contributing to increased farmers' income, employment generation and overall development.

and implementation of inter-

The global ethanol market is growing at a good rate. It was valued at US\$99.06 billion in 2022 and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 5.1% and cross US\$162.12 billion by 2032. According to the IEA, the net zero target will lead to 3.5-5x biofuel growth potential by 2050. Creating a big opportuthe development, adoption nity for India. 19 countries

and 12 international organizations have already agreed to join the group. Additionally, seven G20 countries are supporting the GBA. These countries as well as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and many others have already joined this group. GBA members are major producers and consumers of biofuels. For example, the United States with 52%, Brazil with 30% and India with 3% account for about 85% share and about 81% in ethanol production.

Undoubtedly, biofuels have a huge role to play in a clean, green and prosperous tomorrow. It promotes economic prosperity, energy security, access and affordability while being sustainable and supporting decarbonisation. Furthermore, technological advancements provide many biofuel feedstock options such as sugarcane, maize, agricultural waste, bamboo, etc., and further collaboration among G20 countries could help further the development of the global biofuels market

realize its full potential. (The writer is a senior Journalist, views are personal)

and biofuels in the future. can

#### **NAWAZ SHARIF RETURNS HOME** Sir-Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's former

three-time prime minister, has returned to his homeland on Saturday, October 21, after four years of exile in London. Sharif had gone to the British capital in 2019 for medical treatment, amid a seven-year prison sentence, with the condition that he would return once medically fit. However, he did not return to Pakistan to serve his sentence. Sharif was dismissed in 1993 over corruption charges, only to return to the post in 1997, before being ousted two years later due to a falling out with the country's influential military leadership. His third term concluded in 2017 when the Supreme Court disqualified him from politics for life on graft allegations, which he vehemently denies. Earlier this week, the High Court in Islamabad granted Sharif protective bail, preventing authorities from detaining him until he appears before the judges on Tuesday, where he will seek an extension of this temporary bail. This court ruling paves the way for Sharif to hold a welcome home rally in Lahore, his political stronghold, without the looming threat of arrest. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

#### PHALKE AWARD FOR WAHEEDA REHMAN

Sir—Waheeda Rehman, one of the most accomplished actresses in Hindi cinema, has been honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023 for her exceptional contributions to the growth and development of Indian cinema. She is the first actress to receive this prestigious award, which represents India's highest cinematic honour.

Waheeda Rehman was born on February 3, 1938, in Chengalpet, Tamil Nadu. Her acting journey commenced with the Telugu film "Rojulu Marayi" (1955), and she went on to feature in over 90 films in Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, and other languages. She is renowned for her collaborations with filmmaker Guru Dutt in timeless classics such as "Pyaasa" (1957), "Kaagaz Ke Phool" (1959), "Chaudhvin Ka Chand" (1960), and "Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam" (1962). Waheeda Rehman is not only a dis-

#### **Moon landing is a great achievement**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

aganyaan's TV-D1 test flight was successfully launched during the auspicious days of the Navratri festival. Kudos to all the scientists involved in ISRO's ambitious project. The landing of the crew escape module in the Bay of Bengal, accompanied by a celebratory reception, is a remarkable achievement. Furthermore, the Navy's successful retrieval of the module from the Bay of Bengal is a commendable step forward in this project.

The successful testing of the crew rescue system showcases the application of cutting-edge technology. The forthcoming Gaganyaan program aspires to send astronauts into a 400 km low Earth orbit for three days and ensure their safe return, with the likely occurrence set for 2025. Indeed it is a great feat for Indian scientists and we Indians have all reasons to be proud of our scientists who have achieved this There is an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm among the scientists due to the substantial investments made by the Modi government in support of

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

generators, exacerbated by a territory-wide

tinguished actress but also a philanthropist and an advocate for education. She serves as an ambassador for RangDe, an organization dedicated to combating poverty in India. Waheeda Rehman stands as an inspiration to generations of actors and filmmakers. She has received India's civilian honors, including the Padma Shri in 1972 and the Padma Bhushan in 2011. She is a true legend of Indian cinema.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

#### **DOUBLE TROUBLE IN GAZA**

Sir—There are numerous challenges facing the evacuated population in Gaza as refugees scramble for access to water, food, and medicines. It is an utterly dire situation in the aftermath of the Palestinian attack. Gaza's population of 2.3 million, many of whom have been displaced from their homes, are forced to ration their food and rely on contaminated water sources. Hospitals are reporting critical shortages of medical supplies and fuel for emergency

power blackout. This opening for aid comes after more than a week of intensive diplomacy involving various mediators, including visits to the region by US. President Joe Biden.

Israel had insisted on a conditional reopening of access to Gaza, contingent on the release of around 200 individuals held by Hamas, along with Israeli airstrikes shutting down the Palestinian side of the crossing. The terror activities have sent shockwaves around the world, rendering the region's residents desperate, and the ongoing conflict has plunged lives into misery. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to be an enduring military and political struggle in the Levant. Originating in the mid-20th century, it stands as one of the most hotly contested wars in history.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

#### **MIND MANAGEMENT IS** TOUGH, BUT DOABLE

To be happy in life, humans need to calm the obdurate mind



Food has a tremendous impact on our system, which we do not quite comprehend. Improper diet first takes a toll on the metabolism and then attacks other organs of the body. Simply put, the intake of toxic foods generates repugnant thoughts and results in a weak mind and body. The human mind is an enigma and a reservoir of potential. But the moot question is how do we tap this? The mind is a movie theatre where we script and enact innumerable movies and soap

Technology alone cannot be a substitute for the enormous scope of the mind. It needs to be cultured and harmonized with the needs and wants. We need to distinguish the brain from the mind. The brain is an organ that serves as the centre of the nervous system in all vertebrate and most invertebrate animals. Mind on the other hand, is the faculty of consciousness and thoughts. It is an individual's intellect or memory of his attention span or will.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has captured it very succinctly. He says the mind is like the sky and thoughts are like clouds. Our thoughts make or mar the progress and development of the mind. He further elaborates by saying that the mind is like a kite and breath is like the string that can control the mind. To be happy in life humans need to calm the obdurate and recalcitrant mind. Further keep reminding ourselves that we are blessed, grateful and have abundance in our lives. The human mind vacillates between the past and the future. In the past, the mind is regretful and if it is in the future, it is anxious. In either situation, the mind is not at peace or in the present moment and thus remains unhappy



we stressed out? Are we running after a chimaera? Or like Rama and Lakshman are we running after a non-existent golden deer? We are not wakeful enough, neither listening to our gut feeling and maybe we have a woeful sense of time management. There is a deep connection between the stomach and the mind.

That is why it is called the gut feeling or the sixth sense. Our solar plexus keeps sending us signals. It depends as to whether we are conscious and wakeful enough to grasp those signals. Through yogic practices like Suryanamaskar and Padmasadhana (as imparted in Art of Living) humans become intuitive and creative.

Vast energy can be channelled in various ways. There may be some who may practice meditation, breathing techniques or simply observe silence to quieten the mind. Others realise their talent by say playing a game of tennis and sweating it out or pursuing other challenges. The path is chosen based on our personality type. But the eventual aim is to be in the present and lead a happy life. Let our minds not be judgmental and complain and cling to negativities. Willy-nilly we provide a hook to hang the mind to the coat of negativity. As Alice Walker said, "Look closely at the present you are constructing; it should look like the future you are dreaming."

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

n an era defined by rapid biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, it's a startling revelation that the study of Sustainable Management

of Natural Resources (SMNR)

remains a glaring omission from academic courses. Further, while there is no short-

age of MBA courses worldwide, the incor-

poration of SMNR even into these pro-

grams is noticeably absent despite univer-

sally made urgent calls for action on sus-

From the extinction of countless species

to deforestation and alterations in hydro-

logical cycles, there's a pressing need to address natural resource mismanagement.

The current state of our natural resources,

alarmingly, often stems from an overly

technical approach that overlooks the

interplay of social, political, ecological, and economic factors. This oversight can also largely be attributed to the lack of inter-

disciplinary training which could be the forerunners of innovative ideas and catal-

vsers of out-of-box thinking. Lacking the

skill to address the confluence of ecology and sustainable development, the project

developers as well as implementers tend

to overdraft on the capacity of the earth

to provide resources sustainably. Realworld issues, especially concerning natur-

al resources, demand a multidimension-

al perspective. The currently prevalent aca-

demic models, primarily favouring specialization, are found to be often missing out on this comprehensive approach. The Natural Resource Management curriculum delves into environmental concerns such as land-use strategy, conserva-

tion science, energy consumption, climate change dynamics, renewable resource strategies, forestry and wildlife conserva-

tion, and the policies governing natural

resources. It equips professionals to foster

conversations among varied stakeholders

in resource conservation projects cham-

pion sustainable environmental solutions, educate communities, and discern the

intricate interplay between societal and

biological systems. Top of Form
The integration of Sustainable Natural

Resource Management into academic

curricula, both globally and in India, is

more than an educational tweak; it's an

imperative for a sustainable future. As

nations grapple with mounting environ-

mental challenges, the call to infuse

SMNR into academic systems becomes

pivotal. Bridging this gap is not just crucial for the conservation of natural

resources but is a stepping stone towards

ensuring the establishment of systems of

circular economy with a better future for

In many international and national forums,

the necessity for future professionals to be

adept in real-world problem-solving,

emphasizing a balance of technical profi-

ciency and broader interdisciplinary

understanding, is increasingly being

brought up in recent times. Realising the

ill effects of traditional disciplinary silos

in academia, several global universities are

also gradually pivoting towards more

encompassing curricula with interdiscipli-

nary synthesis of various subjects to craft

The major components being considered

are the inclusion of conservation materi-

als in traditional disciplinary courses,

overview courses that merge multiple dis-

ciplines, and specialized training facilitat-

ing inter-field communication. As the field

of conservation biology gains momentum,

a comprehensive conservation study.

tainable development goals.

# Conservation is a national imperative

We need institutions that can integrate scientific, ecological, and sociological insights for sustainable natural resource management





NATURAL

**RESOURCE** MANAGEMENT **EMPHASISES** SUSTAINABLE **STEWARDSHIP** OF OUR **DWINDLING** ENERGY, MINERALS, AND

the University of Oxford's interdisciplinary curriculum, for example, emphasizes that students of conservation biology need a blend of policy education, resource economics, forestry, and more. Leading experts, including those at Harvard University, argue for a blending of biology, sociology, and economics to truly tackle conservation challenges.

A holistic understanding of ecosystems essential for addressing sustainability issues and incorporating the same in development perspectives mandates a grounding in subjects like ecology, social sciences, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and advanced statistical models to effectively tackle complex resource

management challenges.
For students, capacity building in the realm of real-world application while learning through internships with organizations, field experiences, and interdisciplinary research projects is vital and going to be the key to the world's better future. Partnerships between academic institutions and govern-mental agencies, NGOs, and industries can facilitate internships and field experiences, offering practical insights into resource manage-

The rise of conservation biology in India is tinged with debates. While its fundamental biological approaches are deemed crucial, there's a growing consensus that the discipline needs to be more inclusive, blending in subjects like policy formulation, resource economics, forestry, and agriculture. Just as in the University of Oxford

voices from Indian institutions like the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and Amity University argue for a more interdisciplinary outlook; underscoring the interplay between ecology, sociology, and economics; but educational institutions gasp for number of students. Many students do not opt for natural resource management courses due to the relatively poorer job prospects and pay package. Natural resource conservation education that targets the basic resources on which the edifice of economic development survives isn't a one-time endeavour but a lifelong pursuit. From school programs to public education campaigns, in which the importance of conservation should be consistently underscored. Additionally, continuous learning initiatives for professionals, bureaucrats, and policymakers are essential. The onus of conservation education isn't solely on academia. From school programs to public campaigns, conservation narratives should resonate at all societal levels. The likes of Germany and Canada, with government-backed conservation education, set an exemplary precedent. Yet, professionals in most countries including India need to recognize the underlying indifference, often found in educational bureaucracy, toward

and Harvard University, influential

Education on conservation isn't a mere academic requirement but a national imperative. As India grapples with environmental challenges, including climate change,

it's pivotal that this education starts not only in academic institutions but extends to museums, nature centres, and media campaigns. India stands at a critical uncture, balancing rapid development with the pressing need for sustainable natural resource management. As a nation with a rich history and a promising future, the integration of SMNR in academic curricula is not just an educational reform – it's a step towards safeguarding India's ecological heritage for generations to come.

Natural Resource Management also emphasises the sustainable stewardship of our dwindling natural resources, including clean water, energy, minerals, and biological entities, especially in light of the increasing human population. To address these matters, the Government must take immediate steps to develop institutions and professionals skilled in interdisciplinary collaboration who can integrate scientific, ecological, economic, and sociological insights for comprehensive solutions.

