OPINION 6

BRINGING THE

VETERANS HOME

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12 SPORT



WORLD 8

CROWD STORMS RUSSIAN AIRPORT

TO PROTEST FLIGHT FROM ISRAEL

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Kerala blast has Terror link Attacks on migrants

he bomb blast on Sunday at The prayer meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) that claimed three lives was a wellplanned and executed act of terrorism, according to Intelligence Bureau officials probing the case. Though Dominic Martin, the JW follower-turned-rebel, surrendered to the police with claims that he alone was responsible for the explosion perpetrated by a tiffin box bomb powered with IED, the IB has found out that he was helped in the act by various people including Bangladesh-based terrorist groups. "The telephone numbers given by Martin are fake and do not exist," IB officials told a satellite TV news channel on Monday.

Martin's claim that he learned how to assemble the bomb and IED from YouTube has fallen apart as the IB officials pointed out that one would not be able to comprehend the technology, especially a person who has no basic technical qualifications. "He received help from others in acquiring the materials to make the bomb," said an IB official.

RVS Mani, a former bureaucrat who gained fame with his book "The Myth of Hindu Terror," informed The Pioneer that Martin's claim is akin to that of an assembly-line-manufactured accused. He emphasised that crafting a tiffin box bomb and IED is not achievable without external assistance. Mani drew a parallel between Martin and



National Security Guard personnel inspect the blast site at Samra Convention Centre in Kalamassery in Kochi on Monday

Pranesh Pillai (who converted to Islam and adopted the name Javed Ghulam), recalling that Pillai, along with three others, was fatally shot by the Gujarat Police and Intelligence Bureau on June 15, 2004. They were Mani. He said there was an attempt to conceal the true culallegedly on a mission to assassinate the then Chief Minister of Gujarat in Gandhi Nagar. He expressed shock over the attempt by the Kerala Police and the media to subvert the investigation by portraying Dominic Martin as the sole person responsible for the bomb blast. "The Chief of Kerala Police, Sheikh Darvesh, was heard telling reporters that

conducted as directed by the Chief Minister. Is it the Chief Minister who decides the type of investigation to be carried out in a case like this?" asked Mani. He said there was an

prits in the case. The police chief has urged people not to post any messages on social media. "We will take stringent action against those spreading false and fake news through social media," warned Darvesh.

Leaders of various Islamist organisations, including the Muslim League, openly stated on Monday that they accused the investigation into the a certain section of people of Kalamassery blast would be attempting to depict a partic-

ular community as terrorists. "The reactions of some political and social groups are driven by preconceived notions and prejudice," said Sadiq Ali

Shihab Thangal, president of

the Muslim League. Earlier in the day, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar stated to the media that Kerala has become a safe haven for terrorists and anti-national elements. In response, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan countered by accusing the Union Minister of making baseless claims. Vijayan said, "He and his group are upset over the support given by

the people of Kerala to Hamas

and Palestine. His style of pol-

itics won't work here."

Chandrasekhar was referring to Vijavan's frequent visits to New Delhi as part of his effort to position himself as a potential Prime Ministerial candidate for the Opposition parties. On Monday, the BJP's Kerala unit staged a protest at the Government Secretariat, demanding the resignation of Vijayan as the Chief Minister. BJP chief JP Nadda, who led the protest, described the CPI(M) Government as the most corrupt government the State has witnessed. He said the CPI(M) and the Congress were collaborating with terrorists and anti-national forces as part of their appearement policy.

continue in Kashmir

∂ Daraz

fter a brief lull, terrorists in After a Drief full, terrorited AKashmir Valley have once again started resorting to an old tactic of attacking soft targets. A day after an Inspector rank officer of Jammu & Kashmir Police was targeted by terrorists in the Eidgah area of downtown Srinagar, a brick kiln worker hailing from Uttar Pradesh was killed in cold blood in the Tumchi Nowpora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday. Jammu & Kashmir police identified the labourer as 38-yearold Mukesh Kumar, a resident of Bhatpura, Unnao district near Kanpur.

Mukesh was earning his livelihood by working in a nearby brick kiln.

On Monday as he was approaching a local shop to get some items, he was targeted by unidentified terrorists. With multiple bullet wounds.

Kumar was rushed to the nearby hospital but he succumbed to his injuries.

Earlier on Sunday, a police officer, playing a game of cricket, was critically wounded after he was targeted by an unidentified terrorist at the Eidgah ground in downtown Srinagar.

According to police, the terrorist used a pistol to target the police officer identified as Masroor Ahmad. The police officer had also received multiple wounds, including in the head. He was operated upon by a team of doctors at the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical

Science (SKIMS). J&K DGP Dilbagh Singh on Monday confirmed the injured officer is recovering in the hospital.

Sounding a word of caution, the outgoing police chief said threats are still around and cops have to be careful and cautious about incidents like the attack on a police officer while playing cricket at a playground

"We have to be cautious. The threats are still around; we cannot take these so lightly. We have to be careful, we have to be cautious and I pray that he will come out of it," Dilbagh Singh, who is set to retire on October 31, told reporters on the sidelines of a function in

He said the officer had gone to play cricket when he was attacked by terrorists.

Asked if Pakistan will try to disrupt the atmosphere in view of forthcoming elections, Singh, without naming Islamabad,

said the neighbouring country has always tried to disturb peace in Jammu & Kashmir. 'Elections or no elections, they (Pakistan) have always been trying to disturb the peace here, ensuring that the militancy continues here but our brave force JKP with the support of other forces, including army and people, have been able to eliminate that design and illintended actions by our adversary. I am sure that will contin-



An anti-smog gun sprays water vapour to curb air pollution in Delhi on Monday

Toxins engulf Delhi's lungs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

ir pollution levels entered Athe "severe" zone in parts of Delhi on Monday, while the overall air quality index (AQI) in the city stood in the "very poor" category for the third consecutive day, with the AQI crossing over 400 in several

Rohini (418), Wazirpur (419) Mundka (422), and Delhi University (408) recorded "severe" air quality (AQI above 400). The AQI serves as a measure of pollution levels. A higher AQI value indicates a greater level of air pollution and increased health concerns.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the city's 24-hour average AQI was recorded at 347 at 4 pm, worsening from 325 on Sunday, 304 on Saturday and 261 (poor) on Friday.

The CPCB data shows that the air quality is recorded in the "very poor" category in various areas: Anand Vihar (384), Ashok Vihar (374), Bawana (384), Burari (377), Delhi Technological University (353), Dwarka (347), ITO (330), Jehangirpuri (383), Narela (353), Nehru Vihar (379), Vivek Vihar (380), and Shadipur (391).

The AQI was 272 in neighbouring Ghaziabad, 300 in Faridabad, 203 in Gurugram, 303 in Noida and 336 in Greater Noida

According to CPCB officials. the air quality is expected to remain "very poor" for a few more days. The Capital's air quality in October 2023 has been worse compared to the last two years, and meteorologists attribute it to the lack of

The Centre's Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has ordered that only electric, CNG and BS VI-com pliant diesel buses will be allowed to operate between Delhi and the cities and towns of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan falling within the NCR from November 1.

As the AQI has entered the "severe zone", the Government may impose ban on construction activities in Delhi and NCR. The Bharat Stage emission standards set legal limits on the amount of air pollutants such as carbon monoxide and particulate matter that vehicles

in India can emit. These standards focus on improving emission control, fuel efficiency and engine

As vehicle manufacturers provide vehicles that meet these new norms, oil companies supply fuel that adheres to the BS-VI standards, known as the standards, known as the world's cleanest fuel.

The city's air quality deteriorated to "very poor" on October 28 due to slow wind speed at night and a dip in the temperatures. The AQI was 256 on October 26, 243 on October 25 and 220 on October 24.

Special drives to check dust, vehicular and industrial pollution are already underway in

AAP dealt a death blow CM Kejriwal summoned by ED, Sisodia gets no SC relief

(ED) on Monday summoned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for questioning in an excise policy-linked moneylaundering case on November 2, and the Supreme Court on Monday denied former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia

bail in the same case. Kejriwal (55) has been issued the summons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and according to the sources, the agency will record his statement once he deposes before the investigating officer of the case in Delhi.

The ED has mentioned Kejriwal's name multiple times in its chargesheets filed in the case and said the accused were in touch with the AAP leader regarding the preparation and execution of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

In a related development, the

Supreme Court rejected two vant being bribed. excise policy scam and said the accusation of "windfall gains" of ₹338 crore to wholesale liquor dealers was "tentatively supported" by evi-

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti, which termed several charges levelled by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Sisodia as debatable, said, "However, there is one clear ground or charge in the complaint filed under the PML Act, which is free from perceptible legal challenge and the facts as alleged are tentatively support-ed by material and evidence." It referred to the CBI's chargesheet, which said the excess amount of 7 per cent commission/fee earned by the wholesale distributors of ₹338 crore constitute an offence as defined under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, which relates to a public ser-

separate bail pleas of Sisodia in The bench said as per the ED's Tn a double whammy for the corruption and money-laun- complaint, the amount of ₹338 tion campaign. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), dering cases related to the crore constituted the proceeds

> This amount was earned by the wholesale distributors in a span of ten months. This figure cannot be disputed or challenged. Thus, the new excise policy was meant to give windfall gains to select few wholesale distributors, who in turn had agreed to give kickbacks and bribes," the bench noted from the CBI's charge sheet, adding, the "conspiracy and involvement of the appellant – Manish Sisodia is well estab-

Regarding the claim of ₹2.20 crore bribe paid to Sisodia, as stated by alleged middleman Dinesh Arora, the bench said it is not a charge or an allegation made in the chargesheet filed by the CBI and it may be difficult to regard the alleged payment as a "proceed of crime" under the PMLA.

It noted the ED's submission that a portion of the alleged

proceeds of crime was used by 70 of the PML Act cannot be assurances of the prosecution, the AAP to fund its Goa elec-

"The ment (DoF) has stated at the Bar, and in the written submissions, that once the quantum of amount used in the election in Goa is ascertained, a decision to consider AAP as an accused under Section 3 will be taken. It is stated by the DoE that the matter in this regard is being processed," the bench

The bench said the ED's allegation that a kickback of ₹100 crore was actually paid by a liquor cartel is a matter of debate.

"However, there is an assertion, and the DoE has relied on evidence and material, that a portion thereof, that is, ₹45 crore was transferred through Hawala for the Goa election and used by AAP, a political party, which is a juristic person. The AAP is not being prosecuted. The charge that the appellant Manish Sisodia is vicariously liable in terms of Section

cific allegation on the involvement of the appellant - Manish Sisodia, direct or indirect, in the transfer of ₹45 crore to AAP for the Goa elections is missing."
Justice Khanna, who penned the 41-page verdict said, "In view of the aforesaid discussion

and for the reasons stated, we are not inclined to accept the prayer for grant of bail at this

Referring to a 2020 apex court verdict in a case against leader Congress Chidambaram, the bench said the former union minister had served 49 days in prison, and it was concerned about the "prolonged" incarceration of Sisodia.

"Detention or jail before being pronounced guilty of an offence should not become punishment without trial. If the trial gets protracted despite

alleged and has not been and it is clear that the case will not be decided within a fore-Directorate of The bench said, "Prima facie, seeable time, the prayer for bail said.

It added while the prosecution may pertain to an economic offence, it may not be proper to equate these cases with those punishable with death, imprisonment for life, 10 years or more like offences under the Drugs and Narcotic Psychotropic Substances Act, murder, cases of rape, dacoity, kidnapping for ransom, mass

violence, etc. "Neither is this a case where 100/1000s of depositors have been defrauded. The allegations have to be established and proven. The right to bail in cases of dalay coupled with cases of delay, coupled with incarceration for a long period, depending on the nature of the allegations, should be read into Section 439 of the Code and Section 45 of the PML Act," it

said. Sisodia was arrested by the CBI on February 26.

Gaza: A War Nobody Wanted

AP KHAN YOUNIS

Tsraeli troops and tanks **⊥**pushed deeper into Gaza on Monday, advancing on two sides of the territory's main city, as the UN and medical staff warned that airstrikes have hit closer to hospitals where tens of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter alongside thousands of wounded.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, says nearly 672,000 Palestinians are sheltering in its schools and other facilities across Gaza, which have reached four times their capacity. Some have been there for weeks, without knowing when they will be able to return home or if their homes have been demolished by

Video circulating on social media showed an Israeli tank and bulldozer in central Gaza blocking the territory's main

airstrikes.

highway, which the Israeli military in recent weeks has suggested Palestinians use to evacuate to the south. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in the north would no longer be able to escape if the road is blocked.

The video, taken by a local journalist, shows a car approaching an earth barrier across the road. The car stops and turns around. As it heads away, a tank appears to open fire, and an explosion engulfs the car. The journalist, in another car, races away in terror, screaming, "Go back! Go back!" at an approaching ambulance and other vehicles. The Gaza Health Ministry later said three people were killed in the car that was hit. The Israeli military declined to comment on where its forces were deployed.

Israel said late on Monday that a female soldier captured by



hospital in Rafah on Monday

released during its ground operations in Gaza. The military provided few details, but she appears to be the first captive to be freed since Israel stepped up its ground war. The military says Private Ori three women captured during

Hamas militants has been Megidish "was medically checked, is doing well, and has met with her family. Hours earlier, the militant

Hamas movement ruling Gaza released a short video on Monday purporting to show its wide-ranging October 7 attack inside Israel, which triggered the war. One of the women delivers a brief statement, likely under duress, criticizing Israel's response to the hostage crisis. Hamas and other militants captured around 240 people

during the deadly raid and have said they will release them in return for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, including many implicated in deadly attacks on Israelis. Israel has dismissed the offer. It was not clear when the video was made, but it was likely to add to the mounting domestic pressure on Israel's leaders. Families of the captives who met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the weekend expressed support for

an exchange. The Associated Press usually refrains from reporting details of hostage videos because they under duress and are often used for propaganda purposes. The Israeli military has been vague about its operations inside Gaza, including the location and number of troops. But the movements of recent days, including stepped-up ground operations both north and east of Gaza City, combined with calls for residents to head south, point to a focus on the Israel says much of Hamas' forces and militant infrastruc-

show individuals speaking

was home to over 650,000 people, a population comparable to that of Washington, DC. Casualties on both sides are

ture, including hundreds of

kilometers of tunnels, are in

Gaza City, which before the war

expected to rise sharply if Israeli forces expand their ground operation and end up battling Palestinian militants in dense residential areas.

Maratha quota stir turns violent, leaders face heat

The ongoing hunger agitation by Shivba Sanghatana President Manoj Jarange-Patil over job and education reservations to Maratha community on Monday resulted in a violent backlash on Monday, as his pro-quota activists attacked the houses of three ruling alliance MLAs, vandalised vehicles of three tehsildars and also targeted State transport buses, burnt tyres and pelted stone at different places in Marathwada.

On the sixth day of his agitation when Jarange-Patil collapsed on the stage due to weakness Maharashtra and the Government appointed a committee of three retired judges to advise it on the reservation issue, the pro-reservation activists attacked the bungalows of NCP (Ajit Pawar group) MLAs Prakash Solanke, Sandeep Kshirsagar and the office of BJP MLA Prashant Beed and Bhamb in Aurangabad districts of Marathwada respectively.

Stones were pelted at Solanke's bungalows, while his vehicles were set on fire. Kshirsagar's bungalow was set on fire, while the office of Bhamb was vandalised by the pro-quota prosimultaneously, the vehicles of



three tehsildars have been damaged in stone throwing incidents indulged in by the protesting pro-reservation activists.

The NCP office was set on fire at Beed, while a portion of Zilla Parishad office was torched, while Shirdi town in Ahmednagar district also observed a shutdown in support of the Maratha quotas.

Owing to several incidents of stone-pelting on the State-run Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) buses in a few districts, the MSRTC decided to suspend bus services in nine districts of Marathwada.

In stone throwing incidents, six buses were damaged in Osmanabad district, while four buses were targeted in Jalna dis-

In a related development, Jarange-Patil - who has gone on hunger strike at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district in

vices of India as well as three of

Bhutan. Speaking about Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's vision

of India as a developed country,

Mishra said Modi believes India

should achieve the status of a

developed country while caring

for both nature and culture,

"It will not only adopt and implement technology, it will be

a thought leader in science technology and self-reliant in all

sectors with women leading

India's development story, he

said about the prime minister's

views. The economy will be

according to a statement.

Marathwada — suddenly col lapsed due to weakness on the stage but was helped by his aides. After being persuaded by his supporters, he drank some

Addressing a gathering at his fasting venue, Jarange-Patil hit out at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for the latter's failure to take up the reservations issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Shirdi during a recent visit. "Why did you not discuss the issue with the Prime Minister. How can we trust

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expressed concern over the violence that broken out different parts of the state and asked Jarange-Patil Sakal Maratha Samaj that is part of the ongoing agitation not to take any extreme step that would lead to further violence in different parts of Marathwada

Bengal Minister, aides' assets under ED radar SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA Besides, Rehman who alleged-

 $T^{\text{he huge number of properties accumulated by Bengal}}$ Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick and his cronies — arrested for his alleged role in the multi-crore ration scam have come under the radar of Enforcement Direc-

According to sources Mallick and his close businessman aide Rakibur Rehman had amassed more than 50 acres of lands. hotels, pubs and apartments in about 95 places including various parts of Kolkata, Bengaluru, Bolpur and other places.

ly ran many of his businesses in partnership with Mallick's wife and daughter also has properties in Dubai, sources said. This, besides lands and farmhouses at Bolpur Shantiniketan, a popular

Mallick is the third Bengal min-ister after Partha Chatterjee and fourth MLA to be arrested on charges of corruption.

Even as the Trinamool Congress continued to term his arrest as 'political vendetta," State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari on Monday said, "if it is a vendetta then how his prop-



erty grew 900 times and why was he not granted bail considering the non-availability of prima facie evidence."

According to ED sources Mallick's daughter who is presently working as a senior officer in the State education department had deposits of about Rs 3 crore in her bank account. The amount was

allegedly earned during the pandemic period by way of giving tuitions.

Adhikari also said that Mallicks owned at least three luxury hotels in the beach town of Digha and some farmhouses in

"I can show you the pictures of the properties thus owned by Jyoti Priya Mallick," he said adding how his elder brother Debapriya Mallick was made a member of State Public Service Commission when a number of State services officers including BDOs were recruited," he said adding how a candidate who

obtained zero marks was finally given 162 thereby enabling him to land the job of a State civil services officer.

The ration scam is closely linked to the recruitment scam and a third scam related to the Public Service Commission is likely to explode in the Government very soon," Adhikari said Reacting to his statements TMC spokesperson Shantanu Sen said that "the people of Bengal do not want to listen to a person who was seen accepting bribes in camera in the Narada sting case and a person who is an FIR named accused."

BJP wants probe into WB Health Dept

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

lose on the heels of the arrest Of senior Bengal minister Jyoti Priya Mallick for his alleged role in the ration scam, State BJP president, Sukanta Majumdar on . Mondav said he had written a letter to Governor CV Ananda Bose, drawing his attention to the scams that have taken place in the State Health Department. "I have written a letter to the Governor drawing his attention to the scams that have taken place in the Health Department .. making a triumvirate of scams in three most important

departments of the State

Food, Education and Health. It

would be good for the State if an

investigation is done in the Health department scam too," Majumdar said

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is the minister in charge of the Health Department.

Dropping hints of a possible political turbulence in the State ahead of the next year's general elections Majumdar said that "it seems that a good number of

ministers and senior officials are involved in the scams in all these departments and if a thorough investigation is done then the entire Cabinet will have to be run from jail which is not possible ... so if the situation comes to that pass giving rise to a constitutional crisis then the central government cannot sit idle and it will have to intervene.



Andhra accident: Initial probe points a finger at Rayagada passenger train crew

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/VISHAKAPATNAM

Apreliminary railway probe into the Sunday night accident in Andhra Pradesh has held the driver and the assistant driver of Rayagada Passenger train responsible for the collision as it passed two defective auto signals violating norms. Both crew members were killed in the accident.

Signed by seven experts, the preliminary report said they carefully examined the accident site, available evidence, statements of officials concerned, data logger report and the speedometer chart. It concluded that the Rayagada passenger train (08504) hit the Visakhapatnam Palasa passenger train (08532) from the rear due to the crew of the former passing two defective auto

"Hence, LP (loco pilot), S M S Rao, ALP (Assistant Loco Pilot) of Train no 08504 (Rayagada Passenger train) held responsible," the report said. According to the railway norm, the train should have stopped for two minutes at the defective auto signals and then started at 10 kmph which it didn't do, lead-

Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh, killing 14 and injuring

For Bru families resettled in

over 50 train passengers. Waltair Divisional Railway Manager Saurabh Prasad of the East Coast Railway Zone (ECR) confirmed the death of the Officials of the East Coast Rail-

way (ECR) said at around 7 pm on Sunday, the Palasa Passenger train hit the Rayagada Passenger train from behind at Kantakapalli, about 40 km from here, causing three coaches to derail Prasad said that all the affected coaches have been looked into and the locomotive was being lifted to see for a final round of checking by the NDRF if any bodies are still trapped inside the coaches or the locomotive or in the mangled mess.

Five coaches plus the locomotive got mangled. Three coaches were of the train which was ahead (Palasa Passenger) and two coaches and the engine were of the Rayagada passenger, the DRM said.

He noted that the clearance of tracks is also underway. As part of the clearance work, Prasad said two coaches were taken away and the third coach is also being tackled presently, adding that train movement could be restored today.

Climate change most disruptive phenomena, says PK Mishra PIONEER NEWS SERVICE cers, representing 16 civil servative, and corruption,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Secretary PK Mishra on Monday said climate change is the most disruptive phenomena of our times. Addressing the 98th common foundation course of trainee civil services officers at Kevadia in Gujarat, Mishra said that as members of the elite civil services they need to equip themselves with insights and skills to navigate challenges and opportunities presented by issues, including climate change. The course has 560 trainee offi-

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Sharda Devi Wio Shri Rama Shankar Ric E-2/111, Near Vishwkarma Model School, Shin Ram Park, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, have severed relations/connections with their son Sh Rameshwar Singh and his wife Shri. Kirar Kumani for all purposes, They are further identified (incompted to delign poy (infilt) bare in

obsentitied/bisownes to claim any right/share in the movable and immovable properties owned by my clients. Any person dealing with them in any manner shall be solely doing so at his own risk and costs. My clients shall not be responsible for discharging any liability/claim in this regard or for any purpose.

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even more inclusive and inno-

My wife Late Mrs Shashi Srivastava due to unfortunate Demise of my wife on

national life," said Mishra, who is serving as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Mishra told them their career

casteism and communalism

will have no place in our

during the 'Amrit Kaal' will play a crucial role in achieving this vision. The prime minister wants them to take the country to the next level through a process of reform, perform and transform, he said, listing reform measures economic, institutional, and human resource development taken during the last nine years, especially during the post-Covid period.

Our focus is not only on macroeconomic aspects but also to reach the last mile, the grassroots level. Every action has to have a national perspective and at the same time look vantaged and vulnerable. The ease of living initiative of the prime minister is a touchstone," he said.

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It is for general information that I,

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X536970. The actual name of mine

is Sukhmal Chand Jain which may

Tender

Amount

(in Lacs.)

43.39

be amended accordingly.

He highlighted the use of technology in governance through initiatives such as GeM (Global e-Marketplace), GST, PFMS, DBT and UPI, Poshan Tracker ICT application and faceless tax assessment.

Dwelling on the changing role of civil servants, Mishra said things have changed from earlier scarcity mindset to managing access and providing entitlement. "The problem is not so much because of a threat to survival, it is due to rising expectations," he said. He asked them to imbibe the attributes of hard work, neutrality, integrity, financial probity in working, intellectual honesty in tendering advice, and morality in personal life. "The classical principles of anonymity, neutrality and objectivity are relevant even today," he said.

