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BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹4



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‘FIVE-STAR’  
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HIS CLASS  
12 SPORT

# 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 preceding 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.



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 Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

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

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, Dhoni, 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.

## Odisha likely to face cyclone in Oct 1st week

Forecasts made by multiple sources

**PNS ■** BHUBANESWAR

October is regarded as the month of cyclones for Bay of Bengal and Odisha as they experience cyclonic storms in the month almost every year.

As per the North Indian Ocean Extended Range Outlook for Cyclogenesis issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there is a likelihood of formation of a low pressure area over east-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman Sea around September 29 which is likely to move west-north-westward and intensify further into a depression over central Bay of Bengal and subsequently into a cyclonic storm over west-central Bay of Bengal during the



pressure area would form over east-central-southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman Sea around September 29 which is likely to move west-north-westward and intensify further into a depression over central Bay of Bengal and subsequently into a cyclonic storm over west-central Bay of Bengal during the

next 3-4 days, the outlook said.

ECMWF and NCUM models are showing the formation of a low pressure area over the central Bay of Bengal with intensification into depression during September 22-28, and move further west-north-westwards towards north Andhra Pradesh-

Odisha coasts during the first week of October.

International meteorologist Jason Nicholls has also made similar predictions. “Conditions can become conducive for low and perhaps a cyclone to develop in the Bay of Bengal late next week or during the 1st week of October,” he posted on X.

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## OTP sharing with PIOs STF arrests 1 more accused from Assam

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Odisha Crime Branch has arrested one more person from Assam in connection with the one-time password (OTP) sharing scam with Pakistani intelligence operatives (PIOs).

The accused, identified as Mohammad Ekbal Hussain, was arrested from Gandhua Pathar under Nagaon district in Assam. He was brought to

Odisha on transit remand and produced before a court in Bhubaneswar on Friday.

Earlier, six accused were arrested in the case.

Hussain was in touch with another accused Abhijit Desmukh, who has been arrested earlier. He was also in touch with Khurram Abdul Hamid (Pakistan Intelligence Officer). He has allegedly sold many WhatsApp Account OTP, Telegram Account OTP and mule or ghost accounts

directly to Hamid.

After the arrest of the principal accused Pathani Samanta Lenka and his associates, Hussain switched off his phone and went underground. It was found that he has used at least 37 IMEI Nos (handset) and more than 500 SIMs.

He confessed his crime and stated that he had been selling OTPs of WhatsApp, Telegram, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, fake-activated

SIM, and Mule/Ghost Account for two years and earned Rs 50, 000 to Rs 60, 000 per month.

He further revealed that in his village Gandhua Pathar in Assam, almost all adult male persons are involved in this type of cybercrime. He and other cybercriminals in his village generally use SIM nos/ mobile handsets for around a month and then destroy them by throwing them into the river.

## Assembly mourns demise of ex-Speaker

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Members of the Odisha Assembly on Friday condoled the demise of sitting MLA and former Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro and four former MLAs.

The former members who passed away meanwhile were Trilochan Kanungo, Ramesh Soren, Nibedita Pradhan and Kumar Behera.

The House also paid tributes and observed one minute silence prayer in memory of late Lance Naik Debashis Biswal of 49 Rashtriya Rifles, late Constable (GD) Sushant Kumar Khuntia of 60 CRPF

Battalion, and late Constable of Odisha Police Sushant Kumar Mohanty.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik moved an obituary reference to condole the demise of the former Speaker, former members of the house and the security personnel.

He requested the Speaker to convey the condolence to the members of the bereaved families.

Leader of the Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra, Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra and Speaker Pramilla Mallik later joined the Leader of the House (CM) to condole the deaths.

## Orange, pineapple farming on wane in G'pati Thanks to lack of promotion, marketing

TARINI PRASAD PANDA  
■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

Among horticulture products, orange and pineapple are dominant fruits in tribal blocks like Gumma and Rayagada in Gajapati district. They are grown on hilly and sloppy land. The cultivation of these fruits on commercial lines started two-three decades ago.

But thanks to various reasons, including lack of scope for marketing, the cultivation of these fruits has declined. Cold and moist climate usually is helpful for these fruits. Particularly in Ajayagada of Gumma and Mandalsahi of Rayagada block, farmers take up orange farming extensively.

But of late, these farmers have shifted to cashew farming. A cold storage was functional near the Deputy Director of Horticulture office. But the cold storage is now defunct.

For a time, squash and other value-added products of the fruits were produced from a unit near the Deputy Director of Horticulture office, but that too is now in a defunct state.

Farmers like Suresh Badadalai, Maliyo Paik, Debendra Pradhan, Rupa Sabar, Nohar Gamango, Eliyo Sabar and Kartika Gamango have lamented the lack of support from the Government to the fruit cultivation in the area. However, Horticulture Officer of Gumma block Dilip Dingal said the department was planning a huge promotion of fruit cultivation in Gajapati district and as a part of it, orange saplings will be raised in 70 hectares soon.

