OPINION 6

INFLECTION POINT

FOR HUMANITY

WORLD 8

18 KILLED, 13 HURT IN

US SHOOTINGS

MONEY 10

BLOODBATH ON

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NEW DELHI, FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

Qatar shocks India Brief raids poise Israel

8 former Navy officers sentenced to death; India explores legal options

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Alocal court in Qatar has sentenced eight former Indian Navy personnel to death allegedly on charges of espionage. India on Thursday said it is "deeply shocked" and is exploring all legal options in the case. The eight personnel have been held in a Qatari jail since August 2022, and charges against them have reportedly not been made public by the authorities in Oatar.

"We have received initial information that the Court of First Instance in Oatar has today issued a judgment in the case involving eight Indian employ-ees of Al Dahra company," said the External Affairs Ministry on Thursday in a statement.

"We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgment. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options. We attach high importance to this case, and have been following it closely. We will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance. We will also take up the verdict with Oatari authorities. Due to the confidential nature of proceedings of this case, it would not be appropriate to make any further comment at this juncture," said the External Affairs Ministry.



major Indian warships, were working for Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, a private firm that provided training and related services to Qatar's armed forces. Some of them were working on a highly sensitive project — Italian technologybased midget submarines with stealth characteristics, sources

The company was owned by an Omani national, a retired squadron leader of the Royal Omani Air Force. He too was arrested along with the eight Indians, but was released in November, it was learnt.

The Indians' bail pleas were rejected numerous times and their detention extended by Qatari authorities. On Thursday, the Court of First Instance of Qatar passed a judgment.

Índia's Ambassador to Qatar

officers who once commanded October 1 after being granted consular access. The seventh hearing in the case took place on October 3, sources said. The

trial started in March. (retired) Commander Purnendu Tiwari, who is among the detained Indians, served as Al Dahra's managing director and commanded several warships while serving with the Indian Navy.

The sentenced people include Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, and Sailor Ragesh. They were detained in Doha.

It was also learnt that an Indian journalist and his spouse were recently asked by Qatari authorities to leave the country for reporting the case. The The men, including decorated met the men in prison on Indian nationals had their first

trial in late March. Meetu Bhargava, the sister of one of the officers, had sought help from the Indian government to

bring her brother back.
In a post on X on June 8,
Bhargava had appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene.

These former Navy officers are the pride of the nation, and again I request our Hon'ble Prime Minister with folded hands that it is high time that they all are brought back to India immediately without any further delay pl. @narendramo-di @AmitShah @rajnathsingh @MOS_MEA," she had posted

According to media reports, the former Navy officials faced allegations of espionage related to a submarine programme on Israel's behalf. Qatari authorities claimed that they hold electronic evidence pertaining to the matter. The men were reportedly accused of spying on Qatar's advanced submarines for Israel.

These submarines were coated with special materials that enhanced their stealth capabilities, something that would be valuable for any navy in the world, source said.

According to reports, the submarines were being built in collaboration with an Italian shipbuilding firm. In 2019, Commander Purnendu Tiwari was awarded the Pravasi Bharaitya Samman, the highest

honour conferred on overseas Indians. In a post at the time, the Indian Embassy in Doha had said the award was given to Commander Tiwari for enhancing India's image abroad.

The award is in recognition of his contribution towards capacity building for the Qatar Emiri Naval Forces, thereby promoting India-Qatar bilateral cooperation. He is the first Indian Armed Forces personnel to be awarded this highest honour meant for NRIs / PIOs," the embassy had said.

The first hearing in their trial was held on March 29. Family sources said they had not been informed of the formal charges under which the trial is being held, either by Oatari authorities or by Indian officials who have had consular access with the prisoners.

The men were picked up by the State Security Bureau, the Qatari intelligence agency, on the night of August 30 last year. The Indian Embassy first learnt about the arrests in mid-September.

On September 30, the men were allowed "brief telephonic contact" with family members. The first consular access a visit by an official of the Indian embassy — was granted on October 3, more than a month after they were taken into custody. Since then, they have been allowed weekly phone calls to family members.

for Gaza ground attack

AP ■ RAFAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israeli troops and tanks briefly raided northern Gaza overnight into Thursday, the military said, striking several Hamas militant targets in order to "prepare the battlefield" before a widely expected ground invasion after more than two weeks of devastating airstrikes.

The raid came after the UN warned that it is on the verge of running out of fuel in the Gaza Strip, forcing it to sharply curtail relief efforts.

Gaza has been under a brutal siege — running out of food, water and medicine — since Hamas' bloody rampage across southern Israel earlier this month ignited the war.

The rising death toll in Gaza is unprecedented in the decadeslong Israeli-Palestinian con-The Health Ministry in Hamas-

ruled Gaza said on Thursday more than 7,000 Palestinians have died in the conflict, a figure that could not be independently verified. Even greater loss of life could

come if Israel launches an ground offensive aimed at crushing Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007 and survived four previous wars with Israel. Israeli airstrikes in the south-

ern city of Khan Younis levelled more than eight homes belonging to an extended family,



overrun by Hamas militants in the unprecedented Hamas attack on Israel, hold pictures of their loved ones during a protest calling for the return of more than 220 civilians captured by Hamas militants, in Tel Aviv on Thursday

killing at least 15 people. Ambulances raced to the scene as dust from the collapsing buildings hung in the air.

The conflict has threatened to ignite a wider war across the region. Hezbollah, an Iranianfunded ally of Hamas operating out of Lebanon, has repeatedly traded fire with Israel along the border. Israel has carried out airstrikes in Lebanon, Syria and even the occupied West Bank.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas' capacity to govern Gaza or threaten Israel again, while also saying it doesn't want to reoccupy the territory from which it withdrew sol diers and settlers in 2005. That could prove a daunting society, with political and charity organisations as well as a formidable armed wing. The blast zone was a chaotic wasteland of crumbled concrete and twisted metal.

challenge, since Hamas is

deeply rooted in Palestinian

Rescuers carried wounded people covered in gray dust. The body of a boy was dug out from beneath a concrete slab, where his head had come to rest next to the foot of another person entombed in the wreckage.

The Israeli military has claimed that it only strikes Hamas militant targets and accuses Hamas of operating among civilians in densely-populated

Biden links Economic Corridor to Hamas attack

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Us President Joe Biden has said that he is convinced that one of the reasons why Hamas launched a terrorist attack on Israel was because of the recent announcement during the G-20 Summit in New Delhi on the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic entire region with a network of railroads

Israel has launched a massive counter-offensive against Hamas after unprecedented attacks by the militant group on October 7 killed more than 1,400 people. Biden told reporters at a joint

news conference with the visiting Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese that his analysis is based on his instinct and does not have any proof for

"I am convinced one of the reasons Hamas attacked when they did, and I have no proof of this, just my instinct tells me,



is because of the progress we were making towards regional integration for Israel, and regional integration overall. We can't leave that work behind," Biden said.

This is the second time in less than a week that Biden has mentioned the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) as a potential reason for the terrorist attack by Hamas.

The new economic corridor, which many see as an alterna-

tive to China's Belt and Road Initiative, was jointly announced by the leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit in

> September. The corridor comprises an eastern corridor connecting India to the Gulf region and a northern corridor connecting the Gulf region to Europe. Biden said in the past few

ers throughout the region, including King Abdullah of Jordan, President Sisi of Egypt, President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, and Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia about making sure there's real hope in the region for a better future about the need to work toward a greater integration for le insisting that the aspirations of the Palestinian people will be part, will be part of that future as well.

weeks, he has spoken to lead-

Earlier, in a joint news conference with visiting Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Biden said, "Israel has the right, and I would add responsibility, to respond to the slaughter of their people, and we will ensure Israel has what it needs to defend itself against these terrorists. That's a guarantee," Biden said.

However, he spoke out against retaliatory attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank in the aftermath of the Hamas attacks on Israel

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Mahua summoned on Oct 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After recording "oral evidence" of BJP MP Nishikant Dubey regarding his allegations against TMC member Mahua Moitra on cash for query in Parliament, the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee on Thursday asked Moitra to appear before it on October 31. Dubey told the panel that it was an "open and shut" case and the TMC member should be disqualified. He recalled the 2005 expulsion of 11 MPs, who were caught in a sting operation accepting bribes for asking fixed questions in Parliament, to make his point.

Sources said Dubey and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai gave "oral evidence" to the panel against Moitra during the day, after which its chairperson Vinod Kumar Sonkar said the committee will also seek assistance from the Ministries of Home Affairs and IT in probing the allegations.

In a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla dated October 15, Dubey said advocate Dehadrai. close to Moitra before they fell out, has shared "irrefutable evidence of bribes exchanged between her and businessman

Cash for Query



Darshan Hiranandani to target the Adani Group and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Birla had referred the matter to

the Ethics Committee. Sources said the panel's meeting began with sharp differences among the 10 members present, excluding the chairperson, regarding who they should hear first, the complainant or the accused, which led to a vote to resolve the matter.

Opposition members cited the recent case involving BSP MP Danish Ali and BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri as an example. They noted that another parliamentary panel had called the ruling party member accused of making derogatory comments in Parliament to testify first. In contrast, the Ethics Committee Dubey, the complainant, dur-

ing its first meeting. The vote ended in a tie as the members, five of the BJP and five of Opposition parties, voted on partisan lines, with the Chair casting his deciding vote in favour of hearing Dubey first as scheduled.

After the meeting, Sonkar, a BJP MP, told the media, "We have decided to ask Moitra to appear before us on October 31." Eleven of the committee's 15 members attended the meet-

In his statement before the panel, Dubey pitched for her disqualification saying the matter pertains to Parliament's dignity and is an issue of national security, sources said, adding that he noted it was an "open and shut" case as even businessman Hiranandani, who allegedly paid her bribes, has admitted to the charge.

Some panel members belonging to Opposition parties, including BSP's Danish Ali and JD(U)'s Giridhari Yadav, called for taking a lenient view in the matter as she was a firstterm MP, to which Dubey insisted that an example should be made of her to serve as a lesrecorded the statement of son to other parliamentarians,

sources said

The meeting had its share of heated moments as Congress MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy raised the issue of Dubey's alleged fake degree, a matter often flagged by Moitra, prompting a strong rebuttal as he said the matter has been visited by constitutional bodies like the Election Commission and the Supreme Court, sources said.

He said an FIR in the fake degree matter was quashed by a High Court and the Supreme Court upheld it while the EC too agreed with his contention. It seems some people think they are above the Supreme Court and that they are involved in corruption and posing a threat to national security, he claimed.

Sources mentioned the committee is also likely to seek a response from the Ministry of External Affairs as a matter of protocol as Hiranandani, accused of giving bribes to Moitra so that she can ask questions in Parliament at his behest, filed an affidavit admitting to the charges before India's consulate in Dubai. Moitra so far has dismissed the charges as a "jilted ex's lies".



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Modi inaugurates 37th National Games in Goa



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant during the opening ceremony of the 37th National Games at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa on Thursday

PTI MARGAO (GOA)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said his government has increased expenditure on sports by threefold in last nine years, and reiterated that the country is prepared to host 2036 Olympics. Speaking after inaugurating the 37th National Games at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Margao, Modi said the Games are taking place in Goa at a time when Indian

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday inspect-ed the cleanliness in the Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Secretariat in South Block here

as part of the government's

continuous endeavour to incul-

cate Swachhata as a daily habit.

He urged the employees to individually contribute a few

hours of Shramdaan every week

to maintain utmost cleanliness

Interacting with the employees,

Rajnath also emphasised that a clean and de-cluttered work-

place leads to enhanced produc-

tivity. He felicitated the

Swachhata Veers whose untir-

ing efforts have been instrumen-

tal in successful conduct of the

Swachhata Abhiyan in MoD,

officials said. The MoD is in the

fourth and penultimate week of

the Special Campaign 3.0 along

Swachhata Abhiyan. The over-

arching thrust of this campaign

has been on gainful utilisation

of available resources and gen-

eration of revenue from dispos-

al of scrap. It is pertinent to

mention that the Ministry has

Particulars

. Total income from operations(net)

Extraordinary items)

Equity Share Capital

(of ₹ 10/- each)

(of ₹ 10/- each)

Diluted:

Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after ta

Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after

Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as

shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)

Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items)

Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items)

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STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT

FOR THE SECOND QUARTER ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 2023

ended

30.09.2023

(Unaudited)

21.59

2.58

600.00

0.04

0.00

0.04

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31.03.202

(Audited

1618.01

1536.36

1536.36

600.00

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10.00

30.09.2022

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(15.31)

(15.31)

600.00

0.00

(0.26)

0.00

(0.26)

(Unaudited

at the workplace.

Minister inspects

cleanliness in MoD

sports is reaching new heights. "We have brought in changes in schemes to provide financial incentives to sportspersons," Modi said.

"There is no dearth of sports talent in India, Modi said, adding the country has produced many sports champions. Modi referred to several key actions of his government in the last 30 to 35 days, including passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam,

machines in South Block. Revenue of ₹55 crore has also

been generated through auction of condemned vehicles.

In keeping with the spirit of cleanliness, an erstwhile unu-tilised room was cleared of gar-

intervention which is worthy of

Rainath also visited the space on

the ground floor which was ear-

being emulated by others.

convenience.

India successfully completing key test in Gaganyaan mission, launch of Namo Bharat trains of the Regional Rapid Transit System, and Operation Ajay flights to facilitate the return of Indian nationals trapped in Israel.

The National Games are being held in Goa from October 26 to November 9.

More than 10,000 athletes from across the country are competing in over 43 sports disciplines

New viruses from rodents next pandemic risk: Scientists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE



The nightmarish observations come amid concerns that zoonotic disease is one of the areas of concern which is affecting humans as well as the animal health and 75% of newly emerging infectious diseases that have affected people over the last three decades are zoonotic in nature.

bage and renovated during the In fact, Union Health Secretary ongoing Special Campaign 3.0 and transformed into 'Ladies Sudanshu Pant had recently at Room' where employees could an event here had stressed on a better understanding of sperefresh themselves as per their cific drivers and mechanisms on the second floor of South added were, crucial to prepar-Block. The lady employees ing for future disease outthanked him for this positive

The researchers from the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College in their findings, detailed in the journal

China between 2017 and 2021. The findings showed that the

viruses belong to 22 families including arenavirus, coronavirus, astrovirus, pestivirus, parvovirus, and papillomavirus. According to researchers, the pathogens had a "high probability" of infecting humans if they ever Previou cross the species barrier.

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MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Pakistan Rangers late on Thursday evening targeted border outposts of Border Security force and some civilian pockets in the Arnia sector of RS Pura. According to reports unprovoked firing was reported around 8.00 pm triggering panic in the several villages falling in the direct line of lages falling in the direct line of

BSF spokesperson in Jammu in a statement said, "Around 8.00 pm unprovoked firing started by the Pakistan Rangers on BSF posts in the Arnia sector, which



is befittingly retaliated by BSF

The firing was still on till the time of filing the report. Unconfirmed reports claimed

a BSF jawan received injuries during cross border firing. Power supply was snapped across several villages along the International border. BSF authorities have directed the villagers to stay indoors to prevent loss of life.

The ceasefire violation in the Arnia sector came hours after the joint operation by police and Army along the Line of Control in Machhil sector of Kupwara in which five heavily armed Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists making an infiltration bid in Kupwara district were killed.

The operation was launched in the forward area on the basis of specific information provided by the Kupwara police.

n the initial round of firing two terrorists were gunned down by the security forces while three others were neutralised later. Kashmir Zone Police posted a message on X (earlier Twitter), "Based on specific information provided by Kupwara Police, an encounter has started in the Machhal sector in which two terrorists have been killed". Almost four hours later, Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir range Vijay

Kumar said three more terrorists had been killed in the ongoing operation. In a separate message, Kashmir Zone police said, "Three more terrorists of LeT killed (Total 05). Identification being ascertained. Search operation in

Chinar Corps of the Indian army also posted a message on X, "In a Joint Operation launched by the Indian Army, Jammu Kashmir Police & Intelligence agencies on 26 Oct 23, an infiltration bid has been foiled by alert troops along the LoC in the Kupwara sector".

ED raids Bengal Minister close to Didi in ration scam case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Pressure mounted on the Mamata Baneriee Government with the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday conducting simultaneous raids at 12 places including at the residences of senior Trinamool Congress leader and Forest Minister Jyotipriya Mallick in connection with the multi-crore ration distribution scam.

Mallick was in charge of the Food and Civil supplies department before getting the Forest portfolio. Raids were conducted at Mallick's residences and those of his close associates including his personal assistants, chartered accountant and a close businessman, ED sources said adding they were in the process of searching his residences and interrogating him. The raid starting at 6 in the morning was on for more than 13 hours when reports last came in

Though the minister could not be contacted as "his phones have been confiscated by the ED," sources said he was being intermittently questioned by the ED officials regarding his role in the multi-crore scam that took place during the corona years and came to the fore soon after that. The minister's name came up

soon after the arrest of a city businessman Bakibur Rehman known for his meteoric rise in a matter of a couple of years -- to own multiple flats, rice and flour mills, pubs, restaurants and hotels both in Kolkata and Bengaluru and even in Dubai. Bakibur was arrested early this month after a marathon questioning of more than 55 hours.

Last month the ED had raided the residence of present Food Minister Rathin Ghosh's residence too. Though in the initial days Mallick had denied any connection with Rehman subsequent investigations showed that he was indeed in touch with him through his personal assistant Amit Dev and other close associates.

The raids were being conducted following complaints that the central aids in the form of food grains like rice and wheat that had been sent to Bengal for free distribution during the corona days were covertly sold in the open market.

Mamata: I will file FIR against BJP, ED if raided Minister dies

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Hours after the Enforcement Directorate began raids at the premises of her senior Cabinet colleague Jyotipriya Mallick, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday slammed the "Atyachari" (oppressing) BJP Government and warned if the Minister who was "suffering from high blood sugar dies due this situation I will be forced to lodge FIRs against the BJP and the ED." Hitting out at the BJP Government for running a Government resembling the one of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the Chief Minister said, "BJP says Sabka Saath Sabka Viswas (everyone's cooperation and everyone's

development) but in practice they are doing Sabka Satyanas (ruin everyone).

Mamata who has been recuperating from a knee injury and had been keeping indoors for the past several fortnights suddenly emerged on Thursday to address the media whence she advised Prime Minister Narendra Modi to follow the path of cooperative federalism and not victimisation of others. In an uncharacteristically mellowed tone the Chief Minister

urged Modi saying, "I will request the honourable Prime Minister to follow the path of cooperative federalism and please do not interfere in the State politics. Slamming the BJP government

for "sending the agencies," she asked "how many corrupt BJP leader's houses have you raided ... how many dacoits and thieves of the BJP have been raided ... I can also initiate similar things as I do also have documents, pen drives and evidence but we do not practice the path of 'badla' (revenge)." Alleging how her family members too were being threatened and disturbed Banerjee said, "they are disturbing my family members ... they are disturbing my brother, his wife and even my nephew Abhishek ... they

are asking for documents of the

time when he was not even

born ... I will request the BJP

to fight politically and not by using the agencies."

Reminding how her party MP Sultan Ahmed, then being probed for his alleged role in he Narada pay off case died of heart attack, Banerjee said, 'my minister is unwell ... if he dies like Sultan Ahmed or even the wife of another MP Prasun Banerjee who was also being probed by the CBI then I will go on the file FIR." Referring to the excesses being

done by the agency officials she alleged "they even torture while questioning ... they torture in the private parts and force the 'victim' to tell the names of some specific people for political reasons," reminding "no one will remain in power forever ... tomorrow new people, new generations will come so one should remember the sins they are perpetrating for the

Govt meet to discuss fliers' grievances

Amid rising complaints from air travellers, the Centre has called a meeting on November 8 with senior officials of all airlines and travel portals to discuss grievances after ticket cancellation and showing every seat as 'paid' despite free web check-in, among others.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh, in a media

complaints related to the airline sector has been received through the government's ances with all airlines, travel National Consumer Helpline in the last one year.

About half of the complaints While booking a ticket either take consumer to a ride," he are related to "ticket cancelled" through airline websites or airlines". Some of the major grievances also include airlines showing every seat as paid despite free mandatory web check-in, he said.

"These complaints are just a tip

briefing, said about 10,000 of the iceberg. We have called a meeting on November 8 to discuss these consumer grievportals and consumer organisations," Singh said.

> department has noticed that many of the consumers are not happy with the interface and they think they are "misled and cheated".

"Airlines say 'free web check-in'

but 'seats are paid'. Once a traveller has paid the fare and the airlines has issued a confirmed ticket then all the services have to be fair and to the advantage of the consumers. You cannot

with the business model of airlines or travel companies, but "we are saying that when a consumer has a confirmed ticket then he should not put to further inconvenience in form of

said.

these things (paid seat) which are making life difficult for air travellers' The secretary said there has

been expansion in air travel and many people are getting affected due to such trade practices.

to persuade and convince the airlines and travel companies in case they are indulging in some practices which is not fair they should refrain from doing it,"

generated revenue of ₹5.34 lakh lier a defunct departmental Virologica Sinica, warned that the pathogens had a "high canteen where garbage was ED summons CM दि बाजपुर को-आपरेटिव शुगर फैक्ट्र<u>ी लि०,</u> probability" of infecting peing dumped. humans if they ever cross the The garbage has species barrier. अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना The teams found the viruses, cleared during Gehlot's son in including one belonging to the COVID-19 pandemic, from 682 anal and throat swab आसवनी बाजपर में 6.00 लाख बी०एल० ई०एन०ए० (मोलासेस the ongoing / ग्रेन बेस) की ऑपूर्ति हेतू जी०एस०टी० में पंजीकृत व प्रतिष्ठित Specia आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से दिनांक 27.10.2023 सांय 4.00 बजे से दिनांक Campaign 3.0 paper leak case and the space samples collected from 341 02.11.2023 सांय 4.00 बजे तक ई—निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा सूचना www.bazpursugar.com तथा विस्तृत rodents in Hainan Province, in is under reno-

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Turning the heat on the ruling Congress in poll-bound Raiasthan, the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday raided the premises of state Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra in Jaipur and Sikar as part of a money laundering probe into the alleged exam paper leak case and summoned Chief Minister Ashok

> tion case. Besides the premises of the 59-year-old Dotasra, a former minister for school education, the agency is also searching the premises of a party candidate

Gehlot's son in a for-

eign exchange viola

Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA). An armed escort of central para-military force CRPF

ED's action against its leaders in Rajasthan and accused Prime

Minister Narendra Modi of taking the help of probe agencies in fighting polls, and said people would give the BJP a

the ED action, saying terror has been unleashed in the country. He alleged the BJP was targeting him through ED raids as they could not topple his government. Elections for the 200member Rajasthan Assembly will be held on November 25. The results will be declared on

from Lacchmangarh seat of Sikar against BJP's Subhash Maharia. He is also the sitting MLA from this seat while Hudla is an independent MLA and the Congress has fielded him from the Mahua assembly seat this time. The money laundering case stems from FIRs filed by the Rajasthan

The accused, "in connivance with each other leaked the question paper of general knowledge of senior teacher grade II competitive examination, 2022 which was scheduled to be conducted by RPSC (Rajasthan Public Service Commission) on 21.12.2022 22.12.2022 and 24.12.2022 and provided it to appearing candidates for the consideration

candidate," the ED had said.