He asked them to learn from said they should not be prisoners of it. One should not be averse to change, he said.

Disrespect to national anthem case: Court dismisses plaint against Mamata

court here on Monday dis-Amissed the complaint against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for allegedly showing disrespect to the national anthem at an event here in 2021, citing that "no offence is made out Vivekanand Gupta, a functionary of the Bharatiya Janata

Party's Mumbai unit, had approached the magistrate court with a complaint, alleging that Banerjee did not stand when the national anthem was played at the event during her visit to Mumbai in December 2021. Gupta had accused Banerjee of disrespecting the national anthem and demanded that an FIR be registered against her

under the Prevention of Insults to the National Honour Act. The complaint was dismissed by Metropolitan Magistrate (Mazled order was not available yet. According to a lawyer, who attended the hearing on Monday, the court while dismissing



The magistrate had at the time said that it was evident from the complaint, Gupta's verification statement, and video clips on YouTube that Banerjee had sung the national anthem and stopped abruptly and left the dais. This prima facie proved that the accused had committed an offence punishable under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, it had stated. ruled that no sanction was required to proceed against the chief minister, as she was not discharging official duty.

ing to the collision, the report The Rayagada Passenger train hit the Visakhapatnam Palasa October 29 on the Howrah-Chennai line in Kantakapalli in

Further, Prasad said four OHE masts, railway electrical infrastructure, have been damaged at

the accident site, spanning all the dent, several trains have either been cancelled or diverted or rescheduled by East Coast Railway and South Central Railway

A) Fresh-Tender Work:

-11/2023-24

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can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details

and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website:

www.noidaathorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites

1 23/DGM/Sr.M.(E/M) Providing high Mast light and Park lights in Sector-27

2 25/DGM/Sr.M.(E/M) SITC of New Fountains at Sector-56 Noida.

shall be opened/downloaded on dated 17, 11, 2023 at 11,00 AM

122, Noida.

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 16.11.2023 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification

Navin Dhankhar **New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**

Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

Name of Work

Maratha quota stir: Call Special Assembly Session, MVA urges Governor

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

As the ongoing agitation over Maratha reservations turned violent in several parts of the State, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Monday urged Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais to convene a Special Session of Maharashtra Legislature urgently to discuss the raging Maratha reservations and other

Talking to media persons after his meeting with the Governor, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole said that the issue of reservations to Marathas in jobs and education had erupted across the state, turning the mood of the people against the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde)-BJP-NCP (Ajit Pawar) alliance govern-

ment in the state. Patole said that the MVA delegation that met the Governor had rooted for a special session of the State Legislature to discuss Martha reservations, farmers' suicides, drug menace anddisappearance of women/girls in the state.

The situation over Maratha reservations has become so volatile in the state that it has become difficult for leaders to move around their constituencies. Law and order is under threat. Youngsters from Maratha community are committing suicides. The Governor is the link between the state and Centre. That's why we urged him to take up the matter with the Prime Minister. We also asked him to speak to Jarange-Patil whose health has severely deteriorated," Patole said.

the wall there was yet another

jolt for the West Bengal

Government with a three-

member arbitration tribunal on

Monday directing the State to

pay Rs 766 crore to the Tata

Motors as compensation for

losses the company incurred on

account of the botched

PTI ■ DAMCHERRA (TRIPURA)

Hundreds of Bru families from Mizoram, who had migrated and settled in neighbouring Tripura following ethnic clashes, do not bother about the assembly elections in their home state.

The 40-member Mizoram assembly goes to the polls on November 7.

The names of more than 6,000 Bru voters from nine assembly constituencies in three districts - Mamit, Kolasib and Lunglei - have been deleted from the Mizoram voters' list following their resettlement in Tripura.

'We have no interest in Mizoram elections even if some of us had voted there in the last polls. Now, we are permanent residents of Tripura following the 2020 historic accord. It hardly matters to us who comes to power in that state," Charles,

secretary of Kaskoupata Bru resettlement village in North Tripura district, told PTI. During the 2018 Mizoram

Tripura, Mizoram polls non-issue

assembly elections, a large number of Bru voters who were then staying in relief camps in Tripura came to their home state and voted at 15 special polling booths created for them in Kanhmun village along the inter-state border after public outrage over their place of voting.

Charles said Brus had tried to live in Mizoram peacefully, but could not because of skirmishes with the majority Mizo community.

"We are happy that the refugee status no longer haunts us. Now, the Brus are permanent residents of Tripura. We are not concerned about Mizoram at all, but are focused on the future of thousands of Bru brothers and sisters," he

for the first time in many years during the Tripura assembly elections in February. Special efforts were made to enrol voters from the community. Nishikanta Reang, one of the members of the Bru tribal community also known as Reangs, is also not concerned

Bru migrant voters had been

able to exercise their franchise

"I have no time to think about elections in Mizoram. Let them rule Mizoram as per their wish because we could not become part of the state even after being born there," the father of five lamented.

about Mizoram elections.

"Sometimes, we remember our land where we were born and raised. But the past is past. We are now focused on the present and future," Charles said. Most Brus residing in Tripura

today have suffered over two decades of internal displacement from Mizoram.

Tender Job No. Name of Work Amount 4 contract 1 co Festival of India ends (in Lacs.

1 24/DGM(E&M)/S.M. Providing Street Lighting arrangement on Footpath in 46.07 (E/M)- III/2023-24 newly developed green belt park sector-77, 117 Noida. 2 08/DGM(E/M)/Sr.M. Providing Street light arrangement on main road, internal road and park at 5% abadi sector-144, Noida ir (E/M)-I/2023-24 accordance to safaigiri programme held on 26.11.2022. 3 | 12/DGM(E/M)/Sr.M. | Augmentation of street light Installation in internal roads at (E/M)-I/2023-24 pocket 6, 7 & 12 Madhuban Apartment & Green View Apartment Sector-82, Noida. 4 19/DGM(E/M)/Sr.M. Internal & External Electrification of Convenient Shopping 56.41 (E/M)-I/2023-24 Centre at Sector-82, Noida. 5 23/DGM(E&M)/S.M. Renovation of Barat Ghar, Panchyat Ghar in Village 80.89

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 06.10.2023 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 07.11.2023 at 11.00 AM

Dy. General Manager

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

(E&M) NOIDA

New Delhi: Delhiites had an

amazing experience for five days at the magnificent cultural extravaganza, the Festival of India, held at the Major Dhyanchand National Stadium in New Delhi. As a first-of-its-kind event of

this grand scale hosted by a news network, the 'Festival of India' has set a new standard for other news networks. This five-day event provided a unique opportunity to showcase the colours of India's rich heritage, uniting

people from diverse back-

grounds to commemorate

and admire it.

Compensation over Singur losses PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Tata Nano project at Singur. Day Rs 1 crore to The Singur land movement against the then Buddhadeb Already fighting against a plethora of corruption charges with its back against Bhattacharjee Government and the Tatas had catapulted Banerjee to power by dislodg-

regime in the State. The Tatas can recover the sum with 11 per cent interest from September 1, 2016 onwards. In addition to the compensation the Tribunal has also ordered the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation to

pay Rs 1 crore to the Tatas for as cost of proceedings Following a sustained movement and blockade and a subing a three-decade old Marxist

sequent court case the Tatas had to shift out of the Singur land after having constructed a mammoth car plant. This, in the wake of a long-drawn legal battle which the Tatas lost on technical grounds. The Tatas by then had invested more than Rs 1,000 on the plant which was later pulled down by the TMC government.

12th convocation Arbitration tribunal awards Tata ₹766 cr of IIIT-Delhi held **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

nology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) was celebrated at its premises in Okhla phase III. 715 graduates successfully completed their undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes. The ceremony was graced by the presence of the Chancellor, Lieutenant Governor Vinai

The 12th convocation ceremony of the Indraprastha

Institute of Information Tech-

Kumar Saxena, who extended his heartfelt congratulations to the graduates.

(E/M)- III/2023-24 Barola, Hosiyarpur, Sorkha, Sector-49,50,51, 71,72,119 &



AAP defence falls flat as SC junks Sisodia bail plea in excise scam: BJP

As the Supreme Court on Monday refused to grant bail to former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia noting that one aspect with regard to the transfer of money Rs 338 crore transfer of money Rs 338 crore is tentatively established, the verdict came as a huge setback for AAP leaders including Sisodia as the pleas were in connection with both CBI and

ED cases This means Sisodia will have to be in jail for at least another three months. He was in the list of star campaigners for upcoming assembly polls in five states. Besides, Rajya Sabha MP and senior leader Sanjay Singh is also in jail in the same case. The verdict is also a huge blow to AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, who is eying to expand his base in the five states which is going to polls in November this year. The verdict also proved that there is a scam of Rs 338 crores in this case. It would be difficult for the AAP Supremo to con-

scam. The party has been vouching to provide corruptionfree regime.

The morale of the party is down after the top court verdict but the party face is only Arvind Kejriwal so it won't affect it in the upcoming assembly polls," said an AAP leader on the condition of anonymity.

Putting a pressure on the Kejriwal government, the BJP leaders are now baying for Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's blood, seeking his resignation on the contention that he will be arrested.

Now that the Supreme Court has rejected Manish Sisodia's bail plea, it is clear that the top leadership of the AAP was involved in the liquor scam. Now the arrest of the top leadership is imminent, including that of Kejriwal," Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said.

Addressing a press conference soon after the Supreme Court verdict, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi mocked AAP chief Kejriwal, saying he

vince people that there was no had claimed that Sisodia should be given Bharat Ratna for his work but his bail plea in the corruption case has been dismissed

> Trivedi said it is now constitutionally and legally incumbent upon Kejriwal to inform the court where the money is and morally incumbent on him to tell the people as well.

> "It is said that people waste their money on liquor, the Delhi government has wasted the public exchequer on it," he said. The BJP leader accused Kejriwal of engaging in brazenness and drama, noting that AAP leaders even went to Mahatma Gandhi's memorial to vouch for their party's honesty in the alleged

> 'After trial court and high court, now the Supreme Court has also denied bail to Manish Sisodia... all the defences of AAP fell flat on their faces...Supreme Court said that a Rs 338 crore money trail has been established which means the money has reached the coffers of the Aam Aadmi Party.

where is the money trail. They kept lying to the people of this country. Today no less than the Supreme Court which they were quoting just a few weeks ago has come out categorically with a verdict that a money trail has been established. Today the question is how long will Arvind Kejriwal continue to defend these people?..." BJP national Shehzad spokesperson Poonawala minced no words as he slammed the ruling dispensation in the national capital. "Kejriwal should resign immediately for not only defending the corrupt but for his own role

Poonawala reiterated. The Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri the Supreme Court has clearly stated that the money trail is evident. In these circumstances. Keiriwal has no authority to continue as Chief Minister until the case is resolved. "There is now no other way for Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal other than to resign," Bidhuri said.

in this sharab ghotala,'

AAP to file review petition against SC order on Sisodia bail

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

¬he Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is plan-The Aam Aadmi raity (Man,) — I ning to file a review petition against the Supreme Court's decision rejecting former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's bail plea. According to sources, the AAP is planning to file a review petition against the order. Earlier, AAP leader and Delhi Cabinet Minister Atishi on Monday said the party and its leaders respect the Supreme Court but do not agree with its order dismissing former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's bail plea and will explore further legal options. Addressing a press conference here after the order, Atishi said the court has given an "adverse order" despite making sharp observations against probe agencies. "While his bail plea was being heard, the Supreme Court constantly asked the ED tough questions like where is the money trail. The apex court also pointed out that the case is based on the statement of one approver Dinesh Arora," she said. "Despite these sharp observations, the SC gave an adverse verdict. We will study that order deeply and explore our legal options and decide our next step," she added.

Atishi, a cabinet minister in Delhi, said they respect the Supreme Court but are "not in agreement" with the order.



The order on dismissal of Sisodia's bail plea in the Supreme Court contradicts the proceedings during the hearing. During the proceedings, the Supreme Court had repeatedly asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) about the money trail associated with Sisodia, which the ED could not establish. If the ED cannot demonstrate the flow of money to Sisodia, questions about money laundering and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) should not arise. Despite sharp comments from the ED, the court issued an opposite order today, refusing bail to Sisodia." Atishi said.

The Senior AAP leader further added,

"Despite these significant observations, today the Supreme Court issued an opposite verdict. The Supreme Court's order has been uploaded to its website, and we will carefully study all the legal aspects. Our legal team and the AAP will conduct a thorough examination, and our next steps will be decided based on the available options." She also reiterated that the AAP is an honest party and till now none of its leaders has been found involved in corruption. "The entire country is watching how the BJP is using agencies like the ED and the CBI to

target opposition parties," she added. Atishi mentioned that they respect the Supreme Court but respectfully disagree with the court's decision given today. They will explore all available legal options before taking further action.

In a setback to Sisodia, the SC earlier in the day rejected his regular bail pleas in corruption and money-laundering cases related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam and said the transfer of Rs 338 crore was tentatively established in the matter. A bench of Justice Saniiv Khanna and Justice SVN Bhatti said it has recorded the statements of the probe agencies that the trial in these cases will conclude in six to eight months. But if the trial proceeds in a "sloppy manner", Sisodia will be at liberty to apply for bail in these cases in three months, the bench said.

Take steps to improve infra in Capital's industrial areas: LG to DSIIDC, MCD

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Taking exception to lack of basic infrastructure required for industries to start func-

tioning, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday directed the Delhi State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) and other agencies to take immediate remedial steps for ease of doing business. This order was also meant for Municipal Corporation of Delhi(MCD) and Delhi Development Authority(DDA). Giving details here, officials said these directions from Saxena came following a meeting on 13.10.2023 wherein he reviewed the non-operationalization of the industrial rehabilitation at identified sites of DSIIDC, mostlv in North-West Delhi. He also recently visited the area and took stock of situation prevailing in the Industrial Areas of Narela, Bhorgarh and Bawana. The LG was visibly displeased that no



Industrial area of North Delhi for the last 10 years and only a handful of units were functional out of the 3917 plots carved out in the area, officials said. Saxena expressed shock that the situation in last 26 years since 1996, when the Supreme Court ordered for relocation of industries in non-conforming areas to designated industrial areas, have remained static and even the basic things were out of place. The drains in the industrial areas were choked and not properly maintained and even the roads and streets needed

massive repair and restoration work, with even the streetlights yet to be installed.

In such a situation, the LG wondered, how could one expect FDI in the industrial areas of the National Capital, when given the state of affairs, even domestic industries on relocation were not able to resume work. Saxena also directed the private power distribution company to do away with the hanging wires, particularly in the Narela Industrial area

The Association of Industry owners in Bawana drew his atten-

STATUS OF NELUCATION SCHEWE AS ON UC. 10.2023											
S/N	Name of Industrial Area	Total number of allotments made	Total number of allottees who have deposited 100% cost of plots/ flats	Total number of Possession Approved	Total no. of Lease deed executed						
1.	Bawana	15838	15833	15760	15098						
2.	Bawana-II (Bhorgarh)	3917	3623	3392	3086						
3.	Jhilmil	94	94	94	87						
4.	Narela	1467	1465	1463	1346						
5.	Badli	85	85	85	77						
6.	Patparganj	76	76	76	72						
7.	Flatted Factories Complex, Jhilmil	282	282	280							
	Total	21759	21458	21150	19766						

tion towards several illegal structures that have come up in the area and the building bye-laws being violated by certain plot allottees. This they said would have detrimental impact in case of fire or other accidents. The LG also visited the Effluent Treatment Plants in Narela and Bawana. During his inspection, Saxena set a deadline of November 15 for the authorities concerned, including the DDA, MCD and others to carry out the cleanliness, repair of roads, completion of sewerage work and availability of power in Narela, Bhorgarh and Bawana Industrial areas The LG made it clear that strict action would be taken if the deadline of November 15 is not

15 Hindu College students rusticated for 'indiscipline' during college union polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Around 15 students of Delhi University's Hindu College have been rusticated and action against three more is underway with charges of "indiscipline" during the college union elec-tions. Hindu College Principal Prof Anju Srivastava said the action has been taken on the recommendations of the college's Disciplinary Resource Committee which has found the involvement of these students in disruption during the college elections. "Students are rusticated for a finite period based on their level of involvement in the hindrance," he said In an e-mail dated October 27, the Disciplinary Resource Committee of the college informed students that it had noticed "gross indiscipline" on their part during September 15-18 when elections for the students' union in the college were conducted.

The committee in its e-mail cited its October 16 meeting with the students during which it showed them photos and videos of their "involvement" in the alleged incidents. "... The has found th conduct during September 15-18 falls in the act of gross indiscipline (sic)," the letter read. Students of Hindu College had

in September staged a hunger strike over the rejection of 30 student nominations for the positions of 'prime minister' and central councillors at the college. At Hindu College, the head of the students' union is referred to as 'prime minister' instead of president.

The college had cited low attendance as the reason for the cancellation of the nominations and ordered an inquiry after the matter escalated and required police action.

The college did not consider our attendance in practicals and only took into consideration the attendance in theory classes. We demanded the adminis-

his visit to Najafgarh wetland in

Delhi and Haryana, he found a

large part of the wetland have

dried up mostly in Haryana and

started agriculture while Delhi

side little dipper wetland cleaning, along road-side tree line

completely uprooted and huge

illegal regular fishing on floating

tubes disturbance migratory

birds do not stay and in far shal-

low areas recorded only small

er number of few migratory

duck species as Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail,



tration to issue a notice releasing our attendance," one of the students, who has been rusticated, said on condition of anonymity. According to the eligibility cri-

teria for students contending for union polls laid down by the Lyngdoh Committee, students must have a minimum of 75 per cent attendance. "Around 15 students have been rusticated for their involvement in the disruption caused during elections and inquiry on three others is under process. A maximum of four months rustication has been given by the disciplinary head, Rameshwar Rai, said.

The students have been rusticated on counts of indiscipline destruction of institutional property, and disruption of academic functioning. The rusticated students have been asked to submit an undertaking in an affidavit stating they will not get involved in any such activities in future.



Run for Unity: Traffic advisory issued

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police on Monday advised that India Gate C-Hexagon will remain closed from 6.45 am to 9 am on Tuesday to facilitate the 'Run for Unity,' being held to commemorate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.

The run, held as part of the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, will be flagged off from Gate Number 1 of Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium.

It is expected to see about 7,700 participants, the advisory issued on Monday said. Traffic will be diverted at Tilak Marg-Bhagwan Das Road, Purana Quila Road, Mathura Road, Shershah Road, Mathura Road, Subramanian Bharti Marg, Q-Point, and the roundabouts at Mansingh Road, Jaswant Singh Road, KG Marg-Firozshah Road Crossing, and Mandi House, the advisory stat-

Early morning commuters travelling to and from south-north have been asked to take Ring Road — Sarai Kale Khan — IP Flyover - Rajghat, and Lala Lajpat Raj Marg - Mathura Road - W-Point - A-Point.

and vice versa can take IP Marg - A-Point - W-Point - Sikandra Road - Mandi House - Firozshah Road roundabout Windson Place - Ashok Road - Gol Dak Khana - RML -Shankar Road, NH-09 - Ring Road - Bhairon Marg - Mathura Road - SBM -Q-Point - Abdul Kalam Marg.

Those moving from east to west

Fresh tender issued for revamp of Shivaji Stadium bus terminus **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI it and two basements.

up-gradationwork has been

undertaken at the Bhorgarh

The New Delhi Municipal L Council (NDMC) has floated a fresh tender to revamp the Shivaji Stadium bus terminus and the work will take at least three years to complete. According to NDMC Vice-Chairman Satish Upadhyay, the redeveloped bus terminus will comprise modern and ecofriendly green buildings made using fly ash bricks, thick glass to reduce energy consumption, a dual distribution system for potable water supply, a sewage treatment plant and solar panels among other advanced facilities. He said the building will comprise a

ground floor, two storeys above

The official added that the total height of the building will be 14.85 metres. The two basements will be able to accommodate 113 cars with multiple echarging stations. On the ground floor, there will be space for efficient movement of buses. Pick-and-drop points for multimodal transport facilities such as auto-rickshaws and cabs will also

The estimated cost of the project is Rs 63.86 crore and it will be completed in three years, Upadhyay said. The tender will open on November 30 while the work is likely to be awarded by March 31 next year, with a completion date of March 30, 2027, the officials said.

be created, he said.

Delhi Congress attacks BJP for price rise, unemployment

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{claimed here the anti-peo-}}^{\text{elhi Congress on Monday}}$ ple and anti-poor policies of the ruling BJP at centre had led to price rise and unemployment thereby causing hardships for the common citizens.

Delhi Congress has also staged a rally to highlight these issues as part of its 'Pratigya Rally' under the party's "Jawab Do-Hissab Do" campaign at Sanjay Chowk, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Mustafabad in the North East Delhi Parliamentary constituency. This was the third rally organized by the Delhi Congress to rejuvenate party workers.



Mustafabad constituency having a large number minority community, was considered a strong hold the Congress before 2014, which is now AAP stronghold. Pratigya Rally, organised at Bawana and Tilak Nagar recently, were trend-setters and attracted a large number of people to

Migratory bird

the Congress, particularly after Lovely took over as the DPCC president, Congress claimed. Addressing the rally, Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely said people's anger and disillusionment will be fully reflected in the 2024 parliamentary elections, with the unemployed youth and the common people waiting for a chance to vent their anger against the BJP for not fulfilling any of its promises.

BJP and AAP leaders and workers were making a beeline to join the Congress, and many have already returned to the party fold while many others were in the queue to join Congress.

UICN Red-list

CMS

B

SCHOOL ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATED

New Delhi: St Gregorios school, Dwarka celebrated its annual day on October 19, bringing the parents, students and management on a common platform to showcase the talents of their young wards. Prof. John Varghese, Principal of St Stephen's College was the chief guest, "There was a stellar cultural fusion by the students and meritorious students were honoured " said a teacher of the school Dr. Manoi Kumar, School Principal congratulated the efforts of the management, staff, students and parents. He also briefed the audience about the status of the school by presenting the annual report.

GARGI COLLEGE TO HOLD NATIONAL CONFERENCE

New Delhi: Delhi University Gargi College, an A+ NAAC accredited and DBT Star Status accorded institution, has taken a lead for fulfilling the objectives of the NEP 2020 Policy by spearheading a National Conference on the National Education Policy titled 'National Education Policy 2020: Perspectives, Challenges and the Way Forward' on November 3, 2023. The guests of honour for the inaugural session include the former Education minister, Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, the UGC chairman, Prof. M Jagadesh Kumar, and Deans and administrative heads of the University of Delhi, besides the Chairman and the Principal of the college, according to a Press note

SWACHH BHARAT 3.0 CAMPAIGN HELD

New Delhi: Dr Rajendra Prasad Kendriya Vidyalaya has conducted the Special Campaign 3.0 from October 02 to 31, 2023 focusing primarily on cleaning activities at inside and outside school premises. To ensure the implementation of Swachh Bharat 3.0 campaign in its true spirit, cleaning activities were conducted to clean classrooms, almirahs, switchboards, toilets, canteen, garden, backyards inside and outside of Vidyalaya premise. According to a statement, the school has also taken praiseworthy initiative to distribute fruits instead of chocolates or any other stuff which is wrapped in plastic-based material on the birthdays of students. The winners of all extra-curricular activities are given Steel Bottles, Jute Bags and many other eco-friendly items as prizes

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES HAILED New Delhi: Founder of AU Corporate and Legal Advisory Services (AUCL)

Akshat Khetan, speaking at Bharat Legal Conclave, said the role of the government under the leadership of visionary Prime Minister Narendra Modi in shaping this corporate landscape cannot be understated. "Through policy reforms, incentive-based schemes, and digitalisation drives, the government has shown a commitment to transforming India into a global business powerhouse. Initiatives such as 'Make in India'. GST reforms. and ease of doing business policies," said Khetan at the event graced by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and other legal luminaries.

