WORLD 5

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www.dailypioneer.com Political storm over India's Gaza stand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/ UNITED NATIONS

With India abstaining from voting on a United Nations resolution on the Israel-Hamas conflict as the resolution did not condemn Hamas' terror acts, Opposition parties in India on Saturday asserted that the move goes against everything the country has stood for, even as the BJP stressed that India will never be on the side of terrorism.

India voted in favour of an amendment proposed by Canada that asked for inserting a paragraph in the resolution that would state that the General Assembly "unequivocally rejects and condemns the terrorist attacks by Hamas that took place in Israel starting on October 7, 2023, and the taking of hostages, demands the safety, well-being and humane treatment of the hostages in compliance with international law, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release". As the draft amendment could not be adopted, India abstained

However, India also raised concerns on the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Leaders of parties like the Congress, the CPI, the CPI(M), the BSP and the AIMIM said they were "shocked" and "ashamed" over India's stand on the Jordan-drafted resolution that called for an immediate humanitarian truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict and

unhindered humanitarian access in the Gaza Strip. Nationalist Congress Party

chief Sharad Pawar claimed there was "total confusion" in the approach of the Narendra Modi Government to the Palestine issue.

However, explaining New

Delhi's decision, sources said

India is concerned over the

unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza but at the same time strongly considers that there can be no equivocation on terror, noting the resolution did not include any explicit con-demnation of the October 7 terrorist attacks by Hamas. Sources said in the absence of all elements of India's approach not being covered in the final text of the UN Resolution, Delhi abstained in the vote on its adoption. The sources said India's vote on the Resolution was guided by its steadfast and consistent position on the issue

ly and holistically. India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Yojna Patel, in the Explanation of Vote (EOV), said, "Terrorism is a malignancy and knows no borders, nationality or race. The world should not buy into any justification of terror acts. Let us keep aside differences, unite and adopt a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism."

and India's Explanation of Vote

reiterated this comprehensive-

The EOV also strongly conveyed India's concerns on the unfolding humanitarian crisis



Voting results are displayed as the Unite Nations General Assembly voted on a non-binding resolution calling for a humanitarian truce in Gaza and a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers on Friday

in Gaza, saying, "Casualties in the ongoing conflict in Gaza are a telling, serious and continuing concern. Civilians, especially women and children are paying with their lives. This humanitarian crisis needs to be addressed. We welcome the international community's de-escalation efforts and delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. India too has con-

tributed to this effort."

Sources noted that India's EOV also stressed its consistent stand on Palestine.

In a post on X, the Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra quoted Mahatma Gandhi's "an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind" to criticise the Government's stand.

I am shocked and ashamed that our country has abstained from voting for a ceasefire in Gaza," she said.

"Our country was founded on

the principles of non-violence and truth, principles for which our freedom fighters laid down their lives, these principles form the basis of the constitution that defines our nationhood," she said.

They represent the moral courage of India that guided its actions as a member of the international community, she

Reacting to Priyanka's remarks. senior BJP leader Mukhtar

Abbas Naqvi said those who are ashamed and shocked must realise that India will never be on the side of terrorism. "India's Explanation of Vote spelt this out categorically. Our position on the Israel -Palestine issue is steadfast and consistent. Those who choose to side with terror do so at their own peril...," the former Union Minority Affairs Minister said on X. "On a lighter note, Priyanka Ji,

you should first educate yourself on things that are put out from your X account. Looks like people, who have no idea of Congress' past positions on the situation, are advising you," he said.

What is worse is that in an attempt to make you look 'better' than Rahul, they are making you look silly," Naqvi added. BSP MP Danish Ali said he had never imagined that India would leave the oppressed to their fate.

"I urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protect our special identity in the world by living up to the basic principles of humanity and play a role in saving the suffering children and drowning humanity in Gaza," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

In a post on Facebook, he alleged that the Israeli army is killing Palestinians and the world is watching it like it is an action movie.

"And many stone-hearted people are rejoicing over the killing of innocent children or counting the dead bodies," he said.

"India was founded on the lution on the Israel-Hamas principles of truth and nonconflict. Replying to a question at a violence, the core principles for press conference, NCP leader which our freedom fighters sacrificed their lives, these Sharad Pawar said India never supported the way Gaza is principles are the basis of the being attacked.
"Today, there is total confusion Indian Constitution that defines our nationhood and

Sitaram Yechury and CPI

General Secretary D Raja said

in a joint statement titled 'Stop

this Genocidal Aggression in

Gaza' that India's move negates

its long-standing support to the

"It is shocking that India

abstained on a Resolution over-

whelmingly adopted by the

UN General Assembly calling

for a humanitarian truce titled

'Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humani-

tarian obligations' in the ongo-

ing Israeli offensive in Gaza,"

India has said terrorism is a "malignancy" and knows no

borders, nationality or race

and the world should not buy

into any justification of terror

acts, as it abstained on a reso-

Palestinian cause.

they said.

unique identity in the world. in the Indian Government's 'They represent India's moral policy. I have never seen such courage that has guided its confusion from the Indian Government over the Palestine actions as a member of the international community," he and Gaza issue. The first statement of the PM totally support-The CPI(M) and the CPI said ed Israel. When there was a that India abstaining from votreaction from the outside world ing on the United Nations resand India, the foreign ministry olution is "shocking" and shows took a different line and spoke that Indian foreign policy is now shaped by "being a suborin favour of Palestine," Pawar, a former defence minister, dinate ally of US imperialism". claimed. Communist Party of India (Marxist) General Secretary

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said it is "shocking" that India abstained from voting for the UN General Assembly resolution. The resolution, which gar-

nered 121 votes in favour, 44 abstentions and 14 member states voting against it, also demanded the immediate, continuous, sufficient and unhindered provision of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip. Over 1,400 people were killed in the unprecedented attacks on Israel by Hamas on October 7. Hamas also took more than 220 people hostage. Israel then launched retaliatory strikes. The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza said on Saturday that over 7,700 Palestinians have died since

Ethics panel sets Nov 2 hearing for Mahua

PNS NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee on Saturday turned down TMC MP Mahua Moitra's request to call her after November 5 while allowing a two-day extension, as the panel asked her to appear before it for "oral evidence" on cash-for-query allegation against her.

The committee, headed by BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar, conveved to Moitra that it would not entertain any further requests for extension for any reason whatsoever, "keeping in view the seriousness of the matter, which has implications on the dignity of Parliament as

well as its members". She had on Friday written to the committee, which is probing the allegations against her, expressing her inability to appear before it on October 31 as scheduled and saying she will be available only after November 5.

her on Saturday, "Chairperson, Committee on Ethics, has acceded to your request for extension of date for appearing before the Committee on Ethics, i.e., re-scheduling the sitting of the committee. It has, accordingly, been decided to hear you in the above matter, in person, on November

The committee is looking into the cash-for-query complaint filed against the fiery TMC leader by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who has cited "irrefutable evidence" presented by advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, once close to her, to accuse Moitra of taking bribes Hiranandani to target the Adani Group

On Thursday, Dubey and Dehadrai had given their "oral evidence" to the panel against

Moitra has said she should be given "a fair hearing and an adequate opportunity to defend myself against the false, mali-

cious and defamatory accusations levelled against me by Dubey and Dehadrai".

She has dismissed the charges against her while admitting, in remarks to media, that she shared her parliamentary portal login details with Hiranandani in connection with typing questions on her as long friend. She has, however, asserted that it was meant just to help her and rejected any quid pro

Dubey has said sharing of login details with anyone is a violation of agreement with the government body (NIC) managing the portal and is a secu-

शक्तं धीक्रमृतिमेधिव्तबलायुः शुक्रचक्षाषाम्। बालवृद्धपुजाकाहितस्रोकुमार्चस्थिदार्थिताम्।। 🗕 (घटवन्तरि निघण्द् -।।१३५।।) —

PATANJALI

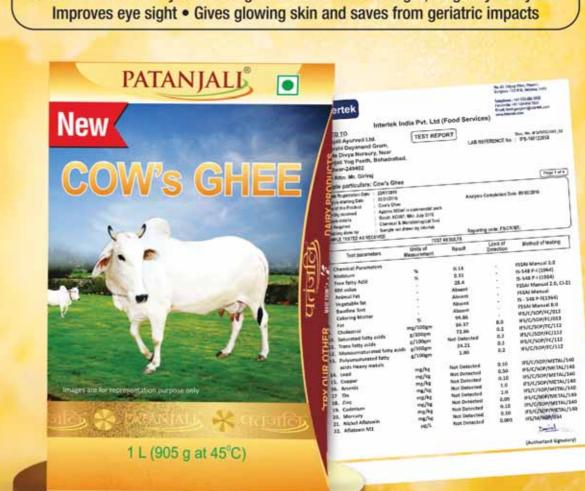
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Making cyberspace safe for kids

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has proposed a series of measures aimed at making cyberspace safer for children and cracking down on perpetrators. These measures include replacing the term "child pornography" in the POCSO Act with "Child Sexual Abuse Material" (CSAM), clarifying the definition of "sexually explicit" under the IT Act, and ensuring the removal of online CSAM. The NHRC has also made a strong case for reviewing the existing punishment for offences pertaining to online CSAM to be safeguarded by giving them legislative cover. The top rights body's move follows concerns with the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children's "CyberTipline Report 2022", which showed that out of the 32 million reports received by US-based NCMEC from across countries, 5.6 million reports pertained to CSAM uploaded by perpetrators based out of India

Also, 1,505 instances of publishing, storing and transmitting CSAM under provisions of the IT Act and the POCSO Act were reported in 2021. Alarmed by this troubling trend, 71 Governments joined forces at the UN in June to endorse a call-to-action statement, urging swifter and more comprehensive measures to eliminate known instances of



child sexual abuse materials from the internet. The call to action statement

emphasises that there is growing and global consensus that more needs to be done and with greater urgency to keep children safe across our communities and online all over the In line with the UN call, the

NHRC has also stated that the IT Act should include Virtual Private Network (VPN) service providers, Virtual Private Servers (VPS) and cloud service providers to avoid ambiguity and reinforce compliance of CSAM-related provisions of the Act. It also recommended that the

national database on sex offenders be expanded to include CSAM offenders convicted under the IT Act and the POCSO Act.

"Considering the speed of circulation of online CSAM, the time taken for removal of content by intermediaries after getting information from authorised agencies should not be more than six hours, as against 36 hours under the rules of the intermediary guide-

lines 2021," the advisory said. changes," it said.

It further suggests setting up at least one specialised State police unit in every State and UT and a specialised Central police unit under the Central Government to deal with CSAM-related matters. CSAM-related matters. Indicating that fund should not be an excuse to delay action in the matter, the NHRC called upon the Centre to assist in the setting up and equipping these units, for instance, through grants under Modernisation of State Police Forces (MPF) Scheme, Police Technology Mission and

Nirbhaya Fund, it added. In an elaborate advisory comprising four-parts, the top human rights body said terms like "use of children in pornographic performances and materials", "child sexual abuse material" and "child sexual exploitation material" to be preferred over "child pornog-

The term "sexually explicit" needs to be defined under Section 67B of the IT Act, 2000 to ensure the prompt identifi-cation and removal of online CSAM, the rights panel has said in the advisory.

Considering the gravity of the offence, the current quantum of punishment for offences pertaining to online CSAM under Section 14 of the POCSO Act and Section 67B of the IT Act (seven years or less) "may be relooked or exempt the application of Section 41A CrPC by

making appropriate legislative

The advisory further stresses that intermediaries, including social media platforms, OTT applications and Cloud Service Providers, must deploy technology, including content moderation algorithms, to proactive ly detect CSAM on their platforms and remove the same. "Similarly, platforms using endto-end encryption services may be mandated to devise additional protocols/ technology to monitor the circulation of CSAM. Failure to do so invites withdrawal of the 'safe harbour' clause under Section 79, IT Act 2000. ISPs, web browsers and OTT players to ensure that pop-up warning messages are displayed for searches related to CSAM," the NHRC has recommended.

A national database of CSAM with hash values of known CSAM be created by the proposed specialised central police unit so that the required con-tent be blocked by intermediaries. This should be maintained by the proposed spe-cialised central police unit, as per the advisory

Survivors of CŚAM should be provided support services and opportunities for rehabilitation through various means, like partnerships with civil society and other stakeholders. Psycho-social care centres may be established in every district to facilitate need-based support services and organisation of stigma eradication programmes," says the NHRC advisory.

Era of violence, terror over in J&K: LG Sinha

he good old days have returned to Jammu & Kashmir and the era of violence and terrorism is over. the Union Territory's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said here on Saturday stressing that it is now our collective responsibility to ensure peace and prosperity continue forever.

He was speaking at a Sadbhavana Conference on "Sufism and Kashmiriyat: An Example of Peace and Harmony" organised by the Indian Minority Foundation (IMF) here.

Kashmir has been the land of Sufism and communal harmony where for centuries, the spirit of goodwill and brotherhood has flourished. Kashmir's heritage of co-existence is also centuries old, but in the last few decades, it had become plagued by terrorism. But, now Kashmir is changing," Sinha said.

It was for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 that the leaders of all Muslim sects came together in large numbers on one plat-form. They appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to change the image of Jammu and Kashmir and open new avenues of development.

Religious leaders from various Muslim communities, including Sunni, Shia, Sufi, Dawoodi Bohra, Pasmanda Muslims and Gujjar-Bakkarwals, praised the prime minister for restoring peace and stability in the region plagued by militancy during the last three decades.

The conference was also attended by scholars, academicians, students, representatives of trade and tourism associations, traders, farmer unions and various NGOs.

Sinha said new avenues of development have opened up in the

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peace and prosperity continues

forever and every citizen of

Kashmir should contribute to

the development of the coun-

Referring to the attempts to

disturb peace, Sinha said there

are many elements that may

try to divide the people "but

we must remain determined

for peace and humanity". "We live in a country where

there is no division on the

basis of religion, caste or any-

thing else. Everyone is equal

here. India is a family of 140

crore Indians and we must

ensure that peace prevails in

Jammu and Kashmir is touch-

ing new heights and writing

new development stories, he

"PM Modi has given us the vision of a developed India by

2047 and we are moving very

fast towards this goal. Jammu

and Kashmir is also contributing a lot in this vision and I am

sure that in future the contri-

bution of Jammu and Kashmir

will be more than other states

and union territories," Sinha

The Lt Governor said the pre-

sent government has ensured

that the benefits of its welfare

schemes and policies reach

"After 2014, the government

has ensured that everyone

benefits from the schemes

and policies and citizens are

not deprived of the benefits of

any scheme. There is no place

for discrimination in our gov-

every corner of the country.

this family," he said.

try during the Amrit Kaal."

valley during the last four years. The socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir has gained momentum under the visionary leadership of PM Modi.

The Lt Governor said Kashmir has witnessed a sea change in recent years resulting in an unprecedented level of transformation in the region.

'Jammu and Kashmir is a holy land where different religions and cultures have flourished. But unfortunately, in the last three decades, this land has been plagued by violence and terrorism, in which our neighbouring country played an important role.

'It (Pakistan) tried unsuccessfully to disturb the peace and tranquillity in the valley. However, with the contribution of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, major changes are now being seen in Kashmir," Sinha said.

He said no region can develop and prosper without peace. "Our prime minister has developed and transformed the Kashmir Valley with his tireless efforts. The time of strikes, which affected schools, colleges and businesses, is now over. Stone pelting has become a thing of the past now.

Every citizen here is enjoying his life as per his own wish. The good old days have returned in Kashmir and the era of violence and terrorism is over" he said

However, Sinha added, "it is now our collective responsibility to ensure that this era of

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ost sale deed fader 20 NG 2077 Brook No 11 Vol No.

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date of this publication, failing which

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the sale transaction with the abov owner as if there are no third part

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181 DNLA militants surrender in Assam



PTI HAFLONG (ASSAM)

total of 181 cadres of the Atotal of 181 cadres of the Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA) on Saturday formally surrendered and joined the mainstream, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said

At an official function here, the cadres, including five women extremists, formally laid down their arms and received financial aid from Sarma.

These militants also deposited 43 arms, including eight AKseries rifles, one M-20 rifle and one M-16 rifle, 1,161 ammunition and three grenades. With the blessings of PM

Narendra Modi, Assam ended insurgency in tribal areas in April 2023 after signing of the peace deal with the DNLA in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah," Sarma said.

Each of the 181 surrendered cadres would receive a fixed deposit of Rs 4 lakh as a rehabilitation package, he added. "Since May 2021, nearly 7,200 insurgents have surrendered in Assam. The number of lives lost to extremist violence stands at zero, which is a stark contrast to the tragic toll of over 400 two decades ago, Sarma said.

Among the militants who surrendered were DNLA chairman Kharmindao Dimasa alias Etika Diphusa, commander-inchief Naiding Dimasa alia Mushrang and general secretary Prithamjit Jidongsa alias Galao Dimasa.

The DNLA was formed under the leadership of Naisodao Dimasa and Kharmindao Dimasa in April, 2019 with around 30 cadres, and eventually its strength increased.

Those of Italy origin won't understand development done by Modi: Shah targets Rahul, Priyanka

In a veiled swipe at Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said a brother and sister duo whose "origins are in Italy" won't be able to understand the development done by the Narendra Modi government.

Addressing a public meeting at Junnardeo in Chhindwara district of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Shah said the people of India can clearly understand the development and referred to the construction of Ram temple and the abrogation of article 370 among other achievements. When the world is praising In-

dia's growth story, the Congress is unable to see any positivity in the country, the BJP MP alleged. 'The brother and sister (Rahul

Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra) while roaming in pollbound states keep asking what has been done (by the BJP-led Centre), but they won't be able to understand this (development) as their origin is in Italy. Those having their origin in India will clearly understand this." Shah said

Chhindwara is the pocketbor-ough of Madhya Pradesh Congress president and former chief minister Kamal Nath who is in the fray for the November 17 assembly elections.

"Rahul Baba used to remark that the BJP will only talk about the temple (in Ayodhya) but

Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks during a public meeting ahead of Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, at Junnardeo in Chhindwara district, on Saturday PTI

won't tell its date. Now see, Modi ji has not only constructed the temple but has also told the date (of the consecration). Just go there and seek blessings to get satisfaction," he said.

A day before, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said in Chitrakoot that the Ram temple in Ayodhya will be ready soon and also mentioned the invitation given to him by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra for the consecration ceremony, which is expected to take place on January 22.

Shah said the people of Madhya Pradesh will celebrate three Diwalis this year. Besides the annual festival of lights, people will celebrate the

Deepavali of the BJP's victory in MP elections and the consecration of Lord Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, he added.

"Not only the (Ram) temple is being constructed, but Modiji has abrogated article 370 (granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir), nullified triple talaq, conducted air strike and surgi cal strikes, launched the moon mission, and provided 33 per cent reservation to women among other things," Shah said. By banning the "dreaded terror organization", the Popular Front of India, Modiji has finished all the possibilities of the emergence of terrorism in the country, the Union Home Minister

Fraudster posing as HR head of multi-national company dupes bank of over ₹2 crore

An alleged fraudster, claiming to be the HR head of a multi-national company, duped the HSBC Bank of more than Rs 2 crore, police said

The accused opened 38 salary accounts in the names of employees, made 28 credit cards and took two loans. But neither the loan was repaid nor the payment of the credit card was made, police said.

An FIR was registered at the Sushant Lok police station in this regard, they added. According to the complaint filed by Saurabh Abrol, an authorised representative of the HSBC Bank, a fraud of more than Rs 2 crore was committed by the accused. Some credit card and loan holders were not paying to the bank and could not even be contacted.

When the bank investigated at its own level, a major fraud was detected which took place between December 2022 and June 2023, he said.

Abrol said in his complaint that a person named Sachin Kathuria, posing as the HR head of a multi-national company, had met the staff of the bank at the Sector 44 branch. He got salary accounts opened in the bank in the names of 38 people, presenting them as the company's employees.

Money was credited as salaries in these accounts every month, according to the complaint.

"On the basis of the regular transactions, 28 credit cards and two loans were issued by the bank, whose re-payment was not made. When the bank proceeded with an

investigation at its level, it was found that the money coming in these accounts in the name of salary was immediately withdrawn through debit cards.

The addresses given by these employees while opening bank accounts were also fake. When we checked the photographs of all these account holders, they did not match. We also started an inquiry against our four bank officials who opened these accounts, issued credit cards and loans," Abrol said in his complaint.

After a preliminary investigation, an FIR has been registered against Kathuria and others under sections 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery of valuable security), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using forged document) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC on Friday, police said.



Difference in opinion among Opp parties for State polls but agreement on need for LS unity: Sharad

PTI ■ MUMBAI

polls together.

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday acknowledged there are differences of opinion among Opposition parties over putting polls but there is also a feeling that all must fight the Lok Sabha

Addressing a press conference, Pawar said the trends of the recent Assembly polls suggest the situation is favourable for the opposition, but noted he had no authentic information to comment on whether there would be a change (in government) at the national level

The Bharatiya Janata Party does not have governments in a majority of states, including Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Punjab, he pointed out.

'We have some views. A majority view (among opposition parties) suggests that everyone should come together for Parliament polls (against the BJP-led NDA). For Vidhan Sabha (Assembly polls in states),

we have a difference of opinion," Pawar said. He pointed out there are states where the Congress is an important party and so are regional outfits because of which these

issues must be resolved across the table "But while doing so, it is not so easy in state polls the way it is in the Lok Sabha elections. Among

our colleagues, there is definitely a feeling we have to come together for Lok Sabha polls. There is difficulty in some state elections. But for Lok Sabha, there is a feeling we should work together, said Pawar. Pawar, a key leader of the 28-

party opposition bloc Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), cited the example of the Mamata Banerjeeled Trinamool Congress, which is effectively a "strong" party in West Bengal, but the Left parties or the Congress cannot be "bypassed".

Pawar said people have been urging him to expedite the work of INDIA alliance, which means more work has to be done on it. Earlier this month, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the Congress should not "betray" his party and must make it clear if the grand old party wants an alliance or not.

BJP delegation calls on TN Governor, says State Govt ignoring constitutional provisions

ernance system

four-member BJP delega-Ation led by former Karnataka Chief Minister DV Sadananda Gowda called on Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi here on Saturday and submitted a memorandum highlighting atrocities and harassment of their cadres allegedly by the police.

Since the DMK came to power, about 409 cases have been registered against the BJP cadres and Chief Minister M K Stalin is running a government against the people ignoring the constitutional provisions, Gowda later alleged.

"A fear psychosis is being created against the BJP workers who are being harassed," the BJP leader told reporters after meeting the Governor along with Satyapal Singh, MP, D Purandeswari, Andhra Pradesh BIP president, and P.C. Mohan, MP, Bengaluru Central. The BJP effectively addressed

such tactics in Kerala and West

Bengal in the past and in Tamil Nadu too, the party would overcome the problems, he opined.