Given the critical state of global biodiversity and the imminent challenges faced by humanity today, natural resource management and conservation education cannot be a footnote. One cannot afford to ignore anymore the Indian traditional wisdom reflected in the statements of "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" and 'Sarveshaam hite almanack hitam" that so succinctly propound the idea of inclusiveness and sustainability of all species and natural resources before 'development' of any sort is



#### **NATURAL** RESOURCES, **INCLUDING** CLEAN WATER,

**BIOLOGICAL ENTITIES** 

(The writes are former principal chief conservators of forests, UP and Maharashtra; views are personal)

# Immunities and privileges in Parliament are not absolute

The privileges and immunities are subject to oath and members of Parliament are not "super citizens"

**⊣**he glaring issue of Parliamentary Privileges has again gained momentum as the Hon'ble Supreme Court has reserved its judgement in the case of Sita Soren vs Union of India on 5th October 2023. In this case, one of the contentious issues raised is the correctness of the PV Narasimha Rao case, which interpreted Article 105 of the Constitution in such a way, that it gave immunity from prosecution to lawmakers involved in corrupt practices, bribery is one of them. If one looks from the lens of morality, certainly, the law of immunity as settled in the PV Narasimha Rao case is a fraud on representative democracy. The only good thing about this judgement (PV

Narasimha Rao case) is the



(The writer is a Delhi-

based advocate,

views are personal)

dissenting opinion given by Justice (retd) SC Agarwal and Justice (retd) AS Anand. On scrutinising this judgement by the Judges bench, dissenting opinion may find its place as a correct position of law, wherein both the lordships held, "a Member of Parliament won't enjoy immunity under article 105(2) or under Article 105(3) of the constitution from being prosecuted before a criminal court for an offence involving offer or acceptance of bribe for the purpose of speaking or by giving his vote in Parliament or in any committees thereof"

Certain grounds question the correctness of PV Narasimha Rao's case; First, from the plenary reading Article 105(1), it is clear, that the privileges are words "Subject to the provisions of this Constitution." Taking a bribe and giving a vote or speech in pursuance of the same, does not amount to discharge of duty in a faithful manner and is a manipulated act. Therefore, privilege is subject to oath.

Second, certain categorical cases can be termed as malpractice, across the section of society and committing such malpractice irrespective of place, is an offence and no privilege could ever justify such acts. It will be in the interest of the constitution and parliamentary democracy if those "certain circumstances" are construed narrowly and do not accommodate acts that are universally condemned, here it is taking bribes.

Citizens". not absolute, it mentions the Third, not prosecuting a and balances among the of Parliament who accepts specific to the issue concerned,

taking bribes is against the ideals of equality (Article 14), as we have seen in the prosecution of Judges and Bureaucrats, who have been involved in taking bribes. Three organs of the government stand on equal footing and give privilege by waiving off prosecution for one organ (Legislature) of a government, knowing it has committed an offence, which would otherwise invite prosecution if done by the other two organs (Judiciary and Executive), is purely a case of discrimination. For this reason, Advocate Ashok Arora in one of his articles, comments Member of Parliaments to be "Super

Member of Parliament for organs of government, as courts cannot convict the corrupt acts inside parliament in the name of parliamentary privileges and immunities. As no checks come, the deterrent factor departs.

Fifth, privilege intends to serve a greater good, which is not accepting bribes. There needs to be a distinction for the kind of choices made by parliamentarians, and any choice, if not in coherence with the oath of the member, is made, it cannot be waived in the name of privilege. It must be for this purpose, Lord Solomon in the House of Lords on the issue of privileges said, "immunity from criminal proceedings against anyone who tries to bribe a Member of Fourth, it hampers the checks Parliament and any Member

the bribe, stems from the Bill of Rights, are possibly a serious mistake".

Previously to do away with the evils of the PV Narasimha Rao The National case, Commission to Review the Working of Constitution recommended an amendment to Article 105(2), which would not cover corrupt acts as privileges. For the smooth functioning of the Constitution and its functionaries, provisions of the Constitution must be interpreted with objectivity. Such an interpretation will give correct meaning to the intentions of constitution framers, this will further help in avoiding ambiguities and will serve the purpose for which that provision of the constitution is meant. Being

the provisions about parliamentary privileges are meant only for smooth functioning and proper discharge of duties by parliamentarians and invoking any other reasoning would only be a useless formality, creating another blunder as was done in PV Narasimha Rao's case.

Senior Advocate Venugopal in one of his lectures delivered in 2005, mentions the unity of common law countries having a Cabinet system of parliamentary democracy for zealously guarding privileges by the incursions of courts. For this reason, a balanced judgement would be required on the current issue which would not be subverted by an amendment and be accepted by the governments to come.

# he pioneer

#### Braverman to question police on 'jihad' chant response

London: UK's Suella Braverman to question police on 'jihad' chant response UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman is to question the Metropolitan Police chief during a pre-planned meeting on Monday after the force declared that no offences were committed when a protester chanted "jihad" during a pro-Palestinian protest here over the weekend. The Indian-origin minister's intervention follows one of her departments' ministers, Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick, condemning such chants as "completely reprehensible" on UK streets.

The Met Police had said that officers had reviewed a video from a Hizb ut-Tahrir protest in London on Saturday in which a man can be seen chanting "jihad, jihad".

"The word has a number of meanings but we know the public will most commonly associate it with terrorism. Specialist officers have assessed the video and have not identified any offences arising from the specific clip," the Met Police said. "However, recognising the way language like this will be interpreted by the public and the divisive impact it will have, officers identified the man involved and spoke to him to discourage any repeat of similar chanting," the statement

UK media reports quoted sources close to Braverman as saying that she intends to discuss the matter directly with Sir Mark Rowley, Met Police Commissioner, to stress that there can be no place for incitement to hatred or violence on UK streets and police should crack down on anyone breaking the law. Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer has called on the government to look at "gaps in the law" so stronger action can be taken in the future."There's been a huge increase in hate crime in the last couple of weeks, tragically. We've all got a duty to clamp down on hate crimes whatever political party we're in. Obviously, the police are independent operationally, so these are decisions for them," said

# Gaza's premature babies at risk

AP DEIR AL-BALAH

Deir-El-Balah (Gaza Strip): A premature baby squirms inside a glass incubator in the neonatal ward of al-Aqsa Hospital in the central Gaza Strip. He cries out as intravenous lines are connected to his tiny body. A ventilator helps him breathe as a catheter delivers medication and monitors flash his fragile

His life hinges on the constant flow of electricity, which is in danger of running out imminently unless the hospital can get more fuel for its generators. Once the generators stop, hospital director Iyad Abu Zahar fears that the babies in the ward, unable to breathe on their own, will perish.

'The responsibility on us is huge," he said.

Doctors treating premature babies across Gaza are grappling with similar fears. At least 130 premature babies are at "grave risk" across six neonatal units, aid workers said. The dangerous fuel shortages are caused by the Israeli blockade of Gaza, which started - along with airstrikes — after Hamas militants attacked Israeli towns on October 7.

At least 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza are unable to access essential health services, and some 5,500 are due to give birth in the coming month, according to the World Health Organisation.

At least seven of the almost 30 hospitals have been forced to shut down due to damage from relentless Israeli strikes and lack of power, water and other supplies. Doctors in the remaining hospitals said they are on the brink. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees said Sunday it has enough fuel to last three days to serve critical needs.

The world cannot simply look on as these babies are killed by the siege on Gaza ... A failure to act is to sentence these babies to death," said Melanie Ward, chief executive of the Medical Aid for Palestinians aid group. None of the 20 aid trucks that crossed into Gaza on Saturday, the first since the siege was imposed, contained fuel, amid Israeli fears it will end up in Hamas' hands. Limited fuel supplies inside Gaza were being sent to hospital genera-

Seven tankers took fuel from a UN depot on the Gaza side of the border, but it was unclear if any of that was destined for the hospitals.

But will eventually run out if more is not permitted to enter. Tarik Jasarevic, a WHO spokesman, said 150,000 litres of fuel are required to offer basic services in Gaza's five main hospitals. Abu Zahar worries about how long his facility can hold out. "If the generator stops, which we are expecting in the coming few hours due to the heavy demands of different departments in the hospital, the incubators in the intensive care unit will be in a very critical situation," he said.

Guillemette Thomas, medical coordinator for Doctors Without Borders in the Palestinian territories, said some of the babies could die within hours, and others in a couple of days, if they don't receive the special care and medication they urgently need.

'It's sure that these babies are in danger," she told The Associated Press. "It's a real emergency to take care of these babies, as it is an emergency to take care of the population of Gaza who are suffering from these bombings since the past two weeks."

The hospital must care for patients in northern and central Gaza since several hospitals shut down, he said, forcing it to more than double its patient capacity. That also puts a strain on the limited electricity. Nisma al-Ayubi brought her newborn daughter to the hospital from Nuseirat, where she was recently displaced from northern Gaza, after she suffered from oxygen deprivation and extreme pain, she said.

The baby girl was born three days ago but soon developed complications. "The hospital is lacking in supplies," she said, speaking from al-Aqsa. "We are afraid that if the situation gets worse, there won't be any medicine left to treat our kids." The problems are exacerbated by the dirty water many have been forced to use since Israel cut off the water supply. Abu Zahar says mothers are mixing baby formula with the contaminated water to feed their infants. It has contributed to the rise in critical cases in the



Protesters hold banners with hostages' pictures and Israel flags during a gathering next to the European headquarters of the

#### US and UK extend support to Israel

Washington (PTI): Leaders of offensive against the Islamic the US, the UK, France, Canada and Italy extended support to Israel's right to defend itself against the Palestinian militant group Hamas but urged the Jewish state to uphold international humanitarian laws and protect civilians.

A joint statement was issued on Sunday by the White House after US President Joe Biden initiated a call with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, President Emmanuel Macron of France, Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of the UK. "The leaders reiterated their support for Israel and its right to defend itself against terrorism and called for adherence to international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians," the joint statement said. The latest conflict was triggered by unprecedented attacks against Israel by Hamas militants on October 7. Israel has launched a massive countermilitant group that has ruled Gaza since 2007.

Welcoming the release of the two American hostages— a mother and her teenage daughter— on Saturday, the leaders called for the immediate release of all remaining hostages. They also committed to close coordination to support their nationals in the region, particularly those wishing to leave Gaza. The leaders welcomed the announcement of the first humanitarian convoys reaching Palestinians in Gaza. They also committed to continued coordination with partners in the region to ensure sustained and safe access to food, water, medical care, and other assistance required to meet humanitarian needs. They "committed to continue close diplomatic coordination, including with key partners in the region, to prevent the conflict from spreading, preserve stability in the Middle East, and work toward a political solution and durable

## 'Violations of int'l law affront to humanity'

**PTI** ■ JOHANNESBURG

The violations of interna-tional law in the Israel-Gaza conflict are an affront to common humanity, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has said, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities. Speaking at the Cairo Summit for Peace that was hosted in the Egyptian capital at the weekend, Ramaphosa also called for the lifting of the siege of Gaza and the opening of a humanitarian corridor.

Invited by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Ramaphosa shared the platform with the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and several heads of

"As South Africa, we hold the firm view that the attack on civilians in Israel, the ongoing siege of Gaza and the decision to forcibly move the people of Gaza, together with the indiscriminate use of force through bombing, are viola-

tions of international law. More than that, these acts are an affront to our common humanity," Ramaphosa said.

Ramaphosa thanked Sisi for convening the summit, aimed at seeking a resolution to the ongoing Middle Eastern strife, but the gathering failed to reach any conclusion on easing the tensions in the While Arab and Muslim

states participating called for an immediate cessation of Israel's offensive in its attempts to eliminate Hamas, Western countries largely concentrated their contributions on arranging relief aid for Palestinians.

Ramaphosa said that those at the summit had gathered there united by their deep concern at the unprecedented conflict that has engulfed Gaza and Israel and "our distress at the depth and extent of human suffering." "We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the release of hostages, the lifting of the siege of Gaza, the opening of humanitarian

Sikh man dies

of injuries

after being

**New York** 

assaulted in

New York (PTI): A 66-year-old

Sikh man died of his head

injuries after being assaulted

after a minor car accident, the

second attack against a Sikh per-

son within a week in New York.

Jasmer Singh was attacked by 30-year-old Gilbert Augustin

after their vehicles collided in

corridors and the urgent provision of humanitarian aid on the required scale to the people of Gaza. We also call for a United Nations-led negotiation process towards resolving the

Îsraeli-Palestinian conflict. 'The international community has a responsibility and a duty to support peace and to create favourable con-

ditions for negotiation and dialogue," Ramaphosa said. The president drew parallels to the decades of apartheid minority white rule that ended with the release of Nelson Mandela after 27 years as a political prisoner to become South Africa's first democrat-

"As South Africans, we can relate to what is happening to Palestinians.

ically-elected President in

Our people waged a brave and courageous struggle to achieve their freedom and were subjected to untold suffering, just like the Palestinians

are going through. The night-

brought to an end by the relentless struggle of our people and the courage and foresight of leaders who put aside their differences and sought peace rather than revenge," Ramaphosa said

mare of apartheid was only

He also called on all countries supplying weapons to either side in the conflict to stop doing so, without naming any countries.

