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CM Rise School - an exemplary model of educational excellence

A unique initiative towards better implementation of the new education policy

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is committed to transforming government schools in the state. He believes that by making government schools well-equipped and providing them with competent teachers, quality education can be imparted to students. These schools will foster better development of intellectual, mental, physical, emotional, and social skills in the students. The new education policy also emphasizes quality education and overall development, so every government school in the state should aim to be an excellent institution.

While translating into reality the vision of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Madhya Pradesh government has initiated a significant project - CM Rise School. The main objectives of this project are to determine replicable learning processes, maintain the learning outcomes of students, and create a high level of engagement between teachers and students. It aims to provide education in an interesting and enjoyable manner. CM Rise School will operate



from Grade KG to Grade 12.

Under CM Rise School, a total of 9200 schools in the state are being equipped with all resources in two phases. In the first phase, 369 schools have been operated as CM Rise Schools, which include 274 schools from the School Education Department and 95 schools from the Tribal Affairs Department. Currently, an allocation of Rs. 8521.73 crores has been approved for the construction of 221 CM Rise School buildings. The construction work of 147 CM Rise School buildings has already begun. The construction of the first CM Rise School building in Gulana, Shajapur, has been completed. CM Rise School primarily focuses on strengthening the educational system and align-

ing students with socio-emotional skills and 21st-century competencies, which are more inquiry-based, experiential, and application-oriented. Students will be provided with opportunities and directions through local intra-school competitions, as well as state and national-level events, which will enhance their mutual skills and self-confidence.

The school will be equipped with modern infrastructure and facilities, including technology-based smart classrooms, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) laboratories, well-developed school and class libraries, a creative thinking area, indoor sports facilities, and resources for music, dance, arts, and

crafts. The school has also arranged for capable and proficient teachers with strong leadership qualities.

Free transportation will be provided for students. Coaching arrangements have been made for students appearing in competitive exams like NEET, JEE, and CLAT, among others. A code of conduct has also been established for students and parents. The school's aim is to provide every student with the opportunity to excel and reach their full potential.

The Approach of CM Rise School. Holistic Education: CM Rise School will focus on the overall development of every child, meaning the development of intellectual, mental, physical, emotional, and social skills so that they

can face the various demands and challenges of life and identify their potential. Holistic development also means providing our students with opportunities to showcase and develop their talents in all fields, from education to the arts, writing, and the stage.

2. Student-Centric Education: CM Rise Schools will center education around the needs, capabilities, interests, and learning styles of students, ensuring that education takes place in a safe, enjoyable, and inclusive environment. This student-centric approach involves recognizing each student's uniqueness and shifting the focus of education from the teacher to the student.

Integration of 21st Century and Socio-Emotional Skills: Today's rapidly changing world requires not only literacy, numeracy, and scientific skills but also broad-based skills that are highly interconnected, such as teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, creativity, resilience, and emotional management. CM Rise Schools will emphasize these skills at the core of our perspective.

Educational Excellence: CM Rise Schools will maintain a certain standard of educational excellence and equip students with strong analytical skills to succeed in various national and international examinations and fields.

Student Council: CM Rise Schools will have a student

council (school parliament) along with a student leadership system that includes school heads, house captains, and class captains, along with various other committees. These students will work in collaboration with the school leadership team to lead and support the overall development of the school. Student representatives will be elected to take on certain responsibilities within and outside the classroom.

School Resources: The school will provide facilities such as mid-day meals, medical check-ups, fully equipped buildings, smart digital classrooms, all types of laboratories (such as science labs, computer labs, math labs), competent teachers, resources for art, music, sports, etc. Transportation arrangements will be made for students. Pre-primary education and vocational education will also be provided. Education will be available in both Hindi and English mediums. Coaching facilities for various competitive exams such as JEE, NEET, CLAT, etc., will be available for students. A code of conduct has been established for students and parents.

CM Rise School is a pioneering initiative in the field of education, aiming to provide a high-quality and holistic educational experience to students, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

‘one school one campus’ pilot taken up in five districts



Focusing on early childhood care and education, in coordination with the Department of Women and Child Development, 1500 KG classes have been started with 'one school one campus' schools as a pilot in 5 districts - Bhopal, Chhindwara, Sehore, Sagar and Shahdol to implement the National Education Policy, 2020.

A State Curriculum Framework under NEP has been presented to NCERT and efforts are on for online orientation of officers, principals, teachers on NEP.

The Department of School Education has accorded priority to implementing the provisions of the National Education Policy, 2020, and has taken a number of initiatives such as constitution of a State Level Task Force.

Five online courses have been prepared for the

training of teachers, while educational material has on local games, songs, poems, stories and riddles have been prepared in the local and regional language / dialect. In addition, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) State Core Committee has been constituted, with exercise books for children, teachers' guide and teacher training initiated.

In addition, steps have been initiated with respect to development of curriculum and pedagogy in schools, including development of primers for teaching at primary level in local/tribal dialects like Gond, Bhoili, Korku etc.

There have been efforts for ensuring equitable and inclusive education, namely for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) and for boys and girls especially from socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

Flagship Schemes Facilitate Educational Quality

In addition, the Department of School Education has been running a number of flagship schemes with a focus on enhancing infrastructure, providing scholarships and other aid to facilitate quality education for all.

Excellence schools

For the purpose of providing quality education at secondary and higher secondary level in government schools, a government higher secondary school has been developed as a school of excellence in each district and block headquarters. At present, the schools of excellence are operational in 43 district headquarters and 196 blocks (remaining excellence schools are CM Rise schools). Presently, at district level excellence schools, 45280 students have been benefited while at block level schools, more than one lakh students have been benefited. Scheme for construction and operation of hostels along with district level excellence schools has also been started. At present, 45 hostels have their own building constructed in which hostels are being operated.

In the financial year 2022-23, the amount of Rs 11.49 crores has been provisioned for grant of excellence schools. Rs 7.35 crore was allocated till the third quarter and amount of Rs 6.13 crore has been spent. Under the hostel operation scheme, Rs 11.80 crores has been provisioned out of which Rs 8.1 crore has been allocated against which 7.35 crore has been spent.

Model schools

Govt. of India launched a centrally sponsored scheme in the year 2011-2012 to establish model schools in Educationally Backward Blocks. These schools were planned to be developed as benchmarks. Since 2015-16, this scheme is operated as State scheme. From year 2016-17, maximum 100 seats have been fixed in each class. Admission in class 9th of the model schools is done through a selection test. Model schools are functioning in all 201 educationally backward



development blocks in the state. These schools have been successful in providing suitable study facilities to the talented students residing in rural areas. Presently, 54,795 students are studying in these model schools. From the year 2020-21, class 5 has been started in these model schools so that students can get education from class 6 to 12 in same campus itself.

From year 2022-23, 55 model schools are being developed under the CM Rise scheme. Out of remaining 146 schools, model schools have been constructed at 144 locations. Construction work of remaining two is in progress. This FY in 2022-23, Rs.12.82 crore has been provisioned for the scheme, Rs 8.20 crore was allocated till the third quarter and amount of Rs 8.00 crore has been spent.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya

The scheme provides for access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups belonging to SC, ST, OBC, minority communities and BPL families aspiring to study in classes VI to XII; and ensure smooth transition of girls from elementary to secondary and upto class XII wherever possible. The scheme runs under Samagra Shiksha which aims at bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education. KGBV provides the facility to have at least one residential school for girls from classes VI-XII in every educationally backward block (EBBS).

As many as 207 residential Kasturba Gandhi Girls Schools

and additional 324 girls hostels were established in which 56 thousand girls are being benefited. Sports for Development scheme is being implemented in collaboration with UNICEF for the girls in these hostels and schools.

Schools of different levels were operated as separate units in the same premises under the Department of School Education, due to which the human and physical resources available in different schools located in the same premises were not being utilized to the maximum in the interest of the students. By integration of different schools located in the same campus, availability of class-wise and subject-wise teachers have increased. About 35 thousand schools located in about 16 thousand campuses have been identified and merged as one campus one school.

Super 100 scheme

Under this scheme, students of government schools who get 70 percent or more marks in the 10th state board examination are given admission through a selection test. Selected students get to study class 11th and 12th in Subhash Excellence Higher Secondary School, Bhopal and Government Malhar Ashram Higher Secondary School, Indore. Alongside, they are provided with necessary coaching for admission in courses like engineering, medical, C.A., etc. through competitive examinations. In the financial year 2022-23, by making a budget provision of Rs 4 crore, the goal is to benefit 608 students.

SC Students Get Excellent Hostel Facilities

In view of providing suitable accommodation and a conducive environment for education to Scheduled Caste students, separate junior, senior, and collegiate hostels are available for boys and girls. The state government is committed to enhancing hostel facilities. Students receive free accommodation and meals, and the establishment-related expenses for employees are also borne.

Currently, there are 28,115 seats in 571 junior hostels, 1,153 in senior hostels, 55,522 in collegiate hostels, 10,115 in 189 college hostels, and 6,400 in 20 divisional level residential schools for Scheduled Caste students. There are 1,933 hostels in operation to promote the educational development of Scheduled Caste students, offering free residential facilities from class 6 up to the collegiate level. For the year 2022-23, scholarships in the amount of Rs. 1,460 per month for boys and Rs. 1,500 per month for girls are being provided from July 1, 2022, based on the Consumer Price Index for April 1, 2022. Adequate meal arrangements are ensured for students, and free bedding and other academic facilities are provided in residential institutions.

In government institutions, including Navodaya Residential

Schools, against approved seats of 100,152 for the year 2022-23, more than 70,000 students have enrolled. Financial expenditure for the operation of junior, senior, collegiate hostels, and Navodaya Residential Schools in the financial year 2022-23 amounts to Rs. 3,432.5 million.

Excellent Hostel Facilities

With a view to ensuring the holistic educational development of Scheduled Caste students, there are a total of 58 district-level excellent hostels (one for boys and one for girls) in 29 majority Scheduled Caste districts. Additionally, there are 279 district-level excellent hostels for boys and girls in development blocks of 37 districts. These hostels provide quality amenities such as nutritious meals, breakfast, free accommodation, subject-wise coaching, computer training, libraries, sports equipment, etc. Special coaching is provided in English, Science, and Mathematics to these students for their excellent education. Students residing and studying in excellent hostels are given an amount of Rs. 2,000 per student per year for stationery and other educational materials. There are 17,250 approved seats for the year 2022-23. Rs. 41.7 million has been spent on the operation of excellent hostels in the year

2022-23.

Recognition for Excellence in Hostel Management

With the aim of encouraging the efficient management and organization of residential institutions, significant changes have been made to the Excellence Awards Scheme since 2018-19. Based on selected criteria, cash awards of up to Rs. 10,000 and commendation certificates are given to officials/employees responsible for the best residential institutions at the district and state levels. The distribution of awards at the district level is scheduled for January 26.

Library Facilities in Hostels

A library plan is being implemented to provide books related to the students' curriculum and life skills for the convenience of students in hostels. This plan benefits 100,152 students studying in 1,933 hostels.

Hostel Day Plan

To recognize multifaceted talent, foster mutual respect and harmony, reward talented students, and encourage student participation and suggestions, Hostel Day is celebrated annually on November 1 (Madhya Pradesh Establishment Day) in residential institutions. A communal meal is also organized on this occasion, benefiting students entering hostels.

3,42,328 students get laptops

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Gives A Mantra - Learn Well and March On Now Students Scoring 60% to get laptops

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has left no stone unturned to make arrangements for the education and academic development of his children. The results of his efforts are visible today. Working on a comprehensive action plan to encourage talented students in their studies, laptops have been given to 3,42,328 students.

The Chief Minister launched a scheme for the Meritorious Students for financial assistance and encouragement in students' education. The meritorious students are honored with laptops. The Chief Minister has given them a mantra - Learn Well and March On.



The Meritorious Students' Incentive Scheme was launched in 2009-10. The criterion was to score 85 percent or more marks in the 2nd grade examination. In the inaugural year of the scheme, 473 students were eligible and

were given laptops. Expanding the scope of the scheme, the government reduced the criterion from 85 percent to 75 percent or more marks earned. As a result, the number of eligible students increased every year.

For the academic year 2019-20, the criterion was set at 80 percent or more marks for passing students in the 12th-grade examination, and 40,551 students were in the eligibility category.

For the academic year 2021-22, the eligibility criterion was set at 75 percent or more marks for passing students, and the number of eligible students increased to 91,498. A budget provision of 5 crores was made for this scheme in the financial year 2022-23.

In the year 2022-23, an amount of 100 crores was received from the Secondary Education Board and 137 crores from the P.E.B., which further expanded the scheme.

In 2010, 473 laptops were given, in 2011, 2,310, in 2012, 2,086, in 2013, 4,815, in 2014,

7,782, in 2015, 10,081, in 2016, 17,896, in 2017, a total of 18,578 laptops were given to students of private and government schools to purchase laptops worth Rs 25,000. Among them, 5873 students of Scheduled Castes, 2373 students of Scheduled Tribes, 5617 students of OBC, and 4514 students of General Category were honored. This amount was deposited in the students' bank accounts. In the year 2018, 67,615, in 2020, 40,551, in 2022, 91,498, and in 2023, 78,641 students received laptops.

Please note that this translation is provided to the best of my ability, but some nuances of the original text may not be fully captured.

16 lakh women join the Lakhpati Club

Happier to become micro Entrepreneurs

The rural economy of Madhya Pradesh is undergoing a revolutionary change. The economic landscape of the rural area is positively altered through diverse economic activities taken up by women's self-help groups.

Women in Madhya Pradesh have received financial and technical support from the MP Rural Livelihoods Mission, which was launched in 2012. The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has taken two transformative decisions - First, each member of women's self-help groups will have a monthly income of at least Rs. 10,000 and second such groups will receive bank loans at only two percent interest.

At present, 4,78,000 self-help groups have engaged 57 lakh families. They are living in villages and all of them are below poverty line. Members of these groups are being provided with self-employment and skill-based livelihood opportunities in the areas of their interests. This will help economically weaker families earn substantially from economic ventures.

150 economic activities
Through these groups, approximately Rs. 1,417 crore have been provided as revolving funds and community investment funds. This amount is a grant and is controlled by the groups and their federations. About Rs. 6,830 crore have been provided as loans from banks. Group members are engaged in various agricultural and



non-agricultural livelihood activities, numbering around 150 activities.

Nearly, 21 lakh families have been linked to livelihood activities based on agriculture and animal husbandry, while around 6 lakh 53 thousand families have been associated with non-agricultural livelihood activities. About 63 thousand women are involved in sewing and garment making, while 12,500 women are engaged in sanitary napkin production/packaging, 15,890 in incense stick making, 14,950 in preparing cleanliness products and 1,286 in handloom activities. Around

138 Didi cafes, 1,324 livelihood fresh outlets, 5 lakh 32 thousand families are engaged in commercial vegetable production and around 2 lakh 76 thousand families are engaged in dairy production.

Livelihood Marts for selling products

Livelihood Rural Marts have been opened in various districts for the marketing and sale of livelihood products produced by the groups. With the support of the Livelihood Mission, these marts have been opened at important locations in the districts for commercial purposes and are showcasing

livelihood products for sale.

The products by women SHGs are available on the Livelihood Mart portal for purchase and sale, which acts as a digital platform connecting livelihood products to global markets.

The portal has added a new dimension to the economic activities of groups, helping them reach a wider audience at the commercial level. The contribution of groups to the state's economy is increasing day by day.

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as a digital platform connecting livelihood products to global markets. The portal has added a new dimension to the economic activities of groups, helping them reach a wider audience at the commercial level. The contribution of groups to the state's economy is increasing day by day.

In the last two years, 109 lakh soaps, 4,315 tons of washing powder, nearly 2.2 million liters of phenyl, 67,670 tons of incense sticks, 4,000 tons of spices (turmeric and coriander), 28 lakh slippers, 21 lakh kg pickles, 337,000 kilograms of honey, 30 lakh papads and chips, 698,000

liters of edible mustard oil, 1.242 million kilograms of mushroom production, and 11 lakh sanitary pads have been produced. The operation of Livelihood Express vehicles by group members is going well. Currently, 219 Livelihood Express vehicles are in operation.

We have Livelihood Express

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sheopur district and attended a convention of women's self-help groups, the members shared their successful ventures with him. Sunitha Adivasi, a resident of Goras village in Sheopur district

said that before joining the self-help group, her family was facing difficult times.

Once we joined the self-help group, our family's fortunes have changed. We took a loan of Rs. 70,000 from the group and started a flour mill. This resulted in a good income for us. We repaid the group's loan as well.

After that, we also received assistance from the group and were provided with tube wells for our fields, leading to improved farming. We planted a guava orchard in 2.5 acres. Now, we earn an annual income of 3 to 4 lakhs through farming. Sunitha

expressed her happiness and said that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has made a significant contribution to empowering us. She emotionally shared that she and other women from Sahariya tribal families had the opportunity to speak before Prime Minister Ji. We are truly blessed.

No need to go elsewhere for work

Radha, the president of the Radha Self-Help Group in Karahal village, also shared her story of becoming self-reliant with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other women.

Radha said that our Gram Sangathan is connected with 40 self-help groups. Initially, 300 women associated with them had to go out of the district for labor. Now, these women are earning from home, with incomes ranging from one to one and a half lakh per year.

My husband was employed elsewhere and was earning only Rs. 150 a day as a laborer. After joining the self-help group, we took a loan of 20,000 rupees and started a shaved ice business and bought a sewing machine.

This led to a monthly income of Rs. 30,000 for our family. After that, we received training in fish farming and started large-scale fish farming. This is giving us a substantial income. This year, I received an Amrit Sarovar for fish farming. Joining the group has opened up new opportunities for our family.

Millet Queen Honoured M.P. To Become 'Millet State': CM

Proud of Lahari Bai, who has shown exemplary enthusiasm for Shri Anna. Her efforts will inspire many others. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted this none knew who Lahari Bai was. Today, Lahari Bai is known as "The Millet Queen." UNESCO declared 2023 as International Year of Millets. This assumes greater significance for Lahari Bai. Being Lahari Bai simply means being great.

Lahari Bai, a 28-year-old tribal woman living in the Silpudi village of the Bajaj Development Block, located about 60 kilometers from Dindori, a predominantly tribal district in Madhya Pradesh. She has been managing a Millets Seed Bank for nearly a decade. In a small, makeshift room in her modest earthen home, she has built a seed bank for endangered seeds, including many grains that are not known to others.

Very recently, President Draupadi Murmu awarded Lahari Bai the with 'Plant Genome Guardian Farmer Award' for the year 2021-22 for her dedication to the conservation and development of Shri Anna species (millets). Lahari Bai was also honored with a cash prize of Rs. 1,50,000, a commendation letter, and a memento to at the Global Farmers' Rights Conference, New Delhi.

