OPINION 6

WHEN PASHTUNS

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Late City Vol.33 Issue 298 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

AUSTRALIA LOOK TO EXTEND WORLD CUP DOMINATION TODAY

the pioneer www.dailypioneer.com

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

Delhi, Mumbai gasp for breath

s temperatures plummet Aand the air gets dense, the country's financial and politi-cal Capitals, Mumbai and Delhi, are reeling under the worst air pollution in years for the month of October.

While Mumbai is witnessing air pollution levels worse than that of Delhi, the latter is facing a spike in pollution caused by construction activities and vehicular pollution, resulting in high PM2.5 levels.

Stubble burning in neighbouring States and slow wind speed has just added to the agony of Delhi residents as they gasp for breath due to a decline in air quality over the past three weeks.

Delhi's average air quality index (AQI) stood at 261, worsening from 256 on Thursday, 243 on Wednesday, and 220 on Tuesday. The AQI was recorded at Anand Vihar (326), Burari (305) and Shadipur (304), Nehru Nagar (337), ÎTO (245), Vivek Vihar (263), Lodhi Road (225).

Delhi's air quality turned "very poor" on Sunday for the first time since May, mainly due to a drop in temperature and wind speed, which allowed pollutants to accumulate.

According to Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the city's air quality is likely to deteriorate to the "very poor" category on Saturday, primarily due to slow wind speed and a dip in temperatures. While Delhi is facing a sharp decline in air quality in the coming



An anti-smog gun sprays water vapour to combat air pollution in Delhi Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer

the government prepare a strategy to mitigate the air pollution

problem is missing.
The Ministry of Earth Sciences' System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research, which provided data about the contribution of smoke from farm fires to Delhi's air pollution, has not been providing updates, and associated officials are unaware of the reason.

Similarly, data from the Decision Support System, a numerical model-based framework capable of identifying sources of particulate matter pollution in Delhi, isn't accessible to the general public.

As Delhi's air quality turned poor, the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) enforced the second phase of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), a set of measures in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) to combat the

days, crucial data that helped deteriorating air during winter months

Divided into four stages, these emergency curbs are imposed only when air pollution touches a certain mark. From November 1, only CNG, electric and BS-VI diesel buses will be allowed to operate in Delhi and NCR.

As part of the strategy, all public transport services, including the Delhi Metro and electric bus services, have been instructed to increase their frequency to curb vehicular emission. The Delhi Government may ask civic bodies to increase parking fees to discourage private vehicles. Despite a reduction from 2022, cases of stubble burning are expected to peak between October 27 and November 15. Delhi's air pollution peaks during November 1-15 every year when stubble burning incidents in Punjab and Haryana

is at its peak, according to an

Control Committee (DPCC). The Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi Government has identified 21 pollution hotspots and has listed a host of measures but a significant fall in pollution is yet

to be seen. The Delhi Government had launched a 15-point action plan to mitigate air pollution in the capital during the winter season, with a strong emphasis on addressing dust pollution, vehicular emission and open burning of garbage.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai has stated that the next two weeks are crucial for the city because of upcoming festivals like Diwali.

Farm fires in neighbouring States are other reasons of concern. Experts said a mix of factors like vehicular and industrial emissions, dust and weather patterns make Delhi the world's most polluted capital. The burning of crop stubble, which is also a major source of pollution, has not picked up speed yet in the regions near Delhi but it is expected to intensify in the coming days. Northwest winds coming from these States will also pick up speed gradually, carrying smoke from stubble burning into Delhi, according to air quality forecast agency SAFAR. A study led by researchers from IIT-Delhi has concluded that biomass burning emissions, rather than fireworks, drive the poor air quality in Delhi during the days following Diwali.

The IIT Kanpur study said

vehicular pollution, dust pollution and industrial emission are some of the biggest contribu-tors of Delhi's deteriorating air quality.

When it comes to Mumbai, the primary cause of pollution is believed to be the dust arising from construction sites. The air quality in Mumbai remained in the "moderate" category with AQI at 105 on Friday. Earlier this week, Mumbai was among the most polluted metros in the world. The authorities in both cities have announced measures to curb air pollution. Presently, around 6,000 sites in Mumbai are witnessing construction.

Other causes of air pollution are climate change, road dust and its displacement, open burning of solid waste and garbage, and industries that include those using Ready Mix Concrete (RMC) plants and casting yard plants. Haze and smog blanketed skylines in Mumbai last week, with the AQI reaching beyond 300 in

some parts of the city. Experts have blamed the dust due to roads and construction activities and smoke from vehicles for the high pollution levels in the financial capital of the country. A 2020 study by NEERI and IIT-B stated that road or construction dust is the main source of air pollution in Mumbai as there is a heavy concentration (about 71 per cent) of the particulate matter in Mumbai's air. The remaining comes from industrial and power units, airports, and garbage dumps.

Israel faces Hamas tunnel roadblock

AP DEIR AL- BALAH (GAZA STRIP)

srael's defence minister on Friday said that it expects to launch a ground offensive into Gaza soon that will be long and difficult, and aim to destroy a vast network of tunnels used by the territory's militant Hamas rulers.

Yoav Gallant spoke to a small group of foreign reporters after Israeli forces backed by fighter jets and drones carried out a second ground raid into Gaza in as many days, striking the outskirts of Gaza City.

He said the ground invasion would include large forces, backed by airstrikes, and "will take a long time," without elaborating. He said it would be followed by a third phase of lower-intensity fighting, as Israel destroys "pockets of resistance?

The Palestinian death toll has already soared past 7,300 as Israel has carried out waves of devastating airstrikes in response to a bloody Hamas incursion into southern Israel on October 7.

The Health Ministry in Gaza, which tracks the toll, released a detailed list of names and identification numbers on Thursday. The toll includes more than 3,000 minors and more than 1,500 women.

The overall number of deaths far exceeds the combined toll of all four previous wars between Israel and Hamas,



estimated at around 4,000. A ground invasion is expected to cause even higher casualties on both sides as Israeli forces and Hamas battle each other in dense residential areas.

More than 1,400 people in Israel, mostly civilians, were slain during the initial Hamas attack, according to the Israeli government. Hamas is holding at least 229 captives inside Gaza, including men, women, children and older adults. Hospitals have been scrounging for fuel to run emergency

generators that power incubators and other life-saving equipment after Israel cut off all fuel deliveries to Gaza at the start of the war, forcing its only power plant to shut down. Only a trickle of food and medicine have been allowed in

since the war began. Gallant said Israel believes that Hamas would confiscate any fuel that enters. He said Hamas uses generators to pump air into its hundreds of kilometres (miles) of tunnels, which originate in civilian areas. He showed reporters aerial footage of what he said was a tunnel shaft built right next to a hos-

For air, they need oil. For oil, they need us," he said. Little is known about Hamas'

secretive tunnels and other infrastructure, and it was not possible to independently confirm Gallant's claims. Lynne Hastings, the UN aid

coordinator for the Palestinian territories, declined to comment on Gallant's remarks, saving "we don't know what Hamas has or doesn't have." 'We have been bringing fuel into Gaza in coordination with the government of Israel for decades. We know fuel is a high-risk item and are working with the Israelis to make sure what we will be using for our operations is done securely," she The UN agency for Palestinian

services to hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza, said it has been forced to ration fuel among lifesaving machines in hospitals, bakeries, and desalinisation plants, and only has enough for a few more days. "The siege means that food, water and fuel - basic commodities — are being used to collectively punish more than 2 million people, among them, a majority of children and women," Philippe Lazzarini, the head of UNRWA, told

refugees, which provides basic

reporters. Earlier on Friday, the military said ground forces raided inside Gaza, striking dozens of militant targets over the past 24

ED arrests Bengal Minister in ration scam **SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday arrested yet another senior Trinamool Congress leader and Cabinet Minister Jyotipriya Mallick, alias Balu, in connection with an alleged ration scam. Mallick, who also served in charge of 3 districts, indicating his proximity to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, was taken into custody in the early hours of Friday following an intense 23 hours interrogation and the recovery of incriminating evidence by ED officials, who alleged non-cooperation by the Minister.

Shortly after his arrest, an agency statement announced, "Bengal Minister Jyotipriya Mallick has been apprehended by the ED in connection with an alleged case of corruption in

ration distribution." The court granted ED custody for Mallick until

November 6. Upon hearing the court order, he fell off his chair and lost consciousness, according to sources. The judge promptly directed him to be taken to the hospital of his family's choice for initial treatment.

It was further specified in the order that he would subsequently receive treatment at the Command Hospita before being transferred back to

Mallick's arrest comes days after the arrested of Bakibur Rehman, a businessman with close ties to the minister. Rehman was taken into custody after enduring 55 hours of rigorous questioning about a fortnight ago, which, according to ED sources, resulted in the discovery of "a substantial

amount of evidence". In court, the ED claimed that officials had managed to uncover details of at least three fake companies through which approximately ₹12 crore had been funneled.

Mahua indisposed to obey Oct 31 summons

PNS NEW DELHI

TMC MP Mahua Moitra on behest of businessman Sabha's Ethics Committee that is probing "cash for query" allegations against her to express her inability to appear before it on October 31. Moitra in a social media post said she is busy till November 4 on account of Durga Puja celebra-

tions in West Bengal. Sources said Moitra, who personally visited the Parliament House complex to submit the letter, mentioned that she would make it possible for appearance only after

November 5. The panel is probing BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's allegations that Moitra accepted bribes

and favours for asking questions in the Lok Sabha at the

On Thursday, Dubey, and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai gave "oral evidence" to the panel against Moitra.

În her letter to panel chairperson Vinod Sonkar, Moitra said she "eagerly looks forward to physically attending and presenting her defence against the slanderous charges" and that she should be allowed to exercise her right to crossexamine businessman Darshan Hiranandani. She stressed that Hiranandani should appear before the committee and provide a "detailed verified list of the alleged gifts and favours he allegedly provided to me".



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Transcontinental canine connection

RAMESH K SINGH WARANASI

Fate can take incredible turns, touching not only the lives of humans but also those of our four-legged friends. Such a twist of destiny unfolded on the streets of Varanasi when a wandering stray dog named Jaya found her guardian angel in Meral Bontenbel, a compassionate woman hailing from the Netherlands. This heartwarming story of an unexpected bond transcending borders and cultures highlights the profound connection between a

woman and Jaya. Meral Bontenbel, a native of Amsterdam, embarked on a journey to India six months ago, driven by a profound desire to explore the diverse culture, traditions, cuisine, and vibrant streets that India has to offer. Little did she know that her voyage would lead her to an extraordinary encounter with Jaya, a female street dog who would soon become an integral part of her life.

Recounting the unexpected meeting that would change her life, Meral shared her experience: "I travelled to Varanasi as I wanted to explore the city. As I was walking around idly



one day (along with her cotravellers), Jaya walked up to us. She was very sweet, and I fell for her. I cuddled her, and she tagged along with us thereafter. Then, one day, she was attacked by another dog on the street." Meral's initial intention was not to adopt Java, but rather to offer the stray a safer and more secure life, away from the harsh

lengthy process to complete the

adoption formalities, and I had

life on the streets. However, fate had different love, care, and adventures for plans for the two. Meral's growing attachment to Jaya was evident as she spoke, "I had Amsterdam never planned to adopt a dog during my travels, but Jaya's presence has completely changed my perspective. It is a

to wait for six months. Nevertheless, I could not be happier about it. I have always dreamt of having a canine companion, and now I have fallen in love with Jaya."

This heartwarming tale of fate exemplifies the incredible bonds that can be formed between humans and animals, transcending geographical boundaries. The future holds promises of

Jaya in the picturesque city of Meral's commitment to giving Jaya a brighter future extend-

ed her stay in India by six months, as she worked diligently to arrange the necessary

passport and visa for her

really happy to finally be able to take her along with me. It was a long-drawn process. I had to wait six months to get her to this point. I have always wanted to have a dog, and I fell in love with her the first time she walked up to me," Meral shared with a sense of joy and fulfillment. In an era where borders often

divide, Meral and Jaya's story stands as a testament to the universal language of compassion and the profound connection between humans and their animal companions. This remarkable journey reminds us that sometimes life has a unique way of bringing souls together, creating bonds that defy boundaries and celebrate the beauty of love and empathy. As the journey of Meral and Jaya continues to unfold, it serves as a touching example of how simple acts of compassion can change lives, whether they belong to humans or their beloved furry companions. In this heartwarming tale, fate has indeed played a pivotal role in uniting two souls from different parts of the world, reaffirming the age-old adage that anyone's luck can change, be it human or animal

Shaurya Diwas celebrated to mark landing of forces in Kashmir in 1947

the army on Friday celebrated the 'Shaurya Diwas' here to mark the 76th year of the landing of forces in Kashmir which ensured the first civil-military victory of Independent

The Indian Army troops landed at the Budgam Airport to evict Pakistani forces from Jammu and Kashmir, a day after the Instrument of Accession was signed between Maharaja Hari Singh and the Republic of India.

During the 'Shaurya Diwas' organised on Friday, a replication of the historic event was performed to pay obeisance to the brave soldiers and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The audience, including senior Army and Air Force officers, and students, witnessed the re-enactment of history, covering the violation of 'Standstill Agreement' by

October 27, 1947, to evict the Pakistani

Speaking on the occasion, the general officer commanding (GoC) of the army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said the occasion is celebrated to remember the historic day which ensured Jammu and Kashmir is still an integral part of India.

Γhe Army showed courage in its first big operation in independent India and foiled the nefarious designs of the enemy, saving Kashmir from going under

Pakistan's occupation, he said. Lt Gen Ghai recalled the valour of the first Param Vir Chakra recipient, Major Somnath Sharma, who despite being injured led a company and saved the Srinagar airfield from the clutches of the Pakistani tribals, making the supreme sacrifice in the process.

bravery of others, including gallantry award winners Brigadier Rajinder Singh and Lt Col Dewan Ranjit Rai, who gave away their lives to protect the nation.

"Todav, we should take a vow not to leave any stone unturned to take Kashmir towards peace and prosperity," he added. Earlier, the Chinar Corps Commander and other military and civil dignitaries laid wreath at the Budgam War

A mega infantry weapon and equipment display was also organised under the aegis of Victor Force on this occasion at Budgam. New generation weapons and equipment were showcased and spectators were briefed about the utility of the equipment while undertaking various types of operations, Srinagar-based Directorate of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence, said in a statement.

After the wreath-laying ceremony, the

with veterans and enquired about their well-being. Meanwhile, a similar function was held

in Baramulla district as the nation paid homage to the soldiers whose landing in Srinagar marked a turning point in the erstwhile princely state of J&K and independent India, officials said.

The commemoration, combined with the solemn celebration of Infantry Day, was a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Indian Army and its unwavering commitment to safeguarding India's sov ereignty, an Army officer said.

The event began with General Officer Commanding of the Baramulla's Dagger Division, Major General Rajesh Sethi, and Commander of Pir Panjal Brigade, Brigadier P M S Dhillon, paying their respects by laying wreaths at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Memorial and the Pir Panjal Brigade War Memorial.

BJP criticises RJD MLA's remarks about deities

PTI PATNA

The Opposition BJP in Bihar on Friday flayed the RJD, the ruling Mahagathbandhan's largest constituent, after one of its legislators allegedly made controversial remarks about Hindu deities.

A video has gone viral in which Fateh Bahadur Singh, a first-time MLA from Dehri in Rohtas district, can be heard making remarks against Lord Shiva and Goddess Durga.

It evoked angry reactions from several senior leaders of the BJP in Bihar, where the party

lost power a year ago when Chief Minister Nitish Kumar quit the NDA and joined the Mahagathbandhan, which also includes the Congress and three Left parties.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai issued a strongly worded statement alleging "these remarks are the latest slander against Sanatan Dhaga hugh sanadi (a tam Dharm by ghamandia (a term coined to decry INDIA coalition as arrogant)".

"Such remarks are made for appeasement politics (tushtikaran) which is harmful for the nation. Nitish

Kumar and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav are patronising such people," said Rai, who is also a former state BJP presi-

Union Minister Giriraj Singh, who represents Begusarai Lok Sabha seat, said, "The ruling dispensation in Bihar is full of braggarts who pose as strong men but are capable of no more than snapping a wafer (papad phod pehelwaan hain). I challenge them to utter a word that can hurt Muslim sentiments. They will be hacked to death", fumed Singh.

Tension in border belt of Arnia a day after Pakistan Rangers firing

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

ension prevailed in the border belt of Arnia a day after the Pakistan Rangers resorted to 'unprovoked' heavy mortar shelling late Thursday night.

After spending a sleepless night at safer places when a large number of villagers returned to their homes in the forward villages of Arnia, Treva, Suchetgarh, and Sai Friday morning they were shocked to see the telltale signs of destruc-

The walls of their homes were battered with bullet marks and window panes were damaged due to heavy firing in the residential areas. According to reports Pakistani rangers had used 82 and 120 mm mortars to target the border outposts and civilian pockets.

Several marriage functions were disrupted after mortar shells started landing in the civilian areas triggering panic among the local residents. Outstation laborers working in the fields fled the area to safer places as they were terrified of abrupt firing.

The family members of Om Prakash, a resident of BulleChak Sai, were lucky enough to escape any major injury after a mortar shell landed outside the door of their kitchen around 8:30 p.m. The refrigerator, the kitchen door, the water bucket, utensils, and the ration material stored in different boxes were torn apart by the impact of the mortar blast.

A village elder who visited their home to ask about their well-being told reporters that the family was barely saved as no one was present in the kitchen.

'They had moved inside one of the rooms moments before the shell landed in their courtvard. Several other houses and some of the fields suffered damage due to heavy mortar shelling spread across two dozen Panchayats in the area. As local civil authorities and police teams took stock of the damages caused due to mortar shelling the angry villagers demanded immedi-ate cleaning of bunkers constructed in the forward villages to save their lives at the time of



heavy shelling from across the border.

The villagers also demanded better health care facilities at the nearest Community health centre/sub-division hospital and bulletproof police vans in order to safely evacuate injured civilians during cross-border firing.

A BSF jawan and a woman received splinter injuries in the cross-border firing which continued for over seven hours at night.

According to a BSF spokesman, unprovoked firing started around 8.00 p.m. and continued till 3.00 a.m. As many as eight border outposts of the Border Security Force were targeted by the

Pakistani rangers. Pakistan had last violated the ceasefire on October 17. Two BSF jawans were injured in firing by Pakistan Rangers at the Vikram post along the IB in the Arnia sector.

In response, the BSF also gave them a befitting reply inflicting heavy damages on the other side

1.5 lakh security personnel to be deployed in Assembly elections



With the objective of ensuring free and fair elections in the upcoming assembly elections in five States, more than 1,700 companies of Central security and State police forces comprising nearly 1.5 lakh personnel are expected to be deployed for the forthcoming assembly polls in five states, official sources said on Friday. Polling in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, be held between November 7 and 30, and the counting of votes will be on December 3. Only Chhattisgarh will have polls in two phases -November 7 (20 seats) and 17 (70 seats) — keeping in view the Naxal threat perception. The sources said the coordination for movement of these security forces will be done by the lead internal security force CRPF — and the contin-

gents will also have other

central armed police forces

and CISF apart from some special police units of other

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will deploy about 400 companies apart from its already present units in these states including Chhattisgarh where it has permanently stationed about 25-30 battalions primarily for undertaking anti-Naxal oper-

The ITBP, BSF, CISF and SSB will bring along a collective 600 companies more while drawn from various state police forces and India Reserve Battalions (IRBs). A total of about 1,700 companies comprising around 1.5 lakh personnel are being mobilised, they said. Some more units will be kept in readiness and will be moved around the first week of November, the sources said. A CAPF company has an operational strength of about 70-80 personnel while a battalion has about 1,000 troops.



Offering a potential new way to control the spread of the mosquito causing Zika and Dengue, a team of Indian scientists has found that eggs of the mosquito can tolerate extended desiccation (the act or process of drying or removing moisture) by altering their metabolism.

The study is published in the open access journal PLOS Biology.

Researchers Anjana Prasad, Sunil Laxman, and colleagues at the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine in Bengaluru, India Technology in Mandi, India

They explained that cells are made mostly of water, and desiccation is a potentially fatal event for any organism, since the structures of many proteins and other cellular molecules are dependent on adequate hydra-

"While many types of microbes have evolved mechanisms to survive drying out, only a few animals have. Among them is the mosquito Aedes aegypti, the carrier of a variety of viral



diseases, including, Zika, dengue, yellow fever, and Chikungunya," said the study. 72 hours to hatch into larvae, and the authors first showed that eggs must be at least 15 hours old to survive desiccation; eggs that were dried out before this stage failed to hatch when rehydrated.