## Utkal TV holds Silver Jubilee fest in B'pur

Amid presence of city's who's who  
PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Utkal TV, one of the oldest TV networks of Brahmapur, celebrated its Silver Jubilee on completion of 25 years of its existence here on Sunday. The event was inaugurated by MLA Bikram Kumar Panda. A large number of dignitaries, elected representatives, eminent persons, intellectuals and scribes attended the function.

Prominent among them include SP of Brahmapur Police District Dr Sarvana Vivek M, Southern Range IG Satyabrata Bhoi, VC of Khallikote University Prof Prafulla Kumar Mohanty, BeMC Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai, DIPRO Rabinarayan

Behera, Sudhir Kumar Sabat, Narayan Mahankud, renowned stage anchor Hrushikesh Panigrahi, BJD leader Subash Maharana, senior scribes Ashoak Brahma, Prakash Pattnaik, Asit Kumar Panda, Gopal Pattnaik, Brahmpaur Edition Chief of Sakala Shaktidhar Rajguru and several corporators of BeMC.

Earlier a mini-marathon (from Khallikote University to Subba Rao Chhak) was conducted to mark the event in which hundreds of school and college students participated. The Brahmapur SP flagged off the event. Among others, the Chief Editor of UTV and secretary of the Press Club Gopal Pattnaik, director Nageswar Prusty, Rabinarayan Maharana, News Editor Sudip Sahoo were present.

## Odisha Walking Studio unveiled at Konark



Architecture community to cover 100 km for experiential learning  
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Walking Studio, a groundbreaking initiative, was unveiled. The innovative project is set to provide a once-in-a-lifetime experiential learning opportunity for students and faculty members from collaborating architectural colleges across Odisha.

It is a collaborative effort of the Ethos Foundation, the Council of Architecture (India), and The Indian Institute of Architects, Odisha Chapter.

The flag-off ceremony commenced amidst the breathtaking backdrop of Konark, serving as a symbolic beginning to an extraordinary

journey spanning 98.8 km from Konark to Bhubaneswar.

Distinguished guests included the Vice Chairperson and Executive Committee of The Indian Institute of Architects Odisha Chapter, faculty members, aspiring students from renowned schools of architecture, and numerous esteemed delegates from the architectural community.

Along the way, participants will have the opportunity to explore and interact with significant settlements, including the holy city of Puri, the artistic haven of Raghurajpur, the crafts village of Pipili, the historic site of Dhauli, and finally, the ancient city and capital of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

The concluding session of the remarkable journey is scheduled to take place in Bhubaneswar at the IIA Odisha Chapter Office on September 24.

## Rs 28,200-cr Supplementary Budget presented

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha presented a Supplementary Budget of Rs 28,200 crore in the Odisha Assembly on Friday.

The Minister said the Supplementary Budget is aimed at fulfilling the requirement of funds for public welfare and developmental activities in the State mainly through reallocation of available resources and receipt of tied-up resources from various sources.

The Annual Budget for year

2023-24 had been presented in February this year with an allocation of Rs 2,30,000 crore.

The supplementary provision of Rs 28,200 crore comprises Rs 2,864 crore towards administrative expenditure, Rs 4,664 crore towards disaster management funds, Rs 572 crore towards transfer to local bodies and Rs 20,100 crore towards programme expenditure.

An additional sum of Rs 3651 crores for education, sports and skill development sector, Rs.1554 crores for social security and Mission Shakti, Rs 1262 crores for energy, IT,

commerce, transport and R&D sectors taken together, Rs 1136 crore for ST & SC Development and Minority & Backward Class Welfare, Rs 862 crore for public health care, Rs 2091 crore for irrigation facility, farmers' welfare and food security have been provided in the supplementary budget.

While Rs 210 crore has been allocated for metro rail project, Rs 1302 crore has been provisioned for Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha. Rs.556 crore has been allocated for Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LACCMI) scheme,

Rs 110 crore for Mukhyamantri Chhatra Chhatra Paridhana Yojana, Rs 5 crore for NANO UNICORN, Rs 15 crore for minority marriage assistance, Rs 14 crore for operation and management of block level bus stands.

Besides, Rs 250 crore has been allocated for Ekamra plan, Rs 100 crore for smart city and Rs 300 crore for youth development.

The state government has provisioned a sum of Rs 196 crore for conduct of elections including police arrangement.

## Pension demand

## Scribes pray Lord for good sense on Govt

Send memo in favour of Trinity at Puri  
PNS ■ PURI

The members of Senior Journalists' Association, Odisha (SJOA) in a memorandum to Lord Sri Jagannath have prayed for imparting good sense to the Government to provide pension to the scribes after retirement. Lighting a holy lamp at the Lions' Gate of the Jagannath Temple here, the senior scribes have handed over a letter to a servitor in favour of the Trinity.

