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PAPER WITH PASSION

Bombshell

Qatar's shocking death penalty for 8 former Indian Navy officers may spark a diplomatic crisis

Qatar has sentenced eight former Indian Navy officers to death for their alleged involvement in espionage activities related to a submarine programme, purportedly on behalf of Israel. India has expressed profound shock and dismay at this development. These Indian nationals were detained in August last year on charges of espionage. The Indian nationals worked at Qatar's Dahra Global Technologies and Consulting Services, a private company specialising in providing training and other services to Qatar's defence and security agencies. The company, which employed a significant number of Indian nationals, was shut down in May 2023. India has made efforts to secure the release of these former Naval officers, but Doha maintained that there was electronic evidence suggesting they had shared intelligence with Israel. India has closely monitored the proceedings, the most recent being the imposition of the death penalty by a Qatari court on October 26. India's External Affairs Ministry said in a statement it was awaiting the detailed judgment in the case. "We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options," it said. "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 Qatari authorities."

Every country has laws for its security and any violation is considered a grave crime. Having said that, this case looks rather peculiar. Right from the beginning, Qatar has not disclosed the specific charges against the accused Indians. Moreover, they were working to help the Qatari Government and its defence forces. So far, no money trail has come to light and Qataris are tight-lipped about the electronic evidence they claim to have. The case, so far a hush-hush affair in terms of details available, remains a sensitive diplomatic issue, raising questions about the reasons behind Qatar's decision to apply such a severe punishment. Qatar, a strong supporter of Palestine, has played a role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It has also been a major support base for Hamas for nearly two decades, frequently mediating disputes between Hamas and the rival Palestinian Fatah movement in the West Bank, even arranging for hostage swaps between Israel and Hamas. Curiously enough, Qatar, a US ally that hosts a large American military base, also hosts Hamas's political bureau and doubles as the main residence of its self-exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh as well as former leader Khaled Mashaal. The move could be a preemptive one in the wake of Israel's hunt for Hamas, to show that it was capable of taking extreme steps if it was nudged. But the fact remains that the life of eight Indians is on the line and the Government must do everything possible to save them; else we have another major diplomatic crisis at hand.

PICTALK



Young women perform traditional Kashmiri Rouf dance during ceremony of 'Amrit Kalash Yatra', in Srinagar

When Pashtuns stand up for their own



BHOPIINDER SINGH

Through a simple cricket game, Afghanistan demonstrated its indefatigable spirit, resilience, and pride to stand up for itself it has surely won many hearts

When Afghan Captain, Hashmatullah Shahidi hit the winning runs against Pakistan in the ongoing Cricket World Cup match, all of Afghanistan erupted in a rare moment of joy and a forgotten sense of achievement. It celebrated its much-deserved success as it always does, with lots of gunfire and raw emotions. As a senior player in the Afghan squad, Shahidi maintained relative restraint through the revelry though slipped in a telling concession, "A win against Pakistan tastes nice". The larger undercurrents playing out on both sides of the contested and invisible Durand Line were unmistakable. As players playing for national pride and their loved ones, the proud Afghan players could not have been oblivious to the trying situation (from so many angles) back home, and therefore to the reality of another nation that has contributed immeasurably to their miseries and diminishment since decades i.e., Pakistan.

It was left to the younger (still only 22) star of the evening and the man-of-the-match, Ibrahim Zadran, to say it more straightforwardly and bluntly when posed a question by the former Pakistani player, Ramiz Raja. Ibrahim dedicated his match-winning 87 runs to "to those who are sent back to Afghanistan, from Pakistan" — that the young player thought it befitting to invoke the tribulations of his people in a moment of personal glory says something about the precocious talent from the scraggy township of Khost, in the Loya Pakhtia region, along the Durand Line. Amongst the Zadrans from Khost, are the infamous Haqqanis (late Jallaluddin, and his son and the current Minister of Interior Affairs of the Taliban Government, Sirajuddin Haqqani).