Shrinking wetlands, climate change lead to fewer migratory birds arrival in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

xtreme global climate Extreme grown the migratory birds away from the wetlands in the Delhi and national capital region. There has been a decline in the number of migratory species that are seen near the wetland areas during the current autumn season this year. According to the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC), conducted by ecologist TK Roy, there has been a sharp decline in the migration of long distant water birds and he attributed this to the global climate change, which impacts the migratory trend of birds, apart from leading to shrinking wetlands.

Roy said several wetlands Najafgarh Jheel, Sultanpur N P wetland, Surajpur Reserve Forest's wetland, Okhla Bird Sanctuary on River Yamuna, Dhanauri village wetland, Bhindawas WL Sanctuary wet-



land, witnessed lesser water birds this autumn. Roy, who visited some wetlands to take stock of the arrival of migratory water birds, found that there are no arrival of water birds this year. He also found that Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Noida is completely dried up by irrigation dept and forest department due to unauthorized concrete work of the road and side wall, that is vio-

Supreme Court Order 2010. He also found that Surappur Reserve Forest Wetland in Greater Noida covered by water hyacinth partly cleaned and water level increased by channelize water but again causing disturbance. Only a few migratory species in a few numbers arrival recorded as Common Teal, Eurasian Coot, Northern lation of the Wild Life Shoveler, Ferruginous Duck, etc

species Apd-II Common Teal Sch-IV Eurasian Wigeon Sch-IV Ferruginous Duck Eurasian Coot Black-tailed Godwi Pied Avocet Apd-II Sch-IV Great Cormoran Sch-IV Apd-II Kentish Plover Little Stint Little Ringed Plover but only few Northern Shovelers atively better arrival recorded as

WPA 1972

now. During his visit to Dhanauri Wetland, Greater Noida, he found a shallow smaller wetland almost covered by water hyacinth, hardly any migratory water birds' arrival record. In Sultanpur National Park, Haryana, Roy found shallow wetland revived by irrigation's channelize water but wetland grass covered large area still

few migratory species compar-

Common Teal, Eurasian Coot, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Ferruginous Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, etc. Similarly, he found a large areas of the wetland covered by water hyacinth and hardly any migratory species record except a few Northern Shoveler, Common Teal, in Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary in Harvana. Roy further stated that during

Common Teal, Ferruginous Duck, Eurasian Coot and few

wader species on the drying wetland in Haryana side as Little

Black-tailed Godwit, Wood Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Little Stint, Yellow Wagtail, Grey

Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover,

Wagtail, White Wagtail, Pied Avocet, Great Cormorant, etc. Asian Waterbirds Census (AWC) records the number of migratory birds coming to these wetlands every year.

DEATH SENTENCE TO 8 INDIANS IN QATAR

Govt will make all efforts to secure their release: Jaishankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

◄he Government will make all efforts to secure the release of eight former Navy personnel sentenced to death by a local court in Qatar last week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar gave this assurance in New Delhi on Monday to their families.

He also said the Government attaches the "highest importance" to the case and fully shares their concerns and pain. Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said the Centre is making "every effort" to secure the release of eight Navy veterans. "Every effort is being made by the government to ensure we take up through the legal course and we get relief for our personnel," he said at an event in Goa. He also mentioned that they have not yet received the transcript of the court hearing.

The Navy chief said, "I have not yet seen the transcript of the

court hearing...it was supposed to have been transcribed and provided to us on Sunday...we will have a look at it. In fact, you have heard the MEA statement on this. Every effort is being made by the government to ensure that....through the legal recourse and find relief for our personnel."

Talking to reporters in Panaji on the sidelines of the Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) organised by the Indian Navy, Admiral Kumar said, "Every effort is being made by the (Union) Government to ensure we find relief for our personnel. We have heard the MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) statement on this."

This assurance by the External Affairs Minister and the Navy chief came in the backdrop of the eight Indians handed down death sentences on October 26 by Qatar's Court of First

New Delhi then had described the ruling as "deeply" shocking and vowed to explore all legal options in the case.

Met this morning with the families of the 8 Indians detained in Qatar. Stressed that the Government attaches the highest importance to the case. Fully share the concerns and pain of the families," Jaishankar said on

"Underlined that the Government will continue to make all efforts to secure their release. Will coordinate closely with the families in that regard," he

The Indian nationals, who worked with private company Al Dahra, were arrested in August last year reportedly in an alleged case of espionage.

Neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against the Indian nationals

In its reaction to the ruling by the Qatari court, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that it is attaching "high importance" to this case



and is exploring all legal options. The charges were filed against these Indian Navy veterans on March 25 and they were tried under Oatari law.

The men, including decorated officers who once commanded major Indian warships, were

working for Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, a private firm that provided training and related services to Qatar's armed forces. Some of them were working on a highly sensitive project — Italian technology-based midget

submarines with stealth charac-

Reports claimed the eight Navy veterans were accused of espionage.

The company was owned by an Omani national, a retired squadron leader of the Royal He too was arrested along with the eight Indians, but was released in November, it was The MEA had said, "We are deeply shocked by the verdict of

death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgement. We are in touch with the family memin touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options." Those sentenced are Capt Navtej Singh Gill, Capt Birendra Kumar Verma, Capt Saurabh Vasieht Cdr Amit Nagnal Cdr. Vasisht, Cdr Amit Nagpal, Cdr Purnendu Tiwari, Cdr Sugunakar Pakala, Cdr Sanjeev Gupta and Sailor Ragesh.

Their bail pleas were rejected numerous times and their detention extended by Qatari authorities. India's Ambassador to Qatar met the men in prison on October 1 after being granted consular access.

The seventh hearing in the case took place on October 3, it was learnt. The trial started in

ies uploaded; 2 lakh plus 'Veeron ka Vandan' pro-

grammes nationwide; more

than 2.36 crore indigenous saplings have been planted; and 2.63 lakh Amrit Vatikas

created," the statement said. The 'Meri Maati Mera Desh'

campaign also included the

Amrit Kalash Yatra, which

lages in the block was mixed)

and then to the state capital.

Commander (retired) Purnendu Tiwari, who is among the detained Indians, served as Al Dahra's managing director and commanded several warships while serving with the navy. It was also learnt an Indian jour-

nalist and his spouse were recently asked by Qatari authorities to leave the country for reporting the case.

Meetu Bhargava, sister of one the former officers detained, had sought help from the Government to bring her brother back in June this year. In a post on X, formerly Twitter,

on June 8, she had appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene. These ex-Navy officers are the

pride of the nation & again I request our Prime Minister with folded hands that it is high time that they all are brought back to India immediately without any further delay," read her post, tagged to PM Modi and Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh.

Countries should build trust on maritime front through dialogue, says Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/PANAJI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday called for establishing multinational collaborative mitigation frameworks in the Indian Ocean Region to effectively tackle common maritime challenges such as climate change, piracy, terrorism, drug-trafficking, overfishing and freedom of commerce on high seas. Making this assertion in his

keynote address at the fourth edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) in Panaji, he also emphasised that common maritime priorities need to be addressed cooperatively by avoiding selfish interests that make the region less secure and less prosperous.

He underlined the importance of respecting the international maritime laws, as enunciated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNC-LOS) 1982

The three-day conclave, which commenced on Sunday is being attended by Delegate in Charge of Defence, Comoros Mohamed Ali Youssoufa and Chiefs of Navies/Heads of Maritime Forces/Senior representatives from eleven other Indian Ocean nations -Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mada-Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and

"A free, open and rule-based maritime order is a priority for all of us. 'Might is right' has no place in such a maritime order. Adherence to international laws and agreements must be our lodestar. Our narrow immediate interests may tempt us to flout or disregard the well-

established international law, but doing so would lead to the breakdown of our civilised maritime relations.

Our common security and prosperity cannot be preserved without all of us committing to cooperatively adhering to the legitimate maritime rules of engagement. Fair rules of engagement are crucial for fostering collaboration and ensuring that no single country dominates others in a hegemonic manner," Rajnath said. His observation that 'might is right' has no place in maritime order and fair rules of engagement are crucial for fostering collaboration and ensuring that no single country dominates others were seen as an oblique reference to China's aggressive muscle-flexing in the Indo-

involve the countries working together to reduce carbon emissions and transition to

sustainable practices. He pointed out that the world could overcome this problem if all countries accepted the responsibility to cut emissions by investing in green economy and share technology and capital with the needy countries. Rajnath also referred to Illegal

Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, a challenge which relates to resource overexploitation.

"IÙU fishing endangers ocean ecosystems and sustainable fishery. It also threatens our economic security and regional and global food security.

A multinational collaborative effort for compilation and sharing of surveillance data is the need of the hour.

It will help in identifying actors with irregular or threatening behaviour, which will have to be countered resolutely," he said. To put in place these mitigation frameworks, Rajnath called for collaboration, and sharing of resources and expertise among nations.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakashi Lekhi bat-On climate change, the defence ted for cooperation among minister said the collaborative IOR nations to ensure peace Underscoring the importance of IOR, she lauded the Indian Navy for protecting the nation's maritime interests and being the first responder in the region in times of crisis.

In his address, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar emphasised the changing nature of threats, both traditional and non-traditional and those emanating from the sea

Modi to take part in 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign memorials built in 36 states/ Union Territories; nearly 4 crore 'Panch Pran' pledge self-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate here on Tuesday in the culmination of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign, a tribute to those who made the supreme sacrifice for the country, and inaugurate 'Amrit Vatika' and 'Amrit Mahotsav Memorial' on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.

The event, to be held on the Kartavya Path at about five pm, will also mark the closing of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the launch of the 'Mera Yuva Bharat' (MY Bharat) platform for the youth of the country, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office(PMO)said. Modi will also address thousands of people who spear-headed the Amrit Kalash Yatras



in different parts of the coun-

The PMO statement said the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign is a tribute to the bravehearts who have made the supreme sacrifice for the coun-

In the spirit of people's participation, the campaign comprised many activities and ceremonies conducted across the country, including building of memorials and people taking five pledges first spelt out by Modi in his Independence Day

These also included planting saplings of indigenous species, developing 'Amrit Vatika' and felicitation ceremonies for honouring the freedom fighters and the families of deceased

sive success, with over 2.3 lakh

comprised collecting soils and rice grains from over six lakh villages and wards in urban areas that were sent to block level (where the soil of all vil-

The soil from the State level was sent to the national capi-All the States and Union freedom fighters. 'The campaign became a mas-

Territories represented by their respective blocks and urban

local bodies will be mixing soil in one giant 'Amrit Kalash' on Monday, a day before the pro-gramme, in the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', it The Meri Maati Mera Desh

campaign was envisaged as a culminating event of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

began on March 12, 2021, to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence. It has since witnessed more than two lakh programmes organised throughout the country with enthusiastic public participation, the statement said.

It added that 'Mera Yuva

Bharat' (MY Bharat) is being established as an autonomous body to serve as a one-stop "whole-of-government" plat-form for the youths of the

Ayushman Bharat records 211 crore footfalls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Stating that the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) initiative has recorded over 211 core footdrugs over 1,83 crore times have been availed by the patients, the Government on Monday showcased the health programme under Ayushmaan Bharat scheme before the nation members of World Health Organization Regional Committee for South-East Asia, as a platform providing a comprehensive array of primary healthcare services



the global panel meeting, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviva further said on Monday said, "As of October 24, AB-HWCs have recorded over 2,110 million footfalls. The impact is resounding with individuals availing free drugs over 1,830 million times and diagnostic services over 873 million times. The minister added that "26 million wellness sessions have been

conducted engaging more than

306 million people". Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus, the Director-General of WHO, attended the event virtually. Mandaviya was also unanimously elected as chairperson al committee of South-East Asia. Mandaviya said, "In India, we are following a holistic and inclusive approach. We are expanding health infrastructure, promoting traditional systems of medicine and providing affordable healthcare to all in alignment with the vision of Universal Health Coverage with the resolute commitment of leaving no one behind.

Committee resolution had

made no mention of the Hamas

attack, BJP wondered if the

party's tagline is "Judega

Kattarpanthi, Jeetega Hamas'

on the lines of "Judega Bharat,

Jeetega India", the catchphrase

for the opposition's INDIA bloc.

Trivedi said it was during the

Covid survivors asked to avoid overwork amid rising heart attack cases

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

If you had severe Covid-19, then you must not overexert yourself or overwork for a period of 1 to 2 years so that you do cardiac arrest. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday cautioned, indicating that the potential for cardiovas cular complications doesn't go away after someone has recov-

The Minister cited a study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in this regard in the wake of several cases of heart attack that were reported recently during garba dance as part of the Navratri celebrations in Guiarat.

history should avoid overexerting themselves. Speaking with the media in Gujarat, Mandaviya the health minister said that "the ICMR has a detailed study that says people who have suffered with severe Covid should stay away from strenuous exercise or extreme amounts of work for a period of 1 to 2 years so that they don't succumb to sudden cardiac arrest."

"The ICMR has conducted a detailed study and found out that people who have suffered from severe Covid-19 infection should not do hard work for some time. It should be postponed for a year or two," Mandaviya said. However, its not only Gujarat, the trend of deaths due to heart attacks is being reported from across the country among young and middle-aged people. A senior official from the Union

Health Ministry said that the ICMR has launched two studies to investigate rising deaths due to heart attacks among youth post Covid-19. He said that the studies target the individuals aged 18 to 45 years.

Dr Bahl too had confirmed at an event recently that the research, which focuses on people between the ages of 18 and 45, seeks to understand the unexplained deaths of otherwise healthy individuals. "We are trying to understand the reasons or differences when we compare the results of these autopsies to those in previous years or pre-COVID years," Dr Bahl had told occurring among young adults in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. By identifying disvated incidence of sudden heart failure or lung collapse researchers aspire to delineate the associations that might exist. The other case-control study identified centres on individuals aged 18 to 45 who have experienced sudden deaths in the past

lying physiological changes with-

in the human body could be

attributed to the sudden deaths

year. This research leverages data pooled from 40 centres spanning India, where Covid-19 patients were monitored for a full year subsequent to their dis-

charge. Worldwide too such a disturbing pattern is being noticed. According to a study by Susan Cheng, director of the Institute for Research on Healthy Aging in the Department of Cardiology at the Smidt Heart Institute, heart attack deaths among young people have spiked in the US since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cheng, senior and co-corresponding author of the study said that, "There are a lot of things that COVID can do to the cardiovascular system. It appears to be able to increase the stickiness of the blood and increase ... the likelihood of blood clot formation. It seems to stir up inflam mation in the blood vessels. It seems to also cause in some people an overwhelming stresswhether it's related directly to the infection or situations around the infection-that can also cause a

who have COVID-19 multiple times also are at higher risk of heart problems. She emphasized keeping blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar under control.

691,455 patients in the United States too found that people had a significantly higher risk of developing virtually all heartrelated diseases in the year after a Covid infection. According to the research, people were 1.5 times more likely to have a stroke, nearly twice as likely to have a heart attack, and had between 1.6 and 2.4 times the risk of developing different types of arrhythmias.

Can't regulate political alliances, EC tells HC on plea against INDIA use

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission does not have any legal authority to regulate "political alliances", the poll panel has told the Delhi High Court in response to a petition challenging the use of the acronym INDIA by a coalition of 26 political parties. The Election Commission

(EC), in its reply filed in the case, said it has the power to conduct elections and register entities as a political party but "political alliances" are not recognised as "regulated entities" under the Representation of the People Act or the Indian Constitution

It, however, clarified that its reply is limited to its role and the same may not be construed as its "expression" on the "legality of the usage of the acronym I.N.D.I.A"

"Answering Respondent (EC) is constituted under Article 324 of the Constitution of India for superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of all elections to parliament, State legislatures and the offices of president and vice president," the counter affidavit filed through advocate Sidhant Kumar said.

"The Answering Respondent has been vested with the authority to register associa-

tion of bodies or individuals

of a political party in terms of

29A Section Representation of People Act, 1951 ('RP Act'). Notably, political alliances are not recognised as regulated enti-ties under the RP Act or the Constitution," it stated.

The EC highlighted a decision passed by the Kerala High Court, which said that a political front or an alliance of political parties was not a legal entity in terms of the Representation of the People Act and there was no statutory provision mandating it to regulate the functioning of such political alliances.

Petitioner Girish Bharadwaj had approached the high court earlier this year against the use of INDIA acronym, saying the political parties were taking "undue advantage in the name of our country" The plea has sought interim order staying the use of acronym INDIA by the political parties and to also prohibit the use of the national flag with the acronym INDIA by the respondent political PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has fuelled war of words between the ruling party at centre BJP and Opposition led by Congress after the government's absten-

tion on the UN resolution on the West Asia disturbances. Former Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Monday issued a statement that the grand old party is "strongly opposed" to India's abstention on the recent UN resolution on the Israel-Hamas conflict, asserting that while her party had unequivocally condemned Hamas' attacks, the tragedy is compounded with the Israeli state now focused on exacting

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

source of funds.

Holding that the electoral bond scheme for political

funding of parties contributes to

clean money, Attorney General

R Venkataramani has told the

Supreme Court that citizens

do not have the right to infor-

mation under Article 19(1)(a) of

the Constitution regarding the

In a statement filed before the

top court, Venkataramani said

there can be no general right to

know "anything and every-

thing" without being subjected

to reasonable restrictions.

BJP, Cong spar over India's **UN abstention on West Asia** revenge from a population that

is largely as helpless as it is

In a sharp attack against Sonia's stand, the BJP accused the Congress of being driven by petty, vote-bank politics. Party spokesman and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said that there can be no politics on terrorism and international issues. "There should be no scope for ifs and buts on terrorism and India's stand should be clear, categorical and unequivocal. When was the last time the

"The scheme in question

extends the benefit of confiden-

tiality to the contributor. It

ensures and promotes clean

money being contributed. It

ensures abiding by tax obligations. Thus, it does not fall foul

of any existing right," the AG

The top court law officer said the

power of judicial review is not

about scanning state policies for

the purposes of suggesting bet-

"A constitutional court reviews

state action only if it impinges

upon existing rights and not

because State action has not

ter or different prescriptions.

told the apex court.

senior most Congress leader wrote on an international conflict?. It is sad that the Congress policy is not in line with India's prestige and dignity but is inspired by petty vote-bank politics. Whatever the Congress is doing is against India's policy," Trivedi said at a Press conference in BJP headquarters. Even indirect support to terrorism is damaging to humanity

and India's security and interests, he said, criticising the Congress. Noting that a Congress Working

Rajiv Gandhi government's time that the ground was laid for boosting diplomatic ties with Israel before the P V Narasimha Rao-led dispensation established full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

of a clear constitutionally

able," he said

Citizens don't have right to know source of political funds: AG to SC on electoral bond scheme lenging the validity of the elecprovided for a possible right or

> "That contribution to political parties has democratic significance and a fit subject for political debate and demand of governance accountability free from influences does not mean that the court will proceed to declare in political funding. on such matters in the absence

offending law," Venkataramani A five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court is scheduled to commence hearing from October 31 a batch of pleas chal-

an expectation howsoever desirtoral bond scheme for political funding of parties. The scheme, which was notified

> 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 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.

ered from Covid.

He said that people with Covid

a news agency.

Yet another large 2022 study tracking medical records of

The core objective of the studies was to ascertain whether under-

spike in blood pressure." Cheng also said that people

CM inaugurates, lays foundation | France to provide scholarships to of projects worth ₹ 3,357 crore

M Yogi Adityanath reached Prayagraj from Mirzapur and addressed the 'Anusuchit Iati Mahasammelan' in Soraon.

Addressing the gathering, the CM said that Scheduled Caste people did not get respect in the governments before 2017. But ever since the double engine government has been formed, the respect and self-respect of the Scheduled Caste brothers and sisters has increased. In the double engine government, work has been done to increase the prestige of the architect Constitution, Dr Bhimrao

CM inaugurated and laid



Chief minister Yogi Adityanath addressing Anusuchit Jan Jati

the foundation stone of 424 development projects worth ₹ 3,357 crore in Prayagraj. He also gave certificates to the beneficiaries of various schemes.

CM laid the foundation stone of 350 projects worth about ₹ 3,000 crore.

worth about ₹ 274 crore were

also inaugurated. Yogi performed 'annaprashan' on the stage by feeding 'kheer' to a six-month old Kriti, daughter of Arjun Saroj, a Scheduled Caste resident of Rampur Malhua village of Soraon. Yogi called Kriti on the stage and applied 'tilak' and fed her kheer. HANUMAN STATUE: A

108-feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman, worshipped as a major deity here will be built in Arail's Triveni Pushp on the banks of Yamuna before Mahakumbh 2025. Triveni Pushp has been handed over on lease for 30 years to Haridwar's Parmarth Niketan, which will take care of the construction of this statue and several other structures and amenities.

Process to distribute tablets starts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

¬he Basic Education depart-The Basic Education are ment of the state has commenced the process to distribute tablets to government primary and upper primary schools to encourage the teachers' use of the DIKSHA portal.

Over 2.09 lakh tablets will be distributed with the aim of helping the teachers with online attendance, posting details in real-time and accessing additional digital learning materials for the benefit of the students among other things.

As part of the initiative, a total of 2,09,863 tabs are to be distributed to the teachers in all 75 districts. They include 3,895 tablets in Bareilly, 3,714 in Agra, 2,463 in Mathura, 1,683 in Meerut, 3,024 in Kanpur Dehat, 2,915 in Kanpur Nagar, Varanasi, 4,113 in Gorakhpur and 2,440 in Lucknow.

As per the letter dated October 10 and signed by Director General, School Education, Vijay Kiran Anand, Uttar Pradesh Development Systems Corporation (UPDE-SCO), Lucknow, has been designated as the technical partner for the exercise and the respective basic shiksha adhikari (BSAs) acting as district nodal officer for it.

The instruction by the DG (education) says that two tablets each are being made available to 99,744 government primary schools and one tablet each to 10,375 government primary schools as part of the exercise.

In schools where two tablets are to be provided, one Basic Education department is

pal and the next to the senior most teacher. In schools where only one tablet is to be provided, it will be made available to the principal, it adds.

BSA Praveen Kumar Tiwari said in Prayagraj, out of the 4,841 tablets for teachers of 2,452 schools, around 2,500 tablets have already been distributed. The recent distribution took place on October 20 at District Education and Training Institute (DIET) here where mayor Ganesh Kesarwani distributed tablets to 132 teachers of 66 schools of urban areas.

Officials said the state government plans to make tablets available to all teachers of government-run primary and upper primary schools in the state in a phased manner. The will be provided to the princialso working overtime to

of the DIKSHA portal as much as possible. Last year, the half yearly exams were conducted on multiple choice question (MCQ) patterns through the app. Through DIKSHA additional digital learning materials have also been made available for the use of teachers and children so that classroom teaching can be made interesting and effective. About 6,500 contents related to 77 ETB (energised text- books) of classes I-VIII have been made available by the Basic Education department through DIKSHA.

encourage teachers to make use

'To help teachers further, the. department has uploaded over 4,000 video tutorials on DIKSHA app to achieve the desired learning outcome and improve competence of 1.90 crore students enrolled in gov-

Secondary Sanskrit schools set to witness a major makeover

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The government-aided sec-I ondary Sanskrit schools in the state are all set to witness a major makeover. This follows the initiative of the state government which has introduced amended financial aid rules

under 'Project Alankar'. These revised regulations aim to rejuvenate institutions that have been serving the The Secondary Education department modified the aid conditions, reducing the school managements' financial commitment to just five per cent of the renovation expenses. Simultaneously, a budget of ₹ 100 crore for renovation projects has been allocated by the state government.

