OPINION 6

ANTIBIOTICS INEFFECTIVE

AIR POLLUTION RENDERS

WORLD 8

BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP IN US

RAMASWAMY CALLS FOR ENDING | NET CLAIMS OF NON-RESIDENTS ON INDIA RISE

DEHRADUN, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹2

MONEY 10

TO \$379.7 BILLION IN JUNE QUARTER: RBI

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PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The men's 10m air pistol team continued India's success story at the Asian Games here, winning gold but two of the marksmen, who made it to the individual finals on Thursday, missed a medal.

The team of Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema and Shiva Narwal narrowly beat the Chinese team to take the top podium and earn India its fourth gold medal from the shooting ranges.
With Thursday's success,

Indian shooters have so far won four gold, four silver and five bronze medals. The Indian trio's aggre-

gate score of 1734 was just one better than the Chinese team, which settled for the silver medal, while Vietnam, with a score of 1730, bagged the

Sarabjot and Arjun also made it to the eight-shooter individual finals but finished fourth and eighth, respectively. Vietnam's Pham Quang Huy won gold with a score of 240.5, while South Korea's Lee Wonho (239.4) and Uzbekistan's Vladimir Svechnikov (219.9) took the silver and bronze, respectively.

Sarabjot, 21, finished fourth, scoring 199, while Arjun ended up eighth and last, exiting on the second elimination shot

It was another fruitful day for Indian shooters, with Sarabjot, who will be celebrating his 22nd birthday on Saturday, giving himself an



Gold medal winning Indian team shooters Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema and Shiva Narwal during the presentation ceremony of the men's 10m air pistol event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou in China on Thursday

early birthday gift as he led the brother of 2020 Tokyo air pistol trio to team gold, scoring 580 in the qualification round, while Cheema shot 578 and Narwal amassed 576 to aggregate 1734.

In the qualification round, whose aggregate score decides the team medallists, Sarabjot shot cards of 95, 95, 97, 98, 97 and 98 to aggregate 580 and entered the finals at fifth place.

Team-mate Arjun Cheema shot series of 97, 96, 97, 97, 96 and 95 for his 578 to also make the eight-shooter finals, placed

Shiva Narwal, the younger

Paralympic gold medallist in mixed 50m pistol Manish, came out of his elder sibling's shadow as the third member of the gold-winning team here, but he could not make it to the individual finals, finishing 14th.

96, 97, 99, 97 and 95 for his 576. This was the third team gold at the shooting ranges here after the 10m air rifle top-podium finish and women's 25-

Narwal shot series of 92,

metre pistol gold. Sarabjot had won his first individual senior gold medal at the ISSF World Cup in Bhopal

earlier this year, and was gunning for more success today in the individual category after being placed fifth among the eight finalists at the end of the qualification round.

But a string of below-par scores in the finals, undid his efforts in the qualification round. He managed just 9.8 and 9.4 on the third and fourth shots in the finals and another rank bad shot of 8.9 on the seventh shot pegged him further back from where he could not recover.

Sarabjot, whose success story started in 2021 when he



won the junior air pistol team and mixed team gold at the ISSF World Championships at Lima, Peru in 2021, has been performing consistently ever since, bagging the mixed team gold at the recently-concluded World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He would now be aiming to seal a 2024 Paris Olympics quota place at the Asian Championships in Changwon (South Korea) later this year.

Meanwhile, Indian men's and women's teams assured themselves of medals at the Asian Games after progressing to the semifinals of the squash events here on Thursday.

While the men's team blanked Nepal 3-0 in its final pool tie, the women were handed a 0-3 loss by Malaysia in their last pool B fixture. Both teams sealed top two spots in their respective pools to make the semifinals which guarantees them at least a bronze.

The Indian women's team began the day with veteran Joshna Chinappa enduring a 6-11, 2-11, 8-11 defeat to Subramaniam Sivasangari in 21 minutes. In the second match. Tanvi Khanna squandered a 2-1 lead before going down to Commonwealth Games gold medallist Aifa Binti Azman 9-11, 11-1, 7-11, 13-11, 11-5.

SHOOTERS ADD TO GOLD HAUL MP Bidhuri faces **Privileges Committee**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Chas referred the complaints lodged by several MPs on the issue involving BJP member Ramesh Bidhuri's use of objectionable words against BSP's Danish Ali to the Privileges Committee, sources said on Thursday. While Ali and several other

Opposition MPs, including Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and DMK's Kanimozhi, wrote to the Speaker seeking action against Bidhuri, some BJP parliamen-tarians like Nishikant Dubey said the BSP member "incited' the South Delhi MP when he was speaking in the House and urged the Chair to look into this as well

Sources said Birla has sent all these complaints to the Privileges Committee headed by BJP MP Sunil Kumar Singh.

Bidhuri had made certain derogatory remarks, later expunged from records, target ed at BSP member Danish Ali on September 22 when he was speaking in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the success

of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who was present in the House, expressed his regret at the ruling party MP's conduct.

As opposition parties rallied around Ali after a video of Bidhuri's remarks went viral triggering an outrage, the Lok

Sabha Speaker took "serious note" and warned him of "strict action" if such behaviour is repeated in the future.

The BJP also issued him a show-cause notice.

Ali wrote to the Speaker, seeking an enquiry by the Privileges Committee, describing Bidhuri's comments as 'hate speech'

Almost all Opposition parties also wrote to Birla, seeking action against him. However, a few BJP MPs,

including Dubey, asserted that Ali incited Bidhuri with highly objectionable remarks against the Prime Minister. While Dubey condemned Bidhuri's conduct, he urged the

Speaker to look into Ali's behaviour as well. Other BIP MPs echoed the view. In a post on X on Thursday, Dubey thanked the

Speaker for referring the matter to the committee. "It was possible because the BJP has a majority in Lok Sabha," he said, as he cited several previous incidents to assert

that no committee was formed to probe these issues and nor was anyone punished. In this context, Dubey alleged that the RJD-JD(U)-Congress members were engaged in a fight involving shoes and microphones in

2006, Sonia Gandhi was

involved in an incident in 2012

besides the commotion and

injuries to parliamentarians in

2014 during the creation of Telangana as a separate state. Opposition leaders have slammed the BJP over Bidhuri

being given poll responsibility by the party in Rajasthan's Tonk district. In a post on X, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal said the BJP has

"rewarded" Bidhuri for attacking Ali with the "unspeakable words" in Parliament. "BJP rewards 'hate'. Bidhuri rewarded for attacking Danish Ali (BSP) for the unspeakable

words he used in the Special Session of Parliament. Made

BJP in-charge of Tonk District in Rajasthan." Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X last night, said, "Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas' yeh

sab hai inka bakwaas." TMC MP Mahua Moitra also slammed the BJP and said Bidhuri had been "rewarded' for his remarks against a Muslim MP. "How does a showcaused person be given a new role by BJP? Narendra Modi ji, is this your Sneha Yatra for minorities, your love out-

reach?" she said on X.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said, "So much for the #BhajaParty's show cause notice! The foul-mouthed MP is now in charge of Tonk, where no doubt he will have plenty of opportunities to polarise the electorate even further with his divisive

Khalistanis at it again

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Operatives of Khalistani ter-rorist outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) painted pro-Khalistan graffiti in North Delhi on Wednesday, a month after defacing several Delhi

According to the police, "Delhi banega Khalistan" and "Khalistan Zindabad SFJ" slogans were found painted on both sides of the Kashmiri Gate flyover connecting North Delhi and North East Delhi and at some other places. The Delhi Police removed the graf-

fiti soon after they spotted it. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the US-based Khalistani terrorist and chief of the SFJ, claimed responsibility for the illegal act and threatened to storm the Stadium" Ahmedabad on October 5.

"Khalistanis from Canada are in Delhi to avenge assassination of Nijjar," Pannun said in a statement. "A case has been lodged

under Section 153 of the IPC (Indian Penal Code) and the Delhi Prevention of Act against unidentified miscreants and an investigation has been launched in this connection," an official said on the condition of anonymity.

In a statement, the Delhi Police said, "A video came to notice on September 27, wherein certain visuals showed defacement through graffiti. According to the signage boards visible in the video, an extensive search was conducted in the North District area, and graffiti was discovered on Yudhister Setu flyover, heading from Seelampur towards Kashmere Gate.

"An FIR has been filed under the relevant sections of the IPC and Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Public Property Act, and it is currently under investigation."

It is being said the defacement of walls in the national anital was in response to the raids conducted by the National Investigation Agency on Wednesday across Punjab, Delhi-NĆR, Haryana, Delhi-NĆR, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh in three separate cases linked to the terror-gangster-smuggler nexus.

The incident comes a month after similar pro-Khalistan slogans were sprayed on the walls of more than five Metro stations in the national Capital. "Delhi Banega Khalistan and Khalistan Zindabad" slogans were writ-

ten on the walls. Similar slogans were also

found on the walls of a Government school in Nangloi.

The crackdown on Khalistan elements came amid diplomatic tensions between India and Canada over the killing of Khalistan terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India and Canada after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a serious allegation regarding the potential involvement of Indian agents in the murder of Nijjar, a Khalistani extremist, in British Columbia on June 18.

India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020. India has, however, strongly rejected Trudeau's allegations terming it as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.



Devotees celebrate during the procession of Lalbaugcha Raja idol of Lord Ganesha before its immersion in Mumbai on Thursday

Green Revolution Icon passes away

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The new generation may not be aware of it but India had a recent past when the then Prime Minister of the country himself had asked the people to skip a meal daily so that the country's hunger could be satisfied to a certain extent.

The Prime Minister was none other than Lal Bahadur Shastri and the country was undergoing severe drought caused by deficient Monsoon and low productivity of the seeds and soil

"We were leading a ship to mouth existence. Every day ships laden with wheat given by the USA under its PL-480 programme would arrive in Indian ports to feed the crores. Those were the days when India was dependent on the wheat offered by the USA," Professor MS Swaminathan, who breathed his last on Thursday morning, used to recall

Kumbakonam-born Swaminathan was 98 and is survived by three daughters, Soumya, Mathura and Nitya. His wife Mina predeceased

Swaminathan, a plant geneticist by training, returned to India to work for the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and he had a dream of developing high yield varieties of rice and wheat, the staple food of

the sub-continent's population.
Along with Dr Norman
Borlaug, the Nobel Laureate
and with the political patronage extended by C
Subramaniam, the then food and Agricultural Minister of India, Professor Swaminathan launched the Green Revolution, which was the launched foundation stone of India's self-reliance in food production.

Within a decade, India became a food surplus State from a food deficient country. Having resolved the issue of food shortage, Professor Swaminathan turned his attention to other areas about which the then political leadership was ignorant. He drew the attention of the policy makers towards the poor mortality rate of women and children because of the shortage of nutritious food.

Professor Swaminathan also alerted the Government of It was the time when the day about LBW, the low



August 7, 1925 — September 28, 2023

birth weight, of the newborn. "Every third child born in India and several South Asian countries is characterised by low birth weight. The LBW children, resulting from maternal and foetal undernutrition, suffer setbacks in brain development and several serious health problems in adult life. Such enforced handicaps at birth represent the cruelest form of inequity in the emerging knowledge age," he had warned in 1999.

Had the Governments of the day listened to his words, India would have experienced the Amrit Kaal long back. For Professor Swaminathan, agricultural research was not something to be confined to the laboratory. He was at home interacting with farmers, fishermen and agricultural workers to get first hand information about their grievances and problems. He travelled to Orissa and

Wayand in Kerala to study the traditional style of farming operations. The credit for informing the world about the vast collection of conventional rice seeds under the possession of tribals in Orissa should

go to him only. It was his vision to set up pulse and cereal villages across the country to address the malnutrition faced by the rural and urban folks. Professor Swaminathan stands out because of his strong views on sustained development. He was of the view that development and urbanisation were unavoidable, it could be done with minimum damage to the environment and ecology

The coming decades will prove that whoever controls the genes and seeds would control the world. The days of nuclear warheads and conventional wars are over," he had said in his speeches.

The MS Swaminathan Research Foundation at Taramani in Chennai is a standing monument to the Father of India's Green Revolution. When he was awarded the first ever World Food Prize in 1987, he used the prize money of \$250,000 for setting up the MSSRF, a world class research institute and

think tank on agricultural research. Though he was for interlinking of Indian rivers and Murmu and Prime Minister

genetically modified seeds, Professor Śwaminathan stayed away from all controversies.

He held the view that "if there are reservations against the GM foods and inter linking of rivers, we should try to address the apprehension in the minds of the people".
Since 2000, he has been

asking the authorities to include millets as a staple food in the food basket. The National Farmers Commission recommendations (which he headed) had asked the Government of India in 2005 itself that procurement price of farm products produced by them should be given twice the amount they spent on cultivation.

The recommendations are yet to be implemented in full. "Anything can wait but not agriculture," was his catchword till the end. Professor Swaminathan

had been honoured with Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Sri in addition to nearly 90 honorary doctorates. Condolences poured in with President Droupadi

admirers. Om Shanti." The Congress party described him as the key scien-

Narendra Modi hailing

Swaminathan's yeoman service

left behind a rich legacy which

would serve as a "guiding light to steer the world towards a

safer and hunger-free future for

humanity".

Modi said his ground-breaking work transformed the lives of millions, ensured India's food security.

Modi said on X: "Deeply saddened by the demise of Dr

MS Swaminathan Ji. At a very

critical period in our nation's

history, his groundbreaking

work in agriculture trans-

formed the lives of millions and

ensured food security for our

conversations with Dr Swaminathan. His passion to

see India progress was exem-

plary. His life and work will

inspire generations to come.

Condolences to his family and

"I will always cherish my

Murmu said Swaminathan

to the nation.

humanity"

nation.

tific architect of the Green Revolution and hailed his contribution to the agriculture

Police seize over 200 vehicles, impose | SSP orders strengthening more than Rs 8.35 lakh penalty

PNS DEHRADUN

The Dehradun Police have issued challans worth over Rs 8.35 lakh and seized more than 200 vehicles so far this week on charges of rash driving, drunk driving and other traffic violations late at night. During the late hours of the past four days, the police seized a total of 167 vehicles for drunk driving and rash

hicles for traffic violations under the Motor Vehicles Act. The police issued over 600 challans for these violations and collected about Rs 6.56 lakh. Besides this, the police also took action against 745 people under the Police Act on charges of drinking in public places, hooliganism and raising ruckus in various pub-



police also collected a fine of about Rs 2.2 lakh from such offenders, said the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh. He said that all police stations in-charges have been directed to take action against those who create a ruckus in public places disturbing law and order, especially during the night. Following the order, all police station in-charges have been regularly conducting a checking campaign in their respective areas at night and in the wee hours. He said that though such campaigns are being run in every area, special attention is being given to those areas where chances of people gathering at night are higher who can possibly be involved in hooliganism and can commit other offences that can disturb law and order. He said that the police will continue this campaign to ensure people maintain law and order during the night as well.

CCTV network in border areas

 $T^{\text{he Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh has} \\ \text{ordered the officials to strengthen the security of the district's border areas by installing CCTV cameras. He issued this}$ instruction during his visit to the Vikasnagar and Sahaspur police station areas on Thursday. He said that the strong network of CCTV cameras will help the police monitor the movement in the border areas and keep the movement of criminals in check. He also instructed the officials to put up boards at every police station and outpost with photos and complete details of



all the drug smugglers whose history sheets have been opened at the police station. According to him, every visitor that arrives at the police station can have information about them and provide crucial information about them to the police as well.

DSO to organise run in Doon on October 1

PNS DEHRADUN

District Sports Office (DSO) will be organising a run on October 1 to celebrate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Parade Ground. The district sports officer Nidhi Binjola informed that the race will be open to participants in the under-14 and under-18 boys/girls, women/men open and veteran men 40-plus age groups.

The race will commence at 7 AM at the Sports Complex, Parade Ground.

Binjola further informed that there will be no registration fee for the participants. However, it is requested that participants bring their Aadhaar card or a photocopy of their birth certificate for regis-

37 cadets of Sainik School Ghorakhal clear NDA exam

PNS DEHRADUN

Keeping up with its tradition armed forces, 37 cadets from Sainik School Ghorakhal have cleared the written examination of prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA).

The school said that 37 cadets have cleared UPSC NDA written examination 2023 (for 152 NDA course 114 INA course) which is the highest number among all the

group captain VS Dangwal congratulated the cadets for

tration purposes

of supplying officers to the

33 Sainik Schools in India.

The principal of school their achievement. He empha-

sised the importance of staying focused and resolute as they pursue their final target of becoming a part of India's defence forces. "The journey does not end here. We stand beside these remarkable young individuals as they coninue their pursuit of excellence," he said. "Sainik School Ghorakhal is providing a structured and rigorous framework that prepares young aspirants for a career in the military. The school has been significantly contribut-

ing towards NDA entries since its inception," a communiqué from the school said. **Khelo India to organise** kickboxing league for

women in Doon PNS DEHRADUN

In order to promote kick-Lboxing Khelo India will be organising a women's kickboxing league on October 1 in Dehradun. The president of Uttarakhand Amateur Kickboxing Association (UAKA) Arvind Kumar Kotnala informed that to promote and strengthen Indian sports, kickboxing has become an integral part of Khelo India. He said to promote kickboxing, Khelo India will be organising the kickboxing league on October 1 in Dehradun. The league will act as a milestone in the promotion of women's kickboxing across the State. It is a platform for females across the State to showcase their skills and compete at the highest level, he added.

He further added that this league will also harness the potential of women and train them at the highest level so that they can win medals for

Guv visits border area, **Badrinath & Kedarnath**

PNS IOSHIMATH

Vovernor lieutenant gen-Geral (retd) Gurmit Singh interacted with the jawans of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Army and the Border Roads Organisation at Malari

are safe because of them. The nation is proud of the enthusiasm and passion of the jawans posted along the borders," said Singh. He also talked to the personnel about



in the region bordering China in Chamoli district on Thursday. The governor appreciated the manner in which the soldiers and other personnel discharge their duties with sincerity amidst the difficult conditions in such high altitude areas. "We and the nation

lenges they face.

He said that the civilians living in border regions are also guards, adding that the borders cannot be secured without ensuring the safety of the villages in the border re-

gion. Efforts are being made to provide drinking water, electricity, road, health serv ices, communication and other basic facilities in the border villages under the Vi-

brant Village pro-gramme, he added After interacting with the jawans, the governor visited Badrinath where he prayed for the prosperity of the nation and its people. He also talked to the pilgrims and checked arrangements for

the pilgrimage. Later, the governor sought information from the officials about the progress of works being executed under the Badrinath masterplan. The governor also visited Kedarnath and paid obeisance to the lord at the

Kurmanchal Nagar Sahkari Bank does Rs 3.6K crore business

PNS NAINITAL

The Kurmanchal Nagar Sahkari Bank Limited did a total business of Rs 3,609.95 crore in the previous financial year. It has also become the first cooperative bank in the state to provide internet banking service. This was stated in the 41st annual general meeting of the bank.

The bank chairman Vinay Sah said in the meeting that

the bank had been able to reach its target in the previous financial year despite tough competition and difficult circumstances. After securing the permission of the Reserve Bank of India, the bank started internet banking service, which is a big achieve-ment for it. Stating that the bank customers have started benefitting from this service, he said that the bank is consistently striving to provide modern digital banking services. The bank's secretary Akshay Sah spoke about the future plans of the bank. Representatives of the bank's branches in Bageshwar and Paltan Bazaar in Dehradun were felicitated for the branches being adjudged the best big and small branches respectively.

SHRU and CSIR-IHBT ink MoU on collaboration in R&D

dustrial Research) recently

inked a Memorandum of Un-

derstanding (MoU).

To further their common interests in the realms of education and research and buttress their energies to open the doors of cooperation for national interest, Śwami Rama Himalayan (SRHU) and CSIR- Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Tech-

University nology (CSIR-IHBT), Palam-

The SRHU chancellor Vijay Dhasmana said that flood gates would open up now for the students of Uttarakhand to participate in joint collaboration with the government or-

> entities and PSUs in significant areas, contributing to national development. He further said that outreach for grammes promoting science education and related technological advances for social benefit are on

ganisations, private

SRHU The

Himachal (established by action would now involve Council of Scientific and Inacademic and R&D collab-

vice- chancellor Rajendra Dobhal said that the course of

the cards.

CBC 06147/12/0001/2324

Dated: 27/09/2023

carve strong livelihood support systems in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand through technology transfer from a national institute. He further said that preparations are now underway to begin the process of exchange of faculty, research scholars and research project leaders to undertake academic activities and research in areas of mutual in-

oration, including transfer of

technology, between the two

organisations and added that

collaboration would help

CLASSIFIED **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Ankit Vishnoi to ANKIT BISHNOI and in future I should be known as Ankit Bishnoi S/o Satish Kumar Vishnoi Address: Pahari Bazar Kankhal Haridwar UK

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Dinesh Kumar to DINESH KUMAR MEHTA and in future I should be known As Dinesh Kumar Mehta S/o Anant Ram Mehta Address: S 415 Shivalik Nagar BHEL Ranipur Haridwar UK

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Manoj Kumar to MANOJ CHAUHAN and in future I should be known as Manoj Chauhan S/o Vikram Singh Chauhan Address: Gram Ambuvala Pathri Forest Range Haridwar UK

The general public is informed that we have changed our daughter name from Amairaa Gandhi to AMAIRAA KUMAR and in future she should be known as Amairaa Kumar D/o Kumar Shalabh Address: H No 3a Govindpuri Ranipur More Jwalapur Haridwar UK

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Gurvinder Singh to GURVINDER SINGH MATHARU and in future I should be known as Gurvinder Singh Matharu S/o Surinder Singh Address: C 75 Shri Ram Nagar Jwalapur Near Shri Gol Gurudwara Sahib Ji Haridwar UK

PUBLIC NOTICE

We would like to inform the Genera

Public that Original (sale/Transfer, Gift) 308 deed dated 14.01.2013 of IF

situated at Atak Farm, Pargana Pachwadoon, Tehsil Vikas Nagar,

District Dehradun bearing Khata no. 222 Fasli Year 1395-1400 khasra no.

231 rakba 0.220 hectare, khasra no. 232 rakba 0.2850 heactare, khasra

no. 233 Rakba 0.2440 hectare, 2/3

part of Total Rakba 0.7490 i.e. 0.4993

Hectare, Bounded as under: East: 20ft. Wide Passage S.M. 168 ft., 4 inch West: Govt. Gool thereafter land

of Pratap nursery S.M. 168ft., 6 inch North: THDC Plot no. 27, S.M 322 ft., 4

inch South: Land of Shri Narendra Singh Negi, S.M. 322 ft. 4 inch registered at Sub registrar Vikasnagar at Bahi No. 1, zild 2359 page 385-414

document No. 308 dated 14.01.2013 In favour of Smt. Kiran Pal w/c

Devendra Singh Pal, Daughter of Om

prakash, resident of Village and post office Kainchiwala Tehsil Vikas Nagar,

District Dehradun, have been lost and

untraceable. Further, Punjab National

Bank, Branch Nehru Colony

Dehradun intends to mortgage the

above property. If any person finds it,

or claims any interest or title in the

property is requested to contact

Punjab National Bank, Branch Nehru

Colony Dehradun within 7 days from

Nitin Kumar Garg s/o Mr. Arvind

Kumar Garg resident of 5A Rest West

Camp Tyagi road, Dehradun and Akhilesh Kumar Bhatt S/o Late

Rameshwar Prasad Bhatt resident of village and post Ranipokhari

the date of this publication.