"Given the importance of Ae. aegypti as a primary vector for numerous viral diseases that affect nearly half the world's population," Laxman said, "as well as the rapid geographical expansion of this mosquito vector, these results provide a

foundation for reducing Aedes egg survival and global spread. "Additionally, some of the spereduce desiccation resistance in Ae. aegypti eggs, as well as new ones affecting other steps in the egg desiccation tolerance pathway, may prove useful as vector-control agents." Laxman added, "Aedes mos-

quito eggs can indefinitely survive after drying up completely, and hatch into viable larvae. The embryos rewire their metabolism upon drying, to protect themselves through desiccation, and revive after water becomes available again."

Tiger kills caretaker in Rajasthan

PTI ■ KOTA

A caretaker of a tiger's enclosure at Abheda Biological Park here died after he was attacked by the big cat on Friday evening, officials said.

The tiger was undergoing treatment for an injury. The incident took place when the caretaker, Ramdayal Nagar, was leaving after spraying medicine on its injury they said. injury, they said.

Deputy Conservator of Forest, Kota, Bijo Joy said the caretak-er was critically injured in the tiger attack and was rushed to a hospital, where he died.

He said he was on his way to the hospital where Nagar's body has been kept.

An employee of Abheda Biological Park, said Nagar's neck was dislocated in the attack. 'The gate of the enclosure was most likely left open or was loosely bolted after the caretaker sprayed the medicine on the tiger. When he was leaving, the tiger, which was uneasy due to the medicine, attacked him. The caretaker's neck was dislocated in the incident," the employee said.



Ravikumar Gowda (Ravi Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar will become the chief minister after two-and-half years of the Siddaramaiah-led government's tenure.

Alleging that a team which was behind the fall of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government in 2019, was now working to lure Congress legislators with allurements like Rs 50 crore and a minister post, and four legislators have already been contacted, he said there is evidence for it and it will be revealed soon.

"It's a guarantee that he (Shivakumar) will become chief ongress' Mandya MLA minister after two-and-half

> this. He has worked for the party. There is no confusion on this, the opposition is spreading a false narrative in the media. Gowda said.

> Responding to a question about whether there was such an agreement, he said, "I don't know about that. I don't think there is any such agreement. We don't know what has been discussed at the high command level. But he will become chief minister, he has worked as the state president.

EC begins summary revision of electoral rolls in Karnataka as it gears up for Lok Sabha polls

earing up for next year's Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission on Friday kicked off the summary revision of electoral rolls in Karnataka

The exercise will continue till December 9 during which applications can be submitted for corrections in name and addresses — a period of claims and objections and final electoral rolls will be pub-

No. 2022/RS(WTA)-149/TENDER/532

lished on January 5, it said. As per the Draft Electoral Rolls-2024 shared by the EC, the number of total general voters in Karnataka is 5,33,77,162, including 2,68,02,838 (2.68 crore) men and 2,65,69,428 (2.66 crore) women.

The EC stated that the number of polling stations as per the Final Electoral Rolls-2023 was 58,282, and as per the Draft Electoral Rolls-2024 was 58,834. As many as "845 polling stations were added, 293 have been merged and there is a net increase of 552 polling sta-tions," it said. "So, we request all citizens to kindly check your name and all particulars of your name in the electoral roll. If there is any mistake in the particulars, you can use form 8 (to rectify it)," Karnataka's Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena told reporters. "Íf your name is not there and if you have just turned 18, then you can use form 6 to enroll your name. You

can do it by using voter service portal or voter helpline mobile app. These are very simple apps. Documents required is very simple, he added. According to the EC, the draft electoral rolls of 224 assembly constituencies have been published in the offices of the Deputy Commissioners of all the districts, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Roll Registration Officers and all polling stations coming under their jurisdiction, for

the information of public on October 27. "If there are any objections regard-

ing names or any entries in the roll, you can file an objection in Form 7. It (Form 7) can be used for deletion also and for filing objections also. After December 9, till December 27, we will dispose all these claims and objections and on January 5th, we will have a final electoral roll published," Meena said. Eligible voters can download Voter Helpline App in their mobile phone for submitting the applications. They can also submit the applications

https://voterportal.Eci.Gov.In/ por-

A special drive will be conducted on November 18-19, and December 2-3 for enrollment of voters - in case anybody has been left out, especially women voters, young voters, socially vulnerable classes such as transgender voters, sex workers

Ajit should have left dais or corrected

PM after criticism of Sharad: Anil

and nomadic tribes, Meena said The EC stated that out of 224 assembly constituencies, Bengaluru South has the highest number of voters at 7,06,207 and Shringeri in Chikkamagaluru district the lowest at 1,66,907. In total, from the election roll of 2023 to the draft roll of 2024, there were 18,88,243 applications received, of which 16,31,547 were approved, and 1,71,964 rejected mostly due to lack of proper doc-

Minister: Nothing wrong in renaming Karnataka as Basava Nadu

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA) (RAILWAY BOARD)

CORRIGENDUM NO.12 to the Tender No. WTA-532

Sub :- E-Tender No.WTA-532 due on 30.10.2023 for "Manufacturing cun Maintenance of 100 nos. of New Generation Energy Efficient Vande Bharat Trainsets with Concentrated Power System including upgradation of the Government Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots."

The due date of the subject tender is postponed from 30.10.2023 to 15.12.2023

(Friday). The prospective Bidders are requested to visit website-https://ireps.gov.in EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (RS),

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, (RAILWAY BOARD), RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001, Email- drsm@rb.railnet.gov.in SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE B3353/2023 **PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Non Friday said there are demands to rename Vijayapura district after 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara (Basavanna), and added that there is nothing wrong in renaming the entire state of Karnataka as 'Basava Nadu'

rarnataka Minister M B Patil

(Land of Basava) The remarks of the state's Large and Medium Industries Minister came days after Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's proposal to rename Ramanagara district as 'Bengaluru South'. "During the 'Hoysala' period, the

later under Adil Shahi dynasty's rule, it became Bijapur. The name was changed back to Vijayapura. Now, many people have demanded that it be renamed as Basaveshwara district. It is natural as this district is the birthplace of Basavanna and there is nothing wrong in it," Patil, who represents the Bableshwar constituency in Vijayapura district, said. Speaking to reporters here, he

region was known as Vijayapura

said, "There are some technical issues though. Bijapur became Vijayapura, and if it has to become Basaveshwara, there will be some inconvenience,

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar should

have left the dais in protest in Shirdi or corrected Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he questioned NCP chief Sharad Pawar's contribution to the farming community, said former state minister Anil Deshmukh on Friday. Deshmukh was referring to PM

Modi's address in Shirdi on Thursday where he performed puja at the revered Saibaba temple and inaugurated a slew of developmental projects.

Those doing politics of vote in the name of farmers have made



you yearn for every drop of water. Some people in Maharashtra only did politics in the name of farmers. A senior leader of Maharashtra served as

the country's agriculture minister. I personally respect him, but what has he done for farmers?" Modi said, without naming The NCP founder served as the

agriculture minister when the Congress-led UPA government was in office at the Centre (2004-14). Modi said when Sharad Pawar was the Union agriculture minister, farmers had to be at the mercy of middlemen.

Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, Deshmukh, who belongs to the "Ajit Dada should have left the

dais (in protest) or given proper information to PM Modi so that he could correct his statement (against Sharad Pawar)," said Deshmukh. The NCP leader said PM Modi

has in the past praised Sharad Pawar for his contribution to the farming community. Deshmukh alleged that Modi has now changed his stand

ahead of the elections and demanded that the PM correct his statement with regard to Sharad Pawar.

The NCP split on July 2 after Ajit Pawar and eight MLAs joined the Eknath Shinde government.

Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP, said Ajit Pawar was sitting on the dais when Modi made the statement against their party

Nod for Civil defence volunteers job termination | Bus marshals on indefinite

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{Vinai Kumar Saxena on}}^{\text{elhi Lieutenant Governor}}$ Friday approved a proposal of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to terminate the services of all civil defence volunteers with effect from November 1 this year, with AAP Government sources saying they will approach the Supreme Court if this happens, setting off a fresh tussle between the two sides. The Lieutenant Governor also directed the Chief Minister to consider recruiting the volunteers to be terminated as home guards. The development came hours after the chief minister Arvind Kejrial has asked Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot to formulate a plan to appoint the civil defence volunteers as Home Guards and depute them as bus marshals.

Raj Niwas official said that LG have already directed the Director General of Home Guards to engage / employ large number of Home Guards following due process, in the first phase and the exercise is expected to be completed by December this year. "The opportunity thereof may be utilized to offer employment to



the experienced CDVs as per extant provisions, so as to minimize and mitigate the hardship caused to them due to loss of employment," Saxena has noted

"Approving the proposal to end the CDVs' illegal recruitment and deployment, Saxena has raised serious livelihood concerns and directed the CM that the CDVs who lose their job in the process should be considered for appointment as Home Guards, about 10,000 positions of whom, the LG has approved recently," the official said. The LG has also flagged the issue of the CDVs not getting their salary for the past six to seven months and expressed dissatisfaction over the fact the relevant file was sent to him even though the minister concerned and the chief minister were fully competent to take a

decision on it on their own, he

Following the development, AAP government sources said they will approach the apex court. "If Delhi LG terminates the services of civil defence volunteers, we will approach the Supreme Court. Some of these volunteers are deployed as bus marshals, who play a crucial of remunerative engagement role in ensuring women's safe-

promise on women's safety,' said a government source. LG office sources, on the other hand, accused the AAP government sources of "spreading lies" and sharing "misleading" information. The proposal to terminate civil defence volunteers was

sent to LG office by Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal,

which was only approved by the Lt Governor. Will Delhi government go to Supreme Court against the chief minister?" an LG office source said. The LG office sources said the proposal to terminate the services of civil defence volunteers was received on October 20. However, the government source claimed no such proposal was sent to the LG office by the chief minister's office. The LG has noted on the file at the same time that livelihood concerns, in my considered opinion, should be on the top of any Government's agenda. "It cannot be disputed that CDVs, who come from the humble backgrounds, find an opportunity to earn during their engagement in the volunteer corps and such avenues

nal, legal and non-partisan manner, as per law, lest such engagement becomes an exercise of political partisanship, favoritism and unlawful discretion at the cost of other segments of the Society, especially those belonging to the ST/SC/OBC and EWS categories. Accordingly, I suggest engagement of CDVs after following due procedure as per extant provisions and rules which shall strengthen the capacity of the State on disaster management and at the same time, ascertain options of gainful employment for eligible candidates," official said.

Slamming the AAP government for the delay in payment of pending salaries to the CDVs, the LG has also noted that it is beyond his understanding as to why this file has been sent to him for the approval of pending payments, due to the CDVs, when the same has already been approved by the Minister incharge of Departments of Finance and Revenue, in exercise of her competency and powers in the matter of this transferred subject."

strike over wages dues

brought her one-year-old

daughter to the Delhi secre-

"There are some medicines

that have to be bought from

outside. It has become difficult

to buy such expensive medi-

cines since I have not received

my dues for the last five

months. My husband is the sole

earning member and we have

to take care of our two chil-

Several others related similar

tales of hardships, about how

they have been unable to pay

for their children's education or

buy their parents' medicines, all

because they were not paid

dren," she said.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Scores of bus marshals deployed in cluster and DTC buses on Friday went on an indefinite sit-in outside the Delhi Secretariat over nonpayment of their wages. The protesters said they will

continue their sit-in outside the Delhi Secretariat until their demands are met and that their protest will be round-theclock. In a related development, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena approved a proposal of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to terminate the services of all civil defence volunteers with effect from November 1 this year, an official at the LG Secretariat said on Friday.

"We knew this would happen. We have been bus marshals since 2015, but now suddenly our deployment is not legal. They should use the Nirbhaya fund to pay our dues. How can the government say there are no funds?" asked a civil defence

Kiran Devi, a bus marshal

undergoing treatment for their dues. throat cancer at AIIMS,

Sachin, a bus marshal since 2015 and who goes by his first name, said this is their fourth

'We have protested four times once at LG House, once at CM House, then at DTC headquarters, and now outside Delhi Secretariat. We submitted memorandums but our pleas have not been heard. Nearly 60 to 80 per cent of bus marshals live in rented houses and they do not have money to pay it," he said.

Bus marshals do not get any medical benefit, if someone takes a "drastic step" then who will take the responsibility, he

Appoint all civil defence volunteers as home guards, directs CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday directed his Home Minister to prepare a plan to "appoint" civil defence volunteers as home guards and depute them as marshals in public transport buses in Delhi. The civil defense volunteers working as bus marshals are protesting against the government for their pending wages of several months.

The chief minister said the bus marshals have also helped in mitigating pickpocketing and other petty crimes on the buses. Kejriwal further said that the unless there is any specific arbitrary removal of bus marshals will jeopardize their financial well-being since they come from very humble backgrounds. The Chief Minister asked Home Minister Kailash Gahlot for the prompt formulation of plans regarding the

In a letter written to Home Minister Kailash Gahlot regarding the importance of bus marshals, the chief minister said the government should develop a plan to appoint them only as home guards and concomplaint against any indi-"These civil defence vidual. volunteers come from very humble backgrounds and it will put their families in severe financial crisis if they are suddenly removed. So, if we appoint the same set of people as home guards and put them on bus marshal duty, on one hand, the government will get experienced people and on the other hand, their jobs will continue. Please prepare a plan accordingly," Kejriwal said in



Taking cognizance of the legality of this decision in mind, the Chief Minister stated, "Legal objections have been raised about the continuation of civil defence volunteers as bus marshals. It has been said that civil engaged in regular duties and that they can be called only during any disaster. Therefore, it has been suggested that home guards be appointed bus marshals instead of civil defence volunteers.

"I have separately proposed to LG that civil defence volunteers should be continued as bus marshals till adequate number of home guards are appointed in their place. If the bus marshals are suddenly removed, it will not be good for the safety of women travellers," the chief minister said, according to the

Since the existing civil defence volunteers who are working as bus marshals have the required experience a plan should be developed to appoint them only as home guards and continue them as bus marshals, unless there is any specific complaint against any individual, the chief minister.

"So, if we appoint the same set of people as home guards and put them on bus marshal duty, one one hand the government will get experienced people and on the other hand their jobs will continue," said the Earlier, on September 3, Revenue Minister Atishi had ordered the Principal Secretary, Revenue, to release the salaries of civil defence volunteers and bus marshals within a week. However, even after the minister's order, their salaries have not been disbursed till date. This issue has arisen since the

introduction of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act 2023, and despite the minister's orders, they are not being paid. The lack of salaries has created financial difficulties for civil

defence volunteers and bus marshals. The civil defence volunteers have not been paid their salaries since April this

The Bus Marshals scheme was introduced by the Transport Department, GNCTD in 2015 to improve women's safety in public buses in Delhi. Under the scheme, civil defence volunteers and home guards referred to as Bus Marshals are deputed in DTC and cluster buses and recruited by the Department of Revenue and the Directorate General of

Summary revision of voter list begins in all 70 Assembly constituencies in Delhi

Residents of Delhi have another chance to get their electoral details corrected or get enrolled as voters if they are not already, as a summary revision of electoral rolls began in all 70 Assembly segments on Friday. According to the draft electoral roll published Friday, the number of new voters has increased new female voters at 90,984 was higher than new male voters at 78,809. The projected population of Delhi was 2,16,67,604, out of which, 1,48,60,653 were registered voters. These voters included 80,75,210 male and 67,84,276 female voters, said a statement from Delhi Chief Electoral Officer.

The number of voters was 1,46,90,756 in the last electoral roll published in November 2022. The number of third



gender voters stood at 1,167 as compared to 1,063 in the last electoral roll, it said

stituency has the highest number of voters, 4.30 lakh, while the Delhi Cantt constituency has the smallest electorate of

Tilak Nagar seat had the highest gender ratio, 956, while Tughlakabad in south Delhi, the lowest at 706.

The special summary revision - 2024 aims to give opportunities for correction in electors' particulars and also to invite objections against any wrong inclusion in the electoral roll, said Delhi Chief Electoral Officer P Krishnamurthy in a

"The primary objective of the special summary Revision - 2024 is to include newly eligible and left out voters. Those who have completed or will be completing the age of 18 years on or before the date January 1, 2024 can apply to become

According to another provision in the special summary revision, any citizen, who is going to attain the age of 18 on any of the subsequent qualifying dates in 2024 - April 1, July 1, or October 1 -- may also file his or her claim for getting enrolled as a voter. Such persons can fill up Form-6 for the purpose now but their voter cards will be issued after the relevant qualifying date, the

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Tlimate change has led to Shift in the rainfall pattern resulting in a rise in Delhi's relative humidity, increasing discomfort even though there has been no significant change in the city's ambient tempera-tures since 2011, according to a new analysis.

The analysis by the independent think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) underscores that the increase in Delhi's relative humidity, is driving the power demand in the city.

The heat index, also known as the 'apparent temperature' or 'feels-like temperature', is a measure of how hot it feels to the human body when relative humidity is factored in with the actual air temperature.

The combination of high heat and humidity can compromise the human body's main cooling mechanism -- sweat-



Evaporation of sweat from the skin cools our bodies. However, higher humidity levels limit this natural cooling mechanism.

As a result, people can suffer heat stress and illness, and the consequences can even be fatal even at much lower ambient temperatures. A heat index of 41 degrees Celsius is considered dangerous to human

CSE researchers point out that

these local trends are consistent with the observations made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a global body of leading climate

The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6 WG-I) report says hot extremes, including heatwaves, have intensified in urban centres that are experiencing air temperatures several degrees warmer than the surrounding areas, especially dur-

The urban heat island effect can add two degrees Celsius to local warming, reducing the adaptive capacity of cities and increasing risks, the IPCC

"Climate change is making the city so hot and humid that it is not cooling down adequately even during nights, adding to severe thermal discomfort. As a result, electricity demand -driven largely by mechanical cooling (especially air-condiis surging

"In 2023, average daily peak electricity demand in the monsoon period was the highest since real-time load monitoring started in Delhi in 2018," says Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, CSE.

The report said the ambient average temperature for the last 10 summers is marginally lower than the decadal average for 2001-10, but this does not mean Delhi is getting cooler.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Changes in the pattern of rains, especially unseasonal rains in the pre-monsoon period, have led to an increase in relative humidity, which is making the city's weather muggier and more uncomfortable even though there have been no significant changes in ambient

temperatures, it said. During the pre-monsoon season in 2023, the average relative humidity stood at 49.1 per cent, which was about 21 per cent more humid than the

During the monsoon season (June to September), the average relative humidity was 73.2 per cent, 14 per cent higher than the 2001-10 average, the CSE analysis reveals.

Delhi's power demand is closely linked to outdoor temperature and humidity conditions. The demand is at its minimum when the outdoor heat index is between 17.5-22.5 degrees Celsius (daily mean) during February and October

Woman's body found at Delhi **Metro parking**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

The decomposed body of a I woman believed to be around 30 years was recovered from the parking area of the Shastri Park Metro station in northeast Delhi on Friday.

According to a police official, the body seems to be three-four days' old and was highly decomposed. Police said a passerby spotted the body lying in the parking lot which is connected to a jungle area. "With the help of CCTV cameras and nearby residents, the police are trying to ascertain if someone threw it in the parking lot or if it was a natural death," said a police officer. The body has

been sent for a postmortem. Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal issued a notice to Delhi Police on the matter and sought a copy of the FIR, details of accused arrested and a detailed report about action taken so far. "The Delhi Commission for Women has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports of recovery of dead body of a woman. This is a very serious matter. In view of the above, please provide DCW a copy of FIR registered in the matter

and details of accused arrested,

Maliwal said in her letter.

Conspiracy to stop Dilli Ke Farishtey: Bharadwaj

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI Director-General of Health

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Friday alleged a conspiracy was being hatched to stop the Government's "Dilli Ke Farishtey" scheme, under which the government pays the bills of accident victims. He alleged that a few officials had conspired to stop the AAP Government's scheme of providing free treatment to accident victims with payments not being made to private hospitals for nearly a year.

He said that he has written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to take action against the officials concerned.