Prior to this the state government required managements of schools to cover 50 per cent of the renovation costs for their ageing buildings, with the government subsidising the remaining amount. However, this condition led to reluctance among school management committees, resulting in ₹ 28 crore

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry

Anupriya Patel while dedicat-

ing the mobile medical van

under the 'Sansad Swasthya

Seva' scheme to the public in a

programme organised at Patel

Chowk on Sunday said the gov-

ernment is doing a lot in the

health sector but people's coop-

eration is a must for the success

of health schemes. She said the

medical van was equipped with

testing kits, medicines etc and

medical staff, including a

MBBS doctor, nurse, pharmacist and technical staff will be

available on it. She told it will

work five days a week and will

move throughout the district to

make available medical facili-

ties at the doorstep of the

needy. She appealed to the

people to provide full cooperation to avail the facility. She

thanked Gas Authority of India

which made available the facil-

ity through its CSR scheme. She

flagged off the van in the pres-

ence of dignitaries, including

MLAs Ratnakar Mishra, Dr

Vinod Bind and Rinki Kol,

fiscal vear.

Understanding the constraints of these schools, the department modified the conditions under which the financial aid is provided. These revised rules have been welcomed by managements of schools. The Directorate of Chemistry at Allahabad University, Prof MC Chattopadhyay said, "Earlier, revised rules have been wel-Education here has already received proposals totalling ₹ 22 crore from various institutake advantage of the scheme to enhance and develop their school buildings. The proposals, which amount to ₹22 crore, originate from government-aided Sanskrit schools in districts such as Basti, Muzaffarnagar, Sonbhadra, Ambedkarnagar, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Balrampur, and

Maharajganj. Officials of the directorate say that these proposals are under review for approval and that additional submissions from various districts are

forthcoming.
Out of the 958 government-aided Sanskrit schools offering education from classes VI to XII in the state, officials have been instructed to escalated in due course of

Chairman Cooperative Bank

Dr Jagdish Singh Patel,

Chairman Nagar Palika

Parishad Mirzapur Shyam

Santnagar police arrested six

accused of theft and recovered

13 batteries from their posses-

sion. Giving details to the

media at the Police Lines on

Superintendent of Police (ASP/

Operation) OP Singh said Ajay

Gupta, a supervisor in a com-

pany, had lodged a case at the

Santnagar police station on October 5 stating that 24 bat-

teries had been stolen from a

tower located in Pandariya vil-

lage. He said during investiga-

tion the police team found a

clue and raided a house locat-

ed in Dubar market under

Lalganj police station. The sus-

pects who were taken into cus-

tody during interrogation con-

fessed their involvement in the

theft of batteries. The accused

said they were involved in the

theft of batteries in Sonbhadra

too. On their identification

the police recovered 13 batter-

ies along with ₹ 23,300 cash.

Additional

ARRESTED: The

Sundar Keshari and others.

Mobile medical van dedicated to public

going unclaimed in the last prioritise those institutions which have enrolment of more than 100 students.

> Administrator of Shri Saudamini Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya here and forwe were not able to afford a 50 per cent matching grant. Now, we have submitted a proposunder the new guidelines."
> RAILWAY OVEL

> RAILWAY OVER-BRIDGE WORK TO RESTART SOON: In what can be seen as a huge relief for the residents of Daraganj and adjoining areas, the work for the completion of railway overbridge (ROB) from Kamla Nehru Hospital to Buxi Bund, will soon restart.

The left over work of the Buxi Bund ROB will soon be taken up by the agency entrusted with the work of its construction of which over 90 per cent of the work is com-

The construction was stuck for a long time due to lack of budget which had

police station Lalganj to jail

Meanwhile the Dehat

Kotwali police arrested an

accused of rape on Sunday. On

October 26 a woman in a

named FIR alleged that the

accused had physical relation

with her after promising mar-

riage. She said when she pres-

surised him to marry, he refused to do, threatened of

dire consequences and raped

her. After registering the case

SHO Shailesh Rai formed a

team to nab the accused who

was arrested on Sunday. After

completing the legal formalities

Kotwali police arrested an

accused of theft and recovered

entire stolen goods on Sunday.

Chhatrapal Singh of Ramaipatti

In another case the Dehat

the police sent him to jail.

time. Now the work will start again after the government sanctioned the budget of Rs 20

This ROB was sanctioned to connect Daraganj locality to other parts of the city. Crossing over two railway lines, connecting Prayag to Prayagraj Junction and Prayag Ghat station running under this ROB.

In November 2020 Prasad Maurya had performed the foundation laying ceremony. At that time a target was set to complete the ROB by November 2021.

Because of the change in the alignment of ROB, the cost of around Rs 52 crore increased to around Rs 74 crore. After the issuance of the government order, the remaining increased amount has been sanctioned and will be released soon. "The government order for this ROB was issued on Friday. The incomplete work will be started in a couple of days and the ROB will be completed by the end of this year," said one of the senior official of the construction agency.

The police seized a vehicle under City Kotwali police stawhich was being used to transtion had lodged a case on port the stolen goods. After October 28 that iron pipes had completing the legal formalities been stolen from his workshop the police sent the accused located at Bharuhna. After regidentified as Raju Patel of istering the case the police Gopalpur under Madihan arrested the accused Dheeraj police station, Anmol Maurya, Kumar of Bharuhna under Harendar Kumar, Suraj Dehat Kotwali police station Maurya, Om Kumar and Raju and recovered the stolen godos from his possession. The police of Patar Kaka village under

sent the accused to jail. **COUPLES REUNITE:** Under Project Milan programme five couples who were living separately over petty issues got reunited at the Family Counselling Centre (FCC) located at Police Lines on Sunday. The FCC has been set up by the police to settle disputes between the couples. After several sittings the centre succeeded in getting five couples to live together, gave an emotional send-off to them and wished them a bright future. The entire process was carried out by inspector and FCC incharge Seema Singh. She was assisted sub-inspector

Shashi Tiwari, head constable Savitri Yadav and her colleague

30,000 Indian students

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Director of the Institut Français in India (French Institute of India) and Counsellor of Corporation and Cultural Action at the French Embassy in India Emmanuel Lebrun-Damiens said that the French government has decided to provide scholarships to 30,000 Indian students to visit France. He was speaking as the chief guest in the inaugural ceremony of the three-day international seminar on 'Revisiting French Indology through Intercultural Approaches' at the Malviya Mulya Anushilan Kendra in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Monday. The seminar is being organised to pay homage to the French resistance fighter and writer Satprem who left France after the First World War and lived in India.

Lebrun-Emmanuel Damiens emphasised that there is no difference or antagonism between these two countries (India and France) and added that in fact, they are both complementary and necessary to each other. The keynote address was delivered by Padma Shri Prof Michel Danino from Paris, who pointed out that French Indology has



An international seminar on French Indology being inaugurated at BHU in Varanasi on Monday

been marred by false accusations and misunderstandings.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Akhilesh Kumar, the Head of the French department in BHU and Convenor of the seminar, highlighted the fact that many French writers left France and lived in India in search of truth, making their work especially spiritual. He said that the seminar aims to ignite talks and have rigorous intellectual exchanges on the knowledge transfer between France and India and it will be a great occasion to ponder over the historical and current Indo-French relations, in the year of India's first G20

Presidency. On the occasion, Claude Arpi presented a special address and Prof MS Pandey chaired the session, emphasising that French Indology is a rich mine that we must explore to find subjects for research. Prof Prayaas Chaturvedi welcomed the guests, and Ravindra Kumar anchored the

event and presented the vote of

Prof S Shoba, Prof Kiran Chaudhari, Prof Vineeta Singh and Prof Mithilesh Singh, the Principal of Agrasen PG College, Varanasi, were also present in the seminar.

The seminar was organised by experts from France, Greece, Vietnam, and Slovenia, as well as professors and researchers from institutions such as JNU, Pondicherry University, Amity University, and Allahabad

Varanasi first in UP dashboard ranking for 6th time

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In the health ranking dashboard of Uttar Pradesh, Varanasi has once again secured the first position in the state by securing an 80 per cent score. The district has come first for the sixth consecutive time in the health ranking dashboard. District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam and Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal praised the Health department for this achievement and encouraged them to provide quality services in future.

Chief Medical Officer Sandeep (CMO) Dr Chaudhary said that recently the ranking of all the districts has been displayed in the state's health ranking dashboard (September), in which Varanasi is at the first place. "By working as per the guidelines given state for the sixth consecutive time. The health facilities being provided in the district are

being supervised by the CDO, as a result of which Varanasi's achievement so far in this financial year is 79 per cent, while the achievement in the month of September is 84 per cent," the CMO informed. Dr Chaudhary further said

that the state's achievement for the month of September is 66 per cent and for the financial year is 58 per cent. "If seen in this way, the situation of Varanasi is much better than the achievement of the state," he said, adding that according to the monthly dashboard, there is 99.64 per cent coverage in institutional deliveries, 100 per cent coverage in antenatal testing (hemoglobin) during pregnancy, home based newborn care, complete vaccination of children, TB notification, during pregnancy. Varanasi was commended

for performing better on 16 by the DM, Varanasi has indicators including 100 per means of family planning community and bring them to (Antara, Chhaya, Copper-T, the medical units. This ranking

PPIUCD and IUCD), cesarean delivery relative to deliveries at CHCs etc," the CMO said and He asked all the health congratulated the health workers of all the urban and rural level primary and community health centres (PHCs/CHCs) and Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) of the district and encouraged them to main-

tain the quality of services. According to him, quality medical and health services of maternal-child health and family welfare programmes are being provided in all the government hospitals, CHCs, PHCs. HWCs and sub-centres of the district. For this, the team has performed well under the collaborative supervision of ACMO (RCH) Dr HC Maurya and District Programme Manager (DPM) of National Health Mission (NHM) Santosh Kumar Singh. ASHA workers and ANMs have an important role in improving ASHA workers, temporary mobilise beneficiaries from the He also directed the health

of Varanasi is an honour to the frontline workers, he said.

workers that the quality of activities related to maternal health, child health, newborn health and nutrition should be maintained. "The department is making continuous efforts to provide medical and health benefits to the last person of the community. This is the aim of the government and the department," he said, adding that the achievement should continue. For this, all programme nodal officers, block programme managers, block community process managers, data operators, ANMs and other health workers have been directed to visit the regular blocks as well as VHSND, vaccination sessions, Antraal (intervals) and Khushaal Parivar (happy family) days etc apart from taking people's feedback about the facilities and workers to take 100 per cent

Vigilance Awareness Week begins in BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the guidelines of the Railway Ministry, Ministry, Vigilance Áwareness Week began in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Monday which will continue till November 5. On the first day, the officers and employees took a pledge to work with honesty and transparency and the oath, organised under the auspices of the Vigilance department of BLW, was administered by the General Manager (GM) Basudev Panda at the Administrative Building.

The purpose of the pledge is to strengthen the commitment of officers and employees to maintain honesty and transparency in all areas of their activities and to fight vigorously against corrup-

The oath was also admin-



GM Basudev Panda inaugurating Vigilance Awareness Week at BLW in Varanasi on Monday.

istered to officers and their subordinates at workplaces and various departments.

Administrative Building, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Sushil Kumar Srivastava, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Shishir Dutt, Principal Chief Materials Manager Rajneesh

Gupta, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Ranvijay, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer Ajay Srivastava, Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr Devesh Kumar, Principal Chief Engineer Vinod Bampal, Inspector General-cum-Principal Chief Security

Commissioner Ranveer Singh Chauhan, Chief Vigilance Officer Pramod Kumar Chowdhary, Senior Deputy General Manager Vijay, Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer Dharmendra Kumar and others were present. During the week-long pro-

grammes, on November 1, a grammes, on November 1, a lecture on the topic 'D&AR' will be delivered by retired Senior Deputy Personnel Manager of Western Railways Shantanu Ambedkar apart from painting competition in Bal Niketan Vidyalaya, while on November 2, a debate competition will be organised at Kendriya Vidyalaya, on November 3, an essay competition at St John's School on the topic 'say no to corruption, commit to nation' for the employees apart from the message from BLW GM and on November 4, DG, RDSO will

NER employees take honesty pledge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava administered a pledge to the officers and employees of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) to work with honesty and transparency. The function was held at the main entrance of the DRM's Office, Lahartara here on Monday which also marked the inauguration of Vigilance Awareness Week, to be continued till November

Speaking on the occasion, the DRM said, "I believe that corruption is a major obstacle

to the economic, political and social development of our country. I believe that to root out corruption, our government, citizens and private sector need to work together. I feel that every citizen should always be alert and committed to maintain high standards of honesty and integrity and cooperate in the fight against corruption." Srivastava said that adher-

ence to rules and regulations in letter and spirit is the first requirement of a corruptionfree society and corruption can be of both direct and indirect forms.

Describing delay in execu-

cause of corruption, he stressed that unnecessary delay in execution of work should be avoided at all costs and work should be executed by ensuring com-plete adherence to rules and procedures. On the occasion,

tion of work as an important

Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infra) Roshan Lal Yaday, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operation) Rajesh Kumar Singh, Senior Divisional reson.
Sameer Paul, Sensor
Engineer
Pakesh (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Senior Divisional

Rehman, Senior Divisional Finance Manager Preeti Verma, Senior Divisional Operations Manager AP Singh, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Rajat Priya, Divisional Personnel Officer Vivek

Commercial Manager Sheikh

Divisional Mishra, Commercial Manager Rajesh Kumar Srivastava, Assistant Divisional Commerce Manager Prashant Kumar, Public Relations Officer Ashok Kumar and branch officers took oath to eradicate corruption and build a new

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Noxious breath

Very poor air quality despite lesser stubble burning is a serious concern for Delhi-NCR

he shapeless monster of air pollution is haunting the National Capital Region once again, and it has become rather an annual affair. Come winter, Delhiites have to breathe and live with "very poor" air. India's Capital has long grappled with the issue of air pollution and it appears there is no way out. Even as you read it, the air quality in Delhi remains "very poor"; the Air Quality Index (AQI) has already breached the 300-mark. This situation raises concerns about the city's ability to combat air pollution effectively. Ironically, this year, so far there has been almost a 50 per cent reduction in stubble burning cases in the farms of Haryana and Punjab, but AQI is still hovering around the 300+ mark, which is considered 'hazardous' in the US and is an 'emergency' callout. But in Delhi, it is 'normal' with people enveloped in the deadly smog going about their daily lives. All the containment measures you can see on the roads include a few water sprinkler trucks spraying water in their feeble attempt to combat



pollution in the city. Right now, the AQI is showing an upward movement. It plainly indicates that air quality is worsening as we approach November, one of the worst months to be in Delhi. In some areas within Delhi, the situation is even more alarming. In the Delhi University area, the AQI stood at 316. Delhi's air quality woes are not confined to the city alone; neighbouring regions, including Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Faridabad, also grapple with "poor" air quality. Indeed, the NCR's collective air pollution issue demands a comprehensive regional approach to address this life-threatening problem. It is not for the first time that heavy winter air mixed with vehicular

exhaust and stubble smoke would play havoc with people's lives in the NCR. But the plan to fight it is conspicuous by absence. Mercifully, the incidents of stubble burning by neighbouring States have reduced compared to last year. But unfavourable meteorological conditions will soon lead to a spike in air pollution. Besides, the harvest is not completed yet as the festive season is delayed this year, which may significantly raise the AQI. Also, bureaucratic problems plague the fight against pollution. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), which used to provide data on farm fires' contribution to Delhi's air pollution, has recently stopped providing updates. The reasons for this are unclear, but it further impacts the efforts to combat pollution effectively. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has deployed mechanical road sweepers and acquired eight anti-smog guns as part of a comprehensive "Air Pollution Control" plan for 2023-24. But do these suffice for a city spread over 1483 sq km? The answer is a resounding 'no'. These are piecemeal steps with little or no impact on AQI. Authorities know that once winter is gone, so will people's complaints. But for the citizens, especially those suffering from bronchial ailments, the less said the better.



Soldiers display their skills during Indian and Malaysian armies' joint exercise in Meghalaya

Bringing the veterans home



The release of ex-Navy officers should be our prime concern. All options, including, diplomacy, must be employed, regardless of our stand on Gaza

ight Indian Navy veterans have been awarded the death penalty by a court in Qatar and that has come as a shock for the people of India. There's an international job market for veterans who want to deploy the skills of our soldiers, but at times it can prove to be brutal. Most of the well-trained veterans are under-employed and undervalued domestically. Trained professionals in various fields, except management (MBA), are not given a fair deal within the domestic folds and hence are forced to look for jobs elsewhere. However, coming to the issue at hand, Al Dahra security company had some arrangements with the Qatari authorities for facilitating training to the latter's naval personnel. The said company was an established player in the Middle East. Being a company staffed with Indian Navy veterans, it made a name for itself in the last decade or so. For the last 5 years or so, this Indian-staffed company has faced a tremendous amount of competition from retired British Navy officers and other players, including Pakistani Navy officers, who wanted to get employed in similar roles.

The company with Indian Navy veterans on its payroll was primarily dealing with providing bridge work and radar navigation training to cadets of the Qatari Navy. Indian Navy officers are renowned for their bridge-laying skills and are highly competitive when it comes to watchkeeping at warships. Indian Navy officers have also been very successful captains of merchant ships over

the decades. Dealing with military cadets requires the teacher to get to know them at various levels. Most of the military bonding goes beyond professional association; such is the nature of training. Personal motivation and professional training need to go hand in hand. Perhaps, long-term association with the Qatari Navy cadets led to the formation of bonds beyond classroom lectures and probably some Qatari cadets spilled work details and shared their gripes with these exservicemen. Though nothing is by these officers is speculative clear or being shared, it is alleged



The Indian Navy veterans may have had some knowledge of the bridge and navigation equipment used on Qatar Naval vessels, however, they were totally isolated from the weapon radar and armament package. Now, the problem is, when we look at an actual warship, the Navigation, Weapons and Sensor systems are collocated in a 20 sq feet cramped workplace. This makes it impossible to have quality training sessions and to prepare a cadet to handle a massive sensor load along with communication systems without comprehensive knowledge of each individual platform including the armament section. These platforms are linked anyway. It is only fair to say that this assessment of and the exact nature of the



WITH INDIAN NAVY **VETERANS ON ITS** PAYROLL WAS **PRIMARILY DEALING WITH** PROVIDING BRIDGE **WORK AND RADAR NAVIGATION** TRAINING TO CADETS OF THE **QATARI NAVY**

Clarification... In yesterday's photo, on this page, PM Modi was with the former President of S Korea. Mr Yoon Suk Yeol is the present President of Republic of

charges is unknown. However, whenever a private company that has foreign nationals on its payroll is employed by a country for training its military personnel, the onus to check the flow of information lies with the establishment of that country. So, the restrictions on knowledge sharing along with the checks and balances to implement these restrictions should have been in the open domain and could be made public even now. Though the matter is extreme-

ly sensitive, access to a topclass legal team needs to be provided to these ex-servicemen at the earliest. It is shocking that these ex-servicemen have been sentenced to death (no less) by a lower court in a foreign country. They have also been in solitary confinement for more than a year

The ex-navy officers served India well and needed to come back home as soon as possible. They should not become a tool of larger geopolitics being played out in the Middle East. Geopolitical pulls and pressures related to the war in Gaza could also have an impact on the manner in which Qatar proceeds in this case. Qatar has been mediating between Israel, the US and Hamas to secure the release of

the hostages held by Hamas. It has been able to secure the release of four hostages till now which has earned the Qatar government some goodwill. The release of these officers on priority must remain disconnected from the position India takes on various geopolitical developments in the Middle East and for this, independent legal as well as diplomatic efforts may be carried out. Since a legal appeal in the current situation may take a long time or could hit a roadblock, the other option for India is to

The diplomatic effort could work on prisoner exchange, with some Qatari citizens convicted in India being allowed to return to their country. India has good bilateral relations and strong trade ties with Qatar, this should facilitate some headway in this sensitive case. Most of the other countries in the West may not be able to help India in its diplomatic endeavour due to the situation in the Middle East, however, our good relations with Russia may come in handy to provide us the muchneeded diplomatic push in this

employ diplomacy.

(The writer is an expert on geopolitics and international Affairs. The views expressed are personal)

ETTERS 1 (0 THE EDITO

Service learning is a catalyst for social change



Service learning, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is essential for ushering in social change and development

s educators, we aim to empower students as active citizens, but service learning often falls short in real-world impact and accessibility. To truly make a difference, service learning should be tied to pressing issues like the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, motivating students to effect meaningful change.

STEP 1 - Schools to Choose Organisations Aligned with

Schools looking to empower students should choose organizations and causes aligned with the UN's SDGs rather than generic "community service," focusing projects on issues like zero hunger (SDG 2), good health and wellbeing (SDG 3), and quality education (SDG 4). With this, students gain valuable skills and see how they can improve lives, empowering them to become true agents

of change. STEP 2 - Empower Students through Service Learning **Projects**

By guiding students to develop and implement their own service learning initiatives, schools can shape students into engaged citizens making projects, spread the word

a real difference. Steps to consider: encourage students to identify issues in their local community, assist students in designing their own service projects, ensure the project's real impact, and have students reflect on how their efforts contributed to meeting the UN SDGs. Through this, students gain valuable skills and confidence while working to build a more just and sustainable world.

STEP 3 - Make Service Learning Accessible to All

Students Currently, service learning programs tend to attract privileged students, while lowerincome students often miss out. To remedy this, schools can offer a range of projects at varying commitment levels, organise carpools or provide bussing to off-campus

about these opportunities to all students, and provide school credit or other incentives. This can make service learning appealing and rewarding for all students. By making these programs accessible, schools can open up service learning to stu-

STEP 4 - Develop a **Sustained Service Learning**

dents who stand to benefit the

Program To develop a sustained service learning program, schools should make these programs mandatory, focus on local issues, build in time for students to reflect on their experiences through class discussions, and develop community partnerships. Furthermore, find ways to highlight and celebrate successful student projects to keep them engaged and motivated. Celebrations also reflect to students that their work is valued and impactful. **STEP 5 - Evaluating Impact** and Next Steps

Post-service learning, schools must evaluate the impact and plan for enhancements. Gather student feedback through surveys or focus groups and consult community partners to assess their views. Use these insights to make informed changes, fostering students' active community contributions.

Empowering students through service learning aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is essential for developing agency and purpose. Schools prioritising this, foster citizens of character. Encouraging reflection through journals, discussions, and feedback helps students connect experiences to social issues, promoting solutionsoriented thinking. Deep reflection empowers students to create positive social change with a clear understanding of community needs and systemic issues, shaping their future actions.

(The author is the founder of a social initiative called Gullaq, views are personal)

DIVISIVE DESIGN FOR MUSLIMS Sir—To counter the divisive design of

branding Muslims as 'invaders,' 'infiltrators,' and the 'Other' in India, we need Swami Vivekananda to perform a surgery to remove the malignant tumor of Islamophobia. We must understand his words, "The Mohammedan conquest of India came as a salvation to the downtrodden, to the poor," as well as his action of worshipping a Muslim girl as Goddess Durga, as he did in Kashmir in 1898. On the day of Maha Saptami of Durga Puja, Swami Vivekananda kneeled down to touch the feet of a poor Muslim girl. With this singular act, he defied divisions of religion, region, race, caste, class, creed, occupation, gender, and generation to promote universal humanhood.

In fact, Swami Vivekananda was a follower of Sri Ramkrishna who practiced Islam, Christianity, and other religions to live his words, "many opinions, many paths." They lived secularism, not just spoke about it. Secularism gives people the unhindered freedom to practice any religion of their choice. We should adhere to Swami Vivekananda's prescription for a mixture of the two great systems, Hinduism and Islam—Vedanta brain and Islam body" to counter anti-Muslim Hindu victimhood discourses and hate speeches.

Sujit De | Kolkata

DO NOT USE DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

Sir—The use of white phosphorus is becoming deadly for attack survivors. Israel's extensive destruction of Palestinian citizens is becoming increasingly costly. The use of white phosphorus is highly lethal, and Israel needs to immediately cease using such toxic chemicals.

