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OCTOBER RETURN

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INDIA EXPANDS G20 THIS TIME FOR AFRICA

PM Modi ushers in G21 to make history

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Abiding by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal of "sabka saath (with everyone)" for global good and a major achievement under India's G20 presidency, the African Union on Saturday became a new permanent member of the grouping. It is the first expansion of the influential bloc since its inception in 1999.

This far-reaching step at India's initiative was taken on the inaugural day of the G20 summit here with Modi during his inaugural remarks asking President of the Union of Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union (AU), Azali Assoumani, to join other leaders at the high table. It makes the 55-member bloc the second multi-nation grouping after the European Union to be a permanent member of the G20. Now, the influential bloc may be referred to as G21.

In another major victory

for India as head of the G20, Modi announced the adoption of the New Delhi Leaders Declaration. It came amid increasing tensions and divergent views over the Ukraine conflict.

The announcement about the consensus on the declaration and its subsequent adoption came hours after India circulated a new text to the G20 countries to describe the Ukraine conflict.

"Friends, we have just got good news, with the hard work of our teams, and with the cooperation of you all, there is consensus on the New Delhi G20 Summit Leaders Declaration," Modi told the leaders at the summit.

"I announce that this declaration is adopted (Banged the gavel thrice)," he announced.

Modi also flagged concern over prevailing distrust in the world in the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine conflict and urged the leaders to turn the global trust deficit into confi-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the G20 Summit at the Bharat Mandapam convention centre in New Delhi on Saturday

dence in each other and find new solutions to age-old challenges.

As regards inclusion of the African Union, Modi said, "In keeping with the sentiment of 'sabka saath' (with everyone), India had proposed that the African Union should be given permanent membership of the G20. I believe we all are in agreement on this proposal..." at the Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the Summit.

"Before moving forward with the proceedings, I would like to invite the president of the African Union to take his place as a permanent member of the G20," he said amid thunderous applause by the gathering of world leaders.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar then escorted Assoumani to take his seat at the G20 high table. Before taking his seat, Assoumani shared a warm handshake and hug with Modi.

In a post on X later, the Prime Minister's Office said, "Advancing a more inclusive

G20 that echoes the aspirations of the Global South! PM @narendramodi extends a heartfelt welcome to President @AfricanUnion and the President of Comoros Azali Assoumani." "Thrilled to have the African Union as a permanent member. A milestone for the G20 family indeed," it said.

All member countries of the G20 accepted Modi's proposal to bring the key bloc of the Global South to the high table of the world's top economies.

"Honoured to welcome the African Union as a permanent member of the G20 Family. This will strengthen the G20 and also strengthen the voice of the Global South," Modi posted on X along with a video of him announcing that the African Union has become a permanent member of the G20.

In the last few years, India has been positioning itself as a leading voice, flagging concerns, challenges and aspirations of the Global South, or

developing nations, especially the African continent.

The Prime Minister was leading from the front on the issue of the African Union's membership of the G20. In June, Modi wrote to G20 leaders to pitch for according to the African Union full membership of the grouping at its New Delhi summit.

Weeks later, the proposal was formally included in the draft communique for the summit during the third G20 Sherpas meeting in Hampi, Karnataka, in July.

As G20 president, India has been focusing on issues like inclusive growth, digital innovation, climate resilience, and equitable global health access with an aim to benefit the Global South or the developing countries. In January, India hosted the Voice of the Global South Summit with an aim to highlight the problems and challenges facing the developing countries.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Joe Biden and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud during the G20 Summit in New Delhi on Saturday

India ships into oil corridor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India along with the US and several major economies on Saturday announced an ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor with Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasising on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations while promoting connectivity initiatives.

The corridor project is an agreement between India, the US, UAE, and Saudi Arabia to build shipping and railway links connecting Europe and the West Asia to India.

Launching the corridor, Modi said it will give a new direction to connectivity and sustainable development. "In times to come, the corridor will become an effective medium for economic integration of India, the West Asia and Europe," he said.

The Prime Minister lauded the launch of the corridor and said a "historic" agreement was concluded. "In the coming times, it will be an effective medium of economic integra-

tion between India, West Asia and Europe. This will provide a sustainable direction for connectivity and development across the world."

Emphasising that strong connectivity and infrastructure are the fundamental basis for the development of human civilisation, the Prime Minister said, "India has given top priority to connectivity and infrastructure in its development journey."

At the launch of the corridor, US President Joe Biden said, "This is a real big deal. I want to thank Prime Minister Modi. Building sustainable, resilient infrastructure, making quality infrastructure investments and creating a better future... Last year, we came together as one to commit to this vision."

Besides, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen also called the launch "historic."

As he launched the India-Middle East-Europe connectivity corridor, Modi said investments are also being made in social, digital and financial infrastructure.

The plan is to create an economic corridor that links Middle-Eastern countries through rail links, which will then be connected to India through shipping lanes. The European Union will also be involved.

At the invitation of Modi, Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia is visiting India from September 9-11, 2023. During this visit, he will attend the two-day G20 Summit.

As regards the infrastructure project, US Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer said in a Press briefing, "First and foremost, it is the value proposition we see in linking these three regions of the world and enabling the flow of commerce, energy and digital communication, that we think is going to help increase prosperity."

He called it an "affirmative, positive agenda and vision for global infrastructure that the United States and our partners are laying out that we think has real appeal for countries and

regions that are underserved".

The project first came into the spotlight in May after top national security officials from the four countries met in Saudi Arabia to discuss the deal.

The project, which is in line with President Biden's Middle East strategy, will enhance connectivity, de-escalate conflict, and provide a counter to China's 'Belt and Road' initiative.

This project, which will push commerce, energy trade, digital connectivity, high standards, will be executed in a transparent, non-coercive and sustainable way, Finer added.

US Deputy NSA Finer pointed out that the United States did not see the proposed projects as a part of a competition with China. The idea for this project came up during discussions part of the I2U2 forum, which includes India, Israel, the United States and the UAE.

While Israel is not yet part of the project, it may play a role if its normalisation process with Saudi Arabia goes through, as per reports.

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India hosts dinner for the World

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

From sarees to traditional Indian attires like salwar kameez worn by the high dignitaries at the gala G20 Dinner on Saturday evening gave the real reflection of the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the motto of the international event chaired by India that saw galaxy of world leaders, including President Joe Biden, United Kingdom PM Rishi Sunak amongst others.

The newly built international convention and exhibition centre and its verdant lawns dazzled at night with colourful illumination while its gurgling fountains and the 'Nataraja' statue placed in front of the state-of-the-art building created a pretty picture.

Japanese PM Fumio Kishida's wife Yuko Kishida came in saree, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres,

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director and Chairman Kristalina Georgieva, dressed in Indian Salwar Kurta, were among the first to arrive at the newly built convention centre in Pragati Maidan along with World Bank President Ajay Banga and his wife Ritu Banga and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. (Till the reports filed)

Yuko Kishida stole the limelight as she was apparently wearing a Kanjivaram Saree. All the guests were received by President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Modi was also seen explaining the background insignia of Nalanda University, considered to be the oldest in the world.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and

his wife Yoko Kishida, who was dressed in a saree, Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese along with his spouse and Mauritius PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and his wife, were among other dignitaries welcomed by President Murmu and Modi. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and his wife, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov were also greeted by Murmu and Modi.

The Prime Minister was also seen explaining to some of the G20 leaders, including US President Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron and Australian PM Albanese, about the importance of the university.

Besides Vice President



Jagdeep Dhankhar with his wife Sudesh Dhankhar, former President Ram Nath Kovind, and former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu too joined the dinner party.

Bharat Vadya Darshanam (Musical Journey of India), a concert enthralled the guests from almost three hours during which 78 instrumentalists from throughout the nation, including 11 children, 13 women, and

seven artists with disabilities, participated.

Sources said ITC Hotels that provided all vegetarian catering for the two-day summit for global leaders consisting of four-course dishes like Paneer Lababdar, Subz Korma, Potato Lyonnaise, Kaju Matar Makhana, Jowar Dal Tadka, Pyaaz Jeera Ka Pulao, Cucumber Raita, Tandoori Roti, Butter Naan, Kulcha, Roasted Almond

and Vegetable Broth, and desserts like Kuttu Malpua and Kesar Pista Rasmalai. Lentils, salads and chaat items like Dahi Bhalla, Samosa, Spicy Chaat, Lilla Kachori and others were also part of the menu.

On Saturday during the G20 meeting lunch, a lavish vegetarian lunch was served that included kurkuri bhindi, tandoori aloo, zafrani gucchi pulao, and paneer tilwala.

Congress ruled States' Chief Ministers except for the Himachal Pradesh CM, 'avoided' to grace the G20 Dinner on Saturday evening that saw the presence of top global leaders.

At least six of the 12 chief ministers belonging to Opposition skipped the G20 dinner hosted by President Draupadi Murmu at the Bharat Mandapam on Saturday evening.

However the CMs of the Opposition bloc Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann were present in full and reportedly also had a brief brush with Modi.

All the CMs reached the venue in a ferry bus after reaching the Parliament complex between 6pm to 7 pm.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and HD Deve Gowda, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik too skipped the dinner due to health concerns as cited by sources close to them.

Telangana CM K Chandrashekhara Rao, Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy who is in London and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan too did not make out to the event which saw presence of top global leaders, Modi and his council of ministers and host Murmu who reached at 7 pm to receive and greet her invitees. Modi and Murmu together extended the courtesy.

Murmu hosted the dinner at Bharat Mandapam, the venue for the G20 Summit at Pragati Maidan. A total 170 invitees were on the list, including Union Ministers and Chief Ministers, those of States ruled by Opposition parties also.

Continued on Page 2

Police help commuters amid traffic restrictions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police on Saturday received queries on its helpline number by commuters asking about the least affected routes to reach their destinations, officials said.

As the traffic was moving without any hustle in the city, the officials however, said they only received one call about traffic congestion in south Delhi's Chirag Delhi area on its helpline 011-25844444 as it is a holiday.

The traffic officials were trying to resolve the queries of commuters as they were calling and asking about the available routes across the national Capital, the officials said. "We are guiding them to reach their

destination by covering least affected routes," an official said. The commuters have been advised to follow real-time traffic updates on the 'G20 Summit Virtual Help Desk' for route suggestions for commuting to and from the airport, railway stations or bus terminals, the officials said.

Police have advised people to use the navigation app 'MapmyIndia' to move around the city with ease and get real-time traffic updates on its virtual help desk. Stringent traffic regulations were put in place in the New Delhi district as the G20 Summit is underway here. The New Delhi district was designated as 'Controlled Zone-I' from Friday 5 am till Sunday 11.59 pm due to the

Major events take place

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Developments on Day 1 of G20 Summit on Saturday: **African Union joins G20**

The 55-nation African Union joined the G20 after all member countries accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposal to bring this key bloc of the Global South to the elite group of world's top economies.

G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration adopted

Prime Minister Modi announced the adoption of G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, a significant victory for India's presidency of the bloc that came amid increasing tensions and divergent views over the Ukraine conflict.

Launch of Global Biofuel Alliance announced

India announced the launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance and urged G20 nations to join



the initiative with a plea to take ethanol blending with petrol globally to 20 per cent.

G20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation proposed

Modi proposed to launch the G20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation and urged leaders to start working on a Green Credit Initiative.

Modi holds bilateral talks with British counterpart

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his British counterpart Rishi Sunak on the sidelines of the G20 Summit and discussed ways to deepen trade linkages and boost investment. India and the UK will keep working for a prosperous and sustainable planet, Modi said after the meet.

Bilateral talks between PMs of India and Japan

Prime Minister Modi held a bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.

"We took stock of India-Japan bilateral ties and the ground covered during India's G20 Presidency and Japan's G7 Presidency."

No curb on air travel of Governors, CMs: MHA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Saturday said no restrictions have been imposed on travel of governors and chief ministers to Delhi or its nearby areas in their state aircraft during the ongoing G20 Summit but those travelling in private chartered flights require prior approval.

The home ministry's statement came after Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan Bhupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot respectively alleged that their travel plans were disrupted due to the "restrictions" imposed on air travel in and around Delhi. "In a news report, Chief Minister (of) Chhattisgarh has expressed his inability to participate in G20 Dinner at Leaders' Summit at Delhi on 9 Sept 2023 due to air



restrictions in and around Delhi. "The MHA has clarified to state that while a high-tech security air cover has been deployed for G20 Leaders' Summit at Delhi on 8-11 September 2023, movement of governors and state chief ministers on their state aircraft are allowed," a home ministry spokesperson said.

Reacting to Gehlot's claim that his helicopter did not get approval to travel to Sikar, near Delhi, the spokesperson said, "Four requests were received from CM (of) Rajasthan for flight permissions, including for Sikar, and all were approved by MHA."

Harnessing digital tech to overcome digital divides

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Recognising the importance of investment in supporting human capital development, the G20 on Saturday committed to harness digital technologies to overcome digital divides for all learners and support educational institutions and teachers in keeping pace with emerging trends and technological advances.

India also proposed to launch a G20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation, with an aim to help the countries of the global south.

The grouping also reaffirmed its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption and called for strengthening law enforcement-related international cooperation and information sharing for combating graft. The G20 members, in its



Leaders' Declaration, supported promoting open, equitable and secure scientific collaboration and encourage mobility of students, scholars, researchers and scientists across research and higher education institutions. "We are committed to inclusive, equitable, high-quality education and skills training for all, including for those in vulnerable situations. We recognize the importance of

investment in supporting human capital development. We recognise the importance of foundational learning (literacy, numeracy, and socioemotional skills) as the primary building block for education and employment," the Declaration said. "We reiterate our commitment to harness digital technologies to overcome the digital divides for all learners and extend support to educational institutions and teachers to enable them to keep pace with emerging trends and technological advances including AI," it added. The Declaration emphasised on expanding access to high-quality Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

"We reaffirm our commitment to promote open, equitable and secure scientific collaboration and encourage mobility of students, scholars, researchers, and scientists across research and higher education institutions," it said.

The G20 also reaffirmed its support to enhance global efforts to seize, confiscate and return criminal proceeds to victims and states, in line with international obligations and domestic legal frameworks, including through support to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and operationalisation of the GlobE Network.

India expands G20, this time for Africa

From Page 1

The Addis Ababa-headquartered African Union (AU) comprises the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent. It was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity, Africa's first post-independence continental institution set up in 1963 with 32 members. Collectively, African Union member states have a GDP of nearly USD 3 trillion and a population of around 1.4 billion.

US President Joe Biden, Chancellor Olaf Scholz, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio

Lula da Silva are among those attending the two-day G20 Summit here. The chiefs of many leading global bodies such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Health Organisation are also participating in the conference.

After assuming presidency of the bloc on December 1, India held around 200 meetings related to the G20 across the country on a range of its priority areas. The G20 member countries represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

Besides the African Union, the G20 grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi

Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU). The G20 was founded in 1999 after a financial crisis as a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues. It was upgraded to the level of heads of States and Governments in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007.

In 2009, it was designated the "premier forum for international economic cooperation". Meanwhile, in his opening remarks at the G20 Leaders' Summit, Modi exuded confidence and said if the world could defeat Covid, it could also triumph over the trust deficit caused by the war. "It is time for all of us to walk together for global good," the Prime Minister said while addressing the 'One Earth' ses-

Vijayan has become prisoner of cartel of persons in CMO, alleges Satheeshan

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOZHIKODE

A day after the Congress announced the ruling CPI (M) in the by-poll held at Puthupplali Assembly constituency, Leader of Opposition VD Satheeshan made a startling disclosure against the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Kerala Government on Saturday.

Though the Congress and the CPI (M) are on the same side of the fence against the "communal" BJP Government at the Centre, it did not prevent Satheeshan from mounting a diatribe against the Marxists in the State.

"Pinarayi Vijayan has become a prisoner of a cartel of persons in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). The control of the Government and governance is no more with the Chief Minister. A group of persons led by Muhammed Riyaz has hijacked the Government while addressing a Press conference at Kozhikode on



Saturday. Muhammed Riyaz, popularly known as MuRiyaz is the minister for PWD and Tourism in the council of ministers in Kerala. More than that he is the new husband of Veena, Vijayan's daughter.

"The Government is fully under the control of Riyaz and the Chief Minister is in the dark about what is happening around. The other day we saw the reconstitution of the Forward Community Commission in the State.

Ganesh Kumar, the incumbent chairman of the commission, was ousted and a new person was brought in along with a new team. When Ganesh Kumar, who came to know about his removal through TV

news encountered chief minister, the latter feigned ignorance. Even the Party secretary Govindan too expressed his helplessness over the issue," said Satheeshan. The Congress leaders also alleged that there were separate rules and laws for the Marxists who are accused of crimes like sexual assaults, rape, murder and house breaking.

"The police remain mute spectators when the CPI(M) cadres attack police stations and 'liberate' comrades from custody. Criminal activities done by Marxists are investigated and prosecuted by the party while cases against those who are not CPI(M) members are sent to police stations," charged the LOP.

He said that Ganesh Kumar was removed as chairman of commission for daring to criticize department of Public Works and praising former minister G Sudhakaran who was denied ticket in 2021 assembly election despite his good performance as minister.

NIA raids in Telangana, Chhattisgarh in 2023 arms recovery case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted a series of raids and searches in Telangana and Chhattisgarh in connection with an August 2023 case involving recovery of explosive materials, drones and a Lathe machine involving the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) for use against security forces.

The NIA had registered the case against 12 accused after the explosive materials, drones and a Lathe machine were seized from three of them in June in Cherala mandal of Kothagudem.

The three accused were arrested by local police working jointly with other security agencies. The cache was intended for use in manufacturing of country-made arms, to be deployed against the security forces in India's Naxal affected areas. The case was subsequently handed over to the NIA in view of its

major inter-State security implications for the country. "As part of its continuing investigations in the Cherala drone case, as it has come to be known, the NIA on Saturday raided eight locations in the two states of Telangana and Chhattisgarh," the agency said in a statement.

Searches at the premises of the accused at five places in Warangal and two in Bhadradi Kothagudem in Telangana, as well as one place in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, led to the seizure of several digital devices and incriminating documents, the NIA said.