"The payments are made to private hospitals at government rates. But for the last one year or so, payments have not been released to private hospitals. There is a conspiracy by certain officers to stop the scheme," he alleged in a press conference. Revealing another critical piece of information related to this conspiracy, the Health Minister explained that in January 2023, when the Health Department brought to the notice of Deputy CM Manish Sisodia that Delhi government is owed approximately Rs 24.5 crores by private hospitals in Delhi, the Deputy wrote a letter to the

Services (DGHS) on January 24, 2023, asking for information about when these outstanding dues would be paid. He requested that a timeline be provided to him. Surprisingly, no response was given to the Deputy CM.

As soon as he received information about this, he called a meeting on April 21, 2023, concerning this matter. Both the Health Secretary and DGHS, Mr. Nutan Mundeja, were present at this meeting. Shockingly, when he asked the officials in the meeting how much money private hospitals and laboratories owed by the Delhi government, he was officially told that no dues were pending, and all details are there in the minutes of the

meeting.
A few days after this meeting, representatives of some private hospitals came to him and disclosed that the Delhi government owed crores of rupees to

several private hospitals. Upon receiving this information, he instructed Health Secretary Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar to issue a show-cause notice to DGHS and inquire into the reasons for the incorrect information provided regarding the outstanding payments to private hospitals.

LG okays acquisition of land for Barapullah road

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major boost to Barapullah Elevated Road Project between Sarai Kale Khan and Mayur Vihar, Delhi Lt Governor(LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday approved acquisition of 0.63 hectares of land in village Nangli Razapur near Sarai Kale Khan in southeast district for construction of

The project has been stalled for more than six years due to acquisition of small parcels of land for the project.Saxena also directed the Chief Secretary that if there is any further delay, responsibility should be fixed on officers / officials behind it and action should be taken.

The LG asked for the concerns expressed by him on file to be brought to the notice of the Chief Minister and the Minister-in-charge.Saxena, is the designated competent authority as per the the Right to Fair. Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, while approving the proposal for acquiring the said land has expressed his displeasure over the delay in the project due to inaction on part of officers, officials said here.

The LG also noted that the project work was started without having requisite land parcels in hand and no concrete efforts were made by the authorities for timely acquisition of required land parcels, thereby affecting this project of immense public importance aimed at improving connectivity and decongesting traffic. What is even more outstanding is the fact that despite land not being in possession and the future implementation of the project being in jeopardy thereof, hundreds of crores of public fund was spent in construction of the project, Saxena noted. He asked to identify individu-

als / officers / engineers, right from the project planning stage and further, so that responsibility could be fixed for this serious misdemeanour that resulted in non-completion of the project even after six years of its deadline and subsequent losses to the exchequer by way of cost overruns. He has asked for this exercise to be undertaken at the earliest and report thereof to be submitted to the LG Secretariat for further necessary action.

I am surprised that the project work was started without having requisite land parcels in hand, said the LG.





Close the overhead tank

tightly with lids & cover

water containers



temephos granules, petrol

or diesel in the coolers

which cannot be emptied





Non-compliance of the said advise will lead to the legal action as per the provisions under relevant sections of the New Delhi Municipal Council (Malaria and other Mosquito borne diseases) bye-laws-2007



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TO BE THE GLOBAL BENCHMARK FOR A CAPITAL CITY



Jaishankar speaks to Oman, discusses West Asia crisis

As Israel-Hamas conflict Arages, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday spoke to his Omani counterpart Badr Albusaidi and discussed the ongoing crisis in West Asia that was triggered by the unprecedented attacks on the Israeli cities by Hamas militants on October 7. In a post on 'X', Albusaidi said

he emphasised the critical need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Jaishankar described the conversation as "good".

"A good conversation with Omani Foreign Minister @badralbusaidi. Discussed our bilateral relations and exchanged views on the crisis in West Asia," Jaishankar said in a post on 'X'.

Albusaidi said respecting international law is an obligation for

"I emphasised the critical need for an immediate cease fire in #Gaza and a good flow of humanitarian aid. Respect for international law is an obligation for all to save thousands of civilian lives. Stop the war now," he said. An increasing number of Arab countries have



been pitching for a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel. In the past few days, Jaishankar had discussed the situation in West Asia with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and his counterpart from the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al

It may be mentioned here Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 23 spoke to Jordan's King Abdullah-II and the two leaders shared concerns regarding terrorism, violence and

loss of civilian lives in the

backdrop of the ongoing con-

efforts are needed for an early

resolution of the security and

Modi said concerted

humanitarian situation. Spoke with His Majesty @KingAbdullahII of Jordan. Exchanged views on the developments in the West Asia region. We share concerns regarding terrorism, violence

and loss of civilian lives. Concerted efforts needed for early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation," he said in a social media

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

During their conversation, Modi said India would continue sending humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians. He also conveyed his condolences on the loss of civilian lives in the Gaza Strip due to the bombing at a hospital.

"Shared our deep concern at the terrorism, violence and deteriorating security situation in the region. Reiterated India's long-standing principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue," Modi said after speaking to Abbas. In a post soon after Hamas

launched 5,000 rockets at Israel in 20 minutes and began a multi-pronged attack by land, air and sea on October 7, Prime Minister Modi had said he was "deeply shocked by the news of terrorist attacks in Israel" and expressed India's solidarity with the country in

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

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

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

forward with a human-centric approach, he also said conflicts and confrontations in any part of the world impact everyone and do not benefit anyone. India on October 22 sent more than 38 tonnes of relief material including medicines and medical equipment for the

people of Palestine.

Modi to distribute 51K appointment letters



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $P^{\mathsf{rime}\ \mathsf{Minister}\ \mathsf{Narendra}}_{\mathsf{Modi\ will}\ \mathsf{distribute}\ \mathsf{more}}$ than 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits on Saturday at 1 pm via video conferencing. He will also address the appointees on the occasion, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office(PMO)said on Friday.

Rozgar Mela will be held at 37 locations across the country. The recruitments are taking place across Central Government Departments as

ing this initiative. The new recruits, selected from across the country will be joining the Government in various Ministries/Departments including Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Higher Education, Department of School Education and Literacy and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, among oth-

ers, the statement said. Rozgar Mela is a step towards fulfilment of the commitment of the Prime Minister to

3K e-buses tender soon

employment generation. Rozgar Mela is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in national development.

newly inducted The appointees are also getting an opportunity to train themselves through Karmayogi Prarambh, an online module on iGOT Karmayogi portal, where more than 750 e-learning courses have been made available for 'anywhere any

Brainstorming sessions at Coast Guard conclave

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

¬he sixth Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Subordinate Officers' Conclave was organised in New Delhi on October 26 and 27 and the theme was 'Towards an inclusive Approach,' Coast Guard officials said here on Friday. Giving details of the meet,

they said it comprised various brainstorming sessions and lectures on a variety of subjects including IT, health, human resource, leadership and media sensitisation. Subordinate officers from var-

ious Coast Guard units across the country attended the event. Various MoUs towards enhancing welfare measures for the

It is informed to the general public that our client Mr. Deepak Singh & Mrs. Reena Singh is purchasing FLAT- N-01 BLOCK-N, FLOOR-GROUND, SECTOR-25 ,AFNHB- JALVAYU VIHAR, NOIDA. The origina owner Late Smt. Prabha Singh of the property mely:- 1.Mr. Devender Singh, 2.Mr Kumar Deegak l. Mrs. Ruchi Singh Kashyap w/o Mr. Bhuwan Kumar to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone & 4. Mrs. Vidushy Singh w/o Mr. Ankur Chaudhary has inherited the title. If anyone has an objection has already carried out or being carried out an transaction, kindly inform the undersigned i w.r.t the sale of property, kindly file the objection writing on the below mentioned address withi th undersigned within 05(five) days of publication. 14 days of the present

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351 200, Ilnd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph : 011-41112527-28 legal@knalegal.com

PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

LUDHIANA

ations are invited for admission to Ph.D. programmes on all India basi



The deliberations during the conclave focused on the future career growth and modification inductions in ICG, based on of operational philosophy

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that M/s. Gauri Infotech Pvt. Ltd. is the owner of Industrial Plot no. 005, Block A, admeasuring 2099 Sq. Mtrs., situated at Sector 68. Phase-III. situated in the Layout Plan of Ne Okhla Industrial Development Area, UP; "the sa property", by virtue of Lease deed dated 17.01.2007, Registration No. 187, executed by Noida Authority, has lost/misplaced original Lease deed dated 17.01.2007, All persons are hereby informed not

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consulta

Bharat', refinement of the HR

policies for better and inclusive advanced technology to enhance capability and capac-

Inaugurating the conclave, chief of Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal said the idea of Subordinate Officers' Conclave is in sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

vision to encourage innovative ideas towards inclusive growth of the service in particular 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka

The ICG has not only been working towards empowering and broadening the horizon of Subordinate Officers but has also been providing them a platform to express their innovative ideas and thought processes before the decision making echelons in the service.

PUBLIC NOTIGE
hereby given that my client Manoj Poddar is
s to purchase the Freehold Residential Plot

area measuring 222 sq. yds. Out of Khasra no. 132min. situated at Villana Chakamba. 32min. situated at Village Chakamber Pur Pargana oni Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh (availing Ioan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd.)
from Pardeep Singh Sandhu, who inherited the said property after the death of his mother Bhupinder Kaur

All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partmership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof failing which the saling or lains if any of address mentioned below within 7 days from me date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

OICICI Bank Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address

House No 1821, Ground Floor, Urban Vihar, Ludhiana, Punjab,

A/c No. LBLUD00005229032

Pinky Jha, Jai Prakash Jha

Jatinder Kumar, Shanti Lal

Dogra, House No.1145/1 St No.1/2, Vishkarma Nagar Tajpu Road, Ludhiana, Punjab, A/c No. LBLUD00005558391

Dogra, House No.1145/1 St No.1/2, Vishkarma Nagar Tajpur Road, Ludhiana, Punjab, A/c No. LBLUD00005736156

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Jatinder Kumar, Shanti Lal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Ratan lal Gahlot is in process to purchase the First Floor without roof rights of Property bearing no. E-2/11, Area measuring 88.88 Sq. yds., portion of Plat no. 11, part of Khasra No. 183, 185,208/184,207/184, Situated in the area of Village Neemri Kachi Angoori, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 (availing loan from TCHFL) from Pardeep Kumar Sharma, who acquired the said property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 22.0.7.2022 (Doc. No. 8909) executed by Sunil Kumar Sharma and Shelly Sharma (all are the Legal heirs of late krishan Kumar Sharma)

Notified ordering and ordery ordering can be the cogheirs of late krishan Kumar Sharma)
All person/s having any claim against or in respect of
the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of
sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or
otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family,
arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership,
possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien,
charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever,
are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to
us with supporting documentary evidence at the
address mentioned below within 7 days from the
date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any,
of such person or persons will be considered to have
been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advecate)

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained

by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was

issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement

Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced

House Comprised in Khasra No. 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, Khata No. 19/24, 20/25, 107/118, 129/143, Page No. 39, 48, 167, 211, As Per Jamabandi Year 2012-2013, Village Dhandra-2, Hadbasat No. 274, Abadi Tera Nagar, in Front of Harkrishan Medicos & Horse Cities Theil & District Hudbissa, Burish

Homeo Clinic, Tehsil & District Ludhiana, Punjab

House Comprised In Khasra No. 21//17, Khata No. 58/65, As Per Jamabandi Year 1998-1999, Situated At Bhamian Kalan, Hadbasat No. 181, Tehsil & District Ludhiana, Punjab

House Comprised In Khasra No. 21//17, Khata

No. 58/65, As Per Jamabandi Year 1998-1999,

Situated At Bhamian Kalan, Hadbasat No. 181, Tehsil & District Ludhiana, Punjab

of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are

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

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

to cut carbon emission PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

n an effort to cut down car-**⊥**bon emission in the country, a tender for about 3,000 electric buses is likely to be issued next week as part of the 'PMeBus Sewa' scheme, a senior official in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) said here on Friday. The proposed e-bus service is an intervention within the larger urban mobility policy of the Centre, MoHUA Secretary Manoj Joshi said at a Press conference held on the sidelines of 16th Urban Mobility India Conference.

The 'PM-eBus Sewa' scheme, under which 10,000 electric buses will be provided to 169 cities under a public-private approved by the Union Cabinet in August. The Ministry had said in late August that it would be rolled out in the next five-six

So far as the 10,000 e-buses are concerned, "we got a Cabinet approval", and tenders are going to be "issued shortly," Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri told reporters in response to a query. He also said states have to be a partner in this scheme.

MoHUA Secretary Joshi added that one tender is to be issued next week, the RFP (request for proposal) been finalised. and "we are seeking internal

approvals". 'Next week we will be able to float tender for about 3,000 buses," he said. Proposal for another 2,000 buses, have come up from the Uttar Pradesh government, and they are working on a slightly dif-

Date of Notice Sent/ Outsta-nding as on Date of Notice

25/09/2023

Rs. 9,34,087/-

06/10/2023

Rs. 7,60,080/-

06/10/2023

Rs. 3,84,506/-

04/07

08/06/

cial said. "After the Cabinet approval, we had given a month's time to states to send us proposals. Other states are working on their proposal," Joshi said. The MoHUA secretary said urban mobility policy is a broad framework, and "we

ic intervention under that policy" and the e-bus service is also an intervention within that policy. It's a partnership between the

Centre and states, he told reporters.

"Procurement on a large scale... The Government of

India is doing, goes down. We have laid a broad framework, so it is easy for suppliers, there is an assurance of payments," Joshi said. He told reporters that each bus will have a GPS, and vehicular movement will be integrated with a traffic management system.

Modi: Elated by response to auction of momentos

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he is truly elated with the overwhelming response to the auction of the mementoes he has received over the years and urged people to join in and place their bids.

Replicas of the Sun Temple at Modhera and Vijay Stambh of Chittorgarh, Chamba rumal, Pattachitra, a rich painting depicting a ghat of Varanasi are among the 912 items which are part of the latest round of eauction of gifts and mementoes given to the prime minister.

'I'm truly elated by the overwhelming response to the auction of the mementoes I've received over the years," Modi said on X.

"As you're aware, the proceeds are dedicated to Namami Gange. I kindly encourage everyone to join in and place their bids for some of the very special mementoes I have received," he said.

A statue of Ram Darbar, a model of Golden Temple of Amritsar, Kamdhenu and the souvenir of Ierusalem are also among the popular items in the latest round of e-auction of gifts and mementoes given to Prime Minister Modi. The e-auction will end on October 31.

Draft report on 3 Bills to replace criminal laws not adopted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Parliamentary committee Ascrutinising three Bills to replace existing criminal laws did not adopt its draft report as scheduled on Friday, taking into account the submission of some Opposition members that they needed more time to study it.

Some opposition members urged the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Brij Lal, to seek an extension of three months in its tenure, and "stop bulldozing these bills for short-term electoral gain".

For making a robust legislation that serves the marginalised, the committee should not adopt a final report in the next few days or in November. "We will be mocking the process of legislative scrutiny if we do so," an opposition MP said in a communication, according to

opposition sources. However, BJP sources said the committee has engaged in an extensive consultation process and will meet its deadline of three months. The committee will now meet on November 6 and may adopt the draft report then despite protests by some

of its members from opposition

Rushing the functioning of the committee would be a "gross" legislative disservice, opposition members have told Brij Lal, a BJP MP. It was also pointed out in the meeting that the bill's Hindi version was circulated among them only a day

Seeking a complete overhaul of colonial-era criminal laws, Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced in Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session three bills to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya

The House later sent the bills after their introduction on August 11 to the committee for scrutiny and asked it to submit its report within three months.

Adhiniyam, respectively.

Earlier, sources said some opposition members, including Chidambaram of the Congress and Derek O'Brien of the TMC, had written to the committee's head, seeking more time to study the draft report and file their views as it entailed three separate bills.

Agricultural Extension Education Agricultural Economics Biochemistry Botany

ADMISSION NOTICE Ph.D.

Molecular Biology & Biotechnology

 Entomology
 Food Technol ogy (Processing) Technology)

Genetics & Plant Breeding

Plant Pathology Soil Science
 Horticulture (Fruit Science)

Horticulture (Vegetable Science)

Landscaping)

• Farm Machinery & Power

Engineering • Irrigation & Drainage Engineering

in the following disciplines for the academic session 2023-24 Soil & Water Conservation Engineering

Chemistry

Sociology

Zoology
 Apparel & Textile Science

· Resource Manageme nt & Consumer

 Extension Education & Communication · Human Development & Family Studies

 Processing & Food Engineering
 Renewable Energy Engineering Minimum Qualification: An Overall Credit Point Average (OCPA) of 7.00 (out of 10.00) or 70% marks or equivalent at Master's level in the respective discipline as mentioned in PAU prospectus 2023-24 uploaded on PAU web site and an OCPA of 6.00 (out of 10.00) or 60% marks or equivalent at the Bachelor's level. For reserved categories i.e. SC/ST and BC/OBC candidates minimum eligibility marks shall be 65% and 55% respectively at Master's and

Last date for receipt of applications

Without late fee 28-11-2023 With late fee of Rs. 1,000/- 04-12-2023

For applying online The candidates can fill online application form through PAU website www.pau.edu

For applying offline The Prospectus can be obtained from the office of the Additional Director of Communication, Communication Centre, PAU, Ludhiana. The duly completed application forms should reach in the office of the Registrar Thapar Hall, PAU, Ludhiana 141004 on or before the due date. For course details, qualifications, eligibility criteria, entrance tests, fee and other details

visit the University website (www.pau.edu).

Application forms, which are incomplete /without entrance test fee (wherever). applicable)/received after the prescribed date, will not be considered Note: The University awards various scholarships/stipends/fellowships. For

details, visit the University website www.pau.edu

Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana

NA/11/364/2023/29254 Dated CHD :- 10/27/2023

Date: October 27, 2023

Authorized Officer

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of

this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial

Month-long Ramnagar Ramlila ends | Five killed as bus falls into ditch

¬housands of people ■ watched the 'Bhor Ki Aarti' at Ayodhya Maidan in trans-Ganga Ramnagar in the wee hours of Friday. With the Ram Rajyabhishek, the month-long internationally famous Ramnagar Ramlila came to an end. The people started thronging the venue even after midnight hours to get a place near the Lila stage and with thousands of people reaching there at the time of the aarti not even an inch of space was left.

The entire area echoed with the slogan of 'Jai Siya Ram'. Later, during the 'lila' Lord Rama asked various groups of Banar Senas to return to their homes. Elaborate security arrangements were made on the occasion to avoid any untoward incident. The venue and its adjoining areas wore a festive look. This month-long internationally famous Ramlila began with the birth of 'Demon King' Ravana at Lanka on the occasion Anant Chaturdarshi as per Hindu Calendar last month. Ramnagar Ramlila drew global attention since UNESCO proclaimed the tradition of this Ramlila 'a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent

Charge) for Stamp and Court

Fee and Registration Ravindra

Jaiswal directed the depart-

mental officers to complete

development and construction

works on priority basis by run-

ning a campaign on a war foot-

ing as per the intention of the

government. He was reviewing

the progress of development

and construction works by

holding a meeting with officials

at the Circuit House here on

Thursday. He laid special

emphasis on preparing a

roadmap and completing the

work by targeting the month of

December for the speedy com-

pletion of the under construc-

tion projects. While giving

instructions to completely

improve the drinking water and

sewer system in the Municipal

Corporation area, he said that

no excuse will be tolerated at

any level. While directing the

departmental officers, he said

such a mechanism should be



Thousands watching 'Bhor Ki Aarti' in Ramnagar in Varanasi on Friday morning.

of humanity' in 2005. Later, the central government and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) produced a twohour documentary entitled 'Ramlila'. Ramnagar Ramlila is still organised under the patronage of the royal family of the Banaras Estate, though funded by the state government since the abolition of Princely Ramnagar Ramlila drew global attention since UNESCO proclaimed the tradition of this Ramlila 'a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity' in 2005. The unique feature of this Ramlila is the use of 'petro-maxes' for lighting at the stage instead of electric lighting and

made that sewer water should

not enter the Ganga and Varuna rivers under any cir-

cumstances. "If the pipelines

laid under the Jawaharlal

Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

scheme in the city are not

connected at certain places,

then the Jalkal department

should do the work of con-

necting such drinking water and sewer pipelines," he said,

expressing his deep displeasure

over the non-repair of roads

excavated for departmental

works by GAIL and Telecom

department on time after. He

directed them that in future the

excavated roads should be

repaired on priority basis.