More than 150 varieties of seeds are available in her seed bank, which she has carefully preserved over the years. Lahari Bai has even built a large shed to safeguard the seeds. The seed bank includes four varieties of Kang: Bhursra Kang, Safed Kalki Kang, Lal Kalki Kang, and Kariya Kalki Kang. It also con-



tains three varieties of Salabar: Baga Salabar, Kata Salabar, and Aithe Salabar, four varieties of Kodo: Bade Kodo, Ladri Kodo, Baheeri Kodo, and Chhoti Kodo, and eight varieties of Kutki: Bade Dongar Kutki, Safed Dongar Kutki, Lal Dongar Kutki, Char Kutki, Birni Kutki, Sitahi Kutki, Nan Bai Kutki, Nagdavan Kutki, Chhotahi Kutki, and Bhadeli Kutki. Additionally, Lahari Bai has seeds for pulses such as Bidri Rawas, Jhunjhuru, Sutaru, Hirwa, and Bagha Rahad.

Lahari Bai distributes these seeds to neighbouring villages and collects them after crops are harvested. This way, rare seeds that were on the verge of extinction are given a new life with each crop cycle, thanks to Lahari Bai's efforts.

So far, she has inspired more than 300 farmers to contribute seeds to her seed bank and motivate others to save seeds. Lahari Bai has been cultivating these traditional seeds in the villages of Samnapur, Bajaj, and Karanjia

within three development blocks. Many farmers in villages like Kivad, Chapwara, Gaura, Dhoba, Jeelang, Ajar, Lamothe, Dhurkuta, Pandapur, Limaha, Domohani, Kendra, Ladara, Piparpani, Barthana, and Kandatola are also supplementing her efforts. Lahari Bai travels from village to village, distributing seeds and collecting them back in equal volume after harvesting crops.

It's worth mentioning that three years before the announcement of the International Year of Millets 2023, Shivraj Singh Chouhan had already launched the State Millet Mission in Madhya Pradesh, which has immense potential for millet-based food products and processing. The state is second in millet production in the country. Dindori district is a millet-rich district, and Lahari Bai is the brand ambassador of Dindori district and of course all of those concerned about disappearing seeds.

30% of toll collection to be shared by SHGs

India's First Initiative - Toll Plazas Operated by Womens SHGs Come Up in M.P.

For the first time in India, women's self-help groups have started operating toll plazas in Madhya Pradesh. Agar Malwa, Ujjain, and Chhatarpur districts. The management and operation of the toll plazas located in the Chaachakhedi village on the Shajapur-Dopadha Nalkhedha Road in Agar Malwa will be carried out by the Jyoti Women's Self-Help Group led by Smt.

Raju Bai while the Kayatha Toll Plaza in Ujjain district will be managed by Varahamihir Self Help Group led by Kaushar Parveen.. The Pragati SHG will take over the management of Sanjaynagar Toll Plaza in Chhatarpur.

This historic initiative finds its root in the Cabinet decision according to which operation of toll plazas collecting up to Rs. 2 crore will be given women's self-help groups with an objective to economically strengthen them. Women from self-help groups will get 30% of the toll collection.

In the presence of the Chief Minister, a MoU was signed between women's SHGs and the Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation. Shri Chouhan said that operating a toll plaza is considered an act of

courage. Women's self-help groups are taking responsibility of managing toll plazas itself is an example of women's empowerment.

He expressed confidence that the SHG members will emerge successful in operating toll plazas efficiently. He said that women of Madhya Pradesh will achieve new milestones.

Encouraging women, Chouhan guided them to work with a zeal, self-confidence, and positivity to show that they can lead any challenging task. This initiative is a significant step towards women's empowerment, he added. According to MoU, women's self-help groups managing toll plazas will receive 30% of the toll collection, and the remaining will go to the MP Road Development Corporation.

Immediately after the Cabinet decision, members of the groups started receiving training from the Madhya Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission.

Rajesh Pandey, the manager of the toll plaza, gave them technical training on toll plaza management related aspects.

The MPRDC will provide essential services such as internet, canopy, electronic toll collection, and toilets facility. The divisional manager of MPRDC will guide and assist the women members of the group and support them whenever needed. The women's groups will solely collect tolls through their members and will



not subcontract the work to any other agency. If the toll collection exceeds Rs.2 crore, MPRDC will resume the task. Life insurance of SHG members will also be ensured. Toll collection revenue will be deposited into the joint bank account every day.

Prior to toll collection, expenses will be incurred on other administrative arrangements at toll plazas, such as internet, electricity, and water.

Initially, cleaning, record-keeping related works will be performed by the SHGs. The Madhya Pradesh model of women's empowerment draws strength from self-help groups. More than 4 lakh

78 thousand self-help groups cover 57 lakh families. So far, 5.26 lakh self-help groups have been linked to credit of more than Rs. 6358 crore.

Through the Livelihood Mart portal, self-help groups have sold products worth more than Rs. 700 crore. Women in the SHGs are engaged in various activities such as operating Ready to Eat plants, purchasing crops at fair prices, uniform manufacturing, water cess collection, fly ash brick production, biscuit making, electricity bill collection, Didi Cafe, mask-sanitizer production, and more.

The annual turnover of seven Ready To Eat

plants by these groups has exceeded Rs. 750 crore. Group members are operating Aajeevika Express passenger vehicles.

Approximately 8,300 women have been trained for low-cost agriculture and organic farming methods. They have established their identity by providing services in their villages, districts, states, as well as other states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, among others.

To make banking services more accessible, self-help group members have been designated as Bank Sakhis (Bank Correspondents). Currently, 3,922 Bank Sakhi are working.

Women earn handsomely running garment business

The women's self-help groups engaged in uniform stitching for government school students have earned Rs. 561 crores in less than two years.

Nearly 63,000 women have become skilled in sewing, with 12,000 of them starting their own uniform sewing and garment-making businesses.

They are getting support in employment training and job placement for women aged 18 to 35 in

villages. Self-employment training is being imparted through Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes. This has helped thousands of young men and women become self-reliant.

In the Thikari block of Badaun district, women have become employed in garment business. A private organization gave two months of residential training to the group members, where 32 rural women from Thikari and



Pipari actively participated and honed their skills in garment production. They were trained in the intricacies of garment making. Four of these women were subsequently employed in the same organizations and got a monthly earning of Rs. 3500.

Meanwhile, the Shri Ganesh Aajivika Gram Sangathan in Pipari has formed eight self-help groups, including Purna Shakti, Siddhi Vinayak,

Om Shambhu, Vaishno Devi, and Jay Bhawani, which are involved in sewing work.

Currently, 216 women have received training, including 75 from RSETI, 93 from Skill Development Centers, and 48 women who received training at the local level. Out of them, 76 women are working through sewing centers.

In the beginning, trainee women were given the task of sewing 1,000

shirts, for which they earned an Rs. 18,000 based at the rate of Rs. 18 per piece. Later, they prepared school uniform, t-shirts for Rs. 8 each, earning an income of Rs. 24,000.

They also worked on orders to make 15 lakh handkerchiefs and 1.5 lakh T-shirts for the Swachh Bharat Mission. As many as 25 women earn a monthly income of around Rs. 10,000 and 51 a monthly income of about Rs. 5,000.

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PARLIAMENT TURNS UNPARLIAMENTARY

BJP lambasts its MP Bidhuri for jibe, issues show cause notice

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A day after Parliament was adjourned sine die, a massive political controversy erupted on Friday over the use of offensive language by South Delhi BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri against Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the success of the Chandrayaan mission on Thursday. While leaders of the Opposition parties, including Ali, demanded swift action against Bidhuri, the BJP issued a show-cause notice to its two-time MP on Friday.

Th BJP sources said the party has sought a reply from the South Delhi MP as to why disciplinary action should not be taken against him for his use of unparliamentary words. Generally, those served the notice are given 15 days to answer.

“We are truly dismayed by our MP’s behaviour, especially considering that this incident occurred on a day when the nation was celebrating the passage of the Women’s Bill and the success of Chandrayaan, both of which were being widely reported across the country. Furthermore, it coincided with an unprecedented record of productivity in both the Houses during the four-day Special Session in new Parliament,” a top BJP leader told *The Pioneer*,

requesting anonymity.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who had earlier initiated a discussion on the country’s Chandrayaan success, said though he could not hear the comments of his party colleague in the House, he personally apologised for the remarks.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has taken “serious note” of the unparliamentary remarks made by Bidhuri and warned him of “strict action” if such a behaviour is repeated in the future, officials said.

While the objectionable remarks have been expunged from the proceeding records, a video of Bidhuri, in which he can be heard making derogatory remarks against Ali, is now circulating on various social media platforms.

Ali has also written to the Speaker demanding that the matter be sent to the Committee of Privileges.

“Saying this with a heavy heart that I would be considering quitting the Lok Sabha if an appropriate action is not taken against Bidhuri over his remarks,” Ali said, adding he was also threatened by Bidhuri in the speech.

“I sent my letter to the office of the Lok Sabha Speaker and I am confident that he will take cognizance of the incident and appropriate action. I have given notice. All things are on record and it is happening for



A combo of file images shows BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri and BSP MP Kunwar Danish Ali during in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Friday

the first that this type of language has been used for an elected MP...”

Ali in his letter said, “I have been waiting to meet Birla since morning but he was not available. I have submitted my letter... I hope he will take appropriate action... everything is on record... it has happened for the first time that such a language has been used against an elected member... is this being taught in new India...”

“We are the mother of democracy... I am proud of it... I couldn’t sleep the entire night... my brain nerves were about to burst... what could I have done... if this is the behaviour towards me then how a common man is being treated...”

I hope the Lok Sabha Speaker will take appropriate action in this matter.

Several Opposition members owing allegiance to the INDIA bloc visited the BSP MP.

After meeting Ali at his Pandara Road residence, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi told the media, “Nafrat ke Bazaar mein Mohabbat ki Dukan (opening a shop of love in the market of hate).”

Opposition parties are demanding strict action against Bidhuri, including suspension from the House and even his arrest.

Opposition leaders criticised BJP MPs Ravi Shankar Prasad and Harsh Vardhan for allegedly laughing while



PTI

Bidhuri fied a broadside at Ali in the Lok Sabha. However, both Prasad and Vardhan have distanced themselves from the controversy.

Harsh Vardhan, who represents Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha seat, issued a statement regretting the foul language used by his party colleague in the temple of democracy. “I have been brought up in Chandni Chowk and my childhood spent with Muslims in the bylanes of this old Delhi and am thankful that people have sent me to the Lok Sabha from this locality only,” Harsh Vardhan said.

The Opposition leaders highlighted instances where members from their own

alliance, such as TMC, Shiv Sena, and AAP parliamentarians, were promptly reprimanded by the presiding officers of either House, and in some cases, they even faced suspensions.

Some of them were suspended for merely protesting in front of the Gandhi statue in Parliament, including women MPs, during the entire last Winter Session.

“Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha (of the AAP) stand suspended even today for exercising their democratic right of protest inside Parliament and Bidhuri has spoken in a language that is an insult not only to Ali but also to every MP and every Indian,” Opposition

leaders said.

Describing the remarks as an insult to all MPs, Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the apology offered by Singh was a “mere eyewash” and not acceptable.

“It is an absolute shame what Bidhuri has said. Singh’s apology is simply not acceptable. It is a half-hearted apology, it was an afterthought. What Bidhuri has said is an insult to Parliament and makes a mockery of what the prime minister keeps repeating ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Sabka Vishvaas, Sabka Prayas’ which becomes all ‘bakwaas’ (nonsense),” Ramesh told reporters.

CPI(M) members have demanded the arrest of Bidhuri, who is known for his abusive nature even on public platforms. “No privilege for hate speech, arrest Bidhuri. Filthy abusive language used by Bidhuri against Ali on the Floor constitutes the worst kind of hate speech indicted by the SC. No MP can claim privilege for such speech. He should be arrested,” the CPI(M) said in a statement.

“Abusing Muslims, OBCs an integral part of BJP culture — most now see nothing wrong with it. Narendra Modi has reduced Indian Muslims to living in such a state of fear in their own land that they grin & bear everything. Sorry but I’m

calling this out. Ma Kali holds my spine,” Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra said in a statement.

She demanded that Modi and the Speaker take strict action against Bidhuri.

“Filthy language used by a BJP parliamentarian for fellow MP Ali. No shame left. This is sickening. Will Speaker Lok Sabha take note and take action,” Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi told *The Pioneer* when sought for her comments on the row.

Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh wondered whether Bidhuri’s language was a result of the values taught by the RSS. “I raised the issue of violence in Manipur and I was suspended. What action will be taken against this MP who abused Ali,” Singh said on social media platforms.

The AAP also slammed BJP Lok Sabha members Harsh Vardhan and Ravi Shankar Prasad for “laughing” when Bidhuri was abusing Ali.

“Why is this uncouth, uncultured BJP MP Bidhuri not suspended for his use of unparliamentary language and obnoxious behaviour in the Lok Sabha? Speaker Birla must take immediate action. Will BJP also suspend him from their party or will they give him a promotion,” NCP spokesman Clyde Crasto said.

Each State gets high speed train

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a remarkable feat of historical achievement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate nine Vande Bharat Express trains on Sunday. With this, all States across the country will now be connected with these semi-high-speed trains.

In June, Modi inaugurated eight Vande Bharat trains on different routes.

Among these nine trains, the Ministry of Railways led by Ashwani Vaishnav is poised to introduce two trains for West Bengal’s Howrah and Tamil Nadu’s Chennai, with one each for Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, Gujarat, and the poll-bound Rajasthan.

The nine trains which will be flagged off on Sunday are on routes — Ranchi-Howrah, Patna-Howrah, Vijayawada-Chennai, Tirunelveli-Chennai, Rourkela-Puri, Udaipur-Jaipur, Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram, Jamnagar-Ahmedabad and Hyderabad-Bengaluru.

The inaugural Tirunelveli-Chennai Vande Bharat Express train will leave from Tirunelveli Junction 6 am and reach Chennai around 1:50 pm, while



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during the ‘Nari Shakti Vandan-Abhinandan Karyakram’, a day after Parliament passed the Women’s Reservation Bill, at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, on Friday

Puri-Rourkela and 7 hours and 45 minutes on the down line i.e. Rourkela to Puri.

Bengaluru and Hyderabad Vande Bharat train will link the two tech cities and will cover the 610 km distance in 8.5 hours.

Speaking about its tentative schedule, the train will depart from Kacheguda in Hyderabad at 5.30 am and will reach Yeshwantpur around 2 pm.

In the return journey, the train will depart at 2:45pm and reach Kacheguda at 11:15 pm.

The semi-high speed train is likely to have 5 stops — Mahabubnagar, Kurnool City, Anantapur, Dhone, Dharmavaram. Vande Bharat express between Vijayawada-Chennai will cover the distance between the two cities in 6 hours and 40 minutes.

Earlier this month, Vaishnav had announced that Madhya Pradesh’s Neemuch would soon get a Vande Bharat Express.

Vande Bharat Express is an indigenously manufactured, semi-high-speed, self-propelled train. The train has state-of-the-art passenger amenities, providing passengers with a faster, more comfortable and more convenient travel experience.

the return journey will begin at 2:50 pm on all days except Tuesdays.

According to reports, the locomotive will be operated at an average speed of 83.30 km an hour and halt at Virudhunagar, Madurai, Dindigul and Tiruchi.

Meanwhile, this will also be Tamil Nadu’s third Vande Bharat route after the launch of Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express in November last year and subsequently the Chennai-

Coimbatore Vande Bharat train.

Odisha’s second Vande Bharat express on Puri-Rourkela route is also set to be flagged off on Sunday. The full trial run of the Puri-Rourkela Vande Bharat Express was conducted on Wednesday. The train will connect the coastal districts of the State to its western region.

Earlier, it was also reported that the semi-high speed train will cover the distance of 505 km in 7 hours and 30 minutes from

China spits venom, India fires salvo

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Taking strong exception to China denying accreditation to some Indian sportspersons from Arunachal Pradesh for Hangzhou Asian Games, India on Friday lodged a strong protest, and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur cancelled his scheduled visit to China for the Games.

This is the second instance in two months that the same three players were unable to visit China for a competition. On Wednesday, the three women wushu players — Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega, and Mepung Lamgu — received their accreditation cards from Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee, which also acts as an entry visa. However, they could not download their travel document on Wednesday when they were scheduled to leave for the Asian Games, while the rest of the players did not face any issues. Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of China.

Making India’s stand clear here on Friday, Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said New Delhi reserves the right to take “suitable measures” to safeguard its interests.

Terming the act of denial of accreditation as discriminatory behaviour by China, he also said Information and Broadcasting



Indian e-Sports team poses for photographs upon their arrival to participate in the 19th Asian Games, in Hangzhou in China on Friday

and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has cancelled his visit.

Describing the Chinese action as targeting of the sportspersons in a “premeditated” manner, Bagchi said the move violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct as they “explicitly prohibits discrimination” against competitors from member states. He said a “strong protest” has been lodged against China’s “deliberate and selective obstruction” of some of India’s sportspersons.

“The Government of India has learnt

that the Chinese authorities have, in a targeted and premeditated manner, discriminated against some of the Indian sportspersons from the state of Arunachal Pradesh by denying them accreditation and entry to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China,” Bagchi said. “In line with our long-standing and consistent position, India firmly rejects differential treatment of Indian citizens on the basis of domicile or ethnicity. Arunachal Pradesh was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India,” he said.



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Bhakta Niwas to be built in Ujjain at a cost of Rs 500 cr

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan performed bhoomi puja and dedicated 15 MSME clusters on the occasion of State Level Employment Day. As many as 552 units will be established in these clusters with an investment of Rs 1 thousand 937 crore and about 28 thousand 300 people will get employment. Chouhan also dedicated 1708 units with an investment of Rs 932.22 crore. This will provide employment to about 16 thousand 375 people. Along with this, bhoomi puja of 307 industrial units of the state was also performed, these units with an investment of Rs 556.41 crore will provide employment to 6,310 people. The Chief Minister performed the bhoomi puja of 9 new

development works costing Rs 554 crore 89 lakh and inaugurated seven development works built at the cost of Rs 159 crore 99 lakh in Ujjain. Under this, the bhoomi puja of the Bhakta Niwas of Mahakaleshwar Temple Management Committee to be built at a cost of Rs 500 crore and the facility center to be built at a cost of Rs 17 crore is included. Chouhan also dedicated Meghdoot parking and divisional ITI. Chouhan also released the name and logo of Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple Bhakta Niwas with state-of-the-art facilities. He also released the name and logo of Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple Bhakta Niwas with state-of-the-art facilities. Chouhan said that Ujjain, the center of spirituality, is now going to become the center of industries as well. By the grace

of Mahakal Maharaj, industries are being established one after the other in Vikram Udyogpuri of Ujjain. The entire economy of Ujjain has changed. In the month of Sawan, 2.25 crore devotees came and participated in the worship of Mahakal Maharaj. One and a half lakh devotees are coming to Ujjain every day. The demand for hotels, restaurants, prasad and puja materials etc. is continuously increasing. New sources of income are developing. Additional Rs 3,000 crore is going to come to Ujjain. Chouhan said that after Mahakal Mahalok, the second phase of Mahalok will also be dedicated. Avantika will now be more charming than the three Loks. Ujjain has moved on the path of development, Ujjain will be full of glory. A large number of businesses will start.

