OPINION 6

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ONE EARTH . ONE FAMILY . ONE FUTURE

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MODI CHANGES THE CLIMATE

RAHUL DATTA NEW DELHI

rging the world to adopt a human-centric vision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday exhorted global leaders to resolve to meet the challenge of climate change through a green development plan and work for sustainability and stability.

in international bodies like the United Nations (UN) and described cyber security and crypto currencies as among the burning issues affecting the present and future of the world. Making these assertions

He also called for reforms

in his concluding remarks at the end of the two-day G20 Summit, the Prime Minister underlined that crypto currency is a new subject for social order and monetary and financial stability and sought the development of global standards to regulate it.

He wrapped up the mega event with "Swasti Astu Vishwa" — a Sanskrit prayer for peace — as he handed over the gavel of the G20 presidency to the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Prime Minister Modi said in his closing remarks, "I declare the end of the G20 Summit. Hoping the road map of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' will be joyful. Thank Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister received the G20 leaders and delegation heads at New Delhi's Rajghat. They paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, followed by a tree-plantation ceremony at the G20 venue, Bharat Mandapam.

Addressing global leaders during the 'One Future' session of the G20 Summit, Modi noted that sustainability and stability were as important as transformation to keep pace with a fast-changing world. In this context, he urged

the leaders to resolve to implement a Green Development Pact, Action Plan on Sustainable Development Goals, high-level principles on anti-corruption, digital infra-structure and Multilateral Development Bank (MDB)

Modi made a fresh push for reforms in global bodies including the UN, saying despite the increase in member states of the world body, the number of permanent members in the UN Security Council (UNSC) has remained the same.

He said the world's "new realities" should be reflected in the "new global structure." The world was different when the UN was founded with 51 members. Now the number of member states has risen to nearly



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 'One Future' session on the final day of the G20 Summit 2023 at the Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi, Sunday

200, Modi said. It is nature's law, Modi said, that those who don't change with time lose

their relevance. "It is necessary that global bodies reflect today's realities to lead the world towards a better future," Modi said citing the UNSC as an example of a global body needing change.

He said the world was totally different when the UN was established.

"Despite this, the number of permanent members in the UNSC remains the same. The world has since changed a lot in every aspect. Be it transport, communication, health and education, every sector has

been transformed. These new realities should reflect in our new global structure," he said. The UNSC has five permanent members: The US, China,

France, Britain and Russia. Calling for reflection, the Prime Minister noted that many regional groupings have emerged in the last many years

and they have proved to be effective.

Pitching for reforms, he said that is why a historic initiative was made on Saturday by making the African Union

a member of the G20. "Similarly, we also need to expand the mandate of multilateral development banks. Our

should be immediate and effective," he said.

Modi described cyber security and crypto currencies as among the burning issues affecting the present and future of the world.

Cyber space has emerged as a new source of funding for terrorism and global cooperation and framework are necessary for securing it and crypto currencies, he said. "This is a very important subject for every country's security and prosperity," he added. "When we take care of the security and sensitivity of every country, then the feeling of 'One Future' will be strengthened," he said.

Noting that the world was witnessing unimaginable scale and speed in new generation technology, he cited Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an example and said G20 countries need to go beyond the 'Principles on AI' adopted by the bloc in 2019.

"I suggest we establish a framework for 'responsible human-centric AI governance'. India will also give its suggestions. It will be our effort that all countries get the benefits of AI in areas like socio-economic development, global workforce, and research and devel-

opment," he said. Highlighting his push for a human-centric vision instead of

a GDP-centric approach, Modi said India has expressed its willingness to share its lunar mission data with everyone in the interest of humanity. "It is also a proof of our commitment towards human-centric growth."

He said the world needs to go beyond the concept of "global village" to make "global family" a reality, calling for a future in which not only the interests of the countries are aligned but also their hearts.

In a fast-changing world, sustainability and stability are as much needed as transformation, he said.

Later, Modi posted on X, "Simply having a GDP-centric approach is outdated. Time has come to adopt a humancentric vision of progress. India has been making several efforts in this regard, particularly in areas relating to data and technology. We must do whatever we can to use AI for socio-economic development." He added, "As we pursue

our development trajectories, we must keep our focus on sustainability and stability. This will ensure empowerment of

the marginalised."

Modi noted that India's presidency of G20 would officially continue till November 30 and over two-and-half months were left for its tenure as the head of the grouping.





(Left to Right) US President Joe Biden talks to President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren during the G20 Summit in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and world leaders pay homage at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Rajghat on the final day of the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, Sunday,

A 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' experience

DEEPAK JHA NEW DELHI

part from being hailed as A gracious and perfect host to global leaders like US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak among others, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also earned laurels from the dignitaries for creating a G20 'culture corridor' in the resplendent Bharat

Mandapam. The Who's Who of the political world, were charmed by the nostalgia created by the historic items displayed during the two-day event, that concluded on Sunday.

Certified original copies of the US' Charters of Freedom, a rare copy of the Magna Carta from the UK, a 'fahua'-lid jar from China and Panini's grammar treatise Ashtadhyayi, Rig Veda were the historic items displayed as part of the G20 'culture corridor'. There were also Bhimbetka cave paintings from Madhya Pradesh, dating back to approximately 30,000 years, on display in digital for-

What really caught the attention of the dignitaries was the G20 Digital Museum where anamorphic digital images of the 16th century Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece Mona Lisa were among the several arte-

facts on show. The exhibition of artefacts, both in physical and digital



form, was set up on the same floor where the leaders' meetings took place on Saturday and Sunday. Sources said the dignitaries walked through this corridor while moving in and out of the Summit room.

"India's G20 presidency theme was 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and with this international project, we walked the talk. We displayed cultural objects from all 20 member nations and nine invited countries as part of our G20 legacy project," a Ministry of Culture official said.

Sources said the preparations for creating this unique

months ago when all the G20 member and invitee country were requested to make submissions under four categories

physical object of cultural significance, iconic cultural masterpiece in digital format, high-resolution digital content depicting the intangible heritage and natural heritage of each of the countries.

As an exhibition titled 'Mother of Democracy' was also being hosted to mark the Summit, a fifth segment was added to the 'culture corridor' project in which an "ancient artefact related to democratic practices" in physical or digital corridor started about six format was sought from each

G20 member and invited country. At the end of the landmark Summit, world leaders hailed Modi for his "decisive leadership" and for championing the voice of the Global South.

They also hailed India's hospitality and praised the Prime Minister for presiding over a successful Summit, while noting that the country's message of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' resonated strongly with all the delegates.

'Under India's leadership, we have demonstrated that we can come together, at a time

when it really matters. When

you walk around in 'Bharat

Mandapam' and see the dis-

plays, we can see what PM Modi, the digital initiative and technology can do - delivering service to people in remote corners of our nations," a source quoted British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as saying

at one of the meetings. While Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida hailed Modi for providing "great leadership" to the G20, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called for strengthening G20 cooperation based on "the foundation created by the Indian presidency", sources

Turkive's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan thanked Prime Minister Modi for his hospitality and hoped that the Summit would be a blessing for "the only world we have"

Praising the G20 theme of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said it upholds the value of all lives and the importance of working together for a better future. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva thanked Prime Minister Modi and the Indian people for their competence in organising this event.

"I was touched emotionally today, when I went to pay homage to dear (Mahatma) Gandhi. In my political life, ity," Modi said. He proposed a virtual G20 Gandhi has great meaning. Summit by November end to Non-violence is a principle I take stock of the suggestions and follow," he said.

India hands over baton to Brazil



Prime Minister Narendra Modi hands over the G20 presidency to the President of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the closing session of the G20 Summit 2023 at the Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi on Sunday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

The G20 summit concluded here on Sunday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi handing over the customary gavel of the G20 chair to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Modi also proposed a virtual summit by November to review the initiatives taken during the Indian presidency. Brazil will formally assume the G20 presidency on December 1 this year. The next summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro in November 2024

Geopolitical issues should not hijack the discussions at G20, the Brazilian President said after assuming the presidency of the bloc of emerging and developed economies.

Prime Minister Modi extended full support to Brazil and expressed confidence that its presidency would take forward the shared goals of the G20 bloc.

"India passes the gavel to Brazil. We have unwavering faith that they will lead with dedication, vision and will further global unity as well as prosper-

gavel to him

everyone," Lula said.

decisions made at the leaders' summit that concluded in the

national Capital on Sunday. "In the last two days, you have put forward your views, given suggestions and a number of proposals have been put forward. It is our responsibility that the suggestions that have come forth are closely looked upon as to how they can be speeded up," Modi said.

"It is my proposal that we hold another session of the G20 virtually in November-end. In that session, we can review the issues that have been agreed upon during this summit. Our teams will share the details of it with you. I hope all of you will join this (session)," he said.

"With this, I declare the G20 summit closed," Modi said.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the G20 Summit, Lula said the bloc was not interested in a "divided G20" and the challenges of the day could be faced only through joint action.

"We need peace and cooperation instead of conflict," he said soon after Modi passed the

"The path that will take us from New Delhi to Rio de Janeiro will require a lot of ded-

He said the Brazilian presidency will hold G20 meetings in cities in each of the five regions of the South American

Outlining his priorities for the Brazilian presidency, Lula said it would be his endeavour to make the political and financial tracks work in a coordinated and integrated manner. There is no point in agreeing on the best public policy if there are no resources allocated for its implementation," he said.

Lula said he would also ensure that the civil society engagement groups get an opportunity to report recommendations and conclusions to the Government directly. He congratulated Modi and thanked India for its efforts to give a voice to the topics of interest to emerging economies.

Lula also listed social inclusion, the fight against hunger, energy transition and sustainable

development as G20 priorities. He said the UN Security Council (UNSC) needs new developing countries as permanent, non-permanent members to regain political strength.

"We want greater representation for emerging countries at the World Bank and the IMF," ication and commitment from the Brazilian President said.





NEW DELHI, INDIA 8-10 SEPTEMBER

2023

TDP chief remanded to 14-day judicial custody

After a local court in Vijayawada remanded TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in judicial custody for 14 days in an alleged multi-crore corruption scam on Sunday, he is being taken amid tight security to Rajamahendravaram Central Prison, 200 km away from Vijayawada. Soon after the court came out with the order, the Telugu Desam Party called for a statewide bandh on Monday in protest against the arrest of its leader.

In a pre-dawn operation on Saturday at Nandyal, officers knocked on the door of the caravan in which Naidu was sleeping and arrested him for his alleged role in the Skill Development Corporation scam. He was termed "principal conspirator" in the case. The former CM was arrested by the CID around 6 am on Saturday from outside a marriage hall, where his caravan



Nandyal. After an arrest saga of more than 36 hours, the ACB Court gave the remand order around 6.50 pm on Sunday

"It is a clear case of fraud involving ₹370 crore. The court accepted our arguments," Ponnavolu Sudhakar Reddy, AP Additional Advocate General told PTI. Naidu was arrested in connection with an alleged fraud case involving misappropriation of funds from the Skill Development Corporation, leading to a loss

ernment, AP CID Chief N Sanjay said on Saturday. It turns out that it was on the wedding anniversary of Naidu his wide Nara Bhuvaneswari that the TDP chief, who served as the chief

remanded. Since September 10 is the wedding anniversary, it was conspired to illegally arrest Naidu on September 9 and make him sit in the CID office throughout the night, leaving him and his wife sleepless, a

minister for 14 years, was

the party's official social media account on X. He added that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had deprived the

couple of their anniversary joy.
The TDP chief informed the court that he was innocent. Supreme Court lawyer Siddharth Luthra, representing Naidu, argued that the CID needed to obtain the Governor's prior permission to arrest the TDP chief.

However the court agreed with the government's counsel's counter on that, another advocate who witnessed the court proceedings said. Luthra also argued that the former CM was being falsely implicated in the

Meanwhile, senior YSRCP leader and advisor to AP government Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy lashed out at Naidu, saying that he and the opposition party were behaving as if something untoward had happened

200 hours of discussion led to consensus on Ukraine: India's Sherpa

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tt took over 200 hours of non-■stop negotiations by a team of Indian diplomats to deliver a consensus on the G20 declaration that was adopted at the Leaders' Summit here, India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Sunday.

The team of diplomats, including joint secretaries Eenam Gambhir and K Nagraj Naidu, held 300 bilateral meetings and circulated 15 drafts with their counterparts on the contentious Ukraine conflict to drive home a consensus that was clinched on the first day of the G20 Leaders Summit itself. "The most complex part of

the entire G20 was to bring consensus on the geopolitical paras (Russia-Ukraine). This was done over 200 hours of non-stop negotiations, 300 bilateral meetings, 15 drafts," Kant said. Kant said he was greatly assisted in the efforts by



managed to hammer out an unexpected consensus among the G20 countries on the contentious issue with emerging economies such as Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia playing a leading role in reaching the breakthrough.

The G20 leaders' declaration avoided mentioning the Russian invasion of Ukraine and made a general call to all states to follow the principle of respecting each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Biden 'very humble', says Indian priest after holding Communion service

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/PANAJI

Nicholas Dias, secretary for the liturgy commission for the Delhi Archdiocese, has described US President Joe Biden as a "very humble" person who expressed that his grandmother was a great influence in his life.

Father Dias met Biden during a 30-minute holy communion service for the US president at a hotel where he was staying in New Delhi on Saturday, ahead of the G20 summit.

Talking to PTI, Fr Dias said their conversation was around faith, Goa and India. "I mentioned to him about the origin of Christianity in India and recalled that Indian Church is as old as Christianity in the world," said the priest, who hails from Benaulim in Goa.

The Delhi Archdiocese priest prayed for the success of the G20 summit and of both India and the US. Fr Dias said the US president was "very humble" and expressed his gratitude for making time for the prayers. He said Biden told him about the influence of Christianity on him and his closeness to Holy Father Pope

"We had a quick conversa tion where he shared how his grandmother was a great influence in his life and in his Catholic upbringing," Fr Dias said. The priest also shared with him Bebinca, a Goan delicacy which he carried with

Before their meeting concluded, Biden handed over a souvenir - the President's Seal No 261 - to Fr Dias which he said he will always cherish. The priest also mentioned

to Biden about the relics of St Francis Xavier at Old Goa and the decennial exposition scheduled to be held next year in the coastal state. Fr Dias also told President

Biden that St Francis Xavier was the inspiration behind his

G20 leaders rally for pandemic fund support

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

The New Delhi G20 Leaders Declaration released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pitched for securing new donors and co-investment for the pandemic fund with an enhanced collaboration between Finance and Health Ministries under the Joint Finance and Health Task Force (JFHTF).

The fund was set up at the G20 Presidency of Indonesia last year, in partnership with the Pandemic Fund secretariat as a key part of the solution to reducing risks from epidemics and pandemics and is targeted at low-to middle-income countries to finance efforts like sur-



veillance, research, and better access to vaccines, among others measures. The G20 leaders at New Delhi also acknowledged the conclusion of the first call for proposals by the pandemic fund and anticipate the second call for proposals by 2023 end. The Task Force will provide a progress report to Finance and

the Delhi declaration document.The Pandemic Fund in one year since its inception has received around 350 Expressions of Interest (EoI) and 180 full proposals in the first call with grant requests totalling more than USD 2.5 billion against an envelope of only USD 338 mil-

It has approved India's USD 25-million proposal for strengthening animal health security in the country for pandemic preparedness and response under the supervision of the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. As per the document, the G20 leaders also welcomed the report on best practices from finance-health institutional arrangements during Covid-19. This report aims to enhance joint finance-health sector readiness for future pan-Additionally, they appreci-

ated the report on mapping pandemic response financing options and gaps, which was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank. The document highlights the G20 leaders' strong commitment to reinforcing the global health architecture, with the WHO playing a central role.

Their objectives encompass the development of more resilient, equitable, sustainable, and inclusive health systems geared toward achieving Universal Health Coverage. Specific actions outlined include the focus on strengthening primary healthcare, the health workforce, and essential health services within the next 2-3

Additionally, the G20 leaders support a One Health-based approach in alignment with the Quadripartite's One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026) and seek to enhance health system resilience, promote climateresilient, low-carbon health systems, and address the challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) through a One Health approach. The leaders emphasize the importance of facilitating equitable access to medical countermeasures, especially in Low- and Middle-income Countries (LMICs), LDCs, and SIDS, while also supporting efforts for an ambitious, legally binding WHO convention or agreement on pandemic Preparedness, Prevention, and Response (PPR) by May 2024.

The document recognizes the potential role of Traditional and Complementary Medicine in health and advocates for the development of an interim medical countermeasures coordi nation mechanism and improved access to mental health services.

The Working Group on International Financial

5 killed in lift collapse in Thane: Civic official

Thane: At least five persons were killed when a lift in a high-Maharashtra collapsed on Sunday evening, a civic official said. Yasin Tadvi, who heads the disaster management cell of Thane Municipal Corporation, said the building where incident



occurred is located on Ghodbunder Road.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our cleent that Mrs. Ranjeetal Bawa. Mr. Dipreet Singh and Mr. Amanpreet Singh Bawa are the owners of First Floor of Property No. E-289-A. Shastin Nagar, Dehli, vide registered Will dated 28.0 2015 a. Oct. 10, 2015. do. No. 2522. That the Khasra No. 183. 185, 2017164, and 2081484, were not mentioned in regd. Will dated 28.0 2015 and RO dt. 25.00.2015 but Mentioned in Sale Deed Dated 17.06.1970 executed by Mr. Bhagwan Dass in Govor of Mr. Mohinder Sindh Bawa of Pol No. 89 min known eed Cated 17.06.1970 executed by Mr. Bhagwan Dass even of Mr. Mohlmer Singh Bawa of Pol No. 98 min of Pol No. 19. Min of No. 19.



PD(155)C



Thankyou Holyspirit for all the blessings.

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण सरक्षण मडल पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

<u>// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //</u>

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के तहत् सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि भेसर एमएसएम एंड एसएनडीबी इस्पात एंड पॉवर प्राईवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम-नकटी खपरी, तहसील तिल्दा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) द्वारा Greenfield Steel plant comprising of DRI Kilns (Sponge Iron 99,000 TPA), Induction Furnace with LRF & CCM (Hot Billets MS Billets / MS- Slab - 1,48,500 TPA), Rolling Mill {TMT Bars, Structural Steel-Angle, Channels, Gutters, Coils, Flat Bars, Strips, MS Pipes, MS Tubes, Galvanized Pipes and angles (85% Hot charging with Hot Billets and remaining 15% through RHF with LDO / Producer Gas as fuel - 1,40,250 TPA)}, Coal Gasifier for Rolling Mill (1200 Nm3 / Hr.), M.S. Pipe Plant-1,00,000 TPA, Ferro Alloys - 2x9 MVA (FeSi-14,000 TPA / FeMn - 50,400 TPA / SiMn- 28,800 TPA / FeCr- 30,000 TPA / Pig Iron - 50,400 TPA), WHRB based Power Plant (3x2.5 MW)- 7.5 MW, FBC based Power Plant (1x5 MW) 5 MW, Brick Manufacturing unit (6,500 Bricks / Day) & Briquetting Plan (Briquettes -200 Kg/Hr.) के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु **लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 12/10/202**3 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से स्थान-ग्राम नकटी खपरी, तहुसील-तिँल्दा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग. स्थित प्रस्तावित परियोजना के स्वामित्व की रिक्त भूमि खसरा नंबर 79/2, 79/3, 79/4 एव अन्य में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि :-

1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग क पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा ।

2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथ तमय्-समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग् किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर **4.** कौरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु केंद्र सरकार तथा राज्य शासन द्वारा जारी समस्

दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरश: पालन किया जाना ॲनिवार्य होगा। ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों

वलोकन / पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथ सी डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डॉयरेक्टर भारत सरकार. पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाय परिवर्तन मंत्रालय जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर कार्यालय कलेक्टर रायपुर, जिला - रायपुर, नुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत - रायपुर जिला - रायपुर, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला-रायपुर, मुख्य कार्यपाल अधिकारी, जनपद पंचायत तिल्दा, जिला - रायपुर, कार्यालय, सरपंच, ग्राम पंचायत नकटी खपरी, तहसील - तिल्दा, जिला - रायपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय छत्तीसगढ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यवसायिक परिसृर, कबीर नग्र, रायपुर, जिला - रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटॅल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है।

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.

Adhir slams Mamata for sharing dinner table with Shah, Yogi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA **KOLKATA**

ongress Lok Sabha leader CAdhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Sunday hit out at Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for double-crossing the people of Bengal by feigning friendship with Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance on one hand and breaking bread with BJP leaders Amit Shah and Yogi Adityanath on the other.

Severely criticising the Chief Minister for joining President Droupadi Murmu's party and sharing the same dinner table with Home Minister Amit Shah and her Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath, the senior Congress leader asked "what message she is trying to give whom... what message she is leaving for the people of Bengal and what message she is carrying for the BJP leaders who she publicly criticizes."

Chowdhury who is also the Bengal Pradesh Congress president said, "we have reports that the Chief Minister shared the same dinner table with Amit Shah and Yogi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Astabled to death by his

inebriated friend in south

Delhi's Kishangarh when he

tried to stop him from assault-

ing his wife, police said on

Sunday. The accused, identified

as Mingchang alias Jimmy, has

around 4.30 am on Saturday at

the house of the victim, Robin

Shrestha (25), a resident of

Munirka, who has been staying

with his live-in partner for last

two years. Robin worked at a

The incident took place

been arrested, they added.

25-year-old man was

Man stabbed to death

by drunk friend in Delhi



with top BJP leaders," the Behrampore MP said, "she

Adiytanath ... but we do not have information about what transpired there." Wondering as to "what urgency she had to reach Delhi a day ahead of the dinner and what urgency she had to share the same table

was not obliged to join the Presidential dinner ... no one had placed a sword at her neck ... still seemed more than eager to join the party where Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, an important constituent of the INDIA alliance was not invited ... what urgency she had to join a dinner which was avoided by many other Chief

call centre in Noida. A PCR call

about the stabbing incident was

received at Kishangarh police

station on Saturday, following

which a team was dispatched to

spot and accused was nabbed.