'Cloud seeding experiment over Solapur led to 18% rise in rain

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

cloud seeding experiment Ato artificially trigger rain over the Solapur region of southwest Maharashtra led to 18 per cent more rainfall than in normal conditions, a study has revealed. In the results of the study pub-

lished in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (BAMS), scientists from the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and other insti-tutes found that hygroscopic cloud seeding enhanced rainfall in a rain shadow area spanning 100 square kilometres in Solapur.

Hygroscopic seeding is done in warm convective clouds with a cloud base height greater than zero degree Celsius. It uses hygroscopic flares of calcium chloride particles released at the convective cloud base.

"As per radar observations over an area spanning 100 sq km downwind of the seed location, there was a relative enhancement of rainfall by 18 per cent in the 'seed' category clouds," Thara Prabhakaran the project director of Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment told PTI.

Prabhakaran is one of the authors of the study published in BAMS, a peer-reviewed journal, earlier this week.

Taken measures to deal with farm fires: Punjab

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

 $E^{ven \ as \ the \ national \ Capital}_{grapples \ with \ poor \ air \ qual-}$ ity, the Punjab Government on Thursday said it has undertaken substantial measures to address the critical issue of paddy straw burning in the state.

In a statement, the Punjab government said their persistent efforts have yielded impressive results and the number of fire counts has reduced from 5798 in 2022 to 2704 in 2023, a whopping 53% decrease as on 25th Oct 2023 vis-a-vis 25th Oct 2022. The tracking of the number of fire incidents is done starting 15th September every year. Punjab, a state with 31 lakh hectares under paddy cultivation, generates a considerable 20 million tonnes of paddy straw. To address this challenge, the government adopted a comprehensive approach, implementing initiatives across both in-situ (on-field) and ex-situ (off-field) paddy straw management, driving behavioural change and communication and monitoring the implementation of initiatives through stringent review and monitoring.

The state emphasised and focussed on long-term, sustainable solutions. In-situ management initiatives

include the provision of crop residue management (CRM) machines to farmers at a 80% subsidy for farmers groups and 50% subsidy for individual farmers.

In September, well in advance of the harvesting season, the statesanctioned the procurement of 24,000 machines, with 16,000 of these already in use by farmers.

Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute hosts HOPE

New Delhi: The Department of Pain and Palliative Care at the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute (RGCI) in New Delhi played host to the enlightening HOPE 2023 event in honour of World Hospice and Palliative Care

The primary focus of HOPE 2023 was to raise awareness about the crucial role of pain management and palliative care in cancer treatment, with special emphasis on addressing the often-overlooked aspect of spiritual pain in cancer

patients. Aligned with this year's theme of "Compassionate Communities," the event welcomed a diverse group of participants, including active members from the community, Abha workers, social workers, volunteers, as well as patients and caregivers, doctors and nurses Dr Kinshuki Jain, the Head of the Department of Pain and Palliative Care, emphasised the under-recognition and inadequate addressing of spiritual pain in the overall cancer man-

Date: 26.10.2023

a limited review of accounts of the company for the 2nd quarter ended 30th September, 2023 By Order of the Board

Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the

Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements)

Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock

Exchange websites of BSE and also on company's website at: www.keycorpltd.com 2. Above

results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the board of directors of the

company at its meeting held on 26.10.2023. The Statutory Auditor of the company have carried out

(G.D. Maheshwari) Directo DIN 00235209

ments, if found, company will not be liabl

from Mahua seat in Dausa, Omprakash Hudla, and some others, official sources said The raids are being undertaken under the provisions of the

accompanied the ED teams The Congress slammed the Centre over the

befitting reply. Chief Minister Gehlot flayed

December 3.

Dotasra is the party candidate Police against the accused.

amount of Rs 8-10 lakh per

LG asks CS to examine report on recruitment irregularities in DPSRU

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has asked the Chief Secretary to instruct the Directorate of Training and Technical Education (TTE) to examine the Inquiry Committee Report of the Vigilance Department on the complaints of irregular recruitments of teaching faculties in Delhi Pharmaceutical Science and Research University (DPSRU) within 30 days and recommend specific actions to be taken as per law for gross violation of rules

- Secretary Vigilance, Director (Education) and a professor and Head of Biotechnology Department of the Delhi Technological University -- was set up in June to inquire into the matter. This was done after the approval of the LG, who also served as the chancellor of the

"The Delhi LG, while considering the Inquiry Committee Report on the complaints of irregular recruitment of teachfaculties in Delhi Pharmaceutical Science and Research University (DPSRU),

instruct the Directorate of Training and Technical Education (DTTE) to examine the report within 30 days and recommend specific actions to be taken as per law for gross violation of rules," the official said. Invoking the terms of rule 19(5) of the Transaction of Business of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993, as amended in 2021, the LG has also directed the DTEE secretary to place the original file in the matter for his perusal, he

The officials added that during



the inquiry, the vigilance department noticed major irregularities in the recruitment process held in the DPSRU in 2017 and 2019. This included the recruitment of candidates who did not meet the criteria related to experience, age, educational qualifications etc, they said, referring to the 2017 exercise.

In 2019 too, most recruits did not meet the eligibility criteria, they said. Also, the verification of the educational qualification and experience certificates was not done after the appointment, the official quoted above

has also stated that there was no approval from the competent authority for the relaxation of eligibility criteria such as age or educational qualification taken by the DPSRU, he added. With the approval of LG Saxena,

the vigilance department issued a notice, dated May 10, to DPSRU Vice Chancellor Prof Ramesh K Goyal related to the recruitment process of teaching faculties conducted by him. He submitted a reply along with the records available which were examined by the Directorate of TTE on May 17

several complaints were received regarding the alleged large scale irregularities committed in the recruitment process conducted by the DPSRU in 2019, especially by giving undue favour to six candidates who were already working in the university on

contract/regular basis. It further added that after obtaining relevant records from the university, the department through its vigilance branch conducted an inquiry and submitted that such largescale irregularities in the appointment of faculties are not possible withDPSRU vice chancellor who acted as the Chairman of the Selection Committee.

The inquiry committee report came out with some strong observations alleging that the selections done contain "halftruths, manipulation, falsehoods, deficiencies and irregularities" which is contrary to the law. In fact, the Report mentioned the names of Dr Ramesh Kumar Goyal, VC DSPRU, Dr DP Pathak the then Officiating Registrar of DSPRU, Mr Govind Mohan, an External Expert and RP Sharma, Consultant.

Air quality remains 'poor', Govt begins drive to curb pollution

elhi's air quality was recorded in the 'poor category for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday and any improvement is unlikely soon, according to monitoring agencies. The city's 24-hour average Air

Quality Index (AQI) stood at 256 at 4 pm, worsening from 243 on Wednesday and 220 on Tuesday.

The average AQI was 235 in neighbouring Ghaziabad, 254 in Faridabad, 230 in Gurugram, 191 in Noida and 260 in Greater Noida.

According to the Centre's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the city's air quality is likely to oscillate between the 'poor' and 'very poor' categories over the next three to

An AQİ between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor,' and 401 and 500 'severe

The government also launched a campaign to curb vehicular pollution on Thursday, a year after Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena put it on hold, questioning its effectiveness.



Environment and Forest Minister Gopal Rai during the Red light on, Gaadi campaign of the Delhi government to curb pollution, in New Delhi on Thursday

Central Road Research Institute showed that keeping engines running at traffic signals can increase pollution levels by more than 9 per cent. A range of emission inventory and source apportionment studies carried out for Delhi in the past few years suggested that on-road vehicular exhaust emissions account for 9 per cent to 38 per cent of PM2.5 emissions in the capital.

Delhi's air quality had 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. Unfavourable meteorological conditions and a cocktail of emissions from firecrackers and paddy straw burning, in addition to local sources of pollution, push Delhi-NCR's air quality to hazardous levels

around Diwali every year.

According to an analysis con-

ducted by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the capital experiences peak pollution from November 1 to November 15, when stubble burning incidents in Punjab and Haryana peak.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said 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 pol-

Rai said the government has also decided to use suppressant powder to prevent dust pollution in the city. Dust suppressants could include chemical agents like calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, lignosulfonates and various polymers. These chemicals work by attracting and binding fine dust particles together, making them too heavy to become airborne.

The Commission for Air Management Quality (CAQM), a statutory body responsible for proactively implementing the pollution control plan known as the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), had on Saturday directed authorities in the NCR to increase parking fees to discourage private transport and enhance the services of CNG or electric buses and metro trains amid a likely increase in pol-

This action is part of Stage II of GRAP which is implemented when Delhi's AQI is predicted to turn 'very poor'. GRAP categorises actions into four stages: Stage I 'poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II very poor (AQI 301-400); Stage III 'severe

(AQI 401-450); and Stage IV

'severe plus' (AQI >450).

Sentencing on TV journalist Soumya's killer on November 7

Delhi court on Thursday Adeferred to November 7 the hearing on the quantum of sentence for the five men convicted for killing TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan in 2008 on grounds that the pre-sentence report and other documents were yet to be filed.

On October 18, Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Ravindra Kumar Pandey had convicted Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik, and Ajay Kumar under IPC section 302 (murder) and provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) and listed the case for hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence on Thursday.

Taking note of the fact that certain documents, including the pre-sentence report of the probationary officer, had to be filed mandatorily if the maximum sentence in the case is death penalty, the court adjourned the hearing to November 7.

Vishwanathan, who was working with a leading English news channel, was shot dead in the early hours of September 30, 2008, on south Delhi's Nelson Mandela Marg while she was returning home from work. Police claimed the motive was



"List the matter for consideration of the report of the probation officer, consideration on the affidavits of the convicts, affidavit on behalf of the state and report from Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLA)... And for arguments on quantum of sentence on November 7 at 2 PM," ASJ Pandey said.

He said though the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLA) had filed the victim impact report, the convicts had not filed their affidavits. Counsels for the convicts jointly submitted that they were unable to prepare the affidavits as they did not have the details and necessary direction could be issued to the jail superintendent and legal aid counsel, available with prison authorities, to assist the convicts in preparation of the

the guidelines of the Delhi High Court, in a case where there is a conviction for an offence punishable with the death penalty (as one of the alternate punishments), a presentence report had to be obtained from the probation officer before the hearing on the quantum of sentence.

"Accordingly, the principal secretary, home department, Delhi government is hereby directed to assign to any probation officer the task of submitting the pre- sentenc-

ing report," the court said.
It said the report had to specifically include the twin aspects of whether the convicts could commit further crimes and thus remain a "continuing threat to society" and whether there was any probability of the convicts being reformed and rehabil-

While detailing the inquiry procedure to be followed by the probation officer, the court said in the light of the fundamental right against self-incrimination, the convicts must be informed of their rights to be silent and in no circumstance can any adverse inference be drawn if the convicts refuse to give an interview to the probation

Swiss girl killer tried to befriend other foreign women: Police

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The 33-year-old Delhi man arrested for allegedly killing a Swiss woman here had promised precious gemstones and offered astrology tricks to other foreign women too to befriend them.

Gurpreet Singh, a resident of Delhi's Janakpuri, told interrogators he was in touch with multiple foreign women apart from Nina Berger, whose body was found near an MCD-run school on October 20 with limbs tied with a chain. Singh's father has a business of gemstones and astrology in west Delhi. He is currently believed to be in Paris.

The police suspect Gurpreet Singh learned astrology from his father and used it to lure foreign women. He used the same trick to befriend Berger and lure her to come to India, they suspect. She came to India on October 11 and stayed in two different hotels in west Delhi. "In the first, she stayed till October 16. Then she shifted to another hotel, where we believe, she stayed before being killed by Gurpreet on October 18. The decomposed body of Berger was recovered from near a school in Tilak Nagar on October 20," a police officer

He said Singh's chats with other foreign women have been retrieved from his two mobile phones, but he has deleted his chats with Berger. He has visited foreign countries, including Switzerland, multiple times, the

police said. "There are chats recovered from his mobile phone where he has talked with several women about gemstones and astrology. for friendship by offering them precious stones or using astrol-

ogy tricks," the officer said. The police said they have recovered Berger's iPhone too, but have not been able to unlock it. They are taking the help of

Singh's family owns multiple properties in various parts of Delhi but the trail of huge cash

cyber experts. recovered from his house is yet

A 2019 study conducted by the AIIMS to set up bottling unit to supply clean drinking water

The AIIMS will set up a bottling facility in its premises to supply clean drinking water packaged in reusable glass bottles for use at its meetings, conferences and events, in a step to reduce environmental impact of disposable plastic bottles.

The Centre has issued directives to cut down use of plastics and the move is a step in that direction. "Recognising the pressing need to shift away from singleuse plastics in meetings, conferences, and other events, AIIMS New Delhi is dedicated to providing an eco-friendly alternative for acquiring hygienic packaged drinking water," Dr M Srinivas, Director of AIIMS Delhi, said.

The bottling facility will be under the administrative purview of the Central cafeteria and will be equipped with cut-ting-edge technology for notouch automated washing, disinfecting, repackaging, and sealing of glass bottles.

Initially, it will have the capacity to process at least 15,000 bottles (500ml) per month. This facility will ensure compliance with all necessary statutory requirements,, including FSSAI registration, to guarantee the highest quality and safety standards, Dr Srinivas stated.

DU to start work for setting up East Delhi campus

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

approved by the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA). According to official, "the request for HEFA loan of Rs 930 crore has been approved for various development projects, including work for the East Delhi campus.

Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) is a joint venture company of Canara Bank and the Ministry of Education. HEFA provides financial assis-

tance for the creation of educational infrastructure and $D_{\text{setting up its East Delhi}}^{\text{elhi University will begin}} \text{ research facilities in India's premier educational Institutions.}$ Campus using funds from the DU's East Delhi Campus is years after the construction

Using the approved loan, an academic building at Surajmal Vihar, which will serve as the university's East Campus, will be built for ₹120 crore, work for which is slated to start in the next three to six months, the

The university that currently has two campuses - North and South — had announced expan-



sion plans a few years back. The plans envisaged the construction of East and West campuses to introduce more courses and a

After a meeting with the HEFA on Thursday, DU's finance office said a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be submitted by Monday to start the work on setUnderstanding (MoU) will be signed between HEFA and the university for releasing the funds er official said. DU's finance office will prepare

A Memorandum of

ting up the new campus.

a Detailed Project Report (DPR) based on which the amount will be released for individual projects upon the submission of the bill directly to the vendor, the official said. The Delhi University is also slated to begin work for constructing academic buildings in Najafgarh and Dwarka for ₹100 crore and ₹95 crore respectively, and multiple

ment for students in north-west Delhi's Dhaka for ₹161 crore is A total of ₹195.62 crore of the loaned amount will be used in the construction of the building of the Faculty of

academic blocks at Delhi School

of Economics with Rs 201 crore

Additionally, a studio apart-

Technology, work for which has already begun and would likely be completed by October 2024, they added. The Delhi University had sent a proposal to the Centre for funding the construction of the East

to be investigated.

Man shot at during Dussehra celebrations over dancing on DJ

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

28-year-old man was shot Aat following a dispute over dancing on DJ during Dussehra celebrations in central Delhi's Ranjit Nagar area, police said on Thursday.

Sunny is undergoing treatment, they said, adding that the victim and accused Yogesh have criminal records.

Sunny was dancing on DJ along with others to celebrate Dussehra festival near Kali Mata Mandir in Ranjit Nagar

when a verbal spat ensued over dancing on the music between Sunny, Yogesh and others, a senior police officer said. The argument turned violent and Yogesh shot Sunny,

An FIR under sections of the IPC including attempt to murder and the Arms Act has been registered in connection with the case, police said.

the officer said.

"We have started further investigation into the matter and the accused will be arrested soon,"

Atishi flags off train with elderly pilgrims

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Revenue Minister Atishi on Thursday flagged off 80th train under Chief Minister Teerth Yatra Scheme departed for Dwarkadhish with 780 elderly devotees from Safdarjung Railway Station. The Minister also met the elderly devotees here and distributed travel kits and tickets to them. Ahead of the journey, a 'Bhajan Sandhya' was organised by the Delhi government

Addressing the devotees, Atishi said, "It is a matter of great pride for us that today the 80th train

for all the devotees at Thyagaraj



under Chief Minister Teerth Yatra Scheme is departing for Dwarkadhish.

"We used to read about Shravan Kumar in our books. But chief minister Arvind Kejriwal is modern-day Shravan Kumar, who has sent so many senior citizens of Delhi on various pilgrimages to date," Atishi added. According to official, 79 trains have taken over 77,000 elderly pilgrims to various pilgrimages

across India under the Chief Minister Teerth Yatra Scheme. The CM Teerth Yatra Scheme facilitates journeys for senior citizens to Rameshwaram, Dwarkadhish, Somnath, Nageshwar, Jagannath Puri, Baba Mahakal in Ujjain, Shirdi Sai Baba, Tirupati Balaji, Ayodhya, Mata Vaishno Devi, Pushkar, Fatehpur Sikri, Golden Temple in Amritsar, Kartarpur Sahib, Mathura-Vrindavan, and Haridwar.

To participate in these pilgrimages, pilgrims apply through an online portal. The Delhi government arranges convenient train services, transportation from home to the station, and

Yamuna Yatra planned ahead of **Chhath to highlight river pollution**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A head of Chhath pooja, several social-religious organisations led by Yamuna Sansad will embark on a Yamuna Yatra from Delhi to Mathura to draw attention towards heavy pollution in the river.

Under the Yatra, to be flagged off from Chhath Ghat near ITO in New Delhi on October 28, thousands of people will march following the course of Yamuna towards Mathura, Yamuna Sansad convener Ravi Shankar Tiwari said at a press conference. Covering more than 185 Km, the nine-day march will conclude in Mathura on November

"The Yatra will have eight stopovers during which people living along the Yamuna will be invited to discuss pollution in the river and ways to solve the problem with full public support," Tiwari said. Several other organisations Narmada Mission led by seer Sri Dada Guru will take active part in the Yatra, he said. The seer has been on a mission to conserve and preserve Narmada from human interventions and marched more than 3,200 Km to create awareness among the people, Tiwari said.

Man held with 565 kg firecrackers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

man has been arrested Awith 565 kg of firecrackers northeast Delhi's Babarpur area, police said on Thursday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said a tip-off was received that accused Luvkant Vats (35) had stored a huge quantity of firecrackers and was also selling

A raid was conducted at the location near Babarpur bus terminal and 565 kg of firecrackers were seized from Vats and he was arrested, police

mitted the crime to earn easy money. Storing such a huge quantity of fire crackers in a densely populated area might be a serious threat for locals. An FIR under section 286 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance) of the IPC and the Explosive Act has been registered against Vats, police said. The Delhi government has

said. The DCP said Vats com-

announced a blanket ban on the manufacture, storage, sale and bursting of firecrackers in the city till January 1, 2024 to control pollution.

It was a win-win deal for both the farmers and buyers at the

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

two-day Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) fair, organized by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Small Farmers Agriculture Trade Association (SFAC) recently at the headquarters of the NCDC here. Offering a huge product-service basket agricultural, non-agricultural and artisan products--

major FPOs of the country par-

ticipated in the fair which was thronged by a large number of visitors keen to purchase the items produced by the cooperatives represented by the farmers across the country. Needless to say, the fest proved

to be a huge success as almost all the items -- natural and organic--ranging from food products like mustard oil, groundnut oil, groundnut butter, amla murabba, basmati rice, mushrooms, spices, chana dal, and moong dal to pickles (Mango, Fig, Jackfruit, Bajra-(finger, Barnyard), Squash-(Orange,



Millet stalls steal show at FPO fair in Capital

such as pen holders, wall decor and bamboo wood art among others found encouraging

ucts like ragi biscuits, millet namkeen, millet laddu, millet

biscuits which stole the show as the visitors showed keen inter-However, it were the stalls of est in purchasing them, partic-

impetus to promote the millet as nutritional crop in the country. According to Modi, India's millet mission - the campaign for Shree Anna - would prove to be a boon for 2.5 crore farmers of the country. The other items sold at the fair

ularly in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent

were gram flour , Sattu, Ghee, Honey, Katiya Wheat Dalia, Multigrain Flour, Khakhra, Methi Rotla, Jaggery Rotla, saffron, mixed dry fruits among

"On getting good prices, new

the FPOs in getting recognition at national level," according to an NCDC official. The fair was inaugurated by Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional

energy was infused among the

farmers. The fair has helped all

Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in the presence of Dr Maninder Kaur Dwivedi Managing Director, Small Farmers Agri-Business Association (SFAC), Ashok Pillai, Executive Director NCDC and Lalit Goel Chief Director

Land warfare prowess a must for India: Army chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

s tension persists at the border in Ladakh, Army Chief General Manoj Pande said here on Wednesday the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict reaffirmed the significance of land warfare and the domain will remain "extremely important" in India's case as well as for countries having gy in the Army, he said.
Delving into global geopoliticontested borders in apparent reference to China.

He also described the situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China as 'stable' and said the Army is focusing on boosting its overall combat capabilities to effectively deal with any future security chal-

Making these assertions in an interactive session at an event,

Pande also said there is a need
India has an important role to for the Armed forces to remain proactive to deal with various national security challenges. He said the Army has been focusing on force restructuring, technology infusion, reforming existing structures, jointness and human resource management as part of the overall reform process. We are putting significant focus to leverage infusion of modern technolo-

cal upheavals, the Army Chief said the key lesson that the Army has learnt from Russia-Ukraine conflict is that it can't rely on import of military hardware and achieving selfreliance in defence is very important.

He described the Indo-Pacific as a key region and noted that

play. He made these observations as the curtain-raiser for the first Chanakya Dialogue. To a question on increasing global focus on the maritime domain while both Russia-Ukraine war and Hamas-Israel

conflict have the dimension of

land, Pande said land warfare will remain crucial in the Indian context. "I mentioned about the lessons we drew from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. And if I can delve on one of the key lessons — I think land will continue to be a key domain of

Army chief said. 'I think the victory marker will have to be in the land domain. The salience of land domain, I

warfare, especially in cases

where you have contested bor-

ders just as in our case," the



think, is going to be extremely important in our case," he

Talking about India's rising global profile, Pande said India

will continue to play a key role in the Indo-Pacific region. With the enhanced stature, we will have additional responsibilities and with this we will

have certain challenges to encounter," he said.

The Army Chief said, "In all of this, we need to remain proactive rather than responding or

reacting. We should be able to shape our strategies." He said there will be responsibilities, opportunities and challenges for India in the Indo-pacific.