Detailed examination of these devices and documents is under way to unravel involvement of the accused in extending logistic support to CPI (Maoist), a Left Wing extremist organisation involved in different kinds of unlawful activities with stated aim of overthrowing Indian government through a prolonged so-called 'people's war'.

India hosts...

From Page 1

Congress invitees expressed their resentment since their party chief Mallikarjun Kharge was not invited for the dinner as extended by the President Draupadi Murmu.

Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan Bhupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot respectively alleged that their travel plans were disrupted due to the "restrictions" imposed on air travel in and around Delhi however that was rebutted by Union home ministry that no restrictions have been imposed on travel of governors and chief ministers to the national Capital or its nearby areas in their state aircraft during the ongoing G20 Summit but those travelling in private chartered flights require prior approval.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah termed as 'wrong' Congress Party chief Mallikarjun Kharge not being invited to the G20 gala dinner in Delhi. He also said, he will not be attending the dinner due to prior work commitments.

India ships into oil corridor

From Page 1

While Israel is not yet part of the project, it may play a role if its normalisation process with Saudi Arabia goes through, as per reports.

"National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan met with Saudi Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, UAE National Security Adviser Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and National Security Adviser of India Ajit Doval met on May 7 in Saudi Arabia to advance their shared vision of a more secure and prosperous Middle East region interconnected with India and the world," reads a release from the White House regarding the meeting in May.

US Deputy NSA Finer pointed out that the United States did not see the proposed projects as a part of a competition with China.

"We do not see it as zero sum with other approaches to infrastructure. We are not asking countries to make this zero sum choice. But we do think the value proposition we have to offer is high," said Finer. "We have seen other efforts that are not as ambitious when it comes to high standards, when it comes to transparency, when it comes to sustainability and that are fundamentally more coercive in nature. We feel good about the contrast that what we are offering provides," he added.

Meanwhile, giving schedule of Saudi Arabia Prince, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Saturday, he will continue his stay in India after the summit for a State visit on September 11. He earlier visited India on a State Visit in February 2019, and this will be his second State Visit to India.

He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers and senior officials. This visit follows the highly successful visit of Modi to Saudi Arabia in October 2019 during which the two countries established the Strategic Partnership Council.

35 students died every day in 2021: NCRB

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned at the spate of students dying by suicide, health experts and psychologists have called for robust mental health plans for schools to curb the distressing trends among the impressionable minds.

On the eve of the World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10, they flagged that over 13,000 students died by in 2021 in India at the rate of more than 35 every day. This is up by 4.5% from the 12,526 deaths in 2020 with 864 out of 10,732 suicides being due to "failure in examination" according to the latest data as per NCRB's ADSI report 2021, they pointed out.

A study by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)



too has painted a grim scenario. It found that the suicide rate among college students in India is 16.7 per 1,00,000. This is significantly higher than the global suicide rate for college students, which is 10 per 1,00,000.

In the backdrop of such a grim scenario, Dr Jyoti Kapoor, founder-director and senior psychiatrist, Manasthali suggested framing comprehensive mental health plans within schools. "In the pursuit of nurturing young minds, a vital imperative emerges: the implementation of comprehensive mental health plans within schools.

The escalating toll of student suicides demands a proactive response that transcends traditional academic paradigms." She further suggested that such plans should encompass not only crisis intervention but also preventive measures, destigmatizing conversations

around mental well-being. By fostering a culture of empathy and support, schools can become sanctuaries where students feel valued and understood.

"A robust mental health framework must involve accessible counseling services, awareness campaigns, teacher training, and parental involvement," Dr Smita Deshpande, a renowned psychiatrist from Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Delhi listed out a string of steps need to be taken to prevent suicides among students.

"There is a need to increase awareness through educational campaigns, public awareness events, and media coverage. Also, vulnerable students should be identified by talking to students and assessing their mental condition and thought process," Dr Krishna Veer

Singh, Co-Founder & CEO of Lissun said that the Day serves as an annual global reminder of the pressing issue facing India, which stands at the 41st highest suicide rate worldwide, demanding our immediate attention and concerted efforts.

"Education and awareness campaigns are instrumental in destigmatizing mental health issues and normalizing conversations around them. Timely intervention can quite literally save lives," Singh added.

Dr. Neerja Agarwal, Co-Founder of Emoneds echoed similar views saying that recent onslaught of Covid-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these problems, intensifying feelings of anguish and hopelessness on a global scale. During such trying times, the simple act of reaching out to someone who cares can be a literal lifeline."

6 in 10 female adolescents anaemic, reveals NHFS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Almost 6 in 10 female adolescents in India are anaemic, with 21 of 28 states reporting increased prevalence since 2015, according to a new Indian research that analysed data from National Family Health Surveys (NFHS).

This despite a string of government's several programs aimed at addressing anaemia in women and children over the past five decades. The research is published in the journal PLOS Global Public Health.

Anaemia, a significant public health issue particularly affecting women in India, is characterised by a deficiency in red blood cells, resulting in low vigour and energy. Using data from the fourth and fifth

rounds of the national surveys, NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21), the research studied 1,16,117 and 1,09,400 female teenagers, respectively, to analyse trends regarding anaemia prevalence and identify risk factors for anaemia.

Prevalence of anaemia was higher in women married before 18 years of age, which accounted for around 10 and 8 per cent of the sampled women in NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, respectively. About 70 per cent of the participants lived in rural areas, the study said.

Adolescent marriage and motherhood, along with poor nutritional status and other socio-economic variables such as wealth and education, were crucial risk determinants for anaemia in Indian females aged 15-19, the study from Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh, and other institutes found. Further, Indian states with anaemia prevalence over 60 per cent more than doubled to 11 in 2019-21 from 5 in 2015-16, the study said. It further said that teenage mothers with at least 2 children were more anaemic than teenagers without children, with anaemia prevalence being higher in breastfeeding mothers.

More educated women teenagers were less likely to be anaemic while women belonging to the socio-economically disadvantaged groups such as SC and ST were more likely to be anaemic than other social groups, which the authors attributed to factors like historical, undernutrition, limited healthcare access, early child-bearing and discrimination.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives at the Bharat Mandapam for the G20 Summit, in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

Replica of iconic Konark Wheel becomes centre of attraction

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A replica of the historic Konark Wheel of Odisha's Sun Temple became a centre of attraction at the G20 Summit venue on Saturday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose a wall depicting the 13th century artefact as the backdrop for his welcome handshake with world leaders at the Bharat Mandapam. Modi shook hands with the delegates arriving for the global summit at the Bharat Mandapam International Exhibition and Convention Centre where the architectural marvel was showcased.

Modi, who had rekindled the memories of Sengol (a historical sceptre from Tamil Nadu) during the inauguration of the new Parliament building earlier this year, was also seen explaining the significance of the Konark wheel to world leaders like American president Joe Biden at the G20 venue. The backdrop carried a striking image of the Konark Wheel with the G20 logo on one side and the theme of India's presidency of the grouping — 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - One Earth, One Family, One Future — on the other.

Modi welcomed heads of state and other leaders amid melodious strains of shehnai as flags of G20 member countries, invited nations and several international organisations fluttered in the pleasant morning breeze. The 'Konark Wheel' went viral on social media platforms. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan shared his delight on X (formerly Twitter) on "Odisha's timeless wonder".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a foreign leader shake hands in front of the Konark Wheel replica at the Bharat Mandapam.

"Odisha's timeless wonder— KONARK CHAKRA at @g20org for the welcome handshake. A moment of great pride for all Indians, particularly my #Odia brothers and sisters. A symbol of India's civilisational, cultural and architectural excellence, the Konark chakra symbolises con-

tinuity and progress," he said. Dedicated to Sun God Surya, the Konark Temple was built during the 13th century under the reign of King Narasimhadeva-I. It was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984. The wheel with 24 spokes each of them is about 10 feet in diameter and drawn by seven mighty horses. These wheels symbolize the 24

hours in a day. The images of animals, foliage, dancing women and other structures carved around the temple's base showcase the architectural grandeur. The wheels also have a spiritual connotation. They represent the cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction; the cycle of day and night; and the cycle of birth, life, and death. It serves as a powerful symbol of the wheel of democracy that reflects the resilience of democratic ideals, and commitment to progress in society. The worship of the sun holds immense significance in Indian culture, signifying light, ener-

Bharat welcomes you, says Modi while opening session

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As world leaders arrived at the Bharat Mandapam for the G20 Summit in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the session by saying, "Bharat welcomes you". Amid a controversy over using 'Bharat' to refer to the country in official invitations for the summit, PM Modi was seen sitting in front of a placard that said 'Bharat' at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan. The development comes days amid a row over the shift to India from Bharat in the dinner invitation from President Murmu to leaders attending G20 Summit. References to Bharat were made including in documents relating to Modi's recent visits abroad including Indonesia this week.



As the debate was triggered ahead of the upcoming special session of Parliament, the agenda of which is yet to be disclosed, it prompted unconfirmed reports that a change of name could be discussed and passed during the session. The government has used 'Bharat', a name used in the Constitution for the country along with India, in several official G20 documents. Official sources have said it is a conscious decision. "Bharat" has also been used in a G20 booklet meant for foreign delegates titled - "Bharat, The Mother Of Democracy". "Bharat is the official name of the country. It is mentioned in the Constitution as also in the discussions of 1946-48," the booklet says.

The UN had also in the backdrop of the recent raging controversy over the likely name change hinted that if New Delhi moves and completes the required formalities for the name change the UN will go by the book and will change the name at the UN (records). Deputy Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Farhan Haq, referenced Turkey's recent name change to Turkiye as an example. The India vs. Bharat debate had snowballed into into a massive political controversy with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi saying that changing India's name is the government's classic panic reaction and distraction tactics due to the fear of the opposition bloc INDIA. During a press conference in Europe, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi dismissed the controversy surrounding the "India vs Bharat" issue as a "distraction tactic" and a sign of the government's nervousness. Modi, however, told his ministerial colleagues on Wednesday to avoid the political row around the 'Bharat' issue, noting that it has been the country's ancient name.

IAF jets secure skies

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As Heads of States and other delegates start arriving for the G20 summit amidst top security arrangements, Rafale Mirage 2000 and Su-30MKIs fighter jets of the Indian Air Force protected the skies during the G20 summit in Delhi as the ongoing exercise Trishul has been temporarily halted from September 7 to 10. The Indian Air Force has taken an operational pause in the ongoing exercise Trishul and the fighter jets will not be flying between September 7 and 10. The IAF deployed its fighter jets at advanced air bases to protect Delhi skies. Besides, the desi counter-drone system and Optical Target Locator developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been deployed in the diplomatic enclave in Delhi and Pragati Maidan to provide protection against any possible threat. Since September 4, the Indian Air Force has been carrying out a major training exercise codenamed Trishul in



the northern sector of the country, along the border with China and Pakistan. The exercise involves major fleets of fighter aircraft, including the Rafale, Mirage 2000 and the Su-30MKIs. Additionally, heavy-lift transport aircraft and choppers including the Chinooks and Apache are also participating in the drill which is supposed to end on September 14. In order to counter threats from aerial platforms and unnamed aerial vehicles, the Indian counter-drone system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has

World leaders' spouses visit 1,200 acre PUSA-IARI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The first ladies and spouses of G20 member countries Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's wife, Yoko Kishida, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's wife Akshata Murty and World Bank President Ajay Banga's wife Ritu Banga on Saturday visited the 1,200-acre PUSA-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) campus and experienced the agricultural prowess of India firsthand, in a one-of-a-kind exhibition organised by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. They were received by Kyoko Jaishankar, the wife of India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The event featured a range of captivating components, such as a millet-focused live cooking session led by celebrity chefs KunalKapur, Anahita Dhondy, and Ajay Chopra, as well as the display of cutting-edge agricultural technology from prominent Indian startups, interaction with Indian women agri-champions, 'Agri-

Street'. They were welcomed by a grand "millets-rangoli" at the exhibition that showcased the curated millets from 18-odd countries, and the burgeoning startup ecosystem and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in India. The beautiful artworks were prepared using millet grains and local Indian motifs. The first rangoli captured the theme of "Harmony of Harvest" unveiling India's deep-rooted agricultural traditions. Curated with indigenous toys symbolizing women's diverse agricultural contributions, millets, and rustic terracotta pots, this captivating Rangoli became a major highlight of the event. The second rangoli piece echoed India's cultural philosophy — "The World is One Family", emphasising global unity. India as a prominent agriculture nation, plays a crucial role in global food security. The second rangoli, thus, celebrated India's global commitment towards unity and sustenance.

UK PM Sunak, wife to visit Akshardham temple today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty will visit the Akshardham temple located in Delhi on September 10. As per sources, Rishi Sunak and his wife will visit the Akshardham temple at around 6 am on Sunday and will spend an hour there. Police have already ensured that security arrangements are in place at the temple for Sunak's visit. A multi-layer security cover has been put in place in and around Akshardham temple. On Friday, expressing pride for his 'Hindu' roots, Rishi Sunak has earlier expressed his hope that he will find time to visit a temple here in India during his stay for the G20 Summit. "I'm a proud Hindu, and that's how I was raised. That's how I am. Hopefully, I can visit a Mandir while I'm here for the next couple of days," he has said.

Security stepped up

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the high-profile G20 Summit is currently underway in New Delhi, security checks were intensified across the national Capital from Saturday morning. A multi-layer security cover has been put in place around the Pragati Maidan area in central Delhi where the summit is taking place while vehicle checking in New Delhi and bordering areas has been intensified. Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Dependra Pathak on Saturday said the security situation in the national capital is under control. "We have strategically deployed an ample number of police personnel. The environment is tranquil and under control, and we are committed to upholding this state of affairs," the Special CP told reporters at a press conference here. To bolster security measures, the deployment includes dog squads and mounted patrols equipped with binoculars, specifically focusing on areas in proximity to Pragati Maidan, where the event venue is located, and closely moni-



toring security arrangements, particularly in the New Delhi district. The New Delhi district has been heavily barricaded with police checking all vehicles and IDs of those entering. New Delhi district has been designated as Controlled Zone-1 from Friday 5 am till Sunday 11.59 pm due to the summit. Police have urged people not to visit India Gate and Kartavya Path for walking or cycling. While the movement of vehicles is being regulated in the area, ambulances have been permitted to operate. Officials said over 50,000 personnel along with dog squads and mounted police have been deployed for the summit. At the exit point of

metro stations in New Delhi, commuters' IDs were being checked. Security scare after drone spotted STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI A drone flew over central Delhi while world leaders arrived for the G20 Summit! Police personnel scrambled and reached the spot — only to find that a photographer was using one to capture to best effect a birthday party. The drama unfolded on Friday evening, when the city went into virtual lockdown ahead of the summit.

NDMC records AQI of less than 100 in last 5 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has recorded Air Quality Index (AQI) less than 100 in the last five days between September 5 to 9 as the G20 summit is currently underway in the national Capital. According to a statement issued by the council, out of 20 locations except at three locations, at rest of 17 locations the AQI is less than 100 during five days between September 5 and 9 in the areas falling under the NDMC. "This has been achieved by deep cleaning of roads, pedestrian pathways with water, mechanical road sweeping by dedicated, motivated, inspired work force and team work by NDMC. "The NDMC achieved this target on the occasion of # International Day of Clean Air for blue skies (7th September) as well as eve of the starting of G20 Summit held in New Delhi. "The NDMC's astounding success in keeping AQI less than 100 has been achieved an



extra eco-environment basic amenity for our His Excellency Guest," it said. Around 2100 Sanitation workers (Safai Sevak) of NDMC doing the job of cleanliness out of them 1000 of whom have been engaged specifically in G20 identified roads and market areas in the New Delhi area. This staff deployed in 3 shifts (morning/afternoon/night) for maintaining round-the-clock cleanliness in view of sanitation, hygiene and eco-friendly environment. "The NDMC team during the cleanliness drive focuses on the deep cleaning of 56 roads with also extra focus on silt removing from roundabouts and triangular islands. "Twice washing of both ways footpaths of these 56

Anti-smog guns, sprinklers deployed to curb pollution, says civic body

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Saturday said that anti-smog guns and water sprinklers have been deployed to control pollution in the national Capital, where the G20 Summit is underway. "The MCD is putting main emphasis on roads around G20 summit. Municipal Corporation of Delhi has deployed 20 anti-smog guns at pollution hotspots to control pollution. The anti smog guns have been deployed at sanitary landfill sites situated at Bhalaswa, Ghazipur and Okhla and pollution hotspot at Anand Vihar," an MCD official said. The two-day G20 Summit began on Saturday. The MCD said that 15 anti-smog guns have also been deployed at high-rise buildings, Civil Lines, Green Park zonal building and Tilak Nagar Colony hospital.

The alternate philosophy of 'The World is one'

BY VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

India is the most populous country in the world, and like many situations, this fact can be perceived both as an advantage and a disadvantage. Indeed, as many realise, everything in life possesses dual aspects of advantage and disadvantage, simultaneously. It all depends on one's perspective. Given the constraints of our context, it is desirable to avoid delving into side discussions. Therefore, let us focus on the issue of India: its vast size and its immense population.

Geographically, from Kutch to Kamrup and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, a population of 1.42 billion people is encompassed, representing a cross-section of civilisations spanning from ancient times to the present. It is reported that in certain hilly districts of the country, tribes still subsist using only the bow and arrow, untouched by generations of progress. In a country where such diversity exists, there is also the remark-

able achievement of Chandrayaan and the upcoming mission to the sun. Numerous other examples highlight India's significant contributions to the world.

In many ways, India leads the way in value-based behavior and fostering a higher level of commitment to a more evolved global order. In a country as diverse as India, as mentioned earlier, there exist civilisations of all shapes and sizes. In such a situation, achieving a universal common communication method is itself a noteworthy accomplishment.

This country possesses a homogeneity that is quite unique to itself. It has witnessed 75 years of glorious self-rule, where powers-that-be have transitioned with remarkable smoothness. From Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Damodhar bhai Modi, the diversity and variety of approaches are as vast as the human experience. Yet, no political leader has fled the country, nor has any met the fate that some leaders of other



nations have experienced. There is something about Bharat that we can all take pride in, not the least of which is its representative form of governance. That, of course, is another story.