Bhoomi puja of the medical college will also take place soon. The Chief Minister said that the blessings of Mahakaal are showering in the entire country. Drought situation was developing in the state 15 days ago. Ujjain is a big centre of religion, worship and penance. Development works will continue unabated in Ujjain. There will be no shortage of money for development works. Chief Minister said that this is the era of women empowerment. Through the Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana, we have given respect to our sisters, not money. This is not a scheme but a campaign to change the lives of sisters. The amount given to the sisters under the scheme has been hiked to Rs 1250. It will be gradually hiked to Rs 3,000, "This is Shivraj's guarantee that he will

do whatever he has said". Chouhan said that the amount received under the scheme has boosted the self-esteem and self-reliance of the sisters. This will strengthen the family and if the family is happy then it will also progress. The government is committed to public welfare. Along with making arrangements for education to the students, providing laptops and scooties etc. to encourage and inculcate competitive spirit, arrangements for free treatment and house and lease are being made for every family. Under the Mukhyamantri Bhu-Adhikar Yojana, every poor will be provided a land lease to live in, in the urban areas, the poor will be settled on the land freed from mafia. Along with this, housing will also be provided by making multi-storey buildings.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan helps tendu leaves collectors wearing footwear during a programme in Harsud, Madhya Pradesh on Friday. Pioneer Photo

Longest green corridor of 350 kms was built

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

For the first time in the history of Madhya Pradesh, the longest green corridor of about 350 kilometers has been built. The liver of a brain dead patient was brought to Bhopal by road from Jabalpur at 2.20 pm on Thursday-Friday. The team of doctors had left for Bhopal with the liver at around 10.31 pm on Thursday night. That means the journey from Jabalpur to Bhopal was completed in about four hours. Doctors started the liver transplant surgery of the patient admitted at Bansal Hospital here at around 3.30 in the morning. Earlier there was a plan to bring the liver through helicopter. The team of doctors flew from Bhopal to Jabalpur in CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan's helicopter, but due to it being night, the helicopter did not take the return flight. After which the decision

was taken to bring the liver by road. The liver has been brought from Metro Hospital in Jabalpur to Bansal Hospital in Bhopal. Bansal Hospital manager Lokesh Jha said that CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan had provided a helicopter to the doctors to bring Argon from Jabalpur. For the first time, the largest green corridor of 350 kilometers Dr. Rakesh Bhargava. Secretary of Kiran Foundation, which works for organ donation, said that for the first time in the state, on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday, the longest 350 km long green corridor was built between Jabalpur and Bhopal. Which was built between Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Raisen and Bhopal. Earlier on May 10 this year, a 205 km long green corridor was built between Bhopal and Indore. Then, one kidney of Pushpalata Jain, who was admitted in Bhopal's Bansal Hospital after

brain hemorrhage, was sent for transplant to a patient admitted in a private hospital in Indore. Dr. Rakesh Bhargava told that on July 24, 2017 also, the organ of a brain dead patient from Jabalpur was transplanted to Bhopal. Then it was brought by flight. But, for the first time, argan is being brought from Jabalpur to Bhopal by road. The liver is being brought from Metro Hospital in Jabalpur to Bansal Hospital in Bhopal. The liver is being brought from Metro Hospital in Jabalpur to Bansal Hospital in Bhopal. Bansal Hospital manager Lokesh Jha said that a 64-year-old patient was declared brain dead at Jabalpur's Metro Hospital on September 20. His family had expressed their desire to donate his organs. After which the liver was removed through surgery in one to one and a half hours. Which will be transplanted to a patient admitted in Bansal Hospital, Bhopal.

PNS ■ JABALPUR

MP Power Transmission Company (MP Transco) has energized 50 MVA Additional power transformer at 132 KV Sub station Talakapura in Khargone district. Madhya Pradesh Energy Minister Shri Pradyuman Singh Tomar informed that in view of the increasing electricity demand of agricultural and domestic consumers in Talakapura area, M.P. Transco increased the capacity of the substation by 50 MVA Additional power transformer. Madhya Pradesh Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar said that MP Transco has succeeded in energizing this power transformer through remote technology from Indore SCADA Center



by installing it at an estimated cost of about Rs 6.4 crore. This has strengthened the transmission system of Khargone district. He said that with the energization of this transformer, the electricity consumers associated with Segao, Lonara, Sangvi, Talakpura, Narmada Valley Development Authority pumping substation will be

greatly benefited, now quality electricity supply will be available to them. Energy Minister Shri Pradyuman Singh Tomar congratulated MP Transco personnel for this success. Transformation capacity of Khargone district increased to 2124 MVA. MP Transco's Executive Engineer Kushmila Masodkar said that in Khargone district, Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company transmits electricity through its 12 Extra high voltage substations, which include 2 no of 220 KV and 10 no. 132 KV substations are included.

With the installation of this transformer, the capacity of Talakpura substation will increase to 90 MVA. And the transformation capacity of Khargone district has increased to 2124 MVA. Total Installed Capacity of M.P. Transco enhanced to 78328 MVA The total installed transformation capacity of MP Transco has now increased to 78328 MVA. In which 400 K.V. side 11095 MVA, 220 KV. Side 32595 M.V.A. And 132 KV. side 34638 M.V.A. Capacity exists. M.P. Transco transmits electricity in Madhya Pradesh through its 415 Extra high voltage substations, which include 14 of 400 KV, 88 of 220 KV, and 313 substations of 132 KV voltage level are included. In state a total of 1009 power transformers are operational in MP Transco's.

AIIMS opens 2nd Amul parlour

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

AIIMS Bhopal, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal inaugurates its second Amul Parlour, extending quality dairy services to patients, students, and the public. This strategic move aligns with AIIMS Bhopal's commitment to enhancing community well-being beyond healthcare. The newly opened Amul Parlour offers a diverse range of dairy products, including milk, yoghurt, ice cream, and snacks, promoting convenience and nutrition. It reflects AIIMS Bhopal's holistic approach to patient and visitor satisfaction. Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh expressed enthusiasm for this initiative, highlighting its positive impact on community well-being.



People look as rain water overflows from a bridge due to floods in the Banganga river after heavy rains at Eintkhedi, in Bhopal on Friday.

Pioneer photo

Poor roads exposed in State capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Heavy rains in September have washed away the roads of the state and it has been revealed that more than 500 roads of about one and a half thousand kilometers length are in dilapidated condition. There are many roads on which there are potholes up to 2 feet deep. There is a possibility of rain for a few days. Therefore the roads will not be repaired. As soon as the rain stops after September 25, efforts to improve the condition of the roads will begin. There are about 4900 kilometers of Municipal Corporation and PWD roads in Bhopal. About 30 percent of these roads have become dilapidated due to rain. Be it the colonies of Kolar Road or the roads of Hamidia Road, Anand Nagar, Indrapuri, it has become difficult to even pass over them. At the same time, the condition of many roads of the old city including Hoshangabad Road, Karond, Ashoka Garden is similar. There are potholes on the roads due to rain. People get injured by falling into potholes. At the same time, as soon as the rain stops, clouds of dust start flying on these roads. The condition of the roads has

worsened due to the rains in September. In fact, after the rains stopped in August, many roads including JK Road, Danish Kunj, Char Imli, Shyamala Hills, Thandi Road near Shaurya Smarak were repaired by the Corporation and PWD. There was heavy rain for several days in September. Due to this the roads were uprooted again. The condition of the road in the colony near Banskhedhi has become like this. Passing over it is no less than a big challenge for the pedestrians. The condition of the road in the colony near Banskhedhi has become like this. Passing over it is no less than a big challenge for the pedestrians. The condition of the road from ITI to Anand Nagar on Raisen Road is not good. At some places, huge potholes have formed and at some places clouds of dust are flying. The road at the left turn at Anna Nagar intersection has become completely dilapidated. Due to the dilapidated condition of the roads, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Frank Noble A has also written a letter to PWD. Also held a meeting with officials of the mechanical department. In which he has asked to repair the road.

BoM Bahodapur branch inaugurated

Gwalior: Bank of Maharashtra inaugurated the state-of-the-art Bahodapur branch on September 22, the branch was inaugurated by Harsh Singh, Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Gwalior in the presence of Anand Suman, Deputy Circle Manager, Bhopal Zone, Arun Yadav, Branch Manager, Bank of Maharashtra and bank officials, customers. Bank of Maharashtra, a leading public sector bank, is providing banking services with the launch of Bahodapur branch, 58th in Bhopal zone and a total of 178 branches and 169 ATMs in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The bank is rapidly expanding its branches. In this financial year, the bank is going to open about 9 new branches in Bhopal region, out of which 4 branches are in Bhopal city, 2 in Gwalior city area, 1 in Pipariya city and 1 in Ashta city. The Bank's branch will provide all basic banking transactions, financial services covering retail, agriculture and MSME sectors along with specialized banking needs and also provide benefits of Government loans and social security schemes. The Bank also offers various other specialized products such as ATM cum Debit Cards, Secure Internet Banking and Mobile Banking to its customers depending on their needs.

DGP for maintaining peace and law & order situation in State

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Director General of Police Sudhir Kumar Saxena said that a plan should be prepared seriously to maintain peace and law and order during festivals. Keep monitoring your areas continuously. He also directed to maintain adequate security arrangements on the arrival of VIPs and distinguished persons in the state. He was on Friday addressing senior officials through video conferencing. In view of this, peace and law and order should be restored in Madhya Pradesh on the festivals of Ganesh Utsav, Dol Gyaras, Eid Miladunnabi, Anant Chaturdashi, Navratri Utsav, Dussehra etc. Director General of Police Sudhir Kumar Saxena on Friday addressed a meeting with officials of the state. All ADGs/IGs, Police Commissioners of Bhopal and Indore, Range DIGs and all Superintendents of Police and Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting. ADG (Intelligence) Shri Adarsh Katiyar was present in this meeting. DGP Saxena said that we have

to be prepared to maintain peace and law and order during festivals across the state. Citizens are enthusiastically participating in the festivals, in view of which it should be ensured that the police arrangements are well maintained. This time Eid Miladunnabi and Anant Chaturdashi are on the same day. We have to take special care that communal harmony is maintained during this period. He said that additional forces have been made available to all the districts as per requirement. The Superintendent of Police should thoroughly review the entire force and ensure adequate deployment at all sensitive and appropriate places. Take cooperation of village/city defense committee. He said that apart from the district and police station level, peace committee meetings should also be organized at beats and mohallas as per requirement. Keep beat level intelligence highly active. DGP Saxena said that during festivals, special care should be taken to ensure that no incidents of indecency happen with women. Strict legal action should be taken against those who molest women.



Congress State President Kamal Nath with his son and MP Nakul Nath during the party's Jan Aakrosh Yatra in Parasia, Chhindwara district Madhya Pradesh on Friday. Pioneer photo

CM reviews PM's visit programme on Sept 25

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan took stock of the ongoing preparations at the Jamboree Ground for the proposed programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bhopal on September 25. CM Chouhan apprised himself regarding the pandal, seating, cleanliness,

parking, traffic, food arrangements and exhibition venue. CM Chouhan said that arrangements should be made by planning at the micro level of each point and activities should be implemented keeping in mind the possibility of rain. On this occasion, Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Mayor Malti Rai, MP

VD Sharma, MLA Rameshwar Sharma, former Minister Umashankar Gupta, former Mayor Alok Sharma, Hitanand Sharma, Sumit Pachauri were present. Chouhan also gave instructions virtually from the residence office to the district officers of Bhopal division regarding the arrangements for the citizens reaching to Bhopal.

PM for ‘strong Government with majority’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made a pitch for having a “strong Government with majority”, saying this made the Parliamentary approval for the long-pending idea possible as he told women BJP workers and MPs here that the ‘Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam’ is not an ordinary law but a proclamation of the “New India’s democratic commitment.” He also said the passing of the women reservation bill an evidence of Modi’s guarantee of women-led development.”

Addressing an event organised by the BJP’s ‘Mahila Morcha’ to felicitate him for the passage of the Women’s Reservation Bill in Parliament, Modi said it was the BJP’s good fortune that its Government got the opportunity to pass the Bill.

Having reservation for



women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was talked about for nearly three decades, he noted, adding that the earlier efforts lacked commitment and women were even insulted.

The Prime Minister also made a pitch for having a strong Government with majority, saying “this made the parliamentary approval for the long-pending idea possible.”

“Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam ka duno sadanon

se pass hona , is baat ka bhi sakshi hain ki jab purn bahu-mat wali isthir sarkar hoti hain, to desh kese bade phais-la leta hain, bade padavon ko paar karta hain”, the Prime Minister said, adding earlier Governments make superficial efforts because they “did not have intention to pass it”.

Asserting that his Government worked to empower women, who have emerged as a power over the last one decade, Modi said that is why the political parties

that used to tear copies of the women’s reservation bill in Parliament had to support it — a jibe at parties, such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Samajwadi Party (SP).

Every party had to support it, he saying “ jo Bill phada karte they , unko bhi is adhiniyam ka samarthan karna pada”, Modi said amidst claps and cheers from women MPs.

The Prime Minister said it was the BJP’s good fortune that its Government got the opportunity to pass the Bill.

Some decisions have the power to change a country’s fate, he said, describing the proposed law as one such measure that will infuse new confidence among women and multiply India’s strength to advance.

The Constitution amendment bill will soon become law after the president’s assent and the subsequent notification -- a procedural formality.

A new history was made

on September 20 and 21, Modi said, referring to the days the bill was passed first by the Lok Sabha and then by the Rajya Sabha. “It was our good fortune that people gave this government the chance to do so,” he said.

This is a proof of fulfilling “Modi’s guarantee” that he will usher in a new era of women-led development, he said amid loud cheers from the large number of women present at the BJP headquarters.

A large number of women, including beneficiaries of several government schemes, were present at the party office to greet him. Modi bowed to a group of beneficiaries, who garlanded and blessed him.

BJP president J P Nadda and women Union ministers, including Nirmala Sitharaman and Smriti Irani, and other party leaders were present on the occasion. Nadda described the bill’s passage as historic and credited Modi’s foresight and resolve for the feat.

JD(S) joins NDA



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Set for the seat-sharing tie-up with the BJP in Karnataka for 28 parliamentary seats, the Janata Dal (Secular) on Friday joined National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The decision followed JD (S) leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah and party president J P Nadda.

After the meeting, Nadda said on X, “I am happy that JD(S) has decided to be the part of National Democratic Alliance. We wholeheartedly welcome them in the NDA. This will further strengthen NDA and vision of Hon PM Narendra Modi Ji for ‘New India, Strong India’”

Headed by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, father of Kumaraswamy, the JD(S) has long been a strong

third player in the southern state where the Congress and the BJP have been the two main parties.

The regional party, however, suffered a sharp decline in the recent assembly polls in the state in the Congress scored a big win, reducing the BJP to a distant third.

JD(S) is demanding six seats of 28 Lok Sabha seats while BJP is agreeing to four. BJP had won 25 of 28 seats in 2019 Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka.

1st ‘One Nation One Election’ meet under Kovind today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the high-level committee under former president Ram Nath Kovind for simultaneous elections as known as One Nation One Election will be held on Saturday to discuss the roadmap and how to go about holding consultation with stakeholders.

Kovind had recently media told that the meeting will be held on September 23.

The Government had on September 2 notified the eight-member “high-level” panel to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

People aware of the details said the meeting will be “introductory” in nature and members will discuss the roadmap on how to go about the mandate given to the panel.

The panel, they said, will also discuss on how to go about holding consultations with stakeholders, research on the subject and preparation of

working papers.

Home Minister Amit Shah, former leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and former finance commission chairman N K Singh are among the committee’s members.

Congress’ leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was also a member. However, in a letter to Home Minister Shah, he declined to be part of the panel.

“I have no hesitation whatsoever in declining to serve on the committee whose terms of reference have been prepared in a manner to guarantee its conclusions. It is, I am afraid, a total eyewash,” Chowdhury had said in the letter.

The government notification said the panel will commence functioning immediately and make recommendations “at the earliest”, but did not specify a time-frame to submit the report.

The decision to have a committee under former president Kovind had caught opposition bloc INDIA, holding their conclave in Mumbai on September 1, by surprise and



further raised the political heat.

The opposition alliance had slammed the decision as a “threat” to the country’s federal structure.

The high-level committee will also have former Lok Sabha secretary general Subhash C Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve and former chief vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari as members.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will attend the meetings of the committee as a special invitee, while Law Secretary Niten Chandra will be the secretary to the panel.

The committee will examine and recommend specific amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act and any other laws and rules which would require

amendments for the purpose of holding simultaneous elections.

It has also been tasked to suggest a framework for synchronisation of elections and “specifically suggest the phases and time-frame within which simultaneous elections may be held if they cannot be held in one go...”

It will also examine and recommend if the amendments to the Constitution would require ratification by states.

Certain amendments to the Constitution require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies.

The committee will also analyse and recommend possible solutions to scenarios such as hung House, adoption of no-confidence motion, or defection or any such other event in case of simultaneous

elections.

The committee has also been asked to recommend “necessary safeguards for ensuring the continuity of the cycle of simultaneous elections and recommend necessary amendments to the Constitution so that the cycle of simultaneous elections is not disturbed”.

The issue of logistics is also on the agenda of the panel as the massive exercise would require additional number of EVMs and paper-trail machines, polling and security personnel.

It will also examine and recommend the modalities of use of a single electoral roll and electoral identity cards for identification of voters in elections to the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

A parliamentary committee had recently said that a common electoral roll will help reduce expenses and prevent manpower being deployed for a work on which another agency is already working.

While the Election Commission (ED) is mandated to hold parliamentary and

assembly polls, state election commissions (SECs) hold local body elections. The EC and the SECs are separate bodies under the Constitution with a fixed mandate.

The original proposal was for simultaneous elections to all three tiers of democracy -- Lok Sabha (543 MPs), Vidhan Sabha (4,120 MLAs) and the panchayats/ municipalities (30 lakh members).

The notification had pointed out that elections to the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies were mostly held simultaneously from 1951-52 to 1967 after which this cycle got broken and now, elections are held almost every year and within a year too at different times, which result in massive expenditure by the government and other stakeholders.

It also leads to diversion of security forces and other electoral officers engaged in such elections from their primary duties for significantly prolonged periods.

Frequent polls, it said, disrupt developmental work on account of prolonged application of the Model Code of Conduct.

Jaishankar begins 9-day visit to US

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Friday began a nine-day visit to the US, primarily to attend the annual session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York and to host a special event on Global South.

He will visit Washington from September 27 to 30 after the completion of the 78th UNGA related engagements. Jaishankar will hold bilateral meetings with his American interlocutors.

“During his visit to New York from September 22 to 26, the External Affairs Minister (EAM) will be leading the Indian delegation for the high level week at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Friday. “In keeping with India’s support for Global South, the EAM will be hosting a special event ‘India-UN for Global South: Delivering for Development,’” it said in a statement.



Jaishankar would also attend various plurilateral and bilateral meetings in New York. He will also be meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly, the MEA said.

It said Jaishankar’s address at the high level session of the 78th UNGA is scheduled for the forenoon of September 26.

His engagements in Washington include discussions with his counterpart American Antony Blinken, senior members of the US administration, US business leaders and think tanks. Jaishankar will also be addressing the fourth World Culture Festival being organised by the Art of Living, the MEA said.