"I think the nation is on the

rise, be it the economic growth,

technological progress or the influence that the nation wields in the world arena," he said. The Army Chief described the last one year period for the Army as "challenging yet satisfying. As far as the opera-tional situation is concerned, on the borders, I would say it is stable and we have dealt with internal security challenges in a manner that is expected of

us," he said. Pande also noted that the ongoing reform process in the Army is being implemented as planned. "About a year back, we spelt out our transformation

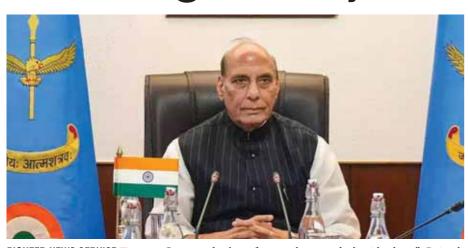
five distinct foundations as pillars of transformation," he said 'These were restructuring and right-sizing of the force, modernisation and technology infusion, refining and improving our systems and processes to improve combat and functional efficiencies, jointness and

human resources manage-

roadmap. In that we defined

ment," he said. Pande said the progress of the reform process has been good. He also listed technology infusion into his force as a key focus area. "We need to be better prepared and future ready to be able to meet future security challenges," he said. Pande also said the first batch of 40,000 Agniveers have joined the units and the feedback on them from the field units has been

Be ready to deal with new challenges: Rajnath to IAF



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In the backdrop of fast chang-ing nature of warfare, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday urged the IAF top brass here to examine the rapidly changing global geo-political situation and assess them in the Indian context besides emphasising on the need to bolster its operational

Making this point while inaugurating the two-day IAF

Commanders' conference, he pointed out that new trends have emerged in the field of air warfare and there is a need to analyse and learn from them to strengthen the defence pre-

He exhorted the IAF to focus on strengthening the air defence systems; use of drones and making headway in the field of aerospace to protect India's air domain. "There are new challenges emanating from the global security scenario. We must always be ready

to deal with them," Rajnath said.

He was briefed on the operational preparedness of the Indian Air Force (IAF) by Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari.

Rajnath praised the stellar role played by the IAF during the recent Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions in Himachal Pradesh. Sikkim and other flood affected areas.

He also congratulated the IAF for successfully organising the

Air Force Day Parade and Air Display at Prayagraj, which was well appreciated by the

The conference, which is held bi-annually, involves discussions on charting lAF's way ahead, given the current geopolitical environment and tech-nological imperatives. Eminent national security experts and accomplished personalities from various fields are invited to present their views during the conference.

It is learnt that the commanders are extensively analysing use of various aerial platforms in the Hamas-Israel conflict and the Russia-Ukraine war.

The top brass are also carrying out a comprehensive review of the security situation along the border with China, especially rapid expansion of military infrastructure by the PLA Air Force in areas near the LAC in the Ladakh sector.

In his address, Rajnath emphasised on the need to enhance operational preparedness and highlighted the importance of joint planning and execution of operations by the three ser-

Biogas to cut India gas import bills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Replacing natural gas consumption with biogas and biomethane incrementally to 20 per cent by 2030 can help India cut liquefied natural gas import bills by \$29 billion between financial years 2025 and 2030, according to a new report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

It underscores the environmental advantages of expanding biogas projects, including waste management, reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and enhanced renewable energy production.

According to the report's author Purva Jain, an energy analyst at IEEFA, "Biogas has the potential to replace natural gas and other high-emission fossil fuels. By eliminating carbon dioxide (CO2) and impurities like hydrogen sulfide, its methane content can be upgraded to 90 per cent, making it calorifically equivalent to natural gas.

This upgraded biogas, known as bio-

methane, is pipeline-ready and can be integrated into gas grids as a non-fossil gas,

"By adopting appropriate production methods and addressing methane leaks during production, upgrading, and supply stages, biogas can offer India a cleaner alternative to its reliance on imported natural gas," Jain

Despite its clear advantages, the biogas sector has struggled to gain traction in India. The report identifies several reasons for this including the absence of a comprehensive market ecosystem, pricing challenges, complex approval processes, and fragmented government support.

Jain said the government has begun to



address these issues. In 2021, various types of support were consolidated under the

National Bioenergy Scheme.
"Moreover, the introduction of the GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme as an umbrella initiative of the government will help in this consolidation. It covers the entire gamut of schemes/ policies promoting organic waste conversion to biogas or compressed biogas (CBG)," she says.

The report also highlights recent policy developments, such as revising the compressed biogas rate in response to global gas price increases and plans to mandate natural gas marketing companies to procure five per cent compressed biogas.

These measures have reignited private sector interest in compressed biogas, with companies like Reliance Industries Limited and the Adani Group showing strong However, the report emphasises that the government must do more to fully unlock biogas's potential in India. This includes encouraging increased investments and private sector involvement, improving market viability for CBG and biogas slurry, increasing financial access for biogas plant development, and promoting feedstock mapping for input availability. Additionally, it is crucial to ensure that ener-

gy crops are not used for biogas, as this can lead to indirect land use changes, as seen with ethanol and biodiesel in Brazil, which can have a detrimental impact on climate and the environment through increased carbon emissions.

"A key step will be to guarantee the offtake of CBG by various natural gas-using industries to expedite the achievement of decarbonization goals. The introduction of takeor-pay arrangements will be a significant move in this direction," Jain said.

NOTICE

This is to inform all the concerned peoples that M/s Saar Steel & Power Pvt. Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide its File No. IA-J-11011/257/2021-IA-II (IND-I) and EC Identification No.- EC23A1001CG5545876N dated 13.09,2023 for Greenfield Project of Iron Ore Pelletization Plant [9,00,000 Tons/ year] Sponge Iron manufacturing unit [2,31,000 Tons/ year], MS Billets [2,04,000 Tons / year], Rolling Mill [1,98,000 Tons/year], Captive Power Plant [24 MW] located at Villages: Kunkuni (Near ROB Railway Station), Tehsil: Khasria, District: Raigarh [C.G.]. The aforesaid Environment Clearance letter is available on website of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India (MoEF & CC) [parivesh.nic.in] and copies are also available at Head Office of Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Paryavas Bhawan North Block, Sector-19, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, District Raipur and Regional Office, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, TV Tower Road, Tehsil and District Raigarh [C.G.].

For, M/s Saar Steel & Power Pvt. Limited

Brief Tender Description

OF 4 NOS. (SRINIVASPURI GRID, AMBEDKAR

NAGAR GRID, PEERAGARHI GRID & NANGLO

GRID) 33 KV AIS SWITCHING SUBSTATIONS

WITH SUPPLY OF MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

CMC/BR/23-24/ INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING

RB/CR/AG/1166

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180

Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & amp; Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com. Head (Co

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic

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

THE PIONEER ()

LOST & FOUND

I, Rita Shrma Wife of Sat Pal Shrma, R/o. MIG 109, Indrapuram, Samshabad Road, Agra, UP-282001, at Present New Delhi have actually lost My original property, first page of the registry, and possession letter during shifting from another place to the house and have not been found anywhere till

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

15:30 HRS

August 18, 2023

13,57,670/-

Delhi/

Authorized Officer

PD(187)A

Date: 27.10.2023

tion No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527

16.11.2023

15:45 HRS

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Shivraj Singh to general public that the Original Sale Deed dated 18.04.2022, duly Regd. Document no. 6075 related to the Plot no. 193-B, area measuring 170 sq. yds., out of Khasra no. 355, situated at colony known as Sant Nagar, in the area of Village Sadullabad and Loni, Tehsil & Dist/ Ghaziabad. (U.P)". has been lost/ Shaziabad, (U.P)*, has been lost/ misplaced. Public is being warned not to leal with the documents. Any person lealing with the aforesaid documents would do so at their own risk and responsibility. Dwner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such haziabad has been los

whatsoever for any loss incurred by such persons. If anybody found these documents OR notice any misuse of these documents Concerned Person is required to communicate at the address given below. Juris NextGen LLF E-56, LGF, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-New Delhi-48 #011-42662177,78.75

To be known to all that I, D.C. Madan (Deep Chand Madan) S/o Sh. Govind Ram Madan A/ o Flat No.150, Ground Floor, Dhruwa CGHS Ltd., (also known as Dhruwa Apartments), Plot No. 4.1, P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi 110092 owner of Flat No.150, Ground Floor, Dhruwa CGHS Ltd., (also known as Dhruwa Apartments), Prected on Plot No.4, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold In Juein-11092, has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA.The original documents i.e.Share Certificate, Possession Letter and Allotmen Letter of the above flat have been lost. An FIE to this effect has been lodged in P. S. Crim Branch, Delhi, vide SO No.430/2014, LR No.14 43574/2023 dated 19.10.2023. Any person(s claiming any right, interest, having an objection or found in possession of origina documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone no 9810825106 within 15 days from the date o publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to the property can personally inform or write to the property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (GH) or Director (GH). D Block, 2° Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

IT is Brought to the Notice of the Public at Large that my client Jagvir Singh Kadian S/O Sh. Baldev Singh Kadian R/o RZ H-2/148B. Mahavir Enclave South West Delhi-110045 has Disowned His Son Namely **Amit Kadian** & Daughter in law Pooja Kadian from all her Movable and Immovable Properties my client shall not be Responsible for any Acts/Deeds (Civil/Criminal) done by him.

> ACHIN SHARMA (Advocate) Regd. No. D/5425/2021 Ph.: 9650865007, 9810221449



SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch						
1.	Dinesh Kapoor/ K&k Health Care Private Limited/ Saru Kapoor/ LBNOD00001685505	Property No. C-10, 3rd Floor, Front Side, Preet Vihar, Village Mandawali Fazalpur, Shahdara./ Property No. C-10, 2nd Floor (Upto Ceiling Level), Rear Side, Preet Vihar, Village Mandawali Fazalpur, Shahdara/ October 20, 2023	May 19, 2023 Rs. 39,99,060/-	Delhi & NCR/						
2.	Vishwas Arora/ Rashmita Arora/ LBDEL00001857770	Flat No-T-3, Third Floor, Plot No-I-22 And I-23, Out of Killa No. 59/21, 59/22/2, Laxmi Nagar, Khureji Khas, Shahdara, New Delhi / October 20, 2023	February 12, 2019 Rs. 62,12,578/-	Delhi & NCR/						
3.	Sachin Jain/ Renu Jain/ LBDEL00005698870	Unit No. 1/7575-A, Block A, Under Ground Floor , Gali No. 8, Village Babarpur, East Gorakh Park, Shahdara, Delhi/ October 20, 2023	April 18, 2023 Rs. 11,88,314/-	Delhi & NCR						
4.	Paramjeet Singh/ Gurmeet Kaur/ LBDEL00001021421	DDA built up Mig Flat No. 167, Second Floor, Situated at Madipur, Delhi/ October 21, 2023	February 25,2023 Rs. 7,42,625/-	Delhi & NCR						
5.	Vikram Singh/ Joginder Kaur/ LBDEL00004926270	Property Bearing No. 80 & 81, Entire First Floor, Without Roof Rights Block- A Pocket-7 Sector-17, Rohini Residential Scheme, Rohini Delhi/ October 21, 2023	June 21,2023 Rs. 18,75,397/-	Delhi & NCR						
6.	Arun Kumar/ Parveen Kumar/ Santosh/ LBDEL00005156619	Flat No. 769, DDA Lig, Second Floor, Block Gh-1 Pocket 1, Sector 29, Rohini New Delhi- 110085/ October 21, 2023	May 20,2023 Rs. 17,69,619/-	Delhi & NCR/						
7.	Manpreet Singh Kiran Rajpal/ LBNOD00001522599	Appt. No. 88 on 8th Floor, Building No-104, Known As Dlf Silver Oak Apartments, Dlf City Ph-I Around Village Chakkarpur & Sikanderpur Ghosi, Gurgaon/ October 21, 2023	April 25,2023 Rs. 38,81,197/-	Delhi & NCR						
8.	Amrita Devi/ Pradeep Kumar/ LBDEL00004865125	Flat No 12-007, Ground Floor, Tower/Block 12, Serenas, Sector 36, Sohna (With Two Wheeler Open Parking Site & The Pro Rata Share In The Common Areas) Gurgaon/ October 21, 2023	May 16,2023 Rs. 15,78,451/-	Delhi & NCR						
9.	Neha Singh/ Ranjan Singh/ LBGUR00004221845	Flat No B21/302, 3rd Floor, Tower B21, Tulip Violet, Revenue Village- Badshahpur, Haryana, Sector-69, Gurgaon/ October 21, 2023	April 25,2023 Rs. 22,73,693/-	Delhi & NCR						

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: October 27, 2023 **Authorized Officer**

India, European Union hold joint naval exercise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Tn an effort to forge closer mar-Litime ties between India and the European Union (EU), the two sides carried out their joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea this week, reflecting growing maritime security cooperation between the two sides, defence ministry said here on Thursday.

The exercise took place on Tuesday, around three weeks after the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue in Brussels deliberated on ways to expand cooperation in the maritime sphere.

The defence ministry said Tuesday's exercise reflected the breadth and dynamism of EU-India cooperation on maritime security, and signalled the common determination to uphold the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It said the drills were aimed reinforcing naval maritime security cooperation in support of the

"On October 24, the European Union (EU) and India conducted their first joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea,

During the exercise, Indian Navy's INS Sumedha, an offshore patrol vessel, was joined by ships from three EU member Italian Navy ship ITS Foscari,

French Navy Ship FS Ventose, and Spanish Navy Ship Tornado represented the EU. The four ships practised a

series of tactical manoeuvres in international waters off the coast of Ghana, including a boarding exercise, a flying exercise using the helicopters embarked on French ship Ventose and Indian

Naval ship Sumedha, and transfer of personnel between ships," the ministry said in a statement. The exercise was followed by a knowledge sharing session in Accra, Ghana which built on the joint experience at sea to improve operational know-how. The session also helped deepen ties between Ghanaian officials and representatives of the Indian, EU and EU member states missions to Ghana," the

ministry said.

These activities underlined the shared commitment of India and the EU to supporting coastal states and the Yaounde architecture in ensuring maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea," it

Jagat Jeet Singh/ Rekha ('13500008012 & QZCHD00005064387) & House No. B £ 40 B, Hari Nagar, Maya Puri, S O South West Delhi, Delhi-110064 House No. 16, First Floor, Sai Ji Homes, Comprised In Khata No.51/102, Khasra No. 173(4-0), 174(4-0), 177(4-0), 178(3-19), 414/160(2-10), 416/161(2-18), 587/172(0-18), As Per Jamabandi Year 2015-2016, Krishna Enclave Colony, village Saddhemajra, Hadbasat No. 12, Tehsil Derabassi, District S.A.S. Nagar, Punjab/ October 23, 2023 The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: October 27, 2023

INDIA an alliance for self gains, says Shahi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

U^P Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said that the INDIA alliance made by the opposition parties is a coalition of self gains and nothing else. Shahi was in the city to attend some programme at Rajiv Gandhi South Campus (RGSC) of Banaras Hindu University at Barkachha in Mirzapur.

In an informal chat with the reporters here on Thursday, Shahi said that this opposition alliance was made with the bid of some rival parties to stop the winning spree of Prime Minister Narenda Modi in which they would not be succeed because in the recent years, in many assembly elections they had made such an attempt but they failed to match the popularity of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Later, after reaching BHU's South Campus, he along with the In-charge of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Prof Sriram Singh and other senior professors and faculty members garlanded the statue of university's founder Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. Then KVK In-charge Prof



UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi addressing a programme at BHU's south campus on Thursday.

Sriram Singh and Professor In-charge of RGSC Prof VK Mishra welcomed the UP Minister by presenting the latter bouquets.

Addressing the function, Shahi highlighted various central and state government schemes being run for the overall development of the farmers. He also talked to the farmers to seek their feedback on the same. The Minister appealed to the agriculture scientists and farmers to pay

more attention towards increasing the production of oilseeds so that in this direction, the country would also become self-reliant.

On the occasion, Shahi distributed mustard oil seed and nutrition kits to about farmers. Retired Agriculture Director, UP Government, Dr VP Singh threw light on some agricultural products in Mirzapur district. KVK Incharge Prof Sriram Singh apprised the

Minister of various activities of the centre. Senior agricultural scientist Dr JP Rai proposed the vote of thanks. The function was conducted by agriculture scientist Dr Sunil Kumar Goyal. The Minister interacted with some of the farmers including Sita Ram Sinfh, Keshav Kumar Dwivedi, Moti Lal, Sunil Kumar, Sukhram and Vishram. The function was also attended by Pankaj Kumar, Rajesh Kumar VSingh, Pankaj Singh, Amlesh and Vijay Kumar.

Success is not achieved suddenly, nor is it some overnight magic. It requires patience. The confluence of your hidden goodwill and the good work you do is what brings you success. This is the fundamental mantra, said Ramesh Srinivasan, CEO of Agilysys Inc, Las Vegas, USA, and an alumnus of the Department of Metallurgical Engineering (Metallurgy 1982) at the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University). He was the chief guest at the centenary celebration and three-day international conference held at the Swatantrata Bhawan on Thursday.

He further emphasised the importance of working with honesty, detailing every project one undertakes, and helping

one's colleagues while maintaining good relationships with everyone. "These are the things that will lead one forward in one's life," he said, mentioning that a significant change in his career was made possible because of this institution. He said, "This institution has given me so much that if I give everything I have in return, it would still be less."

On the occasion, the IIT

(BHU) Director Prof Pramod Kumar Jain mentioned the usefulness and necessity of Metallurgical Engineering in every field today. He also recalled the great vision of Bharat Ratna Mahamana Malviya, who laid the foundation of this department nearly a hundred years ago. He expressed gratitude for the dedication and hard work of

gratitude to the chief guest and the prominent alumnus Ramesh Srinivasan. He revealed that Ramesh Srinivasan is one of the founding members of the IIT Foundation that raised donations to establish the Student Activity Centre with a donation of 1.6 million US dollars in 2019. Since then, the institution has received contributions totaling nearly Rs 80 crore from around the world.

After the inaugural ceremony, technical sessions were conducted in the evening, with Prof Rajiv Mishra, USA, Prof Paulo Santos Assis, Brazil, and Prof RC Gupta, IIT BHU, delivering their speeches. A cultural programme was organised later in the evening. Before the programme, a garland was placed on the statue of the former department heads Mahamana Malviya, and a and teachers. He also expressed lamp was lit in front of a pic-

ture of the teachers during the department's founding

Prof Sunil Kumar Mohan, the head of the department, highlighted the department's achievements. On this occasion, Dr Girija Shankar Mahobia, Convener of the Centenary Celebration Organising Committee and associate professor of the Metallurgical Engineering department, welcomed the guests, alumni, and special

The Director of IIT (BHU) honoured the distinguished

The event also marked the release of a commemorative magazine. Dr Girija Shankar Mahobia, convener of the committee and associate professor, Department of Metallurgical Engineering, IIT (BHU) pro-

Thermal simulation lab inaugurated

The Thermal Mechanical **▲** Physical Simulation Lab was inaugurated in Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) by Director Prof Pramod Kumar Jain on Wednesday. The lab focuses on the physical simulation of processes that are related to mechanical engineering, material science, ceramics, civil engineering and metallurgy. During interaction with faculty members Dr Surya D Yaday, assistant professor of Metallurgical Engineering Department informed that this lab will play an important role

porting new materials and alloy development and the ongoing quest in material engineering to make components lighter, stronger and less expensive. According to him, physical simulation data is an important link between industrial material processing and computational models. This lab would be an advanced research tool and can be used to characterise new materials and to discover means to optimise the processing for such materials. The equipment facilitates performance of tests in the area of: thermo-mechanical treatment of steel, effect of

the microstructure and properties of materials and facilitates carrying out physical simulation of processes such as: Alloy development, Welding, Hot Rolling, Continuous Casting, Recrystallization, HAZ Cycles, Diffusion Bonding, Forging, Additive Extrusion, Manufacturing, Continuous Strip Annealing, Heat Treating

He said that the lab is a fully integrated equipment with high speed heating system, closed loop servo hydraulic system for mechanical testing along with the digital computer control and high speed data heated at rates up to a maximum 10,000 °C/s by resistance heating or can be held at constant temperature. It is capable of exerting up to 20 tonnes of static force in compression or 10 tonnes in tension, with stroke rates up to 2 m/s. test, he added. Speaking on the occasion, the Director of IIT (BHU) laid emphasis on the importance of physical simulations with respect to industries and basic research. The lab is equipped with latest features that are Induction heating for non conductive specimens and a cryo-quench

for sub zero temperature. Many trains to remain cancelled. diverted

VARANASI (PNS): In connection with the doubling work of Aunrihar-Bhatni railway section under Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) and commissioning of New Peokol station and construction work of bypass line between Bhatni-Peokol by the Railway administration for upgrada tion of passenger facilities and operational apart from strengthening of infrastructure, several trains will remain cancelled and diverted apart from short termination/short origination and rescheduling of their timings from Friday. In this section, pre-non-interlock work will be done till November 5, while non-interlock work from November 4 to 8. The inspection of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) is scheduled there on November 8.

The trains which will remain cancelled are 15130 Varanasi City-Gorakhpur Express running from Varanasi City from October 27 to November 8 and 15129 from Gorakhpur from October 27 to November 10. 05149/05150 and 05151/05152 Bhatni-Barhaj-Bhatni special trains running from Bhatni and Barhaj from October 27 to November 8 will be partially cancelled between Bhatni and Salempur. 01748/01747 Banaras-Bhatni-Varanasi City special train running from Banaras and Bhatni from October 27 to November 8 will remain cancelled apart from 05148 Varanasi City-Bhatni special train running from Varanasi City from October 27 to November 8; 05147 Bhatni-Varanasi City special train running from Bhatni from October to November

05156/05155 Gorakhpur-Chhapra-Gorakhpur special train running from Gorakhpur and Chhapra from October 28 to November 8; 05444/05443 Gorakhpur-Chhapra-Mau special running from Mau and Chapra from October 28 to November 8; 05142 Gorakhpur-Siwan special train running from Gorakhpur from November 4 to 8; 05141 Siwan-Nakaha Jungle special train running from Siwan from November 5 to 9; 12538/12537 Prayagraj Rambagh-Muzaffarpur-Prayagraj

Rambagh Bi-Weekly Express running from Prayagraj Rambagh and Muzaffarpur on October 30 and November 1, 6 and 8; 15104/15103 Banaras-Gorakhpur-Banaras Express running from Banaras and Gorakhpur from November 2

to 8; 15105/15106 Chhapra-Nautanwa-Chhapra Express running from Chhapra and Nautanwa from November 4 to 8; 12530/12529 Lucknow Jn-Patliputra-Lucknow Jn Express running from Lucknow Jn and Patliputra on November 4, 7

Besides, the routes of many trains will be diverted during the period. These trains are 14005/14006 Sitamarhi-Anand Vihar Terminus Express-Sitamarhi;15707 Katihar-Amritsar-Katihar Express; 02569/ 02570 Darbhanga-New Delhi-Darbhanga; 02563/02564 Barauni-New Delhi -Barauni special; 14674 Amritsar-Jaynagar Express; 11060/ 11059 Chhapra-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express-Chhapra; 15531 Saharsa-Amritsar Express; 15048 Gorakhpur-Kolkata Express; 15651 Guwahati-Jammu Tawi Express; 15050 Gorakhpur-Kolkata Express; 12554 New Delhi-Saharsa Express;18201 Durg-Nautanwa Express; 15622 Anand Vihar Terminus-Kamakhya Express; 18202 Nautanwa-Durg Express; 12530/ 12529 Lucknow Jn-Patliputra-Lucknow Express; 15203

Barauni-Lucknow Jn Express;

22532 Mathura Jn-Chhapra

Express; 12565 Darbhanga-New Delhi; 12553 Saharsa-New Delhi Express; 13019 Howrah-Kathgodam Express; 14617 Banmankhi-Amritsar Express; 11055 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur Express; 15232 Amritsar-Saĥarsa Express; 15021 Shalimar-Gorakhpur Express; 05616 Guwahati-Udaipur special train; 15049 Kolkata-Gorakhpur Express; 12491 Barauni-Jammu Tawi Express; 12204 Amritsar-Saharsa

Express and 15909 Dibrugarh-LaĪgarh Express. Apart from this, many trains will have short termination/ short origination during the period. 12165/12166 LTT-Gorakhpur-LTT Express; 01027/ 01028 Dadar-Gorakhpur-Dadar special train; 19489/ 14490 Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur -Ahmedabad Express will remain cancelled between Mau and Gorakhpur as their short origination/ short termination will have at Mau. 15008/ 15007 Lucknow Jn-Varanasi City-Lucknow In Express will remain cancelled between Gorakhpur-Varanasi City and 19091/ 19092 Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur- Bandra Terminus Express will remain cancelled between Mau and

Roads to have dividers, footpaths for pedestrians

Following the footsteps of the Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA), the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation (PMC) has identified 34 roads of the city to make them smart.