"I want to tell Stalin, please don't play games with our cadres. Just because you are in power, don't think you can use the police and manhandle our karvakartas and restrict our political activity... This will not be tolerated," he said.

The delegation, on a visit to the state, met the families of the BJP workers arrested for

against the protesting removal of the flagpole by the police from near the residence of party president K Annamalai in Panaiyur recently.

The police detained about 120 party workers, including 19 women members, in a marriage hall for protesting and cases were registered against six of them under non bailable sections in a bid to disrupt Annamalai's statewide padayatra, claimed Purandeswari.

NIA files supplementary chargesheet in PFI related case in Bihar

PTI PATNA/NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary chargesheet against a key accused in a case related to unlawful and antinational activities of the proscribed Popular Front of India (PFI) in Bihar, an official said on Saturday

ferent sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against Anwar Rashid was filed in a special NIA court in Patna on Friday, a spokesperson of the federal agency said. The official said Rashid, a resident of Sant Ravidas Nagar of Uttar Pradesh, was among 17 accused arrested in the case, which was initially registered at Phulwarisharif Police Station against 26 accused on July 12 last year.

The NIA took over the case 10

that Rashid was formerly a member of the banned terrorist organisation, the Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI). Following the ban on SIMI, he became associated with the group 'Wahdat-e-Islami, Hind', The fresh charge sheet under difall the while continuing to promote SIMI's extremist, unlawful and violent ideology. "Post-ban on SIMI, its members

shifted their allegiance to Wahdat-e-Islami with the aim of pursuing the establishment of Islamic rule in India," the spokesperson said. During the period when the PFI

days later and filed charge sheets

against 13 suspects on January

'Investigations have established

7, August 3 and September 1.

was actively organising its activities in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh the official said Rashid aligned himself with these groups, driven by their shared goal of establishing Islamic rule

said. About the dinner meeting

at his residence, he maintained

that they casually met for food

Cooperation Minister K N Raja-

Office of the Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh Email: sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Letter No.: 6556 / 984C-03(Yata 'A')/2023

National Competitive E-Tender Notice

Ashi Nigan

Chamber No.505, Patiala

Dated: 27/10/2023

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" for following works. All other information will be available online from date 05-11-2023 at 5.00 PM onward on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

SI. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Tender	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	PD PWD Pithoragarh Improvement and Damarikaran work of Nirada motor road from Chaicer Chami Maithana Butkhola & 3 years maintenance in Pithoragarh constituency of District Pithoragarh under the state plan (Length 3.500 Km.).	3.26	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	120	12	Category 'B' & higher for Road works in State Govt./ Govt. of India
2	PD PWD Champawat Improvement work by CC interlocking tiles in full existing width of pre-built footpath from Laluvapani to Hingladevi in Champawat assembly of District Champawat under Honorable Chief Minister's announcement no 874/2021 under state sector (Length 1.800 Km.)	3.43	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	120	12	Category 'B' & higher for Road works in State Govt./ Govt. of India

Congress MLA's claim of CM change midway causes flutter in Karnataka or the other thing, where should I answer it....Ask him (CM)", he

ongress' Mandya MLA CRavikumar Gowda's (Ravi Ganiga) claim that Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar will become the chief minister after two-and-half years of the government's tenure, has caused a flutter within the ruling party circles, with some ministers asserting that incumbent Siddaramaiah will complete full term, and a few others saying it is for the high command to

decide. Also, a dinner meeting at Home Minister G Parameshwara's residence on Friday night, attended by Siddaramaiah, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa and PWD Minister Satih Jarakiholi has fuelled speculation in political quarters, as Shivakumar was not part of it.

"There is no brain (in such speculations)...Siddaramaiah will be there for five years...The CM post is not vacant, isn't he CM now? ...He is CM," Mahadevappa, a close confidant of Siddaramaiah, told reporters

We had gone for dinner, nothing special in it.....There was nothing else other than meeting and eating food."

being considered for the top

other will keep discussing some

nna, however, said, his desire is that Siddaramaiah should be in response to a question. On the dinner meeting, he said, decide. Asked as to why Shivakumar

was not part of the meeting, he said. "I don't know about it. Dr (Parameshwara) had called for dinner, we had food. That's all.' Parameshwara did not want to respond to any question regarding the CM change and himself

post.
"I don't know, some one or the

there for five years, but it is ultimately for the high command to Siddaramaiah was sworn in as Chief Minister on May 20 this year after the Congress posted a landslide victory ousting the BIP from power.

There was stiff competition between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for the chief minister post after the assembly election results in May this year, and the Congress party had man-

aged to convince the latter and made him the deputy chief

City's air turns very poor again, likely to worsen

The air quality in Delhi slipped into "very poor" category on Saturday morning with Air Quality Index (AQI) level at 301 and is predicted to worsen further due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

This is the second time the AQI has slipped into the very poor category this season.

As wind in the national Capital mainly comes in from the northwest direction and the number of farm fires in Puniab and Haryana has risen, the contribution of stubble burning to pollution concentration is expected to rise.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders have blamed the Modi Government for poor air quality in North India saying the Centre has no plan to tackle air

On the other hand, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Saturday the number of stubble burning incidents recorded in neighbouring States so far is fewer than last year, and the overall contribution of farm fires to the city's air pollution is expected to reduce. However, he cautioned that air pollution may increase in the coming days due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

The city's average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 301 at 12 noon, worsening from 261 on Friday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

The AQI was 286 in neighbouring Ghaziabad, 268 in Faridabad, 248 in Gurugram, 284 in Noida, and 349 in Greater Noida.

According to the Centre's Air Quality Early Warning System that helped the government for Delhi, the city's air quality

category due to slow wind speed at night and a dip in temperatures.

The air quality is expected to remain very poor till the end of the month, it said.

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

According to an analysis conducted by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the capital experiences peak pollution from November 1 to November 15 when stubble burning incidents in Punjab and Haryana peak. While Delhi is facing a sharp decline in air quality in the coming days, crucial data



the air pollution problem is

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

and National Spokesperson, Reena Gupta alleged that Modi government lacks any action plan to control the air pollution. She referred to a report indicating that out of the 50 most polluted cities in the world, 39 are in India, with 20 of them being in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh (UP). The AAP demanded a high-level meeting of all Environment Ministers from Northern states and the reopening of the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting Research (SAFAR) website, in this Press Conference at the party head-quarters. Gusta said "the Aam quarters. Gupta said "the Aam Åadmi Party ĥas two demands. The first demand is that a high-level meeting of all the Environment Ministers of the northern states should be convened. Tell us what actions you are going to take. The second

SAFAR website because the public should know where the pollution is coming from and which government agencies are responsible.

"Despite having 39 of the most polluted cities, the central government is unwilling to take any responsibility. Our central government announced smart cities, but it is not prepared to take any responsibility," she added. Delhi environment minister

said that the number of stubble burning incidents recorded in neighbouring states so far is fewer than last year, and the overall contribution of farm fires to the city's air pollution is expected to reduce. However, he cautioned that air pollution may increase in the coming days due to unfavourable meteorological

burning incidents have been recorded so far, compared to 5,000 such cases during the same period last year, he told reporters here. According to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Punjab, which accounts for the maximum number of cases of stubble burning every year, reported 49,922 farm fires in 2022, compared to 71,304 the previous year and 83,002 in 2020.

The agrarian state logged 50,738 incidents of stubble burning in 2019, 59,684 in 2018, 67,079 in 2017, and 1,02,379 in 2016.

Haryana recorded 3,661 farm fires in 2022, down from 6,987 in 2021 and 4,202 in 2020. The neighbouring state witnessed 6,364 incidents of stubble burning in 2019, 9,225 in 2018, 13,085 in 2017, and 15,686 in

Woman shot dead by her LG nod to file appeal in SC against lover's brother in Jaitpur

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

24-year-old woman was Ashot dead allegedly by a man in front of her brother and mother inside her house in southeast Delhi's Jaitpur area. According to police, the incident took place on Friday night.

Police said two gunmen, one of whom was her lover's brother, barged into her home and shot her. The attacker, identified as Rocky from Haryana's Faridabad, has been arrested, they said.

The incident occurred around 9 pm on Friday when the shooters barged into her residence wearing masks. They fired five shots at her.

She has been identified as 24year-old Pooja Yadav. She was rushed to a nearby hospital but was declared dead by the doctors as soon as she was brought in. Locals after hearing the shots, rushed to the spot and chased the two gunmen. They managed to catch the motorcycle that the attackers were using, after which the gunmen had to flee on foot.

According to police, Rocky disapproved of Yadav's relationship with his elder brother, Krishna Pradhan, a real estate dealer, and decided to kill "Rocky told us that his elder

brother was already married



with four children. Because of his relationship with Yadav, his sister-in-law and mother would often fight with Pradhan. This led him to kill Yadav," said a police officer. Yadav worked at Pradhan's office in Basantpur Village of Faridabad and lived with her parents and younger brother in Jaitpur Extention's Ekta Vihar

She had done a beauty parlour course and had left her job at Pradhan's office seven months ago due to objections to her relationship with him by his family members.

"She was playing with kids outside her house before she was attacked by a person who came on a motorcycle. I was in the house with my mother. As soon as Pooja entered the house, the man opened fire at her," Yadav's brother Manoj

The 22-year-old said he chased the attacker, but he pointed his gun at him and threatened to kill him as well. The attacker fled on foot, leaving behind his motorcycle, which was without a number plate, police said. Police through the engine

number traced the ownership of the bike to one Narender, who revealed he had given it to Rocky on Friday. When police raided Rocky's house in Faridabad, they didn't find him there, however, they tracked his location and nabbed him from the same area.

Yadav was unmarried. Her father works as a driver in private company and her youger brother is a private firm employee in Noida. Police are probing whether Pradhan's other family members had a role in the killing.

acquittal of 12 in 1984 riots case

STAFF REPORTER ■

Delhi Lt Governor(LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena has given a go ahead to the prosecution to file an appeal in the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court judgment acquitting 12 murder accused in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots related case in which 08 persons were killed and 01 injured in Nangloi area of West Delhi. Saxena approved the proposal of the Home Department for filing of the Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Apex Court for assailing the August 9, 2023 judgment of the High Court by which the appeal against the trial court verdict acquitting all the accused was dismissed, officials said here on Saturday.

The High Court said there was no explanation for inordinate delay of 27 years in filing the appeal against the trial court verdict of April 29, 1995 and grounds taken by the State were not justifiable.

Saxena perused the file concerning the proposal to move the SLP which stated that the High Court has not taken into consideration the merits of the case and instead dismissed the appeal of State only on the ground of inordinate delay in filing the appeal. It was pointed out that the Supreme Court vide order



dated 11.1.2018 in Writ Petition (Crl) No. 9/2016 titled as "S Gurlad Singh KahlonVs Union of India &ors directed to constitute SIT for further investigation in respect of 186 cases related to 1984 Anti Sikh riots and the instant case was a part of these 186 cases. In compliance of above said order, a Special Investigation Team, comprising Justice (Retd.) SN Dhingra and Abhishek, IPS Officer, was constituted to examine the matter related to 1984 Anti Sikh riots cases vide notification dated 09.2.2018. The SIT submitted its report

dated 15.4.2019 that present case was a fit case where prosecution should have gone in appeal immediately after the judgment. Further Committee recommended that an appeal with an application of condonation of delay may be filed. Consequent upon the approval of the LG on 30.06.2021 for filing of appeal in this case,

Directorate of Prosecution sent the file to the office of Standing Counsel on 18.07.2021. However, However, Criminal Leave Petition was filed in the year 2023.

Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) vide his acquittal report dated 24.08.2023 has opined that the present case is a fit case to file an appeal or SLP before the Supreme Court as the High Court ignored the fact that the challenge against the trial court verdict was filed on the recommendations of the Commission constituted by the Apex Court by its judgment dated 09.06.2014 in a Criminal Appeal.

The APP stated that in this case, there is a crime against the humanity and the observations of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in a similar matter relating to mass killing of Bangladeshi citizens in 1971 by sympathizers of Pakistani, are relevant.

Even the Standing Counsel (Crl.), Delhi High Court vide his letter dated 14.09.2023 has opined that the present case is fit to file SLP (Criminal) before the Supreme Court as there is delay of only 274 days and not of 27 years as observed by High Court. The delay ought to be calculated from the date of Report submitted by the SIT rather than being calculated from the trial court | Balmiki Samaj including for-

Processions taken out on Valmiki birth anniversary



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $A^{
m large}$ number of processions were taken out on Sunday by the followers of the legendary poet Maharishi Valmiki on the occasion of his birth anniversary from Red Fort, passing through various places which concluded at . Valmiki temple, Mandir Marg here.

The procession carried out by the Balmiki Chaudhari Sarpanch Committee, Delhi Pradesh was also attended by Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee President Arvinder Singh Lovely besides many other leaders from the community and Congress party. The Balmiki Samaj is considered close to the Congress. Earlier, a delegation of

judgment dated 29.04.1995. | mer Congress MLA Jai

Congress ex-president Sonia Gandhi at Congress Headquarters at 24 Akbar Road, said a statement here. Jai Kishan said that Adi Purush Maharishi Valmiki is adored by all of us and by composing a book like Ramayana, he has given us the message of victory of truth over evil. He also condemned the BJP and Aam Aadmi Party stating that they have exploited the Dalits, especially the Valmiki community. "Today, the sanitation workers are being exploited in Delhi. The cleaning work is being given on contract." A resolution stating that BJP's central ministers, MPs, MLAs and ministers who have done

nothing for the society and

their community will be boy-

cotted was also passed at the

meeting, said the statement.

Kishan also called upon

Will issue directions deploying bus marshalls as home guards: Gahlot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $D^{\text{elhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on}}_{\text{Saturday said he will issue directions on}}$ deploying bus marshals as home guards so that they don't lose their jobs and passengers are also not left inconvenienced. Gahlot also claimed that chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has never said that civil defence employees (working as) bus marshals should be removed. Addressing a press conference, Gahlot, who also holds the portfolio of Home department, said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has asked him to issue directions on deploying bus marshals as home guards.

"The bus marshals are trained manpower. Deploying them as home guards will ensure that they remain employed and passengers also feel comfortable while travelling in buses. I will issue necessary directions to Secretary (Home)," he said.

Gahlot also said he had issued directions many times in the past to release the dues of the civil defence volunteers, who have been deployed as bus marshals, but alleged there were attempts to stop the work being done by the

The AAP government and Chief Minister Kejriwal are with the civil defence volunteers. Our attempts are to ensure that bus marshals get deployed as home guards," he added. "We had asked to release the salary of bus marshals. It is wrong to say the CM has asked to remove them. CM has ordered me to deploy bus marshals as Home Guards," he clarified.

The AAP Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor's office on Friday locked horns over discontinuing the services of the capital's Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs) a decision affecting thousands of livelihoods. The latest tussle revolves around the proposal to deploy as many CDVs as possible as Home Guards, which is in the process of inducting around 10,000 personnel over the coming days. While the AAP government claimed this arrangement was CM Arvind Kejriwal's idea, Raj Niwas claimed that L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena had mooted it after receiving a proposal to discontinue the CDV service from November 1. The Lieutenant Governor also directed the chief minister to consider recruiting the volunteers to be terminated as Home Guards. Amid a tussle



between the LG office and the Delhi government, hundreds of civil defence volunteers started an indefinite sit-in protest outside the Delhi Secretariat to demand their unpaid dues.

Kejriwal has not paid salaries to civil defence marshals: Sachdeva

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva on Saturday addressed the protesting civil defence volunteers near the Delhi Secretariat regarding their demands and seeking payment of salaries, lambasted the Arvind Kejriwal Government saying those who serve the people of Delhi have been forced by Arvind Kejriwal to sit on strike today.

Delhi BJP leaders Praveen Shankar Kapoor,

Vikram Mittal, Sumit Seth and Rajiv Kohli were with the State president. "Kejriwal, who talks about democratic rights, has not even paid salaries to the civil defense marshals for the last five months and today all 8,000 marshals are sitting on strike demanding their rights, then Arvind Keiriwal and his ministers are trying give their agitation political color," he said. Sachdeva said that if the Kejriwal government had the right intentions and had started the process of regularisation then these civil defense marshals would not have been forced to sit on strike today around Diwali.

Delhi BJP president said the Delhi Government has no shortage of Budget but everyone knows where that Budget is being spent. Sachdeva said that if Kejriwal Government does not pay five months' salary before Diwali, then the families of 8000 Civil Defense Marshals will take to the streets against the Government.

control pollution

As the city weather takes a turn, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has deployed mechanical road sweepers and hired eight antismog guns in a slew of measures to control pollution. NDMC Vice Chairperson Satish Upadhyay on Saturday announced a comprehensive set of "Air Pollution Control" measures for 2023-24.

"We recognise the urgent need to prioritize environmental well-being as air pollution, a significant contributor to respiratory diseases, heart conditions, and cancer, demands our collective attention," Upadhyay said ahead of the festival season. He said currently there are no dust hot spots in the NDMC area.

The NDMC has deployed seven mechanical road sweepers, operating in two shifts with GPS tracking and wet sweeping. In all, these machines have covered a sweeping distance of 280-330 kilometers between April 1 and October 26, said the NDMC.

All avenue roads are mechanically cleaned every day or on alternate days, under real-time monitoring done at the Smart City Integrated Command and Control Centre, Upadhyay said. All central verges and side berks in the NDMC area are already green paved. Horticulture department has planted 3,200 trees and 33,12,885 shrubs, completing its target for 2023-24, he said. The NDMC has procured one anti-smog gun that is operational on Mahadev Road and is



in the process of hiring eight more to combat pollution, he said. The NDMC has deployed 18 water tankers or trolleys to water plants with capacities ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 litres. The tankers will be using STP-treated water.

"NDMC has constituted a team of officers to inspect construction sites for enforcing dust mitigation measures, leading to 25 challans worth Rs 12.50 lakh issued from April 1 to October 27," Upadhyay added. The official said that the construction and demolition waste from the NDMC area - which averages 70 metric tonne per day - is collected daily and sent to the Shastri Park C&D recycling plant. He said 14 sites are used for this waste collection.

The civic body is also conducting regular inspections to curb unauthorised dumping of C&D waste and has penalised people for violation, he said. The civic body has deployed three teams of field officers from health, horticulture and civil departments to oversee work in the area, with one team operating at night, he said. In addition 14 teams from the health department conduct daytime inspections related to waste burning. According to Upadhyay, NDMC has procured 32 electric cars and five

electric bikes to promote clean-

er transportation.

NDMC hires eight anti-smog guns to Conion prices surge

due to lack of supply. The high prices of onion may

impact the upcoming elections

in the five states and this could

be one of the election issues in

these five states. To control the

prices, the government has

imposed a minimum export

price (MEP) of USD 800 per

tonne on onion exports till

December 31 this year.

"Exports on onion is free. MEP

of USD 800 FOB (free on

board) per tonne is imposed till

December 31, 2023," the

Directorate General of Foreign

The Ministry of Consumer

Affairs has also decided to

step up the sale of buffer onion

at a subsidised rate of ₹25 per

kg in retail markets in order to

According to the Department

of Consumer Affairs data, on

Saturday the all-India average

retail price of onion is ₹45 per

kg, but the maximum price is

₹80 per kg. In Delhi, the aver-

age price is ruling at ₹75 per kg.

We have been offloading

buffer onions since mid-August

and we are stepping up the retail sale in order to check fur-

ther rise in prices and provide

relief to the consumers,'

Consumer Affairs Secretary

Rohit Kumar Singh said on

Friday. According to the min-

istry, onion is being offloaded

from the buffer stock in both

wholesale and retail markets in

those states where there is a

provide relief to consumers.

Trade said in a notification.

Onion prices in Delhi and the National Capital Region shot up touching ₹70 to 60 per kilogram as opposed to the price of staple vegetable that are being sold at ₹30 to 50 per kilogram. The price of onion is likely to touch ₹100 per kilogram by November first week. The price is projected to remain on the higher side till December.

Onion price making a sudden uptick after the end of Navaratri celebrations raised evebrows of both consumers and vendors. According to Government data, the maximum price of onions has surged to around ₹70 per kilo-

Mother Dairy, which has around 400 Safal retail stores in the Delhi-NCR, is selling loose onions at ₹67 per kg. E-commerce portal Bigbasket is selling at ₹67 per kg, while Otipy at ₹70 per kg. Local vendors are selling onions at Rs 80 per kg. Besides, most of the vegetables are being sold ₹60-80 a kg in the national capital.

Mother Dairy was selling onions at ₹54-56 per kg on Wednesday and now the rates have touched ₹67 per kg.

According to vendors at vegetable markets, the inflow of the onion is low resulting in high rates.

"On Saturday, the rates are ₹ 350 (per 5 kg). It was ₹300 on Friday. It was ₹200 before that. A week ago, rates were ₹200, ₹160 or ₹250 etc. The rates have gone up from the last two weeks. The rates have risen due to a shortage in supply," Bharatpal, a vender of Azadpur mandi said.

Likewise, onion prices have spiked in other states including Karnataka and Maharashtra

sharp rise in prices. Since mid-August, about 1.7 lakh tonnes of buffer onion has been offloaded in 22 States at

different locations. In retail markets, buffer onion is being offloaded through two cooperative bodies NCCF and NAFED outlets and vehicles at a subsidised rate of ₹25 per kg. In Delhi too, buffer onion is being sold at this subsidised

A senior Ministry official said the delay in kharif onion sowing due to weather reasons has resulted in less coverage and late arrival of the crop. The fresh kharif onion should have started arriving by now but it

With stored rabi onion getting exhausted and delay in the arrival of the kharif onion, there is a tight supply situation, resulting in price increases in both wholesale and retail mar-

kets, the official added. He also mentioned that the Government has doubled the buffer onion stock for the current year and this should improve domestic availability and check prices in the coming

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the consumer affairs ministry through NCCF and NAFED has maintained a buffer onion stock of 5 lakh tonnes and plans to procure an additional 2 lakh tonnes of onion in the coming days.

Government boosted job opportunities, says Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Saturday his Government has boosted employment opportunities in traditional as well as emerging sectors like renewable energy, defence exports and automa-

Distributing appointment letters at a virtual event to nearly 51,000 people recruited in different government departments as part of 'Rozgar Mela', he said the exercise underscores his government's commitment to the youth in the country.

The Government is not only providing employment but also maintaining a transparent recruitment process and efforts have been made to restructure and streamline the examination procedure, Modi stressed.

The Prime Minister noted that lakhs of youngsters have been given appointment letters so far in the 'Rozgar Mela' being organised since October last year by his government and the states ruled by the BJP and its

"Today, India is equipping its



youths with skills and education to harness emerging opportunities.