At the root of the latest distrust between the Pakistani State and the Afghans, or more specifically, Pashtuns, who have lived on both sides of the Durand Line for aeons, is the proposed and forced deportation of Afghan refugees. It is believed that 4.4 million



Afghan refugees are there in Pakistan, out of whom 1.7 million are 'illegal'. The move is triggered by the surge in violence in the region (over 300 attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in 2023 itself) and the Pakistani State is keen to settle scores with an equally belligerent Afghanistan Government by forcibly pushing back Afghan refugees, onto the other side of Durand Line. Expectedly, the refugees are distraught, and the Afghan Taliban government has called the unilateral move, 'unacceptable'.

It's not the first time that the Pakistanis have flexed the Afghan refugees to make a point, as it undertook a similar push-back in 2016. A Human Rights Watch report from 2017 slammed the same as the "world's largest unlawful mass forced return of refugees in recent times". Given the religious, sectarian, and ethnic divides that beset the neighbouring countries of landlocked Afghanistan, the majority of Pashtuns cannot possibly migrate to Iran (sectarian concern), China (religious concern) or northern borders with Tajikistan or Uzbekistan (ethnic concerns) — leaving the southern swathes along the Durand Line with ethnic Pashtuns as the only viable option.



AT THE ROOT OF THE LATEST DISTRUST BETWEEN THE PAKISTANI STATE AND THE AFGHANS, OR MORE SPECIFICALLY, PASHTUNS, WHO HAVE LIVED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DURAND LINE FOR AEONS, IS THE PROPOSED AND FORCED DEPORTATION OF AFGHAN REFUGEES

Given that these contiguous areas of Pashtunistan were artificially and unfairly sliced by British and Pakistani machinations, is rarely remembered by Islamabad. Further Pakistan's relentless quest to establish its 'Strategic Depth' in Kabul has led to sponsoring warlords like the 'Butcher of Kabul' i.e., Gulubuddin Hekmatyar, or even incubating the Taliban as part of Islamabad's handiwork, that is coming back to bite it, now. It is a patent Pakistani ploy to inject toxic and timeserving policies that are meant to perpetuate its interests solely, which has the Afghans up in arms. While it is true that they gave Afghan refugees a place but only for a substantial financial, military, and strategic 'price' in the 80s and not out of any goodness of heart — the role of Pakistan in creating the refugee crisis is direct and foremost. Hate towards Pakistan remains the only thing that unites the irreconcilable diversity of Afghans who are divided on ethnic lines as Pashtuns, Hazaras, Uzbeks, Tajiks etc.

Serendipitously, the Afghan batters in the said match were indeed facing a battery of bowlers who like them are also Pashtuns, albeit, from the other side of the Durand Line. Four of the six Pakistani

bowlers in that match were fellow Pashtuns i.e., Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, Shadab Khan and Iftikhar Ahmed, and they would presumably have a sense of 'moment' as dialled up by Ibrahim Zadran. Implicit in the refugee deportation move is an assumption of disloyalty and giving shelter to the likes of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) by the refugees. A Pashtun is always irked by questions about his code of honour or Pashtunwali, especially on principles of 'wapa' (loyalty) and 'hewad' (country), and this is exactly what militates in the consciousness of Pashtuns and therefore their pathological dislike for the Pakistani State. Today, a country reduced to a pariah status, that has always been the playing ground of the 'Great Game' by foreign powers is reduced to rubble by the same powers. Yet through a simple cricket game, it demonstrated its indefatigable spirit, resilience, and pride to stand up for itself. It may or may not win too many matches immediately, but it has surely won many hearts with its feisty performance and the dignified patriotism of its players.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Loco pilots deserve better



It is not an exaggeration to say that Loco Pilots, the train drivers, serve as the backbone of the Indian Railways. Unfortunately, this vital group is persistently neglected, enduring deplorable working conditions. The primary factor contributing to the severe mental and physical exhaustion experienced by Loco Pilots is their excessively long working hours. Currently, Loco

Pilots are obligated to work for up to nine hours, with exceptions, within an 11-hour duty period. There is minimal rest in between shifts, and studies have shown that train drivers commonly suffer from various psychosomatic illnesses. The long night hours have significantly reduced their decision-making abilities and alertness.