The Israeli attackers and military are causing destruction for generations to come, and the people who survive the brunt of such lethal weaponry with toxic chemicals are in great jeopardy. How can one be so cruel and inhumane toward

Iconic taxis are now only a memory



ge may wrinkle the face, but never the soul." Alright, but a die-hard fan of things old has to be ready for the new with a heavy heart. Close on the heels of Mumbai's iconic doubledecker city buses passing into oblivion, another popular transport symbol of the city, the "kaalipeeli (black and yellow)" Premier Padmini taxis, are history now. The last Premier Padmini taxi registered in the "city of dreams" was way back in October 2003—October 29th, to be precise. So, for all practical purposes, that one has

crossed Mumbai's 20-year-old age limit. The "black and yellow" beauty ruled the streets of Mumbai for nearly six decades. It could have been more, but for the fact that its production was stopped in 2001.

So, the dSo, availability of spare parts became a huge pain in the neck foroperators, rators although their love and affection for Pawereni was beyond dThe advantagesantage of portabili easy maintenancenance were the assets of the iconic taxis. Though newer hatchback models took over Mumbai's taxi kingdom. Padmini continued to linger in the minds of the residents as well as tourists and travelers to Mumbai. For the last ten years, visitors to Mumbai would often raise their evebrows, unable to comprehend that the beautiful black and white cars were few and far between. The demand to preserve at least one iconic taxi in a museum has had no takers over the years; citizens should convince the government to fall in line

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

another? Why is Israel forsaking its humanity, ethics, and empathy toward the people of Palestine? Why does Israel want only Jewish followers to be the Palestinians when it is one of the world's strongest and most responsible

White phosphorus, a toxic substance, is now toxic to life and humanity. The Human Rights Watch group, along with responsible state powers, must step in immediately to halt this harm before it's too late. The deterioration of humanity in one place should serve as a warning to the whole world. Israel must prioritise empathy for humans first and Palestinians later. The peace has no alter-

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

MORE MEDALS FOR INDIA

Sir—Yesterday, there were 107 medals at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China. Today, four more medals were

won in the Para-Asian Games 2023. The right terminology to describe the "display of superhuman talent and skills" of all the participants is "NON-para super girls and boys-athletes." Not a trace of any handicap was visible in their skills, enthusiasm, and energy throughout the tournament.

Handicaps only exist in the minds of humans. It is indeed heartening to see how humans can beat the odds and excel even while going through adverse circumstances. Terrorists, and warmongers as all of us can learn a great deal from these athletes who not only won medals for the country but sent a message to millions of people struggling with their lives that all one needs is right attitude and proper encouragement to unleash his or her full potential

PV Rao Sreelekha | Secunderabad

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FIRST COLUMN IN SEARCH OF HEAVEN

Attachment is a vice, it subtly ties one in bondage to the object of one's attachment



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ**

ost of us have listened to these stories of hell & heaven in our childhood days. The moral of all these stories has always been that 'Those who perform good deeds go to heaven, and those doing bad deeds would go to hell'. But, how does one actually describe Heaven? Well!! To put it in simple words, heaven is a place or time of complete happiness with no trace of sorrow. So, when did it exist or does it still exist somewhere at present? Many people believe that heaven is a world apart from the earth we inhabit. That is why people are said to ascend to heaven after death.

Mythological stories also describe angels coming to escort virtuous souls to heaven. Similarly, hell is believed to be the nether world, to where one descends if one has led a sinful life. However, the fact is that heaven and hell exist on this very earth at different points of time, hence they are not two different places, but different periods in the cycle of world history. The world we live in as of today was heaven during the Golden Age, when humans possessing divine virtues ruled the earth. These souls were complete in all virtues and free of vices. It is a world of total purity where all humans are aware of their true identity, that they are souls, not bodies. Because they are viceless, souls in heaven lead a life of unalloyed happiness. But for majority of us such a world might seem like a fantasy when we look at the world we live in at present. So, if at all heaven existed on this very planet then how has it turned into the chaotic, violent place that it is today? It's simple, blame it on the vices that turn the world from heaven to hell, wherein souls forget their true identity, which is that of a soul, and start identifying themselves as bodies that they inhabit. Hence, with body-consciousness come all the vices like lust, anger, greed, attachment, ego and others creating deep sorrow for us. These vices rob us of our happiness, purity, peace and powers.



To begin with, lust, the biggest vice, robs us of purity and honor. The honor that comes from chastity is evident even in today's world, where celibate priests are respected by the society. In contrast, those who trade in vice are looked down upon by everyone and they live as social outcasts. Similarly, anger robs us of peace and gives pain to oneself as well as others. It also impairs the intellect, whereby one is unable to take right decisions. An angry person disturbs the atmosphere wherever he goes, making others feel uneasy too.

Majority of us do not recognise attachment as a vice, but we must understand that it subtly ties one in bondage to the object of one's attachment, be it a person, thing or place. It makes us hold on to and identify ourselves with other people or things that give us some joy. Our happiness then becomes dependent on that object or person to whom we are attached. Hence, if that object or person suffers any harm or is taken away from us, we suffer pain. Unlike attachment, ego is easily identified as a vice because of the hurt it causes everyone. The more one's ego the lesser one respects others, thereby losing respect for others. This hurts all the more because an egoist expects others to show him respect, and when that does not happen, he feels insulted. Ego makes one rigid and spoils relationships. Ultimately, it repels others and makes one unloved and isolated. This is how the world turns gradually into hell. When viciousness reaches extreme proportions, the Supreme Almighty himself comes to this world to turn it into heaven once again, by making souls aware of their true identity. and their relationship with HIM. When souls remember HIM with this awareness, they get all virtues and powers from HIM that enable them to get rid of their vices and regain their purity, thus making way for an entry in heaven once more.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and a popular columnist;

views are personal)

Aim at a tax-to-GDP ratio of 20 per cent



UTTAM GUPTA

Buoyant tax collections hold the key to keeping up the tempo of investment in building infrastructure and funding welfare schemes



n the past, invariably, the revised estimate (RE) for the relevant financial year (FY) fell short of the budget estimate (BE). During the last two years, the position has reversed with RE exceeding the BE. In fact, the trends during the first six months of the current FY point toward the Modi - government doing a hat–trick.
Look at the gross tax revenue (GTR)

which includes gross direct tax revenue (GDTR), GST collection, central excise duty (CED) and customs duty (CD) - net of refunds. During 2021-22, the BE for GTR was Rs 22,20,000 crore. Against this, the RE (mentioned in the budget for 2022-23 presented on February 1, 2022, it includes the actual for the first ten months and estimates for the last two months of the FY) at Rs 25,20,000 crore was Rs 300,000 crore higher. The 'actual' at Rs 27,10,000 crore turned out to be even higher than the RE by Rs 1,90,000 crore. When, compared to BE, the excess was a whopping Rs 490,000 crore.

For 2022-23, Nirmala Sitharaman kept BE GTR at Rs 27,60,000 crore. Against this, the RE at Rs 30,40,000 crore was Rs 280,000 crore higher. The 'actual' at Rs 30,50,000 crore turned out to be even higher than the RE by Rs 10,000 crore. When compared to BE, the actual was thus higher by Rs 290,000 crore. The excess amount would have been even more at Rs 380,000 crore but for a cut in CED on petrol and diesel announced in May 2022, which resulted in a revenue loss of about Rs 90,000 crore.

For the current FY, Sitharaman has kept the BE for GTR at Rs 33,50,000 crore including GDTR (net of refunds, but before transfers to states): Rs 1823,000 crore; GST (it includes Central GST and Integrated GST or IGST collection apportioned to the central government): Rs 957,000 crore; CED on petroleum products: Rs 339,000 crore and CD (on imports): Rs 233,000 crore.

From April 1 to October 9, 2023, GDTR at Rs 957,000 crore was 21.8 per cent higher than the actual collections during the corresponding period of last FY as



SINCE TAXES ARE LEVIED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE VALUE OF INCOME-**GENERATING ACTIVITIES IN DIFFERENT** SECTORS THAT MAKE UP THE GDP, THEIR COLLECTION **INCREASES IN**

TANDEM WITH IT

BE. This, in turn, was due to a sharp jump in personal income tax (PIT) collections of 32.5 percent even as corporate

income tax (CIT) collections were up by 12.4 percent. At this pace, the year could end up with a GDTR of over Rs 1900,000 crore against BE of Rs 1823,000 crore. Likewise, total Central GST collections during the first half of the current FY stood at Rs 414,000 crore, 15.9 per cent higher than the corresponding period of last year as against the 12 per cent growth projected as per the BE. At this pace, the total central GST collections could surpass the BE of Rs 957,000 crore.

As for CED on petroleum products, in view of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri has ruled out the possibility of any reduction in duties on petrol and diesel, there wont de any snortiali in collections under this head. What is behind this exceptional performance in tax collection consistently for the three years?

Two overarching factors come to mind. First, has to do with growth in nominal GDP. Since taxes are levied as a percentage of the value of income-generating activities in different sectors that make up the GDP, their collection increases in tandem with it. During 2021-22, nominal GDP grew by 18.4 per cent which was 4 per cent higher than the 14.4 per cent growth assumed for arriving at the BE. Likewise, during 2022-23, nominal GDP grew by 15.9 per cent which was 5.6 per cent higher than the 10.3 per cent growth assumed in the budget.

The other factor has to do with the (The writer is a policy tax-GDP ratio. For any given level analyst, views are perof nominal GDP, if this ratio is higher, that would lead to higher

against 11.6 per cent higher as per tax collection. During 2021-22, the actual tax-GDP ratio was 11.5 per cent against 9.9 per cent assumed in the budget. Likewise, during 2022-23, the actual tax-GDP ratio was 11.2 per cent against 10.7 per cent assumed in the budget. The unprecedented surge in tax collection in both years was due to the combined effect of higher-thanexpected growth in nominal GDP as well as the tax-GDP ratio.

For 2023-24, the FM has assumed

nominal GDP growth of 10.5 per cent The actual growth during the first quarter of the current FY at 8 per cent turned out to be even lower than this (actual for 2022-23 was 15.9 per cent). The position during the second quarter won't be different. Yet, if tax collections during the first half of the current FY have grown faster than the BE, this has to do with a much higher tax-to-GDP ratio. The budget estimated the ratio at 11.1 per cent.

The higher tax-to-GDP ratio is all the more creditable when we consider a steep reduction in the CIT rate to 15 per cent for new manufacturing enterprises and to 22 per cent for existing firms (done in September 2019); a reduction in the PIT (announced in the budget for 2023-24) and reduction GST rates notified from time to time. So, what has done the trick?

This has to do with relentless efforts by the tax authorities to ensure compliance and prevent evasion. On the direct tax front, they have successfully used technology to reach out to the assesses in non-intrusive ways; e.g. by sending e-mail reminding them to file a return if not already or generating an 'auto-populated' form - a form in which income of the assesses from various sources is pre-filled. In particular, the use of

data analytics and AI has prompted assesses to report their income accurately thereby avoiding short payment.

According to the SBI report, in assessment year (AY) 2011-12, a total of 16 million people filed ITR, with 84 per cent belonging to the Rs 500,000 income group. In AY 2022-23, 68.5 million people filed ITRs, with the filers in the Rs 500,000 income group decreasing to 64 per cent. Total ITRs filed for income above Rs 10 million increased from 146,000 in AY 2021-22 to 269,000 in AY 2023-24. Based on spending profile data collected from diverse sources, the IT department is vigorously pursuing efforts to tax more persons in this class.

On the indirect tax front, tax authorities are focusing on strengthening of GST infrastructure with an emphasis on driving all businesses to be a part of the 681 network, trutniully report all transactions and prevent fraudulent input tax credit or ITC claims. During 2022-23, they detected GST evasion of over Rs 101,000 crore and recovered Rs 21,000 crore. For the current FY, so far they have detected evasion of Rs 136,000 crore and hope to recover around Rs 50,000 crore (of this, Rs 14,108 crore has been already recovered).

More such efforts including rationalisation of the tax regime to plug loopholes are under way. For instance, recent clarification on the levy of GST @28 per cent on e-gaming alone has the potential of yielding extra tax collection of over Rs 100,000 crore annually. In view of a lot more potential remaining untapped, Modi should aim at a tax-GDP ratio of at least 20 per cent. Given the pace at which his government is moving,

Liberal-left coalition returns to power in Poland

Political change in Poland could open the way for the EU to release billions of Euros of funding

he right-wing Law and Justice Party, which has been ruling the government continuously for eight years, has suffered a major setback in Poland's parliamentary elections. Because they are facing defeat. If we talk about vote percentage, it has got a maximum of 36 per cent votes and its potential ally far right Confederation has got 7 per cent votes, but the opposition alliance of three parties i.e. Civil Coalition has got 53 per cent

Poland's current parliament has 460 seats and 231 seats are required for a majority. There is so much polarisation in Polish politics right now that this time the voter turnout was more than 74 per cent, which is the highest since



(the writer is a senior jour-

nalist; views are personal)

1919. In the year 1989, only 63 per cent of votes were cast in the elections to remove the communist rule. The most influential issues in Poland's elections include the government's bias towards power in the media and judiciary, divisions in families and society due to right-wing narrowmindedness, and problems arising from the withholding of financial allocations by the European Union due to government policies.

If we talk about challenges, the present government has fully supported Ukraine in the war, but relations have also deteriorated due to allowing Ukrainian grain to enter the Polish market. This will be a big issue for the next government. Tension on the Belarus border is also a big



At present, the biggest relief has been given to the European Union, against which the outgoing government has been opening a front from time to time.

Within thirty days of the election, the President has to call a session of Parliament and appoint the Prime Minister. Andrzej Duda, the Polish president, has named Donald Tusk, the opposition

leader, and Mateusz

prime minister, as candidates for prime minister in the new government.

Prime Minister before as a has also been the head of the European Council. The victory of his coalition and his becoming Prime Minister is a relief for the liberal camp of Europe, which has been looking confused and agendaless in recent years. Tusk, who was Polish prime minister between 2007 and 2014 and then became president of the European Council for five years, declared his victory within minutes of voting closing on Sunday based on an exit poll. "This is the end of bad times, this is the end of the PiS regime," he said.

Morawiecki, the current Will there be a big change in this direction socially, politically and culturally?

It is now clear that Poland's But Donald Tusk has been a voters have decided that they want a change in the direction potential Prime Minister. He of the country, not only politically, but also socially and culturally.

At stake in the election were the health of the country's constitutional system, its legal stance on LGBTQ+ rights and abortion, and the country's foreign alliances as Ukraine has been a key ally after Russia launched a fullscale invasion. If we talk about public sentiments, LGBTQ+ rights activist 'Bart Staszewski' called it the end of a "nightmare" for himself as a gay man and for others. "This is the beginning of

fight is ahead but now we are breathing fresh air today." Environmental activist 'Dominika Lasota' was emotional with relief and said, "We have our own future."

Law and Justice have dismantled checks and balances to gain greater control over state institutions, including courts, public media, and the electoral process.

The election results show a change for the better in relations with the European Union. Political change in Poland could open the way for the EU to release billions of euros of funding into what the EU sees as democratic erosion. The fate of Poland's relations with Ukraine was also at stake. Which will now have to draw a clear policy reclaiming our country. The and line. Now the referendum

other issues was held simultaneously with the election, in which the government wanted people to vote to accept thousands of migrants as part of an EU migration plan. Regarding this, some government opponents had called on voters to boycott the referendum, saying that it was an attempt by the government to motivate its supporters. Many voters were seen refusing to participate in the referendum and exit polls estimated participation at 40%,

which meant the results

would not be legally binding.

More or less, the far-reaching

effects of this election result

are now in the womb of the

on immigration may flop.A

controversial referendum on

migration, retirement age and

ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT

Sunak chairs domestic security meet

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is chairing a high-level meeting at 10 Downing Street in London on Monday to assess domestic security issues for the UK amid the Israelfor the UK amid the Israel-Gaza conflict and against the backdrop of widespread protests on the streets of the country. The Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms A (COBRA) meeting attended by UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman and counterterrorism officials follows another weekend of thousands of er weekend of thousands of people protesting against the conflict in the Middle East, resulting in nine arrests and five being charged with public order offences including for racially aggravated crimes.

"We have to make sure that British citizens are safe and secure from the threat of terrorism as the government always does," UK Education Minister Robert Halfon told 'Times Radio' with reference to the high-level COBRA meeting at Downing Street.

It follows Metropolitan Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, calling for "sharper" laws to deal with extremism streets Britain."There is scope to be much sharper in how we deal with extremism within this country. The law was never designed to deal with extremism, there's a lot to do with terrorism and hate crime but we don't have a body of law that deals with extremism, and that is creating a gap," Rowley told 'Sky News' over the week-

The UK's current threat level is "substantial" which means an attack is likely - a level in place since February last year when it was downgraded from "severe", which means an attack is highly likely.According to the Met Police, there has been a 14fold increase in antisemitic incidents since the Middle East crisis intensified three weeks ago and a three-fold increase in Islamophobic hate crimes. According to reports, the UK government may be looking into ways to tighten terrorism legislation to address some extremism concerns related to protests in the country, including chants of "jihad" and "intifada" calling

Regional

arrested

AP ■ BERLIN

tors said.

premises.

members.

per cent.

investigation.

neighbouring Hesse.

Halemba's

lawmaker tor

far-right party

lawmaker with the far-

Aright Alternative for

Germany party who was

recently elected to the state

legislature in Bavaria was

arrested on Monday, prosecu-

Wuerzburg said that Daniel

Halemba was arrested in the

Stuttgart area, in a state that

borders Bavaria, German news agency dpa reported. They said he is under

investigation on suspicion of

incitement and using symbols

of unconstitutional organi-

"Buerschenschaft Teutonia

Prag zu Wuerzburg," that was raided in September on suspicion that there might be

objects with Nazi symbols

and racist documents on its

Dubravko Mandic, has reject-

ed the allegations, saying in a

weekend statement that

there's nothing to the accusa-tions against the group's

Four other members of

the group are also under

finished third in Bavaria, tak-

hold its first session on

Monday afternoon.

Halemba, 22, is a member

fraternity,

Prosecutors in the city of

for uprisings by demonstra-

he pioneer

While Braverman has questioned the lack of tough police action against such incidents, the police have cau-tioned that the law is not entirely defined against such

"We've got these big protests and some of what goes on there, people do find it upsetting and distasteful and sometimes people give an instinctive view that must not be legal. But there's no point arresting hundreds of people if it's not prosecutable, that's just inflaming things," said

He also warned of "state threats from Iran" and terrorism threat being accelerated by the events and hate crime communities in the UK.

Nearly 100 arrests have been made in London since the Israel-Hamas conflict escalated earlier this month and the Met Police chief predicts there would be "many, many more arrests" over the next few weeks as police track down people who had breached public order and terrorism laws at recent

Meanwhile, UK Crime Meanwhile, UK Crime and Policing Minister Chris Philp has written to the country's police chiefs to ask them to double the number of searches they make using artificial intelligence (AI) enabled retrospective facial recognition technology to track down tion technology to track down known offenders.

"Facial recognition, including live facial recognition, has a sound legal basis that has been confirmed by the courts and has already enabled a large number of serious criminals to be caught, including for murder and sexual offences," said Philp.

"AI technology is a powerful tool for good, with huge opportunities to advance policing and cut crime. We are committed to making sure police have the systems they need to solve and prevent crimes, bring offenders to justice, and protect the public," he said. Braverman will also convene an event this week which will bring together government, law enforcement and the tech industry to discuss how best to tackle child sexual abuse images which have been created using AI.



Palestinians leave their homes following Israeli bombardment on Gaza City, on Monday

Crowd storms Russian airport to protest flight from Israel

AP TALLINN (ESTONIA)

Hundreds of people on Sunday stormed into the main airport in Russia's Dagestan region and onto the landing field to protest the landing of an airliner coming from Tel Aviv, Russian news agencies and social media reported. Authorities closed the airport in Makhachkala, capital of the predominantly Muslim region, and police converged on the facility. There were no immediate reports of injuries or

Russian news reports said people in the crowd were shouting antisemitic slogans and tried to storm the airliner belonging to Russian carrier Red Wings that had landed from Tel Aviv. Video on social media showed some in the crowd on the landing field wav-Palestinian flags. Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin called a meeting of top security and law enforcement officials on Monday, the day after a mob stormed the airport in the region of Dagestan after a plane from the Israeli city of Tel Aviv landed there. Hundreds of angry men

rushed onto the tarmac of the airport in Makhachkala, the capital of the predominantly Muslim region, late on Sunday, looking for Israeli passengers, according to Russian news reports. Dagestan's Ministry of Health said more than 20 people were injured, with two in critical condition. It said the injured included police officers and civilians. The local Interior Ministry said 60 people were detained in the unrest. It was not clear if charges had been filed against any of them, but Russia's Investigative Committee said it opened a criminal probe on charges of organising mass unrest. The crowd broke out onto the landing field and surrounded the airliner belonging to the Russian carrier Red

Wings, with seemingly little resistance from the police, Russian news outlets reported. Video and photos on social media showed some in the crowd waving Palestinian flags and some trying to overturn a police car. Others held handwritten banners saying "Child killers are not welcome in Dagestan" and "We're against Jewish refugees".

Some in the crowd examined the passports of arriving passengers, apparently in an attempt to identify those who were İsraeli. The riot was later broken up. The Makhachkala airport was to remain closed until 3 am on Tuesday, Russia's civil aviation authority Rosaviatsia said. The Kremlin on Monday blamed the unrest on "outside interference," and Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the meeting will discuss "attempts by the West to use the events in the Middle East to divide the (Russian) soci-

Hurricane Otis death toll rises to 48

AP ACAPULCO

At least 48 people died when Category 5 Hurricane Otis slammed into Mexico's southern Pacific coast, most of them in Acapulco, Mexican authorities said on Sunday as the death toll continued to climb and families buried loved ones.

Mexico's civil defense agency said in a statement that 43 of the dead were in the resort city of Acapulco and five in nearby Coyuca de Benitez. Guerrero state's governor had earlier raised the number of missing to 36 from 10 a day earlier. The death toll increased after authorities had raised it to 39 on Saturday.

In Acapulco, families held funerals for the dead on Sunday and continued the search for essentials while government workers and volunteers cleared streets clogged with muck and debris from the powerful Category 5 hurricane.

Kathy Barrera, 30, said Sunday that her aunt's family was buried under a landslide when tons of mud and rock tumbled down onto their home. Her aunt's body was found with the remains of their three children ranging in age from 2 to 21. Her uncle was still missing. Separately, Barrera's own mother and brother also remained

"The water came in with the rocks, the mud and totally buried them," Barrera, who was standing outside a local morgue, said of her aunt's family.On Sunday, authorities released the bodies of her aunt and the two voungest children to relatives. Bodies in white bags were loaded into open caskets in the back of hearses. The eldest daughter had already been buried the day before.

As she prepared to lay her relatives to rest, Barrera — who had hardly even had a chance to

search for her own mother and brother — expressed desperation and frustration at the aid and personnel she had begun seeing in tourist areas of the city but not in their neighbourhood high on a mountainside hit by landslides."There are many, many people here at the (morgue) that are entire families, families of six, families of four, even eight people," she said. "I

want to ask authorities not to lie ... there are a lot of people who are arriving dead."During a short time outside the morgue Sunday morning, at least a half-dozen families arrived, some looking for relatives; other identifying bodies and still others giving statements to authorities.