U'khand startup launches 5 heart monitoring devices

Uttarakhand's startup, Sunfox Technologies launched five in-novative heart monitoring devices on the occasion of World Heart Day on Thursday. The devices were launched by AIIMS Rishikesh director Dr Meenu Singh and executive director of Emcure Pharmaceuticals and Shark Tank judge Namita Thapar. These portable ECG devices will aid people in remote and hilly regions of Uttarakhand and countrywide in diagnosing heart diseases and heart check-ups timely. The company stated that these devices, developed after seven years of research and effort, are designed to be useful for heart patients, assisting in timely diagnosis. Previously, the team had developed a portable ECG device called "Spandan," which proved beneficial on an international scale and was used extensively by both doctors and nonprofessionals. Founder and CEO of Sunfox, Rajat Jain said,"We as a team which included Sabit Rawat, Saurabh Badola, Nitin Chandola and Arpit Jain envisioned revolutionising healthcare by introducing modern tools that can detect early signs of heart attacks. We believe that this portable device has the capability to accurately monitor the heart and provides timely diagnosis to reduce heart damage and increase lifespan." The company introduced five types of lifesaving devices and three emergency services for the public health including: the Spandan neo, Spandan Pro and Spandan Military-Grade ECG.

इंडियन बेंक Indian Bank 🛕 इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

BRANCH: GADARPUR POSSESSION NOTICE (for Imovable Property)

प्रगत संगणन विकास केंद्र, कोलकाता

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING, KOLKATA

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-

DAC) Kolkata, an R&D organization under the Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology (Meity), Govt. of

India, Plot-E2/1, Block-GP, Sector-V, Salt Lake

Electronics Complex, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata-700091

invites "Expression of Interest (EoI)" from interested

parties/entrepreneurs for Transfer of Technology (TOT) of

"COLOSENS" an affordable colorimetric diagnostic

instrument for bacteria diarrhoea screening. For details,

please visit www.cdac.in. For any query, please contact

9477355692/9405138189. Last date of Eol submission:

संवार एवं सुचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय की वैज्ञानिक संस्था भारत सरकार A Scentific Socety of the Ministry of Electronics and information Technology (Mery) Govt c टीओटी (ToT) के लिए पसंद की अभिव्यक्ति (Expression of Interest)

Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of reciept of the said Notice. The borrowers/ guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers / guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/les described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Sca 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rules 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank Erstwhile Allahabad Bank for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against the account herein below: The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

27/10/2023 by 5:00 P.M.

| Branch/Borrower/Guarantor | Immovable Property | Notice Date | Possession | Due Amour | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| Branch:Gadarpur | At Khata No 456,Khasra No 352 | 05.07.2023 | 25.09.2023 | Rs. | |
| M/s Kamboj AutoMobilesBorrower Vill - Sakaini | min, Area: 167.29 Sq Mt,Village | | | 36,93,782/ | |
| -ya , PO Subhash Nagar , Dist Udham Singh | Barakhera Tehsil Gadarpur , Dist | | | and interest thereon. | |
| Nagar, Uttarakhand -263152 2. Mr Sanjeev Kumar | Udham Singh Nagar Uttarakhand | | | thereon. | |
| S/o Munshi Ram.) Proprietor Vill -Sakainiya , PO | owned by Mr. Jogendra Kaur W/o | | | | |
| Subhash Nagar , Dist Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand -263152 1. Mrs Jogendra Kaur W/o | Munshi Ram . Sale Deed No :1379 | | | | |
| Munshi Ram Guarantor & Mortgagor V i I I - | dated 07.02.2013 Bahi No-1, Zild | | | | |
| Sakainiya PO Subhash Nagar , Dist Udham Singh | No 1506, Page Number -197-210, | | | | |
| Nagar, Uttarakhand -263152 4 .Mr Subhash | Serial Number: 1379 Sub Regist | | | | |
| Chandra S/o Munshi Ram Guarantor Vill - | -rar Bazpur (U .S Nagar) Property | | | | |
| Sakainiya , PO Subhash Nagar , Dist Udham | is bounded as: To the East- Rasta | | | | |
| Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand -263152 5. Mr. Lubhaya | To the West- H/o Lakhpat, To the | | | | |
| Ram S/o Manga Ram Guarantor Vill -Sakainiya , | North- Land of Sunita Rani. To | | | | |
| PO Subhash Nagar , Dist Udham Singh Nagar, | the South- Land of Seema Kalra | | | | |
| Uttarakhand -263152 | ace: Gadarpur | L | | | |
| Date: 28.09.2023 Pla | Authoris | Authorised Officer, Indian Bank | | | |

Need to prioritise heart health: experts on World Heart Day

PNS DEHRADUN

The director of cardiac **⊥** thoracic and vascular surgery at Max hospital Dr Arvind Makker said that alarming surge in heart attacks among young individuals in recent years underscores the significance of prioritising overall heart health. He was interacting with media persons on the occasion of the World Heart Day here on Thursday. The theme of this year is 'Use heart, know heart'.

Dr Makker said that heart disease, a leading global cause of mortality, has witnessed a notable increase in India over the past five years. "This concerning escalation in cardiac emergencies and associated ailments can be primarily attributed to our

modern, fast-paced lifestyle

and evolving habits, affecting

individuals as young as 30 to

40 years old," he said.

Cardiology director of the hospital Dr Preeti Sharma said that sedentary lifestyles, relentless stress, insomnia and harmful habits like smoking and excessive alcohol consumption are eroding heart vitality. Further, the growing prevalence of diabetes, hypertension and obesity further exacerbates the

Cardiology director at Max Dr Yogendra Singh said, "Maintaining a heart-healthy diet is essential for reducing the risk of heart disease. A well-rounded dietary approach provides crucial nutrients vital for overall well-being. Diversify the sources of healthy proteins. It's imperative to steer clear of fried fast food and processed options to safeguard cardiovascular health. Increase the intake of plantbased foods, including more

vegetables, fruits and whole grains, while curbing refined carbohydrates, especially those loaded with added sugars. Keep an eye on food labels to monitor sodium content. Maintaining portion control is a fundamental aspect of sustaining a heartconscious diet and overall well-being."

The cardiology associate director Dr Punish Sadana said that it is alarming that many heart attack and stroke survivors revert to detrimental behaviours despite clear warnings. These bad habits include poor dietary choices, inadequate physical activity, poor sleep quality, excessive alcohol consumption, smoking, medication non-compliance, neglect of blood pressure management and irregular cholesterol monitor-

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

National Competitive Short Term E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" for following Road Safety works. All other information will be available from date 04-10-2023 at 5.00 PM onward on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

| SI. No. | 1100000 | Earnest Money (in Lac) | Cost of Tender (Rs.) | Validity of Tender (day) | Period of Completion (months) | Contractor's Category of Registration | |
|------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 1 | Provincial Division PWD Pithoragarh Installation of Crash barrier, Parapets, Delinators, Sign boards etc. on Devalthal-Kanalichina Motor road (16.00 km) of Block Kanalichina District Pithoragarh under Road Safety. | | 5000+ 18% GST | 120 | 06 | Category 'B' & Above for Road works in any State Govt./ Govt. of India/Govt. undertaking. | |
| 2 | Provincial Division PWD Pithoragarh Installation of Crash barrier, Parapets, Delinators, Sign boards etc. on Pithoragarh Jhulaghat Motor road (SH-98) (34.00 km) in District Pithoragarh | | 5000+ 18% GST | 120 | 06 | Category 'B' & Above for Road works in any State Govt./ Govt. of India/Govt. undertaking. | |

Note: Tenderer should be registered in category as above and shall fulfill the conditions as mentioned in Engineer in Chief,

PWD, Uttarakhand office order no. 380/02- যুoলিo(आঘিত) /2017-20 Dated 31-08-2020.

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62 new cases of dengue found in Uttarakhand

PNS DEHRADUN

 $T^{\text{he patients of the vector-}}_{\text{borne disease dengue are}}$ continuing to increase in Uttarakhand. The Health department reported 62 new cases of the disease on Saturday. The total number of active dengue cases in the State is now 342. The State has a total of 2,548 cumulative cases of the disease in this season. As per the department data, a total of 2,191 patients have recovered from the disease so far. The authorities reported 24 new cases of the disease from Pauri, 16 from Dehradun, 12 from Nainital, seven from Haridwar, two from Chamoli and one from Udham Singh Nagar on Thursday.

The department has so far reported the death of 15 patients from the disease with Dehradun district alone reporting 13 deaths and two deaths in Nainital district. A total of 943 cases of dengue have been reported in Dehradun this year while Pauri and Haridwar have reported 549 and 429 cases so far.

Dengue is a viral infection spread by the mosquito Aedes Aezypti popularly known as Tiger Mosquito. The symptoms of the disease are persistent high fever, rashes, headache and pain in the joints.

Assigning responsibilities to position holders a waste of public money: AAP

PNS DEHRADUN

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has termed the recent decision of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to assign responsibilities to 10 political leaders as a waste of public money. According to the party leaders, CM has added an unnecessary financial burden on the State's economy by assigning responsibilities to his own people in the name of development. The AAP media in-charge of the Garhwal division Ravindra Singh Anand said that it is a well known fact that Uttarakhand is in debt of over Rs 70,000 crore and despite that, the government here is wasting the public's money in the name of assigning responsibility. "The State is already struggling with natural disasters and dengue outbreaks but the government has no money to provide some relief to the public through some welfare schemes. However, the CM seems

fine with spending money on his own people in the name of assigning responsibility. Shouldn't he take appropriate decisions in public interest in a current vulnerable time when people are in distress?" questioned Anand. He said that people are already bearing the brunt of inflation and the dengue outbreak has added to their injury as on average, almost every family has at least one patient in the city who is suffering from dengue. People are suffering financially due to hefty hospital bills and many have suffered this monsoon due to natural disasters but the govern-ment did not think of doing anything to alleviate their sufferings, claimed Anand. He added that spending money on assigning responsibilities is like the government rob-bing the people of their hard-earned money and AAP strongly opposes this

MCD imposes Rs five lakh penalty on Vishal Mega Mart

PNS DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) on Thursday imposed a penalty of Rs five lakh on Haridwar Road situated Vishal Mega

dumping site. Considering such serious violations under Solid Waste Management (SWM) rules, the corporation imposed a penalty of Rs five use plastic as scrap in the open, said Khanna. He said that the team reached the spot to verify the claims which were found to be true. Such



Mart after finding dengue-causing mosquito larvae in the premises, said the chief municipal health officer Dr Avinash Khanna. He said that the sanitation teams on Thursday checked the premises of the mart where they found that water releasing from an AC installed inside the building was being disposed of in the open area. Besides this, they also observed that various kinds of garbage was scattered in and around the mart as the management there had not put up any dustbins as per the rules. The teams also found dengue-causing mosquito larvae near the water accumulated in the garbage

lakh on the mart's management, said Khanna. "We put up a notice of challan of Rs five lakh outside the mart's building. We instructed the management to deposit the penalty within three days in MCD or else, it will be recovered with the help of authorities concerned via a recovery challan (RC)," he said. He informed that the teams also destroyed the larvae found on the premises by spraying larvicide. The team also conducted another inspection in Mothorowala on Thursday after receiving complaints from a local against a plot owner who was purportedly gathering and storing single-

accumulation of single-use plastic is a violation of SWM rules and against the guidelines of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Considering this, the corporation imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the owner and directed him to vacate the plot within three working days, added Khanna. The corporation has collected over Rs 16 lakh as a penalty from about 400 establishments in a month under their anti-dengue drive. Khanna said that the corporation has been consistently running drives against dengue and seeking support from the public to prevent dengue from spreading in the city.

MoUs worth Rs 3,000 crore signed on Dhami's third day in Britain

PNS DEHRADUN

Memoranda of understanding for investments amounting to about Rs 3,000 crore were signed on the third day of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's Britain visit on Thursday. In the run up to the global investors summit slated to be held in Dehradun in December, Dhami also attended a roadshow held in Birmingham where he met various industrialists. In London, the chief minister attended a meeting in which MoUs worth Rs 3,000 crore were signed between the State government and two companies. According to officials, an MoU worth Rs 2,000 crore was signed with

Aager Technology. The company has agreed to invest in lithium battery plants in Uttarakhand. Another MoU worth Rs 1,000 crore was signed with Fira Barcelona. The Fira Barcelona is a noted group in Europe involved in convention centres and event management. Apart from this, two MoUs were signed with EaseMyTrip. The company has agreed to State dedicated online travel aggregator and promoting Uttarak-hand at the global level as a tourist destination. Secretary to the CM, R Meenakshi Sundaram, Industry director general Rohit Meena and other officials were present on the occasion. In Birmingham, more than 250 delegates involved in education, information technology, health and manufacturing industry attended the roadshow I the presence of the CM. The delegates sought information from the State government representatives about the various policies in Uttarakhand. The chief minister also invited all the investors to the global investors summit to be hosted by the State in December. He also as-



sured all the investors that the Uttarakhand government will provide full cooperation. Dhami said that Birmingham is a historical city which also maintains a prominent place in the industrial sector. Thanking all the Indian and Uttarakhandi origin people in London and Birmingham for their affection, the CM said that Uttarakhand is situated in the lap of the Himalaya and is rich in various natural resources. The peaceful valleys and atmosphere conducive to work make the State different from others, he said. The CM further said that the theme of the global investors summit to be held in Dehradun during December is 'Peace to Prosperity'. He also informed the delegates about the proximity of Uttarakhand to the national Capital along with better road, rail and air connectivity. It will be recalled that earlier on the second day of the CM's Britain tour, the State government signed MoUs worth Rs 4,800 crore with two companies. The State government has set a target of attracting Rs 2.5 lakh crore investment in the global investors summit to be held in Dehradun.

Position holders appointments fuel talk of expansion, reshuffle of Dhami cabinet 10 leaders appointed in positions, four seats remain vacant in State cabinet

PNS DEHRADUN

The decision of the Pushkar Singh Dhami government to appoint position holders has given mo-mentum to the talk of reshuffle and expansion of the cabinet in the State. On Wednesday the State gov-ernment took the long pending decision of appointing position holders. The government bestowed plum assignments to the BJP leaders Jyoti Prasad Gairola, Ramesh Gadia, Madhu Bhatt, Mufti Shamoon Kasmi, Balraj Pasi, Suresh Bhatt, Anil Dabbu, Kailash Pant, Shiv Singh Bisht and Narayan Ram Tamta. It is expected that the Dhami government could accommodate some

more leaders soon by assigning them responsibilities in various corporations, commissions and bodies. The political observers have started drawing the conclusion that after the green signal given by the BJP high command for distributing responsibilities, the CM could soon go for expansion and even reshuffle of his cabinet.

Three positions in the cabinet have been vacant ever since Dhami took over the CM in his second stint in March last year. After the recent death of minister Chandan Ram Dass, the number of vacancies in the cabinet has increased to



four now. At present there are only two ministers (Rekha Arya and Saurabh Bahuguna) from the Kumaon region in the cabinet. Similarly as many as seven districts including the

Haridwar and Nainital districts are unrepresented in the cabinet. At present Pauri (Satpal Maharaj and Dhan Singh Rawat) and Dehradun (Prem Chand Agarwal and Ganesh Joshi) are represented by two ministers each while Champawat is represented by CM Dhami, Udham Singh Nagar by

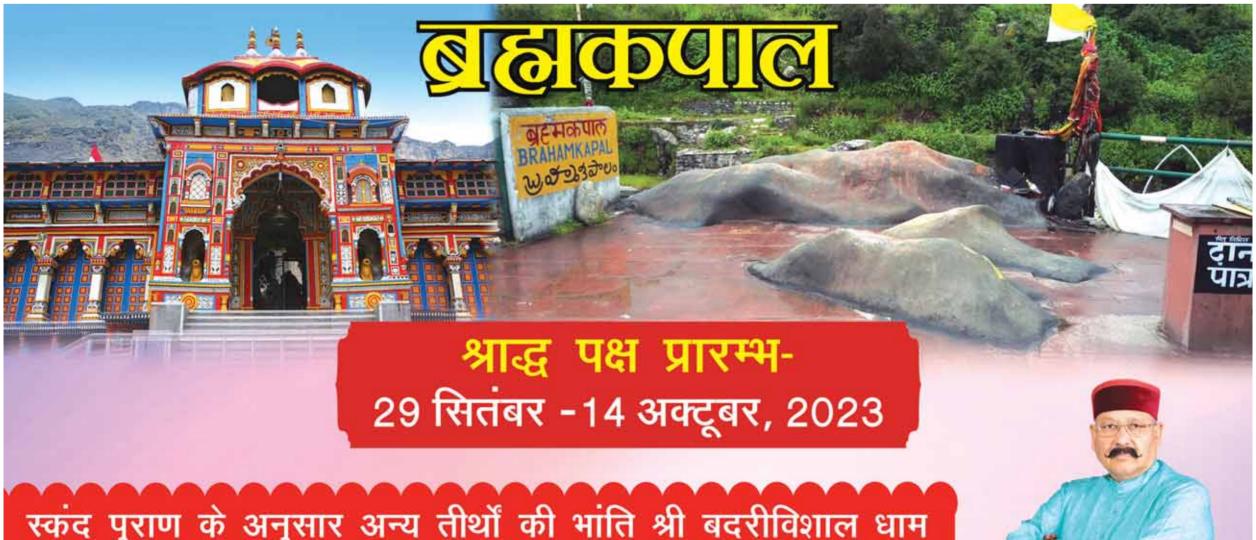
Singh Nagar by Saurabh Bahuguna, Tehri by Subodh Uniyal and Almora by Rekha Arya in the cabinet.

The political observers opine that the central lead-

ership of BJP would take a final decision on the cabinet expansion, reshuffle and its timing and its composition. They point out that the central leadership could allow Dhami to drop some non performing ministers or those the party high command would like to field in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and infuse fresh faces in the Dhami cabinet. Veteran Munna Singh Chauhan, speaker Ritu Khanduri, former BJP state presidents Madan Kaushik and Bansidhar Bhagat, Dharampur MLA Vinod Chamoli, Lansdowne MLA Dilip Rawat, Bhimtal MLA Ram Singh Kaida, BHEL Ranipur MLA Adesh

Chauhan, Devprayag MLA Vinod Kandari are some of the names which are making rounds as possible contenders for the vacant positions of Dhami cabinet.

Political analyst and senior journalist Jai Singh Rawat said that since there are many claimants for the position holders it is usually seen that the chief minister usually appoints them before any major election. He said that with the Lok Sabha election drawing near, the government has opened its box of political appointments. Rawat added that the CM could soon go for much awaited expansion and reshuffle of his cabinet.



रकंद पुराण के अनुसार अन्य तीर्थों की भांति श्री बदरीविशाल धाम में स्थित 'ब्रह्मकपाल' में भी श्राद्ध व पिण्ड दान करने से पितरों की आत्मा को शान्ति मिलती है।

आप सभी से अनुरोध है कि बदरीनाथ धाम में स्थित 'ब्रह्मकपाल' में पधार कर अपने पितरों का श्राद्ध एवं पिण्ड दान करें। सतपाल महाराज

मंत्री- पर्यटन, संस्कृति एवं धर्मस्व, लोक निर्माण विभाग, सिंचाई, लघु सिंचाई, ग्रामीण निर्माण, पंचायती राज, जलागम प्रबन्धन, भारत-नेपाल उत्तराखण्ड नदी परियोजनाएं, उत्तराखण्ड सरकार

Tributes pour in for 'father of Green Revolution'

The death of renowned agri-L cultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan is a profound loss to the scientific community but his legacy endures and will continue to guide the world towards sustainable food security and agricultural innovation, the scientists community said in its condolence message. Experts were united in stat-

ing that Swaminathan, who dedicated his life to revolution-ising agriculture and ensuring food security for all, leaves behind a legacy of innovation and dedication to sustainable farming. They are unanimous

in their sentiment that his contribution to the field will serve as an enduring beacon, guiding the world towards sustainable food security and pioneering agricultural innovations.

Dr Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, the 'Father of the Green Revolution' who dedicated his life to revolutionising agriculture and ensuring food security for all, passed away in his Chennai home on Thursday at the age of 98.

immensely, directly or indirectly, from his vast contributions over the years. Without the mental agility and intellectual Green Revolution in India, which he spearheaded, we

would not have achieved food security," agriculturist Ranjitha Puskar, country representative for India and research at the Manila-headquartered International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), told a news

She said his death was a tremendous loss to the scientific community in general and the agriculture fraternity in partic-

ne age of 98. "He was the director gener-"All of us have benefited al of IRRI and his legacy has guided the organisation and its researchers to this day... His curiosity were as high as ever in the last few years and still pro-



vided great guidance, even though he was physically frail. agricultural sector worldwide on

this loss!" Puskar said.

Food researcher Mamata Our deepest condolences to the Pradhan said Swaminathan was a visionary, an inspiration,

"I was really fortunate to have worked with him very closely from 2007 to 2014 when we formed a coalition for food and nutrition security...' Pradhan, research coordinator, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) South Asia region, told an agency.

"He truly revolutionised Indian agriculture, worked towards self-sufficiency in food production when India was grappling with the threat of food insecurity and transformed India from a net importer of food grains to being a lead exporter to the global food basket. He was always looking for

solutions for sustainable farming and improving the lives of the farmers," Pradhan added.

Swaminathan was born in Kumbakonam on August 7,

His father's involvement in the freedom movement and Mahatma Gandhi's influence inspired his passion for agricul-

tural science.

He worked closely with former Prime Ministers of India, playing a pivotal role in the success of the Green Revolution, catapulting India from being a net food importer to a leading exporter and ensuring a "Hunger-free India & World", according to his foundation.

est agricultural scientist the world has ever seen", J Justin Mohan, former secretary of the National Biodiversity Authority, said Swaminathan's contribution to designing agricultural policies and schemes helped not only India but other countries as well.

"I had the opportunity to work with him during my tenure in Lanka after the end of the armed conflict to assist the farmers of Lanka and also had an opportunity to implement the Kuttanad Package, a wetland development project, in Kerala which was conceived by him," Mohan, chief conservator of forests, Kerala, said.

Ranju one millionth US visa receiver

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

n a pointer to burgeoning people to people ties between the two countries, the US Mission to India on Thursday surpassed its goal to process one million non-immigrant visa applications this year with Ambassador Eric Garcetti personally handing over the one millionth visa to a couple.

They will be heading to the United States to attend their son's graduation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Dr Ranju Singh, senior consultant, Lady Hardinge College was elated at receiving an email from the US Embassy about hers being the one millionth visa this year. Her husband Puneet Dargan, was granted the next visa. The couple will be travelling to the US in May, 2024.

Greeting the couple as "Mr and Mrs One million", Ambassador Garcetti enquired about their travel plans to the US and made suggestions



"I couldn't be happier today, happy for India, Indians and the United States. Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi and President (Joe) Biden had said lets do a better job in moving faster on the visas and so the

places like Hyderabad...More people who can work on these visas, we changed our systems, we worked harder and smarter and we hit a million visa applications processed this year," the ambassador said.

"Our partnership with Ministry of External Affairs India is one of the United here approved more bodies in States' most important bilater-

al relationships, and in fact one of the most important relationships in the world. The ties between our people are stronger than ever, and we will continue our record-setting volume of visa work in the coming months to give as many Indian applicants as posto the United States and experience the US-India friendship firsthand," he added.