"To achieve (peace between Israel and Palestine) steps must be taken now. We therefore call on all parties to exercise restraint and on all state actors to desist from providing weapons to either of the sides to the conflict," he Ramaphosa confirmed

South Africa's view that the only way to bring about peace was the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for human rights, dignity and statehood.

'We are concerned that the response of the Israeli government to the attack on its conflict that has engulfed the region for many decades and will make the attainment of a just and lasting peace even more difficult. We are also concerned that this conflict can spread to include other countries in the region. This must be avoided at all costs," the president said.

'Only through a negotiated settlement supported by the international community can the people of Israel achieve the security they seek and the people of Palestine realise the freedom they deserve," Ramaphosa declared, adding that this was in line with the decisions that have been taken by the United Nations, that guarantees statehood for both Israel and Palestine based on the 1967 borders.

Ramaphosa said that as the international community, 'we must call for a ceasefire, find a sustainable solution to this conflict and stand on the side of peace, justice and human rights for all".

## Massa leads Milei in presidential runoff

**AP** BUENOS AIRES

LMassa produced a big surprise by finishing first in the opening round of Argentina's presidential election, reflecting voters' wariness about handing the presidency to his chief rival, a right-wing populist who upended national politics and pledged to drastically diminish the state.

Massa's victory over Javier Milei, a chainsaw-wielding economist and freshman lawmaker, came despite the fact that on his watch inflation has surged into triple digits, eating away at the purchasing power of salaries and boosting pover-ty. Still, he wasn't punished in

Sunday's voting.

With nearly all ballots counted early Monday, Massa had 36.7% of the vote and Milei had 30%, meaning the two will go to a Nov 19 runoff. Most pre-election polls, which have been notoriously unreliable,



Economy Minister and presidential hopeful Sergio Massa arrives to a polling station with his wife Malena Galmarini during general elections in Buenos Aires, Argentina,

over Massa. Former Security Minister Patricia Bullrich, of the main centre-right opposition coalition, got 23.8% to finish third in the field of five candidates. Massa has been a leading figure in the centre-left administration in power since 2019. He successfully focused

had given Milei a slight lead messaging on the way Milei's proposals to slash the size of the state - from halving the number of government ministries to deep spending cuts - would affect everyday life for Argentines, said Mariel Fornoni of the political consulting firm Management & Fit. That "had a significant impact

and evidently instilled more fear than anything else,' Fornoni said.

Brazil-based pollster Atlas Intel, whose latest survey had been one of the few putting Massa ahead, said one key to the result was a lower abstention rate than in the primary elections held in August. Around 78% of the electorate voted Sunday, some eight points higher than in the primaries that Milei won.

Milei, a self-described anarcho-capitalist who admires former US President Donald Trump, built a groundswell of support while calling for elimination of the Central Bank, replacement of the local currency with the US dollar, and a purge of the corrupt establishment that he called the "polit-

ical caste". His radical proposals and fiery, profanity-laden rhetoric caused some Argentines to vote for Massa, even if less than enthusiastically.

Queens here last Thursday. New York City Mayor Eric Adams has condemned the incident and vowed to protect the community. "Jasmer Singh loved his city and deserved so much more than his tragic death. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I want our Sikh community to know

> critical community in this challenging moment," Adams said. Singh's death was the second tragic incident in about a

you have more than our condo-

lences. You have our sacred vow

that we reject the hatred that

took this innocent life and we

will protect you," Adams said in

a post on X. "Our team will be meeting with Sikh leaders this

week to discuss the needs of this

week against Sikhs here. Last week, a 19-year-old Sikh boy was assaulted while he was riding the bus in Richmond Hill and was headed to a Gurudwara. Christopher Philippeaux, 26 punched the teenager in the back of the head, tried to knock off his turban and told him "We don't wear that in this country."

Philippeaux has been arraigned in Queens Criminal Court and charged with assault in the third degree as a hate rime and aggravated harassment in the second degree, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said.

A report in the New York Daily News said that police at the NYPD's 102 Precinct charged Augustin with manslaughter and assault. Following his arraignment in Queens Saturday, Augustin was held without bail, the report

#### Erdogan submits protocol for Sweden's admission into NATO for ratification

Tayyip Erdogan has submitted a protocol for Sweden's admission into NATO to Turkey's parliament for ratification, his office said Monday. Erdogan had been delaying ratification Sweden's membership, accusing Stockholm of being too soft on Kurdish militants and other groups he considers to be security threats. Turkey also was angered by a series of Quran-burning protests in Sweden.

All 31 NATO allies must endorse Sweden's membership. Turkey and Hungary are the only two allies that have yet to

A brief statement from the presidential communications directorate said Erdogan had signed the protocol on Sweden's NATO accession, which was then submitted to the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

It was not immediately



known when Sweden's membership would come to the

Sweden welcomed the

"Glad to hear that Turkish President Erdogan has now handed over the ratification documents to the Turkish Parliament," Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. "Now it

with the issue. We look forward oming a member of NATO." Sweden and its neighbour Finland abandoned decades of

remains for Parliament to deal

military nonalignment after President Vladimir Putin ordered Russia troops to invade Ukraine in February 2022, seeking protection under NATO's security umbrella. Finland joined the military alliance in April.

Earlier this month, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg urged Turkey to quickly ratify Sweden's membership in the military organ-

isation. "Many allies would like to see speedy progress on this ratification," Stoltenberg told The Associated Press after chairing a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels. "Sweden has delivered on what they promised, and now we need the ratification of Swedish mem-



Opposition presidential hopeful Maria Corina Machado celebrates with supporters after listening to the results naming her winner of the opposition primary election, at her campaign headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, Machado will run against President Nicolás Maduro in the 2024 presidential elections

#### World's oldest dog dies aged 31 in Portugal

Lisbon (Portugal): A 31-yearold dog in Portugal that had been ranked as the world's oldest dog ever has died, his owner said on Monday. The guard dog, called Bobí, died over the weekend in a veterinary hospital, Leonel Costa told The Associated Press.

Bobi lived on a farm in the village of Conqueiros in Portugal with Costa and four cats. He was born on May 11, 1992, when his owner was just 8 years old.

That made Bobi more than 217 years old in dog years when he died.

In an interview earlier this year, Costa told the Associated Press that Bobi's secret to a long life was good food, fresh air and lots of love. "Bobi eats what we eat," said Costa. What's more, Bobi had never been put on a

#### **SL** assures China of continued active participation in Belt & Road Initiative

PTI ■ COLOMBO

 $D^{\mbox{\scriptsize ebt-ridden Sri}}_{\mbox{\scriptsize its}}$  Lanka has assured China of its continued active participation in the controversial Belt and Road Initiative during the recent visit of President Ranil Wickremesinghe to Beijing. Wickremesinghe visited China from October 16 to 20 to attend the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping."Sri Lanka reiterated it will continue to actively participate in the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China," according to the joint statement issued on Friday. Cash-strapped Sri Lanka has a total foreign debt of USD 46.9 billion, 52 per cent of which is owed to China, its largest lender.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the pet project of Chinese President Xi, has been facing criticism from the US, India and several other nations as often the loans amounting to billions of dollars for unsustainable projects under the mega global infrastructure initiative turn out to be debt traps for smaller countries like Sri Lanka, driving them into a deep economic crisis. The joint statement said the two sides agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on jointly accelerating the formulation of the cooperation plan on BRI.

"While Sri Lanka welcomed the Chinese enterprises playing a positive role in its economic development and more investment from Chinese enterprises, China will continue to encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Sri Lanka," it said. "The Colombo Port City and the Hambantota Port are signature projects of Belt and Road cooperation between the two countries," the statement noted. Interestingly, the concerns over the BRI projects grew louder after China took over Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port on a 99-year lease as a debt swap in 2017.

On Sri Lanka's debt restructuring, the statement said, "China will continue to support its financial institutions in conducting friendly consultation with Sri Lanka to reach early agreement on treatment of debts related to

China is willing to work with relevant countries and international financial institutions to keep playing a positive role in helping Sri Lanka address its current difficulties, alleviate debt burden and realise sustainable develop-

# Imran, Qureshi indicted in cipher case

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former prime min-ister Impan ister Imran Khan and his close ally ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were on Monday indicted by a special court on charges of leaking state secrets and violating the laws of the country, in another blow to the jailed leaders who could now face a possible death sentence.

The indictment is a fresh setback to the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as it is likely to make the former cricketer-turned politician ineligible to contest the general elections expected in

January 2024. Khan, 71, 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. Former twotime foreign minister Qureshi, 67, was also indicted along with Investigation Agency (FIA) on September 30 filed the charge sheet against Khan and Qureshi

who signed its copies. The FIA invoked in the charge sheet sections 5 and 9 of

may lead to a death sentence, or two to 14 years' imprisonment if convicted.

Khan's lawyer, Umair Niazi, told the media that his client had denied the crime. He said they would challenge the indictment in the high court.

According to the charge sheet, Khan used the cipher (a diplomatic cable) in a "prohibited place (jalsa)" and "willfully communicated" the secret information to unauthorised persons, which was against the "interest of the State of Pakistan" Khan, who served as prime minister of Pakistan from August 2018 to April 2022, is accused of "misuse the contents of the cipher" to build a narrative that his government was ousted due to a foreign conspiracy hatched by the US, charge denied by

The chargesheet added that Qureshi "aided and abetted" Khan and therefore was liable for the act in the same manner. Monday's hearing was held at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi by special court judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain.

After the indictment, the court adjourned the hearing till October 27 when it will start

the formal trial.

Speaking to the media, FIA Special Prosecutor Shah Khawar said, "Because today's hearing was meant for indictment, it was read out in open court." Niazi also said that Khan had questioned the charges against him. The lawyer quoted the PTI chairman as saying that a conspiracy was hatched against him, his government was toppled and there were no minutes of the meeting in question.

He said that Khan was already aware of the "London plan", the aim of which was to bulldoze" the PTI.

"Nawaz Sharif plays by colluding with the umpire. He cannot contest elections until rejected the defendant's objections and indicted Khan and "PTI chairman and

Qureshi had stated that they could not respond to the charges until all the documents related to the case were received," the lawyer said.

The lawyer further said the PTI chairman's request for the PTI chairmans request for a bicycle for exercise in Adiala Jail was approved. "Special Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain directed the jail administration to provide a bicycle in the jail," he added.

More than 150 cases have

More than 150 cases have been registered against Khan since his ouster from power in April last year. Khan was ousted through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022. He was incarcerated on August 5 this year, after an Islamabad court sentenced him to three years in prison in the Toshakhana case. The 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. He was later shifted to Adiala jail.



A car carrying special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain leaves after hearing of the Cipher case against Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, at the Adiyala prison, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on Monday

## US backs Philippines after Chinese ships rammed Manila vessels

The United States renewed a warning on Monday that it would defend the Philippines in case of an armed attack under a 1951 treaty, after Chinese ships blocked and collided with two Filipino vessels off a contested shoal in the South China Sea. Philippine diplomats summoned a Chinese Embassy official in Manila on Monday for a strongly worded protest following Sunday's collisions off Second Thomas Shoal. No injuries were reported but the encounters damaged a Philippine coast guard ship and a wooden-hulled supply boat

operated by navy personnel, officials said. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr called an emergency meeting with the defense secretary and other top military and security officials to discuss the latest hostilities in the disputed waters. The Philippines and other neighbours of China have resisted Beijing's sweeping territorial claims over virtually the entire South China Sea, and some, like Manila, have sought US military support as incidents multiply. After the meeting, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro blasted China in a news conference for resorting to "brute force" that he said endangered

twisting the facts to conceal its aggression.
"The Philippine government views the latest aggression by China as a blatant violation of international law," Teodoro said. "China has no legal right or authority to conduct law territorial waters and in our delivering food and other sup- the South China Sea.'

Filipino crew members and for

Marcos ordered an investigation of the high-sea collisions, Teodoro said, but he refused to disclose what steps the Philippine government would take. "We are taking these incidents seriously at the highest levels of government," he said, adding that the government called for a news conference to provide accurate facts. "The Chinese government is deliberately obfuscating the truth," the defense chief said.