The 'silent killer' of Indian citizens, hypertension, also affects Loco Pilots due to these working conditions. Furthermore, the poor infrastructure, substandard cabin conditions, and the absence of essential facilities exacerbate their hardships. Most trains do not provide separate washrooms for Loco Pilots, expecting them to use the nearest passenger washrooms. Despite numerous recommendations for air-conditioned cabins and dedicated washrooms, these improvements have not been implemented.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

CONFUSION OVER "BHARAT" OR "INDIA"

Sir—The controversy surrounding the replacement of "India" with "Bharat" in NCERT books is groundless, as the official name of the country has not been changed to "Bharat." Moreover, if such a change is necessary, it should apply to all educational materials, not just NCERT books. The names of banks, corporations, and other boards should also reflect this change if it is to be implemented. It is perplexing that educators have stirred such a controversy when the currency still bears the name of "India." This could lead to confusion for parents and children, who may wonder when to use "India" and when to use "Bharat."

Abhilasha Gupta | Mohali

INDIA BLOC MEETING

Sir—The recent meeting of the INDIA Bloc members, conducted in three different cities, has raised concerns. Discussing critical and sensitive matters of seat sharing,

especially with key states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chattisgarh going to vote, is crucial. This meeting offers a golden opportunity for all INDIA Bloc members to establish a seat-sharing mechanism, as this will be a pivotal factor for any party. The recent conflicts between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party in Madhya Pradesh are not isolated incidents but the beginning of potential disputes among parties. No party is willing to yield even an inch, as seat sharing remains a contentious issue. Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav is right in emphasising the need for discussions on both state and general election seat sharing, as this alliance should extend beyond general elections. Some compromises must be made. The appointment of a convener among them and resolving seat-sharing matters are essential steps that remain to be taken.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

AWWs have a role to play in mitigating NDDs

Anganwadi workers (AWWs) must be trained to identify and support patients with Neurodevelopmental Disorders (NDDs)

When risk factors associated with NDDs go unmitigated, neurodevelopmental outcomes like increased prevalence of infant mortality, early morbidity, and psychosocial delay and disability are well observed and often cascade into long-term physical and mental illness, as well as poorer school and economic achievement. Additionally, these changes can persist into adulthood and contribute to emotional instability, substance abuse, aggression, obesity, and stress-related disorders increasing the burden of neurodevelopmental disorders.

Strengthening Anganwadis The impacts from comprehensive ECD interventions are simpler, cheaper and more effective as they have shown to have mitigating effects caused by neuro-morbidities in prenatal and postnatal periods and those at higher risk for developmental delays. Anganwadi workers (AWWs) and helpers who play a crucial role at the grassroots require several critical competencies to effectively facilitate and monitor children's emerging sensory, motor,



cognitive, communication, social and emotional skills. The challenges faced in Anganwadi Centres are many and so a comprehensive and strategically-designed series of programs to ensure that children attending Anganwadi Centres receive age-appropriate developmental stimulation and monitoring to reach their full potential needs immediate priority. This means that capacity building of AWWs who are visiting homes has to be strengthened. These AWWs should only focus on home visits and the capacity-building programs need to be streamlined to support them in delivering maternal and child care services for prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal follow-up of mothers and infants from conception to 24 months of age. Prior research in the context

of home-based programs offers evidence that interventions focusing on improving mother-child interactions and home environments can lead to significant effects on the child's cognitive skills. The outcomes are also associated with superior social skills and reduced behavioural problems in school. For Anganwadi workers to provide this level of care directly, increasing their ability to train and mentor parents/caregivers is the only way to address root causes on the scale, in a cost-efficient manner. By being able to 'nudge' health-promoting behaviours, risk factors that contribute to infant mortality, neuromorbidities and impaired school readiness can be addressed. This is why Anganwadi workers as the pivot point to enact

the behavioural changes required at the family system level are most crucial. Capacity-building of AWWs should include scalable and sustainable best practices in ECD. Measurement and monitoring child's development by leveraging digital technologies for measuring long-term impacts will ensure the holistic growth and development of children from birth to 2 years. These programs have to be more parent-focused and delivered in home settings ensuring that children receive the necessary care, nutrition, health support, and early education for their optimal growth and development during the first two years of development. Prevention is better than cure- Capacity-building programs for AWWs are important to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, illiteracy and poverty that can have implications for reducing the burden of disease in children with NDDs in terms of Disability-Adjusted Life Year (DALY) (The writer is a Professor of Psychology, at Ashoka University. Views expressed are personal). Concluded.