Under the project the identified roads will have dividers along with footpaths for pedestrians on both the sides and greenery on the roadside or divider, which will be maintained by the PMC.

Under the Chief Minister Grid scheme the roads which are 10 metres or more wide have been identified for the initiative. Recently, chief engineer PMC Satish Kumar inspected the roads after which the municipal commissioner Chandra Mohan Garg for-

tified roads to the state government. A high-level committee will study these and after a formal approval, the detailed project report (DPR) will be prepared.

Thereafter, the government will allocate the budget for making these roads 'smart' on the basis of revenue collection of the PMC. The PMC is expected to get an amount of around Rs 53 crore for these roads under the CM Grid scheme this year.

In another development, the municipal corporation has issued guidelines for installing street lights in the newly-created wards of the city. Poles ranging from five metres to 12 metres high will be installed in the newly-created wards under the municipal limit of the city.

LED lights ranging from 30 watts to 150 watts will be installed on these poles. The work of installing and maintaining lights will be assigned to private agencies.

Following the guidelines issued by the PMC, street lights will be installed in Jhunsi, Naini, Phaphamau and Jhalwa areas of Prayagraj, said Satish Kumar. The responsibility of the installation and maintenance of street lights in the newly-created wards of the city will be handed over to different private agencies.

ARRESTED: The police arrested three persons on the charges of opening fire at a youth in Lilwar village under Utrav police station. The arrested miscreants were identified as Sherababu alias Guddu, Luvkush Yadav alias alias Lalla

Yadav and Sachin Yadav of Utrav. The police have also seized a country-made pistol of 0.315 bore along with one live cartridge from their possession.

Awadesh Yadav of Lilwar was standing outside a Durga Puja pandal when the miscreants reached there and shot at him. The youth was admitted to a hospital. Luvkush Yadav alias Lalla Yadav is a historysheeter with over a dozen criminal cases against him.

Meanwhile, the Pratapgarh police arrested Sonu alias Šhiv Sahay of Patti Kacehara wanted in a Gangsters Act case. The police also seized one countrymade pistol of 0.315 bore along with three live cartridges and one bike from him. As many as 28 criminal cases are registered

Bid to provide deeper understanding of plant diversity on global scale

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

t a time when efforts are on At a time which cheese the study plant diversity in detail and digitise samples on a global level, scientists from the Prayagraj-based Central Regional Centre of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have also taken up this respon-

The Prayagraj centre will be uploading on their website the researched data related to the flora of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh falling under its jurisdiction. This exercise is being undertaken to provide a deeper understanding of plant diversity on a global scale and to streamline the future digitization of the plant database.

This study has been published in the journal Nature. According to the former head at BSI Prayagraj centre, Arti Garg, herbaria collections shape our understanding of the earth's flora. Most of the plant specimens collected from around the world are currently housed in European countries and the United States.

These areas alone are home to the world's 10 largest herbaria (large collections of plant specimens), which collectively are estimated to contain more than 6.5 crore specimens. Although there are many areas where plant diversity is high, the collection of their samples is less. To study this, the team of scientists had asked for data related to plant diversity", said Garg, who has now been transferred as scientist in the Northern Regional Centre of BSI, Dehradun. Data related to plants of UP, MP and Chhattisgarh was uploaded by BSI Prayagraj Centre for study, she added She said according to the

Index Herbarium, there are at least 3,426 herbaria globally, with a total of about four crore specimens. More than 60 per cent of these herbaria and 70 per cent of the specimens are located in developed countries with colonial histories. To further understand the current state of the world's collections and their digitisation, scientists analysed records of more than 85 lakh specimens from a total

and six continents. Also, researchers have suggested increasing the digitisation of preserved plant specimens in future herbaria.

Garg said that a herbarium is a collection of preserved plant specimens and related data. It is used for scientific studies. The plants are dried and mounted on a sheet of

These may be placed in alcohol or other preservatives to preserve them. A large group of herbarium is called herbaria and it helps in understanding the biodiversity. Garg added that herbaria are also storehouses of the most valuable type specimens to which the name of a taxon is permanent-

7,885 idols immersed in Prayagraj zone

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

midst tight security Aarrangements, as many as 7,885 idols were immersed in seven districts of Prayagraj zone including Kaushambi (1,154), Pratapgarh (1,335), Fatehpur (1,783), Chitrakoot (997), Banda (1,334), Mahoba (619) and Hamirpur (643) in the past 72 hours.

Besides this, over 1,400 of prominent Barwari were idols were also immersed in taken to Andawa for immerdistrict, including Bela Kachar (Phaphamau), Dhanua (Naini), Anhawa (Jhunsi), Deeha (Karchana), Mahuwari (Industrial Area), Bal Mandir Talab (Puramufti) and other

Officials claimed that adequate number of jetties were set up in all districts for the convenience of devotees who brought idols for immer-

Devotees dancing on dhol beats arrived on pond sites to

immerse the idols Duties of PAC (flood bat-

talion) and Jal police personnel were also assigned at To avoid chaos and confusion, police authorities had fixed the routes for Durga Puia committees to take idols for immersion. Cops also used

drones to keep vigil on

immersion. Majority of idols

In an order in 2012 the high court had prohibited immersion of idols in rivers and had ordered that they be immersed in an artificial or

natural pond. Since then, the local administration in all seven districts of the zone had selected small ponds and also set up artificial ones for

immersion of idols. YOUTH JUMPS INTO **RIVER:** A youth jumped into the Ganga from Shastri Bridge

towards Jhunsi on Thursday. Thereafter the water police and the police of the police station

According to eyewitness-

es, a youth reached Shastri Bridge and jumped into the Ganga. A passerby informed the police. Water police in-charge

Janardan Sahni got involved in the rescue along with his team. A search operation was could not be traced. The police said that the

youth jumped into the Ganga with the intention of committing suicide and information about who he was and the motive behind it is being col-

Meanwhile a polytechnic student committed suicide in the Handia Kotwali area here. When he did not come out of his room the students informed the owner of the

On not getting any response on knocking at the door people realised that something untoward had happened. On information, police also reached the spot, broke the door and went inside. The body was brought down and sent for the post-mortem examination.

Deceased Nikhil Gupta (20) of Parsauni village under Nembua Naurangiya police station Kushinagar lived with students studying and pre ing for competitive examinations in Handia town.

He was a second year stuof Polytechnic Mechanical Production. Forensic team also reached the spot. No suicide note was found from the spot. The police took the mobile with them to find out why he took this extreme step. His colleagues said he was looking troubled for some days but why did not know why he took such a drastic step.

Implement govt schemes properly: Minister

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Uttar Pradesh Minister of Agriculture, Agriculture Education and Agricultural Research Surya Pratap Shahi on Wednesday asked the officials to implement government schemes in a proper way to benefit the farmers.

While reviewing the progress of schemes he asked

millets in areas where there is a shortage of irrigation water. He asked the officials to distribute mini kits to small farmers through people's representatives. The meeting was attended by MLAs Ratnakar Mishra and Rama Shankar Singh Patel, District

He asked the officials to moti-

vate farmers for farming of

Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan,



UP Minister of Agriculture Surya Pratap Shahi holding the review meeting on

the officials concerned to ensure adequate availability of seeds and fertiliser to the farmers and to monitor its sale regularly. The officials were directed to publicise the MSP scheme properly and chalk out such a strategy so that maximum purchase of grain can be done at the governthe district. ment-run purchase centres.

Chairman Nagar Palika Parishad Mirzapur Shyam Sundar Keshari and other officials concerned. The minister during his day-long tour visited the BHU South Campus and distributed kits to 100 farmers. He also attended other programmes in

GANJA RECOVERED:

The Vindhyachal police arrested four accused of drug smuggling and recovered one quintal of ganja worth Rs 45 lakh on Tuesday.

Vindhyachal station house officer (SHO) was tipped off by an informer about the transportation of drug.

The police team led by SHO Arvind Mishra succeeded in catching the miscreants near Kamapur. Diromg interrogation they divulged that the ganja was being transported from Bihar and was to be delivered in Prayagraj. After registering a case under relevant sections the police arrested four persons and seized the vehicles.

The accused were identified as Amiruddin Ansari and Dharmendra Kumar of Tori under Bhagwanpur police station, Kaimur, Bhabhua, Bihar, Indra Bahadur Singh of Rajpur and Ajai Kumar Singh of Basaha Barokhar.

SHOT DEAD: A youth was shot dead in an area under Jigna police station on Wednesday. About one dozen people, including the victim, were present in Karni Bhawaan village when suddenly motorcycle-borne miscreants reached the spot and opened the fire on Vivek ingh alias Vikky (22) of Bhilgaur under Jigna police

The victim was brought to

the divisional hospital in a critical condition where the doctors declared him as brought dead. DIG RP Singh and other

police authorities reached the spot and issued the necessary directions to the cops in connection to maintain law and order situation.

SP Abhinandan said a named FIR had been registered against Abhimanyu Singh, Vivek Singh alias Mutthu and Akhilesh Singh of Kotaha Gaura under Jigna police station. Taking the incident seriously the SP has issued a suspension order against the SO and others. The suspended personnel are SO RK Mishra, sub-inspector Rajendra Ram, beat constables Sarvesh Kumar and Komal Pal TRAFFIC PROHIBIT-

ED: The administration has prohibited traffic on Shastri bridge for six hours on Friday, a communique said.

District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan said after repair of the bridge its load test was required hence she has ordered to ban the traffic from 11 am to 5 pm on Friday. Notably, heavy traffic on the bridge was prohibited for few months due to the need for

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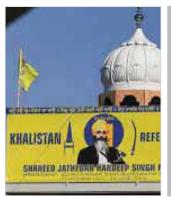
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Signs of thaw

India resumes some visa services in Canada even as New Zealand joins the anti-India chorus

■ n a significant diplomatic development, India has announced the resumption of a few of its visa services for Canadians, marking a possible turning point in a Inigh-profile dispute that has strained bilateral relations. As per the Indian Embassy in Ottawa, it has resumed visa services for Canadians from yesterday, a move aimed at de-escalating tensions between the countries. This must come as a relief to many Canadians of Indian origin who frequently visit their native country. However, for now, only a few visa categories have been allowed --- health, business conference, etc --- but it opens up the possibility of normalising bilateral ties. The decision to open up the visa process comes on the heels of Canada's decision to recall 41 of its 62 diplomats from India. Canada was forced to prune its team in India after the latter's warning of stripping the Canadian diplomats of their immunity which, Canada argued, violated the Vienna Convention. The Indian Government has now relented



a bit to ease the situation. The problem escalated after Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau publicly accused "Indian agents" of involvement in the murder of its national and Khalistan sympathiser Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a claim that India vehemently reject-

To date, Trudeau has not shared any proof of Indian involvement in Nijjar's killing. With the backing of the western countries (especially the Five Eyes alliance), however, he stands emboldened on his allegations. Also, taking a cue from the US, other countries such as the UK, Australia and New Zealand have criticised India's decision to expel 41 Canadian

diplomats or potentially revoke their diplomatic immunity. New Zealand, as a member of the Five Eyes intelligence network to weigh in on this matter, has invoked the Vienna Convention governing diplomatic relations. To put things in perspective, Nijjar was a vocal advocate of Khalistan, a proposed Sikh state carved out of India, a stance that put him on the radar of Indian authorities who sought him on charges of terrorism. India has been asking Canada to check anti-India activities from its soil but so far they have not been heeded to. Nijjar was found murdered near a gurudwara in Canada. India denied any role and assured the Canadian agencies of full cooperation but Canada took the unprecedented step of expelling an Indian diplomat. India took counter measures, including the suspension of visa services for Canadians. The visa services resumption is a positive step towards easing tensions and fostering diplomatic relations between the nations. Both India and Canada need to engage in diplomatic dialogue and cooperation to address the concerns surrounding the Nijjar case and work towards a resolution that respects international law and diplomatic norms; otherwise, common people would suffer, especially students and old people who are waiting eagerly for this issue to be resolved.



evotees carry deities in plangins during Kullu Dussehra festival, in Kullu

Inflection point for humanity



The methods of war in Gaza have been shameful as many innocent lives have been lost. Humanity must survive the madness of war

s was expected, the so-called 'ground invasion' by Israel has been delayed again, and the reasons are well understandable. The tactical and strategic situation right now warrants a pause in hostilities. Tactically speaking, fighting in a built-up area (FIBUA) is one of the toughest kinds of warfare, often even tougher than jungle warfare. From the Israeli perspective, the release of 220 hostages has to be the top priority, even before any ground operation is launched. The international community, however, must focus on how there is minimum loss of life of the civilian population.

The UN has been calling the situation in Gaza catastrophic and one that is growing more dire by the hour, repeating the call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. However, the situation on the ground keeps on getting worse by the day, with reports of more and more civilian casualties being reported across the length and breadth of Gaza. So, what is the way forward? Is the ground invasion by Israel imminent? Will the humanitarian crisis in Gaza get worse? Will the hostages be released and will the aid reach the people who require it the most? What is the UN doing to neutralise the situation? What are the leaders across the world doing to prevent the war from spreading? What does it mean for the Russia-Ukraine war?

These are some of the questions that are going to confront the world in the coming few weeks and the answers to these questions are going to be critical for world peace in the long run. Russia has put forward a draft resolution for consideration before the United Nations Security Council which calls for an immediate ceasefire and allowing humanitarian aid into Gaza. However, this effort may give little result, as Russia itself is involved in Ukraine, and the US, UK and France are likely to oppose any resolution coming from Russia's table. Arab counon similar lines, which also calls for recognition of the state of Palestine.

This resolution is to be placed in issue has always been man-

the general assembly and may not be voted for. So, this resolution may not cease the hostilities either. The UN needs to seriously reflect upon its ability to handle the crisis and deploy mechanisms to rise above geopolitics when basic human rights are at risk for a large population. The UN also needs to expand its security council keeping in mind the rising significance of the 'Global South'. Amendment to the constitution of the UN is the need of the hour and the world leaders must live up to this need.

Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have clearly stated that the war should not be escalated. However, the involvement of Iran in the conflict can not be ruled out, which further threatens to increase the canvas of the war manifold. So, the way forward looks gloomy and more civilian casualties are likely. Amid Israel's intelligence failure and the resurgence of armed groups in the Palestinian territories, recent events highlight diplomatic inaction over the last many vears. These events highlight the failure of successive governments and the UN.

The rise of armed groups in the occupied territories is over a decade-old phenomenon and points towards a collective system failure. The Palestinian



ISSUE HAS ALWAYS BEEN MANAGED, AND THERE HAS **NEVER BEEN A** SERIOUS EFFORT TOWARD WAR RESOLUTION

aged, and there has never been a serious effort towards resolution. This time it calls for serious crisis management before a resolution can be reached. Few hostages have been released by Hamas and some aid has been allowed in, which are positive steps in the direction of crisis management and hopefully will prevent a catastrophe from happening. Some of the hostages have not been ill-treated, this is again a positive development that could go a long way in soothing some of the wounds. Ground invasion by the IDF at this stage is not a good move in the overall picture, because not only does it threaten the war to go to the next level, it also is sure to inflict more casualties not only on the IDF but also on the civilians. No doubt Hamas needs to be punished for the barbaric attack on villages and noncombatants, but ground assault is not the answer to it.

IDF needs to do more surgical strikes, making sure that none of the non-combatants are harmed in these strikes. A surgical strike on pinpoint targets looks like the only viable option shortly, as ground assault could further complicate the situation. Hybrid warfare includes a religious, legal humanitarian, military, political and diplomatic angle and this war in the

Middle East has all the associated tenants. Hamas has also mastered the art of creating a

In FIBUA, all the tenets of asymmetric warfare would be put to use which could spiral into a point of no return and could convert this battle into a long-drawn-out conflict zone. IDF must step back and then leap forward, as taking a giant leap forward without seeing a landing ground may land them in trouble and in turn be harmful to the entire region. Hence, it would be reasonable for the IDF to wait and watch and improve upon their intelligence network and get pinpoint information and then only conduct surgical strikes rather than plan a ground invasion and bomb indiscriminately. Surgical strikes, taking embedded journalists along, on the top leadership of Hamas would do their narrative a world of good and reduce non-combatant casualties as well. The world is watching how the situation will fan out in the days to come. The methods of war over the last 20 days since the morning of October 7 have been shameful. This is a reflection point for humanity and we must shun

(The writer is expert on geopolitics and international Affairs. The views expressed

Rev up Anganwadi workers to fight NDDs



Capacity-building programs for Anganwadi workers is important to lessen the burden of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs)

n India, the burden of neurodevelopmental dis-Lorders (NDDs) and their associated disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) is a growing concern. Disability-adjusted life year (DALY) is a metric that integrates both years of life lost due to premature mortality (YLLs) and vears of life lost due to living in states of reduced health or years of healthy life lost due to disability (YLDs). The burden of these disorders extends beyond the individuals themselves, impacting families, communities, and society at large. In this context, Strengthening Anganwadis could act as a game changer in reducing the burden. **Monitoring the Problem**

According to a multicentric study conducted in 2018, the prevalence of neurodevelopmental disorders, such as vision impairment, epilepsy, neuromotor impairments including cerebral palsy, hearing impairment, speech and language disorders, autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and learning disorders, was found to be 9.2% among children aged from 2 to less than 6

years and 13.6% among children aged from 6 to 9 years.It is essential to record and address these issues as early as possible to help every child reach their full potential. Monitoring the developmental progress of children from

birth to 2 years can lead to early identification of developmental delays or sensory impairments. These developmental delays may also be early signs of compromised neurodevelopment and so Childhood

Interventions (ECD) implemented during time-sensitive, developmental periods can help to meaningfully address the root causes of these challenges

The Risk Factors There are multiple risk factors that predispose neonates and

infants to neurodevelopmental delays. A combination of genetic and environmental risk factors including noninstitutional delivery, a history of perinatal asphyxia, neonatal illness, postnatal neurological/brain infections, stunting, low birth weight/prematurity, severe acute malnutrition and lower head circumference are found to be significantly associated with neurodevelopmental delays in infants below 2 years of age. In India, of the 25 million children born in a year, at least 3.5 million babies are born prematurely and 1.7 million are born with birth defects and one million new born babies need prolonged hospitalisation and require special healthcare or dependence on technology at the

Special-New-born Care Units (SNCUs) to save them and reduce medical morbidi-

tiesafter birth. Another disadvantage is that the children growing up in poverty face higher levels of adversity and stress, which can negatively impact their neurodevelopment. As per the World Bank, poverty and stunting are potential markers of developmental impairment caused due to environmental factors and at least 250 million children, aged under 5 years, fail to reach their potential in cognitive and socioemotional developmentin low- and middleincome countries. One potential reason for this is children from lower socioeconomic backgrounds tend to have heightened stress response systems as differences in parenting influenced by income and education, such as parent-child interaction, vocabulary, and responsiveness, can affect the maturation of specific brain areas.

(The writer is professor of psychology, at Ashoka University; views are personal) To be continued...

CIRCULAR BANNING RSS ACTIVITIES

Sir-In a recent High Court verdict, the Kerala government-run Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) issued a circular banning the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and organisations with 'extreme ideologies' from temple premises under its administration. Namajapa protests (with demonstrators chanting mantras) have also been prohibited on temple premises managed by the board. The circular stipulates that all RSS and 'extreme ideology' activities are prohibited without TDB permission. The board controls 1,200 temples, including Sabarimala, and issued a circular on October 20 directing the Devaswom Vigilance Wing to conduct surprise raids to check RSS or other outfits' activities on temple properties. There have been complaints about RSS and other groups encroaching on temple premises. These organisations are alleged to conduct weapons training and mass drills, often under the cover of night. Priests and temple employees are instructed to report such activities. Non-compliance may lead to disciplinary action. The RSS has criticised this directive as a political move by the CPI (M), aiming to control temple affairs in Kerala. A tussle between the Kerala government and RSS has begun.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

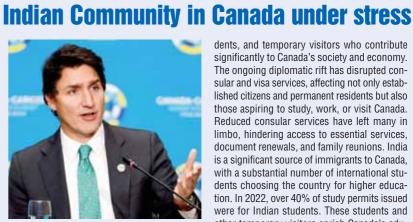
INDIA'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Sir—In a remarkable display of compassion and generosity, the Government of India has provided much-needed aid to the Republic of Palestine through the El-Arish International Airport base, facilitating its journey to Gaza via the Rafah Corridor. Despite our strong strategic and economic ties with Israel, India has successfully maintained a delicate balance in the face of conflicting situations. Even in the wake of the catastrophic events in the Gaza Strip, India's humanitarian aid was a significant demonstration of support.

This gesture from India sends a clear message that we stand against any attempt by Israel or any other party to harm innocent citizens. In times of crisis, every life is pre-

dents, and temporary visitors who contribute

THE EDITOR



India have created uncertainty within Canada's Indian community, which comprises a diverse population of over 1.86 million people, constituting about 5% of Canada's residents. This community includes naturalised citizens, permanent residents, international stu-

he diplomatic tensions between Canada and

significantly to Canada's society and economy. The ongoing diplomatic rift has disrupted consular and visa services, affecting not only established citizens and permanent residents but also those aspiring to study, work, or visit Canada. Reduced consular services have left many in limbo, hindering access to essential services, document renewals, and family reunions. India is a significant source of immigrants to Canada, with a substantial number of international students choosing the country for higher education. In 2022, over 40% of study permits issued were for Indian students. These students and other temporary visitors enrich Canada's education system, economy, and cultural diversity. It is imperative for both nations to resolve their differences and restore efficient consular and visa services, benefiting Canada's Indian community and strengthening ties and economic cooperation between the two nations.

Maimul Safui | Howrah

cious, and India's efforts in assisting Gaza are both commendable and welcoming. It is essential that other nations follow suit and engage in humanitarian aid to mitigate the suffering caused by geopolitical rivalries.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT Sir—During the skill initiation ceremony, PM Modi underscored the government's commitment to providing training to 1.5 crore young individuals, a move that has undoubtedly led to a significant decrease in unemployment rates. This proactive approach to skill development is laudable and speaks to the government's dedication to empowering the nation's youth. Nonetheless, it is crucial to assess the effectiveness of these training programs. Recent reports indicate that only a small fraction of those who undergo training in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) manage to secure jobs. This disparity can be attributed in part to the outdated curriculum in these institutions, which often includes training in languages like HTML while modern industries increasingly demand proficiency in languages like Python. The need for alignment between educational curricula and industry requirements is evident. Another factor contributing to the growth

in labor force participation rates (LFPR) is the increased engagement of rural women in low-paying jobs like the MNRE-GA. Additionally, the government must also address the economic challenges faced by rural communities, which drive many into the low-wage job market. Aligning training programs with industry needs and addressing economic disparities in rural areas will contribute to the overall effectiveness of these initiatives,.