More to the point, within this teeming Indian population, it encompasses nearly all the eras that human beings have traversed since ancient times. It is not just that it spans civilisations from bows and arrows to rockets, but in between, it hosts a rich medley of cultural diversity. Here in this country, numerous forms of religions coexist harmoniously. Furthermore, India boasts a greater variety of economic systems than can be found in any single country in the world. Yet, India coexists, for the most part, in peace. It functions systematically and continues to grow. It is this trait about India that renders it so special. One must remind oneself that this unity of focus, operation, and purpose has been shaped in a significant way by literally over several thousand years of continuous history.

Some estimate it to be 10 thousand years, while others extend it to 20,000 or even beyond. The question lies in how one reconstructs history. Ram existed in the Satya Yuga,

and Krishna in the Dwapara Yuga, and so the chronology continues. In a canvas as vast as this, there will inevitably be those who sow doubts, which is understandable.

The crucial point is that those who harbour doubts are not cast out of the community. India may, according to some, be a cacophony, but what truly distinguishes India is its commitment to freedom of speech. While isolated incidents of intolerance do occur, it would be surprising, indeed unnatural, if these isolated cases were absent. The beauty of the scene lies in the ability to accommodate diverse points of view and still progress together.

The experience of the G20 has given impetus to B20 efforts. This is understandable because business is one of the fundamental building blocks of human civilisation. In a country where tribal methods of exchange coexist with the theoretical intricacies of stock exchanges, there exists a richness of approach that is not easily paralleled anywhere else.

This is India. The G20 has been utilised to project the Indian philosophy of the world as one: 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' — the belief that the world is one family. Governments that subscribe to class conflict ideologies will naturally pose questions about this philosophy. Resolving this debate won't happen overnight; it will be an iterative process. What's crucial is that the debate has commenced. Evidently, a thinking mind and the ability to engage in meaningful debate go hand in hand. The tradition of debate, in various forms, will persist, and that is the beauty of a vibrant intellectual environment.

This essence is mirrored by a rich material culture and a diverse array of resources, rendering this country truly exceptional. Learning to coexist, embracing differences, and showing mutual respect form the core of unity. This, in essence, is what it means to be human.

New Delhi Declaration adopted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The G20 on Saturday said today's era is not of war in the context of the ongoing Ukraine and stressed in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible. The Declaration was adopted with unanimous consensus after India changed the text on Ukraine.

There have been several rounds of negotiation without any consensus on the text on Ukraine. India on Saturday shared a new text on the Ukraine crisis for the joint statement. "Friends, we have just got good news.

With the hard work of our teams, and with the cooperation of you all, there is consensus on the New Delhi G20 Summit Leaders' Declaration," Modi said in a brief televised statement during the second session of the summit, speaking in Hindi.

"Concerning the war in Ukraine, while recalling the discussion in Bali, we reiterated



Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, left, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, center, and US President Joe Biden attend Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment event on the day of the G20 summit in New Delhi

our national positions and resolutions adopted at the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly and underscored that all states must act in a manner consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter in its entirety. In line with the UN Charter, all states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state. The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible," the Declaration said. As regards the Ukraine conflict, it said "We highlighted the human suffer-

ing and negative added impacts of the war in Ukraine with regard to global food and energy security, supply chains, macro-financial stability, inflation and growth, which has complicated policy environment for countries, especially developing and least developed countries which are still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic disruption which has derailed progress towards the SDGs. There were different views and assessments of the situation."

"We call on all states to uphold the principles of international law including territorial integrity and sovereignty, international humanitarian law, and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, and efforts to address crises as well as diplomacy and dialogue are critical.

"We will unite in our endeavour to address the adverse impact of the war on the global economy and welcome all relevant and constructive initiatives that support a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in Ukraine that will uphold all Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter for the promotion of peaceful, friendly, and good neighbourly relations among nations in spirit of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. Today's era must not be of war, a resolution of declaration read.

Efforts to phase out inefficient coal, fossil fuel subsidies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

G20 countries on Saturday committed to expedite efforts to phase down unabated coal power in line with national circumstances and uphold their 2009 promise made in Pittsburgh to eliminate and rationalise inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

According to the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, the grouping of major economies acknowledged the importance of hastening the development, deployment, and dissemination of technologies to transition to low-emission energy systems, particularly by rapidly expanding the deployment of clean power generation.

"We will increase our efforts to implement the commitment made in 2009 in Pittsburgh to phase-out and rationalise, over the medium term, inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption and

commit to achieve this objective, while providing targeted support for the poorest and the most vulnerable," the G20 Declaration read.

It further stated, "We recognise the importance to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation, including renewable energy, as well as energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards phase down of unabated coal power, in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards just transitions."



Modi for making the planet more inclusive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted the leveraging of technology by India to bring a positive difference in the lives of citizens. Addressing the G20 Summit, he also spoke on how to collectively think about empowering fellow humans and making the planet more inclusive as well as sustainable.

He said on X that at the "One Family" session of the summit, he emphasised on ways to further youth development and focus on skill development. "Also highlighted how to increase the spirit of trust and transparency in areas like global supply chains. India



is also committed to furthering holistic health and wellness. The G20 can also play a big role in furthering empowerment of women," he said. The Prime Minister said that "at the One Family Session of G20 Summit, elaborated on how to collec-

Summit making India world-ready: Jaishankar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The G20 has contributed to making "India world-ready and the world India-ready," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday as he underlined that India's presidency of the grouping prioritised addressing urgent concerns of the Global South.

Addressing a press briefing on the G20 Summit outcomes, he also said that while noting that G20 is not the platform to resolve geopolitical and security issues, the leaders recognised that they can have significant consequences for the global economy. "In particular they dwell on the ongoing war in Ukraine and the impact it has had especially on developing and least developing nations still recovering from



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a Press conference at the G20 Summit, in New Delhi on Saturday

the pandemic and economic disruption," Jaishankar said. Food, fuel and fertilizers were issues of special concern, he added. Another subject that

was addressed by the G20 leaders was countering terrorism and money laundering, Jaishankar said. The leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and recognised that it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security," he said. Jaishankar said the African Union became a member of the grouping under India's presidency which was in keeping with the priority that the country attaches to addressing urgent concerns of the Global South.

"You would recall that at the beginning of our presidency, at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative, 125 nations were consulted to express voice of the Global South," he said. "In terms of organisation and programme, the Indian presidency, if I may say so, has been exceptional. Events have been spread across 60 cities which are truly across the length and breadth of India. There has been a popular participation and a societal involvement of an extraordinary degree," Jaishankar said. The interest in G20 proceedings have been particularly strong among youth and it has been an opportunity to showcase India's culture, traditions and heritage, the external affairs minister said. "The G20 has contributed to making India world-ready and world India-ready," he said.

The declaration that leaders have agreed on focuses on promoting strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, seeks to accelerate progress on SDGs, envisages a green development pact for a sustainable future and endorses high-level principles on lifestyle for sustainable development, Jaishankar said.

Leaders first spouses enjoy farm-to-fork millet experience

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Spouses of various world leaders attending the G20 Summit here were treated to a special lunch at Jaipur House on Saturday, following which they were given a guided tour of an exhibition of culturally-rich artefacts at National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA).

The group was served millet-based dishes and they also sampled some street food, a source said. First ladies from Turkiye, Japan, the UK, Australia and Mauritius, among others visited the exhibition at NGMA, the source added. The source said, "After

lunch at Jaipur House, spouses of some world leaders enjoyed an exhibition hosted at the NGMA that opened today.

The exhibition has been showcased especially for them." The 'Roots and Routes' exhibition explores India's civilisational heritage, ethos and inter-connectedness.

The NGMA, under the Union Ministry of Culture, boasts a rich collection of artwork, including paintings, sculptures and photographs. S Radhakrishnan, the then-vice-president, inaugurated the gallery at Jaipur House in 1954, according to the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav website.

Nearly 400 artefacts,

including prized Gandhara sculptures, Chola Bronzes and rare manuscripts, are part of a special exhibition that will open at the NGMA on September 9 to welcome spouses of various heads of state who will gather here for the G20 summit.

Remains of a chariot dating back to the period of 2500 BC-1800 BC and unearthed by a team of archaeologists in 2018 from the Sanauli excavation site in Uttar Pradesh and rare Mexican scrolls will also be displayed thematically to showcase India's rich culture and its shared connection with G20 member countries and invited nations, official

sources said.

The special lunch and the NGMA exhibition were organised on the sidelines of the two-day G20 Summit that got underway on Saturday at the newly-built international convention and exhibition centre — Bharat Mandapam — at Pragati Maidan.

Earlier in the day, spouses of some world leaders visited the Pusa campus to learn about millet farming. They (world leaders' spouses) showed interest in learning more about millets, the source said.

Spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union government sponsored a proposal for the



International Year of Millets - 2023. The proposal was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Modi has also shared his vision to make the International Year of Millets - 2023 a "people's movement" alongside positioning India as the "global hub for millets".

Millet-based dishes were on the menus for lunches and dinners served to the delegates at G20 events held under different tracks since India assumed presidency of the bloc last December.

Luxury hotels in Delhi are also serving millet-based dishes to the heads of states who are in Delhi for the G20 Summit.

Over 1,000 killed as quake jolts Morocco

MORE THAN 1,200 INJURED, HISTORIC SITES DAMAGED

AP ■ MARRAKECH

A rare, powerful earthquake struck Morocco on Friday night, killing over 1,000 people and damaging buildings from villages in the Atlas Mountains to the historic city of Marrakech.

The Moroccan government says death toll in earthquake near Marrakech has reached 1,037, with more than 1,200 injured, reports AP.

The toll was expected to rise as rescuers struggled to reach the remote areas hit hardest. People woken by the quake ran into the streets in terror and disbelief. State television showed people clustered in the streets of Marrakech late at night, afraid to go back inside buildings that might still be unstable.

A man said he was visiting a nearby apartment when dishes and wall hangings began raining down, and people were knocked off their feet and chairs. A woman described fleeing her house after an "intense vibration."

A man holding a child said he was jarred awake in bed by the shaking.

Emergency workers looked for survivors in the rubble of buildings, their reflective yellow vests glowing in the dark. A hole gaped in the side of a home, and a car was nearly



buried by the chunks of a collapsed building in other images broadcast by local media.

In Marrakech, the famous Koutoubia Mosque, built in the 12th century, suffered damage, but the extent was not immediately clear. Its 69-meter (226-foot) minaret is known as the "roof of Marrakech."

Moroccans also posted videos showing damage to parts of the famous red walls that surrounded the old city, a UNESCO World Heritage site. At least 820 people died, mostly in Marrakech and five provinces near the quake's epicentre, and another 672 people were injured, Morocco's Interior Ministry reported Saturday morning. Of the injured, the ministry wrote, 205 were seriously hurt.

The head of a town near the earthquake's epicenter told Moroccan news site 2M that several homes in nearby towns had partly or totally collapsed, and electricity and roads were cut off in some places.

Abderrahim Ait Daoud,

cars veered around piles of Mars-like red rock that had tumbled from the mountain-side and blocked the road. Red Cross workers tried to clear a boulder blocking the two-lane highway.

Later Saturday morning in Marrakech, ambulances and motorcycles whirred by the edge of the old city, where business as usual mostly resumed Saturday morning. Tourists and passersby navigated roadblocks and snapped photos of sections of the clay ochre wall that had cracked, spilling fragments and dust onto the sidewalk and street. World leaders offered to send in aid or rescue crews as condolences poured in from countries around Europe, a Group of 20 summit in India, countries around Europe, the Mideast and beyond.

Turkey's president, whose country lost tens of thousands of people in a massive earthquake earlier this year, was among those proposing assistance. France and Germany, with large populations of people with Moroccan origins, also offered to help. And the leaders of both Ukraine and Russia expressed support for Moroccans.

The Moroccan government has not formally asked for help, a step required in order for outside rescue crews to be brought in.

The US Geological Survey said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 when it hit at 11:11 p.m. (22:11 GMT), with shaking that lasted several seconds. The U.S. agency reported a magnitude-4.9 after-

shock hit 19 minutes later.

The epicenter of Friday's tremor was near the town of Ighil in Al Haouz Province, roughly 70 kilometers (43.5 miles) south of Marrakech.

The USGS said the epicenter was 18 kilometers (11 miles) below the Earth's surface, while Morocco's seismic agency put it at 11 kilometers (7 miles) down. Such shallow quakes are more dangerous.

Initial reports suggest damages and deaths were severe throughout the Marrakech-Safi region, which more than 4.5 million people call home, according to state figures.

Earthquakes are relatively rare in North Africa. Lahcen Mhanni, Head of the Seismic Monitoring and Warning Department at the National Institute of Geophysics, told 2M TV that the earthquake was the strongest ever recorded in the mountain region.

In 1960, a magnitude 5.8 tremor struck near the Moroccan city of Agadir and caused thousands of deaths.

The Agadir quake prompted changes in construction rules in Morocco, but many buildings, especially rural homes, are not built to withstand such tremors. In 2004, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake near the Mediterranean coastal city of Al Hoceima left more than 600 dead.

Friday's quake was felt as far away as Portugal and Algeria, according to the Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere and Algeria's Civil Defence agency, which oversees emergency response.

Nawaz set for October return



PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Ending his over four years of self-imposed exile in the UK, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is likely to return to Pakistan next month, according to a media report on Saturday.

Quoting sources present at a meeting in London where Sharif, the supreme leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), was speaking to his party workers, the Dawn newspaper reported that he "spoke about his return, but a clear date for travel has not been disclosed."

Sharif, 73, has been living in self-imposed exile in London since November 2019. He was convicted in the Al-Azizia Mills and Avenfield corruption cases in 2018. He was serving a seven-year imprisonment at Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail in the Al-Azizia Mills case before he was allowed to proceed to London in 2019 on "medical grounds."

"PML-N workers at the meeting were eager to prepare for their leader's return and were discussing the logistical details of his comeback. Sharif confirmed his return to Pakistan in October," the Dawn report said.

The report also said that Nawaz Sharif had told it that "he must return to engage with his vote bank and supporters amid the ongoing economic crisis."

Earlier, on August 25, Sharif's younger brother Shehbaz had announced the former prime minister's return to Pakistan in September "to face his pending court cases and lend the party's campaign for the general election."

Shehbaz, the President of the PML-N party, has also said that Nawaz will return to Pakistan to lead the country as the prime minister for a record fourth time. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had declared to conduct a fresh delimitation of constituencies on the basis of the new census, delaying the general elections. The general elections were scheduled to be held within the 90-day constitutional period since the August 9 dissolution of Parliament.

WORLD BRIEFS

CONTROVERSIAL ZULU MINISTER BUTHELEZI DIES

Johannesburg: Controversial South African politician and traditional minister of the Zulu ethnic group Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi has died at the age of 95, South African president Cyril Ramaphosa announced on Saturday. Buthelezi founded the Inkatha Freedom Party, the third largest political party in South Africa when the country transitioned from the racist apartheid system to a democratic one in 1994. He was admitted to hospital in July following a failed medical procedure to ease his back pain, his family said at the time. "Prince Buthelezi, who served as the democratic South Africa's first Minister of Home Affairs, passed away in the early hours of today, Saturday, 9 September 2023, just two weeks after the celebration of his 95th birthday," Ramaphosa said in a statement on Saturday.

X SUES CALIFORNIA OVER CONTENT MODERATION LAW

California: Elon Musk's social media platform formerly known as Twitter has sued the state of California over a law requiring social media companies to publish their policies for removing offending material such as hate speech, misinformation and harassment. The first-of-its-kind legislation was signed into law a year ago by California Gov Gavin Newsom. In a lawsuit filed Friday against state Attorney General Rob Bonta, X Corp. challenged the "constitutionality and legal validity" of the law, saying it violates the First Amendment. Assembly bill 587 requires social media platforms to post their content moderation policies — which they already do — and twice a year submit a report to the state on how they address hate speech, racism, misinformation, foreign political interference and other issues.

UK POLICE NAB TERRORISM SUSPECT

London: A former soldier who escaped from a London prison while awaiting trial on terrorism charges was captured on Saturday, police said. Daniel Abed Khalife was on the run four days before a massive search managed to nab him in the Chiswick, west of London. Khalife escaped on the bottom of a food delivery truck from Wandsworth Prison on Wednesday. The breakout ignited a storm of criticism as political opponents blamed the ruling Conservative party for incompetence. Khalife, 21, is accused of planting fake bombs at a military base and of violating Britain's Official Secrets Act by gathering information "that could be useful to an enemy." He was discharged from the British army after his arrest earlier this year and had denied the allegations. His trial is set for November. London counter-terror police had offered a 20,000 pound (USD 25,000) reward for information leading to his arrest.

POLICE DETAIN KIN OF UK DEATH PROBE SUSPECT

Lahore: Police in central Pakistan detained for interrogation close relatives of a couple wanted by UK police in connection with last month's death of their 10-year-old daughter in the outskirts of London, an official said Saturday. A police spokesman in Jehlum, 175 kilometers (108 miles) northwest of Lahore, said that Urfaan Sharif and his wife Beinash Batool, the couple sought by UK police, were in hiding and 10 close relatives have been taken into custody for questioning and an investigation. Among them was Mohammad Sharif, the father of Urfaan, his brothers and cousins. Police spokesman Khan Mudassar said detaining close relatives might force the wanted person to surrender.

2 ISIS TERRORISTS ARRESTED IN PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB

Lahore: Pakistani law enforcement agencies foiled a major terror plot to target key installations in the Punjab province and arrested two terrorists of the Islamic State (ISIS) militant group during intelligence-based operations, police said on Saturday. According to the spokesperson of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police, the terrorists were arrested from Gujranwala and Rawalpindi cities. "The CTD has foiled a major terror plot in Punjab province and arrested two suspected terrorists of Daesh (ISIS) with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials. The terrorists had planned sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations," the spokesperson said. The terrorists have been identified as Zakirulla and Muhammad Eisha. Around 1.5 kgs of explosives, eight detonators, 13 feet of safety fuse wire and banned literature were recovered from them.