MADHAVILATHA MAGANTI



FIRST COLUMN

MILLET-BASED SWEETS:
TASTE WITH HEALTHOpt for millet-based sweets instead of
khoya sweets and feel the difference

SAKSHI SETHI

There is no denying the fact that all Indian festivals and functions are incomplete without delicious sweets and desserts. With Diwali, the festival of lights around the corner, the first thing that comes to everyone's mind is the delicious sweets and savouries that one craves to eat. In India, sweets are an integral part of all the celebrations. They are a ubiquitous presence and are an essential part of the Indian way of life. They signify good omen, glee and prosperity. Festivals without sweets are like life without love. When individuals plan to visit their friends and relatives, a box of sweets is the best and unanimous choice.

But have you ever wondered how during such times do the sweet shops overcome the demand of such sweets? Well, it is the time when the market players fool around every customer to meet their demand and that is possible only with the supply of adulterated sweets. From milk to sugar; oil or desi ghee to low quality flour, everything is adulterated, thereby causing a threat to the mind and body. During the festive season, the rate of adulteration peaks. The main reason behind this adulteration is to either enhance the shelf life of various products or give them more volume. Through various research, it has been found that milk and khoya when mixed with starch, paper, urea and various other harmful chemicals cause serious health hazards such as acute gastritis, serious diarrhoea, dysentery, dehydration, kidney inflammation and many more. Moreover, the Indian sweets that seem to be coated with attractive silver foil (often referred to as varakh) such as kaju katli, kaju roll, Gulab Jamun and likewise can be harmful if coated with the adulterated silver foil. This dangerous metal accumulates within the body tissues and may even lead to severe brain damage. According to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, silver foil with a purity of 99.9 per cent is deemed to be in edible form. Not only this, Saffron is adulterated with dyed tendrils of maize cob and Pithishakar is adulterated with washing soda and consumption of such goods can cause paralysis of the limbs and much more.



Every year during the festive time, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) initiates a multi-pronged approach to prevent the adulteration of sweets such as conducting random inspections and on-the-spot tests to check the quality of milk and milk products, especially khoya and huge penalties are imposed on such sweet shops but then again, the same process repeats.

With the change in time and mindset of individuals, wherein a shift on being healthy is targeted it's time that an individual must try to opt for some healthy and clean options such as buying sweets made from oats, millet, ragi, foxtail, etc. Sweets such as peanut jaggery or sesame peanut jaggery ladoos, coffee mysorepak, millet soanpadi or millet ladoo or barfi, ragi flax crackers and many more contain good number of fibres, protein, calcium, healthy fats and some micronutrients and other nutritious elements. In a world of refined grains, millets have proved to be a breath of fresh air. Not only are they nutritious, but incredibly versatile. These sweets even lasts longer and our free from adulterants. Moreover, with India being declared as the year of millet, sweets made from such ingredients are a must-try and will change the mindset that healthy isn't tasty. So, before this Diwali strive to say no to adulterated sweets and yes to sweets made from dry fruits, millets and ragi to replace adulterated khoya sweets. One must enjoy these delicious saviours but in moderation and must not overdo.

(The writer is an educator, views are personal)

Punjab needs all-party
consensus on SYL

SUKHDEV SINGH

The issue of water resources affects the people of Punjab, not the political parties.
The SYL canal should not be used to divide the farmers of Punjab and Haryana

The recent Supreme Court direction to the Union of India to survey the land for the Satluj Yamuna Link (SYL) canal in Punjab has triggered a war of words among the major political parties in the state. The Congress, the SAD, and the BJP found an opportunity to attack the AAP government for its failure to defend the position of Punjab on SYL in the court, attempting to cover up their past positions on it. They pointed out that the AAP government in Punjab was not serious and sincere on the matter given elections due in Haryana. They quoted the Punjab Advocate General and his team submitting to the court that the Punjab government was very keen to resolve the SYL issue amicably, but the farmer unions and landowners were opposing it. There is some content in their charge of lack of preparation and weak defence of their case by the Punjab legal team.