The somber convoys of hearses and relatives crossed much of battered Acapulco en route to the cemetery, passing ransacked stores, streets strewn with debris and soldiers cutting

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Saturday that his opponents are trying to inflate the toll to damage him politically, but with hundreds of families still awaiting word from loved ones it was likely to keep

rising.
Otis roared ashore early Wednesday with devastating 165 mph (266 kph) winds after strengthening so rapidly that people had little time to prepare.Kristian Vera stood on an Acapulco beach Saturday looking out toward dozens of sunken boats, including three of her own, all marked by floating buoys or just poking out of the

Despite losing her livelihood in Otis' brutal assault on the coast, she felt fortunate. Earlier in the day, she watched a body pulled from the water and saw families coming and going, looking for their loved

Dubious agents running illicit UK visa appointments trade: Report

Dubious agents are operating an illicit visa appointments trade in South Asia, charging unsuspecting stu-dents and workers in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal exorbitant rates for a service that should be free, a UK media investigation has

According to 'The Observer' newspaper on Sunday, brokers in some parts of South Asia are charging up to GBP 800 for biometric appointments being advertised on social media messaging services in these countries. The problem is believed to be the worst in Pakistan where the investigation found that the abuse of the visa appointment system by agents is feared to have increased significantly over the last year. It is a massive issue. It all

adds to the debt people pay to come to the UK," Rakesh Ranjan, South Asia coordinator for the migrant workers' programme at the UK-based



Institute for Human Rights and Business, told the news-

paper.
When applying for a visa from New Delhi recently, Ranjan was quoted the equiv alent of GBP 500 by an agent excluding government fees - who offered to help him arrange his documents and book an appointment. He said workers often did not know they were paying out unnecessarily, with some relying on agents because they did not have easy access to the internet.

Anyone planning to stay

tors from certain countries must attend an in-person appointment in their home

country to provide finger-prints and a photograph. "We take all attempts to misuse the visa application misuse the visa application appointment system exceptionally seriously. We have not experienced this type or scale of abuse in any other UKVI [UK Visas and Immigration] locations and have been working closely with the UK Home Office to combet this abuse," said a combat this abuse," said a spokesperson for VFS Global, which provides consular services for 70 governments including the UK.

They added that customers are "strongly encouraged" to avoid unauthorised agents and only book appointments through the company's website.

The UK Home Office said it was taking robust action to tackle "abuse of the visa appointment booking process" by "unauthorised agents" in South Asia.

Ukrainians run to commemorate those killed in war

round 2,000 Ukrainians Aran a one-kilometer race on Sunday in Kyiv, wearing bibs displaying the name of a person instead of a number. Each runner chose one person to whom they dedicated their run. Spouses, children, friends, siblings, neighbours, and colleagues ran for someone they knew who either was killed, taken captive or injured during Russia's ongoing war in

The crowd cheered the runners, and many in the audience wept while waiting for participants at the finish line. Amid the lively backdrop of Ukrainian songs, joy and sorrow intermingled in the air as life carried on despite the war. The organizers of the run

called it the "World's Longest Marathon" — "because no race has lasted as long as Ukraine has been fighting for its free-

Around 13,000 people across the world registered for the event. Those competing remotely could run any disencouraged to post about it on The race was hosted by

Nova Post, Ukraine's most prominent private delivery company, with the dual purpose of honoring the defenders and raising funds to bolster Ukraine's air defense system.

"We want to thank and support our defenders, doctors, rescuers, sappers, and volunteers — all the strong and resilient marathoners who do not stop even for a moment for the sake of each of us," said the project description. Nova Post has delivered

starter kits to 65 countries across all continents, said Inna Popereshniuk, co-founder of Nova Post. She dedicated her race to six colleagues who were killed and 17 injured in a Russian attack on the Nova Post depot in the Kharkiv region on October 21.

Volodymyr Rutkovskyi, a

31-year-old veteran, completed the course walking. In mid-June, he sustained a severe injury when a Russian projectile struck his right leg during Ukraine's counteroffensive in the Zaporizhzhia region.

After months of rehabilitation, he now uses a prosthetic limb and participated in the event to pay tribute to two fallen comrades, Zheka and Tykhyi, who were killed in eastern Ukraine.

"They did a lot for our country, and sadly, they could have done much more if they were alive," he said. "But their struggle continues. We will do everything for them and in their honor."

He crossed the finishing line with his gaze obscured by the low brim of a black Panama hat. He sported running shorts, which revealed his prosthetic

"I don't really have words to describe what I'm feeling," he said. "Many of our comrades won't be ever alive, and I won't be able to shake their hand or sit down with them. But while taking part, he

memory of them remains for a lifetime. "And we need to carry their cross, just as we do our own," Rutkovskyi added. Some people came from

other cities to the capital to participate in the race. 24-year-old Tetiana Boiko came to Kyiv from the western Ternopil

"This is a token of gratitude to everyone who defends and has defended our country. I believe it shows that we are not indifferent to what is happening right now," she explained.

Her bib bore the name of Volodymyr Semanyshyn, a young man from her hometown who sustained injuries while attaching an explosive device to a drone, resulting in a sudden detonation that left him without arms.
"There are many young

men from my town who are worth running for in this race,"

'Russian shelling killed 91-year-old woman'

Kviv (AP): Russian shells struck residential areas of Ukraine's southern Kherson region, killing a 91-year-old woman in what a local official described Monday as a "terrifying night" in the 20-month war that shows no signs of end-

The overnight shelling set fire to a high-rise apartment building, blew out windows and reduced some apartments to rubble, according to video footage posted by Kherson Governor Oleksandr Prokudin.

The woman died when an apartment wall fell on her, according to her daughter, who lived with her on the ninth floor.The victim was one of three Ukrainian civilians killed in the east and south of the in the east and south of the country over the previous 24 hours, with at least 12 people injured, Ukraine's presidential office reported Monday.

On Monday afternoon, another Russian shell hit a

public bus in Kherson, wounding seven people, Prokudin said. He published photos of a shattered bus with traces of blood on the floor.

fierce fighting at some points along the front line, which Ukrainian officials say stretches for more than 1,500 km (930 miles), the conflict appears largely deadlocked and focused on long-range fire.

The Kremlin's forces are, however, making a renewed push in eastern Ukraine, including around the devasted city of Bakhmut, with attacks in several areas as Russian troops emerged from their deep defensive lines, said Oleksandr Syrskyi, the Commander of Úkraine's Ground Forces. Russia's layers of trenches and minefields in occupied parts of Ukraine's months-old counteroffensive, but going on the attack exposes the troops to Ukrainian fire. The daughter of the woman killed in Kherson said the destruction caused by the missile blast enabled her to

get out of the building alive.

Your turban doesn't mean terrorism: NYC Mayor

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The Sikh turban does not **⊥** mean terrorism but symbolises faith, New York City Mayor Eric Adams said, as he described the recent attacks and hate crimes against the community as a "stain" on the country and vowed to protect its members. He also gave a clarion call for educating people about Sikhism.

Alternative for Germany, "You are not about terror: you are about protector. That is or AfD, saw significant gains in a pair of state elections on what needs to be taught throughout this entire city. Our October 8 in Bavaria and young people need to know that, our adults need to know The anti-migration party that," Adams said while addressing members of the ing 14.6 per cent of the vote. Recent national polls have Sikh community at the Baba put its support at around 20 Makhan Shah Lubana Sikh Center in the Queens neigh-The newly elected bourhood of South Richmond Bavarian state legislature is to Hill.Describing the Sikh com-

munity as an "anchor" in the

Richmond Hill neighbourhood,

Adams said: "Your turban does not mean terrorism. It means protecting, it means community, it means family, it means faith, it means city, it means us coming together. We will change the dialogue and narrative with you. We can do it together." Adams and New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar met and addressed members of the Sikh community here Sunday, in the wake of recent incidents of hate crime and assault against Sikhs. On October 15, a 19-year-

old Sikh boy was attacked by Christopher Philippeaux, 26, while he was riding the bus in Richmond Hill. Philippeaux punched the Sikh teenager in the back of the head, tried to knock off his turban and told him "We don't wear that in this country." Philippeaux has been charged with assault as a hate crime and aggravated harassment, Queens District Attorney

Melinda Katz said. Within days of this assault, 66-year-old Jasmer Singh was attacked when his car collided with another vehicle. The driver of the other car, 30-year-old Gilbert Augustin, allegedly punched the elderly Sikh man three times in the head and face and Singh later succumbed to his injuries. Describing the attack against Singh as a "violent senseless act," Adams said "Jasmer should still be with us. He should still be with his son. He should still be living out the American dream, watching his son, who's now an immigration attorney.
"He should still be...part of

this community. That dream turned into a nightmare the other day when his life was taken from us prematurely," Adams said, flanked by Singh's son Subeg Singh Multani and other members of the Sikh community. Describing Sikhs as

"protectors" of society, Rajkumar asserted that the hateful targeting of Sikhs is "not acceptable" and perpetrators of such violence will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of law. "For the first time, we are

going to use the levers of government to end hate crimes against Sikh Americans. For the first time, we are going to come together and...educate...New York State, the United States and the entire world about who the Sikh people truly are so we are not attacked and misunderstood," Rajkumar, the first Indian-American woman elected to New York State Office and who described herself as a "daughter of Punjab", said.

Rajkumar said this was not the first time she had visited the Gurudwara and had spoken out against hate crimes. "But it is the last time I want to be standing here speaking out against hate crimes. Starting

hateful targeting of Sikhs," she

On behalf of herself and the Sikh community, Rajkumar presented the Mayor with a Kirpan', a mandatory article of faith in Sikhism. The sword, engraved with the words "New York City Mayor Adams is our protector", is "to embolden you in your fight for our Sikh community," Rajkumar said to Adams, amid slogans of 'Bole So Nihaal, Sat Sri Akal'.

Adams said the sword is a symbol of how as the mayor, he must be the protector of the Sikh community. "And when a member of your community is harmed, I take full responsibility (for) that." Multani, who became emotional and choked up as he addressed the gathering, said his father came from India to the US in the early 1990s with the American dream



A person pays her respects at a makeshift memorial outside a bowling alley, the site of one of this week's mass shootings, Sunday in Lewiston, Maine. A gunman killed multiple people at the bowling alley and a bar in Lewiston on Wednesday. AP/PTI

US, UK condemn political violence in Bangladesh

Seven countries, including the US, the UK and Canada, on Monday, condemned the political violence in Bangladesh following clashes between the supporters of the main opposition BNP and the ruling Awami League during a nationwide general strike that killed at least

Condoling the deaths of those killed in the violence over the weekend, Australia, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, the UK and the UK called on all stakeholders to work together to "create conditions for free, fair, participatory, and peaceful elections". The diplomatic missions of the seven countries expressed concern at the violence, urging all parties to "exercise restraint" and "eschew violence", in the joint statement issued on

General elections are expected to be held in the country in January next year. The development came a day after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led



by former premier Khaleda Zia, called a countrywide strike to protest the police action that forced the party to abruptly end its grand rally a day earlier.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Monday told foreign diplomats that the BNP is out to unleash violence once more.

"They have not learnt anything from the past," he told them at a briefing at the

BNP has a long history of violence and vandalism and they are doing it again," Momen was quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper.

'We are shocked at what unfolded on October 28," he said, referring to the violence witnessed during the weekend.

A BNP activist, an Awami League sup-

porter and a bus driver's assistant were killed in the violence on Sunday.
Police also arrested BNP secretary gen-

eral or de facto party chief Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir from his home in the Gulshan neighbourhood, heightening ten-The BNP organised a grand rally here on Saturday demanding the resignation of

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to allow free

and fair elections under a non-party

interim government. Hasina's Awami

League also held a peace rally in response

to the Opposition rally. The clashes left two people, including a policeman, dead and over 200

Court commutes death sentences of 7 convicted in B'desh cafe attack

Bangladesh's High Court on Monday commuted the death sentences of seven Islamist militants to life imprisonment unto death, nearly four years after they were convicted for their role in the country's worst terror attack at a popular Dhaka cafe in 2016 that killed 23 people, including an Indian girl. The heavily armed militants attacked the Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant in Dhaka's posh diplomatic area on July 1, 2016, and took the diners hostage. They subsequently killed three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians and one

The militants were killed during a rescue operation conducted by commandos, and two police officers and a cafe chef lost their lives during the 12-hour standoff. Eight suspects were killed in security raids



Police escort a member of a banned militant group after he was sentenced to death for an attack at a Dhaka cafe that killed more than 20 people in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Wednesday, November 27, 2019.

On November 27, 2019, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal in Dhaka convicted and sentenced seven militants Mujahideen Bangladesh to death for their involvement in the attack, the country's worst

terror incident.

On Monday, a two-member bench of the High Court comprising Justices Shahidul Karim and Md Mostafizur Rahman commuted the death sentences of seven men to imprisonment until death, the reported.

The verdict came after the conclusion of the hearing on the death case and appeals in the case, as confirmed by Deputy Attorney General Bashir Ahmed and defence lawyer Ariful Islam, the paper said.In accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure, any death sentences issued by lower courts are subject to review by the High Court before they are finalized.

The Islamic State group had claimed responsibility for the attack, but the government rejected it, saying the domestic group was behind it. According to investigators, domestic militant group, Neo Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (Neo-JMB), inclined to Islamic State or IS philosophy, was suspected to have staged the attack to draw international attention and make their presence felt in the Muslim majority nation.

China holds major financial conference

hina's leaders are expected to search for ways to mend the country's fractured property market, create jobs for millions of unemployed youths and spur faster growth in a meeting that reportedly began Monday in Beijing. The National Financial Work Conference, usually held twice a decade, is expected to further fortify leader Xi Jinping's control of the country's USD 61 trillion financial sector. It follows the announcement last week of plans to issue 1 trillion yuan (USD 330 billion) in bonds for infrastructure projects and disaster prevention.

By dipping deeper into deficit, the government is looking to counter a sharp slowdown in housing construction. Economists say the challenge lies in finding ways to ensure sustainable, balanced growth while unwinding massive debt held by real estate developers, local governments

'Pakistan to start

expelling illegal

immigrant from

ing 1.7 million Afghan nation-

als, to leave Pakistan, interim

Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti

on Monday said the caretaker

government will start expelling

these aliens in phases if they do

not leave the country voluntar-

announced October 31 as the

date for the removal of the ille-

state will commence its oper-

ation to expel aliens in phases,"

The Express Tribune newspa

per quoted Bugti as saying. Bugti confirmed that over

20,000 illegal foreigners have

left Pakistan voluntarily over

the last three days. He stated

that all provincial governments would play an active part in the operation against illegal for-

eigners. "Committees have

been formed on divisional and

ister further clarified that the

expulsion of illegal foreign

nationals will be carried out in

phases, and people with no

travel documents will be

many of whom have lived in

Pakistan for years, will be processed at temporary centres

being set up by the govern-

ment. The government has completed the geo-mapping and will locate illegal foreign

nationals wherever they are," he

said, adding that they have established holding centres to

keep illegal foreigners after the

deadline."All basic facilities

will be provided at these centres to illegal foreign nationals,"

he assured in a question inquir-

Afghan refugees for the past

four decades when millions of

them fled Afghanistan during

the 1979-1989 Soviet occupa-

Pakistan has been hosting

ing about their safety.

widespread criticism.

The illegal immigrants,

deported in the first phase.

The interim interior min-

district levels," he added.

gal immigrants.

Pakistan this month

"After November 1, the

November 1'

The gathering, held behind closed doors and without any formal public announcement Monday, will tackle such longterm reforms, Takehiko Nakao, former president of the Asian Development Bank, said in an interview with China's CGTN network while attending an international financial conference in southern China's Guangzhou.

tor in China has made progress but at this moment they face challenges," said Nakao. While longer-term reforms are likely on the agenda, he suggested that more immediate problems such as the real estate sector are a priority. The last financial work conference was held in 2017, but disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic caused it to be postponed in

economist who represented a

'Överall, the financial sec-Regulatory Commission. Last week, Xi reportedly

The sudden death last week of former Premier Li Keqiang, an English-speaking

schooled during a time of greater openness to liberal Western ideas, was seen by many observers to symbolise the shift toward stronger party

Li was sidelined in a leadership shakeup last year. Since then, Xi has conducted a thorough reshuffle of economic and financial leadership positions and set up an entity called the Central Financial Commission, seen as a move to coopt and weaken other regulators like the China Securities

visited the central bank, or People's Bank of China, a rare step that underscores the party's consolidation of controls over markets and financial institutions.

A newly appointed finance minister, Lan Foan, will be taking on a substantial challenge given the tide of debt that has engulfed many local governments as revenues from land concessions, a major source of funding, have dried up with a property downturn.

Although the economy, the world's second largest, expanded at a 4.9 per cent annual pace in the first nine months of the year, close to the government's target of about 5 per cent, the International Monetary Fund has warned that debts of local governments have risen to hazardous levels, raising the level of total government debt to nearly 150 per cent of the country's GDP. While retail sales and other

services have revived since China ended its stringent antivirus controls late last year, the jobless rate for young Chinese topped 20 per cent earlier this year and demand has yet to fully bounce back. Dipping deeper into deficit by issuing bonds will help counter the steep slowdown in housing construction as Chinese hold onto their savings while developers struggle to deliver new homes they've already sold.

meetings in Beijing, a court in Hong Kong adjourned until December 4 a winding-up hearing for property developer China Evergrande, which got caught short when regulators began cracking down on excessive borrowing two years

Fears of a possible Evergrande default in 2021 rattled global markets, but they eased after the central bank said its problems were contained and Beijing would keep credit markets functioning. With more than USD 300 billion in liabilities, Evergrande is the biggest of dozens of developers that have defaulted. Its efforts to restructure overseas debts have been hindered by the detention of its chairman, Hui Ka Yan, in an investigation into unspecified suspected crimes.

Country Garden, another major developer, failed last week to meet a deadline to pay interest on a dollar bond.

Russian defence min accuses US of fueling geopolitical tensions

AP ■ BEIJING

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Monday the United States is fuelling geopolitical tensions to uphold its "hegemony" and warned of the risk of confrontation between major countries. Speaking at a defence forum in Beijing, Shoigu also said the US and its Asia-Pacific allies are undermining stability in the region."To maintain its geopolitical and strategic dominance, the United States is deliberately undermining the basis of international security and strategic stability," Shoigu said, according to a simultaneous translation provided at the Xiangshan Forum, which China's biggest annual event centered on military diplomacy.

He added that the US and its Western allies are threatening Russia through NATO's "eastward expansion." "Western countries aim to escalate the conflict with Russia and increase the risk of major country confronta-tion," he said. "This will lead to serious consequences." Turning to Russia's war in Ukraine Shoigu said Moscow was open to negotiations "if conditions are right."Shoigu spoke directly after ranking military official and vice chairman of the Central Military Commission. Zhang opened the three-day event in the absence of Gen Li Shangfu, who was removed as China's

a two-month absence from public view. The Chinese government did not say why Li, who would have hosted the forum, was removed. Military representatives from dozens of countries are attending the event, which is an occasion for Beijing to underscore military cooperation with other nations and project regional leadership. The US is represented by a delegation led by Xanthi Carras, the Defence Department's principal official for issues related to China. Zhang said China was "will-

defence minister last week after

ing to develop military ties with the U.S. on the basis of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation." China suspended military communication with the U.S. in August 2022 to show its displeasure over a visit by former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to self-ruled Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory.

Without directly naming the US, Zhang criticised "certain countries" that "keep stirring up troubles around the world.

"They deliberately create turbulences, meddle in regional affairs, interfere in other countries' internal affairs and instigate

Such countries "give fuel to the disputes by providing weapons and launching proxy wars" and "always unfairly support one side" in regional disputes, he added.

4 former Hong **Kong student** leaders jailed

AP ■ HONK KONG

Cour former student leaders **F** from the University of Hong Kong were sentenced to two years in prison on Monday for inciting people to wound others through their praise of a man who stabbed a police officer before killing himself in 2021. Kinson Cheung, Charles Kwok, Chris Todorovski and Anthony Yung are being held responsible for their roles in passing a motion in the students union council. The motion expressed "deep sadness" and appreciated the "sacrifice" of the man who took his

The resolution came against the backdrop of widespread public anger against the police, who were condemned as being heavy-handed in quelling the 2019 prodemocracy protests.

Handing down the sentences, Judge Adriana Noelle
Tse Ching said the words they used were likely to incite hatred against the police.

The charge the four were facing was a serious offense and a lenient sentence would send "the wrong message" to society, she said.

Leung Kin-fai stabbed a police officer with a knife before turning the weapon on himself on July 1, 2021, the British colony's handover to Chinese rule in 1997.

Leung was described by the city's authorities as a "lone wolf" domestic terrorist who was politically radicalized.

PUBLIC NOTICE

'Army officers, judges fully liable under accountability laws' National Accountability tioner's counsel "utterly "make the members of the Ordinance (NAO), 1999 failed to clearly establish armed forces and the judges A top Pakistani judge on during the tenure of the beyond any reasonable of the constitutional courts Monday said that mem previous Pakistan doubt that the challenged untouchable and above the Islamabad (PTI): As the deadmented immigrants, includ-

forces and judges of constitutional courts were "fully liable" under accountability laws like any other public servant. Supreme Court judge Mansoor Ali Shah made this observation in a dissenting note for the apex court's September 15 verdict which struck down changes to the accountability laws and ordered the restoration of graft cases against public office holders, Dawn newspaper reported.

In a majority 2-1 verdict, the apex court bench headed by then-chief justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising justices Shah and Ijaz Ul Ahsan annulled some amendments made to the

(PDM)-led government.

The verdict was given on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party Chairman Imran Khan's plea challenging amendments made to the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) laws.

Justice Bandial and Justice Ahsan had declared Khan's plea to be maintainable while Justice Shah had disagreed with the majority verdict, saying that not just the corruption cases but inquiries and investigations should also be restored.

In the detailed note issued on Monday, Justice Shah concluded that Khan's petition was "meritless". He noted that the peti-

Ordinance are constitutionally invalid on the touchstone of 'taking away' or 'abridging' any of the funda-

On the matter of members of the armed forces being held accountable, which had previously been discussed in multiple hearings of the case, Justice Shah noted that the "generally professed opinion that members of the armed forces and the judges of the constitutional courts are not triable under the anti-corruption criminal laws of the land, requires some clarifica-

tion". He highlighted that such an understanding would

The same would be "reprehensible and revolting to the conscience of the people of Pakistan and bring the court into serious disrepute", the judge added."We must, therefore, strongly shun the above generally professed opinion and be clear that members of armed forces and the judges of the constitutional courts are fully liable under the NAB Ordinance, like any other public servant of Pakistan," he stated.

The powerful military has directly ruled for about half of the history of Pakistan and remained in control of the country's affairs during the other half.

Public Notice Pisis to inform the general public that Mr. Sunder Singh is owner of Property bearing no. IX/4828, area measuring 182.27 Sq. Mtrs., i.e., 218 Sq. Yds., out of khasra no. 306. situated at the area of village Seelampur, in the abadi of Gali no. 6, old Seelampur, Illaqa Shadara, Delhi-110031. This legal ownership was established through a Gift Deed dated 24.06.2022. Doc No-6317, executed by Mr. Ashok Kumar. Mr. Sunder Singh is currently in the process of mortgaing the aforementioned property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Fullerton), Our Client. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 15-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 15-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. 4-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Ultar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683 / 456 28 09; e - mail: Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Sadhr Srivastav W/o Mr. Pramod Kumar Shrivast who is purchasing Flat No. A-103, UGF, witho roof rights, area measuring 585 Sq. Ft., out Khasra No. 1185, situated at Sai Enclave Color property against the financial assistance from Ummeed Housing Finance Private Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim / right / title / interest / creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP 136.Basement Floor, Uday Park, near Mother Dairy New Delhi 49 Contact # 011-40046316 & 41667327

rea measuring 70 Sq. Yds, out of total land admeasuring 205 sq. yds, part of Khasra No. 1ete/531, situated in the Old Lal Dora, of village Shahbad Mohd. Pur, New Delhi, from (1) Mr. Hitesh Kumar (2) Mr. Rohit Kumar & (3) Mrs. Kamla, who is owners of aforesaid properly vide two separate Relinquishment Deeds registered dated 18.08.2005 & 08.09.2005, duly registered vide Doc. Nos. 19953 & 12153, at SRO-IX, New Delhi; and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. That 1) Death Certificate of Late Mr. Jot Ram, 2)Death Certificate of Spouse/Mr/e of Late Mr. Jot Ram 3) SMC of Late Mr. Jot Ram&Alo Alongian Carrent Status of Late Dara is Lost/ Misplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any year of the said property, may inform in writing, at late of the said property, may inform in writing, at late the said property, may inform in writing, at late the said property is free from all type of Encumbranes, lienet etc.