According to him, the road cut-

ting should be allowed only if

the department gives a guarantee, otherwise road cutting should not be allowed at all.

While directing the Municipal

Commissioner, he said by con-

ducting a survey in the city,

such streets and roads should

be identified which are not

included in any plan and are in

the artistes are selected on the basis of their loud voices as they do not use mikes. There are separate venues, some of them are one-two kilometres away from each other for different shows. They are Janakpur, Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Panchvati and Lanka apart from some smaller venues of some Rishis like Valmiki, Bhardwaj and others. This Ramlila is known for its sets, dialogues, visual spectacle and permanent as well as temporary structures. Its uniqueness is the active participation of local people as when the marriage procession of Lord Rama is taken out, the audiences themselves become the 'baratis' and during the time of Rama's

should be included in the plans

and repair work should be

ensured. Laying special

emphasis on ensuring proper

cleanliness in all the wards of

the Municipal Corporation, he

directed the officers concerned

to display the names of sanita-

tion workers and their mobile

numbers on the walls in all

wards. He laid special empha-

sis on displaying direction indi-

cators and names of major

and heritage places in the city.

While directing the PWDand

other implementing agencies,

Jaiswal said during the repair

work on the roads no empty

space should be left. Even dur-

ing interlocking work no empty

place should be left because later

people encroach on them, he

added. DC Kaushal Raj Sharma,

DM S Rajalingam, Municipal

Commissioner Shipu Giri, Vice-

Chairman of VDA Abhishek

Goyal and officials of PWD,

Jalkal, Jal Nigam and other

departments were also present.

vanvas' (exile), the scene gen erally turns gloomy there. **ELECTED:** A climate sci-

ence professor at Institute of Environment Studies and Development (IESD), BHU has been elected as a Fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI). Prof RK Mall, Coordinator, DST-Mahamana Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Research, IESD-BHU, has been elected as a Fellow (FNASc) in Earth Science for his seminal contributions in climate science, for deciphering climate change impacts on extreme weather events, crops water, and human health, and for framing resilient adaptation strategies. Besides, Prof Jitendra Pandey, Department of Botany, Institute of Science, BHU, has also been elected as a Fellow of NASI for his innovative research in the realm of Ganga River Ecology. His notable work focuses on the development of the ecological response index, a key tool for the concurrent prediction of eutrophication and metal pollution. Additionally, he has for the first time developed the river ecosystem resilience index as a predictive measure of tipping point, which is impor-tant for the management of large rivers

14 BHU research scholars selected for PMRF Award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

 $B_{\rm 14\ research\ scholars\ have}^{\rm ringing\ laurels\ to\ BHU,\ its}$ been selected for the coveted Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) Award. The scheme, which is open to very few central universities, is aimed at fostering high quality research. The students who have been selected for the current cycle of PMRF are Bandan Kumar, Aindabi Maitra, Kuhoo Madhav, RB Ananth, Raju Rai, and Sudipa Bhunia (Department of Geology), Deepika Sharma, Karmdeo Prajapati, Nikhil Srivastav, and Ritesh Tolani (Department of Chemistry) Ankita Gupta (Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development), Garima Kandwal (Department of Biochemistry), Prashasti Pandey (Department of Botany), and Syona Tiwari (Department of

Complete works on priority: Minister need of repair. He especially stressed that by identifying such streets and roads, they

Bioinformatics).

IIT-K launches eMasters degree programme in renewable energy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

The Indian Institute of **▲** Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has launched a one-of-akind eMasters degree programme in Renewable Energy and e-Mobility. The programme designed by the Department of Sustainable Energy Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering and Electrical Engineering is intended to build a capable and highly skilled workforce that can work towards environmental responsibility. This executive-friendly programme does not require a GATE score to apply and can be pursued without pausing professional careers and flexibility to complete the programme within one-three years has been provided as a bonus.

The e-Masters programme in Renewable Energy and e-Mobility helps harness the possibilities as the world accelerates its shift from fossil fuels, curbing carbon emissions and combating climate change. The programme presents a transformative journey towards innovative and eco-friendly solutions. It is tailored to expose the professionals to various technological aspects of this shift, including the generation side sources like photovoltaics, wind, batteries, hydrogen and the very fast-growing electrical vehicle domain. These twin forces of renewable energy and e-mobility collectively drive innovation, reduce reliance on non-renewable resources and foster a greener, more resilient world addressing environmental and economic imperatives. The global renewable energy market is expected to reach nearly US\$2 trillion by 2030, requiring a highly-skilled workforce to address challenges and seize opportunities. The industry-relevant programme offers a highimpact learning experience

featuring live interactive weekend classes and selfpaced learning. Distinguished faculty and accomplished researchers from IIT Kanpur lead the way. The programme's 60-credit curriculum, tailored for the industry

allows for seamless credit transfers towards higher education opportunities like MTech and PhD programmes at IIT Kanpur with the potential for waiving up to 60 credits. Participants also enjoy exclusive access to IIT Kanpur's incubation cell and extensive network, enriching their career advancement and networking prospects. As part of the immersive learning journey, participants have the unique opportunity to visit the IIT Kanpur campus where they can engage with renowned faculty members and network with seasoned professionals, ultimately earning the prestigious status of

being an IIT Kanpur alumni.

tioned that Varanasi has

Amrit Kalash Yatra taken out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

The NSS unit of the Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj took out an Amrit Kalash Yatra in the university premises on Friday. The programme was held under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign. Chief Proctor Dr Pravin Katiyar while flagging off the yatra said the 'kalash' contains soil from each home along with rice as a tribute to all defence personnel who sacrificed their lives for their nation. The students paid homage to the martyrs as well. Among others who took part were Kuldip, Neeraj, Mayank, Ankita, Shambhavi, Ripsita, Harshit, Siddarth,

Divya and Ojaswi
CLEANLINESS DRIVE: Hundreds of students of Shree Shakti Degree College under NSS conducted a cleanliness drive in Dhanvantri Vatika. Manager of the college Vinay Trivedi addressed the students. Around two dozen students of the college took part in it.

Raj Sharma said the CII will

CII to open zonal office in Varanası

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Uttar Pradesh will open its zonal office in the city by the end of this year and a road show was taken out in this direction on Thursday. Through this road show the industries of Varanasi were made aware of various works of CII apart from providing information about it and its mutual coordination with the government and industries at various levels in different sectors. The CII's activities are aimed is at bringing the industrial sector of Varanasi into the mainstream of development.

Addressing the function, Chairman of the CII UP State Council and Director of

Private Limited Akash Goenka gave a detailed presentation of the work done by CII at various levels with the state government and industries. He explained how CII plays an important role in the continuous development of the industry by working towards creating a strong ecosystem with the central and state governments and industries. "The presence of CII in Varanasi will provide investment-oriented development to the industries. In this context, the mission and vision of the government to make UP a leading state will get signifi-Vice-president of CII-UP

Shubham Goldiee Masala

cant strength," he added. State Council and Director and CFO of PTC Industries Limited Smita Agrawal men-

immense potential in areas like infrastructure, tourism, industrial policies, handicrafts and handlooms. "I am sure that the presence of CII in Banaras will help in accelerating the economic development of these areas manifold," she said. Director of Bridgelax

Engineering Pvt Ltd Vinamra Agrawal said the CII in Varanasi will play an important role in creating a strong industrial base and bringing innovation and technology in industrial operations apart from providing a strong platform to the industry. "We are extremely excited to work together with the CII," he said.

Addressing the partici-Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal

work to positively connect the government and industry. "I am sure that CII's presence in Banaras will be very important from the industrial point of view," he said. RK Shah Polytubes, Prayag Clay Products, Hispan Engineering, UP National Manufacturers Limited, Bridgelax Engineering Private Limited, Sabal Engineering, Patodiya Exports, Shree Nathji Industries, Avighna Associates have acquired the membership of CII and their representatives remained present in the foundation laying function of CII-Varanasi Zonal Office. The CII of Lucknow and Kanpur participated in the road show along with more than 70 industrialists from the city.

 $F_{
m 26}^{
m ive}$ persons were killed and 26 injured when a private bus in which they were travelling fell into a roadside ditch near Dadri Bandha village on Friday morning, a senior government official said. The injured have been admitted to a hospital, District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan said. The victims included two children. The bus was on its way to Halia, with 31 passengers, from Sant Nagar. Satyanarayan (40) who was driving the bus, died in the incident. Mamta (26), Manita (25), Abhishek (2) and Vishnu Kumar (10) were the other victims, authorities said.

PROGRAMME: Uttar Pradesh Minister of Technical



Dadri Bandha village in Mirzapur on Fridav.

Protection, Weights and Measures Ashish Patel while addressing a programme organised under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign

underlined the purpose behind the programme. He flagged off the vehicle carrying pitchers of soil collected from the houses of the district. MLAs Ratnakar gathering.

ONE DIES: One person died while another was injured when they came in contact with electric current. Giving details Circle Officer (CO) Sadar Shailendra Tripathi said Kush Kumar Saroj and Lavkush Kumar Saroj were removing the puja pandal in Kamhari village under Padari police station. In the meantime the iron pipe of the pandal touched an electric wire. On information the police reached the spot and

and Rinki Kol and Chairman

Nagar Palika Parishad

Mirzapur also addressed the

admitted the victims to a hospital where the doctors declared Kush (29) as brought dead and Lavkush (23) is undergoing treatment.

IMS-BHU professor felicitated

Under the auspices of Global Leaders Foundation, Bharat-Nepal Friendship Summit was organised on the theme 'Globalisation of Socioeconomic Development' on Friday in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. On the occasion Dr Rajeev Kumar Dubey from

Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) was felicitated with William TG Morton Medical Education Award-2023 for Excellence in Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine. Dr Rajeev is presently working as a professor and senior consultant in the

Care. The summit was attended by various scientists, educationists and political diplomats from India and Nepal. Dr Rajeev also presented a research paper in this event. SEMINAR: A three-day

Anaesthesiology and Critical

international seminar 'Understanding Composite

Culture through the Tradition of Devotional Songs' will be organised from October 28 to 30 under the aegis of the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS), BHÚ. Funded by BHU and ICSSR, the seminar will have the distinguished presence of scholars from countries such as the USA, South Africa, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Netherlands and Singapore.

5G lab to be set up in IIIT-A

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

5G network laboratory will A 5G network laboratory win be set up in the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad (IIIT-A). Giving this information, Director Prof Mukul Sharad Sutaone said on Friday that in line with the budget announcement of the government with an aim to create proficiency and engagement in 5G technologies for the students and startup communities, the Department of Telecom is setting up 100 5G deployment centres in higher educational institutions across all States/UTs to facilitate development, experimentation. The IIIT-Allahabad is one of the centres finalised by DoT.

All proposals were invited for setting up laboratories in which 5G application cases can span across various socioeconomic sectors, including education, agriculture, health, power, urban management, mining, logistics, resource nected with 5G laboratories.

management, tourism, sports, security, e-governance etc. Dr Sanjay Singh, Head of

the Department of Electronics Communication Engineering of the institute, Dr Sunil Yadav and his team designed 5G technology to work in the field of agriculture, which was accepted by Department Telecommunications (DOT). Dr Sanjay Singh said that IIIT-A has made its place among 100 institutions of the country in setting up laboratories. He said the benefit of the 5G laboratory is to reach out to students and industrial institutions, small scale industries and startup organisations. BTech and MTech students are

to be involved in projects related to 5G technology. He said there will be coordination between academia and entrepreneurs to expand and utilise 5G technology. He said startups and small scale industries in the country have to be con-

The responsibility of establishing and running this project in the institute will be done by Dr Sunil Yadav and his team. Necessary facilities like laboratory, power supply, internet and intranet connectivity, other equipment, technical-manpower (for local maintenance) etc will be provided by the institute. All the instruments installed in this laboratory will be indigenously manufactured. On behalf of the institute, Dr Radhika Gaur, Pawan Kumar and Saurabh Jain demonstrated their model in the India Mobile Congress (IMC) held at Pragati Maidan, Delhi. The institute will play an important role in the field of digital transformation.

EXTENDED: The Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission has extended the date of application for APS (Additional Private Secretary) Recruitment Examination-2023. Now applications can be made till November 2.

Similarly, applications for direct recruitment can also be made till November 2. Earlier, the Public Service Commission had fixed October 26 as the last date to apply online for both the recruitments. The Public Service Commission had issued recruitment advertisement in September for 328 posts of APS and 84 posts of direct recruitment, for which online applications are being taken. OTR (One Time Registration) has been made mandatory in applying for the recruitment examinations of the commission.

MISHAP: A 26-year-old youth died after being hit by a car in Daranagar town under Kadhadham police station area of Kaushambi. The car rider fled from the spot towards Prayagraj. On the complaint of the victim's family, the police registered a case against the unknown car driver and started investigation in the matter. Jagjit Kumar of Najju Pura village of Kadhadham used to work as a labourer.

KVT, other temples to remain closed during lunar eclipse

a 'bilva' (bel) patra on Lord Vishwanath. The eclipse will

'sparsh' (touch) at 1.05 am

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

¬he doors of Shri Kashi and other famous temples of this holy city will remain closed during the partial lunar eclipse on October 28/29 which will be visible across India. The KVT will remain closed for two hours before the lunar eclipse. After Shayan Aarti and cleaning of all the idols, including the garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) of the temple, the doors of the temple will be closed by offering

Rally against dowry, female foeticide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The rural girls took out a The rural guis took rally against female foeticide, dowry, child marriage, inequality, sexual abuse and held a Balika Mahotsav (Girls' Festival) in Ledhuwai village of Mirza Murad area under the joint aegis of Asha Trust and Lok Samiti here on Friday. The girls participating in the rally raised slogans in support of their demands. After the rally, a girls' festival was organised at the Panchayat Bhawan of the village where the participants raised their voice against social evils, staged a play, delivered speeches and presented various cultural programmes. Lok Samiti convenor

Nandlal Master said until the society becomes aware, atrocities on girls will continue. Convenor of Mahila Sangthan Asha Rai said discrimination against girls in the family and society starts as soon as they are born. The participants were welcomed by Rajkumari and Anita. The festival was conducted by Bimla.

(midnight) on Kashi and its 'moksha' (completion) will be at 1.44 am. According to the tradition of the KVT, there is a tradition of closing the doors of the temple for two hours before the eclipse period. In this sequence all the 'aarti' to be held on Saturday will be performed on time. Fruits will be offered during the 'ratri' (night) Shringar Aarti. After the Shayan Aarti and proper cleaning of the temple sanc-

tum and all the idols, the doors of the temple will be closed by offering a 'bilva patra' on Baba Vishwanath. Later, moksha puja will be held on October 29 from 2.30 am to 3 am followed by Mangala Aarti from 3 am to 4 am and then the doors of the temple will be opened for all devotees at 4.15 am. Besides, many other temples which follow the Sutak tradition of the lunar eclipse will remain closed for a longer period as the Sutak period starts at 4.06 pm on Saturday.

Importance of drone tech for agriculture highlighted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

 $T^{he\ Chandra\ Shekhar\ Azad}_{\ University\ of\ Agriculture}$ and Technology (CSAUA&T) organised a special meeting on "Annual Action Plan 2024" on Friday. Chief scientist Dr Raghavendra Singh speaking on the importance of drone technology for Indian agriculture said today farmers have come to realise the importance of drone technology which has gained recognition in the industry because of its diversity and was considered the future for the agrarian sector. He said drones did not merely enhance overall performance but also encouraged farmers to solve other assorted barriers and receive plenty of benefits through precision agriculture. He said the purpose of adopting drone technology was to exclude any

guesswork or ambiguity and

instead focus on accurate and

reliable information. Dr Singh

said external factors like

weather, soil conditions and

temperature played a critical

role in farming and agriculture

drone empowered the farmer

to adapt to specific environ-ments and make mindful choices accordingly. He said the gained data helped regulate crop health, crop treatment, crop scouting, irrigation and carry out field soil analysis and crop damage assessments.

REVIĔW MEETING: Divisional Commissioner Amit Gupta while holding a review meeting of development works in the division at the Commissionerate directed that all incomplete constructions be listed on top priority. He said it was a matter of concern that domesticated milch cattle were allowed to roam on streets for foraging and directed the officials to fine their owners. He directed the officials concerned to ensure 100 per cent vaccination of cattle against lumpy skin disease (LSD). He said there should be no waterlogging near and around the schools and anganwadis and if it was there then it should be attended on top priority. The commissioner said the attendance of children in schools and anganwadis should not be less than 85 per cent.

Lecture on cyber security awareness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANAS

s per the instructions of the ARailway Board, a lecture on

cyber security awareness was organised in the auditorium of the Technical Training Centre (TTC) of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Thursday. The chief guest was Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) SK Srivastava. The main keynote speaker Dr Roshan Singh of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) informed the officers and employees about cyber security. He said that this year, the theme of the cyber security campaign is 'secure our world' and globally the month of October is celebrated as National Cyber Security Awareness Month. He said in today's world to prevent cyber crime it is necessary to spread awareness about cyber hygiene among the public, especially among weaker sections and groups. "People creating cyber hreats are using updated and latest technologies," he said, adding such programmes the aimed at increasing cyber security awareness among the public and private sectors and enhance cyber resilience of the nation. Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Shishir Dutt also shared information about cyber security and cyber related incidents that happened to him. Principal Chief Engineer Vinod Bampal, Chief Vigilance Officer PK Chaudhary, Chief Quality

Assurance Manager Praveen

Kumar, Public Relations Officer

Rajesh Kumar and many other BLW officers and employees

were also present. In the end, the

vote of thanks was proposed by Chief Mechanical Engineer

(QMS) Ramjanam Choubey.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Bombshell

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

atar 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 electeonic 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

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.



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

When Pashtuns stand up for their own



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

hen 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 straightfacedly 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 Paktia 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, Sirajjuddin Haqqani).

At the root of the latest distrust between the Pakistani State and the Afghans, or more specifical-Pashtuns, who have lived on both sides of the Durand Line for — leaving the southern swathes aeons, is the proposed and forced deportation of Afghan refugees. along the Durand Line with ethnic Pashtuns as the only It is believed that 4.4 million viable option.



'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 (etnnic concerns)



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,

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.

(1 ne writer, a military veter an, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

AWWs have a role to play in mitigating NDDs



the behavioural changes

required at the family system

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

Then 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 ecoachievement. Additionally, these changes can persist into adulthood and contribute to emotional instability, substance abuse, aggression, obesity, and stressrelated disorders increasing the burden of neurodevelop-

mental 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

months of age.

of home-based programs cognitive, communication,

social and emotional skills. offers evidence that inter-The challenges faced in ventions focusing on improv-Anganwadi Centres are many ing mother-child interactions and so a comprehensive and and home environments can strategically-designed series of lead to significant effects on programs to ensure that chilthe child's cognitive skills. dren attending Anganwadi The outcomes are also asso-Centres receive age-appropriciated with superior social ate developmental stimulation skills and reduced behavand monitoring to reach their ioural problems in school. For full potential needs immedi-Anganwadi workers to proate priority. This means that vide this level of care directcapacity building of AWWs ly, increasing their ability to who are visiting homes has to be strengthened. These train and mentor parents/caregivers is the only AWWs should only focus on way to address root causes on home visits and the capacitythe scale, in a cost-efficient building programs need to be manner. streamlined to support them By being able to 'nudge' health-promoting behaviours, in delivering maternal and child care services for prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal

risk factors that contribute to infant mortality, neuromorfollow-up of mothers and bities and impaired school infants from conception to 24 readiness can be addressed. This is why Anganwadi workemerging sensory, motor, Prior research in the context ers as the pivot point to enact

level are most crucial. Capacity-building of AWWs should include scalable and sustainable best practices in ECD. Measurement and monitoring child's develop-ment 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.

MASS SHOOTINGS IN AMERICA

Sir—Regular mass shootings are a uniquely American phenomenon. The United States stands alone among developed nations, experiencing mass shootings every single year for the past 20 years. Sadly, this trend persists, as evidenced by the recent mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine, which claimed the lives of at least 22 people and left 60 others injured. Robert Card, the shooter, still remains at large. It is disheartening to note that there have been over 560 mass shootings across the United States so far this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive. They define a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are injured or killed, encompassing both home and public shootings. In each of the last three years, the U.S. has witnessed over 600 mass shootings, averaging nearly two per day.