Instead of passing on the responsibility to the landowners and farmer unions, the team should have argued that the state had no surplus water; that Haryana was not a riparian state; that there should be a fresh adjudication of water availability; that the long stretch of the canal through Punjab will not only uproot many families, but will also cause great damage to the adjoining cultivable land, which is now fertile; that Haryana already has a full share of water from Yamuna; that Punjab farmers and Haryana farmers have no animosity, but there is no surplus water in Punjab to share. Punjab is using its underground water to meet 50% of its current needs, causing the groundwater level to go dangerously low. It is noteworthy that this need has arisen out of its food grain production for the whole of India. Hence, it is necessary to adjudicate the availability of water before any direction to complete the SYL is implemented. The data on surplus water mentioned in consecutive reports and accords has been changing: 15.85 MAF in



THE ASSOCIATION OF PUNJAB WITH WATER IS SO ORGANIC THAT IT IS NAMED 'THE LAND OF FIVE RIVERS'. IN 1947, ITS ONE PART WAS AMPUTATED, TAKING ITS TWO RIVERS ALONG WITH IT, MAKING ITS NAME ONLY A MISNOMER

(The writer is a retired professor from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and a Member, of the Governing Council, INTACH; views are personal)

1955 and 17.17 MAF in 1981. To quote Vandana Shiva, "...river flows are assumed to be static while they change over time, usually as a downtrend because of ecological degradation linked to water projects created for intensive irrigation and energy inputs for green revolution agriculture".

As to the emotive appeal of 'water as the basic need', the team should have reasoned that the current dispute on the sharing of water does not refer to the need for water for drinking and irrigation for subsistence agriculture. It refers to the need for water for market-driven agriculture. Hence, there is no special sanctity or emotive response to such a need. It is Punjab that requires water for market-driven agriculture because this is what the governments have developed it for. The farmers of Punjab were pampered to grow wheat and paddy when the country was in a food deficit, and it was only this land that took the call and became the 'food basket of India'. Now the farmers know nothing else but to grow crops and also there is no significant industry in the state. The union government and the court must understand that the artificially dug canal will cover the fertile land while there is not enough surplus water to flow through it. Further, a canal like SYL requiring inter-basin river water transfer will alter 'geography and hydrological regimes', causing water logging and salinity on both sides of the SYL canal.

Today, after fifty-seven years since 1966, the matter of sharing river water is not just about how to share the water, but also how much water is available to share. That is where the shoe pinches and that is what all

involved must understand 'amicably'. If all Haryana has to be provided additional water for its market-driven agriculture needs, it can be provided surplus water from the river Sharda through a Sharda-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal, which will solve the major flood problems in Uttarakhand. The association of Punjab with water is so organic that it is named 'the land of five rivers'. In 1947, its one part was amputated, taking its two rivers along with it, making its name only a misnomer, and in 1966, its other two parts were amputated, resulting in the current conflict.

Now the economy of Punjab is primarily based on agriculture, and agriculture is based on water. Therefore, whenever there is any reference to the sharing of its river water, the emotions are roused to fever pitch. Hence, the question of water sharing feeds politics more than it serves to irrigate crops. Politics and water in Punjab are so intertwined that no political party can dare to ignore this nexus; on the contrary, they have to cry louder than the other under vote bank pressure but perform more meekly than the other under power pressure from the centre. The AAP claiming for its national status and its government in the state was expected to work with a difference, which it has not.

On matters like SYL, it has chosen ambivalence and political suitability, just like other parties. In the race for (dis)credit war, it has rather acted immaturely by engaging in the game of 'pots calling each other black'. Instead of holding an all-party meeting to create a consensus and lead the political class of the state to prepare and present the case, the

Chief Minister of Punjab has challenged the opposition parties to a debate. And, as usual, the opposition parties accepted the challenge and then proposed it on flimsy grounds. Some of them made laughable suggestions such as the appointment of judges for the debate, mimicking a youth festival competition.

A debate is required when opposing arguments are possible on a matter. But there are no opposing arguments possible; only the suggestions to address the matter are possible, with no divisive politics of accusations. Any form of debate on the matter is redundant unless the participants intend to show each other down, ending in no benefit to the people. Everyone knows the content, intentions, and outcomes of the proposed debate.

Everyone knows the role of the political parties in power in the past; everyone knows their chequered history of accepting the accords under pressure from above (the central government) and rejecting the accords under pressure from below (the vote bank). What the state expects of its political class is to represent its case on river waters collectively to persuade the union government of India, giving all the arguments above, to take a final decision on it, closing the matter forever. The issue of water resources affects the people of Punjab, not the political parties. The sooner the political class comprehends it, the more advantageous it will be. The SYL canal with no water to flow through should no more be used to divide the farmers of Punjab and Haryana and garner votes for the next term.