"India's trajectory and the pace of its progress are generating new employment prospects across all sectors," he said. The prime minister said the time taken for recruitment by the Staff Selection Commission has been reduced to almost

Examinations are now being conducted in 13 different regional languages apart from Hindi and English to help the language barrier for those affected, he said.

He also spoke about the recent recognition by UN bodies to

and heritage sites. The prime minister said a boost in tourism is adding to employment sources and a similar trend is being seen in sports as the sector is growing, with Indian athletes performing better than

The government is strengthening traditional sectors providing employment opportunities and is also promoting new sectors such as renewable energy, space, automation and defence exports, he said and highlighted the growth in the drone sector.

The Khadi sector has seen a resurgence and his government has restored its lost glory, several Indian places as tourism he said. It has registered a busicrore compared to a mere Rs 30,000 crore ten years ago, he said, adding that this has created many jobs in the khadi and village industry sector, especially benefitting women. Initiatives to open more medical colleges IITs, IIMs and IIITs have led to a boost in skilling and education that are equipping the youths to take full advantage of new opportuni-

ties, Modi said. "Today, you all are becoming important allies in our journey of nation-building," he told the recruits and also urged them to promote 'vocal for local' in the ongoing festival

BJP lashes out at Congress over 'defaulter kaal' jibe

The BJP on Saturday lashed out at the Congress for its "defaulter kaal" jibe at the Government, saying it is fascinating that the very architects of India's NPA crisis have the audacity to question the resolution of a disaster they engineered.

BJP's I-T department head Amit Malviya refuted the charge and said on X that it is due to the Government's efforts that every public sector bank is now in profit. He said former RBI governor

Raghuram Rajan, an "ally" of the Congress, was unambiguous in pointing out that many of the problematic loans originated during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) era between 2004 and 2014. Replying to Kharge's assertion that people will respond in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to the government's assault on economy, Malviya said, "People of India will indeed reply, but with a vote of confidence for the BJP that took decisive actions, rather than the Congress and its alliance partners, that created the

Banks were under tremen-



dous political pressure to lend and they were so reckless that they lent hundreds and thousands of crores to unworthy companies and businessmen close to the Congress, he alleged.

These bad loans were not 'recognised" and were kept hidden using various accounting trickery, and were discovered only after the Asset Quality Review (AQR) was initiated in 2015 by the Modi government, he said.

'We bravely and honestly confronted and solved the NPA problem, rather than adopting Congress' tactics of concealing it," he said, citing measures like infusion of over Rs 3 lakh crore into public sector banks.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was enacted for a strong legal framework for better debt recovery and strict measures taken against willful defaulters, Malviya said.

The write-offs are a mere accounting and regulatory necessity and not waivers, he

"Banks pursue the cases of defaults in legal forum for recovery. Banks have recovered more than Rs 10 lakh crore in the last 9 years," he

"So, before hurling baseless accusations, the Congress should perhaps reflect on their own legacy.

The Congress establishment, under whose watch these bad loans increased, is now trying to evade responsibility The irony is palpable," he

Desi INS Sumedha participates in maiden India-EU joint Naval exercise



NEW DELHI

INS Sumedha, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, participated in the maiden India – European Union(EU) Joint Naval Exercise 2023 from October 24

The exercise was conducted in two phases, which included a sea phase on October 24 followed by harbour phase from October 25 to 26, at Tema, Ghana, navy officials said here on Saturday.

The sea phase witnessed air and surface exercises such as communication drills, antipiracy and cross-deck helicopter operations. The harbour phase involved wideranging activities comprising cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, knowledge sharing and discussions on contingencies for exchange of best prac-tices among Indian and EU

Health Ministers of WHO nations to discuss cardiovascular diseases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Health Ministers from WHO member countries will be meeting here next week to deliberate on priority health issues and nominate the next World Health Organization Regional Director for South-East Asia. The 76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia, the annual governing body meeting of WHO at the regional level, will be held from October 30 to 2 November 2023. The meeting will attended by

WHO's Director-General Dr Adhanom Ghebreyesus and its South-

East Asia Regional Director Dr Poonam Khetrapal, a WHO statement said The stakeholders are slated to discuss ways to accelerate the

prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases and how to eradicate tropical dis-A ministerial roundtable will be held on strengthening primary health care as a key element towards achieving universal health coverage, the

The regional committee will vote to nominate the next WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia on Wednesday. There are two candidates in the fray -Bangladesh nominee Saima Wazed and Nepal nominee Dr



Shambhu Prasad Acharya. The nomination will be submitted to the WHO Executive Board, which will meet in Geneva, Switzerland from January 22 to 27 next year.

The next Regional Director will assume office on February 1 for a five-year During the session starting

October 30, countries will be felicitated for public health achievements, the UN body statement said.

people, the region has made accelerating progress around WHO's local flagship pro-

Since 2014, the region has eliminated polio and maternal and neonatal tetanus. Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste have eliminated measles and rubella, one of the eight flagship priorities, it

Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Bangladesh

have eliminated lymphatic filariasis -- a tropical disease. Nepal and Myanmar eliminated trachoma, and India was verified yaws-free, the statement said

> Sri Lanka and Maldives eliminated malaria. Thailand, Maldives, and Sri Lanka eliminated mother-to-child transmission of syphilis and HIV. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Thailand achieved hepatitis B control, it said.

> Focusing on accelerating tal and under-5 mortality, the region recorded 68.5 per cent reduction in maternal mortality between 2000 and 2020, 45 per cent reduction in under-5 mortality, and 39 per cent reduction in neonatal mortality during the period. DPR Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand have achieved 2030

SDG targets of reducing under-5 mortality and neonaat least five judges... tal mortality. On October 10, the top court

SC to hear pleas against electoral bond on Oct 31

A five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court is scheduled to commence hearing from October 31 a batch of pleas challenging the validity of the electoral bond scheme for political funding of parties. The scheme, which was noti-

fied by the government on January 2, 2018, was pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring in transparency in political funding. According to the provisions of the scheme, electoral bonds may be purchased by any citizen of India or entity incorporated or established in India. An individual can buy electoral bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.

The bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud is scheduled to take up the batch of four pleas including those filed by Congress leader Jaya

The other members of the bench are justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. On October 16, the top court said, "In view of the importance of the issue raised, and with regard to Article 145(4) (relating to rules for regulating pro-cedure of SC) of the Constitution of India, the matter be placed before a bench of



sions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), that the matter needed adjudication before the electoral bond scheme opens for the 2024 general elections. Anonymous funding through

Anonymous runding through electoral bonds encourages corruption and violates the citizens' right to have a corruption-free nation, Bhushan had said. "This promotes corruption as the source of funding is anonymous. It is violative of

Article 21 and the 'non-deciing the problem," he had sub-One of the PIL petitioners had claimed in March that ₹12,000 crore so far has been paid to

political parties through electoral bonds and two-thirds of the amount has gone to one major political party. The top court had on March 21 said it will consider whether the pleas can be referred to a con-

stitution bench for an "author-

itative pronouncement".

ADR, which filed the first PIL in 2017 on the issue of alleged corruption and subversion of democracy through illicit and foreign funding of political parties and lack of transparency in the bank accounts of all political parties, had moved an interim application seeking that the sale of electoral bonds not be reopened.

On January 20, 2020, the apex court had refused to grant interim stay on the 2018 Electoral Bonds Scheme and sought responses of the Centre and the Election Commission to an interim application by the NGO seeking a stay on the Only political parties regis-

tered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than one per cent of votes polled in the last general election to Lok Sabha or the legislative assembly of the state are eligible to receive electoral bonds.

electoral bonds shall be encashed by an eligible political party only through an account with an authorised bank. The apex court had in April 2019 also declined to stay the Electoral Bond Scheme and made it clear that it will accord an in-depth hearing on the pleas as the Centre and the EC have raised "weighty issues" having "tremendous bearing on the sanctity of the electoral process in the country".

anniversary nationally, RSS affiliated body urges PM PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Celebrate tribal leader's birth

The Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of veteran tribal leader Kartik Oraon with the release of a special coin and a postal stamp in his honour. In a letter to the prime min-

ister last week, the organisation's president Ramchandra Kharadi also proposed that Oraon's 100th birth anniversary be celebrated nationally "as a day of remembrance and tribute to his remarkable life and services".

This national celebration would be a "fitting recognition" of Oraon's legacy and the values he stood for, Kharadi said, adding that this will also help in "mitigating a sense of alienation and unrest among a section of Scheduled

The Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram is an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological fountainhead of the Bharatiya Janata Party ruling at the Centre.

"His (Kartik Oraon's) life and contributions are a source of inspiration not only for Janjatis (tribals) but for all the people across India. His legacy extends beyond political achievements and encapsulates a commitment to the welfare and empowerment of marginalised communities, particularly Janjatis," the let-

Oraon, also popularly known as Baba Kartik Saheb, was born on October 29, 1924 at Karounda Littatoli in Gumla district of the erstwhile state of Bihar (now Jharkhand) and passed away on December 8, 1981.

ter read.

"In light of the 100th birth anniversary of Kartik Oraon, Kalyan Ashram respectfully requests the government of India to consider commemorating this occasion with a special coin and a postal stamp in his honor," Kharadi said in the letter.

'Such a tribute would not only acknowledge his significant contributions but also serve as an enduring symbol of inspiration for generations to come, particularly the Janjatis," he added.

Priyanka slams Govt over abstention from UN vote on Israel-Hamas conflict; BJP hits back

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With India abstaining on a United Nations resolution on the Israel-Hamas conflict, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday asserted that the move goes against everything the country has stood for, remarks that drew a sharp response from the BJP which stressed that India will never be on the side of terrorism. India on Friday abstained from voting in the UN General Assembly on a Jordan-drafted resolution titled 'protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations' that called for an immediate humanitarian truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict and unhindered humanitarian access in the Gaza strip. The 193-member General

Assembly adopted the resolution that called for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities.

In a post on X, Priyanka Gandhi quoted Mahatma

to drive home her point. "I am shocked and ashamed that our country has abstained from voting for a ceasefire in Gaza," Priyanka Gandhi said. "Our country was founded on the principles of non-vio-

lence and truth, principles for which our freedom fighters laid down their lives, these principles form the basis of the constitution that defines our nationhood," she said.

They represent the moral courage of India that guided its actions as a member of the international community, she

Gandhi's "an eye for an eye "To refuse to take a stand and makes the whole world blind" watch in silence as every law

of humanity is pulverized, food, water, medical supplies, communication and power is cut off to millions of people and thousands of men, women and children in Palestine are being annihilated goes against everything our country has stood for throughout its life as a nation," Priyanka Gandhi

Reacting to Priyanka Gandhi's response, senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said those who are "ashamed and shocked" must realise that India will never be on the side of terrorism.

"India's Explanation of Vote - spelt this out categorically.

Our position on the Israel -Palestine issue is steadfast and consistent. Those who choose to side with terror do so at their own peril...," the former minority affairs minister said on X.

"On a lighter note, Priyanka Ji, you should first educate yourself on things that are put out from your X account. Looks like people, who have no idea of Congress's past positions on the situation, are advising you," he said. "What is worse is that in an

attempt to make you look 'better' than Rahul, they are making you look silly," Naqvi added.

The CPI(M) and the CPI said in a joint statement that India abstaining from voting on a United Nations resolution calling for a truce in Gaza is "shocking" and shows that Indian foreign policy is now shaped by "being a subordinate ally of US imperialism". Communist Party of India (Marxist) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI General Secretary D Raja said in the statement -- titled 'Stop this Genocidal Aggression in

Gaza' -- that India's move

negates its long-standing sup-

port to the Palestinian cause. India has said terrorism is a "malignancy" and knows no borders, nationality or race and the world should not buy into any justification of terror acts, as it abstained on a resolution on the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The resolution, which garnered 121 votes in favour, 44 abstentions and 14 member states voting against it, also demanded the immediate, continuous, sufficient and unhindered provision of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip.

According to media reports, the rising death toll in Gaza is unprecedented in the decades-long Palestinian conflict.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza said Thursday that more than 7,000 Palestinians have died in the conflict. Over 1,400 people were killed in the unprecedented attacks on Israel by Hamas on October 7. Hamas has held more than 220 people hostage in Gaza. Israel then launched retaliatory strikes which left a trail of death and destruction.

ED arrests 2 promoters, CA of pharma company, searches Ashoka University

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Enforcement Saturday arrested two promoters of Chandigarh-based pharma company Parabolic Drugs and its chartered accountant in a money-laundering probe linked to an alleged bank fraud, official sources said.

Parabolic Drugs promoters Vineet Gupta and Pranav Gupta and CA S K Bansal were taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following a long session of questioning.

A special PMLA court in Panchkula sent them to five days of ED custody, they said. The central agency continued with its searches against the group for the second day, including at the Ashoka University's corporate and registered offices in Delhi and campus in Haryana's Sonepat.

A total of 17 premises in Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh, and Panchkula were covered by the ED after the raids were launched on Friday. The Guptas are also the co-



founders of the Sonepatbased Ashoka University but had stepped down from their posts in 2022 after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case against them and the company in 2021.

The university on Friday said the "Enforcement Directorate has sought information in the matter of investigations into the case of Parabolic Drugs where Ashoka University founders, Vineet Gupta and Pranav Gupta, are directors.

While a statement from the institute on the ED action is awaited, it had said Parabolic Drugs was "in no way linked to the Ashoka University."

"Ashoka University has no past or current relationship with Parabolic Drugs, the company being investigated, and any attempt to create a link is without any basis and misleading," it had said. The money-laundering case stems from a CBI FIR in

which the promoters and the pharma company were booked for allegedly defrauding a consortium of banks, led by the Central Bank of India, of Rs 1,626.74 crore. According to the sources, the

ED suspects that the Guptas "layered and diverted" bank loan funds to the tune of Rs 7 crore to the university.

It has found documents that allegedly show that an amount of the loan funds was transferred in September 2013 to an infrastructure company and was further transferred to Vineet Gupta's bank accounts and of this, he reportedly sent Rs 1 crore to the university.

Another amount of Rs 50 lakh is under the ED's scanner as the agency suspects it was transferred to a sister company of Parabolic Drugs Jamboree Education Private Limited -- and subsequently, transferred to the university by Vineet Gupta.

The agency is looking at a total of 20 linked companies as part of the bank-loan fraud

NYC protesters demand Israeli cease-fire

sea of hundreds of protest-Aers filled the main concourse of New York City's famed Grand Central Terminal during the evening rush hour Friday, chanting slogans and unfurling banners demanding a cease-fire as Israel intensified its bombardment of the Gaza

Strip.
Wearing black T-shirts saying "Jews say cease-fire now and "Not in our name," at least 200 of the demonstrators were detained by New York Police Department officers and led out of the train station, their hands zip-tied behind their backs. The NYPD said the protesters were taken briefly into custody, issued summonses and released, and that a more exact number of detentions would be available Saturday

Some protesters hoisted banners as they scaled the stone ledges in front of leaderboards listing departure times. Metropolitan Transportation Authority asked commuters to use Penn Station as an alternative. After the sitin was broken up by police, the remaining protesters spilled

"Hundreds of Jews and friends are taking over Grand Central Station in a historic sit-

into the streets outside.



Explosions caused by Israeli airstrikes in the northern Gaza Strip on Friday

in calling for a ceasefire," advocacy group Jewish Voice for Peace said on social media.

The scene echoed last week's sit-in on Capitol Hill in Washington, where Jewish advocacy groups, including Jewish Voice for Peace and If Not Now, poured into a congressional office building. More than 300 people were arrested for illegally demonstrating.

Israel stepped up airstrikes across the Gaza Strip on Friday, knocking out internet and largely cutting off communication with the 2.3 million people inside the besieged Palestinian enclave. Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry says more than 7,300 people have been killed, more than

60% of them minors and

The Israeli military's ing to the Israeli government, announcement it was "expandand at least 229 hostages were ing" ground operations in the taken into Gaza. territory signaled it was moving closer to an all-out invasion of Gaza, where it has vowed to crush the ruling Hamas militant group after its bloody incursion in southern Israel

Assembly approved a non-

binding resolution calling for a "humanitarian truce" in Gaza leading to a cessation of hostilities. It was the first U.N response to Hamas' surprise October 7 attacks and Israel's ongoing military response.

1,400 people were slain in Israel during the attack, accord-Organisation for Migration and the UN refugee agency said Islamophobic hate crimes rise in UK tens of thousands of Afghans

> 3-15, with many citing fear of arrest as the reason for their

organisations.

The

departure. "We urge the Pakistan authorities to suspend forcible returns of Afghan nationals before it is too late to avoid a

human rights catastrophe," the

left Pakistan between October

'Spike in Afghans

leaving Pakistan

due to crackdown

Kabul (AP): UN agencies have

reported a sharp increase in Afghans returning home since Pakistan launched a crack-

down on people living in the country illegally.

suspend the policy before it was

too late to avoid a "human

said it will arrest and deport undocumented or unregistered foreigners after October 31.

tation centres. The govern-

ment says the campaign is not

aimed at a particular national-

ity, but it mostly affects Afghans

who make up the bulk of for-

there are more than 2 million

undocumented Afghans in

Pakistan, at least 600,000 of

whom fled after the Taliban

through a severe humanitarian

crisis, particularly for women

and girls, who are banned by

the Taliban from education

beyond sixth grade, most pub-

lic spaces and many jobs. There

are also restrictions on media,

activists, and civil society

International

Afghanistan is going

UN agencies said Friday

eigners living in the country.

rights catastrophe."

They urged Pakistan to

Pakistan earlier this month

Two provinces bordering Afghanistan have set up depor-

"We believe many of those facing deportation will be at grave risk of human rights violations if returned to Afghanistan, including arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, cruel and other inhuman

treatment." Pakistan insists that nobody will be mistreated after their arrest and says the deportations will be executed in a

"phased and orderly" manner. Its deportation campaign comes amid strained relations with its neighbours. Pakistan accuses the Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan of sheltering militants who go back and forth across the countries' shared 2,611-kilometre (1,622-mile) border and stage attacks on Pakistani security forces. The Taliban deny the

accusations.

chants would have to be assessed on a case-by-case

strict restrictions on the route to be followed by demonstra-UK's Public Order Act. A sep-Palestinian Solidarity ing in the area outside the

WORLD BRIEFS

TEEN INJURED ON TEHRAN METRO DIES

Dubai: An Iranian teenage girl injured weeks ago in a mysterious incident on Tehran's Metro while not wearing a head scarf has died, Iranian state media reported on Saturday. The death of Armita Geravand comes after her being in a coma for weeks in Tehran and after the one-year anniversary of the death of Mahsa Amini and the nationwide protests it sparked. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported her death. What happened in the few seconds after Armita Geravand entered the train on Oct. 1 remains in question. While a friend told Iranian state television that she hit her head on the station's platform, the soundless footage aired by the broadcaster from outside of the car is blocked by a bystander. Just seconds later, her limp body is carried off. Geravand's mother and father appeared in state media footage saying a blood pressure issue, a fall or perhaps both contributed to their daughter's injury. Activists abroad have alleged Geravand may have been pushed or attacked because she was not wearing the hijab. They demanded an independent investigation by the United Nations' fact-finding mission on Iran, citing the theocracy's use of pressure on victims' families and state TV's history of airing hundreds of coerced confessions.

AT LEAST 32 KILLED IN A MULTI-CAR PILEUP IN EGYPT

Cairo: Egypt's health ministry said at least 32 people were killed in a multi-car pileup Saturday on a highway linking Cairo and the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. At least 63 others were injured in the crash which involved a passenger bus and other vehicles, the statement said, adding that fire erupted in some vehicles. Ambulances rushed to the scene to transfer the injured to

INDIA TO GIVE MORE FUNDING TO LANKAN MILITARY

Colombo: India will provide additional funding of LKR 23 million (around Rs 58,75,900) for the training of Sri Lankan Armed Forces, the Indian High Commission here has said. This was conveyed to Sri Lanka by the acting Indian High Commissioner Satyanjal Pandey when he met a senior local military delegation here on Friday. "Army Delegation led by Maj Gen Chandana Wickramasinghe met Acting HC @DrSatyanjal to discuss the conduct of upcoming Exercise Mitra Shakti, a bilateral exercise between the Armies and Air Forces of India and Sri Lanka," the Indian mission posted on X. "Additional funding of LKR 23 million for training of Sri Lankan Armed Forces announced by India," it said, without giving more details. The Sri Lankan side conveyed its gratitude to India for the capacity-building support extended to the Sri Lankan armed forces and was looking forward to increased engagements, a release said.

AT LEAST 21 DEAD IN KAZAKHSTAN COAL MINE FIRE

London: A coal mine fire in central Kazakhstan killed at least 21 workers while another 25 remained unaccounted for on Saturday, the operating company ArcelorMittal Temirtau said in a statement. Some 252 people were working at the Kostenko coal mine at the time of the blaze, believed to have been caused by a pocket of methane gas, the company said. ArcelorMittal Temirtau is the local representative for Luxembourg-based multinational Arcelor Mittal, the world's second-largest steel producer. It operates eight coal mines across the Karaganda region and a further four iron ore mines in central and northern Kazakhstan. The fire is the latest in a string of workplace deaths at sites operated by ArcelorMittal Temirtau. In August, four miners were killed after a fire erupted at the same mine, while five people died following a methane leak at another site in November 2022. In the statement, the company conveyed "pain" at the lives lost and said their efforts "are now aimed at ensuring that affected employees receive comprehensive care and rehabilitation, as well as close cooperation with government authorities". Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said on Saturday his country is stopping "investment cooperation" with ArcelorMittal Temirtau. The office of Kazakhstan's Prosecutor General has also announced an investigation into potential safety violations in the

POLICE INTERCEPT 77 MIGRANTS IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Skopje: Police in North Macedonia said Saturday they found 77 migrants in the country's south and arrested seven Pakistanis suspected of human trafficking. Police said in a statement the arrests took place late Thursday near the southern town of Negorci when they responded to reports of a large group of people on the move. The 77 included 52 Syrians, 13 Pakistanis, five Iraqis, five Turks and two Indians. Seven of the Pakistanis, believed to be the organisers of the group's illegal entry into North Macedonia from neighbouring Greece, were arrested and criminal charges were filed nem. It was the first large gi into North Macedonia in recent months. The migrants were being sheltered in a reception centre in the border town of Gevgelija pending deportation back to Greece. According to the police, a total of 5,280 attempts at illegal crossing were prevented in the first six months of 2023, the vast majority of them at the southern border with Greece. That is a drop of 43 per cent from the same period last year and is largely due to the European border and coast guard agency Frontex launching a joint border patrol operation with local authorities last April.