The peculiar step of fulfilling demands of monthly pension, besides social security for them came on Friday, when around 60 senior journalists from various parts of the State assembled in Puri



to chart their future action plan. Bringing a unanimous resolution in the executive body meeting, the scribe body urged the Government to take immediate steps on their petition already submitted two months ago.

"We have already given a petition to the Chief Minister demanding a monthly pension like other States are paying to their journalists. We have already supplied all support documents to the CMO," said SJOA president

Kahn Nanda, adding that 21 States with three Union Territories have already been paying pension benefits to the concerned journalists. Raising concern over the delay in Odisha, Nanda said they would wait a month and then move the Orissa High Court.

Worthwhile to mention here that the SJOA has already convened three meetings with I and PR senior officials in the last two months. While the petition is under consideration of CMO, the SJOA is hopeful

of a positive response. Even the officials have given assurance of good news from the Government, said Nanda. A month ago, the Jagatsinghpur Collector instructed by the 5T Secretary had convened a meeting with them and submitted a report to the CMO, informed Nanda.

Besides, SJOA also appointed Saroj Kumar Mishra and Laxminarayan Patnaik as president and general secretary for Puri district, respectively.

## Pramila becomes first woman Speaker

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Six-time MLA and former Minister Pramila Mallick on Friday became the first woman Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly.

The BJD legislator was elected unopposed as opposition BJP and Congress didn't field any candidate for the election.

Mallick had on Thursday



resigned from the post of Revenue and Disaster Management Minister and filed nomination for the

Speaker's election.

Being the first woman Speaker of the Assembly, she has begun conducting the Monsoon Session of the Assembly, which began on Friday.

Mallick, MLA from the Binjharpur (SC) Assembly seat, had first held the position of Women and Child Development Minister in the Naveen Patnaik Government.

She was also the Chief Whip of the ruling BJD in the Assembly before being inducted as the Revenue and Disaster Management Minister.

The Speaker post had been vacant since May 12 after Speaker Bikram Keshari Aarukha resigned from the post and was later inducted into the Cabinet as Finance Minister.

## INBRIEF

### 2 FOOTBALLERS KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP AT UMARKOTE

Nabarangpur: Two persons were killed in Umakote town in Nabarangpur district on Thursday night when their motor-bike was hit by a truck. The truck dragged the motorbike along with its riders for over 200 metres. Both persons died on the spot. The deceased were identified as two footballers, Mahesh Gand and Ajay Suna.

### YOUTH ELECTROCUTED AT GANESH PANDAL

Paralakhemundi: One J Kharesh (28) was electrocuted at a Ganesh pandal in Totagumuda village under the Gurandi police station in Ganjam district. The deceased came in contact with a live electric wire and became unconscious. He as immediately rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital but the doctors declared him brought dead. Later, a team led by Gurandi police station IIC Rabindra Panda reached the spot and sent the body for postmortem.

### GRS HELD TAKING BRIBE IN ANGUL

Cuttack: The Vigilance police on Friday caught Jadumani Majhi, GRS, Machakata GP under Chhendipada block in Angul district, while accepting a bribe of Rs 4,000. Majhi had demanded the bribe from a PMAY beneficiary for online geo tagging of his completed Pradhan Mantri Awas and release of final house completion bill as well as to facilitate bonus in his favour for completion of house under MGNREG scheme within stipulated time. Later, Majhi was arrested and forwarded to court.

## Proxy BJD Govt operating: Cong

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In Odisha, there is confusion over who is leading the State Government. It is seen that the MLAs and Ministers, whom the people had elected have no role in this Government, said Pradesh Committee president Sarat Pattanayak at a 'Parivartan Utsav' in Kendrapada district on Friday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had promised that he would fulfil Bijubabu's dreams. But now, he is hell

bent on fulfilling the dreams of his private secretary. Instead of the CM, an officer is seeking applications from the people. It is misfortune of Odias that now a proxy Government of the BJD is functioning in the State, said Pattanayak.

He said that in last 24 years, the State has not advanced even one step in the health sector. Spurious medicine sale is rampant. The income of Odisha farmers is the second lowest in the country. Lakhs of youths are unemployed.

## 223 more heath institutes to be under OeHMIS

Diagnostic reports, prescription details, doc's advice to be found at click of mouse  
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has decided to expand its ambitious Odisha e-Hospital Management Information System (OeHMIS) to another 223 healthcare institutions of the State in two phases.

According to official sources, 112 health institutes will be covered in the first phase and later another 111 health institutes shall be covered. In the first phase almost all healthcare facilities in Khurda and Jharsuguda districts will be covered under the project. As many as 21 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 28 Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) and 63 Primary Healthcare Centres of the two districts will be connected under OeHMIS.