Journey of journalism: From stone carving to ChatGPT

ChatGPT has the potential to revolutionise journalism by enhancing news delivery, engagement and data analysis, but the ethical questions still remain

The field of journalism - the production, distribution and consumption of journalism - has been undergoing ceaseless transformations. The history and passage of journalistic practice from stone carving to ChatGPT, a tool of artificial intelligence (AI) remains exciting and deserves scientific deliberations. The space of and the journey from Acta Diurna to ChatGPT has been important in understanding the functions and pace of journalistic spirit.

Acta Diurna was the first known journalistic production and news dissemination in ancient Rome, dating from 59 BC. It was engraved on stone or metal and displayed on billboards in public places



SHILPA DAS



SANTOSH K BISWAL

(Shilpa is a master's student and Santosh Kumar Biswal is an associate professor and head of the department in Journalism and mass communication, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar; views are personal)

such as the Forum of Rome and continued until 222 AD. In many ways, it functioned as one of the first newspapers aimed at Roman citizens. In recent years, the field of journalism has witnessed significant transformations. Technological advancements and changing media landscapes shape the way news is gathered, produced, and disseminated. Amidst these changes, ChatGPT, a language model developed by OpenAI, has emerged as a tool that has the potential to impact journalism in various ways. Be it news storytelling or the adversity of data deluge, this AI tool has the answer to overcome them. However, like any other technological tool used in the news industry, it suffers from several lacunas.

Journalism is a dynamic field that plays a crucial role in providing information, fostering public discourse, and holding power accountable. It serves as a watchdog, providing information, analysis, and insights to the public. **Newsroom Management** One of the primary applications of ChatGPT in journalism is news delivery. News organisations are employing chatbots to rearrange news content and distribute the same among the audience. They are updating the users via messaging platforms or social media. By interacting with a chatbot, the users can receive personalised news summaries based on their interests, making the news consumption experience more tailored and efficient. Moreover, ChatGPT

can be programmed to provide additional context, fact-check information, and offer related articles, enhancing the overall understanding of news stories. This generative AI tool can generate questions and answers for journalists. It is useful for journalists when working on unfamiliarity with or looking for new perspectives. This tool can help the newsmen to research the events, people, and everything else. **Enhancing Data Journalism** In recent years, data journalism has become a powerful and transformative force in the field of journalism. With the increasing amount of data available, data journalism has become an important tool for journalists to analyze and present information more effectively.

Data-driven journalism is the future. Data analysis is another area where ChatGPT can be valuable in journalism. They can assist journalists in analysing large datasets, extracting relevant information, and identifying patterns or trends. **New Legal Challenges** While ChatGPT offers numerous benefits to journalism, it has raised important ethical considerations. One major concern is the potential for bias. ChatGPT is trained using large datasets, and if these datasets contain biased or inaccurate information, it can lead to erroneous or misleading responses or conclusions. Journalists must ensure that the training data for chatbots is diverse, representative, and free from any discriminatory

or false content. Regular monitoring and evaluation of chatbot responses are also necessary to identify and rectify any biases that may emerge over time. Transparency is another ethical concern associated with ChatGPT in journalism. Users interacting with chatbots should be aware that they are conversing with an automated system and not with a human journalist. Privacy is yet another crucial aspect to consider. ChatGPT often collects user data during interactions, such as preferences, browsing history, or location information. Journalists and news organisations must handle this data responsibly, respecting user privacy and adhering to relevant data protection regulations. Clear policies regarding

data collection, storage, and usage should be in place, and users should have control over the data they share with chatbots. Last but not least, the authorship issue is another new legal issue that this AI tool has erupted in the discourse of media and law ethics. ChatGPT has the potential to revolutionise journalism by enhancing news delivery, audience engagement, data analysis, and numerous forms of reporting. It can personalise news experiences, facilitate discussions, and assist in data-driven investigations. However, ethical considerations such as bias, transparency, and privacy must be carefully addressed to ensure that ChatGPT is deployed responsibly and upholds the principles of journalistic integrity.