"Jimmy is a resident of Manipur and belongs to the

Naga tribe," a senior police official said. The accused, his wife

and their two-year-old son were

staying with Robin at his house

as there was no air-condition-

er at their home. "Jimmy, who

is a nail artist, had consumed

alcohol in house of victim and

started abusing and assaulting

Ministers ... this smacks of

Chowdhury who was vis-Raninagar Murshidabad his home district where two local leaders on Sunday joined the TMC a day after the workers of the two parties had a bloody faceoff on Saturday — alleged who in Bengal Banerjee police force and her party men were forcing the Congressmen to join the TMC and in Delhi she was talking of alliance and expecting Congress' support

in the coming parliamentary elections. Like Chowdhury the Left which too is an INDIA constituent also attacked Banerjee for joining the presidential dinner wondering how she could join a party which she

had criticized a day before. Referring to Banerjee's scathing attack on the BJP Government for trying to divert attention from the country's burning issues by raking up a controversy in the name of renaming India as Bharat, CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty said "it is for Mamata Banerjee to explain

why she joined a party which was organised in the name of President of Bharat — an act of the central Government which she had criticized barely 24 hours before... it simply makes clear her disloyalty towards the causes she sometimes feigns to stand for ... she will have to explain this.

The CPI(M) leader also alleged that the Chief Minister's Delhi visit at a time when some of her senior party leaders and even some of his family members were on the verge of arrest in the multicrore recruitment scam had much more in it that met the bare eye.

"Top TMC leaders are facing arrest in the recruitment scam ... and at this time she is seen in Delhi ... she will have to explain it or else the people will understand what they should,"

Chakrabarty said. TMC leader and MP Shantanu Sen however put "little importance" to what "two parties with zero" seats in the State Assembly said. "Two zeroes make a bigger zero ... hence it is better not to talk much about zero," he said.

Canadian PM's departure delayed due to plane snag

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's aircraft is facing technical issues at the Delhi airport due to which his departure has been delayed, according to a source. The source said the flight

was scheduled to take off at 8 pm on Sunday, and due to technical issues, the departure of the prime minister has been delayed. Specific details could not be immediately ascertained. Quoting a statement from Trudeau's office, Canada's CTV News channel said the

aircraft was experiencing technical issues. "Upon our departure for the airport, we were made aware by the Canadian Armed Forces that CFC001 was experiencing technical issues," the channel quoted the statement from the prime min-

ister's office as saying. "These issues are not fixable overnight, our delegation will be staying in India until alternate arrangements are made," it added. Trudeau arrived in the national capital on Friday to attend the G20 Summit that concluded on

'Real issues concerning people, planet missing from G20 Summit'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Institutions, a voluntary organisation working on people's movement, has claimed that real issues concerning people and the planet were missing from the G20 summit.

The Working Group also claimed that a meeting under the banner "We20: A People's Summit on G20, organized last month and attended by 70 organisations and attended by 700 participants from 18 States was forcefully stopped by the government.

"The participants represented the working class, Dalits, Adivasis, persons with disabilities, ethnic and religious minority communities, farmers, fishers, artisans, unorganized workers, academicians, and members of the civil society, it said in a statement.

While the event was stopped by the police, people continued their discussions both offline and online. "The key issues they deliberated upon included inequality, climate crisis, just energy transition, labour rights, social protection, agriculture and food security, attack on natural resources, and digital data and surveillance," it said.

The inaugural session of the We20 Summit witnessed the coming together of academics, social, and political and people's movement leaders, giving a clarion call to stand up to the anti-people policies of the G20, it

The declaration adopted by the Peoples' Summit strongly decried the arbitrary action of the police to prevent people from exercising their democratic right to assemble peacefully and freely express their opinions. 'This was in continuation with

the crackdown on civil society and stifling of voices of dissent perpetuated by this regime. This was also done to prevent any other narrative on the G20 except what was published and propagated by the government. Massive forced evictions

and wastage of public money on the promotion of the G20 have when the economy is at a historic low," it said. "The declaration said that this informal group of rich and 'emerging market economies' has taken policy decisions to serve the economic and political interests of corporations, advanced the neoliberal agenda promoted by international institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the WTO, and has repeatedly failed to address

the pressing concerns of people,"

India will be renamed as Bharat: BJP MP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

 $B_{\text{Government's decision to}}^{\text{acking the BJP}}$ play up Bharat in place of India in the country's diplomatic engagements senior BJP leader and MP Dilip Ghosh on Sunday said soon (read after the Lok Sabha elections) "India will be renamed as Bharat as there is no place of India in Furthering his party's agen-

da in Bengal Ghosh, a former State president — credited with the BJP's rise in Bengal — said "It is just a matter of time ... India will be renamed as Bharat ... those who do not like Bharat may leave the country and go to Britain because this was a name given by the British colonialists and we want the country to come out of its colonial hangover." Ghosh was promptly supported by another former State BJP president Rahul Sinha who said that a country could not be known by two names. Speaking at a 'Chai pe Charcha' programme at Kharagpur city, theformer BJP national vice president said that when his party would come to power in Bengal it would pull down all the statues of the foreigners. "When our party comes to power in West Bengal, we will remove all statues of foreigners in Kolkata," he said, reminding the fate of such statues in Tripura. Incidentally, apart from the world Marxist stalwarts like Karl Marx, Ho Chi Minh, Angels and Lenin there are many pictures of other international personalities also like Roland Ross, Mother Teresa et al.

Sources in the BJP however said that the statement made by Ghosh who leads the antigroup of Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari said could put a question mark on the latter's strategy of bringing together — against the TMC the Leftist voters that account for a huge 30-35 percent in the State, thereby creating trouble for Adhikari so to say. The senior BJP leadership

would not dwell on the issue TMC leadership however said that the leaders like Ghosh were day-dreaming as there was not going to be any saffron Government in Bengal for centuries to come.



NEW DELHI, INDIA 8-10 SEPTEMBER 2023

British PM Sunak, wife offer prayers at Akshardham

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

वयुयेव कुटुम्बकम्

 $B^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Rishi}}_{\text{Sunak and his wife Akshata}}$ Murty visited the Akshardham temple on Sunday and offered prayers amid tight security.

Sunak was then greeted by swamis, as well as senior leaders from the Akshardham Mandir, who relayed a special message on behalf of Mahant Swami Maharaj, spiritual leader of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS). The British Prime Minister spent almost 45 minutes at the temple and he visited every statue personally. He also performed an aarti at the temple, according to Akshardham Temple official Jyotindra Dave.

Sunak, who was dressed in a crisp white shirt and navy blue trousers, and his wife, who paired a beige kurta with a bright pink dupatta and loose pants, reached the temple early morning at 6.30 am and were accorded a traditional welcome. Ahead of the UK Prime Minister's visit, elaborate security arrangements were put in place in and around the temple. "Prime Minister Sunak and

his wife Akshata Murty walked barefoot in the temple premises even in rainy weather. From the reception area to the main temple complex, there is a distance of about 150 metres and both of them walked barefoot back and forth," according to an

'They first offered flower petals (pushparpan) to the golden idol of Swaminarayan and then offered 'aarti', he said."They also offered flower petals to idols of Sita-Ram, Radha-Krishna, Laxmi Narayana and Shiva-Parvati in the temple complex. The UK PM enquired about the architecture of the temple and its history," the official said.

He also saw some of the sanctified items that belonged to Swaminarayan, such as shoes and a garland, the official added.



During his visit, the British Prime Minister was given an overview of Swaminarayan Akshardham, a 100-acre spiritual and cultural complex that portrays the traditions and ancient architecture of India and promotes the timeless Hindu spiritual messages of faith, devotion and harmony, a statement issued by BAPS said.

Inside the main temple complex, Sunak and his wife paid their respects to the sacred images and admired the art and architecture. "The couple also performed abhishek (ritual pouring of water) on the 'murti' of Nilkanth Varni Maharaj, and offered prayers for world peace, progress and harmony, the statement said. Sunak and his wife spent about 45 minutes at the Åkshardham temple and offered prayers. They were gifted a marble elephant and a marble peacock besides a special replica of Akshardham, a senior temple management said.

'It rained but Sunak and his

wife graciously offered prayers at our temple and it is a matter to have received the blessings of of great honour for us to have hosted them at this revered temple," he said. A trustee of the BAPS Swaminarayan Trust, UK and a volunteer from the another Neasden temple in London accompanied Sunak and his wife during their visit, said another temple management official who was part of the reception team. "My wife and I were delighted to visit Swaminarayan Akshardham for a model of the Akshardham darshan and puja this morning. temple as a gift. We were amazed and awed by the beauty of this temple and its universal message of peace, harmony, and becoming a better human being. "This is not only a place of worship, but a landmark that also portrays India's values, culture and con-

His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj conveyed to me this morning, and I understand that His Holiness is inaugurating beautiful Swaminarayan Akshardham temple in Robbinsville, USA very soon. I would like to send my very best wishes to His Holiness and all the devotees of BAPS ahead of the opening," Sunak said. He was also offered

Brahmavihari Swami, the senior swami of the sanstha, said it was an honour to welcome the British prime minister to Swaminarayan Akshardham and share Mahant Swami Maharaj's message of peace, unity and public service. The UK's relationship with India is built on a bond of friendship and fostered by cultural exchanges as well as a vibrant Indian diaspora in the UK, he

Congress, AAP take swipe at Centre over waterlogging video

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress on Sunday took a swipe at the Central Government over a video clip that showed water outside one of the halls at Pragati Maidan where the G20 Summit was

Calling the claim "exagger ated," Press Information Bureau's fact-checking wing said the Bharat Mandapam area had "minor water-logging" and was cleared of water-logging "within 20 minutes".

"This claim is exaggerated and misleading. Minor water logging in open area was swiftly cleared as pumps were pressed into action after overnight rains. No water logging at venue presently," it said.

Visuals of water-logging at Bharat Mandapam, the sprawling venue for the G20 Summit in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan, made rounds on social media on Sunday. A video of the water-logging at the main area of Bharat Mandapam was shared on X (formerly Twitter). The staff could be seen using machines to



clear out the water.

However, the Public Works Department (PWD) said there was heavy water logging but everything was smooth around the VVIP routes and locations around the G20 area, Rajghat, Akshardham, and Ring Road.

Another official said Rajghat and Ring Road witnessed light waterlogging Saturday night during the rain but it was immediately cleared using mechanical sweeping and pumps.
Delhi Urban Development

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj Sunday questioned Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena after waterlogging was reported inside the sprawling Bharat Mandapam, the main venue for the G20 Summit at Pragati Maidan, following overnight rain in the national Capital.

Tagging a video showing water accumulated inside the Bharat Mandapam complex, AAP leader Bharadwaj posted on X, "Resp @LtGovDelhi saab, This is very serious. Even after ur 50+ inspections, if the very main area around Mandapam is submerged in water, then heads must roll. I as Minister of Delhi don't have control over this Central Govt area, else would have assisted u sir."

The Congress, too, took to X to express displeasure over the water-logging the main area of Bharat Mandapam. The party pointed out that Rs 2,700 crores were spent build Bharat Mandapam to host world leaders for the G20 Summit and called the RIP's claims of progress. called the BJP's claims of progress as "hollow".

Addressing a rally in Niwai

in poll-bound Rajasthan's Tonk district, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the waterlogging. "Perhaps what the people of our country are not able to say due to fear, God has said: Reduce your ego, this country has made you a leader, put it first and make the people supreme," she said. Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala taking a swipe at the government said, "Bharat Mandapam built at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore was seen floating in slightest rain.

"I pray to God that it does not rain much during the day, and that the G20 Summit is completed safely.The Modi Government has covered the poor with a curtain, but no amount of showmanship can cover up its misdeeds."

Rain contingency plan activated

STAFF REPORTER NEW

Pelhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena activated the rain contingency plan as it began to pour during the dinner for G20 leaders hosted by President Droupadi Murmu.

According to a Raj Niwas official, various Government departments and agencies had formulated rain contingency plans in case of a downpour. They added that Saxena

has also thanked Delhi-NCR residents for making the G20 Summit a grand success. "The Lt Governor underlined that without their support, enthusiasm and patience in face of inconveniences, this

international event could not

have played out with the per-fection that it did," an official Responding to waterlogging at Bharat Mandampam due to overnight rainfall, the Raj Niwas said India Trade



(ITPO) officials reported to Saxena at 5 am that water had accumulated at the parking area near gate 5 of the ITPO Complex — where the Bharat Mandapam is located — due to the incessant overnight rain.

He was then informed at 6 am that the water had been drained using the heavy duty contingency pumps deployed for this purpose.

When the dignitaries arrived at 10 am for the second day's session, the area was clean, green and spruced up. Throughout these opera-

tions, the officers deputed to the site sent before and after pictures of the sites to the Lt Governor", they added. For waterlogging that

tributions to the world," Sunak

said. "We see today in Britain

these very same values and cul-

ture through the positive con-

tributions the British Indian

community makes to our coun-

occurred at certain sites prone to flooding, pumps were immediately put into action. The water was drained within 15 minutes during the night. Similarly, potted plants that tumbled due to the impact of rain and wind were replaced immediately and incidents of trees falling in the NDMC area was addressed," the official

Similarly, the authorities swung into action to repair a water fountain that stopped working due to a choked nozzle, he added.

"During the dinner host-ed by the President of Bharat, it began to rain and Saxena activated the contingency plan put in place for such an eventuality," said the official.

Officers from different departments, including those from the Lt Governor's Secretariat, deployed for this purpose reported to him at regular intervals about the problems being faced and the steps taken to address those.

The exercise continued throughout the night and the most minute detail was looked into with Saxena being updated on the status over the phone, said the official. Saxena also kept track of the arrival of dignitaries at Rajghat early on Sunday. "The Lt Governor under-

lined that without their support, enthusiasm and patience in face of inconveniences, this international event could not have played out with the perfection that it did," an official

Saxena also thanked the "rain gods" who made the stay of the visiting dignitaries all the more special by bringing down temperatures and improving the Air Quality

Protocol breach by driver in US President Biden's convoy



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent breach of protocol during the G20 Summit in New Delhi, a private cab designated for use in US President Joe Biden's motorcade, entered a hotel in the city where UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is staying, in an attempt to drop off one of his regular clients, before reporting for duty.

The security breach at Hotel Taj on Saturday morning initially sent the security agencies into a frenzy. But after questioning the driver, they found that he had decided to ply his other customers before going to Biden's hotel. He was

freed later after questioning.
Sources revealed that the incident transpired when one of the vehicles in President Biden's convoy inadvertently entered the premises of the Taj Hotel where the President of the UAE, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was staying, as the G20 Summit is underway in New Delhi.

The security officers at the spot flashed a message as the car bore several stickers. This unplanned detour was the result of a mix-up, as the convoy was originally intended for

a different destination. Upon being questioned, the driver of the car said he was supposed to arrive at the ITC Maurya, where Biden was staying, at 9.30 am.

However, he arrived at the Taj, as he had to drop a businessman, whom he had picked up from the Lodhi Estate area, at the Taj. This deviation from the original plan, however, was not part of the protocol for the President's convoy. The driver said he was not aware of the

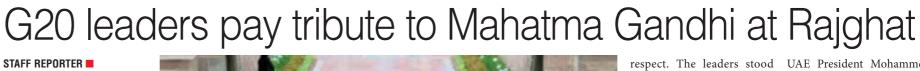
The driver claimed he was unaware of the precise route and destination initially set for him, believing that he was meant to arrive at the ITC Maurya, where President Biden was accommodated, at 9:30

Following a thorough questioning by security officers, during which the misunderstanding was clarified, the driver was subsequently released from detention.

Furthermore, the vehicle was promptly removed from the Presidential convoy.
US President Joe Biden

left for Vietnam after he and several other G20 leaders paid homage at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Rajghat here on Sunday morning.

On his first visit to India as the US President, Biden arrived in the national capital on Friday to attend the two-day G20 summit and held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi



NEW DELHI

head of participating in A head of participating -the G20 Summit, focussed on 'One Future', Prime Minister Narendra Modi led G20 leaders to Rajghat to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on a raindrenched Sunday morning

Modi received the leaders one by one, welcoming them at the memorial with a Khadi angavastram or a stole, standing against the backdrop of an image of Bapu Kuti.

Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram which was his home Sabarmati from 1917 to 1930 and served as one of the main centres of India's freedom struggle and explained about Sabarmati



Ashram in the background. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, head Kristalina Georgieva, Bangladesh Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina, and

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong were among the first to reach the venue this

Some leaders — including British Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and last year's G20 host President Joko Widodo of Indonesia -

walked to the memorial bare-

foot in a customary show of

an eternal flame and was draped with orange and yellow flowers marigold garlands. The Prime Minister was seen explaining to the leaders

before wreaths placed around

the memorial, which features

the significance of the ashram. Among those who paid

tribute to Gandhi include US President Joe Biden, Italian PM Georgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazilian President Lula De Silva, and Japanese PM Fumio Kishia, among others, besides a host of leaders from international organisations such as World Bank Chief Ajay

Banga. However, Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan could not be seen.

Later, Modi said in a post on X that at the iconic Rajghat, the G20 family paid homage to Gandhi - the beacon of peace, service, compassion and non-violence. "As diverse nations converge, Gandhi's timeless ideals guide our collective vision for a harmonious, inclusive and prosperous global future," he wrote.

Visuals from Rajghat showed the venue decorated with colourful flowers as the leaders reached there. Security has also been stepped up in parts of the national capital in view of the G20 Summit.

Necessary arrangements were also made so as to keep the traffic smooth.

NCR wakes up to cool morning

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region I on Sunday woke up to a cool, overcast Sunday morning after moderate rainfall and a thunderstorm overnight.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted light showers or a drizzle even on Monday. The Safdarjung weather station, which provides a marker for the city, recorded 38.6 mm of rainfall from 8:30 am on Saturday to 8:30 am on Sunday.

The observatory at Palam recorded 46 mm over the past 24 hours, while Aya Nagar recorded the highest amount of 57.8 mm. The rainfall at all these

observatories falls within the IMD's 'moderate' category (15.6 mm to 64.4 mm). The showers also improved air quality in the national capital. Delhi's 24hour Air Quality Index was in the 'good' category with a reading of 45 on Sunday.

"Delhi Radar showed the

persistence of clouds over entire NCT due to which the region saw light rainfall at a few places in the early hours of the day," IMD said.

According to IMD's sevenday weekly forecast, along with light rain, the maximum and minimum temperatures on Monday are expected to hover around 34°C and 24°C, respec-

Humidity levels oscillated

between 86 per cent and 100 Municipal

Corporation of Delhi received reports of waterlogging from five places and of trees being uprooted from 16 locations. The public works department received calls regarding waterlogging from Mundka and Narela, among others. The New Delhi Municipal Council's Disaster

Management Centre received 70 complaints during the past two days. Of these, 26 were received late on Saturday while the remaining poured in by 11 am on Sunday. The issues reported includ-

ed incidents of minor waterlogging, fallen tree leaves and malfunctioning road lights, necessitating swift action. Officials said 19 instances

of waterlogging were promptly resolved at crucial locations, including Janpath, Sikandra Road, C-Hexagon, Copernicus Marg, Barakhamba Road, Harish Chander Mathur Lane and Kautilya Marg.

The accumulated water was removed through manual efforts and super-sopper machines. Additionally, water stagnating in potted plants at prominent areas was also removed. The G20 Summit venue and most of the hotels where the delegates stayed are in areas under the NDMC's jurisdiction.

20-year-old stabbed to death in busy Sangam Vihar lane, 8 arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tn a shocking incident a 20-Lyear-old youth was stabbed to death on a busy lane in Delhi's Sangam Vihar area on Saturday night. The Delhi Police has arrested eight juvenile in this regard.

Shocking CCTV visuals show the 20-year-old surrounded by his killers and dragged down a narrow street as they stab and kick him in a blind fury. The horrific assault continues for several seconds even as over half-a-dozen eyewitnesses, including several on two-wheelers, stand by and do nothing.As the minute-long CCTV clip plays out, some of the attackers break off and watch as four of them drag their victim back down the street while continuing their

savage attack. Thirty seconds into the clip - it is unclear how long the attack went on before it was caught on camera - the teen is pushed to the side of the road, and his bloodied shirt reveals the multiple stab wounds.

"On receipt of the PCR call, a police team reached Majidia Hospital and found Dilshad was undergoing treatment in critical condition. He had multiple stab injuries on his chest and other parts of his body. He was on ventilator support. Later he was referred to Safdarjung hospital," a senior police officer said.

"All the eight turned out to be juvenile. They were apprehended. During interrogation, it came out that an altercation followed by minor fights that took place near Jat Dharamshala about a year ago. Last night they again had a fight in which Dilshad was murdered," the police added.

NEW DELHI, INDIA 8-10 SEPTEMBER

2023

Modi conveys concerns about anti-India activities to Trudeau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday conveyed to his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau India's strong concerns about the continuing anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada that were promoting secessionism, inciting violence against its diplomats and threatening the Indian community there.

In his talks with Trudeau on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, Modi also mentioned that a relationship based on "mutual respect and trust" is essential for the progress of the India-Canada relationship, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The Prime Minister highlighted that India-Canada relations are anchored in shared democratic values, respect for rule of law and strong people-to-people ties," it said. "He con-veyed our strong concerns about continuing anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada. They are promoting secessionism and inciting violence against Indian diplomats, damaging diplomatic premises, and threatening the Indian com-



munity in Canada and their

syndicates and human trafficking should be a concern places of worship," it said. for Canada as well. It is essen-The nexus of such forces

Asked about India's concerns over the increasing activities of the Khalistani elements in Canada, Trudeau said at a press conference that his country will always defend freedom of peaceful protest but at the same time asserted that it will always prevent violence and push back against hatred. "Canada will always

cooperate in dealing with such threats, the MEA said in

a statement.

defend freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, and freedom of peaceful protest and it is extremely important to us," he said. "At the same time, we are always there to prevent violence and to push back against hatred. I think on the issue of the community, it is important to remember that the actions of the few do not represent the entire community or Canada," Trudeau said.

The Canadian PM said India is an important partner of Canada in a range of sectors. "India is an extraordinarily important economy in the world and an important partner to Canada on everything from fighting climate change to creating growth and prosperity for the citi-

India's G20 presidency left 'indelible mark' on world stage: Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said Índia's G20 presidency has left an "indelible mark" on the world stage, and the consensus reached on the declaration marks a historic milestone in bridging the global trust deficit.