The Philippines also plans to raise its alarm over the Chinese ships' dangerous maneuvers in talks between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on a proposed nonaggression pact - a "code of conduct" - to prevent a major armed conflict in the South

Beijing is hosting the threeday negotiations starting Monday, two Philippine officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to publicly discuss details of the talks. Teodoro said it was "very ironic" that China was hosting the talks that aim to prevent major conflicts at sea when they just of international law."

committed "a blatant disregard The territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have long been regarded as a flashpoint in a delicate fault line in the US-China rivalry. About five Chinese coast guard ships, eight accompanying vessels and two navy ships formed a blockade on Sunday to prevent two Philippine coast

plies to Filipino forces stationed at Second Thomas Shoal aboard a marooned navy ship, Philippine coast guard Commodore Jay Tarriela said.

and a supply boat were separate-

ly hit by a Chinese coast guard

During the standoff, one of the Philippine coast guard ships

ship and a vessel. Only one of the two Filipino boats managed to deliver supplies to Philippine forces, Tarriela said. The senior Chinese diplomat who was summoned by Philippine foreign officials repeated China's assertion that the Philippine vessels intruded into Chinese territory. "China once again urges the Philippines to take seriously China's grave concerns, honour its promise, stop making provocations at sea, stop making dangerous moves, stop groundlessattacking and slandering China, and to tow away the illegally grounded' warship as soon as possible," Zhou Zhiyong was quoted as saying by the Chinese Embassy in Manila. He was referring to the Sierra Madre, which serves as Manila's territorial outpost at the shoal after being deliberately ran aground in 1999. The Chinese coast guard on Sunday blamed the Philippine vessels for causing the collisions and said the Filipinos were carrying construction materials to strengthen their outpost at the shoal. The US and other allies expressed alarm over the Chinese action.

Washington renewed a warning

that it's obligated to defend the

Philippines under a 1951 Mutual

Defense Treaty if Filipino forces,

ships and aircraft come under an

armed attack, including "those

#### **Sharif petitions HC** to revive appeals against his conviction in two cases

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday filed petitions in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to revive appeals against his conviction in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases, two days after he returned to the country from the UK after four years of self-imposed exile.

Sharif, 73, the three-time prime minister and supremo of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), returned to Pakistan on Saturday.

Former law minister Azam Tarar and advocate Amjad Parvez filed petitions on behalf of Sharif in the IHC which on October 19 had granted him protective bail in both cases until October 24 to let him come back in the court without any fear of arrest. Sharif was convicted in July 2018 by an accountability court in the Avenfield properties case and sentenced to 10 and put in jail but set free after being given bail while his appeals against acquittal in the case were pending. He was on bail when he left for the UK in 2019 on medical grounds. His daughter Maryam Nawaz was also sentenced to seven years in jail in the case but was acquitted in September 2022 along with her husband Muhammad Safdar.

He was also convicted in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption and sentenced to seven years in jail in December 2018. He was allowed to go to London in November 2019 on medical grounds and he returned about four years later on Saturday. The IHC declared him a proclaimed offender in both cases in December 2020.

In his petitions, Sharif pleaded that the appeals against his conviction should be reinstated and decided on merit according to law. He is likely to be heard on Tuesday by an IHC division bench.

Earlier, upon his return, he had landed at the Islamabad airport first to sign applications for restoring pending appeals against his convictions in the Avenfield Apartments and Al-Azizia cases. It was a token of his compliance to the court.

On July 6, 2018, a few days before the general elections, accountability court judge Muhammad Bashir convicted Sharif, his daughter Maryam and her husband in the Avenfield Apartments case that was investigated by a sixmember joint investigation team formed to look into the Panama Papers revelations.

While an Islamabad High Court division bench virtually cleared Sharif in the Avenfield apartments case, calling the accountability court's decision "not correct" Sharif's absconder status meant that he was not exonerated despite the court observing a lack of substantial evidence against him.

#### Pak SC declares military trials of civilians 'null and void'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

 $P^{\text{akistan's Supreme Court on}}_{\text{Monday declared the trial}}$ of civilians in military courts as "null and void" and ordered authorities to conduct the hearing of the cases of former premier Imran Khan's supporters arrested for their involvement in the May 9 violent protests in ordinary criminal courts.

A five-member bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice İjazul Ahsan in its short verdict ordered that 102 accused arrested under the Army Act be tried in the criminal court. The court, which announced its verdict within hours after it was reserved during the day at the conclusion of the hearing, ruled that the trial of any civilian if held in military court has been declared "null and void".

The bench comprising Justices Ahsan, Muneeb Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Mazahir Naqvi, and Ayesha Malik announced its verdict on a dozen petitions challenging the trial of more than 100 civilians in military courts following the unprecedented vioarrest of former prime minis- Awan at the outset of the hear- military courts.

AP FRANKFURT

 $F^{\text{or months after Ukraine's}}_{\text{Western allies limited sales}}$ 

of Russian oil to \$60 per barrel,

the price cap was still largely

symbolic. Most of Moscow's

crude — its main moneymak-

er — cost less than that. But the

cap was there in case oil prices

rose — and would keep the

Kremlin from pocketing extra

profits to fund its war in

Ukraine. That time has now

come, putting the price cap to

its most serious test so far and

Russia's benchmark oil —

has traded above the price

often exported with Western

ships required to obey sanctions

cap since mid-July, pumping

hundreds of millions of dollars

a day into the Kremlin's war

the Israel-Hamas war pushing

up global oil prices and evi-

dence that some traders and

shippers are evading the cap,

the first signs of enforcement

are appearing 10 months after

the price limit was imposed in

say the crackdown needs to go

one thing that hits Russian

macroeconomic stability the most," said Benjamin

Hilgenstock, senior economist

at the Kyiv School of

Economics, which advises the

of Russia's economy, allowing

President Vladimir Putin to

pour money into the military

while avoiding worsening infla-

tion for everyday people and a

Oil income is the linchpin

Ukrainian government.

further to really hurt Russia.

But sanctions advocates

Reducing oil profits "is the

December.

With Russia's profits rising,

underlining its weaknesses.

ter Imran Khan on May 9. The pleas were filed by former prime minister Imran Khan, the Supreme Court Bar Association, eminent lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja and members of the civil society among others. The bench heard the pleas against the announcement by the government that those involved in attacks on military installations on May 9 would be tried under military laws. The then Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharifled cabinet had decided that the protesters who vandalised military installations on May 9 would be tried under the Army Act and Official Secrets Act. According to the Pakistani

Army, 102 accused have been handed over to the military authorities for trial. They have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the attacks on key military establishments, including the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, the Corps Commander's House in Lahore, Pakistan Air Force Base Mianwali, and an office of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in Faisalabad.

to starve Putin of cash

currency collapse.

Moscow's ability to sell

more to the world than it buys

means it's weathering sanc-

tions far better than expected.

Its economy will grow this year

while Germany's shrinks, the

International Monetary Fund

income is at risk from stepped-up enforcement. The U.S.

Treasury Department sanc-

tioned two ship owners last

week, while UK officials are

oil sanctions have cost Russia

\$100 billion through August,

said an international working

group on sanctions at Stanford

University. But most of that,

economists say, stems from

Europe's ban on Russian oil,

which cost Moscow its main

customer. "There are serious

problems with the (price cap)

policy, but it can work,"

Hilgenstock said. "With some

improvements, it can be very

by Western nations "persisted in

loading Russian oil at all ports

within Russia" in recent weeks

as prices rose above the cap, the

Helsinki-based Center for

Research on Energy and Clean

Air said in a report last week.

"These occurrences serve as

compelling evidence of viola-

tions against the price cap pol-

September to some 200 million

Russia's oil income rose in

Vessels owned or insured

effective?

Since the invasion began,

investigating violations.

Still, Russia's main source of

estimates.

Price cap on Russian oil aims

ing said that the military trials of civilians had formally com-menced and all the require-ments would be fulfilled in the process. "All the requirements of a criminal case will be met in the trial under the Army Act," he said.

he has an umpire of his choice,"

according to Khan, "If a big

thief is to be released, then the accused in Adiala jail should

also be released". He was refer-

ring to 73-year-old Pakistan

Muslim League supremo

Sharif, who returned to the

country from the UK after

four years of self-imposed exile

to lead his party in the gener-

Advocate Usman Riaz Gul,

also a member of Khan's legal

team, said they informed the

court that the suspects could

not be indicted until the com-

plete statement of witnesses

and case memo were received.

Speaking to reporters,

The lawyer said that

the lawyer said.

al elections.

The court, after hearing the arguments, had reserved its judgment earlier today. The Supreme Court on Friday announced that it will restart the hearing of the case after a gap of more than two months.

The last time a six-judge Supreme Court bench heard the case was on August 3 but a new bench was set up as the previous one was formed by the former chief justice Umar Ata Bandial. The previous bench had postponed further pro-ceedings for an indefinite period. The government during the hearing had assured the court that their trial had not started as yet. The case is deemed an important one as it will settle the issue of the trial of civilians by the military courts.

Meanwhile, at least nine accused facing trials under the Army Act moved the apex court on Sunday for early con-

#### Cousins from India, Pak reunite after 76 years

Lahore (PTI): Two cousins, separated during the Partition 76 years ago, were reunited at the landmark Kartarpur Corridor, in an emotional meeting made possible through social media, a Pakistani official said on Monday.

Mohammad Ismaeel and his sister Surinder Kaur, both in their 80s, reached Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur from their respective cities in Pakistan and India and had an emotional reunion on Sunday. An official of the Evacuée Trust Property Board (ETPB) told PTI that the administration of Karatarpur Sahib facilitated the reunion of the cousins and offered sweets and langar to them.

Ismaeel belongs to the Sahiwal district of Punjab, some 200 km from Lahore, and Kaur is from Jalandhar. The families of Ismaeel and Kaur were living in Shahkot town of Jalandhar district before the Partition when the riots separated them. The reunion was made possible by a Pakistani posting the story of Ismaeel.

#### 20 killed, several injured in collision between two trains in Bangladesh

**Dhaka (PTI):** At least 20 people were killed and several others injured on Monday when a freight train hit a passenger train in Bangladesh's northeastern Kishoreganj district, officials said. The accident took place when the freight train headed towards Chattogram hit the rear coaches of the Dhaka-bound Egarosindur Godhuli Express around 3.30 pm (local time) in Bhairab area of Kishoreganj district, some 60 kilometres of the capital Dhaka,

Bhairab Railway Police Station duty officer Sirajul Islam told the media. "Twenty bodies have been recovered so far. We are extending our all possible support to the rescue operations," an offi-

cial of the elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion told reporters. Fire service officials on the spot said three passenger carriages were upturned and feared many people were trapped under the dilapidated wagons though some 100 passengers were rescued with wounds and rushed to different health facilities. "We expect to find more bodies as well as injured passengers during the rescue process," a fire service official told reporters at the scene. A rescue train with cranes has left for the accident site. Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence media chief Shahiahan Sikder said that over a dozen units of the fire service are conducting rescue operations.

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, Iris Scott W/o Late Sh. V.P. Scott, Cont. 7303070600, Email: deepakscott@gmail.com, R/o. 140, Pocket 6, Sector-23, Rohini, Delhi-110085, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The original documents like Demand cum Allotment letter, Payment deposit challan, DDA Posse-ssion letter, Site Possession letter, Electricity & Water connection NOC issued by DDA of aforesaid property has been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 28/09/2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at a bove address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact-Deputy Director (LAB housing) MIG, D- Block, 3rd Floor DDA Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

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CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

Notice

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 8th November, 2023 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Unaudited Quarterly Results for the Period Ended 30th September, 2023. Further as per the Company's Code of Conductfor Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 30.09.2023 to 48 hours afte the declaration of the Financial Results The said information is also available on Company's Website www.unitedtextileslimited.com & also on the website of stock exchanges a www.bseindia.com.