ROADSIDE BOMB KILLS 2 IN NORTHWEST PAKISTAN Islamabad: Two Pakistani soldiers and one militant were killed

in a roadside bomb explosion and in a separate shootout during an overnight military operation against militant activity in the northwest alongside the border with Afghanistan, the military said on Saturday. A military statement said an intelligencebased operation was conducted in the Tirah valley of Khyber district late on Friday night. One militant was killed and two others were wounded and arrested. The military said two of its soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb exploded while a security patrol was passing by in South Waziristan overnight. Security troops were conducting a search operation in the area to eliminate militants involved in the attack. Tribal districts along the border with Afghanistan have been sanctuaries for militants for decades until the military carried out a massive operation after an attack on an army-run school in Peshawar in 2014 killed more than 150 people, mostly schoolchildren. After the yearslong operation, the army announced it had cleared the region of local and foreign militants. Occasional attacks have continued, however, raising concerns that the local Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, found sanctuaries in Afghanistan and are regrouping

SERBIAN POLICE DETAIN 6 PEOPLE AFTER SHOOTING

Belgrade: Serbian police have arrested six people and seized automatic weapons after a shooting between migrants near the country's tense border with Hungary killed three people and injured one. Police said late on Friday they detained four Afghan and two Turkish nationals suspected of unlawful possession of guns and explosives. It was not immediately clear whether they would be charged with the shooting as well. The suspected clash between groups of migrants happened early Friday in abandoned farming warehouses near the village of Horgos. Police raided the area and seized two automatic rifles and ammunition. They also found 79 migrants and transferred them to reception centres, the statement said. Reports of violence and gunbattles have become common near the border between Serbia and European Union member nation Hungary. Thousands of migrants have been camping in the area, looking for ways to cross with the help of people smugglers. Serbian police have raided the border zone on several occasions over the past several months, arresting suspected people smugglers and confiscating weapons. President Aleksandar Vucic said on Friday that Serbia could bring in the military "to fix this", state RTS television reported. The Serbia-Hungary border area lies on the socalled Balkan land route of migration toward Western Europe, which leads from Turkiye to Greece and Bulgaria, and then on to North Macedonia, Serbia or Bosnia. Hungary's staunchly antiimmigrant government has put up razor-wire fence on the border with Serbia to stop the influx. People smuggling gangs, however, have multiplied in the border area, often clashing for con-

India pushes for direct Vietnam-NE flights

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH CITY

Union Minister of State for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh on Saturday urged airlines from Vietnam to explore launching direct flights to cities in north-eastern states of India to provide increased investment and tourism opportunities to both countries. Guwahati, considered the

Gateway to Southeast Asia, has an international airport with direct flights connecting Bangkok and Singapore, Singh said while addressing a session on investment and trade at the North East India Festival here.

"All eight North East states are well connected by air, land and rail with other parts of India. I invite airlines from Vietnam to explore possibilities of connecting NE states with cities by air," he said.

"It has further fostered its strategic relationship promoting economic cooperation and strengthening cultural ties with ASEAN countries. Our journey

27 suspected

in nationwide

Jakarta (AP): Indonesian

police said on Saturday they

arrested at least 27 suspected

militants believed to have links

to banned extremist groups, in

a nationwide crackdown as

the world's most populous

Muslim-majority country gears

errorism squad, known as

Densus 88, made the arrests on

Friday in the capital, Jakarta

and in West Java and Central

Sulawesi provinces, said

National Police spokesperson

and interrogating all those

arrested in search for other pos-

sible suspects," Aswin Siregar,

the spokesperson of Densus 88

suspected of being members of

a homegrown militant outfit

affiliated with the Islamic State

(IS) group known as Jemmaah

Anshorut Daulah, or JAD, he

said. The arrests were made

after the interrogation of 18

suspected militants arrested

since October 2, Ramadhan

said. Some local media reports

said those arrested were linked

to an alleged plot of militant

attacks meant to disrupt the

elections in February 2024,

but Ramadhan quickly down

increasing terrorism threats

ahead of next year's elections so far," he said. "This is part of our

efforts to take preventive action

against possible acts of terror in

A court in 2018 banned

"There is no indication of

played them.

the country."

Most of the arrested are

told The Associated Press.

"We are still investigating

Ahmad Ramadhan.

The police's elite countert-

up for elections in 2024.

crackdown

militants

from the establishment of diplomatic relations to comprehensive strategic partnership has been further enhanced since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Vietnam in 2016," the minister said.

The bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has increased exponentially since 2000 when it was only USD 200 million but it crossed the USD 15 billion mark in 2022.

During the recent visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Vietnam there were fruitful discussions and both sides agreed to take the bilateral trade to USD 20 billion dollars, Singh added. "Initiatives like 'Make In India', 'Skill in India, 'Digital India' and 'Startup India' have not only fostered innovations but also positioned India as the third largest startup hub in the world. India provides vast opportunities for investments in sectors like infrastructure development, renewable energy, digital technology, health care and others," he said. this weekend.

PTI ■ LONDON

ntisemitic Alslamophobic hate crimes have continued to rise dramatically in London since the Israel-Hamas conflict intensified earlier this month, with Scotland Yard gearing up for another set of protests on the streets of London on Saturday.

The Metropolitan Police said it had recorded 408 antisemitic offences against Britain's Jewish communities this month, compared to 28 in the same period last year, and Islamophobic hate crime was up from 65 offences in October 2022 to 174 so far this month.

The police force has made 75 arrests linked to the Israel-Gaza conflict and its counterterrorism officers are investigating 10 potential breaches of terrorism laws.

We've been clear over the last week that wherever possible we will police up to the line of the law," said Met Police Commander Kyle Gordon, with reference to protests and marches planned in London

"Our most experienced and knowledgeable officers are working on the policing of these events, making sure we are utilising all legislation to its fullest extent. I would encourage anyone who sees any crimes happening at the moment to report it to the

three weeks ago. More than

nearest police officer," he said. "Any footage or images of potential crimes should be reported to us - we have specialist teams whose role is to scour thousands of pieces of content identifying crime," he

Thousands of Met Police officers will be on duty to "provide reassurance" to those who want to make their voices heard at the demonstrations and also to "proactively" deal with anyone who breaks the law. The force said it would also be working to minimise disruption to other Londoners and businesses in the UK capital. Following chants of "jihad" at previous protests which have been condemned as unacceptable by government ministers, the Met Police has indicated that any arrests related to such "If somebody is calling for

jihad specifically against Israel the officers will intervene, gather the information. We'll be working with colleagues (from counterterrorism) in relation to what the best course of action is," added Commander The Met Police has placed

tors under Section 12 of the arate condition has been imposed under Section 14 of the Public Order Act which prevents people involved in the Campaign march from gather-Israeli Embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens in central

Details of these conditions, which the police said have been put in place for the safety of those involved as well as the wider public, have been shared directly with the organisers of the march.

Police arrest US, China discuss potential meeting between Biden, Xi next month

AP WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden has emphasised that the United States and China need to manage competition in the relationship responsibly and maintain open lines of communication as he met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi ahead of a potential meeting with President Xi Jinping next month to reset bilateral ties. President Biden met Wang

at the White House on Friday after the top Chinese diplomat held wide-ranging talks with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan. Wang's visit is expected to

lay the groundwork for a potential meeting between

at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in San Francisco in mid-

November.

"The President emphasised that both the United States and China need to manage competition in the relationship responsibly and maintain open lines of communication. He underscored that the United States and China must work together to address global challenges," the White House said in a readout of the meeting

between Biden and Wang.
Sullivan and Wang had
candid, constructive, and substantive discussions on key issues in the US-China bilateral relationship, the Israel-Hamas conflict, Russia's war

against Ukraine, and cross-Strait issues, among other topics, said the National Security Council in a readout of the

During the meeting, Sullivan discussed concerns over China's dangerous and unlawful actions in the South China Sea. He raised the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

China views Taiwan as a rebel province that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force. China has been conducting provocative military exercises around the selfruled island.

"The two sides reaffirmed their desire to maintain this strategic channel of communication and to pursue additional high-level diplomacy, including working together towards a meeting between President Biden and President Xi Jinping in San Francisco in November," said the readout.

Department State Spokesperson Matthew Miller said Blinken and Wang discussed a range of bilateral, regional, and global issues, including addressing areas of difference as well as exploring areas of cooperation.

"The Secretary reiterated that the United States will continue to stand up for our interests and values and those of our allies and partners," he said.

The relationship between the world's two largest economies began to deteriorate

tion. In 2018, former President Donald Trump signed an executive memorandum that would impose retaliatory tariffs on up to USD 60 billion in Chinese imports.

The US and China have one of the world's most important and complex bilateral relationships. Since 1949, the countries have experienced periods of both tension and cooperation over issues including trade, climate change, the South China Sea, Taiwan and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Biden administration has sought to re-establish normal diplomatic ties with China after an incredibly fraught period, most notably over the Chinese surveillance balloon incident in February.

Policeman killed, more than 200 injured in Bangladesh violence Dhaka (PTI): A Bangladeshi

policeman was killed and more than 200 people, including security personnel, were injured on Saturday as violence erupted during rallies called by the ruling and opposition parties here, heightening tensions in the country ahead of the expected elections in January.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by former prime minister Khaleda Zia, organised a grand rally here demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to allow free and fair elections under a non-party interim government.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Spokesman Faruk Hossain said BNP activists hacked to death a police constable while 41 other policemen were wounded in clashes across the capital. He added that 39 policemen were undergoing treatment at the Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital (CPH).

Doctors declared him

JAD. The group has been weakened by a sustained crackdown on militants by Densus

(policeman) dead as he was brought here," Bacchu Mian, Inspector at the police outpost at state-run Dhaka Medical College Hospital, told reporters, as the ruling Awami League party and main opposition BNP called simultaneous rallies in nearby areas.

Paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was also called out as the violence spread across downtown Dhaka, which saw protestors setting fire to ambulances and vehicles inside CPH, a police booth, and attack attempts being made at several government buildings. Kakrail and adjacent areas also saw major violence. Police responded with rubber bullets, tear gas canisters and sound grenades to break up the grand rally by the BNP. "BNP leaders and activists

attacked the government instal-

lations and property. Legal

actions will be taken," Dhaka

Metropolitan Police's detective

branch chief Harunur Rashid

AP ■ LEWISTON

The Army reservist who opened fire in a bowling alley and then at a bar in Lewiston, Maine, killing 18 people, was found dead Friday from a self-inflicted gunshot, ending an intensive two-day search that had the state on

Robert Card, a firearms instructor who grew up in the area, was found dead in nearby Lisbon Falls, Gov. Janet Mills said at a Friday night news conference.

"Like many people I'm breathing a sigh of relief tonight knowing that Robert Card is no longer a threat to anyone," Mills said.

Commissioner of Maine Department of Public Safety Mike Sauschuck said Card was found at 7:45 pm near the Androscoggin River, about 8 miles (13 kilometers) southeast of where the second shooting occurred Wednesday evening. He declined to divulge the location but an official told The Associated Press the body was at a recycling center from which Card recently was fired. The official was not autho-

rized to discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to on condition of Leo Madden, who said he ran Maine Recycling Corp. for

said he couldn't recall the dates and didn't know if Card was "fired or didn't show up." "He was a good employee," Madden told the AP, adding

that nothing about the man stood out to him while he was an employee. Mills said she had called President Joe Biden to alert him that Card was dead.

"Tonight we're grateful that Lewiston and surrounding communities are safe after spending excruciating days hiding in their homes," Biden said in a statement. He added that "Americans should not have to live like this" and called on Congress to take action on gun violence.

Card, 40, of Bowdoin, the AP on condition of Maine, was a US Army

reservist who underwent a mental health evaluation in mid-July after he began acting

erratically during training, a

U.S. official told The Associated

Card had been sought since the Wednesday night shootings, and murder wardecades, said Card had worked rants were issued against him. there for a couple of years but A bulletin sent to police

across the country shortly after the attack said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks this past summer after "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" a military base.

A US official said Card was training with the Army Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 304th Infantry Regiment in West Point, New York, when commanders became concerned about him. State police took Card to the Keller Army Community Hospital at West Point for evaluation, according to the official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the information and spoke to

during the Trump administra-Maine mass killing suspect found dead

'Govts need to collaborate to | Sebi slaps ₹33 crore | fine on 13 individuals

ommerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday urged the countries participating in the G7 trade ministers meeting to enhance collaboration on a regulatory framework to facilitate cross border trade.

The Group of Seven (G7) trade ministers meeting was held in Osaka, Japan. Under its G7 presidency this

year, Japan has invited India, along with a few other invitee countries (Australia, Chile, Indonesia, and Kenya) to participate in the outreach programme held on October 28. In the meeting, Goyal "urged the governments to collaborate on a regulatory framework to ease the movement of supply chains and facilitate cross border trade," an official statement said.

He said the Covid-19 pan-



demic and geopolitical events have highlighted the vulnerabilities of the existing supply chains leading to increase in commodity prices and glob-

The Russia-Ukraine war, conflict between Israel and Hamas and global economic uncertainties are impacting flow of goods across the

world. India's exports have also been impacted due to

The minister encouraged public-private partnership, investment in critical infrastructure and the need for innovation and digitalisation of supply chains.

Goyal highlighted the need for supply chain diversification and skilling and reskilling of the personnel.

During the session, representatives from the governments, private sector and international organisations like OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and WTO (World Trade Organization) also participated.

"Suzuki made a presentation on their experience in India. Suzuki mentioned how they developed a reliable and trusted vendor base in India and achieved over 95 per cent indigenisation in their supply chains in India," the commerce ministry said.

G7 is an intergovernmental forum comprising seven important countries of the world. It accounts for over half of the global network wealth, 30-43 per cent of global GDP and 10 per cent of the world's population.

Capital markets regulator Sebi has slapped fines totalling Rs 33 crore on 13 individuals, including senior officials of Sharepro Services (I) Pvt Ltd for flouting regulatory norms.

The regulator levied fines in the range of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 15 crore on 13 individuals, including Rs 15.08 crore on Indira Karkera (Vice President and client manager for a number of client companies of Sharepro), and Rs 5.16 crore on Govind Raj Rao (Managing Director of Sharepro).

Apart from senior officials, Sebi also penalised Balram Mukherjee, Pradeep Rathod, Shrikant Bhalakia, Anil Jathan, Chetan Shah, Sujitkumar Amarnath Gupta, Bhavani Jathan, Anand S Bhalakia, Dayanand Jathan, Mohit Karkera and Rajesh Bhagat.



These individuals are referred to as noticees.

In its 200-page order, Sebi found that securities at least worth Rs 60.45 crore (on the basis of the value of respective scrip in October 2016) and dividends worth Rs 1.41 crore of genuine shareholders were misappropriated in the fraud. Further, certain unlisted securities of genuine shareholders were also misappropriated in the fraud.

"I also note that non-maintenance and non-submission of records by the noticees limit-

ed the instances of misappropriation that could be investigated by the regulator and only misappropriation of assets of Rs 61.86 crore of genuine shareholders could be identi-

"I have also considered the directions issued with respect to the noticees vide order dated July 8, 2020, and restraints already undergone by the respective noticees," Sebi's Adjudicating Officer Asha Shetty said in the order on Friday.

The markets watchdog also observed that Rs 61.86 crore worth of securities and dividends were identified as misappropriated, but the records and analysis are limited in terms of fund trails and records, identifying how much each of the individuals misappropriated the genuine investors' assets as ill-gained

"I am constrained by the facts that, proceedings in respect of some of the noticees have been abated, lots of the funds were withdrawn in cash, and the established fund and securities trail to the remaining noticees found guilty of the fraud, doesn't add up to the entire value of the assets misappropriated, and hence not able to compute the exact illgained profit made by each of the noticee found guilty of fraud," Shetty added.

The order came after Sebi received an anonymous complaint dated October 20, 2015, and thereafter, it conducted an investigation to examine in detail the records of Sharepro. In March 2016, the regulator passed an interim order against Sharepro and 15 other entities, and subsequently, the directions were confirmed through a confirmatory order against all but one entity.

Centre estimates 3.79 per cent lower kharif rice production

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's rice production is estimated to decline by 3.79 per cent to 106.31 million tonnes in the kharif season of the 2023-24 crop year (July-June) due to poor rainfall in key growing states, according to the Agriculture Ministry's latest estimates released on Friday. Rice production stood at 110.5 million tonnes during the same season in the previous crop year. Rice is the main kharif crop and its harvesting is

According to the first advance foodgrains production estimate released by the ministry, maize production is estimated to be 22.48 million tonnes in



the kharif season 2023-24, lower than 23.6 million tonnes

Among pulses, tur production is expected to be slightly higher this year at 3.42 million tonnes as against 3.31 million tonnes the previous year.

Production of groundnut and soybean is estimated to be 7.82 million tonnes and 11.52 million tonnes, respectively.

Moong production is estimat-

ed to be 1.40 million tonnes,

lower than last year's 1.71 mil-

Oilseeds production is esti-

mated to decline to 21.53 mil-

lion tonnes from 26.15 million

lion tonnes.

tonnes.

Among cash crops, sugarcane production is expected to come down to 434.7 million tonnes from 490.53 million tonnes

Reliance extends Urban Ladder's presence at Smart Bazaar outlets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

eading retailer Reliance has Lextended the presence of its furniture and home decor brand Urban Ladder at its hypermarkets chain Smart Bazaar and also through b2b institutional

Reliance Retail, which owns lingerie brands Clovia, Amante, and Zivame, also said that it has now become a market leader in the women's innerwear market. "Our new businesses in lingerie, we are making good progress. We are the largest player in this segment now," said Reliance Retail CFO Dinesh Taluja during Friday's earnings call of

Now Reliance Retail is looking to expand the lingerie category across retail formats such as Trends, Azorte, Centro and Blushlace, he said.

'We continue to expand our inhouse brands and we operate across the spectrum from midpremium to luxury. We are focusing on general trade so that these brands have wide distribution, which will further deep-

en the penetration, and that continues to be a focus for all our brands in the portfolio within this segment," Taluja added

Over Urban Ladder, now an omni-channel business, the focus is to provide more and more touch points to the customer, Taluja said.

At these stores, customers can touch and feel the product through experience centres as well as by online or in the stores, he said. "We are also expanding the category by putting it under many of the Smart Bazaars that we have launched so that it adds a new category into our Smart Bazaar portfolio. We've also recently forayed into the institutional sales within the segment," he said.

Smart Bazaars are chain of hypermarkets operated by Reliance Retail.

Besides, Reliance Retail, which has launched its own FMCG brand 'Independence', is expanding it to pan-India.

"Independence brand which we had launched earlier in the year continues its growth

partner with other premier

engineering institutes in India

"This R&D centre in India is a

small unit which will become

the world. One in Sweden,

one in India. They are all cooperating in 6G-based research,"

Ericsson, Head of Market Area

Ericsson's rival Nokia has

already set up a 6G lab in

Bangalore about two weeks

India's vision to have ubiquitous

India Mobile Congress.

for 6G-related research.

momentum. We are now expanding it nationally as well as expanding it to multiple categories," he said.

Its cola brand Campa is also doing well and has had very $good \bar{\ } traction.$

The focus for the business has been to expand the distribution channel and deepen the engage ment with general trade. We delivered 4x growth in revenue in this business during the quarter," it said.

Reliance Retail is expanding its FMCG play through several acquisitions. "During the quarter we completed the acquisition of a majority stake in Ed-a-Mamma which is a kids' wear brand as well as we completed acquisition of a controlling stake in Superdry IP for India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh territory," said Taluja.

Reliance on Friday reported an increase of 21.04 per cent in its net profit in the September quarter to Rs 2,790 crore. Its revenue from operation surged 19.48 per cent to Rs 68,937 crore, helped by growth across consumption.

IDFC First Bank Q2 profit rises 35 per cent

▼DFC First Bank on Saturday reported a 35 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 751 crore in the second quarter ended September driven by operating income.

The lender had posted a net profit of Rs 556 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income in the second quarter of the current fiscal rose to Rs 8,786 crore from Rs 6,531 crore in the same period a year ago, IDFC First Bank said in a regulatory fil-The net interest income (NII)

of the bank improved by 32 per cent to Rs 3,950 crore against Rs 3,002 crore in September 2022. The net interest margin

increased to 6.32 per cent at the end of September 2023 as against 5.83 per cent at the end of second quarter of previous year. The bank's asset quality

showed improvement as gross non-performing assets (NPAs)

gross advances at the end of the September quarter from 3.18 per cent a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs or bad loans declined to 0.68 per

cent as against 1.09 per cent in

the year-ago period. Provision coverage ratio (including technical write-off) of the bank has increased to 84.09 per cent as of September 30, 2023 from 76.49 per cent as of September 30, 2022, it

Standard restructured book as percentage of total funded assets improved to 0.38 per cent from 1.03 per cent as on September 30, 2022.

Capital Adequacy Ratio of the bank increased to 16.54 per cent as compared to 14.63 per cent at the end of September 2022.

During the first week of October 2023, the bank raised Rs 3,000 crore from a set of investors via qualified institutional placement (OIP) at an issue price of Rs 90.25 per

PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY **LUDHIANA**

ADMISSION NOTICE Ph.D.

Applications are invited for admission to Ph.D. programmes on all India basis in the following disciplines for the academic session 2023-24

- Agricultural Extension Education
- Molecular Biology & Biotechnology Entomology Food Technol ogy (Processing
- Technology)
 Genetics & Plant Breeding
 Plant Pathology
- Soil Science Horticulture (Fruit Science)
- Horticulture (Floriculture &
- Landscaping)

 Farm Machinery & Power
- Irrigation & Drainage Engineering Renewable Energy Engineering
- · Soil & Water Conservation Engineering
- Agricultural Economics
 Biochemistry Botany
 Business Administratio
 - Chemistry
 - Sociology
 - Zoology
 Apparel & Textile Science
 - Food & Nutrition
 - Extension Education & Communication
 - Human Development & Family Studies

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

For applying offline The Prospectus can be obtained from the office of the Additional Director of Communication, Communication Centre, PAU, Ludhiana. The duly

applicable)/received after the prescribed date, will not be considered

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 (where

details, visit the University website www.pau.edu Registra Punjab Agricultural University

Ludhiana

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and
Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. econstruction Enterprise Ltd. [CIN: U65993DL2002PLC115769 "Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is and "whatever there is" basis on 30.11.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for precovery of Rs. 60,62,259/ (Rupees Sixty Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Nine only) i.e. Rs. 48,78,572/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Seventy Eigh Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Two only) pending towards Loan Accor A0160XXIII-01 [Old Loan Account No. HLAPLAJ00408203]; and Rs. 11,83,687X (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven only pending towards Loan Account No. A0160XXIII-02 [Old Loan Account No HLAPLAJ00408315], by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 19.10.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Account No. A0160XXIII-02 [Old Loan Account No. A0160XXIII-02]. Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 20.10.2023 along with lega

(PROPRIETOR, ADITYAENTERPRISES) and HARITISHARMA.