Lucem Legal LUC. Plot No. 135, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316

Meta rolls out paid ad-free option for European FB, Insta users

AP ■ LONDON

 Γ acebook and Instagram users in Europe are getting the option to pay for ad-free versions of the social media platforms as a way to comply with the continent's strict data privacy rules, parent company Meta said Monday.

Starting in November, users on desktop browsers can pay about 10 euros (\$10.50) a month while iOS or Android users will pay roughly 13 euros. The higher prices reflect commissions charged by the Apple and Google app stores on in-app payments, the company said in a blog post.

The fee will cover all linked

Facebook and Instagram accounts until March, when Meta will start charging 6 euros for each additional account. The Wall Street Journal reported on the plan earlier this month. The US tech giant is rolling

out the subscription option after The October 31 deadline the European Union's top court given to illegal immigrants, ruled that under strict EU data especially Afghans, received privacy rules, Meta must first get consent before showing ads to



The ruling jeopardizes the company's ability to make money by tailoring advertisements for individual users based on their online interests and digital activ-

The company said while it believes in an "ad-supported internet", it respects "the spirit and purpose of these evolving European regulations," and is committed to complying with

The paid option "balances

regulators while giving users choice and allowing Meta to continue serving all people," Meta said. Users aged 18 and older in the EU's 27 member countries, plus Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein will still have the choice of continuing to use Facebook or Instagram with ads. Meta said it's looking into

how how to "provide teens with a useful and responsible ad experience" given the Europan privacy

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE File No.-CE/PRD/ACCTS-32/23/268 Dt.20/10/23 Name of the Work: Providing Concrete

Road from TT6 Junction (M/cHP) to new Flyover and Repairing of Bitumen Surface in front of MCHP Workshop inside Harbour area. Estimated cost: Rs.3.10.39.308.96. Last Date & time of submission 11.11.2023 upto 17:00 Hrs., Refer our Website for details

eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app Sd/-Executive Engineer PRD, PPA PPA/PR/55/2023-24

Notice is hereby given that my client Salauddin is in process to purchase the Property Nagar Palika Demand No. 141 House No. 136 measuring 50 sq. Demand No. 141 House No. 136 measuring 50 sq. yards part of Khasra No. 1421 Mauja Begmabad Budana Maruf Kidvai Nagar Modinagar Pargana Jalalabad Tehsil Modinagar District Ghaziabad UP (availing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited) from Sh. Manoj Kumar, Sh. Aditya Verma, Smt. Soniya Verma and Ruchi Verma, they inherited the said property after the death of their mother Late Manju Verma, she had acquired the said property vide sale Deed dated 09.04.2019 (doc. No. 4299) executed by Smt. Bashgari Begum and Sh. Nizamuddin All personis having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable)registered or

PUBLIC NOTICE

ale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family otherwisel, girt, trust, limiterature, rating grandgment, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the data beroaf failing which the claim of claims if date hereof, falling 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 (Advosate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec4, Vaishali, izh., U.P., Möb. 9810063351 M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED (CIN-L67120DL1992PLC049038), Tel No. 011-49800900 E-mail: commodities@bharatbhushan.com, Website: www.bbinyestments.in

Regd. Office: 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

Particulars	Quarter Ended			Six Month Ended		Year Ended
	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)		31.03.202 (Audited)
Total Income from operations	18.80	16.26	20.37	35.06	24.43	58.09
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	10.06	5.13	11.99	15.19	7.80	17.23
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	10.06	5.13	11.99	15.19	7.80	17.23
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	6.94	3.90	9.55	10.84	5.36	11.61
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive income (after tax)]	78.93	160.11	63.85	239.04	14.43	59.88
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)						
-Basic	0.21	0.12	0.28	0.32	0.16	0.34
- Diluted	0.21	0.12	0.28	0.32	0.16	0.34

Place : New Delhi

2023 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange inder Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the oresaid Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/ Six Months ended September 30, 2023 is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in).

2. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at

The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessar

Vijay Bhushan Director DIN: 00002421

Inter-Governmental co-op must to crack down on brains behind smuggling, illicit trade: FM

 $F_{\text{Sitharaman on Monday}}^{\text{inance Minister Nirmala}}$ called for intergovernmental cooperation to share "actionable information" to crack down on the masterminds behind smuggling and illicit trade networks.

She said the focus of enforcement agencies should be to nab the "brain" behind illegal trade, which would in turn act as a deterrence for such unlawful activities that hurt the economy as well as citizens.

The nature of smuggled or illegally traded goods has not changed over the last 50-60 years and it continues to be precious metals, narcotics, and precious reserves from forest or marine life, Sitharaman said at the Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters organised by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

"Largely the goods which are illegally traded remain the same. There are no newer areas on which the customs author-

way it is showing a trend over the decade, by now most of us should be fairly informed of who are the forces behind it.

"I place a lot of emphasis on intergovernmental cooperation, along with WCO (World Customs Organisation), so that we are able to crack the brains behind it (smuggling), the masterminds behind it, with the help from local authorities and governments," the minister

She said deterrence of illicit trade will be strengthened if all confiscated goods are destroyed and not put into the market. "It is also periodically our duty to restore confidence in the minds of citizens saying such activities will be punished, will be curbed, and will be deterred. So if only gold, cigarettes, nar-cotics, antiques and wildlife materials are being smuggled, it is your experience which will have to show us the direction and the path forward so that we are able to contain this evil because it hurts all our econo-



Stating that prevention and deterrence would help in curbing the menace of illicit trade and smuggling, she said enforcement agencies are at an advantageous position as they are armed with technology. Technology should go hand in hand with information sharing. And when you share information, it should be actionable, the minister said

The sharing of information

should also include innovative thoughts, on legislations which have empowered authorities and on procedures which have come in handy, she said.

"It is important for all governments to know how to deter smuggling activities which are endangering our wild flora and fauna, how to deter activities where networked groups think that small fries can be sacrificed, police or customs

this small (fries) and larger fish, which is the brain behind, is never going to be caught," Sitharaman added. The minister also suggested that

all the antiques, which are stolen and smuggled, should be returned to their home countries. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) chief Sanjay Kumar Agarwal said as global trade continues to interconnect and economies flourish, there is a corresponding rise in the potential for unlawful movement of restricted items like antiques, cigarettes, gold and endangered wildlife species, amongst others. "The undercurrent of illegal trade in narcotics remains strong. Global drug trafficking is estimated to be worth USD 650 billion, contributing 30 per cent of the overall illicit economy. It is having a devastating impact...," he said, adding the crimes involving illicit trade many a time have possible linkages with money laundering and terror financing, which impacts national security.

"We understand export-import fraud threatens the global supply chain and is inimical to eco nomic and national security. Thus, we collectively work to defeat the transnational syndicate for which there is a constant need for cooperation and coordination of national and international law enforcement agencies," he said.

Agarwal said the theme of the conference: 'It takes a network to fight a network' is built upon the importance of intelligence and information sharing to curb such illegal trade. He said it is vital to share "insights into emerging trends and advanced detection techniques, particularly in the context of drug-related crimes" with the emergence of a close ly connected digital world and layers of anonymity. Revenue Secretary Sanjay Mal-

hotra said while the need to combat the menace of smuggling is important, we also need to put in place trade facilitative measures, which reduce costs of business and enhance competitiveness.

Insurers to provide details of basic features of policy to customers from January 1

nsurance companies will have **⊥**to provide basic features of a policy like sum assured, what the policy covers as well as exclusions, and claim procedure, to policyholders in a prescribed format from January 1, for easy understanding of terms and conditions.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has revised the existing customer information sheet so as to convey basic information about the policy purchased in a manner that is easily under-

"The revised customer information sheet (CIS) shall be implemented with effect from January 1, 2024," the regulators said in a circular to all insurance compa-

Irdai said that it is important for a policyholder to understand the terms and conditions of the policy that has been purchased. "Since a policy document may be fraught with legalese, it is imperative to have a document that explains in simple words, the basic features with regards to

the policy and provides necessary information," the circular

It also noted that several complaints are still emanating as a result of asymmetry of information between insurer and the policy holder, Irdai said, while providing rationale for introduc-

ing revised CIS. As per the revised CIS, insurers will have to provide 'name of insurance product/policy'; 'policy number', 'type of insurance product/policy'; and 'sum insured'.

Policyholders will also be informed about policy coverage (like hospital expenses), exclusions (what the policy does not cover), waiting period, financial limits of coverage, claims procedure, and details about grievances/complaints redressal

mechanism. The circular further said that insurers, intermediaries, and agents will forward the CIC to all policyholders, and also obtain an acknowledgement regard-

Also, CIC should be made available in local language if the policvholder so desires.

ing the same.

Govt gets multiple preliminary bids for strategic sale of IMPCL of the Ministry of Ayush. The

The government has received multiple expressions of interest for strategic sale of Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL). "Multiple Expressions of Interest (EoIs) received for the strategic disinvestment of Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL). The transaction will now move to the second stage," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey posted on X (formerly Twitter)

The second stage would involve due diligence and subsequent issue of RFPs (request for proposals) for financial bids.

The Department of Investment



October 30.

and Public Asset Management ing in preliminary bids was (DIPAM) had on August 31 invited EoIs from interested bidders for disinvestment of IMPCL. The last date for putt-under the administrative control

remaining 1.89 per cent is held by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd (KMVNL), an undertaking of the Uttarakhand government.

KMVNL also intends to sell its entire holding in IMPCL in the strategic sale process. IMPCL manufactures 656 clas-

sical ayurvedic, 332 unani and 71 proprietary ayurvedic medicines for a varied spectrum of diseases.

It supplies ayurveda and unani medicines to all the states under the National Ayush Mission (NAM) and 6,000 centres of Jan Aushadhi Kendras. The price/ rate of IMPCL products are fixed by the cental government.

"Liberalized pricing policy post disinvestment combined with already laid down distribution network & payment collection mechanism may enable the company to compete with other market players more efficiently that may lead to increased sales and profitability," DIPAM had said while inviting EoI. As of March 31, 2022, the com-

pany had a paid-up share capital of Rs 51.98 crore. The total campus area of IMPCL is 35.81 acres in Almora, Uttarakhand. IMPCL is a profit-making organisation since its inception. The profit before tax (PBT) of IMPCL was Rs 42.77 lakh during FY20, which rose to Rs 45.41



BigBasket tops Fairwork India Ratings 2023; Ola, Porter score zero points

Digital platforms Ola and Porter have scored the lowest in terms of working conditions of gig workers on digital labour platforms, in a rating that was topped by Tata-owned BigBasket, says a report. The Fairwork India Ratings

2023: Labour Standards in the Platform Economy report evaluated 12 platforms offering location-based services in sectors such as domestic and personal care, logistics, food delivery, The Fairwork India Ratings 2023 scores 12 platforms, including Amazon Flex, BigBasket, BluSmart, Dunzo, Flipkart, Ola, Porter, Swiggy, Uber, Urban Company, Zepto and Zomato. This year, no platform scored more than six out of the maximum of ten points, and none scored all the first points across the five principles," the report

BigBasket scored the most six out of 10, followed by BluSmart, Swiggy, Urban Company and Zomato each scoring five out of 10, Zepto (4/10), Flipkart (3/10), Amazon Flex (2/10), Dunzo and Uber (1/10). While Ola and Porter scored nil.

Fairwork assessed platforms

against five principles: Fair Pay, Fair Conditions, Fair Contracts, Fair Management, and Fair Representation.

Each principle is broken down into two points: a first point and a second point that can only be awarded if the first point has been fulfilled. Every platform receives a score out of 10.

"In a year that has seen the for

mulation of a significant regulation based on inputs from workers, [The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2023]... 'we hone that highlighting th experiences of workers will point to the structural changes that platforms, consumers and the state alike will need to undertake if the platform economy is to offer its workers decent work," said Balaji Parthasarathy and Janaki Srinivasan the Principal Investigators of the team, along with researchers Mounika Neerukonda, Bilahari M, Aditya Singh, Raktima Kalita

and Meghashree Balaraj. BigBasket, Flipkart, and Urban Company were the only platforms with a minimum wage policy to ensure that all their workers earn at least the hourly local minimum wage after factoring in work-related costs, the report said.

Gold declines ₹200; silver remain flat



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

previous trade.

Gold price declined Rs 200 to Rs 62,450 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid a fall in precious metal prices internationally, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 62,650 per 10 grams in the

Gold declined on Monday, down by Rs 200 following a bearish trade in the overseas market," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said. ilver remaine

Rs 75,200 per kilogram. The comex gold price slipped on

Monday on the back of an uptick in the US dollar, Gandhi

In the global markets, both gold and silver were down at USD 1,995 per ounce and USD 23.06

per ounce, respectively. 'Investors will closely watch the Fed's assessment of the US economy and any hints about future monetary policy decisions, as they can influence interest rates and the value of the dollar, which in turn affects

gold prices," Praveen Singh, Associate vice-president of Fundamental currencies and commodities at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

Markets log gains for 2nd day on buying in Reliance, HDFC Bank

The government of India holds

Equity Benchmarks Sensex and Nifty Closed higher for the second straight session on Monday as buying in index majors Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank rebound from early lows amid a mixed trend in global markets.

Besides, weakening Brent crude oil prices overseas also boosted investor confidence amid simmering tensions in the Middle East, traders said

Recovering after a sell-off in morning trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 329.85 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 64,112.65. During the day, it rallied 401.78 points or 0.62 per cent to 64,184.58. The Nifty advanced 93.65 points or 0.49 per cent to 19,140.90.

Domestic equities saw some buying interest boosted by impressive corporate earnings and increasing hope that US Fed might keep the interest rate on hold in its upcoming meeting on November 1," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. Among the Sensex firms,

UltraTech Cement, Reliance Industries ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India were the major gainers.

Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, NTPC, Tata Steel and Bajaj Finsery were the major laggards. In the broader market, the BSE midcap

gauge gained 0.13 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.06 per cent. Among the indices, realty jumped 1.99

per cent, telecommunication climbed 1.52 per cent, energy (1.24 per cent), oil & gas (1.16 per cent) and bankex (0.54 er cent). Consumer Discretionary FMCG, auto and metal were the laggards. Nifty ended higher for the second consecutive session on October 30. Asia-Pacific markets started the week mixed ahead of key economic data like monetary policy decisions from Japan and Malaysia, inflation data from South Korea, and gross domestic growth figures

from Taiwan and Hong Kong.
"European shares opened higher on



Monday after a mixed trading session in Asia ahead of a Federal Reserve decision this week on interest rates. Israel's push into Gaza stirred fears of a wider conflict. said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Tokyo settled in the negative territory. European markets were trading with gains. The US markets ended mostly lower on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.55 per cent to USD 89.18 a "The domestic market mirrored the

upbeat European and Asian markets, as geopolitical risk in West Asia continues. bounce after the heavy selling last week, as crude moderates and Q2 results provide some relief. "But a full containment will depend on

a radical fall in geopolitical risk and global bond yield," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,500.13 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have pulled out over Rs 20,300 crore from Indian equities this month so far, primarily due to a sharp surge in the ÛS treasurv yield and the uncertain environment resulting from the Israel-Hamas conflict. The BSE benchmark jumped 634.65 points or 1.01 per cent to settle at 63,782.80 on Friday. The wider gauge Nifty surged 190 points or 1.01 per cent



Adani Green Energy net profit up 149 per cent to ₹371 cr in Q2

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

dani Green Energy on Amonday posted nearly 149 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 371 crore in the July-September quarter, compared to a year ago, mainly due to higher sales.

The consolidated net profit of the company stood at Rs 149 crore in the quarter ended on September 30 last year, a BSE filing showed. Total income rose to Rs 2,589

crore in the reporting quarter from Rs 1,684 crore in the same period a year ago. The sale of energy increased to 5,737 million units (MU) dur-

ing the period from 3,067 MU in the year-ago quarter. The sale of energy has increased by 78 per cent YoY (year on

vear) to 11,760 MU in H1 FY24

(April-September 2023), pri-

marily backed by strong capacity addition and improved CUF (capacity utilisation factor) across solar, wind and hybrid portfolios, the company stated. "In pursuit of our next milestone to create the largest RE cluster in the world in Khavda, Gujarat, we have already deployed workforce of 5,000-plus. At Khavda, we will be installing the most advanced TOPCon solar modules as well as India's largest and one of the most efficient 5.2 MW wind turhine. These efforts will drive us towards achieving the lowest levelised cost of energy," said Amit Singh, CEO, Adani Green

Adani Green Energy, a part of India-based Adani Group, has one of the largest global renewable portfolios with overall locked-in portfolio of 20.4 GW including operating, under-construction and awarded projects.

Sri Lankan Government renews Lanka IOC's petroleum licence for 20 years PTI ■ COLOMBO to continue its retail opera-

The Sri Lankan government has renewed the petroleum products licence granted to Lanka IOC, the local subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation, for another 20 years, officials said on Monday.

The licence originally issued in 2003 was to expire in January 2024. This will allow Lanka IOC

tions on the debt-trapped island nation until January 22, 2044. The licence renewal letter was handed over by President Ranil Wickremesinghe to Dipak Das the Managing Director of LIOC late last week, Aseem Bhargav, the Chief Financial Officer of

LIOC said in a statement. The government has renewed the petroleum products licence granted to Lanka IOC, the local subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation, for another 20 years, the LIOC officials told PTI on Monday.

"The licence enables LIOC to import, export, store, transport, distribute, sell and supply petrol diesel, heavy diesel, furnace oil, kerosene, Naphtha and other mineral petroleum including premium petrol and

premium diesel." The LIOC holds around 20 per cent of the market share in the auto fuel segment in Sri Lanka. When Sri Lanka plunged into an economic crisis with no forex to import petroleum products, the LIOC operation became crucial in the energy sector. It operates over 200 retail outlets throughout the island nation.

Government asks private companies to dematerialise securities by Sept 2024 to the Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Second Amend-

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has asked private companies to dematerialise their securities by September 2024, a move that will help enhance transparency and will have a broad impact.

The requirement will be applicable to private companies, excluding small companies and government companies. There are about 1.4 million private compa-

nies registered under the companies law with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). Private companies can issue securities only in dematerialised form and should facilitate the dematerialisation of all securities by September 2024, according to an MCA noti-Dematerialisation refers to the conversion

of securities held in physical form to dematerialised or digitised form. In this regard, amendments have been made

ment Rules, 2023. "A private company, which as on the last day

of a financial year, ending on or after 31st March 2023, is not a small company as per audited financial statements for such financial year, shall, within eighteen months of the closure of such financial year, comply with the provisions of this rule," the notification dated October 27 said.

Star India's FY23 profit declines 31 pc to ₹1,272 crore, revenue rises 6 pc to ₹19,856 crore PTI NEW DELHI crore in FY23, up 8.6 per cent

 $B^{\text{roadcast major Star India's}}_{\text{consolidated net profit}}$ declined 30.62 per cent to Rs 1,272.15 crore in the financial year ended on March 31, 2023, showed data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler. However, its revenue from operation in FY23 increased by 6.15 per cent to Rs 19,856.86 crore. In the preceding financial year (FY22), Star India's net profit was at Rs 1,833.81 crore and its revenue from operation was at Rs 18,704.66 crore.

The total income of Star India, which is owned by US-based global media major Walt Disney Company, was at Rs 20,698.64 year on year. Its total income was Rs 19,058.04 crore in FY22. In FY23, Star India's total expenses were at Rs 18,759.31 crore, up 16.29 per cent year on year. Star India is in the business of broadcasting, soliciting advertisements, marketing and distribution of non-news and current affairs TV channels, as well as in producing and distributing

& entertainment company in India and broadcasts about 51 television channels Segmentwise, on a standalone basis, Star India's revenue from advertisement fell 7.64 per cent to Rs 9,339.12 crore in FY23.

The company is a leading media

Hexible approach to car insurance

New Delhi: Reliance General Insurance Company Limited (RGICL), India's leading general insurance company has unveiled 'Reliance Limit Sure -Pay As You Drive', a flexible approach to car insurance cov-

erage that truly values customers' needs and consumption habits. "It is definitely a game-changer, reshaping the way car insurance adapts into dynamic needs," said Rakesh

Lyon coach Fabio Grosso injured in team bus attack

yon coach Fabio Grosso suf-Lyon coach rabio Grosso suffered a head injury as the team bus came under attack from fans throwing projectiles, forcing the postponement of the French league soccer game at Marseille.

The team bus was hit on the way to Stade Velodrome, shattering

some windows on Sunday.
Grosso was injured by falling shards of glass and needed medical treatment with his face bleeding heavily. Lyon assistant coach Raffaele Longo was also injured.

Grosso suffered a deep cut above his left eye that required stitches and a large bandage wrapped around his head.
"Our team (had) decided they

would play," Lyon president John Textor told Amazon Prime Video.

"I'm obviously proud of the captain, proud of the players, for wanting to do that." Lyon changed its mind when more details about Grosso's

condition emerged. "It was emotional. We have a coach who's got blood coming out of his head, he's got pieces of glass stuck in his head,"

"I couldn't have a conversation with him. It looked like he had a concussion. At that point, our team was mixed. They said, you know, it's not an emotional, physical game. It's a tactical game, and this is not the way football should be played. As the night went on, I think our team supported the decision of the

A few minutes before the scheduled kickoff time at 1945 GMT, a message on the giant screen at Stade Velodrome said: "Dear supporters, the game will not be played tonight.

A French league commission will meet to decide what to do with the fixture.

"Lyon didn't want the game to be played," referee François Letexier told a news conference. "We also applied the protocol, which states that the game shouldn't be played when a party is injured and his participation is compromised because of this physical

Ten years ago, fans from Marseille and Lyon fought in a violent brawl after meeting each other by chance at a service station forecourt after traveling to and from their respective games.



The bloody clash left 17 injured, and the atmosphere has been tense ever since when they play each other

Marseille president Pablo Longoria said Sunday's attack was unacceptable.

"What happened to Lyon coach Fabio Grosso must be prevented. It's completely unacceptable," Longoria told Amazon Prime Video.

"I'm angry. I'm really upset by the current situation. It shouldn't happen in football or in soci-

Coaches carrying Lyon fans were also attacked. The police arrested seven people suspected of being involved in Sunday's incidents but did not give details.

Grosso scored the winning penalty kick for Italy in the shootout victory over France in the 2006 World Cup final. Both clubs have been under

pressure lately.
Despite replacing Marcelino with Gennaro Gattuso as coach in September, Marseille is still showing poor form with one win and three losses in its last

four league games. Gattuso went to check on his former Italy teammate in the locker room.

Lyon is the only team still winless in the league. Replacing Laurent Blanc with Grosso as coach in September hasn't paid off for Lyon, which sits in last

Atletico Madrid beat Alaves 2-1 for its 14th straight La Liga victory at home

Red-hot Álvaro Morata scored yet another goal and Atletico Madrid beat Alaves 2-1 for its 14th straight Spanish league victory at home, tying its longest winning home streak.

Morata scored his seventh goal in his last seven games with Atletico, which matched its winning run from a decade ago. Diego Simeone's team had also won 14 in a row at home between May 2012 and February 2013, while still playing at the Vicente Calderon Stadium.

The victory at the Metropolitano Stadium on Sunday moved Atletico to third place with 25 points, three behind both Girona and Real Madrid. Madrid came from behind to win 2-1 at Barcelona in the first league "clasico" of the season on Saturday, while Girona defeated Celta Vigo 1-0 on Friday.