Similarly, 32 Sub-Divisional Hospitals (SDHs), 78 CHCs covered under Ama Hospital and one PHC covered under the Ama Hospital scheme will get the new internet based-system in

the second phase, the sources said.

In total, 24 Urban Primary Health Centres, 47 PHCs, and 15 CHCs of Khurda district and 6 CHCs, four UPHCs, and 16 PHCs of Jharsuguda district will be covered in the first phase.

To implement the project, the Health Department has asked the Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) to provide Fibre To The Home (FTTH) Connectivity at the health institutes. Accordingly, the OCAC has floated a tender for this purpose.

In order to streamline and strengthen quality public health service delivery to the people of the State, the Health and Family Welfare Department had launched the OeHMIS in 2018. Under this system, paperwork would be reduced and diagnostic reports, prescription details and doctor's advice would be found at the click of a mouse.

The project was first piloted at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack and Capital Hospital Bhubaneswar.

Later, it was implemented at Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer and Sishu Bhawan in Cuttack, other medical colleges besides 31 District Headquarters Hospitals.

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

On the opening of the Monsoon Session of the State Assembly on Friday, hundreds of Anganwadi Workers staged a demonstration at the Lower PMG in the capital demanding fulfilment of their 10-point charter of demands.

The demands included a hike of salary to Rs 18,000, government employee status, salary of Rs 9,000 for Anganwadi Helpers, provision of gratuity, pension and summer vacation.

The agitators warned of continuing the agitation till fulfilment of their demands. They also threatened to abstain from voting during the upcoming elections.

"We had earlier resorted to agitation in November last year. However, we withdrew it after receiving a letter from the Chief Secretary, in which we were assured that a meeting will be held over our demands in February. Unfortunately, our demands are still unheard," an agitator said.

"While salary of Anganwadi Workers has been increased in other States, the same is yet to be done in Odisha," she added.



# 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 bahumat wali isthir sarkar hoti hain, to desh kese bade phaisla 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 PMTBMBA 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 PMTBMBA programme, political commitment at all levels of governance through regular meetings, discussions, and engagements with key stakeholders should be strengthened.

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

PTI

## 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

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

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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

(The writer is Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People)

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

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



SUKHDEV SINGH

The writer is Professor (Retd) Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and a member, the Governing Council Amritsar

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.

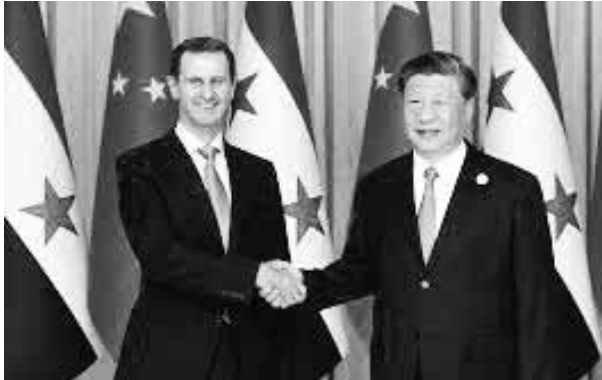
## Syria, China announce strategic partnership

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 enjoyed 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

## 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

nations around the world that are less developed and less rich than what have typically been called “first-world nations”. They’re not necessarily in the Southern Hemisphere; many, in fact, are not.

Leaders of a number of larger developing nations, including Brazil’s Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and India’s Narendra Modi, have of late pitched themselves as leaders around whom the Global South could coalesce.

Just Tuesday, Lula told leaders at the UN meeting that “Brazil is back” in a speech widely received as Global South-focused manoeuvring. And Modi in January hosted a “Voice of the Global South” virtual summit.

China, too, has loosely cast itself in a similar role for more than a decade — and more so since Xi launched the “Belt and Road Initiative” to drive Chinese development, infrastructure and influence in other nations, particularly developing ones. The sprawling project has been widely touted but has encountered bumps along the way.

“China,” Han promised, “will remain a member of the big family of developing countries.”

# 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 died 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 the 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

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.

## Sensex, Nifty extend losses into 4th session; HDFC shares weigh

**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 FY23 revenue up 4.6% to ₹5,734 cr, profit down 2%

"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, a 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.



## Garcia, Kenin reach WTA Guadalajara semis

AP ■ GUADALAJARA

France's Caroline Garcia overpowered Victoria Azarenka in straight sets to reach the semi-finals of the WTA 1000 Guadalajara Open on Thursday.

Third-seed Garcia was always in control against her 10th-seeded opponent from Belarus, winning 6-3, 6-4 in 1hr 37min.

The 29-year-old French woman will face Maria Sakkari in the last four on Friday after the second seed from Greece eased past Colombia's Emiliana Arango 6-3, 6-4.

Garcia, who is chasing the 12th title of her career, used her powerful serve to gain the upper hand on Azarenka, slamming down 10 aces during the match.