The above Loan Accounts bearing Nos. HLAPLAJ00408203 and HARPLAJ00408315, along with all right(s), title(s), interest(s), underlying security(ies), pledge(s) and/ or guarantee(s), including the Immovable Property, hat been assigned by Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. ("IHFL") to Indiabulls Asse Reconstruction Co. Ltd. ("IARCL") vide Assignment Agreement dated 31.12.2021 which were renumbered by IARCL as A0160XXIII-01 and A0160XXIII-01. respectively. The said Loan Accounts have been further assigned by IARCL to and in vour of the Secured Creditor, acting as a Trustee of ACRE-102-Trust, vid ssignment Agreement dated 29.06.2022.

assignment.agreement.dated.**2**8.06.2022. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 1,11,00,000/- (Rupees On** C**rore Eleven Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("**EMD**") will b Rs. 11,10,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Ten Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PROPERTY BEING ENTIRE SECOND FLOOR AND ENTIRE THIRD FLOOR (WITH ITS TERRACE/ROOF RIGHTS, OVER AND ABOVE), TOGETHER WITH PROPORTIONATE, UNDIVIDED, INDIVISIBLE AND IMPARTIBLE SHARE OF THE LAND UNDERNEATH, OF THE PROPERTY BEARING NO. 6 BUILDING NUMBER 1/3127, PLOT NO. 20, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 606, GALI NO. 3, RAM NAGAR EXTENSION, LONI ROAD, DELHI-110032.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.acreindia.in; For bidding, log on to

ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD. TRUSTEE OF ACRE-102-TRUST

Ericsson sets up 6G research, development centre in India wedish telecom gear maker Sericsson on Saturday announced setting up a 6Ġ research and development centre in Chennai. Ericsson is also looking to

bigger. We only have three in coverage under 6G technology second in the US and the third has been accepted by UN body ITU's Study Group in its meeting held in Geneva-- a move Southeast Asia, Oceania, and that is expected to reduce the cost of deployment of the next-India, Nunzio Mirtillo said at

> ITU is responsible for developing international mobile telecommunication standards. Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his inaugural address of

generation technology.

India Mobile Congress 2023 said that India is not only expanding the 5G network in the country but will also take the lead in 6G technology.

Nunzio said that Ericsson spends USD 4-5 billion each year on R&D and India is part of it. Ericsson has three R&D centres at Chennai, Bengaluru and Gurgaon in India. Ericsson envisions a 6G net-

humans and machines and is able to fully merge physical and digital worlds to allow seamless interaction and immersive experiences. 'Our views on 6G are aligned

with the views of ubiquitous connectivity, sustainable networks and affordable communications from Bharat 6G vision statement of the Government of India," Ericsson India head, Nitin Bansal said. Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson's net sales in India grew over 3.5 times to about Rs 7,400 crore (9.6 billion Swedish Krona) in the third quarter ended on September 30, 2023 When asked about the business growth potential in India for Ericsson with telecom operators meeting their committed rollout targets, Mirtillo said that it is just initial days for 5G business in India.

NA/11/364/2023/29254 Dated CHD :- 10/27/2023 DMI HOUSING FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED ("COMPANY")

(U65923DL2011PTC216373; Registered Office:- Express Building, 3rd Floor, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002; T: +91 11 41204444; F: +91 11 41204000; email: dmi@dmihousinhgfinance.in)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in general, and the customers in particular, that the management of the Company has decided to close the following branch

Name, Address and contact details of Closing Branch

DMI Housing Finance Private Limited Office No 69 Floor 5A Cloud9 Towers Sector 1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP - 201010 (+91 9891257583), (sunny.yadav@dmihousingfinance.in)

31.01.2024

It is clarified that due care is being taken by the Company to ensure that no inconvenience whatsoever is caused to the Company's customers during the process of closure. The loan accounts of all the valued customers shall continue with the base branch (i.e., Banglow plot no.2, 2nd floor, opposite mother dairy, Pandav Nagar, Delhi - 110092). Customers holding loan account may transfer their account to any other branch of our company, provided the same is approved by the competent authority. The relevant application form is available at the branch. Customers are hereby requested to kindly take note of the aforesaid change which will be effective tentatively from 31.01.2024.

In case any further clarification is required and/or in case of any difficulty, the customer may contact the official of DMI Housing Finance Private Limited (Mr. Sunny Yadav, +91 9891257583).

Place:- Vaishali, Ghaziabad

Date:- 21st Oct 2023

Date of Closure

Its to inform to the public at large that M. Nikhil Hare Ram is purchasing the Second Floor (Back Side), Without Roof. Terrace Rights, area measuring 50 sq. yrds, built up properly bearing No. 28, area measuring 100 sq. yrds, built up properly bearing No. 28, area measuring 100 sq. yrds, built up properly bearing No. 28, area measuring 100 sq. yrds, built up properly bearing No. 28, area measuring 100 sq. yrds, built up properly bearing No. 28, area measuring 100 sq. yrds, built up properly bearing No. 28, area of No. 28 PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client suman hala is in process to avail the LAP against his plot of land measuring 270 sq. vs. out of khasta no. 227 situated in the main old abadi of village mamura, district gautam budh nagar, I/P (availing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited) acquired vide Gift Deed dated 25/10/23 (doc. No. 9584) executed by Gulshan Chaulhan and Gaurav Chauhan III of the State of the

Journal unauman and usurav unauman 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, bessession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, and the state of the second of th possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate). Unit No. FF-Z, First floor, Mahalauxim Marto Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gab., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

SRMIST to get 5G use case lab soon

PNS ■ KATTANKULATHUR

 $S^{\rm RM\ IST}$ — among India's largest and finest higher education institutions, will soon get a 5G-use case lab announced by the Prime Minister on Friday. The Prime Minister, while inau-

gurating the 7th Indian Mobile Congress at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, rolled out the '100 5G labs initiative' — an endeavour to use opportunities associated with 5G technology. An initiative from the Department

Telecommunication under the Ministry of Communications, these labs will promote the design and development of 5G applications that cater both to India's unique needs as well as global demands.



NTPC Q2 profit up 38 per cent at ₹4,726 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

tate-owned power giant NTPC on Saturday posted over 38 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 4,726.40 crore for September quarter 2023-24 mainly on the back of higher revenues. Its net profit in the year-ago period stood at Rs 3,417.67 crore, a BSE filing said.

Total income rose to Rs 45,384.64 crore in the quarter from Rs 44,681.50 crore in the same period a year ago.

The board in its meeting held on Saturday also approved the first interim dividend of this fiscal at the rate of 22.5 per cent (Rs 2.25 per share) on the face value of paid-up equity

The date of payment/dispatch of dividend shall be November 23, 2023. The average tariff of the company was Rs 4.61 per unit

during April - September this

fiscal year compared to Rs

shares of Rs 10 each.

4.77 per unit in the same period a year ago. Gross electricity generation of NTPC increased to 90.30 billion units (BU) during the second quarter from 85.48 BU

in the same period a year ago. Coal output increased to 5.59 MMT in the quarter

from 4.32 MMT a year ago. Production also increased during April-September this fiscal year to 11.83 MMT from 8.40 MMT a year ago.

Tottenham beats Crystal Palace 2-1

Son Heung-min scored again as Tottenham beat Crystal Palace 2-1 away to provisionally extend its Premier League lead to five points.

After a sluggish start on Friday, Tottenham took the lead in the 53rd when Palace defender Joel Ward turned a cross-shot from James Maddison into his own net. Son then netted his eighth league goal of the season to ensure Tottenham stayed unbeaten after 10 games.

Jordan Ayew pulled a goal back for Palace in stoppage time, but Tottenham held on through a total of 11 minutes added on to move five points clear of Manchester City and Arsenal. City visits rival Manchester United on Sunday, while Arsenal hosts last-place Sheffield United on Saturday. "Top of the table is great and the results are great but it's more in the manner we're doing it," said Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou, who is off to the best start any coach has ever had in the Premier League. "Pretty much from the first game we've had all sorts of dif-

ferent challenges we've had to Tottenham didn't have a shot on target in the first half despite



having more than 70 per cent possession, and it took an own goal to break the deadlock.

Pape Sarr cut the ball back for Maddison and his smashed effort across goal bounced off Ward and into the Palace

Postecoglou brought on winger Brennan Johnson in the 64th and he needed barely two minutes to produce a first assist for the club since his deadline day move from Nottingham Forest. The substitute started the move with a cushioned header to Maddison, who passed back to Johnson and he smartly recycled the ball to Son in the area. The Spurs captain rifled home from close range in the 66th

Postecoglou then sent on Rodrigo Bentancur for his first appearance since he suffered anterior cruciate ligament damage to his left knee in February. Ayew reduced the deficit four minutes into stoppage time when he controlled Joachim Anderson's cross and volleyed into the net, a goal that was eventually awarded after a lengthy VAR check.

Palace pushed for a last-gasp equalizer but substitute Matheus Franca sliced wide under pressure from Porro in the final attack of the game.

Girona returns to top of Spanish league after 1-0 win over Celta Vigo



AP GIRONA (SPAIN)

Girona retuned to the top of the Spanish league with a 1-0 win over Celta Vigo, extending its superb start to the season. Yangel Herrera's injury-time goal on Friday took the Catalan club three points clear of Real Madrid and four clear of Barcelona, although they both have a game in hand. The two Spanish giants face off on Saturday in the "clasico" in Barcelona Girona had most of the chances

Benítez called "inexplicable." It remains in the relegation zone with six points from 11

at home and could have scored more in a dominant second half.

Yan Cuoto in particular was

guilty of a bad miss when he

blazed high over the bar with

just the keeper to beat. Celta had a goal ruled out for a

foul on the goalkeeper with

eight minutes remaining, a decision that Celta coach Rafa

Its next match is at home to Sevilla on November 4

FIFA's first safeguarding course graduates more than 100 participants from member federations

AFIFA program aimed at helping to prevent abuse and misconduct in soccer through education has graduated its first class even as a number of high-profile scandals continue to mar the sport.

The 111 graduates of the twoyear course included participants from 70 member federations around the world.

"Our mandate is to protect And there are two sides of our work, prevention and response. The prevention part is about growing a mindset, or a safeguarding culture, within the institutions," Marie-Laure Lemineur, FIFA's head of safeguarding and child protection,

told The Associated Press.

"This is an educational process." The conclusion of the five-part course comes after a series of scandals, ranging from allegations of misconduct in the National Women's Soccer League to the Spanish federation president forcibly kissing player Jenni Hermoso following the nation's victory at the Women's World Cup.

Abuse cases have also been reported in Haiti, Venezuela, Zambia, Argentina, Colombia and Afghanistan, where the women's team was disbanded because of Taliban rule.

FIFA rolled out a safeguarding program at the under-20 Women's World Cup in Costa

Rica last year aimed at keeping participants and fans safe from abuse, exploitation and harassment. Games were staffed by a safeguarding official and all participants were briefed about abuse and how to report it. A similar program was in place at the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand this

The educational program culminated with a Safeguarding Summit in Zurich this week that FIFPRO, the International Olympic Committee and the Center for Sport and Human

The Safeguarding in Sport course is an outgrowth of FIFA Guardians, launched in 2019 after revelations of widespread sexual abuse of young players in England and the absence of any programs to protect them. While federations like the English FA and US Soccer already have extensive safeguarding programs in place, FIFA's intent is to spread the message to smaller federations that have more limited

"Football is about joy, happiness, smiles, peace and about learning to win and to lose, to be part of a team. And we cannot allow its values to be undermined by any form of abuse or harassment. This is especially the case for children," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in a message to the summit.

Gujrathi outplays Kollars, Vaishali jumps to joint third spot PTI ISLE OF MAN (UK)

Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi Showed his technical brilliance to down Dmitrij Kollars of Germany and score his second straight victory in the third round of FIDE Grand Swiss, a part of the World Champion-

ship cycle. Having lost the first round, Gujrathi had beaten compatriot Abhijeet Gupta with black pieces in the second round and now this victory as black should work as a huge confidence booster for the Indian star.

In the women's event being held simultaneously R Vaishali displayed some amazing tactical acumen to crush Leya Garifullina who is playing under the FIDE flag. With 2.5 points in her bag from the first three rounds Vaishali now shares the third spot in this section behind Tan Zhongyi of China and Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine.

In the open section that carries a total prize pool of USD 460000, 10 players share the lead with an identical 2.5 points. With the top six boards ending in draws, Uzbek youngster Javokhir Sindarov lit up the proceedings defeating elite Grandmaster Levon Aronian of Grandmaster Levon Aronian of the United States.

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi made sure he remained in the leader's pack after settling for a draw with Alexey Sarana who now represents Serbia.

A former Russian, Sarana was under some pressure after he gave up a pawn but as the bat-tle unfolded, Arjun realized that his chances in the rook and pawns endgame were probably not enough to take home the



full point.

S L Narayanan and Aravindh Chithambaram inched themselves up to two points each after signing the peace with Nikita Vituigov of England and Amin Tabatabei of Iran while Aryan Chopra found a tough customer in second seed Hikaru

Nakamura and was the only GM from India to lose in the third round

In other games involving Indians, D Gukesh was held to a draw by Alon Pichot of Spain while R Praggnanandhaa got the same result against compaP Harikrishna could not find any real advantage with his white pieces against Murali Karthikeyan and drew in 31 moves while Nihal Sarin shared the point with Vasif Durarbayli of Azerbaijan. With eight rounds still to come,

former world junior champion Abhijeet Gupta and B Adhiban continued to struggle as they were held by lesser rated Along Greenfeld of Israel and local player Dietmar Kolbas respec-

Vidit Gujrathi was on a mission as he gradually outclassed Kollars from the black side of a Sicilian Alapin game.

After equalizing early in the middle game, Gujrathi reached a Queen and minor piece endgame where his knight jumped all over the board combining well with the queen. It

took a patient 56 moves before the Indian forced resignation. The women's section saw Vaishali coming out all guns blazing against Garifullina. The middle game arising out of a Sicilian Grand Prix attack looked double edged but backed by her brilliant calculating abil-ities Vaishali launched a direct ities Vaishali launched a direct

attack on the king. Garifullina was at sea trying to find the best defense and it was all over in a mere 25 moves. Grandmaster D Harika and B Savitha Shri took themselves up to 1.5 points apiece after split-ting the points with Sophie Millet of France and Anna Ushenina of Ukraine respectively. Divya Deshmukh lost to top seed Alexandra Gorvachkina representing FIDE and Tania Sachdev was beaten by Marsel Efroimski of Israel.

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Shubham Jaglan and Raghav Chugh were the best-placed Indians at tied 24th place after the first three days of the Asia-Pacific Amateur golf championships at the iconic Royal Jaglan and Chugh, both on golf scholarships in the United States, shot rounds of 75 and 78, to be tied 24th with totals of 11-over at the Par-71 course brought to life by Alister Mackenzie, who also designed the famous Augusta National. The winner from this landmark event goes to two of the greatest Majors, the Augusta Masters and the Open, which will be held at the Troon next year. Among other Indians in fray

Yuvraj Singh (78) was T-49 and the 13-year-old Kartik Singh, whose love for the Rubik's cube and chess on a computer is surpassed only by his goals in golf, shot 81 and dropped to 18-over for T-54th spot.

Still smiling, Kartik remarked, 'I have one more day.'

Shaurya Bhattacharya, who waged a titanic battle for an even par 71 to recover from 83 on the first day, had another decent day with 74. He moved up to T-42, up from the cut line two of the most coveted

Jaglan, Chugh top Indians in Asia-Pacific Amateur golf



at T-60

On a day, when the challeng ing and overwhelming conditions at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club took the spotlight, the big built Chinese youngster, who was born in Nagoya, Japan, Zheng Sampson-Yunhe, produced the week's best card of 6-under 65 to get to the top of the leaderboard.

With a four-shot lead, Sampson may well be on his way to the Masters and the Open, the

Starting the day with a total of 3-over for 36 holes and six behind the leader, Sampson, 22, was T-13 after two rounds.

The University of California golfer zoomed to the top with six birdies and an eagle against two bogeys. At 3-under he was the only player still under par and led the field by four shots over Australia's Billy Dowling (73) at 1-over total of

The first-round leader Kazuma

Wenyi (76) were tied third at 2over 214.

Only four players brought home under-par cards on the third day and India's best came from Shaurya with a 3-over 74. Quite appropriately Zheng Sampson-Yunhe came here after having played his last event at the Meadow Club, also Mackenzie layout in

California. Zheng did not win, but finished 20th, but said the experienced helped.

Playing in his third edition of the championship, Zheng broke the amateur composite course record of 66 held by Sir Michael Bonallack for 55 years.

That record of 66 was matched by New Zealand's Kobori in the first round

Earlier this year, Zheng was in the Asia-Pacific team that beat the Europeans to win the Bonallack Trophy, which was set up by Sir Michael Bonallack, whose record he beat.



Shooter Manu finishes 5th, secures 11th Olympic quota for India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Manu Bhaker secured the 11th Paris Olympics quota place for the country after finishing fifth in women's 25m sports pistol at the Asian Shooting Championships in Changwon, Korea on Saturday. One of the most recognisable faces in Indian shooting, Manu, who had also secured the quota for the 2022 Tokyo Olympics, shot 24 in the final, bowing out in a shoot-off to miss out on another international medal. Iran's Haniyeh Rostamiyan finished second, spoiling a Chinese clean sweep as the shooting sport powerhouse took all the spots from one to four.

But China could claim only one Paris quota spot and Haniyeh had already secured one earlier, so Manu, despite finishing fifth, clinched a Paris berth for India. Manu fought brilliantly and was in contention for a top-two finish for most of the contest before a score of two and three in the seventh and eighth series saw her go into a shoot-off with

position. She missed out on a medal but bagged the prized Olympic

Zhao Nan of China for fourth

The aim was obviously the quota place, because there are

improvements and I feel I am on the right track but will need to

said Manu after her event. Manu is the second shooter after 10m air pistol marksman Sarabjot Singh to clinch an Olympic quota in the pistol events.

India has so far won seven quota places in rifle events and two each in shotgun and pistol in men's and women's sections Manu, coached by legendary marksman Jaspal Rana, had competed in 10m air pistol and 25m sports pistol at the 2022 Tokyo Olympics but a pistol malfunction in the former event had cost her a place in the eightshooter finals.

On Saturday, she topped the qualification stage with a strong 591 even as teammates Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan finished 17th and 23rd with scores of 579 and 576 respectively. India picked up four more

in 10m air rifle mixed team, also lost out 12-16 to a Chinese pair in their gold medal match.

Divvansh and Ramita had also shot well to top their qualification round with a combined score of 631.1. Simranpreet Kaur Brar won two silver medals in the junior women's 25m pistol. She paired up with Megana Sadula and Tejaswini to win the team competition with a combined total of 1728 to finish behind China. She then shot 28 in the final to finish behind gold-

Indian para athletes creates history another athletics gold by wina bronze in women's rapid VI

Indian para athletes created history on Saturday as they ended their Hangzhou Asian Para Games campaign with an unprecedented 111 medals, the biggest haul for the country in any major international multisport event.

With 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze in their kitty, the Indian para athletes won four medals more than the record tally of 107 won by the able-bodied athletes in the Hangzhou Asian Games held from September 23 to

October 8 India ended at fifth place in the medals tally, a remarkable achievement in itself, below China (521 medals: 214 gold, 167 silver, 140 bronze), Iran (44 gold, 46 silver, 41 bronze), Japan (42, 49, 59) and Korea (30, 33, 40). The first Para Asian Games was held in 2010 in Guangzhou, China, where India had finished

15th with 14 medals, including In the 2014 and 2018 editions. India had finished 15th and

ninth respectively. The only instance India had crossed the 100-medal mark in a major international multisport event (Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games) was the 101 won during

the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth

"We have made history, our para athletes have done the country proud. We will win more medals in the Paris Paralympics than in Tokyo," Paralympic Committee of India president Deepa Malik told PTI. However, it is not a surprise for us. We have expected between 110 to 115 medals and we ended at 111, the auspicious number (Angel Number)," she added. On Thursday, India had gone past the earlier highest Asian Para Games tally of 72 medals Bag 111 medals in Hangzhou Asian Para Games



(15 gold, 24 silver, 33 bronze) achieved in the 2018 edition. India won 39 more medals than the 2018 edition with athletics contributing 55 (18 gold, 17 silver, 20) out of India's total of 111. Indian shuttlers contributed the second most medal with 21, including four gold. Chess and archery gave eight and seven medals respectively while shooting contributed six.

On the concluding day on

including four gold. Seven medals came from chess, four from athletics and one from Neeraj Yadav began the day for

Saturday, India added 12 medals.

India with a gold in men's javelin throw F55 with a Games record of 33.69m. Compatriot Tek Chand clinched a bronze with a personal best of 30.36m in the same event.

Dilip Mahadu Gaviot added

ning the men's 400m T47 race with a time of 49.48 seconds. Pooja then picked up the last athletics medal by bagging a bronze in women's 1500m T20 race with a time of 5:38.81s. Chess players saved the best for the last with a seven-medal

rush, including two gold, on the final day. India swept all the three medals

in men's individual rapid VI-B1 event with Satish Inani Darpan winning gold while Pradhan Soundarya and Ashwinbhai Kanchanbhai Makwana bagged silver and bronze respectively. The trio

also bagged the team gold. Kishan Gangoli won a bronze in men's individual rapid VI-B2/B3 event. Gangoli, Somendra and Arvan Balchandra Joshi won a team bronze in the same event. The trio of Vruthi Saganlal Jain, Himanshi Bhaveshkumar Rathi and Sanskruti Vikas More won

B1 team event. On Saturday, India also won the lone medal in rowing with Anita and Konganapalle Narayana

picking up a silver in PR3 mixed

double sculls event. India had sent 313 athletes at the Hangzhou Para Asian Games, the biggest in any edition with 51 Tokyo Paralympians in the

India competed in 17 out of 22 sports, with the country fielding athletes for the first time in row ing, canoeing, lawn bowl, taekwondo and blind football. Nearly 4,000 athletes from 43

countries are competing across 22 sports in 566 gold-medal events in the Hangzhou Asian Para Games The Hangzhou Asian Para Games were originally scheduled to take place from October

few chances left to win them after this. So, yes, I am happy that I have won the quota but a podium finish would have been better.

"I have been working on a few 9-15, 2022 but were postponed by a year due to the COVID-19

work even harder from here,"

medals, all silver, on the day, as Manu, Esha and Rhythm were placed second in the 25m pistol team event, while Divyansh Singh Panwar and Ramita Jindal,

medal winner Liang Xiaoya of China in the individual final.

AUSTRALIA BEAT NEW ZEALAND BY 5 RUNS

dravis Head's bulldozing hundred and game aware ness in crunch moments helped Australia negate a marvellous century by Rachin Ravindra to register a thrilling five-run victory over New Zea-land in their World Cup match here on Saturday.