President Joe Biden pledged to create a more peaceful world, promote civility, and curb the gun culture in the United States. However, this is the civility the American people experience daily.

The United States has a staggering statistic of 120 guns for every 100 Americans, as reported by the Switzerland-based Small Arms Survey (SAS). No other nation possesses more civilian guns than its population. I firmly believe that the United States doesn't need external enemies. Under the guise of the antiquated First Amendment Act, they allow every citizen to freely acquire deadly weapons, watching as individuals with malicious intentions harm one another.

Many countries worldwide have effectively addressed gun violence. Yet, despite the thousands of lives lost in the United States, only about half of U.S. adults support stricter gun laws, as per a recent Pew survey, and political reform remains at a standstill. The cycle of violence seems tragically destined to continue. In these circumstances, how can the United States expect

peace and civility from others? **Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee** | Faridabad

Loco pilots deserve better

THE EDITOR



t 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 alert-

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 convenor among them and resolving seat-sharing matters are essential steps that remain to be taken.

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FIRST COLUMN

MILLET-BASED SWEETS: TASTE WITH HEALTH

Opt for millet-based sweets instead of khoya sweets and feel the difference



here 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 Pithishakaris 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 soanpapdi or millet ladoo or barfi, ragi flax crackers and many morecontain 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 musttry 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



he 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 APP 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

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



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 Ñanak 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 vernments nave 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 marketdriven 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 mis-nomer, 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

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

he 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 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 signifitransformations. Technological advancements and changing media land-scapes 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 newspersons to research the events, people, and everything **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 pre-

sent information more effec-

tively. 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

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 iournalist. 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 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

data collection, storage, and

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 datainvestigations. driven 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.

US fighter jets strike Iran-linked sites in Syria

U^S fighter jets launched airstrikes early Friday on two locations in eastern Śyria linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Pentagon said, in retaliation for a slew of drone and missile attacks against US bases and personnel in the region that began early last week.

The US strikes reflect the Biden administration's determination to maintain a delicate balance.

The US wants to hit Iranian-backed groups suspected of targeting the US as strongly as possible to deter future aggression, possibly fuelled by Israel's war against Hamas, while also working to avoid inflaming the region and provoking a wider conflict.

According to a senior US military official, the precision strikes were carried out near Boukamal by two F-16 fighter jets, and they struck weapons and ammunition storage areas that were connected to the

The official said there had been Iranian-aligned militia

base and no civilians, but the US does not have any information yet on casualties or an

assessment of damage.
The official would not say how many munitions were launched by the F-16s. A senior defence official

said the sites were chosen because the IRGC stores the types of munitions there that were used in the strikes against US bases and troops.
The two officials briefed

reporters after the strikes on condition of anonymity to provide details on the mission that had not yet been made

According to the Pentagon, there have now been at least 19 attacks on US bases and personnel in Iraq and Syria since October 17, including three new ones Thursday.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said 21 US personnel were injured in two of those assaults that used drones to target al-Asad Airbase in Iraq and Tanf Garrison in Syria.

In a statement, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the "precision self-defense strikes

ongoing and mostly unsuccessful attacks against US personnel in Iraq and Syria by Iranian-backed militia groups that began on October 17.

He said President Joe Biden directed the narrowly tailored strikes "to make clear that the United States will not tolerate such attacks and will defend itself, its personnel, and its interests."

And he added that the operation was separate and distinct from Israel's war against

The senior defense official told reporters that the F-16 airstrikes will have a significant impact on the ability of Iranian proxy groups to continue to attack US forces.

Asked what groups were targeted, the official said there are several that can have different names, but the US holds Tehran responsible for funding, arming, equipping and directing the proxies.

The official said the airstrikes were not designed to expand the conflict in the region, but to compel Iran to direct the militia groups to bases and personnel.

The Biden administration has not accused Iran of having a direct role in the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel and has said it appears so far that Tehran was not aware of it beforehand.

But the US has noted that Iran has long supported Hamas and has raised concerns that Iran and its proxies could turn the conflict into a wider war.

Austin said the US does not seek a broader conflict, but if Iranian proxy groups continue, the US won't hesitate to take additional action to protect its forces.

According to the Pentagon, all the US personnel hurt in the militant attacks received minor injuries and all returned to duty. In addition, a contractor suffered a cardiac arrest and died while seeking shelter from a possible drone

The retaliatory strikes came as no surprise. Officials at the Pentagon and the White House have made it clear for the past week that the US would respond, with Ryder saying again Thursday that it would be "at the time and place

"I think we've been crystal clear that we maintain the inherent right of defending our troops and we will take all necessary measures to protect our forces and our interests overseas," he told reporters during a Pentagon briefing earlier in the day.

Biden said Wednesday that

he had warned Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, that if Tehran continues to "move against" US forces in the Middle East, "we will respond.

The latest spate of strikes by the Iranian-linked groups came in the wake of a deadly explosion at a Gaza hospital, triggering protests in a number Muslim nations. The Israeli military has

relentlessly attacked Gaza in retaliation for the devastating Hamas rampage in southern Israel nearly three weeks ago, but Israel has denied responsibility for the al-Ahli hospital blast and the US has said its intelligence assessment found that Tel Aviv was not to blame.

The US, including the Pentagon, has repeatedly said any strike response by America would be directly tied to the attacks on the troops, and not connected to the war between Israel and Hamas.

Such retaliation and strikes against Iranian targets in Syria after similar attacks on US bases are routine.

In March, for example, the US struck sites in Syria used by groups affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guard after an Iranian-linked attack killed a US contractor and wounded seven other Americans in northeast Syria.

American F-15 fighter jets flying out of al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar struck several locations around Deir el-Zour.

US officials have routinely stressed that the American response is designed to be proportional, and is aimed at deterring strikes against US personnel who are focused on the fight against the Islamic State group.
US officials have not pub-

licly tied the recent string of attacks in Syria and Iraq to the violence in Gaza, but Iranian the US for providing weapons to Israel that have been used to strike Gaza, resulting in civilian death.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, has beefed up air defences in the region to protect US forces. The US has said it is sending several batteries of Patriot missile systems, a Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) battery and addi-

tional fighter jets.
The THAAD is being sent from Fort Bliss, Texas, and the Patriot batteries are from Fort Liberty in North Carolina and Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

An Avenger air defence system from Fort Liberty is also being sent.

Officials have said as much as two battalions of Patriots are being deployed. A battalion can include at least three Patriot batteries, which each have six to eight launchers.

Ryder said Thursday that about 900 troops have deployed or are in the process of going to the Middle East region, including those associated with the air defence sys-

S Korean, **US** forces stage drills

Seoul (AP): South Korean and US troops have been conducting live-fire exercises this week to hone their ability to respond to potential "Hamas-style surprise artillery attacks" by North Korea, South Korea's military said Friday.

The two forces regularly conduct live-fire and other training, but this week's drills come after Hamas' Oct. 7 assault on Israel raised security jitters in South Korea, which shares the world's most heavily fortified border with rival North Korea.

Experts say the North's forward-deployed long-range artillery guns can fire about 16,000 rounds per hour in the event of a conflict, posing a serious threat to Seoul, which is about 40-50 kilometers (25-30 miles) from the border.

The three-day firing exercises, which began Wednesday, involved 5,400 South Korean and US soldiers, 300 artillery systems, 1,000 vehicles and air force assets, according to South Korea's military.

Pope orders Vatican to reopen case of priest accused of adult abuse

Rome (AP): Pope Francis has ordered the Vatican to reopen the case of a well-known priestartist accused of sexually, psychologically and spiritually abusing adult women, and removed the statute of limitations on their claims, the Vatican said Friday.

The announcement marked a major turnaround for the Holy See and followed an outcry among victims and their advocates over the handling of the case of the Rev. Marko Ivan Rupnik, a former Jesuit whose mosaics grace churches and basilicas around the world.

The scandal has been a headache for the Jesuits, the Vatican and Francis himself due to suspicions that Rupnik received favourable treatment from the Holy See, where a Jesuit is pope and other Jesuits head the sex crimes office that investigated Rupnik and declined to prosecute him because the claims against him were deemed too old.

A Vatican statement said Francis' abuse prevention commission had flagged "serious was handled initially, particularly in the "lack of outreach to vic

That terminology was significant because church authorities previously refused to even consider women with claims against Rupnik as "victims."

Francis asked the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, which handles abuse related crimes according to church law, "to review the case and decided to lift the statute of limitations to allow a process (trial) to take place," the statement said. Rupnik, a Slovene priest, was declared excommunicated by the Vatican in May 2020 for one of the most serious crimes in the Catholic Church's legal code: using the confessional to absolve a woman with whom he had engaged in sexual activity. But when nine more claims against him were presented to the Vatican a year later, dating from 30 years ago, the sex crimes office refused to waive the statute of limitations against

'About 30 children were taken hostage by Hamas militants'

AP ■ LONDON

Abigail Edan is just 3 years old, yet when Hamas militants stormed her kibbutz, Kfar Azza, on October 7 and killed her parents, she knew enough to run to a neighbour's for shelter. The Brodutch fam-— mother Hagar and her three children — took Abigail in as the rampage raged. Then all five disappeared, later confirmed by the government to be captives of Hamas, both families said, some of more than 200 people dragged to Gaza on Israel's bloodiest day.

The waking nightmare has plunged the families of the captives into a foggy limbo distinct from grieving, even as tight-knit Israel mourns the more than 1,400 people killed by militants. The families of an estimated 30 children taken hostage from Israel describe a more exquisite agony, one of being haunted by the knowledge that their captive loved ones are defenceless. "She's a baby, just 3 years old, and she's

Brussels (AP): As distant as

the prospect of peace might

seem, European Union leaders

believe it is time to start laying

the foundations for a future

relationship between Israel

and the Palestinians where the

militant group Hamas does not

control Gaza.Mindful that

resentment and even conflict

in the wider Middle East and

Gulf regions have been fuelled

by decades of tensions between

Israel and the Palestinians, the

27-nation bloc has begun

exploring ways to realise a long-held EU ideal — two

states living peacefully side by

toll climbed beyond 7,000 and

Israel carried out airstrikes on

Friday in response to the

bloody Hamas incursion into

southern Israel, EU leaders

meeting in Brussels for a sec-

ond day encouraged broader

diplomatic and security initia-

tives to stop the conflict from

spreading, and ultimately from ever starting again. "The his-

As the Palestinian death

EU plans for peace

all alone," said Abigail's aunt, Tal Edan, in a telephone interview, her voice quivering. "Maybe she was with a neighbour, but I don't know if they're still together. She has no one."

Children in both Israel and Gaza have taken an outsized share of the toll from the Hamas massacre and the intensifying Israeli bombardment of the tiny enclave, a gutting undercurrent among the Nearly half of Gaza's 2.3

million people are children. The Hamas-run Health Ministry reported Thursday that the total death toll has soared past 7,000 Palestinians, including 2,913 minors. More than 800 children in Gaza remain missing. Taking civilians hostage is

a war crime under the Geneva Conventions. But taking children hostage in a war is almost never done, said Danielle Gilbert, assistant professor of political science Northwestern University, who has interviewed hundreds of

tory of this conflict didn't

begin with the attacks on

October 7 and won't end with

Prime Minister Leo Varadkar

years of conflict between Israel

and the Arabs, wars, terrorist

attacks, huge instability. This

won't end because of a military

Alexander De Croo said that "a

pure security policy and a

pure security solution is part of

the reason (this conflict) has

happened. So at some point a

political dialogue needs to

trade leverage, the 27-nation

bloc has no obvious security

defend itself against Hamas,

which killed more than 1,400

people in Israel. Hamas is

holding at least 229 captives

inside Gaza, including dozens

of EU citizens.

role to play in the conflict.

Apart from its aid and

It backs Israel's right to

Belgian Prime Minister

solution. It can't."

land war in Gaza," Irish

"It's very, very clear: 75

captors and hostages in different countries. The reasoning is brutal: Abductors see value in live hostages, typically men ages 18 to 65. Children are less likely to survive the ordeal. "Holding onto someone vulnerable and not predisposed to surviving in those conditions will make the kidnappers' job

more difficult," Gilbert said. "It

remains to be seen whether

Hamas intended to take this

wide a range of hostages." The families of the Israeli children being held describe lurching along a spectrum of emotions, from hope to despair and anger, with sleep elusive and distraction from worstcase thoughts welcome. Many are spending the time speaking to the media in a frantic drive for information, proof of life, and their loved ones' return.

Roy and Smadar Edan were buried October 20, which began the traditional, sevenday Jewish mourning period. But there's no precise ritual for children who are held hostage

US expands its effort to cut off Hamas funding

London (AP): The United States on Friday expanded its effort to cut off funding for Hamas, announcing a second round of sanctions against people and organisations linked to the group since it launched an attack on Israel that killed more than 1,400 people.

The new sanctions highlight Iran's role in providing financial, logistical and operational support to Hamas, the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control said in a statement. They include a Hamas representative in Iran and members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard. The sanctions were announced as Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adevemo travelled to London to shore up support from Britain for the drive to squeeze off funding for Hamas.



Palestinians look for survivors after an Israeli airstrike in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Thursday.

Massive search underway for Maine mass killing suspect

AP ■ LEWISTON (US)

Shocked and fearful Maine residents kept to their homes for a second night as police and FBI agents searched intensely for Robert Card, an Army reservist authorities say fatally shot 18 people at a bowling alley and a bar in the worst mass killing in state history. Much of Thursday's search focused on a property belonging to one of Card's relatives in rural Bowdoin, where trucks and vans full of armed agents from the FBI and other agencies eventually surrounded a home. Card and anyone else inside were repeatedly

ordered to surrender. "You need to come outside now with nothing in your hands. Your hands in the air," police said through a loudspeaker. In most instances when police execute warrants even for suspects wanted for violent crimes — they move quickly to enter the home.

But hours later, after repeated announcements and a search, authorities moved off and it was still unclear whether Card had ever been at the location, state police said.

Richard Goddard, who lives on the road where the search took place, knows the Card family. Robert Card, who is four years younger, knows the terrain buildings, while Canada Border his stomping ground. He grew up here," he said. "He knows every ledge to hide behind, every thicket."

Several homes were being searched and every lead pursued in the hunt for Card, a 40year-old with firearms instructor training. Authorities said he should be considered armed and dangerous and not approached. Card is suspected of open-

ing fire with at least one rifle at a bar and a bowling alley Wednesday in Lewiston, which is about 15 miles (24 kilometres) from Bowdoin and is Maine's second-largest city.

The evening shootings killed 18 people and wounded 13 others, with three people still hospitalised in critical condition, authorities said.

Authorities haven't said how many guns were used or how they were obtained.

Schools, doctor's offices and grocery stores closed and people stayed behind locked doors in cities as far as 50 miles Maine's largest city, Portland, closed its public ency issued an "armed and dangerous" alert to

of the shootings.

US border.

(80 kilometres) from the scenes

Streets in Lewiston and surrounding communities were virtually deserted late Thursday

its officers stationed along the

The occasional truck or police patrol would drive through neighbourhoods dotted with illuminated giant pumpkins and ghosts for Halloween. Schools in Lewiston were to remain closed Friday, while those in Portland would decide in the morning whether to open.

Bates College in Lewiston also cancelled classes Friday and postponed the inaugura-tion of the school's first Black president.

April Stevens lives in the same neighbourhood where one of the shootings took place. She turned on all her lights overnight and locked her doors. She knew someone killed at the bar and another person injured who needed

Malaysia picks powerful ruler of Johor state as new king

AP ■ KUALALUMPUR

Malaysia's royal families have elected the powerful and wealthy ruler of southern Johor state as the country's new king under a unique rotating monarchy system, the palace said Fridav.

Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, 64, will ascend to the throne on Jan. 31 for a five-year term. the palace said in a statement. His election had been widely expected, as the ruler of Johor state bordering Singapore was next in line based on a rotation order established among the country's nine state rulers.He succeeds incumbent Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah of central Pahang, who



presided over a tumultuous period that included COVID-19 lockdowns and political instability that has seen four prime ministers since 2018

general elections. Nine ethnic Malay state

rulers take turns serving as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the world's only such system, which has been maintained since the country's independence from Britain in 1957. Known as the Yang Di-

Pertuan Agong, or He Who is Made Lord, Malaysia's king plays a largely ceremonial role. since administrative power is vested in the prime minister and Parliament. But the monarch is highly regarded as the guardian of Islam and Malay tradition, particularly among the ethnic Malay Muslim majority.

Despite the ceremonial nature of the post, the king has become more active in politics

'Senior Iranian envoy meets Hamas representatives Moscow (AP): A senior Iranian

envoy met with Hamas representatives in Moscow following talks with Russian diplomats that underscored Moscow's efforts to expand its clout as a power broker in the latest Israel-Hamas war, Russian and Iranian media said Friday.

During the meeting with Hamas' representative Moussa Abu Marzouk, Iran's deputy foreign minister, Ali Bagheri Kani, emphasized the need for a cease-fire, lifting the blockade of the Gaza Strip and providing humanitarian assistance, according to a statement Friday by the Iranian Embassy in Moscow. The statement was carried by Russian state news agencies. İran's state-run IRNA news agency said Abu Marzouk told Bagheri Khani that he appreciated Iran's support for the Palestinian people.

Prior to the meeting, Abu Marzouk held talks Thursday with Russian diplomats. His Moscow visit drew strong condemnation by Israel. The Russian Foreign Ministry said they discussed the release of hostages in the Gaza Strip and the evacuation of foreigners.

The talks highlighted Russia's efforts to insert itself as a mediator in the wake of Hamas' deadly Oct. 7 incursion into southern Israel — even though it continues to be occupied with its war in Ukraine. At least 19 Russian citizens have died in the Israel-Hamas war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared earlier this month that Moscow could act as mediator because of its friendly ties with both Israel and the Palestinians, adding that "no one could suspect us of playing up to one party." Despite that claim of even-handedness, a UN Security Council resolution that Russia previously submitted condemning violence against civilians made no mention of

Jashn-e-Rekhta goes global with first Urdu fest in London

PTI ■ LONDON

Tashn-e-Rekhta, one of the world's largest Urdu language, literary and cultural festivals, being held annually in New Delhi for eight years, will make its international debut here on Saturday.The day-long "Jashn-e-Rekhta London" will be held at Westminster Chapel and include sessions and performances representing the socio-cultural matrix of Urdu in the UK.

It will bring together artists, dancers, scholars and poets from India, Pakistan and the UK through musical performances, eclectic discussions, theatre, Dastangoi storytelling, dance and mushaira. "Jashn-e-Rekhta London is a celebration of the

global presence and prominence of Urdu outside the subcontinent," said Huma Khalil, Trustee of Rekhta Foundation UK - the organiser of the London event.

"We have tried to present a microcosm of our shared zubaan o adab in the heart of England and the programming keeps in mind the presence of South Asian communities residing in the UK. We are thrilled at the overwhelming response to the festival. The abundance of love for their language and culture in the hearts of people living so far from their roots is truly heartwarming," said the author, translator and film-

Rekhta Foundation India was launched in 2012 to preserve and promote Urdu literamassed a growing treasure of Urdu poetry, prose and ebooks. The foundation's focus is

on promoting diversity, inclusiveness, harmony and aware-"Long the lingua franca of

the Indian subcontinent, Urdu is one of its most elegant and expressive languages," said Sanjiv Saraf, Founder of Rekhta Foundation.

"It has a significant presence in the UK with the presence of a vibrant South Asian diaspora, enriching the cultural tapestry here. On a global level, a festival of this nature contributes to a wider appreciation of Urdu as a language of refinement and tehzeeb, a language that fosters a sense of belonging, integration and

of Urdu literature, is followed identity, connecting us with our roots, especially among those at a distance from their homelands," he said. Given its sell-out debut

this weekend, the foundation

plans a larger venue for its next Jashn-e-Rekhta London outing. The programme includes topics such as Urdu aesthetics in the audio-visual media, a Rajasthani folk tale Dastangoi by Mahmood Farooqui and Darain Shahidi,

a play written and directed by Iuhi Babbar Soni and a dance odyssey on Noor Jehan's life, concluding with an orchestral In England, Urdu is listed as the fourth main language and ranked third in the top 10 most spoken languages in

London. Rekhta.Org, among

the world's largest repositories

by nearly 226,000 people in the UK - with 84,000 followers in the city of London It led to the creation of

Rekhta Foundation UK as a registered charity with an aim to preserve and promote the languages, literature and culture of South Asia, with a particular focus on Urdu. The foundation says it is working towards engaging

renowned academics and cultural leaders in Urdu from across the world to spread awareness among the diaspo-The inaugural London fes-

tival has been backed by UKbased patrons and Indian-origin industrialists, besides a group of Urdu experts making up Team Rekhta UK.