3 KILLED IN LEBANON REFUGEE CAMP

Beirut: Clashes resumed early Saturday at the largest refugee camp in Lebanon between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah group and militant Islamist groups, killing three people and wounding 10 others. Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, discussed with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas the volatile situation in an attempt to end the fighting. Mikati called for an end to the fighting saying that what is happening in Ein el-Hilweh "does not serve the Palestinian cause and is harmful to the Lebanese state." Sounds of gunfire and explosions could be heard in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp and nearby areas on the edge of the southern port city of Sidon

Maldivians vote for president

Male (AP): Voting started in the Maldives presidential election on Saturday, a virtual referendum over which regional power — India or China — will have the biggest influence in the Indian Ocean archipelago state. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, perceived as pro-India, sought re-election for a second term amid allegations by his main rival, Mohamed Muiz, that he has allowed India an unchecked presence in the country. Muiz promised that if he won the presidency, he would remove Indian troops stationed in the Maldives and balance the country's trade relations, which he said, is heavily in India's favour. Muiz's party, the People's National Congress, is viewed as heavily pro-China. Its leader, Abdullah Yameen, when he was president between 2013 and 2018, made Maldives a part of China's 'One Belt One Road.' The initiative envisages building ports, railways, and roads to expand trade — and China's influence — in a swath across Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Japan foreign minister meet Zelenskyy in Ukraine

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday during his visit in Kyiv, promising Tokyo's backing and agreeing to start negotiations on security cooperation between the two countries.

Hayashi, who had been on a tour of the Middle East and Poland earlier this week, made an unannounced visit to Ukraine and visited Bucha, one of the hardest-hit towns on the outskirts of Kyiv, before holding talks with Zelenskyy in Kyiv. Hayashi told Zelenskyy that Japan was ready to start negotiations on security cooperation based on an agreement between the Group of Seven and Ukraine made during the NATO summit in July.

Zelenskyy thanked for Japan's humanitarian and financial assistance that helped Ukraine through the winter as well as overcome problems in the energy supply due to Russian attacks, according to a

statement from the office of the Ukrainian president.

Hayashi also told Zelenskyy that Japan was committed to Ukraine and will continue to impose tough sanctions against Russia while cooperating with other G7 countries. He also promised support for Ukraine's economic recovery and reconstruction. Japan plans to host a Japan-Ukraine conference aimed at economic reconstruction early next year, Hayashi told Zelenskyy, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

It was Hayashi's first visit since the war began over a year ago. Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida travelled to Ukraine in March. Hayashi brought along a delegation of Japanese business leaders, including Rakuten Group CEO Hiroshi Mikitani and Tepei Sakano, president of a medical equipment maker Allm Inc.

"This is very important because we are actively working on the recovery of the Ukrainian economy and attracting new investments to Ukraine," Zelenskyy told the delegation.

UN atomic watchdog warns of threat to nuclear safety

Kyiv (AP): The United Nations atomic watchdog warned of a potential threat to nuclear safety due to a spike in fighting near Europe's largest nuclear power plant in Ukraine as the forces of the war-torn country continued pressing their counteroffensive on Saturday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said its experts deployed at the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant reported hearing numerous explosions over the past week, in a possible indication of increased military activity in the region. There was no damage to the plant.

"I remain deeply concerned about the possible dangers facing the plant at this time of heightened military tension in the region," IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi warned in a statement issued late on

Friday. He noted that the IAEA team was informed that staff at the nuclear power plant had been reduced temporarily to minimum levels due to concerns of more military activity in the area.

"Whatever happens in a conflict zone, wherever it may be, everybody would stand to lose from a nuclear accident, and I urge that all necessary precautions must be taken to avoid it happening," Grossi said.

The IAEA has repeatedly expressed concern that the fighting could cause a potential radiation leak from the facility, which is one of the world's 10 biggest nuclear power stations. The plant's six reactors have been shut down for months, but it still needs power and qualified staff to operate crucial cooling systems and other safety features.

Chinese, Russian guests attend North Korea's 75th anniversary parade

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea invited visiting Chinese delegates and Russian artists to a paramilitary parade featuring rocket launchers pulled by trucks and tractors, state media said on Saturday, in leader Kim Jong Un's latest effort to display his ties with Moscow and Beijing in the face of deepening confrontations with Washington.

The midnight parade in the capital, Pyongyang, which was to celebrate North Korea's 75th founding anniversary, came amid expectations that Kim will travel to Russia soon for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin that could focus on North Korean arm sales to refill reserves drained by the Kremlin's war on Ukraine.

While China has sent a delegation led by Vice Premier Liu Guozhong to the North Korea's anniversary celebrations, Russia sent a military song and dance group.

South Korean media speculated that the lack of Russian government officials at the festivities in Pyongyang could be related to preparations for a summit between Kim and Putin, which Washington expects within the month. According to some US reports, it could happen as early as next week.

Putin is expected to attend an international forum that runs from Sunday to Wednesday in the eastern city of Vladivostok, which was also the site of his first summit with

Imran moves SC against Army Act amendments

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed prime minister Imran Khan on Saturday moved the Supreme Court, challenging the changes made to the Official Secrets Act and the Pakistan Army Act.

Khan, the 70-year-old chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and the party vice-chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, 67, are charged with the violation of the Official Secrets Act in connection with the leakage of a confidential diplomatic cable from Pakistan's embassy in Washington.

The petition filed by Khan through his counsel Shohaib Shaheen contends that the amendments made in the Official Secrets Act and the Pakistan Army Act are in violation of the constitutional provisions of human rights.

It draws the apex court's attention to amendments introduced in the Official Secrets Act, which empower 'secret agencies to raid and detain any citizen or enter and search any person in any place without obtaining a search warrant from any court of law', terming them 'unethical' and in violation of the Constitution.

The petition contends that the amendments are in violation of various articles of the Constitution, which guarantee civil liberties, including the right to liberty, dignity, free speech, fair trial and due process under the law, among other fundamental rights.

Nagorno-Karabakh elects new president

Yerevan: Lawmakers in Nagorno-Karabakh, a breakaway Armenian-populated region of Azerbaijan, voted to elect a new separatist president on Saturday in a move that was strongly condemned by the Azerbaijani authorities. Samvel Shakhramanyan's election as the new president of Nagorno-Karabakh follows the resignation of Arayik Harutyunyan, who stepped down on September 1 as president of the region — which the Armenians call Artsakh. It comes amid soaring tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry denounced the vote as a "gross violation" of the country's constitution and a "serious blow to

the efforts of normalisation in the region." Since December, Azerbaijan has blockaded the only road leading from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh, severely restricting the delivery of food, medical supplies and other essentials to the region of about 120,000 people. Nagorno-Karabakh is a region within Azerbaijan that came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian military after a six-year separatist war that ended in 1994. Armenian forces also took control of substantial territory around the region.

Azerbaijan regained control of the surrounding territory in a six-week war with



Samvel Shakhramanyan

Armenia in 2020. A Russia-brokered armistice that ended the war left the region's capital, Stepanakert, connected to Armenia by just one road known as the Lachin Corridor, along which Russian peacekeeping forces were supposed to ensure free movement.

Armenia repeatedly has complained that Russian peacekeepers have done nothing to

help lift the Azerbaijani blockade of the road that has led to dire food shortages in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the situation has led to an increasing estrangement between Moscow and Yerevan.

Russia has been Armenia's main economic partner and ally since the 1991 Soviet collapse. Landlocked Armenia hosts a Russian military base and is part of the Moscow-led security alliance of ex-Soviet nations, the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

But Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has become increasingly critical of Moscow, emphasizing its failure to help lift the Azerbaijani blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh

and arguing that Yerevan needs to turn to the West to help ensure its security.

To Moscow's dismay, Armenia called a joint military exercises with the United States starting Monday, provided humanitarian aid to Ukraine amid the war and moved to ratify a treaty that created the International Criminal Court, which this year indicted Russian President Vladimir Putin for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine.

On Friday, the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned the Armenian ambassador to lodge a formal protest over what the moves it described as "unfriendly."

Hurricane Lee brings heavy swells to Caribbean

AP ■ SAN JUAN

Large swells battered the northeast Caribbean on Saturday as Hurricane Lee churned nearby through open waters as a Category 3 storm.

The storm, which is not forecast to make landfall, was located 385 miles (620 kilometers) east-northeast of the northern Leeward Islands. It had winds of up to 115 mph (185 kph) and was moving west-northwest at 12 mph (19 kph).

Earlier this week, Lee grew from a Category 1 storm to a Category 5 storm in just one day amid warm waters and limited wind shear.

"This was one of the fastest rates of strengthening in the Atlantic Basin on record," AccuWeather said in a statement.

Lee was forecast to pass well north of the northeast Caribbean in a big relief to people from the British Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico, which are still

recovering from hurricanes Irma and Maria that hit in September 2017.

Tropical storm conditions were not expected for any Caribbean island, but breaking waves of up to 15 feet (5 meters) were forecast for Puerto Rico and nearby territories, with authorities warning people to stay out of the water.

"We are concerned about people and boaters who may underestimate the impacts of this passing storm," said Capt. José Díaz of the Coast Guard sector in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"The increase in projected sea states of 10 to 15 feet severely reduces our ability to respond to a maritime distress with the full use of our resources." The National Hurricane Center said the seas near the center of the hurricane were expected to peak at 45 feet (14 meters). It noted that dangerous surf and rip currents were expected to hit most of the U.S. East Coast starting Sunday, but that the hurricane's impact

beyond that is still unclear.

"It is way too soon to know what level of impacts, if any, Lee might have along the US East Coast, Atlantic Canada, or Bermuda late next week," the centre said.

Meanwhile, officials in the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe warned of up to 3 inches (8 millimeters) of rain in a span of three hours or less for some areas. Lee is expected to remain a powerful hurricane into next week and is forecast to take a northward turn by Wednesday. However, its path after that remains unclear.

"Right now, the area in the United States that really needs to pay attention includes locations from the upper part of the mid-Atlantic coast to New England," said AccuWeather meteorologist Bernie Rayno.

Lee is the 12th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30 and peaks in September.

Tropical Storm Margot became the 13th named storm after forming on Thursday evening. It was located about 890 miles (1,430 kilometers) west-northwest of the Cabo Verde Islands. It had winds of up to 45 mph (75 kph) and was forecast to strengthen into a hurricane early next week. It was moving west-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph) and is expected to remain over open water.

The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration in August forecasted between 14 and 21 named storms this season. Six to 11 of them are expected to become hurricanes, and of those, two to five might develop into major hurricanes.

In the Pacific, Hurricane Jova spun through open waters far from Mexico's southwest coast and posed no threat to land. It was located about 945 miles (1,520 kilometers) west of the southern tip of Baja California and was moving west-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph) with winds up to 70 mph (110 kph).

OECD suggests digital register to record real estate ownership

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid concerns over investments in foreign real estate being used to "shelter undeclared assets", the OECD has suggested automatic exchange of information among countries and setting up of digitalised ownership registers accessible to designated relevant government agencies on a real-time basis.



The 'Enhancing International Tax Transparency on Real Estate' report released by the Paris-based Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ahead of the G20 Summit, said there have been significant increase in foreign-owned real estate

assets over the past decade, and a lot of funds have been shifted from financial assets to buying foreign real estate to avoid tax compliance.

"While tax administrations often only have limited visibility over the cross-border ownership of (and income

from) real estate, there are indications that the proportion of real estate owned by non-residents has continued to increase in recent years... Information exchanged under the CRS can also provide indirect indications to tax administrations about foreign real estate ownership or transactions," the report said.

Stating that trends underline the tax compliance risks associated with cross-border ownership of real estate and strengthen the case for enhancing tax transparency in this area.

The report suggests that, in the short-term, interested countries could make significant progress at limited cost by exchanging information that is readily available on the basis of existing

international legal and operational gateways for the exchange of information. The report also suggests two models for longer-term structural improvements to tax transparency.

The first is based on the traditional exchange of information approach, underpinned by common due diligence and reporting rules.

"The second is based on a more novel direct access-based model, building on the ongoing trend, in particular in the anti-money laundering and financial regulatory space, towards the inter-connection of digitalised ownership registers accessible to designated relevant government agencies on a real-time basis," it added.

G20 nations commit to promote faster, transparent, inclusive cross-border payments

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The G20 nations on Saturday resolved to promote faster, cheaper, more transparent and inclusive cross-border payments as envisaged in the G20 Roadmap for Enhancing Cross-border Payments.

The New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, adopted by the G20 leaders, also appreciated the successful conclusion of the G20 TechSprint 2023, a joint initiative with the BIS Innovation Hub, which will promote innovative solutions aimed at improving cross-border payments.

"We reaffirm our commitment to the effective implementation of the prioritised

actions for the next phase of the G20 Roadmap for Enhancing Cross-border Payments to achieve global targets for faster, cheaper, more transparent and inclusive cross-border payments by 2027 and welcome the initiatives undertaken by SSBs and international organisations in this direction," it said.

The leaders also welcome discussions on the potential macro-financial implications arising from the introduction and adoption of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), notably on cross-border payments as well as on the international monetary and financial system.

"We welcome the BIS

Innovation Hub (BISIH) Report on Lessons Learnt on CBDCs and look forward to the IMF Report on Potential macro-financial implications of widespread adoption of CBDCs to advance the discussion on this issue," the declaration by leaders of the top economies said.

The declaration also talks about the leaders' support to enhance global efforts to seize, confiscate and return criminal proceeds to victims and states, in line with international obligations and domestic legal frameworks, including through support to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and operationalisation of the Global Network.

'Illicit fund flow: Tax authorities should exchange info with non-tax agencies'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Countries should adopt a 'whole-of-government' approach to address the challenge of illicit financial flows through sharing of information from tax authorities to non-tax agencies, like financial intelligence units, anti-corruption agencies, customs authorities and public prosecutors, an OECD report said.



India has been pressing for expanding the scope of common reporting standard (CRS) at the G20 to include non-financial assets, like real estate properties, under the automatic exchange of information (AEOI) among OECD countries.

In a report titled 'Facilitating the use of tax-treaty exchanged information for non-tax purposes', OECD said illicit financial flows (IFFs) have a cross-cutting nature and involve a diversity of crimes and offences transcending tax evasion, such as money laundering, terrorism financing and corruption.

"It is thus highly important for jurisdictions to adopt a whole-of-government approach to addressing them, notably through the sharing of information from tax to non-tax authorities, which can include information exchanged under international tax agreements," the report said.

This process of "wider use of treaty-exchanged information" could be achieved through the implementation of cooperation agreements: (i) between competent authorities for exchange of information for tax purposes, and (ii) between tax and non-tax authorities at the domestic level.

"The sharing of information obtained through the exchange of information for tax purposes (EOI) with other authorities for non-tax purposes, also known as the "wider use of treaty-exchanged information", could significantly assist investigations carried out by other non-tax law enforcement authorities, such as anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), anti-corruption, prosecution and customs authorities," the report said.

Countries face a common threat posed by illicit financial flows (IFFs), including those associated with tax evasion, as well as money laundering, terrorism financing and corruption.

Tax evasion and other IFFs are often closely linked, as offenders usually fail to report or misrepresent to tax authorities the income derived from illegal activities, the report said.

"Non-tax authorities with which information could be shared would include those whose competence is one of the non-tax purposes envisaged. They could include, for example, financial intelligence units, anti-corruption agencies, customs authorities and public prosecutors," it added.

Presently, the OECD's

Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) framework provides for sharing of financial account details among signatory countries with an aim to check tax evasion.

In August 2022, OECD also approved the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) which provides for the reporting of tax information on transactions in crypto assets in a standardised manner, with a view to automatically exchanging such information.

Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra earlier this year said there is a need to broaden the scope of AEOI so that the information could be used not only to check tax evasion, but also for other non-tax law enforcing purposes.

Under the AEOI framework, signatory countries follow a CRS and obtain information from their financial institutions and automatically exchange that information with other jurisdictions on an annual basis.

"We would also like expansion of the CRS from financial to new other non-financial accounts and assets, because the risks are not only in financial assets... There is a risk of tax evasion in non-financial and real assets, properties etc," Malhotra had said.

IT dept finds deficiencies in financial transactions of TMB

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Income Tax Department during a "spot verification" at Tamilnad Mercantile Bank's headquarters at Tuticorin has found deficiencies in some of the filed specified financial transactions, the private lender said on Saturday.

The bank's business operations are continuing 'as usual' and 'not impacted' due to this development, the Tamil Nadu-based bank, which is over a century old, said in a statement on



Saturday. Last week, the Intelligence and Criminal Investigation wing of the Income Tax

department undertook a 'spot verification' at the bank's headquarters in Tuticorin. Tuticorin is located about

500 km from Chennai.

The Income Tax department reportedly found that the bank has not filed statements of financial transactions pertaining to cash deposits of over Rs 2,700 crore.

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank said, "...We wish to inform you that during the verification, it was observed that few SFT returns were not filed and certain errors/deficiencies were observed in a few of the filed SFT returns". "The returns, which were to be submitted, have since

been submitted, and the deficiencies observed are also being attended to and rectified," the bank said.

"No financial implication on the bank is envisaged. As a law-abiding organisation, we are providing all the details that are required by the Income Tax department," it added. "The business operations of the Bank are continuing as usual and are not impacted due to this development. We are complying with our legal obligations for disclosure from time to time," the bank said.

GST department fines ₹2.64 lakh on Pidilite Adhesive maker expects favourable outcome at appellate level

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pidilite Industries, a leading adhesive, waterproofing solutions and construction chemicals maker on Saturday said a fine of Rs 2.64 lakh has been imposed on the company by the GST department.

The company, however, expects a favourable outcome at the appellate level.

Based on the company's assessment, prevailing law and the legal advice of the external counsel, Pidilite Industries "reasonably expects" a favourable outcome after it challenges the penalty at the appellate level, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"The company has received an order dated August 30, 2023, which was received by the company on September 7, 2023..."



From the office of the Assistant Commissioner of Central Tax, Division - III, Bhosari, Pune imposing a penalty of Rs 2,64,844 under applicable provisions of the CGST Act, 2017," it said.

The order has been passed with regard to disallowance of input tax credit (ITC) in the state of Maharashtra for CIPY, a company which has been merged with Pidilite Industries

on April 1, 2022.