Concerns over complacency in implementing TB elimination programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



grammes for Ni-kshay Mitras to acquaint them about TB and its management.

“The close connection between nutrition and TB further reinforced the significance of this programme, as it not only strengthens the immune system of TB patients to fight against disease, it also facilitates community engagement making the TB elimination program a vital part of 24 community-driven efforts,” the committee stated.

In order to ensure the proper utilisation of assistance extended by Ni-kshay Mitras, the committee recommended that the government introduce a monitoring mechanism to track the attitude and behaviour of the patients towards the Ni-kshay Mitras, and to provide them appropriate counselling, if required.

“The committee feels that the global resources and guidelines would lead to more effective implementation of PMTBMB and achieving universal health coverage. Moreover, community involvement in TB control efforts, fostering awareness, understanding in TB prevention, care-seeking behaviour, and adherence to treatment are imperative steps to manage TB disease,” the panel said.

The committee suggested that under PMTBMB programme, political commitment at all levels of governance through regular meetings, discussions, and engagements with key stakeholders should be strengthened.

The committee suggested that the government establish a robust selection process for Ni-kshay Mitra and implement effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure their diligent fulfilment of responsibilities.

Under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (Ni-kshay Mitra initiative) implemented by the Ministry, community support is provided to TB patients through the Ni-kshay 2.0 portal on which TB patients can be adopted and cared for by an individual, elected representatives or institutions.

The parliamentary committee suggested the need for organising orientation pro-

Implement Women’s Reservation Bill immediately: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Friday demanded immediate implementation of the Women’s Reservation Bill and expressed “100 per cent regret” that the proposed legislation during the UPA Government did not include reservation for OBCs.

He also demanded that the Government carry out a caste census and make public its findings along with that of the previous caste census conducted during the UPA rule.

Noting that the Government’s intention behind bringing the bill was political, he said it will not be implemented in the next 10 years as it has been linked to the population census and the delimitation exercise.

The bill was meant for diverting attention from the growing call for a caste census,

Rahul said and alleged that the BJP MPs have no role in decision-making and they are like mere “moortis” (idols) in a temple without any power given to them.

“The truth is that this bill will be implemented in 10 years from now, if it is implemented at all,” he claimed at a press conference at the AICC headquarters, a day after Parliament approved the legislation to reserve a third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women.

Rahul said that while he favoured the bill, he sought more reservation for women from backward classes and other sections as per their population ratios.

Asked if he regretted that the erstwhile UPA government did not give OBC quota in its women’s reservation bill that was passed by Rajya Sabha in 2010, Rahul Gandhi said, “There is 100 per cent regret.



We should have done that back then and we will get this done now.”

The women’s reservation bill is a good thing, but two “footnotes” of census and delimitation have been attached to it which will take many years to give this reservation to women, he said.

“Share on basis of population - this is the right of our OBC brothers and sisters! Release the caste census data now, do the new census on the basis of caste. Implement women’s reservation now, not after 10 years,” Rahul Gandhi

later posted on X in Hindi.

At the press conference, he said, “You can ask any BJP MP in Lok Sabha, which is called ‘temple of democracy’, if they take any decision or take part in law-making - not at all... MPs are considered a ‘moorti’ (idol) in a temple, they have been kept like that without giving them any power. A BJP MP has told me this.”

The Congress said delimitation and census were “poor excuses” for postponement of the bill’s implementation and alleged that the entire exercise was to create an election issue, without actually implementing it. The opposition party also dubbed the bill a “teasing illusion”.

“The BJP came up with the idea of a special session. We appreciated that idea. With a lot of fanfare and pomp we moved from the old building to the new building. The prime minister in a very dramatic gesture

carried the Constitution of India from the old building to the new building and he said that he is passing a very important law and we agree with him,” said Rahul.

The Congress leader said he was shocked to find that only three secretary-level officers in the Government of India are from OBCs and only five per cent of the budget is allocated for them.

The central question now is how many OBCs are there in India and how many are from other communities in India, he said and pitched for a caste census.

“If we want to distribute power to the people of India, we want to know this number, otherwise we are working without data... All this data is available as the census has already been done. Why is the prime minister not releasing this data,” he asked.

On the BJP’s assertion of

the party having a significant number of MPs and MLAs from OBCs, Rahul Gandhi said, “You can ask any MP or MLA on how much they participate in law-making, how much they participate in how the money in India is spent, they will tell you there is no participation.”

“And as the prime minister keeps saying he an OBC leader, I want him to explain why only three OBC (officers) are there in the Government of India and why the OBC community which is the backbone of this country is responsible for only five per cent of the budget,” he noted.

Gandhi said the BJP was not been able to respond to this question and when he mentioned it, “I saw in their face the panic. Because this is the truth and this is what they are trying to distract India from - the fact that the large mass of Indian people do not have any power.

Supreme Court rejects plea seeking survey of Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah mosque premises

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea by ‘Shri Krishna Janambhoomi Mukti Nirman Trust’ seeking a survey of the Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah mosque premises in Mathura to determine whether it was built on a pre-existing Hindu temple. The apex court rejected an appeal challenging a July 10 decision of the Allahabad High Court which had also dismissed the plea finding no error or illegality in the order of a Mathura civil judge who had decided to first hear the issue of maintainability of the suit as raised by management committee of the mosque.

The Trust challenged an order of the Allahabad High Court which dismissed its plea to direct the Mathura civil judge to decide its application for a scientific survey of Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah



mosque premises first before deciding the objections raised against the suit. The objections against the suit were raised before the civil judge by the management committee of the mosque and the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board.

“Thus, we feel we are not required to exercise jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution, more so being an interim order, as there are various issues at large which are pending before the high court as the court of first instance,” a bench of Justice Sanjay Kishan

Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia said. Senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia, representing the Trust, submitted before the apex court that aggrieved by the trial court’s March order, they preferred a petition before the high court, which on May 26 transferred all the suits related to the matter to itself.

The bench said it was conscious of the fact that all related proceedings, including the suits, stand transferred to the high court. However, the trial court passed the order before such transfer took place and it cannot

be said that it did not have the jurisdiction to pass such an order.

“The high court on transfer of all the cases will do the trial and be the court of first instance. That being the position it cannot be urged, as counsel for the petitioner submits, that the said court alone should have exercised the jurisdiction... Also against the order of the trial court,” the bench said, adding that the issues related to the suits are to be considered by the high court.

The top court also noted the submission of advocate Tasneem Ahmadi, representing Shahi Masjid Eidgah Management Committee, that a special leave petition (SLP) has been filed by them against the high court’s May 26 order which is pending before the apex court. “Thus what we have observed aforesaid is without prejudice to the rights and contentions of the respondent in that case,” the bench said.

Sahyadri deployed in Indo-Pacific

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Navy’s indigenously built warship INS Sahyadri, mission deployed in Indo-Pacific, participated in the maiden trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise with the ships and aircraft from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Indonesian Navy from September 20 – 21, navy officials said here on Friday.

The trilateral exercise provided an opportunity for the three maritime nations to strengthen their partnership and improve their collective capability to support a stable, peaceful and secure Indo-Pacific region.

The exercise also provided the opportunity for the participating navies to benefit from each other’s experience and



expertise. Complex tactical and manoeuvring exercises, cross-deck visits and cross-deck landings of integral helicopters were conducted for training of crew and enhancement of interoperability, they said.

INS Sahyadri, the third ship of the indigenously designed and built Project-17 class multirole stealth frigates was built at Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai and is commanded by Captain Rajan Kapoor.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Course correction

The IMF’s call to tax the rich and shield the poor in Pak will not be easy to implement

Pakistan's dwindling economy has steadily dug its way into such a morass that even sane, helpful and logical directions from the experts outside, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in this case, do not seem to be able to pull it through. The recent call by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva to Pakistan for increasing taxation on the wealthy and protecting the poor is a stark reminder of the country's economic woes. The cash-strapped nation, which secured a bailout from the IMF in July, is grappling with double-digit inflation and a range of structural issues that need immediate redressal. Kristalina's meeting with Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session has brought the pressing economic issues facing Pakistan to the forefront. Kristalina emphasised the need for Pakistan to collect more taxes from the wealthy and simultaneously protect the country's vulnerable populations. The IMF has long been advocating economic reforms in Pakistan.



Pakistan's economy is reeling under soaring inflation, which has been exacerbated by the conditions attached to the IMF's \$3 billion bailout package. Meanwhile things have only gone from bad to worse for general population. Massive hikes in electricity and petrol prices have driven inflation to a staggering 27.4 per cent last month, placing the citizens under a crushing burden.

The promise of economic stability and growth through the IMF bailout has not yet materialised for the majority of Pakistanis. The IMF's insistence on revenue collection and protecting the most vulnerable segments of society underscores the importance of a balanced approach. But the irony is that this bailout, and even the previous ones, have hardly changed anything. The ordinary Pakistani continues to suffer while the Pakistani elite (especially the army) enjoys the privileges. These measures are essential not only for fiscal sustainability but also for maintaining social cohesion in a country facing considerable economic hardships. The IMF's approval of the \$3 billion standby agreement, which is crucial to prevent a sovereign debt default, has saved the day but the crisis runs deeper in Pakistan's system. It must galvanise and upgrade industry and trade to compete in the international market. But it is resorting to piecemeal reforms such as earmarking 10 Government-owned companies for privatisation. Though this move is in line with the IMF's recommendations as State-owned entities' losses have been straining Government finances, it is not a permanent solution. Pakistan's economy needs structural changes that can create a conducive business environment. The IMF's prescription may not be easy to follow as Pakistan's elite is going to resist it tooth and nail, especially with the general elections slated for January end. In the short term, however, such moves can play a pivotal role in steering Pakistan away from the brink. The path ahead is challenging as it is directly linked with the survival of Pakistan as a State.

PICTALK



Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel perform during diamond jubilee celebrations of Air Force Station Jammu

Multivitamins: A traveller's companion

The role of multivitamins cannot be overstated to reinforce your immunity while travelling

Travel has become an integral aspect of modern lifestyle. People nowadays are traversing the globe more than ever before for business as well as for leisure. Even though travelling is fun, people who travel a lot often face the challenge of maintaining their health during their trips. This is because of the change in their usual routines, consumption of different foods, and the new environment. These factors can drain travellers, both physically and mentally, besides dampening the excitement of their adventure. This is precisely where multivitamins come into play.

Why are Multivitamins?
The stress of travelling can cause discomfort like a stiff neck, sore muscles, back pain, and joint aches, which can be quite tiring. Multivitamins can soothe these symptoms besides providing the essential vitamins and minerals that could be deficient in your diet throughout your journey. Besides this, multivitamins can prove beneficial in several other ways:
Supporting Natural Wellness: Multivitamins are a



blend of vitamins and minerals usually found in our food. They are beneficial for bridging nutritional gaps and naturally improving health. One daily multivitamin during travel can serve as a reliable support system, countering the deficiency of essential nutrients induced by changing diets. Changing time zones and long flights can disrupt our sleep patterns and leave us fatigued and stressed. B vitamins, particularly B6, B12, and folic acid, play a substantial role in stimulating the nervous system for combating stress. Including these nutrients in a multivitamin can help travellers manage fatigue and adjust to new time zones more effectively. Thus, consuming health supplements or multivitamins during travel can play a crucial role in balancing irregular meal patterns. Multivitamins

come in various forms, from traditional tablets and capsules to gummies and powders, catering to different preferences and dietary restrictions. Their portability makes them an ideal travel companion. When choosing multivitamins for your journey, consider a blend that includes all the essential nutrients for travellers– Vitamin B complex, Vitamin C, magnesium, probiotics, and ginseng. For instance, vitamin B complex boosts cognitive performance while Vitamin C aids in fortifying the immune system.

Vital Nutrients to Vegan & Vegetarian Travellers
Vegan and vegetarian travellers often struggle to meet their nutritional needs while on the go. Dietary restrictions can impact their energy levels and overall health during their journey. Multivitamins play a crucial role in bridging these nutritional gaps for such individuals. Furthermore, multivitamin supplements for this group contain medicinal herbs and higher levels of zinc, vitamin B12, iron, and algae-derived omega-3 fatty acids to address deficiencies

commonly found in plant-based eating patterns. For instance, multivitamins composed of Ashwagandha, an age-old medicinal herb renowned for its rich reserve of Vitamin C, calcium, and iron, are known for enhancing stamina. Similarly, certain multivitamin products include Shilajit, a mineral-dense resin used in Ayurveda. This natural substance is rich in nutrients, including iron, magnesium, retinol, and vitamins B, C, and E. It also aids in stress and anxiety reduction, which makes it an ideal companion for vegan and vegetarian travellers.

Multivitamins, the tiny powerhouses are not just supplements; they are the steadfast companions that can empower you to conquer new horizons with strength, and vigour. So, whether you are chasing sunsets on remote beaches or sealing business deals in bustling cities, let multivitamins be your trusted companions. Your journey is extraordinary-let your health be equally exceptional.
(The writer is the CEO, Co-Founder, of Positive Gems; views are personal)



GAGAN MANCHANDA

Who killed Hardeep Singh Nijjar?

The Indo-Canada relations have deteriorated after the killing of Nijjar, a pro-Khalistani. Are sectional conflicts among Khalistanis in Canada the cause?

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that Indian agents had murdered the Khalistani leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, on June 18, 2023, in Canada, is reportedly based on inputs from intelligence sources. This raises the question as to how reliable these inputs are. No final judgement is possible until these inputs and the evidence behind them are made public. Nevertheless, one can have some idea of the efficiency of the Canadian intelligence and security establishment by looking at their performance in respect of the biggest ever terrorist outrage emanating from Canadian soil-- the mid-air explosion that brought down Air India's Boeing 747 aircraft, Emperor Kanishka, carrying flight AI 182 from Toronto to Mumbai via Montreal, off the coast of Ireland. All 329 persons, passengers and staff, on board the flight which had taken off on June 23, 1985, were killed. Only 131 of the bodies could be recovered.

The Air India explosion was a result of negligence, intelligence failure, inaction and lax security arrangement on the part of the Canadian authorities. For quite some time before the explosion there was a fear that Khalistani terrorists in Canada were planning a strike. Alerted, India's Intelligence Bureau had sent a telex message on June 1, 1985, both to Air India's management and the Canadian authorities asking them to beef up security measures to forestall a possible attack on an aircraft by Sikh terrorists.

James Bartleman, then head of Canada's intelligence bureau, got a frosty response from an official of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), whose attention he drew to a highly classified Communications Security Establishment (CSE) document saying that Sikh extremists might be targeting AI 182. He was told that officials were probing the matter. Security measures remained lax. Sniffer dogs remained missing from all Canadian airports because they were under training at Vancouver. X-ray screens at Toronto's Pearson Airport



"broke down" on the day of the flight.

Days before the bombing, Canadian intelligence operatives who were tracking Talwinder Singh Parmar, founder and leader of terrorist group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), and subsequently considered to be the mastermind behind the downing of AI-182-- heard an explosives test that he conducted in a forest. They ignored it, thinking that it was a "gunshot!"

In its report submitted in 2010, a commission of inquiry, appointed by Stephen Harper, then Canada's Prime Minister, in 2006, and headed by a retired judge of the country's Supreme Court, John Major, condemned several security failures and blunders on part of Canadians that led to the bombing. According to the report, the RCMP and Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) had significant pieces of information that, taken together, "would have led a competent analyst to conclude that Flight 182 was at high risk of being bombed by known Sikh terrorists in June 1985." Lack of coordination among them prevented the risk from being neutralised. The report called the security lapses "inexcusable" and termed Canadian security arrangements at the time "wholly deficient".



THE REPORT CALLED THE SECURITY LAPSES "INEXCUSABLE" AND TERMED CANADIAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT THE TIME "WHOLLY DEFICIENT"

Nor have the post-explosion developments shown any profound regret on the part of the Canadian authorities over what had happened. Nor have they reached out to the victims and their families the way they should have. The earnestness with which investigations into the outrage were conducted is reflected in the fact that only one person Inderjit Singh Reyat, was convicted and, that too, decades after the bombing. Talwinder Singh Parmar, who had returned to India, was killed in an encounter with the Punjab police in 1992. The other accused, including Ripudaman Singh Malik, who was subsequently murdered in Canada on July 14, 2023, were acquitted.

In a searing observation, judge John Major, had stated that Canada had relegated the biggest terrorist attack targeting their country to background. He noted, "I stress this is a Canadian atrocity. For too long the greatest loss of Canadian lives at the hands of terrorists has somehow been relegated outside the Canadian consciousness." Given this background, one can hardly be blamed for doubting, prima facie, Canadian intelligence agencies' conclusion that Indian agents had murdered Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This is particu-

larly so in the context of Ripudaman Singh Malik's subsequent murder. He had written a letter on January 17, 2022, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, praising him for his initiative to redress some of the pending demands of the Sikhs. While thanking Modi for removing the names of some Sikhs from the blacklist which prevented them from visiting India, he accused certain "anti-India members" of the Sikh community of running an "orchestrated campaign" against Modi. Back in Surrey in British Columbia, his praise for Modi had prompted a section of Sikhs to accuse him of treachery towards the Sikh qaum. Was he murdered for the 180-degree turn in his attitude to India and Modi?

The world of Khalistani terrorists, it appears, is not one of great mutual camaraderie and friendship, but one of sectional acrimony. Was Hardeep Singh Nijjar a victim of this internecine conflict, and the RCMP, CSIS and the CSE have been clueless about this entire matter as they were about the preparations to blow up the Air India flights? The question needs to be looked at seriously.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Neutralise the Khalistan movement



Late Indira Gandhi, who had a keen awareness of the dangers posed by the divisive Khalistan movement, confronted it head-on through Operation Blue Star. Without this intervention, the movement could have taken deeper root within our nation. Although its leaders were compelled to disperse abroad, in 1984, she paid the ultimate price with her life for the greater national cause. Canada, with its enthu-

siasm for immigration and a relative lack of experience in dealing with terrorism, tragically suffered the loss of 268 of its own citizens in the 1985 bombing of Air India's Kanishka Flight 182. It appears that, perhaps due to a delayed examination of history, Canada is now recklessly aligning with proponents of the Khalistan movement within its borders for short-term political gain. Sooner or later, the nation will realize that these renegades owe their allegiance to nothing but blind devotion to a misguided cause. The Indian government must step far beyond the scope of diplomacy and demonstrate unwavering resolve through every possible means to neutralise the Khalistan movement, not only within Canada but also in other emerging regions, to prevent the ignition of domestic unrest.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

Finally, after six attempts and twenty-seven years since its first introduction in 1996, the Women's 33 Percent Reservation (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) Bill passed in the Lok Sabha on September 20, 2023. Despite all political parties' efforts to attract women voters with various schemes and financial incentives, they have remained silent on the 33 percent reservation. Now that the bill has cleared this hurdle, the question arises of how soon it can become law. According to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, "After the next year's elections, the census and delimitation exercise will take place. After this, there will be 1/3 women in this house." This implies that it is unlikely to happen before the 2029 elections, unless there is a significant shift in the government's stance and amendments to the Constitution. Nevertheless, involving women in policymaking is essential to address issues concerning them adequately.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

RAHUL GANDHI MEETS COOLIES

Sir — Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi once again surprised people by vis-

iting a railway station in New Delhi and engaging with porters to understand their concerns. The Congress leader arrived at Anand Vihar Railway Station to interact with the coolies. Gandhi engaged in extensive conversations with them and discussed the challenges they face. This visit comes several months after a group of porters requested him to meet them and comprehend their issues, and to work towards their betterment.