N. Ashraf | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

'DANA' HAS SPIRITUAL **CONNOTATIONS**

A simple act of giving is much more than just an act of compassion



SWAMI CHARANSHRIT

India, a land known for its rich tapestry of traditions and cultures, is also renowned for its deep-rooted spiritual heritage. Among the various customs and rituals that have been practiced for centuries, the tradition of "'Dana" holds a special place. 'Dana', which translates to "giving" or "charity," is a significant practice in India that transcends the boundaries of religion, caste, and creed. It is deeply embedded in the spiritual fabric of the nation, fostering compassion, selflessness, and unity among its people.

'Dana', as a tradition, encompasses various forms of charitable acts, including donating food, money, clothes, and other essentials to those in need. The core philosophy of 'Dana' is to give without expecting anything in return. This selfless act of giving is believed to purify the soul, strengthen the sense of community, and create a more compassionate and equitable

Across Religions

One of the remarkable aspects of 'Dana' in India is its universality. It transcends religious boundaries and is practiced across different faiths.

1. Hinduism: In Hinduism, the concept of 'Dana' is deeply rooted in the belief in karma and dharma. The act of giving is seen as a duty and a means of purifying one's soul. During festivals and rituals, Hindus often perform 'Dana', offering food, clothing, or money to the less fortunate. 2.Buddhism: 'Dana' is one of the fundamental virtues in Buddhism. Buddhists believe in the importance of generosity and selflessness. Monks and laypeople alike engage in acts of 'Dana' to accumulate merit and practice the teachings of the Buddha.

3. Sikhism: The Sikh tradition promotes selfless service and giving. The concept of "Langar" in Sikhism, where free meals are provided to all visitors at the community kitchen in Sikh gurudwaras, is a significant example of 'Dana'. It symbolises equality, humility, and community service. 4. Jainism: 'Dana' is an integral part of Jainism, which emphasises nonviolence and compassion. Jains believe in giving to the less fortunate, not just material possessions but also sharing knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual guidance.

5. Islam and Christianity: Even in religions like Islam and Christianity, charity is a cornerstone of the faith. Muslims practice "Zakat," a form of almsgiving, while Christians are encouraged to tithe, which involves giving a portion of their income to those in need.



Spiritual Significance

to spiritual growth.

The act of giving in the tradition of 'Dana' holds profound spiritual signif-

1. Purification of the Soul: 'Dana' is considered a means to purify one's soul. It is believed that by giving, one sheds their attachment to material possessions and cultivates a sense of detachment, ultimately leading

2.Karma and Dharma: The concept of karma (the law of cause and effect) and dharma (duty) plays a pivotal role in the act of giving. By fulfilling their dharma and performing acts of 'Dana', individuals accumulate positive karma, which is believed to influence their future lives.

3. Unity and Compassion: 'Dana' fosters a sense of unity and compassion within society. It brings people from different backgrounds together, highlighting the common human bond and promoting a sense of responsibility towards one another. 4. Happiness and Inner Fulfillment: Many find a deep sense of happiness and inner fulfillment in the act of giving. The joy of helping others and making a positive impact on their lives is considered a source of spiritual contentment.

'Dana', the tradition of giving in India, is a powerful testament to the spiritual and ethical values that have shaped the nation for millennia. It transcends religious, social, and economic boundaries, promoting compassion, selflessness, and unity among people.

(The writer is spiritual quide; views are personal)

ISRO: Propelling India's space industry



AS MITTAL

Encouraging private participation could free up ISRO to focus on research and development, interplanetary exploration and strategic launches



ndia is rapidly advancing in space exploration, having achieved the feat of landing on the Moon's south pole and garnering a reputation as a costcompetitive space industry. The country's space programme is gaining global recognition in the field of science and engineering and is playing a vital role in exploring new frontiers.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the world's sixth-largest space agency, spent only Rs 613 crore (\$74 million) on the successful Chandrayaan-3, which is less than the cost (\$200 million) of the failed Chandrayaan-2, in 2019. In contrast, China spent \$12 billion on its Moon programme in 2022, while NASA, the world's largest space agency, is on track to spend \$93 billion (Rs 7.72 lakh crore) on its Artemis Moon programme, and is now seeking collaboration with ISRO for its iture Moon Mission.

Despite having a mere 2% share in the global space economy, India's reputation for cost-effective engineering has caught the attention of the world superpower US, which has a 40% share in the same. The success of Chandrayaan-3 will undoubtedly benefit India's space business, and its next space milestone mission Gaganyaan including a Venus Orbiter Mission, a Mars Lander, setting up an Indian Space Station by 2035, and sending the first Indian to the Moon by 2040.

The current competition to explore a previously uncharted region of the Moon is reminiscent of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union in the 1960s. However, unlike then, space exploration is now a competitive industry, with the Moon's south pole being a highly coveted destination due to the presence of water ice that could potentially support future lunar colonies, mining operations, and even expeditions to Mars.

The global space economy is projected to increase from \$546 billion to \$1 trillion by



THE SPACE INDUSTRY HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TRANSFORM **VARIOUS** SECTORS SUCH AS TELE-COMMUNICAT-IONS, HEALTH, EDUCATION, INFRA-STRUCTURE, NAVIGATION, **DEFENCE**

(The author is vicechairman of Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, and Chairman of Assocham Northern Region Development. Views expressed are strictly

personal)

2040. NASA has paved the way for private players to participate in space exploration. India has also entered the race by privatising space launches and is now considering opening the sector to foreign investment, to increase its share in the global launch market by five times in the next decade.

The space economy is growing rapidly, with the entry of private players and 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). This will lead to the adoption of newer, more effi-cient technologies that are also cost-effective in the space sector. The Indian Space Policy-2023 and the Indian Space Activities Bill provide a framework that prioritises private players' involvement in the space sector. This will help India increase its share in the global space economy from 2% to 9% by 2030, according to a recent report by Deloitte India. India's current space sector is val-

ued at approximately \$8 billion and has been growing at a rate of about 4% per year, which is higher than the global average of 2%. It is expected to reach \$40 billion by 2040. With the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission, India can achieve this target much earlier, as it is likely to receive requests from NASA and other countries for satellite launches.

Cost competitiveness

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) have been transferring existing technologies to the private sector since 2020. Their goal is to create an ecosystem of industry, academia, and start-ups and attract a larger share of the

global space economy. The Department of Space has helped emerging companies build upon ISRO's foundational technologies to reduce their development time and costs. They have also provided guidance to help these companies build advanced technologies with a robust foundation of space infrastructure, a repository of existing technologies, and active support to enable a seamless fusion of traditional expertise and modern innovation.

Globally, private players in space are on the rise due to commercial benefits. Companies like Elon Musk's SpaceX are developing the Starship rocket for their satellite launch business and to ferry NASA astronauts to the moon's surface under a \$3 dillion contract. Beyond that contract, SpaceX plans to spend approximately \$2 billion on Starship this year. US space firms Astrobotic and Intuitive Machines are building lunar landers expected to launch to the moon's south pole by year's end or in 2024. NASA aims to map the lunar south pole and its water ice by 2024. Companies such as Axiom Space and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin are developing privately funded successors to the International Space

As a potential industry: The space industry has the potential to transform various sectors such as telecommunications, governance, agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, navigation, and strategic defence. Through technological advancements and innovation, space applications can bring tangible benefits to every citizen's life. Empowering the private sector amplifies the socio-economic

impact of space applications. By finding innovative solutions to pressing challenges in areas such as agriculture, disaster management, or communication, the private sector can bring significant improvement to people's lives.

The way forward: India's space industry comprises a significant number of small and mediumsized enterprises (SMEs) that supply parts and components for satel-lite and launch vehicle manufacturing. This sector supports the gov-ernment's vision of 'Atmanirbhar India' and 'Make in India,' which aims to make India a leader in the global space industry. However, private players have so far been limited to being vendors or suppliers to the government's space program. Encouraging private participation could free up the ISRO to focus on science, research and development, interplanetary exploration, and strategic launches. Therefore, there is a need for Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) to participate in the Indian space programme and boost India's market share in the Global Space Economy.

Expanding ISRO's collaborations with start-up products to more remote institutes and research labs is necessary. Additionally, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and customs exemptions can cost-effectively encourage indigenous manufacturing capacity. Furthermore, a comprehensive study on fully tapping the downstream capabilities of this sector is equally important to make India a sunrise global space industry and tap the potential of young entrepreneurs to create more employment

Moral anchoring for a global climate policy is a must

With the planet facing the climate crisis, it's time we re-evaluate our motivations towards development and shun anything detrimental to the environment

Alan Shepherd, the American astronaut famously said, "If somebody had said before the flight "Are you going to get carried away looking at the earth from the moon?" I would have said, no; no way. But yet when I first looked back at the earth standing on the Moon, I cried.".This profound expression reminds us of the bond we share with our planet as the tapestry of life unfolds itself with every breath we take, the every step we tread on its soil doubt, we have all the responsibility to preserve and nourish its magnificence for the generations to come and thrive on it. So when climate change poses existential jeopardy transcending geographies, it makes one question, if the moral construct of the nation-state order in the



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views are personal)

contemporary world, the philosophical rootings of its political systems, the ideas of rights, liberties and justice which form the cornerstone of world's constitutions, the principles of economic theory adopted for modern policymaking; is robust and persuasive enough to generate a unified response from humanity. A political thought for a warmer planet: The foundations of modern political thought, forged during the Enlightenment and afterwards, were shaped by influential figures such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Rousseau, Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, John Rawls and others. The ideas of rights, liberty and justice which aspired to nurture human lives were premised upon the assumption that by and large

ethical conduct; which avoids harming others essentially forms the bedrock of our social systems. The utilitarian perspective which emphasised maximising the greatest good for all as an end goal; underwent a refinement with the acknowledgement of fairness of means as well. While these ideas have contributed immensely to shaping modern political theory; they are primarily human-centric and struggle to account for the well-being or interests of nonhuman entities, furthermore are also found lacking in elaborating humanity's relationship with its environment. The political philosophy for a global system grappling with climate change must have a framework where utility is defined in a broader sense,



animate and inanimate human surroundings. The right to life which is a key instrument in the majority of the world's constitutions, requires to be recalibrated to include the threats due to emissions and a

need of the hour to ensure equity and justice for all affected by climate change.

Are emissions an externality?: Externality is a concept in economics that refers to the unintended side effects or consequences of an activity that affect third parties who did not choose to be involved in that activity. Also, an externality does not get reflected in the cost of the goods or services involved. The climate impact of consumption of goods and services must be accounted for climate change mitigation. A robust system for pricing carbon is necessary and till such time such a mechanism matures, initiation of the emissions labelling of items would

send the right signals. The invisible hand needs a global legal framework is the **nudge:** Free markets are laud-

ed for their ability to self-regulate, which Adam Smith referred to as the invisible hand, where, the individuals, in the pursuit of maximising their self-interest bring about the overall well-being of the society as well. Smith's proposition however is dependent on the moral foundations of individuals involved in the market play. The subprime crisis was rather a recent demonstration that beyond the invisible hand, government intervention is necessary at times. Also, the timing of the action is crucial. The world is chasing timebound targets to a net zero. Governments need to intervene to create market mechanisms conducive to climate

action as if left to their own,

markets may take time to

respond, which an already hotter world can not afford. We must act before it's too late, as John Maynard Keynes famously said "in the long run, we all are dead" he advocated for government spending in the times of the great depression, rather than merely relying upon markets to course correct. Post the Industrial Revolution,

the world has been in a relentless pursuit of creating wealth and prosperity. No doubt, our lives are better in so many ways. But with the planet facing the climate crisis, it's time we re-evaluate our motivations towards development and the world's institutional mechanisms entrusted with addressing the climate crisis are guided by humanity's innate moral

'18 killed, 13 hurt in Lewiston shootings'

AP LEWISTON

Maine's governor says at least 18 people were killed and 13 were injured in shootings in Maine. Gov. Janet Mills made the remarks at a press conference Thursday. A man shot and killed the victims at a bowling alley and restaurant in Lewiston and then fled into the night, sparking a massive search by hundreds of officers while frightened residents stayed locked in their homes Thursday under a shelter-inplace advisory.

Mills said the shooting

suspect, Robert Card, is considered armed and danger-

ous.
"This city did not deserve this terrible assault on its citizens, on its peace of mind, on its sense of security," she said.

A police bulletin identified Card, 40, as a person of interest in the attack in Lewiston that sent panicked bowlers scrambling behind pins, into corners and a back room when shots rang out around 7 pm Wednesday.

Card was described as a firearms instructor believed to be in the U.S. Army Reserve and assigned to a training facility in Saco, Maine.

The document, circulated to law enforcement officials, said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks in the summer of 2023. It did not provide details about his treatment or condition but said Card had report-

Total Income from Operations

Extraordinary items?

Extraordinary items)

Income (after tax)]

discontinued operations) 1. Basic 2. Diluted

Date: 26th October, 2023



In this image taken from video released by the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office an unidentified shooter points a gun while entering Sparetime Recreation in Lewiston, Maine, on Wednesday,

ed "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" the military base. A telephone number listed for Card in public records was not in service.

Maine State Police okesperson Shannon Moss said the bowling alley shooting happened first.

Earlier, Lewiston Police said that they were dealing with an active shooter incident at Schemengees Bar and Grille and at Sparetime Recreation, a bowling alley about 4 miles (6.4 kilometres) away.

A number of parents and children were at Sparetime as part of a children's bowling

One bowler, who identified himself only as Brandon, said he heard about 10 shots, thinking the first was a balloon

PARTICULARS

Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax Exceptional and/or

Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or

Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or

Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/

(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive

Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the

on Thursday 26th October, 2023 after review by an Audit Committee.

Earnings per share (of Rs.10/- each (for continuing and

Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/-)

Audited Balance Sheet of previous year

PARIJAT PAPER MILLS LIMITED

Reg. Off: Vill-Jat Mujhera 10.6 Km Stone Bhopa Road, Muzaffarnagar-251308, (U.P)

Website: www.parijatpapermills.com, Email id: parijatpapermills@yahoo.com

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 2023

Unaudited

2688.45

240.02

204.07

204.07

329

6.20

The above results were reviewed by an Audit Committee and thereafter taken on record by the Board of Directors in their meeting held

The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly & year to date financial results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation

33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly & year to date financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.msei.in) and the Company's website (www.parijatpapermills.com)

836.94

QUARTER ENDED

30.09.2023 | 30.06.2023 | 30.09.2022 |

Unaudited

2466.80

50.85

50.85

41.45

41.45

329

1.26

836.94

Unaudited

3441.62

(38.55)

(38.55)

(32.53)

(32.53)

329

713.84

(0.98)

CIN: L21012UP1989PLC010589

popping."I had my back turned to the door. And as soon as I turned and saw it was not a balloon — he was holding a weapon — I just booked it," he

told The Associated Press. Brandon said he scrambled down the length of the alley, sliding into the pin area and climbing up to hide in the machinery.

"I was putting on my bowling shoes when when it started. I've been barefoot for five hours," he said.

The bowling alley is home to traditional tenpin bowling as well as candlepin, a variant of bowling found in New England.

It's located about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) north of the Bates College campus, on the outskirts of downtown. The

popular for local bowling believe it - that this is happenleagues and children's parties. ing again. It's happening to my Wednesday was "industry son after it just happened to my night" at Schemengees Bar daughter," she said in a phone

ness posted online, saying "great people in this commu-

After the shooting, police, many armed with rifles, took up positions while the city

descended into eerie quiet -

punctuated by occasional

sirens — as people hunkered

Kennebunk, more than 50

miles (80 kilometres) from

Lewiston, closed out of caution

on Thursday. And schools and

public buildings were closed in

Portland, the state's largest

leges canceled classes, as did

the Gorham and Portland

campuses of the University of

son, a sophomore at Bates

College, stayed in his dorm

with his roommate with the

blinds closed. Her daughter is

a senior at the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill,

last month, once when a pro-

Southern Maine.

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs

31.03.2023

Audited

13103.02

223.97

223.97

165.71

165.71

329

836.94

Amit Mittal

DIN: 00754471

Whole Time Director

HALF YEAR ENDED YEAR ENDER

6931.16

50.49

50.49

42.62

42.62

329

1.30

For Parijat Paper Mills Limited

713.84

30.09.2023 | 30.09.2022 |

Unaudited Unaudited

5155.25

290.86

290.86

245.50

245,50

329

7.46

836.94

Bates and Bowdoin col-

Diana Florence said her

Schools as far away as

nity" were lost.

down at home.

and Grille, with 25% discounts interview Thursday. offered to customers who work Ten-year-old in the bar or restaurant indus-Levesque, who was at the bowling alley with her moth-"In a split second your er, told WMTW-TV she was world gets turn upside down for no good reason," the busigrazed by a bullet.

"It's scary," she said. "I had never thought I'd grow up and get a bullet in my leg. And it's just like, why? Why do people do this?"

The Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office released two photos of the suspect on its Facebook page that showed the shooter walking into an establishment with a weapon raised to his shoulder.

Two law enforcement officials told the AP that at least 16 people were killed and the toll was expected to rise.

However, Michael Sauschuck, commissioner of the Maine Department of Public Safety, declined to provide a specific estimate at a news conference. It's the 36th mass killing in the United States this year, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with

Northeastern University. The two law enforcement officials said dozens of people also had been wounded. The officials were not authorised to

which was locked down twice publicly discuss details of the ongoing investigation and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

fessor was killed and again two weeks later when a man brandished a gun in the student S Korea, US, Japan condemn N Korea's alleged supply of

munitions to Russia

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea, the US.and Japan strongly condemned what they call North Korea's supply of munitions and military equipment to Russia, saying Thursday that such weapons shipments sharply increase the human toll of Russia's war in Ukraine. A joint statement by the top diplomats of South Korea, the US and Japan came days after Russia's foreign minister scoffed at a recent US claim that his country received munitions from North Korea, saying that Washington has failed to prove the allegation.

"We will continue to work together with the international community to expose Russia's attempts to acquire military equipment from (North Korea)," said the joint statement by South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa. "Such weapons deliveries, several of which we now confirm have been completed, will significantly increase the human Korea and Russia — both locked in separate confrontations with the US and its allies - have recently taken steps to strengthen their defense

Biden flays attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Wednesday spoke out against retaliatory attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank in the aftermath of the October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel. He also said he was redoubling his commitment to working on a twostate solution to end the decades-long Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Biden said the attacks by "extremist settlers" amounted to 'pouring gasoline" on the already burning fires in the Middle East since the Hamas

"It has to stop. They have to be held accountable. It has to stop now," Biden said at the start of a news conference with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who was being honored with a state visit to Washington.

Settler violence against Palestinians has intensified since the Hamas attack, and Palestinians have been killed by settlers, according to Palestinian authorities. Rights groups say settlers have torched cars and attacked several small Bedouin communities, forcing them to evacuate to other areas.

The West Bank Protection Consortium, a coalition of nongovernmental organizations and donor countries, including the European Union, says hundreds of Palestinians have been forcibly displaced in the West Bank due to settler violence since October 7. That's in addition to over 1,100 displaced since 2022.

Deadly violence has been surging in the West Bank as the Israeli military pursues Palestinian militants in the aftermath of the Hamas attack

Russia, China veto US-led draft resolution on Gaza

AP UNITED NATIONS

 R^{ussia} and China vetoed a US-led draft resolution in the UN Security Council that would have called for humanitarian pauses in fighting to allow aid access to Gaza while a rival text by Moscow on the Israel-Hamas conflict failed to garner enough votes in its favour. The 15-nation UN Security Council voted on two rival draft resolutions tabled by Washington and Moscow on the ongoing Israel-Hamas con-

The first resolution by the US affirmed the right of member states to defend themselves against threats to peace and security posed by acts of terrorism. It called for all measures specifically humanitarian pauses - to allow for full, rapid, safe, and unhindered access into Gaza, territory ruled by Hamas militants.

The Council's permanent members Russia and China vetoed the US-led resolution. The UAE also voted against the draft, which received ten votes in favour (Albania, France, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Malta, Switzerland, UK, US) and two abstentions by Brazil and Mozambique. Before the vote on the resolution, US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said Washington has worked to forge consensus around a resolution that is strong and balanced. "We solicited input. We listened. We engaged with all Council members to incorporate edits, including language

on humanitarian pauses and the protection of civilians fleeing conflict, and language on the importance of deconfliction mechanisms to protect UN facilities and personnel."

After the vote, she expressed disappointment that Russia and China vetoed the resolution and called on the Council members not to encourage Moscow's "cynical and irresponsible behaviour" by voting for its text, which she said was offered up at the very last minute with zero consultations and which contains a number of problematic sec-

The Council then voted on Moscow's resolution that called for a humanitarian ceasefire, unhindered aid into Gaza and the immediate cancellation by Israeli forces of the evacuation order for civilians to head into southern Gaza.

The resolution failed to get adopted as it did not get sufficient votes in its favour. Only four countries - China, Gabon, Russia, and the UAE - voted in favour of the resolution while the UK and US vetoed it and nine nations - Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Ghana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland abstained. This was the fourth time in over a week that the powerful UN Security Council, responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, failed to adopt a resolution and take unified action in the ongoing conflict that broke out after Hamas attacked Israel on



Empty strollers along with 30 photographs of children and adolescents who remain missing or abducted in the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7 are displayed during a Jewish organization representatives' solidarity happening, Thursday near the Eiffel Tower

Place: Muzaffarnagar

CIN: L17226HR1984PLC033384 | E mail: atml delhi@yahoo.com | Website : www.ashnoortex.com

						(Rs. in laki	
SI.No.	Particulars	3 months ended		Half Year ended		Standalone Previous Year Ended	
		30-09-2023	30-09-2022	30-09-2023	30-09-2022	31-03-2023	
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
1	Total Income from Operations (Net)	3,287.94	4,462.15	6,485.08	11,837.44	17,778.8	
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	198.77	106.04	540.67	315.15	781.1	
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	198.77	106.04	540.67	315.15	797.2	
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	153.93	108.56	394.14	265.39	612.4	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	153.93	108.56	394.14	265.39	612.4	
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1,274.58	1,273.95	1,274.58	1,273.95	1,273.9	
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	_	-	_	4,388.0	
8	Securities Premium Account	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.0	
9	Net Worth	6,056.74	5,240.72	6,056.74	5,240.72	5,661.9	
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	0.07	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.1	
11	Outstanding Redeemable Perferences Shares	-	_	_	_		
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.22	1.70	1.22	1.70	1.2	
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (before and after extraordinary items)						
	1. Basic:	1.21	0.85	3.09	2.08	4.8	
	2. Diluted:	1.21	0.85	3.09	2.08	4.8	
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	_	-	_		
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	_	_		
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.25	1.23	1.56	1.17	1.8	
17	Interest Service coverage Ratio	2.20	2.01	3.03	2.30	2.	