"The GST department has disallowed the company's claim on input credit claimed and related matters. It may be noted that this demand relates to the year 2017-18, which was before CIPY became a subsidiary of the Company," it said.

Pidilite Industries further said there is no material impact on financials, operations or other activities of the company.

Tata Communications moves ITAT against ₹228.49 cr TDS order

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Communications has moved the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal against an income tax commissioner court order rejecting the company's appeal against a tax demand of Rs 228.49 crore, according to an exchange filing.

The company in a late-night filing on Friday stated that the company had filed appeals before the Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals), Mumbai, in respect of TDS orders alleging short deduction of tax at source for assessment years 2013-14 to 2018-19.

The potential financial implications are Rs 228.49 crore on the company, it said. The Commissioner of



Income-tax (Appeals), Mumbai, passed orders received by the company on September 07, 2023 deciding the appeals against the company.

"The company has on September 08, 2023, filed an appeal against these orders before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal," Tata Communications said.

Leverage Edu announces investment of ₹8.4 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Study abroad platform Leverage Edu will invest Nigerian Naira 800 million (Rs 8.4 crore) into the Nigerian market to expand its operations within the African country, the company announced on Saturday.

The announcement comes as part of 'Nigeria-India Digital Economy Dialogue' during G20 Summit where Founder and CEO of Leverage Edu Akshay Chaturvedi met Nigerian government officials and the Nigerian entrepreneurial community.

"We at Leverage Edu and Fly are excited about making more higher education options accessible to the Nigerian young, and have them build diverse plus best-fit careers for themselves," Chaturvedi, who was part of an Indian business delegation, said.

Global education testing and assessment organisation Educational Testing Service (ETS) led a new funding round in Leverage Edu in July this year.

G20 for addressing debt vulnerability in developing countries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The leaders of G20 nations on Saturday agreed to urgently and effectively address debt vulnerabilities in developing countries, including Zambia, Ghana and Sri Lanka.

Debt vulnerability-related issues of three countries — Zambia, Ghana and Ethiopia — are addressed under the common framework, while Sri Lanka is outside the framework.

The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration noted that with notable tightening in global financial conditions, which could worsen debt vulnerabilities, persistent inflation and geoeconomic tensions, the balance of risks remains tilted to the downside.

The G20 leaders committed to promote resilient growth by urgently and effectively addressing debt vulnerabilities in developing countries, the Declaration said.

The leaders re-emphasise the importance of addressing debt vulnerabilities in low and middle-income countries in an effective, comprehensive and systematic manner.

The G20 called for continued discussion on policy-related issues linked to the implementation of the Common Framework for making appropriate recommendations.

"We welcome the recent agreement between the Government of Zambia and the official creditor committee on debt treatment and look forward to a swift resolution. We welcome the formation of the official creditor committee for Ghana and look forward to an agreement on a debt treatment as soon as possible. We also call for a swift conclusion of the debt treatment for Ethiopia," the Declaration said.

Beyond the Common Framework, it wel-



comed all efforts for timely resolution of the debt situation of Sri Lanka, including the formation of the official creditor committee, and the resolution as soon as possible.

So far, the only country Chad has debt restructuring.

The G20 recognised the efforts of the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR) participants to strengthen communication and foster a common understanding among key stakeholders, both within and outside the common framework, for facilitating effective debt treatments.

GSDR was created to strengthen communication and foster a common understanding among key stakeholders, both within and outside the common framework, for facilitating effective debt treatments.

It will now be a permanent feature of the G20, and the co-chairs will be the World Bank, IMF and the host country.

The G20 welcomed joint efforts by all stakeholders, including private creditors, to continue working towards enhancing debt transparency.

Taxmen can seek details of ITRs filed by investors in startups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Income tax officials can seek details about ITRs filed by startup investors to ascertain if the amount invested is commensurate with the income shown in their personal ITRs, the I-T department has said.

Replying to a post of former BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover on X on Friday, where he flagged that a number of startups have received tax notices in the last one month asking to furnish information about their shareholders, the I-T department said the Finance Act 2012 mandates that the source of funds from a resident shareholder in startup has to be also explained by an investor.

"In the present case, it appears that the AO has sought to examine the genuineness of the transaction and source of investment by the shareholder-investor, to verify if the amount invested is commensurate with the income shown in the ITRs of the investors.

"Alternatively, if the PANs of the investors are shared with the AO by the company, he can verify the ITRs of the investors," the I-T department said.

Section 68 of the I-T Act under which the Assessing Officer (AO) has made the enquiry about creditworthiness of shareholder/investor, places initial onus on the assessee-company (start up in this case)



to prove -- identity of the investor, creditworthiness of the investor and genuineness of the transaction.

"Finance Act, 2012 mandated that the nature and source of any sum credited as share capital, share premium etc., in the books of a closely held company (excluding venture capital fund or a venture capital company registered with Sebi) shall be treated as explained u/s 68 only if the source of funds from a resident shareholder is also explained by investor," the I-T department said.

Grover in his post had said that the I-T department is asking startup companies to furnish three-year ITR of all shareholders.

"1) How and why will companies have ITR of shareholders ! 2) Why would a shareholder/individual share their ITR with a private company ?," Grover had posted, adding it's a case of an investor buying equity in a startup and not a case of a startup giving loan to its shareholders.

Siddhanta Medicity partners with UK firm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Bhopal-based healthcare institution Siddhanta Medicity looks to raise around USD 108 million (around Rs 826 crore) in partnership with a UK-based firm for advancing clinical research and development in the field of cell therapies, a release said on Saturday.

The investment of USD 108 million will play a pivotal role in establishing stem cell research centres, treatment facilities, and advanced laboratories, Dr. Subodh Varshney, the managing director of the Bhopal-based health institution said.

The institution has tied up with UK-based SRAM &AM Group to raise funds to advance clinical research and development in the field of NK Cell and Mesenchymal Stem Cell Therapies, the statement said.

The SRAM &AM Group has also tied up with biopharmaceutical company Cellaax, which is engaged in the research and development of advanced cellular therapy.

Freshers orientation programme organised

PNS ■ AMARAVATI



VIT-AP University organized a new students orientation program today in the campus. Freshers orientation is a crucial event in the university's academic calendar designed to welcome and assist incoming students as they transition into the university environment. Orientation provides a platform for new students to become acquainted with the university's culture, resources, and expectations. It helps them adjust to the academic and social aspects of campus life.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Guest Muthazhaghi, Chairman VITAA (Vellore Institute of Technology Alumni Association) said orientation introduces students to various support services, such as counselling centers, Educational programs, and career development offices, which are essential for their well-being and success. Orientation informs students about extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations they can join, as well as research opportunities, internships, and study abroad programs. Students must strive hard to excel in their academic career to meet their parents expectations.

Djoker vs Medvedev in US Open final



AP ■ NEW YORK

Daniil Medvedev dethroned defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in a US Open thriller on Friday to set up a repeat of the final from two years ago against 23-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic. Medvedev defeated Alcaraz 7-6 (7/3), 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to reach his fifth major final and stop Alcaraz in his quest to become the first man to retain the title in New York since Roger Federer in 2008. "I said I needed to play 11 out of 10. I played 12 out of 10, except from the third set," said the 27-year-old

Medvedev. "He (Alcaraz) is honestly just really unbelievable. To beat him you need to be better than yourself and I managed to do it." Medvedev now meets Djokovic on Sunday as the 36-year-old Serbian star once more goes in search of a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title to crown his return to world number one next week. The third-seeded Medvedev won his lone major at the 2021 US Open when he foiled Djokovic in his bid for a calendar Grand Slam, leaving his rival in tears after a straight-sets triumph. He produced another scintillating performance against Alcaraz, aveng-

ing a lopsided loss to the Spaniard in the Wimbledon semi-finals in July. Medvedev held his nerve under constant pressure from Alcaraz in the opening set, elevating his level in tie-break to claim the final four points. "I totally lose my mind on that set, and fighting for 50 minutes and then, you know, for four points lose my mind. It was really tough for me to handle it," said Alcaraz. Alcaraz didn't face a single break point in the first set, but Medvedev totally dominated the second set -- dropping just two points on serve and breaking the top seed twice. The 20-year-old Alcaraz kept his hopes alive with a break in the fourth game of the third set enough to

extend the match to a fourth set. He saw three break points come and go at 1-1 before Medvedev administered the fatal blow with a superb backhand return, breaking for a 4-2 lead. A routine hold moved Medvedev to the cusp of victory, which he eventually sealed after an epic final game in which Alcaraz saved three match points but also failed to convert three break points. "I thought that right now I am better player to find solutions when the match is not going in the right direction for you," said Alcaraz. "But, you know, after this match, I gonna change my mind. I'm not mature enough to handle these kind

of matches. So I have to learn about it."

DJOKER OUTWITS SHELTON

Djokovic ended the run of unseeded 20-year-old American Ben Shelton earlier on Friday, winning 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) to advance to his 10th US Open final in 17 appearances. "Another Grand Slam final. I cannot be happier with where I am," said Djokovic, who missed last year's tournament at Flushing Meadows because of his refusal to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Djokovic is attempting to become the oldest men's champion in New York in the Open era, which would also see him match Margaret Court's all-time mark for most major singles titles.

The Serbian has now won 22 of his last 23 Grand Slam semi-finals. He captured the last of his three US Open titles in 2018.

Djokovic has reached the final at all four majors in the same year for the third time. He will try to claim three Grand Slams in the same season for the fourth time in his career.

"I'm obviously over the moon with the results so far on Grand Slams," said Djokovic.

"Playing in all four finals of all four Slams in a season is amazing. It's the highest achievement I can think about when I start the season.

"That's what I dream about, that's what I really wanted, that's where I want to be, in this kind of position."

Djokovic's only Grand Slam loss this year came at Wimbledon when he was beaten by Alcaraz in five sets.

Shelton began the US Open ranked 47th but will break into the top 20 for the first time on Monday.

"There's a small piece of it is disappointment obviously. I'm a competitor," he said. Every loss hurts. It cuts you a little bit.

"But if anything, this week has just motivated me more."



Bopanna again suffers heartbreak, loses men's doubles final

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Rohan Bopanna's agonising wait to win his maiden men's doubles Grand Slam title continued as he lost the hard-fought US Open final with partner Matthew Ebden to defending champions Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury here on Friday. Playing only his second men's doubles final at a Major tournament, Bopanna and his Australian teammate lost the title clash 6-2, 3-6, 4-6 after two hours and one minute. Ram and Salisbury became the first team to win three straight US Open titles.

Bopanna was playing the US Open final for the second time in his career and this time as the oldest player at 43.

He had finished a runner-up with his Pakistani partner Aisam-ul-haq Qureshi way back in 2010, losing the title clash to the legendary Bryan brothers.

Overall, it was third Grand Slam final for Bopanna, who won his first and only Major in 2017 when he lifted the French Open mixed doubles trophy with Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski.

Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi are only two male tennis players from India to have won Grand Slam titles.



Neymar breaks Pele's all-time goal record

AP ■ MONTEVIDEO

Neymar surpassed Pele as Brazil's all-time top scorer with two second-half goals in a 5-1 win over Bolivia in South America's 2026 World Cup qualifiers on Friday. The 31-year-old striker went into the game level with Pele on 77 goals and had a golden opportunity to break the record in the 17th minute when Brazil were awarded a penalty. But he looked distraught after his soft spot-kick was easily saved by Bolivia keeper Guillermo Viscarra to keep the scores goalless. Seven minutes later, Brazil got in front when Rodrigo reacted quickly to slot home after a shot from Raphinha was parried out by Viscarra. Brazil doubled their lead just after the break when Raphinha cut in from the left and his low shot took a slight deflection as it flew into the bottom corner. Neymar had a hand in Brazil's third, with a clever chipped pass that was flicked on by Bruno Guimaraes into the path of Rodrigo who confidently drilled home. Then came Neymar's moment to enter the history books as he pounced on a loose ball inside the box and tucked away his 78th goal in his 125th game for his country - raising his hands and his gaze to the skies. Victor Abrego pulled a goal back for Bolivia, bustling through a disorgan-

nized Brazil backline before blasting an unstoppable shot past Ederson. But there was still time for Neymar to extend his record tally, connecting with a low ball from Raphinha in stoppage time to complete the victory and a memorable night for the forward. Pele, who died in December aged 82, scored 77 goals for Brazil in 92 appearances between 1957 and 1971. In Friday's other game, Uruguay turned on the style, under new coach Marcelo Bielsa, as they beat Chile 3-1. Argentine Bielsa, who had previously coached Chile between 2007 and 2011, opted for a youthful line-up without veteran strikers Edinson Cavani and Luis Suarez. Bielsa was rewarded with an entertaining display from his new charges with River Plate attacking midfielder Nicolas de la Cruz scoring twice. De la Cruz opened the scoring with a fine left-foot strike in the 38th minute before Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde doubled the advantage on the stroke of half-time. The third goal, in the 71st minute, came after a fast break down the left with Liverpool striker Darwin Nunez pulling the ball back into the path of De la Cruz who made no mistake from close range. Chile pulled a goal back three minutes later with Arturo Vidal scrambling the ball home after a Diego Valdes header came out off the bar.

India confident of beating Lebanon in third-place match

PTI ■ CHIANG MAI

Heartbroken but head held high after their penalty shootout loss to Iraq in the semi-finals, India would look to continue their recent domination against Lebanon when they face off in the third-place match of Kings Cup here on Sunday. India were just 10 minutes away from recording their maiden win over higher-ranked Iraq but the West Asian country equalised (2-2) though a debatable penalty and then went on to win the semifinal match 5-4 on shootout. Head coach Igor Stimac had lashed out at the referee for "robbing" India of a victory. Captain Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was also



critical of the 80th minute penalty awarded to Iraq after their striker Ghadhban was squeezed by two Indian defenders inside the box during a high-ball tussle. India will, however, gain a lot of confidence from the feisty fight against 70th ranked Iraq and the

world number 99 Stimac's side will hope to sign off the tournament with a win and end at third place. India and Lebanon had played against each other three times this year and Stimac's side have won twice -- though one was via penalty shootout in the SAFF Cup semifinal. In the Intercontinental Cup in June, India had beaten Lebanon 2-0 in the final after playing out a 0-0 draw in the league stage. No doubt it will not be an easy outing for India against Lebanon, who lost to hosts Thailand 1-2 in the other semifinals on Thursday, but Stimac's boys will fancy their chances considering their recent successes. There is nothing to separate the two teams in terms of FIFA

rankings as India are ranked 99th while Lebanon are at 100th. Despite the absence of inspirational captain and striker Sunil Chhetri, the Indians did a commendable job upfront against Iraq. India's first goal scored by Mahesh Naorem, after a brilliant pass by Sahal Abdul Samad, was a world class act. India were on the defensive in the second part of the first half but they held on to their own in the next 45 minutes against the Iraqis who were Asian Cup champions in 2017. India had already claimed two third-place finishes in the tournament, including the most recent one in 2019. Hosts Thailand will face Iraq in the summit clash.

Manish Manju enter finals of Mustafa Memorial

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Championships medallists Manju Rani and Manish Kaushik stormed into the finals of the Mustafa Juralahovic Memorial boxing tournament in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina with unanimous decisions wins. Manish (63kg), used his experience and was at his attacking best throughout as he outplayed Afghanistan's Mohammad Sarwari 5-0 on Friday. The 2019 World Championship bronze medallist will meet Palestine's Mohammed Soud in the final. Manju (50kg) also showed similar display of domination when she stepped in the ring against Petra Mezei of Hungary. The 2019 World Championship silver medalist with her quick movement and powerful punches proved to be too strong for her Hungarian opponent as she sailed through to the finals with a convincing 5-0 win. She will now face Sadia Bromand of Afghanistan in her quest to secure the gold medal.

Coutinho leaves Villa to join Al Duhail on loan

AP ■ DOHA

Brazilian forward Philippe Coutinho joined Qatari side Al Duhail on a season-long loan from Aston Villa on Friday. Coutinho has fallen out of favour at the Premier League club after initially impressing following his loan move from Barcelona last year. The 31-year-old eventually made a permanent £17 million (\$21 million) move to Villa, but mustered only one goal last season and made just two substitute appearances this term. Coutinho was close to tears after suffering a hamstring injury in Villa's 4-0 win against Everton in August in what proved his last appearance for the club. Coutinho was able to join Al Duhail despite the Premier League transfer window closing last week because the



Qatari deadline is not until September 18. "Aston Villa can confirm Philippe Coutinho has completed a season-long loan

move to Al Duhail," a club statement said. "The Brazilian signed for Villa on loan initially in January 2022 and immediately sparked interest in claret and blue, scoring on his debut against Manchester United. "His impressive performances would later see his move to Villa Park from Barcelona turn permanent and he has made 43 appearances for the club, scoring six goals." Coutinho starred for Liverpool from 2013 to 2018, which persuaded Barcelona to pay more than £100 million for his services in 2018. Al Duhail are the reigning Qatar champions having won the Qatar Stars League last season.