For United Textiles Limite (Vivek Aggarwal) Whole Time Director Dated:21.10.2023 (DIN 07079208

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Namita Yadav is in process to avail the LAP from Shriram Housing Finance Ltd. against her Third Floor With Roof Rights of Property Bearing No. RZ-39/T. Area Measuring 110 Sq. Yds. Out of Khasra no. 64/1/2. Situated in Revenue estate of Village Palam, Delhi State Delhi Colony known as Raj Nagar-I. Palam Colony New Delhi-110045, and whereas she has lost one Original Sale Deed dated 16.06.2016 sexcuted by Archana Sharma in favour of Jogender Singh, 100c. No. 4717) pertaining to the said property (online FIR has already been lodged in lieu of that on dated 12/10/23)

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 ailing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived

d/or abandoned. **Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)** Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec.4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

Notice is hereby given that my client Suman Gupta is in process to purchase the First Floor without Roof Rights (Said Floor) built on Property bearing No. WZ-1190, area measuring 210 sq. yds., out of Khasra No. 305, Situated in the area of Village Nangal Raya, Colony known as Nangal Raya, New Dalb (Waising Jean from Prome) Capital & Housing Delhi (availing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limitedl from Mohit Gupta, acquired the said property vide Gift Deed dated 15.11.2010 (Doc. No. 14246) executed by Smt. Inderraj Wati 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, prossession lease, sublease tenancy, tigense lien. possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, piedge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us writh supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro 1 ower Sec-4, Vaishall, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351 possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien,

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala) erate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 I website: www.pspd.ii

(Contact 9646118773)

Tender Enquiry No.: Q-4020/23-24/PO-T/CE-MM

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Multi Storey Building, The Mall, PSPCL invites E-tender of 29,800 Nos., 3-ph, 16 kVA, EEL-2 (As per Amendment no. 4 to IS 1180)/Star-2 (New), ISI Marked, 11/0.433 KV 50 cycles, outdoor type, oil immersed, naturally cooled, core or Shell type, Stack/wound core type construction (aluminium wound), CRGO/Amorphous core distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specification & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1(2014) & 2026 (with latest amendments). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <a href="https://eproc.punjab.gov.in">https://eproc.punjab.gov.in</a> from

25.10.2023 onwards. Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at

76155/12/2326/2023/29161 Dated CHD: 24/10/2023

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. PSPCL reserves the right to increase/ decrease/ nullify the NIT quantity without assigning any reason

#### euros (\$211 million) a day as global prices increased, the think tank said. Less oil available worldwide — with Saudi Arabia and Russia cutting production — pushed prices for

Moscow's key export grade crude to \$74.46 last week, S&P Global Platts said. It's been above \$60 since July 11.

The price cap is meant to limit what Russia can earn without taking its supplies off the market. Doing that threatens a shortage that could drive up fuel costs and inflation in the US and Europe. It relies on a key fact of the

shipping industry: many vessel owners, traders and most insurers are based in Europe or the Group of Seven major democracies that imposed the price cap. That puts those companies within reach of sanctions. To comply, shipping companies need to know the price of Russia's oil. The cap, however, requires only a good-faith disclosure on a simple, one-page document with the names of the parties and the price. The actual sales contracts don't have to be revealed.

And that, analysts say, has been an invitation for unscrupulous sellers to fudge and for some shippers to adopt a see-no-evil approach.

Suspicions about evasion grew when analysts noticed that oil from the Russian port of Kozmino on the Pacific Ocean — responsible for a relatively small share of Russia's exports — was trading well above the cap. That was even though many of the tankers stopping there were Westernowned, primarily Greek.

There was little sign of enforcement action until last week, when the US Treasury Department blocked a tanker owner in the United Arab Emirates and another in Turkey from dealings in the US They're

accused of carrying Russian oil priced at \$75 and \$80 per barrel while relying on US-connected service providers.

US officials have warned insurers away from vessels that appear suspicious, a senior Treasury official told reporters last week. The department also issued recommendations to scrutinize transport costs and watch for red flags of evasion. The UK Treasury says it is "actively undertaking a number of investigations into suspect-

ed breaches of the oil price cap." There's another opportunity to sidestep the cap: the price is set as oil leaves Russia, not what's paid by a refinery in, say, India. The oil may be bought and sold several times by Russian-affiliated trading companies in countries not participating in sanctions.

Excessive "transportation costs" may be added. The difference to the end price is pocketed by traders and stays in Russian hands, analysts say. "The problem is that no

one really has any oversight as to what happens after the point of loading," said Viktor Katona, lead crude analyst at data and analytics group Kpler. "And there's a reason why the shippers haven't really complained or haven't flagged any issues with the oil price cap — because it's very easily circumvented."

Russia's top energy official, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, told Radio Business FM on October 13 that the cap was "not only ineffective, but harmful; it can completely distort the entire market and has only negative consequences, including for

## 'India will remain fastest growing major economy in 2023-24 fiscal'

ndia will remain the fastestgrowing major economy in the world in 2023-24 fiscal on the back of strong domestic fundamentals and benign inflation expectations, a finance ministry report said on Monday.

The September edition of the Monthly Economic Review also flagged that global uncertainties have been compounded by recent developments in the Persian Gulf and depending on how the situation develops, crude oil prices may push

Further, the relentless supply of US Treasuries and continued restrictive monetary policy in the US (with further monetary policy tightening not ruled out) could cause financial conditions to be restrictive.

At current levels, US stock markets have greater downside risk than upside. If the downside risk materialises, it will have spill over effects on other



markets, the report said. "Fraught geopolitical conditions can cause a general increase in global risk aversion. If these risks worsen and are sustained, they can affect economic activity in other countries, including India," the ministry said.

However, the report emphasised that India's macroeconomic outlook for fiscal 2023-24 is bright and is solidly underpinned by strong domestic fundamentals. Alongside private consumption, invest-

ment demand is also firming up. There are additional growth levers in broad-based industrial growth and buoyant residenproperty markets. Industrial capacity utilisation has improved. Further, the report said improved reservoir levels augur well for the upcoming Rabi season. Core inflation is declining steadily while food inflation has eased. The ministry noted that with a

lower trade deficit and a com-

fortable forex reserves position,

India's external account looks

robust. Echoing all this, Reserve Bank of India's forward looking surveys on manufacturing, consumer confidence, employment and inflation expectations have optimistic findings.

"In sum, as IMF projections also confirm, India will remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world in FY24," the report said.

report said.

While keeping the global growth projection for FY24 unchanged at 3 per cent, IMF revised its growth projection for India upwards by 20 basis points to 6.3 per cent in October October. This shows the growing confi-

dence of global analysts as well

in India's economic strength

amidst global uncertainties and fresh geopolitical challenges the ministry said. While domestic macro funda mentals are strong and improving, downside risks arise from global headwinds and uncer-

tainties in weather conditions

## Sensex plunges 826 points

As worries over broader West Asia conflict sink global equities

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty plunged more than 1 per cent on Monday, falling for the fourth day run-ning, amid weak trends in global markets in view of heightened tensions in the Middle East.

Crude oil quoting above USD 90 a barrel mark also played spoilsport for the markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex

plunged 825.74 points or 1.26 per cent to settle at 64,571.88. During the day, it plummeted 894.94 points or 1.36 per cent to 64,502.68

The Nifty fell 260.90 points or 1.34 per cent to 19,281.75.

In the four sessions since Wednesday, Sensex tanked 1,925 points to fall below the 65,000 mark while Nifty plunged by around 530 points.

Among the Sensex firms, JSW Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, NTPC, Wipro, HCL Technologies, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, UltraTech Cement, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Power Grid and Reliance Industries Limited were the major laggards. Mahindra & Mahindra and

Bajaj Finance were the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled lower. European markets were trading with cuts. The US markets ended in negative territory on

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.04 per cent to USD 92.18 a barrel

"Despite the healthy performance of private banks and marginal reductions in oil prices, investor confidence remained pessimistic, and a widespread consolidation persisted in the domestic markets. The global

as the unrest in West Asia has the potential to spiral further. "Increased apprehensions surrounding prolonged elevated interest rates fuelled a continued upward movement in the US 10year yield," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 456.21 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark fell 231.62

points or 0.35 per cent to settle at 65,397.62 on Friday. The Nifty declined 82.05 points or 0.42 per cent to 19,542.65

'We look for the best alternatives to sus-

tain our livelihood, as there is only one

farming season here", said Tenzin Dolma

45, a farmer in Losar, a secluded village

Traditionally, we do not use chemicals in

agriculture, but natural farming tech-

niques ensure systematic handling of non-chemical inputs, along with many other benefits for sustainable agriculture, and the results are beneficial, she added.

Dolma, who practices natural farming on

15 bighas, cultivating peas, potatoes, bar-ley, and various vegetables in a small poly-house, said, "I have tried line sowing of

peas as per natural farming technique and

observed that it produces longer pea



#### Sebi empanels 12 entities to provide digital forensic services

PTI NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has empanelled 12 entities, including Ernst & Young LLP and KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP, to provide assistance to its search team for onsite data acquisition during search and seizure oper-

The other empanelled entities are -- Baker Tilly Business Advisory Services, Cybermate Forensics & Data Security Solutions, Cyint Technologies, ECS Info Tech, Innefu Labs, Mahen Technologies, Nangia & Co LLP, Netrika Consulting India, Pelorus Technologies and Systools Software, according to

vices to the regulator following the completion of the empanelment process. The empanel-ment will be valid for a period of two years.

In August, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) invited applications for empandement

The applications were invited from eligible service providers experienced in digital forensic services for acquisition, extracdence from mobile, computers,

As per the notice, the entities will be required to provide onsite and offsite assistance to the search team and onsite data acquisition

In addition, they will have to

Further, they will be required to do onsite acquisition of cloud data from cloud apps like Gmail, Facebook, Youtube, Instagram,

a notice by Sebi last week. They have been empanelled for providing digital forensic ser-

elment of service providers experienced in the field of digital forensic services.

tion and analysis of digital eviand tablets, among others, on an ongoing basis.

during search and seizure operations

undertake forensic acquisition or imaging of different types of digital devices, such as laptops mobile phones, tablets, hard drives, USB drives, CDs/DVDs,

Telegram, WhatsApp and any other app or database as decided by the search party.

## Rupee falls 6 paise to 83.18 against \$

 $T^{\text{he rupee dropped 6 paise to}}_{83.18 \, \text{(provisional) against}}_{\text{the US dollar on Monday due}}$ to sharp losses in local stocks and US bond yields surging to 5 per cent

Easing crude oil prices and a flat greenback in the overseas markets helped cap the rupee's fall, forex dealers

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened lower at 83.13 and traded in a tight range of 83.19 and 83.09 against the greenback during the day.

The local unit finally settled at 83.18 (provisional), reflecting losses of 6 paise over the last close. On Friday, the rupee closed flat at 83.12 against the US dollar.

Analysts said hardening US bond yields amid a higher risk of broader conflict in the Middle East weighed on emerging currencies and riskier assets. The 10-year US Treasury was at 5 per cent on

Increased apprehensions surrounding prolonged elevated interest rates fuelled a continued upward movement in the US 10-year yield, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said. Meanwhile, the dollar index,

which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, retreated from overnight highs and was almost flat at 106.21.

Crude oil prices eased on Monday with the benchmark Brent crude declining by 0.23 per cent to USD 91.95 per bar-

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex tanked 825.74 points or 1.26 per cent to settle at 64,571.88. The Nifty plunged 260.90 points or 1.34 per cent to 19,281.75.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have withdrawn over Rs 12,000 crore from Indian equities so far this month. mainly due to a sustained rise in US bond yields and the uncertain environment resulting from the Israel-Hamas con-

## Local women farmers in Spiti Valley use natural farming to boost crop yield, income

Natural farming practices adopted by local women farmers in Spiti Valley have led to better crops, healthier produce and improved income levels.

Spiti region, located at an altitude of 14,000 ft, in the tribal Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh, is often referred to as a "cold desert" due to its harsh climate, with a single agriculture

Yeshe Dolma, a 43-year-old graduate and full-time farmer from Lidang village in Kaza, Spiti Valley, said, "Natural farming has enriched me, my farm, and my kitty, and I am reaping the best returns from the single cropping season in this cold

Dolma has adopted natural farming techniques to grow peas, cauliflower, cab-bage, red cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, carrot, radish, barley, wheat, and potatoes on 20 bighas of land.

She said in the past, pests would frequently damage vegetables like cauliflower and cabbage before they could mature. However, with natural farming practices, yields have improved and earning has risen to Rs 3 lakh annually by selling produce, compared to the previous income of Rs 1 lakh.



"I raise saplings using natural farming techniques in a polyhouse and get profit of over Rs 20,000 by selling them," she said, adding that the health of the soil and plant has improved significantly.

Natural farming is a non-chemical, lowcost, and climate-resilient agriculture technique that is based on desi cow's dung and urine and reduces the dependence of farmers on the market.

The farmers prepare all the farm inputs at the farm. The natural farming technique reduces the cost of cultivation and has been helpful in checking plant dis-

eases, apart from improving soil health. Natural produce is healthy to consume because it is free of chemicals.

As many as 1.74 lakh farmers, including a large number of woman farmers, are now practising natural farming partially or fully in Himachal Pradesh. More than 2 lakh farmers have been trained in natural farming under the Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Yojana (PK3Y) in the

Over 24,000 hectares of land are used so far for natural farming, as per the data from the agriculture department.