In recent months, Rahul Gandhi has consistently surprised people with his interactions with the public. He visited Bengali Market, the Jama Masjid area to have a meal, and Mukherjee Nagar to engage with UPSC aspirants.

Recently, he undertook a motorcycle journey in Ladakh, Leh, and Kargil regions to interact with the local population. Rahul Gandhi's fearless and courageous efforts to engage with ordinary people and understand their problems are commendable.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A CALL FOR FAITH, PEACE, AND UNITY

The positive spirit of hope and faith in God is essential for our well-being



RADHANATH SWAMI MAHARAJ

The Bhagavat Gita verse (BG 8.15) states, that the world is a place of ordeal and unease for the living beings. Further, it outlines the genres of trouble caused by nature (adi-Devika), by society (adi-bhautika), and by body & mind (adhyatmitka). Does the cause of discomfort trigger resentment, bitterness, and anger? Does it invoke a victimhood mindset? Does the innate troubles of the world have a license for perpetrating violence, causing generational rivalry and spreading animosity?

Humans look forward to living in peace and harmony however still we see fights between individuals, family, friends and nations. The underlying reason behind such fights/war shows the obvious failure of any potential dialogue, but more than that it reveals the true characters of an individual or and leaders involved directly in this fight/war. The Bhagavad Gita 16.4 states; that hypocrisy, arrogance, conceit, anger, harshness, and ignorance are the traits of a person possessed by ignorance. And, these fights/war exposes the deep-seated dark traits seated within the hearts of individual/leaders, leading to the unfortunate dehumanization of humanity.

Every fight/war historically, globally and generationally has been fought due to conflicting ideologies between the well-intentioned and not-so-well-intentioned people or groups. But people bereft of spiritual wisdom; act whimsically, instinctually, and emotionally to further their self-serving ideologies without much thought. Additionally, when people start believing they are 'right' 20 times a day, it gets into their heads. They act as (pseudo) God displaying their ignorance brazenly, adversely impacting the lives of many. What they fail to recognize is that, at the core, every being is equal in spiritual identity (nastatmano). Steeped in arrogance and ignorance they fail to perceive the sanctity of life, and thus engage in unbeneficial, destructive work (Agra karma) bringing socio-cultural and economic ruins (ksayaya Jagat). True greatness lies in forgiveness, sacrifice, and compromise for a higher objective of life, peace, and harmony. If those are not the values that drive us; how could it be



otherwise? In the absence of spirituality that fosters resilience and forgiveness, people would naturally tend to slip into the bloody cycle of endless retribution. As a social thinker's question, How many lives per mile would ultimately work, to bring the parties to the table in negotiation? If tooth for a tooth, and eye for an eye is the policy followed, then the whole society will end up blind and toothless.

The quintessential message of Krishna Consciousness, calls forth the positive spirit of hope, meaning and faith in God in critical times. Historically, Kamsa ran a godless kingdom and wreaked havoc in the society by using deceit, fear, and force to maintain his grip on power. To assuage the suffering, Lord Krsna appeared as lightning amid the darkness of the world and neutralized Kamsa who was possessed by the spirit of ignorance beyond redemption. Currently, this lightning potency of the Lord is still accessible, within our reach, as the wisdom of the Gita. Irrespective of social, cultural, or religious diversities, the spiritual wisdom of the Gita empowers us to orient our lives towards a higher purpose, beyond selfish and short-sighted objectives. This higher purpose needs to be placed at the heart of world leaders and citizens, guided by universal qualities of forgiveness, fortitude, simplicity, non-violence, truthfulness, and freedom from anger, among others. Guided by wisdom and integrating such favourable characteristics into our lives as individuals, we feel spiritually empowered to be a positive force, bringing order amid the chaos of godless civilization and bridging the divide among human hearts with faith, peace, and unity.

(The author is the Spiritual Guru of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

Celebrating International Day of Sign Languages

ARMAN ALI

On this day, let us recognise the power of communication and the indispensable role sign languages play in bridging the gap for the deaf-mute community

Every year, on September 23rd, the world unites to observe the International Day of Sign Languages, acknowledging the vital role sign languages play in our global society. This year, with the theme "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!," we contemplate the significance of sign languages in reshaping the world, especially in a context where communication is an integral part of our daily lives.

Communication forms the lifeblood of our interconnected world, serving as the foundation for building relationships, sharing ideas, and engaging in the intricate processes that shape our societies. Yet, for the millions of individuals worldwide who are deaf or hard of hearing, accessing this fundamental human right can be challenging. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), currently, over 1.5 billion people, nearly 20% of the global population, live with hearing loss, and 430 million of them experience disabling hearing loss. Alarminglly, it is projected that by 2050, this number could exceed 700 million people with disabling hearing loss.

The deaf community in India constitutes a significant portion of the population, with a diverse and vibrant culture. India has the largest deaf population in the world. As per WHO estimates in India, there are approximately 63 million people, who are suffering from Significant Auditory Impairment; this places the estimated prevalence at 6.3% in the Indian population.

Despite the challenges they face, the deaf community in India has made considerable strides in recent years. The Indian Sign Language (ISL) is recognized as one of the officially recognized languages of India, which has helped promote communication and inclusion among the deaf population. Additionally, various NGOs, government initiatives, and educational institutions have been working tirelessly to improve access to education, healthcare, and employment

opportunities for the deaf.

In terms of education, there are specialised schools and institutions across the country that cater to the needs of deaf students, offering tailored curricula and sign language instruction. However, there is still a need for more inclusive education practices and increased awareness about the rights and potential of deaf individuals.

Efforts are also being made to empower the deaf community through vocational training and employment opportunities, ensuring they can lead fulfilling and independent lives. Indian sign language interpreters play a crucial role in facilitating communication between the deaf and hearing communities in various settings, including government offices, hospitals, and educational institutions.

Indeed, the deaf community in India is a significant and dynamic part of the country's diverse population. While there have been positive developments in terms of recognition and inclusion, ongoing efforts are needed to further improve the quality of life and opportunities for deaf individuals in India. Accurate and up-to-date statistics will be essential to track the progress and tailor interventions to better meet the needs of this vibrant community.

For this vast community, sign languages act as a conduit to participate in the broader narrative of global communication. Sign languages are not just tools of communication; they are intricate and vibrant linguistic systems in their own right, featuring distinctive grammar, vocabulary, and cultural nuances. They provide the means through which deaf individuals convey their thoughts,

share their stories, and connect with the world around them. On the International Day of Sign Languages, we celebrate the diversity of these languages and the sense of unity they foster among the global deaf community.

India, being the most populous nation globally, also has the largest deaf population and therefore it is our collective responsibility to address their needs and aspirations. We have made significant strides in assistive technology, and there must be a decisive push to enable larger access to these technologies for the deaf population. With its inbuilt rich dynamics, the addition of technology will make sign language more profound and relevant. It's also essential for the country to view disabilities as an investment to promote their integration into mainstream society.

In the same vein, it is important to emphasize that achieving inclusion cannot occur in isolation. An ecosystem must be created to facilitate two-way communication through sign language. The responsibility lies not only with the deaf community but with society as a whole. Sign language should be integrated into the standard school curriculum to ensure that everyone becomes proficient in this language and skill. Just as foreign languages are taught in schools, there's no reason why Indian Sign Language shouldn't be part of the curriculum.

The significance of sign language reaches beyond everyday conversations. In an increasingly interconnected and diverse world, sign languages are pivotal in areas such as education, employment, healthcare, and civic engagement. They empower

deaf individuals to access quality education, pursue meaningful careers, make informed healthcare decisions, and participate in the political and social life of their communities. Without sign languages, millions would find themselves excluded, unable to fully engage in society.

To ensure that government proceedings and policies are accessible to the deaf community, it should be mandatory to have a sign language interpreter at every government event. This way, a significant portion of the population would not miss out on essential government information and programs.

In a world that prides itself on progress and inclusivity, such oversights should be deemed unacceptable. The International Day of Sign Languages serves as a stark reminder of the imperative for governments, organizations, and individuals to prioritize accessibility and inclusivity in all facets of society. It is a day when we should reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that sign languages are accessible to all, everywhere.

As we commemorate the International Day of Sign Languages in 2023, let us recognize the power of communication and the indispensable role sign languages play in bridging the gap for the deaf community. Let us also advocate for increased awareness, investment, and action to guarantee that sign languages are accessible to everyone, everywhere. Only through such collective endeavours can we genuinely create "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!" and transform the global order for the better, making it a more inclusive and equitable place for all.

Cooperatives can end Punjab's agriculture woes

Cooperative societies can make agricultrue viable by providing cheap loans, selling agricultural inputs at reasonable rates and buying farm produce at fair price

Punjab has been the leader in food grain production; despite the bad weather, this year too, the contribution of wheat to the national grain reserve from Punjab is more than 46 per cent. However, the economic condition of the farmers of Punjab is getting worse. They cannot repay the loans taken on crops and commit suicide. One-third of the farmers in Punjab are either marginal with up to 2.5 acres of land or small farmers with 2.5 to 5 acres of land. Their total land is only 9.7% of the cultivable land in the state. According to a survey, the number of marginal and small farmers with up to 5 acres of land is 3,61,938, while the number of semi-medium farmers with 5 to 10 acres of land is 3,67,938



SUKHDEV SINGH

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and medium farmers with 10 to 25 acres of land is 3, 05,220. There are only 57,707 farmer families with more than 25 acres of land. Despite their hard work and optimization of the yield, more than 80 per cent of the farmers in the state are in debt.

The majority of the farmers depend on six-month yield crops i.e. wheat and paddy, and earn what barely meets the repayment of the money borrowed during the previous six months for expenditure on growing the crop and supporting the families. Then the cash is needed for the next cycle. But they don't have savings to defray the expenses on agricultural implements, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, on the one hand, and on personal needs, such as food,

clothing and health facilities for the family, children's education and other social responsibilities, on the other. Thus, the farmers have to take a loan for the next term. Small landowners face difficulty in loan sanctions from banks or moneylenders. Due to a lot of paperwork and lateral guarantees, the sanction of bank loans is delayed and sometimes completely refused or else the partial amount is sanctioned. Then the farmer has to approach some private moneylender for a loan at a high interest rate to save the crop. Due to the high interest rate, the real income from the crop decreases, while due to delayed loans, the use of fertilizer and pesticides is delayed causing low yield and losses. Some moneylenders sell fertilizers and pesticides instead of giving the loan amount in cash, so the farmers have to buy these products at the moneylender's price. What is worse is that sometimes the farmers double their losses when they happen to buy fake products.

In such circumstances, cooperative societies can be a solution to this thorny issue. They can purchase agricultural inputs like quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in bulk at competitive prices and sell to the farmers at a marginal profit, sanctioning the total cost as a crop loan at low interest. Societies can buy farm machinery and tools and rent to such farmers at a reasonable cost. This will benefit both farmers and cooperatives.

Cooperative societies can

encourage farm support activities and set up processing and procurement centres for agro-products to help farmers generate their daily, weekly or monthly income. If possible, they may employ marginal farmers on a part-time basis in the processing units.

Future of Cooperative Societies: There are 19164 cooperative societies in Punjab out of which 3953 are Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS). Of these, 56% are in profit, 38.6 in loss, while the rest are in 'no profit, no loss'. While effecting administrative reforms in cooperative societies and efficient utilisation of funds, the Punjab Government can take advantage of the recent Union Cabinet decision to expand the scope of cooperative societies, by setting up new PACS in unrepresented villages and by computerizing PACS for their efficient, transparent and accountable performance.

Future Action Plan:

In Punjab, the State Agricultural Development Bank (SADB), Primary Agricultural Development Bank (PADB) and Primary Agricultural Cooperative/ Credit Societies (PACS) should jointly support dairy, poultry, fisheries, piggery and agro-processing units in addition to loans for crops. operative farming should be developed by pooling the holdings of 2.5 to 5 acres of land to form a unit of at least 25 acres to which 10 acres of Panchayat land on concessional contract may be added making it a unit of 35 acres. In addition to

other facilities, such cooperative farms may be provided electricity connections for tube wells on priority and the necessary machinery at concessional rates.

The other types of cooperative farms can be the cooperative farm for Dalits, the cooperative farm for women and the cooperative farm for landless farmers, each on 10 acres of Panchayat land attached to a subsidiary business of dairy, piggery, poultry, fish farming etc. Similarly, by combining 5-10 acres and 10-25 acres of land holdings, cooperative farms of 35-50 acres can be created without the addition of Panchayat land. These farms should also be given the same facilities as other cooperative farms.

Ramaswamy calls for economic independence from China

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian-American Republican presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy has called for declaring “economic independence” from China, for which he proposed a slew of measures including an expanded relationship with countries like India.

In a major foreign policy speech in his home state Ohio on Thursday, Ramaswamy also underlined the need to move away from Chinese-controlled pharmaceutical supply chains and increase military spending.

“What we are laying out here is a clear and pragmatic vision for how we will actually, finally at long last declare economic independence from China while actually advancing American prosperity at home,” the 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur said.

“I will not sell you a fake vision of onshoring everything immediately. That’s not going to happen if we are serious about decoupling from China. It will also require expanded relationships with India, Israel and Brazil,” said Ramaswamy, whose popularity has been on the rise since his impressive performance at the first Republican presidential primary debate last month.

Ramaswamy said if he is elected president of the country in November 2024, his policy of declaring independence from China will have four elements. This includes declaring “independence from the climate change agenda” that Ramaswamy described as a “farce” and “hoax”.

He said that he would also achieve economic independence from Taiwan by increasing production of US semiconductors, the “little chips” that

power phones, satellite systems, medical devices and other communication devices.

He called for increasing military spending to “defend our own homeland,” and move away from Chinese-controlled pharmaceutical supply chains out of concern that China “could lace our legal pharmaceutical supply chain with poison, including fentanyl”.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Ramaswamy said, builds a great wall that stops one from entering the Chinese market if you criticise the CCP but they will roll out the red carpet if one criticises the United States.

“Take BlackRock, the first asset manager ever to be granted the right to sell mutual funds as a foreign asset manager in China.

How did they get it? It was only after BlackRock’s CEO Larry Fink lobbied in the United States for lowered listing standards for Chinese companies in the US,” he claimed.

Ramaswamy said he is focused on declaring economic independence from China.

“This is what the US president can do. Keep us out of World War III, revive national pride, unlock the regulations that hold our economy back under the executive branch,” he said.

The mistake most presidents make is focusing on the legislative agenda first, he said. Former president Donald Trump promised to repeal and replace Obamacare but it did not happen, Ramaswamy said. “It is a false promise if it’s contingent on Congress. So, everything I’m telling you, we’re going to get done. We’re actually going to get done because I don’t need to ask Congress for permission or for forgiveness,” he asserted. PTI

US and China launch economic groups with aim of easing tensions

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Treasury Department and China’s Ministry of Finance launched a pair of economic working groups on Friday in an effort to ease tensions and deepen ties between the nations.

Led by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Vice Premier He Lifeng, the working groups will be divided into economic and financial segments.

The working groups will “establish a durable channel of communication between the world’s two largest economies,” Yellen said in a series of planned tweets shared with The Associated Press ahead of Friday’s announcement.

Yellen said the groups will “serve as important forums to communicate America’s interests and concerns, promote a healthy economic competition between our two countries with a level playing field for American workers and businesses.”

The announcement follows a string of high-ranking administration officials’ visits to China this year, which sets the stage for a possible meeting between President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in November at an Asia-Pacific

Economic conference in San Francisco.

The two finance ministers have agreed to meet at a “regular cadence,” the Treasury Department said in a news release.

Yellen, along with other Biden administration officials, travelled to China this year after the Democratic president directed key senior officials to “maintain communication and deepen constructive efforts after he met with Xi in Bali last year.

The groups’ launch also comes after Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with China’s vice president on Monday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

China is one of the United States’ biggest trading partners, and economic competition between the two nations has increased in recent years.

Tensions between the countries reached a fever pitch earlier this year when a Chinese surveillance balloon was spotted travelling over sensitive US airspace.

The US military shot the balloon down off the Carolina coast after it traversed sensitive military sites across North America.

China insisted the flyover was an accident involving a civilian aircraft and threatened repercussions.

At least 80 corruption cases to be revived in Islamabad’s Accountability Court

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

At least 80 high-profile corruption cases, including those against former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari, would be revived following a recent landmark ruling by the Supreme Court, according to a media report on Friday.

These are among the hundreds of cases closed as a result of amendments made to the anti-corruption laws by the previous government led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led by Nawaz Sharif. The hearing for these cases would begin soon, officials sources said.

An apex court bench, headed by former Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, had on September 15 declared the amendments to the anti-graft laws void and directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to revive within seven days the closed cases against public office holders.

The apex court had announced its reserved decision on jailed former prime minister Imran Khan’s plea filed last year, challenging the amendments made to the accountability laws by the then government led by Shehbaz Sharif.

NAB prosecution has submitted the record of 80 cases to the accountability court in Islamabad, the Dawn newspaper reported. Several others have been returned to the accountability courts of Rawalpindi and Quetta.

According to official sources, about 2,000 cases, which were earlier closed, are being reopened against officials and businessmen after the intervention by the apex court.

The 80 cases transmitted to the local accountability court included the Park Lane case against Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Zardari, Universal Services Funds, in which former prime minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and others are suspects; the Rental Power Projects case against former premier Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, and the case of Benazir Income Support Programme’s former chairperson Farzana Raja.

The cases against former prime minister Shaukat Aziz and fake accounts cases against Zardari and Omni Group’s directors also stand revived.

The Supreme Court had in its order

Pakistan political parties demand exact date for Jan 2024 elections

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s political parties have demanded an exact polling date from the election commission, a day after it announced that the general election will be held in the “final week of January 2024”. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday issued a vague timeline for elections without disclosing a specific date for the polls, sparking mixed reactions from politicians.

HUM News TV, in a story, highlighted the reaction of various parties to the ECP announcement. The main opposition party, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), rued that the ECP failed to announce a definitive date and demanded clarity.

“The election commission has not provided a definitive date yet,” PPP leader Shazia Marri said. Senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ahsan Iqbal said that his party welcomed the decision by the ECP as it has ended the uncertainty about the delimitation.

“Everyone knew from the first day that the election commission was bound to conduct delimitation after the census,” he said.

Iqbal said that uncertainty should end after the announcement of polls and all political parties should start preparations now. “It is important that the elections are held peacefully and a stable government

is formed that takes the country out of the economic crisis,” the former planning minister was quoted as saying by Geo News. He added that any party that comes into power should take all the parties on the same page and work on the economic agenda with consensus.