AP ■ MADRID

Yamal makes history for Spain

Lamine Yamal brightened the gloom that has descended over Spanish football by becoming the country's youngest ever player and goalscorer as La Roja thrashed Georgia 7-1 on Friday to get their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign back on track. On a night of goals, Scotland beat Cyprus 3-0 and Croatia put five past Latvia while Portugal were made to work a bit harder, Bruno Fernandes on target in the 1-0 win in Slovakia. Spain's mood in the Euro qualifiers was not helped by a defeat by Scotland in their sec-

ond game had left them fourth in Group A. But they climbed up to second with a big win in Tbilisi, inspired by an Alvaro Morata hat-trick -- although the Atletico Madrid forwards' treble takes second place to Yamal's superb first appearance for his country at 16 years and 57 days old. The Barcelona teenager came on from the bench with Nico Williams after 43 minutes to replace Marco Asensio and Dani Olmo, who had both suffered knocks, with Spain 4-0 up



and cruising. Yamal finished lethally in the 74th minute to send Spain 7-1 up after Williams found him with a cut-back. "I'm happy obviously, for my debut and my goal," Yamal told Spanish broadcaster Teleduarte. "It's a dream, I'm living in a dream right now." Morata's opener in the 22nd minute was followed by Solomon Kvirkvelia's own goal. Olmo drilled the third past Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi

Mamardashvili in the 38th minute and Morata added the fourth after a slick exchange with Ruiz. Spain were forced to change both their wingers before half-time and Yamal gratefully grabbed the chance to make history. Watford's Giorgi Chakvetadze pulled one back for Georgia before Morata completed his hat-trick, Williams and Yamal completing the rout. Spain, who face Cyprus in Granada on Tuesday, remain nine points behind Scotland,

who have played two games more. The Scots made it five wins from five as Scott McTominay, Ryan Porteous and John McGinn all struck within the opening half an hour in Larnaca. Steve Clarke's men could seal their place in Germany next year with three games to spare should Norway and Georgia draw in Oslo on Tuesday. Bruno Fernandes earned Portugal a fifth consecutive triumph in qualifying, his goal securing a 1-0 win over Slovakia in Bratislava. Roberto Martinez's side have not conceded a goal in Group J, scoring 15, and are five

points clear of their opponents who are second after being beaten for the first time. The Luxembourgers claimed a rare victory with a 3-1 win over Iceland while Liechtenstein went down 2-1 to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bruno Petkovic scored twice and set up Luka Ivanusec for another in the first half to put Croatia in control of their tie against Latvia. Andrej Kramaric and Mario Pasalic completed a 5-0 win with goals in the second period. Croatia are second in Group D, three points behind Turkey who were held to a 1-1 draw by Armenia, who play Croatia on Monday.

It's IND vs PAK in Asia Cup today

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The Indian team management's predicament to choose between KL Rahul and Ishan Kishan will be the dominating theme amid the usual edgy emotional quotient, when they face arch-rivals Pakistan in the most-awaited Super 4 match of the Asia Cup here on Sunday.

Alongside focusing on the team goals, the Indian management will want to assemble the best possible 11 in the park against Pakistan, whom the Rohit Sharma-led outfit is facing for the second time in the event.

But for that, they need to find answers for the aforementioned puzzle, and hope that rains will stay away despite adding a controversial reserve day to the match on Monday.

The return of Rahul to the squad has widened the pool of players to select from, but that has also given them a happy headache.

Kishan has impressed everyone in the last month or so, smashing four fifties in as many matches - three against the West Indies and one against Pakistan in the Asia Cup Group A match at Pallekele last week.

During the process, Kishan has also diversified himself, underlining his comfort in positions ranging from opening to No. 5.



The 25-year-old Jharkhand man opened the innings against the Caribbeans while batted in the middle-order against Pakistan.

Additionally, Kishan brings in a bit of variety to the Indian batting line-up as he is a left-hander.

So, it seems that Kishan has everything going for him. But Rahul's claim for the No. 5 position is hard to ignore despite the fact that the Bengaluru cricketer has not played an ODI since March this year, courtesy a thigh injury and the ensuing phase of post-

surgery convalescence. The 31-year-old remains one of India's steadiest ODI batters since 2019. In that year, he made 572 runs from 13 matches at 47.67.

The trend continued in the following years - In 2020: 443 runs from 9 matches at

55.38, in 2021: 108 runs from 3 matches at 88.50, in 2022: 251 runs from 10 matches at 27.89 and in 2023: 226 runs from 6 matches at 56.50.

If one filters the stats further, while batting at No. 5, Rahul has amassed 742 runs from 18 matches at 53 with a

hundred and seven fifties. Those are strong numbers and his wicket-keeping offers an additional arrow in the quiver. Rahul also engaged in intense wicketkeeping drills at nets on Friday, further indicating his readiness to make the return.

So, the team management will have to take a hard call on the match day.

While that decision is important for the team to achieve the desired balance, they will also be eager to start the Super 4 with a win notwithstanding the combination they field.

Pakistan have already bagged two points after beating Bangladesh by 7 wickets at Lahore, and another win will place them comfortably on the way to the final.

So, India will also want to enter the log sheet but they will have to counter a potent Pakistan bowling attack that can make an impact irrespective of the nature of the pitch.

Of course, Rohit and other Indian batters will be wary of the high-paced incoming deliveries of Shaheen Shah Afridi, but the Pakistan bowling unit has other equally explosive performers.

Haris Rauf, with his express pace, is currently topping the Asia Cup bowling chart with 9 wickets from three matches, and seemed to have emerged from the shadows of Afridi (7 wickets).

While Naseem Shah also has taken 7 wickets, ensuring no let off point for opposition batters.

Pakistan has an edge on paper in this department, but

India will believe that they have the ammunition to strike back in kind.

The return of Jasprit Bumrah, who skipped the league match against Nepal, will bolster India's bowling, while Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur can play the efficient support cast role.

But once these two teams enter the arena, factors like playing 11, form, past records etc go irrelevant. It will be a storm force collision on the field.

TEAMS

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna.

Pakistan: Babar Azam (captain), Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Ali Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Haris, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Faheem Ashraf, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Taysab Tahir (travelling reserve).



'Not facing Pakistani bowlers enough makes difference at big events'

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Shubman Gill, who found Pakistan's pace trio too hot to handle during his painstaking 10 off 32 balls in the group league game, admitted that not facing the Shaheen Shah Afridis and Haris Raufs often, does make a "difference" during multi-nation events.

The Indian top-order batters have had issues with Afridi's nip-backers and the awkward angles that he often creates and it has got everything to do with unfamiliarity even if you have watched thousands of his bowling videos.

"We don't play against Pakistan as often as we do against some other teams. We all know that their bowling attack is quite good and when you don't play against such attacks often it makes a bit of difference in main tournaments," Gill was frank in his admission that life has indeed been a bit difficult against the troika of speed merchants.

India get to play Pakistan only during Asia Cup or at the ICC events.

Gill said that he was also banking on the left-arm throw-down specialist Nuwan Senewiratne to dish out an improved show against Afridi, and in general against Pakistan quicks.

"Definitely (training has helped). He (Nuwan) has

been travelling with us for the last 7-8 years. It is nice to have that variation. We have that right-arm specialist (Raghu), the side-arm specialist (Dayannd Garani) and the left-arm specialist. It does help in any conditions that you play," added Gill.

Gill then explained why the Pakistan fast bowlers are making such an impact.

"They are very different fast bowlers and they have their own specialities. Shaheen gets the ball to swing a lot. Naseem is all about pace and likes help from the wicket. They present different challenges in different conditions," said Gill.

Gill said that Indian batters will have to dominate unlike last time when the top order was blown away for 66.

"As openers, we need to make a good start and dominate them from the beginning," Gill said.

In that context, Gill said his partnership with captain Rohit Sharma could be crucial.

"He (Rohit) is someone who likes to take on the bowlers more aerially and I like playing along the ground in the power play. That combination works well for us. We both are a bit different, how we go about our shots and tackle the situations. That makes it a bit difficult for opposition to contain us," said Gill.

As an all-rounder, I carry double or triple workload compared to specialists: Hardik

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Hardik Pandya doesn't mind words when he says that as a multi-skilled cricketer, his workload is twice and at times even thrice compared to a specialist batter or bowler.

Pandya's 87 largely contributed to India's score of 266 all out in the opening rain-affected game against arch-rivals Pakistan in the Asia Cup here.

For someone, who had a career-threatening lower-back stress fracture and remained out of international cricket for considerable period, the Baroda player has more than made amends after being handed national T20 captaincy and is again bowling at brisk pace.

"As an all-rounder, my workload is twice or thrice as anyone else. When a batter in the team goes and bats and finishes his batting and is heading

home, I'll still be bowling after that," Pandya told 'Star Sports'.

"So for me, all the managing, all the pushing, and everything happens during the sessions or my training or my pre-camp season," he spoke about his workload management.

The ODI vice-captain also explained that he reads the match situation and then takes a call on whether to bowl his full quota of 10 overs or not.

"When the game arrives, it



is more about whatever the team requires, and the managing side goes out of the park, and it is more practical calls that how many overs are needed for me.

"Because if 10 overs are not needed, there is no point in me bowling 10 overs, but if 10 overs are needed, then I'll be bowling. I always believed that I give myself a chance to succeed, which is by reading the game, which is by backing myself," he added.

Self belief will always be a key ingredient to get success at the highest level.

"I have realised that no matter what happens, you have to back yourself, you have to believe that you are the best in the world. That does not guarantee you success, but at the same point of time, it does give you and it does guide you to work towards success, so practically back yourself," he signed off.

SKY needs minor mindset shift to crack ODI code: ABD

PTI ■ DURBAN

Former South African captain AB de Villiers feels that India's No. 1 T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav needs a slight tweak in his mindset in order to replicate his success in the 50-over format.

The world No. 1 in shortest format, who has managed to hold onto his spot in India's squad for the upcoming World Cup, averages a poor 24.33 in ODIs, with only two half-centuries in 24 innings with a strike-rate of 101.38.

Suryakumar himself has referred to numbers as "really bad".

Suryakumar, who has modelled his batting in De Villiers 360-degree hitting style, has found a fan in the South African.

"You guys know I'm a big fan (of Surya). He plays in a similar manner to how I used to play, but in ODIs, he hasn't cracked it yet," the South African said on his YouTube channel 'AB de Villiers 360'.

"It is a tiny little mind switch that he's got to make, and he's got all the ability and capabilities that he needs to do



that," he added.

"I am very relieved to see SKY in the World Cup squad. I'm very happy about it. I hope he gets this opportunity in this World Cup," he said.

"Looking at the balance of the Indian squad, he might not start, but a World Cup is a long tournament. So let's see what happens then," he added.

Asked about Sanju Samson's exclusion from the World Cup squad, De Villiers said: "I don't have to say much about him. We know what he's capable of."

Recent Sri Lankan experience gives us edge: Babar

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam on Saturday said the recent experience of playing in Sri Lanka conditions will give his side an edge over India in Sunday's Asia Cup Super 4 clash.

Several Pakistan players have been playing in Sri Lanka since the Test series in July, followed by the Lanka Premier League and the bilateral ODIs against Afghanistan.

"Given the continuous cricket we are playing both in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, you can say that we hold an edge (over India)," said Babar in the



Pakistan pacers have been doing exceedingly well in the Asia Cup as Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah have so far taken 23 wickets among them from just

three matches.

However, Babar exhorted his spinners to join the party in the middle overs so that the pressure applied on opponents does not slip.

"Yes, we get a good start (with the ball) and the plan always is to bowl good in middle overs. The effort is to have an effective combination. We need wickets in the middle overs but we are not getting them."

"But you can see that we are finishing good. Our pacers are doing well at the end. This is a team performance. If someone fails, then another bowler chips in," said Babar.

Annu fails to impress

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

Annu Rani continued her disappointing form this season as she finished seventh with an effort of 57.74m in the women's javelin throw event in the Diamond League Meeting here on Friday.

The 31-year-old national record holder had her best throw of the day in her third attempt to end at seventh in the eight-women field.

Conway & Mitchell shine as NZ crush ENG

AP ■ CARDIFF

Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell both hit unbeaten centuries and shared a partnership of 180 runs to steer New Zealand to a dominant eight-wicket win over England on Friday in their first meeting in a ODI since the epic Cricket World Cup final at Lord's in 2019.

Set 292 to win, the New Zealanders reached the target with 26 balls to spare at Sophia Gardens as Conway (111) and Mitchell (118) each struck their fourth ODI hundreds.

It's the first of four matches in an ODI series between teams who will open the World Cup by playing each other in Ahmedabad on October 5.

On this evidence, New Zealand is going into the tournament in better shape - and is on a three-match winning streak over England in limited-overs cricket after victories in the final two T20Is of their series. That finished 2-2 on Tuesday.

"It's certainly not the World Cup - for us it was a great opportunity as a group to play against a quality side," Conway said. "We've got another three opportunities to do that."

Ben Stokes, who has opted to come out of ODI retirement



ahead of England's World Cup title defense in India, marked his return to the 50-over format by being one of four batters to post fifties on what appeared a tough track at first.

Stokes hit 52 after a quick knock of 54 from Dawid Malan, who was part of an emergency opening partnership with Harry Brook (25) because of injuries to Jonny Bairstow and Jason Roy. Brook has been controversially left out of England's World Cup squad and was staking a claim for a late call-up.

New Zealand was on top after removing Joe Root for 6 to leave England 101-3 in the 21st

over but Stokes and captain Jos Buttler, who was the top scorer with 72 off 68 balls on his 33rd birthday, steadied the innings with a partnership of 88.

Big-hitting Liam Livingstone weighed in with a lively 52 off 40, including three sixes, in a 77-run stand with Buttler before both fell to Tim Southee in the same over late on.

David Willey's unbeaten 21 included a six down the ground off the last ball, and England seemed to have set a testing target.

Allrounder Rachin Ravindra had 3-48 off his 10 overs of spin.

ICC gives 'average' rating to Windsor pitch

PTI ■ DUBAI

The International Cricket Council has come up with an "average" rating for the pitch at Windsor Park in Roseau, Dominica, which hosted the opening Test between West Indies and India in July.

Jeff Crowe, the match referee for the Test, had initially given a "below average" rating for the track which would have seen the venue receive a demerit point.

While Cricket West Indies would have had the option to appeal Crowe's verdict in that case, it also would have had to explain to the ICC regarding the sub-standard of the pitch. The pitch was slow and



assisted spin, as batting first the hosts were bundled for 150 with Ravichandran Ashwin bagging a fiver while Ravindra Jadeja taking three.

The visitors managed well with the bat, putting on 421 for the loss of five wickets, thanks to openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma

scoring 171 and 103 respectively. However, the Men in Blue ran havoc with the ball again in the second innings, with Ashwin being even more effective, grabbing seven for 54, as they prevailed in the contest by an innings and 141 runs which ended within just three days.

Sriram joins LSG as assistant coach

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Super Giants, on Saturday, announced the name of former India spinner Sridharan Sriram as an assistant coach for the next season of Indian Premier League.

He would be joining head coach Justin Langer and mentor Gautam Gambhir, alongside Vijay Dahiya (assistant coach), Pravin Tambe (spin-bowling coach, Morne Morkel (fast-bowling coach)

and Jonty Rhodes (fielding coach).

Sriram possesses immense experience in the field, having helped Bangladesh as the technical consultant to secure a couple of conquests in the Super 12 stage of the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia last year.

Earlier, he was also associated with the Australian side for six years since 2016, helping it with title wins during the T20 World Cup and Ashes in 2021-22.

"For me, ISRO is not just a space agency; it is an embodiment of the dreams and aspirations of millions of Indians"
—Dr K Sivan



From lunar triumph to sun-bound glory, India soars beyond boundaries. In a series of groundbreaking achievements, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has left an indelible mark on space exploration. From flawless lunar landings to venturing towards the sun, ISRO's successes are reshaping the future of space science and technology, writes **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**

ISRO's stellar success

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is basking in the success of Chandrayaan-3, its lunar mission, which executed a flawless soft landing on the lunar surface. Adding to this triumph, ISRO has now accomplished a precision deployment of Aditya, India's inaugural mission to the sun. This mission is slated to orbit the Lagrange-1 vantage point, providing unprecedented insights into the workings of the celestial furnace that fuels our universe.

What sets these missions apart is the remarkable feat of manoeuvring these spacecraft from millions of kilometres away on Earth. These feats were directed from the Master Control Room in Bengaluru, while other spacefaring nations, including the US, Russia, France, and China watched in awe. Notably, Russia's lunar mission, a pioneer in planetary exploration, encountered complications moments before its intended lunar landing. Currently, India is deeply engaged in planning its next ventures: a manned space mission (Gagan Yaan) and missions to Venus (Shukrayaan), among others.

The surge in attendance at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota to witness live launches serves as a testament to the nation's fervent interest in space programmes. These events have become a national spectacle, rivaling the excitement of an India-Pakistan cricket match.

Reflecting back to the late 1990s and early 2000s, when India embarked on its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Missions and Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launching Vehicle (GSLV) programmes, only a handful of spectators from Sriharikota and neighbouring areas attended the launches. Today, the crowds have swelled manifold, even though they view the spectacle from a gallery six kilometres away. As the mission director initiates the final countdown over the public address system, palpable anticipation fills the air. While many may not discern the technical nuances between PSLV and GSLV, the pride and joy derived from these space endeavors, conceived and executed by Indian scientists, is unmistakable.

The nation's space programme is intricately woven into the fabric of everyday life. From mobile phone calls and Direct-To-Home television to critical weather forecasts that forewarn us of approaching cyclones and natural disasters, all owe their existence to ISRO's constellation of communication and remote sensing satellites. This means that ISRO touches every facet of an average person's life in some manner. Vikram Sarabhai, the visionary behind India's space programme, envisioned space technology as a means to elevate the quality of life for every Indian, particularly those in need. Never did Sarabhai or his team envision vying for a space monopoly.

Sarabhai's vision contrasted sharply with the approach of the USA and the now-defunct Communist USSR. For them, launch vehicle technology stemmed from World War II, where ballistic missiles were adapted into satellite launch vehicles. Applications followed satellites. In Sarabhai's paradigm, applications took precedence, followed by satellites and launch vehicles. Recall how ISRO leveraged satellites for the nationwide school education programme SITE (Satellite Instructional Television Programme), using transponders from a US satellite. SITE was the world's largest mass communication experiment at the time.

Following SITE, the Satellite Telecommunication Experimental Project (STEP) in 1977-79 illuminated

the challenges of space and ground systems for communications, leading to the evolution of the Indian National Satellite System (INSAT). This system forms the backbone of India's satellite communication network, contributing to India's status as the country with the highest number of mobile phone users.

ISRO's strides were not without challenges. One recalls the image of scientists ferrying a sounding rocket on a bicycle carrier to the launch pad at Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS). Another iconic image is that of APPLE (Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment) being transported on a bullock cart for airlift to the European Space Agency's launch pad in French Guiana. While ISRO excelled in fabricating satellites for various purposes, developing launch vehicles, especially Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicles, was a formidable task. Attempts, both internal and external, were made to thwart ISRO's launch vehicle development missions.

The infamous spy case dealt a severe blow to cryogenic engine technology, causing a decades-long setback in India's space programme. Spacefaring nations were apprehensive of India challenging their monopoly over the lucrative launch industry, worth hundreds of billions of dollars even in the 1990s.