He praised the Prime Minister's vision, and said he successfully demonstrated "Bharat's prowess as both a Vishwa Ġuru and Vishwa

"The historic G20 Summit in New Delhi has successfully concluded. India's Presidency under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi has left an indelible mark on the world stage," Rajnath said in a post on X.

'The consensus reached during the G20 Summit in New Delhi marks a historic milestone in bridging the global trust deficit and cultivating global trust and confidence," he

The defence minister said the G20 Declaration, encompassing a consensus statement on the Ukraine war and other actionable tasks, demonstrates



bring the nations closer and transcend their differences for common objective.

'The G20 India has launched the 'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor', enhancing India's strategic involvement with the Arabian Peninsula and Europe. opportunity for India to establish long-lasting connectivity between India and Arabia," he

He also said the African Union getting permanent membership of the Group is "fostering inclusivity and deepening cooperation with Africa". The admission of the

African Union into the G20 is a significant achievement for PM Modi's 'Global South' initiative. PM Narendra Modi has successfully demonstrated Bharat's prowess as both a 'Vishwa Guru' and 'Vishwa Bandhu," Rajnath said.

Rahul hits out at BJP during interaction in Paris PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has hit out at the BJP during an interaction with students and academics in Paris, saying that the governing party is out to get power at any cost and that there is "nothing Hindu" about their actions.

During the interaction at the Sciences PO University in Paris, a leading social sciences institution in France, the 53year-old Opposition leader covered a broad range of topics such as his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the Opposition alliance's fight to defend India's democratic structures, changing global order and other key issues.

He stressed that the Opposition was committed to fighting for the "soul of India" and the country would "come out just fine" from the current "turbulence". "I've read the 'Gita', I've read a number of the Upanishads, I've read many Hindu books; there is nothing Hindu about what the BJP does, absolutely nothing," said Rahul Gandhi, in response to a question about the rise of "Hindu nationalism" in the country at the interaction, a video of which was released on

"I have not read anywhere, in no Hindu book, from no learned Hindu person have I ever heard that you should ter-

Sunday.



weaker than you. So, this idea, this word, Hindu nationalists, this is a wrong word. They're not Hindu nationalists. They have nothing to do with Hinduism. They are out to get power at any cost, and they will do anything to get power... They want dominance of a few people and that is what they are about. There is nothing Hindu about them," he said.

Asked about the cases of violence against the Dalit and other minority communities in the country, Gandhi said it requires "political imagination" to combat the issue "head on" and the Opposition is committed to that fight.

"What the BJP and the RSS are trying to do, the heart of what they're trying to do is trying to stop the expression, the participation of lower castes, other backward castes, tribals and minority communities. And, for me, an India where a Dalit person or a Muslim person, tribal person, upper-caste person, anybody, is being mistreated, is being attacked, is not the India I

Europe, partners should develop new framework for Al risks: Ursula

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday said Europe and its partners should develop a new global framework for artificial intelligence risks to avert systemic societal risks and foster investments in safe and responsible AI systems.

Addressing the "One Future" session of the G20 Summit here, the European Commission President asserted that one thing seems clear that the future will be digital.

"Today, I want to focus on AI and digital infrastructure. risks but also offers tremendous opportunities. The crucial question is how to harness a rapidly changing technology," she highlighted.

It is telling that even the makers and inventors of AI are calling on political leaders to regulate it, she added.

"In the EU, in 2020, we presented the first ever law on artificial intelligence. We want to facilitate innovation while building trust. But we need more. What the world does now will shape our future. I believe that Europe — and its partners — should develop a new global framework for AI

risks," von der Leyen said.
"It should protect us against systemic societal risks and foster investments in safe



and responsible AI systems at the same time," she said.

"At the global level, we eventually need to reach the broader community of the United Nations. We would need a body similar to the IPCC for climate, and here we scientists, entrepreneurs and innovators," she said, adding, they need to provide the knowledge on the risks posed by AI as well as the potential benefits for humanity.

European Commission President further said digital public infrastructures can be a real booster to emerging economies. India has achieved remarkable success in rolling out its digital public infrastructures, she commended New Delhi.

'We heard the Prime Minister and we very much support his initiative. The possibilities are huge, the invest-ments small. The trick is to build public digital infrastructure that is interoperable, open to all and trusted," she added.

India, France review bilateral ties during Modi, Macron talks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 \mathbf{T} ndia and France reviewed the Lentire gamut of their bilateral ties here on Sunday during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron. The two leaders reiterated their unwavering commitment to collectively serve as a force of good, carrying the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' i.e. 'one earth, one family, one future, during tumultuous times reshaping the global order.

A joint statement released after the lunch meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of the G20 summit said Mod and Macron discussed, assessed and reviewed the progress in meeting in July in Paris. They also exchanged views on important international and regional developments.

President Macron's visit to India comes after the historic visit of Prime Minister Modi to Paris on July 13-14 as the Guest of Honour on the occasion of French National Day on 14 July 2023, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the India-France strategic partnership.

Acknowledging strength of India France partnership, founded in deep trust, shared values, belief in sovereignty and strategic autonomy, a resolute commitment to international law and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, an abiding faith in multilateralism and a mutual pursuit of



a stable multi-polar world, both leaders emphasised the need to expand their collaboration to address regional and global challenges, the statement said.

With the 'Horizon 2047' Roadmap, the Indo-Pacific Roadmap and other outcomes Narendra Modi's visit serving as recent points of reference, the two leaders discussed overall progress and next steps on the implementation of the new and ambitious goals for cooperation in areas of defense, space, nuclear energy, digital public infrastructure, critical technology, climate change, education, and people-to-people con-

They also carried forward their discussions on India-France partnership in the Indo Pacific region and Africa, including in infrastructure, connectivity, energy, biodiversity, sustainability and industrial projects. They underlined their role of providers of solutions for the Indo-Pacific through their cooperation in the framework

of the International Solar Alliance, launched by India and France, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, the statement

President Macron congratulated Prime Minister Modi on Chandrayaan 3. The two leaders recalled six decades of India-France Space cooperation and reviewed the progress since holding of the first Strategic Space Dialogue in June 2023.

They acknowledged the strong India-France civil nuclear ties, good progress in the discussion for the Jaitapur nuclear plant project and welcomed the continuing engagement of both sides to expand bilateral cooperation to establish a partnership for co-developing SMR and AMR technologies as well as the forthcoming signature of a dedicated declaration of intent. France reiterated its steadfast and unwavering support for India's membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Summit under India's presidency breakthrough in many ways: Russia

RAKESH SINGH NEW DELHI

 R^{ussia} on Sunday said the G20 (now G21) Summit under India's presidency was a "breakthrough" conclave in many ways as its outcomes showed a path to the world to move forward on a range of challenges and demonstrated the strength and importance of the Global South.

In a press briefing here, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov thanked India saying New Delhi played an important role in "preventing the West" from taking forward their approach on many issues, including Ukraine. The summit declaration

clearly sent across a message that military conflicts in the according to the UN Charter and that the Western powers will not be able to press ahead with their concepts of resolution of various crises. "It is a breakthrough sum-

mit in many ways. It provides us a way forward to move ahead in many issues," he The G20 Summit in New

Delhi provided a direction towards fairness in global governance and global finance as well, Lavrov noted.

"I want to express my gratitude to India for preventing attempts to politicise the G20," he said, adding the West will not be able to remain a "hegemony" as we see new centres of power coming up in the world.



from climate change, the Russian foreign minister said the Western powers have done nothing on its promise of providing USD 100 billion annually to developing nations to deal with climate change.

Thanking India for "preventing attempts to politicise" the G20 Summit, Lavrov the West's attempts to 'Ukrainize' the summit agen-Lavrov said, "The active

role of the Indian presidency has genuinely consolidated the G20 countries from the Global South for the first time in history...It is a breakthrough summit in many ways. It provides us a way forward to move ahead in many issues.

He said, "Our BRICS partners- Brazil, India, China, and South Africa have been particularly active and thanks to these consolidated positions taken by the Global South countries to uphold and protect their legitimate interests."

India managed to pull off a diplomatic fine balance to

convince all the parties to agree to the wordings on the Ukraine conflict.

"Concerning the war in Ukraine, while recalling the discussion in Bali, we reiterated 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," the text on Ukraine read.

"Today's era must not be of war...We call on all states to uphold the principles of international law including territorial integrity and sovereignty, international humanitarian law, and the multilatpeace and stability. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, and efforts to address crises as well as diplomacy and dialogue are

...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," the declaration read.

Despite the sanctions against Moscow due to the Ukraine conflict and resultant payment difficulties, Lavrov also said Russian arms contracts with India remain in

Lavrov also said that India will offer Moscow options to invest the billions in rupees it has accumulated for exports.

BJP-JD(S) seat-sharing for Lok Sabha elections soon

NEW DELHI

Seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha seats between the Janata Dal-Secular (JDS) and the BJP for the coming Lok Sabha seats will be decided after former Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the national Capital.

There is no decision on the number of seats to be shared by the two parties in Karnataka which has 28 Lok Sabha constituencies sources said.

JDS is expecting more than 4 Lok Sabha seats which it earlier reported to have been offered to it by the BJP.

The third main political force in Karnataka after the ruling Congress and the main opposition the BJP, the JDS is seeking 6 Lok Sabha seats to contest in Karnataka, accord-

In 2019 Lok Sabha poll



JDS party national president and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda while announcing the pre-poll "understanding" between the two parties at Bengaluru clarified the seat sharing formula will be decided between his son and former two time Minister Kumaraswamy and Prime

Minister Modi. The decision has been taken to save our party, to ensure the survival of a

targeted (by Congress) to be finished.

"We have decided on it (alliance with BJP) and a final meeting between my son Kumaraswamy and prime minister Narendra Modi wil decide on how many seats will be given to us," said Gowda.

Gowda claimed that both the parties are on equal footing and neither the JD(S) nor BJP can be discounted in terms of their vote strength across the State.

Half of planet's glaciers to melt by 2100: Research

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

 ${
m E}$ ven if the countries stick to goals set out in the Paris climate agreement, half the planet's glaciers will have melted by 2100, according to new research that warns the scale and impacts of glacial loss are greater than previously thought.

At least half of that loss will happen in the next 30 years, which means a rise in sea level, threatening the supply of water of up to 2 billion people, and increasing the risk of natural hazards such as flooding. For example, in India and

China, the Himalayan glaciers are crucial for many important rivers and the vanishing of glaciers will bring a serious livelihood crisis to billions of people. Researchers found 49 per cent of glaciers would disap-

pear under the most optimistic

scenario of 1.5C of warming.

However, if global heating



continued under the current scenario of 2.7C of warming, losses would be more significant, with 68 per cent of glaciers disappearing, according to the paper, published in Science.

There would be almost no glaciers left in central Europe, western Canada and the US by the end of the next century if this happened.

increase by 90mm (3.5in) from

The study looked at all glacial land ice except for Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. If temperature increases are limited to 1.5C of warming, average sea levels would that will be lost - before it was

2015 to 2100, but with 2.7C of warming, glacial melt would lead to around 115mm of sea level rise. These scenarios are up to 23 per cent more than previous models had estimat-

Commenting on the study and its findings, David Rounce, a civil and environmental engineer at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and the lead author, said in a statement, This is the first time we have isolated the number of glaciers

the total mass loss.

'Surgery can help sight recovery in kids born with dense bilateral cataracts'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Surgery done at various stages of adolescence can aid sight recovery in children born with dense bilateral

The operation alters the brain's specific visual pathways, allowing patients to discriminate between pictures and recognise faces.

The sensitive period for visual development closes around 5 to 7 years, so the conventional wisdom has been that surgery during adolescence can only offer limited benefits for congenital cataracts.

To investigate this, scientists followed 19 cataract patients aged 7 to 16 who received surgery. They found that surgery improved early parts of the visual system. The majority of this improvement occurred in the first few days after surgery.



researcher at the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi, found that the patients were able to distinguish pictures of faces from non-face stimuli. Patients who had operations at a younger age experienced greater improvements in perfor-The researchers linked

behavioural improvements in visual perception to underlying neuroanatomical changes such as the plasticity of white matter — made of nerve fibres such as axons — in the two late visual pathways of the brain.

DRM inspects progress of ABSS works

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of North Eastern Railway (Varanasi Division) Vineet Kumar Srivastava conducted the window-trailing safety inspection of Varanasi City-Chhapra Junction railway section and reviewed the progress of works being done under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) at Ghazipur City and Ballia railway stations on Saturday.

After reaching Ghazipur City railway station, along with senior Varanasi Division (NER) officers, the DRM thoroughly inspected the progress of ongoing state-of-the-art development works being done there at a cost of Rs 22.88 crore under ABSS and directed the concerned officers to complete all the work with quality within the stipulated time limit. Then, the DRM inspected station building, platforms, foot over bridge (FOB), food and vending stalls, waiting room, circulating area, entry and exit routes, cleanliness and maintenance etc. Besides, Srivastava also checked the security related relay room, IPS room, points crossing, key transfer, maintenance register, fire extinguishing equipment and various maintenance registers and directed to strictly follow the safety rules.



DRM VK Srivastava inspecting a station of Varanasi Division of NER on Saturday

inspection by special train, the DRM also inspected the beautification and redevelopment works being done at Ballia railway station with the cost of Rs 41 crore under ABSS. During the visit to Ballia station, he held a formal meeting with local MP Virendra Singh 'Mast' to discuss about construction of second entry gate for installing four lifts and

After reaching Ballia by at this station apart from its progress, improvement of the approach road to the station, façade and platform numbers 2 and 3, construction of toilets. renovation work of booking and parcel office, construction work of 12 metres wide FOB, passenger parking etc.

They also have a detailed discussion on the work plans escalators each. Then the DRM inspected

Ballia station and its security related equipment. During his inspection, Senior Divisional Engineer II Satyam Singh, Assistant Commercial Manager Ajay Kumar Suman, Public Relations Officer Ashok Kumar and other senior supervisors and station employees were

inspects Sardar Patel Hospital Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak who visited Prayagraj, inspected the newly constructed 100-bed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Hospital in Bhagwatpur along with district magistrate and chief medical officer here on

Deputy CM visits Prayagraj,

Sunday.

After inspecting the hospital, the Deputy CM said this hospital has been prepared with the resources of the 2019 Kumbh Mela. He said rain proofing work is currently going on in the hospital after which all the equipment will be installed.

He said 16 doctors have been deployed here. The hospital has been provided all permissible equipment. Currently, patients are getting OPD facility here. He claimed that within 10 days patients will start getting all the facilities in the hospital. The Deputy CM has instructed DM Navneet Singh Chahal to get all the work of the hospital completed under his supervision. Deputy CM said after the full operation of the hospital starts, patients here will not have to go to the city for treatment.

Responding to the inclusion of African Union during the G20 conference, Pathak said this is a big achievement for India. He said under the leadership and guidance of PM Narendra Modi, India has been successful in hoisting the flag of Mother India in the



Dy CM Brajesh Pathak being welcomed by Dr SP Singh, Principal, SRN Hospital

On Akhilesh Yadav's linking of G-20 with Ghosi by-election, he said such statements and comments have no meaning. While reacting to the poster of 'Tiger Abhi Zinda Hai' put up at the SP office, he said the people of the state know all the truth. It is noteworthy that a poster of Tiger Abhi Zinda Hai has been put up at the SP office regarding SP

leader Shivpal Singh Yadav. He said that there is no panic situation regarding dengue right now. But the

Health department is working

is special vigil in Ghaziabad,

Noida, Lucknow and Prayagraj.

The campaign has also been

with caution. Deputy CM said high quality treatment will be provided to patients. All medicines are available in hospitals. Complete arrangements for platelets is also available. The Health department is identifying dengue patients. For this the scope of testing has also been expanded. Along with increasing the scope of testing, there

malaria and dengue patients are found more. After inspectare found more. After inspecting the hospital and holding a review meeting with health officials regarding medical facilities, Pathak left for Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh.

CMO Dr Ashu Pandey said that complete preparations have been made here.

intensified in districts where

tions have been made here. This hospital will soon become operational for patients. Doctors, pharmacists and other paramedical staff have been deployed here.

Direct train to link Kashi, Somnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 $F^{\rm or \ the \ convenience \ of \ passengers, \ the \ Railway \ admin-}$ istration has decided to run 12945/12946 Veraval-Banaras-Veraval Weekly Express. Its inaugural special train (02945 Veraval-Banaras Express) will run from Veraval on Monday (September 11). However, the regular operation of 12946 from Banaras will be started from September 13, while 12945 from Veraval on September 18. It will run on every Wednesday from Banaras and on Monday. Veraval is a city and the headquarters of Gir Somnath district in Gujarat and this train will help the passen-

Jyotirlinga Temple and Gir National Park directly as their distances from Veraval railway station are 6.8 km and 63.7 km

The inaugural special train (02945 Veraval-Banaras) will depart from Veraval at 4.15 am on Monday and after halting at Junagadh. Jetalsar, Wadiya Deoli, Kukavav, Chital, Khijadiya, Lathi, Dhola, Botad, Dhandhuka, Sarkhej, Ahmedabad, Nadiad, Anand, Chhayapuri, Godhra, Ratlam, Nagda, Shamgarh, Kota, Gangapur City, Agra Fort, Etawah and Govindpuri arrive Prayagraj Jn at 12 noon next day and Banaras at 2.35 am, Sarkhej at 10.36 am,

However, the regular 12946 Banaras-Veraval Express will depart from Banaras at 7.30 am on every Wednesday from September 13 and depart from Prayagraj Jn at 10 am and passing through the same inaugural route depart from Govindpuri at 12.55 pm, Etawah at 2.25 pm, Agra Fort at 5 pm, Gangapur City at 8 pm, Kota at 10.40 pm, Shamgarh at 12.15 am next day, Nagda at 2.10 am, Ratlam at 2.45 am, Godhra at 5.45 am, Chhayapuri (a station of Vadodara city) at 6.35 am, Anand at 7.14 am, Nadiad at

Dhandhuka at 12.11 pm, Botad at 1.16 pm, Dhola at 1.55 pm, Lathi at 2.30 pm, Khijadiya 2.42 pm, Chital at 2.53 pm, Kukaav at 3.21 pm, Wadiya Deoli at 3.51 pm, Jetalsar at 4.15 pm, Junagadh at 4.40 pm and will reach Veraval at 6.45 pm. Similarly, the regular 12945 Veraval-Banaras Express will depart from Veraval at 4.15 am on every Monday from September 18 and arrive at 12 noon next day at Banaras. This train consists of 24 coaches including one air-conditioned (AC)-I, two AC-II, six AC-III, eight sleeper class, four ordinary second class, one pantry car and two Seating and Luggage Rakes (SLRs).

Schemes run for livestock farmers reviewed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Special Secretary, Livestock and Nodal Officer of Varanasi Division and Vindhyachal Devendra Kumar Pandey has alerted the district in view of the lumpy skin disease and directed the officers concerned to reserve a temporary shelter home for cows.

Reviewing the schemes and departmental works run by the government for livestock farmers at a meeting held on Saturday in the Circuit House here, Pandey took stock of preparations of vaccination being done by the surveillance teams related to lumpy skin disease and works being done in case of spread of the disease. Cases of lumpy skin disease

have been received in adjoining districts of Varanasi and in view of this, Pandey alerted the Varanasi district to make it's surveillance in its block and immediately report to the head office in case any case of lumpy disease is reported.

Reserve a temporary cow shelter in case of lumpy skin disease to be found in destitute cattle in all the development blocks of the district, he directed, adding that appreciating the ongoing vaccination for lumpy skin disease in the district. He directed that all necessary facilities should be available at the cow shelters operated in the district and no destitute cattle should be found roaming on the streets. In such a situation, immediate action should be taken and all the cows were protected in shelters, he directed further.

During the review of artificial insemination being done using sex-sorted cement, it was found that the percentage of artificial insemination being done using sex-sorted cement in the district is better than last



Special Secretary, Livestock Devendra Kumar Pandey chairing a review meeting in Circuit House

year and Pandey stressed the need to further promote it among the farmers.

A total of 6 mobile veterinary units are being operated in the district, out of which four are being run on fixed routes and two are being run on emergency basis. He directed that the departmental work should be taken from the vehicles being used even in emergency and all vehicles should have kits for artificial insemi-

He said that under the National Livestock Mission, four beneficiaries of the district have applied for Goat Scheme and Sheep Scheme and directed the officers to get them verified soon and benefit from the

The Additional Director of Varanasi Division Dr RK Singh, Chief Veterinary Officer Dr VK Singh and departmental offi-

cers from Ghazipur and Chandauli districts were also present in the meeting. **DR GAURAV HON-**

OURED: Dr Gaurav Singh, noted diabetes expert of Varanasi, has been honoured with the Fellowship of Indian Society of Hypertension. He is the youngest doctor honoured with this prestigious fellowship.

In its national convention held in Lucknow, the Indian Society of Hypertension honoured Dr Gaurav Singh, Senior Advisor to Upendra Medical Hospital of Varanasi and noted diabetes expert of the district, with its Fellowship. The ambulatory blood pressure monitoring device has been installed in the hospital for those patients on whom the antihypertensive medicines are not effective, Dr Gauray informed

SANKHWAR NEW IMS BHU DIRECTOR: Renowned urologist and Head of the Department of Urology, Kings George Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow, Prof SN Sankhwar has been appointed the new Director of the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu

University (BHU). Prof Sankhwar is also the Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) of KGMU. He has vast administrative experience and is known for his medical and academic accomplishments. His areas of expertise are general urology, male infertility, endourology and female urology. At KGMU, he has been contributing in various academic and administrative capacities. The process of appointment of Director, IMS, was recently concluded at Banaras Hindu University. Currently Dean, Faculty of Medicine, IMS, is officiating as the Director of the Institute. Prof Sankhwar will have a tenure of five years as Director. IMS BHU, is an AIIMS like institution and is in the process of upgrading its infrastructure, medical and research facilities and patient care. The institute is expected to get a fillip in its ongoing efforts of excellence under the leadership of Prof Sankhwar.

615 students awarded degrees at IIIT-A convocation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

A s many as 615 students got awarded degrees at the 18th convocation of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, (IIIT-A) held on Saturday evening.

Harish S Mehta, founder

Chairman, NASSCOM delivering the convocation address as the chief guest gave a clarion call to the passing out stu-dents that they have the unique opportunity to shape India into a "Soney Ki Chidiya 2.0."