Garcia was also able to save no fewer than 11 break points to deny Azarenka any chance of an opening.

"It's always tricky," said Garcia. "She had a lot of break point opportunities, but I served really well at those points, so I guess I have to thank my serve."

The win ensured that Garcia, the world number 11, will move into the top 10 at the end of this tournament.

In other quarter-final action

on Thursday, former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin's recent resurgence continued as she overpowered 2021 US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez of Canada 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-1 to reach the last four.

Kenin, 24, has gradually worked her way back up the rankings after tumbling to 426th in the world last year following a slew of injuries and upheaval in her coaching set-up.

She has won 14 of her last 17 matches on the WTA Tour since July, and is poised to climb back into the top 30 after this tournament.

On Thursday, she secured her latest semi-final berth the hard way, advancing despite coughing up 14 double faults, with Fernandez racking up 15 aces.

Kenin, who also reached the semi-finals in San Diego last week, will face unseeded American Caroline Dolehide in the last four.

Dolehide defeated Italy's Martina Trevisan 3-6, 7-6 (11/9) 6-3 in their quarter-final.

The American battled into her first WTA 1000 semi-final after saving four match points in the second set before winning the deciding set.

# Naglesmann is Germany's new boss

AP ■ MUNICH

Julian Nagelsmann has been given nine months to revive flailing Germany ahead of hosting Euro 2024 after being named as the sacked Hansi Flick's successor as national team coach on Friday.

Germany fired Flick with the national team struggling, the German football association (DFB) fearing another embarrassing performance in a major tournament, this time as hosts at next year's European championships.

Former Bayern Munich boss Nagelsmann has signed a deal until the end of next July, allowing the 36-year-old to leave after Euro 2024.

"We have a European

Championship in our own country -- that's something special," Nagelsmann said in a statement.

"I have a great desire to take on this challenge."

Nagelsmann said he signed the short-term deal "to keep the Euros in focus" but insisted he "would not rule out" an extension.

Flick, who became the first coach in Germany history to be sacked, had won just four of 17 matches leading up to his dismissal and took the team to a disappointing group-stage exit at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

The four-time world champions were also knocked out in the group stage at the 2018 World Cup in Russia under previous boss Joachim Loew.



DFB president Bernd Neuendorf called Nagelsmann "an outstanding coach" and said: "We are convinced (he) will ensure that the national team inspires its fans and that the Euros are also a sporting success."

Flick was sacked after a humiliating 4-1 friendly loss to Japan in Wolfsburg in early September.

Nagelsmann, who also succeeded Flick as Bayern coach, has been jobless since he was sacked by the German champions in March.

DFB sporting director Rudi Voeller called Nagelsmann "an absolute football expert" and said he had "proven himself at a very young age for a head coach".

## Verstappen gets back on track ahead of Japanese GP qualifying

AP ■ SUZUKA

Max Verstappen laid down a mark 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.

## Paris Olympics berths up for grabs at Asian Games boxing

AP ■ HANGZHOU

Flyweight world champion Hasan-bey Dusmatov will be one of the favourites for gold when boxing gets under way at the Asian Games on Sunday, with qualification for the Paris Olympics also up for grabs.

The 30-year-old Uzbek was Olympic champion in 2016 and in Hangzhou will be seeking the one gold medal absent from his collection in the 51kg division.

His first bout will be on Monday, with gold and silver medallists in the seven men's weight divisions all guaranteed a place at next summer's Paris Olympics. In the women's competition, 20 Paris berths can be won in Hangzhou.

Dusmatov was stunned in the 2018 Asian Games final by Amit Panghal in a massive upset, but the Indian is a notable absentee this time.

Another hoping to turn 2018 silver into gold is middleweight (71kg) world champion Aslanbek Shymbergenov from Kazakhstan.

Shiva Thapa, a winner at the 2013

Asian Championships, will lead the Indian squad in Panghal's absence.

In the women's competition, light flyweight (50kg) Thi Tam Nguyen has recovered from a torn knee ligament suffered at the SEA Games earlier this year and will lead a nine-strong Vietnam team.

The world championships silver medallist has already secured her place at Paris and will become the first Vietnamese boxer to take part in two consecutive Olympics.

She could again come up against India's multiple world champion Zareen Nikhat, who beat the Vietnamese by unanimous decision to lift the world title in New Delhi earlier this year. Nikhat also won gold in the 2022 world championships in Istanbul in the 52kg category.

Oh Yeon-ji from South Korea returns to defend her Asian Games lightweight (60kg) gold medal.

Organisers will be desperate to avoid the chaos of five years ago in Jakarta when the Asian Games boxing competition was marred by judging protests and controversy.