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of the Bombay Stock Exchange i.e.

By Order of the Board of Directors For Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited Suneel Gupta **Managing Director** DIN - 00052084

Rishi Sunak: World's first Al Safety Institute to be set up in UK

The UK is to be the headuarters of the world's first AI Safety Institute as the country takes the lead in examining and testing new types of artificial intelligence, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced in a speech in London on Thursday. Ahead of hosting the first Global AI Safety Summit next week, the British Indian leader who completed one year in office this week said that he genuinely believes that technologies like AI (Artificial Intelligence) will bring a transformation "as far-reaching as the industrial revolution, the coming of electricity, or the

birth of the internet". But like those waves of advancements and the many positives that they offer, there are also "new dangers and new fears" that

need to be tackled head on. "Get this wrong, and AI could make it easier to build chemical or biological weapons. Terrorist groups could use AI to spread fear and destruction on an even greater scale. Criminals could exploit AI for cyberattacks, disinformation, fraud, or even child sexual abuse," warned Sunak.

He even touched upon the "most unlikely and extreme" fears around AI which is sometimes referred to as "super intelligence" or humanity losing

control of the technology altogether.

'This is not a risk that people need to be losing sleep over right now. I don't want to be alarmist. And there is a real debate about this - some experts think it will never happen at all. But however uncertain and unlikely these risks are, if they did manifest themselves, the consequences would be incredibly serious," said Sunak.

"And when so many of the biggest developers of this technology themselves warn of these risks, leaders have a responsibility to take them seriously, and to act. And that is what I am doing today," he said.

Announcing the new AI

Safety Institute, he noted: "It will advance the world's knowledge of AI safety and it will carefully examine, evaluate, and test new types of AI, so that we understand what each new model is capable of; exploring all the risks, from social harms like bias and misinformation, through to the most extreme

risks of all."

He went on to confirm investment of "almost a billion pounds" in a supercomputer "thousands of times faster than the one you have at home" and further investment of 2.5 billion pounds in "quantum computers", which can be exponentially quicker than even the super-

Hurricane Otis causes 27 deaths; 4 still missing

AP ■ ACAPULCO (MEXICO)

Mexican authorities gave the first human toll for Hurricane Otis' destruction along the country's Pacific coast Thursday: at least 27 dead and four missing. Tens of thousands of residents in damaged homes without electricity awaited help more than a day after Otis roared ashore in Acapulco. Federal Security Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez said there were 27 confirmed deaths and four disappearances. Rodríguez's comments at President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's morning news briefing were echoed minutes later by Guerrero state Gov. Evelyn

Salgado. López Obrador said the destruction was so complete that not a single power line pole remained standing in the impact zone.Small farmers had their corn crops

devastated by Otis' wind and pounding rain, he said. Restoring power to the area was a top priority, he said. "We regret the 27 dead," López Obrador said. The president said Wednesday night he had been told the toll was 18, but it rose early Thursday.

"That's what hurts the most," he said of the deaths, noting material losses could be replaced. López Öbrador shared details of only one death: He said one soldier was among the dead after a wall of his home collapsed on him. The early images and accounts were of extensive devastation, toppled trees and power lines lying in brown floodwaters that in some areas

extended for miles. The resulting destruction delayed a comprehensive response by the government, which was still assessing the damage along the coast, and made residents desperate. Many of the once sleek beachfront hotels in Acapulco looked like toothless, shattered hulks after the Category 5 storm blew out hundreds — and possibly thousands — of windows.

There seemed to be a widespread frustration with authorities. While some 10,000 military troops were deployed to the area, they lacked the tools to clean tons of mud and fallen trees from the streets.

Hundreds of trucks from the government electricity company arrived in Acapulco early Wednesday, but seemed at a loss as to how to restore power, with downed electricity lines lying in feet of mud and water.

Jakob Sauczuk was staying with a group of friends at a beachfront hotel when Otis hit. "We laid down on the floor, and some between beds," Sauczuk said. "We

Court restores appeals of Sharif against conviction in two cases

Atop court here on Thursday restored appeals of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif against his conviction in two high-profile corruption cases, in a major relief to the former prime minister who wants to clear his name to contest the general elections expected in

Sharif, accompanied by his younger brother and PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif, appeared before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) for the second time since his return to Pakistan from London on October 21 after a self-exile of about four years.

A two-member division bench comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verer today. The bench issued the verdict while hearing the 73year-old three-time former prime minister's pleas seeking protective bail in the Al-Aziza steel mill and Avenfield corruption cases and for restoring his appeals against his conviction.

"Congratulations to all of Pakistan on the restoration of justice," his party said in a post on X, celebrating the restoration of appeals. A large number of his supporters gathered outside the court building and raised slogans in his favour.

Sharif was earlier granted a protective bail until October 24 when he appeared before the court to surrender and also filed pleas for revival of his appeals in both cases.

The court after the initial hearing had issued notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and adjourned the hearing until today. During the hearing, the NAB prosecutor informed the court that the anti-corruption watchdog was not interested in the arrest of Sharif, while his counsel pressed for restoration of appeals. NAB also refused to oppose the plea by Sharif's lawyers.

The court after the conclusion of the arguments reserved judgment which it announced later. On Tuesday, the caretaker government of Pakistan's Punjab province had suspended Sharif's seven-year sentence in the Al-Azizia corruption

Sharif was convicted in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case and sentenced to seven years in jail in December



Ex-Army chief's granddaughter writes open letter highlighting plight of 18 jailed women

Lahore (PTI): The granddaughter of a former army chief and a leader of ex-prime minister Imran Khan's party who was arrested for her alleged involvement in the May 9 violence has written an open letter from jail seeking "empathy and humanity" for the party's 19 women prisoners including herself.

Khadija Shah, Gen Asif Nawaz Janjua's granddaughter and a fashion designer by profession, was among several women arrested for their alleged involvement in attacks on military installations on May 9 that erupted in the wake of the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) party chief Khan's arrest in a corruption case.

Khan was later freed on bail in the case but remains behind bars in connection with the cipher case. Shah who was granted a post-arrest bail last week was arrested again and has now written a fivepage handwritten letter which was shared by her husband on

2018. Delivering the verdict, the judge had said at the time that there was concrete evidence against him in the Al-Azizia case and that he was unable to give the trail of the money used to set up the Al-Azizia steel mills in Saudi Arabia by his family in 2001 and later on the Hill Metal Establishment also in the Gulf

the PTI's official account on X on Wednesday, describing the heart-wrenching accounts of "separation, pain, and suffering" among the party's women prisoners.

Shah noted she has been incarcerated for over four months for "peacefully participating" in the May 9 protest. Each PTI woman prisoner at Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore has borne unimaginable punishment," she wrote in the letter.

Writing about the plight of 18 "innocent women" imprisoned alongside her, Shah said, These women prisoners have no access to the world and are unable to share their plight; their families desperately struggling to balance the demands of life without them."

'The women incarcerated with me have suffered unbearable circumstances, and they are waiting for the world to take notice and speak for them. These 18 women in captivity aren't just 18 women. They are 18 homes, 18 families, and

He was also convicted in July 2018 by an accountability court in the Avenfield properties case and sentenced to 10 years in jail. He was arrested and put in jail but set free after being given bail while his appeals against acquittal in the case were pending.

His daughter Maryam

countless lives completely shattered and at a standstill. I want to share the tragedy that is unfolding with each passing day to elicit the empathy and humanity that must exist in us all," the letter read.

She said the stories of separation, pain and suffering of May 9 prisoners are endless. "Each one of the prisoners has borne a punishment too great to imagine. A heavy price has been paid."

"Whether you are a sup-porter of the PTI or not, humanity dictates that this trial be brought to an end," she said, adding that it was time that all came together for the common good. "Whether we are supporters of a political party or members of an institution, we are all Pakistanis and one people," she wrote.

Although some of the women prisoners got bail, they were re-arrested in other cases, a pattern applied to the PTI leaders allegedly involved in the May 9 incidents.

Nawaz was also sentenced to seven years in jail in the Avenfield case but was acquitted in September 2022 along with her husband Muhammad Safdar. He has always denied allegations of any wrongdoing and termed his conviction orchestrated by the powerful establishment in collusion with the judiciary.

'No possibility of delay in Pak elections'

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's top electoral body asserted on Thursday that there is no question of postponing general elections slated to be held in January next year, a day after President Arif Alvi expressed doubts over the timing of the polls. In an interview with a news channel, President Alvi said he did not see polls taking place in January. He said he had made various "efforts" towards it, including writing letters to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Before being appointed as Pakistan's President, Alvi was a founding member of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. According to the president, the law ministry told him that it was not his prerogative. Responding to Alvi's remarks, the ECP in a press statement stated that the president's comments had created the impression that polls may

The first phase of delimitation has been completed and the second phase of filing objections will be completed tomorrow," it said, adding that it would start hearing objections regarding the preliminary delimitation from October 30 and 31 and the final list would be published on November 30.

The ECP said its preparations for holding polls were going on and the election schedule would be announced once the final list of constituencies was published.

As world roils, US & China seek to ease strained ties

In the midst of two active and Lpotentially world-changing conflicts in the Middle East and Europe, the US is hoping to find at least a small measure of common ground with China as China's top diplomat visits Washington this week. Over three days of meetings

that begin Thursday, top Biden administration officials, including possibly the president him-self, will press Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the importance of China stepping up its role on the world stage if it wants to be considered a responsible major international player. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, are both expected to urge China to play a constructive role in both the Israel-Hamas and Russia-Ukraine wars. Those meetings could set the stage for a summit between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping next month on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum leaders gathering in San Francisco.

The US has been disappointed with China over its support for Russia in the war against Ukraine and its relative silence on the Middle East. In addition, the world's two largest economies are at odds on issues such as human rights, climate change, Taiwan, the South China Sea and North Korea.

a willingness to talk with each other since Blinken canceled a planned visit to China in . February after the shootdown of a Chinese spy balloon over the US, which marked a low point in recent relations.

In the months that followed that crisis, however, Blinken rescheduled his trip and went to China in June. He was followed in quick succession by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, climate envoy John Kerry and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. In addition, Sullivan met with Wang in Malta in mid-September ahead of Blinken's discussions with Chinese Vice President Han Zheng later that month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. And Blinken spoke just last week with Wang about the Israel-Hamas crisis.

The goal, according to US officials, is to set the stage for another Biden-Xi summit at which the two leaders could explore cooperation or at least easing outright hostility on the most pressing matters of the day. "Wang Yi's visit will serve as one of the final touchpoints in laying the groundwork" for the Biden-Xi meeting, said Ryan Hass, director of the John L Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institute, a Washington-based think tank. Wang's meetings in Washington will set the contours for the topics the two leaders will discuss when they meet

"It opens the possibility of the world's two largest powers pursuing coordinated efforts to limit escalation or expansion of violence in Ukraine and the Middle East," he said.

Yun Sun, director of the China Program at the Stimson Center, another Washington think tank, said Wang's trip signals that the Xi-Biden summit is almost certain. "Wang is here to pave the ground for Xi's San Francisco trip. That's the core focus of the trip. It means issues will be negotiated, solutions will be discussed and details will be deliberated and inked," Sun said. "The APEC summit is 20 days away, so time is of essence. His trip means that Xi is coming. Xi's coming means meeting with Biden. The Xi-Biden summit means efforts to stabilize bilateral ties."

Scott Kennedy, senior adviser and trustee chair in Chinese business and economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said Wang's trip could yield results such as additional direct flights between the two countries, visas for more journalists and even agreements on climate change and resumption of high-level military dialogue. But while it is important for Wang and the Americans to discuss points of contention in the Indo-Pacific region and elsewhere, Kennedy said it is unlikely the two sides will reach much agreement.

China, US appear to restart military talks despite disputes over Taiwan and SCS

hina and the United States ✓appear to be restarting dialogue between their militaries, despite continuing disputes over Beijing's claims to Taiwan and the South China Sea.

Chinese reports, as yet not confirmed by Washington, say the US will send a Department of Defense official to attend a Chinese Defense Ministry international gathering that aims to discuss international security cooperation and raise China's status as a global power.

"China attaches great importance to the development of military-to-military relations between China and the United States," ministry spokesperson Col. Wu Xian said at a briefing on Thursday,

China froze military

exchanges after then-speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi last August visited self-governing Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory. China's annual Xiangshan Forum is scheduled for October 29-31. "As we see it, the ranks of the personnel taking part in the exchanges are not the most important. What is more important are the contents of the exchanges," Wu said.

The comments came as China's top diplomat Wang Yi departed for Washington to meet with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

That follows a series of high-level visits from the United States to China in recent months. In the latest sign of thawing ties, Blinken met Chinese President Xi Jinping,

Communist Party, in Beijing in June. China had attributed its refusal to restart military communications to sanctions imposed by Washington, including a refusal to allow former defense minister Li Shangfu to visit the US. However, on Tuesday China

announced the removal of Li as

defense minister without giving

any explanation or naming a replacement. In answer to a reporter's question on Li's removal, Wu said: "I suggest you pay attention to the release of authoritative

information." Former foreign minister Qin Gang was also removed from office this year under circumstances that the government has yet to explain.

China's highly opaque polit-

ical system lends itself to heavy speculation around the reasons why officials are removed, mostly focusing on possible corruption, political differences or violations of an unwritten code of personal conduct.

China on Thursday also released video it said showed a close encounter between the Chinese navy and the USS Ralph Johnson, claiming the American destroyer harassed the navy's latest-generation type 052 destroyer Guilin while it was undergoing routine training in the South China Sea on August 19. China claimed the USS

Ralph Johnson took a sharp turn and accelerated, crossing the bow of the Chinese ship near the disputed Paracel Islands, which China calls

Taliban free Af activist held seven months ago

¬he Taliban have freed an Afghan activist who campaigned for the education of girls, a local nonprofit organization said Thursday. Matiullah Wesa was arrested seven months ago and spent 215 days in prison, according to the group, Pen Path.

Wesa has been outspoken in his demands for girls to have the right to go to school and repeatedly called on the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan to reverse its bans on female education. Since their takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban have barred girls from school beyond the sixth grade. Last December, they banned women from going to universities. Afghanistan is the only

hina launched its

Cyoungest-ever crew for its

orbiting space station on Thursday as it seeks to put

astronauts on the moon before

2030. The Shenzhou 17 space-

craft lifted off from the Jiuquan

Satellite Launch Center on the

edge of the Gobi Desert in

northwestern China atop a Long March 2-F rocket at

Manned Space Agency, the

average age of the three-mem-

ber crew is the youngest since

the launch of the space station

construction mission, state

broadcaster CCTV earlier

reported. Their average age is

38, state media China Daily

said. Beijing is pursuing plans

to place astronauts on the

According to the China

11:14 am (0314 GMT)

restrictions on female education. Pen Path gave no further details on Wesa's release or his condition. The UN special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, welcomed the news about

In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Bennett also called for the "immediate and unconditional release of all Afghanistan human rights defenders who are arbitrarily detained for standing up for their own rights & the human rights of others." Amnesty International said Wesa should never have been jailed for promoting girls' rights to education. Prior to his arrest, Wesa and others from Pen Path launched a door-to-door campaign to promote girls' education.

decade amid a rivalry with the

U.S. for reaching new mile-

stones in outer space. This

reflects the competition for

influence between the world's

two largest economies in the

technology, military and diplo-

The trio - Tang Hongbo, Tang Shengjie and Jiang Xinlin

- will replace a crew that has been on the station for six

months. Tang is a veteran who

led a 2021 space mission for

China has researched the

matic fields.

installation.

China says it wants to bolster climate cooperation with US

AP ■ BANGKOK

hina's Environment Minister CHuang Runqiu said Thursday his country wants to strengthen cooperation with the United States to combat climate change, as he met in Beijing with California Gov Gavin Newsom.

Newsom is on a weeklong tour of China where he is pushing for climate cooperation. His trip as governor, once considered routine, is drawing attention as it comes after years of heightening tensions between the US and

The climate is one of the few issues where the US and China have agreed to work together. Relations between the two countries have deteriorated in recent years over trade practices, tariff barriers, human rights abuses

China sends its youngest-ever crew to space

and the fate of Taiwan, a selfruled island that China claims as its own territory. Huang said Thursday that his ministry would continue to carry out agreements under a memorandum of understanding signed last year between China and California "in carbon market investment, climate adaptation, environment law implementation and human-to-human exchange to strengthen cooperation and have a positive effect

cooperation." California has been a leader in regulating air pollution and other climate-related issues, Newsom said in opening

on China-US. environmental

remarks on Thursday. "But we recognize the limits of subnational leadership. We

need more partners. And I'm

here in that light and in that spirit of partnership and also humility, recognizing we don't have all the answers," the California governor said. Both sides spoke about a rise in extreme weather in their countries.

California and China issued a declaration on Wednesday pledging to work together to combat climate change, including in offshore wind, advanced energy storage technologies and zero-emission vehicles, according to the text. Newsom was greeted in Beijing with a warmth and friendliness rarely seen between U.S. and Chinese officials. On Wednesday, he met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, as well as other senior leaders including top diplomat Wang Yi and Vice President Han

Interested Buyers are invited to participate in the e-Auction for the disposal of "Water Affected Readymade Garments" on "Lump Sum" Basis. The subject salvage will be sold on "As is Where is", Whatever There Is" and "No Complaint" Basis and belongs to M/s. Singla Apparels Private Limited & M/s. Zadley India Private Limited. The subject materials can be inspected at C-24, Tronica City, Loni Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradest - 201102. between 27-10-23 to 06-11-23 between 10 AM to 5 PM on working days only. Kindly contact Mr. Vinay Parasher at 9015920246 for inspection

E-AUCTION WILL BE HELD ON 07-11-23. Kindly contact Mr. Reet Dhanare at 8369644069 to obtain the form containing erms & conditions of e-Auction or download website https://www.sealthedeal.co.in/.

Auctioneers: Seal The Deal having registered office at 148, Pocket C2, Sector Rohini, Delhi - 110085. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF FORM & EMD DEMAND DRAFT IS 06-11-23.

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJI NAGAR MUNICIPAL

No/CSMC/EE/MECH/3254/2023

CORPORATION EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (MECH) Address : Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Fax No.: (0240)2331213 Municipal Corporation, Executive Engineer (Mechanical) Head Office: Town Hall Pin-43101 E-Tender call AMC (For help) Cell No- 9764999592

Date 26/10/2023 Last date of tender submission Supply and Erection of Fire 01.11.2023 Fighting System at Chikalthna, Padegaon and Processing Plant.

(Tender amount - 1,42,23,960) Note:- For the above started work is available on web site www.maharashtra.gov.in Executive Engineer (Mech)

RO no. जा क्र1मनपा। यांत्रिकी | ३२५४ | २०२३

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation



कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, खटीमा, ऊधमसिंह नगर पत्रांकः 1248/ई-निविदा/2023-24 ई-निविदा सूचना

में प्रातः 11:00 बजे निर्धारित है

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान/उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम में पंजीकृत फर्म/ठेकेदारों से ई–निविदा (टू बिड सिस्टम) आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित सभी सूचना <u>www.uktenders.gov.in</u> पर दिनांक **27.10.2023** की सायं

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	मात्रा	धरोहर राशि (रूo में)	निविदा मूल्य GST @ 18% अतिरिक्त	कार्य अवधि
01	Supply of 3.5 KL capacity truck mounted water tanker (SS), mounted on suitable BS-VI Truck chasis with cabin and accessories complete as per specifications along with GPS system for district Udham Singh Nagar, Khatima division region including supply of 3 HP portable water pump SS ladder and hose pipe 30m including all cost of chasis, tanker (SS), fabrication, painting, registration, insurance, transportation charges etc complete for proper completion of work.	02 nos.	68300.00	2500.00	1.5 माह

शर्ते:- 1. ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया में प्रतिभाग करने हेतू निर्माता फर्म / अधिकृत विक्रेता होना अनिवार्य है। 2. निविदाप्रपत्र की उपलब्धता तथा ई-टेण्डरिंग की प्रक्रिया की समस्त जानकारी वेबसाइट <u>www.uktenders.gov.in</u> पर

देखी जा सकती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 27.10.2023 सायं 05:00 बजे से दिनांक 09.11.2023 साय 05:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड / अपलोड

किया जा सकता है। तकनीकी बिड खोले जाने की तिथि 10.11.2023 सायं 04:00 बजे निर्धारित है।

निविदा प्रपत्र मूल में कार्यालय में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 10.11.2023 प्रातः 11:00 बजे निर्धारित है। ई-निविदा हेतुं प्रिबिड मीटिंग हेतु तिथि 03.11.2023 को कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, खटीमा

निविदा प्रपत्र हेत् निविदादाता को ङिजिटल हस्ताक्षर प्रमाणपत्र (डी०एस०सी०) किसी प्रमाणित / प्राधिकृत संस्था द्वारा निर्गत

उपरोक्त निविदा सूचना में यदि कोई संशोधन किया जाता है तो संशोधित निविदा सूचना सीधे वैबसाईट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ही अपलोड की जाएगी। संशोधित निविदा सूचना का प्रकाशन समाचार पत्र में नहीं किया

किसी भी निविदा अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार विभाग में निहित है।

10.शेष समस्त नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में देखी जा सकती है। अधिशासी अभियन्ता

to probe deep into the universe. CCTV said the telescope would enable surveys and mapping of the sky, but no timeframe was given for the

three months. On Wednesday, the agency also announced movement of stars and planets plans to send a new telescope for thousands of years while in modern times, it has pushed to become a leader in space exploration and science. It built its own space station after it was excluded from the International Space Station,

largely due to US concerns

over the control of the program by the People's Liberation Army, the military branch of the ruling Communist Party.

China's first manned space mission in 2003 made it the third country after the former Soviet Union and the US to put a person into space using its ken out in some areas, however, bringing samples back from the lunar surface for the first time in decades and landing a rover on the less explored far side of the moon. The U.S., meanwhile, aims to put astronauts back on the

spending, supply chains and capabilities are believed to give

it a significant edge over China,

at least for now. China has bro-

lunar surface by the end of 2025 as part of a renewed commitment to crewed missions, aided by private sector players such as SpaceX and Blue Origin. In addition to their lunar programs, the two countries have also separately landed rovers on Mars, and China plans to follow the US in landing a spacecraft on an

Bloodbath on D-Street

Sensex slumps 900 points amid broad-based selloff; slips below 64K

NSE Nifty

19,122.15

liding for the sixth straight Session, equity benchmark Sensex on Thursday plunged about 900 points to crash below the 64,000 level due to a broad-based selloff amid heightened tension in the Middle East.

The broader gauge Nifty fell below the psychological 19,000

Besides sluggish trends in global markets, deep losses in auto, financial and energy stocks as well as fresh selling by foreign investors added to the gloom, analysts said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 900.91 points or 1.41 per cent to settle below the 64,000 mark at 63,148.15. During the day, it plummeted 956.08 points or 1.49 per cent to 63,092.98. A total of 2,232 firms declined, while 1,426 advanced and 142 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The Nifty dived 264.90 points or 1.39 per cent to 18,857.25.