Mehta said the IT/BPM revolution that NASSCOM brought us to the doorstep of a new revolution led by Al. With advancements in Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and their integration with other cutting-edge technologies, we can now solve complex problems faster and more efficiently than ever

"Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is already helping automate mundane tasks. Al too will bring more new age industries to the fore", he added.

Union Minister of State for Education Dr Subhas Sarkar in his recorded message appealed to students to come forward in realisation of digital India as desired by the prime minister. The country has achieved several milestones in the field of science and technology especially, like Chandrayan 3, Aditya Mission etc.

Prof Sunil S Bhagwat, Director, IISER, Pune, who was the guest of honour said that if there's been one thing that is constant about technology, it is change. In fact, techcome to be a key parameter to describe a generation.

In any technology conversation today, the terms data science, Artificial Intelligence (Al), and Machine Learning (ML) have become integral.

As electricity have transformed the way we live at one time, so has Al in the most recent times. We should of course note that advancements through Al need to be tempered with the wisdom and compassion of individual members driving the process, in the absence of these essential human qualities, Al by itself scares people and therefore it is important that while we contribute to the Al revolution, we are also guided by an ethical and moral compass.

Dr Anand Deshpande, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIIT Allahabad, said when knowledge benefits common man and provides solutions that address societal issues, it is considered valuable. He was happy to note that IIITnology and connectivity have A has several initiatives, projects, centres to this effect that engage students in converting knowledge into solutions.

"It is no surprise that the students of the institute were well placed and most of them got jobs through campus placement. As you move ahead in your career, I encourage you to stay aware of the community and do your bit to make the world a better place. We will have the opportunity to make India the world's leading country - economically, scientifically and socially.

"We cannot predict what is coming in this fast-changing world it is those who can learn and evolve will succeed. If there is one message that I want to leave with you, that would be to become a continuous learner, learn how you learn and learn all the time", he added.

Prof Mukul Sharad Sutaone, Director, IIIT-A, said that we take pride in stepping into an enviable position of excellence.

A total of 387 undergraduate students, 206 post gradu-

ates, one dual degree BTech and MTech, seven dual degree MTech and PhD and 14 research scholars were awarded Ph D at the 18th convocation. A total of 130 girls received degrees this time. Vishesh Mittal (IEC2019057) was awarded the Chairman's Gold Medal for the Year -2023 for his overall academic performance. The Institute's Gold Medal for BTech(IT) was given to Prince Kumar, silver to Aditya Agarwal and Bronze to Divy Agrwal while for BTech ECÉ Gold Medal to Vishesh Mittal, silver to Mohit Garg and bronze to Chaitnya Joshi. Bonny Thomos K was awarded gold , Meghal Sethi - silver and Ayesha Shamim bronze for getting highest marks in MBA. Akanksha Lal received the gold medal, Riva Kalara- silver and Neha Vishwanath Sarnaik Bronze for securing top positions in MTech (IT). In MTech (ECE) Gold Medal was given to Pawan Sahu, silver to Manoj Kumar Singh and bronze to Aayushi Bansal.

Thana Samadhan Diwas organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

¬he Thana Samadhan Diwas The Thana Samagnan Diwas was organised on Saturday at all 18 police stations of the district. Out of 148 applications only 39 were disposed of on the spot and for the rest teams were formed for disposal. At all police stations grievances of applicants were heard by officers. Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhinandan heard the complaints at Chunar police station. He was accompanied by sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Navneet Sehra and Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP/Operation) OP Singh. At Chilh police station the DIG RP Singh heard the problems of the aggrieved and

out of 12 three cases were solved on the spot. For the rest teams were formed and the DIG directed to them to dispose of the cases on merit. The DIG inspected the police station and directed the staff concerned to keep all records as well registers updated and properly maintained. The cops were directed to keep a close watch on outlaws and stay updated on land disputes.

ARRESTED: Under the joint operation of SOG and Kachhawaan police station, the police arrested two persons and recovered liquor worth Rs 10 lakh on Saturday. Giving details Circle Officer (CO), Sadar, Shailendra Tripathi said on being tipped off by an

informer the police started vehicle checking and intercepted a Bolero and searched it. The police recovered 675 bottles of liquor worth Rs 10 lakh, he added. While the driver of the vehicle managed to flee from spot, Faiyaz and Kundan Raj of Rohtas, Bihar, were arrested and sent to jail. The vehicle was seized under the Motor Vehicles Act.

LOK ADALAT: As many as 28,586 cases were disposed of in the National Lok Adalat held on Saturday. The programme started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and garlanding of the portrait of Goddess Saraswati jointly by District Judge Anmol Pal, Principal Judge Family Court

Presiding Officer Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT). A fine of Rs 19.65 lakh was recovered and a compensation of Rs 2.75 crore was awarded. Principal Judge Family Court succeeded in making 27 couples to agree to live together. The presiding officer MACT decided 62 cases. At the initiative of ADM (F&R) and Nodal Officer of Lok Adalat Shiv Pratap Shukla 21,951 revenue cases were decided. ADJ Rachna Arora decided one case, Special Judge SC/ST Baljor Singh decided two cases, Special Judge POCSO Santosh Tripathi nine cases and Special Judge EC Act Vayu Nandan Mishra 12 cases.

Rajendra Prasad Srivastava and

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Vasudhaiv kutumbakam

Delhi Declaration of G20 paves the way for establishing a new, inclusive world order

he 18th edition of G20 Summit in New Delhi has come to an end. It made history for a variety of reasons: From showcasing India's graceful culture to hospitality to inclusiveness in organising the mammothly significant global event. As the baton passes over to Brazil, India's one-year presidency formally comes to an end but not before it has played a pivotal role in bringing all countries together for building a just, harmonious and equitable world order. Though G20 meetings have always been a platform for global leaders to address pressing issues, this time Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it more inclusive, almost a people's movement. The most important achievement of this G20 conclave, which it would be best remembered for, is Delhi Declaration. Delhi Declaration resulted in several significant outcomes. It was not easy though as both Russia and China remained adamant on a number of issues. After much persuasion and brainstorming, in a huge success for India's presidency, the G20 mem-

bers agreed by consensus to a joint statement for accepting the contentious "Ukraine paragraphs". The final document marks a shift in the position taken by the US, the European Union and G7 countries, and dilutes the criticism of Russia.

This edition of the Summit broke new ground by welcoming Africa into the fold and practically making the grouping "G21". This historic move underscored the crucial role played by New Delhi in fostering inclusiveness. The decision to expand the G20 into G21 with the inclusion of the African Union marked a pivotal moment in the history of global governance. It was a testament to the commitment of participating nations

to address the challenges of our interconnected world collectively. While the G20 has been an influential platform, it was long overdue for more substantial representation from the neglected African continent. The importance of Africa's position is undeniable: It has a burgeoning population, vast natural resources and immense potential for economic growth. Bringing Africa into the G21 is a recognition of the continent's significance and an acknowledgment that these countries' challenges require global attention and collaborative solutions. It indeed goes to the credit of Prime Minister Modi to bring it to fruition. The two-day summit would also also remembered for the absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the reservation of their countries to the mention of Ukraine and "Vasudhaiva kutumbakam." Their absence notwithstanding, the New Delhi G20 Summit has achieved its purpose in building consensus over a variety of issues. The G21 adopted inclusive agenda that recognised the unique challenges faced by both emerging economies and developing nations, offering tailored solutions for a more equitable world. The G21 placed a particular emphasis on addressing African development issues. Though they say "never the twain shall meet", India has been instrumental in successfully bringing together the North and South Poles!



dols of Lord Ganesha being carried ahead of the Hindu festival of 'Ganesh Chaturthi', in Mumbai

Pakistan's private security services



BHOPINDER SINGH

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have a strong bond based on expediency; Pakistan needs Saudi money and the Sheikhdoms its military to defend them

ormer Saudi spy chief, Prince Turki bin Faisal, described the Saudi-Pak relationship as, "one of the closest relationships in the world between any two countries without any official treaty". But there is a transactional quid pro quo cementing the self-assumed and postured guardianship of the two holiest mosques, as romantically claimed by Pakistan i.e., Islamabad desperately needs financial support, and Riyadh has always needed somebody to defend the oil-rich state. This desperation for each other's ability to address the other's specific concerns has led to a mutually gratifying equation that can be packaged under the cover of 'Ummah' reciprocities.

Pakistanis readily trained and even flew sorties to thwart Yemini aggression on Saudi Arabia in the late 60s, posted over 15,000 soldiers in the 80s and even during the Gulf War. They jointly created the Afghan mujaheddin. Today the former Pakistani Army Chief, Raheel Sharif, leads the Riyadh-based multination military alliance under the aegis of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC). However, it is the Saudi-funded and Pakistan-developed 'Islamic Bomb' project that personifies the trust and efficacy of strategic security afforded by the Pakistanis that ensures the regular Saudi doles to sustain Islamabad's faltering economy.

Irrespective of the deep divides within all Pakistani political parties (even counting other institutions like the Pakistani Military or even the clergy) within Pakistan, relations with Saudi Arabia remain robust. Pew Research Centre survey records the most favourable perception (9 out of 10) of the Saudis, amongst Pakistanis. The life-sustaining financial doles from Saudi have assumed even more significance, as the freefall of Pakistan seems imminent, otherwise.

In the uniquely Pakistani narrative of the extra-constitutional mandate assumed by the 'akistani establishment (read, Military), the Pakistani Chief, General Asim Munir held a fourhour meeting with Pakistani businessmen! Confirming the with their relatively crude



Beyond a point, no amount of arms purchased by these Sheikhdoms can replace boots on the ground. The ragtag Yemeni Houthi militias had made a mockery of the multibillion dollar worth of the supposedly impregnable THAAD and Patriots systems,

Pakistanis, one thing is clear

the only worthwhile thing that

the Pakistani Army Chief can

offer to these Sheikhdoms in

exchange, is even more

enhanced security imperatives

and guarantees.



SO, THE **SHEIKHDOMS** ARE THE ONLY MONEY LENDERS LEFT AND THE **PAKISTANI ARMY CHIEF IS** THE ONLY **VIABLE** 'BUSINESSMAN' IN PAKISTAN WHO DOES SOMETHING OF VALUE TO OFFER drones and rockets. Taking on the likes of Houthis or other groups inimical to these Šheikhdoms requires physical troops in battleground - who are better than the financially desperate Pakistanis?

To put numbers in perspective, the annual defence budget (for 2023) of Saudi Arabia and UAE is approximately \$70 billion and \$15 billion, respectively (which for unpopular. India is about \$69 billion). For these cash-flush Sheikhdoms to reallocate financial 'support' towards Pakistan in return for security guarantees, does not seem implausible, or even impractical. Given that the latest threat perceptions of the Sheikhdoms do not necessarily come from Israel anymore or even from the traditional sectarian rival and sanction-hit Iran, but instead come from societal dissonances within e.g., 'Arab Spring', or from armed militias like Houthis, ISIL, Hezbollah etc., all of which require conventional soldering responses onground. Such a quid pro quo will need the Pakistanis to overcome the hesitation of committing themselves to some sectarian issues e.g., they its financial mess. had earlier refused to commit

tively picking the battles in which they would want to partake may not continue, going forward. On their part, the Pakistanis know that the Chinese investments have been realistically maximised and banked. Equally, the IMF conditionalities are so stringent and unpopular, that accepting their terms invariably makes the government even more

So, the Sheikhdoms are the only money lenders left and the Pakistani Army Chief is the only viable 'businessman' in Pakistan who does have something of value to offer i.e., security wherewithal.

All other platitudes of Arab capitals buying Pakistani cotton, machines, or basic food items in exchange for money lent or repayment in 'rupee's, are pure diplomatese. Sheikhdom money is the only money that comes without strings attached and everyone from General Asim Munir, the Sheikhdoms, and even Washington DC, knows that. This arrangement will enable Islamabad to posit its religious diplomacy and duty confidently, yet potentially tide over

> (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Li Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

Sanatan dharma: Where are we headed?



The only issue being discussed in Tamil Nadu today is the Sanatan dharma and the negative impact it has had on the Dravidian society

≺hings are going out of control in Tamil Nadu as the duel between those who want to annihilate Sanatan dharma and its saviours has reached a flash point with a far-reaching impact on national politics. It all started last Saturday as Tamil Nadu's minister for sports and youth affairs Udhayanidhi Stalin, who is the heir apparent to chief minister M K Stalin exhorted the people in the State to eradicate and annihilate Sanatan dharma which he alleged was more dangerous than dengue, malaria and cholera.

The first reaction came from a Sanatana zealot in Uttar Pradesh who "offered" Rs 10 crore to Udhayanidhi 's head, an ideal example of hate speech. Police in Tamil Nadu have registered a criminal case against the hotheaded monk. But despite this action, a DMK leader ridiculed people in UP and Bihar for being illiterate and idiots. Constantine Ravindran, who had crossed over to the DMK from the Vijayakant-led DMDK in search of greener pastures, wanted to be more loyal than his masters and Karnataka has told the them for money and materi-



hence the statement that those who believe in Sanatan dharma are illiterate and idiots. A Raja went one step further and declared that the Sanatana dharma is more dangerous than HIV and leprosy. Raja is struggling to curry favour with the Karunanidhi clan.

Since Saturday, the only issue being discussed in Tamil Nadu is 'Sanatan dharma' and the need to destroy it from Dravidian society. The controversy is getting bal-looned by the hour while pressing issues concerning the State have been taken backstage. The dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the sharing of Kaveri River water rages on despite the apex court order demanding Karnataka to release 5000 cusec water daily for the next 15 days. But

Supreme Court that it may not be possible to release the stipulated quantity of water as ordered by the latter because of severe drought conditions in the upper riparian State. This is a cause of worry to farmers in Tamil Nadu as water for irrigation and drinking purposes will not materialise from Kaveri.

 $R\,V\,Giri,$ past president of the Consortium of Indian Farmers Association (CIFA) and a farmer himself, is of the view that the Government of Tamil Nadu was wasting its time and energy to divert the attention of the people from its failure to address the water woes. "This is nothing but a ridiculous view. Neither the DMK nor its family are going to make any gains out of the unwanted controversy. Farmers in the State are spending sleepless nights over the failure of the DMK Government to get the Kaveri water released from Karnataka," said Giri. Not the Kaveri water alone. Entrepreneurs from Tamil Nadu are planning to leave the State en masse because of pressure tactics employed by DMK politicians to exploit

als. The State, once a haven of small and medium-scale industries, has lost its sheen as the MSME sector feels that it is not possible to continue in Tamil Nadu to manufacture goods at compatible rates. The state of affairs in engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu is equally disturbing. Out of the 1,60, 780 seats spread across 446 engineering colleges, nearly 55,000 seats remain unfilled as students have opted to move out of the

The State has started welcoming LTTE extremists. Tulasi Amaran, a former LTTE leader masquerading as a social activist, visited the Rajiv Gandhi memorial at Sriperumbudur where the former prime minister was assassinated by the extremist group on 21 May 1991. Amaran said that he visited the site to pay floral tributes to Dhanu, the human bomb that caused the RDX explosion that killed Rajiv Gandhi. While playing cheap politics and the one-upmanship game, politicians are ignoring the interests of Tamil Nadu.

(The writer is a special correspondent for The Pioneer, views are personal)

SANATAN DHARMA IS EVERLASTING

Sir —The attack on Sanatan dharma has once again become aggressive. Individuals have claimed that Sanatan dharma is comparable to mosquitoes and should be eradicated. The mastermind behind the 2G scam has even gone further, likening it to AIDS and arguing for its eradication. It is worth noting that these opinions come from a family and ecosystem where women participate in temple visits and conduct prayers with priests in their homes. Either the cine star does not communicate with his mother or chooses to ignore her beliefs

However, history has shown that both the Mughals and the British attempted to suppress Sanatan dharma but failed. Hinduism and Sanatan dharma have endured for millions of years and will continue to outlast other religions. The individuals spreading such views are nothing more than insignificant distractions. Sanatan dharma will persist, while they will fade away. It is concerning that a state with a significant number of Hindu devotees allows such venomous rhetoric without consequences. The people of Tamil Nadu should consider removing these individuals from power in the next election. Breaking down the walls of division and fostering unity should be our goal. Inclusivity means accepting past pains created by humans and working together to defend ourselves against external threats. Alternatively, stakeholders could come to an understanding, set aside personal differences, and resolve the current crisis, addressing issues amicably later. Are we ready for unity? Sanatan dharma aims for eternal peace and harmony as we strive for

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

ADIEU. MASTER CARTOONIST Sir —The passing of the master cartoonist Ajit Ninan has left an irreplaceable void in the world of cartoons. He was a class apart, known for his unique humor and insightful cartoons. His works, including 'Centrestage,' 'Ninan's World,' 'Just Like

THE EDITO **TENNIS' GOLDEN ERA ENDS**

troops to aid Saudis against

Yemeni Houthis in 2015, fear-

ing backlash in their backyard,

given that 25% of Pakistanis, are Shias. The luxury of selec-



he golden era of Indian tennis has come to an end with Rohan Bopanna's retirement from professional tennis. He announced his retirement following his loss in the final match at the US Open. It would have been a fitting farewell to a great tennis player if he had won the final match of this

grand slam tournament. Rohan Bopanna is the last player of the golden era of Indian tennis to retire after the US Open. We had Ramanathan Krishnan and Ramesh Krishnan performing well as Wimbledon junior champions. Amritraj made significant contributions, and Leander Paes left a mark at the highest

Although tennis enjoys popularity in India, there is currently a shortage of worldclass players. We do not see new players emerging to fill the shoes of legends like the Krishnans, Amritraj, Paes, Bhupathi, Sania, and Bopanna in the near future. We thank these tennis legends for bringing recognition and fame to our nation in the world of sports.

A MIXED BAG

we know are different.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

Sir — I am writing to address the recent

bypoll results, often described as "A

Mixed Bag." It is important to exercise cau-

tion in drawing concrete conclusions

from these results, as they were contest-

ed on entirely different issues compared

to general elections. General elections, as

However, it is worth noting that there

That,' 'Like That Only,' 'CEO Cartoons,' and 'Wits End,' not only brought laughter to viewers but also prompted them to think and act responsibly. A source of inspiration for younger generation cartoonists, Ninan was known for his impartiality, sparing no politician, whether from the ruling or opposition parties. His cartoons addressing social issues bore a resemblance to R.K. Laxman's style, using gentle yet impactful satire and humor to

convey important messages.

Those who grew up in the 1980s will fondly remember his comic strip, Detective Moochhwala and His Dog Pooch,' which featured in the renowned detective comic series published in Target magazine during the 1980s. Ninan had a unique ability to simplify complex issues into thought-provoking visuals, infused with sharp humor. Throughout his 40-year career, his works graced publications. As the proud recipient of the Barton Lifetime Achievement Award and many others, Ninan's creations will continue to inspire generations, emphasizing that cartoons are not just for

M Pradyu | Kunnur

is reason for the opposition bloc in India to find encouragement in these bypoll results. They have secured victories in four out of seven contested seats. Notably, one seat in West Bengal, Dhupguri, which was previously held by the BJP, has now been won by the TMC. These four wins should serve as a cue for India's opposition. These include discussions on seat sharing, the articulation of their vision for the country to the voters, and the announcement of their Prime Ministerial candidate. Taking proactive measures in these areas will undoubtedly aid their preparations

leading up to the 2024 elections. Bal Govind | Noida

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN SELF-CARE IS

NOT SELFISH

By taking care of oneself, an individual is better equipped to take care of his loved ones



To love oneself is the start of a lifelong romance.: Oscar Wilde

In life, all of us often come across so much stress and anxiety that we end up overthinking and ruminating; start comparing ourselves with others; worry about the future; struggle to let go of things; isolate ourselves; repeat destructive behaviours and so much more without realising that we have caused so much suffering and pain to selves. We give so much energy to these things that what we are left with is repentance, a wastage of time and regret, all the above listed could just be avoided by taking a small step to see what's causing turmoil and then taking one small step to help in the moment to become a

The term 'Self-care' is like a personal toolbox of activities and practices that are unique to every individual living on this planet. Just like people have different needs and preferences, self-care can look quite different from person to person. It's all about finding what works best and helping an individual feel good in their skin. The key is to listen and pay attention to what makes an individual feel better and at the same time create a mix of activities that cater to individual needs. Self-care is not one size that caters to all approaches, rather it's a journey of discovering what helps an individual become the best version of themselves. There is no denying the fact that we all live in a fast-paced world, that we often get caught in the hustle and bustle of our daily lives that we often forget who we are and what is the purpose of our living.



As aptly said by Jim Rohn," take care of your body, it is the only place you have to live." Taking a 5-minute for yourself can be the changer for wellbeing. Engaging in activities such as deep breathing or mindful breathing can help reduce stress, calm the mind and increase mindfulness; stretching and quick exercises can enhance an individual's ability to focus; Practicing gratitude can help shift focus to positive aspects and help improve the mood.

These activities don't have to be time-consuming or elaborative rather, treating these rituals as little gifts to self can have a big impact on overall well-being. It's a hard-core truth bomb that no individual on this planet can make time for self-care. One needs to prioritise, communicate and allocate time, otherwise, it just won't happen. Asking for help and prioritising self-care is a sign of strength and not weakness. By taking care of oneself, an individual will be better equipped to take care of the family as well.

Nowadays, it is important to make mental health a priority. The moment when an individual thinks they don't have time to take care of themselves is the exact moment they have to take care of themselves. Every individual deserves to feel good and prioritise their wellbeing. Surrounding yourself with energy givers and not drainers; choosing those who uplift and inspire and setting boundaries with negativity are a few steps that can be taken forward towards selfcare. Remember, every season has a purpose. The unknown and unfamiliar might just be exactly what one needs.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Implications of BRICS expansion



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

It is noteworthy that before the formation of BRICS, there was hardly any effective global platform to raise the voice of the developing world

he recently concluded summit of the BRICS group consisting of five countries was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, President of China Xi Jinping, President of Brazil Lula da Silva, and President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa participated in person at the conference. İn addition, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov represented Russia and Russian President Vladimir Putin participated in the conference through video conferencing. The special thing about this conference was that now 6 more countries are in BRICS; It was also decided to include Argentina, UAE, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and Egypt.