The Mission has already surpassed the total number of cases processed in 2022 and is processing almost 20 per cent more applications than in prepandemic 2019.

"We got an email after we had finished our visa interviews that we are supposed to collect our visas, we were told that we were the one millionth...The Ambassador meeting us in person was a great moment for us. We are looking forward to going to the US, we will be there at MIT to celebrate our son's proud day and then explore the country as tourists," Dr Singh told PTI.

Dargan informed that their son is currently pursuing his Masters in Financial Engineering Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). "This will be our first trip to the US. We are really looking forward to it," he said. Last year over 1.2 million Indians visited the United States. Indians now represent over 10 per cent of all visa applicants worldwide, including 20 per cent of all student visa applicants and 65 per cent of all H&L-category (employment) visa applicants.

According to a statement by the US Embassy here, recognising the continued high demand for US visas, the United States continues to invest heavily in our operations in India. "In the past year, the Mission has expanded its staffing to facilitate more visa processing than ever before. The Mission has made significant capital improvements to existing facilities, such as the US Consulate in Chennai, and has inaugurated a new Consulate building in Hyderabad.

'The Mission has also implemented strategies to increase efficiency, extending interview waiver eligibility to new visa categories and utilising remote work to allow staff around the world to contribute to Indian visa processing. Early next year, the Mission plans to implement a pilot program that would allow domestic visa renewal for qualified H&Lcategory employment visa applicants," it said.

Thane fake currency case: NIA files supplementary chargesheet against four

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday said it has filed a supplementary chargesheet against four persons, including a 'designated terrorist', in the Thane fake currency

Besides the designated terrorist Uncle alias Javed Chikna, those charge-sheeted under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Unlawful Activities (Prevenion) Act have been identified as Riyaz Shikilkar, Mohammad Fayaaz Shikilkar and Nasir Chaudhari, all residents of Mumbai.

One of the accused Fayaaz Shikilkar has also been charged under the

Three accused were chargesheeted earlier, in April last year, by the Thane police in the case, which was originally registered following the seizure of 149 high

quality counterfeit Indian currency notes of the denomination of ₹2,000 from accused Shikilkar.

Subsequently, NIA had taken over the case and, after investigations, had arrested Fayaaz in May 2023 for possession of illegal arms.

"Investigations also revealed that Fayaaz was in contact with 'Uncle' alias Javed Patel alias Javed Chikna through WhatsApp, and had conspired to carry out unlawful activities in India. He had also received funds sent by 'uncle', a designated individual terrorist, through his associate 'bhai," the NIA said in a statement.
'Uncle', a wanted

accused, had committed acts of terror through his associates by possessing and circulating high-quality fake Indian currency notes (FICNs) with the aim of damaging the monetary stability of India, according to

Even 5 days of exposure to air pollution | Kapil Dev moves HC for stricter linked to increased risk of stroke: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Short-term exposure i.e. just five days exposure to air pollution may be linked to an ing to a study. Previous research has established a connection between long-term exposure to air pollution and an increased risk of stroke.

However, the correlation between short-term exposure to air pollution and stroke had been less clear.

For our study, instead of looking at weeks or months of exposure, we looked at just five days and found a link between short-term exposure to air pollution and an increased risk of stroke, said Ahmad Toubasi,



MD, study author, University of Jordan in Amman.

The meta-analysis that involved a review of 110 studies that included more than 18 million cases of stroke is published in the online issue of Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of

Researchers looked at pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide.

ent sizes of particulate matter, including PM1, which is air pollution that is less than 1 micron (?m) in diameter, as well as PM2.5 and PM10. PM2.5 or smaller includes inhalable particles from motor vehicle exhaust, the burning of fuels by power plants and other industries as well as forest and grass fires. PM10 includes dust from

roads and construction sites. People who had exposure to a higher concentration of various types of air pollution had an increased risk of stroke. Higher

ide were linked to a 28 per cent increased risk of stroke; higher ozone levels were linked to a 5 per cent increase; carbon monoxide had a 26 per cent a 15 per cent increase.

A higher concentration of PM1 was linked to a 9 per cent increased risk of stroke, with PM2.5 at 15 per cent and PM10 at 14 per cent.

Higher levels of air pollution were also linked to higher risk of death from stroke. Higher concentrations of nitrogen dioxide were linked to a 33% increased risk of death from stroke, sulfur dioxide, a 60 per cent increase, PM2.5, a 9 per cent increase and PM10, a 2 per cent increase.

laws against cruelty to animals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

egendary India cricketer Legendary mula critical Kapil Dev and his wife Romi Dev have approached the Delhi High Court chal- October 13. the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act that allow destruction of stray dogs in lethal chambers and extermination or destruction of any animal under the authority of

The petition came up for hearing before a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula which granted time to the petitioners' counsel to place certain judgments on

The High Court listed the deterrence and manifestly



wife Romi Dev and animal rights activist Anjali Gopalan, said the petition was being filed on account of repeated instances of barbaric treatment meted out to animals showing the "most brutal and cruel face of humanity" and the "utter effete" response of law and the law enforcing agencies.

The plea challenged section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, saying it was without

life and denies animals any meaningful existence by treating their mutilation and killing as petty and frivolous acts, petition for further hearing on mocking their death through imposition of punishment of

arbitrary since it trivialises

Section 11 deals with treating animals cruelly and entails a fine which shall not be less than ₹10 but may extend to ₹50 in case of first

For the second or subsequent offence committed within three years of the previous offence, the punishment involves fine which shall not be less than ₹25 but may extend to ₹100 or with imprisonment for a term of maxi-

mum of three months or both. Section 11 is further

CSIR lab producing affordable

unfair and unreasonable in so far as the exception under PCA Act which permits cruelty to animals for the purposes mentioned in Section 11(3) (b) (destruction of stray dogs in lethal chambers), tion or destruction of any animal under the authority of any law for the time being in

force) ...," the plea said. It has also challenged sections 428 (Mischief by killing or maiming animal of the value of ten rupees) and 429 (mischief by killing or maiming cattle, etc., of any value or any animal of the value of fifty rupees) of the Indian Penal Code claiming that it is an instance of speciesism sug-gesting lack of moral worth or value in animals.

Policemen dance with devotees carrying Lord Ganesha idol for immersion on the conclusion of Ganesh Chaturth festival, in Hyderabad, on Thursday

Govt has crushed hopes, dreams of youth: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

¬he Congress on Thursday 1 targeted the Narendra Modi Government over the issue of unemployment alleging that it has crushed the hopes and dreams of India's youth, leading to rising suicides among them.

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh alleged that the government, instead of dealing with the crisis of demographic dividend turning into a demographic disaster, might want to "manipulate" the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data due for 2022 to hide the alarming suicide rate among the youth.

In a statement, he said unemployment in India remains a severe problem as well as the hidden underemployment. Ramesh cited the interac-

tions of Rahul Gandhi with

porters at the Anand Vihar

Terminal here where he had

noted that large numbers of

educated youth, including those with engineering degrees, were unable to find formal employment and were forced into precarious informal jobs such as porters.

The Congress general secretary said the massive failure of the Modi Government to provide sufficient formal-sector employment has led to this situation.

Ramesh cited data from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for 2021-22 that shows that formal sector employment remains 5.3 per cent lower than it was in 2019-20. Further, the number of formal employers has declined by a massive 10.5 per cent from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

According to a report from Azim Premji University, the Congress leader said, 42 per cent of graduates under 25 were unemployed in 2021-22. Jobs in manufacturing dropped 31 per cent between 2016-17 and March 2023, according to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data.

green innovative technology PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

 $F^{\text{rom converting pathogenic}}_{\text{biomedical waste into eco-}}$ friendly soil additives to manufacturing vegan leather from agricultural waste like mango peel and banana stem, the CSIR's lab National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), is busy churning out affordable green innovative technology.

These among others were displayed at the foundation day of the CSIR at Pragati Maidan here recently.

NIIST Director Dr C Anandharamakrishnan said that vegan leather has the potential to replace around 30-50 per cent of synthetic chemicals from the existing leather available in the market.

"Also, the developed leather sheet costs 50 per cent less than synthetic and animal leather and has a smaller carbon footprint as various agricultural residues such as mango peel, banana stem, pineapple waste, cactus, water hyacinth, corn husk, and rice-related waste are being used.

Vegan leather has a shelf

life of more than three years. It has also shown strong tensile strength, sleek finish, good water retention properties, temperature resistance, and stability compared to other existing synthetic and animal leather," he emphasised.
Though still held out by the

fashion industry as a luxury material, leather is a co-product of the meat industry, and it comes with many environmental downsides.

A leather jacket has a climate cost of 176 kilograms of CO2, for instance, and manufacturers also dump toxic chemical compounds like lead, arsenic, cadmium and chromium into the water as the leather is processed, on top of the millions of goats and other animals slaughtered each year in India

About the dual disinfection-solidification system for spontaneous and instantaneous disinfection of both liquid and solid biomedical waste, including urine, saliva and blood, bacterial broths, cotton, tissues, swabs, needles, and syringes, the NIIST Director said the innovative system converts degradable waste into soil additives while lab disposables are prepared for direct recycling.

Segregation, transporta-tion and disposal of such dis-infected medical waste are easier and safer with significant reduction in cost for a healthcare facility and less expensive than red-bagging, a method currently in practice for containing medical waste, Anandharamakrishnan.

he pioneer

Make vegetable farming employable, says Mishra

 $P_{\text{Prime Minister (PM)}}^{\text{rincipal Secretary to the Prime Minister (PM)}}$ Pramod Kumar Mishra called upon the agricultural scientists to make vegetable farming employable and research on important topics like climate change, artificial intelligence, higher product value and processing is the need of the hour. He was speaking as the chief guest at the 33rd Foundation Day function of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Vegetable Research Institute (IIVR) here

Dr Mishra praised the research work of the ICAR-IIVR (Varanasi) and said that the IIVR has played an important role in the vegetable production scenario of India. "The farmers can increase and double their income by diversifying agriculture through vegetables," he said, expressing hope that planting material will be easily available to the farmers through hi-tech vegetable nurseries which will benefit lakhs of farmers of Uttar Pradesh.

Speaking as a special guest Additional Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh government Dr Devesh Chaturvedi said in his address that UP is a leading state in vegetable production and farmers of Purvanchal (eastern UP) are now earning more income by exporting vegetables abroad. Deputy Director General (Crop Science



PS to PM Dr PK Mishra addressing Foundation Day function at IIVR in Varanasi on Thursday

and Horticulture Science), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr Tilak Raj Sharma said that India is setting new dimensions every day in vegetable production and last year vegetables worth more than Rs 7,000 crore were exported.

The programme started with the inauguration of hi-tech vegetable nursery and plantation of trees in the institute campus. In his welcome address, IIVR Director Dr Tushar Kanti Behera highlighted the achievements of the institute so far and gave details of the action plan to double vegetable production by 2047.

On the occasion, various publications of the institute were released and for the best work after the year, Pradeep Karmakar in the scientific category, Sudhir Kumar in the technical category and Dr Manoj Kumar Pandey in the Agricultural Science Centre were given citations. The awards were also distributed to the school students. An agricultural exhibition was also organised on this occasion. In this ceremony, PMO officials, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, Director General, Uttar

Pradesh Agricultural Research Council, Lucknow, Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh, officers of agriculture and horticulture departments of the state, the scientists, technical and administrative officers, support staff, research students, and senior officers of the institute apart from a large number of farmers and school students were also present.

The programme was conducted by Dr Dhananjay Pratap Singh, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Sudhakar Pandey, Assistant Director (Horticulture), ICAR.

BHU tops among central varsities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 $B_{(\mathrm{BHU})}^{\mathrm{anaras}}$ Hindu University the top position in the category of central universities in the 9th edition of 'Clarivate India Research Excellence Citation Awards-2023' for its excellent research work. This award is given to all the universities in the country. It is given for the excellent research work of one of the central universities. Dr Devendra Kumar Singh, Librarian of BHU, received the award in a function organised by Web of Science in New Delhi recently.

The Clarivate India Research Excellence Citation Awards-2023 is a unique award given to recognise excellence in education research in India. every two or three years and honours individuals and institutions who have made outstanding education research contributions in various categories and whose research



In the direction of research excellence, the Central Library (BHU) is making available all

makes a significant impact in the important books and research journals of the world for the research work being done in the university, as a result of which this year the

Central Library of BHU was also given the Best Library Award by the Indian Library

Varanasi first in UP in health ranking dashboard

In the health ranking dash-board, Varanasi has once again secured the first position in the state by securing an 85 per cent score. The district has come first for the fifth time in Health Ranking Dashboard. District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam and Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal praised the Health department for this achievement and encouraged them to provide quality services in future.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that recently the ranking of all the districts has been displayed in the state's health ranking dashboard (August). By continuously working as per the guidelines given by the DM, the district has secured the first position in the state for the fifth consecutive time. The health facilities being provided in the district are being supervised by the CDO. He said that according to the monthly dashboard, the district has achieved first place in the state in achieving 100 per cent HIV testing in relation to expected pregnancies and 100 per cent achievement in complete vaccination of children (BCG, Penta first, second and

third, measles-rubella). "Along with this, it stood second in the state in temporary means of family planning (Antara, Chhaya, Copper-T,



Arazilines CHC best in Varanasi as per UP Health Ranking Dashboard. "Quality medical and

PPIUCD and IUCD), second in cesarean delivery in relation to delivery at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and fourth place in institutional delivery in relation to estimated delivery," he said, adding that apart from this, it has performed better on 16 indicators including complete vaccina-

According to the CMO, this time Arazilines CHC has got the first position while Harhua PHC, Pindra PHC, Chiraigaon PHC, Misirpur (Kashi Vidyapeeth) CHC, Baragaon PHC, Cholapur CHC and Sewapuri PHC secured from second to eighth places respectively and the district headquarters is at ninth position. The CMO congratulated the officers and health workers of the primary and community health centres (PHCs/ ĆHCs) which were performing well and encouraged them to

maintain the quality of services.

health services of maternalchild health and family welfare programmes are being provided in all the government hospitals, CHC/ PHCs, Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) of the district," he said, informing that for this, good performance has been achieved under the collaborative supervision of Additional Chief Medical Officer (RCH) Dr HC Maurya and District Programme Manager (DPM) of National Health Mission Santosh Kumar Singh. "ASHA workers and ANMs have an important role in improving the indicators. ASHA workers mobilise beneficiaries from the community and bring them to the medical units," he said. The CMO further said that

workers that the quality of

the ranking of Varanasi is an honour to the front line workand ensuring 100 per cent data ers. He directed all the health of all indicators on time," he

Dr Chaudhary also said that the achievement of Varanasi should continue. "For this, all programme nodal officers, block programme managers, block community process managers, data operators, ANMs and other health workers have been directed to visit the regular blocks as well as VHSNĎ, vaccination sessions, intervals and happy family days etc. Take people's feedback about the facilities provided there and ensure to improve it by taking appropriate action

activities related to maternal

health, child health, newborn

health and nutrition should be

maintained. The department is

making continuous efforts to

provide medical and health

benefits to the last person of the

community. This is the aim of

the government and the

department, he remarked.

Poster hints at Priyanka contesting Lok Sabha poll from Phulpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

he Congress in Prayagraj is I known for 'poster revolution'. Though demoralised the workers themselves, most of the times, issue posters to prove that they are still in the

Now a new poster has been floated suggesting that Priyanka Gandhi will be contesting the Lok Sabha election from Phulpur in Prayagraj, the seat of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, which was later represented by several parties and politicians, including mafia don Atiq Ahmed.

The poster terms Priyanka as 'aandhi' (storm) and by the side of his picture a milestone is shown reading 'Phulpur 0

It may be mentioned here that some overenthusiastic office-bearers of the Congress had been expelled from the office for issuing posters without the knowledge of the leaders, but it has become a part of their life, so posters are released by the local Congress leaders from time to time to let the

leaders recognise them. Phulpur of Nehru is not that Phulpur now. Earlier it was a rural constituency, but after delimitation of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituencies, a huge urban area of Prayagraj city has become the part of Phulpur constituency.

Though nothing has been suggested by the party leaders, hundreds of posters of Priyanka Gandhi can been areas of the Phulpur constituency, as if her name has been announced for this seat.

BEATEN TO DEATH: One person was beaten to death in a fight between two groups in a dispute over road in Jamua village of Meja. The family members took him to the hospital, where doctors declared him as brought dead. On getting information the police reached the spot and reviewed the situation.

A fight broke out between the two groups on Thursday afternoon. Lal Chandra Dubey, Bablu Dubey and a woman from one side were injured. However, Lalchandra was seriously injured. The family members took him to the hospital. declared as brought dead there. On information SHO Major Rajesh Upadhyay arrived

with force and started investi-The women of the family of the deceased Lal Chandra said there was an altercation with neighbours Bunty Dubey, Babbu Dubey and Alok Dubey in connection with the dispute over road. The altercation

turned into a fight and the

opposite party allegedly thrashed Lal Chandra with bricks, stones and sticks killing him on the spot. Police station in-charge Rajesh Upadhyay said the elderly man injured during the fight died. All the accused are still absconding. The body has

been taken sent for the post-

New V-C of Dr Rajendra Prasad NLU takes charge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Newly-appointed Vice-Chancellor of Dr Rajendra Prasad National Law University (NLU) Prof Usha Tandon took charge on Thursday. On the very first day she held a meeting with subordinates and discussed how academic and administrative activities could be started as soon as possible.

She said a registrar will also be appointed in the university soon. Chief Revenue Officer Kunwar Pankaj has been given the responsibility of special officer of the university.

Prof Tandon said "our aim is to produce world class law professionals from this city of justice. Such an academic environment can be created in which students can prepare themselves for global competition. There is a need for good and knowledgeable professionals in the field of law not only in India but also abroad. One can also earn good money



The construction work of Law University campus is going on in Jhalwa here. Now it may take another 6 to 8 months. Till the completion of the construction, the university will operate from the BBS Engineering College campus. Right now

the V-C will sit there. Prof Tandon, who is orig-

inally from Delhi, received her law education from Delhi University. She has over 30 years of academic experience in the field of law. She has written six books on various aspects of

protection and women's rights. ARRESTED: A coaching operator sexually exploited a minor student for one and a half months in Dhoomanganj area and threatened to fail her if she opened her mouth. As a result the student remained silent. Seeing her daughter upset, when the mother asked her she narrated her ordeal. The police has arrested him

and sent him to jail. According to the police, the victim is a resident of Bamhrauli area and a student of class X. She had joined the class to study mathematics and science. When she returned from coaching on September 21, her mother became suspicious on seeing her condition. When the mother asked her forcefully, the daughter told her the reason.

The police have registered case against the accused under POCSO Act and molestation. The accused has

Ramlila to focus on creating lively experience for audience

▲ Ramlila Committee have decided to set up a two-storey stage for performing Ramlila. Interestingly, entry of a 20-feet Lord Hanuman and demon queen Surpanakha will be shown flying in different parts of Ramlila. Besides, the episode of 'Sita haran' (kidnapping of Goddess Sita) will also be staged using latest technology. The committee has also planned to showcase the flying of 'Pushpak Viman' during the with the help of laser technol-

The students pursuing management, graduation and post-graduation courses are being imparted training to do justice with their assigned roles. Pajawa Ramlila will begin from October 15 and culminate on October 22.

There will be eight light and sound based episodes for the entire Ramlila from birth of Lord Ram to victory over

ing with the direction of the

earlier meeting in which the

clear direction had been given

to set up a borewell. She direct-

ed the EE Power Corporation

to complete the work of under-

ground cable within this

month. The working agency

concerned was warned to com-

plete the work within stipulat-

of Pajawa Ramlila committee told mediapersons, "A special ropeway is being made to help different characters to move from one end to another. However, after introduction of light and sound system, majority of Ramlila episodes are being staged more precisely

Management students here are taking on prominent roles such as Lord Ram, brother Laxman, and Goddess Sita in

Sachin Kumar Gupta, This year's Ramlila will feature enhance the storytelling, including scenes such as Sita Haran and Hanuman bringing

> Students from various colleges and universities will be playing the prime characters, while a team of technical experts will create visual effects. The Ramlila will run from October 15 to 22, with a focus on creating a more lively and impactful experience for the

Man's body found hanging from tree

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The body of one person was found hanging from a tree in the jungle under the Rajgarh police station on Thursday. Giving details, Circle Officer (CO)/ Operation Anil Kumar Pandey said after the Rajgarh police was informed that the body was hanging in the jungle near Raikara village he and the police team reached the spot. According to the police the deceased was later identified as Mahendra alias Rannu (37) of Perh village under Ghorawal police station, Sonbhadra. After taking the body into possession the police is busy in completing the legal formalities, the CO added.

sanctity of the area.

ed time otherwise action will be **INSPECTED:** District taken because Navratra Mela Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan was to start in a few days. has decided to recover fine if The working agencies were anyone was found spitting in directed to complete roads, the Parikrama area of streets along with other works Vindhyachal. Such decision timely and cover drains. Later was taken by her while inspectthe DM inspected the repair ing the ongoing construction work at Shastri Bridge and directed the working agency to works under Vindhya Corridor project at Vindhyachal along complete the work till October with MLA city Ratnakar 15. During the inspection she was accompanied by City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh Mishra on Wednesday. She has warned shopkeepers to maintain the area as no-tobacco and others **REVIEWED:** Divisional zone and directed the police as Commissioner (DC) Dr well as other officials to follow

Muthukumarasamy Bhas while the direction in view of the reviewing the progress in divi-The official concerned was sion's works costing more than taken to task for not comply-Rs 50 lakh on Wednesday

directed the officials to complete themwithin the stipulated time and with quality.

Reviewing the works of Sonbhadra, especially under DMD Trust the DC became aware about the ongoing works, including roads and bridges. On the road from Babhanahva Tola to ITI school the working agency was directed to examine the quality of the entire work. Reviewing progress in other works, including roads and canals, the DC asked the working agencies to complete them within the stipulated time. The EO Nagar Palika Parishad Bhadohi was directed to maintain roads of the area along with other works main-

taining the quality.