India is still working towards perfecting the technology for the heavy lift launch vehicle (GSLV) capable of deploying heavy communication satellites in geostationary orbit, 36,000 km from Earth. While some GSLV launches have been successful, ISRO must ensure that the vehicle is reliable, safe, and secure for manned missions into outer space.

ISRO's foremost goal should be to bypass mobile phone towers and enable handsets to receive data directly from communication satellites, thereby eliminating call rate drops. Telemedicine facilities should bring healthcare professionals to the doorstep of every home, and online education should become widespread, making learning more affordable.

Before sending humans into space, we must ensure that the vehicle is human-rated. While a manned mission to space is undoubtedly significant, it should not take precedence over other critical programmes. The fields of telemedicine and satellite-based education are currently in a state of stagnation.

Despite being over 75 years old, independent India lacks a national broadcast channel for Akashvani accessible across the entire country. All India Radio could collaborate with ISRO to utilise its network of FM stations to broadcast a national channel, offering a diverse array of programmes including news, radio newsreels, discussions, and a rich tapestry of music. This 24x7 radio network would be a boon for the public, rekindling interest in radio.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Communications should revitalise dormant landline connections. BSNL faces staffing shortages, and management often urges customers to switch to mobile phones. These are areas where ISRO can play a pivotal role. While interplanetary space exploration is a commendable pursuit, let us not forget that India has yet to develop a civilian aircraft of its own. It's high time India introduces a homegrown counterpart to Boeing or Airbus, akin to the legendary Pushpak of antiquity.

(The writer is Chennai-based correspondent of the Pioneer)



THE SURGE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE IN SRIHARIKOTA TO WITNESS LIVE LAUNCHES SERVES AS A TESTAMENT TO THE NATION'S FERVENT INTEREST IN SPACE PROGRAMMES. THESE EVENTS HAVE BECOME A NATIONAL SPECTACLE, RIVALING THE EXCITEMENT OF AN INDIA-PAKISTAN CRICKET MATCH



THE INTERNET AND YOUR KIDS

As your child grows, it is likely he/she is spending more and more time online. There are so many positive things about being online like staying connected with friends and family, pursuing interests, and being part of communities. But it is not always a safe and positive experience for children. UNICEF enlists tips to ensure a safer digital footprint. The **HEALTH PIONEER** reports



SET CLEAR GROUND RULES

Have honest conversations with your children about who they communicate with and how, and who can see what they post online.

Explain that anything that goes online – pictures, videos, comments, things they share with others and what others post and share with them and about them – leaves behind a trail of information about them. To make sure they're leaving a positive "digital footprint", they should be mindful about what they do and say online.

Make sure they understand that discriminatory or inappropriate contact is never acceptable. No one should spread rumours or share hurtful or embarrassing stories or photos. What may seem like a harmless joke to one person can be deeply hurtful to others.

If your child experiences something online that makes them feel upset, uncomfortable or scared, encourage them to tell you or a trusted adult immediately.

Children often 'know' the perpetrators of online harassment or abuse, so it is important to help them to be alert and know how to respond to any problematic behaviours they encounter online.

Work with your child to establish rules on how, when and where to use devices.

THINK BEFORE YOU POST

Think twice before you post anything online, especially if you're upset or angry. Once you share a message, photo or video, it's hard to control what happens to it. Taking

it down is nearly impossible.

And remember you have the right to privacy – and so do others. It is not okay to log into other people's accounts, use their phones without their permission or share their information or photos.

USE TECHNOLOGY TO PROTECT THEM

Check that your child's device is always updated and running the latest software, and that privacy settings are on and configured to minimize data collection so that people don't see any information that you don't want them to see.

Help your child learn to keep personal information private. If your privacy settings are not secure, anyone can see your information.

Keep webcams covered when not in use. For younger children, tools such as parental controls like safe search, can help keep online experiences positive.

Be cautious of free online resources, including educational ones. If your child is asked to provide a photo or their full name, be sure it is a trusted website.

THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE

You can change the privacy settings on your social media platforms to help you control who sees your information – including your locations.

Think carefully about what you share with whom. Don't share personal information like your address, phone number or bank details. And don't share your passwords with anyone – not even with close friends!

Cyberbullying May Lead To Higher Risk Of Eating Disorder: Study

Cyberbullying could lead to low self-esteem, body image dissatisfaction, and unhealthy attempts to control weight, which could impact the risk of mental health issues, including eating disorder symptoms. Cyberbullying can be associated with a higher risk of experiencing eating disorder symptoms in 10-14 years old, finds study. The research indicates that both being a victim of cyberbullying and perpetrating cyberbullying are associated with the high risk of experiencing eating disorder symptoms, such as worrying about gaining weight, tying one's self-worth to weight, binge eating, and distress with binge eating.

"Cyberbullying could lead to low self-esteem, body image dissatisfaction, and unhealthy attempts to control weight, which could impact the risk of mental health issues, including eating disorder symptoms," said lead author Chloe M. Cheng, medical student at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

The study, published in the International Journal of Eating Disorders, is based on the data from 11,875 children aged 10-14 years old in the US. The children answered questions about whether they had experienced cyberbullying victimisation and perpetration, as well as whether they had experienced eating disorder symptoms.

About 9.5 per cent of the adolescents in the study reported experiencing lifetime cyberbullying victimisation, and 1.1 per cent had experienced lifetime cyberbullying perpetration. Cheng also suggested clinicians consider assessing cyberbullying and eating disorder symptoms in early adolescence and provide anticipatory guidance.

Jason M. Nagata, Associate Professor of paediatrics at UCSF suggested "adolescents to limit social media that encourages eating disorders and appearance comparisons." "Parents should advise their children to avoid cyberbullying and encourage them to report online harassment if it occurs," Nagata said.

SPEND TIME WITH THEM ONLINE

Create opportunities for your child to have safe and positive online interactions with friends, family and you. Connecting with others can be an excellent opportunity for you to model kindness and empathy in virtual interactions.

Help your child recognize and avoid misinformation and disinformation, age-inappropriate content and content that can potentially cause anxiety or other harm. Introduce them to trustworthy sources of information.

Children can be exposed to advertising that may promote unhealthy foods, gender stereotypes or age-inappropriate material. Help them to recognize online ads and use the opportunity to explore together what is wrong with some of the negative messaging you see.

Spend time with your child to identify age-appropriate apps, games and other online entertainment. Be alert for apps that may have harmful content or pose privacy risks.

MODEL HEALTHY ONLINE HABITS

Promote positive online behaviour by practicing it yourself. Be mindful of the example you set and what you share online about your child, including their photos and videos.

Encourage your child to be kind online and to support friends and family by sending positive messages or emojis.

If they have classes online, encourage them to be respectful of others and to be mindful of what can be seen on

camera to maintain privacy.

Be alert if your child appears to be upset or secretive with online activities. Reassure them that experiencing abuse or harassment is never their fault and they shouldn't keep it a secret.

Familiarize yourself with their school's digital learning policies.

Seek out local helplines and resources for the latest issues in keeping children safe online and how to report cyberbullying or inappropriate content.

THINK BEFORE YOU ACCEPT

Before you accept a friend request you should have a look at their profile – and try to see who they are.

Do you have friends in common? Are you from the same town? Don't feel pressured to accept random friend requests. Sometimes people pretend to be someone they are not, and it's hard to know if they are telling the truth.

LET THEM HAVE FUN AND EXPRESS THEMSELVES

Spending time online can be a great opportunity for your children to be creative, learn, use their voices to share their views and support causes that are important to them.

Encourage your child to use resources on the internet to help them get up and get moving, like online exercise videos for children and video games that require physical movement.

Remember to balance online activities with an active lifestyle and offline recreation for a healthy balance in all aspects of life.

HEALTH BRIEFS



GENOME SECRETS OF INDIAN OIL SARDINE UNEARTHED

In a major breakthrough in marine fisheries research, a team of scientists at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has decoded the whole genome of the Indian oil sardine, a popular food fish.

CMFRI Director Dr A Gopalakrishnan described this development as a 'milestone' in Indian marine fisheries, saying that the decoded genome will be a valuable resource for understanding the biology, ecology and evolution of the oil sardine (*Sardinella longiceps*).

"This critical genome data could be used to improve the management strategies for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of this fish," he said.

The decoded genome is 1.077 Gb in size and con-

tains a total of 46316 protein coding genes.

This landmark research accomplishment was achieved through the cutting-edge Next Generation Sequencing technology by a group of researchers led by Dr Sandhya Sukumaran, Principal Scientist at Marine Biotechnology division of the CMFRI. This research has been published in the high-impact journal Scientific Data of the Nature Group.

Indian oil sardine is a vital fisheries resource in the Indian subcontinent, contributing substantially, approximately 10 per cent, to the total marine fisheries industry in India.

Genetic and genomic investigations found that Indian oil sardines exist in two highly distinct stocks, one in Indian waters and another in the Gulf of Oman.

FUJIFILM INDIA TIEUP WITH YASHODA HOSP TO SET UP GASTRO RESEARCH FACILITY

Fujifilm India, known for its healthcare imaging and information systems and Gastroenterology wing of Yashoda Hospitals have entered into a partnership to establish a training and research facility to help gastroenterologists enhance their skills in basic and advanced Gastro-endoscopy including Endoscopic Ultrasound procedures. The facility will also provide comprehensive training and observer ship programs to doctors from the Asia Pacific region, a press release said.

The MoU to this effect was signed at Yashoda Hospital Hitec City in the presence of Dr.A.Lingaiah, Director Medical Services, Yashoda Hospitals and Tatsuhiko Saeki, Global

Head of Endoscopy division, Fujifilm Corporation, Tokyo, Dheeraj Chaudhri, Head, Department Fujifilm India, and Tomosuke Okada, Japanese Advisor, Fujifilm India.

"We wish that this partnership will positively impact patient care standards in various remote regions of the country with the help of continuous training programs," Tatsuhiko Saeki said.

Dheeraj Chaudhri said that the new training facility will expose Gastroenterologists to the latest technology in Endoscopic Ultrasound System, ERCP and Third space including new technologies available for diagnostic endoscopy.

GAUTAM SOLAR DONATES MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS TO AIIMS DELHI BURNS WARD

As a part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR), Gautam Solar, among India's Top 10 solar module manufacturers recently donated to the Department of Plastic, Reconstructive & Burns Surgery of the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) Delhi, multiple medical equipments, including a shower trolley and multiple shower panels imported from a Sweden-headquartered global medical technology company. These equipment (which amount to more than Rs. 22 lakhs) are designed to bolster the hospitals capabilities in providing assistance and care for patients suffering from burns.

Dr Manish Singhal,

HOD, Department of Plastic, Reconstructive & Burns Surgery at the hospital said, "This donation will be beneficial for patients as they need to be showered before surgery to reduce chance of infection. It was a painful process for them but using these machines, the process will be automated and they will experience less pain. These machines can be conveniently sanitized by the caregivers."

Gautam Mohanka, CEO of Gautam Solar added that the move aims to enhance healthcare quality. "Our commitment to CSR is about making a meaningful impact on the lives of individuals and communities."

Positive body image linked to better life satisfaction

Having more positive body image is strongly associated with better psychological wellbeing and life satisfaction, according to a new study led by Anglia Ruskin University in England. It also said that people in rural areas appreciate their bodies more, notes The **HEALTH PIONEER**

Published in the journal Body Image, the research is one of the largest studies ever conducted on the topic of body image, involving 56,968 participants in 65 nations including India.

The lowest scores were recorded by Australia, followed by India and then the United Kingdom. At the other end of the scale, Malta scored highest.

The research was focused on 'body appreciation', defined as 'accepting, holding favourable

opinions toward, and respecting the body, while also rejecting media-promoted appearance ideals as the only form of human beauty".

Previous research has shown that high levels of body appreciation are linked to a range of positive wellbeing traits such as improved self-esteem and healthy eating habits, and negatively associated with issues such as depression and anxiety. However, few studies have assessed body appre-

ciation across nations.

Led by researchers from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), a consortium of scientists asked participants in 65 nations to complete the Body Appreciation Scale-2 (BAS-2), which contains 10 items, including 'I respect my body' and 'I appreciate the different and unique characteristics of my body'.

The study found that across nations, greater body appreciation was significantly associated with higher psychological wellbeing, as



assessed using a measure of life satisfaction. The researchers also found that body appreciation was higher in participants who were single (compared with being married or in a committed relationship) and those living in rural areas.

The study also found large differences in body appreciation scores across the 65 survey nations.

Viren Swami, Professor of Social Psychology at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) and lead author

of the study, said: "This is one of the largest studies on body image ever carried out, brought about by a collaborative research effort involving over 250 scientists across the world. Our finding that greater body appreciation is associated with better psychological wellbeing highlights the importance of developing ways to promote more positive body image globally.

"Also, people who live in urban areas may feel stronger pressure to conform to body ideals promoted by

Western society, and it is also notable that people from countries considered culturally different to the United States appeared to have broadly greater body appreciation. People in rural areas may also benefit from being in nature, which past research has also shown to be linked with positive body image.

"This research also highlights what can be achieved when scientists from across the world come together to achieve a common goal."

G20: India shines on global stage

The G20 summit, expertly hosted by India, signifies a watershed moment for the nation's global standing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has adeptly seized this opportunity to showcase India's burgeoning economy and its ascending influence in international affairs.

This article offers a nuanced exploration of the intricate dynamics surrounding India's G20 presidency. It encapsulates crucial topics such as funding for climate transition, peace in Ukraine, the overhaul of multilateral development institutions, the regulation of cryptocurrency, diplomatic manoeuvres with Bangladesh, and the conspicuous absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

One cannot help but ponder the potential for India to have galvanised G20 leaders towards a consensus on a transformative "New Delhi Leaders Summit Declaration."

The achievement of consensus among G20 states on the leaders' declaration, particularly the contentious section addressing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is indeed remarkable.

The G20 Leaders' joint declaration adopts a nuanced stance. The New Delhi Leaders Summit Declaration addresses the "impacts of the war in Ukraine" on "global food and energy security, supply chains, macro-financial stability, inflation, and growth", all of which contribute to the pursuit of a lasting peace in Ukraine.

Furthermore, the declaration emphasises adherence to the principles outlined in the UN Charter. It underscores that "all states must refrain from territorial acquisition", respecting the "territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political inde-



pendence of every state". Additionally, the "use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" is deemed unacceptable, in accordance with the declaration.

Moreover, Modi's announcement granting the African Union permanent membership within the G20 is a strategic triumph, supported unanimously by member nations at the summit's outset. This decision marks a remarkable achievement during India's stewardship of the G20. Modi's assertion that the African Union's inclusion will fortify both the G20 and the voice of the Global South is a sentiment worth considering.

Also, India's invitation extended to Bangladesh Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina carries profound political implications. Timed astutely amid Bangladesh's pivotal elections, it is indeed a masterstroke. This overture sends a resounding message to the West: India's foreign policy is forged through independent assessments, resolute and unwavering. Additionally, this move aligns seamlessly with India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, enhancing its sway in the Global South.

Sheikh Hasina's participation in the G20 bears historical significance, heralding Bangladesh's inaugural presence in this esteemed global forum. This positioning thrusts Dhaka into a pivotal role in the

Indo-Pacific, underscoring the nation's burgeoning geopolitical influence. It not only bolsters regional ties but also underscores India's steadfast commitment to elevating its neighbours on the international stage. Simultaneously, this invitation amplifies Hasina's standing within Bangladesh, enhancing her influence and reputation.

Nevertheless, the discord introduced by the conflict in Ukraine disrupted the G20 proceedings. India's nuanced approach, emphasising dialogue and diplomacy, stands in contrast to Western nations' call for a resounding condemnation of Russia's actions. Striking a delicate balance

between these opposing views is the paramount for India's G20 presidency.

The notable absence of Xi Jinping at the G20 summit is a significant development, marking the first time he has opted not to attend. This underscores the underlying rivalry between China and India, a rivalry that has manifested in recent territorial disputes.

While Beijing has expressed willingness to collaborate for a positive summit outcome, Xi's absence cast a shadow over the event. China's earlier objection to holding the G20 meetings in Jammu & Kashmir further complicates the already intricate diplomatic landscape surrounding the

event.

India's decision to host the G20 meetings in Jammu & Kashmir carries profound symbolic weight, affirming India's sovereignty over the region and reasserting its territorial integrity. From China's geopolitical standpoint, however, this move is viewed through a strategic lens. Beijing's objection may stem from its vested interests in the region, as well as historical border disputes with India. Additionally, China's objection underscores the broader competition between India and China for influence in South Asia. Selecting J&K as the G20 meeting location may have been interpreted by China as a cal-

culated move by India to assert dominance in a region that has been a focal point of regional tensions.

Nonetheless, India's decision stands as another masterstroke. New Delhi's choice to host the G20 meeting in Jammu & Kashmir has far-reaching implications for regional geopolitics. In days to come, it will not only influence India-China relations but also shape perceptions of India's stance on territorial disputes and its commitment to asserting influence on the global stage.

Regarding Xi's decision to skip the G20 summit, analysts worldwide have proffered various interpretations. These range from potential snubs to India, to a desire to avoid meetings perceived as insincere with the US, to the management of domestic challenges and economic slowdown back home. However, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reiterated its support for India's hosting of the event, hinting at a willingness to cooperate.

Nonetheless, the inability to secure a joint declaration at the G20 summit could have been a setback for India's ambitious G20 presidency. But India could persuade diverse member nations to endorse a unified statement.

The success of India's presidency shows its ability to foster consensus and emerge as a unifying force on the global stage. Through adept diplomacy, India can leave an indelible mark on the G20, solidifying its position as a global leader. And for this to happen, Prime Minister Modi urged global leaders to confront the prevailing "global trust deficit."

(The writer is Associate Editor & News Editor, The Pioneer)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's deft leadership at the G20 summit underscores India's growing global influence. This article delves into key diplomatic moves, from Bangladesh to Ukraine, highlighting India's ascension as a unifying force. Despite geopolitical tensions, India's stance strengthens its position on the world stage.