BRIC was a term first coined by Jim O'Neill, a Goldman Sachs economist, in 2001, predicting that four countries, Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) will dominate the global economy by 2050. Though BRIC formally came into existence in 2009, when its first summit took place; the discussions to form such a group were initiated in 2006. Later in 2011 South Africa formally joined BRIC and since then this group has been called BRICS.

Although it's a common practice in the world to promote cooperation by forming groups of countries, BRICS is more than a group of countries. Whereas, till now America and the countries of the West dominated the global system, this is a group of those countries, which have been challenging their economic clout. From the diplomatic point of view, whether it is cooperation or mutual tussle between different countries, it is expressed in a very diplomatic manner. It is worth noting that at present the five countries which are included in the BRICS, have been growing rapidly in terms of their GDP. Generally, the rate of growth in these countries has been significantly high, while the growth of developed countries has come to almost a standstill. This is the reason why the share of these five BRICS countries in the global GDP, which was only 20.51 per cent in the year 2011, has increased to 26.62 per cent by

İt is noteworthy that before the formation of BRICS, there was hardly any effective global platform to raise the voice of the developing world. After the formation of BRICS, the issues of developing countries started getting some voice. Perhaps, that is why now more and more developing countries are keen to join BRICS. This conference, where it has been decided to include 6 more countries in BRICS, needs to be understood what are the implications of this expansion of BRICS.

After the inclusion of 6 countries, the enlarged group will represent 29.6 per cent of the global GDP and 46 per cent of the global population.

Groups like BRICS try to protect the interests of developing countries. Significantly, at present countries like the ISA and Europe try to impose their conditions on developing countries. But at the same time, developing countries are also striving to find solutions for themselves. Recently, after the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Europe and the USA imposed sanctions on Russia, meaning thereby, Russia wouldn't be able to receive payments from the countries engaged in trade relations with Russia. In essence, they will be excluded from the



AFTER THE

COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE WORLD BECAME AT PRESENT A **MULTI POLAR WORLD IS EMERGING DUE** TO THE DECLINE IN THE INFLUENCE OF

(The writer is a Professor, at PGDAV College, University of

THE USA

'SWIFT' system coming into Europe's sphere of influence.

At the same time, Europe and the USA banned the release of Russian funds to Russia held with their central banks and other banks. In such a situation, most of the developing countries of the world are now apprehensive of the USA and Europe. The developing countries, which have been striving hard to remove their poverty and tread on the path of develop-ment, are trying to find ways and means to reduce the influence and hegemony of the developed nations.

It's interesting to understand how BRICS and its expanded form will meet the expectations of the developing world. Significantly, except China and Russia, all other countries have been facing the problem of trade deficit, resulting in continuous devaluation of their respective currencies. Not only this, while struggling with trade and payment deficits, these countries have also been facing problems with payments many times.

This balance of payments problem can be solved to some extent by settlement of international trade in domestic currencies. However, India has moved towards settlement of international trade in rupees and has made significant progress in this regard with banks of 19 countries opening Vostro accounts to accept rupee payments. However, developing countries at large have largely not been able to achieve much success concerning international payments in domestic currencies. Talks on international payments in domes-

tic currencies have been going on in BRICS for some time now. Not only this, the exercise to start a new reserve currency in the name of BRICS currency is also going on among the BRICS countries. The advantage of this new BRICS currency is that it would increase trade among BRICS countries and also avoid the high cost of conversion to dollars. However, the decision about BRICS currency is not going to be an easy task. However, initially, BRICS countries are showing great willingness to trade in domestic currencies among themselves. There are reports that during this Summit, BRICS countries have finally decided to make international trade payments in their local currencies. India, South Africa and Brazil, especially, have taken steps towards trading in domestic currencies. Although India has also initiated some amount of trade payments with Russia in Rupees.

The expansion of BRICS will give impetus to payments in international trade in domestic currencies. This will help reduce the monopoly of the dollar. Not only this, since most of the BRICS countries are struggling with the problems of balance of payments, this can help them to get rid of the imperative of dollars and the problems of balance of payments to a great extent. Not only this, the economic growth of these countries can also get a boost due to an increase in mutual trade among BRICS countries. It can be helpful to a great extent in increasing mutual relations and cooperation among developing countries.

Dilemma of BRICS countries

There was a time when the world was bipolar. America on one side and the Soviet Union on the other. The world was divided into two such camps, supporters of the USA and supporters of the Soviet Union. Many countries, including India, were non-aligned to these groupings and were known as the non-aligned nation. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world became unipolar. But at present a multi-polar world is emerging due to the decline in the influence of the USA on the one hand and the rising power of India, China and some other developing countries on the other.

But some countries are still seen standing behind some big powers. Although the BRICS group appears to be emerging as a powerful group, free from European and American influence, some of these six countries that have been included in BRICS till recently, were under US influence, but some countries were earlier under the influence of America, but now they are no longer under the influence of USA, because in the changing times, the allegiance of these countries has shifted away from America. On the other hand, the influence of China has also increased in the world and some countries are also seen coming under the influence of China. Doubts are also being raised about how the BRICS grouping will be able to work cohesively due to different countries having different allegiances, with India and China having bitter relations.

Make waste management gender sensitive

The gendered nature of waste management must be acknowledged; we must prioritise the voices of female workers, and meet their needs

and exploited tourist destination in India. The huge amount of waste generated in Leh during the peak months of May and August can be attributed to the increasing attraction of tourists to the region. During this time, Leh is burdened with 16-18 tonnes of waste, which reduces to 3-4 tonnes during the lean season. The influx of tourists has also restructured the economy and culture of the area.

To tackle this issue, the administration has initiated programs like Project Tsangda to manage waste sustainably. In Ladakh, the waste management in urban areas is the responsibility of the municipal committee; while in rural areas, the wet waste is utilised

either burnt or buried. In semi-urban areas, Project Tsangda takes charge of keeping the surroundings clean. The project was started by the Leh District administration in 2017 for waste management in semi-urban areas. The term 'Tsangda' or 'Stangda' refers to cleanliness in the Bothi/Bodhi (Ladakhi) language. Under this Project, waste is collected from households and brought to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for segregation. The project received a lot of media attention and limelight, given its impact on waste treatment in Leh. However, one aspect of the waste management cycle that is often managed by two male superoverlooked is its gendered

adakh is both a loved for cattle and the dry waste is that waste management is gendered at multiple levels, both in the homes and in the market. Based on this insight, let's explore the waste management system in Choglamsar, Ladakh from a gender standpoint. A distinct gender-based division of labour is evident within Project Tsangda's workforce. Men collect the waste from households and do the physically demanding work of loading and unloading. On the other hand, women are often burdened with more tedious and time-consuming labour, like street sweeping and waste sorting and segregation at the MRF. While all the workers at MRF are women, they are visors. One might assume that this division of labour is based It is widely established on one's skills and preferences.



However, the pattern of gender-based work allows one to see the institutional nature of this division.

The systematic gendering of waste management can be observed in the fact that although all sanitation workers are financially vulnerable and lack formal education; women hold a different position. Apart from being economically vulnerable, women have limited access to job opportunities, as compared to men. It is easier for men to find higher-paying jobs in other sectors than women. This becomes a major reason for women opting to work in Project Tsangda. However, it is crucial to note that women sanitation workers cannot only be seen as the victims of the society and economic system, who are pushed into this work. Many workers associate pride with managing the waste. may encounter certain health

Rigzin Chondol, a sanitation worker, shares that she is proud of her work because she is doing it in the service of the community by making it clean and habitable.

Despite the pride that they associate with their work, the women workers express the lack of sanitation facilities at the MRF as a major challenge that they have to face daily. Waste workers are susceptible to various diseases due to the nature of their work, despite receiving early vaccination and precautionary measures. They often face difficulties wearing the provided kits as they often feel congested. Given that Ladakh is a region characterized by a harsh and arid climate, the local inhabitants, including the workers,

challenges. These can manifest regions like West Bengal, Uttar as symptoms such as eye irri-Pradesh, Delhi, etc. The tation, itchiness, and respiraadministration has taken steps to integrate informal workers tory issues akin to the common cold. Another issue that into the formal system under women face is discrimination the Swachh Bharat Mission. about their regular engage-However, it was not successful. ment with waste. Additionally, The situation of informal female workers have reported workers is even more concernexperiencing rude behaviour ing, with no safety equipment, regular pay, social security, sanitation facilities, and formal from male taxi drivers while requesting that they dispose of recognition. waste properly. Some workers also experience mixed reac-When asked about their tions and behaviours from people. Lastly, the discussion

on waste management cannot

be done only in the context of

a formal waste management

system. Parallel to this exists an

informal economy of waste

management in Choglamsar,

having more than 40 sanitation

workers (commonly called as

ragpickers) from various

needs by the people and administration, the women workers share the need to be respected for their work. They want the administration to issue them ID Cards, which would provide them formal recognition in society. (Stanzin Dothon is a climate

change activist from Ladakh; Charkha Features)

US President Biden opens Vietnam visit

last month about Vietnam.

"We have an opportunity, if

we're smart, to change the

dynamic."Biden was welcomed

with a pomp-filled ceremony

outside the mustard-coloured

Presidential Palace. Scores of

schoolchildren lined the steps

waving small US and Vietnam

flags and Biden watched from

an elevated review stand as high-stepping members of the military marched past. The president waved to the children

before he got into his limou-

sine to go to Communist Party

headquarters to meet with

Trong.
The president and Trong expressed mutual happiness

over seeing each other again

after last meeting some eight years ago in Washington, said

Biden, who was vice president

at the time. Trong sought to

flatter Biden, who faces persis-

tent questions at home about

being 80 years old and running

day, and I would say you look

even better than before," Trong

said. "I would say every feature

of you Mr President is comple-

menting your image." Biden

'You have nary aged a

for reelection next year.

President Joe Biden opened a brief visit to Vietnam on Sunday by telling the country's leadership that the two nations have a chance to shape the Indo-Pacific for decades to come. Biden said he hoped progress could be made on climate, the economy and other mate, the economy and other issues during his 24-hour visit. "Vietnam and the US are critical partners at what I would argue is a very critical time," Biden told Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, during the public portion of during the public portion of their meeting at party headquarters. Trong agreed that their meeting presented an "excellent opportunity" to expand bilateral ties. He thanked Biden for inviting him to visit Washington soon.

Vietnam is elevating its relationship with the US to the status of being a comprehensive strategic partner, which one of Biden's top national security advisers said represents Vietnam's highest tier of international partnership. Other countries that

Vietnam has extended the des-



ignation to include China and Russia. Elevating the US to the same status suggests that Vietnam wants to hedge its friendships as US and European companies look for alternatives to Chinese factories.\Biden, who arrived in Hanoi on Sunday afternoon, said last month at a fundraiser in Salt Lake City that Vietnam doesn't want a defence alliance with the US, "but they want relationships because they want China to know that they're not alone"

and can choose its own partners. The president decided to tack a visit to Vietnam on to his trip to India for the Group of 20 summit that wrapped up

With China's economic slowdown and President Xi Jinping's consolidation of political power, Biden sees an opportunity to bring more nations - including Vietnam and Cambodia - into America's orbit."We find ourselves in a situation where all of these changes around the world are Earlier Sunday, Jon Finer,

Biden's chief deputy national security adviser, said the elevated status represents Vietnam's highest tier of international partnership.

"It's important to make clear that this is more than words," Finer told reporters aboard Biden's flight to Hanoi. "In a system like Vietnam, it's a signal to their entire government, their entire bureaucracy about the depth and cooperation and alignment with another country that is possi-ble."Finer noted a five-decade arc in US-Vietnam relations. from conflict during the Vietnam War to normalisation and Vietnam's status as a top trading partner that also shares Washington's concerns over security in the South China Sea. "We will be deepening that relationship through this visit," he added.Finer also addressed reports that Vietnam was pursuing a deal to buy weapons from Russia, even as it sought deeper ties to the United States. Finer acknowledged Vietnam's lengthy military relationship with Russia and said the US continues to work with

with similar ties to Russia to try to limit their interactions with a nation the US accuses of committing war crimes and violating international law with its aggression in Ukraine.

US trade with Vietnam has already accelerated since 2019. But there are limits to how much further it can progress without improvements to the country's infrastructure, its workers' skills and its governance. Nor has increased trade automatically put the Vietnamese economy on an upward trajectory. Commerce Secretary Gina

Raimondo said the CEOs she talks with rank Vietnam highly as a place to diversify supply chains that before the pandemic had been overly dependent on China. Raimondo has been trying to broaden those supply chains through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, an initiative Biden launched last year.

Whether it's Vietnam or Malaysia, Indonesia, India, companies are really taking a hard look at those countries as places to do more business," Raimondo said.

Sabotage attempts at polling stations in occupied Ukraine

Russian authorities on Sunday reported multiple attempts to sabotage voting in local elections taking place in occupied areas of Ukraine. Votes are taking place this weekend in 79 regions of Russia, with ballots for governors, regional legislatures, city and municipal councils, as well as in the four Ukrainian regions Moscow annexed illegally last Moscow annexed illegally last year — the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia provinces — and on the Crimean peninsula, which the Kremlin annexed in 2014.

Balloting in the occupied areas of Ukraine has been denounced by Kyiv and the West as a sham and a violation of international law.

Russian electoral officials on Sunday reported attempts to sabotage voting in the occupied regions, where guerrilla forces loyal to Kyiv had previously killed pro-Moscow officials, blown up bridges and helped the Ukrainian military by identifying key targets. 'A'drone strike in the early hours of Sunday destroyed one polling station in the Zaporizhzhia province, deputy chairman of Russia's Central Election Commission Nikolai Bulaev told reporters. He said no staff were at the station at the time of the attack.

A Russian-appointed official in the neighbouring Kherson region said that a live grenade was discovered on Saturday near a polling station there. Marina Zakharova said the grenade was hidden in bushes outside the station, and that voting had to be halted while emergency services dis-

Moscow has partially occu-Kherson Zaporizhzhia since early in the war. Ukrainian forces have since retaken Kherson's namesake local capital, and are pressing a counteroffensive in Zaporizhzhia that has been making slow progress.

Niger junta accuses France of amassing forces for military intervention after coup

AP ABUJA

Niger's new military leaders accused France of amassing forces for a possible military intervention in the country following the coup in July. French President Emmanuel Macron said Sunday that he would only take action at the demand of deposed Nigerien leader Mohamed Bazoum.

Niger's junta spokesman, Maj. Amadou Abdramane, said that France is also considering collaborating in such an intervention with the Economic Community of West African States, a regional bloc known as

"France continues to deploy its forces in several ECOWAS countries as part of preparations for an aggression against Niger," Abdramane said late Saturday in a statement broadcast on state television.

Macron said he wouldn't directly respond to the junta's claim when asked about it after the Group of 20 summit.

"If we redeploy anything, it will only be at the demand of Bazoum and in coordination with him, not with those people who are holding a president hostage," he said.

Macron, however, added that France "fully" supports the position of ECOWAS, which has said it's considering a military intervention as an option to reinstate Bazoum as president. Since toppling Bazoum, the junta in Ñiger, a former French colony, has leveraged anti-French sentiment among the population — asking the French ambassador and troops to leave — to shore up its support in resistance to regional and international pressure to reinstate the president.

The country had been a strategic partner of France and the West in the fight against growing jihadi violence in the conflict-ridden Sahel region, the arid expanse below the Sahara Desert.

The junta spokesman said that France has deployed military aircraft and armored vehicles in countries like Ivory Coast, Senegal and Benin for such an aggression, a claim that The Associated Press couldn't independently verify.

"This is why the National Council for the Protection of the Fatherland and the transitional government launch a solemn appeal to the great people of Niger to be vigilant and never to demobilize until the inevitable departure of French troops from our territory," he said.

French military spokesperson Col. Pierre Gaudilliere, meanwhile, said Thursday that there is now "a little less" than its 1,500 troops in Niger who had been working with Nigerien security forces to beat back the jihadi violence. All French activities have been suspended since the coup, "therefore, declarations that have been made (earlier by the French) are about exploring what we're going to do with these capabilities," Gaudilliere

Russia turning to old ally N Korea

AP MOSCOW

After a year and a half of flighting in Ukraine, Russia needs to replenish its supplies of ammunition for what could be a long war of attrition. Along with ramping up its domestic arms production, Moscow is turning to an old ally with a vast arsenal -North Korea. Estimates say the reclusive and isolated Asian country has tens of millions of artillery shells and rockets that could give a huge boost to the

United States officials expect North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to visit Russia in the coming days to seal a possible deal on munitions transfer with President Vladimir Putin. That would be a remarkable reversal from the 1950-53 Korean War, when the Soviet Union provided the communist North with weapons and ammunition.

'We know that Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has visited recently for artillery shells predominantly, and most likely that will be discussed between Putin and Kim Jong Un," said Alexander Gabuev. head of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Centre.

Shoigu became the first Russian defense chief to visit North Korea since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Images of him at a massive military parade in the capital of Pyongyang in July, alongside Kim and the medal-laden North Korean military brass, was a strong sign of a vigorous effort by Moscow to reach out to the North. Shoigu said joint military drills were possible.

Asked about a possible visit by Kim and a deal that would see North Korean arms supplies to Russia, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov refused to comment.

But he emphasised that Moscow cherishes ties with Pyongyang, adding: "North Korea is our neighbor, and we will further develop our relations without looking back at other countries' opinion." Kim made his first visit to

Russia in 2019 and held talks with Putin that included pledges of closer cooperation but weren't followed by any visible breakthroughs.

While the bulk of the Korean People's Army arsenals

are dated, their enormous size would offer the Russian military a potential key lifeline amid Europe's largest land con-flict since World War II.

Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification, said Russia could seek to establish North Korea as a "rear base" for its war efforts, providing a massive flow of munitions.

"Russia is hoping that North Korea could swiftly establish support channels to provide it with war materials like ammunition, bombs and other supplies," Hong said. The US said North Korea

sold some munitions to Russia's private military contractor, Wagner, in November. Both Russian and North Korean officials have denied

that Pyongyang has shipped any weapons or munitions to Russia or intends to do so. US officials have cast Moscow's reach for North

Korean weapons as a reflection of Russian military problems. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan

said the quality of North

Korean weapons was an "open

Russian strikes kill 2 in Ukraine

Two foreign aid workers were reportedly killed in eastern Ukraine on Sunday as Russian shelling hit a van carrying a team of four working with a Ukrainian NGO, while dozens of Russian drones targeted Kyiv and wounded at least one civilian. The four volunteers from the Road to Relief NGO, which helps evacuate wounded people from front-line areas, were trapped inside the van as it flipped over and caught fire after being struck by shells near the town of Chasiv Yar, the organisation said on its Instagram page. Road to Relief said Canadian Anthony Ihnat died in the attack, while German medical volunteer Ruben Mawick and Swedish volunteer Johan Mathias Thyr were seriously injured. Road to Relief added that it could not trace the whereabouts of the van's fourth passenger, Emma Igual, a

Spanish national who was the

ing to restart stalled talks to

organisation's director.

Indian Americans ask California Gov to veto anti-caste discrimination bill

Washington (PTI): Scores of Indian Americans held a peaceful protest rally in the State Capital of Sacramento urging California Governor Gavin Newsom to veto the anti-caste discrimination bill, recently passed by the State Assembly, which they asserted is discriminatory and targets the Indians in general and Hindus in partic-

If signed into law by Governor Newsom, California would become the first State in the United States and the first iurisdiction outside India to outlaw discrimination based on caste. The legislation revises California's Unruh Civil Rights Act by adding caste as a protected category under "ancestry".

"We ask Governor Newsom to Veto SB403 so history remembers that you said no to discrimination against Indian Americans and said no to racially profiling our community!" Samir Kalra of the Hindu American Foundation told the gathering of Indian Americans in front of the State Capitol in Sacramento on Saturday. Displaying posters and banners, the protestors, most of whom had gathered from various parts of the State, urged the Governor not to sign the bill into law as this would end up in discrimination against the Hindu community. Much worse is that the bill amounts to racial profiling of the Hindu community, they argued.

American Hindu Foundation has said that it is exploring every option to protect the rights of Hindu Californians and is planning to file a lawsuit against this.

The bill was introduced by Senator Aisha Wahab, the first Muslim and Afghan-American woman elected to the state legislature, in February

2019 Easter terror attacks: Lanka to | UN envoy urges donor support for Syria probe British channel's allegations

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Sunday announced that he will appoint a probe panel to investigate the allegations made by a British channel on the 2019 Easter terror attacks by an Islamist extremist group on churches and posh hotels that killed 270 people, including 11 Indians.UK's Channel 4 television station on Tuesday aired a documentary titled 'Sri Lanka's

Easter Bombings - Dispatches' alleging the involvement and complicity of certain government officials, including intelligence service chief Major General Suresh Sallay, in orchestrating the 2019 Easter suicide bombings.

It called the attacks a "crafted act" aimed at forcing a political change in favour of the investigate allegations levelled



Rajapaksa brothers.

On Sunday, an official statement said a committee chaired by a retired Supreme Court judge would be appointed to inquire into the allegations that accused the country's intelligence chief of plotting the 2019 Easter bombings.

Wickremesinghe also pledged to appoint a parliamentary select committee to

by a former Attorney General that the whole attack was a conspiracy and there is a mastermind behind the attacks. The two reports would then be presented in parliament for final action.

Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry on Saturday defended the country's intelligence chief, saying it "vehemently denounces the accusation of orchestrating the attack and assisting the bombers against a dedicated senior military officer who has served the nation for 36 years."

The move came two days after ousted former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's denial of Major General Sallay's involvement in the bombings and that he had benefited from the attacks to win the presidential election in November 2019.

Nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamist Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three Catholic churches and as many luxury hotels on April 21, 2019, killing near-270 people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500.

The attacks led to a significant political change in Sri Lanka. It emerged that the then authorities had ignored prior intelligence on the attack by Indian intelligence agencies.

Then President Maithripala Sirisena and the entire top police brass were ordered to pay compensation by court during a hearing of fundamental rights petitions filed by the victims' relatives. The head of the Catholic minority Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith has alleged that all investigations thus far have been political cover-ups.

AP DAMASCUS

Thle United Nations special L envoy for Syria Sunday urged donors not to reduce their funding as the war-torn country's economic crisis spirals. Syrian President Bashar Assad's decision last month to double public sector wages and pensions further skyrocketed inflation and fuelled ongoing protests that shook the southern Druze-majority province of Sweida and nearby

Initially sparked by deepening economic misery, angry residents in greater numbers began to call for the fall of Assad, similar to that of the country's 2011 uprising that turned into an all-out civil war. The UN estimates that 90 per ceny of Syrians in government-held areas live in poverty and that over half the country's population struggles to put food on the table. As the conflict, now in its 13th year,

reached a stalemate Syrian government reclaimed large swathes of lost territory with the help of its key allies in Russia and Iran in recent years.