Former Chinese Premier passes away months after retirement

 $F^{\text{ormer Chinese Premier Li}}_{\text{Keqiang, an acclaimed}}$ 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.

He was in the east Chinese metropolis for "rest" after retiring from active politics in March this year, the state media reported. He was a contender against Xi to head the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) but later settled for the number two position as Premier from March 2013 to

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."

In his early years as Premier, Li was associated with managing China's policy towards India.

Soon after he took over as Premier, Li chose New Delhi as his first visit abroad to show the significance China attached to its relations with India while Xi visited Russia.

The proposal for Li's visit came as a surprise to Indian officials as it is very much unlike the protocol-conscious Chinese political setup and it

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to visit Beijing to reciprocate the visit of the former Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao's tour to India in December 2011. Singh later made an official trip to Beijing in 2013.

However, China's complex India policy came under the purview of Xi in the subsequent years as he took direct charge of foreign policy leaving Li to manage the economy which was in a slowdown mode. Li was an acclaimed economist and managed the 'new normal" of economic slowdown after decades of high growth experienced by the world's second-largest econo-

He had an uneasy relationship with Xi, who as the President steadily consolidated



Former Chinese Premier Li Kegiano

his hold on power, emerging as the most powerful Chinese leader after party founder Mao

"This is my last year as a

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

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. "While the average percapita annual income in China is 30,000 yuan ((USD 4,193) there are over 600 million people whose monthly income is barely 1,000 yuan, not enough to rent a room in Chinese cities," Li said.

Li, a protege of former Chinese President Hu Jintao was known for his modest and simple style compared to Xi kept a distance from the President. However, like the rest of the CPC leaders routinely endorsed the steady rise of Xi as the "paramount leader" of 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 disregarding the twoterm norm. Hu groomed Li, leader

of the Youth League for various leadership positions including as Vice Premier but endorsed Xi, then then Vice-President, as his successor in 2012 much to the surprise of other party leaders and observers. After assuming power, Xi dissolved the Youth League, an influen-

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 wide-spread 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.

Li took coordinated moves to keep economic growth stable, carry out reforms, promote structural adjustment, improve people's livelihood, prevent risk, and maintain stability.

Imran pleas for bail, FIR cancellation rejected

n a major blow to Imran In a major blow.

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.

Khan, 71, was arrested in August after a case was filed against him for disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington in March last year. A special court in Pakistan on Monday indicted him along with his close ally ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the case.

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, had approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) with the pleas for bail in the case as well as against the FIR which was registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in August.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq after the conclusion of the hearing had reserved judgment on October 16 which he announced on Friday.

The written verdict issued by the court declared both petitions as "without merit" and were "accordingly dismissed", the Dawn newspaper

reported. "It is clarified that any observations, made herein**CIPHER CASE**



and shall not prejudice learned trial court during the trial," the judgement emphasised.

On the matter of the plea seeking dismissal of the case, it stated that the petitioner had the "efficacious and alternate remedy by way of moving an appropriate application" under section 249-A (power of magistrate to acquit accused at any stage) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"Moreover, the petitioner is co-accused in the case and even if the arguments advanced for quashing of FIR on his behalf are accepted, FIR cannot be quashed in as much as there are order.

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

Noting that the punishment for the offence committed under section 5(1)(a) (wrongful communication, etc of information) of the Official Secrets Act was "death or imprisonment up to fourteen years", the IHC said it attracted the prohibitory clause of section 497 (when bail may be taken in case of non-bailable offence) and "there does not exist any ground for further

"The case law cited by the petitioner for grant of bail in the facts and circumstances is not relevant in as much as undoubtedly the evidence is all documentary but according to the prosecution, the copy of cipher is still in the custody of the petitioner and [...] where allegations are serious and prima facie link the accused with the commission of the offence, bail is to be denied in case of Official Secrets Act, 1923," according to the court

Pak poll body mulls Jan 28 as date for general elections

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. The ECP is set to apprise the apex court after the top court sought the Commission's response in the case of timely elections, it said.

The development comes a day after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said in a statement sought to assure that there was no question of postponing the general election expected to be held in the last week of January 2024 as was announced last month.

The ECP statement was prompted by President Arif Alvi expressing doubts over the timing of the polls in the cashstrapped nation. In an interview with a news channel, Alvi said he did not see polls taking place

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."

Incidentally, before being appointed as Pakistan's President, Alvi was a founding member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), formed by the jailed former prime minister Imran Khan.

The ECP has earlier stated that the elections would be held in the last week of January but refused to give an exact date despite demands from political parties. The 90-day limit of holding elections after the dissolution of the National Assembly is set to expire on November 7, which the ECP decided to ignore to carry out a delimitation exercise in the light of the new census held countrywide in March and April of this

'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.

"We are concerned this ilot was unaware of how close ĥe came to causing a collision," the military said. China's Foreign Ministry put the blame on the US, suggesting the American aircraft was flying over the South China Sea as a deliberate provocation.

"The US military planes travelled thousands of miles to China's doorstep to flex muscle," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning.

"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 demanded Washington end such flights over the South China Sea. China has been increasing-

assertive in advancing its claims on most of the South China Sea as its territorial waters, a position rejected by the US and other countries that use the vast expanse of ocean for shipping. China's claims have led to longstanding territorial disputes with other countries in the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest trade routes. A Chinese coast guard ship and an accompanying vessel last week rammed a

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 obligated 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. The US and its allies regu-

larly conduct maritime maneuvers in the South China Sea, and also routinely fly aircraft over the area to emphasize that the waters and airspace are international.

Kin of Ukrainian soldiers seek cap on military service time

Ccores 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 vear. The 18-month service limit would be the same maximum as before the war. It is currently open-ended for draftees. The protesters, who are part of a loose national network, want the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, to

PTI ■ LONDON

in London.

gem-set and enamelled

Asword, 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

and Indian World sale on

Thursday also had a more intricately designed sword

belonging to the legendary

ruler up for auction but it failed to fetch bids within the

asking price of GBP 1,500,000-

2,000,000 and remained

unsold. However, the buyers'

names were kept confidential.

The set of swords, previously

unrecorded, come from the

collection of Charles, the 1st

Marquess and 2nd Earl

Cornwallis, a central figure in

The Art of the Islamic

consider possible alternatives

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."

at least six other cities. Ukraine ordered a general mobilisation of the male population between

Gem-set, enamelled Tipu Sultan sword

sells for GBP 100,800 at auction in UK

authority in India after the

death of Tipu Sultan at the fall

(Srirangapatna) in 1799. The

proceeds from the auction of the swords are intended for

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

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

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.

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

Protesters also gathered in orders and threatening entire units with death if they retreat from Ukrainian artillery fire.

the consolidation of British Port Eliot Estate.

Seringapatam

repairs to the

family's Port

Eliot Estate

in Cornwall,

south-west

England. "These

swords pre-

v i o u s l y belonged to

Tipu Sultan

and have

NAGAR NIGAM DEHRADUN Telephone: 0135-2714074, Website: www.nagarnigamdehradun.com Email: nagarnigam.ddn@gmail.com

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 invites Request for Proposal (RFP) For Scientific Dumpsite Remediation of Legacy Waste and Land Reclamation through Bio-mining, Resource Recovery and Rejects Disposal at Danda Lakhaund site, Dehradun from eligible bidders having experience as indicated in the RFP document. Interested bidders are requested to procure the RFP document up to 21-11-2023 from e-tenders portal of government of Uttarakhand. Pre-bid meeting is scheduled at 12:30 pm on 07-11-2023. Any Addendum/Corrigendum including date of extension will be uploaded only on www.uktenders.gov.in. The Municipal Commissioner have right to cancel tender at any stage without giving any reason. The last date for online submission of bids is 22-11-2023 at 3:00PM. Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Dehradun

नि

NAGAR NIGAM DEHRADUN

Telephone: 0135-2714074, Website: www.nagarnigamdehradun.com Email: nagarnigam.ddn@gmail.com



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

Nagar Nigam Dehradun invites Request for Proposal (RFP) For For Supply, Delivery and Commissioning of two (02) Nos. of New Mechanical Road Sweeper Machines with 5 years comprehensive Operation and Maintenance (further extendable for 2 years) under SBM-U/NCAP in Dehradun from eligible bidders having experience as indicated in the RFP document. Interested bidders are requested to procure the RFP document up to 23-11-2023 from e-tenders portal of government of Uttarakhand. Pre-bid meeting is scheduled at 12:30 pm on 10-11-2023. Any Addendum/Corrigendum including date of extension will be uploaded only on www.uktenders.gov.in. The Municipal Commissioner have right to cancel tender at any stage without giving any reason. The last date for online submission of bids is 24-11-2023 at 3:00PM.

Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Dehradun No 559 Date: 27.10.2023

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering) Name of work with its SSDAC of Medha make for three years. App. Cost of the work Rs. 21,44,815.20/-only Rs. 42,900/- only Bid Security Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office New Delhi-110055. Address of the office Tender uploading 26.10.2023 /closing date & time 17.11.2023 up to 15.00 hrs. Date & Time for upload the See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, complete details of the tender | State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

This is to inform the general public that Bank of Baroda, Maurya Enclave New Delh Branch intends to accept the undermentioned property standing in the name of Mr. laryana- 121007. Aadhar no-535055923850 as a security for a loan/ Credit facility

equested by one of its customers. n case anyone as any right / title/ interest / claims over the underment property, they are advised to approach the Bank within 10 days along with necessary proof to substantiate their claim.

no response is received within 10 days, it is presumed that the property is free any charge / claim / encumbrance and Bank shall proceed with the mortgage.

Details of Property: Commercial property/Plot No- EBD-65-B-02,measuring 172.50 oq mtrs,Block B,situated at Emaar Business District-65, within the revenue estate o of Village Badshahpur, Sector-65, Badshahpur, Dist-Gurugram (Haryana).

At or Toward NORTH: Plot no B-01 At or Toward SOUTH: Plot no B-03 At or Toward WEST: Rear Passage

Loan account name- M/s Sunshine Powertech Branch details- Maurya Enclave, KP-8, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034



S/d. Sh. Pratyush Parimal (Advocate) D425, basement, Defence colony, New Delhi. Ph:9971444643

CIN: L24302DL1985PLC383771

Website: www.jaschindustries.com, Email: accounts@jasch.biz

JASCH INDUSTRIES

Regd. Off.: 502, NDM-II, NSP, Pitampura, Delhi 110034

Extract of Reviewed Ind AS Financial Results for the Quarter and Six Months Ended on 30th September 2023.

(Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results under Regulation 47 (1)(B) of Listing Regulations)

(Sin Lakin)										
	Standalone							Consolidated		
SI	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Six Months Ended		Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Six Month Ended	Year Ended
No	1	30.09.23	30.06.23	30.09.22	30.09.23	30.09.22	31.03.23	30.09.23	30.09.23	31.03.22
!	<u> </u>	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations.	6052.99	5653.55	6102.40	11706.54	12301.42	23694.82	6052.99	11706.54	23694.82
2	Profit before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes (EBITDA)		1044.06	639.97	1846.14	1452.54	3110.13	801.18	1845.18	
3	Net Profit for the Period (before Tax & Exceptional Items)	684.98	930.77	545.37	1615.75	1266.22	2702.49	684.08	1614.79	2702.00
	Net Profit for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	684.02	930.77	540.20	1614.79	1261.06	2697.26	683.12	1613.83	2696.77
	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	507.71	692.81	409.11	1200.52	942.35	1994.60	506.81	. 1199.56	1994.11
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [(Comprising Profit) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]		692.81	409.11	1200.52	942.35	1994.60	506.81	. 1199.56	1994.11
7	Equity Share Capital	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00
8	Reserves	11064.16	10548.46	8785.60	11064.16	8785.60	9855.64	11062.71	11062.71	9855.15
	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each) Basic & Diluted:	4.48	6.11	3.61	10.60	8.32	17.60	4.47	10.59	17.60
Notes:										

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and half yearly financial results filed with BSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid results is available on the website of the BSE i.e. www.bseindia.com and also on the website of the Company i.e. www.jaschindustries.com.

2. The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)

Sonipat, 27.10.2023

3. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

(J. K. GARG) DIRECTOR

Sensex, Nifty rebound over 1 per cent after six sessions of losses

quity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty on Friday reversed their six-session losing streak and rebounded more than 1 per cent on value buying in auto, IT, financial and energy stocks.

Better than expected quarterly financial results of corporates also boosted investor sentiments even as uncertainties persisted over the escalating tensions in the Middle East, according to analysts.

In a largely range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 634.65 points or 1.01 per cent to settle at 63,782.80 points. During the session, it swung between a high of 63,913.13 points and a low of 63,393.37 points.

Likewise, the wider gauge Nifty surged 202.45 points or 1.07 per cent to 19,059.70 points. "The domestic market recovered

PM releases

stamp in honour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday released a

special postal stamp in honour

of industrialist and philan-thropist late Arvind Bhai

Mafatlal and said he estab-

lished the country's first petro-

Modi said Mafatlal was a down

to earth man who selflessly

worked for the welfare of the

poor. "Arvind Bhai Mafatlal

opened the country's first

petrochemical complex. His

work in the farming sector and

for uplift of the poor was praiseworthy," the PM said

while addressing a function in

Chitrakoot organised to mark the centenary birth year celebrations of the late businessman. Modi said one day he

met Mafatlal when the latter was working in drought-hit tribal belt of Bhiloda and

Dahod in Gujarat and was impressed by his devotion to

the welfare of common people.

"That day Arvind Bhai spent

the entire day working for the welfare of drought-hit people.

Paytm inks

pact with

of industrialist

Mafatlal

PTI ■ CHITRAKOOT

chemical complex.

well compared to yesterday's sharp corrections, due to restrained FII selling along with moderation in currency and global bond yield volatility.

To date, the Q2 results outcome

The Central Board of

The Central Board
Directors of the Reserve

Bank of India on Friday

reviewed economic and finan-

cial developments, including

challenges posed by the evolv-

The 604th meeting of the board

was held in Rishikesh under

the Chairmanship of RBI

The board reviewed global and

domestic economic and finan-

cial developments, including

challenges posed by the evolv-

ing geopolitical conflicts, the

central bank said in a state-

cent from Rs 20,803 crore in

the year-ago quarter, the com-

pany said in filing to stock

It further said Bajaj Finance

Limited (BFL) recorded a

India's forex reserves declined by USD 2.36 billion to USD

583.53 billion during the week

ended October 20, according to the Reserve Bank of India data.

In the previous reporting week,

exchanges.

PTI MUMBAI

Governor Shaktikanta Das.

ing geopolitical conflicts.

RBI central board

reviews economic,

financial developments

are at the cusp of earnings downgrade in anticipation of a further slowdown in the world economy due to elevated interest rates and geopolitical risk,' Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Asian Paints, Ultratech Cement and ITC were the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge gained 1.70 per cent and the smallcap index rose 1.89 per cent. All the sectoral indices ended in

the green, utility gained 2.22 per cent, power jumped 2.04 per cent, services (1.79 per cent), industrial (1.63 per cent), realty (1.63 per cent) and IT (1.36 per cent).

In six trading sessions till October 26, Sensex had declined 3,279.94 points.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended with significant gains on Friday. European markets were trading

on a mixed note. The US equity indices ended in negative territory on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude rose 2.50 per cent to

The RBI said products of the

entities which completed the

'Test Phase' were evaluated

based on mutually agreed test

scenarios and expected out-

Products of FinAGG

Technologies Private Limited,

Mynd Solutions Private

Limited, Rupifi Technology

Solutions Private Limited,

Small Industries Development

Bank of India, and SysArc

Infomatix Private Limited have

as Wistron board OK's plan for sale of India unit to group

Tatas to make iPhone in India

Tata Group is all set to become the first Indian iPhone maker as Wistron's board has approved the plan for the sale of its India plant to the salt-to-software conglomerate.

In a statement, Wistron said the transaction price is tenta-tively estimated at USD 125 million.

"Wistron Corp held a Board of Directors meeting today and granted approval for its sub-sidiaries, SMS InfoComm (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Wistron Hong Kong Ltd to sign the Share Purchase Agreement with Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL) for the sale of its 100 per cent indirect stake in Wistron InfoComm Manufacturing (India) Pvt Ltd (WMMI), Wistron announced in the statement.

On confirmation and signing of relevant agreements by both sides, the deal will proceed to obtain necessary approvals.

"Following the completion of

ments and filings in accordance with applicable regulation," it noted.

The plant of Wistron is located near Bengaluru.

The announcement by Wistron was shared by Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar in a post on X (formerly Twitter). @TataCompanies will now

start making iPhones from India for domestic and global markets from India," Chandrasekhar said, congratulating the Tata team for taking over Wistron opera-

Thank you @Wistron for your contributions, and great going for Apple in building a global supply chain from India with Indian companies at its helm," Chandrasekhar said in the post.

The IT Ministry, he said, stands fully in support of the growth of global Indian electronics companies that will, in turn, support global electronic brands who want to make India their trusted manufacturing and talent partner.

Previous day close: 63,148.15 Change (+634.65 TOP GAINERS 2.27 Tata Motors

is decent, which is in line with the buoyant estimate. Yet, the market is not enthusiastic as we Axis Bank was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3.07

"The board also discussed the

functioning of various sub-

committees of the central

board, the ombudsman scheme

and activities of select central

office departments," it added.

Deputy governors Michael

Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar

Rao, T Rabi Sankar, and

Swaminathan J attended the

The other directors of the cen-

tral board -- Revathy Iyer,

Sachin Chaturvedi, Pankaj

Ramanbhai Patel and Ravindra

H Dholakia -- were also present

in the meeting.

Department of Economic

Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth

also participated the meeting.

Bajaj Finserv Q2 consolidated net

per cent, followed by HCL Tech, SBI, NTPC, Tata Motors, Nestle India, and Infosys

Previous day close: 18,857.25

TOP GAINERS

Shares of index heavyweight Reliance Industries witnessed heavy buying as it surged 1.75 per cent to close at Rs 2,265.25 apiece. The company will announce its quarterly financial

numbers after market hours. Maruti Suzuki India on Friday reported a whopping 80.3 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 3,716.5 crore in the July-September quarter driven by better sales, softening commodity prices, cost reduction efforts and higher non-operat-

Change +190.00

19,047.25

Five MSME lending products complete test phase under RBI's regulatory sandbox scheme from October 30 to November 30, 2023.

The Reserve Bank on Friday A said five products related to MSME lending have completed the test phase under its regulatory sandbox cohort and regulated entities may consider them for adoption. Regulatory sandbox usually

refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment, for which regulators may (or may not) permit certain relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.

Meanwhile, the central bank has also announced the fifth cohort under the regulatory sandbox scheme.