# 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 will hope to surpass the 70 medals (16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze) won in 2018 in Indonesia with largest contingent of 655 athletes competing in 39 sports in Hangzhou to show the world the rapid strides the country has made in sports since the historic performance in Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

India have not finished in the top-5 in medal tally standings since the 1986 edition in Seoul. For the first time in the Asian Games history, India will be having five Olympic medallists in their ranks led by javelin superstar Chopra, who will be defending his title, raising hopes of the country grabbing more

gold medals than the 16 won in 2018.

The other Olympic medallists are weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, shuttler PV Sindhu, wrestler Bajrang Punia and boxer Lovlina Borgohain.

Still, it is difficult to predict the gold medal count for India. Sindhu has been struggling for some time, Chanu has had fitness issues recently while Bajrang started training only a few months ago after taking part in the wrestlers' protest.

Borgohain and Chopra have, though, become world champions recently. Borgohain will also shoulder the responsibility of being the Indian contingent flag-bearer during the opening ceremony on Saturday along with the men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh.

The eight-gold show in athletics in 2018 will be hard to repeat but hockey (men and women), kabaddi (men and women), chess and archery can swell India's yellow metal tally.

Going by current form,



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.

# Five-star Shami, classy Shubman set up Indian victory

PTI ■ MOHALI

Mohammed Shami's crafty bowling performance was beautifully complemented by the grace and poise of Shubman Gill as India defeated Australia by five wickets in the opening ODI of the three-match series here on Friday.

Shami displayed his artistry with impressive figures of 5 for 51, reminding all and sundry of his skills while helping India restrict Australia to 276 after asking the visitors to make first use of the strip.

In reply, Gill once again stamped his authority with a 63-ball 74 and added 142 for the opening stand with the Asian Games-bound Ruturaj Gaikwad (71 off 77 balls) to set the foundation for victory, which, on paper, might have looked a bit more stretched than it actually was.

Victory was achieved in 48.4 overs as Suryakumar Yadav (50 off 49 balls) and skipper KL Rahul (58 not out off 63 balls) also played their part with only Shreyas Iyer (3) and Ishan Kishan (18) missing out on a batting party.

Surya would especially be happy with his effort as he came in when India still needed 92 runs to win. It could have been a bit tricky but along with his skipper, the Mumbai batter showed calmness and also earned confidence with a much-needed half-century.

Gill, who hit his ninth



half-century in ODIs, was undoubtedly the batting star of the day. He had six fours and two sixes in his knock but the short-arm pick-up pull off Marcus Stoinis left everyone stunned.

Off-spinner spinner Matthew Short was at the receiving end when he was lofted over long-off for the other six.

Gaikwad, who would have to switch on to the T20 mode in another two weeks' time, had 10 boundaries to his credit. He hit cover drives and square drives and was especially severe on Sean Abbott.

For Australia, the only bright spot was leg-spinner Adam Zampa finding some bowling form with figures of 2/57 off 10 overs.

But the game-changer on the day was Shami, who doesn't seem to feature in India's first XI plans for the World Cup. He literally made a statement with his second five-wicket haul in ODIs.

His performance also put tremendous pressure on the weakest link among pacers Shardul Thakur (0/78 in 10 overs), who has been selected

in the 15, primarily due to his batting skills.

Shami was literally unplayable in his opening spell, and then came back to remove a set Steve Smith (41 off 60 balls) in a short second stint, to disturb the visiting team's momentum.

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

balls) added 62 runs for the sixth wicket to take Australia past the 250-run mark but it was certainly below par as Shami got Stoinis in the nick of time to put the brakes on their scoring.

Warner (52 off 53 balls), Smith and Marnus Labuschagne (39 off 49 balls) all got starts but the lack of conversion did hurt the Aussies on a day when the Indian bowling unit was supremely effective without being exceptional.

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 his end during the second spell and it read 4-0-11-1.

The Australian team also suffered due to freak dismissals, first when Labuschagne missed an Ashwin delivery while trying to play a reverse sweep and the ball ricocheted off Rahul's pads with the batter out of his ground.

Then it was Cameron Green (31 off 52 balls), who was slowly but steadily setting it up with Inglis before a miscommunication led to his run-out.

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.



## Shami will force team think-tank to think differently

PTI ■ MOHALI

It is very difficult not to respect Mohammed Shami for his mastery over his craft.

Also, how much a player means to the dressing room speaks volumes about his worth.

Just as he was coming off the field after a match-turning 5/51 against Australia, it was rested pacer Mohammed Siraj who came out and was engaged in a bear hug with his senior pace bowling partner.

Shami didn't bowl a devastating spell like Siraj did in Colombo last week, but considering the quality of opposition combined with sultry and unhelpful conditions for fast bowling in Chandigarh, this spell was as lethal, if not more.

Siraj knew it more than anyone else as to what Shami had done for the team.

"We enjoy each other's success a lot. We have spent the last so many years together and this is a result of the same," Shami said during a snap interview with host broadcasters Jio Cinema.