With natural farming, two kg of seed produces two bags (each weighing 50 kg) of peas. Now, we are producing our own seeds and earn over Rs 1.5 lakh by sell-Chhering Lamo, along with her husband Tanpa, resides in Komic, the world's highservers etc.

est village connected to a motorable road, situated at an altitude of 4,587 meters in Spiti. They cultivate peas and barley on heir 12 bighas of land and have increased production after adopting natural farming. Peas are a primary cash crop in the



## Wagh Bakri Tea Group executive director dies during treatment for brain injuries after fall



PTI AHMEDARAD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wagh Bakri Tea Group executive director Parag Desai died at a hospital here in Gujarat of severe brain injuries which he suffered after a fall while trying to escape from stray dogs during an evening walk, a company official said on Monday. Desai, 50, suffered severe brain haemor

rhage after falling on a hard surface while

going for a walk outside his residence on the evening of October 15, the official said. "Desai fell and suffered a brain haemorrhage, and fainted. He was immediately shifted to a private hospital, and from there to another hospital where he underwent brain surgery. He was kept under observation, and breathed his last at around 7 pm on Sunday," said the company official who is close to the Desai family.

Another official said Desai fell while trying to escape from stray dogs when out on an evening walk.

Desai was one of the two executive directors on the board of the Ahmedabad-based tea group, the other being Paras Desai. Parag Desai was the son of Managing Director Rasesh Desai. He had done his MBA from Long Island University in the USA. He spearheaded sales, marketing and export departments for the group and was an expert tea tester and evaluator.

Wagh Bakri Tea Group is one of the country's leading packaged tea companies with a turnover of over Rs 2,000 crore and more than 50 million kgs of distribution. It is well-known for its premium tea and has been in business since 1892 when it was founded by Narandas Desai.

Very sad news coming in. Parag Desai Director and owner of Wagh Bakri Tea passed away. He had a brain haemorrhage following a fall. May his soul rest in peace. My condolences to the entire Wagh Bakri family across India," Congress' Rajya Sabha member Shaktisinh Gohil



## Gold declines ₹250 per 10 grams, silver dives ₹250

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

old price declined Rs 250 to Rs 61,600 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak cues in global markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 61,850 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also dived Rs 250 to Rs 75,000 per kilogram.

In the overseas markets, gold and silver were trading lower at

USD 1,977 per ounce and USD 23.20 per ounce, respectively. "Gold prices pulled back from a multi-month high as an upticl

in US Treasury yields. "Traders' focus will remain on ongoing geopolitical unrest and macro data, including the macro data, including the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge, the US PCE price index, third-quarter GDP data etc, which will provide volatility in gold," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Various initiatives, including the development of QCO, are being undertaken by the depart-

ment to develop quality sensiti-

sation among users and manu-

These initiatives, coupled with

developing quality testing labs

and product manuals, would

help build a quality ecosystem in

Mandatory QCOs help curb

the import of sub-standard

products, prevent unfair trade

practices, and ensure the safety

and well-being of consumers, as

These initiatives, coupled with

facturers alike.

the country, it said.

ONGC wins bid to acquire PTC wind power unit for ₹925 crore

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has won a bid to acquire PTC India Ltd's wind power unit for Rs 925 crore as the state-owned firm continues to build a renewable energy portfolio to balance its fossil fuel business

In a stock exchange filing, India's top oil and gas producer said it has over the years diversified into the petrochemicals and power business besides growing its core business of finding hvdrocarbons.

ONGC said it has taken various initiatives for renewable energy power generation and already has 189 megawatt (MW) capacity, including wind and solar PV plants spread across various locations. "With a vision to expand its business in renewable energy, the company had participated in the bidding process for acquisition of 100 per cent equi-ty stake of PTC Energy Limited (PEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of PTC India Limited

The nod is subject to the approval of PTC shareholders. PEL, incorporated on August 1,

2008, has a renewable energy portfolio of 288.8 MW consisting of 50 MW wind power projects in Madhya Pradesh, 50 MW wind power projects in Karnataka and 188.8 MW wind power projects in Andhra Pradesh.

The company has entered into long-term agreements with state distribution companies for an entire portfolio of 288.8 MW wind power projects. PEL had a profit of Rs 13.88

crore on a revenue of Rs 296.77 crore during the 2022-23 fiscal year (April 2022 to March 2023). PTC India, which is a leading power trading and financial services solutions provider, in a separate filing, said the "date of the extraordinary general meeting and date of signing of shareholder's agreement will be intimated as and when executed". ONGC has previously announced an investment of about Rs 2 lakh crore to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2038. The firm will invest Rs 1 lakh crore by 2030 in setting up 10 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity, a green ammonia plant, and offshore wind energy projects. The

All this while, it continues to hunt and produce more oil and

#### Govt rolls out mandatory quality norms The government has issued mandatory quality norms for copper products, drums, tin containers for copper products, drums and tin containers to curb the import

of sub-standard goods and boost mission, telecommunications, domestic manufacturing of these electrical circuits, and several goods, an official statement said appliances. So, copper products need to be of the best qual-Drums and Tins (Quality ity, and the purity must not be compromised at any cost.

The nine copper products covered under this order include wire rods for electrical applications; solid drawn copper and copper tubes for condensers and heat exchangers; and wrought copper tubes for refrig-eration and air-conditioning purposes.
"In order to safeguard the

domestic small/micro industries, ensure smooth implementation of the QCO and Ease of from the date of publication of Doing Business, relaxations have been granted to small/micro this notification, the DPIIT said. Copper and its alloys are used in industries as regards to timepower generation, power translines, additional three months



have been given to small industries and an additional six months to micro industries," the department said. Similarly, drums and tins are

basically used for storing and

transporting several different types of toxic, flammable and hazardous substances. They are widely used across industries including waste management, healthcare and food services..

So, it is imperative that Drums and tins need to be of good quality in order to protect any type of leakages, adulteration and fire damage, it added. "DPIIT in consultation with BIS and stakeholders has been

identifying key products for notifying QCO. This has led to the initiation of development of more than 60 new QCOs covering 318 product standards," it

Violation of the provision of the BIS Act can attract imprisonment of up to two years or a fine of at least Rs 2 lakh for the first

In case of second and subsequent offences, the fine will increase to a minimum of Rs 5 lakh and extend up to 10 times of the value of goods or articles.

the development of testing labs, product manuals, and accreditation of test labs would aid the development of a quality ecosystem in the country. Earlier, such orders have been issued for several goods such as

well as the environment.

smart meters, welding rods and electrodes, cookware and utensils, fire extinguishers, electric ceiling fans and domestic gas

(PTC)," it said.
The PTC board last week approved ONGC's bid for the acquisition of a 100 per cent equity stake in PEL at an equity value of Rs 925 crore, it said.

remaining would flow thereafter to achieve Scope 1 and 2 net zero carbon emissions.

#### Control) Order, 2023; and Copper Products (Quality Control) Order, 2023 - in this regard were issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

(DPIIT) on October 20.

on Monday.

Items under these two orders cannot be produced, sold, traded, imported and stocked unless they bear the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) mark. These orders will come into force with effect from six months

Two separate notifications

# Verstappen earns hard fought 50th career F1 victory at US Grand Prix

n a season of easy victories, career win No. 50 finally made Max Verstappen sweat. Even if it was just a little bit.

Verstappen had to work through the field after starting sixth instead of from pole position, then held off the charging Mercedes of Lewis Hamilton over the final laps in the Texas heat to win the United States Grand Prix on Sunday at the Circuit of the Americas

Hamilton's best finish in five months was later wiped out when he and sixth-place finisher Charles Leclerc of Ferrari were disqualified more than three hours after the race for rules violations found with the skid blocks under their cars.

Verstappen's record-tying 15th win of the season also made the Dutch driver just the fifth Formula One driver in history to reach 50 in a career. Hamilton has the most with 103.

Verstappen has four races left this season to leap over Alain Post (51) and Sebastian Vettel (53) for third. Michael Schumacher has 91.

"It's a great number," Verstappen said of 50. "Let's try to win

The three-time F1 champion had to work much harder than usual in a season of almost complete domination. But the power of his Red Bull and the right pit stop strategy calls by his team navigated Verstappen to the finish line 2.2 seconds ahead of

Hamilton's Mercedes had been eating up chunks of time while chasing Verstappen over the



"I think the whole race I was struggling with the brakes. That made the race a bit tougher. It was very close at the end, Verstappen said.

After splitting the first four races with teammate Sergio Perez, Verstappen has won 13 of the last 14 in a run that would have Red Bull on top of the team standings by himself. Red Bull has already won the constructor's championship.

Verstappen also earned his third consecutive win in Austin. He started this one in the middle of the grid because of a rare mistake of exceeding track limits in Friday's qualifying that wiped out his final lap. Race officials then slightly widened the lines at three corners to give the dri-

vers more space on race day Every winner at the Circuit of the Americas had started from the front row until Verstappen's charge Sunday. He now has won three times this season from sixth or lower.

With Hamilton in his rearview mirror and his garage updating his lap times, Verstappen scolded his team to "stop talking" to him while he battled with his brakes in the corners.
"I asked nicely," Verstappen said.

'I said please.'

Hamilton is chasing Perez for second in the drivers' standings. He thought he had a delivered an important podium finish as Mercedes brought what it called its last major upgrade of the sea"Others got it right where we got it wrong and there's no wiggle room in the rules. We need to take it on the chin, do the lear-

Race officials quickly wiped

that out once his car was inspect-

Formula One cars have a wood-

en plank, or skid block, under

the floor that is used to test if it

is within the rules of how low

cars can run to the ground. If the

plank is found to found to be

worn more than 1 millimeter,

the car and driver are disquali-

fied. A late radio message from

the Mercedes garage had

expressed hope for second place and "maybe the win" as Hamilton passed McLaren's

Lando Norris and closed the gap

"Max has been really flawless," Hamilton said. "We were catch-

ing him toward the end. I was

hopeful. We needed more laps."

to the Verstappen

ed after the race.

ning, and come back stronger next weekend," Wolff said. Hamilton had said after the race he was proud to have a strong race after his self-inflict-ed, first-lap crash with teammate George Russell knocked him out of the race two weeks ago in Qatar. The seven-time F1 champion hasn't won since December 2021 in Saudi Arabia.

The disqualification announcement from race officials noted

the team argued the problem stemmed from the bumpy con-ditions on track, which even

Verstappen complained about. "The Stewards note that the onus is on the competitor to

ensure that the car is in compli-

ance with the regulations at all times during an event," race offi-

Race officials had also inspected Verstappen's skid block with no violation found.

Mercedes Team Principal Toto

Wolff said the team would not

cials said.

"It is of course disappointing to be disqualified post-race but that doesn't take away from the progress we've made this weekend," Hamilton said. Norris finished third, but was

moved up to second after Hamilton was disqualified. He earned McLaren its fourth consecutive podium finish.

The run of good results has pushed McLaren past Aston Martin into fourth place in the team standings.

"To get into the lead early was a podium maker," Norris said. "It



#### Gymnast Chiles leads US Team to gold against Brazil's Andrade kera was Brazil's team led by Re-

**AP** ■ SANTIAGO (CHILE)

U.S. Gymnast Jordan Chiles has dreamed about being a flagbearer at a major sports event since she saw her friend Simone Biles do it at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics closing ceremony. The 22-year-old managed to get her wish at the opening of the Pan American Games in Santiago on Friday.

On Sunday, the silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics made another dream come true; to lead the U.S. Women's gymnastics team into a continental final and then to a gold medal. The U.S. Topped the all-round women's competition with 165.196 points, with a big push from Chiles to give the Americans their sixth straight women's team Pan American gold medal.

"There's so many more dreams in this little body of mine," Chiles told journalists after receiving her gold medal. "It was really cool to be the flagbearer, then coming out here to win gold with an amazing team." The main rival for Chiles, Kayla DiCello, Zoe Miller, Kaliya

beca Andrade, an Olympic gold medalist and also a friend of "Knowing I am the veteran, I

trust these younger ones," Chiles

added. "They are not that much younger than me, so being able just to see their progress and do what they did ... I wouldn't change this team for anything."
The Brazilians scored 161.564
points. Andrade sat out the floor exercise to spare her knees, and her teammates made mistakes in the uneven bars that distanced them from the U.S. Team. Canada finished with

154.230 points.
Chiles topped the all-round chart with 54.666 points, 0.101 ahead of 2021 world all-around bronze medalist DiCello.

the bronze medal with a distant

The 22-year-old American is competing in Chile as she weighs competing in the Paris Olympics or returning for her junior year at the University of California

Possibly the biggest star competing in Chile, the 24-year-old Andrade is Brazil's most decorated gymnast in history and is

Games for the first time. She will be Chiles' rival again in individual finals.

"Jordan is a complete gymnast, very experienced and talented," Andrade said. "And this is a great scenario to do well. It is a bit like the Olympics although it isn't the Olympics. When you see all the flags out in the athletes' village you start thinking about it.

The U.S. And Brazil are expected to once again battle for medals in women's gymnastics in Paris.