SWARN KUMAR ANAND

PERSPECTIVE

By now, China's reticence has generated a lot of interpretations in global media and in diplomatic circles. For Xi, it is an occasion to showcase that China is having its unique world view wherein engagement rules are quite different from what the others think. But his absence in the Delhi Summit is very unique because since his coming to power, he has never missed any G20 summit in any part of the world.

China takes rivalry to G20 summit

The latest G20 summit in Delhi once again highlights how India and China are escalating their differences to new heights. Xi Jinping is purely an ambitious and aggressive statesman. Since coming to power in 2012, he has been clearly and distinctly demonstrating his intentions.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has his own agenda to take India to the global stage despite all odds both at home and in his neighbourhood. Equally important and critical is that both Delhi and Beijing are competing for leadership positions at all international institutions. The only difference playing out in the open is that, unlike China, India is not challenging US leadership on the global stage.

On the other hand, China has a one-point agenda to dethrone America from all international institutions. And to establish its own model of global governance based on Chinese characteristics. The point Beijing (Xi) is making is why we should listen to Washington, when China has its own perspective that must be considered by the rest of the world. Thus, Xi's new China is charting its own course, aiming to reorient the geopolitical order in the coming years. In this great power game, if India comes in between, China will have no way, but to handle its emerging global neighbour.

When the world's most powerful nations are meeting this weekend in Delhi, the two notable absentees are only Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation and Xi. Both have their own reasons for not coming to attend the most talked about G-20 Summit. For Putin, he has been facing an international



arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC) for atrocities carried out in Ukraine during the course of the current conflict that began in February 2021. Apart from this, he is fast encountering international isolation for his extreme aggression against his neighbour and looking for support from friends and allies all over the world.

By now, China's reticence has generated a lot of interpretations in global media and in diplomatic circles. For Xi, it is an occasion to showcase that China is having its unique world view wherein engagement rules are quite different from what the others think. But his absence in the Delhi Summit is very unique because since his coming to power, he has never missed any G20 summit in any part of the

world. In fact, no proper explanation has been given by Beijing for Xi skipping the landmark event.

However, international observers and China watchers say that his absence indicates predominantly China's displeasure with the West, especially the US. Secondly, the Chinese strongman clearly wants to avoid isolation from the majority of the Western leaders as Putin is also not coming to the summit.

Thirdly, China's long boundary dispute with India, the host country, and so far, both the neighbours not arriving at any credible solution to this sticky issue may be one reason for his intriguing decision of absence in the meet. Also, China views India as a member of the anti-China camp headed by the US. So in

that case why Xi will attend a global event that projects India as a superpower and most of the western leaders are taking a front seat, most importantly US President Joe Biden.

Fourthly, China's long rivalry with the US and complete distrust over the existing international liberal order, this kind of a no-show was highly likely for Xi.

Fifthly, China has started viewing G20 as another international forum that supports Washington's and its ally's agenda at the most.

Sixthly, George Magnus, an economist who is with the China Centre at Oxford University, says: "There may be an element of deliberate snub to India but could also be a statement that there are different governance structures Xi Jinping thinks are important

and the G20, may not be one of them. Xi may have wanted to make an example of the Indian G20."

Yes, there could be a high probability that Xi might be thinking on these lines.

As economic globalisation unfolds in full cycle, India and China seem to be heading more towards collision than convergence. But there was a time when both the bordering nations were offering huge benefits to their partnering countries without upsetting the regional power balance. Today, the world is different and geopolitical dynamics are changing very fast.

To many international observers India-China rivalry and competition is going to grow at any cost. Again, China's new Premier Li Qiang has already arrived in Delhi to

attend the summit who is completely new to the entire scenario of India-China conflict. And this is his second international test after just attending the East Asia Summit in Jakarta this week. And till date, there has been no public statement that Li and Prime Minister Modi may have a bilateral engagement on the sidelines of the meet. In fact, the strange thing is that for more than a year China has not been appointing a permanent ambassador in New Delhi. This shows how Beijing is trying to sideline Delhi on the diplomatic front but always wanted to engage on the trade front.

Finally, this G20 will certainly enhance India's global ambitions and particularly Prime Minister Modi's stature all around the world. Though he has been facing sharp criticisms from the opposition INDIA alliance in the run up to the 2024 General Election, he has already established a distinct style of leadership, delivery and oratory during his nearly a decade of power at the Centre. It's clear that the battle for him in this election is simply Modi vs Modi as the buzzword goes around in the national and international media.

The INDIA alliance is too crowded and there each of the top leaders have a prime ministerial ambition. More importantly, these opposition leaders face stiff competition back home with their largest ally i.e. Congress. And some of them like the Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), DMK, CPI(M), Nationalist Congress Party, JD(U) have been sworn enemies of the Congress since their birth though they quite often form opportunistic alliances with

the latter on many occasions. But this time, no single party will take any chance as it is the question of becoming Prime Minister of India (though it may certainly never happen).

Even some of them might choose to become a Charan Singh or Chandra Shekhar of the recent past, still they won't cede their space to the much-awaited Gandhi scion Rahul Gandhi. Frankly speaking, whether it's Bharat Jodo or any other initiative that he has undertaken so far, this single agenda has always remained anti-Modi centric. This has been the biggest mistake on his part and Prime Minister Modi being a global statesman, such a vilifying agenda might not serve any purpose for the poor Gandhi.

This G20 will be a new feather in the cap of Prime Minister Modi. His leadership and appeal has reached to all corners of the world and to all Indians especially in the remotest parts of the country. However China and Russia's absence has slightly dampened the event. But then the presence of Biden, Sunak, Macron and the rest will certainly enhance India's event and its global ratings in the days to come.

Sadly, the strange bedfellows at INDIA camp should have offered a helping hand to the current government so as to project a concerted effort of the entire nation instead of cribbing and complaining about the event from day one. It does not matter, this G20 is a Modi show and will always be remembered as a grand fiesta in the annals of modern Indian history.

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



MAKHAN SAINKA

I CAN HONESTLY SAY I AM A CHRISTIAN, BUT MY SPIRITUALITY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED ON THE ROAD AND IS BASED ON MY EXPERIENCES WITH GOD
—JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

The week's commencement mirrors the nurturing of seeds, symbolizing growth. Your persistent dedication in previous weeks now yields its rewards. Favorable income aligns with your interests, harmonizing the material and spiritual aspects of life. Culinary pleasures and leisure pursuits beckon, though vigilance against potential obesity is wise. Divine blessings enfold you, fostering emotional contentment. A positive and joyful atmosphere permeates your home, buoyed by celestial influences. Propitious stars illuminate your path, urging the inception of a fresh project that holds promise. As the week concludes, a journey is indicated, accompanied by dynamic engagements and unwavering determination. Your strengths lie in focus and concentration, rendering success attainable. Moreover, your innate adaptability and resilience come to the forefront, allowing you to navigate challenges with grace.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Unforeseen occurrences are poised to unfold this week, catching you off guard. The prospect of a delightful journey may entice your plans. A friend who was distanced may reconnect, perhaps through networking or an air-travel encounter. Midweek might introduce a bout of negative thoughts, leading to stress and disappointment. Temptations of avarice and desire could allure you, ultimately revealing your boundaries and motivating you to transcend these pitfalls. Doubts, suspicion, and envy might momentarily cloud your judgment, leading to potential discord in decision-making. Nonetheless, this phase is transient, as your positive attributes are poised to regain dominance, steering you clear of this turmoil swiftly. As the week concludes, momentum accelerates once again, emboldening you to embrace the thrills of various positive and captivating scenarios that lie in store.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Dedicating this week to refining intricate facets of your life reflects your commitment to continual enhancement. Acknowledging discontentment with your present state motivates you. Crucial alterations beckon, promising amplified contentment. Your resolute dedication to fostering change grants you optimal prospects. Midweek finds you at ease, having attained half your objectives; triumph is within reach. As the week concludes, you intensify your pursuits, actively chasing your ambitions. A desire to acquire new skills also emerges. Stellar alignments lend favor to your development endeavors, assuring their significance. Anticipate festivities and merrymaking, prompted by worthy causes. An invitation to celebrate is likely, coupled with the potential for a journey due to unanticipated work demands requiring your attention.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

There exists a guiding influence in your life, proving immensely advantageous as it steers you towards a novel path. Engaging in self-reflection unveils profound life insights. Midweek, you'll witness seamless fulfillment of domestic needs. Opportunities arise for acquiring a new home, or office, or celebrating achievements. The warmth of family support fosters inner tranquility. Accomplishments, wisdom, goal attainment, and truth-seeking enrich your persona. The week might feature a meaningful home ceremony. Financial gains uplift your motivation. However, the week's end might bring psychological apprehensions about the present and future. Mitigate these with meditation and yoga for mental stability. Embrace these challenges as stepping stones, allowing personal growth to blossom amidst uncertainties. Trust your resilience and ability to navigate the path ahead, emerging stronger and wiser as you journey through these fluctuations.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Tuesday



VRIGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Throughout the week, your industrious nature is complemented by a sense of authority. You're inclined to establish a systematic approach, utilizing your skills' parameters to achieve set objectives. Engagements like meetings and conferences will occupy your time. Your innovative strategies will garner appreciation and yield favorable outcomes. As a project leader, substantial responsibilities rest upon you. Anticipate fluctuations and challenges that necessitate focused attention. This juncture calls for wholehearted dedication. As the week concludes, a sense of contentment washes over you, a result of dedicated goal pursuit. Renewed energy kindles grand aspirations. Positive news is on the horizon, possibly recognizing your contributions. Some individuals may experience a sense of well-being, with happiness stemming from their children. A sudden surge of creativity embarks you on a path of fresh imaginative endeavors.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You possess the capabilities to overcome daily challenges through self-assurance and swift decisions. Your commitment towards your aspirations is strong, and their attainment is imminent. The diligence you invest will garner recognition, subtly but surely. As triumph comes, rivals and competitors may emerge, prompting moments of self-doubt. Disagreements on significant matters are possible, yet your confidence prevails, affecting desired outcomes. Empowered by inner strength, you hold sway over theories, emotions, and actions. Week's end showcases your wisdom and assurance, demonstrating your capacity to channel them into transformative pursuits. You transmute desires into objectives, thoughts into actions, and goals into accomplishments. Your grasp resembles a magical wand, orchestrating alignment under your directive.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Gold
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

The week unfolds with a quest for justice, leading you to balance realms both physical and metaphysical. Your pursuit is guided by the beacon of reason and factual integrity, immune to emotional manipulation. While disheartening news may arise, your composure remains steadfast, driving you to restore equilibrium at any cost. In the week's culmination, solace emanates from the guidance of a Spiritual Guru. A fresh life path emerges, unveiling doors to contentment and joy. Starting anew from the foundation, you embrace a spiritual spark that illuminates your journey, testing your patience and skills along the path. Amidst this transformative phase, recognize the value of introspection and growth. Challenges met with resilience lay the groundwork for a brighter future, while the steady hand of spiritual wisdom continues to light your way.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Engaging in fun, entertainment, and pleasurable pursuits captivates your attention. The week's start finds you immersed in parties, celebrations, and cherished moments with loved ones. Triumphs may also warrant festivities. Laughter, camaraderie, and relishing delectable fare with friends draw you away from domestic matters. Midweek, a yearning for rest and solitude arises. You find contentment across the material and spiritual spectrum, achieving equilibrium in body, mind, and soul. Vibrant health accompanies this balance, prompting introspection. Yet, caution against weight gain is prudent, necessitating controlled diets and yoga exercises. Adhering to your schedule and professional commitments fosters well-being. Sustaining authenticity ensures harmony. Revel in this phase as long as you remain true to yourself.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This phase encourages nurturing special moments with your partner, engaging in activities like shopping, dining, and thoughtful gestures. Single individuals may encounter companionship marked by independence, sensuality, and ambition. Your magnetic charisma naturally attracts others, fostering connections. As the week progresses, your insights become sought-after, and your leadership shines as you tackle intricate matters with resolve. Your genuine respect for others and profound compassion stand out. However, as the week nears its end, a hint of pessimism might briefly share your thoughts, even as your environment remains unchanged. Amidst it all, a glimmer of hope and resilience emanates from within, rekindling your spirits and paving the way for renewed optimism. This subtle inner strength serves as a guiding light through fleeting uncertainties.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

The focal point of the week centers around seeking justice. Realization dawns that you're progressing towards a more favorable life stance. Venturing into uncharted territories might also be on the horizon. While traveling, self-discovery awaits, enriching your experience. Clarity, logic, and objectivity become guiding beacons as you reflect on your journey's course. Midweek empowers you as a discerning decision-maker across realms. Healing energies manifest, ensuring victory in legal battles or navigating the workplace and domestic dynamics. Week's end heralds renewed vigor, fueling the accomplishment of pivotal tasks. Fresh professional prospects emerge, promising success in interviews and competitive exams. Individuals anticipating childbirth will have their wishes granted. Amidst surprising actions and changes, maintain focus, for ultimate outcomes will prove rewarding.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You possess both physical and mental strength. You willingly shoulder responsibilities with patience. Your enterprising nature is matched by intelligence and discipline, alongside inner fortitude and self-control. Though encountering opposition, you navigate it deftly with tact and comprehension. While goals remain unmet, taking a resolute stance and safeguarding your positions is imperative. This endeavor demands courage and unwavering persistence, qualities inherent within you. Despite current setbacks, perseverance is crucial in upholding your convictions and addressing adversaries. Preparedness to articulate and substantiate your viewpoint with unassailable facts is key. Anticipate challenges, relishing them as opportunities to amplify your potency. As you navigate these trials, remember that each confrontation enhances your growth and magnifies your inner strength.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This phase urges thoughtful consideration for your child's future, emphasizing a harmonious blend of intellect and emotion. Maintaining emotional balance is pivotal. Challenges may arise in managing immature behavior and impulsiveness. A reality check beckons, tempering grand aspirations. Surprising opportunities may yield relationships or friendships. Pregnancy and childbirth prospects loom. Emotional turbulence can lead to moodiness and impracticality, a facet you must embrace and eventually master. As the week concludes, changes unfold, fostering familial harmony and amicable resolutions. The intergenerational clash dissipates, replaced by a robust sense of order and strengthened bonds. Amidst these shifts, remember that your intuition and determination will be the guiding lights on your journey toward a brighter future. The universe supports your endeavors, encouraging personal growth and fulfillment.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday

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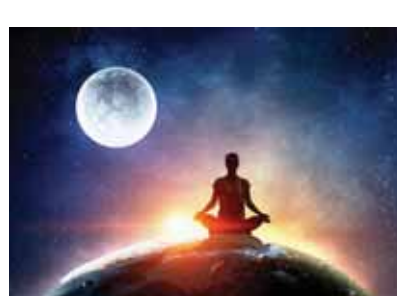
ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Favourable inner climate facilitates dhyana

To pursue dhyana process in right earnest, we need to prepare ourselves well by creating a favourable inner climate. That calls for being aware of certain inescapable realities. First, it is important to understand that dhyana does not call for trying hard to concentrate. But following the process, however, with time, concentration power does develop. The process does not warrant trying to forcefully stop our thoughts immediately when the process is taken up. Here it needs to be appreciated that mind is invariably loaded with a huge crowd of thoughts, difficult to be restrained to one's asking. The inlaid thoughts will continue to knock us from within. So, one is bound to be confronted with distraction, and even more during dhyana. Following withdrawal of senses from the outer world, the thought impressions dwelling in our subconscious memory come into

active play. So, as you begin, you are bound to be flooded with thoughts, and therefore, needs to be accepted as a necessary part of the process. We just need to train our minds to remain disengaged from them. It is pertinent to note here that you get affected only when you pay attention to something. But following the process in right earnest, it does eventually drive away all inconsequential thought impressions out of our reckoning, that otherwise keep repeatedly chasing us from within. Second, the process does not call for having any religious or spiritual belief either. Even atheist and agnostics can pursue the process and draw benefit as the process is all about securing orderly functioning of mind. Religious or spiritual belief does, however, help invoke one's emotions, which in turn, induces a sense of love towards our desired destination. That

helps pursue the process with relative ease. Third, it needs to be appreciated that we are all born imperfect, and therefore, fallible. Our impressionable minds usually get caught up in the tempting influences of the glare and glitter of the seeming world, often illusory. Following which, we are tempted to make it our dream destination. In the process, unmindfully, we often make undesirable choices, and evidently to one's detriment. The impressions thereof, remain in our minds, often bringing in a sense of guilt. For, at the base level remains the ideal on which life stands, which reminds us of our own fault line. It would be, however, desirable not to carry any sense of guilt for some wrong done earlier. That happened in the past, which has now become inconsequential. Better try to ensure that the mistakes do not recur through



repeated auto suggestion. Otherwise, you may fall into a guilt trap, which may otherwise add to your negative imprints, already overloaded from before. Consequently, it may retard your efforts. Fourth, it needs to be appreciated that we live in a transitory world, which is subject to continued change. We, therefore, need to accept the inevitable and accordingly be prepared to wilfully adjust to the callings of

varying circumstances. And as no movement is possible without meeting resistance, the process will face challenges in the way. Without getting unnerved, one would need to continue the efforts. We are very much empowered to intelligently deal with the challenges coming our way. We just need to be alert enough to consciously invoke our indwelling empowerment tool - the faculty of discriminate intelligence - well in time and put them to use. This may help intelligently negotiate with challenges coming our way with relative ease and comfort. Before we begin dhyana process, one needs to firm up the mind and make a resolve to pursue it in right earnest. Second, have faith in one's own self, and induce a sense of love towards what you are pursuing. It will not simply motivate you to carry forward the task in right earnest, but also make you put in your whole. Unless

you love doing what you intend to, you may fail to put in qualitative effort, nor would you enjoy it. Having, thus, created favourable inner climate, it is time now to have a detailed look at the eight-fold path. First in line, comes Yama. This calls for consciously keeping away from all unseemly conducts - negative and immoral in nature. Then comes Niyama, which calls for submitting oneself to a moral discipline, as guided by our societal conduct norms, Guru, and the scriptures. In this context, it is pertinent to note that unless the intent is pure, and the means adopted are right, one would lack the spirit necessary to carry forward the process in right earnest. *Continued ...*

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