Reviewing the ongoing works under AMRUT project the DC was apprised by the working agency that most of the works, including laying of pipeline for potable water, overhead tanks, connection of water pipeline to the houses etc had been completed. About sewage

system the authority concerned stated that the work had been divided into different zones and most of the works, including laying of sewage pipeline and chambers for houses were at the verge of the completion. The DC said proper repair of roads which have become dilapidated due to the pieline work was the responsibility of the working agency. The meeting was conducted by Joint Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mishra and was attended by Additional Magistrate (ADM/Finance and Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla, Additional Commissioner Abhay Pandey, EO NPP Mirzapur Angad Gupta and other officials con-

ARRESTED: The Jigna police arrested an accused of illegal mining on Wednesday. During the inspection of sand mining sites the then mines officer had found illegal mining in Khaira village under Jigna police station. The officer had filed a case on April 8, 2022. During investigation the name of Dinesh Kumar Yadav of Saray Rahchanda village under Mungarabadshahpur police station, Jaunpur, had come to light but he was still at large. Station Officer of Jigna handed over the case to subinspector Abhay Narain Tiwari and the accused was nabbed from his residence.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Big guns roll out

The BJP leadership is taking no chances in Madhya Pradesh, fielding 3 Union Ministers in Assembly polls

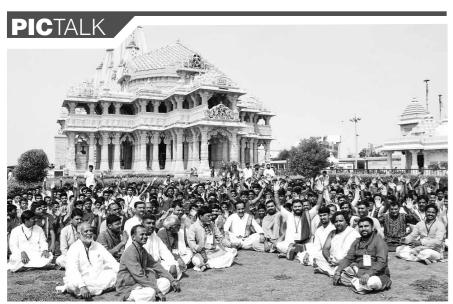
Ith elections to five Assemblies scheduled by this year end, political temperature is already on the rise. However, as the situation persists today, the battleground of Madhya Pradesh has taken the lead in evoking competition and wonderment more fierce than in the other four States. As the X factor in these elections for the BJP is the party's decision to bring back to fight the Assembly polls three Ministers from the Union Government, at least four sitting MPs representing the State and other senior party office bearers holding influence across castes, religion and region. The ruling party has come up with its second list of 39 candidates for Madhya Pradesh. This move comes as the party faces tough competition from the Congress. The BJP has made a bold move by fielding heavyweights, including Union Ministers, to maintain its stronghold in the State. Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Faggan Singh Kulaste, along with party MPs Rakesh Singh, Ganesh Singh, Reeti Pathak and



Uday Pratap Singh, as well as general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, will now contest the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections. The inclusion of these prominent leaders as candidates has also opened up the field for chief ministership aspirants; Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Kailash Vijayvargiya are now considered strong contenders.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan has held the CM's post for nearly 20 years, with a brief interruption after the 2018 elections. The BJP is concerned about fatigue setting in regarding Chouhan. During a recent rally, Prime Minister Modi did not mention Chouhan even once. Meanwhile, Congress is emerging as a formidable con-

tender under former CM Kamal Nath's leadership. This election promises to be a riveting showdown, with significant implications for Chouhan, besides the State's political future. Though Chouhan has served as the Chief Minister for multiple terms and is widely credited as a popular leader, his reputation and political future are now closely tied to this poll's outcome. If the BJP manages to secure a comfortable majority, it will consolidate his position within the party and strengthen his leadership in the State. On the other hand, a loss could raise questions about his ability to win elections and govern effectively. Kamal Nath, a seasoned politician, is working to consolidate the party's base and capitalise on anti-incumbency sentiments. The Congress' performance in recent by elections has been promising, boosting its confidence. The party is banking on issues such as unemployment, rural distress. Its campaign is centred on the promise of "change and improved governance". Meanwhile, the BJP's decision to field its stalwarts is an ominous sign for Chouhan and shows the party's dwindling faith in his leadership. Antiincumbency and a number of unsavoury incidents have led to the erosion of his reputation which could cost the party an important State in the Hindi heartland. The BJP would not like that to happen just ahead of the 2024 general elections.



ISRO chief S Somanath with others at Aadi Jyotirling Shree Somnath Mahadev Temple in Saurashtra on Thursday

Air pollution renders antibiotics ineffective



A 'Lancet' study has established a connection between bacterial antibiotic resistance and air pollution; inhaling PM 2.5 can lead to antibiotic resistance

here was a sense of palpable urgency to address change, air pollution and degradation of the environment at the recently concluded three-day G20 summit held in New Delhi. Led by India, the G20 nations agreed to urgently accelerate their actions to address environmental crises and climate change challenges with the help of a green development plan. This in a way reflects the prophetic warning to world leaders by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) held in 2022, that humanity is on a "highway to climate hell with a foot on the accelerator". Because 80 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions emanate from G20 nations, the member nations needed to understand the gravity of the problem and ensure meaningful progress in this

As the stakes for mankind keep rising thanks to rising pollution and climate change, keeping global average temperatures below 2 degrees centigrade alone may not be the urgent goal of the nations. Newer and more perilous problems are arising due to unabated pollution levels. A recent study published in the health journal "Lancet" has established a connection between bacterial antibiotic resistance and air pollution, particularly PM 2.5. The study suggests that PM 2.5 contains elements of antibiotic resistance, and inhaling this pollutant can lead to an increase in the spread of antibiotic resistance. The authors of the study aimed to estimate the global premature death toll caused by resistance to antibiotics due to PM 2.5 pollution.

PM 2.5 refers to particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or smaller. These particles, consisting of solid and liquid elements, are of varying sizes, with some, like dust and soot, visible to the naked eye and otners, such as PIVI 2.5, only observable under electron microscopes. Inhaling these pollutants can pose serious health risks, especially to the respiratory sys-

tem. The Lancet study compared and analysed the PM 2.5 levels with levels of antibiotic resistance and made a disturbing discovery that the higher the pollutant level, the greater the antibiotic resistance. PM 2.5 are smaller than human hair and contains antibiotic resistance elements.

As these pollutants travel through the ambient air, they disperse antibiotic resistance elements, which can then be inhaled by humans which in turn sets in motion the resistance. The concerning aspect is that antibiotic-resistant bacteria can withstand antibiotic treatments, rendering the drugs ineffective against them. Antibiotics are primarily used to eliminate microorganisms, especially bacteria, but resistant bacteria are impervious to their effects. The data for this research

was collated from 116 countries utilising sources like ResistanceMap, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control Surveillance Atlas, and the PLISA Health Information Platform. Overall, nine pathogens and 43 drugs were analysed. It was observed that the surge in antibiotic resistance among bacteria is largely attributed to the indiscriminate use of antibiotics. Repeated and widespread



SOME MAJOR STEPS ARE THE NEED OF THE HOUR FOR INDIA. FIRSTLY, **IMMEDIATE CURBS ON AMMONIA** RELEASE IN **FARMS ARE** ESSENTIAL, THIS **MUST BE** FOLLOWED BY A FULL BAN ON

REFUSE BURNING

antibiotic usage can empower bacteria to develop resistance over time, often facilitated by Antibiotic Resistance Genes (ARGs). Pathogenic bacteria, responsible for infections and diseases, can acquire antibiotic resistance through ARGs in a process known as horizontal gene transfer.

The Lancet health report concluded that the need of the hour is to address the PM2.5 levels. Without this, antibiotic resistance may increase by approximately 17%, with related deaths rising by 56% globally by 2050. Conversely, adhering to the World Health Organization's recommended PM 2.5 level of 5 µg/m could lead to a 17% reduction in antibiotic resistance and a 23% decrease in deaths. But this is easier said than done. Of the world's 30 cities with the worst air pollution, 21 are in India. Capital New Delhi is the worst with PM 2.5 being nearly 10 times higher than the World Health Organisation levels.

According to the CleanAir organisation India sees 2 million early deaths and a loss of 95 billion to the economy due to PM 2.5. Given these bleak conditions, India needs to cover a lot of ground to rein in otic efficacy is not held to ran-PM 2.5 levels while there is still time. The National Clean Air Program (NCAP) is a deter-

mined step in the right direction, but it needs more grit and resolve behind it if the initiative has to succeed.

Some major steps are the need of the hour for India. Firstly, immediate curbs on ammonia release in farms are essential, this must be followed by a full ban on refuse burning. Apart from this rural brick kilns must be persuaded to shift to cleaner kiln-firing technologies. Urgent efforts also need to be made to convert coal-based power plants to clean energy, as this by itself will make a huge difference. To make this a reality, India must make a push for creating the correct financial architecture through investment funds with a dedicated green focus that can play an instrumental role in catalysing the growth of green industries and simultaneously addressing the twin problems of air pollution and climate change. These funds would combine a returns-driven strategy with the sustainability imperative and accelerate investment in green industries. Measures such as these can help India fight air pollution and prevent a calamitous ruture where common antibi som by polluted air.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Impact of menopause on sleep can be debilitating



It is imperative that both individuals and society recognise the significance of addressing sleep issues during menopause

enopause is a phase that marks the cessation of menstruation and reproductive function. Beyond the widely known physical changes, menopause brings a range of challenges, and one often underrated area of impact is sleep. Sleep becomes elusive for many women during this

Menopause and sleep Menopause typically occurs between the ages of 45 and 55, with the average age being around 46 for Indian women. As the ovaries cease producing estrogen and progesterone, various physiological changes occur, giving rise to a multitude of symptoms. One of the most common complaints is sleep disturbances. According to the National Sleep Foundation, about 61% of women going through menopause report experiencing sleep problems. The hormonal changes that accompany menopause have a direct impact on sleep. Estrogen, known to regulate the sleep cycle, decreases during menopause, disrupting the body's internal clock. This can lead to difficulties

falling asleep and staying

asleep through the night. Hot flashes and night sweats, affecting up to 75% of menopausal women, further exacerbate sleep. These sudden surges in body temperature can awaken women from deep sleep, leaving them fatigued and irritable during

Sleep efficiency: Studies show that sleep efficiency the percentage of time spent asleep while in bed—drops during significantly menopause. The postmenopausal women often see this number drop to 70% or lower.

Insomnia: Insomnia becomes a prevalent issue According to the National Sleep Foundation, the risk of insomnia doubles during this phase, and about 40% of

ence insomnia symptoms.

duration: Menopause can lead to shorter sleep durations. On average, women in their 40s and 50s sleep about 30 to 60 min-Daytime fatigue: The

ripple effects of disrupted sleep patterns are felt during the day. Women undergoing menopause often report increased daytime fatigue, leading to reduced productivity and a diminished quality

Strategies for improved sleep Despite the challenges,

there are effective strategies that can help women improve their sleep quality during menopause.

•Create a sleep-conducive environment by keeping the bedroom dark, quiet, and comfortably cool. Invest in a comfortable mattress and pillows. Make sure to avoid any screen time for at least an hour or two before

●Establish a regular sleep menopause. schedule by going to bed and waking up at the same time every day, even on weekends. This helps regulate the body's internal clock. menopausal women experi-

Practices like medita-

tion, deep breathing, and progressive muscle relaxation can help reduce stress and promote better sleep.

•Engage in regular physical activity but avoid vigorous exercise close to bedtime. Limit caffeine and alcohol intake, especially in the evening.

Consult a healthcare professional if sleep disturbances become severe.

Menopause is a natural phase of life, and while sleep disturbances may seem inevitable, they are not insurmountable. By understanding the science behind these disruptions and embracing strategies to mitigate them, women can embark on a journey toward restful nights and energized days. From healthcare providers offering tailored guidance to workplaces providing flexibility to accommodate sleep-related challenges, collective efforts can foster an environment where women can navigate this transitional phase in a better manner.

(The writer is Co-Founder and Head of Health Outcomes and Programs, Elda Health; views are personal)

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

Sir — The 22nd Law Commission of India is poised to submit a report on the feasibility of conducting simultaneous elections in the country and is likely to recommend it for the 2029 elections. The Commission, led by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, has diligently worked on this final report since February 2023. The report, destined for submission to the Law Ministry, currently headed by Arjun Meghwal, arrives at a pivotal juncture. It coincides with the government's formation of a high-level committee, under the leadership of former President Ram Nath Kovind, tasked with examining and providing recommendations for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities, and panchayats, all in the name of 'national interest.' According to reports, there's a possibility that the government may forward the Law Commission's report to the Kovind-led committee for their consideration. The Law Commission is likely to propose synchronized elections within the next five years, with the goal of implementing simultaneous elections by 2029.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

IS BJP ANTICIPATING THE INEVITABLE? Sir — Is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sensing the inevitable? If not, then why does the BJP's recent move in Madhya Pradesh (MP) signal the party's intention to contest the elections under collective leadership, with prominent figures from different regions in the fray? In a surprising development that has set political circles abuzz, the BJP has announced its decision to field seven Lok Sabha members, including three union ministers— Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Singh Patel, and Faggan Singh Kulaste, as well as its national general secretary, Kailash Vijayvargiya. One can't help but wonder whether this move signifies that the BJP lacks strong candidates in MP, necessitating the deployment of Lok Sabha members, many of whom owe their electoral success to the Modi wave.

By fielding these seven sitting MPs, the

Dada Saheb Phalke Award for Waheeda



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ongratulations to the versatile actor, Waheeda. who, at the age of 85, has earned the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke (lifetime achievement) award for 2023. Her illustrious acting career spanning five decades, from 1955 to 1991 and then from 2002 to the present, not only showcases her exceptional acting skills but also highlights her endearing, friendly, and controversy-free persona. Beyond her acting prowess, she is a multifaceted personality—a generous philanthropist, a passionate advocate for education, and a dedicated worker for poverty eradication through the Rangade organization. Her cinematic journey has embraced various languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Marathi, and English. Her latest endeavor, "Skater Girl" (2021), is a bilingual

party aims not only to secure the weaker seats but also to influence neighboring constituencies through the continued presence of these seasoned politicians. It's worth noting that the BJP has employed a similar strategy in past assembly elections. In the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections, the BJP fielded five of its sitting Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs. Only two of them managed to secure victory in their respective constituencies, while the remaining three faced defeat. Nevertheless, it appears that the BJP faces an uphill battle in MP following the perceived misrule under Shivrai Singh Chouhan's leadership. Furthermore, yotiraditya Scindia has proven to be a liability, with most of his associates returning to the Congress fold. These factors could spell deep trouble for the BJP.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

film in Hindi and English, leaving us eagerly antic-

Padma Bhushan (2011). Her contributions have

been multidimensional, collaborating with two

ipating her next project in 2023-2024. Waheeda has been rightfully honored by the Government of India with prestigious civilian awards such as the Padmashree (1972) and the

generations of iconic families in the film industry, including Raj Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, Sunil Dutt, Dharmendra, and many more. One might ask, with which distinguished actor or director did she not collaborate? She has worked alongside all major heroes and directors of her time, such as Gurudutt ("Pyaasa," "Kagaz Ke Phool"), Manoj Kumar ("Aadmi"), Rajendra Kumar ("Kaala Bazaar"),

Devanand ("CID," "Guide"), Dilip Kumar ("Ram Aur Shyam"), Dharmendra and Rajesh Khanna ("Khamoshi"), Sunil Dutt and Amitabh Bachchan ("Reshma Aur Shera"). Notably, she even took on a double role in "Man Mandir" (1971). We wish Waheeda, now 85 years old, a life filled with happiness, excellent health, peace, prosperity, and continued progress, along with her family. We eagerly await news of her next movie.

PV Srinivas Sreelekha | Secunderabad

INDIA-CANADA TIES

Sir — The recent discussions by Canada's Defence Minister regarding bolstering ties with India underscore the importance of nurturing strong international partnerships. In a world grappling with numerous challenges, collaboration among nations assumes increasing significance.

Canada and India share democratic values and common interests, making this relationship particularly noteworthy. Enhancing diplomatic, economic, and defense ties between these two nations can yield mutual benefits and contribute to global stability.

Md Maimul Safui | West Bengal

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FIRST COLUMN RESPECT INDIA'S SOVEREIGNTY

Canada must not allow its soil to be used for anti-India activities



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

story of agents executing transnational operations, intelligence agen-Acies sharing crucial information, packettained support sharing crucial instability and every chapter from a racy spy thriller cies sharing crucial information, backchannel diplomatic converis playing out for the world audience, with Canada and India in the lead for the past few weeks. In a hurried and perhaps half-baked allegation Canadian PM Justine Trudeau blamed Indian agencies for carrying out extra-territorial executions of Canadian citizens.

India was quick to retort with a terse statement, which instead pointed out the long-standing issue of concern between the two countries in the form of Canada allowing Indian separatist groups to operate out of their country. The Indian statement said unequivocally "We have seen and reject the statement of the Canadian Prime Minister in their Parliament, as also the statement by their Foreign Minister. Allegations of the Government of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated. Similar allegations were made by the Canadian Prime Minister to our Prime Minister and were completely rejected. Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistan terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We reject any attempts to connect the Government of India to such developments. We urge the Government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil."

What is happening in the bilateral relationship is not a recent development but has been brewing for decades. Nearly forty years back India had demanded the extradition of a terrorist from Canada, responsible for one of the worst plane bombings in history, killing everyone on board an Air India flight. The several convicts responsible for the act of terror were never convicted by Canada, despite repeated inputs from India abandoning victims' families chasing long winding court cases for decades.

The reason Canada allows or even nurtures these anti-India forces



on its soil leads through the corridors of domestic politics. Millions of Indians particularly from Punjab make a substantial chunk of the Canadian demography. While most of them earn an honest living and are peaceloving, some notorious elements have managed to sneak into Canada, working through well-oiled semi-government machinery. Over some time, these criminals and terrorists wanted by India, have managed to control important real estate through the Gurudwaras committees. These mafiacontrolled gurudwaras also serve as a conduit for fulfilling the immigration dream of thousands of Punjab youth, working with their India handlers across Punjab and several other states of north India. The modus operandi for getting ground force for staging anti-India acts from Canadian soil starts with a letter issued by Indian handlers, about the youth facing discrimination, and persecution due to his religion, in India. This sets the ball rolling for the youth to get an easy Canadian citizenship, on mercy grounds and feeds into domestic political narratives. In the present case too, the trigger was PM Trudeau's falling political popularity. A few months back he accused China of meddling with domestic politics even as he was trying to warm up the India bilateral, through a trade deal

Canada understands the rising importance of India in the new global order, especially with China and Russia facing flak. It understands that a powerful, resilient, democratic India is important for a prosperous Indo-Pacific region, which indirectly translates to bringing more prosperity to its citizens. However, the domestic political concerns rise above geopolitics, and retaining the chair as PM seems more important for Trudeau at the moment. It may be argued that several news reports have pointed to US intelligence aid in Canadian allegations against India, however, the US knows which way the wind is blowing.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Regulatory boost to self-sufficiency in energy



Modi Government is giving considerable policy support for the exploration of hydrocarbons so that investors can earn assured return on their investments

elivering the 75th Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the country a target to achieve self-reliance in energy production by boosting the gas-based economy (besides giving a push to electric mobility and hydrogen production). Modi wants the share of natural gas (NG) in the total energy mix to go up from the current around 6 per cent to 15 per

Currently, India imports 50 per cent of its NG requirement. This is because domestic production is hovering around a low of 28.6 - 34 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2020-21 to 2021-22 (down from a peak of 52 bcm in 2010-11). There is a dire need to give a massive push to domestic output to meet the target. India has 26 sedimentary basins (SBs) covering an area of 3.4 million sq km that could be searched for hydrocarbon resources. Only six of the SBs are under commercial exploitation; these too are sub-optimally utilized.

Hydrocarbon exploration is a highly capital-intensive and technology-intensive business involving a long-gestation period. It is risk-prone especially when it comes to drilling in deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature (D/UD/HP/HT) fields in ois/(VC) have a constant of the constan such as the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin. However, these areas offer maximum promise in terms of reserves.

Multinational companies (MNCs) such as ExxonMobil, Chevron Total etc. which have the technology and resources can be enthused to take longterm bets in the Indian hydrocarbon sector provided the government offers them an opportunity to earn an attractive return on their investment in a 'sustained' basis. This in turn, requires that their efforts in the discovery and development of NG fields don't face regulatory hurdles leading to the commencement of production within a reasonable time frame and that they can sell the gas 'freely' at a 'remunerative' price. In all three areas, the MNCs faced impediments in the past. In recent years, the Modi – government has made significant progress in removing these though, a lot more ground remains to be covered. Let us look at the regulatory landscape.

Nearly 50 percent of SB area or 1.73 million sq km lies ottshore. Out ot tnıs, until recently 0.69 million sq km lay in the prohibited zone (fondly referred to as 'No go' area) due to security reasons. Now, the incumbent government has released a 0.67 million sq km sedimentary basin lying offshore. This should give a big boost to exploration and produc-

tion (E&P) activity.
Until hitherto, E&P firms were getting lease rights for short tenure though extendable by 10 years for gas/oil & gas fields and by five years for oil fields. They had to go to the bureaucrats to seek approval for an extension of the lease which came in the way of undertaking long-term investment commitment.

Now, the government has granted E&P rights over the entire economic life of the allotted fields (this could extend up to 30 years, even beyond depending on the available reserves and the pace of their exploitation) instead of the extant system of allowing extensions. This will enthuse global firms to undertake long-term investment bets as they know for sure in



advance that they will get to operate the field for their entire economic life

The government has passed the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, which says that seismic surveys (it is done in the initial stage to determine evidence of economically viable hydrocarbon resources below the ground) won't be treated as a non-forest activity. This implies that explorers would be granted prompt access to forest areas, thereby saving time spent on seeking permits.
Under the Hydrocarbon

Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), also known as the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) launched in 2017, E&P firms are allowed to pick up a block of their ploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) (launched in 1999) wherein they had to accept what the government offered. Besides, under OALP, an operator gets a composite license to search for hydrocarbon in whatever form; for instance, if it is 'shale gas', she won't need a separate license for extracting it.

For long, E&P efforts were hamstrung by cumbersome procedures, multiple approvals and bureaucratic red tape. Approvals were needed at every stage viz. preparation of field development plans (FDP) including its revision, and extension of the contract, drilling wells, conducting tests to determine the commercial viability of the field, annual work program (AWP), laying the pipeline, reviewing production and so on. As many as 37 processes and procedures were required to be followed by a firm-awarded block

Team Modi has substantially liberalised and de-bureaucratised the approvals. It has identified 22 processes for which self-certification of documents by contractors is accepted. Besides, it has provided for pre-approved clearance of blocks which will substantially cut the time lost in taking approvals. The government is also keen to opt for globally recognised and accepted dispute resolution mechanisms and play-based explo-

Moreover, the 'revenue sharing' model under the OALP (currently in vogue) allows the operator to share an agreed percentage of the revenue with the Government of India (GOI) unlike the production sharing contracts (PSC) under erstwhile choice unlike the earlier New NELP wherein she could fully recover the cost incurred in exploration and development of the field before sharing profits with the GOI. The former does away with an additional layer of approval which was intrinsic to the latter wherein the costs incurred at every stage were subject to official scrutiny.

Coming to the selling of NG and realisation therefrom, in respect of gas from fields given under HELP/OALP, the operators are allowed freedom of pricing and marketing. This is a big positive for E&P firms that are being allotted fields under this policy. Furthermore, supplies from the socalled marginal fields (there are a total of 149) previously with the central PSUs viz. ONGC and OIL auctioned to private entities during 2020/21 are also eligible for freedom of pricing.

However, supplies from the socalled Legacy fields which account

for the bulk of the current gas supply are subject to government control over price as well as the marketing of the produce. The Legacy staff includes fields given to ONGC/OIL on a 'nomination' basis, those given under NELP and pre-NELP blocks. There are two

One, call it 'normal' price. Based on the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh committee and in force from April 1, 2023, this price expressed on a per million British thermal units (Btu) basis is arrived at by taking 10 per cent of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket in the preceding month and notified every month. The price thus calculated is subject to a price band of US\$4-6.50 per

Second, there is a 'premium' applicable to the difficult fields. These are deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature fields (the high-profile KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries and neighbouring KG-DWN-98/2 operated by ONGC fall in this category). Technically though the price of NG flowing from these fields is market-determined, this is subject to a ceiling linked to the prices of alternate fuels, viz., fuel oil, naphtha and imported LNG.