Earlier this month, Andrade defeated Biles to take the vault gold at the world championship in Antwerp. She won two medals at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago: gold in the vault competition and silver in the allround individual. She has nine medals in world championships,

including three golds.
After beating Biles, the U.S.
Gymnastics federation published a picture of Andrade and Biles side by side in its social media channels. "Many more battles still to come," the message

#### Lahiri, DeChambeau carry Crushers to team title in LIV Golf finale

AP DORAL (FLORIDA)

nirban Lahiri shot a 7-Aunder 65 and Bryson DeChambeau delivered the theatrics on the back nine of the Blue Monster to lead the Crushers to a two-shot victory over the RangeGoats in the LIV Golf team championship Sunday at Trump Doral.

The scores from all four players on every team counted in the final event of LIV Golf's second season, and the Crushers were in control for almost all of the back nine, and led by four shots as the final group reached the 18th hole

DeChambeau made only one par on the back nine and shot 67. Charles Howell III had a 72 and Paul Casey had a 73.

Bubba Watson birdied the 18th for a 67 to lead the RangeGoats. Talor Gooch, who won the individual points title this season, and Thomas Pieters each had 70. Harold Varner III shot 72. The RangeGoats were still only

two behind until Gooch put his tee shot on the 18th into the water, making bogey and leav-

uventus boosted its title cre-

dentials on Sunday with a 1-

0 win at AC Milan, which

played the entire second half of

ing the Crushers in a solid position. DeChambeau made his most remarkable birdie on the reachable 16th, which he hit long and left near the second green. He hit a high wedge over a concession area to about 18 feet and made the putt.

Lahiri played bogey-free for the low round among the four teams playing for the title.

"I was really pumped up," Lahiri said. "I had a couple of Sundays where I let myself down. I wasn't going to let the team down

The defending champion 4 Aces never had a chance, with Dustin Johnson closing with a 75 and only one player - Peter Uihlein with a 69 - breaking 70. They finished last among the four teams. Torque finished third. The Crushers won \$14 million from the \$50 million purse. Of that payoff, 60% goes to the team and the players divide the rest -\$1.4 million per player.

The other eight teams, all beaten during quarterfinals and semifinals of match play, competed in two separate tiers to determine their final placing.

## Frazar wins 1st PGA Tour Champions title in a playoff

Harrison Frazar won his first PGA Tour Champions title Sunday when he birdied the 18th hole for a 3-under 69 to force a playoff with Richard Green, and then made an 8-foot birdie on the first extra hole at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic, Frazar wasn't the only winner, Steve Stricker clinched his first Charles Schwab Cup title with two postseason events still to be played, even though he skipped the

Green also closed with a 69, helped by a birdie putt on the 16th hole. But he failed to birdie the 516-yard closing hole at the Country Club of Richmond, opening the door for Frazar and Brett Quigley in the

Quigley birdied the 16th and 17th, and he



had a 10-foot birdie putt on the final hole that he left inches short for a 71 to finish alone in third, one shot behind.

11th hole, but he hit a superb wedge from 75 yards to short range for birdie on the 16th, and he two-putted for birdie from 40 feet on the 18th.

Frazar and Green finished at 11-under 205. Returning to the 18th for the playoff, both

on his fairway metal, but it caromed out of the trees into the fairway and he hit his third to 30 feet. Frazar cleared the cross bunkers, and his long pitch spun back to 8 feet below the hole. He clenched his fist when he saw it drop

for birdie. His first PGA Tour Champions victory came 12 years after his lone win on the PGA Tour at the St. Jude Classic. 'Emotions are all-time high right now,"

Frazar said. "I'm so happy and so proud at what I've done. This means a bunch. You wonder if you can really do it. You wonder if you've still got it in the hole, gosh, what a feeling.' Stricker has been so dominant on the PGA

Tour Champions, winning six times and three majors, that he built a lead of just under \$2 million going into the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs

# Aston hammers West Ham 4-1 in Premier League

A ston Villa's incredible home form could provide a plat-League spots in the Premier League this season. A 4-1 hammering of West Ham on Sunday made it four straight wins — and 17 goals in the pro-cess — for Unai Emery's team in its four matches at Villa Park so far. Villa moved a point off the top four after nine games and has a couple of players in strong scor-

ing form. Brazil midfielder Douglas Luiz scored twice and England strik-er Ollie Watkins added another, with both moving onto five for the campaign. Substitute Leon Bailey also netted for Villa. Luiz drove home the 30thminute opener from the edge of the area after a lay-off from Watkins before converting a penalty in the 51st following Nayef Aguerd's trip on Ezri

Jarrod Bowen pulled a goal when his long-range shot deflected off Pau Torres and span into the far corner. Watkins, who netted a winner

for England against Australia in the recent international break restored Villa's two-goal lead with the pick of the goals. He ran onto John McGinn's long ball forward, performed a step-

over to create space, then lashed a left-foot finish into the roof of the net. Bailey struck a finish into the top corner to crown another impressive home performance from Villa.

There was a period of applause before kickoff in a tribute to England and Manchester United great Bobby Charlton, who died on Saturday at the age of 86.

## 17-year-old Guiu scores seconds into his first-team debut to give Barcelona a Spanish league victory

nother teenager has made Ahistory for Barcelona in the Spanish league.

Seventeen-year-old Marc Guiu scored about 30 seconds into his first-team debut to give the Catalan club a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, becoming the second-youngest player this century to score in his league debut.

They told me to go out there and give everything I have, that I would have my chances," Guiu said. "I dreamed about this so many times. I won't sleep Malaga's Fabrice Olinga was 16 years, 98 days old when he scored against Celta Vigo in his debut in 2012. Barcelona's Lamine Yamal became the youngest scorer in the Spanish league in a 2-2 draw against Granada before the international break at 16 years, 87 days.

Guiu, who is 17 years, 291 days, came off the bench and after two touches was celebrating the game-winning goal in the 80th minute that moved Barcelona to third place in the standings. Guiu sprinted toward the area after a pass by João Félix and



found the net with a low shot that beat Bilbao goalkeeper Unai Simón for his first goal. The victory gave Barcelona 24 points after 10 matches, one point behind league leaders Real Madrid and Girona

Barcelona, the only unbeaten team left in the league, got the win despite playing without

ing Robert Lewandowski, Pedri, Frenkie de Jong, Raphinha, Jules Koundé and Sergi Roberto. Barcelona has not lost in its last eight league matches against Bilbao, with seven wins and a draw. It has won four straight games against the Basque Country team without conceding any goals since coach Xavi took

Barcelona entered a demanding week that includes a Champions League game against Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday and a "clasico" against Madrid on Saturday.

#### **MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023**

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Deepawali / Chhath Puja Festival Special Express Trains as per details given below:-

| 04033/04034 New Delhi - Martyr Captain Tushar   02<br>Mahajan - New Delhi Superfast Express Special   Trips |       |                               |                   |                  |       |      |  |
|---|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|------|--|
| Train No.: 04033  |       |                               |                   | Train No.: 04034 |       |      |  |
| ARR.  | DEP.  | ▼                             | <b>▼</b> STATIONS |                  | ARR.  | DEP. |  |
|   | 23:30 |                               | New Delhi         |                  | 09:30 |      |  |
| 10:55   |       | Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan |                   |                  | 22:05 |      |  |
| DATE OF RUN: 04033 from New Delhi on 27.10.2023 & 04034 from  |       |                               |                   |                  |       |      |  |

Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan on 01.11.2023.

STOPPAGE: Sonipat, Panipat, Kamal, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt. Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt, & Jammu Tawi Stations ACCOMMODATION: AC-3 Tier.

| 05656/05655 Guwahati - Anand Vihar (T) - Guwahati<br>Express Special |       |                 |                  |       |  |  |
|--|-------|-----------------|------------------|-------|--|--|
| Train No.: 05656   |       |                 | Train No.: 05655 |       |  |  |
| ARR.   | DEP.  | ♦ STATIONS      | ARR.             | DEP.  |  |  |
|  | 05:15 | Guwahati        | 12:30            |       |  |  |
| 15:30  |       | Anand Vihar (T) |                  | 23:00 |  |  |
|  |       |                 |                  |       |  |  |

DATE OF RUN: 05656 from Guwahati on 27.10.2023 & 05655 from Anand Vihar (T) on 01.11.2023.

STOPPAGE: Kamakhya, Rangiya, Barpeta Road, New Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, New Cooch Behar, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Barsoi, Katihar Jn., Barauni Jn., Patliputra, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. & GovIndpurl Stations

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the Serie A game with 10 men. Former Milan player Manuel Locatelli scored the only goal in the 63rd minute after Rossoneri defender Malick Thiaw was sent off shortly before halftime. The goal came exactly seven years to the date after Locatelli fired Milan to a 1-0 win over Iuventus

"It came into my mind before the match. Life is incredible. This is really destiny, because the same day, seven years ago, with a different jersey, it's incredible,' Locatelli said.

"Of course I remembered the date, I'd even talked about it with my family ... (Juventus midfield-

er Adrien) Rabiot told me before the match Score in the right goal this time. Milan would have moved back

to the top with a win and gone seven points clear of Juventus. Instead, the Bianconeri consolidated third place and cut the gap to one point to Milan and two points to league leader Inter Milan, which won 3-0 at Torino on Saturday. There was a strong American presence at San Siro with four U.S. Internationals in the starting lineups. Christian Pulisic and Yunus Musah at Milan were facing Iuventus duo Weston McKennie and Tim Weah - the son of former Milan player George Weah. Both teams were missing a number of players through suspension and injury, including Juventus midfielder Nicolò Fagioli, who was banned for



Juventus boosts title credentials with 1-0 win over 10-man Milan

for his part in a betting scandal. Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan had been sent off in the Rossoneri's extraordinary victory over Genoa before the international break and replacement Marco Sportiello was injured so third-choice goalkeeper Antonio

the 14th minute when Rafael

face of goal. Mirante, who is 40, made only his second appearance in three Milan almost took the lead in

picked out Olivier Giroud but Wojciech Szczesny pulled off a fantastic save to push the ball away from Pulisic and across the However, Milan's hopes of taking all three points diminished

five minutes before halftime when Thiaw was shown a straight red card for hacking down Moise Kean and denying Juventus an obvious scoring opportunity.

match for Pulisic who was immediately taken off in favor of a defender, Pierre Kalulu. Juventus should have broken the deadlock on the stroke of halftime but Kean fired wide from point-blank range.

That also saw the end of the

The Bianconeri needed a stroke of luck to take the lead as Locatelli's effort took a huge deflection off Milan midfielder Rade Krunic leaving Mirante completely wrongfooted. Locatelli progressed through the ranks at Milan but left for

Sassuolo in 2018, moving to Juventus three years later. Mirante made his first save in the 85th minute, flying to palm Dušan Vlahovic's attempt over the bar. He also pulled off a brilliant double save in stoppage time to deny first Andrea Cambiaso and then Vlahovic again.

the final minute as Roma snatched a confidence-boosting 1-0 win over Monza, which played more than half the match with 10 men. Roma coach Jose Mourinho furiously celebrated the goal, which gave his team

Stephan El Shaarawy scored in

only its fourth league victory of the season. However, Mourinho will not be on the bench for next weekend's match at former club Inter Milan after he was sent off in stoppage time for making a crying eyes gesture at Monza coach Raffaele Palladino as both sets

of staff bickered on the touch-Roma appeared to have turned things around after a miserable start to the season and had managed back-to-back league wins before the international break.

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# BABAR, LOWER-ORDER CAMEOS GUIDE PAKISTAN TO 282/7

Skipper Babar Azam struck a composed half-century before useful cameos by lower-order batters guided Pakistan to 282 for seven against Afghanistan in their World Cup match here on Monday.

Opener Abdullah Shafique made 58 off 75 balls and Babar got 74 off 92 balls, but had it not been for the efforts of Iftikhar Ahmed and the returning Shadab Khan, Pakistan would have finished with far less than what they eventually achieved.

While Iftikhar smashed his way to a 27-ball 40, Shadab contributed a breezy 40 in 38 deliveries. Expecting a slow pitch, the Afghans moved in with four spinners. However, the track turned out to be better than expected. The Pakistani openers Shafique and Imam-ul-Haq (17) began on a cautious note and managed a 56-run stand.

While they brought up the side's 50 by the eighth over, Shafique was targeting pacer Naveen-ul-Hag

Also, spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman was expensive in the first 10 overs of the powerplay.

The first delivery of the second powerplay saw the Afghans earn the first breakthrough, with Imam falling to speedster Azmatullah Ömarzai off a short ball.

Nevertheless, the Men in Green barely panicked as Shafique joined forces with skipper Babar and put up a 54-run partnership for the

Kohli's knock under

pressure got India

PTI DHARAMSALA

Cup match here.

reach 273 on Sunday.

home in 48 overs.

Sunday

under lights.

with the wicket.'

total.