Innovative products, services

Net profit of its general insurance subsidiary stood at Rs

468 crore during the July-



various functions in RBI's regulatory domain are eligible to apply for the sandbox scheme, the central bank said. Applications may be submitted

completed the 'Test Phase'. The RBI had invited applications for the first cohort in November, 2019 and for the second cohort with theme of 'Cross Border Payments' in

Cipla profit rises 45 per cent to ₹1,156 crore, sales up 14.4 per cent to ₹6,590 crore in Q2

 $P_{\text{Ltd on Friday reported a}}^{\text{harmaceuticals firm Cipla}}$ 44.9 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 1,155.37 crore in the second quarter ended September 2023. Rs 797.41 crore in the July-

filing. Consolidated total revenue from the sale of products in the quarter under review stood at Rs 6,589.22 crore, up 14.41 per cent as against Rs 5,759.28 crore in the year-ago period. Its total expenses in the September quarter were 8.43 per cent higher at Rs 5,260.24

4.15 billion to USD 515.2 bil-

lion, according to the Weekly

Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the

foreign currency assets include

the effect of appreciation or

depreciation of non-US units

crore as compared to Rs 4,851.13 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, the company said. The total income of Cipla in

the September quarter was at Rs 6,854.47 crore, up 15.17 per

Cipla MD and Global CEO

Umang Vohra said the results reflect the "strength of our core business across key markets of India, North America and

"We reported our highest-ever quarterly revenue with EBIT-DA margins scaling up to 26 per cent. One-India business grew at a healthy 10 per cent YoY with continued market beating performance in the branded prescription and trade generics business," he said. Cipla said its India business

sales were up 10 per cent at Rs

2,817 crore in the first quarter health

corresponding quarter, a year ago. North America business posted a 31.8 per cent jump in sales at Rs 1,887 crore as compared to Rs 1,432 crore in the year-ago period. Revenue from the South Africa market was at Rs 620 crore, up 7 per cent, as compared to Rs 598 crore in the year-ago period.

programmes in **Indian cities**

Growth of career

New Delhi: The International Baccalaureate has seen a growing trend in adoption of the innovative career-related Programme globally.

now authorised to offer this programme. Interest spans across major cities such as Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwar,

and many others. Over the past two years, schools introducing the curriculum have seen a growth of more than 300 per cent. The IBCP Confluence was successfully staged by World Academy of Career

provides an opportunity for schools to gain deeper insights into the unique career programmes qualification and how its curriculum can empower both students and teachers to better prepare for Bannayan, Global Director of Business Development, IB.

One97 Communications, which owns the Paytm quarter of the fiscal, up 25 per

brand, on Friday announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Payment Services Limited (PPSL) has signed a pact with Startup Bihar to promote the state's startup ecosystem. Under the memorandum of

Startup Bihar

understanding (MoU), PPSL will help startups grow their businesses with the Paytm Startup Toolkit, which offers solutions in payments, payouts, banking, and distribution. Paytm Startup Toolkit will aid simplify, and accelerate business ventures of youth in their early stages of growth, One97 Communications Limited said in a release.

profit rises 24 per cent to ₹1,929 cr quarterly increase in the customer franchise of 3.58 mil- $B_{\text{reported consolidated net}}^{\text{ajaj Finserv Ltd on Friday}}$ lion and number of new loans booked at 8.53 million in the profit of Rs 1,929 crore for the

quarter ended September 30, The company's profit after tax profit after tax increased by 28 was at Rs 1,557 crore in the per cent, while its whollysecond quarter of the last owned subsidiary, BHFL, recorded growth of 47 per cent in profit after tax," the financial vear. Consolidated total income of Bajaj Finserv stood at Rs release said. 26,023 crore in the second

Further, BFL's deposit book crossed a milestone of Rs 50,000 crore in the quarter. Bajaj Finance, consolidated profit after tax was at Rs 3,551 crore, compared to Rs 2,781 crore in the year-ago quarter, up 28 per cent.

to USD 585.895 billion.

In October 2021, the country's

forex kitty reached an all-

time high of USD 645 billion.

central bank deployed the

Forex reserves decline by USD

the overall reserves had reserves to defend the rupee increased by USD 1.153 billion amid pressures caused major-

The reserves took a hit as the a major component of the

September quarter of 2023-24, as against Rs 336 crore in the second quarter of fiscal 2023comparable period last year. life insurance segment, the net new business value (NBV) was at Rs 237 crore, up 25 per cent year-on-year. It also said Finserv Asset Management received encouraging response to its mutual fund schemes launched in the quarter, with Assets Under Management (AUM) of Rs 5,235 crore on September 30, 2023. Bajaj Finserv's shares closed at Rs 1,566 a piece on BSE, up 0.45 per cent.

consolidated profit after tax of from pharmaceuticals was at across branded prescription, Rs 6,452.54 crore, and from trade generics and consumer September quarter last fiscal, new ventures at Rs 263.77 Cipla Ltd said in a regulatory This was Rs 2,563 crore in the

2.36 bn to USD 583.53 bn

like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange

1.85 billion to USD 45.42 billion during the week, the RBI

Gold reserves were up by USD

The Special Drawing Rights

reserves.

(SDRs) were down by USD 70 million to USD 17.93 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF increased by USD 6 million to USD 4.98 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank

Programmes (WACP). "Our collaboration with WACP the evolving demands of the future workforce," said Haif

BUSINESS BRIEF

SBI CARD Q2 NET PROFIT GROWS TO ₹ 603 CR

New Delhi: SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd (SBI Card) on Friday reported a 15 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 603 crore for the quarter ended September on higher income. The pure-play credit card company, promoted by the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI), had reported a net profit of Rs 526 crore in the

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES NET PROFIT JUMPS 27 PC IN Q2

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd on Friday reported a 27 per cent jump in its September quarter net profit as earnings from the oil and gas business rebounded, and revenue rose on the back of growth in fashion and lifestyle as well as grocery and e-commerce. Its net profit of Rs 17,394 crore, or Rs 25.71 per share, in July-September - the second quarter of the current 2023-24 fiscal - was 27.3 per cent higher than Rs 13,656 crore, or Rs 19.92 a share, earning a year back, according to a company's stock exchange filing

TATA POWER-DDL BAGS 'GOLD WINNER AWARD Kolkata: Tata Power Delhi

Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), a leading power utility supplying electricity to a populace of 7 million in North Delhi, has been conferred with the prestigious 'Gold Winner Award' in Power Sector



Category. The award was presented to Tata Power-DDL by Occupational Health and Safety Expert Committee of Indian Chamber of Commerce in an event at Kolkata

Ambani scions get shareholder nod for Reliance board position He had also stated that he vote against the proposal to

ly by global developments

For the week ended October

20, the foreign currency assets,

reserves, decreased by USD

since last year.

 $B^{illionaire\,Mukesh\,Ambani's}_{three\ children\ won\ approval\ of\ shareholders\ for}$ being part of the board of Reliance Industries Ltd, setting in motion a succession plan at India's most valuable company. While twins Akash and Isha, 32, got more than 98 per cent of the votes for a board seat, Anant, 28, whose appointment had been opposed by proxy advisory firms because of his young age, managed to get 92.7 per cent votes, according to a stock exchange filing of the company.

Company chairman Mukesh Ambani, 66, had at the company's annual shareholders meeting in August announced that his three children Akash, Isha and Anant would be inducted into Reliance's board of directors (BoD).

would continue to be the chairman and CEO of the company for five more years, with a focus on grooming and empowering its 'next-gen' leaders. Thereafter, Reliance sent out a postal ballot to shareholders seeking a nod for their appointment as board of directors of the company. The results of the shareholder vote were posted by Reliance on Friday. The filing showed Isha got 98.21 per cent votes in favour of her appointment and 1.78 per cent in against. Akash got 98.05 per cent votes in favour and 1.94 per cent in against. Anant got 92.75 per cent favourable votes but 41.58 crore or 7.24 per cent voted against

his appointment. Institutional Shareholder

Services Inc, an international

proxy advisory firm, had rec-

ommended that shareholders

pitched for a vote against Anant because of his little experience. Like ISS, Mumbai-based Institutional Investor Advisory Services, or IIAS, too stated that "at 28 years of age", appointment of the young Ambani scion "does not align with our voting guidelines". IIAS supported the proposals

appoint Ambani's youngest

son Anant on the board of the

The proxy advisory firm had

family-controlled Reliance.

seeking to elect Isha and Akash. Glass Lewis, another international proxy firm, voted in favour of Anant's appointment. The board appointments are a part of the succession planning by Ambani, who was appointed to the Reliance board in 1977 at the age of 20 and had to tackle a bitter fraternal feud after his father died without a

will in 2002.

Air India appoints at senior level; Klaus Goersch announced COO

PTI MUMBAI

Air India on Friday announced the appointment of Klaus Goersch as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, as well as various other senior level appointments.

In the newly-created position at the airline, Goersch will oversee flight operations, engineering, ground operations, Integrated Operations Control and cabin crew functions.

Air India said incumbent chief of operations R S Sandhu will transition to an advisory role. In a release, Air India said Sandhu's role includes focus on the harmonisation of the four Tata airlines' operating procedures, the Airbus A350 entryinto-service programme and assisting the team establishing

the carrier's new training acad-



he had served in similar positions in both British Airways and Air Canada. Air India has also announced

the appointment of Manish Uppal, who transitioned from AirAsia India a few months ago, as Senior Vice President for

flight operations. Besides, Henry Donohoe's corporate safety, security and quality role will be expanded to include emergency response. His title will be changed to Senior Vice President for safety,

According to the release, the inflight product and service design functions being headed by Sandeep Verma will move to Rajesh Dogra's Customer Experience portfolio so that the latter has oversight of all customer interfaces. Pankaj Handa will lead ground operations, Choorah Singh will

security and quality.

be Divisional Vice President Integrated Operations Control Centre and JuLi Ng will be Divisional Vice President for cabin crew. Goersch, Dogra and Donohoe will report directly to Air India

Managing Director and CEO Campbell Wilson. The existing management committee members Nipun Aggarwal, Satya Ramaswamy, Suresh Dutt Tripathi and Vinod Hejmadi, whose roles remain unchanged, will report to Wilson, it said.

Liverpool, Leverkusen, Roma keep perfect records in Europa League

iverpool took full control of its Liverpool took full control of its Europa League group by routing Toulouse 5-1 on Thursday as five different goal scorers helped the Merseyside club remain perfect after three games in the second-tier com-

Diogo Jota opened the scoring in the ninth minute when he beat several defenders before netting. Thijs Dallinga equalized seven minutes later through the legs of goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher, but it wouldn't

Wataru Endo headed in a Trent Alexander Arnold cross on the halfhour mark for his first goal in the Liverpool jersey, and Darwin Núñez added another four minutes later. Rvan Gravenberch scored in the 65th before substitute Mohamed Salad finished it off in stoppage time. The win at Anfield moved Liverpool

five points clear of Toulouse and Union Saint-Gilloise in Group E. Union Saint-Gilloise beat LASK 2-1. Roma also made it three wins from three with a 2-0 victory over Slavia Prague. The Italian club needed just 45 seconds to score at Stadio Olimpico when Stephan El Shaarawy set up Edoardo Bove to net from outside the

El Shaarawy then found Romelu Lukaku, who clinically finished with a left-footed one-timed shot into the roof of the net in the 17th. It was the Belgium forward's eighth goal in 10 games since joining Roma from Chelsea.

Roma leads Group G, with Slavia three points behind



Leverkusen remained perfect after Alejandro Grimaldo's two goals helped the Bundesliga leader ease past Qarabag 5-1 and lead Group H by three ahead of its Thursday opponent. In Greece, Olympiacos handed West Ham the first setback of its campaign

with a 2-1 victory. Lucas Paquetá volleyed home in the 87th minute but the Premier League club couldn't find an equalizer after captain Kostas Fortounis and Brazilian defender Rodinei scored before halftime in Greece.

Olympiacos snapped an 11-game winless run in the competition going back

Freiburg joined West Ham atop Group

A with six points after a 3-1 win at Serbia's TSC Backa Topola. Olympiacos is two points behind while TSC remains on one point.

In Group B, Brighton earned its firstever win in a European competition by beating Ajax 2-0. João Pedro scored three minutes before halftime and Ansu Fati sealed a 2-0 victory for the Seagulls early in the second. Brighton is playing in Europe for the first time in the club's 122-year history.

Dutch giant Ajax is off to its worst-ever start to a season, failing to win in its last nine games in all competitions. Amine Harit and Jordan Veretout both scored from the penalty spot in Marseille's 3-1 home win over 10-man AEK Athens in the first victory for the French club in the group's other

Vitinha — whom coach Gennaro Gattuso preferred to Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang - put the hosts in front in the first half. Orbelín Pineda equalized in the second before Harit and Veretout secured the win.

Marseille tops the standings with five points, with Brighton and AEK tailing v one.

Forward Luis Muriel's two goals helped Atalanta draw 2-2 at Sturm Graz and top Group D with seven points. Sporting got a 1-1 draw at Rakow in Poland

Rangers and Sparta played to a goal-

less draw in Prague to place two points behind Group C leader Real Betis, which won 1-0 at Aris Limassol. Molde routed Häcken 5-1 in Group H.

EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE
In the third-tier competition, Aston
Villa routed AZ Alkmaar 4-1 in the
Netherlands. Leon Bailey and Youri Tielemans scored in the first half, and Ollie Watkins and John McGinn netted after the break. İbrahim Sadiq had a consolation goal for the hosts. Villa also hammered West Ham in the

Premier League on Sunday. Lucas Beltran's two early goals inspired Fiorentina to a 6-0 win over 10-man Cukaricki from Serbia. Eintracht Frankfurt beat Finland's HJK by the

KÍ Klaksvík, the first team from the Faroe Islands to make the group stage of a European competition, recorded its first victory, 3-0 over Olimpija

KÍ is third in Group B with four points, with Lille in the lead on seven after a 2-1 home win over Slovan Bratislava, which is a point behind.

Another newcomer, Breidablik of Iceland, was routed 5-0 at Gent in Group B.

WAR'S IMPACT

Maccabi Haifa and Maccabi Tel Aviv had their Thursday games in the Europa League and the Europa Conference League, respectively, postponed for security reasons. Haifa's game at Villarreal has been pushed back to Dec. 6 and Tel Aviv's home game against Zorva Luhansk will now be held on Nov. 25 and must be moved to a new venue after UEFA decided that Israel can't host any European matches until further notice.



Alex misses penalty, US Settles for 0-0 draw with Colombia in exhibition

AP ■ UTAH (US)

Alex Morgan missed a penalty at the end of the first half and the United States settled for a scoreless draw with Colombia in an exhibition game on Thursday night.

Morgan's attempt in the 44th minute bounced back off the post and she tried to score off the rebound, but the ball sailed over the goal.

The game, played in chilly temperatures in the mid-30s, was the first of two matches against Colombia. The second is set for

Sunday in San Diego. "We knew Colombia was going to be a tough matchup," defender Emily Sonnett said. "We want to be more clinical in the final third. I think overall a good performance and there's definitely things to tighten up.

The United States will play just two more games this year, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Frisco, Texas, in early December. Both matches are against China.

Colombia, ranked No. 22 in the world, advanced to the quarterfinals at the Women's World Cup this past summer for the first time. Las Cafeteras were finally stopped by England 2-1. The United States was eliminated in the Round of 16 on penalties after a scoreless draw with Sweden, the earliest World Cup exit ever for the Americans. Soon after the disappointing finish, coach Vlatko Andonovski

stepped down. Since then, the Americans have been led by interim coach Twila Kilgore, who was an assistant under Andonovski. The United States, ranked No. 3, was expected to name a permanent head coach by the end of the year as the team prepares for the Paris Olympics next summer.

The game marked the return of defender Becky Sauerbrunn to the team after she missed the World Cup because of an injury. She started on the bench, but came in at the start of the sec-

Jennifer becomes 1st **Olympian from Texas**

AP SANTIAGO (CHILE)

The city of Laredo, Texas, has its first Olympian. Boxer Jennifer Lozano qualified for next year's Paris Ólympics on Thursday by reaching the final of the women's 50 kilogram weight class at the Pan American

The 20-year-old Lozano was dominant in the semifinal against Canada's Mckenzie Wright in Santiago, winning 5-0. After she received a mock ticket confirming her qualification for the Olympics, she pointed her right hand to the sky in an apparent tribute to her late grandmother, her biggest inspiration. her mother, Yadhira Rodríguez, in the stands, and both contin-

PTI ISLE OF MAN (UK)

Playing his trademark uncompromising chess, Grandmaster Arjun Erigaise

scored a thumping victory over

Anton Guijarro of Spain while

S L Narayanan did well to hold

GM Abdusattorov Nodirbek to

a draw in the second round of

Arjun, who has been losing pa-

ce towards the end, decided to

cross the minefield in top gear

as he went for unwarranted

complications right from the

beginning out of a Reti opening

game by Guijarrov who played

The game seemed evenly poised

but when it comes to complica-

tions Arjun has steely nerves.

FIDE Grand Swiss here



Laredo has about 230,000 residents and sits on the U.S. Border with Mexico. Lozano said in a recent in interview that her city, a mix of poor and better off, is 'very small, very closed-minded." and she wanted to overcome its machismo to thrive in sport. Next year, both sides of the city will be pulling for the boxer Troublemaker in Spanish). It will be a different scene compared

Chess: Arjun downs Guijarro; Narayanan

Sacrificing a pawn in the mid-dle game the Warangal-based caught his Spanish counterpart

completely off guard and a sim-

ple exchange sacrifice netted him another white piece in a

Guijarrov fought on for a long

time but the writing was on the

wall and Arjun wrapped it up

without giving a second chance.

After 40 moves it was an

inevitable checkmate that forced

Narayanan is someone people

talk about but his low profile has

not helped him claim much.

Kerala's strongest player finished

as the best Indian bagging the

third place in the Qatar masters

just before this event and it does-

n't look like he will stop here.

Guijarro's resignation.

couple of moves.

holds Nodirbek in Grand Swiss

with a few years ago, when she was bullied for being overweight and a Spanish-speaker. Boxing changed it all for the hardcore fan of boxing legend

Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"We are going to Paris, baby. La
Traviesa es de Laredo, Texas. We
are ready for all of the world, we
are going to the Olympics," a
tearful Lozano said in a mixture tearful Lozano said in a mixture of English and Spanish. "Being the first Olympian from Laredo means a lot to me.

She celebrated her Olympic berth with family members who traveled to Santiago to watch her compete. "I am very proud to be Mexican-American," said Lozano, who got into the sport as a Mexican boxer Jackie Nava fights with her grandmother.

Playing the black side of a

Queen's Gambit declined

against Nodirbek, Narayanan

was at ease right from the word

go, won a pawn and when he

was about to lose it back, too

many pieces had changed hands

and the position was just a

Raunak Sadhwani continued

with his solid performance after

holding fourth seed Anish Giri

of Holland in round one.

Raunak played out another

draw with pre-event favourite Hikaru Nakamura of United

States. It turned out to be a quick

game lasting just 25 moves when the players decided to

repeat moves with Raunak hav-

some pressure

draw. It took just 33 moves.



Masters unlikely to change eligibility criteria, says Augusta National chairman Ridley

AP ■ MELBOURNE (AUSTRALIA)

The Masters is unlikely to make any changes to its elitournament, Augusta National chairman Fred Ridley said Thursday, which means fewer players from LIV Golf will be competing in the year's first

Only past Masters champions and recent major champions are eligible among current LIV players. The Masters invites winners of PGA Tour events and players ranked in the top 50 in the world, among other qualifying

The Official World Golf Ranking committee recently rejected LIV Golf's application to award ranking points for its 48-man, 54-hole events, citing a lack of opportunities for players to earn spots on the tour or be relegated for poor play.

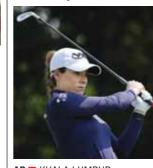
"As you recall last year, there was some speculation as to whether or not we would invite LIV golfers, and we staved true to our qualification criteria and we invited everyone who was eligible," Ridley said at Royal Melbourne Golf Club, host of this week's Asia-Pacific Amateur. "And so, while we do not at this time anticipate making any

changes in 2024, you know, we do always look at them and we will continue to do that. I would just answer by saying that, you very much dynamic, and we adjust to what we feel is the best interests of the tournament representing the best players in the world, so we always look at that.' Eighteen players from LIV Golf competed in last year's Masters. That number has already been cut in half for next year. LIV has six past Masters champions: Dustin Johnson, Sergio Garcia, Phil Mickelson, Patrick Reed, Charl Schwartzel and Bubba Watson. LIV players Cameron Smith, Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau have won majors within the past five years. No one else on the Saudi-funded tour is inside the top 50 in the

season champion.
"You know, they made decisions based on what they thought was in the best interests of their golf careers, and we certainly respect that," Ridley said. "We do have in our invitation cr1iteria, it does say that we reserve the right to invite special exemptions to international players, although we did issue a special exemption to an amateur last year. So we are always looking at that.

world, including Talor Gooch, its

Jasmine stays in lead after 2 rounds of LPGA tournament in Malaysia



AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Lirst-round leader Jasmine leaderboard for most of the day Friday but emerged with a one-stroke lead going into the third round of the Maybank Championship on the LPGA

Suwannapura shot a second-round 3-under 69 for a tworound total of 12-under 132 on the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club course.

Rose Zhang of the United States was in second place after a 68. She was followed by Celine Boutier of France, who had the round of the day with a 64 and was two strokes behind the leader and tied for third with Australia's Hannah Green (70) and Peivun Chien of Taiwan, who shot 69.