Even as the committee has recommended de-regulation of difficult gas fields' price by January 1, 2026, and that of normal price by January 1, 2027, the government is silent on this. Having substantially liberalized the regulatory space, besides removing the remaining hurdles, Modi needs to take the next logical step of unshackling marketing and pricing for supplies from the Legacy

Save that beating heart with positive vibes

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is one of the major causes of mortality. On this World Heart Day let us resolve to correct our lifestyle, and adopt positivity to be from heart ailments

TEAM MODI HAS

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CERTIFICATION

OF DOCUMENTS

CONTRACTORS

(The writer is a Policy

Analyst, views are

IS ACCEPTED

Roughly more than 17 Million people die each year from cardiovascu-lar diseases, an estimated 32% of all deaths worldwide. Heart Attack is rising rather steeply in our country especially among young people in their 20s & 30s. To a very large extent, heart attack is selfinflicted by our faulty lifestyle, which we adopt right from childhood. Genetics definitely play a role but it can be modified by lifestyle optimisation.

The prevalence of Coronary Artery Disease in adults in India in the urban population is 14 per cent, while in the rural population, it is 8 per cent. One should not have a heart attack, especially when he or she is in their prime years. In fact, we are the cause and we are the cure of



this malady of a premature heart attack at a young age. A healthy heart is an expression of our own perceptions, thoughts, interpretations and choice-making. Enhancing awareness about prevention and timely prediction and treatment of heart attack is the only solution to reducing the rising menace of heart attack in our country. Women are fortunate to have a lower prevalence of coronary artery disease before the age of 45 i.e. menopause. After menopause, the prevalence of CAD is the same as in men. Over 25 million people die of Heart Attacks in our country every year. Out of these, 16 lakh die within an hour of a Heart Attack before even medical aid

is available.

from cardiovascular disease (CVD) has decreased by 60% in Japan and Finland, 50% in the USA, Canada and Australia and 25% in Europe, according to WHO projections, there will be a significant rise in mortality from CVD in India. The female population is at greater risk because metabolic syndrome The risk is significantly high in India.

Prevention of coronary artery disease must begin earlier especially at a young age before being victimised by a faulty lifestyle including erratic eating habits, drinking, smoking, high levels of stressful life with lack of sleep and burning both ends of the candle at the same time, coupled with a sedentary lifestyle, uncontrolled hypertension, While the mortality rate dyslipidemia and diabetes

which harden the arteries of the heart with increase tendency for clotting all of which

The theme of World Heart Day this year is: Use your Heart to Beat

establish the bedrock of heart

CVD (Cardiovascular Disease)

Work with your Heart, Know your risk factors Have Coordinated Efforts to improve your own

Lifestyle and Diet Motivate yourself and others to reduce CVD Risks One Heart, One Home,

One World Use your Heart to "Make Perfect Choices for a Healthy Heart for ourselves, our family, our community, our corporate, our society, our nation and the coronary arteries and the har-

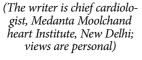
world The four sutras for an optimal Healthy Heart are love, compassion, peace and harmony" to make perfect choices for a healthy heart and beat CVD. These sutras (Suture or stitch) are possible through the regular practice of yoga, meditation and perfect lifestyle optimization, they connect the heart with the consciousness through a network of nerve fibres of the autonomic nervous system (Heart Plexuses) which are chemically mediated, nurtured with human values release natural opiates: endorphins, serotonin, dopamine acetylcholine, oxytocin and nitric oxide which preserve the endothelial functions, thereby maintaining the patency of

monious friendly biochemical environment within the blood vessel the heart thus remains healthy

If kindness, compassion, love, peace and harmony are missing with cynical behaviour and hostility, then the heart is undernourished and stressed and the physiology changes to pathology. Fear, jealousy, hatred, anger, greed, lurking grief, vengeance, vindictiveness, bigotry, arrogance, greed, lust, ego and other negative emotions release jittery molecules (Chemicals) which comprise epinephrine, norepinephrine and cortisol which produce coronary artery diseases, alter the endothelial functions, agitate the platelets, oxidise Low-Density Lipoproteins (LDL). They may enhance the tendency of a vulnerable a matter of chance.

plaque in the coronary artery to rupture, erode and ulcerate, thereby enhancing aggregation of platelets and enhancing thrombus (clot) formation thus leading to angina, acute Coronary Syndrome, Heart Attack, and even sudden Cardiac Death and Brain Attack. Just one fit of anger or negative stress can produce a massive heart attack

Emotions of love, compassion, peace and harmony are the most powerful sutras to have a healthy heart and may help in the prevention, regression and reversal of coronary artery diseases. This is possible by practicing perfect choices, and regular practice of meditation and yoga. Thus, the "Health of the Heart" is a matter of your own choice, and not



4 graft cases against Nawaz Sharif set to be reopened

Pakistan's anti-graft body is reopening at least four corruption cases against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif as he is scheduled to return to the country next month, ending four years of self-exile in the United Kingdom, an official said on Thursday.

The 73-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo is scheduled to return to Pakistan from London on October 21 to lead the party's election campaign. Nawaz left the country in November 2019 on medical grounds after the Lahore High Court granted him bail for four weeks. He was serving a sevenyear imprisonment in the Al-Azizia Mills corruption case at Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore.

On arrival in Lahore, his party says he will address a rally at Minar-i-Pakistan where he will give a road map to steer the country out of the economic crisis, governance problems and other issues the country is facing today. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the light of a Supreme Court

amendments made to the accountability laws by the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government led by Nawaz's younger brother Shehbaz Sharif, is reopening the four pending probes against Nawaz. The cases are related to illegal plots and land allotment, dubious transfer of shares of his sugar mills and Toshakhana (national treasury gifts).

"Nawaz Sharif being chief minister of Punjab province in 1986 had allotted plots in Lahore to several people by misusing his authority. He is accused of illegal construction of several kilometres of road to his house in Jati Umra Raiwind, Lahore, in 1998 when he was prime minister in violation of rules. "The third case is related to the transfer of shares in 'illegal' manners in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case which is owned by Nawaz Sharif and his family members. In this case, his daughter Maryam Nawaz is also accused of being a major beneficiary," an official privy to the develop-

ment told PTI on Thursday. The fourth is related to the



Toshakhana case in which he is accused of taking luxurious vehicles from the national treasury in violation of rules, he said. Besides these cases, Nawaz will have to face the case relat-

ed to his conviction. Meanwhile, Nawaz's close aide and senior PML-N leader Mian Javed Latif said the party has stopped "demanding accountability of former army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and former ISI head Gen Faiz Hameed" for conspiring against Nawaz to topple his govern-

"The PML-N doesn't want accountability of Gen Bajwa and Gen Hameed but only those characters and facilitators involved in May 9 events and

mutiny against the head (Army Chief Gen Asim Munir) of the institution," he said.

Latif was referring to attacks on military installa-tions following the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in May.

On September 18, Nawaz demanded "strict accountability" of Gen Bajwa, Gen Hameed and chief justices — Asif Khosa and Saqib Nisar while addressing the party's ticket holders in Lahore via video link from London.

He had hinted at trying them under treason charges if his party returned to power in the upcoming elections, scheduled early next year.

Nawaz's demand for strict accountability left many in the party in a precarious position as the leaders became wary of a possible backlash from the military establishment if he continued with such statements. Sources told PTI that Nawaz backtracked from demanding accountability of army generals after a "strong message" was conveyed to him through his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif.

turing.

The debt-ridden nation

However, the IMF in the review said more discussions were needed to reach the next staff-level agreement on the external debt restructuring. The Washington-based global lender, while noting Sri commendable progress in implementing difficult reforms, said "the full recovery of the economy was not yet assured." It stressed the need to strengthen tax administration, remove tax exemptions, and actively eliminate

The IMF had originally set a September deadline for Sri Lanka to restructure its external debt. The completion creditors was to culminate

SL to focus on IMF recommendations to secure second tranche of bailout package

Colombo (PTI): With the IMF saying that Sri Lanka's full economic recovery is not yet assured, the government on Thursday said it will focus on the recommendations of the global lender and will continue discussions with it to reach a staff-level agreement for the second tranche of the bailout package.

In March this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a 48-month, USD 2.9 billion extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to support Sri Lanka's economic policies and reforms.

"We have to take note of points made on tax administration, granting of tax relief and eliminating tax evasion", said State Minister of Finance, Ranjith Siyambalapitiya.

We are working with a contracted economy and a population hit by economic hardships," Siyambalapitiya said. Sri Lanka was hit by its worst economic crisis in history when its foreign exchange reserves fell to a critical low and the public came out on the streets to protest the shortage of fuel, fertilisers and essential commodities. On Wednesday, it emerged that Lanka's second tranche of the bailout package will likely be delayed given the inconclusive nature of the cash-strapped nation's external debt restruc-

was banking on the release of the second tranche of around USD 330 million at the end of the review as stated by Siyambalapitiya last week.

tax evasion.

of negotiations with external with the first review.

American soldier who crossed into N Korea returns to US

AP ■ SAN ANTONIO

The American soldier who **1** sprinted into North Korea across the heavily fortified border between the Koreas more than two months ago arrived back in the US early Thursday, video appeared to show.

North Korea abruptly announced Wednesday that it would expel Pvt Travis King. His return was organised with the help of ally Sweden and rival China, according to the White House. While officials have said

King, 23, is in good health and the immediate focus will be on caring for him and reintegrating him into US society, his troubles are likely far from over. King, who had served in South Korea, ran into the North while on a civilian tour of a border village on July 18, becoming the first American confirmed to be detained in the isolated country in nearly five years. At the time, he was supposed to be heading to Fort Bliss, Texas, following his release from prison in South Korea on an assault conviction.

He has been declared AWOL from the Army. In many cases, someone who is AWÓL for more than a month can automatically be considered a deserter.

Punishment for going AWOL or desertion can vary, and it depends in part on whether the service member voluntarily returned or was apprehended. King's handover by the North Koreans makes that more complicated.

Video aired Thursday by a Texas news station appeared to show King walking off a plane in San Antonio. Dressed in a dark top and pants, he could be seen speaking briefly with people waiting on the tarmac. He shook hands with one before being led into a building.

Emails seeking comment were sent to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, the Air Force and the Army.

Officials earlier said he would be taken to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston. He is expected to undergo psychological assessments and debriefings, and he will also get a chance to meet with family. He will be in military cus-

tody throughout the process since his legal situation is com-

Many questions remain about King's case, including why he fled in the first place and why the North — which has tense relations with Washington over Pyongyang's nuclear programme, support for Russia's war in Ukraine and other issues — agreed to turn him over.

The White House has not addressed North Korean state media reports that King fled because of his dismay about racial discrimination and inequality in the military and US society. The North's official Korean

Central News Agency reported that King made such complaints but verifying that is impossible. On Wednesday, Swedish officials took King to the Chinese border, where he was met by US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns, the Swedish ambassador to China, and at least one US Defence Department official.

He was then flown to a US military base in South Korea before heading to the US. His detention was relative-

ly short by North Korean stan-

Pakistan CJ: If Faizabad verdict was implemented, serious incidents would not have happened later

 $P^{\text{akistan's Chief Justice Qazi}}_{\text{Faez Isa Thursday said if his}}$ verdict against a radical Islamist group and others for involvement in the Faizabad sit-in was implemented, the serious incidents could have been prevented, as he adjourned the hearing on a set of pleas challeng ing the judgment in the case till November 1.

A three-member bench led by Chief Justice Isa and comprising Justices Aminuddin Khan and Athar Minallah was hearing a set of pleas challenging the Supreme Court's verdict in the Faizabad sit-in case, wherein intelligence agencies were directed not to exceed their constitutional mandates.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and others had heavily criticized the judgment and subsequently review pleas were filed against the verdict by

the PTI, the Ministry of Usman Awan, who was repre-Defence, the Intelligence senting the federal govern-Bureau, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, the Election Commission of Pakistan, the Mutta-hida Qaumi Movement party, exinterior minister Sheikh Rashid and Ijazul Haq, son of former military dictator Zia-ul Haq.

Isa, who was a member of the three-member bench that issued the 2019 verdict, expressed annoyance after multiple petitioners seeking a review of the apex court's 2019 verdict against the Faizabad sitin decided to withdraw their The chief justice observed

that the challengers in their pleas had stated that the verdict was full of flaws, wondering why they were withdrawing pleas, and asked "why is everyone so afraid to speak the

ment, assured the court that the decisions of the Faizabad judgement would be implemented but the chief justice was not amused.

"If this verdict was implemented at that time, then serious incidents would not have taken place later," the chief justice said, in an apparent reference to the Jaranwala incident where a mob of radical Islamists vandalised 22 churches and set scores of Christian houses on fire over allegations of blasphemy. There were no casualties but it was one of the most destructive attacks on Christians in the Muslim-

majority country.
Apparently, unable to satisfy the queries by the bench, Sheikh Rashid's counsel urged the court to adjourn the hearing, which was accepted and Attorney-General Mansoor the case adjourned till

court directed the respondents' counsels to submit a written response by October 27.

The original judgement was authored by Justice Isa, instructing the defence ministry and the tri-services chiefs to penalise personnel under their command who were found to have violated their oath. It had also directed the federal government to monitor those advocating hate, extremism and terrorism and prosecute them in accordance with

about 20 days and had paralysed life in both Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The government and the powerful establishment were so angry due to the decision that a case of alleged corruption was launched against Justice Isa and effort were made to remove him from office.

China's defence min missing in action for a month

A Chinese Detence Ministry, spokesperson said Thursday that he was "not the situation" in the Chinese Defence Ministry aware of the situation" in the ministry's first public comments on the disappearance of the defence minister from public view about one month ago.

Senior Col Wu Qian, the director of the ministry's information office, gave only a onesentence response when asked at a monthly news conference whether Li Shangfu is under investigation for corruption and if he is still the defense minister. "I'm not aware of the situation you mentioned," Wu said in response to a question from a foreign news outlet.

Li, who became defence minister when a new Cabinet was named in March, hasn't been seen since giving a speech on August 29. He is the second senior official to disappear this year, following former Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who was removed from office in July.

The Chinese government has given no reason for his removal, or why both he and Li suddenly stopped making public appearances. There is no indication, at least so far, that their disappearances signal a change in China's foreign or defence policies. The disappearance of offi-

cials and other people without explanation is not uncommon in China and often followed months later by the announcement of criminal charges against the person. The disappearance of two sitting ministers in rapid succession, though, is unusual. The American ambassador

to Japan, Rahm Emanuel, tweeted earlier this month that Chinese President Xi Jinping's Cabinet lineup "is now resembling Agatha Christie's novel And Then There Were None".

Wu, the defence ministry spokesperson, played down concerns expressed by US officials that the two countries don't have clear military-to-

military communications channels. He said the problem is not a lack of communication but a need for the US to change its ways to get relations between the two militaries back on track.

"The US always wants to tie somebody's hands and feet, so they can do whatever they want," he said.

He also said that Taiwan is "heading down the path of its own destruction" with the selfgoverning island's launch of its first domestically made submarine on Thursday.

Wu, who opened the news conference with an announcement about a global security conference to be held in Beijing next month, ducked a question about Li from another foreign media reporter, who asked whether the defence minister would attend the con-

"We will release information about the Beijing Xiangshan Forum in due course," he said.

domestically made submarine for testing

AP ■ KAOHSIUNG

¬aiwan's president launched 1 the island's first domestically made submarine for testing Thursday at a port in Kaohsiung. The submarine, if success-

ful in its tests, will be a major breakthrough for Taiwan in shipbuilding and design. "In the past, a domestic-

made submarine was considered impossible, but today a submarine designed and built by our countrymen is in front of you," President Tsai Ing-wen said at the launch ceremony.

"Building a submarine is the concrete realization of our resolution to protect our country. Submarines are an important piece of equipment for the Taiwan navy to develop asymmetric combat power in terms of strategy and tactics," she said. The US has been pushing Taiwan to develop asymmetric warfare strategies by investing

in smaller and lighter weapons such as the reduced-size submarine. The process was "torturous," said Cheng Wen-lon, head of Taiwan's CSBC Corp, which led the construction of the submarine. "Although we have worked quietly during the past several years, it doesn't mean the process was very smooth," he said at the ceremony held in CSBC's shipyard.

After seven years of design and construction, the prototype will begin tests in the harbour before heading to the ocean. The submarine is named Hai Kun after a fish in Chinese mythology called kun with legendary proportions.

It will only be handed over to the military after passing both its harbour and oceanfaring tests. Taiwan plans to build another submarine if successful, with both to be deployed by 2027, according to the semi-official Central News

Taiwan launches its first | N Korean leader urges greater nuclear weapons production in response to a 'new Cold War'

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for an exponential increase in production of nuclear weapons and for his country to play a larger role in a coalition of nations confronting the United States in a "new Cold War," state media said Thursday.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim made the comments during a two-day session of the country's rubberstamp parliament which amended the constitution to include his policy of expanding the country's nuclear weapons programme. The Supreme People's Assembly's session on Tuesday and Wednesday came after Kim travelled to Russia's Far East this month to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and visit military and

technology sites. The trip sparked Western concerns about a possible arms alliance in which North Korea would supply Putin with badly needed munitions to fuel his war on Ukraine in exchange for economic aid and advanced Russian technologies to enhance North Korea's nuclear

and missile systems. As North Korea slowly ends its pandemic lockdown, Kim has been actively boosting his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he attempts to break out of diplomatic isolation and join a united front against Washington. He has described the world as entering a "new Cold War" and that North Korea should advance its nuclear capabilities in

response. KCNA's reports on Kim's comments came a day after North Korea confirmed the release of US Army Pvt Travis King, who is now being flown back to America, two months after he sprinted across the heavily fortified border into the North. King's relatively swift expulsion defied speculation that North Korea might drag out his detention to squeeze tary cooperation with South concessions from the United States, and possibly reflected the North's disinterest in diplo-

macy with Washington. KCNA said members of the assembly gave unanimous approval to a new clause in the constitution to "ensure the country's right to existence and development, deter war and protect regional and global peace by rapidly developing nuclear weapons to a higher

North Korea's "nuclear force-building policy has been made permanent as the basic law of the state, which no one is allowed to flout with anything," Kim said in a speech at the assembly. He stressed the need to "push ahead with the work for exponentially boosting the production of nuclear weapons and diversifying the nuclear strike means," KČNA said. Kim pointed to what he described as a growing threat posed by a hostile United States and its expanding miliKorea and Japan, accusing them of creating the "Asian version of NATO, the root cause of war and aggression."

This is just the worst actual threat, not threatening rhetoric or an imaginary entity," he said. Kim urged his diplomats to "further promote solidarity with the nations standing against the US and the West's strategy for hegemony." South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, said the North Korean constitutional amendment confirms Kim's unwillingness to relinquish his nuclear weapons program and his unwavering commitment to advancing that arsenal.

It said in a statement that South Korea will continue to expand its military cooperation with the US and Japan and work closer with other international partners increase pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear



Living god Ganesh is carried on a chariot during Indra Jatra, a festival that marks the end of the rainy season, in Kathmandu, Nepal, Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023. According to a local myth, the god of rain Indra once disguised himself as a human to collect night jasmine for his mother but was captured by locals. In exchange for his release, it was agreed that the rain would be stopped and the souls of those departed in that year ascend to heaven.

Israel SC hears challenge to It wants to weaken despite deemed unfit, as well as who law that makes it harder to remove Netanyahu

AP ■ JERUSALEM

srael's Supreme Court on Israels Supreme Court Thursday was hearing a challenge to a law that makes it harder to remove a sitting prime minister, which critics say is designed to protect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has been working to reshape the justice system while he is on trial for alleged corruption.

The hearing is part of several pivotal court challenges against a proposed package of legislation and government steps meant to alter the country's justice system. It comes after months of turmoil in Israel over the plan and deepens a rift between Netanyahu's government and the judiciary, which

unprecedented opposition.

Thursday's hearing on the law took place in front of an expanded 11-judge panel, underscoring the importance of the deliberations.

Netanyahu's governing coalition - Israel's most religious and nationalist ever passed an amendment known as the "incapacitation law" in March which allows a prime minister to be deemed unfit to rule only for medical or mental health reasons. Under the amendment, only the prime minister or the government has the power to deter-

mine a leader's unfitness. the law was vague about both on whether the law should the circumstances in which a come into effect after the

had the authority to declare it.

But experts say the amendment expressly strips the attorney general, who historically wields the power to declare a prime minister unfit for office, of the ability to do so. Critics say the law protects Netanyahu from being deemed unfit for office over claims that he violated a conflict of interest agreement by dealing with the legal overhaul while on trial for corruption charges. They also say the law is tailor-made for Netanyahu and encourages

corruption. Based on those criticisms, The previous version of Thursday's hearing is focusing prime minister could be next national elections and

not immediately, so that it isn't interpreted as a personalised law. A ruling is expected by January.

We are trying to repeal the undemocratic and unconstitutional statute which allowed an unfit and improper prime minister to remain in his position. Actually, they built him a kind of a golden cage (so) that he will be protected from justice," said Eliad Shraga, chairman of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, one of the groups that is challenging the amendment.

Ahead of the hearing, dozens of protesters gathered outside Netanyahu's private residence in Jerusalem, chanting "democracy", while his allies defended the law. Simcha Rothman, a main driver of the overhaul, told Israeli Army Radio that the court's decision to hear the case was harmful to Israeli democracy and challenging the law was akin to throwing out the results of a legitimate election. "The moment the court

determines the laws, then it is also the legislative branch, the judiciary and the executive branch," he said. "This is an undemocratic reality." The government wants to

weaken the Supreme Court and limit judicial oversight on its decisions, saying it wants to return power to elected lawmakers and away from what it sees as a liberal-leaning, interventionist justice system. The first major piece

of the overhaul was passed in July and an unprecedented 15-judge panel began hearing arguments against it earlier this month. The drive to reshape

Israel's justice system comes as Netanyahu's trial for alleged corruption is ongoing. He is charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases involving influential media moguls and wealthy associates. He denies wrongdoing, seeing the charges as part of a "witch-hunt" against him orchestrated by a hostile media and a biased justice system.

Experts and legal officials say a conflict of interest arrangement struck after Netanyahu was indicted is

meant to limit his involvement in judicial changes. After the incapacitation law was passed, Netanyahu said his hands were no longer tied and that he was taking a more active role in the legal changes underway.

That sparked a rebuke from Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, who said Netanyahu's remarks and any further actions were "completely illegal and in conflict of interest.

Critics say Netanyahu and his government are working to upend the country's delicate system of checks and balances and setting Israel on a path toward autocracy.

The overhaul has plunged Israel into one of its worst domestic crises, deepening

sions between those who want Israel to be a Western-facing liberal democracy and those who want to emphasize the country's more conservative Jewish character. Netanyahu has moved forward with the overhaul

longstanding societal divi-

despite a wave of opposition from a broad swath of Israeli society. Top legal officials, leading economists and the country's booming tech sector have all spoken out against the judicial changes, which have sparked opposition from hundreds of military reservists, who have said they will not serve so long as the overhaul remains on the table. Tens of thousands of people have protested every Saturday for the last nine months.

Ramaswamy calls for ending NATO's secy-gen meets with Zelenskyy birthright citizenship in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Continuing his proposals of harsh policy changes, Indian-American presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy, in his second Republican presidential debate, has said he would favour ending birthright citizenship for children of illegal immigrants in the US. The second Republican debate of the 2024 election cycle which was held at Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California on sharing the stage with six other candidates including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley.

When asked "what legal premise" he would use to expel undocumented immiborn children from the country, Ramaswamy, the son of Indian immigrants, resurrected a 2015 proposal of ending birthright citizenship from then-candidate Donald Trump, reported the Washington Post on Wednesday.