With international donor support dwindling, UN agencies have been cutting programs due to budget cuts for The UN estimates that

some 300,000 civilians died during the first decade of the uprising, while half of the prewar population of 23 million were displaced.

"The situation inside of

Syria has become even worse than it was economically during the height of the conflict," UN special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, told reporters in Damascus following a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad.

"We cannot accept that funding for Syria is going down while the humanitarian needs are increasing," Pedersen said. For years, the UN has been try-

reach a political settlement in Syria — including Syrian government representatives rewriting a constitution with a delegation representing opposition groups. Now with the economic crisis and current revived relations Syria has established with Arab countries — that led to restoring its membership to the Arab League which was suspended in 2011 for the government's brutal crackdown on protesters - has renewed talks on ways to overcome the political impasse."For Syria without addressing the political consequences of this crisis. the deep economic crisis and humanitarian suffering will also continue," Pedersen said.

Syria's ongoing talks with the oil-rich kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt to address refugees, the blossoming illegal amphetamine Captagon, as well as the political and humanitarian crisis, have been slow.

said.A sputtering economy weakened by an Israeli-Egyptian blockade, Hamas'

international isolation and a

lack of funding from the

Operation to extract American researcher from cave advances

AP TASELI PLATEAU

 $R^{ ext{escue}}$ teams on Sunday in Turkey successfully carried an American researcher up from the depth of a cave at 1040 metres (3412.07 feet) to the 700-metre (2296.59 feet) mark where he will rest at a base camp before they continue the taxing journey to the surface. An experienced caver,

Mark Dickey, 40, started vomiting on Sept 2 because of stomach bleeding while on an expedition with a handful of others in the Morca cave in southern Turkey's Taurus Mountains, one of the deepest in the world, according to experts. A rescue operation began Saturday afternoon with



rienced cavers from across Europe rushing to help. They set up small medical

base camps at various levels along the shaft, providing Dickey an opportunity to rest during the slow and arduous

"Mark was delivered to the campsite at -700 metres as of

03:24 local time (GMT+3). At this stage, he will set out again after resting and having the necessary treatments," the Speleological Federation of Turkey wrote on its official account on X, formerly known as Twitter. Turkish authorities said

there are 190 personnel from eight countries taking part in the operation, 153 of them search and rescue experts. The most challenging part of the rescue operation is widening the narrow cave passages to allow stretcher lines to pass through at low depths, Yusuf Ogrenecek of the speleological federation previously said.

The extraction is expected to take up to 10 days depending on his condition.

AP ■ GAZA CITY

▼ sraeli fighter jets bombed the Zorob family's two-story home in the Gaza Strip in 2019, leaving nothing but a pile of debris and despair. Four years later, the 10-member family lives in a 20-squaremetre (215-square-foot) hut covered with nylon sheets as they wait to move into a permanent home.

A sprawling housing project, part of a USD 500-million Egyptian-funded renewal effort in Gaza, has raised hopes for hundreds of needy families like the Zorobs who have lost their homes in the conflict with Israel.But weeks before the spotless white buildings are set to be completed, there is no word on who qualifies for the 1,400 apartments — or even



don't care about us."The how to apply for one, as Gaza's Hamas rulers and the rival, Zorobs are among an estimated 2,000 families, or roughly internationally recognised Palestinian Authority bicker 12,000 people, whose homes over who will be in charge. "No have been destroyed in fightone cares," said 31-year-old ing with Israel in recent years, Mohammed Zorob, blaming according to Gaza's Housing both sides for the delays. "They Ministry. An additional 90,000 are sitting under air conditionpeople live in damaged homes ers with their children and they that have not been repaired, it

fatigued international community have all combined to reconstruction hinder efforts.But looming behind all of these problems has been the ongoing rivalry between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.In 2007, Hamas, an Islamic militant group that opposes Israel's existence, seized control of Gaza from the PA a year after winning parliamentary elections. The violent takeover left

the PA in control only of semiautonomous areas of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, even as it claims to be the legitimate international representative of both areas.

Moroccan villagers mourn destruction

The ground shook with a I force few had ever felt, thundering through the remote Moroccan village in the dark of night. When the earthquake was over late Friday, the town carved into the Atlas Mountains lay in devastation, with possibly dozens dead, scores of homes crumpled and walls reduced to rubble. Soon crews were listening for desperate sounds of life within the ruins of Moulay Brahim.

A village of fewer than 3,000 people, Moulay Brahim attracted tourists and outdoor enthusiasts with its stunning vistas and proximity to Marrakech. Streets brimmed with small hotels and cafes overlooking gorges and green valleys. But after the 6.8-magnitude earthquake that killed more than 2,000 across Morocco, the scene in the village is bleak. People in the poor rural community about 45 kilometers (28 miles) northeast of the quake epicenter live in homes made of clay brick and cinder block, many of which are no longer standing or safe to inhabit. Fallen walls exposed "We felt a huge shake like it was doomsday," resident Ayoub Toudite said. "Ten seconds and everything was gone."

Others, like 19-year-old student Abdelfattah Él Akari, said the quake felt much longer, seeming to go on more than a minute. "The ground moved and homes cracked," he said. Chaos and terror followed

as frightened villagers sought as frightened vinagers sought safety in the streets. When they returned to their neigh-bourhoods, some used bare hands to clear debris and start pulling out bodies, one after another. People gathered and cried outside a community health center as news trickled in of more deaths.

Search crews peered into crevices looking for more casualties or people in need of rescue following the biggest earthquake to hit the North African country in 120 years. The majority of the deaths, at least 2,012 as of Saturday night, were in Marrakech and five provinces near the epicenter, with at least 2,059 more people injured, including 1,404 critically, the Interior Ministry reported. Authorities in Moulay Brahim tempered

Drone attack kills at least

43 in Sudan's capital



that many areas remained too fragile to enter while there were still risks of aftershocks that could collapse whatever remained standing. A minaret looming above Moulay Brahim was severely damaged and appeared at risk of toppling if nudged by another tremor.

Hours after the tragedy, with sunlight exposing the extent of the damage, a procession of hundreds accompanied more than a dozen blanket-covered bodies to the town square. Men knelt on rugs and prayed for the dead during a brief funeral before carrying

tery. According to Islamic custom, burial should happen quickly after death.

Distraught parents sobbed into phones to tell loved ones about losing their children. Villagers erected a large tent in the square, traditionally used for joyous occasions like weddings. In the coming days, the space will serve a much more somber role as a shelter for those who no longer have homes. Toudite and other villagers appealed for help.

"People are suffering here very much. We are in dire need of ambulances. Please send us ambulances to Moulay Brahim. The matter is urgent," Toudite

implored Saturday. "Please save us." The town also is in need of food and tents for people who have no place to go but the streets, he said. The bulk of the town's economy depends on agriculture and tourism. Time will tell how soon visitors will return to a place that stood for centuries. Moulay Brahim is named after a Moroccan Sufi saint who practiced a form of Islam valuing peace, love and tolerance, emphasizing inward meditation to reach a connection with God. The town's people speak a combination of Arabic and Tachelhit, Morocco's most widely spoken indigenous language. Hassan Ait Belhaj, who

owns several rental properties in Moulay Brahim, said the buildings weren't designed for such violent quakes and wondered how long it would take for the area to recover.

The Moroccan military deployed aircraft, helicopters and drones. Emergency services mobilized aid efforts to the hardest-hit areas, but roads leading to the mountain region around the epicenter were jammed with vehicles and blocked with fallen rocks, slow-

tion and money laundering.

Maldives presidential runoff set for September 30 **Opposition in surprise lead but short of mark**

AP ■ COLOMBO

 $M_{
m the\ polls}^{
m aldivians\ will\ return\ to}$ to vote in a runoff election between the top two candidates in the country's presidential race after neither secured more than 50% in the first round, the elections commission said

Main opposition candidate Mohamed Muiz managed a surprise lead with more than 46% of votes, while the incumbent President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, who was seen as the favourite, got only 39%. The election on Saturday has shaped up as a virtual referendum over which regional power — India or China — will have the biggest influence in the Indian Ocean archipelago state. The vote was to choose the country's fifth freely elected president since Maldives became a multiparty democracy in 2008. Solih is perceived as pro-India, facing off against his main rival Muiz, who is seen as pro-China. The result is seen a remarkable achievement for Muiz, who was only a late selection as a candidate by his party after its leader, former President Abdullah Yameen, was blocked from running by the Supreme Court. He is serving a prison term for corrup-

"I did not expect Muiz to

have this kind of a lead against Ibu (Ibrahim Mohamed Solih)," said Azim Zahir, a political science and international relations lecturer at the University of Western Australia. "This is a major blow (to Solih) and one could read it even as a rejection of his government," said Zahir.

Muiz had only three weeks to campaign and did not have the advantage of a sitting president, Zahir said. He said Muiz's strong stand against the presence of Indian troops in the Maldives could have been a significant factor in the election. Solih is seeking a second

term and is battling allegations by Muiz that he had allowed India an unchecked presence in the country. Muiz promised that if he wins, he will remove Indian troops stationed in the Maldives and balance the country's trade relations, which he said are heavily in India's favour. He however has promised to continue friendly and balanced relations with the Maldives' closest neighbour.

The People's National Congress, Muiz's party, is viewed as heavily pro-China. While its leader Abdullah Yameen was president from 2013-2018, he made the Maldives a part of China's Belt and Road initiative. The initiative envisages building ports, railways and roads to expand

- across Asia, Africa and Europe. Mohamed Shareef, a senior official for Muiz's party, told The Associated Press that the removal of Indian military personnel was a "non-negotiable" position for the party. He said the number of Indian troops and their activities are hidden from Maldivians and that they have near-exclusive use of certain ports and airports in the country. Both India and China are vying for influence in the small state made up of some 1,200 coral islands in the Indian Ocean. It lies on the main shipping route between the East and the West.

Muiz seems to have taken advantage of a split in Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party that led Mohamed Nasheed, a charismatic former president, to break away and field his own candidate. Nasheed's candidate, Ilyas Labeeb, secured 7% of the vote. The "India Out" campaign — spearheaded by Muiz's party — has been ubiquitous on social media in the runup to the election and almost all candidates except Solih adopted the "India vs the rest" rhetoric, said Zahir.

Solih was widely credited with having brought stability to the country and adeptly handling the COVID pandemic, which was expected to help him gain support.

drone attack Sunday on an Adopen market south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, killed at least 43 people, activists and a medical group said, as the military and a powerful rival paramilitary group battle for control of the

More than 55 others were

wounded in the attack in Khartoum's May neighbourhood, where paramilitary forces battling the military were heavily deployed, the Sudan Doctors' Union said in a statement. The causalities were taken to the Bashair University Hospital for treatment. The Resistance Committees, an activist group that helps organize humanitarian assistance, posted footage on social media showing bodies wrapped in white sheets in an open yard at the hospital.

Sudan has been rocked by violence since mid-April, when tensions between the country's military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, burst into open fighting. The RSF blamed the military's air force for Sunday's attack, though it was not immediately possible to independently verify the claim. Indiscriminate shelling and airstrikes by both factions are not uncommon in Sudan's war, which has reduced the Greater Khartoum area to a

battleground. The conflict has since spread to several parts of the country. In the Greater Khartoum area, which includes the cities of Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri, RSF troops have commandeered civilian homes and turned them into operational bases. The military responded by bombing residential areas, rights groups and activists say.

In the western Darfur region — the scene of a genocidal campaign in the early 2000s — the conflict has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF and allied Arab militias attacking ethnic African groups, according to rights groups and the United Nations. The conflict has killed more than 4,000 people, according to August figures from the United Nations. However, the real toll is almost certainly much higher, doctors and activists say.

The number of internally displaced persons has nearly doubled since mid-April to reach at least 7.1 million people, according to the UN refugee agency. Another 1.1 million are refugees in neigh-

Six killed, 50 hurt in bus accident in

Pakistan's Puniab

Lahore (PTI): An overloaded speeding bus carrying Christian pilgrims for a religious gathering overturned while taking a turn in Pakistan's Punjab province on Sunday, killing at least six people and injuring 50

The accident took place in Lahore. According to rescue officials, the bus was carrying Christian pilgrims to the religious gathering at the National Marian Shrine in Mariamabad when it overturned while taking a turn at Khanka Dogran,

Shiekhupura. Police and rescue officials reached the spot and shifted the injured to the hospital. They said that six passengers died on the spot while the condition of five is stated to be critical. The officials said the bus carrying 60

passengers was overloaded. They said that the driver lost control of the speeding vehicle while negotiating a turn. Punjab's caretaker chief minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed grief over the loss of life in the accident and directed health authorities to provide the best treatment to the injured. The National Marian Shrine in Mariamabad has been the site of an annual pilgrimage for the feast of the Nativity of Mary since 1949. Mariamabad is also known as the 'City of Mary.'

जनसाधारण सूचना

सर्वसाधरण को सूचित किया जाता है कि भूमि सम्बन्धित खसरा नम्बर— 358 व 494, स्थित ग्राम पसौन्डा परगना लौनी तहसील व जिला गाजियाबाद के मालिक एवं काबिज है सं० 563 दिनांक 21.09.1981 हैं। हमारे कार्यालय राजनगर एक्सटेंशन गाजियाबाद से गुम हो गये है जो काफी तलाशने पर भी

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National Yuva Cooperative Society Ltd. (NYCS) Regd. Office: 209, 2nd Floor, Vardhman Janak Market, Janakpuri, New Delhi – 110058

Notice is hereby given that 22nd Annual Representative General Body Meeting (RGB) of National Yuva Cooperative Society Ltd. (NYCS) will be held on 29th September, 2023 at 3:00 pm at National Cooperative Union of India, 3 August Kranti Marg, New Delhi – 110016. All the Members of the RGB and Central Registrar of Cooperative

Societies are requested to participate in the meeting Detailed agenda of the meeting can be viewed in the website:

www.nycsindia.com

Prakash Chandra Sahu President, NYCS Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SSA-42/16/2023-RE-SSA/I/267761/2023

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites Expression of Interest through e-Tendering process from reputed Educational/Research Institutions/Individuals for Research To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document.

Applicant should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. The Applicant may be downloaded the tender schedules containing the EOI details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit EOI on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in.

Sd/-Mission Director. Samagra Shiksha Axom Janasanyog/CF/2610/23/ 10-Sep-23 Kahilipara, Guwahati-19



छत्तीसगढ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर 19,



नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला -रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 2006 (यथा–संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि जिला – रायपुर के आरंग तहसील में स्थित निम्नलिखित 09 चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) खदान (1) मेसर्स धनसुली लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो. श्री अनिल जंघेल), ग्राम-धनसूली, तहसील- आरंग, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक– 818, 870 एवं 871 (नया 913, 926 एवं 927), कुल क्षेत्रफल – 1.19 हेक्टेयर में पूर्व से संचालित चना पत्थर (गौण खनिज उत्खनन क्षमता - 23.890 टन (9.556 घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (2) मेसर्स धनसूली लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (महामाया मिनरल्स पार्टनर श्री विवेक अग्रवाल), ग्राम–धनसूली तहसील– आरंग, जिला – रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक– 707/2, 708, 709/1, 711/1 711/2, 711/3, 712, 713, 756/1 एवं 756/2, क्कूल क्षेत्रफल 3.88 हेक्ट्रेयर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता 1,00,494 टन प्रतिवर्ष (3) मेसर्स धनसुली लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो – श्री वासुदेव प्रितवानी), ग्राम–धनसुली, तहसील– आरंग, जिला – रायपुर (छ.ग.) में खसरा क्रमांक – 915 एवं 916/1, कुल क्षेत्रफल –3.18 हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता - 79,845 टन प्रतिवर्ष (4) मेसर्स धनसुली लाईमस्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री अब्दुल मलिक) ग्राम- धनसुती, तहसील - आरंग, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक- 705, 706 एवं 716 कुल क्षेत्रफल - 1.6 हेक्टेयर में पूर्व से संचालित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता 11,050 टन प्रतिवर्ष (5) मेसर्स धनस्त्री लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री कमलेश अढवानी), ग्राम–धनस्त्री तहसील - आरंग, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक- 576 एवं 653 (पार्ट) कूल क्षेत्रफल 3.238 हेक्टेयर में पूर्व से संचालित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता– 1,12,670 टन (४५,०६८ घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (६) मेसर्स नरदहा लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो. – श्री प्रकाश बजाज), |ग्राम–नरदहा, तहसील – आरंग, जिला – रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक– 1972, 1980 एव 1982 कुल क्षेत्रफल– 2.744 हेक्टेयर में पूर्व से संचालित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता 53,046.88 टन (21,218.75 घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (7) मेसर्से नरदहा लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो. – श्री अभय अठवानी), ग्राम-नरदहा, तहसील- आरंग, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक-| १९६० एवं १९६१ | २. कुल क्षेत्रफल– २.८१९ हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तार्वित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता 90,008 टन (36,003.2 घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (8) मेसर्स नरदहा लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो. श्री अनुज बडवानी), ग्राम-नरदहा, तहसील-आरंग, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रिश्रत खसरा क्रमांक 1948 एवं 1950 कुल क्षेत्रफल– 2 हेक्टेयर में पूर्व से संचालित चूना पत्थर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता 61,997 टन (24,798.8 घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (9) मेसर्स नरदहा लाइम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री गुलशन नागदेव), ग्राम-नरदहा, तहसील- आरंग, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रिश्रत पार्ट ऑफ खसरा क्रिमांक- १९४८ कल क्षेत्रफल- २.६७२ हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तावित चना पत्थर (गौण खनिज उत्खनन क्षमत - 35,458 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति बाबत **संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 11.10.2023 को** प्रातः 11:00 बजे से स्थान सामुदायिक भवन, ग्राम धनसुली तहसील आरंग, जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सचित हो कि :

1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा । 2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा

समय-समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा । 3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02

मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।

4. कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु केन्द्र सरकार तथा राज्य शासन द्वारा जारी

समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा ।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (यथा - संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पढन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायॅरेक्टर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, जोर[े] बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर–19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर छत्तीसगढ़, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, रायपुर, जिला – रायपुर, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत – रायपुर, जिला– रायपुर, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला ब्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला – रायपुर, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जनपद पंचायत – आरंग, जिला रायपुर, कार्यालय सरपेंच/सर्विव, ग्राम पंचायत धनसुली एवं नरदहा, तहसील–आरंग, जिला–रायपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यवसायिक परिसर, कबीर नगर, रायपुर, जिला– रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल

सदस्य सचिव छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

Pakistani couple arrested on blasphemy charges

PTI LAHORE

Pakistani Christian couple Ahas been arrested on blasphemy charges after 'torn pages of Quran' were recovered from the rooftop of their house and in the street in Lahore, police said on Sunday. The couple — Shaukat Masih and Kiran Masih — are facing life imprisonment as they have been booked under section 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPP) which carries a life sentence for the desecration of the holy book

The case has been registered against the Christian couple of Docage Town, Rangers Headquarters, Harbanspura Lahore on the complaint of a Muslim man, Mohammad Taimur, of the same area. According to the FIR, Taimur said he was standing at a food shop of Docage Town Street on Friday when he found some pages of the Muslim holy book there. "It appeared that the pages had been thrown from

the roof of a house under which they were found. I knocked on the door and a woman named Kiran Masih opened the door. I showed her the torn pages of the Quran to her. She responded that her minor daughters — Sundas and Rubi, and son Sabir might have thrown the pages. Taimur went to the rooftop of the house and found a pink colour bag with more pages of the Quran," the FIR says.

The complainant then informed the police on the emergency number after which the North Cantonment police Station reached and arrested the suspects. Police officer Mahmood Ahmad told PTI on Sunday that the police registered the blasphemy case against the Christian couple after the "torn pages of holy Quran" were found at their

home and in the street. "The couple's three children could have also been booked after their mother alleged that they might have

thrown the pages in the street. However, only Kiran and her husband have been booked

A police source told PTI that Shaukat Masih was not at home when the complainant accused Kiran of blasphemy on Friday midnight. He said that when complainant Taimur accused the Christian family, the area people gathered there and police were called in which controlled the situation and immediately arrested Kiran. Shaukat Masih was arrested

under 295 B of PPC," he said.

later in the day, he said.

Last month, a mob of over 6,000 led by the radical Islamist party, Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), attacked scores of churches and houses of Christians over blasphemy allegations in Jaranwala town of Faisalabad district, 130 km from Punjab's provincial capital Lahore. At least 21 churches and 86 homes of Christians were burnt down by the violent mob, however, no casualties were reported.

shootout with militants Pakistani soldiers and 12 militants. Scores of trucks loaded

Pakistan soldier killed in

soldier was killed in an overnight shootout with militants in the country's northwest, near the border with Afghanistan, the military said.

A military statement late Saturday said the shootout took place in Mir Ali, a major town of North Waziristan that served as a safe haven for militants for decades. It said the military had been searching for terrorists there. The shootout took place days after Pakistan closed the key northwestern Torkham border crossing with Afghanistan after border guards from the two sides exchanged fire Wednesday. Clashes that same day in the northwestern Chitral district

with goods, many carrying perishable items including veg-etables and fruits, were still lined up on both sides of the Torkham border point Sunday, waiting for the crossing to reopen. Torkham witnessed previous clashes in February and the town remained closed for several days after the two sides accused each other of trying to build new posts along the border. Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, a senior official of Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, urged authorities to prioritize solving the border issue as traders stand to lose millions of dollars in perishable goods if Torkham is not opened soon.