Commenting on the “uncertainty surrounding the election date,” PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira stressed that a level playing field and a clear and transparent election process were essential. The ECP had on Thursday said in an official statement that it had assessed the progress of constituency delimitation and decided to release the initial list for constituency delimitation on September 27.

Following a period of consideration of objections and suggestions regarding this process, the final list will be unveiled on November 30. It had said that by the end of delimitation, it would announce a 54-day election programme after November 30 and “polls will be held in the last week of January 2024.”

The HUM News TV report quoted the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), another opposition party, which has also sought clarity on the final election date. It quoted PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal as saying, “Once the process of constituency delimitation is completed, the ECP should announce the final election date. We need to put an end to this uncertainty.”

‘War in Sudan could spread beyond borders’

AP ■ NIGERIA (ABUJA)

The war in Sudan could spread beyond the northeast African country’s borders if it is not stopped, Sudan’s army chief told the United Nations General Assembly, while urging world leaders to designate the rival paramilitary force as a terrorist group.

“The nature of this war is now a threat to regional and international peace and security. ... This is like the spark of war, a war that will spill over to other countries in the region,” Sudan’s Army Chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan told world leaders late Thursday. Sudan plunged into conflict in April when long-simmering tensions escalated between the military, led by Gen. Burhan, and the rival Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Both had joined forces in 2021 to seize power in a coup that cast aside Sudan’s pro-democracy forces.

The conflict has killed at least 5,000 people and wounded 12,000 others, according to Volker Perthes, the U.N. envoy in the country, who announced

his resignation last week.

Gen. Burhan said the Sudanese military has “knocked (on) all doors to stop this war” and asked the U.N. to designate the RSF as a terrorist group. The RSF, he said, has committed “all sorts of crimes that give grounds for such a designation,” including receiving the help of “outlaws and terrorist groups” from other countries.

“Those who have supported killing, burning, raping, forced displacement, looting, stealing, torture, trafficking of arms and drugs, bringing mercenaries or recruiting children - all such crimes necessitate accountability and punishment,” Burhan said. Both the Sudanese military and the RSF have been accused by Amnesty International of extensive war crimes, including deliberate killings of civilians and mass sexual assault. At least 4.6 million people have been displaced in the fighting, according to U.N. data. Children are among those affected the most, with at least 1,200 of them killed in displacement camps because of a deadly combination of measles and malnutrition.

Af migrants get temporary legal status from Biden administration

Washington (AP) The Biden administration said it was giving temporary legal status to Afghan migrants who have already been living in the country for a little over a year.

The Department of Homeland Security said in the announcement Thursday that the decision to give Temporary Protected Status to Afghans who arrived after March 15, 2022, and before September 20, 2023, would affect roughly 14,600 Afghans. This status doesn’t give affected Afghans a long-term right to stay in the country or a path to citizenship. It’s good until 2025, when it would have to be renewed again. But it does protect them from deportation and give them the ability to work in the country. A relatively small number of people are affected.

On Thursday, the administration announced it was giving Temporary Protected Status to nearly 5,00,000 Venezuelans in the country. But many Afghans who would benefit from the new protections took enormous risks in getting to the US, often after exhausting all other options to flee the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Supporters have argued that they are deserving of protection.

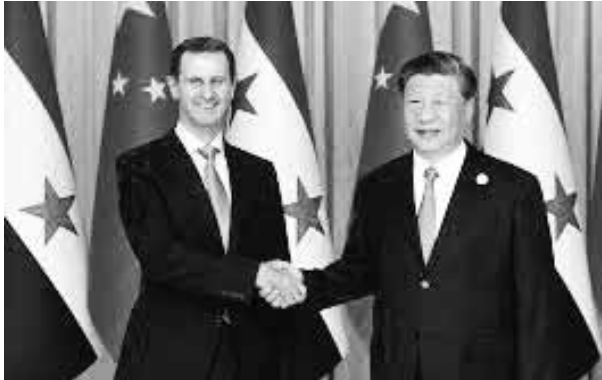
Syria, China announce strategic partnership

AP ■ BEIJING

China and Syria announced the formation of a strategic partnership on Friday as Chinese leader Xi Jinping kicked off a series of diplomatic meetings ahead of the upcoming Asian Games. Xi met Syrian President Bashar Assad in the southern Chinese city of Hangzhou, which is hosting the 15-day sports competition.

“In the face of the unstable and uncertain international situation, China is willing to work with Syria to firmly support each other ... and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice,” Xi said in a video clip posted online by state broadcaster CCTV.

Assad’s visit parallels in some ways that of Russian President Vladimir Putin last year for the opening ceremony



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, shakes hands with Syrian President Bashar Assad before their bilateral meeting in Hangzhou, China on Friday.

of the Beijing Winter Olympics. Both leaders are virtual pariahs in the West but welcomed by China as it tries to expand its global influence and promote an alternative to the US-led international order. The Syrian leader will attend

the Asian Games opening ceremony on Saturday night along with the king of Cambodia, the crown prince of Kuwait and the prime ministers of Nepal, East Timor and South Korea, China’s Foreign Ministry has said.

King Charles III winds up his France state visit

AP ■ FRANCE

After pageantry and politics in Paris, King Charles III concluded his three-day state visit to France with a trip down south to Bordeaux on Friday to focus on a more personal passion: the environment. As the skies cleared after a morning downpour, Charles and Queen Camilla helped plant a loquat leaf oak tree, known for adaptability to a changeable climate, in the garden of Bordeaux City Hall.

The UK monarch will meet emergency workers affected by wildfires in the Bordeaux region last year and visit an experimental forest designed to monitor the impact of climate on urban woodlands.

Locals waved French and British flags, and some shouted “God Save The King!” as the royal couple greeted well-wishers outside Bordeaux’s town hall.

Charles and Camilla are also scheduled to visit a vineyard known for its sustainable approach to wine making, in a region where wine exports are a pillar of the economy.

Severe drought last year forced Bordeaux’s earliest-ever harvest, and the region has long been working to adapt to climate change.

Friday’s events mark the third and final day of a state



visit aimed at shoring up the alliance between Britain and France after years of disputes related to Brexit, migration and other issues.

Charles’ warm words toward France have been met with a standing ovation in the Senate and even cheers of “Long Live the King!”, an uncommon phrase in a country that beheaded its last monarchs.

In Bordeaux, the royal couple joined a reception on a royal navy frigate to celebrate military ties between the countries.

The surrounding Aquitaine region — an English possession in the Middle Ages that English and French royalty fought over

for centuries — is home to a large British community today, and the king and queen met with Britons running businesses in the region.

After flying in to Bordeaux from Paris, the king and queen will briefly switch to more environmentally friendly public transport, riding a pioneering electric tram to the main city square.

In an address to the French Senate on Thursday, Charles praised France and the United Kingdom’s “indispensable relationship” and its capacity to meet the world’s challenges, including Russia’s war in Ukraine and climate change. He called for a new ‘entente for sustainability’.

China presents itself as member of Global South at UNGA

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

China told assembled world leaders that it considers itself part of the Global South, saying it identifies with the goals and challenges of less-developed nations and offering them an alternative to what it has long called “Western hegemony”. The message came from a second-tier official after the country’s powerful president, Xi Jinping, skipped the annual U.N. meeting again. Xi sent Vice President Han Zheng to deliver a policy statement at the General Assembly’s leaders’ meeting that covered the government’s usual positions with global familiar language but appeared to focus on building coalitions around its approach to development and international relations.

“As the largest developing country, China is a natural member of the Global South. It breathes the same breath with other developing countries and shares the same future with them,” Han said Thursday. He also said China supports those nations’ development path “in keeping with their national conditions”.

The loosely defined term “Global South”, which has come up frequently at the United Nations this year, identifies

12 years.

He was expected to discuss economic assistance from China, which could play a major role in Syria’s future reconstruction. Syrian state TV quoted Assad as thanking Xi and his government for standing on the side of the Syrian people “during the crisis and suffering.”

China has backed Assad, using its veto on the UN Security Council eight times to block resolutions against his government.

Assad expressed hope that the meeting would be the basis for “wide-ranging and long-term strategic cooperation in all fields” between China and Syria.

The Asian Games were scheduled for last year but postponed because of China’s then-strict pandemic restrictions. China eased its restrictions in December of last year.

Indian-origin author’s debut novel shortlisted for Booker Prize 2023

PTI ■ LONDON

London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo’s debut novel ‘Western Lane’ has been shortlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize.

Kenya-born Maroo’s novel set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions. It revolves around the story of an 11-year-old girl named Gopi and her bonds with her family. “Chetna Maroo’s deeply evocative debut of a family grappling with grief conveyed through crystalline language which reverberates like the sound of a ball hit clean and hard with a close echo.” It is stunning and it stays with you,” said Canadian novelist Esi Edugyan, the chair of the Booker Prize 2023 judging panel, as she announced the shortlist here on Thursday.

With reference to her shortlisted work, Maroo said it would be fair to call it a “sports novel.” “It’s also been called a coming-of-age novel, a domestic novel, a novel about grief, a novel about the immigrant experience. Recently a friend asked me if the book has something of the detective story about it, with Gopi trying to find her way, piecing together the clues of small gestures,

actions and fragments of overheard conversations; she has little to go on and since she’s dealing with the mysteries of loss, there are no answers for her,” she said. Sarah Bernstein’s ‘Study for Obedience,’ ‘If I Survive You’ by Jonathan Escoffery, Paul Harding’s ‘The Other Eden,’ Paul Lynch’s ‘Prophet Song’ and Paul Murray’s ‘The Bee Sting’ complete the shortlist of six that will compete for the 50,000-pounds prize to be unveiled on November 26 at an award ceremony in London.

“Together these works showcase the breadth of what world literature can do, while gesturing at the unease of our moment.

From Bernstein and Harding’s outsiders attempting to establish lives in societies that reject them, to the often-funny struggles of Escoffery and Murray’s adolescents as they carve out identities for themselves beyond their parents’ mistakes, to Maroo and Lynch’s elegant evocations of family grief - each speaks distinctly about our shared journeys while refusing to be defined as any one thing,” noted Edugyan. Although full of hope, humour and humanity, the books address many of 2023’s most pressing concerns: climate change, immigration, financial hardship, the persecution of minorities, political extremism and the erosion of personal freedoms.

Zelenskyy visiting Canada for first time since war started

AP ■ TORONTO

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will address the Canadian Parliament on Friday as he continues his efforts to shore up support from Western allies for Ukraine's war against the Russian invasion.

Zelenskyy was scheduled to arrive at Ottawa's airport late Thursday after meeting with US President Joe Biden and lawmakers in Washington. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office said.

Trudeau planned to greet Zelenskyy and also to speak in Parliament in Ottawa on Friday.

It is Zelenskyy's first visit to Canada since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. He previously addressed the Canadian Parliament virtually after the war started.

Zelenskyy and Trudeau are scheduled to go from Ottawa to Toronto to meet with the local Ukrainian community. Canada is home to about 1.4 million people of Ukrainian descent, close to 4

per cent of the population.

The Ukrainian president is making the trip after stops at the United Nations and the White House.

Canada's UN Ambassador Bob Rae said it is important for Zelenskyy to see the extent to which Canada supports Ukraine in the war.

"We have done a lot to help him and we need to do more," Rae said. "We're going to continue to do everything we can to support the Ukrainian people."

Canada has provided more than 8.9 billion Canadian dollars (USD 6.6 billion) in support to Ukraine in what Trudeau's government calls the highest per-capita direct financial support to Ukraine in the Group of 7 industrial nations.

More than 1,75,000 Ukrainians have come to Canada since the war started and an additional 7,00,000 have received approval to come as part of an initiative that supports temporary relocation of those fleeing the war. The initiative allows for an open work

permit for three years with pathways to permanent residency and citizenship.

Zelenskyy is facing questions in Washington about the flow of American dollars that for 19 months has helped keep his troops in the fight against Russian forces.

Ukrainian troops are struggling to take back territory that Russia gained over the past year. Their progress in the next month or so before the rains come and the ground turns to mud could be critical in rousing additional global support over the winter. Zelenskyy made his first official visit to Canada in 2019.

Zelenskyy to speak before Canadian Parl

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will speak to the Canadian Parliament on Friday as part of his campaign to bolster support from Western allies for Ukraine's war against the Russian invasion.

Zelenskyy flew into Canada's capital late Thursday



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, greets Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as his wife Olena Zelenska looks on as they arrive at Ottawa airport, Canada, on Thursday. AP/PTI

after meetings with US President Joe Biden and lawmakers in Washington. He spoke at the United Nations' annual meeting Wednesday.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who also planned to speak to Parliament on Friday, gave Zelenskyy a warm welcome on the tarmac at Ottawa's airport.

It is Zelenskyy's first visit to Canada since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. He previously addressed the Canadian Parliament virtually after the war started.

After their speeches, Zelenskyy and Trudeau are scheduled to go to Toronto to meet with the local Ukrainian community. Canada is home to about 1.4 million people of Ukrainian descent, close to 4 per cent of the population.

Canada's UN ambassador, Bob Rae, said it is important for Zelenskyy to see the extent to which Canada supports Ukraine in the war. "We have done a lot to help him and we need to do more," Rae said. "We're going to continue to do everything we can to support

the Ukrainian people."

Canada has provided more than 8.9 billion Canadian dollars (USD 6.6 billion) in support to Ukraine in what Trudeau's government calls the highest per-capita direct financial support to Ukraine in the Group of 7 industrial nations.

More than 175,000 Ukrainians have come to Canada since the war started and an additional 700,000 have received approval to come as part of an initiative that supports temporary relocation of those fleeing the war.

The initiative allows for an open work permit for three years with pathways to permanent residency and citizenship.

Trudeau's office said Canada has provided 1.8 billion Canadian dollars (USD 1.3 billion) in military aid, including tanks, artillery, armored vehicles and ammunition.

Zelenskyy is facing questions in Washington about the flow of American dollars that for 19 months has helped keep his troops in the fight against Russian forces.

Ukrainian missile strike hits Russia's Black Sea Fleet HQ

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine carried out a fiery missile strike on Friday on the main headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet and one serviceman was missing, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

Photos and video showed large plumes of smoke over the building in Sevastopol in annexed Crimea.

The ministry initially said one servicemember was killed but then issued a subsequent statement saying he was missing.

The Russian-installed governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said no one was injured outside the burning headquarters, and he didn't provide information on other casualties. Firefighters battled the blaze, and more emergency forces were being brought in, an indication the fire could be massive.

Sevastopol residents said they heard explosions in the skies and saw smoke, Russian news outlets reported. Images circulated in Ukrainian Telegram channels showed clouds of smoke over the seafloor. The Associated Press could not immediately verify the videos.

A stream of ambulances arrived at the

fleet's headquarters, and shrapnel was scattered hundreds of metres (yards) around, the Tass news agency reported.

The Defence Ministry said five missiles were shot down by Russian air defense systems responding to the attack on Sevastopol. It was not immediately clear if the headquarters was hit in a direct strike or by debris from an intercepted missile.

Oleg Kryuchkov, an official with the Crimean administration, said one cruise missile downed near Bakhchysarai, about 30 kilometres (18.5 miles) inland, sparked a grass fire.

Razvozhayev said civilian infrastructure wasn't damaged but did not mention the impact on the fleet headquarters. He initially warned Sevastopol residents that another attack was possible and urged them not to leave buildings or go to the city centre.

He later said there was no longer any threat of an air strike but reiterated calls not to go to the central part of the city, saying roads were closed and unspecified "special efforts" were underway.

Police asked residents to leave the central part of the city, Tass said. Ukrainian officials, who have claimed responsibility

for a series of other recent attacks on Crimea, didn't immediately announce Kyiv launched the strike.

The attack comes a day after Russian missiles and artillery pounded cities across Ukraine, killing at least five people as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with President Joe Biden and congressional leaders in Washington with an additional USD 24 billion aid package being considered.

The port city of Sevastopol serves as the main base for Russia's Black Sea Fleet. A Ukrainian drone hit the fleet's headquarters in July 2022, injuring six people and causing minor damage to the building.

Last week, the Russian-installed authorities in the city accused Ukraine of attacking a strategic shipyard in the city, damaging two ships undergoing repairs and causing a fire at the facility.

The Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014 in an act that most of the world considered illegal, has been a frequent target since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine more than 18 months ago. The attack on the shipyard was the biggest in weeks.

Pope visits multicultural Marseille

AP ■ MARSEILLE

Pope Francis arrived on Friday in the French port city of Marseille, for centuries a multiethnic and multifaith melting pot, to amplify his call for the Mediterranean to be a place of welcome for migrants, not a cemetery for people who die trying to cross the sea to Europe. French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne awaited the pope on the airport tarmac for the arrival ceremony.

His two-day visit comes as Europe is again seeing an increasing number of people who set off in flimsy boats from Tunisia for Italy.

Speaking to reporters on the plane en route to Marseille, Francis was asked about the recent influx of migrants to the Italian island of Lampedusa, where the thousands of people who arrived last week briefly outnumbered the island's resident population.

"Cruelty, a lack of humanity. A terrible lack of humanity," Francis said. The pope's position on migration is an increasingly lonely one in Europe, where some countries



are emphasising border fences, repatriations and the possibility of a naval blockade to keep a new influx of would-be refugees out.

Francis is presiding over the closing session of a gathering of Mediterranean Catholic bishops, but his two-day visit to Marseille is aimed at sending a message well beyond the Catholic faithful to Europe, North Africa and beyond.

After a prayer at the southern French city's basilica, Francis is scheduled to hold an interfaith prayer at a monument dedicated to those who have died at sea. The UN's International Organisation for

Migration estimates that more than 28,000 Europe-bound migrants have died since 2014 while attempting to cross the Mediterranean.

Francis, who has long lamented that the Mediterranean Sea has become "the world's biggest cemetery," confirmed his visit months ago, but it comes as Italy is again seeing an increasing number of migrant arrivals.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni resurrected calls for a naval blockade and announced new centers to hold those who don't qualify for asylum until they can be sent home.

France, for its part, beefed up patrols at its southern border with Italy, a few hours' drive from Marseille, and increased drone surveillance of the Alps to keep newcomers from crossing over. With a European Parliament election set for next year and France's far right challenging the centrist government's policies, French government officials stood firm. "France will not take in migrants from Lampedusa," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said this week on

French TV network TF1.

"It's not by taking in more people that we're going to stem a flow that obviously affects our ability to integrate" them into French society, he said.

Marseille's archbishop, Cardinal Jean-Marc Aveline, who was born in Algeria and moved to France as a child, said such "aggressive" measures weren't the answer. But he said "naive" and peacenik speeches about everyone living together happily ever after weren't helpful either.

"The church must measure these evils well and find a path that is neither naively irenic nor aggressive out of special interests, but prophetic" by being close to migrants and living among them, Aveline told reporters in Rome before the visit.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the maritime rescue organization SOS Mediterranee, which operates a ship that assists migrants, issued Friday an "urgent call for all actors to dignify the lives of children, women and men survivors of rescues at sea."

Quad group expresses concern over 'raging' war in Ukraine

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The Quad grouping comprising India, Australia, Japan and the US on Friday expressed deep concern over the "raging" war in Ukraine and asserted that the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons would be unacceptable, underscoring that the rules-based international order must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko met here on the margins of the high-level 78th session of the UN General Assembly for the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting.