The destruction of Head (109 off 67 balls) and his opening partner David Warner (81 off 65 balls) during their 175-run alliance upfront gelled well with some late-order biffing as Aussies overcame a middleorder meltdown to post 388 all out, after they were put into bat. Ravindra made a sparkling 116 off 89 balls and James Neesham a manic 39-ball 58 but the Kiwis could only manage 383 to suffer their second successive defeat in the tournament. The cumulative score of 771

highest aggregate score in a World Cup game surpassing 754 collectively notched up by South Africa (428) and Sri Lanka (326) in New Delhi on October 7, in this very event. With this win, Australia have eight points from six matches, same as New Zealand, and they

posted by the two teams is

are firmly entrenched at No. 4 at this point. But that position did not come without its moments of scares. Ravindra gave them the biggest of them all with an innings that

belied his tender age of 23. The left-hander does not have a big frame, but what he does have is immense timing that allows him to send the ball miles into the stands when required.

Pat Cummins will vouch for that. Ravindra picked up a length ball outside the off-stump from the pacer to cart it over the covers for a six, and it was a stun-

His batting is easy on the eyes as



well - good enough back-lift and a flowing follow-through make him a good addition to the elegant left-handers' club. But those technicalities aside, his

temperament too should be patted as Ravindra batted without even an iota of pressure against a set of battle-hardened

The Wellington lad, who was dropped on 100 by Glenn Maxwell off his own bowling, also pieced together good stands with fellow opener Devon Conway (61), 96 with Darryl Mitchell (54) for the third wicket and 54 with Tom Latham (21) for the fourth wicket.

Ravindra reached his hundred off 77 balls with a fine six off Maxwell over deep mid-wicket. It was his second hundred in this WC after the one in the tournament opener against England at Ahmedabad.

He also joined Kane Williamson. Martin Guptill and Glenn Turner as the only Kiwi batters to have scored two hundreds in the World Cup.

But all that ended when Ravindra gave a catch to Maxwell at deep off Cummins. Neesham did try his best to take Black Caps home with a breezy fifty but some limb-forgetting fielding by the Aussies on a dodgy HPCA stadium outfield in the last few overs denied Kiwis a remarkable win.

Australia, especially Marnus Labuschagne, were quite exceptional in that phase and they even had to field with five field ers inside the ring in the final over for slow over rate. But they summoned every

ounce of experience and athleticism to emerge on the right side of the result.

Earlier, Head, who replaced Cameron Green in the playing 11, and Warner garnered 175 runs in a mere 19.1 overs.

Head was over-aggressive in his partnership with Warner, taking on New Zealand bowlers with disdain, and it was tough to imagine that this was actually his first match of the tournament.

The left-hander replaced Mitchell Marsh, who came in at No. 3, at the pole position and never really made Australia felt the absence of the big-hitting 'Bison'. Fortune also favoured Head

while cruising to his fourth ODI hundred. Head was dropped by Mitchell Santner off

his own bowling when the batter was on 70.

Five runs later, Glenn Phillips at covers allowed the ball whizz through his hands as Head tried to clatter spinner Ravindra.

But those blips apart, Head and Warner were super smooth, pulling, cutting and driving at will to make runs around the

But the Kiwis bowlers, normally a frugal unit under Trent Boult, could not hit the right lines and their fielders too were butterfingered, dropping five catches.

New Zealand were also not helped by the absence of pacer Lockie Ferguson, who conceded 38 runs in three overs, as he left the field with pain in his right Achilles.

The two left-handers exploited those lapses and slices of fortune to the hilt. In fact, Warner reached his fifty in 28 balls and Head his half-century in 25

With the openers in overdrive 118 runs cascaded in the first Power Play which contained a total of 10 sixes - six by Warner and four by Head.

But the breaks came in after Warner's dismissal, caught by spinner Phillips off his own bowling. The spin trio of Phillips, Santner and Ravindra stifled the Australian middle-

Phillips cleaned up Head with a quicker one, while Marsh, Steve Smith and Labuschagne also fell to the gang of slow men as the Aussies lost four wickets for 74 runs in that period. Australia needed some momen

tum from 274 for five, and Maxwell (41 off 24 balls), Josh Inglis (38 off 28 balls) and captain Cummins (37 off 14 balls) provided that.

Maxwell and Inglis made 62 runs between 44.4 and 47th over which in the end proved the difference. But only by just.



Edwards fifty pushes Netherlands to 229 against Bangladesh

Netherlands skipper Scott Edwards overcame an edgy start to score a second World Cup fifty and take them to a modest 229 all out in their World Cup match against Bangladesh here on Saturday. Desperate to revive their fortunes after four successive losses, Bangladesh made smart bowling changes and their attack looked incisive.

But complacency in fielding ensured that the Dutchmen lasted the distance after losing half of the side for 107 runs inside 27 overs.

Edwards got three lifelines as he was dropped twice on duck and once on 12 when his edge flew past the three-man slip cordon. He top scored for the Dutch with an 89-ball 68.

With Sybrand Engelbrecht (35), Edwards added 78 runs for the sixth wicket before Mustafizur Rahman ended the Dutch skipper's chancy innings. Towards the end, Logan van

Beek played a cameo of 23 not out from 16 balls (2x4, 1x6) as

the Netherlands scored 36 runs in last three overs before being bowled out in the last ball of the innings

Mustafizur (2/36) was the pick of Bangladesh attack and his wickets of the dangerous-looking Wesley Barresi (41) in the middle overs and Dutch skipper at the death ensured Bangladesh restricted them to a manageable

The new-ball attack of Shoriful Islam (10-0-51-2) and a fitagain Taskin Ahmed (9-1-43-2) gave Bangladesh a perfect start after Edwards opted to bat in the first match of this World Cup at Eden Gardens.

Taskin, who missed their matches against India and South Africa because of a sore shoulder, dismissed Vikramjit Singh in his opening over.

Shoriful then had Max O'Dowd for a duck to have Netherlands reeling at 4/2 in the third over before Baressi played the most entertaining knock of the Dutch innings.
The oldest player of the tourna-

ment, Barresi showed the way in his run-a-ball knock, milking the the attack of Taskin and Shoriful in effortless fashion. The 39-year-old, who is the only surviving member of the Netherlands side from the 2011 World Cup, started off with a leg-side flick to boundary against Shoriful and followed it up with another boundary in the

rhythm. Taskin looked at his tidy best in his first spell, but Barresi was nonchalant and pulled him in front of square leg and then elegantly lofted him over the midoff region for two boundaries in one over.

same over to unsettle the

The duo raced to a fifty-run partnership in no time before a clever bowling change in Rahman broke the stand.

The left-armer dismissed Barresi with a clever slower variation by rolling his fingers over the ball to break their partnership of 59 that came off 68 deliv-

Shakib (10-1-37-1) then dismissed Colin Ackermann in the next over as the Dutch inning looked in disarray before Edwards's mid-innings revival.

Unstoppable India face deflated England | We haven't put together perfect game yet: Arthur

Thakur on a pitch that is likely

to assist the spinners. However,

Hardik's absence forces the team

management to play only five

Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav

and Ravindra Jadeja walk into

the combination for Sunday's

To accommodate Ashwin as

the third spinner, India will

have to choose between Mohammad Siraj and Mohammed

Shami, who asserted his world class credentials with five wick-

ets in Dharamsala. Picking

between the two proven per-

ENGLAND GAME OPPOR-

TUNITY FOR SKY AND

SHREYAS: Helped by Rohit's

bold strokeplay in the powerplay,

the Indian batters have set the

ideal template for rival teams to

follow. India have mastered the

art of chasing, whether they are

in cruise control or in a pressure

situation like they found them-

In Hardik's absence, Surya-

kumar Yadav is the team's choice

at number six. Following an

unfortunate run out in his first

game of the competition, the X

selves against Australia.

formers will be a tough call.



PTI ■ LUCKNOW

India and England have played with contrasting approaches in the World Cup so far, producing contrasting results. And that is unlikely to change here on Sunday.

India are on course to top the league stage while England are looking to survive in the tournament they won four years ago. The Rohit Sharma-led side has hardly put a foot wrong, having chased successfully for five games in a row.

England set the benchmark in white-ball cricket with their uber aggressive style of play, resulting in global triumphs in both the shorter formats.

However, the boom or bust approach has clearly not worked in Indian conditions and the defending champions find themselves on the brink of an embarrassing exit.
WILL ASHWIN

GAME?: Compared to England, India have very little to worry about though they will be missing the all-round services of Hardik Pandya for at least the next couple of games. In the usual scenario, R Ashwin factor player will be itching to make an impact.

The chatter on Shreyas Iyer's perpetual struggles against the short-ball has resumed following his dismissal in Dharamsala. He will be fired up to prove his

doubters wrong.
Shubman Gill, who missed the first couple of games due to dengue, is due for a special knock. The Lucknow crowd could also hundred from Virat Kohli.

Wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who is from Uttar Pradesh, will be looking to fox the England batters at the state-of-the-art stadium here. It was a good test for him against the rampaging Daryl Mitchell and he will be ready for the England chal-

WILL ENGLAND CHANGE THEIR BATTING APPRO-**ACH?:** England posses plenty of firepower in the batting department and they would be hoping to string together a worthy per-formance after a string of abject

Jos Buttler, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes, Liam Livingstone, Harry Brook. They are all formidable names in world cricket but have found the going tough in very familiar conditions.

Going hammer and tongs from ball one is the need of the hour in the shortest format but the demands of the ODI format are different. England batters must gauge the conditions better and accordingly alter their way of

playing. They all love to whack the ball through the line but the Lucknow pitch might not allow them to do that. Root is one batter who have different gears, others need to follow him and show some patience when required.

Pakistan's director of cricket Mickey Arthur said his team has failed to put together the "perfect game" in this World Cup, the main reason for their struggles at the ongoing show-

PTI CHENNAI

Pakistan are virtually out of the World Cup after suffering a narrow one-wicket defeat against which happened to be their fourth straight loss in the tournament.

While Pakistan need to win all their three remaining games, their fate will also depend on other results.

...Look to be brutally honest, we haven't put together the perfect game vet. I don't think we've batted well enough yet as a unit. I think certainly par on that

pitch is 300 at least. So, we haven't put together enough runs," a disappointed Arthur said at the post-match press conference.

"And then we haven't put together a bowling performance that goes with it. So tonight, I thought it was our best bowling performance of the competition. Thought we bowled really well, but I still thought we were that we had.

"We haven't put the perfect game together yet. Hasn't been for lack of effort, hasn't been for lack of trying, but we just haven't got enough players in form at the minute, particularly with the bat," he added. Arthur blamed Pakistan's back-

end batting collapse as one of the major reasons for his side's defeat against South Africa.



Pakistan started their innings on a strong note and were 225 for six by the 40th over before the lower middle-order and the tail-enders failed to do anything significant and were bowled out for 270.

"It was a mixture of both. I don't think we batted particularly well at the back end. But, we

always set ourselves up to have. You've got to have one of your top four in at over 40," he said. 'And, you talk about the success that we've had over the last year; we've had one of our top four generally getting hundreds. We've had two hundreds this competition so far in the same

And I don't think we managed the last five overs particularly well tonight," he added. Arthur said Pakistan were 30 runs short of what would have been a winning total. There was still, at one point, in

"So, we've had players get in.

We've had players get starts. We haven't had players go through.

the 45th over, I remember saying to the dressing room a run more we get to 300. I know we would have defended 300 tonight (Friday)," he said.

'So, I don't think we managed that back end particularly well at all. And, we left 10-12 balls out there that we didn't face.' Before the World Cup, Pakistan played an ODI series at home against New Zealand, where some flaws in their batting were

We could have been more clinical in our run chase: Bavuma

PTI CHENNAI

Couth Africa were lucky to Sescape by the skin of their teeth and should have been more clinical in the runchase against Pakistan during the World cup match here, said skipper Temba Bavuma.

South Africa on Friday managed to walk away with a narrow onewicket win in a tense finish. It was their first World Cup win against Pakistan since the 1999 edition.

Chasing 271, the Proteas had a comfortable start, aided by Aiden Markram's assertive 91

but it turned sour with Pakistan scalping a flurry of wickets in the closing stages.

"I think obviously at the end, we were all on the edge of our seat. You had everyone's opinions flying around as to how we should be going about that run chase, he said during the post-match press conference here.

"But at the end of the day, the guys who were in there, Keshav and Shamu, they did it for us. It's easier for us to have conversations now with regards to our run chase. (But) we've got the result on our side

"I do think we could have shown

as what we normally have.

Normally there's always one,

maybe two people in that team

who are going to get a hundred-

plus or a big score that's going

to make a big difference," said

up a lot more of a clinical display in going about that run chase. I think we did have luck on our side. We did give them opportunities to get into the game. But, fortunately for us, I think the gods were with us.' While the Proteas were 206 for 5 in the 34th over, they lost four more wickets by 260. But the duo of Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi held their nerves to take South Africa home with 16 balls to spare. However, Bavuma refused to

blame the wicket and instead felt that the partnerships could have lasted a bit longer.

ets) always a challenge for us.

Every game that we want to play

we want to play on the best wick

et possible. If it's not and it turns,

then we're okay with that and

we've been good enough and

Wade to lead Australia in T20 series against India

Matthew Wade received a shot in the arm after he was named as Australia captain for the five-match T20I series against India to be played just

team previously, is a leader in the group and we look forward to him taking the reins for this series," Australia selection chief George Bailey said in a statement.

Africa series, this is another great opportunity to further deepen our international leadership experience and depth.

Test and ODI captain Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, along with allrounders Marsh and Cameron Green will return home after the ongoing showpiece in India but David Warner, Steve Smith and Travis Head will stay back for the T20 series. Australia's T20 squad for India

series doesn't have any uncapped

Matt Short, Spencer Johnson and Tanveer Sangha all have made their debuts against South Africa earlier this year and will feature in the T20 series in

India. T20 specialists like Tim David, Sean Abbott, Josh Inglis, Jason Behrendorff and Nathan Ellis all feature in the squad along side Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis and leg-spinner Adam Zampa. The frontline pace attack has been rested to manage their workload as the first Test

will begin just 11 days after the final India-Australia T20I in Hyderabad on December 3. Australia's first Test against Pak istan will begin on December 14 in Perth. The T20 series between India and Australia will start just four days after the conclusion of

between Australia and Pakistan

the World Cup. The first match of the series will be played in Vishakhapatnam on November 23. **AUSTRALIA T20 SQUAD:**

rendorff, Sean Abbott, Tim David, Nathan Ellis Travis Head Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner, Adam

need to read situation better: Trescothick the the team hasn't been as good "That's (playing on slower wick-

Ingland batters, who have England values, who Efailed miserably in the World Cup so far, need to read situations better as their team looks to bounce back from the brink. hinted assistant coach Marcus Trescothick on Saturday. England's all out approach with

the bat has backfired in Indian conditions including at venues like Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, where other teams have piled on the runs. Ahead of the game against India, Trescothick was asked

about the team's batting tempo

and frequent collapses in the

'We have an attitude to how we've gone about batting in the last however many years since our white-ball cricket has changed and evolved. And it's always trying to be positive," said the former England opener.

"We're always looking to put pressure back on oppositions, bowlers, as much as we can while reading the situation and be smart in those situations. And we've done it occasionally. We've done it now and again.

tently with enough people really reading the situation, taking

"We just haven't done it consis

the right options, and then to fire in the mega event. Dawid

putting it all together to get that score," he said. England batting is full of match winners and firepower but is yet

Malan is the only hundred maker so far. So, is it a rhythm thing then?

"Confidence, rhythm, whatever you want to call it. The form of

the assistant coach. The batting failure has hap pened despite majority of the batters having tons of IPL expe-"We've gained massive amounts

of more experience in India because of the guys playing the volume of cricket they have done. I think you're always learning; you're always playing in different situations.

the 50-over format.

here in January for the Test matches probably.

we've been very smart at that in the last few years "I haven't looked at the pitch out there (for Sunday's game) so it might turn it might be slow but it'd be good preparation for some of the guys who are back

Trescothick also asserted that his team remains fully committed to

PTI ■ MELBOURNE Veteran wicket-keeper batter

after the ongoing World Cup. The 35-year-old considered his international career all but over 12 months ago as he felt that last year's T20 World Cup would be his last for Australia. But now he will lead a 15-member Australian squad that will be without its frontline fast bowlers. Australia doesn't have a permanent T20 skipper since Aaron Finch's retirement earlier this year and Mitchell Marsh and Wade have been doing the interim job. "Matthew has captained the

"Like Mitch Marsh in the South

Matthew Wade (c), Jason Beh-



TOURISM RENAISSANCE

As the spectre of militancy recedes to its lowest ebb, Kashmir the paradise on earth is experiencing tourism resurgence like never before. The recent success of the third G20 Tourism working group meeting in Srinagar has proven to be a pivotal moment, propelling Jammu & Kashmir into the limelight. This flourishing appeal is not confined to Bollywood alone; it extends to filmmakers from Telugu, Kanada, Marathi, Punjabi, and various OTT platforms, writes **MOHIT KANDHARI**

gainst the backdrop of a historic low in militancy, the Kashmir valley has emerged as a cinematic treasure trove, drawing film crews from around the globe. The Union Territory administration, seizing this

opportune moment, is now actively positioning itself on the global tourism map. This surge in interest comes in the wake of the highly successful third G20 Tourism working group meeting held in Srinagar.

During this meeting field in Stringar.

During this meeting, the Government of India presented Kashmir as nothing short of a paradise on earth, solidifying its status as an unparalleled destination for international filmmakers. Beyond the glitz of Bollywood, production houses from Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, and various OTT platforms have also set their sights on the valley.

While classics like Gulmarg continue to enthrall, lesser explored locales in the Jammu region, such as Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Bani, Basohli, and Ramban, are being fervently promoted to entice film crews. The Jammu & Kashmir tourism department, in sync with this surge, has meticulously curated a selection of destinations to further boost film tourism within the UT.

The region, now at the cusp of tranquility, has witnessed an influx of foreign tourists post the G20 meeting. Over 30,000 visitors have already explored Jammu & Kashmir this year, marking a substantial increase from the previous year's count of 19,985. With the winter season approaching, projections indicate an even greater surge.

In a bid to captivate travellers from distant corners of the world, the Jammu & Kashmir tourism department is fervently promoting hotspots and beckoning adventure enthusiasts to partake in the winter carnival and annual snow festivals.

Foreseeing an exceptional year for tourism, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha envisions an influx exceeding 2.25 crores, including a growing number of foreign tourists. To accommodate this surge, the Srinagar airport is maintaining an active

schedule, handling around 90 incoming and outgoing flights, facilitating a footfall of approximately 15,000 passengers regularly.

As of September, an impressive 1.70 crore tourists and pilgrims have already explored Jammu & Kashmir. With last year's total footfall recorded at 1.88 crore, the tourism department anticipates breaching the monumental 2 crore mark by year-end.

The revered Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in the Jammu region is poised to welcome over 90 lakh pilgrims by this year's end. During the auspicious nine-day Navratra festival, 4 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the Trikuta hills' sanctum sanctorum. Additionally, this year witnessed 4.5 lakh pilgrims at the Amarnath cave shrine. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, anticipating a landmark figure of one crore pilgrims, underscores the region's spiritual significance.

Anticipating yet another milestone, the upcoming launch of train services between Jammu and Srinagar in early 2024 is expected to revolutionise travel in the region. The Indian Railways' introduction of the Vistadome Coach, an all-weather glass ceiling AC train, promises an unparalleled experience, allowing passengers to immerse themselves in the awe-inspiring Kashmiri landscape through transparent coach windows.

Windows.

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari affirms the government's commitment, with road projects valued at ₹1.25 lakh crore underway in Jammu & Kashmir. Proposals for 20 to 22 ropeways and cable cars, estimated at ₹25,000-30,000 crore, are poised to bolster tourism fourfold, ensuring the UT's self-reliance and prosperity.

reliance and prosperity.

Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Secretary
Syed Abid Rashid Shah attributes the
extraordinary growth to a confluence of
factors, notably the groundbreaking G20
Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar.
Beyond the numbers, Shah emphasises the
government's endeavour to spotlight lesserknown destinations, with 75 offbeat locales,
and to enhance spiritual and religious

WITH OVER 300 FILM CREWS GRANTED PERMISSION TO SHOOT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AND A STEADY STREAM OF NEW PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE, THE KASHMIR VALLEY IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A CINEMATIC RENAISSANCE. TOURISTS NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VENTURE BEYOND THE FAMILIAR,

UNCOVERING THE HIDDEN
GEMS OF BHADERWAH,
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CONVERGE, PROMISING AN

EXPERIENCE UNLIKE

99

ANY OTHER

tourism across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a resounding endorsement of India's tourism potential, 35 villages have recently been acclaimed as the 'best tourism villages' in the country. Dawar, the Abode of Dards, and Shinas, stands out as the Best Tourism Village of 2023 in the Gold category. Nestled in the Gurez tehsil of Bandipore district, this village offers a captivating view of the Habba Khatoon Mountain and Krishna Ganga River.

Dawar, steeped in the history of the ancient Silk Route, showcases its enduring artistry through traditional handicrafts like Pattu and Gurezi chadar. Its allure is boundless, catering to seekers of solace, equanimity, thrill, and adrenaline rush. Dawar's ascent to this prestigious award is a testament to the concerted efforts to unlock Gurez's tourism potential, resulting in a remarkable surge in tourist numbers, from a mere few hundred to an impressive 35,000 and counting. The Indian Army's brainchild, "Shinon Meeras," a cultural center dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich artistic heritage of the Dard-Shina tribal community, serves as a gateway to their culture, language, and way of life.

and way of life.

In an insightful address, the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Secretary elaborates on the ongoing initiatives, spotlighting the region's beauty and cultural opulence. He underscores the department's active participation in International Trade Marts, engaging global tourists, and assures of a pro-artisan policy in the works, aimed at bolstering the local artisan community. With unwavering dedication, the Tourism Department is vigorously promoting various tourism packages during promotional excursions across destinations.

The G20 summit has injected a new vigor into the tourism sector of Jammu & Kashmir. Officials proudly assert that the region's tourism contributes around 7 per cent to the gross State domestic product, directly and indirectly benefiting the local populace, including hotels, guesthouses, houseboats,

homestays, and other tourism services. Remarkably, nearly 90 per cent of the foreign tourists to Kashmir hail from three nations — Thailand, Malaysia, and Russia. The remaining visitors predominantly arrive from Singapore, the USA, the UK, France, Germany, and Israel.

Describing the G20 meeting as a pivotal moment for Jammu & Kashmir's tourism, the Tourism Secretary underscores the surge in inquiries and bookings from countries previously untapped, such as Sweden and the US. This newfound interest promises to further diversify the tourism landscape.