G2 NORTHERN RAILWAY 7 **Tender Notice** Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems) E-File No: 6S-Efile167799-40 Tender for "Turnkey contract for provision of refurbishment/MLF

schedule of 40 Rajdhani (20 LWACCN, 17 LWACCW and 03 LWFAC LHB coaches at RCNK/SNP as per scope of work" Approx Cost Tender Cost: Rs. 18,45,55,092.13/- including GST (Rs. Eighteen Cro Forty-Five Lacs Fifty-Five Thousand Ninety-Two and Paise Thirteen Only Earnest Money

Rs. 10,72,800.00/-18 months of date of execution of work Cost of Tender document on cash/by post NIL Pre-Bid Conference Date Time

22.09.2023 11:30 hrs Upto 11:00 hrs on 10.10.2023 Opening of Tender Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender at 11:30 hrs Website particulars notice board location complete

No. E-File No: 6S-Efile167799-40 Dated: 07.09.2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Customer Name

details of tender can be seen

Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavrao Khadye Marg HDB FINANCIAL Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400034 Tel No.: +91 22 49116300 FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and ers/account holders have not responded /complied with the communication, and notice send by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrowe clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreeement") and therefo defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on 16-09-2023 at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table;

Date of Loan Overdue

11			Amount \	
30266215	Amit Kumar	26/12/2022	10035	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
26837325	Nasim So Irshadali	22/08/2022	33033	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
29280894	Guddi Do Dwarku	19/11/2022	7073	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
30540912	Bibhuti Chandra Jha	05/01/2023	20298	Delhi-Badarpur
26092158	Satyendra Singh Chandel	25/07/2022	30548	Delhi-Bhajanpura
22456529	Ram Shree Namedev	21/03/2022	20821	Delhi-Bhajanpura
29214514	Anju Devi	15/11/2022	11084	Delhi-Bhajanpura
30186019	Chetan Prakash	23/12/2022	17360	Delhi-Bhajanpura
32794711	Devesh So Sundarlal	25/03/2023	9982	Delhi-Bhajanpura
14170783	Sushil S	06/02/2021	23372	Delhi-Dilshad Garder
14852522	Kausal Giriraj	05/04/2021	9868	Delhi-Dilshad Garder
21889002	Mahendra Pratap Singh	18/02/2022	16477	Delhi-Dilshad Garder
29464238	Sanavvar So Alisher	24/11/2022	19654	Delhi-Dilshad Garder
32399168	Pawan Kumar	13/03/2023	11369	Delhi-Dilshad Garder
24849982	Pushpa Yadav	10/06/2022	11437	Delhi-Gandhi Nagar
32797269	Mohd Imran	25/03/2023	7835	Delhi-Gandhi Nagar
31029671	Vandna Do Desh	23/01/2023	14311	Delhi-Jagatpuri
33063705	Sandeep Singh	03/04/2023	9209	Delhi-Jagatpuri
32006100	Sheela Devi	28/02/2023	8346	Delhi-Jagatpuri
16160994	Sanjeev Kumar	13/07/2021	13733	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
16785412	Sanjeev Kumar	11/08/2021	34185	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
26842247	Vikas Jain	23/08/2022	28656	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
27183155	Zuber Ahmad	07/09/2022	55952	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
28728703	Sangita Do Mangi	31/10/2022	31824	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
29277436	Mohd Urvesh	18/11/2022	6389	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
18019594	Sachin Jagdish	27/09/2021	21332	Delhi-Keshavpuram
14237605	Vikas Kumar	12/02/2021	57466	Delhi-Lajpat Nagar
24492252	Ramsanehi Chintamani	29/05/2022	6273	Delhi-Lajpat Nagar
32503655	Nagendra Kumar	16/03/2023	9869	Delhi-Madipur
31030068	Garun Kumar	24/01/2023	6899	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
28827846	Amit Kumar	01/11/2022	5908	Delhi-Rohini
32662352	Pradeep Kumar	21/03/2023	36708	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
16635032	Amit Kumar	03/08/2021	15849	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and t				

Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potent purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out here above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further term and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose

the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentione above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the sai auction without further notice. Please note the it is the absolute discretionary power of the indersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject an or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same

Oz, Indonesian forces take part in US-led combat drills bat exercises in Banyuwangi, a coastal district in East Java Thousands of soldiers from province which began September 1. It will include live-

the United States, Indonesia, Australia and other allied forces demonstrated their armour capabilities on Sunday in combat drills on the Indonesian island of Java at a time of increased Chinese aggression in the region.

President Joe Biden's administration has been strengthening an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to reassure allies alarmed by Beijing's increasingly provocative actions in the disputed South China Sea, which has become a battleground for US-Chinese rivalries. During the drills, Australian forces deployed five M1A1 Abrams battle tanks and the Indonesian military, deployed two Leopard-2 tanks for the two-week com-

fire drills. It was the first time Australia deployed battle tanks outside its territory since the Vietnam war. The Garuda Shield drills have been held annually between American and Indonesian soldiers since 2009. Last year's participants — Australia, Japan and Singapore — joined again Sunday and the list expanded to include the United Kingdom and France bringing the total number of troops taking part in the drills to 5,000. China sees the expanded drills as a threat, accusing the US of building an Indo-Pacific alliance similar to NATO to limit China's growing military and diplomatic influence in the region. Maj Gen Marcus Evans, Commanding General of the

US Army's 25th Infantry Division, told The Associated Press in an interview Saturday that the introduction of armor capability in the large-scale drills would give the allied forces and defense partners a chance to test their weaponry in combat training as they finetune their military readiness. Garuda Shield is being held in several places, including in waters around Natuna at the southern portion of the South China Sea. Indonesia and China enjoy generally positive ties, but Jakarta has expressed concern about what it sees as Chinese encroachment on its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea. The edge of the exclusive economic zone over-

laps with Beijing's unilaterally

Increased activities by

declared "nine-dash line

demarking its claims there.

Chinese coast guard vessels and fishing boats in the area have unnerved Jakarta, prompting Indonesia's navy to conduct a large drill in July 2020 in waters around Natuna. Evans refused to comment on China's long-standing opposition to US-led military drills in Asia. Asked whether there are

plans by the US military to carry out jointnaval patrols with allies like Japan and the Philippines in or near contested waters, Evans said that "it is important that we maintain a continuous engagement with our regional partners and allies from a military perspective, because, that, again, enhances our overall readiness." "I think it continues to show

a sign of our commitment to regional partners and allies," said Evans, who is also Senior Commander of US Army

If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of

(HDB Financial Services Ltd

India to decide on crypto regulations after discussions with nations: Official

take a call," the official said.

India has been pressing for

global regulation on cryp

tocurrencies to tackle tax eva-

sion and round tripping of

funds. India's central bank RBI

has been asked for a complete

ban on cryptocurrencies, like

Bitcoin and Ether, saying they

difficult for one country to ban

cryptocurrencies and globally

a consensus has to be reached

that all countries follow the

The official said it would be

are akin to gambling.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will decide on implementing cryptocurrency regulations after extensive discussions with other countries, a senior official said on Sunday. virtually ruling out a ban on such assets.

Ahead of G20 leaders' summit, the IMF and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) had last week made a strong case for a coordinated global policy action to deal with risks posed by cryptocurrencies and said that there should not be any blanket ban.

The IMF-FSB recommendations laid out a "roadmap" and suggested "bare minimum" regulations that every country should have on cryptocurrencies. If any country wants to have a more stricter regulation, it can frame a more restrictive regulation depending on the risk it sees from cryptos, the



have endorsed it (FSB recommendations) and now ministers and governments will discuss it and take it forward. We expect a lot of discussion to happen on how to implement it faster, swifter and in a comprehensive manner.

We have a good framework to decide our own way forward. The foundation is ready, beyond that how much we want to go it is for us to decide in coming months and then

"If you want to ban it (cryptocurrency), go ahead and ban it. But if the rest of the countries are not banning it, it will be extremely difficult for one country to ban it. Now that discussion, we have to take up and try to build a consensus on regulation. Then we gradually decide on our own system. The discussion will happen now in our system. It is not an easy one," the official said.

"bare minimum" regulation

that the IMF-FSB paper has

The fourth meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors is scheduled to take place in Marrakech, Morocco, on the sidelines of the 2023 annual meetings of World Bank and IMF from October 9-15. The official said there are risks associated with cryptocurrencies as there are the same set of entities who act as depository and clearing systems, unlike that in the stock market."The purpose of regulation is that the risk is well managed. Any country which feels they have more risk can make their regulation more restrictive," the official said, adding if all countries agree on the same regulation there will be no arbitrage

The IMF-FSB in its paper had said that its proposed regulation apply the principle of "same activity, same risk, same regulation", establish a minimum baseline that jurisdictions should meet, and aim to address the set of issues common across majority of juris-

The New Delhi declaration issued at the end of the first day of G20 leaders' summit had said that the countries will continue to closely monitor the risks of fast-paced developments in the cryptoasset

India's debt-service ratio at modest 5.3%, says FM

Middle-Income Countries

(LMICs) as measured by select

vulnerability indicators, such as

share of short-term debt in total

external debt, external debt to

GNI (Gross National Income)

forex reserves to external debt

and external debt to exports,"

service ratio during 2022-23

has increased marginally to

5.3 per cent from 5.2 per cent

during the previous year, main-

ly due to a rise in debt service

payments from USD 41.6 bil-

lion in 2021-22 to USD 49.2

billion in 2022-23. The 'debt

service ratio' is measured by the proportion of 'gross debt' ser-

The report said the debt

the minister noted.

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{ndia's}}$ external debt of USD 624.7 billion at March-end 2023 with a debt-service ratio of 5.3 per cent is within the comfort zone and modest from a cross-country perspective, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

In her foreword to 'India's External Debt: A Status Report 2022-23' released earlier this month, Sitharaman said the ratio of external debt to GDP declined to 18.9 per cent at March-end 2022-23 from 20 per cent a year ago.

The long-term debt constituted 79.4 per cent of total external debt, while short-term debt, which is 20.6 per cent of the total external borrowing, is basically incurred to finance imports, enhancing the stability aspects of the total external debt, she said. "From a crosscountry perspective, India's external debt position is better than most of the Low and

and interest) to 'external current receipts', which indicates the extent of pre-emption of forex reserves for the purposes of repayment of principal and interest out of the stock of foreign debt.

The increase in gross external debt service payments during 2022-23 was due to the combined impact of an increase in debt service payments under commercial borrowings, including through multilateral and bilateral sources (16.7 per cent), external assistance (17.2 per cent) and an increase under NRI deposits (31.7 per cent), the report said.

India's external debt at USD 624.7 billion as of Marchend 2023 is marginally higher by 0.9 per cent or USD 5.6 billion over the previous year. Foreign exchange reserves covered 92.6 per cent of the external debt at March-end 2023, it

RBI: Frictionless credit initiative slashes operational costs for lenders by 70%

The frictionless credit initiative being piloted by the Reserve Bank is helping lenders slash their customer acquisition cost by a whopping 70 per cent, while for borrowers the saving is 6 per cent of the loan amount, a senior central bank official has said.

The pilot started with an all-digital KCC (kisan credit card) lending, developed by the RBI Innovation Hub on the public tech platform, in Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh this

The pilot has been extended to four more states -Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat (for dairy farmers) from August 17 this year. The pilot launch of the public tech platform for friccent, while for the farmer, the saving is 6 per cent of the loan amount, Ajay Kumar Choudhary, an executive director and head of the fintech department at the RBI, said here over the weekend while addressing the three-day global fintech

Moreover, there is massive savings in opportunity cost, as earlier a farmer had to make six to eight weekly rounds to the bank which has come down to a maximum of 0 minutes now, Choudhary said.

Choudhary further said this has also reduced traditional charges that banks used to levy from borrowers, as with all documents available digitally, there is effectively no cost in

tionless credit to farmers has helped reduce operational costs for lenders by more than 70 per was created by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, an independent subsidiary of the central bank, enabling seamless flow of necessary information to lenders. This in turn will help in disbursing frictionless credit.

On April 17, the RBI rolled out a pilot project for pure retail products such as kisan credit card loans up to Rs 1.6 lakh per borrower, dairy loans, un-collateralised MSME loans, personal loans, and home loans, in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The platform is an open architecture, based on open application programming interfaces (APIs) and standards platform where all financial sector players can connect seamlessly in a plug and play model.

India's growth to benefit from Asia's manufacturing: Economist Group

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is well placed to benefit from geopolitical and economic trends that are driving the diversification of Asia's manufacturing supply chain, and it is also the country's "manufacturing moment", according to The Economist

While emphasising that India has a strong growth story, Upasana Dutt, Head of India at The Economist Group, also said that policy reforms are making it easier to do business in the country. India is the world's fastest-growing major economy and clocked a growth of 7.8 per cent in the June quarter. The government has also come out with various initiatives, including Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes



turing activities in different sectors.Last month, Economist Impact, which is an official network partner to the B20, hosted a forum in the national capital on 'Navigating new globalisation, innovation for progress'.

Economist Impact is a division of The Economist Group. It works with various partners, including major multinationals, multilateral institutions and private foundations, to examine some of the world's most pressing issues. Economist Impact uses a range of method-ologies to conduct original research, which powers fresh content to inform and engage target audiences. In a recent interaction before the G20 Summit, Upasana Dutt said India is emerging to take a stronger position on the glob-

This transformative development signifies a departure from convention; it endows us with the opportunity to exert substantial influence over global discourse," she said and added that supply chain restructuring and global investment in resources that are critical to future industries as well as the green transition will create opportunities for countries like India.



Top 10 firms add ₹1.30L cr in market valuation; HDFC Bank biggest gainer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The combined market valu-1 ation of the top 10 valued firms climbed Rs 1.30 lakh crore last week, with HDFC Bank emerging as the biggest gainer amid an overall positive trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 878.4

24,356.24 crore taking its val-

Biofuel alliance can generate \$500 bn for G20 nations: IBA



 $B^{\text{iofuel alliance can generate}}_{\text{opportunities worth USD}}$ 500 billion in the next three years for G20 countries, according to Indian Biogas Association (IBA).

Biofuel alliance can be a win-win situation for G20 countries and the environment, IBA said. According to a study by the IBA, the biofuel alliance can generate opportunities worth USD 500 billion in the next three years for G20

The findings of the study assume significance as India is ers' Summit in New Delhi. Biogas can generate an opportunity of USD 200 billion, considering the least investment required, compared to other energy generation options and easy availability of raw materials, it stated.

Bioenergy/Biogas, in principle, has the potential to replace fossil fuels completely, especially to decarbonize the transport sector, it pointed out. In 2016, the G20 adopted a voluntary action plan on renewable energy, which committed members to increase the share

of renewable energy in their energy mix. India significantly increased its share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix and grew at a CAGR of roughly 22 per cent in the last six years.

India has ramped-up solar energy 20-fold in the last decade. During this period, solar energy and wind energy roughly grew at a CAGR of 38 per cent and 30 per cent,

respectively.

It stated that an initial investment of USD 100 billion in financial support will be required to trigger the biofuel industry, five billion for each

This anchor investment will have further multiplier effects on private investments and the production of biofuels, especially biogas. Creating a favorable regulatory environment in the G20 countries and sharing technological advancements will be key to the success of this biofuel alliance, it stated. Promoting international cooperation through best practices followed across G20 nations will be key to the success of biofuel alliance, it

Europe Economic Corridor IMEC largest an ambitious project launched

Netanyahu hails India-Middle East

cooperation project in history: Israel PM

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

 $\mathbf{H}^{ ext{ailing the announcement}}$ of the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) as a "major news" for Israelis, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the "largest cooperation project in our history" will change the face of the Middle East, Israel, and will benefit the entire world.

The new economic corridor, which many see as an alternative to China's controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), was jointly announced on Saturday by the leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New

In a video message released late Saturday evening, Netanyahu said that Israel is at the focus of an unprecedented international project that will link infrastructure from Asia to Europe. "I welcome the statement that was released today by the United States, India, Saudi



Arabia, the UAE and the European Union, as well as France, Italy and Germany," Netanyahu said. "A good week to you, citizens of Israel. This evening, I am pleased to inform you (of) some major news," the İsraeli Prime Minister said. His message came as hun-

dreds of thousands of Israelis protested on the streets against the government's judicial overhaul plan they think will undermine the authority of the judi-"Israel is at the focus of an

unprecedented international project that will link infrastructure from Asia to Europe. This link will also realise a multi-year vision that will change the face of the Middle East, and Israel, and will affect

the entire world," he said. "This vision starts in India, passes through the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel before reaching Europe," Netanyahu said. The initiative is seen as a potential alternative to the BRI,

billion to support vulnerable

countries through its Resilience

and Sustainability Trust (RST)

to build climate resilience, she

said. Countries also need to

by Chinese President Xi Jinping, which has also drawn criticism about its debt sussmaller countries.

Xi unveiled the BRI in 2013 with an aim to link China, the global manufacturing giant, with Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes. The announcement of the IMEC comes amid discussions around the normalisation of ties between Israel and Saudi The two countries do not

have diplomatic relations but the Gulf kingdom has been seen to be recently softening its position towards Israel by allowing Israeli airlines to use its air space. It is said to have also demanded, as per media reports, several concessions from the United States for the normalisation of ties with the Jewish state, some very contentious ones.

They announced the launch of a pioneering initiative to develop an economic corridor from India, through the Middle East, to Europe. I am pleased to inform you, citizens of Israel, that our country, the State of Israel, will be a central junction in this economic corridor," Netanyahu said.

RBI to start Central Bank Digital Currency pilot for interbank transactions

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for transactions for interbank borrowing or call money market by October, central bank Executive Director Ajay Kumar Choudhary said on Sunday.

The pilot of the wholesale CBDC, known as the Digital Rupee-Wholesale (e-W), was launched on November 1, 2022, with the use case being limited to the settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities.

"The RBI will introduce the wholesale CBDC in the call market either this month or next month," Choudhary said on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit here.

The introduction of CBDC was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and necessary amendments to the relevant section of the RBI Act, 1934, were made with the passage of

the Finance Bill 2022. The RBI picked nine banks -State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, YES Bank, IDFC First Bank and



HSBC — for its pilot project for wholesale CBDC. Besides, the central bank has already rolled out a pilot in the retail version of the CBDC (e-R) on December 1, 2022. The e-R is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender.

It is being issued in the same denominations as the paper currency and coins. It is being distributed through financial intermediaries like banks. Users can transact with e-R through a digital wallet offered by the participating

The RBI is showcasing various digital initiatives in the financial sector at the exhibition pavilion during the G20 Summit. These include Public Tech Platform (PTP) for Frictionless Credit, CBDC, UPI One World, RuPay On-The-Go and Bharat Bill Payment



points or 1.34 per cent. The market valuation of HDFC Bank jumped by Rs 37,262.86 crore to Rs 12,30,015.05 crore, the most among the top 10 firms. Reliance Industries added Rs

uation to Rs 16,56,934.23 crore. The valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) rallied Rs 23,436.22 crore to Rs 12,59,902.86 crore and that of State Bank of India zoomed Rs 12,271.34 crore to Rs **PTI** 5,20,706.48 crore.

NCLAT shuns insolvency plea against Wipro

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has dismissed an operational creditor's petition to initiate insolvency proceedings against Wipro Ltd.

A two-member Chennai bench of the appellate tribunal held earlier that there was a pre-existing dispute over the payment between Wipro and the petitioner and observed that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was not framed for being a "mere recovery legislation for credi-

The National Company
Law Appellate Tribunal
(NCLAT) has upheld the order
of the NCLT. Earlier, the Bengaluru Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), on January 16, 2020, dismissed the plea by Tricolite Electrical Industries in the capacity of operational creditor. The order was challenged by the Delhi-based operational creditor, a manuacturer of 'LT/ HT Electric



body NCLAT. However, the NCLAT also dismissed it after observing, "We are satisfied that a 'dispute' truly existed for the Respondent Company (Wipro) to have withheld 3 per cent of the total invoice amount". Under the IBC, the insol-

Panels' before the appellate

vency process against any corporate debtor is generally initiated only in clear cases where a real dispute between the parties as to the debt owed did not exist. The dispute is related to the supply of goods for a government project implemented by Wipro, where it was awarded the work of design, manufacture, supply and installation

Nations should pursue growth oriented reforms for faster recovery: IMF expect that something will kets, she said. Observing that new Global Sovereign Debt

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Sunday said global recovery is slow and uneven and underscored the need to pursue sound policies for financial stability and growth-oriented structural reforms.

Speaking at G20 Leaders' Summit here, Georgieva said, G20 members must lead by example in delivering on the promises of USD 100 billion per year for climate finance, supported by strengthening Multilateral Development (MDBs). International Monetary Fund



mobilize domestic resources to finance and manage the green transition through tax reforms, effective and efficient public spending, strong fiscal institutions, and deep local debt mar-

global recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic is slow and uneven, she said, all countries should pursue sound policies to support economic and financial stability and growth-oriented structural reforms against this background.

This is especially important in emerging and developing countries, where such reforms

can boost output by up to 8 per cent over 4 years, she said. "We also need to further invest in international cooperation. This implies swiftly addressing debt problems where they arise, including through the G20 Common Framework and the

Roundtable," she said. To make the global economy stronger and more

resilient in a more shock-prone world, she said, it is vital to reach an agreement to increase IMF's quota resources before the end of the year and secure the needed resources for the Fund's interest-free support to the poorest countries through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust.

the India During Presidency a, lot of work has been done on MDB reforms, a government official said, adding, "quota reforms are under discussion and we do

come out."This is one of the priorities under the India Presidency and quota reforms agenda is expected to come up in Marrakesh, Morocco meeting of the finance ministers and Central Bank Governors next month, the official said.

To build a prosperous future, Georgieva said the world needs to harness the potential of digital technology and India's achievement in developing top-tier digital public infrastructure (DPI) stands as a beacon for others. "More work lies ahead, including in the realm of digital money and crypto assets

Gauff wins US Open: Her first Grand Slam

19-year-old American beats Aryna Sabalenka 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in thrilling final match

PTI ■ NEW YORK

oco Gauff is still a teenager, after all, and so ✓it should surprise no one that she was on her phone in the locker room, scrolling through social media, right up until 10 minutes before heading out on court for the U.S. Open final.

What the 19-year-old from Florida was reading, she would say later, were various comments, negative ones, "saying I wasn't going to win today; that just put the fire in me.

As a pro athlete from a young age, as someone of whom greatness has been expected by some and doubted by others, Gauff has always taken it all in and kept moving forward, trying to learn from each setback.

And now, at a tournament she used to visit as a kid to see her idols, Serena and Venus Williams, Gauff is a Grand Slam champion herself and a certified star.