"Nifty fell again for the sixth consecutive session...Even as a series of poor corporate results in the US cast a shadow on the

TOP GAINERS BSE Sensex Axis Bank Change -900.91 64,049.06 0.20 HCL Tech 0.09 NTPC LOSERS -4.06 M&M Bajaj Finance Asian Paints 3.16 Bajaj Finserv -2.81 Nestle India

global risk appetite already impacted by the conflict in the Middle East," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

Since October 17, the BSE benchmark has tumbled 3,279.94 points or 4.93 per cent, while the Nifty fell 954.25 points or 4.81 per cent.

Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, falling 4.06 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Nestle, Bajaj Finserv, JSW Steel, Titan, HDFC Bank, Tech

Mahindra, Tata Motors and Larsen & Toubro. In contrast, Axis Bank, ITC,

HCL Technologies, NTPC and IndusInd Bank were the gainers. Till date, the actual domestic Q2 results are below par in comparison to the excited earnings forecasted. Similar disappointments are visible in developed economies. A downgrade in earnings and valuation is arising due to the risk of further slowdown of the economy due to geopolitical and elevated interest rates. "Also selling pressure intensified due to expiry-led volatility influencing investors to stay cautious," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge fell 1.06 per cent and the smallcap index declined 0.32 per cent.

"All the sectors were down 1-2 per cent. Tensions in the Middle East, coupled with sticky US Treasury yields at around 5 per cent, triggered risk-off sentiment. Further mixed Q2 results, continued FIIs selling, rising oil

price and near record high USD/INR to above 83, have also dented the investor sentiments,' Siddhartha Khemka, Head Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

TOP GAINERS

Axis Bank

0.23 HCL Tech

TOP LOSERS

4.02 M8M

-3.29 UPL

0. 6 Adani Ports

U. 4 Industrid Bank

Bajaj Finance

Asian Paints

Bajaj Finserv

0.38 TC

Change -264.90

Among the indices, auto dropped 1.81 per cent, oil & gas slipped 1.54 per cent, metal (1.54 per cent), financial services (1.46 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.41 per cent), consumer durables (1.41 per cent), telecommunication (1.25 per cent), realty (1.22 per cent) and teck (1.16 per cent).

gainers. "Asian stocks slid to 11month lows, and European shares dropped on Thursday, hit by a rise in US Treasury yields, a slew of weak earnings reports with an ECB meeting and the release of US GDP to come later in the day," Jasani said. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo

and Hong Kong settled lower, while Shanghai ended in the

European markets were trading with significant losses. The US equity indices ended in negative territory on Wednesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.65 per cent to USD 89.54 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,236.60 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Given the global uncertainties, there could be higher volatility in the near term, thus giving long-term investors an opportunity to accumulate quality stocks at lower levels. We suggest to make higher allocation towards large caps as valuations are comfortable along with steady growth prospects,



Awarding of contracts for national highway in slow lane in H1: Report

Awarding of contracts for national highways slowed down in the first half of the current financial year, even though the momentum picked up in September, according to a SBICAPS report.

New contracts are expected to be awarded for construction of 10,500 kilometres roads in the current fiscal, which will be below the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways target, the report released on Thursday said.

A new Vision 2047 may replace Bharatmala Phase 2, bringing in a flurry of greenfield projects in the sector, which have higher capital intensity, it said. According to the report, the

award mix continues to be dominated by small players, but the recent recalibration of bidding norms has ensured that larger projects mainly go to listed developers.

While fastag revenues have shown a strong growth of 24 per cent year-on-year in the April-September period, high frequency indicators such as GST and fuel consumption indicate that FY24 will register record toll revenues of Rs 67,000 crore, the report stat-

The momentum would ease in FY25, the report said, adding that it is imperative to expedite monetisation efforts to channel future toll revenue for funding a new era of greenfield projects.

PE/VC investments see 60 per cent jump to \$13.6 billion in **quarter 2: Report**

PTI NEW DELHI

 $P^{\text{rivate equity (PE)}}$ and venture capital (VC) investments registered a 60 per cent year-on-year growth in the July-September quarter to touch USD 13.6 billion, according to the latest EY-IVCA monthly PE/VC roundup.
According to the report, the

third quarter of this year recorded an investment worth USD 13.6 billion across 209 deals, 60 per cent higher than the investments in the third quarter (3Q) of 2022. On a sequential basis, however,

deal value was 5 per cent lower than the April-June quarter, the report said, adding that the number of deals in the July-September quarter was lower by 18 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

investments of around 88 per cent bolstered the growth in total PE/VC investments in 3Q2023, which recorded 31 large deals aggregating USD 10.7 billion compared to 15 large deals worth USD 4.8 billion in 3Q2022," Vivek Soni, Partner and National Leader, Private Equity Services at EY India, said. According to the report, since 2018, the life sciences sector has attracted a significant sum of USD 22.1 billion in PE/VC investments, almost equally divided between pharmaceutical and healthcare.

The early years primarily saw growth driven by pharmaceuti-cal investments. However, postpandemic, healthcare investments have taken the lead, it

Growth investments were the highest in 3Q2023 at USD 4.5 billion followed by buyouts at USD 3.5 billion. From a sector point of view, infrastructure was the top sector in 3Q2023 recording USD 3.9 billion on the back of investments in the renewable energy sector.

"The Indian macro, while showing strong signals in terms of new highs in Index of Industrial production, GST collections, advance tax collections and



heightened consumer confidence as we get into the festive season, is increasingly being counter-weighted by a deteriorating global macro, driven largely by recessionary fears in the US and Europe," Soni said. Any sustained spike in crude oil prices will have a detrimental impact on inflation around the economy in particular. All these downside risks need to be evaluated as the Indian PE/VC sector continues its fragile recovery, The startup sector continues to

struggle, with year-to-date investments in startups at a seven-year low. While there is a funding winter for primary investments in startups, it is not indicative of inactivity on the part of PE/VC funds, as secondary deals are at an all-time high of USD 5.2 billion. Likewise, PIPE investments in

2023 are at an all-time high of USD 7.5 billion. The buoyant equity markets have allowed a revival in the PE-backed IPO market which is adding to the improving investment senti-

"Looking at the strong deal pipeline, notwithstanding the increasingly uncertain global macro, we remain hopeful that Indian PE/VC investments in 2023 will surpass 2022 levels," he

Exits were recorded at USD 8.6 billion across 85 deals in 3Q2023. The growth in exits was across all deal segments, with IPOs recording the highest growth year-on-year, followed by secondary and strategic exits.

Palmolive India Ltd on Thursday reported a 22.31 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 340.05 crore for the second quarter ended on September 30, driven by pricing and effi-

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 278.02 crore in the luly-September quarter a year ago, Colgate-Palmolive India Ltd (CPIL) said in a regulatoduring the quarter under review, as against Rs 1,378.37 crore of the corresponding quarter a year ago. CPIL's EBITDA margins

"continue to improve, up 120 bps vs. Sequential quarter and up 340 bps vs. Prior year quarter driven by pricing and efficiencies," the company Its total expenses were at Rs

1,034.29 crore in the September quarter of FY24.



1,492.10 crore, up 6.67 per

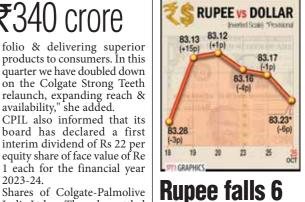
CPIL's domestic growth remains strong, registering a 6.6 per cent increase over the previous year's quarter, with the toothpaste segment witnessing higher single-digit growth, Colgate-Palmolive India Managing Director Prabha Narasimhan said.

'We continue to be happy with our momentum and continue to be focussed on strengthening our brand portfolio & delivering superior products to consumers. In this quarter we have doubled down on the Colgate Strong Teeth

CPIL also informed that its board has declared a first interim dividend of Rs 22 per equity share of face value of Re 1 each for the financial year 2023-24.

availability," she added.

Shares of Colgate-Palmolive India Ltd on Thursday settled at Rs 2,032.50 down 1.97 per



paise to end at **83.23** against **US** dollar

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee continued its I downward trend for the third consecutive session to close 6 paise lower at 83.23 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, dragged down by massive selling in equity markets and strengthening American currency overseas.

Withdrawal of foreign funds and elevated crude oil prices touching USD 90 a barrel also

and the lowest level of 83.24 against the greenback. It finally settled at 83.23 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 6 paise from its previous

This is the third straight fall for the Indian currency. It dropped 4 paise on Monday, followed by a dip of 1 paisa on Wednesday when it settled at 83.17.

Tuesday on account of Dussehra.

Asian Paints Q2 profit rises 53 per cent to ₹1,232 crore

sian Paints on Thursday Asian Paints on Inursuay reported 53.31 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,232.39 crore for the second quarter ended September 2023, helped by sourcing efficiencies and moderating raw material prices. The company had logged a net

profit of Rs 803.83 crore duryear ago, according to a regulatory filing by Asian Paints. However, revenue was almost flat at Rs 8,451.93 crore in the September quarter. In the yearago period, it stood at Rs 8,430.60 crore.

The company has an "improvement in gross margins by about 770 basis points in Q2 FY24 as compared to Q2 FY23," said an earning statement from Asian

Operational, formulation and sourcing efficiencies coupled with moderating raw material prices benefitted our margins in Q2 and resulted in strong

profit growth for the quarter," Asian Paints Managing Director & CEO Amit Syngle. Total expense was down 6.13 per cent to Rs 7,021.96 crore in Q2 FY 2023-24 as against Rs 7,480.97 crore the corresponding period a year ago.

Total income during the September quarter was at Rs 8,643.77 crore, up 1.06 per

Asian Paints' domestic coatings business - decorative and industrial combined - registered a subdued 1.1 per cent revenue growth in the quarter,

said Syngle. The domestic decorative paint business for Q2 was muted, registering a flat value sale with a 6 per cent volume

The erratic monsoon impacted market sentiment potentially leading to deferment of sales to October given the late Diwali this year," he said. While growth in the automo-

tive and refinish business was

decent, general industrial coatings business sustained its double-digit growth trajectory, he

During the quarter, Asian Paints' sales from international business fell 3.9 per cent to Rs 775 crore from Rs 806 crore on the back of macro-economic and forex challenges in key markets of South Asia and

sales decreased in the bath fittings business and kitchen Over the outlook, Syngle said:

Looking towards the second half of the year, we remain optimistic about improved demand conditions well supported by the longer festive season and the overall buoyant domestic economic growth."

Meanwhile, in a separate filing, Asian Paints informed that its board has approved payment of interim dividend of Rs 5.15 per equity share of face value of Re 1 each for financial year ending March 31, 2024.

Piaggio sells about 26,000 electric 3-wheelers in 2023

Piaggio Vehicles Pvt Ltd, the subsidiary of Italian automaker Piaggio & C. SpA, has sold about 26,000 units of its electric three-wheelers this year. The Indian subsidiary had retailed about 12,000 units last year, Amit Sagar, the company's Executive Vice President, Commercial Vehicles said on Piaggio Vehicles today launched

its first 3-wheeler passenger EV -- Ape E-city FX NE Max in Tamil Nadu priced at Rs 3.46 lakh. The passenger vehicle is an addition to the existing cargo range of vehicles.

'We are not only launching a product today, we are launching a mindset, we are launching a new way of commuting," Sagar told reporters, after unveiling Ape E-city FX NE Max passenger that is equipped with a driving range of 145 kms on a single charge. "You will see a different kind of three wheeler in Tamil Nadu. A big difference..",

he said and claimed that the running cost of the vehicle was 0.50 paise per kilometre. To a query, he said the company had sold about 26,000 units across India. Last year, the company retailed around 12,000 units. Piaggio Vehicles, he noted, appointed 11 dealership network across Tamil Nadu following the launch. "We are thrilled to introduce an

senger vehicle segment, the Ape E-city FX NE Max in Chennai. This vehicle is designed to cater to the evolving needs of our customers, providing not only a clean and green mode of transportation but also enhancing their overall travel experience", Piaggio Chairman and MD, Diego Graffi was quoted as saying. Focused on the future of mobility, Piaggio Vehicles remains dedicated to advancing India's efforts in adopting alternative fuels and providing fuel-agnos-tic solutions for customer's every need, he added.

weighed on the domestic cur-At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.19 and traded between the peak of 83.18

Forex markets were closed on

Daewoo enters Indian consumer electronics & appliance market through Kelwon Electronics brand strategy, where it will place the products under

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

South Korean brand Daewoo has entered into fast-growing Indian consumer electronics and appliances market through its licensee partner Kelwon Electronics & Appliances, which has plans to invest around Rs 300 crore in

Kelwon, which sells products, including Lithium Hybrid Inverters and LED TVs, will introduce products in sectors such as energy and power, and consumer electronics, under brand Daewoo - now owned by South Korean conglomerate POSCO DAEWOO.

S Bhatia said. As per its marketing strategy, Daewoo products manufac-Kelwon would adopt a twin

Daewoo in the premium and mid-premium segment, while mass to mid-premium would be catered through its own brand, its Managing Director H Kelwon will initially get the

tured locally here through

OEM, under the R&D and technical support from the South Korean brand. Daewoo India Operations Director Chan Ryu said the rapid growth of the Indian market serves as the primary motivation for its decision to enter here through a 10-year brand licensing agreement with Kelwon Electronics

PNB REPORTS 327 PER CENT JUMP IN Q2 PROFIT New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported 327.14 per cent jump

in its net profit to Rs 1,756 crore in the September quarter. The bank's net profit in the year-ago quarter was Rs 411.27 crore. PNB's interest income rose 31 per cent to Rs 26,355 crore during the second quarter of the current fiscal, against Rs 20,154 crore a year ago. Gross NPAs as percentage of total loans declined to 6.96 per cent at the end of September, from 10.48 per cent last year.

BUSINESS BRIEF

MOOT COURT COMPETITION AT MANAY STHALI New Delhi: Manav Sthali School proudly hosted an exhilarating and

highly successful 2nd Dr VK Bhatnagar Memorial Moot Court Competition under Manifestations- the month-long October Fest 2023. This witnessed distinguished luminaries of the legal world, including a sitting High Court Judge, Hon'ble Justice Vikas Mahajan and Dr. Pradeep Kulshreshtha, Dean of the School of Law, Bennett University, graced the occasion as Chief Guests. The event saw participation from 16 schools from across the region in a competition that featured two rounds.

PFC SIGNS MOU WITH MINISTRY OF POWER

SELLERS SEE 70 PER CENT RISE

Artificial Intelligence company from Silicon Valley enters Bihar

PTI WASHINGTON

A Silicon Valley-based Artificial Intelligence company has opened an office in Bihar, making it the first IT company from the US to enter the state.

Tiger Analytics, headquartered in Santa Clara, has opened its first office in Patna this month. "We are hoping that the initial step that we are taking, can lead to a lot of progress down the road," Mahesh Kumar, founder and CEO of Tiger Analytics, told PTI in a recent interview. The company currently has some 4,000 employees in India, but they are mostly in Chennai,

Bangalore and Hyderabad. Bihar, said during the COVID crisis a large number of its employees went back home to Bihar and started working remotely.

people between Bihar and working remotely and they were happy there, they didn't want to come back," he said. "So, we realised that they're very good talented people, young to home but there are no opportunities in Bihar for them to work. Even when we set up this office (in Patna), a lot of social

Kumar, who is himself from "We have close to a hundred

Jharkhand right now. They're people, they want to stay close



media responses came. People are looking forward to Tiger (Analytics) growing there (in Bihar) so they can go back and work from there," Kumar said.

Kumar, who interacts with other successful entrepreneurs from Bihar in Silicon Valley regularly, said their goal is to encourage more like-minded people to

ecosystem in Bihar. Tiger Analytics is primarily a consulting company in the field of artificial intelligence and machine learning.
"We hope that taking this lead into account, many more companies will come to Bihar in the

come together and use it as an

initial seed to grow a bigger

same way," Sandeep Poundrik, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Industries, Bihar told PTI. A delegation of senior Bihar

officials travelled to Silicon Valley this summer for meetings with Bihar-origin successful tech entrepreneurs.

"We are trying to get IT com-

task, especially because right now there are not many IT companies in Bihar," said Poundrik who is also CEO of the Bihar Foundation, a state government-supported body for its diaspora community. Thousands of engineering students from Bihar currently seek opportunities outside the state due to the limited presence of IT companies within Bihar, he

panies to start their operations

in Bihar. It's not a very easy

Responding to a question, Poundrik acknowledged that it's a little more challenging to attract investment in Bihar in

New Delhi: Power Finance Corporation Limited signed an MoU with the Ministry of Power (MoP) for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 on 23 rd October 2023 as per the DPE's performance evaluation system. The MoU was signed by Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Power and Parminder Chopra (CMD, PFC) in the presence of senior officials of the Ministry of Power and PFC. PFC is the largest Maharatna CPSE and largest NBFC in India on a consolidated basis.

NEW DELHI: Sellers under the Walmart Vriddhi Supplier

Development Program have recorded a year-on-year increase of over 70 per cent in sales through Flipkart's Big Billion Days Sale. Launched in 2019, Walmart Vriddhi said it has empowered 40,255 MSMEs, providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in the digital age. "This milestone reinforces our belief in the notential of these businesses to drive innovation and create lasting impact," said Jason Fremstad, Senior VP, Walmart Sourcing.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND IGNITES CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CAMPAIGN WITH 1-0 WIN

Tewcastle was handed a Champions League reality check by Borussia Dortmund.

A 1-0 loss to the German team at a soggy St. James' Park on Wednesday was in stark contrast to Newcastle's euphoric 4-1 thrashing of Paris Saint-Germain three

Turns out this hard-to-call group, which also contains AC Milan, might go right to the wire after all.

Dortmund ignited its Champions League campaign with a first win as Felix Nmecha turned in Nico Schlotterbeck's cross in the 45th minute for what, surprisingly, was the only goal in an end-to-end encounter. Newcastle, the top scorer in this season's Premier League, couldn't discover its clinical edge, hitting the goal frame twice

and then Anthony Gordon in stoppage Dortmund, which is in hot form after five straight wins in the German league, survived to join Newcastle on four points -

in the second half through Callum Wilson

two fewer than leader PSG. "We weren't anywhere near our best," Newcastle defender Kieran Trippier said. "We pushed them more in the second half,

but we know we can do a lot better. A bad night for Newcastle included



injuries to striker Alexander Isak in the first half and winger Jacob Murphy after coming on as a second-half substitute. Offseason signing Sandro Tonali came on

as a 65th-minute replacement for what could be his last appearance of the season after becoming implicated in a betting scandal in his native Italy.

Newcastle was overwhelmed by Dortmund's midfield runners in the first half and lost the intensity it had against PSG on one of the Saudi-owned club's greatest nights.

greatest nights.

Newcastle goalkeeper Nick Pope produced a stunning double save early on from Donyell Malen and Niclas Fullkrug but could do nothing to keep out Nmecha's shot at the end of a move that started with Schlotterbeck tackling Gordon to claim possession and ended with the defender providing the cross for the goal

possession and ended with the defender providing the cross for the goal.

"We had a fantastic first half, when we deserved the win. In the second, we defended it," said Dortmund coach Edin Terzic, who saw midfielder Emre Can come off injured. "We invested a lot, showed a lot of passion and gave everything to bring that win home."

Newcastle face back-to-back away games against Dortmund and PSG next.

against Dortmund and PSG next.
"It was always going to be tight in the

group," Newcastle manager Eddie Howe

what was the first goal conced-

ed by Barcelona in the

Champions League this season.

The Catalan club stayed mostly in control through end to secure the win, its fourth in the

last five matches in all compe-

Torres had a goal called off for offside in the 59th, and López

had one disallowed for the same

reason in the 60th, just after he



Evanilson's second-half hat trick gives Porto 4-1 win at Antwerp in Champions League

AP ■ ANTWERP (BELGIUM)

Substitute Evanilson scored a hat trick as Porto enjoyed a second-half revival to beat Antwerp 4-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday and further reduce the Belgian club's hopes of reaching the knockout

Antwerp has now lost its three opening matches in Group H. Barcelona tops the standings with a perfect record of three wins and a three-point lead over Porto. Shakhtar Donetsk is in third place with three points. "I never imagined that when I came on, I'd score three goals," forward Evanilson said. "It's incredible, not even in my best dreams. I don't even know if I'll sleep tonight.

Antwerp produced a gritty first-half display that was rewarded with a goal from Alhassan Yusuf. But their catastrophic start to the second half was too much to handle as they once again surrendered a lead.

Before Evanilson — who came on in the 44th minute — and Stephen Eustaquio turned things round for Porto, the hosts had won most of the duels in a close contest at Bosuilstadion.

Porto's first clear-cut opportunity came in the 22nd after Yusuf gave the ball away and allowed the visitors to launch a swift counterattack. The slick passing

move ended with a shot from Mehdi Taremi that was blocked in the box. Brazilian forward Galeno then missed the target after cutting inside following another counterattack as Porto grew into the game and became

more dangerous.
But a poor clearance by the Porto defense in the 37th was enough for Anderlecht to take the lead as Yusuf unleashed a strike into the top right corner from Vincent Janssen's deflected cross. The teams had been back in

action after halftime for less than

a minute when Antwerp's Arthur Vermeeren took unnecessary risks in his own half in trying to get past a pair of Porto players only to lose the ball. Taremi then rushed toward the Antwerp box and set up Evanilson, whose deflected shot ended in the back of the net. Antwerp looked destabilized by the goal and Porto applied more pressure. The Portuguese dominance was rewarded by a goal from Eustaquio at the end of a well-built passing move in the

Antwerp captain Toby Alderweireld came close to an equalizer only for his header to hit the crossbar before Evanilson made it 3-1 with a fine volley from Pepe's assist, and he then chipped over goalkeeper Jean Butez to complete his treble.



Atletico misses chance to take outright group lead after 2-2 draw at Celtic

AP GLASGOW

Atletico Madrid missed a chance to take the outright lead of its group after a 2-2 draw at Celtic in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Antoine Griezmann and Álvaro Morata scored a goal in each half as Atletico twice came from behind to salvage the away draw. Celtic scored before halftime through Kyogo Furuhashi

Atletico played with 10 men from the 83rd minute as midfielder Rodrigo de Paul was sent off with a second yellow card for a hard sliding tackle. Atletico reached five points in Group E. It's one behind leader Fevenoord, which beat Lazio 3-

in the other group game. Celtic stayed last with one point, three behind third-place Lazio. Celtic was trying to end a run of 10 games without a win in European competitions, with two draws and eight losses, including at Feyenoord and against Lazio in the Champions League this season. Celtic's last Champions League win was in

Atletico had won its last six matches in all competitions, including against Feyenoord. "We were in control in the sec-

ond half until the red card to De Paul, which I think was a bit harsh," Atletico defender Mario Hermoso said. "That changed everything. But it happens, now we have to rebound in the next match at home.'

The Scottish hosts went ahead only four minutes into the match at Celtic Park with Furuhashi finding the net from close range

to become the second Japanese player to score in consecutive Champions League matches (group stage to final), after Daichi Kamada, who scored in three straight games for Frankfurt last season.

Furuhashi is the first Celtic player to score in successive home Champions League matches since Kenny Miller in 2006. Griezmann equalized for Atletico by converting a 25th-minute

second attempt after the initial shot hit the post. It was Griezmann's eighth goal in his last seven matches with Atletico in all competitions. He had a hat trick in a 3-0 win at Celta Vigo in the Spanish league on Saturday.