Brooke Henderson had a 67 and was at 8-under, four strokes behind, and Nelly Korda shot 69 and was at 6

It is the third of four LPGA events on the tour's Asian swing. Minjee Lee of Australia won last week's stop in South Korea in a playoff and the final tournament is next week's Toto Classic in Japan.

McLaren racing into F1 Mexico City Grand Prix on podium streak

AP MEXICO CITY

McLaren is on the march into Mexico City. While Red Bull's Max Verstappen sucks up all the energy and almost all the victories in Formula One, McLaren is cruising into Sunday's Mexico City Grand Prix on a streak of four consecutive podium finishes.

Only Red Bull and Verstappen have been better in the second half of the season. And that has some asking if McLaren, which has just one grand prix win since 2012, could be the team to dethrone Red Bull in 2024.

McLaren boss Zak Brown has even suggested that Oscar Piastri, his 22-year-old Austraa future champion.

"He's extremely quick, he's very mature, he's very technical. He's very calm: all the things that you'd like to see out of a rookie but you don't necessarily always see out of a rookie," Brown said. "He's definitely showing every sign of being a potential future world champion." McLaren has already awarded Piastri a multivear contract extension. Even Verstappen has said Piastri and Norris are the best driver lineup among his F1 rivals.

'(Norris) is definitely one of the fastest drivers in Formula One. . We're giving him a car that's able to get on the podium now on a more regular basis," Brown said. "I think they're definitely pushing each other hard, but I think that's good for both of them and I think it's good for the

Piastri has the team's only win this season at the Qatar sprint race. Norris had the upper hand last week at the United States Grand Prix when he started second, jumped pole sitter Charles Leclerc of Ferrari for the lead for several laps, and finished third. Norris was later awarded second when Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes was disqualified for a technical violation. Piastri had to retire his car after an early collision. Norris earned his sixth podium in nine races. He is the first McLaren driver to reach four in a row since Jenson Button in 2011.

Name of work with its location:

That was enough to gloss over a dubious mark: 100 grand prix without a win. Norris' is just one podium shy of the record for most in a career without a victory. The record is 13, set by Nick Heidfeld, who raced in F1 from 2000-2011.

But everything else has been humming for a team that earned just 17 points over the first eight races. The podium surge since the British Grand Prix in July has pulled McLaren ahead of Aston Martin, which started the season strong but has faded

"We're in good rhythm," Norris said. "When you look at where we were, six pit stops in the first race of the season, to where we are now fighting, against a Rec Bull, which was unrealistic for

almost anyone McLaren still likes to be cov about its expectations from week to week. Before the Texas race, Norris tried to downplay the team's chances on a track he said would expose its weakness

in slow speed corners. Norris had barely finished the U.S. Grand Prix when he was already suggesting McLaren could struggle in Mexico City and Brazil, the next race.

"I think our best chances (to win) are gone," Norris said. There's no super high speed circuits left, which is where we are strong. I don't think they are any good ones for us coming up. Think our best have come and

Verstappen wasn't buying it. "You are always quick (in Brazil)," Verstappen told Norris. 200 RACES AND COUNT-ING: Haas driver Nico Hulkenberg will start his 200th grand prix on Sunday. The 36-year-old

has raced for multiple teams

since 2010. He has never finished on the podium. Greater things were expected out a driver who had won junior carting championships and the GP2 series before

joining F1 "It's that much harder," in F1, Hulkenberg said. "I had a couple of opportunities. If you are not in top cars these opportuni-

ties don't come around that often ... That's how it is.'

Rifle shooters Arjun, Tilottama bag Olympic quota places with silver medals in Asian Championships 22nd shot when a 9.9 from World Championships at Cairo.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian shooters Arjun Babuta and Tilottama Sen earned

helped the team which included Divyansh Singh Panwar and Hriday Hazarika to clinch the gold medal with an aggregate score of 1892.4.

two Paris Olympic quota places by clinching silver medals in the men's and women's 10m air rifle events respectively, at the ongoing Asian Championships in Changwon, Korea on Friday. The 24-year-old Babuta also

Babuta became the ninth Indian shooter overall to clinch an Olympic quota place. "I don't remember the last time

I was this happy. It has been a calculated, planned team effort with all the coaches, psychologists and everyone from Pierre, Thomas and Suma (Shirur) ma'am all getting together. We visualised this and now the effort will be on getting bettera lot of things still need to be improved," Babuta said. The 15-year-old Tilottama fol-

lowed suit as she shot a total of 252.3 in the women's final to fetch the 10th Olympic quota place for India. Tilottama narrowly missed out on the gold as she finished

bronze with an effort of 230.6. "I had lots of issues in qualification today and to overcome that come up with this result. Yes, I would say I am satisfied,' behind Kwon Eunji of Korea, Tilottama said. who shot 252.4. Her compatriot Ramita Jindal bagged the She had qualified in fourth

place among contenders with a

score of 630.5, while Ramita shot ifying spot.

629.5 to take the seventh qual-In the final, Tilottama started the

2 finish. That changed after the

strongest of the two Indians, but there was a point when Ramita was looking to lead an Indian 1Ramita enabled Korean Eunji to get in to the top two and Ramita found herself bowing out in Indian shooters have bagged

seven quota places in rifle, two in shotgun and just one in pis-tol. Three of those quota places have come from the ongoing continental championship.

Babuta, who hails from Chandigarh but trains at the National Centre of Excellence for shooting sport at the Karni Singh Ranges, also locked the second and final Olympic quota for the country in 10m air rifle, with compatriot Rudrankksh Patil being the first — in 2022

A country can win a maximum of two quota places in a particular shooting event. Babuta shot 251.2 in the eight

shooter final to finish behind silver medallist at the 2022 Tokyo Olympics, China's Sheng Lihao, who shot 252.1.

Divyansh too made it to the final but finished fourth, scoring

Babuta shot a superb 633.4 in the qualification round to top the field, while Panwar was third with a score of 632.3. Two other Indian shooters, Ravishankar Karthik (631.5) and Rudrankksh (630.8) also shot fine scores to be among the top-eight.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) N.I.T. No. | 23-2023-24-W V

offices and service buildings in DEE & DEC Station in the section of SSE/W/DEE under ADEN/DEE P.E. 30.06.2024 Similar nature of work:- Any civil work of Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 69,99,994.61 Earnest Money Deposit: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment

gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025//CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)

Rs. 1,40,000.00 Completion period of Work: 09 Months Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00

Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can

purchased etc.: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 128-W/280/OET/2023-24/W-V/NIT-23 Date: 27.10.2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

hrs. on 21.11.2023. Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 21.11.2023

SOUTH AFRICA DISMISS PAKISTAN FOR 270 Wounded Bangla Tigers aim to



PTI CHENNAI

Saud Shakeel struck fifties but Pakistan batters frittered away good starts to be bowled out for a below-par 270 by South Africa during their World Cup match here on Friday. While Babar managed 50 off 65

deliveries, Shakeel made a runa-ball 52 but Pakistan couldn't build enough partnerships and also faltered in the back end to be dismissed in 46.4 overs after opting to bat.

Left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi, who was playing only his second game, shone with figures of four for 60, while Marco

Jansen (3/43) was superb with the new ball, and Gerald Coetzee (2/42) also snapped

It all began with a maiden over from Jansen, who accounted for both the openers — Abdullah Shafique (9) and Imam-ul-Haq (12) as Pakistan slipped to 38 for 2 in the seventh over.

It could have been third down for the Pakistan in the same over had Jansen hold on to a caught and bowled chance for Mohammad Rizwan. Rizwan started on an aggressive note, hitting a six off spinner Keshav Maharaj and constructing a 48-run partnership with Babar (50). However, the lease of life that

Jansen offered him did not last long, as in the 16th over, speedster Coetzee sent him back to the pavilion after being caught behind, with the score reading 86 for three.

While Coetzee continued to suppress Pakistan's scoring rate, they brought up their 100 by the 20th over.

The pair of Babar and Iftikhar Ahmed (21) added 43 for the fourth wicket before the latter became the fourth man to be dismissed, holing out to Heinrich Klaasen off Shamsi in the 26th.

In the meantime, Babar brought up his 31st ODI half-century but right after the landmark, he fell prey to Shamsi in the 28th after an attempted sweep saw the ball take the faintest of nicks before being gloved by Quinton de

Although initially given not out by the umpire, the Proteas opted for the review at the last moment and the decision went in their favour as Pakistan slumped to 141 for five.

Saud Shakeel (52) and Shadab Khan (43) then joined hands and forged a much-needed partnership of 84 runs, bringing their innings back on track. Soon the team 200 was up by the 37th over but Pakistan couldn't make use of the platform.

While Shadab mainly targeted Maharaj, it was Coetzee who got the better of him in the 40th after an attempted pull to mid-wicket saw him getting caught by Maharaj. With ten more overs remaining, the Pakistani batters looked to go for shots to cross the 300-run mark.

It was a dream far too fetched for the Green Shirts, as they lost Shakeel at 43rd over, followed by Shaheen Afridi (2) to slip to 259 for 8. Mohammad Nawaz (24) and Mohammad Wasim Jr (7) were the final men to fall

revive campaign against Dutch

PTI KOLKATA

Seeking a revival of fortunes, Bangladesh and Netherlands will have one last chance to keep their slender semifinals hopes alive when they clash with each other as the World Cup finally arrives at the hallowed Eden Gardens here on Saturday.

As the sports-crazy city awakens from its 10-day Durga Puja revelry, the World Cup finally arrives in Kolkata, 23 days and 27 matches into the global show-

The familiar buzz and the World Cup excitement is, however, missing from the venue that is all decked-up for its leg of five matches which include the marquee India-South Africa clash and the second semifinal. Both teams have one win from

four outings. Call it their misfortune or lack of a proper planning, Bangladesh's campaign has fallen miserably after they began on a pos-

itive note with a comprehensive

win over Afghanistan. Bangladesh had to face three heavyweights in defending champions England, last edition's runners-up New Zealand and hosts India and the 'Bangla Tigers' failed to spring any magic to see their World Cup campaign almost done and dust-

They were next drawn against South Africa, who were not pretournament favourites but the way the Proteas have taken the tournament by storm the Shakib Al Hasan-led side did not have any Plan B for a course-correc-

Fresh from posting 399 in their previous game, South Africa batting was on fire yet again at the cost of Bangladesh who endured



few hours with his childhood mentor Nazmul Abedeen Fahim to sort out some "technical issues" In such a scenario, it remains to be seen if the premier Bangla-

deshi all-rounder is able to revive their fortunes at his IPL home ground. Shakib has struggled with the bat at this World Cup, having scored just 56 runs in four innings,

while he has taken six wickets. Both batting and bowling have been Bangladesh's letdowns as they have failed to make much inroads. The biggest disappointment has been their No. 3 batter Najmul

Hossain Shanto as the southpaw has copped four single-digit scores in their last four games which include two golden ducks. Coming on the back of a successful Asia Cup and breakout debut season, Towhid Hridov too has failed to live up to the expectation and managed just 68 runs in three innings.

However, their biggest positive has been senior batter Mahmudullah's form who scored the first World Cup century for the team in this edition with a majestic 111 after being sidelined by the selectors earlier. With Litton Das also among

runs hitting two fifties, Bangladesh will look up the duo to revive their campaign on a batting-friendly Eden wicket where dew could aid the team chasing. In bowling too, they would hope the four-pronged pace attack of Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud and Mustafizur Rahman fire in uni-

It has been a not so memorable campaign for the bottom-placed Netherlands barring the upset win over South Africa at Dharamsala.

Since then, they have succumbed to losses against Sri Lanka and the resurgent Australia in their last two matches. Chasing a mammoth 400, the Dutchmen folded for 90 to concede a record 309-run defeat to Australia.

It remains to be seen how their batters cope against the wounded Bangla Tigers who will hope to revive their campaign in the Puja carnival atmosphere here.



Australia look to extend World Cup domination over New Zealand

n upbeat Australia will look An upocarracian their winning momentum and extend their dominant record against New Zealand in the World Cup, when the Trans-Tasman rivals face each other in a blockbuster clash here on Saturday. Australia bounced back from a poor start — defeats against hosts India and South Africa with three wins on the trot, including a record 309-run thumping of the Netherlands in their last outing to sound warning bells to their opponents.

Entering a crucial phase in the tournament, the five-time champions are currently placed at fourth position, one spot behind New Zealand after five games each. And the Pat Cummins-led side would look to carry forward the momentum and strengthen their position in the top four. Even though New Zealand have been one of the top teams in the competition, their ordinary bilateral ODI and World Cup against Australia makes Cummins and Co the favourites. With eight wins and three losses in 11 matches in World Cups so far and overall 95 wins and 39 losses in 141 ODIs, Australia have historically been the better team in the Trans-Tasman rival-

The fact that New Zealand's last ODI win over Australia came six years ago in 2017 would also have a great bearing on the contest here, to be played at the picturesque HPCA Stadium. For Australia, apart from brushing aside the Dutch mercilessly, the biggest takeaway was that they produced a collective effort without an blips

Australia's 399 for 8 against the Netherlands is now the thirdhighest total in this World Cup for any side, but they could have had another record had the batters not squandered a perfect platform against Pakistan.

Australia were cruising at 259 for no loss in the 34th over against Pakistan but added only 108 runs in the remaining 16 overs for the loss of nine wickets. David Warner's (332 runs) two

consecutive tons have taken him into top three among rungetters in this World Cup, but Australia would look for more consistency from middle order stars like Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne, whose brisk fifties against the Dutch have raised hopes of a complete

Glenn Maxwell's fastest century in the tournament's history will do a world of good to the allrounder who is coming back from a long lay-off. However, there will be some concerns over the form of Cameron Green,

who is yet to fire. Mitchell Starc (7 wickets) has been a little wayward with his lines in the last two games, while Josh Hazlewood (6 wickets) too will look to tidy up things and so would captain Cummins (6 wickets).

Adam Zampa has been Australia's go-to man in the bowling department. His fourwicket haul against the Netherlands will give a massive boost to the leg-spinner's con-

Travis Head is back from an injury lay-off and after missing the contest against the Netherlands, the swashbuck-ling opener would be expected to return to the playing eleven. However, it remains to be seen how Australia manage juggling between players while ensuring the right balance.

On the other hand, New Zealand's winning run ended when India handed them a four-wicket defeat here on last Sunday, but the Kiwis will still be confident about their style of play as they have better understanding of the conditions having spent a considerable time

Adapting to the varied Indian conditions has been spoken about extensively in this World Cup and New Zealand and South Africa, of course apart from India, are perhaps the only two teams who have not only managed to do that but also have learned to get their best out on the park in terms of team combinations.

New Zealand will hope for better returns from Devon Conway (249 runs), who has gone quiet since his 152 not out against England in the tournament

With Kane Williamson still re-

covering from a fractured thumb, Daryl Mitchell (268 runs) and Rachin Ravindra (290 runs) will have to share the responsibility in the middle-order. In Williamson absence, wicketkeeper Tom Latham will contin-

would be concerned about his

form.

Nothing much for fast bowlers in this World Cup: Taskin

PTI KOLKATA

raskin Ahmed on Friday Trued Bangladesh have been let down by the batting-friendly conditions in the World Cup, as they have not able to make much of an impact affecting their team's performance.

Having endured four losses in a row, Bangladesh have an outside chance of qualifying for the semifinals.

The 'Tigers' need to secure big matches and also have to pray that the other results go in their

"So far, I played in this World Cup and also I have been watching. It's nothing much for the bowlers. It's kind of batting friendly, all the grounds," Taskin, who has just two wickets in three matches, told reporters on the eve of their clash against the Netherlands.

"On these batting-friendly wickets in India, the teams who have a long batting, they are getting benefited. None of the subcontinent teams, barring India, are able to do well.

"The teams who have been able to score big totals they are doing well and have more success rates," he added, referring to especially to South Africa's camSouth Africa have posted one 400-plus total and thrice they have gone past the 300-mark in this World Cup.

Taskin, who has been struggling for both form and rhythm, said it's not about speed but skillset that would bring success in these conditions. "It's not all about speed. Like we have seen there are express fast bowlers in the world, they're also struggling, leaking runs," he said.
"So, in this kind of con

it's not all about speed. You need some variation skills and a game awareness. So, it's not all about speed. You need a lot of skills to do well in this kind of surfaces," said Taskin. Taskin, who sat out of contests

against India and South Africa due to his recurring shoulder injury, is all set for a comeback against the Netherlands. "I had this shoulder injury for

two years now. There is a tear in my tendon, there is a bit of soreness and I'm managing with it. I played the Asia Cup with it. I'm now feeling much better," he

Asked if can he give his 100 per cent even with a niggle, Taskin said: "As a player, I always want to play. My doctor in UK told me that there's no guarantee to



get fit even after a surgery so it's the last option. Every pacer in the world has some sort of a nig-

SHAKIB HAS NOT BROKEN ANY RULE

A day after their 149-run rout by South Africa, Bangladesh skip-per Shakib Al Hasan left the team to travel back home in Dhaka to be with his personal mentor. Taskin said it did not affect the team spirit and went on to "appreciate" his dedication

towards the game.
"He has not broken any rule. It was a rest day and since Kolkata is very close to Dhaka. He did not go for any other purpose rather than cricket and he took due permission.

"He spent four hours at batting practice and returned the next day. We really appreciated on how he's so cornered about his batting. After his return had dinner together. The team atmosphere is good and we hope to start afresh," he said.

CAMPAIGN NOT FINISHED

Bangladesh, defending champions England and the Netherlands occupy the last three spots in the table with two points from five matches each. Taskin remained hopeful that they still have a chance if they can win all their remaining four

It's not finished yet. Still four more games to go. If we can win those four, anything are some run rates issue and also like a lot of teams like England and Afghanistan beat England they lost against Sri Lanka.

"So, if we can win (all) four, there will be (a) different story maybe but at the moment we are planning to go match by match. Yes, we didn't play well enough as we expected from both units, batting, and bowling, but four games to go. So, we are looking forward to do well as well," he

"We haven't done enough well so there are a lot more improvements. But also, we know also that we are better than that. And we are capable. But yeah, we haven't done great. So, hoping to do well in the next four

Run out in 2019 World Cup semifinal made it clear it was my last day for India: Dhoni

PTI ■ MUMBAI

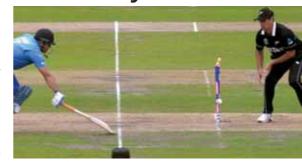
distraught Mahendra Singh Adistraught ividing back to the pavilion after being run out in the 2019 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand is one of the most tragic moments in Indian cricket history.

A little over four years since India lost that match by 18 runs and crashed out of the World Cup, Dhoni has revealed it was at this moment that it became clear to him that his time in international cricket was over. On that Manchester evening when Dhoni walked back to the pavilion being run out by Martin Guptill, not many would have thought that it was his last game ue to lead the side but he too for India.

tions in a close game (especially) when you have lost," said 'Captain Cool' at an event in Bengaluru recently.
"Inside, I am done with my plan-

ning. To me, that was the last day I played cricket for India (even though) I announced my retirement one year later. But the fact was, that day I retired," he said. We are given those machines (for monitoring fitness) and every time I went to the trainer I gave it back to him but he would say, 'no, no, you keep it'. Now, how do I tell him that I do not need this anymore and I will not be needing it because I did not want to announce it (retirement) at that point of time," Dhoni continued.

The 42-year-old said retiring "It is difficult to control the emofrom international cricket also



took away the rare opportunity of representing the country. "Once you are high on emotion, you know the only thing you have done in the last 12 or 15 years is playing cricket and then there is no more a chance of representing your country," he said. "It is a very big thing. You have

so many people but only a few

get a chance to represent the country. Irrespective of which sport you play, when you go out to play you are representing your country.

"If you go to Commonwealth (Games) or Olympics or we go in ICC tournaments — we are representing our country and that is a very big thing. Once I

quit cricket there was no way out for me to represent our country," Dhoni said.

India's most successful captain Dhoni announced his international retirement in August 2020 but he continues to have the fans thronging stadiums across the country in large numbers during the two months of the Indian Premier League.

Dhoni's craze filled up the stadiums to the brink this year in the IPL as he led Chennai Super Kings to a fifth title win after beating Gujarat Titans in the final at Ahmedabad while managing a knee injury.

Dhoni has promised to play one more IPL season as his way of expressing his gratitude for the love and support the fans have given him.

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