The Quad group reaffirmed its unwavering support for the United Nations, the enduring importance of upholding mutually determined rules, norms, and standards, and to deepen Quad cooperation in the international system, a joint readout of the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting said.

Quad expressed "deep concern over the war raging in Ukraine and mourned its terrible and tragic humanitarian consequences," the Joint Readout of the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting said without naming Russia.

The four-nation bloc underscored the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine in accordance with international law, consistent with the principles of the UN Charter. "We are deeply concerned about the global food security situation and support the efforts of the UN in the resumption of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI). In the context of this war, we concur that the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons would be unacceptable," the joint readout said.

We underscore that the rules-based international order must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states," the joint readout said, in a veiled reference to China and Russia.

The Quad also affirmed its support for a UN that solves the consequential challenges of "our time and safeguards our shared and interconnected resources".

The ministers said they are committed to advancing a comprehensive UN reform agenda, including through expansion in permanent and non-permanent seats of the UN Security Council.

"We call for a UN Security Council that is more representative, transparent, effective, and credible. We underscore the need to address attempts to subvert the international system, including in the UN, and promote accountability," they said. The ministers also discussed the recent Quad Counterterrorism Working Group's Consequence Management Exercise, which explored the capabilities and supports Quad countries could offer regional partners in response to a terrorist attack and look forward to the upcoming Quad Counterterrorism Working Group meeting and tabletop exercise in Honolulu, Hawaii in December which will focus on countering the use of emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. "We continue to cooperate on countering the use of the internet and other technologies for terrorist and violent extremist purposes," they said.

The four nations said they are committed to countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including preventing the international and cross-border movement of terrorists and countering terror finance networks and safe havens, in a veiled reference to Pakistan.

Israeli forces kill Palestinian militant

Jerusalem (AP): Israeli forces killed a Palestinian militant in the restive northern West Bank on Friday, Palestinian authorities said, the latest death in a spiral of violence that has gripped the occupied territory over the last year and a half, surging to levels unseen in two decades. The militant Islamic Jihad group claimed the man as its fighter and identified him as 18-year-old Abdallah Abu Hasan. The Palestinian Health Ministry said Hasan was shot in the abdomen by Israeli forces early Friday morning in a Palestinian village north of the West Bank city of Jenin. The Israeli army said the incident occurred during a nighttime raid into the West Bank, after Palestinians fired and threw explosives at soldiers in the town of Kafr Dan.



"Khaibar-buster" missiles are carried on a truck during an annual military parade marking anniversary of the beginning of war against Iran by former Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein, in front of the shrine of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, just outside Tehran, Iran, Friday. AP/PTI

Azerbaijan sends food, other aid to Nagorno-Karabakh

AP ■ YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

Azerbaijan said it was delivering food and other humanitarian aid to Nagorno-Karabakh on Friday, two days after the region's ethnic Armenian separatist government called a cease-fire in a short but intense fight with Azerbaijani forces.

But the aid will be only a slight relief to the region that has endured severe food and medicine shortages since last December, an ordeal now aggravated by thousands who fled the recent fighting without being able to take food with them. Nagorno-Karabakh's 120,000 people began suffering shortages late last year when a blockade began of the road connecting the region to Armenia.

Improving the supply of food and other basic needs will be a key issue in building stability in the region, which is within Azerbaijan but had been

under the control of ethnic Armenian forces since 1994.

Azerbaijan on Tuesday launched intense fire on Armenian positions in what it called an "anti-terrorist operation," demanding that the Armenians lay down their arms and the separatist government disband.

A day later, Nagorno-Karabakh authorities agreed to the military demands, but talks on how the region will be reintegrated into Azerbaijan have not reached final agreement.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Friday said at a government meeting that there was no immediate need for the region's ethnic Armenians to leave their homes, but said Armenia is prepared to receive as many as 40,000 evacuees if needed.

Anxiety is high among the region's people.

"The majority of the population wants to be evacuated

to Armenia. We cannot live with Azerbaijan," 21-year-old Hayk Harutunyan said in Stepanakert, the regional capital.

"During the last 30 years thousands of Armenians were killed, our brothers and sisters," he told The Associated Press by telephone, referring to decades of conflict over the region.

"Azerbaijan's goal is the annihilation of the Armenian nation; how can we live with those who want to kill us?"

Harutunyan said "the whole city is full of refugees brought from those regions ... that came under the control of Azerbaijan after the September 19 attack. These people left their homes empty-handed, they had no food, no clothes, no place to stay."

Azerbaijan's emergencies ministry said two 20-ton trucks with food and hygiene products as well as two trucks with bread were dispatched to

Nagorno-Karabakh on Friday, travelling on the road from Aghdam, which lies east of the region.

Supplies for Nagorno-Karabakh previously had come from Armenia, to the west. Jeyhun Bayramov, Azerbaijan's foreign minister, said at the United Nations on Thursday that his country is determined to guarantee Nagorno-Karabakh residents "all rights and freedoms" in line with the country's constitution and international human rights obligations, including safeguards for ethnic minorities.

Talks with Nagorno-Karabakh in the Azerbaijani city of Yevlakh will continue, he said.

A Stepanakert woman who gave her name only as Mary said the ceasefire regime appeared to be holding on Friday, but that she feared living under the new conditions. "Azerbaijan starved us for

nine months, deprived us of basic living conditions, then attacked the civilian population, how can we stay here after all these atrocities? It's impossible," she said.

Nagorno-Karabakh came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian military in separatist fighting that ended in 1994. Armenian forces also took control of substantial territory around the Azerbaijani region. Azerbaijan regained control of the surrounding territory in a six-week war with Armenia in 2020. Russia-brokered armistice ended the war, and a contingent of 2,000 Russian peacekeepers was sent to the region to monitor it.

The agreement left Stepanakert connected to Armenia only by the Lachin Corridor, along which Russian peacekeepers were supposed to ensure free movement. But a blockade by Azerbaijan

deprived Nagorno-Karabakh of basic supplies for the last 10 months, until Monday, when the International Committee of the Red Cross was able to make a delivery via that road from Aghdam. Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at the UN that Azerbaijan's offensive this week targeted critical infrastructure such as electricity stations, telephone cables and internet equipment, killed more than 200 people and wounded 400 others, including women and children.

More than 10,000 people fled their homes to escape the offensive, he said. Electricity and phone service were knocked out, leaving people unable to contact each other, and "Azerbaijani troops control main roads in Nagorno-Karabakh, which makes it impossible to visit and get information on the ground," he said.

Govt to make IT hardware import authorisation process fully online

Seeks 3 years' import data from firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday informed IT hardware players that the process of import authorisation for laptops, tablet, servers etc, will be completely online and has sought data of the past three years for the inbound shipments of mobile, IT and telecom products, sources aware of the development said.

Industry players have been informed that the "import management system" portal, which will be managed by Directorate

General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), will go live by the end of this month.

"MeitY has informed companies that 'import management system' will go live by September end. It will be managed by DGFT. It has asked importers to feed their organisation data and import data subsequently for the past 3 years," a source, who did not wish to be identified, told PTI.

The government has proposed to implement new rules for import of IT hardware from November 1. The new rule will allow imports of IT hardware by authorised firms.

The import management system will handle imports related to mobile phones, IT and telecom products.



"The import authorisation will be processed completely online without any manual interventions for speedy approval," an industry source said.

The authorisation will be initially granted for about a year, after which there will be gradual reduction of 5 per cent

on import quota of finished products.

"There may be conditional relief on import quota on a case to case basis," the industry source said.

Minister of State for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar will hold a meeting with the industry on

October 1 to assess the situation.

"The minister has told industry that he will also speak with commerce minister Piyush Goyal and request him to set up a similar consultation with the industry on this subject," the industry source said.

Earlier in the day, Chandrasekhar told reporters that the government aims to meet up to 70 per cent of the country's IT hardware requirement through local production in the next three years and reduce dependency on imports from non-trusted sources.

"At present, almost 80 per cent of our supplies to the digital ecosystem come from imports. We want to make sure whatever the sources are, they are trusted. "As part of emphasising trust, it is obvious that the

Indian component of that supply chain will have to grow. Today 8-10 per cent of our supply requirement comes from India, we want to make that 65-70 per cent in the next three years," the minister said.

As many as 40 companies, including Dell, HP, and Lenovo, have applied for the IT hardware production linked incentive (PLI) scheme with a commitment to make personal computers, laptops, tablets, servers and other equipment worth Rs 4.65 lakh crore during the scheme period.

If all companies get selected under the scheme then the government will need to increase the incentive amount to Rs 22,890 crore against the budgetary allocation of Rs 17,000 crore.



BSE to discontinue stop loss market orders to check freak trades

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading stock exchange LBSE has decided to discontinue Stop Loss Market (SL-M) orders from October 9 to prevent erroneous order placement arising out of manual or algo trades.

This came after a recent freak trade incident caused a lot of angst among the trading community earlier this month due to an SL-M order.

SL-M is a type of order that automatically sells or buys a security at the market price when the trigger price is reached.

"As a measure to prevent erroneous order placement, stop loss orders with market condition in equity segment, equity derivatives segment, currency derivatives segment, and commodity derivatives segment shall be discontinued by the exchange with effect from October 9," BSE said in a notice.

Welcoming the decision, Narendran Solanki, Head, Fundamental Research - Investment Services, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said it is a good step

to prevent erroneous orders and should prove beneficial to small and retail traders as such freak trades harm and create unnecessary volatility in the markets.

"We believe that this is a positive and progressive step that will benefit all market participants by improving the trading process and market quality as SL-M can also lead to extreme price executions during low volumes or when the market price fluctuates sharply," Tejas Khoday, Co-founder and CEO of FYERS, said.

This measure will protect traders from such incidents and align its operations with the NSE, which discontinued SL-M orders in September 2021. Khoday said traders can use Stop Loss Limit (SL-L) orders instead of SL-M orders.

An SL-L order is another type of stop-loss order that only sells or buys a security at the specified price in a range. This helps to avoid executing orders at strike prices with low volumes or sharp movements in the market.



Glenmark Pharma shares fall over 3% after Nirma deal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Friday ended over 3 per cent lower after the company said its board has approved divestment of 75 per cent stake in its subsidiary Glenmark Life Sciences to Nirma Ltd for Rs 5,651.5 crore.

"The stock opened on a weak note and declined 6.40 per cent to Rs 775 on the BSE during the day. It later ended at Rs 802.25, down 3.12 per cent.

At the NSE, it fell 6.36 per cent to Rs 775 apiece during the day. Shares of the company ended at Rs 803.05, lower by 2.97 per cent.

Shares of Glenmark Life Sciences, however, recovered during the afternoon trade and climbed 2.95 per cent to settle at Rs 645.60 on the BSE.

"Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Thursday said its board has approved divestment of 75 per cent stake in its subsidiary Glenmark Life Sciences to Nirma Ltd for Rs 5,651.5

crore, and proceeds would be used to repay debt and deleverage the balance sheet.

"As per the definitive agreement, the Mumbai-based drug maker will offload 75 per cent stake in Glenmark Life Sciences (GLS) to Nirma Ltd at a price of Rs 615 per share.

"After the divestment, Glenmark, which currently owns 82.84 per cent in GLS, will own just 7.84 per cent stake after the completion of the transaction, the drug firm said in a statement.

"Nirma will make an open offer for a 17.15 per cent stake in GLS at an offer price of Rs 631 per share.

"Later addressing a virtual press conference, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Chairman and Managing Director Glenn Saldanha said a major reason for the stake sale in GLS was the divergent business models of the company and its subsidiary.

"He noted that the generic drugs environment has changed over the years and is highly competitive, especially in the US market.

Forex kitty drops USD 867 million to USD 593 billion

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange reserves declined USD 867 million to USD 593.037 billion in the week ended September 15, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves dropped USD 4.99 billion to USD 593.90 billion.

In October 2021, the country's reserves had touched an all-time high of USD 645 billion.

The reserves took a hit as

the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

For the week ended September 15, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased USD 511 million to USD 525.915 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Expressed in dollar terms,



the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves were down USD 384 million to USD 44 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up USD 32 million to USD 18,092 billion, the apex bank said. The country's reserve position with the IMF was down USD 4 million to USD 5.03 billion in the reporting week.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty stayed on the back foot for the fourth straight session on Friday as investors offloaded healthcare, consumer durable and commodity stocks amid a weak trend in global markets.

"Foreign fund outflows and heavy selling in HDFC Bank shares also hit investor sentiments, traders said.

"After oscillating nearly 500 points between gains and losses during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 221.09 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 66,009.15. During the day, it hit a high of 66,445.47 and a low of 65,952.83.

"The Nifty fell 68.10 points or 0.34 per cent to end at 19,674.25.

"In the early trade, the benchmark indices had climbed after global financial firm JP Morgan said it plans to include Indian government bonds (IGBs) or government securities (G-Secs) into its Emerging Market index from next year, a move that will bring down borrowing cost for the government.



"On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark fell 1,829.48 points or 2.69 per cent, and the Nifty declined 518.1 points or 2.56 per cent.

"Domestic markets closed on a sombre note as mixed cues from US and Asian markets weakened domestic investors' confidence. Nevertheless, PSU bank stocks outperformed as India's inclusion in JP Morgan's government bond index led to



a decline in bond yields.

"...Risk-averse sentiment prevailed due to the ongoing ascent of US bond yields and concern over higher rates for a prolonged period," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Wipro was the biggest loser among Sensex firms, sliding 2.32 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, ITC, ICICI Bank and

Tata Motors.

"IndusInd Bank, Maruti, State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers.

"In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.14 per cent and smallcap index gained marginally by 0.04 per cent.

"Downward spiral continued in the markets despite

recovery in other Asian peers, as investors booked profits for the 4th straight session after the recent upsurge.

"While Indian market valuations have become expensive, other bigger concerns like rising crude oil prices, firm US Dollar index and treasury yields coupled with continuous FII selling have been denting the sentiment," Amol Athawale, Vice President - Technical Research, Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

"Among the indices, consumer durables fell by 0.84 per cent, really declined by 0.73 per cent, commodities (0.62 per cent) and oil & gas (0.45 per cent).

"Capital Goods, bankex, consumer discretionary and industrials were the gainers.

"In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled in the negative territory while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green.

"Global shares sagged, and US yields climbed multi-year highs on Friday after a week packed with central bank meetings signalled that the US Federal Reserve's interest rates would stay higher for longer," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

"European markets were trading mostly lower. The US markets ended in negative territory on Thursday.

"Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,007.36 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. FPI's were net sellers of Indian equities in this week.

"Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.59 per cent to USD 93.85 a barrel. "The BSE benchmark fell 570.60 points or 0.85 per cent to settle at 66,230.24 on Thursday. The Nifty declined 159.05 points or 0.80 per cent to end at 19,742.35.

Lupin inks pact to acquire 5 drug brands from Menarini for ₹101 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drug firm Lupin on Friday said it has inked a pact to acquire five drug brands from Italian firm Menarini for Rs 101 crore.

"The company has signed an agreement to acquire five legacy brands catering to gastroenterology, urology and anti-infective segments, the Mumbai-based company said in a statement.

"The brands are Piclin (Picosulphate Sodium),



Menocetyl (Otilonium Bromide), Sucramal O (Sucralfate + Oxetacaine), Pyridium (Phenazopyridine) and Distacolor (Cefaclor), it added.

"Lupin has been exclusively marketing these brands in the Indian market since July 2021 under a distribution and promotion agreement with A Menarini India Pvt Ltd.

"Menarini Group is a leading international pharmaceutical and diagnostics company, with a turnover of over

USD 4.4 billion and over 17,000 employees.

"Menarini India is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Menarini Group.

"Lupin Managing Director Nilesh Gupta said the acquisition aligns well with the company's strategic goal to broaden presence in the Indian market. "By offering a comprehensive range of products, our aim is to deliver even greater value to our stakeholders and the communities we serve," he added.

Sebi empanels 34 entities for forensic probe of mutual funds, AMCs, trustees

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi has empanelled 34 entities, including Ernst & Young LLP, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP and Grant Thornton Bharat LLP to conduct forensic investigation of mutual funds, their asset management companies (AMCs) and trustees.

"KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP, Chokshi & Chokshi LLP, Nangia & Co LLP and Pipara & Co LLP are among the other empanelled entities, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a latest

update.

"The period of empanelment is from September 20, 2023 to September 19, 2026, it added.

"These 34 entities have been empanelled after evaluation of all the applications in response to Expression of Interest (EoI) invited by the capital markets regulator in February.

"The entities are required to undertake acquisition, extraction and analysis of digital evidence from mobile, computers, tablets, hard drives and USB drives. Also, they need to prepare and submit a report mentioning the findings and conclusions of the analysis.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Philips India has reported 4.6 per cent rise in revenue from operations at Rs 5,734 crore for FY23, though the profit after tax (PAT) was down 2.2 per cent to Rs 260 crore, according to financial data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler.

"Revenue from operations was at Rs 5,481.4 crore in FY22 and PAT was at Rs 265.9 crore.

"Philips India is a subsidiary of Dutch multinational company Koninklijke Philips N.V.

"Philips India's other income in FY23 was at Rs 71.9 crore, up 10.95 per cent from a year ago. Total income was up 4.68 per cent to Rs 5,805.9 crore. Total expenses were at Rs 5,485.1 crore, higher by 3.24 per cent year-on-year.

"Philips India, which operates in verticals Personal Health, Health Systems and Innovation Services, is not publicly listed.

"Its revenue from Personal Health segment was down 13.78 per cent in FY23 to Rs 774.6 crore. It was at Rs 898.5 crore in FY22.

"Philips' Personal Health business includes the beauty and grooming segment, with products such as hairdryers, hair straighteners, hairbrushes, beard trimmers. Its health business also includes oral care -- electric tooth-



brushes, and mother and child care products.

"Similarly, Health Systems' revenue was down 4.42 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,649.3 crore in FY23. Under this section, Philips is in the field of medical electronics equipment such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), ultrasound and customer services.

"The addressable market has shown a high single-digit growth in comparison to the previous year, the strong tailwinds on

account of the acute increase in healthcare needs during the pandemic," it said.

"However, revenue from Innovation Services in FY23 was up 27.35 per cent to Rs 2,172.9 crore. Under this segment, Philips India works on the development of embedded software.

"Its revenue from 'others' was at Rs 71.4 crore in FY23.

"Philips India has manufacturing facilities in Pune, Maharashtra, and Software Development Centre in Bengaluru.

BUSINESS BRIEF

66TH AGM OF NAFED HELD

New Delhi: The 66th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) took place on Friday in New Delhi. 558 delegates representing various societies and state federations, such as RAJFED, MARKFED-Punjab, BISCOAUN-Bihar, BUNKUS, Delhi State Co-op Federation, and Ahilya Co-operative Society Federation, participated. NAFED Chairman Bijender Singh said during FY 2022-23, NAFED earned a net profit of remarkable ₹264.51 crore, seeing NAFED went through a dark period of extreme financial losses during 2010-2015. As on March 31, NAFED has registered 646 FPOs, aiding around 2.06 lakh farmers. The organisation's membership also grew from 974 to 994, resulting in an increased shared capital of Rs 43.07 crore from Rs 41.02 crore.