Atletico has a game in hand because a home match against Sevilla in September was suspended because of bad weather. Atletico has won nine of its last 11 league games against Alaves, which stayed in 17th place, just outside the relegation zone. Alaves' winless streak in the league has reached seven games, with four lesses and three draws. with four losses and three draws. Rodrigo Riquelme put Atletico ahead in the 26th minute and Morata added to his scoring streak in first-half stoppage. Alaves had no shots on goal until Ander Guevara scored deep in second-half stoppage time. Atletico was still without a few

injured players, including

Samuel Lino, Thomas Lemar, Memphis Depay and Reinildo.

Atletico next visits Las Palmas in

the league, while Alaves hosts

last-place Almeria. Alaves first visits Deportivo Murcia in the



Athletic Bilbao needed a goal by

Álex Berenguer seven minutes into second-half stoppage time to salvage a 2-2 home draw with Valencia

The hosts took the lead through Óscar de Marcos in the 32nd before Valencia moved ahead with goals by Fran Pérez in the 62nd and Hugo Duro in the

Bilbao could have moved to fifth

place with a win but stayed sixth. just behind Basque Country rival Real Sociedad. Valencia stayed in ninth place.

SOCIEDAD HELD

Fifth-place Sociedad missed a chance to put pressure on the Champions League spots after conceding a stoppage-time equalizer in a 2-2 draw at Rayo Vâllecano.

Bebé scored one minute into

injury time to give the hosts the draw after Sociedad had taken the lead with a pair of goals by Mikel Oyarzabal in the 41st and 66th. Abdul Mumin had opened the scoring for eighth-place Rayo, which was looking for its second consecutive win after four straight draws.

Sociedad had won six of its last seven matches in all competitions, with its only setback a loss at Atletico two rounds ago. Bebé had also scored in stoppage time in Rayo's 1-0 win at Las Palmas in the previous round.

ISCO SAVES BETIS

Isco scored four minutes into stoppage time to give Real Betis a 2-1 home win over Osasuna. Isco found the top of the net after Rubén García had equalized for the visitors in the 85th. Willian José had put Betis ahead after an assist by Isco in first-half injury time.

Betis had only two attempts on

target, and Osasuna one — all three of them successful. Seventh-place Betis hadn't won

in two league matches, while 11th-place Osasuna had won two of its last three games.

Grand Swiss: Arjun downs Jumabayev to be in joint lead



PTI ■ ISLE OF MAN (UK)

Extending his fine run, Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi pipped Rinat Zumabayev of Kazakhstan in the fifth round to share the top spot with two others at FIDE's Grand Swiss, here on Monday.

With four points in his kitty from a possible five, Arjun is sharing the top spot with second seed American Hikaru Nakamura and Russian Andrey Esipenko who is playing under the FIDE flag.

Nakamura defeated Alexey Sarana of Serbia and Esipenko played out a draw with top seed biano Caruana of States.

Typical of his style, Arjun went for a razor sharp position out of a Ruy Lopez as white and Jumabayev obliged by accepting the challenge.

The Kazakh Grandmaster sacrificed a couple of pawns even as queens got traded and got compensation with his active pieces. Arjun in the end capitalised on a final blunder and won after 69 moves.

As many as sixteen players, including Vidit Gujrathi, trail the three leaders with 3.5 points each to their credit.

Gujrathi's three-game winning streak was halted by Russian Evgeniy Najer who drew as white against the Indian. Top rated Indian D Gukesh's

chances for a podium finish

almost ended after he succumbed to a loss against compatriot S L Narayanan.

victory over Gukesh in about two weeks, earlier being in the Oatar Masters that concluded prior to this event. It was a King's Indian defense by Gukesh and Narayanan went for

This was Narayanan's second

opposite side castling inviting complications. Both players went for attacking the king but Narayanan's coordination proved stronger. Gukesh lost a couple of pawns

in the eventual rook and minor pieces and did not get another chance to recover.

ing Indians, P Harikrishna drew with Ruslan Ponomariov of Ukraine and the all Indianduel between Aravindh Chithambaram and Nihal Sareen also reached a deadlock while Raunak Sadhwani was on the receiving end against Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran. In the women's event being held simultaneously, R Vaishali continued with her dream run and drew with higher-ranked Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine to an easy draw.

After defeating Anan's sister Mariya in the previous round, Vaishali did not get any real chance as Anna played it safe as black out of a Ruy Lopez opening. The pieces got traded at regular intervals as the player arrived at a drawn Bishop and

pawns endgame. With four out of a possible five, Vaishali now shares the second

Vaishali now shares the second spot with Anna and top seeded Russian Alexandra Goryachkina. Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan shot into sole lead on 4.5 points defeating Tan Zhongyi of China. Amongst other Indians in the fray, D Harika bounced back with a victory to reach 2.5 points at the expense of Divva points at the expense of Divya Deshmukh while B Savitha Shri and Vantika Agarwal drew with Mai Narva of Estonia and

Alexandra Kosteniuk of Switzerland respectively. The sixth Indian in the fray -Tania Sachdev scored over

Oliwia Kiolbasa of Poland. Important and Indian results round 5 (Indians unless speci-Andrey Esipenko (Fid, 4) drew

with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 3.5); Hikaru Nakamura (usa, 4) beat Alexey Sarana (Srb, 3); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 3.5) drew with Hans Moke Niemann (Usa, 3.5); Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 3.5) drew with Yu Yangyi (Chn, 3.5); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3.5) drew with Alexandr Predke (Srb, 3.5); Evgeniy Najer (Fid, 3.5) drew with Vidit Santosh Gujrathi (3.5); Arjun Erigaisi (4) beat Rinat Jumabayev (Kaz, 3) Ramazan Zhalmakhanov (Kaz. 3.5) drew with Samuel Sevian (Usa, 3.5); Erwin L'ami (Ned, 3.5) drew with Vladislav Artemiev (Fid, 3.5); Aravindh Chithambaram (3) drew with Nihal Sarin (3); S L Narayanan (3) beat D Gukesh (2); R Praggnanandhaa (2.5) drew with Sandro Mareco (Arg, 2.5); Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukr, 2.5) drew with P Harikrishna (2.5) Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 3) beat Raunak Sadhwani (2); Amin Bassem (Egy, 2) drew with Abhijeet Gupta (2); Adam Kozak (Hun, 1.5) lost to Aryan Chopra (2.5); Shreyas Royal (Eng, 2) drew with Murali Karthikeyan (2); Wu Li (Iom, 0.5) lost to B Adhiban (1.5).

Thuram's goal leads Inter to a 1-0 win over Roma and Lukaku in Serie A seven points behind Inter.

On a night when Romelu Inter Milan fans' ire, Marcus Thuram - who replaced the departed Belgium striker scored in a 1-0 win over Roma to restore the Nerazzurri atop Serie A. Thuram redirected a cross from

Federico Dimarco from close range in the 81st minute at the San Siro to finally break apart Jose Mourinho's defensive tactics on Sunday While Mourinho was suspend-

ed and watched the match from the stands, Roma still sat back and absorbed attack after attack. In the first half alone, Roma conceded 12 shots without attempting a single shot of its own. By the end, Inter had produced 19 shots to Roma's three. Inter twice hit the crossbar, first

with Hakan Calhanoglu early on

and then with Carlos Augusto in the final minutes.

Inter moved two points ahead of ona 1-0 on Saturday to move top albeit temporarily - for the first time in more than three years. Roma stayed eighth, 11 points behind Inter. AC Milan remained third, three

points back, after squandering a two-goal advantage in a 2-2 draw at defending champion

While the buildup was all about Lukaku facing his former club, Lukaku's biggest impact was clearing away Inter corners - giving Inter fans little chance to which at the player who left whistle at the player who left their club acrimoniously after last season and then joined a fierce rival. Mourinho was also formerly

with Inter, having led the Nerazzurri to a treble of titles in 2010. Thuram has been involved in

Anish wins Asian shooting bronze,



nine goals already - four scores and five assists.

NAPOLI RESPONSE

Napoli stormed back with goals from Matteo Politano and Giacomo Raspadori early in the second half against Milan after Olivier Giroud had scored a brace

Raspadori scored with a precise

free kick around Milan's wall the first goal from a direct free kick in the Italian league this sea-

> Milan's United States international Christian Pulisic exited at halftime with an apparent muscular issue.

Napoli, which was without injured center forward Victor Osimhen, remained fourth,

The men's trap trio also won

India a silver in the team competition as Zoravar Singh

Sandhu, Kynan Chenai (111) and Prithviraj Tondaiman (111) shot a total of 341 to finish three

behind gold medallists Qatar.

Sandhu finished sixth after reaching the individual final.

India have now picked up 30

medals from the continental

event, including eight gold.

Bhanwala's quota was the fifth India have secured in

In the women's trap event, the

Iran took the bronze.

Changwon.

Napoli finished with 10 men after center back Natan picked Milan is now winless against Inter, Juventus and Napoli - its three title rivals.

HISTORIC COMEBACK

Claudio Ranieri's Cagliari became the first team in Serie A history to overturn a three-goal deficit after 70 minutes, coming all the way back to beat visiting Frosinone 4-3 with a brace from Leonardo Pavoletti in stoppage

Also, Modena and Udinese drew 1-1 with Andrea Colpani and Lorenzo Lucca trading goals. It was the fifth goal this season for Colpani — leaving only Jude Bellingham (10 goals) and Bryan Mbeumo (6) among midfielders who have scored more in Europe's top five leagues this

Red Bull's Verstappen dominates F1s Mexico City Grand Prix for season record 16th win

Max Verstappen split the Ferrari front row of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz at the start to snatch the lead of the Formula One Mexico City Grand Prix by the first corner, then drove off to his record 16th victory of the season. Red Bull's three-time season champion collected his third consecutive win at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez on Sunday and broke his own season victories record set last year.

Verstappen started from third and won from the same spot as he did in 2021. Back then, he used the slingshot effect of the draft down the long starting straight to whip to the outside and pass two cars. This time, Verstappen's quick bolt off the starting line allowed him to squeeze between the two Ferraris and into the lead.

He still had work to do. A hard crash by Haas driver Kevin Magnussen at the halfway point forced the race into a halt and a restart. Verstappen nailed that one as well and was never threatened for the checkered flag. The Dutch driver's 51st career win tied Alain Prost for fourth most in F1 history. Mercedes



Leclerc had started on pole position for the second consecutive race but again failed to turn it into a win. In 22 career starts from oole, Leclerc has won just four times. Home favorite Sergio Perez's race was over

The crackup silenced the massive crowd that had greeted Perez with thunderous cheers on every lap all weekend. Much of the crowd left after the crash. Most critically, it allowed Hamilton to close a 39-point gap to Perez to just 20 with three races left.

Perez hasn't won since April and hasn't been the first corner when his car clipped tires on the podium in the last five races.

men's 25m rapid pistol fire event at the Asian Championships in Changwon, Korea

on Monday.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 21-year-old from Karnal, who had 28 hits in the final, lost a shootout to Japan's Dai Yoshioka, who won the silver

ommonwealth Games gold

∪medallist Anish Bhanwala

bagged India's 12th Paris

Olympic quota in shooting as he clinched a bronze medal in the

Local favourite Lee Gunhyeok took home the gold with a score of 34 in the eight five-shot rapid-fire series decider. Bhanwala fetched the quota for

the Paris Games by ending the qualification stage in third place with a score of 588, just one behind China's Wang Xinjie

who topped the field. Three Chinese made the sixman final as the Indian took the third qualifying spot behind world champion Li Yuehong on



bags India's 12th Paris Olympics berth

It was enough to give him one of the two available 2024 Olympics spots, given that China had exhausted their quotas and Lee and Dai had also secured their Paris Games berths

in earlier competitions. Among other Indians, Bhavesh Shekhawat shot 584 to be among

he was competing for ranking points only (RPO). He was not eligible for the final Vijayveer Sidhu also missed out, shooting 581 to finish 10th

overall and eight among the con-

tenders. Adarsh Singh was fur-

ther back in 25th with a score of

the top-eight in the qualification but could not enter the final as

best Indian performers where the ones who were not in medal contention. Rajeshwari Kumari and Shagun Chowdhary, both playing as RPO shooters, shot 108 and 107 to finish seventh and eighth respectively.

Preeti Rajak was next best with 103, which gave her 10th spot overall. Manisha Keer (98) and Sabeera Haris (94) were further down the pecking order.

quickly. The Mexican driver, who is fighting to hang on to second in the champidriver Lewis Hamilton leads with 103. onship behind Verstappen, was taken out in Hamilton finished second Sunday. Leclerc

FAROOQI SHINES AS LANKA BUNDLED OUT FOR 241

fghanistan pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi made a huge statement by unleashing his full fury to grab four wickets as underwhelming Sri Lanka batters struggled to a below-par 241 all out on an easy-paced pitch in a crucial World Cup match here on Monday.

While left-armer Farooqi's (4/34) fiery pace made life difficult for the rivals, Afghanistan spinners Mujeeb Ur Rahman (2/38) and Rashid Khan (1/50) showed the right intent and energy to create pressure and restrict inform batters like Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama After being asked to bat first, Sri Lankan bat-

ting never got going as Farooqi, Mujeeb and Rashid, who is playing his 100th ODI, bowled tight lengths and varied pace despite them getting little assistance from the MCA Stadium surface that played true through the 50

While opener Nissanka batted with confidence and kept the scoreboard ticking, wasting no opportunity to take singles and twos while scoring an occasional boundary, his partner Dimuth Karunaratne, who replaced Kusal Perera in the playing XI, looked tentative and missed the line on a few occasions.

Karunaratne was finally done in by a Farooqi delivery that darted in and led to a vociferous lbw appeal.

Though the umpire wasn't convinced, the review indicated otherwise and Karunaratne walked back with the score reading 22 for 1. Nissanka though continued from where he had left off against England, where he had scored a polished unbeaten 77. But the aggression seemed missing on this day as he dealt mostly in ones and twos with skipper Kusal

Nissanka's boundary off pacer Naveen-ul-Haq



in the 13th over had class written all over it as he freed his arms to a short-of-length delivery to place it behind the point.

But just when Nissanka, one of the most consistent Sri Lankan batters in the tournament, was eyeing his fifth half-century, pacer Azmat Omarzai got the prized wicket.

Nissanka tried to play a back of length delivery outside off from Omarzai towards backward point but the ball took the thinnest of edges en route wicketkeeper Rahmanullah

The Lankan was in two minds and decided to take the DRS, but by the time he signalled to the TV umpire, the timer had already stopped and a dejected Nissanka walked back

having scored 46 off 60 deliveries. The 62-run partnership between him and Mendis though took Sri Lanka to 82 for 2.

At the halfway mark, Sri Lanka were still show ing signs of progress though the scoring rate never crossed the five-run per over mark. With Afghanistan spinners being pressed into service from both ends, Samarawickrama, who

came in at the fall of Nissanka, and Mendis were literally kept under a tight leash. In his effort to up the scoring rate, Mendis tried a big shot, but he was caught at deep midwick-

et by Najibullah Zadran off Mujeeb for 39. If 134/3 in the 28th over wasn't bad, Mujeeb struck again to get rid of the dangerous Samarawickrama for 36 off the first ball of the 30th over to reduce the Islanders to 139 for The century-maker against Pakistan, Samarawickrama, who has had a brilliant World Cup so far, was flummoxed by a Mujeeb googly which drifted in sharply and trapped

him plumb in front. Wickets kept falling at regular intervals with Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva and Dushmantha Chameera all failing to play an innings of substance as the Lankan innings folded rapidly.

Pakistan expected to give all in Talk with Bumrah and Shami is all tactical must-win against Bangladesh

PTI ■ KOLKATA

ll but out of semifinal race, APakistan would be desperate to snap their four-match losing streak and add some semblance of respect to their floundering campaign when they take on an equally struggling Bangladesh in their do-or-die World Cup match here on Tuesday. Pakistan have just four points in

their kitty and they can add a maximum of six more to touch 10 by the end of league stage. Three teams are already above Pakistan and it would be a miracle of sorts if they make it to the knockout stage

The multiple favourable results are highly unlikely given the fact that Australia have regained have also emerged as one of the toughest sides to beat in this tournament.

As of today India and South Africa look certain to make the cut while the Trans-Tasman rivals are looking in good shape to grab the other two spots for the semifinals.

Pakistan will not have to just win their remaining matches but they need to win with big margins to swell their net run rate (currently minus 0.205). A defeat against Bangladesh will certainly knock the 1992 champions out of the showpiece.

In such a scenario, it is expected that Pakistan players will go all-out and give their all.

At a time when their batters have failed to last the distance in four of their six outings, it's Pakistan's



bowling attack that has shone

On a seamer-friendly Eden wicket that offered some extra om short of the length during the first match on Saturday, the likes of Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Wasim will hope to hand Bangladesh the early

Pakistan's biggest positive is sparkling show by Mohammad Wasim junior who made his World Cup debut in place of an indisposed Hasan Ali against South Africa.

Wasim returned with figures of 2/62 but the way he created pressure, especially at the death overs against Keshav Maharaj, was a big plus for the embattled

Wasim is expected to retain his place as Pakistan would look to rattle the Bangladeshi batters who have been struggling in the tournament.

Pakistan's biggest let down has been their batters who have failed to last the full quota of 50 overs on four occasions. The skipper Babar Azam, their best batter, who has not been converting his starts into big scores. Babar has so far struck three fifties and he could be eyeing a big score against Bangladesh.

On the other hand, all is not well in the Shakib Al Hasan-led Bangladesh camp. Their batters have failed to post big totals. In their pervious match against the Netherlands, four of their topsix batters failed to score in double digits to be bundled out for

142 in a chase of 230. It was their sixth defeat on the trot for the Bangla Tigers.

You can say that it's the worst World Cup without any doubt," Shakib had admitted after their 87-run loss to the Netherlands here on Saturday

"It is hard to swallow, very dif-

ficult to digest. But these things can happen in cricket.'

Bangladesh have just two points from six matches and they are team league.

THE TEAMS (FROM):

Pakistan: Babar Azam (c), Shadab Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Abdullah Shafique, Mohammad Rizwan (wk) Saud Shakeel, Iftikhar Ahmed Salman Ali Agha, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Haris Rauf Hasan Ali, Shaheen Afridi and Mohammad Wasim.

Bangladesh: Shakib Al Hasan (c), Litton Das (wk), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Najmul Hossain Shanto (vc), Tawhid Hridoy, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk) Mahmudullah Riyad, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Nasum Ahmed, Mahedi Hasan, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib

and nothing technical: India bowling coach

Such is the class and skill of Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah that India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey doesn't need to discuss anything technical with them. Their talk is all tactical.

Shami and Bumrah produced a sizzling spell of fast bowling to set a 100-run victory over England here on Sunday, India's sixth in a

There was bit of help in the air and off the pitch but it was a sight to see the wily duo getting the best out of the surface under lights. Shami's 10 ball burst against Ben Stokes was a sight to behold with the champion England all-rounder having no answer to the Indian pacer's relentless pursuit. Both Bumrah and Shami are at the top of their game and they don't need to be told anything on the technical front, said

Mhambrey. the team combination, Shami has made himself undroppable with his performances against New Zealand and England.

"When you have such kind of skills-set in the team, what Shami and others bring, you really don't need to have a discussion over it. These guys have played enough cricket and understand what is needed by the team. 'I wish I could say this that we had a team discussion and planned for this. The quality of the bowlers we have in the team, the experience they bring to the table, it makes my job easier.

"It is all about man-management at this level. They have played enough cricket; they understand bowling inside out. I don't explain much about the technical bit but only about the tactical bit. The bottom-line is about execution. The credit goes to them," said the former India pacer after the win on

Talking about the magical opening spells from Bumrah and Shami that reduced



"That opening spell of Bumrah and Shami was very critical in terms of the game, we

The wicket had got flatter in the power-play.

The way they bowled and picked those wick-

ets laid the foundation for us. From there,

we built on it," said Mhambrey, who felt

India were 30-40 runs short of a par score.

It was the first time India batted first in the

tournament. The batters got the opportu-

nity to set a target but majority of them, bar-

ring Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav,

got out trying to accelerate on a two-paced

The bowling coach said there are areas

where the team can improve going into the

Everyone got an opportunity here to bat,

which was important. With the way Virat,

Rohit and Shubman have been playing, the

middle-order didn't get the opportunity to

bat, though KL Rahul did get the opportu-

remaining three league games.

were placed, defending a small target.

them.

But the conditions were very difficult to bat upon - it was not coming well on to the bat and turned a bit. Despite that, they played well and we will analyse this as a team when we sit together. I feel that there are some areas which need improvement.'

'UPDATE ON HARDIK IN COUPLE OF

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya missed the last two games due to ankle injury he suffered against Bangladesh. He continues to recover from that blow and should be available for selection before the semifinals. Mhambrey did not give much on Hardik's much awaited comeback.

"The medical team is looking at that and are very much in touch with Hardik and the NCA as well. We're hoping to get an update in a couple of days

Considering his all-round abilities, Hardik's absence has forced India to make two changes to their playing eleven.

Surya's superior performance will put Iyer's slot in danger once Hardik is back

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Curyakumar Yadav is an Oantithesis to what proverbial Mumbai school of batsmanship is all about - dollops of doggedness in a fine mixture of style and class

Style and class has never been a problem with 'SKY'. He has given ample display of that in T20 cricket, a format he has bossed with remarkable ease. However some of his low scores in ODIs did raise questions if he is unable to blend a bit of serenity in his all or nothing approach, which is perfectly in sync with T20s but not the 50over format

But on Sunday, at the Ekana Stadium in arguably the toughest batting conditions of the current World Cup, Surya channelised his inner Mumbaikar to play an innings which would be rated very highly in terms of responsibil-

ity and substance quotient. The 49 off 47 balls on a track, where it was extremely difficult to just plonk front-foot and hit through the line, showed why the team management had way more faith in his abilities compared to a few other players, who missed the World Cup bus. And not only did Surya do a world of good for himself but also put Shreyas Iyer under considerable amount of pressure going into the matches going

Hardik Pandya, who is nursing a left ankle grade 1 sprain (damage to fibers of ligament), is expected to come back towards the business end of the league stage and a debate could ensue who should stay in playing XI: Iyer who is enduring a low string of scores or Surya who has proved what he could do in critical situations.

We all know what Surva can do in T20Is. What was impressive was how he read the situation and was ready to play the second fiddle till Rohit was at the crease. It was a top class innings keeping conditions in mind and he only played his customary pick-up shot behind square when he knew that it is time to attack," former national selector Jatin Paranjape said.

"On Sunday, you saw that 'khadoos' Mumbaikar in Surya where he was ready to show the other side of his batting. And if you ask me about what happens when Hardik comes back, I would like to see Surva continue in his role and KL (Rahul) can bat at No. 4 in place of Shreyas Iyer," opined Paranjape. For someone with a hittingrange like that of Surya and



those 360 degree shot, it was heartening to see him honour the conditions rather than the bowlers

He employed the difficult sweep shot after gauging that both off-spinner Moeen Ali and legspinner Adil Rashid are getting reasonable purchase off the track. He didn't try to sweep the spinners against the turn but with it.

Head coach Rahul Dravid has always spoken about Surya needing to find some more scoring areas as his hitting range has been primarily square and behind the wicket in T20 cricket.

In shortest format, that isn't an issue but in 50 overs, there is a middle phase where rotation of strike becomes paramount. A look at Surya's scoring chart will show that he has taken 19 singles and at least 15 of them came in-front of the square as he kept the scoreboard ticking. "He knew that it wasn't a 280plus track and 240 would be a fighting total. He changed his game accordingly and that was the best part," former India keeper Deep Dasgupta, who is now noted commentator, said. Dasgupta, who is tracking the Indian team for the host broadcaster, also agreed that Surya has a strong case for keeping his place in playing eleven when Hardik comes back.

"There are two ways to describe a lean patch. One where you look good but you are not getting runs and Shreyas isn't looking in great touch. And if you talk about sticking to specific roles, then I believe number 5 and 6 are inter-change able. SKY and Hardik can both fill-up the roles as per game situation," Dasgupta said.

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