New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell feels Indian star

Virat Kohli's sublime knock of

95 was the difference between

the two teams in their World

balls and shared a century stand

for the third wicket with Rachin

Ravindra to help New Zealand

But Mitchell's knock did not

prove to be enough as Kohli

anchored the chase to take India

"He's a world class player and

he'll go down as one of the greats

"A very good knock under pres-

sure I thought and although he didn't get 100, he got his team

across the line," Mitchell said after the four-wicket loss on

Mitchell praised New Zealand's

bowling effort and said the con-

ditions got better for batting

..us as Kiwis, we'll just keep

throwing punches, we'll keep

trying different things and we'll

"I'm just really proud of our

bowling unit tonight and how

they tried to do that for periods

of time and in conditions which

probably got better with the dew

The right-handed batter said the

Kiwis were 20-30 runs short of

what could have been a winning

"You obviously always want

more runs, but at the same time

I thought the platform that we

set and the way we wanted to go

about it was in true Black Caps

"Śo, for us, we'll just keep chip-

ping in and we'll work on a few things, and we'll be good to go

Mitchell was aggressive against

Kuldeep Yadav early on in his innings and the Kiwi said his

plan was to put pressure on the

in-form Indian wrist spinner.

"I've known Kuldeep for a while

now, he's a great man and we get

on well off the field and yeah for

me it's just keep trying to find

ways to put pressure on their

next time," Mitchell said.

keep trying to take wickets.

of the game for a reason.

over the line: Mitchell

bowlers, it's not just him it's the

same with every bowler that we

"It's about trying to find ways to

put pressure on them. He's done

really well over the last few years

for India and it's awesome to see

come up with ways you want to

play different guys. And for me today, that was obviously an

Mitchell also praised younger

teammate Ravindra for his 87

"It was awesome to bat with

Rach, he's obviously in a rich

form at the moment and yeah,

we were just having some fun

out there and taking in what it

is to be part of an amazing

World Cup, to play at grounds

like this and at crowds like

The 32-year-old Kiwi batter

also had high regards for the

Indian bowlers performance in

"We set the platform there at that

sort of 35 over mark, it was very

similar to what India were at that stage and obviously we knew

that India's got a world-class

death-bowling unit and for us it

was trying to cash in at the end

and I thought the way India

bowled was pretty special obviously," Mitchell said.

Just like Mohammad Shami,

Mitchell too doesn't have any complaints about the poor out-

field of the HPCA stadium here.

cricket you can only look up at the mountains and it looks

"For us we've got standards within our Black Caps that you

come and do everything you can

to help us win games of cricket and part of that is diving on the

boundary and stopping the ball

when you get the chance and

that's something we're proud of ourselves as Black Caps and we'll

continue to do it no matter

where we play in the world," he

In a bizarre occurrence, sudden

dense fog interrupted the match

for a brief period during India's

innings and Mitchell termed it

as an amazing experience.

amazing.

This is a beautiful place to play

come up against," he said.

him have some success.

option that worked.'

ball 75-run knock.

this," he said.

the death overs



At this point, spinners Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Kahn operated in tandem to keep things under control, not allowing the two batters in the middle to free their arms.

In the meantime, Shafique brought up his third ODI half-century, while Babar looked to mix aggression with caution.

It was the 23rd over when Azmatullah Omarzai finally got rid of Shafique, while a cou-ple of overs later, Mohammad Rizwan (8) fell prey to Noor Ahmad, reducing Pakistan to 120 for three.

Babar and Saud Shakeel (25) paired up briefly for a 43-run stand for the fourth wicket, even as the run rate dropped a bit to put pressure on the batters.

The result was that Shakeel was dismissed by Mohammad Nabi in the 34th over, before Babar and Shadab Khan (40) stitched a 43-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

During this phase, Babar also scored his 30th ODI 50 before offering a catch to Nabi off Noor with the score reading 206 for five in the 42nd over. Then, Shadab and Iftikhar took charge and propped up the team's score with their lusty hitting, adding 73 invaluable runs in quick

Naveen broke the stand by getting rid of Iftikhar in the final over, besides also dismissing Shadab

As for the Afghan bowlers, left-arm wrist spinner Noor was the most successful and claimed three wickets for 49 runs in his full quota of



#### I always felt part of the team: Shami

PTI DHARAMSALA

Watching the proceedings from the sidelines is always difficult for any player, and Mohammed Shami is no different. But the pace-bowling stalwart, who produced a five-star performance against New Zealand in his first match of this edition of the World Cup, asserted he always felt he was part of the team even when he was not included in the first four games.

Drafted into the playing XI on Sunday against the Kiwis, Shami produced excellent figures of 5/54 and played a pivotal role in the home team's four-wicket win against New Zealand in a topof-the-table clash in scenic Dharamsala.

"I was watching everything from the bench. I will do something only when I am given the chance. When you are not playing, it is very difficult. But if your team is performing, your boys are moving in a rhythm, then I don't think you should feel guilty sitting outside," Shami said at the post-match press conference. "You are also a part of the team and a part of the World Cup. I think everyone should enjoy each other's success.

The 33-year-old fast bowler said he never lost hope when he was sitting on the sidelines, and always kept a positive mindset. "Personally, I keep my outlook simple, you need to keep enjoying. In India the biggest sport is cricket. The biggest place is the place where you are sitting.

'It's not necessary to be there (in the playing XI). You have 15 players. Four of them have to stay out. So, by being positive and enjoying, I feel you will get more results," Shami said.

"So, I always think, I am not here today, I will be here tomorrow. If not tomorrow, then day after tomorrow. They do come in rotation And v comes, you need to contribute for the team.

Shami said he had full clarity about his role on Sunday and he focussed on his line and length on a pitch that wasn't offering much.

'...I know everything, but it depends on what your role is, what the conditions are. You have to see everything because when the ball is not coming out of the wicket, you have to focus on the line and length. And the

result is in front of you," he said. 'When you start, it's very important that you get a good start for your team. That's your role. Our bowlers have chosen the right areas. We did well and we restricted them, and the result is in front of you.

Shami did not single out any particular wicket he wanted to put ahead of the other four, saying they were all important. 'All the wickets are good. When you play for your country, I feel every wicket is important for

you. As such, I don't like any particular wicket more. I enjoy all my wickets. Coming into the match, India and New Zealand were unbeaten and Shami said there wasn't much to differentiate between

the top-two sides in tournament, and the team that played better "When the top-two teams are playing, how they play doesn't matter, but how they have played the game matters. No. 1 and No.2 teams don't have much difference. When two top teams are

results don't matter. Their game (on the day) matters. "I think you should look at the game, the innings, the fielding, how you have bowled. That matters more in this stage. The one

playing, I think the (previous)

who does well, wins the match," he said. Shami said that while it was good to win the toss as the wicket assisted the Indian bowlers in the first session, it was equally important to bowl in the right

"It's good (winning the toss) because, obviously, batting second helps. It does benefit (you) when you are bowling during the day. Whenever you bowl, you always look for a good area. And whenever you bowl in a good area, you will definitely get results. So, my belief is that

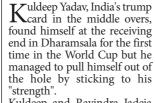
areas after that.

in the evening, you will have to hit a good area," he said. The HPCA stadium outfield here has come in for sharp criticism because of its soggy nature, but Shami said the conditions were the same for both teams.

"There is no complaint because it was the same for both teams. We cannot say anything to the groundsman because he is helpess, it's his job; he tries very hard... It is not good to put a question mark on someone," he said

## Kuldeep manages to pulls himself out of the hole

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Kuldeep and Ravindra Jadeja have made India the best performing bowling unit in the middle overs so far in the competition but the game against New Zealand showed either of them can have a rare off day and it could spell trouble for the hosts. The 28-year-old left-arm wrist spinner from Kanpur has been rewarded for targeting the stumps, varying his pace and tossing up the ball since his

comeback from injury He has consistently delivered for India over the past 18 months but was taken to the cleaners by Darvl Mitchell on Sunday. The in-form right hander resorted to could not attempt against Kuldeep, stepping out and

launching an attack. In an attempt to break his rhythm, Mitchell hit him for three straight sixes.

Rachin Ravindra also did the same against Kuldeep who leaked 48 runs in his first five overs and eventually 73 from his quota of 10 overs.

With his stock plan not working, the wily Indian went for a fast seam up against the rampaging



Mitchell.

The old Kuldeep might have opted to alter his length after the onslaught but he continued to attack in his comeback spell resulting in two important wickets of Tom Lathan and the dangerous Glenn Phillips. He would have got rid of Mitchell too if catch in the deep.

Former India spinner and selector Sarandeep Singh lauded Kuldeep's comeback against the Black Caps.

"He can't perform in every game. I would say it is good thing that it happened against New Zealand, he will be better prepared for the next game. And he did bounce back to take those two wickets, else we were looking at a 300-plus total.' Being a spinner himself, Saran-

deep feels Kuldeep's best bet is to keep attacking even when he is going for runs.

"He can only attack, he can't stop the runs. His strength is to take wickets. Rohit also has to support him when he is put under pressure. No matter how many runs he gives, his only job is to containment job.

"His second spell made the difference yesterday. He is the biggest match winner for India in this competition. The only way to stop runs on these tracks is by taking wickets. He has been the reason why teams have not been able to score 350 against

India," reckoned Sarandeep. The wrist spinner has so far taken eight wickets in five games at an impressive economy rate of 4.74, having bowled 50 overs in

about being accurate. If the ball is not turning keep targeting the stumps," added Sarandeep. Mitchell made a memorable 130 and got the better of

Kuldeep but duly acknowledged the class of his rival and friend. "I've known Kuldeep for a while on well off the field and yeah for me it's just keep trying to find ways to put pressure on their bowlers, it's not just him it's the same with every bowler that we come up against.

"It's about trying to find ways to put pressure on them. He's done really well over the last few years for India and it's awesome to see him have some success.

You come in with plans, you come up with ways you want to play different guys.



## Carse replaces injured Topley in England squad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Inexperienced pacer Brydon **L**Carse has been added to England's 15-member World Cup squad as a replacement player for injured Reece Topley, the ICC said on Monday. Topley broke his left index fin-

ger during England's match against South Africa on Saturday and was subsequently ruled out for the remainder of the tournament.

The reigning champions decid-

ed to go for Carse after having resisted the urge to throw World Cup winner Jofra Archer a life-As per the requirements, the

inclusion of Carse to England's

squad was approved by the tournament's Event Technical Committee. Carse has played just 12 ODIs for his country, but impressed with a five-wicket haul against Pakistan in July and subsequent performances at home against the Netherlands and New Zealand. The struggling defending cham-

pions' next match at the World Cup is against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru on Thursday and Carse could come into contention to feature as they look to stay in the race for a semi-final berth. England are currently placed ninth in the 10-team table after losing three of their four matches. The play overwhelming favourites Îndia in Lucknow on Sunday.

PTI MUMBAI

South Africa will look to build On their superlative perfor-mance against the defending champions when they take on a struggling Bangladesh in their World Cup match here on Tuesday, knowing well that taking the foot off the pedal at this stage could spell trouble.

South Africa were off to a flier when they thrashed Sri Lanka and Australia by 100-plus mar-gins, but a shocking defeat against the Netherlands pegged them back before they demolished England by 229 runs to put their campaign back on track. Bangladesh might not look too threatening in the World Cup but their record against the Proteas, especially in World Cups, gives them more than a

chance in the contest. Three of South Africa's six defeats to Bangladesh in ODIs have come in the last four years, including when the Tigers beat them by 21 runs in the 2019 World Cup.



Formidable South Africa

In their four meetings so far in World Cups — 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019 — the Proteas have lost to the Asian rivals twice 2007 and 2019.

The Proteas can ill-afford to take Bangladesh lightly knowing the damage they have inflicted and the fact that the Asian side is packed with all-rounders, namely their skipper Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz among others.

Besides, South African opener Quinton de Kock has had two forgettable outings — the last one at Wankhede where he scored just four against England on Saturday.

Still, the Proteas managed to set a 400-run target for Jos Buttler's

The wicketkeeper-batter, who has played several IPL matches at the Wankhede for Mumbai Indians, would be itching for a big score to regain the touch that saw him score consecutive centuries in the first two matches of the World Cup.

Temba Bavuma missed the game against England due to illness and if he is back in contention, Reeza Hendricks will make way for the skipper in the playing XI. Aiden Markram and Rassie van

der Dussen are a formidable pair in the middle-order and David Miller too would want to get a big score under his belt after a string of ordinary outings. Centurion against England, Heinrich Klaasen would be hop-

ing for an encore against Bangladesh. For Bangladesh, captain Shakib remains a concern as he did not

not bowl in their practice session here on Sunday. The all-rounder suffered a quad

injury against New Zealand in Chennai on October 13, and has not been in the playing XI ever since with Najmul Hossain Shanto leading the side.

Shanto was confident that Shakib would return to action soon the last time he spoke to the media, and it remains to be seen if the senior-most member in the side is fit enough to take the workload.

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