Former Chinese Premier passes away months after retirement

PTI ■ BEIJING

Former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, an acclaimed economist who was once a strong contender against President Xi Jinping for the country's top leadership role, died on Friday of a heart attack.

Li, 68, suffered a heart attack on Thursday and passed away at 12:10 am in Shanghai after "all-out rescue efforts failed," the official Xinhua news agency reported.

March 2023. In an obituary issued by the CPC, the Cabinet and Parliament, Li was extolled as an "excellent CPC member, a time-tested and loyal communist soldier and an outstanding proletarian revolutionist, statesman and leader of the Party and the state."



Former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang

His hold on power, emerging as the most powerful Chinese leader after party founder Mao Zedong. "This is my last year as a premier," Li, the second-rank-

ing leader of the CPC after Xi at that time, said while answering a question on the economy at his last year's customary press conference during the annual Parliament session. His frank revelation during his annual 2020 press conference that China has 600 million people whose monthly income is barely 1,000 yuan (USD 140), which made headlines all over the world, has not gone down well with the party leadership.

the party and the government as he assumed an unprecedented third five-year term, doing away with the practice of the two-term norm followed by his predecessors. Li's retirement announcement ahead of the key CPC Congress to elect a new set of leaders last year was seen as an attempt to distance himself from Xi's decision to continue in power regarding the two-term norm.

While Li promised to improve conditions in China's private sector which generated jobs and wealth, Xi's preference for increasing the dominance of state industry and tightened control over tech and other industries with anti-monopoly crackdowns and the widespread Covid lockdowns dented his plans. The official obituary said Li assisted in the work regarding responding to the international financial crisis, accelerating economic restructuring, deepening the implementation of the coordinated regional development strategy.

Imran pleads for bail, FIR cancellation rejected

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a major blow to Imran Khan, a top Pakistani court on Friday rejected petitions by the jailed former prime minister seeking post-arrest bail and the quashing of the FIR in the cipher case for allegedly leaking state secrets.

CIPHER CASE



other co-accused and there cannot be a partial quashing of FIR," the verdict said, referring to the fact that the FIR had named multiple people named. Referring to a previous Supreme Court verdict, the IHC said it showed that "contents of the cipher were such that they only called for demarche and not any further strict action, as there was no conspiracy of any kind," the paper said.

Pak poll body mulls Jan 28 as date for general elections

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's election commission is considering setting January 28 as the date for the next general election, according to a media report on Friday. "The top electoral body, commencing its preparations for upcoming elections, is expected to apprise the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) in writing within the next two days," Geo News, Pakistan's prominent news outlet, said attributing to sources the date of January 28 for the general elections in 2024.

in January next year and that he had made various "efforts" towards it, including writing letters to the ECP. The ECP statement elaborated: "The first phase of delimitation has been completed and the second phase of filing objections will be completed tomorrow. (We) would start hearing objections regarding the preliminary delimitation from October 30 and 31 and the final list would be published on November 30."

'Chinese fighter jet came within 10 ft of B-52 bomber over SCS'

AP ■ BANGKOK

A Chinese fighter jet came within 10 feet of an American B-52 bomber flying over the South China Sea (SCS), nearly causing an accident, the U.S. military said, underscoring the potential for a mishap as both countries vie for influence in the region. In the night intercept, the Shenyang J-11 twin-engine fighter closed on the U.S. Air Force plane at an "uncontrolled excessive speed, flying below, in front of, and within 10 feet of the B-52, putting both aircraft in danger of a collision," the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement released late Thursday.

"That is the source of maritime and air security risks, and is not conducive to regional peace and stability." The US military said in its statement that the aircraft was "lawfully conducting routine operations" ahead of the intercept Tuesday, but did not immediately respond to questions Friday about specifically what the B-52 was doing over the South China Sea or whether it was with a group of planes. After a similar incident in May, the Chinese government dismissed American complaints and demanded that Washington end such flights over the South China Sea.

Philippine coast guard ship and a military-run supply boat off a contested shoal in the waterway. Following that incident, US President Joe Biden renewed a warning that the US would be obliged to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, aircraft or vessels come under armed attack. He spoke in a news conference with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Wednesday at the White House. China reacted by saying the U.S. has no right to interfere in Beijing's disputes with Manila. "The US defence commitment to the Philippines should not undermine China's sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, nor should it support the illegal claims of the Philippines," Mao, the Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, told reporters Thursday in Beijing.