The first section of the citizenship clause of the US Constitution's Amendment says, "All persons born or naturalised in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they

Although most agree with the long-held tradition that it grants citizenship to those born on US soil, some legal scholars argue that the phrase "and subject to the jurisdiction thereof" seems to give the government some leeway to restrict the right, just as other constitutional principles can be limited, the report said.

Because of this, he argued, children of undocumented immigrants born in the United States should not be granted citizenship, because their parents "broke the law" to be in the country.

Ramaswamy, 38, also sup-ported his opponents onstage and acknowledged other mea-

sures such as militarisation of the southern border, defunding "sanctuary cities," and an end to foreign aid to Mexico

and Central America.

He said he would go a "step further" by ending "birthright citizenship for the kids of illegal immigrants in this country" this country."

A second-generation
Indian-American,
Ramaswamy, had earlier criticised the H-1B visa programme saying the current "lottery" system needs to be "gutted" and replaced with a "meritocratic" skill-based immigration scheme to match the needs of the US.

The H-1B visa, much sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a nonimmigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

His stance on H-1B visas is also reminiscent of the 2016 Trump campaign, when thencandidate Donald Trump, who has also hired a number of foreign workers under H-1B visas for his businesses, took a hardline stance on these foreign workers before later softening his rhetoric.

It is to be noted that

Ramaswamy himself has used the H-1B visa programme 29

According to Politico, from 2018 through 2023, US Citizenship and Immigration Services approved 29 applications for Ramaswamy's former company, Roivant Sciences, to hire employees under H-1B

Ramaswamy, who was addressed as "Trump's heir apparent" by Time Magazine has garnered quite an attention after his maiden Republican presidential primary debate held on August

The first poll after the debate said that 28 per cent of the 504 respondents said that Ramaswamy performed the best. Ramaswamy's harsh proposals have helped him stand out in the crowded primary field, according to US media

Haley slams Vivek



Washington (PTI): Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has slammed her fellow Indian-American rival in the Republican primary race Vivek Ramaswamy for joining Chinese-owned TikTok, saying "every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber.

Haley, the former twoterm Governor from South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the UN, was very critical of the 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur Ramaswamy and the two entered into a war of words during the second Republican presidential primary debate at Reagan Library in Simi Valley in California on Wednesday.

"Every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber. This is infuriating because TikTok is one of the most dangerous social media apps we could have," Haley told Ramaswamy during the debate as the two entered into verbal duels multiple times during the twohour-long debate boycotted by former US president Donald Trump and the current fron-

Haley, 51, jumped in when Ramaswamy was responding to a question about him joining TikTok, a social media site that has been banned by many

countries, including India. Asked about his move to join the video-sharing app TikTok, despite it being banned on government-issued devices due to concerns about its par-

ent company's ties to the

Chinese government, Ramaswamy said, "Part of how we win elections is reaching the next generation of young Americans where we are."

Kids under 16 should not be on "addictive social media," Ramaswamy said, but "we're only going to ever get to declaring independence from China, which I favour if we actually

win."

"This is infuriating because TikTok is one of the most dangerous social media apps that we could have. And...honestly, every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber for what you say," Haley said.
"One hundred and fifty

million people are on TikTok. That means they can get your contacts, they can get your financial information, they can get your emails, they can get your text messages, they can get all of these things. China knows exactly what they're doing," In February, Haley said

under her leadership, "Communist China will end up on the ash heap of history." "We can't trust you. We

can't trust you. We can't have TikTok in our kids' lives," Haley told Ramaswamy.
Ramaswamy fought back.
"I think we will be better

served as a Republican party if we are not sitting here hurling personal insults and actually have a legitimate debate about policy following Reagan's example and in his honour," he

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss the status of the war and needs of troops on Thursday, the day after Russia accused Ukraine's Western allies of helping plan and conduct last week's missile strike on the Black Sea Fleet's headquarters on the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

Zelenskyy said Stoltenberg agreed to make efforts to get NATO members to help provide additional air defense systems to protect Ukraine's power plants and energy infrastructure that were badly damaged in relentless and deadly attacks by Russia last winter. He also reminded the secretary-general of the persistent attacks that often strike civilian areas, including 40 drone attacks overnight. "In the face of such intense attacks against Ukrainians, against our cities, our ports, which are crucial for



Zelenskyy talk during their meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday.

global food security, we need a corresponding intensity of pressure on Russia and a strengthening of our air defense," Zelenskyy said. "The world must see how Russia is losing dearly so that our shared values ultimately prevail."

Stoltenberg said that NATO has contracts for 2.4 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) in occupation. Peace at any price would be no peace at all.

der would not mean peace. It would mean brutal Russian

On Wednesday, Russian Foreign Ministry spokes-woman Maria Zakharova had said the attack on the Black Sea Fleet headquarters in Crimea had been coordinated with the help of US and UK security agencies, and that NATO satellites and reconnaissance planes

also played a role.
Ukraine said without providing supporting evidence that the attack had killed 34 officers and wounded 105 others. But it also claimed to have killed the fleet's commander, Adm Viktor Sokolov, who was shown on Russian state television on Wednesday speaking with reporters in the Black Sea city of Sevastopol.
Unconfirmed news

reports said Storm Shadow missiles provided to Ukraine by the UK and France were used in the attack on the Russian navy installation.

Half of Nagorno-Karabakh's population has fled: Officials

AP ■ YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

The separatist government of Nagorno-Karabakh announced Thursday that it will dissolve itself and the unrecognized republic will cease to exist by the end of the year, and Armenian officials said more than half of the population has already fled.

That is after Azerbaijan carried out a lightning offensive to reclaim full control over its breakaway region and demanded that Armenian troops in Nagorno-Karabakh lay down their weapons and the separatist government dissolve

A decree to that effect was signed by the region's separatist President Samvel Shakhramanyan. The document cited an agreement reached last week to end the fighting under which Azerbaijan will allow the "free, voluntary and unhindered movement" of Nagorno-Karabakh residents and disarm troops in Armenia in exchange.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a region of Azerbaijan that came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces, backed by the Armenian military, in separatist fighting that ended in 1994. During a six-week war in 2020, Azerbaijan took back parts of the region along with surrounding territory that Armenian forces had claimed during the earlier conflict.

Following the latest offensive and a cease-fire agreement brokered by Russian peacekeepers, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh separatist authorities have begun talks on "reintegrating" the region back into Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani authorities have pledged to respect the rights of ethnic Armenians in the region and restore supplies after a 10month blockade. Many local residents, however, fear reprisals and have decided to leave for Armenia. By Thursday morning, more than half of Nagorno-Karabakh's population - over 65,000 people - had fled to Armenia, according to Armenian offi-

ammunition for Ukraine,

including 155 mm Howitzer

shells, anti-tank guided missiles and tank ammunition.

becomes, the closer we become

to ending Russia's aggression,"

Stoltenberg said. "Russia could

today. Ukraine doesn't have

that option. Ukraine's surren-

"The stronger Ukraine

The massive exodus began on Sunday evening, and the only road linking Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia quickly filled up with cars that created an hourslong traffic jam.

On Monday night, a fuel reservoir exploded at a gas station where people seeking to leave were lining up for gas that due to the blockade had been in short supply. At least 68 people were killed and nearly 300 injured, with over 100 more still considered missing. It isn't immediately clear if

any of the ethnic Armenians that have populated the region remain Shakhramayan's decree on Thursday urged Nagorno-Karabakh's population - including those who left - "to familiarize themselves with the conditions of reintegration offered by the Republic of Azerbaijan, in order to then make an individual decision about the possibility of staying in (or return-

'Australian lawmakers being utilized by separatists'

sador to Australia on Thursday criticised Australian politicians who visit Taiwan, saying they are being utilized by separatists on the self-governing island.

Ambassador Xiao Qian was commenting in Sydney after an Australian parliamentary delegation visited Taiwan this week, and as a former prime minister plans to deliver a speech in Taipei next month. China considers Taiwan to be part of its

Xiao said Australian parliamentarians and former prime ministers who visit Taiwan 'carry political significance."

'It might be easily utilised by the political forces in Taiwan for their independent forces movement, for their secession movement, and I don't want to see that happen," Xiao told reporters.

"I hope they will stick to the one-China policy' in words and indeed, refrain from engaging with Taiwan in whichever form or capacity so that they will not be politically utilized by people in the island with political motives," Xiao said. The "one-China policy" holds that the Communist Party is the government of China and Taiwan is a government on Wednesday accused Taiwan's governing party of seeking independence, a day after President Tsai Ingwen lobbied for Australia's support in joining a regional trade pact during a meeting with six visiting Australian lawmakers.

Former Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison plans to speak at the Yushan Forum in Taipei from Oct. 11 to 12, which focuses on Taiwan's cooperation with neighboring coun-

Australia's relationship with

China plummeted under Morrison's four-year rule, which ended when his conservative coalition government was defeated by the center-left Labor Party in elections last year.

Trudeau apologises for recognition

of Nazi war veteran Wednesday

Parliament's recognition of a man who fought alongside the Nazis during last week's address by Ukraine President Volodymyr Trudeau said the speaker of

the House of Commons, who resigned Tuesday, was "solely responsible" for the invitation and recognition of the man but said it was a mistake that has deeply embarrassed Parliament and Canada. "All of us who were in the House on Friday regret deeply having stood and clapped, even though we did so unaware of the context," Trudeau said before he entering the House of Commons. "It was a horrendous violation of the memory of the millions of people who died in the Holocaust, and was deeply deeply painful for Jewish people." Trudeau repeated the apology in Parliament.

Just after Zelenskyy delivered an address in the House of Commons on Friday, Canadian lawmakers gave 98-year-old Yaroslav Hunka a standing ovation when Speaker Anthony Rota drew attention to him. Rota introduced Hunka as a war hero who fought for the First Ukrainian Division.

Observers over the weekend began to publicize the fact that the First Ukrainian Division also was known as the Waffen SS Galicia Division, or the SS 14th Waffen Division, a voluntary unit that was under the command of the Nazis.

"It is extremely troubling to think that this egregious error is being politicised by Russia, and its supporters, to provide false propaganda about what Ukraine is fighting for," Trudeau said. In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said earlier this week that the standing ovation for Hunka was "outrageous," and he called it the result of a "sloppy attitude" toward remembering the Nazi regime. Russian President Vladimir Putin has painted his enemies in Ukraine as "neo-Nazis," although Zelenskyy is Jewish and lost relatives in the Holocaust.

Violence continues in Sweden, 3 killed

Stockholm (AP): Three peo- 11, making it the deadliest separate incidents in Sweden as deadly violence linked to a feud between criminal gangs escalated. Late Wednesday, an 18year-old man was shot dead in a Stockholm suburb.

Hours later, a man was killed and another was wounded in a shooting in Jordbro, south of the Swedish capital. Early Thursday a woman in her 20s died in an explosion in Uppsala, west of Stockholm. The blast, which damaged five houses, is being treated by the police as a murder. Swedish media said the woman who

died likely was not the target. Swedish broadcaster SVT noted that the two fatal shootings brings the death toll from gun violence in September to police started keeping statistics

It was not known whether the shootings or the blast were related to each other but Swedish media said at least two of the three events were somehow connected to a feud between criminal gangs, a growing problem in Sweden with drive-by shootings and bombings.

Two gangs — one led by a Swedish-Turkish dual national who lives in Turkey, the other by his former lieutenant — are reportedly fighting over drugs and weapons.

Three people have been detained, suspected of complicity in the fatal shooting in Jordbro.

ties between Israel and Arabs

 R^{ussia} accused the United States on Wednesday of promoting Israel's normalisation of relations with Arab nations and circumventing the Arab Peace Initiative launched by Saudi Arabia in 2002, which calls for a settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict before any diplomatic recognition of Israel.

The statement by Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia at the UN Security Council's monthly meeting on the Mideast also implicitly criticised Saudi Arabia — without naming it — for moving toward establishing diplomatic relations with Israel while taking "aggressive illegal actions"

expansion of settlements on territory that is supposed to be part of an independent Palestinian state.

Russia accuses US of promoting

Nebenzia said US efforts to normalize Arab-Israeli relations at a time that the "de facto" international legal framework for an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement is being dismantled not only circumvents the "logic" of the Arab Peace Initiative, but it stymies "any prospects for reviving direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis" to achieve peace and a long-sought two-state solution to their decades-old conflict.

The council meeting took place a day after Saudi Arabia's newly appointed envoy to the Palestinian Authority, Nayef alIsraeli-occupied West Bank since the 1967 Mideast war. At the same time, Israel's Tourism Minister Haim Katz led an Israeli delegation to the Saudi capital Riyadh to take part in a conference hosted by the U.N. World Tourism Organization.

Both visits were clearly linked to the recent American efforts to normalize ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Al-Sudairi's visit was widely seen as an attempt by the kingdom to address the key sticking point in the Saudi-Israeli normalization deal: Saudi Arabia's stance toward Palestinians.

The Saudi government has said it will only normalize ties with Israel if there is major a Palestinian state. Before presenting his credentials to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, al-Sudairi sought to assure the Palestinians that Saudi Arabia was "working to establish a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital," without elaborating.

ing to) Nagorno-Karabakh."

Nebenzia and virtually all Security Council members including the United States reiterated support for a two-state solution where Israel and Palestine live side-by-side in peace. US Ambassador Linda

Thomas-Greenfield expressed continuing US support for efforts to normalize relations between Israel, its neighbors and other countries in the region.

ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ

'Apple leverages idea of switching to Bing to pry more money out of Google'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Apple was never serious about replacing Google with Microsoft's Bing as the default search engine in Macs and iPhones, but kept the possibility open as a "bargaining chip' to extract bigger payments from Google, a Microsoft executive testified Wednesday in the biggest U.S. antitrust trial in a quarter century.

"It is no secret that Apple is making more money on Bing existing than Bing does,' Mikhail Parakhin, Microsoft's chief of advertising and web services, said in U.S. District Court in Washington. The comment drew a laugh from the courtroom. Parakhin was describing Microsoft's years of futility trying to supplant Google on Apple

Analysts estimate Apple collects USD 15 billion to USD 20 billion a year in revenue-sharing payments from Google in return for giving its search engine the coveted default slot on Apple's

devices. The revenue is generated when users click on advertisements in search results.

The US Department of Justice accuses Google of using similar agreements to lock out rival search engines such as Bing and Yahoo, stifling innovation. The trial began Sept. 12 and is expected to continue into November.

Another witness, the founder of startup Branch Metrics, testified that Google's exclusive contracts with phone companies and equipment manufacturers sabotaged his company's attempts to market a search engine for apps on smartphones. Alexander Austin said his Palo Alto, California-based company was forced to scale back what its product could do to avoid running afoul of Google's agreements with companies like Samsung and Verizon that make Google's search engine the default choice on digital devices. Branch Metrics had hoped to do

for smartphone apps what

Google had done for searching

the internet — and to collect advertising revenue when users clicked on apps such as

"We had very high hopes and good feedback from advertisers, he said. But Branch Metrics' poten-

tial partners worried that the app search product, called Discovery, would violate their lucrative agreements with Google. Branch Metrics had to limit the app results and to avoid links to the internet. The result was that it could not monetize its app search "It felt like there was injus-

tice being done that a product like this could not see the light of day," Austin said.

Google lawyer Ken Smurzynski, questionng Parakhin earlier, sought to knock down one of the government's key arguments: that Google's existing market dominance allows it to collect massive amounts of user data to improve search results and widen its lead over competitors.

'Most Pakistanis fly to **Saudi on Umrah visas** only to indulge in begging'

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistani beggars travel to the Middle East under the guise of pilgrimage and indulge in beggingrelated activities, leading to complaints of prison overcrowding in countries like Saudi Arabia, an official has told lawmakers. "Pakistani beggars travel to the Middle East under the guise of ziarat (pilgrimage). Most people visit Saudi Arabia on Umrah visas and then indulge in begging-related activities," Secretary Overseas Pakistanis, Zeeshan Khanzada told a meeting of the Senate's standing committee for Overseas Pakistanis on Wednesday.

A majority of the pickpockets arrested from within Makkah's grand mosque are Pakistani nationals, daily The

International News quoted Khanzada as saying.
Pakistan is facing an unprecedented economic crisis with skyrocketing inflation

amid price rise on fuel and food fronts.

"Ambassadors of Iraq and Saudi Arabia complain to us that their prison facilities have been overrun (due to Pakistani beggars that enter the country via unauthorised channels), Khanzada was quoted as say-

"This issue now befalls within the category of human trafficking," he added. There are 1.6 million and

2,00,000 Pakistanis residing in the UAE and Qatar respectively, the official said. "People are ready to pay (as

much as) Rs 5 million to go abroad in search of jobs," he The media report further

quoted Rana Mahmoodul Hassan Kakar, who was the chair, as saying that only 200 Pakistanis travelled to Japan after the island country had floated a requirement of 3,40,000 skilled people.



ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਕੈਂਪਸ ਵਿਖੇ ਵਹੀਕਲ ਸਟੈਂਡ (ਮੇਨ ਗੇਟ ਅਤੇ ਬੈਕ ਸਾਈਡ ਗੇਟ) ਦੀ ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਬਿਨੈ-ਪੱਤਰ ਮਿਤੀ 16-10-2023 ਤੱਕ ਮੰਗੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਅਲਾਟਮੈਂਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਵੇਰਵਾ, Term & Conditions ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ

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LOST AND FOUND

This is to inform public at large that Relinquishment Deed dated 16-12-2021 was executed by SMT. ARTI JAIN (DAUGHTER), SMT. POOJA JAIN (DAUGHTER) & SMT. PARVESH BHANDARI (WIFE) in favor of SH. DEEPAK BHANDARI, for relinquishing all their share of their father/husband (LT. SH. BHUSHAN BHANDARI), in Residential Unit No. C-2301, Tower 3(C), admeasuring area of 929.03 square meter (equivalent to 10000 square feet), on the Twenty Third Floor of Tower No. 3 (C) together with Three covered car parking space(s) in the residential scheme known as "Provence Estate", situated in Village Gwal Pahari, Sector-02, Tehsil Wazirabad, District Gurugram, Haryana, Duly Registered at SR-WAZIRABAD, Vide Registration no.13905, dated 16/12/2021. This relinquishment deed was part of the chain documents of

Residential Unit No. C-2301 sale deed between Mr. Deepak Bhandari & M/s. We Serve Prop Management LLP (Sellers) AND Mr. Mohd. Abdullah Masood & Mr. Kunal Seth (Buyers) The aforesaid relinquishment deed got lost in transit and to ensure no misuse can be done of the aforesaid deed, the undersigned has lodged F.I.R vide Complaint No. 923336/2023 dated 22.09.2023 with E- Portal of P.S. Crime branch, Delhi, stating that the aforesaid deed has been lost. The public at large is advised that if they found they should return or have any interest, they may lodge their claim within 15 days from date given of this publication to "Mr. Rajiv Khurana, A-2/3, F.F., Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi-110029".

On behalf of Mr. Mohd. Abdullah Masood & Mr. Kunal Seth

Sensex, Nifty plunge nearly 1 per cent

On weak global cues; RIL, Infosys weigh

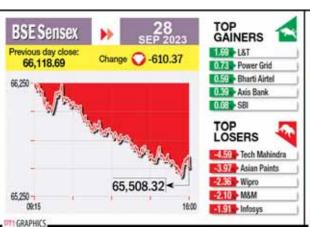
PTI MUMBAI

quity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell by nearly 1 per cent on Thursday due to unabated foreign capital outflows amid a largely negative trend in global markets.

Besides, heavy selling pressure in index major Reliance Industries, Infosys and ITC also dented market sentiments, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 610.37 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 65,508.32. During the day, it plunged 695.3 points or 1.05 per cent to 65,423.39. The Nifty declined 192.90 points or 0.98 per cent to end at 19,523.55.

The selling was broadbased, as investors are on alert given the rise of oil prices. If crude continues to stay above the USD 90 level, it will be a threat to inflation and boil the operational margins. Currently, the combination of higher interest rates and US bond yields are influencing FIIs to stay in the selling mode," said Vinod Nair,



Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Tech Mahindra was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, slipping 4.59 per cent, followed by Asian Paints, Wipro, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, ITC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries and JSW Steel.

In contrast, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid and Axis Bank were among the gainers. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 1.19 per cent and smallcap index fell 0.34 per cent.

"The prevailing weakness in heavyweights across sectors combined with feeble global

cues is weighing on the senti-ment," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. Among the indices, IT declined 1.84 per cent, FMCG fell 1.74 per cent, teck (1.49 per cent), consumer durables (1.29 per cent), auto (1.24 per cent), commodities (1.21 per cent),

> vices (0.89 per cent). Telecommunication and capital goods were the gainers. "World stocks were on track

> consumer discretionary (1.15

per cent), metal (1.05 per cent),

realty (0.98 per cent) and ser-

for their longest losing streak in two years on Thursday as the sight of oil prices heading for USD 100 a barrel compounded concerns about persistently high global interest rates while persistent fears of higher US interest rates and concerns over China's beleaguered property market

Change -192.90

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities. In Asian markets, Shanghai ended in the green while Tokyo and Hong Kong settled lower. Trading was closed in South Korea for a holiday.

also dented sentiments," said

19,716.45

European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.38 per cent to USD 96.18 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs

354.35 crore on Wednesday according to exchange data.

TOP GAINERS

0.70 Power Grid

0.59 Bharti Airtel

1.52 L&T

0.11 ONGC

TOP LOSERS

Tech Mahindra

"The selling was broad based, as investors are on alert given the rise of oil prices. If crude continues to stay above the USD 90 level, it will be a threat to inflation and boil the operational margins. Currently, the combination of higher interest rates and US bond yields are influencing FIIs to stay in the selling mode," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

The BSE benchmark had climbed 173.22 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 66,118.69 on Wednesday. The Nifty gained 51.75 points or 0.26 per cent to end at 19,716,45.

Net claims of non-residents on India rise to \$379.7 billion in June quarter: RBI

Variation in the exchange

rate of rupee vis-a-vis other

currencies impacted the change

in liabilities, when valued in the

US dollar terms, the RBI data

The RBI further said the ratio of India's international

assets to international liabilities

moderated to 70.9 per cent in

June from 71.1 per cent a quar-

ter earlier and 71.5 per cent a

year ago. Debt and non-debt lia-

bilities accounted for nearly

equal share in total external lia-

bilities during the quarter. Sebi penalises YES Securi-

ties for wrong reporting of mar-

Capital markets regulator Sebi

has imposed a penalty of Rs 5

lakh on YES Securities (India)

Ltd for wrong reporting of mar-

gin and discrepancy in the com-

putation of client's net worth.

It has been directed to pay

New Delhi, Sep 28 (PTI)

gin, other discrepancies

Net claims of non-residents on India increased USD 12.1 billion to USD 379.7 billion in the June quarter on account of higher rise in foreign-owned financial assets, according to RBI data released on Thursday.

Increase in reserve assets, at USD 16.6 billion, was the largest contributor to the rise in Indian residents' foreign assets during the April-June period, followed by direct investment, loans and trade credit, as per the data on India's international investment position' for June-end.

The rise in net claims of non-residents during the quarter was on account of higher rise in foreign-owned financial assets in India (USD 36.2 billion) when compared with Indian residents' overseas financial assets (USD 24.1 billion)," the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

"Inward portfolio investment (USD 15 billion) and foreign direct investment (USD 8.9 billion) together accounted for two-thirds of the rise in foreign liabilities of Indian residents," it

As per the data, reserve assets accounted for 64.2 per cent of India's international financial assets at the end of the June quarter.

the fine within 45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its order.