A senior member of the Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association sheds light on the past challenges of negative travel advisories, which significantly impacted the region's tourism. Today, the narrative has evolved as foreign tourists are warmly welcomed, signifying a positive shift in perception. The previous cautions from countries like the UK, the US, and Australia have waned, paving the way for a flourishing tourist season in the valley.

With the G20 summit's resounding endorsement, Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha remains optimistic that the US will reconsider its negative advisory, given the region's improving situation. Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir Hoteliers Club, Mushtaq Chaya, recalls the concerted efforts during the G20 Tourism working group meeting, where members championed Kashmir's tourism potential and advocated for the removal of negative travel advisories. As a stakeholder, he rejoices in witnessing a positive transformation in the valley's tourism landscape.

President of the Travel Agents

Association of Kashmir Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo emphasises that the G20 summit conveyed a strong message to foreign countries: Kashmir is a safe haven for tourists. Travel agents are actively engaging with foreign associations to showcase the allure of Kashmir. Tailored packages, offering a gamut of adventure and offbeat experiences, are being rolled out to entice foreign tourists.

(The writer is a Pioneer correspondent based in Jammu)

New Delhi, October 29, 2023

STROKE: PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

October 29 is marked as the World Stroke Day. In India as in developing countries, an alarming increase in the incidence of stroke, a highly preventable condition, has been observed owing to rising trends of hypertension, diabetes, smoking and stress in daily life. The mortality rate in stroke patients is 20%, while 50% of the patients continue to suffer with a minor or major disability, doctors tell **THE HEALTH PIONEER**

troke is one of the leading causes of death and disability in India. An estimated 18 lakh stroke cases are reported every year in India, exerting a huge economic impact on the patients, their families and society in general. Dr Anand Alurkar, president Indian Stroke Association (ISA), the apex body for stroke prevention and treatment said that the cases have almost doubled in the past decade. "Earlier, stroke was mostly affecting the elderly, but now 15-20% of the patients are under the age of 40. The challenge in stroke cases is identifying the symptoms and ensuring timely treatment." He was speaking at the National Stroke Conclave 2023 in Ahmedabad recently.

ISA Secretary Dr Arvind Sharma added, "we want uniformity and quality in stroke care across India. The ISA initiative of Stroke Accreditation with Quality and Accreditation Institute (QAI) has made India only the third country after the US and Canada to have accreditation standards for stroke. As of now, 65 hospitals have applied for the accreditation and ten have received it."

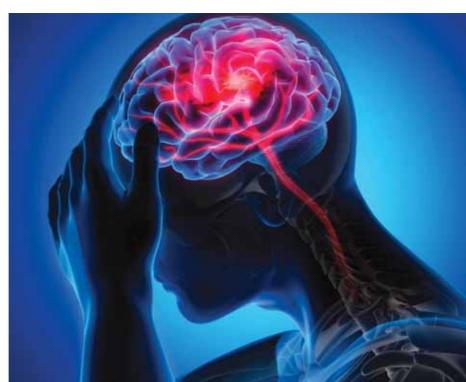
A report published in the Lancet Neurology journal early this month sounded alarm as it said that stroke could lead to nearly 10 million deaths annually by 2050, primarily affecting lowand middle-income countries (LMICs) including India.

Dr. Sanjay Pandey, HoD, Department of Neurology, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad echoed similar sentiments as he talked about the long-term effects of stroke, which he said, can be multifaceted - ranging from movement disorders like tremor, dystonia, parkinsonism, and epilepsy to depression and cognitive challenges and a third of all stroke patients fall prey to these health issues.

Studies show that stroke reigns as the third-most common countries and remains one of the leading factors behind fatality among developing nations too when it comes to deaths and disabilities owing to non-communicable diseases. While most healthcare providers focus on the gravity of acute strokes, they often fall short to turn an eye towards the long-term health implications of such

In this regard, Dr. Sanjay Pandey said, "Most stroke patients undergo epilepsy, yet it is the formidable post-stroke movement disorders that emerge as the true giants, with a staggering morbidity rate of 10-15%. Poststroke epilepsy follows closely behind at 10-12%, while poststroke depression, though significant, stands at 5-9%. Regrettably, 50% of stroke survivors go undiagnosed of such post-stroke complications."

Long-term consequences, including post-stroke epilepsy, movement disorders, chronic pain, and paralysis, significanty erode one's quality of life. Joint deformities, facial asymmetry, contractures, and bedsores are also common. Stroke can have its impact on a patient's mental health too in the form of anxiety, depression, memory lapses, and concentration difficulties. In some cases, individuals may develop vascular dementia, which can present itself like



TWO MAIN TYPES OF STROKE

There are two main types of stroke, ischemic and hemorrhagic as well as several subtypes of strokes that fall under these two categories. Medical treatment will depend on the type of stroke you are experi-

Ischemic Stroke

Ischemic stroke is the most common type of stroke, accounting for approximately 87% of all cases. It occurs when a blood vessel supplying the brain becomes blocked or narrowed by blood clots. This blockage prevents oxygen-rich blood from reaching the brain, leading to cell damage. Common causes of ischemic stroke include atherosclerosis (build-up of plaque in the arteries), heart disease, and other parts of the body. Ischemic stroke is divided into

two types, thrombotic and **Thrombotic** = From blood clot

formed within the brain. A thrombotic stroke is the most common of the two and occurs when a blood clot forms within a blood vessel in the brain and blocks blood flow. It is often due to a buildup of fat and lipids inside the walls of blood vessels called atheroscle-

Embolic = From blood clot that formed in another part of the body and traveled to the brain. An embolic stroke, on the other hand occurs when an embolus (clot or other particle) forms elsewhere in the body, travels through the bloodstream to the brain, then lodges itself blocking the flow of blood. The embolism could be from a piece of clot or atherosclerotic plaque that broke off or due to blood clots that form in people with atrial fibrillation, a condition in which the upper chambers of the heart do not beat effectively. (both thrombotic and embolic) include sudden weakness or numbness on one side of the body, difficulty speaking or understanding speech, severe headache, and vision problems. Treatments often involve administering clot-busting medications like tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) or performing mechanical thrombectomy to remove the

Hemorrhagic Stroke Hemorrhagic stroke occurs

when a blood vessel in the brain ruptures, causing bleeding into the surrounding brain tissue. This type of stroke accounts for around 13% of all cases and can result from conditions such as high blood pressure, aneurysms (weakened blood vessels), or arteriovenous malformations (AVMs) - abnormal connections between arteries and veins in the brain.

The symptoms of hemorrhagic stroke may include a sudden, severe headache, nausea, vomiting, seizures, and loss of contype of stroke focuses on controlling bleeding, relieving pressure on the brain, and repairing the damaged blood vessel. Surgical interventions or endovascular coiling techniques may be used to repair the ruptured vessel and prevent further bleeding.

Transient Ischemic Attack

Often referred to as a "ministroke," a transient ischemic attack (TIA) is a temporary interruption of blood flow to the brain. Although TIAs usually resolve within a few minutes to a few hours, they should not be ignored. TIAs are considered warning signs for a potential major stroke, and their occurrence should prompt immediate medical attention. The symptoms of TIA are similar to those of an ischemic stroke

Cryptogenic Stroke

Cryptogenic strokes are a subtype of ischemic stroke in which the cause remains unknown despite a thorough diagnostic testing, including imaging studies and blood tests, the underlying cause of cryptogenic strokes remains elusive. These strokes pose a challenge in terms of treatment and prevention, as identifying the cause is vital for preventing future occurrences.

STOP STROKE

Prevention is better than cure. This holds true for stroke also. Rein in risks to avoid stroke, before a stroke has the chance to strike, doctors suggest tips.

- Lower blood pressure
- Lose weight Exercise more
- Treat atrial fibrillation(It is a form of irregular
- heartbeat that causes clots to form in the heart) • If you drink - do it in moderation
- Treat diabetes Quit smoking

Alzheimer's disease. Cognitive challenges arising out of stroke can impair fundamental tasks such as eating, bathing, and everyday activities for which an individual then has to rely on caregivers. The lingering effects of a stroke can lead to an enduring state of dependence and, in many instances, a loss of employment," added Dr. Pandey. However, there still remains hope for stroke patients as the long-term implications can be treated with early mobilization, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy. For instance, Botulinum toxin injection has helped patients having poststroke spasticity and dystonia. They can improve the overall functional outcome of the patients. Furthermore, there are prevention strategies for recurrent stroke which can help reduce the long-term impact of a stroke.

Even children under the age of 20, as approximately 5.2 million strokes have been reported in this age group. As life expectancy in India steadily rises, the impact of stroke on young adults is particularly concerning, as it often leads to physical disability, depression, cognitive impairment, and a significant loss of productivity, all of which carry implications.

Speaking about India, Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has stressed the importance of implementing evidence-based stroke care to mitigate disability and prevent new

HEALTH BRIEFS



HLA CAMP FOR THALASSEMI*A* **AND APLASTIC ANEMIA AFFLICTED KIDS AT PGICH, NOIDA**

The Department of Pediatric Hematology Oncology at Noida-based Post Graduate Institute of Child Health (PGICH) organised an HLA camp recently with the help of Thalassemics India, an NGO, for children with blood disorders namely thalassemia and aplastic anemia.

More than 35 kids with these genetic diseases, and their family members attended the camp.. HLA typing is a crucial step to identify compatible donors for Bone marrow transplantation which is the only cure in these diseases. As the test is expensive, most families from underprivileged sections of society are not able to afford it. Bone marrow transplantation, however is supported by the Government through various schemes such as Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana, Chief Minister and Prime Minister's Relief fund, Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi etc, informed Dr Nita Radhakrishnan, associate Professor and HOD, Department of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at the hospital.

PGICH caters to more than 350 children with hemoglobinopathies such as thalassemia. Through NHM, thalassemia funding, the center provides free chelation, leukodepleted and NAT tested blood and comprehensive care for these children.

TWO-DAY 'FICCI HEAL 2023' HELD IN DELHI

Dr Vinod K Paul, Member NITI Aayog said recently that India has crossed the WHO benchmark of 1 doctor per thousand for the allopath. Additionally, the number of Ayush doctors is 1.3. "We (Índia) have a long way to go, surely, because the nations with whom we compare ourselves have typically about three doctors per thousand and definitely two per thousand," he said, addressing the session 'Perspectives on Healthcare' at 17th edition of 'FICCI HEAL 2023' held here recently.

Roli Singh, Additional Secretary & DG (CGHS), Union Health Ministry asserted that the success of the government schemes are determined by how well they are implemented on the ground. "It is not only the schemes we design, but how they are implemented that makes the difference," she added.

Dr Akshay Jain, Joint Director, National Health Authority shared the initiatives undertaken by the Government to strengthen the digital health service system and enhance access to quality healthcare. Dr Harsh Mahajan, Chair, FICCI Health Services Committee from Mahajan Imaging & Labs pressed on the need to draw inspiration from other sectors for a fresh approach to disruptive thinking to bring transformative changes in the healthcare sector.

MANDAVIYA: GOVT BUILDING ONE **MEDICAL COLLEGE IN EVERY** DISTRICT

Government is building one medical college in every district of India. "We are also creating a medical ecosystem in the country by increasing the number of UG and PG seats, transforming the quality of healthcare infrastructure and encouraging the manufacturing of medical

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, devices," he said in his inau-union Health Minister gural address delivered virbrations of Andhra Medical College in the presence of Vidadala Rajini, Minister for Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education, Andhra Pradesh. He also laid the foundation stone for a 50-bedded Critical Care Block in Andhra Medical

DENGUE: HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

The vector-borne disease, dengue is a grave ailment that can affect children. Given that children are more likely to be outdoors — in schools. parks, or outdoor activities it is crucial to ensure right preventive measures and care. so that pathogen impact can be minimized. The Health Pioneer talked to Dr Gaurav Jain, senior consultant, Neonatology & Paediatricts at Aakash Healthcare, Delhi about symptoms, prevention strategies, and treatment options for pediatric dengue

SYMPTOMS

High Fever: The most prevalent symptom in kids suffering from dengue is a sudden and severe high fever, often spiking to 104°F (40°C), which can persist for several Intense Headache: Children

with dengue often report intense, incapacitating headaches. Eye Discomfort: Kids may experience discomfort behind

their eyes, making it painful to move them. Joint and Muscle Pain: Dengue is sometimes termed "breakbone fever" due to the severe joint and muscle pain

it induces. Rash: Children might develop a rash, which can vary in

Bleeding Symptoms: In certain cases, dengue can lead to bleeding symptoms such as periods.



nosebleeds, gum bleeding, or easy bruising.

PREVENTION

Mosquito Control: The most effective way to prevent dengue in children is by minimising mosquito breeding sites. Regularly empty and clean containers that collect water, like flowerpots and buckets. Employ mosquito nets and screens on windows and doors to deter mosquitoes. Insect Repellent: Apply an insect repellent suitable for your child's age to exposed skin and clothing, consulting a paediatrician for product selection.

Protective Clothing: Dress your child in long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes to minimise exposed

skin. Avoid Peak Mosquito Activity: Aedes mosquitoes, the dengue carriers, are most active during early morning and late afternoon. Limit outdoor activities during these

Educate Your Child: Educate your child about the significance of avoiding mosquito bites and using protective mea-

Hydration: Ensure your child drinks ample fluids to prevent dehydration, a common dengue complication. Water, oral rehydration solutions, and electrolyte-rich beverages can be helpful.

Rest: Adequate rest is essential for recovery. Encourage your child to take it easy and refrain from strenuous activities.

Pain Relief: Administer ageappropriate pain relievers like acetaminophen (avoid NSAIDs like ibuprofen) to manage fever and pain. Always consult a healthcare professional before giving any medication to a child.

If your child's symptoms worsen, such as severe abdominal pain, vomiting, or bleeding, seek immediate medical attention. Severe dengue, known as dengue hemorrhagic fever, can be life-threatening and necessitates hospitalization. It is vital for parents and caregivers to be vigilant about mosquito control, employ protective measures, and seek medical assistance when required. By staying informed and taking appropriate action, we can safeguard our children from dengue and ensure their health and well-being.

Exposure during pregnancy to pollution whether toxic chemicals, water contamination, and air or vehicular may indirectly harm the baby in womb by causing low birth weight, early birth, or improper immune system development, warns DR RITU SETHI

When womb becomes a toxic chamber

mother's body undergoes tremendous change development throughout pregnancy as it works nonstop to nourish and safeguard a developing foetus. On the other hand, the health of expectant mothers and their unborn children is seriously threatened by the ever-rising levels of pollution in the modern world. Numerous negative consequences on pregnancy have been related to environmental pollution, which includes exposure to toxic chemicals, water contamination, and air pollution. The following are the impact of pollution on pregnancy. There is a need to mitigate these pollutants for the r the well-being of future generations.

AIR POLLUTION AND IMPACT ON PREGNANCY

Because air pollution can have an adverse effect on respiratory health, it is a serious worry during pregnancy. Pregnant women exposed to high levels of air pollutants, such as fine particulate matter (PM2.5), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), face an increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes. Many research and studies have shown that exposure to air pollution during pregnancy is associated with a higher likelihood of preterm birth, low birth weight, and developmental issues in chil-

One of the key mechanisms underlying these adverse effects is the inflammation and oxidative stress caused by air pollution. Inhaled pollutants can cross the placenta, leading to inflammation and oxidative damage in the developing fetus. This can disrupt fetal development and contribute to complications in pregnancy. There has been several studies highlighting a link between traffic noise and stillbirth. Also, several reports point to a potential link between congenital hearing loss, workplace noise exposure, and pregnancy

Exposure to pollutants during pregnancy may affect lung development, making children more susceptible to respiratory issues throughout their lives.

WATER CONTAMINATION AND IMPACT ON PREGNANCY

Another serious risk to expectant mothers and their unborn children is water contamination. Pollutants that might cause serious injury during pregnancy include heavy metals, insecticides, and industrial pollutants that find their way into sources of drinking water.



DR RITU SETHI

For example, Lead, is a wellknown developmental neurotoxin. Even low levels of lead exposure during pregnancy can result in cognitive and behavioral problems in the child. Mercury can damage a developing neural system and impair a child's cognitive ability. It is often found in seafood. Contaminants like pesticides and industrial chemicals can also disrupt hormonal balance, potentially leading to birth defects, preterm birth, and developmental delays in children. Pregnant women should be cautious about the quality of their drinking water and be aware of potential sources of contamination.

CHEMICAL EXPOSURE AND

IMPACT ON PREGNANCY Pregnant women can encounter harmful chemicals

in their everyday lives, whether through personal care products, household cleaning agents, or workplace exposures. These products contain a number of common chemicals that may be harmful to the developing foetus as well as the mother.

Phthalates, commonly found in cosmetics and plastics, have been associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes, including preterm birth and developmental issues. Bisphenol A (BPA), used in the production of plastics and found in food packaging, has also been linked to birth defects and developmental problems in children.

Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to these chemicals because they can cross the placenta and affect fetal development. It is essential for expectant mothers to reduce their exposure to harmful chemicals by using safer products and adopting a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

PROTECTING PREGNANCY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

To protect the health of pregnant women and the wellbeing of future generations, we must follow the proactive measures to reduce pollution

and its impact on pregnancy. Here are some important

•Improving Air Quality: Promoting cleaner energy sources and adopting stricter emissions regulations. are two ways that governments and communities can help reduce air pollution.

Clean Water Initiatives: Ensuring access to clean and safe drinking water is essential. Water pollution can be decreased with the support of stringent contaminant regulations and routine source monitoring programmes.

Safer Chemical Use: People should choose products free of dangerous chemicals, and the manufacture and use of hazardous chemicals should be

regulated. Education and Awareness: Pregnant women can learn about the dangers of pollution and receive advice on reducing their exposure through public awareness campaigns.

Prenatal Care: Frequent prenatal examinations and medical supervision can assist in identifying and addressing the risks associated with pollution during pregnancy.

> (The writer is a Director, The Aura Speciality Clinic,

PERSPECTIVE

Empowering women through nutrition

In India, prioritising women's nutrition is essential for a brighter future. High rates of deficiencies, especially among adolescents, hinder progress. This calls for a comprehensive approach, targeting all life stages. Strengthening policies and frontline health workers' capacity is crucial. Bridging rural-urban disparities is imperative. Together, we aim for an empowered, nourished India, where every woman thrives.



FAUZIA KHAN

When women's rights are upheld and their access to opportunities is improved, the positive effects can be transformative for societies. Research suggests that improved nutrition can contribute to economic development by enhancing human capital. However, social and economic inequities persistently affect women across geographies, limiting their access to education and work opportunities. Undernutrition stands as a critical barrier to achieving women's equality. In India, where women are primarily responsible for household meals, they still lack access to a nutritious diet. Present Scenario

Empowering girls and women by ensuring they have access to adequate nutrition is not just a basic human right; it is a strategic investment in our country's future. A considerable number of women in India are part of the workforce, contributing their skills and labor to various sectors. However, the stark reality is that a substantial portion of these women face severe undernutrition. Nearly 19 per cent of Indian women have a below-normal Body Mass Index (BMI). This not only jeopardises their own health but also has far-reaching implications for the nation's economic

When we examine the data on micronutrient deficiency, the

situation appears even more alarming. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) for 2019-21, over half of India's girls and women aged 15-49 suffer from anaemia, a crucial nutrition and health indicator. Anaemia, often caused by deficiencies in iron, vitamins, and other essential nutrients, can have lasting effects on women's health, pregnancy outcomes, and the health of their children.

"India also exhibits alarmingly high rates of vitamin D deficiencies, with prevalence ranging from 40 per cent to as high as 90 per cent across the nation. This can result in suboptimal calcium absorption, leading to compromised bone health. Additionally, nearly 28 per cent of children and 37 per cent of adolescents have a folate deficiency, which impairs the absorption of iron. Furthermore, 22 per cent of all children and 16 per cent of adolescents are deficient in vitamin A, which could lead to blindness and other disorders.

The Way Forward

Nutrition interventions that exclusively target the period before, during, and after pregnancy fall short in meeting women's needs throughout their entire lives: during adolescence, pre-conception, and in later years. A lifecycle approach to women's nutrition empowers them to excel in education and work, exercise their choices, and live with dignity. This is achieved by reducing vulnerability to health issues, promoting economic empowerment, and fostering a stronger sense of well-being

To support a lifecycle approach to women's nutrition in India, we must strengthen policies, programs, and practices related to the issue. Traditionally, programmes have focused on maternal nutrition, often overlooking the specific needs of non-lactating and non-pregnant women. This lack of attention hampers policy coherence and multi-system, multi-sector actions to improve nutrition. The current momentum and political will for nutritional improvements provide an opportunity to address the nutritional needs of women and girls throughout their life cycle.

NFHS-5 also reveals that women in rural India fare worse than those in urban regions in almost all nutrition-related indicators. Strengthening the capacity of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) to provide accurate nutrition awareness and connect beneficiaries with relevant schemes is crucial in narrowing this gap, as they serve a vast majority of India's women. Offering comprehensive training and providing these frontline health workers with the necessary tools and skills to address women's nutrition challenges at the grassroots level is essential. Simultaneously, leveraging platforms like District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHA) or Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committees (VHIR) can aid in real-time monitoring of progress, or the lack thereof, in improving women's nutrition.

Adolescence is one of the most critical stages of growth, marked by rapid physical development that escalates nutrient requirements. In India, 40 per cent of girls and 18 per cent of boys suffer from anemia, emphasising the urgency to enhance the nutritional intake of girls during this phase of life. To achieve this, we need to harmonise two pivotal elements: boosting community awareness and utilization of nutritional resources, with a distinct emphasis on adolescent nutrition, to establish enduring healthy dietary habits. School health programmes should actively involve adolescent girls by offering nutritious meals and providing comprehensive education on balanced diets and over-

Our mission to enhance women's nutrition is a journey towards a brighter, more equitable India. It transcends political divides, uniting us all in the pursuit of a nation where every girl and woman is nurtured, empowered, and afforded equitable opportunities to leave her unique mark on history. Together, we will break the cycle of malnutrition and lay the foundation for a healthier, more prosperous India, where the empowerment of women through nutrition is not just a vision, but a resounding reality.

(The writer is the national president of Women's Wing of National Congress Party (NCP) and Member of Parliament, Maharashtra)



US support for Israel: An old game

Amid the intensifying Israel-Hamas conflict, this analysis delves into the intricate web of historical, political, and humanitarian factors shaping the crisis. From the longstanding US support for Israel to the divide within American politics, it scrutinises the complex dynamics. As casualties rise and diplomatic efforts falter, the urgency for a resolution that balances security with justice becomes paramount on the global stage

The US' support for Israel is unequivocal. It has been consistent since the creation of the Jewish State on May 14, 1948. Washington is sticking to its long-established script that provides all the grounds for standing for Israel. From day one of the current attack of the Hamas over Israel, President Joe Biden is repeatedly echoing the line in public that Israel has a "legitimate right to defend

This unquestionable support for Israel began with former President Harry Truman who became the first world leader to recognise the State of Israel. His decision was driven by two main considerationsfirst being a personal one i.e. his former business partner Edward Jacobson actually did all the foundational work to make the way for recognising the Jewish State by the UN in 1948. The second being a strategic perspective as Washington wanted to have a trusted ally in West Asia to spread its influence and to gradually counter the growing might of the USSR. Specifically, the US was using all its military, economic and diplomatic maneuvers to have major influence over the Suez Canal, the gateway to control strategic waterways and massive oil reserves in West Asian nations.