Kin of Ukrainian soldiers seek cap on military service time

AP ■ KYIV

Scores of protesters gathered on the streets of Ukrainian cities on Friday to demand a cap of 18 months on mandatory military service, amid new suggestions of possible Ukrainian and international weariness with the 20-month war. Both the warring sides are striving to keep their military momentum, though neither side is able to land a knockout blow, and the fighting is expected to drag on deep into next year.

consider possible alternatives on service time. About 100 wives, mothers, children and relatives of Ukrainian soldiers attended a demonstration in the capital, Kyiv. They chanted "Demobilise the soldiers" and carried banners calling for the return of their loved ones. "Why is dad not coming back?" asked one placard carried by a child. "I live in constant fear for his life," said Valeriia Koliada, 35, said of her husband who volunteered for the military. "It's nerve-wracking for me. He is tired as well," she said. "We are a young family. I also want to have a child and sleep calm at night."

the ages of 25 to 60 when Russia launched its invasion on February 24, 2022. The vast majority joined up as volunteers. As the war grinds on, Ukraine has ramped up the draft. There are no signs that Ukrainian public support for the fight against Russia's invasion is waning. In Russia, meanwhile, authorities have cracked down on anti-war protests, and critics of the Kremlin's policies are on the whole swiftly silenced. Even so, US officials say that Russian forces are experiencing morale problems as another winter campaign looms. The White House said on Thursday that Russia is executing soldiers who disobey orders and threatening entire units with death if they retreat from Ukrainian artillery fire.

Gem-set, enamelled Tipu Sultan sword sells for GBP 100,800 at auction in UK

PTI ■ LONDON

A gem-set and enamelled sword, believed to be from the personal armoury of 18th century Mysore king Tipu Sultan, has gone under the hammer for GBP 100,800 at a sale at Christie's auction house in London.

the consolidation of British authority in India after the death of Tipu Sultan at the fall of Seringapatam (Srirangapatna) in 1799. The proceeds from the auction of the swords are intended for repairs to the family's Port Eliot Estate in Cornwall, south-west England. "These swords previously belonged to Tipu Sultan and have been passed down through the Eliot family since they were presented to Charles, 1st Marquess Cornwallis and 2nd Earl Cornwallis KG PC (1738-1805) in the late 18th century," said a spokesperson for the

Port Eliot Estate. "The proceeds from the sale will be used for repairs to the Port Eliot estate. It is hoped this restoration will safeguard the future of the house for the next generation and for the public to continue to enjoy this magnificent Cornish estate for many years to come," the spokesperson said. Christie's notes the "unbroken provenance" of the two swords, which came into British possession on the fall of Tipu's kingdom after a series of Anglo-Mysore wars. A third sword with Tipu Sultan's famous tiger symbol associated with his moniker as the Tiger of Mysore and an English blade, which was priced between GBP 60,000 and 80,000, also went unsold as it failed to fetch its guide price at the auction.

NAGAR NIGAM DEHRADUN Request for Proposal (RFP) For Scientific Dumpsite Remediation of Legacy Waste and Land Reclamation through Bio-mining, Resource Recovery and Rejects Disposal

NAGAR NIGAM DEHRADUN Request for Proposal (RFP) For Supply, Delivery and Commissioning of two (02) Nos. of New Mechanical Road Sweeper Machines

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering) Tender No: 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/AMC/076/2023-24 Dated: 26.10.2023

Public Notice This is to inform the general public that Bank of Baroda, Maurya Enclave New Delhi Branch intends to accept the unmentioned property standing in the name of Mr. Rajesh Kumar, S/o Jaipal Singh no. 776, Sector-14, Escortnagar, Faridabad, Haryana- 121007.

JASCH INDUSTRIES LIMITED Regd. Off. : 502, NDM-II, NSP, Pitampura, Delhi 110034 CIN : L24302DL1985PLC383771 Website : www.jaschindustries.com, Email : accounts@jasch.biz Extract of Reviewed Ind AS Financial Results for the Quarter and Six Months Ended on 30th September 2023.