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

to imagine how Shami would fit in if India is playing two spinners and Hardik Pandya is the third seamer during most matches.

It is also impossible in Indian conditions for any pacer to play 11 games in the World Cup (if India reaches final) in six weeks, including travel, but Shami cooling his heels during important games would be a travesty as India is looking at multi-skilled cricketers, especially those who can bolster the batting. It can be very difficult to adjust being in and out of the playing XI, but after 179 international games for India across formats in the last 10 years, Shami knows how to adjust current demands.

The first spell to David Warner, where the left-hander faced 11 balls and scored only one run, was where Shami's skills were in full bloom. It didn't matter that it wasn't a red Dukes or SG Test ball with a pronounced seam in his hands.

"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 do today," he said.



## ICC select seven venues in Caribbean to host 2024 T20 WC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC on Friday said seven venues in the Caribbean and three cities of USA will co-host the next year's men's T20 World Cup from June 4-30.

The seven Caribbean venues shortlisted by the ICC are Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Besides three places in the USA -- Dallas, Florida and New York will co-host the event.

"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 match-

es 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."

Cricket West Indies CEO Johnny Grave said: "This is an exciting moment as we announce the venues approved to host the largest ICC Men's T20 World Cup in history, with 20 teams playing in 55 matches in June next year."

"We are grateful to the host Governments of the Caribbean for their overwhelming responses and enthusiasm for hosting what will be the most significant sporting event held in our region for a generation," he said.

"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."

## Injured Naseem ruled out of World Cup

PTI ■ LAHORE

Young pacer Naseem Shah was on Friday ruled out of the ODI World Cup due to a shoulder injury as Pakistan named their final 15-member squad for the showpiece beginning next month.

Chief Selector Inzamam ul Haq said experienced medium pacer Hasan Ali has been recalled because of the injury to Naseem.

Naseem, 20, had suffered a shoulder injury during their match against India in the Asia Cup. He has been advised to undergo surgery and is expected to recover in three to four months.

Inzamam also announced three travelling reserves -- wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Harris, mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed and fast bowler Zaman Khan for the World Cup who would be considered if there were any injuries in the squad.

"I have not tried to tinker or make too many changes in the squad because this is a World Cup and we have to remember these same players have been playing together for a while now. We have opted for continuity in the team," Inzamam told the media in Lahore on Friday.

"We were forced to make one change because of an unfortunate injury to Naseem Shah. We had a few injury scares in the recent Asia Cup, but I am glad to share that all the players are fully fit and are eager to perform for their country in the all-important



tournament." Giving a break-down on the fitness of Naseem, Inzamam said: "The doctors are looking after him but what we are learning is that he might be out for a long time, not only the World Cup."

The Chief Selector said that Naseem is also doubtful to make the tour of Australia after the World Cup.

Inzamam also defended the decision to call up Hasan Ali, who has been out with a finger injury for a while now and last played for Pakistan in any format in January this year against New Zealand in a Test match.

Hasan, who fractured his finger while playing in the Lanka Premier League a few months back, last played a ODI for Pakistan in June, 2022. "The only reason we have picked Hasan is because he is an experienced bowler

who has played and bowled well before in big tournaments and matches and that is why we have gone for Hasan. He was only picked after the doctors cleared his fitness," he said.

There were concerns about fast bowler Haris Rauf's fitness after he missed the last Super four game against Sri Lanka following an injury during the India game.

### Pakistan World Cup squad

Babar Azam (Caps), Shadab Khan (V.Capt), Muhammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq, Abdullah Shafique, Saud Shakeel, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Wasim Junior, Agha Salman, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Osama Mir.

Travelling Reserves: Muhammad Harris, Abrar Ahmed, Zaman Khan.

## Hangzhou-bound India T20 team go down to Karnataka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India's Asian Games-bound T20 cricket team lost to Karnataka by four wickets in a pre-departure warm-up fixture, here on Friday.

Manoj Bhandage returned 4-1-15-4, while Vasuki Koushik and Shubhang Hegde claimed three wickets each as the Indian XI were shot out for 133 in 20 overs.

In reply, Manish Pandey struck an unbeaten 52 (40 balls) while opener LR Chethan (29), Mayank Agarwal (19) and Abhinav Manohar (17 not out) also contributed in Karnataka's chase as they romped home with five balls to spare.

Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi



and R Sai Kishore took one wicket apiece for the Indian Asian Games T20 side.

The Indian team crumbled against the Karnataka bowlers but only after open-

ers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Prabhsimran Singh made strong contributions.

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.

The pair of Bhandage and Hegde ran through the Indian top and middle-order as none among Rahul Tripathi (6), Jitesh Sharma (2), Rinku Singh (5) and Shivam Dube (0) could trouble the scorers.

India were bowled out with Koushik taking the last three wickets.