The order came after Sebi jointly with the Stock exchanges NSE, BSE and MCX — conducted inspection of documents and other records of YES Securities (India) Ltd to verify the possible violation of stock brokers' rule.

In its order, Sebi found several violations, including wrong reporting of margin and discrepancy in reporting of net worth of clients by YES Securities, during July 2021 to March 2022.

The regulator said the brokerage house sent the retention statements after the prescribed time of five days and also mailed the statements of accounts to wrong email addresses.

Further, it was found that the brokerage house had projected a wrong reporting margin of Rs 2,083. In addition, the regulator noted lapses on the part of YES Securities for not having maintained adequate margin

for the client. 'There was a discrepancy in the computation of net worth submitted by the noticee (YES Securities) to the exchange... The noticee had overstated the net worth to an extent of Rs 1,89,45,070.32," Sebi said in its order on Wednesday.

RUPEE VS DOLLAR

ONGC inks pact with NTPC Green for renewable energy projects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed an initial agreement with NTPC Green Energy Ltd to explore setting up green hydrogen and offshore wind projects.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) "will primarily explore the feasibility and setting up of renewable energy projects in various domains," ONGC said in a state-

The MoU was signed by ONGC executive director Debdulal Adhikari and NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) CEO of ONGC chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh and NTPC chairman and managing director Gurdeep Singh. "The MoU envisages collab-

oration of the two mega entities in renewable power projects in India and overseas through offshore wind projects and exploring opportunities in the storage e-mobility, carbon credits and green credits, nuclear, green hydrogen business and its derivatives (green ammonia and green methanol)," it said.

ONGC is India's largest crude oil and natural gas producer while NGEL is a subsidiary of the country's largest power utility NTPC.

"Exploring and setting up renewable power assets in India and overseas, ONGC inked a trailblazing MoU with NTPC Green Energy Limited on September 27, 2023.

"Over a period of three years, the MoU will primarily explore the feasibility and setting up of offshore wind projects, green hydrogen and pumped/ energy storage projects," ONGC said in a separate post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

'Show-cause notices to e-gaming firms as per legal provisions'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

E-gaming companies have been issued show cause notices for alleged GST evasion as per legal provisions, the head of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Sanjay Kumar Agarwal said on Thursday, adding that the tax demanded is based on analysis

He also said that the government is fully prepared to implement from October 1 the amended provisions for levying a 28 per cent tax on online gaming, casinos and horse racing along with mandatory registration of offshore online gaming

In its meetings in July and August, the GST Council had approved amendments in law to include online gaming, casinos and horse racing as taxable actionable claims, and clarified that such supplies would attract 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on full bet value. Parliament last month pass

ed amendments to the Central GST and Integrated GST laws to give effect to the Council's deci-Since then, online gaming companies like Dream11 and

casino operator Delta Corp have received show cause notices from taxmen for non-payment of GST at 28 per cent on the full face value of bets placed on their platform. "The show cause notice which is going is as per legal provision... The department is tak-

ing a uniform stand in the interpretation of the law and accordingly show cause notices are being issued," Agarwal told reporters here. Asked about the quantum of said, "It is very difficult for me to say there are many companies. Data is being collected and wherever the data is received, the department has issued show cause notice"

While maintaining that online gaming, casinos and horse racing was subject to 28 per cent tax since the inception of GST, the GST Council had

decided that the amended provision to classify these supplies as actionable claims and clarifying the taxation provisions would come into effect from October 1. A review of the implementation was proposed to be carried out after six

months, which is April 2024. Even though the amendments in CGST and IGST laws

have been passed by Parliament, the finance ministry is yet to notify the appointed date for implementation of these clarificatory amendments. Also, some states are yet to pass amendments in their state GST laws.

About a dozen states have passed the amendments in their assemblies, while a similar number of states are understood to have brought in an ordinance to pave the way for implementation of the changes from October 1.

We are fully prepared to bring it (amended provision of online gaming) into effect from October 1. As per the decision taken in the last meeting of the GST council, the related notifications are under process. It is necessary for all states to pass the law or come out with an ordinance... By September 30," the CBIC chief said.

Further, Agarwal said that the GST Council in its last meeting had decided that the clarificatory amendments in GST laws with regard to online gaming would be implemented from October 1.

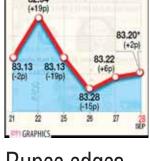
"If there is a requirement (for notification), it will be fulfilled," Agarwal added.

The show cause notice slapped on Delta Corp last week was for alleged short payment of taxes worth Rs 16,800 crore.

In September last year, a similar show cause notice was served to online gaming company Gameskraft for recovery of Rs 21,000 crore GST. The company had approached the Karna-taka High Court which had quashed the show cause notice.

Following this, the revenue department in July filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court on the Karnataka High Court ruling in the Gameskraft case. The next date of hearing is listed for October 10.

Gold declines



Rupee edges up 2 paise to 83.20 against \$

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee edged up 2 paise to settle at 83.20 (provisional) against the US currency in a restricted trade on Thursday aided by a correction in crude oil prices and the greenback.

Foreign fund outflows and losses in local equities, however, restricted the rupee's gains, forex dealers said.

The rupee opened flat at 83.22 against the US dollar and later moved in a range of 83.25

The local unit settled at 83.20 against the US dollar, up

by 2 paise over the previous close. The rupee had closed at 83.22 on Wednesday after a listless trade. Meanwhile, the dollar index,

which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined by 0.27 per cent to 106.38 after touching a nearly 10-month high of 106.84 in oversight trade

in overnight trade. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, also retreated 0.57 per cent to USD 96 per barrel. Analysts said the combination of higher interest rates and US

On the domestic equity front, the 30-share BSE Sensex

fell 610.37 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 65,508.32. The broader Nifty declined 192.90 points according to exchange data.

Credit growth may moderate to 13-13.5 per cent this fiscal: Report

taxes that are due from these e-

gaming companies, Agarwal

PTI MUMBAI

The credit growth is likely to moderate to 13-13.5 per cent this fiscal but will improve slightly to 13.5-14 per cent next financial year as the economic pace picks up, according to a report.

The biggest factor driving the moderation is low demand in wholesale credit, which constitutes as much as 60 per cent of the overall credit. Wholesale credit is seen slowing to 11-11.5 per cent this fiscal from a decadal high of 15 per cent in 2022-23, Crisil Ratings said in a report on A key monitorable, which will determine

credit growth going forward, is the extent to which deposit growth picks up for banks, Crisil Ratings

The retail credit demand will continue to go up in this fiscal but corporate credit demand is lagging, which is likely to pick up in the next fiscal on capex revival, the report noted.

In absolute terms, overall bank credit stood at Rs 148 lakh crore in FY23, clipping at 15.9 per cent year-on-year, and this is likely to grow to Rs 168 lakh crore or 13-13.5 per cent this fiscal and further grow to Rs 191 lakh crore or 13.5-14 per cent in the next, it added.

According to the agency, the credit demand moderation this fiscal will be because of the following four key reasons — gross domestic product growth is expected to fall to 6 per cent this fiscal from 7.2 per cent last fiscal, which will impact the overall credit growth.

Secondly, the easing of inflation with some



softening in commodity prices. A significant part of the growth in wholesale credit (comprising corporates and micro, small and medium enterprises) last fiscal was driven by higher working capital demand in a high-inflation environment. Going forward, inflation levels are expected to be lower than the last fiscal.

Thirdly, robust bond issuances in the first half of this fiscal with the changes in interest rates have seen a substitution of bank credit with debt capital, which also supported wholesale credit growth last year, especially in the first half. But this is not seen to the same extent this year.

Finally, given the strong growth in fiscal 2023, pecially in the second half, the high-base effect will also be a factor, said the agency.

The retail credit, which is 28 per cent of overall credit, is expected to continue to grow at a healthy rate of 19-20 per cent, similar to last fis-

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

apanese auto major Toyota is looking to set up a third man-

ufacturing plant in India with its

two facilities in the country

running at almost full capacity,

according to industry sources.

between Toyota Motor Com-

pany and Kirloskar Group, cur-

rently operates two plants in the

country with a total production

capacity of around 3.42 lakh

units per annum. With enhanced demand leading to

long waiting periods on certain

products, the automaker is now

looking to set up a third plant in

the country, sources said. However, details about the

production capacity, location

and investment in the new plant

Bengaluru-based Toyota Kirloskar Motor, a joint venture

Massive write-offs and low recovery ails the banking sector: Amit

Principal chief advisor to West Bengal chief minister Amit Mitra said on Thursday that massive write-offs in the last nine years and low recovery is presently ailing the banking sector of the country.

Speaking at a CII banking session here, Mitra said that in

the last nine years from 2014-2023, Rs 14.56 lakh crore has been written off from the books of the banks

During 2021-22, the written-off amount was Rs 1.75 lakh crore, and subsequently Rs 2.09 lakh crore in the succeeding fiscal.

Mitra, also the former finance minister of the West Bengal government, said that union minister of state for finance Bhagwat Karad had informed Parliament that out of the total written-off amount of Rs 14.56 lakh crore, Rs 7.40 lakh crore are for large industry and services segments.
He said, however, the recov-



ery had been low to the tune of Rs 2.04 lakh crore out of Rs 14.56 lakh crore, which means more than Rs 12 lakh crore is yet to be recovered.

According to him, the amount of write-offs in the preceding last nine years (2005-2014) was Rs 2.20 lakh crore.

"Even if this write-off amount of Rs 2.20 lakh crore is indexed to inflation, the increase in subsequent write-offs is very large", he said.

Regarding wilful defaulters, he said that the top 50 in this list owes Rs 87,295 crore to scheduled banks as on March

Toyota looking to set up third manufacturing plant in India

₹650; silver tumbles ₹1.000 PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he prices of gold tumbled Rs}}_{650 \text{ to Rs}} \, 58,\!950 \,\,\text{per} \,\, 10$ grams in the national capital on Thursday amid decline in the precious metal's prices in the overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had settled at Rs 59,600 per 10 grams. Silver also nosedived Rs

1,000 to Rs 73,100 per kg. Comex gold hit a six-month

low as an uptick in the US dollar and treasury yields weighed on the precious metal, Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, gold and silver were trading lower at USD 1,877 per ounce and USD 22.55 per ounce, respectively.

Market focus now turns to the revised US GDP growth rate for the second quarter and weekly jobless claims due later in the day, Navneet Damani, senior vice-president of commodity research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

bond yields are influencing FIIs to stay in the selling mode in Indian capital markets, which is weighing on the local currency

or 0.98 per cent to end at 19,523.55. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Wednesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 354.35 crore,

demand for its models this year.

In the January-August period, its sales grew by 34 per cent

SBI to encourage corporates to implement emission reduction tech

PTI ■ KOLKATA

State Bank of India, the country's largest lender will encourage corporates to implement emission reduction technologies and get better terms for availing finance, an official of the bank said on Thursday.

Ashwini Kumar Tewari, the managing director (risk, compliance and stressed assets resolution group), SBI, said that the bank will see how it can help corporates in this regard but at the moment does not ask them of their plans for net zero.

At present SBI gives 25 basis points concession on interest rates for electric vehicles. At a later stage, corporates with a



and corporate governance) score will get better terms for getting

finance from it, he said.
"We don't ask for net zero plan from the companies now. Ultimately, we will go to it. We will start conversation with the corporates and that process will start," he said at the sidelines of the banking conclave organised by CII here 'Net zero' emissions refer to

the acheiving of an overall balance between greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced and GHG emissions taken out of the

Earlier speaking at the con-clave, Tewari said that banks still remain a major source of funding for the country though The banking industry is

facing competition with the rowth of the equity market and

"The banking sector needs to be shepherded. Unlike the NBFCs which can reach the last mile, banks have high cost of operations", he said.

could not be immediately ascertained. When contacted, a TKM spokesperson said: "We would like to refrain from commenting on speculations and future

In May this year, the company initiated a third shift at its Bidadi-based plant near Benga-luru to enhance production capacity by about 30 per cent as it looked to cut down waiting periods on some of its models.

crore to upgrade the existing infrastructure at the facility and added about 1,500 workforce for the third shift at the plant.

The automaker has two facilities within the Bidadi compound, which roll out different sets of products. TKM's Plant 1 commenced

production in December 1999

TKM invested over Rs 90 and currently rolls out Innova Hycross, Innova Crysta, Fortu-

ner, and Legender. It has an installed production capacity

Hyryder and Hilux.

models like Glanza and Rumion which are sourced from Maruti of 1.32 lakh units per annum. The second plant at the Suzuki India as part of a global same site, with an installed production capacity of 2.10 lakh units, rolls out products like Camry Hybrid, Urban Cruiser collaboration between Suzuki and Toyota. It also imports Vellfire and LC 300 as completely built up units (CBU). TKM



The company also sells

has seen a robust increase in

to 1,47,192 units from 1,09,669 units in the same period of last year. With an increase in bookings, the waiting period for some of the company's products has crossed the one-year mark. On September 23, the

automaker announced to temporarily halt bookings of the E-CNG option of Rumion MPV to avoid customer inconvenience due to the long waiting period.

In April this year, TKM temporarily halted bookings of top trims of its multi-purpose vehicle Innova Hycross owing to supply challenges. Last year, it stopped taking orders for the diesel variant of Innova Crysta due to high demand and an increased waiting period.

MAN CITY OUT OF LEAGUE CUP

AP ■ NEWCASTLE

anchester City crashed out of the League Cup with a 1-0 defeat at Newcastle on Wednesday as Arsenal, Chelsea and Liverpool booked their places in the last 16.

Alexander Isak scored the only goal at St. James' Park in a clash between two muchchanged sides.

City won the treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup last season, but any dream of surpassing that feat with an unprecedented quadruple was swiftly brought to

Erling Haaland was left on the bench by City coach Pep Guardiola for the full 90 minutes and his presence was missed in a toothless display.

Eddie Howe also rang the changes from an 8-0 thrashing of Sheffield United at the week-

But it was not until the Newcastle boss introduced Anthony Gordon and Bruno Guimaraes at half-time that the hosts took control

Isak had the simple task of slotting home at the far post after a burst from Joelinton opened up the City defence.

"A win like this can elevate us," said Howe.

"First-half we tried to rotate the squad and keep our players fresh. Second-half we were better for sure, but when you bring on players like Anthony Gordon and Bruno, they're high level

Newcastle's reward is a fourth-round trip to Manchester United in a repeat of last season's

CHELSEA BOUNCE BACK

Chelsea prevented the crisis at Stamford Bridge deepening as Nicolas Jackson's goal beat Brighton 1-0.

The Senegalese's wastefulness in front of goal has been partly to blame for the Blues' return of one win in their opening six Premier League games under Mauricio Pochettino.

But Jackson coolly slotted home from the impressive Cole Palmer's pass on 50 minutes.

Chelsea will face Blackburn in the last 16.

Arsenal were also 1-0 winners at Brentford as Aaron Ramsdale responded to being controversially dropped by Mikel Arteta.

Reiss Nelson's eighthminute goal separated the sides despite a Brentford onslaught after the break.

Arteta has preferred David Raya to Ramsdale in goal for the past three games.

But the England international was needed for the Gunners to progress as he produced a brilliant stop to deny Yoane Wissa an equaliser. Arsenal will travel to West

Ham in the next round after the



Hammers were 1-0 winners at third-tier Lincoln.

Liverpool trailed to Championship leaders Leicester after just three minutes before fighting back to win 3-1. Kasey McAteer rounded off

a rapid counter-attack to give the

Foxes a flying start.

Jurgen Klopp's men laid seige to the visitors' goal but were made to wait until after the break to draw level.

The equaliser was made in the Netherlands as Ryan Gravenberch set up Cody Gakpo to find the far corner.

Klopp then turned to his bench to find a winner and found it through a stunning strike from Dominik Szoboszlai.

The Hungarian captain took aim from outside the box and smashed the ball into the top corner 20 minutes from time.

"Dom was a surprise with how fast he has fitted in, it was pretty much from the first minute," said Klopp on Szoboszlai's fast start to his Liverpool career.

"Top-class player with a lot of quality. He never stops."
Diogo Jota's backheel in off the far post then made the tie

Klopp's men will travel to

Bournemouth in round four. Everton built on their first Premier League win of the season at Brentford on Saturday with an impressive 2-1 victory at

Inter Milan crashed to their first defeat of the Serie A season on Wednesday, going down 2-1 at home to Sassuolo as controversial striker Victor Osimhen starred for Napoli despite an apparent rift with the champions.

Inter went into the game with a perfect record of five wins in five and looked in control at 1-0 ahead thanks to a Denzel Dumfries goal on the stroke of half-time at the San Sassuolo levelled in the

54th minute when Nedim Bajrami scored with a longrange effort which caught out goalkeeper Yann Sommer. Domenico Berardi hit the

winner 10 minutes later as Sassuolo claimed all three points to follow up last week's win over Juventus. Inter remain top of the

of AC Milan who earlier defeated Cagliari 3-1.

"After a good first period where we should have scored more than one goal, but we lost our focus especially after the equaliser," said Inter coach Simone Inzaghi.

"Losing in front of our home crowd hurts us, we have to understand what happened, even if the schedule, with our next match on Saturday, doesn't really give us time to take a step back."

Âfter a defeat and two draws, champions Napoli returned to winning ways with Osimhen playing a starring role in a 4-1 win over

The Nigerian striker scored his fourth goal of the season after 39 minutes with



Khvicha Kvaratskhelia ending a long goal drought by finding the net in the second half.

Osimhen, top scorer in Serie A last season, had cut a controversial figure at the weekend when he showed his displeasure at being taken off by coach Rudy Garcia in the 0-0 draw with Bologna.

On Tuesday, his agent threatened Napoli with legal action for having published a video on the club's TikTok account, since deleted, mocking the striker for missing a penalty in that game.

Osimhen removed photos of himself in Napoli colours from his own social media, fuelling speculation that he will demand a move in the

next transfer window. "I have a very good relationship with Victor," insisted Garcia.

"I am happy for him because he scored tonight. After the match in Bologna, we were all frustrated, angry, Victor in particular, because he missed the penalty.

"On the sporting aspect and on other levels, especially on TikTok, there have been a lot of things to manage in recent days," smiled Garcia.

But I can assure you that Victor loves this jersey and that he is invested in 100% in our project.

Napoli are now fifth in the table with 11 points, four points behind the two Milan

Inter crash to first defeat | Real beat Las Palmas but Girona move top of La Liga

Real Madrid eased to a 2-0 win over Las Palmas on Wednesday to overtake Barcelona and move second, but Catalan minnows Girona are the surprise La Liga leaders after after a 2-1 win at Barcelona started the week top of the

league but a 2-2 draw at Real Mallorca on Tuesday left the door open for their rivals to overtake them. Madrid produced a comfortable victory with goals from Brahim Diaz and

Joselu, while Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior also made his return from injury as a second half substitute, following a Real coach Carlo Ancelotti rested

Jude Bellingham, who has been Madrid's

best player so far, starting Diaz in attacking midfield in the England international's stead. The Italian coach also swapped out both full-backs after the painful derby defeat by Atletico Madrid on Sunday,

with Ferland Mendy and Nacho starting in place of Fran Garcia and Lucas Real Madrid were on the front foot from the start against their promoted visitors from the Canary Islands, but lacked the killer finishing touch that Karim

Vazquez replaced the injured David Alaba and the substitute played a part in the opening goal.

Bellingham has in recent weeks.

Benzema brought in recent years, and

Valles stopped another Joselu drive before Diaz broke the deadlock, taking



a touch to control Vazquez's cross and then firing into the top corner with the aid of a slight deflection. Joselu made amends for his first half

profligacy to pounce early in the second with a well-placed header from Rodrygo's cross that this time left Valles no chance. Vinicius made his return with over half an hour remaining as Ancelotti

reverted to a 4-3-3 system, having begun with the midfield diamond he has favoured this season. Aurelien Tchouameni came close

with a long-range effort and Madrid saw out the game without incident to move one point ahead of Barcelona.

Michel's Girona came from behind to beat Villarreal, with on-loan Barcelona defender Eric Garcia netting the winner.

Ramkumar-Myneni pair one win away from gold

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The Indian tennis camp had something to cheer on Thursday with Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni reaching the men's doubles gold medal round and the mixed doubles pair of Rohan Bopanna and

Rutuja Bhosale assuring itself of a medal. The second-seeded team of Ramkumar and Myneni downed the gutsy Korean pair of Seongchan Hong and Soonwoo Kwon 6-1, 6-7(8), 10-0 to move to the title clash.

Myneni will now gun for his second Asian Games gold, having won a mixed doubles yellow metal with Sania Mirza in the 2014 edition

It will be a maiden Games medal for Ramkumar.

The Koreans fought back after losing the opening set in a rather sedate manner but Myneni and Ramkumar held their nerves to outplay their rivals in the Super



The Indian team will now take on Chinese Taipei, that ousted Thailand, in the gold medal match on Friday.

India had won the men's doubles title in the last edition in Indonesia with Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan emerging victorious in the final.

The second-seeded Bopanna-Bhosale pair moved to the mixed doubles semifinals with a fluent 7-5, 6-3 win over Kazakhstan's Zhibek Kulambayeva and Grigoriy Lomakin.

The first set seemed going into a tiebreak as Kulambayeva was serving at 40-0 in the 12th game but she lost her serve from that strong position.

There was hardly any fight in the sec-Bopanna, who is playing his last

Asian Games at 43, will not go without a He has already been ousted from the

men's doubles with partner Yuki Bhambri.

Lingard training with **AI Ettifaq**

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Cormer Manchester United ▲ 'player Jesse Lingard could be the next Premier League star to join the Saudi Arabian league.

The England international, who is a free agent, is training with Saudi club Al-Ettifaq after leaving Nottingham Forest at the end of the last season.

Al-Ettifaq is coached by Liverpool great Steven Gerrard and signed England midfielder Jordan Henderson in the off-season. "I've watched him for many years, so I'm aware of the talent,' Gerrard told Al Arabiya's sports program FilMarma.

Miami fall short without Messi

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE

The Houston Dynamo defeated Inter Miami 2-1 to win the US Open Cup on Wednesday with an injured Lionel Messi watching from the stands at DRV PNK Stadium.

Without Messi and his former Barcelona team-mate Jordi Alba, Miami struggled to compete with an enterprising Houston and could have little to complain about the out-

Miami co-owner David Beckham, who watched the game with his former Real Madrid team-mate Zinedine Zidane, had hoped for another night of celebration after the team's Leagues Cup triumph last month.

But Miami lacked intensity and ideas as they were given the runaround by Ben Olsen's impressive Houston

No clear explanation has been given for Messi's injury



with references to "muscle fatigue" followed by talk from coach Gerardo Martino of 'scars" from an old injury.

With no Messi to worry about, Houston were on top from the outset, moving the ball around with confidence and purpose while Miami

struggled to get a foothold. Houston grabbed the lead in the 24th minute with a perfect counter-attack ending with Brazilian Artur feeding the overlapping Griffin Dorsey who blasted in at the near post. Houston were utterly

dominant, passing the ball with a swiftness that left Miami chasing shadows and it wasn't long before they had doubled their advantage. Colombian winger Quinones cut into the box from the left flank and Miami right-back DeAndre Yedlin's

desperate lunge brought him

crashing to the ground. French

forward Amine Bassi made no

mistake from the spot to make

Men's & women's squash teams assure India of medals

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Indian men's and women's teams assured themselves of medals at the Asian Games after progressing to the semifinals of the squash events here on Thursdav.