INSPIRE FILMS ISSUES IPO

New Delhi: Inspire Films Limited, an Indian media production company, is set to launch an IPO comprising 35,98,000 shares at a price of ₹59 per share, with a face value of ₹10 each. The minimum investment lot comprises 2,000 shares. The IPO subscription window will open from September 25 to 27. Following the IPO, the company's shares will be listed on the NSE Emerge platform on October 9. With a robust portfolio, Inspire Films has spearheaded numerous projects, including "Dear Ishq" for Disney+ Hotstar, "Tu Zakhm Hai" for MX Player

BIG F AWARDS HELD

Gurugram: The 10th edition of The Big F Awards, organised by Indian Food Freak, in Gurugram was attended by the who's who of the hospitality industry. "Our steadfast commitment to transparency and fairness remains the cornerstone of our values," said the host Pawan Soni, Indian Food Freak founder. Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi, Chef Kunal Kapur, Sourish Bhattacharya, Marryam Reshii, Chef Amrinder Sandhu, Aslam Gafoor, Amin Ali and Khurafati Nitin were among the many luminaries who attended the most sought-after Big F Awards.

LIVERPOOL, WEST HAM WIN IN EUROPA

AP ■ PARIS

In a meeting of two former European champions in crisis, Ajax and Marseille drew 3-3 in "a crazy game" while Liverpool and West Ham were also winners on Thursday in the opening round of Europa League group games.

Liverpool fell behind for the fourth time in five matches this season but fought back to beat LASK 3-1 in Linz to make Jurgen Klopp the first coach to win 50 European games at the Merseyside club.

West Ham, who won the Conference League last season, also hit back to beat visiting Serbian club TSC Backa Topola 3-1.

Brighton, making their European debut in the Europa League, and Aston Villa returning to Europe, after 12 years, in the Conference League, both fell behind early and although they each equalised twice, lost 3-2.

In Amsterdam, Ajax, who have won just two games all season and sit 12th in the Dutch league met Marseille who are third in Ligue 1.

Ajax carved open the visiting defence in the first 20 minutes and took a two-goal lead with goals by Carlos Borges and Steven Berghuis.

Jonathan Clauss and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang hit back before half time.

In Brighton, Djibril Sidibe put AEK ahead with a bullet



header from 13 yards.

Brighton twice levelled with Joao Pedro penalties. AEK twice regained the lead when sudden deflections in the rain opened up chances. Mijat Gacinovic buried one and Ezequiel Ponce tucked home the winner.

"We can improve but it's difficult to accept this defeat," said Brighton coach Roberto De Zerbi. "I can't be happy when we win at Old Trafford and sad today with a good performance."

"We didn't show as much experience as AEK Athens."

Liverpool, playing in the Europa League for the first time since finishing runners-up in 2016, changed their entire starting 11 away to LASK.

They fell behind to a 14th-minute rocket from Florian Flecker.

Darwin Nunez levelled with a 55th-minute penalty kick after Luis Diaz was brought down.

After 61 minutes, Klopp started to replace teenagers with regular starters.

Within two minutes they were ahead when Ryan

Gravenberch, on his full debut, burst down the right and crossed low for Diaz to score from close range.

Two minutes from the end Mohamed Salah, a second-half replacement, poked home a third.

"I'm really, really happy, because I said before, I knew it would be difficult and it was difficult," said Klopp.

"A well-deserved win in the end, and that's it."

Elsewhere in the Europa League, Romelu Lukaku earned last year's beaten finalists Roma a 2-1 victory at Sheriff in Moldova.

Abdallah Sima scored the only goal as Rangers beat Real Betis 1-0 in Glasgow.

Bayer Leverkusen crushed Swedes Hacken 4-0, Rennes cruised past Maccabi Haifa 3-0 in France, Spaniards Villarreal lost 2-0 to Panathinakos in Greece.

In the Conference League, Aston Villa fell behind in the third minute to Legia Warsaw and despite equalising twice lost 3-2.

"We have to be demanding of ourselves to impose the game plan, but we didn't do it," said Villa boss Unai Emery, three time winner of the Europa League.

"I like demanding games that are a challenge and not easy. Now these will be the types of matches we will face in the group."



Odegaard signs new contract

AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard has signed a new five-year contract at the club, becoming the latest player to commit his long-term future to the Gunners.

The 24-year-old midfielder follows in the footsteps of Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli and William Saliba, who have all extended their deals.

The former Real Madrid player scored 15 Premier League goals and provided seven assists as the Gunners finished second behind Manchester City last season.

He has three goals in all competitions this season.

"It was an easy decision for me," said the Norway international, who initially joined on loan from Real in January 2021.

"As I said many times, I felt connected and I felt at home here since the first day."

"Also, I was moving around a lot (during loan spells) and struggling to really settle down, so I felt like I needed a place to come and settle down and to kind of find a home."

Arteta said Friday that the new deal was "great news" for Arsenal. Arsenal are fourth in the Premier League table ahead of Sunday's home match against Tottenham.

Asian Games: Chance for Chopra-led India to showcase its sporting prowess



PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Led by Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, India will seek to showcase its ascendancy as a sporting power at the Asian Games, which opens formally on Saturday after an unprecedented one-year delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India can win gold in both men's and women's hockey competitions. India can also win a gold each in men's and women's kabaddi and make amends for missed chance in Jakarta. The men's team had won a bronze and the women's settled for a silver last time.

Shooters had given nine medals in 2018, including two gold, but they may not be able to surpass the tally this time.

In boxing, the likes of Nikhat Zareen and Borgohain are favourites to win a medal but it is difficult to predict the colour. The same is the case with

the wrestlers who had won three medals, including two gold, in 2018.

By hosting the world's biggest multi-sporting event, China is heralding its opening from the pandemic, a giant competition which will be the biggest ever in its history.

No doubt the Olympics is the pinnacle of multi-sporting event in the world but more athletes compete in the Asian Games, with over 12,000 taking part in Hangzhou.

The 19th edition of the continental showpiece, which will run till October 8 in Hangzhou and five co-host cities of Huzhou, Ningbo, Shaoxing, Jinhua and Wenzhou, was to be held in September 2022 but was postponed by a year after a surge of COVID-19 cases in China.

Forty-five nations and territories in Asia will compete for 481 gold medals from 40 sports and 61 disciplines, including Esports which is making its debut in the Asian Games. Competitions in football, volleyball, cricket, rowing, sailing and modern pentathlon began before the grand opening ceremony.

China are fielding their second-largest contingent in their Asian Games history with 886

athletes, including 437 women, taking part in Hangzhou. It is 91 less than the 977 athletes China fielded at the 2010 Guangzhou Games.

China are not only fielding the most number of athletes in this edition of the Games but they are also set to continue their domination by bagging the top spot in the medal tally, which they have been doing at every edition since 1982 with several Olympic champions participating. South Korea are sending their largest ever athletes' contingent of 867 with an aim to finish second in the medal tally.

The Asian Games are expected to be declared opened by Chinese president Xi Jinping. Organisers have already spent about 10.2 billion yuan (USD 1.4 billion) on venues for competitions and training, according to reports.

Hangzhou is the third Chinese city to hold the Asian Games, after Guangzhou in 2010 and Beijing in 1990. The Chinese capital has also hosted the Summer and Winter Olympics.

All the venues will use green electricity as the goal is to host a carbon-neutral and green Asian Games.



Verstappen gets back on track ahead of Japanese GP qualifying

AP ■ SUZUKA

Max Verstappen laid down a marker with the fastest times in both practice sessions for the Japanese Grand Prix on Friday, as he looks to put one hand on his third-straight Formula One title.

Red Bull's Verstappen put down a lap of 1min 30.688sec to finish 0.320sec quicker than second-placed Charles Leclerc of Ferrari in the second practice.

Verstappen, who leads teammate and nearest rival Sergio Perez by 151 points in the

championship standings, cannot clinch the title on Sunday but a favourable result can set him up to seal the deal at the Qatar Grand Prix next month.

The Dutchman is looking to bounce back from a disappointing fifth-place finish at last weekend's Singapore Grand Prix that ended his record streak of 10-straight wins.

He said his car was "enjoyable to drive again".

"We had a strong day on short runs, long runs," said Verstappen.

"There's a lot of degradation

on this track so it will be quite tough on tyres in the race, but so far it's a good start to the weekend."

Verstappen made his intentions clear from the start of the day, finishing the first practice quickest ahead of Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and McLaren's Lando Norris. And there was no let-up in the second session. He briefly ceded top spot to Leclerc before switching to fresh tyres and reclaiming first place.

Norris had the third-fastest time with 1min 31.152sec.

NOTICE

Grasim Industries Limited
(ISIN INE047A01021),
Registered Office: Birlagram,
Nagda - 456 331, Dist. Ujjain,
Madhya Pradesh, India
This Notice is hereby given that the certificate for the under mentioned securities of this Company has been lost/ misplaced and the holders of the said securities have applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificate.
Names of Holders:
Lilavanti Vijaysinh Asher, jointly with Pradip Kumar Mulraj Asher.
Folio No.: 906774
Certificate No.: 3133784
No. of Securities: 475
Face Value: Rs 2/-
Distinctive Nos.: 451968631 to 451969105

MPIDC
Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Limited

M.P. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
SECRETARIAT FOR SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM
21, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011 M.P. (India), Tel. : (91) 0755-2571830, 2575618, 3523555, 3523505, E-mail : helpdesk@mpidc.co.in, Website : www.invest.mp.gov.in
CIN : U51102MP1977SGC001392

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. MPIDC/Tech-RFP/CE/2023/125

Date : 22.09.2023

Online percentage rate bids including Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Testing, Commissioning including defect liability period for 5 (Five) years for the following work are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria :-

NIT No.	Name of Work	District	Probable Amount of Contract (in Rs. Cr.)
125	Development of Smart Industrial Township – Ratlam (Investment Region Development and Management Scheme) at Ratlam, District Ratlam (M.P.) (Phase-1).	Ratlam	306.57

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the E-procurement Portal - <https://mptenders.gov.in> – MPIDC HO starting from **26.09.2023**
M.P. Madhyam/112175/2023

CHIEF ENGINEER



बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch,
Gau Mata Chowk, Wright Town, Beside Johri Hospital, Jabalpur- 482002
Phone - +91-761-2409255, Email - sarjab@bankofbaroda.com

DEMAND NOTICE

(Demand Notice under section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act)

In respect of loans availed by below mentioned Borrowers through Branches of Bank of Baroda, Chhindwara (M.P.) which have become NPA on date mentioned below, with below mentioned balance outstanding of dates mentioned below. We have already issued detailed demand notice dated 04/09/2023 mentioned below under section 13(2) of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 by registered post with acknowledgement due to you, which has been returned undelivered/due to not accepted by borrower. We have indicated our intention of taking possession of hypothecated securities and Mortgage Property owned by following Borrower/Guarantors as per section 13(4) of the Act in case of your failure to pay amount mentioned below within 60 days. Details are hereunder.

S. N.	Name of Branch	Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors	NPA DATE	Description of the Property
			Demand Notice Date (*) Outstanding Amount	
1.	Kareli	Borrower - Mr. Vikas Gupta S/o. Mr. Sharad Chand Gupta Subhash Ward, Kareli, Distt. - Narsinghpur 487221 Guarantor - Mr. Rahul Gupta S/o. Mr. Hariom Gupta HS-11 Duplex, Saraswati Nagar, Jawahar Chowk, Bhopal Distt. Bhopal (M.P.)	NPA DATE 01/05/2019 Demand Notice Date 04/09/2023 Q/s as on 04/09/2023 Rs. 28,15,635.93 + Other Charges & Interest there on	EM of immovable property situated at KH. No 54/12, 55/12, 56/12, PH No. 13/36, NB 384, Mouja Baskheda, Kareli, Tehsil Kareli, Dist Narsinghpur. Area of Property 5000 Sq.Ft. Diverted Land out of 12570 sq.ft. Boundries:- East - Nala, West- Road, North- Plot of Chandrakanta Verma South- Seller's Land Owner :- Mr. Rahul S/o. Hariom Gupta

You are all advised the above demand notice letter/cover was sent to you through postal authority on 09/05/2023 by authorised officer of Bank of Baroda. (1) Please collect the notice copy from branch for more and complete details. (2) Please pay the balance outstanding amount with interest and costs etc. as mentioned in above notice within **60 days** from the date of notice publication referred to above to avoid further action under the SARFAESI Act.

Date : 23/09/2023

Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069
Bhopal Branch : Office No.1, Plot No. 200, 1 St Floor, Jyoti Cineplex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-I Bhopal-462001,(MP).
Bhopal (Old Branch Mandideep) Branch) : 2nd Floor, Alankar Complex,Plot No.-10 & 11, Mp Nagar Zone-II Bhopal -462001,(MP).

POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

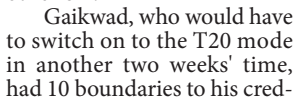
S. N.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1	(Loan Code No. 00600001295 / Bhopal Branch) Sonam Tekam (Borrower) Sunil Tekam & Paan Bai (Co-Borrowers)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Plot No.10 Ward No.04 Kh No 7 3 2, P H No 21 47 V I P Colony Collectrate Colony Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, 464551. Boundaries : East : Colony Road, West : Other Land, North : Plot No. 11, South : Plot No. 09	16-06-2023 ₹ 6,43,664/-	18-09-2023
2	(Loan Code No. 00600002390 / Bhopal Branch) Syed Ruman Ali (Borrower) Syed Muzammam Ali (Co-Borrower) Syed Nihal Ali (Guarantor)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Na Flat No Ft 01 Forth Floor Hamid Manjil Ward No.10 Kesra Pura Shahjanabad Gali No.02 Near Bardari Masjid, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, 462001. Boundaries : East : Road, West : Flat No. FT-02, North : House of Harish Sahu, South : House of Ramswaroop Vijayvargiya	08-06-2023 ₹ 6,77,477/-	18-09-2023
3	(Loan Code No. 07000000454/ Bhopal (Old Branch Mandideep) Branch) Murtuza Ali (Borrower), Fatema W/o Ali (Co-Borrower), Husain Ali (Guarantor)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Na Gali No 01 Flat No T 02 On Plot No 09 Husna Tower Ward No 06 Balaipuraai Rashid Hospital Kumbharpra, Bhopal , Madhya Pradesh, 462001. Boundaries : East : Staircase, West : Flat No. T3, North : Road, South : Corridor	11-04-2023 ₹ 3,54,007/-	18-09-2023
4	(Loan Code No. 07000000245 / Bhopal (Old Branch Mandideep) Branch) Neeraj Kumar Pathak (Borrower) Kumari Sima Chaturvedi (Co-Borrower), Mahendra Kumar Pathak (Guarantor)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, H No.171 Khasra No 608 611 Nb Homes Colony Tehsil Huzur Gram Jhiriniya Patwari H No.2, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, 462010. Boundaries : East : Seller Land, West : Road, North : Plot No. 172, South : Plot No. 170	08-06-2023 ₹ 6,38,567/-	18-09-2023

Place : Bhopal
Date : 23.09.2023

Authorised Officer
Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

PTI ■ MOHALI

Gill, who hit his ninth



Stockily built wicketkeeper Jos Inglis (45 off 45 balls) and Marcus Stoinis (29 off 21

All eyes were trained on

Ravichandran Ashwin (1/47 in 10 overs) and he did find his rhythm in the second spell after looking rusty during the first spell. He went for 36 in his first six overs from the 'Harbhajan Singh End' but Rahul changed

But no praise will be enough for Shami, probably the most versatile seam and swing bowler of his generation, who has magic in those fingers and wrists.

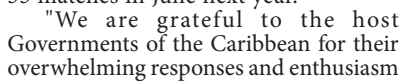
PTI ■ MOHALI

If one looked at the kind of bowling composition India played against Pakistan, it is dif-

"When you operate with the new ball, you have the responsibility of finding the right line and length, set the tempo and that's exactly what I wanted to

PTI ■ DUBAI

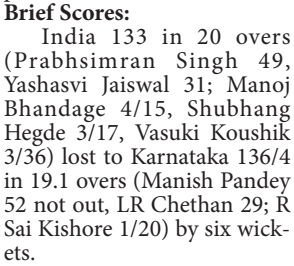
"We're delighted to announce the seven Caribbean venues that will host the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy. They're all popular venues with players and fans alike that will provide a wonderful backdrop to the event," ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said in a statement. "This will be the third ICC senior men's event hosted by the West Indies, and the matches will again give cricket fans the unique experience of enjoying cricket in the Caribbean. I'd like to thank Cricket West Indies and the seven host governments for their continued commitment and support of our sport."



"We are confident that together we will deliver a world-class tournament showcasing the best this region has to offer with our unique culture and carnival atmosphere that will ensure there is a real celebration of the sport next June."

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Prabhsimran cracked seven fours and a six to make 49 from 31 balls whereas Jaiswal scored 31 from 17 balls with seven hits to the fence.



॥ सर्व खल्विदं ब्रह्म ॥

मध्यप्रदेश की एकात्म यात्रा

9 फरवरी, 2017 ▶

आचार्य शंकर की 108 फीट ऊँची प्रतिमा, अद्वैत लोक (शंकर संग्रहालय)
और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अद्वैत वेदान्त संस्थान के निर्माण की घोषणा।

1 मई, 2017 ▶

मध्यप्रदेश के 51 जिलों में
वैशाख शुक्ल पंचमी को शंकर जयंती का उत्सव मनाया गया।

19 दिसम्बर, 2017 से 22 जनवरी, 2018 ▶

एकात्म यात्रा के माध्यम से एकात्मता की मूर्ति के निर्माण हेतु
प्रदेश की 23 हजार ग्राम पंचायतों से धातु संग्रहण।

22 जनवरी, 2018 ▶

एकात्म पर्व का आयोजन।

27 जनवरी, 2018 ▶

आचार्य शंकर सांस्कृतिक एकता न्यास की स्थापना।

8 से 10 दिसम्बर, 2019 ▶

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अद्वैत उत्सव का आयोजन।

21 अक्टूबर, 2022 ▶

अद्वैत युवा जागरण शिविर का प्रथम दीक्षांत समारोह।

21 सितम्बर, 2023 ▶

शङ्करायतरणम् - एकात्मता की मूर्ति का अनावरण और
अद्वैत लोक - (संग्रहालय) का शिलान्यास।
ब्रह्मोत्सव-संतों, संन्यासियों, मनीषियों एवं
विशिष्टजनों का समागम।

६ ओंकारेश्वर के पावन क्षेत्र में एकात्म
धाम के निमित्त एकात्मता की मूर्ति
के अनावरण एवं अद्वैत लोक के
शिलान्यास के अवसर पर सम्पूर्ण
देश से पधारें साधु, संन्यासी, मनीषी,
गणमान्य अतिथि एवं प्रदेशवासियों
का हृदय से अनन्त आभार ...९

-शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

मध्यप्रदेश जनसम्पर्क डेटा जारी

D-11116/23

आवृत्ति : म.प्र. माघ/म/2023