XI for the first ODI against Australia in Mohali.

India's men's team will compete in the Asian Games for the first time, with the competition set to take place between September 28 and October 8.

India's women's team have already qualified for the semi-finals of the continental showpiece in China.

**Brief Scores:**  
India 133 in 20 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 49, Yashasvi Jaiswal 31; Manoj Bhandage 4/15, Shubhang Hegde 3/17, Vasuki Koushik 3/36) lost to Karnataka 136/4 in 19.1 overs (Manish Pandey 52 not out, LR Chethan 29; R Sai Kishore 1/20) by six wickets.

## India to open U-19 World Cup campaign against B'desh

PTI ■ DUBAI

Five-time winners and defending champions India will open their campaign at next year's U-19 World Cup against Bangladesh, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Friday.

Featuring a total of 16 teams, the U-19 World Cup will be held from January 13 to February 4 in Sri Lanka, with the hosts taking on Zimbabwe in the tournament-opener in Colombo.

India are the most successful team in the tournament, having lifted the trophy on five occasions -- 1999-00, 2007-08, 2012, 2017-18 and last year in the West Indies during the 2021-22 edition. India are placed in Group A along with Bangladesh, Ireland and USA. After taking

on Bangladesh on January 14, India will face the USA on January 18 and Ireland on January 20.

"The teams will be divided into four groups, each consisting of four teams, the top three teams from each group will now progress to the Super Six stage. Group stage matches will take place from 13 to 21 January," the ICC said.

"Additionally, the fourth-placed teams in each group will compete in one more match against another fourth-placed team before concluding their tournament," it added.


After the conclusion of the group stage, 12 teams will move to the Super Six stage wherein they will be divided into two groups of six teams each.

Top three teams from

Groups A and D will form one group in Super Six stage and similarly, top three sides from Groups B and C will be the part of the second group.

Based on their positions in the initial group stage, each team will play two matches in the Super Six stage against the second and third teams from the other group. "For instance, the top team in Group A (A1) will play against the second and third teams in Group D (D2 and D3). A2 will play against D1 and D3, and so forth," the ICC said while explaining the format.

The two teams finishing on the top of their respective Super Six groups will make it to the semifinals, with the final to be played on February 4 at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo.



**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
**PARALAKHEMUNDI(R&B) DIVISION, PARALAKHEMUNDI.**  
**e-Procurement Notice**

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E-mail I.D: ocp@parali@yahoo.com

**B-940**

**Bid Identification No. S.E., PKD. R&B DIVN. – 20 /2023-24**

**No. 3397**


**Date. 13.09.23**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

1.	The Superintending Engineer, Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha Invites Percentage rate bid in Double/Single cover system to be received in on <b>ONLINE MODE</b> only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:		
2.	Nature of works	:	Building & Roads works
3.	No. of works	:	5 [Five] no. of works
4.	Estimated cost (Approximately)	:	SI No. 01) Rs.96.25 Lakhs SI No. 02 to 05) Rs. 9.87 Lakhs to Rs. 46.89 Lakhs
5.	Bid cost	:	SI No. 01) Rs.10000/- SI No. 02 to 04) Rs. 6000/- SI No. 05) Rs. 4000/-
6.	Class of contractor	:	SI No. 01) "B" class SI No. 02 to 05) "B" class / "C" class / "D" class
7.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	10.00 Hrs of Dt. 25.09.2023 To 17.00 Hrs. of Dt.09.10.2023
8.	Date of opening of the Bid	:	12.00Hrs. of Dt.10.10.2023
9.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <a href="http://tendersorissa.gov.in">http://tendersorissa.gov.in</a> Any Addendum /Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.		

OIPR-34065/11/0015/2324

Superintending Engineer  
Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division



**OFFICE OF THE CDO-cum-EO, ZILLA PARISHAD, GANJAM**  
At/Po-Chhatrapur, District- Ganjam, Pin-761020,e-mail:ori-dganjam@nic.in  
CAD-2146

**Invitation of Application for Biogas Plant under GOBARDhan Scheme**

Applications are invited from Community Groups and institutions running Gaushalas like Trusts, Milk Unions/Cooperatives, NGOs and FPOs having cattle population of 15 or more inside a single premise in rural areas, to establish Community-level biogas plants under the GOBARDhan scheme of SBM-G. Please refer to Website <https://panchayat.odisha.gov.in/> for complete information, guidelines and application format. The application format can be downloaded from the website and submitted to the respective CDO-cum-EO, Zilla Parishad, Ganjam. The last date & time of submission of application is **Dated:-21/11/2023 by 5.00PM.**

**For any queries, please contact: DWSM, Zilla Parishad, Ganjam, Contact No. 9337875713, 9938589050, 9438243962.**

**CDO-cum-EO, ZP Cum Member Secretary, DWSC, Ganjam.**

OIPR-19372/11/0003/2324