While the men's team blanked Nepal 3-0 in its final pool tie, the women were handed a 0-3 loss by Malaysia in their last pool B fixture.

Both teams sealed top two spots in their respective pools to make the semifinals which guarantees them at least a bronze. The Indian women's team began the day with veteran Joshna Chinappa enduring a 6-11, 2-11, 8-11 defeat to Subramaniam Sivasangari in 21

In the second match, Tanvi Khanna squandered a 2-1 lead before going down to Commonwealth Games gold medallist Aifa Binti Azman 9-11, 11-1, 7-11, 13-11, 11-5.

Manika, Sharath, Sathiyan storm into last 16

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Star Indian paddlers Manika Batra, Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyan dominated their opponents en route their pre-quarterfinals entry in the table tennis competition at the Asian Games here on Thursday.

Sharath, a team bronze winner in 2018 Asian Games, never gave a chance to Mohammed Shaffan Ismail, his opponent from Maldives before winning 11-9, 11-2, 11-7, 11-7. Sathiyan, who had won a

bronze medal in the team event in Jakarta Games 2018, too was equally overwhelming against Turki Lafi Almutairi of Saudi Arabia while registering a 11-5, 11-6, 11-9, 11-2 victory.

Manika, a 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist and a bronze winner in mixed doubles at the Jakarta Asian Games, blanked Nabita Shresthta of Nepal 4-0 (11-5, 11-4, 11-3, 11-2) in just 20 minutes to set up a clash with Thailand's



Suthasini Sawettabut.

However, Sreeja Akula faced a humiliating defeat to North Korea's Songgyong Pyon 0-4 (6-11, 4-11, 13-15, 9-11) to bow out of the competition.

India fared better in the women's doubles. Sreeja and Diya Chitale defeated Vietnam's Ngoc Tran Mai and Nga Nguyen Thi 3-0 (11-8, 15-13, 11-6).

Sutirtha Mukherjee teamed up with Ayhika Mukherjee to seal their place in the pre-quarters after defeating Kazakhstan 3-0. Sutirtha and Ayhika moved past Anastassiya Lavrova and In the men's doubles, Indian

duo of Manav Vikash Thakkar and Manush Utpalbhai Shah defeated Mohamed Shaffan Ismail and Moosa Munsif Ahmed of the Maldives 3-1 (11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 11-2) to enter the round of 16.

Another Indian pair Sathiyan and Sharath outplayed Mangolian combination of Ser-Od Gankhuyag and Manlaijargal Munkh-Ochir 3-0 (11-5, 11-3, 11-3) in just 13 min-



Pakistan is a weaker team than India at this moment: Wagar

egendary pacer Waqar Younis rated Lindia a better side over Pakistan going into the World Cup while basing his observation on the better preparation of the Rohit Sharma-led team ahead of the quadrennial big bash.

India had recently won the Asia Cup and handed a massive 228-run defeat to their arch-rivals in a Super 4 match at

In the World Cup, India will face Pakistan on October 14 in Ahmedabad, and Younis said pressure will be there on both the outfits but said Men in Blue just could have an edge.

"As we all know, it (India vs Pakistan) will be the biggest game, mother of all the

you will have to control your nerves, and not only Pakistan will be under pressure since it is a weaker team as compared to India. "But India will also be under pressure because the crowd in the stadium will create pressure on both the teams, Younis told Star Sports.

"However, if we judge purely based on the team's performance, India definitely will be a better team," he added. Younis was also mindful of the Pakistani's unstable form, and said the injury-enforced absence of pacer Naseem Shah could put them in a significant disadvantage.

"If I talk about Pakistan, they are a miss and hit this time. The absence of Naseem Shah will be a big disadvantage because Naseem and Shaheen (Afridi)



Though Hasan Ali has been declared as his replacement; he has got a lot of experience and gave brilliant performances in the past, but I feel, to suddenly come and perform on this kind of big stage will not be an easy task for him," said

Analysing the Indian squad, Younis said the team has great spinners, while its

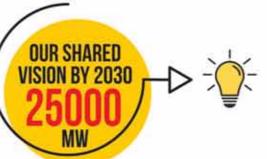
bench strength is equally potent.

"If we only talk about ticking the boxes then we will see no other team can match India right now because they have good spinners, who are playing right now in the starting XI such as Kuldeep, Jadeja. But they also have strong bench strength.'



Glorious Year of Success, **Growth & Achievements**





CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH AT 35[™] AGM OF SJVN



स्राप्त 2023 INDIA

Chairman & Managing Director

Dear Shareholders & Friends,

I consider it my privilege and honor to address our valued shareholders and present the Annual Report of the Company for the financial year 2022-23.

As I look back and recollect the achievements of the Company ever since I was entrusted with the task of leading this esteemed organization, I am filled with overwhelming feelings of pride and joy with the progress, performance, and position of the Company over the last few years. I also find myself optimistic and energized by the golden future that lies ahead.

Cruising ahead towards our cherished Shared Vision for achieving 5,000 MW by 2023-24, 25,000 MW by 2030 and 50,000 MW by 2040, your Company continues to expand, grow and diversify its Project Portfolio exponentially Pan India and

On completion of yet another exemplary year, the Audited Financial Statements of the company along with the Reports of the Auditors and Directors for the year 2022-23 are presented for your approval. Also, I take this opportunity to share with you the company's achievements and future plans

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2022-23

Keeping in mind the economic challenges being faced across the globe, it gives me great satisfaction and pride to announce that the company has achieved excellent results not just financially but also on operational as well as business expansion fronts.

Financial Year 2022-23 would be remembered as one of the most momentous year in the history of the Company as SJVN created numerous records and has achieved a number of significant milestones during this period. Our decisive actions, innovative measures, pro-active management and sustained efforts over the past few years have started yielding the visible results.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Our Power Stations are catalyst of our growth and have consistently delivered exceptional performance. This is the result of unparalleled efforts of our employees and best-inclass DGM practices that we have emerged as a record-setter in power generation year after year. They are the engines that propel our growth plans and generate revenues & profits which in turn sustain and mobilize other resources of the Company contributing towards the attainment of "24 X 7 Power for All" vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi.

Despite significantly low water discharge and below-normal wind flow during the financial year 2022-23, our Power Stations have been able to perform reasonably well. The Plant Availability Factor remained at an optimum level in all our operational Power Stations. Surpassing the total Design Energy of 8705 Million Units, our Power Stations generated 9335 Milli Units of energy which is Third Highest Generation ever achieved by the Company

Continuing the record-breaking spree, our Power Stations created many milestones and records during the year. Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station achieved the Highest ever PAF of 106.653%. Nathpa Jhakri and Rampur Hydro Power Stations have achieved the Highest ever Single Day Generation of 39.526 MU and 10.9082 MU respectively during the year. The total generation recorded from all operational Power Stations for September month of FY 2022-23 is 1338.5 MU which is the Highest ever Generation achieved in September month. Charanka SPS has achieved the Highest ever Yearly Generation of 8.75 MU. The total earning from Deviation Settlement Mechanism during the year is ₹43.63 crores, which is the Second Highest in the last 5 years. The total generation recorded from all operational Power Stations for the Q4 and Q3 of FY 2022-23 is 863 MU and 1407 MU respectively which is the Second Highest for

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Your Company has clocked the Highest ever Income from Operations of ₹2935.41 crores during the financial year 2022-23 which is an increase of ₹513.45 crores over the earnings of previous fiscal. The Total Revenue of the Company has touched a Record High of ₹3298.84 crores which is an increase of ₹673.30. crores compared to ₹2625.54 crores earned during the previous year. The standalone Profit After Tax (PAT) increased by ₹385.93 crores to ₹1363.45 crores against ₹977.52 crores for the previous year.

An Interim dividend of ₹1,15 per share was paid in the month of February 2023. In addition, your Board has recommended a Final. dividend of ₹0.62 per share. Thus, subject to your approval, a Total dividend of ₹1.77 per share is proposed to be paid for the financial year 2022-23.

Trade receivables during the FY 2022-23 is 35 days against the MOU target of 45 days which is the Best ever performance of the

Company till date. **BUSINESS EXPANSION**

From the Business Expansion perspective, Financial Year 2022-23 has cast its place as the Most Significant year in the History of the Company during which our Project Portfolio took a quantum leap and scaled astronomical heights.

Since the last annual report, 24 Projects aggregating 23,909 MW have been added to the portfolio of the company. This is the Highest Portfolio addition since the incorporation of the

The Project Portfolio of SJVN & its associate Companies now stands at an All-time High with 79 Projects aggregating 55814 MW & 3 Transmission lines totaling 340 Kms spread across 13 States and 2 countries of Indian sub-continent

The complete details of the Project Portfolio is provided in the Annual Report, hence I would only like to summarize for our shareholders that as on date:

- 2 Hydro Plants of 1912 MW & 5 Renewable Plants of 179.5 MW and 1 Transmission line of 86 km are Operational
- 5 Hydro Projects of 1618 MW, 1 Thermal Project of 1320 MW, 8 Renewable Projects of 1500 MW and 2 Transmission lines of 254 kms are under Construction
- 2 Hydro Projects of 713 MW and 10 Renewable Projects of 2478 MW are in the Pre-Construction stage;
- 16 Hydro Projects of 8231.9 MW, 1 Thermal Unit of 660 MW and 4 Renewable Projects of 505 MW are under Survey and Investigation

For the current financial year, projects of 1455 MW and a Transmission Line of 37 km are in pipeline for commission in the next three fiscals, annual revenue of more than ₹10,000 crores are expected to be generated from the operational Power

In addition, as a part of its long-term Corporate Strategy, SJVN and its associate Companies have entered into a series of Memorandums of Understanding with various Government and Non-Governmental agencies for allotment of the projects. Such Projects under Allotment include 10 Hydro Projects of 2507 MW 5 Renewable Projects of 21,000 MW and 10 Pumped Storage

It gives me great satisfaction to share with our shareholders that, the complete blue-print for accomplishing our Shared Vision of achieving 5,000 MW by 2023-24, 25,000 MW by 2030 and 50,000 MW by 2040 has been elaborately charted out. I take great pride in stating that my Vision for this Company which was once thought to be unrealistic by some skeptics is now being translated into a tangible reality. It is all due to the relentless efforts of my team of extremely competent people, unwavering faith and co-operation of my colleagues on the Board and trust of our Shareholders & Investors.

Displaying remarkable perseverance, the progress of our under-construction projects is on track despite some geographical and climatic challenges & surprises. The detailed status and progress of the Power Stations and Projects have been amply covered in the Directors' Report. Hence, I am only highlighting some noteworthy accomplishments.

In 2022-23, we were given the mammoth CAPEX target of ₹8000 crores which was the third highest amongst all the power CPSEs. However, it is a matter of great pride that your Company has not just attained but surpassed the assigned target with flying colors and has achieved Record CAPEX of ₹8,240 crores during the year.

75 MW Parasan SPP was commissioned on 22112022 and is under commercial operation. The installed capacity of the Company has been enhanced to 2091.5 MW (07 Power Stations). Hon'ble President of India has laid the foundation stone of 1000 MW Bikaner SPP on 83.01.2023. Investment approval for 382 MW Sunni Dam HEP was accorded by Government of India in January 2023 and award of major works (Civil & HM) was completed in the same month. Investment approval for pre-construction activities of 234 MW Purthi HEP & 456 MW Reoli Dugli HEP was accorded by Ministry of Power in December 2022. Financial closures of the 66 MW Dhaulasidh HEP, 70 MW Bagodara SPP and 1000 MW Bikaner SPP were achieved during the year. Company has also secured green finance of ₹915 crores from Japan Bank for International Cooperation to fund 90 MW Omkareshwar Floating SPP and 100 MW Raghanesda SPP

SJVN's advocacy for 'One Basin, One Developer' approach for Integrated River Basis Development for optimum utilization of resources has found widespread acceptance and support not only within the country but also internationally and is now part of hydro development policies of many State Governments & Government of India as well as Government of Nepal. In this sequence, MoU for 490 MW Arun-4 HEP was signed in the august presence of Hon'ble Prime Ministers of India and Nepal on 16th May 2022. Investment approval for pre-construction activities of Arun 4 HEP, Nepal has been accorded by Ministry of Power, Government of India in December 2022.

SJVN is re-writing the rules of the game by focusing on the completion of its projects without time & cost overruns. Riding on the strength of the dedicated team, we aspire to set the benchmark by completing the projects within scheduled timelines. We are cruising ahead and demonstrating our mettle & competitive edge in the domestic and international markets amongst the toughest of the competitors.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

SJVN has been selected as 4th Renewable Energy Implementing Agency in addition to SECI, NTPC and NHPC by Government of

The excellence and accomplishments of your Company and Management have been recognized and rewarded by different institutions at various forums. Some of the major awards

conferred upon the Company during the reporting period include - CBIP Award for Best Performing Utility in Hydro Power Sector, Achievement Award for creating Social Development and Impact and CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy at 14th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards, 2023; Greentech International Environment, Health & Safety Best Practices Award, 2023; Most Progressive Growth Oriented Company in the Midcap Category by Dalal Street Investment Journal for the year 2022; Greentech Award for Outstanding Achievements In Environment Protection; Gold Awards in 12th Exceed Environment, HR & CSR Awards, 2022 for Mobile Health Van services and for extensive efforts in the



RISK MANAGEMENT

It is a matter of pride for us that your Company has obtained ISO 31000:2018 certification for implementation of Risk Management System in November 2022 and it has become the First CPSE to implement ISO 31000:2018 for Risk Management System.

The Company has upgraded and implemented a robust Risk Management Framework as per ISO 31000:2018 comprising of elaborate Risk Management Policy, Plans and Procedures for Risk identification, assessment, mitigation, review, reporting, preventive actions & continuous improvement, training and awareness programmes etc.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SJVN has always been at the forefront of its role as a responsible corporate citizen and has been pioneering Corporate Social nsibility (CSR) activities for its stakeholders and society. SJVN has formulated and adopted a dynamic CSR & Sustainability Policy, which is in consonance with the Companies Act, 2013 and CSR guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India. Time to time, the policy is revisited to include revised government guidelines and provisions. Till now, the policy has been updated four times, latest being in December 2022.

During financial year 2022-23, the Company has spent a total amount of ₹59.84 crores on CSR activities which is ₹23.38 crores more than the statutory obligation of ₹36.46 crores. Since inception, SJVN has spent more than ₹340 crores on various CSR activities in the verticals of health & hygiene, education & skill development, women empowerment, infrastructure development, community development, promotion of culture, sustainable development, assistance during natural disasters, protection of heritage etc.

The particulars of our CSR initiatives & impact assessment thereof are detailed in the Annual Report.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Your company believes in the importance of developing a robust governance framework and embracing best governance practices. As a listed company, SJVN has been complying with the requirements of Corporate Governance under the SEBI LOOR Regulations and also Guidelines issued by Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India.

Your Company takes pride in its consistent record of achieving "Excellent" ratings every year ever since its listing, for Compliance with 'DPE Guidelines on Corporate Governance' under the 'Corporate Governance Grading System' prescribed by

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2023-24

We have embarked on a new financial year to take the Company to greater heights by drawing strength from cooperation of the stakeholders and commitment of the employees.

Due to abnormal climatic factors, company's flagship hydro Power Stations had to deal with exceptionally low water flows during FY 2023-24. Notwithstanding the conditions beyond our control, we have ensured the best plant availability which is in our hands. In the first quarter of the Financial Year 2023-24, our Power Stations have generated 2107 MU out of which, NJHPS generated 1564 MU, RHPS generated 442 MU and Renewable Power Stations have generated a total of 101 MU till 30th June A new all-time high record of 50.534 MU in Single-Day power

generation has been set by our two flagship hydro Power

Stations in Himachal Pradesh. 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro

Power Station has set a new record with 39.570 MU and 412 MW Rampur Hydro Power Station with 10,971 MU energy generation in a single day. Also, 50 MW Sadla Wind Power Station has achieved the Highest ever June month's generation of 15.039 MU breaking the previous record of 11.119 MU in fiscal 2021-22. Amongst other major developments during the current fiscal,

Government of Arunachal Pradesh has allotted five hydro projects totalling 5097 MW namely 3097 MW Etalin, 680 MW Attunti, 500 MW Emini, 420 MW Amulin and 400 MW Mihumdon Hydro Electric Projects to SJVN. Public Investment Board meeting for Investment approval of 669

MW Lower Arun HEP was held in May 2023. The Project Development Agreement for the project has been signed with Investment Board of Nepal, Government of Nepal in the benign presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sh. Narendra Mod and Prime Minister of Nepal, Sh. Pushpa Kamal Dahal on 1st June Power Purchase Agreements have been signed for 200 MW Solar

Power Project Capacity with Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited and with Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited for 100 MW Wind Power Capacity Power Usage Agreement for supply of 500 MW Solar power from ongoing 1000 MW Bikaner SPP has been signed with Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. The Company has signed key MOUs during current financial year

including MoU with - REC Limited for financing the projects of and its Subsidiaries & Inint Ventures to the extent of ₹50,000 crores; and with Government of Goa for development of Renewable Energy, Hydro Power Projects, PSPs and Ocean floating Solar Projects in the state.

Letter of Intent for 100 MW Grid connected Wind Power Project in Gujarat has been received from Gujrat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited on 4th June 2023. The Company has bagged another 200 MW Grid connected Wind Power Project from SECI. Letter of Intent has also been received from the PSPCL for procurement of 1200 MW

MACRO ECONOMIC SCENARIO AND GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

India's growth continues to be resilient as it was rated as the fastest-growing major economy during FY 2022-23. The country's GDP has reached \$3.75 trillion in 2023, from around \$2. trillion in 2014; moving from 10th largest to 5th largest economy in the world. India is now being called a Bright Spot in the global economy. Indian economy in FY23 has nearly "recouped" what was lost, "renewed" what had paused, and "re-energized" what had slowed during the pandemic and since the conflict in Europe. A range of pragmatic and transformational policies of the government, which continued through the pandemic helped catalyze a sharp economic recovery. The growth that India is witnessing, apart from the CAPEX push by the government, is coming from healthy balance sheets of the corporates and a well-capitalized financial system.

Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022 gave relief to the DISCOMs, as well as electricity consumers and at the same time generating companies are also benefiting from assured monthly payments, which will help the whole power sector to become financially viable.

For removing the barriers in availability and utilization of renewable energy and to address the issues that have hindered the growth of open access for a long time, Green Open Access Rules, 2022 have been issued. The Rules reduces the Open Access limit from 1 MW to 100 kW, which paved the way for small consumers to purchase renewable energy and there is no limit

Revised scheme for flexibility in generation and scheduling of Thermal/Hydro Power Station through bundling with renewable energy and storage power is showing its positive impact.

Dispute Avoidance Mechanism for avoidance/ resolution of contractual disputes at initial stage by engagement of an Independent Engineer and Dispute Resolution Mechanism for resolution of disputes through Conciliation Committees have been devised by Ministry of Power.

These transformative reforms and initiatives in recent years have propelled forward the nation on its journey to achieve its twin goals of universal access to affordable power and acceleration of clean energy transition.

FUTURE PROSPECTS The GDP growth figures in 2022-23 reflect the resilience of the

Indian economy amidst global challenges. In global scenario, the inflation has begun to slow down in both developed and emerging economies. In FY 2023-24 this growth will be supported by solid domestic demand and pickup of capital investment. Compensating for private sector's caution in capital expenditure, government has substantially raised the capital

The CAPEX target for SJVN for FY 2023-24 has been set once again to a historic high of \$10,000 crore and the Company is geared up to accomplish the same

FY 2023-24 shall be especially significant as Projects totaling 1455 MW are lined up for commissioning and commencement of commercial operations during the year which include - 60 MW Naitwar Mori HEP, one unit of 660 MW of Buxar TPP, 250 MW (Phase-1) of Bikaner SPP, 100 MW Raghanesda SPP, 100 MW Pojewal & Rurki SPP, 90 MW Omkareshwar floating SPP, 75 MW Gurhah SPP, 70 MW Bagodara SPP and 50 MW Gujrai SPP. In addition, Double Circuit 220 kV Mori Snalt Transmission Line in Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh is also expected to be commissioned during the year.

As a premier power utility, SJVN is spearheading the current transformative paradigm shift of Indian Power Sector from fossil fuel energy base to renewable energy base. We at SJVN are performing our duty towards the nation by strengthening the energy sector

Under the Paris Agreement - 2015 for carbon neutralization Government of India has committed to reduce the Greenhouse gases emissions intensity by 45% below 2005 levels. For this, 50% of installed electric power capacity is planned to be generated from non-fossil sources by 2030. Government has also permitted 100% FOI under automatic approval in renewable

In the Union Budget 2023, some path breaking announcements

have been made towards net-zero emission by 2070. The government intends to reduce the country's estimated total carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes by the end of the current decade. ₹35,080 crores have been earmarked for energy transition and net-zero carbon emission. Also, ₹19,700 crores have been earmarked for the National Green Hydrogen Mission. By 2030, India is committed to reduce carbon intensity of its GDP by 45% of 2005 level.

renewable sector which in turn will open new vistas for the

ACKNOWLEDGMENT As my present tenure as CMD of this esteemed Company nears

completion, it gives me tremendous satisfaction to report to our shareholders that all key parameters of the Company be it Project Portfolio, Networth, CAPEX, Share Price, Market Capitalization, Revenue, Book Value, etc. have scaled their All-Time Highs during recent months. Nothing is more gratifying than to see the Company scale the lofty peaks of success and accomplishments each day. I consider myself fortunate to have witnessed and participated first-hand in the dawn of this Golden Era of the Company

On this occasion, I would like to remember the contribution and express my deep gratitude for all the founding fathers and architects who conceived and built this Company and laid a strong foundation of which we are reaping the benefits today. I would also like to place on record my deepest appreciation for my colleagues on the Board - past & present. My fellow Board Members have always stood by me and extended their unfaltering trust and co-operation.

A tree's beauty lies in its branches but its strength lies in its roots. Similarly, the strength of SJVN lies in its employees. Our grit combined with our attitude has brought us where we are today - Strong and Proud with a 55814 MW Portfolio. I feel highly privileged to be leading the Company that is breaking barriers and conquering new frontiers.

I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere gratitude for the guidance and cooperation extended by Ministry of Power, Government of India. Your support has motivated us to exceed the expectations and to set our sight high on bigger goals.

l also express my thanks to various Ministries / Departments of Government of India - Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Central Electricity Authority, Central Water Commission, Geological Survey of India; State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Mizoram; Government of Nepal; other Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies, Statutory, Cost, Secretarial and Internal Auditors; our Customers; Business associates; various

Financial Institutions & Bankers and Regulatory authorities. Above all, I thank all our Shareholders & Investors for placing faith in the Company. I look forward to your continued support, trust and cooperation.

I look forward to further raising the bar and setting standards even higher for ourselves. I expect my team to commit their untiring efforts and unflinching commitment to achieve the goals we have aspired for ourselves. I believe our well-poised strategy, combined with our relentless execution, will continue to create long-term sustained value for our shareholders and stakeholders.

Thanking you all.

(Nand Lat Sharma) Date: 28" September, 2023 Chairman & Managing Director DIN: 03495554 Place: Shimla

















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