Celtic moved back into the lead three minutes later with Palma's powerful strike into the far corner after the Atletico defense got caught off-guard again. Morata evened the match with

a neat diving header after Marcos Llorente's cross. It was Morata's 12th goal in 14 games for club and country this season. Atletico's Axel Witsel had a goal disallowed for offside late in the first half.

The visitors were without several regular starters because of injuries, including José María Giménez, Reinildo, Samu Lino, Thomas Lemar and Memphis Depay. Stefan Savic was back in defense.

The Spanish side played in a special edition all-red jersey sporting the club's old emblem in a tribute to the uniform it used when it beat Celtic in the semifinals of the 1974 European

Barcelona beats Shakhtar 2-1 for third straight win in group stage of Champions League one closer with Georgiy Sudakov in a breakaway in the 62nd in

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona beat Shakhtar Donetsk 2-1 on Wednesday to keep a perfect record and stay on course to advance to the knockout rounds of the Champions League after two straight group-stage elimina-

Ferran Torres and Fermín López scored a goal each in the first half to help Barcelona secure its third straight victory in Group H. The Catalan club reached nine points, three more than Porto, which won 4-1 at winless Antwerp. Shakhtar stayed with three points. Barcelona, the five-time

European champion, hasn't advanced past the group stage since Lionel Messi left in 2021. "It's a sign of progress for us to earn nine points in the first three matches," Barcelona coach Xavi said. "We are not through to the next stage yet, but we took a step

AP ■ BERN (SWITZERLAND)

already in its title defense.

at Young Boys and the brink of the knockout stage

Haaland hadn't scored in his previous five

matches in the competition, stretching back to last

season's semifinals in May, but he ended that

improbable run by blasting a spot kick down the

The Norway striker wrapped up the victory by

curling a shot into the top corner with his weak-

"People expect him to score four goals every time,"

City manager Pep Guardiola said. "They want him

"I'm sorry, this guy's going to score goals all the

time ... He is going to score until the last day he

It's now 37 goals in 33 Champions League games

for Haaland, who is into double figures (11) for the season in all competitions as he looks to fol-

middle in the 67th to put City 2-1 ahead.

er right foot in the 86th minute.

plays football.



toward that.'

The victory kept the Spanish club unbeaten in 13 matches overall this season, with 10 wins and three draws

Shakhtar, in the debut of new coach Marino Pušic, was trying to win consecutive Champions League matches for the first time in more than five years. Torres put Barcelona ahead in

in Champions League

the 28th with a volley from inside the area after López's shot hit the woodwork.

López added to the lead in the 36th after clearing a defender just outside the area and firing a right-footed shot into the top corner. The ball hit the post before finding the net.

Shakhtar, which won at Antwerp in the previous round, pulled

had hit the post. Torres had scored the winner for Barcelona in its 1-0 win at Porto in the previous round. "It was difficult, they have a good

team, but we are happy with the victory and the nine points," said the 20-year-old López, another product of Barcelona's famous La Masia academy. "It was a key match to move us closer to qualifying to the next stage. We suffered a bit, but in the end we got the three points.

Haaland ends barren streak | Xavi scores one goal and sets up another as Leipzig beats Red Star Belgrade 3-1

AP ■ LEIPZIG (GERMANY)

 \mathbf{X} avi Simons scored a spectacular first Champions League goal and set up another to propel Leipzig to a 3-1 win over Red Star Belgrade on Wednesday as the German team took a step closer to the knockout stages. The 20-year-old Dutch midfielder on loan from Paris Saint-Germain assisted on David Raum's opener in the 12th minute and curled a shot into the top-right corner from outside the box in the 59th.

Leipzig stays second in Group G, three points off leader Manchester City, but moves five points clear of third place after City won 3-1 against Swiss club Young Boys in the other game

Wednesday. Leipzig took the early lead by playing around Red Star's narrow defense as Simons passed for the overlapping Raum to score with a powerful low shot. It was the left-back first career Champions League goal, as well. Center back Castello Lukeba

Simons has flourished at Leipzig so far on loan from PSG and showed his skill with the second goal, cutting in toward the center from the left past Red Star midfielder Hwang In-beom before unleashing a curling shot from around 20 yards (18 meters) which left Glazer no chance. Simons has four goals and five assists in 13 games at



draws with Mamedov

PTI ISLE OF MAN (UK)

randmaster and World Cup Gsilver medallist R Praggna nandhaa was held to a draw by compatriot Aryan Chopra, while D Gukesh signed peace out of a theoretical opening against Rauf Mamedov of Azerbaijan in the first round of the FIDE Grand Swiss that got underway here. Chopra is another young Grandmaster who hails from Delhi and is trying to make a mark in international circuit. Playing the black side of a Slav defense against someone who is, by consent, one of the best talents in the world, Chopra fought valiantly and held on to his own

Praggnanandhaa traded queens early in the opening and dented the black's pawn structure a bit and even stood slightly better for quite some time. However, the position was always closer to a draw and a flurry of exchanges led to an equal opposite coloured Bishops endgame. The game was drawn after just 33 moves.

in a finely-paced game.

Gukesh never got a chance against Mamedov who is known as a theoretician.

Playing the black side of a Sicilian Scheveningen, the Indian Grandmaster went for the Scheveningen setup and Mamedov went for an old variation that is solid in nature. Against strong players, it is not

easy to win with black if they are not trying to win as white, is the mantra that goes around and that was the true case for Gukesh as, after a mere 23 moves, the players repeated the position and signed peace.

Erling Haaland's barren streak in the Champions League is over. Two second-half goals by the scoring phenom led Manchester City to a 3-1 win tough-looking upcoming Premier League sched-That begins with Sunday's Manchester derby at Old Trafford. Before his penalty, it had been a frustrating evening

low up a debut campaign for City when he net-

"People get onto him because of the season he had

last year," City defender Rico Lewis said. "It is a

A third straight win by City to open Group G extended its unbeaten streak in European competition to 17 games, which is tied for the longest

City is making the most of being handed a benign

group in its title defense, having already beaten Red Star Belgrade and Leipzig. Another win at

home against Young Boys in two weeks and Guardiola's team will have qualified with two

matches to spare, allowing City to focus on a

credit to him.

by an English team.

for Haaland and indeed for City, which was restricted to half-chances in a first half that ended goalless on the artificial pitch at Wankdorf Stadium. A tap-in by center back Manuel Akanji eventu-

ally gave City the lead in the 48th after Ruben Dias header has been tipped onto the crossbar.

The titleholders conceded against the run of play four minutes later when Meschack Elia timed his run perfectly to get in behind City's defense and scoop a classy finish over the stranded Ederson. Rodri was tripped in the box to give Haaland a chance to regain the lead for City. He didn't squander it, and his finish for his second goal was a sign of his growing confidence.

nearly made it 2-0 soon after when his deflected header was just clawed away by Red Star goalkeeper Omri Glazer. Red Star wanted a penalty for a challenge by Leipzig's Xaver Schlager on Peter Olayinka but video review showed he got the

Return to Mexico most important race of season: Perez

Sergio Perez was still in Texas when he called the Mexico City Grand Prix his most important race weekend of the season. He needs the feel of home soil and a warm embrace from a national fan base that adores

For a driver who sits second in the standings while racing for a Red Bull team that has already won the constructor's championship, Perez has had a difficult year: No wins since April, constant criticism that he can't keep up with teammate Max Verstappen, insensitive remarks about his heritage from a team official, and speculation of a pending retirement or split from the

It's no wonder Perez could use some love right now

team after this season.

"I am massively looking forward to my home grand prix," said Perez, who is also known as "Checo."

The 33-year-old's season started well enough with two wins in the first four races. There was even talk of a title chase. Verstappen shut that down by winning 10 races in a row. The Dutch driver now has a recordtying 15 victories this season after winning last week's United States Grand Prix.

Measured against the threetime champion in the same garage, Perez has all but disappeared. Lewis Hamilton was even threatening to chase him down for second place until the Mercedes driver was disqualified from second in Austin. Perez now leads Hamilton by 39 points with four races remain-

Perez has only five podium finishes since May. And while Perez has been part Red Bull's crushing constructor's champi-onship, Verstappen is so dominant that he would have Red Bull in first place all by himself. Thing went from bad to worse in September. Red Bull senior adviser Helmut Marko suggested to a media outlet that Perez's 'South American" heritage could explain a lack of focus or inconsistency from the driver. Perez is from Mexico, which is in North



The 80-year-old Marko later apologized publicly and in person to Perez for the remark and the driver seemed to move past

But the incident is certainly not

forgotten by Perez's fans. And they remember how important Perez was to Verstappen in the final race of 2021 that won Verstappen's first championship. "Checo is a legend," Verstappen

Prix as well. "I believe there has never been justice," he said.

Mexican fans can cheer for

Perez all week. His career wins are the most ever in F1 for a Mexican driver and was instrumental in securing F1's return to Mexico City in 2015 after 23 years. His photo adorns just about everything in Mexico

motional billboards, television commercials and ads for car insurance and breakfast oats. There's even a special "Checo Menu" at McDonalds: a Big Mac, a soda and two orders of All of that raises the pressure for a big result Sunday. Red Bull has dominated the

City this week, from race pro-

Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez with four wins since 2017, all by Verstappen. There were rousing cheers for Perez's consecutive third-place finishes the last two years, but the home crowd wants more.

Perez's fans let Red Bull hear it at the U.S. Grand Prix with boos for Verstappen during the postrace podium celebration.

said that day. "Red Bull has not been fair with him. Red Bull has been a team that hasn't supported him at all. I think it's a team that is 100% focused on the other side of the garage and Checo is there, on his own," said Luis Manuel de la Concha of Mexico City, who was at the race in Austin and will attend the Mexico City Grand

ENGLAND BOWLED OUT FOR 156 Took leg-stump guard, changed to



PTI ■ BENGALURU

ngland needed a return to their aggressive ways but they produced a cagey batting effort to get bowled out for a modest 156 against a confident Sri Lanka in their World Cup match here on Thursday.

Having logged just two points from four games, England were expected to show some urgency but the defending champions struggled massively on a pitch that offered spongy bounce after batting by

But more than the surface or the enterprising Sri Lankan bowlers, the English batsmen battled inner demons, save Ben Stokes who made a gritty 43 off 73

Opener Dawid Malan who milked 45 runs with Jonny Bairstow, could be excused though.

Angelo Mathews, an injury replacement for pacer Matheesha Pathirana, put him in two minds with a delivery that bounced from the length just enough to take an edge off his bat to Kusal Mendis

behind the stumps However, Malan during his 25-ball 28 showed that the pitch is not a hard one to bat on while essaying some gorgeous drives through the off-side.

Unfortunately, the route was not taken by several subsequent batters and they were also culpable of playing some really poor

Joe Root got run out while taking off for a non-existing single, captain Jos Buttler made an expansive drive outside the off-

stump off Lahiru Kumara to get caught behind and Bairstow never timed the pull off Kasun Rajitha to find Dhananjaya de Silva at mid-on.

Liam Livingstone played the wrong line off Kumara to get trapped leg-before. Moeen Ali went for a cut off Mathews when there was no width on offer, and Kusal Perera snaffled the simple offering

These batsmen were expected to lead England's batting charge in a must-win match, and they failed to respond to the

Stokes did try on his own. He had the assistance of fortune as well when Sadeera Samarawickrama floored a tough chance at point off Kumara when the allrounder was on 12. England were 86 for

The left-hander played some archetypal power-packed shots through either side, but the day was not made for a one-man show that Stokes is known to produce. His dismissal, caught by substitute Dushan Hemantha, at deep of Kumara. effectively ended England's chances of posting a challenging total despite them having an extra-long batting line-up.

Adil Rashid's comical run out while backing up too far could be taken as a symbol of England's drudges with the bat on the day.

But the inept batting display of England should not rob the Lankan bowlers of the just credit.

Kumara (3 for 35) has the tendency to be all over the place but when he hits his lengths correctly, the right-arm pacer is a different beast, who can also crank up some serious speed to hustle the batters. And hustled England were indeed on the day. They will hope for some more spunk from their bowlers to conjure an unlikely win and remain in the semifinals race. back into place again," he said after Australia beat the Nether-

top-hand grip and got results: Smith



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taking the traditional leg-stump guard and tweaking his grip from bottom to a tophanded one went a long way in Steve Smith regaining his form after a mini-slump in the ongoing World Cup.

On Wednesday, the 34-year-old smashed nine fours and a maximum on way to a solid 68-ball 71 and forged a 132-run partnership with David Warner (104) to lay the foundation of Australia's mammoth 399-8. Smith said he worked on a "couple of things" during the net

sessions on Tuesday. "I moved back to leg stump a little bit. I got my hands a little bit higher than what they've been for the last week. For some reason, they've dropped down a bit. I just felt it in the nets yesterday and everything sort of clicked

lands by a record 309 runs.

"I felt like I was batting well a couple of weeks back against India. I thought I was actually getting back through the ball nicely on a pretty tough surface and and playing well and then for a week kind of lost it for a

Smith made a good start to the tournament with a 46 against India on a tricky pitch in Chennai but then followed it up with scores of 19, 0 and 7 in the next three matches.

'I got a couple of nice balls, I suppose the one that swung back and got me out, and (Kagiso) Rabada's, which was a little questionable. I felt like I've been batting really well. I just needed to get the feel again and batting yesterday at the nets straight away I had a smile on my face at the back end.

"I felt good and took that into today and felt nice. I thought I was getting good positions today and yeah, hopefully that contin-

Smith looked good to get a hundred before he was stopped at 71 off 68 with Roelof van der Merwe holding on to a sharp catch at backward point.

"Yeah, it (hundred) would have been nice. I felt I was batting well. It was a nice partnership obviously with David and were able to set it up for the guys to have a smack at the back end and get us up near 400 so," he

"It would have been nice to kick on for a little bit longer and have a bit of fun, but yeah, it was a it was a nice platform that we were able to set

India and South Africa are currently positioned at the number one and two spots in points

"I think both of those sides are playing really good cricket. South Africa batting is kind of structured similarly to what we did, this sort of game the way we played. They're trusting kind of their top five batters to go out and build a platform and then guys like Klassen and Miller to smack it at the back end.

"So they've done it well, obviously played on some nice surfaces as well with one here. And then India I think, yeah, they're obviously the favourites at the moment. I think in the tournament they're playing at home, they're playing really well and

looks a bit distant now: Cook



 $N^{\mbox{\scriptsize etherlands}}$ coach Ryan Cook admitted their dream of reaching the semifinal at the ongodrubbing that the team got at the hands of Australia here

The Dutch team lost by 309 runs — the biggest in tournament history — against Australia, their fourth loss to lie at the bottom of the points table. The Dutch team will face Bangladesh in their next assignment, before taking on Afghanistan, England and India.

"We're going to back ourselves against any team that we come up against. Obviously, we do have four more matches left and we'll be aiming to try and get as many victories as we can.

"We said that at the start of the tournament when we got here that we'll sort of be pushing for semifinals. That looks a bit distant at the moment," Cook said after the match.

But obviously, if we can get a couple of wins along the way from any of the teams that we come up against, we'll be preparing really well for that and

we're trying our best to make that happen.' "I think the guys will be very disappointed out there in the change room. We talked a good game before the game, and we didn't play a good game of cricket today," Cook added

We didn't execute our plans quite like we wanted to and then the fight that we have shown in lots of the matches we saw only glimpses of that and we need to play better cricket for a lot longer if we're going to compete with teams like

'Resilience is something we pride ourselves on as a team and we'll be able to get back up for the next game and learn our lessons from that. But the guys will be hurting in the changing room for sure.

COOL CHALLENGE TO BOWL TO MAXWELL: VAN BEEK

the face of a brutal assault from Glenn Maxwell at the back end as they were left with a mountain to climb after Australia posted 399 for 8.

One of the bowlers who was at the receiving end of Maxwell's onslaught was Logan van Beek, who was smashed for two maximums.

"Well, it has to be one of the best (innings). I think some of the shots he played, in particular those reverse shots were superb. I was bowling at the end there and I didn't miss by much and he tied

me over backward point.
"The uniqueness of Maxwell is that Bas is trying to bowl to the leg side, and he can reverse you over the off side," Logan van Beek, who conceded two sixes to Maxwell in the next over, said after the

Guys will be hurting, semifinals Captaincy on line, Babar's Pakistan locked in do-or-die battle against South Africa

PTI CHENNAI

His captaincy on line after a hat-trick of defeats, Babar Azam will be keen to find some inspiration and that exclusive piece of Pakistani magic when his team squares off against a formidable South Africa in a door-die game of the World Cup here on Friday.

One more defeat and knock-out doors will be shut on Pakistan and Babar, who is already feeling the heat, might end up losing captaincy as it will be virtually impossible for his team to salvage the campaign in remaining three games even if it wins

win all its matches and expect Australia to falter in at least two of their remaining four games. There's a saying in world cricket that one doesn't know which Pakistan team will turn up on a particular day. There could be a geniuses at work one day and on other days, they could even embarrass themselves leave alone their legion of fans.

A gutsy Pakistan team is always necessity for a global tourna-ment like World Cup and Babar would expect that against a rampaging South Africans, it

would produce a world class performance.

The gulf in performance between two teams has been huge despite Proteas' shock defeat against the Netherlands at Dharamsala. Quinton de Kock and Heinrich

Klaasen has headlined the batting with timely contributions from others like Aiden Markram while Pakistan's archaic batting approach has left them in dire straits at the halfway of the league stage. The difference in approach is

evident when one looks at the boundary count of the two sides. South African batters have hit 155 fours and 59 sixes sixes in five games and 136 boundaries.

An embarrassing statistic is Pakistan batters hitting a six in Powerplay after consumption of 1200 deliveries across games in first six overs.

While De Kock, Klaasen, Markram, David Miller, allrounder Marco Jansen have all had a strike-rate of over 100, only Saud Shakeel and Iftikhar Ahmed, the two middle-order batters have barely crossed the three-figure strike-rate.

In bowling, Shaheen Shah Afridi



tomary nip-backers consistently in opening spell and Haris Rauf's effectiveness in 50 over cricket has come under scanner. Rauf's back of length one dimensional bowling has hurt Pakistan as much as Naseem Shah's absence.

Hasan Ali isn't good enough for ODIs with distinct lack of penetration and it won't be bad to try out a Zaman Khan or Muhammad Wasim Junior to bring in some variety.

However the biggest weakness for Pakistan at the Chepauk will understandable that playing legspinner Usama Mir in both games has backfired and with an economy rate of over 8, he might not get another game. Shadab Khan has been equally

ordinary and if one is honest, the Pakistan vice-captain would struggle to make it to any decent Indian first-class side. He is not even in the league of Mayank Markande, Rahul Chahar and Suyash Sharma, the three IPL regulars, who are not even in India contention.

Having a left-arm spinner like

Mohammed Nawaz will hardly solve their problem as he is neither a restrictive option nor a wicket-taking one. The South Africans are in a bet-

ter position compared to the Pakistanis, who are in a mustwin situation in every clash

A win for the former would put them firmly in contention to qualify for the semi-finals.

On the other hand, for South Africa, everything has been going great for the side. With the bat, opener de Kock has been in flawless form, and being the tournament's top run-getter so far proves everything. As for their bowling, their pac-

Gerald Coetzee have simply ripped apart the batters in the competition so far, and the Pakistani batters have a tedious task at their hands to counter them, even on the slow Chepauk surface.

Keshav Maharaj has been a calming influence in the middle overs with seven wickets but more importantly, economy rate of 4.60, which showed his control in the most important phase of the game.

In head-to-head record, Proteas enjoy a 51-30 in 82 clashes.

HERS

India creates history in Asian Para Games

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Indian para athletes on Thursday created history by winning the highest number of medals in the Asian Para Games, taking country's tally to 80, including 18 gold medals.

India have now gone past the earlier best of 72 achieved in the 2018 edition in Indonesia India's medal tally read 18 gold, 23 sil-

ver and 39 bonze, and the count will keep on increasing till the end of the fourth day of competitions. With two more days left in the Games,

the country is on course to achieving its target of 100 medals in this Hangzhou edition. India had won 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, 33 bronze) in the last edition in

Jakarta which was the best before this

Hangzhou Games Sachin Sarjerao Khilari won the first gold of the day in men's F46 shot put with a Games record throw of 16.03m while Rohit Kumar took the bronze with

Para shooter Sidhartha Babu then bagged another gold in R6 mixed 50m rifle prone Takes tally to record 80 medals with 2 days left



India also won a bronze medal in archery

SH1 event as he shot an Asian Para defeating their Chinese counterparts Games score of 247.7. Lin Yueshan and Ai Xinliang 151-149 in the final

The compound mixed team of Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar won a gold after Dalal defeating the Kazakh pair of Nurshat Toleukassym and Sagdat Duisembayev 125-120. Simran and Bhagyashri Madhavrao Jadhav won a silver each in women's T12 100m and women's F34 shot put respec-

men's doubles W1 event with the pair of

Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari and Naveen

tively. Simran clocked 26.12 seconds while Jadhav cleared 7.54m. Narayan Thakur won a bronze in men's T35 100m with a time of 14.37 seconds. Shrevansh Trivedi also took a bronze in

men's T37 100m with a time of 12.24 sec-

In para badminton, Sukant Indukant Kadam (men's singles SL4), Sivan Nithya Sumathy (women's singles SH6), Manisha Ramadass (women's singles SU5), Mandeep Kaur/Manisha Ramadass (women's doubles SL3-SU5), Krishna Nagar/Sivarajan Solaimalai (men's doubles SH6) and Pramod Bhagat/Sukant Indukant Kadam (men's doubles SL3-SL4) won a bronze medal each after losing their respective semifinal matches. In chess, Bhaveshkumar Rathi Himanshi picked up a bronze in women's individual standard VI-B1 event.

Sultan Johor Cup hockey: Indian Colts to face Pakistan in opener

PTI ■ JOHOR (MALAYSIA)

Indian hockey colts, following their title-winning feat in the men's Junior Asia Cup earlier this year, will look to continue their fine run when they take on arch-rivals Pakistan in the Sultan of Johor Cup opener here on

India are placed in Pool B along with Malaysia, Pakistan, and New Zealand, while Pool A features Germany, Australia, South Africa and Great

The last time the Johor Cup defending champions India faced Pakistan was during the Junior Asia Cup in June, where they defeated the neighbours 2.1 to wis the control of t neighbours 2-1 to win the tournament a record fourth time. India will face Malaysia and New Zealand on

October 28 and 30 respectively in the group stage. The team must ensure a top-two finish in the pool to secure qualification for the semifinals.

"We will aim for a strong start to our campaign

with a win against Pakistan and maintain consistency in our performances, all the way to the finals," said cap-

tain Uttam Singh.
"We will look to execute the game plan in every single match to the best of our abilities.

The colts have had a successful year, where they won the

last edition of the Sultan of Johor Cup, the Junior Asia Cup, followed by good performances in the U21 four-nations tournament in Germany recently. The tournament will provide the team with an opportunity to test its combinations and also assess the rival teams, who will also feature in the FIH Hockey Junior World Cup 2023.

"This tournament will also be a chance to gauge our standing against some of the top sides that are participating in the Junior World Cup as well. So, the Johor Cup will also help us fine-tune our tactics before a major tournament and put us in the best position to compete in the Junior World Cup, added Singh.

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