In the last more than five decades, America's unequivocal support to Israel grew with its decisive victory over major Arab nations like Syria, Jordan, Egypt, etc, in 1967 and in 1973. This literally changed the equation in favour of Israel in the US Congress. During the reign of President Barack Obama, the US Government signed an agreement with Israel to send \$38 billion military aid over a period of 10 years, including Iron Dome Missile System to the Zionist nation. Besides these tilts towards Israel, another powerful politically sensitive organisation called American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) wields major influence over both the political parties and their top leaders.

But all is not well for Israel in the US. For a long time, progressive Democrats in the US have opposed the Jewish treatment of the Palestinians. Back in July of this year, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution pledging full support for the State of Israel. This resolution



explicitly condemned anti-Semitism and declared that the country is neither racist nor an apartheid nation. It is worth noting that all of this occurred just before the President of Israel was scheduled to address a joint session of Congress. This historic resolution once again delivered an implicit rebuke to the progressive Democrats who had been criticizing Israel for its decadeslong policies against Palestine.

On the record, Pramila Jayapal, the Democrat from Washington and the head of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, referred to Israel as a "Racist State", but later she retracted her comments. Pramila also clarified that she is not contesting the idea of Israel, but rather its present government's policies. The irony lies in the fact that, despite her frontal attack on the Israeli government and opposition to its policies, most Democrats supported the resolution put forth by the Republican Party.

And in the event of the current dastardly attack unleashed by Hamas over the Israeli state, the tensions between the moderate and progressive Democrats are sharply divided on Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in the occupied West Bank region. most powerful Republicans, and almost all the ordinary ones, are fully standing in solidarity with Israel at this hour of crisis. President Biden is trying to use this chaos as a re-election strategy for the next year's election campaign, aiming to impress both the hardliners and many Americans who are completely in favour of crushing Hamas and its dastardly acts against innocent civilians.

Some experts argue that the benefits of the US support for Israel no longer outweigh the costs. It has been a huge burden on the American exchequer. Once, the relationship between the US and Israel was justified both on moral and strategic grounds. The Jewish state readily offered an opportunity to America to influence the West Asian region after the Second World War.

Indeed, the establishment Israel was projected as a befitting response to widespread anti-Semitism in the West, particularly referring to the Holocaust under the tutelage of Adolf Hitler during the peak of the War. But at the same time, the majority in the West led by the US simply ignored the reality that the Arabs who had lived in Palestine for centuries had

What has been failed to project by Washington is Israel's military prowess and advantage from all fronts over Palestine and its people. It is a Goliath. And on top of that Israel is fully backed by the mil-

itary machine of the US, the world's most powerful nation. So one can easily imagine what will be the fate of the fighting Palestinians and the Hamas

For the first time, a US President visited Israel during the war. Not only Biden, but also his Secretary of State and Defense, Antony Blinken and Lloyd Austin respectively, landed in Israel between October 11-13, when hostilities were at their peak. Once they set the stage, President Biden came to Tel Aviv to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, demonstrating total solidarity with Israel.

Interestingly, after Biden's visit on October 18, Israel was ready to allow humanitarian aid coming to the Gaza Strip.

The saddest part of the current quagmire is that innocent civilians are punished in the name of fighting the Hamas militants. When the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) ordered more than a million people to evacuate from North Gaza to shift to South Gaza, all international humanitarian agencies warned of dire consequences. The International Committee finally lost their indigenous of the Red Cross (ICRC) immediately raised an alarm of a humanitarian tragedy if million people have to vacate their homes within 24 hours as the deadline set by Israel. The intention was to launch ground war between David and offensive against the Hamas and to rescue more than 200 hostages it has taken from

Israel on the day of the attack i.e. Shabbat, the holy day of rest and recuperation. But then, Mahmoud Abbas, the President of the Palestinian Authority, clearly said that civilians should not vacate North Gaza. The reason behind this is that this will offer another opportunity to the Zionist state to recapture more Palestinian territories to push forward its ulterior motives.

And for Palestinians it could be the Second Nakba (catastrophe or cataclysm) as many of their older generations already experienced the First Nakba in 1948 during the creation of the Israeli state. The Nakba refers to displacement of thousands of Palestinians from their original homes to make way for the Jewish state. While ordering to evacuate, the Israeli State had stopped all the basic facilities like water, food, electricity, etc, to the Gaza enclave.

When the tragic hospital blast took the lives of more than 500 civilians and the daily death count continues to rise, how can the US and the West remain silent spectators to this horror? It is true that Hamas took the lives of more than 1,300 innocent people on October 7 while the Jewish community was celebrating their festival. This is simply unpardonable.

It is a criminal act on the part of Hamas which they had been planning for months to breach one of the world's most sophisticated security and intelligence systems. According to records published on the UN website, the number of people killed in Gaza has now exceeded 5000, as reported by the de facto authorities there.

Humanitarians are repeatedly calling for a ceasefire and for more aid convoys. Meanwhile, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, issued a new appeal for "sustained safe passage" for medical essentials and fuels to keep health facilities open. Sadly, women and children make up more than 62 per cent of the fatalities, while more than 15,000 eople have been injured since October 7.

Now the pertinent question here is that is it justified for the US, the world's oldest democracy and leader of the global liberal order to continue sending arms, ammunitions, man and materials to



MAKHAN SAIKIA

bolster the Israeli defence forces to pound more and lethal attacks on the Gaza Strip? Are its civilians responsible for what Hamas did on South Israel? After long and sustained appeals from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and other human rights and humanitarian aid agencies, why has the Biden Administration either failed or purposefully escalated another war in West Asia?

It is not all justified on the

part of the US to back Israel at this hour with its superior military equipment as it could exacerbate the war in an already chaotic West Asia. Nowhere the civilians of Gaza and west Bank are responsible for ghastly act of the Hamas and the current torture on them is absolutely uncalled for. Despite appeals from the UN and other international bodies, the US is spearheading the acts of aggression and providing all that Israel needs to win over the Hamas is nothing but its decade long agenda to stand behind the Jewish State. It does not vary depending on who comes to Washington. Finally Israel wins its favour from its big brother in the US. So the violence and long discrimination against the Palestinian people goes on.

The Israel-Hamas war since October 7 is a grim reminder to the international community that violence only breeds more violence. It is time to halt war in favor of peace. We all need to bear in mind that this planet demands peace simply to serve the uncared for and the most vulnerable people all around.

Maybe, the Palestinian people will not be able to reclaim their homeland but they all have the fundamental right to have peace and claim over whatever territories they have as of today. It is clear that a two-state solution may take longer than ever before looking at the current hostilities in place. Also, we all need to accept the fact that the way Hamas has displayed its might and brutality over innocent Israeli civilians will certainly not pave the way for an independent Palestine sooner or

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research Foundation)

INSIGHT

Economic value of women's unpaid work

While the Government of India acknowledges the notion of decent work and has made commitments to promote decent work principles, including providing fair wages, safe working conditions, etc, actual implementation, particularly concerning women workers, including those engaged in domestic work, remains a challenging endeavour.

Effective realisation of commitments still faces significant hurdles like low wages, absence of social security benefits, and insufficient job protection. Addressing these critical issues demands increased attention and action from the Government.

Unpaid care work includes tasks related to caregiving, household management, and community support. It plays a pivotal role in sustaining families, nurturing children, supporting the elderly, and maintaining the overall well-being of communities.

However, traditional economic frameworks tend to overlook the economic value of

women's unpaid work. This undervaluation can perpetuate gender wage gaps and hinder women's financial independence, impacting their

access to economic opportunities. Without the efforts of women domestic workers, who are major contributors to care work, the social fabric of our societies would be severely compromised.

The undervaluation of such work reinforces traditional gender roles, and can hinder women's participation in paid employment and career advancement.

Unpaid work by women plays a crucial role in sustaining a healthy and productive workforce, thereby contributing to the overall functioning of the formal economy.

Failure to recognise the economic value of unpaid care work can lead to an incomplete understanding of a country's true economic output and potential. Recognising and valuing unpaid care work are essential steps in advancing gender equality and dismantling the barriers that restrict women's opportunities and economic empowerment.

Incorporating both paid and unpaid work into economic analyses provides a more precise comprehension of the economy's productivity and the contributions of

This approach not only challenges traditional gender roles and stereotypes but also informs labour laws and regulations to ensure fair wages, decent working conditions, and social protections.

The "decent work" framework is gaining recognition as a critical factor in policy shaping. Key policy messages to address the issue of exploitation in domestic work include: Ensuring that domestic workers receive compensation at least equal to the government's legally mandated minimum wage to combat exploitation effectively; and implementing baseline income protection.

This article analyses three aspects of unpaid care work and how it disadvantages women domestic workers in the labour market.

First, it examines the impact of the pandemic on the volume of unpaid care work performed by these women, and other challenges faced by

Second, analysing their time-distribution on house work and care activities, it looks at their labour through the "decent work" framework to determine if they received

significance of making unpaid care work visible, which gets reinforced by the insights emerging from the interac-

Interviews were organised with a set of thirty women domestic workers from the Sanwal Nagar area of South Delhi, through pre-designed questionnaires.

The aim was to get insights about their everyday routine, and how women from different categories of households nuclear families and extended families (including grandparents, aunts, uncles) spent their time over a 24-hour period.

All of them did domestic work in their own households, and also went to do house work at other houses, so the interview process also included questions about wages received by them in return for working in other houses.

To understand the challenges in their lives after the advent of pandemic, and coping mechanisms, additional contextual information was captured on issues like: Sexual division of labour within households, working conditions faced by workers, wages per month.

So, the interactions were not focused solely on data collection, but also tried to comprehend additional benefits or discrimination faced by the workers. Men in their households were also asked to share their time allocation on domestic unpaid duties.

Findings are organised around the three points mentioned earlier: Pandemic disrupted the daily routine of domestic workers. Echoing the overall rise in women's household workloads during the pandemic, the survey showed that female domestic workers faced greater impacts.

Their caregiving responsibilities surged not just within their homes, but also extended to their paid workplaces. This meant that the average hours spent on domestic work post-lockdown went up for them. Compared to men in the household, women dedicated significantly more time to unpaid care work, with women's participation being 7.3 times that of men.

(The author is a student of economics. She penned this write-up as part of her work on a research project on Unpaid Care Labour of Women.)

Post-Covid, findings reveal a substantial surge in women's caregiving duties, impacting both home and paid work. Compared to men in the household, women dedicated significantly more time to unpaid care work, with women's participation being 7.3 times that of men. Women's dedication to unpaid care work underscores a crucial gender disparity.



MAITREYI TIWARI

New Delhi, October 29, 2023

























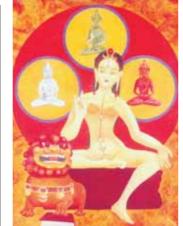




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, romantic and emotional waves may lead you toward serene retreats or artistic expressions. Enjoying nature or arts with a loved one may appeal to you. Unexpected romantic proposals might come your way, possibly leading to significant commitments. Mid-week, letting go of a harmful habit or obsession may be necessary to maintain harmony in relationships. This change could spark a shift in your outlook, fueling creativity and energy towards the week's end. Now refocused, your professional ambitions take precedence, garnering support from seasoned individuals at work. Your altruistic tendencies are noticeable as you assist those in need, emphasizing collaboration and structured engagement during this harmonious time. Seizing opportunities for coordinated efforts now lays a foundation for fruitful interactions, fostering a conducive atmosphere for shared objectives to thrive.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

The essence of emotions holds a notable place in your life, particularly as you traverse through this week filled with affection and new prospects. As someone deeply connected to the unseen and emotional realms, there might be instances where practicality may take a back seat, yet your readiness to assist shines through. Your gentle and creative demeanor is a shield against discord, seeking serenity instead. A ripple in this calmness may occur mid-week, as unexpected dishonesty from a close one may leave you disheartened. As the week concludes, a sense of mastery and balance between various facets of life emerges, bolstering your confidence in your capabilities. Engaging in discussions with business acquaintances can pave the way for fruitful outcomes. Individuals in authoritative positions may find themselves ascending to higher roles or shouldering greater responsibilities.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You possess a pure heart and remain steadfast in your affections. Your ability to navigate through extremes showcases a commendable level of tolerance and balance. By acknowledging both light and shadow within, you foster a well-rounded self. Facing challenges headon and seeking to understand them is a part of your learning journey, often leading to solutions. Mid-week, travel may arise alongside a minor discord at work due to a colleague's confrontational stance. Your patience will serve you well, allowing you to address negativity with grace. You're on a path of blessed encounters, potentially meeting a kindred spirit with whom a profound bond blossoms. This phase is ripe for exploring romance, experiencing deep affection, and cherishing the joy of harmonious companionship.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour White Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, you find yourself quite assertive, particularly in matters of the heart. While you may seem composed on the surface, there's a storm of emotions brewing within. hinting at a tug-of-war between contrasting aspects of your nature. This internal dissonance might lead you down a path of self-conflict, where the calm and fiery facets of your persona are at odds. Navigating through this, it would be wise to choose a path of understanding and patience over confrontation, as this balanced approach could prevent you from getting swaved by overpowering emotions. Amidst this emotional landscape, the week brings a pleasant surprise in the form of a promising professional prospect. It's a moment worth serious consideration, as it might herald a phase of financial

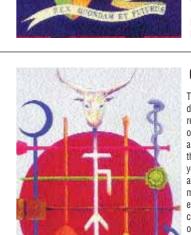
Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Lavender Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Now is a period of awaiting outcomes with a calm heart. A surge of spiritual insight may inspire you to host a sacred gathering at your dwelling. A journey inward, reflecting upon oneself, is beckoning. Through this process, you'll discover a burgeoning inner strength leading you towards more inventive and fruitful endeavors. As the week progresses, a new venture requiring swift action and courage calls out to you, rejuvenating your spirit with newfound motivation and zest. Your wellness flourishes, encouraging you to tackle previously feared endeavors - now is the moment to embrace them. Harness this newfound gusto for maximal advantage. Discreet relationships may encounter a fork in the road. Gifting scented candles or fragrances could serve as a sweet gesture to curry favor with your beloved.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Mustard **Lucky day** Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week brings a spotlight on your well-being as seasonal discomforts might be a bother. Your financial landscape requires prudent management as unexpected expenditures. overshadow gains, leading to some anxiety. Health concerns of a senior individual may also add to your worries. However, as the week progresses, you'll find solace and ways to invigorate yourself through meditative and spiritual practices. Support and reassurance from your mother significantly elevate your morale. An imperative emerges to rejuvenate stagnant emotional ties, as neglect may lead to distress. Evaluate your circumstances to seek a harmonious equilibrium, especially in one-sided relationships that might be causing you anguish. This period encourages introspection and embarking on a journey of self-exploration to align with your genuine life trajectory, steering towards a fulfilling existence.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Golden **Lucky day** Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

A period of plentiful bounty is foreseen, extending across both tangible and intangible realms. Your situation now is one of affluence and contentment. It's a phase where passing down something meaningful to the next in line becomes significant, ensuring a lasting remembrance. The legacy could be monetary or a piece of wisdom, the latter potentially leaving a deeper imprint. Should a need arise, a generous kin might extend a helping hand. Family discussions concerning asset distributions might emerge. As the week progresses, unforeseen happenings might sweep in swiftly, demanding adept handling. Your fair judgment is crucial during challenging decisions, but a rash approach could jeopardize the efforts. A confrontational stance from someone may entangle you in debates or disputes, navigating which will require a calm and composed demeanor.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Your energy and inventive spirit are at a peak this week, heralding positive tidings and possibly a new addition to the family. Your youthful and vibrant imagination finds its outlet in inventive pursuits. Your goals are elevated yet within reach, with a strong moral compass guiding your actions. Life seems to flow effortlessly, urging you to create a harmonious lifestyle. The potential for commitments or deepening connections is strong, possibly leading toward marital or relational milestones. The support and blessings from elder family members enhance your sense of contentment and familial joy. Exercise prudence in financial dealings to avoid any deceit, especially from familiar faces at work. Engage in thorough discussions with colleagues to bridge communication gaps, resolving misunderstandings and fostering a harmonious work environment.

Lucky number 8 | **Lucky colour** Sea Green **Lucky day** Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, your prompt and assured actions will pave the way for long-term benefits. There's remarkable clarity and positivity in your objectives, devoid of any confusion. The onset of a romantic journey or the inception of a new endeavor is imminent. Everything in your life seems to align perfectly, providing a clear view of the broader scheme of things. A travel opportunity, particularly by air, presents itself as a reason for celebration. You stand wiser. braver, and more robust. An overwhelming sense of accomplishment envelops you as partnerships and friendships highlight the week. People are inclined to support you, providing a safety net during challenging times. This period marks the successful initiation of actions that may blossom into more inventive ventures. enriching your experience further.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week is ripe with creativity for you. The harmonious synergy of your mind, body, and spirit is likely to manifest in fruitful outcomes. You're also brimming with energy. A new beginning or expansion in the family is quite possible, bringing both material and spiritual prosperity. As the week progresses be mindful of increasing expenses. Your desires and needs are growing, necessitating a well-thought-out budget to maintain balance in relationships. Embracing love, compassion, and humility will endear you to your loved ones. As the week concludes, travel may be on the horizon; ensure you safeguard your belongings during your journey. With an inspired and optimistic outlook, this venture promises to be rewarding and beneficial in the long term. During the journey, maintaining a serene and reflective mindset will serve you well

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Red **Lucky day** Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Amid a gleeful aura, you're keen on celebrating recent victories with your cherished ones. Past reflections bring nostalgia and inspiration. Your joy resonates, embracing both grand and modest pleasures, touching especially on tender exchanges and reunions with old friends. As the week unfolds, an influx of professional duties-new assignments, projects, and meetings—beckon your attention. Your capability shines through, as others recognize the potential in your endeavors. Your tenacity fuels a unique vision, uncovering prospects overlooked by others. Balancing this professional vigor with personal joys is crucial. While indulging in light-hearted moments, ensure you don't sideline the gravitas of your work duties. Proceed with a balanced and focused demeanor, navigating through both serious undertakings and delightful diversions.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week is earmarked for transformation. You may find yourself changing your living or working environment, or even altering lifestyle choices and home or office aesthetics. A profound spiritual shift is on the horizon, potentially encouraging you to step outside prevailing circumstances to explore improved pathways. Should a relationship bring sorrow, parting ways might be the healing choice, showcasing your strength in embracing the inevitable. Despite earnest efforts, if circumstances remain unyielding, entrusting the outcome to a higher power could be wise. Remember, confronting issues head-on isn't always the remedy; sometimes patience crafts the solution. As the week concludes, stability will return, fostering a period where reliance on your team to excel becomes fruitful

ucky number 7 | Lucky colour Black

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 987328333



ust one important lesson entailed in

Durga symbolises convergence of all nature driven forces no bias. So long as they keep doing their rounds in the cosmos, they act involun-

the concept underlying Mother Goddess Durga, relevant to the polarised world, was discussed in the pre-The same energy, however, acquires vious issue. A holistic view will, however, altogether a different dimension when it reveal that the concept as such is procomes to human application. As you are found and all-encompassing. It covers as aware, human beings are armed with exclusive privilege to guide their actions much metaphysical perceptions as practical lessons in how to conduct in a disby choice and discrimination. They, thus, parate world marked with its enormity qualify to apply Shakti as individually wished. And choice option always carries and diversity. Durga is believed to be the epitome of Śhakti. It needs to be appreciequal probability of use and misuse. So, when operative at human level, Shakti ated that we all owe our dynamic existurns out to be a double-edged weapon. tence to nature driven energy orchestra (Shakti in Indian terminology). The word Now, shakti is available in equal propor-Shakti reflects altogether a different contion to all of us. But it strikes divergent notation as compared to "Energy" as notes on different people. Why? Here understood in modern sense. For, inhercomes into play one's unique mind-trend, ent in Shakti is a creative aspiration, which varies from person-to-person. It is which spontaneously following intelligent this uniqueness of a being, which design inherent with nature, blossoms out responds to shakti varied ways according into the world of phenomenon. However, as each mind is inherently made out. in either form - Shakti or abstract energy Durga offers lessons in how to overcome - won't discriminate. Therefore, knows this vulnerability and use one's shakti to

sail through life with ease and comfort.

The legend pertaining to the Mother does also hint on evolution and devolution of nature driven energies from a singularity to multiple chains, and then back to the primal-source which drives through the world process. Mother, thus, symbolises convergence of all nature driven forces vital to our existence, which is why when they all joined, She emerged. It is in this spirit that She is named "Durga", which means something unassailable. Out of that primal source has evolved a complex chain of forces, each personified as a devata specific. And, which following an intelligent design laid down by nature, creates, sustains, and recycles the manifest dynamic world. And, with time, after having exhausted their sustainable limit, these forces, and thereby the world, revert to the primal source. Out of the seeds of life that these forces carry back, a fresh creation chain



gets excited. Thus, goes on a continued chain of evolution and devolution with no beginning or end in final sense, what modern science calls a "boundary-less singularity".

Now, why the form of a Mother and not a male or any other presence? Our seers, seeing truths from human perspective, had realised double propensity inherent in all empowerment tools physical, material, or intellectual. Accordingly, they felt the need to educate all and sundry on how to judiciously use shakti in larger interest of the individual self, humanity, and overall existential needs. As we are aware, a mother uses her shakti and all resources available, to bear, produce, and nurse her child, till they qualify to manage on their own. She bears with all the pains in the process. Yet she rejoices for what she has brought up. And, in her true motherly spirit, it remains a selfless exercise, as she does not expect anything in return thereof at least in immediate terms. There can be, therefore, no better simile than that of a mother, which may be suggestive of judicious and selfless application of Shakti.

Mother is visualised mounted on a

Lion having 10 hands. In 8, She is shown holding different weapons offered by the Devata-s. In remaining two, She is shown with a conch shell (Blowing instrument) in one and Lotus flower in the other. It will be interesting to note here that there are ten directions - North, East, South, West, the four corners, one above and another below, implying 10 dimensions of energy flow in nature. She attends to the energies flowing through different directions with Her ten hands holding different armouries. And we are all aware that both creation and destruction are the prerogative of shakti alone. It will naturally be desirable to access and make the most out of creative energies and simultaneously checkmate the implications of nega-

> The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@gmail.com

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