Setting aside a so-so start Saturday, Gauff surged to a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over the soon-to-be-No. 1 Aryna

Sabalenka in the final at Arthur Ashe Stadium, delighting a raucous crowd that backed her from start to finish.

When Gauff walked into her news conference — phone in hand, of course — she noticed that a large screen on the back wall was rotating pictures of her from the match. So she tucked her new silver trophy under one arm and used the other hand to snap a selfie with those photos in the back-

"Right now I'm just feeling happiness and a very, very small bit of relief," she explained. "Because honestly, at this point, I was doing it for myself and not for other peo-

Gauff, who is from Florida, is the first American teenager to win the country's major tennis tournament since Serena Williams in 1999. If last year's U.S. Open was all about saying goodbye to Williams as she competed for the final time, this year's two weeks in New York turned into a "Welcome to the big_time!" moment for Gauff. Famous people were coming to watch her play,



including former President Barack Obama, who was among those sending congratulatory wishes on Saturday.

Gauff burst onto the scene at 15 by becoming the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history and making it to the fourth round in her Grand Slam debut in 2019. She reached her initial major final at last year's French Open, finishing as the runnerup to Iga Swiatek, a loss that

stung. "I watched Iga lift up that

trophy, and I watched her the whole time," Gauff recalled. "I said, I'm not going to take my eyes off her, because I want to feel what that felt like for her."

Another down moment came this July at the All England Club, where she exited in the first round. Since then, she has won 18 of 19 matches, and now 12 in a row, while working with a new coaching pair of Brad Gilbert and Pere Riba.

The No. 6-seeded Gauff

did it Saturday by withstanding the power displayed by Sabalenka on nearly every swing of her racket, eventually getting accustomed to it and managing to get back shot after shot.

Gauff broke to begin the third set on one such point, tracking down every ball hit her way until eventually smacking a putaway volley that she punctuated with a fist pump and a scream of "Come on!"

Soon it was 4-0 in that set

for Gauff. Didn't take long for her to close it out, then drop to her back on the court, before climbing into the stands to find her parents.
"You did it!" Gauff's mom

told her, both in tears.

In addition to her trophy, Gauff was handed an envelope with the champion's \$3 million paycheck, the same amount Novak Djokovic or Daniil Medvedev will get after the men's final Sunday.

This is the 50th anniver-

sary of when the 1973 U.S. Open became the first major sports event to pay women and men equal prize money; the person who led that effort, Hall of Fame player and rights advocate Billie Jean King, was on

hand Saturday.

"Thank you, Billie," Gauff said, "for fighting for this." Sabalenka came in 23-2 at majors in 2023, including a title at the Australian Open. The 25year-old from Belarus already was assured of rising from No. 2 to No. 1 in the rankings next week (Gauff will be No. 3 in singles, No. 1 in doubles).

That ranking milestone is "why I'm not super depressed right now," Sabalenka said, then joked: "I'm definitely going to be. I'm definitely going for a drink tonight — if I'm allowed to say that."

She was reduced to the role of foil by the fans in 23,000capacity arena. Setting the tone, Gauff's pre-match TV interview, shown in the arena, was drowned out by the sound of applause and yells reverberating off the closed retractable roof.

Winners by Gauff were celebrated as if the match were over. So were Sabalenka's miscues. When Sabalenka heard cheers during the post-match ceremony, she joked: "You guys could have supported (me) like this during the match."

By the end, she had 46 unforced errors, Gauff 19. Here's another way to view it:

Gauff only needed 13 winners to accumulate 83 points.

"Sometimes, I can get emotional," Sabalenka said. "Today on the court, I was overthinking and I was missing ... Balls I shouldn't be missing.

When Sabalenka has everything calibrated just right, it's difficult for any foe to handle it — even someone as speedy, smart and instinctive as Gauff, whose get-to-every-ball court coverage kept points

Sabalenka credited Gauff's superb defense — "definitely, she was moving just unbelievable" and "I always had to play like an extra ball" — but also thought many mistakes were "more about me than her. I lost this match."

When Sabalenka was ontarget early, she dominated. During a four-game run to close the opening set, one thrilling point had the audience making noise before it was over. Gauff scrambled to get Sabalenka's strokes back, including somehow deflecting a booming overhead, before a second, unreachable overhead bounced into the seats.

Sabalenka raised her left hand and wagged her fingers, telling spectators to give her some love.

But soon, Gauff was playing better, Sabalenka was offtarget more, and the love was being showered only on one of them, the sport's newest Grand Slam champion.



Sharma hangs in to stay in contention at Irish Open

PTI ■ KILDARE (IRELAND)

Tndia's Shubhankar Sharma Lendured a testing mid-round crisis to salvage the day with a the hunt for his first DP World Tour title since 2018.

Sharma, who led after the first round and co-led after the second, dropped to T-4 at 10-under with a birdie on the last

He trailed the leader Hurly Long of Germany by three shots with halfway co-leader Jordan Smith (73) in second at 12-under and four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy (66) in third at 11-under.

India's other challenger this week, Manu Gandas missed the cut. Sharma shared the fourth spot with Kiwi Ryan Fox (66), Frenchman Julien Brun (69), Scottish pair of Grant Forrest (69) and Calum Hill (72) and England's Ross Fisher (74). Sharma, starting the day in the final group and at 13-under, opened with five pars before he dropped a double bogey on the Par-4 sixth. Another bogey followed on the eighth and he turned in 3-over with no birdies.

On the back nine, the twotime DPWT winner, who

logged the best-ever result by an Indian at the Open in July at T-8, fought back. He birdied the 10th, before giving away two shot on the 12th and the 13th. He birdied the 17th and

Long will take a one stroke lead into the final round with past champion and World Number Two Rory McIlroy just two shots back.

Long, of Germany, carded a two under par round of 70 on the Palmer North Course at the 2006 Ryder Cup venue, with a birdie at the last taking him to 13 under par, one stroke ahead of England's Jordan Smith, who also birdied the 18th to sign for a one-over

Four-time Major Champion McIlroy started the day eight strokes off the pace but carded a six under par 66 to post an early clubhouse target of 11 under par at The K Člub, the same venue where he claimed a famous Irish Open victory in 2016.

McIlroy will go in search of a third victory on the 2023 Race to Dubai, with Long seeking a maiden title and Smith hunting a third DP World Tour crown, following on from his win at last year's Portugal Masters.

Manju wins gold, earns 'best woman boxer' title PTI NEW DELHI narrowly went down in the

Manju Rani outpunched Afghanistan's Sadia Bromand 3-0 in the final as India finished with nine gold and a sliver medal in the 21st Hajrulahovic Memorial Tournament in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on Sunday.

The Indian boxer's skills in the ring also earned her the title of the 'Best Woman Boxer'.

In men's 51kg category, Barun Singh Shagolshem defeated Poland's Jakub Slominsk 3-0, while in the men's 57kg category, Akash Kumar fought valiantly but narrowly went down in the final to Sweden's Hadi Hadrous

In the men's 63kg category, Manish Kaushik dominated his bout, triumphing over Palestinian Mohammed Soud

India's dominance continued in the men's 92kg category, where Naveen Kumar emerged victorious in a nailbiting encounter, edging out Mateusz Bereznicki of Poland with a 2-1 scoreline.

Jyoti, Shashi, Jigyasa, Vinakshi and Satish Kumar were also declared winners after their opponents did not play the finals.

No Messi, no problem: Campana scores twice for Inter Miami **AP** ■ FORT LAUDERDALE

With Lionel Messi out of the lineup to play in a pair of World Cup qualifiers for reigning champion Argentina, Inter Miami got two goals from Leonardo Campana to beat Sporting Kansas City 3-2 on Saturday night.

Facundo Farias added the third goal for Miami (8-14-4), which remains 14th in the Eastern Conference table.

The match was a test for Miami, which is 11-0-1 in cup and MLS matches since Messi's arrival with the club. He already has 11 goals and eight assists with the team. Miami was winless in 11 straight before Messi's debut on July 21. "Like I said (Friday), Leo's

absence was going to be felt," Campana said in Spanish. "But he has instilled so much confidence among the players. We believe now and know what we are capable of. Very happy with the result and the three

Messi scored the winning goal in Argentina's 1-0 victory over Ecuador on Thursday and has another national team commitment against Bolivia on Tuesday.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner is scheduled to



return to Miami for its next league match at Atlanta FC next Saturday. "We all know that when he

is here, we are all better," Miami

coach Tata Martino said in

That said — for a group of players which works very hard and are teammates of the best player in the world, when he doesn't play it is uplifting for them knowing they can win." The lack of Messi was evi-

Spanish. "We are capable of

winning any type of match.

dent in the stands. Although the crowd at DRV PNK Stadium sang throughout the match and cheered loudly after each goal, there were noticeable pockets of empty seats. In addition to Messi, seven

other Miami players were called by their national teams for qualifiers and missed the

Minjee Lee storms to 2-shot LPGA lead in Cincinnati to Lebanon in

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Two-time major champion I Minjee Lee opened with three straight birdies, made up a six-shot deficit at the turn and posted a 7-under 65 on Saturday to take a two-shot lead into the final round of the Kroger Queen City

Championship.
Lee played bogey-free on a Kenwood Country Club course that was so firm that even some shots with wedge had a hard time staying on the greens. She leaned on her putter, closing out her round with a 12-foot par save.

That gave her a two-shot lead over Charley Hull of England and Peiyun Chien of Taiwan, who rallied from a rough start to get back to even par for the day only to go long over the 18th green and miss a 5-foot par putt.

Hull bounced back from a triple bogey to start the third round with seven birdies, posting a 68 that gets her in the

final group. Chien is making her 140th start on the LPGA Tour and had her first 36-hole lead. It was gone by the turn.

Chien started with a double bogey, answered with two straight birdied but then lost ground with three bogeys over four holes to close out the front nine. That included a threeputt bogey on No. 9 that put her one shot behind for the first time all day.

Lee never really slowed after her fast start. She went in front with a delicate flop shot from below the green on the reachable par-4 10th, the ball rolling out to a few feet for birdie. She made a 15-foot birdie on the next hole and at one point was three shots clear.

"Having that momentum really helps, especially when you can save your par putts," Lee said. "That's the key for momentum. Making birdies is nice, but key par putts are important, too."

Lee was at 15-under 201 as she goes for her first win this



vear. She had a three-shot lead at the Founders Cup earlier this summer, only for Jin Young Ko to rally to beat her.

Lee began to pull away with a two-putt birdie on the par-5 15th, followed by a wedge into 12 feet for birdie on the

Hull tried to keep pace with three birdies over his last

"Laughed it off and birdied the next couple," Hull said of her start. "It was quite windy, quite tricky. Patches of them (the greens) are firm, other patches are spinning. It's tricky, which I quite like. It plays into

Chien drove into a bunker and got up-and-down for birdie on the 10th and made a great par save from well behind

my hands."

the green on the par-3 11th, hitting a flop shot up a steep slope to a few feet away from the back pin. She hit wedge to 5 feet on the 16th for birdie, added another on the 17th with a 15-foot birdie from the fringe and was one behind.

But her approach to the 18th bounced hard and rolled over the green. She used putter to get it about 5 feet from the hole and missed it on the high side.

Morgane Metraux of Switzerland birdied the 18th for a 70 and was three shots behind. Metraux came into the tournament at No. 107 in the Race to CME Globe and is running out of tournaments to get into the top 80 who have full status for next year.

Ruoning Yin of China, who needs to finish solo fourth or better to reach No. 1 in the women's world ranking, began her round with three straight bogeys. She got two of those shots back and had a 73, leaving her six shots behind.

India lose 0-1 King's Cup tournament

PTI CHIANG MAI (THAILAND)

entre-back A Kassem El ∠Zein's late strike off a bicycle kick guided Lebanon to a 1-0 win over India in the third-place match of the King's Cup football tournament here on Sunday.

After a goalless first half, El Zein scored in the 77th minute to help his team finish third and win the bronze medal in the tournament.

After an excellent save by India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu off a header, the rebound fell on the path of Al Zein, who found the back of the net to give Lebanon the

India were robbed of victory following a debatable penalty in the semifinal against Iraq, which they lost 4-5 in the penalty shootout.

Indian archer Prathamesh Jawkar signs off with silver at World Cup Final; Verma, Aditi, Jyothi falter

PTI HERMOSILLO (MEXICO)

Indian compound archer Prathamesh Jawkar's dream run in his maiden 'World Cup Final' ended with a silver medal after he lost to Denmark's Mathias Fullerton by the narrowest of margins in an intense shoot-off finish.Shanghai World Cup winner Jawkar, who stunned the world No 1 and reigning champion Mike Schloesser for a second time in four months to storm into the final, lost 148-148 (10-10*) to Fullerton, who was adjudged the winner by virtue of his arrow

being closer to the centre. The Denmark archer took an early lead after the Indian 20year-old dropped one point in the opening round of their final clash, here late on Saturday.

Trailing 89-90 at the mid-way mark, Jawkar brought the final on an even keel when he shot 30 points out of a possible 30 to make it 119-all going into the last round. But in the designated final end, both the archers shot identical scores of 29 each to take it to shootoff.

The tiebreaker also saw a stalemate as the Indian missed Fullerton's arrow by narrowest

In the semifinal, the Maharashtra archer dished out a flawless shooting of



150 out of a possible 150 points to pip Schloesser by

one point (150-149). The win also denied the Dutchman a hattrick of World months. At the final of the

Cup Final titles. Schloesser is a

winner of four 'World Cup

2022) It was Jawkar's second win over the 'Mr Perfectionist' in four

Shanghai World Cup in May,

Jawakar had prevailed over the

Final' (2016, 2019, 2021 and

Dutch heavyweight 149-148. Schloesser, however, man-

aged to bring his A-game in the bronze medal playoff, when he denied India a second medal defeating veteran Abhishek Verma 150-149. Verma was eyeing a sec-

ond World Cup Final bronze, when he made his way through to the third-place playoff defeating Sawyer Sullivan of the USA 146-146 (10-9) in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinal, Verma lost to eventual champion Fullerton

Jawkar started off in an ominous fashion when he dropped just one point to elim-

inate host nation representative Miguel Becerra 149-141 in the quarterfinal. It's only in the penultimate round that the Indian missed the centre once from 15 arrows in an otherwise perfect display. The win set up Jawkar's

semifinal clash against the Dutch superstar Schloesser for a second time in four months. Women compound archers

disappoint India, however, disappointed in the women's compound section with the duo of Aditi Swami and Iyothi Surekha Vennam returning empty-handed after losing their respective opening round

Punjab FC add four Indian players ahead of 2023-24

MOHALI, SEP 10 (PTI)

 $P_{\text{Indian players to their}}^{\text{unjab FC has added four}}$ squad ahead of the 2023-24 domestic football season.

The players Punjab FC has signed are midfielder Sweden Fernandes, goalkeeper Shibinraj Kunniyil and defenders Nongmeikapam Suresh Meitei and Mashoor Shereef.

The 23-year-old Fernandes has been signed on loan for the 2023-24 season from the Indian Super League team Chennaiyin FC, the club said in a statement.

Last season, Fernandes had played 15 matches for the NEROCA FC on loan, scoring three goals and one assist.

youngster is a popular name in the Goan football circuit, having turned up for the youth teams of FC Goa, Dempo SC and Sporting Club de Goa," the club said. Having spent some part of the last season with the NorthEast United FC, Shereef

"The talented left-footed

has joined Punjab FC on onevear contract. "He started his professional career at Chennai City before

moving to North East in October 2020," the release said. Shereef has made 37 ppearances for the club across

three seasons. In March 2021, the defender also made his debut for India

against UAE.

India-Pak clash taken to reserve day as rain plays spoilsport again

Intermittent rain pushed the Amarquee Asia Cup clash between India and Pakistan to a reserve day here on Sunday.

India were 147 ffor two in 24.1 overs when rain lashed the Premadasa Stadium here. Play will resume at 3 pm local time on Monday.

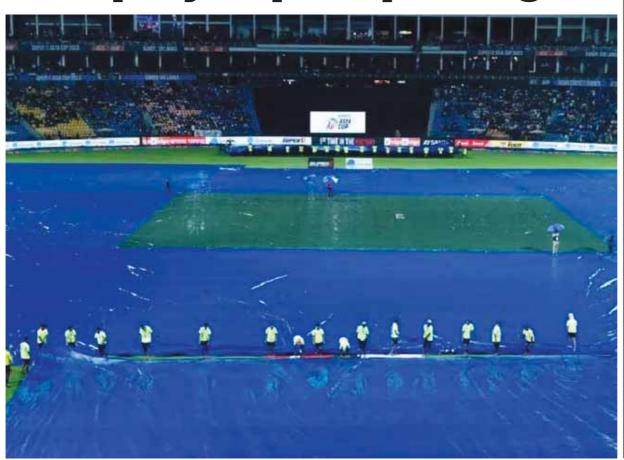
The activation of reserve day also means that in less than 24 hours of completion of the Pakistan game, India will meet Sri Lanka in their next Super Four encounter on Tuesday. Before the weather played

spoilsport, Virat Kohli and K L Rahul were batting on 8 and 17 respectively after openers Rohit Sharma (56) and Shubman Gill (58) struck fine half-centuries. India's Asia Cup opener

against Pakistan was called off due to rain. The weather has been a

subject of intense debate through the Sri Lanka leg of Asia Cup. Rain is expected in the Sri Lankan capital throughout the tournament.

Asian Council's decision to keep a reserve day only for Sunday's game and the final also triggered a controversy.



Biggest challenge was to get rid of fear, pain aspect of things: KL

strength in the quads and the

biggest "question mark" in his

mind while rehabilitating was

how he would convince himself

to don the role again after such

a big surgery.

"The big thing was to feel confident in my own body

and be pain free in move-

ments that require a lot of

intensity. Especially, I knew coming back, I'll have to keep

big concerns for physios and

me, a big question mark in my

head that the biggest challenge

for me coming back will be wicket-keeping because of the

"When you are wicket-

"And that was one of the

wicket as well.

quadricep injury.

Overcoming the mental barrier was the biggest challenge India wicketkeeper KL Rahul faced while rehabilitating after suffering a serious quadricep injury that laid him low for nearly four months.

Rahul had suffered the

debilitating injury during the IPL, which later necessitated surgery in London.

The 31-year-old underwent rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru to get fit for the Asia Cup. But a "niggle" resulted in him missing the first two group matches of the tournament in Sri Lanka.

However, he was assessed again on September 4 and cleared to join Team India in Kandy for the continental tournament. He also figures in the provisional squad for the World Cup in India.

'A lot of times, it's also like you fight a big mental battle where you're always thinking at the back of your head that, okay, I might feel pain. And when you are in that mindset, you can't really start focusing on skills," said Rahul in a video posted by BCCI on Sunday.

"So, the biggest challenge was to get rid of that fear and get rid of that pain aspect of things."

He added that wicketkeeping requires a lot of ball, you require a lot of strength in your quads and you need it to support you. You need your body to support you and be pain free."

Rahul expressed his grati-tude towards the physios who guided him through the tough

"And once you get through that (pain free), and that can only happen when you take things step by step. And, like I said, I was in the hands of some really good physios and trainer at the NCA. So, they really guided me and they knew when to push me, when to step

The cricketer added that it was quite a simple chase that resulted in the injury, and that he initially felt it would get better in a couple of weeks.

"I just tried to chase the ball and my tendon snap. I had a full-fledged tear, my tendon ripped apart from my quadriceps. So, when it happened, obviously me, my family, the franchise, the team, everybody had their fingers crossed hoping that wasn't a big tear... It was a small strain or I could get better in a couple of weeks.

"But once we did the scans in a couple of days, we knew it was a full tear and there was guite clear that in terms of how I can get better from this injury was to go under the knife and

Warner, Labuschagne hundreds set up another big Australia ODI win

AP ■ BLOEMFONTEIN (SOUTH

Quick-fire centuries by David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne set up yet another big win by Australia against South Africa and a 2-0 lead in their one-day international series on Saturday.

Australia racked up 392-8, its third highest ODI total, and bowled out South Africa for 269 with 8.1 overs to spare.

The Australians won by 123 runs, after a three-wicket win on Thursday, and it follows

a sweep of the Twenty20 series. They can also clinch this series on Tuesday on the same ground.

Travis Head took a liking to Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada in the power play, in without loss.

Head hit 64 off 36 balls before falling to Tabraiz Shamsi, who also got Mitch Marsh on review.

The baton was picked up by Warner, who got to his fifty off 52 balls. Warner took only 33 more balls to get his hundred, his fifth against South Africa, tying Sachin Tendulkar South Africa.

Labuschagne came in as part of the lineup, not as a concussion substitute as he was in his match-winning turn on Thursday. He went after spinners Aiden Markram and Shamsi. His first fifty took 54 balls but the second only 26. His two ODI hundreds have both been against South Africa.

He and Warner combined for 151, which ended when Warner tried to pull and was Andile Phehlukwayo, who was playing his first ODI since October. Warner made 106 off 93

balls. Josh Inglis smacked a 37-ball 50 but Australia lost its last five wickets in 27 balls, including Labuschagne for 124 off 99 with 19 fours and one six, and was kept under 400.

South Africa needed a record chase and got a good start from Quinton de Kock

and captain Temba Bavuma. De Kock was dropped before he scored and, on 24, the ball rolled onto his stumps but didn't dislodge the bails. He was bowled by Nathan Ellis, who took the pace off to bag de Kock for 45 off 30.

My criticism of BCCI was about ticketing, scheduling, not against any individual: Prasad

PTI NEW DELHI

The BCCI could have handled the scheduling and ticketing process of the World Cup in a better way, says former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad, who insisted that his outburst on social media on the issue is in no way a tirade against any individual.

The ICC in consultation with hosts BCCI rescheduled as many as nine games, including the marquee India vs Pakistan match, which was originally scheduled on October 15 in Ahmedabad but had to be advanced by a day on account of Navratri celebrations.

Prasad has often taken to social media platform 'X' (formerly twitter) to share his

However, one of his tweets on Saturday that caught attenarrogant guy to take away the hardwork of an organisation that is generally non-corrupt and get a stamp of corruption on the whole leadership, not just on micro level but at a large

On Sunday morning he modified the tweet to say:"It takes one corrupt, arrogant guy to take away the hardwork



of an otherwise non-corrupt organisation and spoil the reputation of an entire organisation & the impact isn't just micro but at a macro level. This is true in every field, be it politics, sports, journalism, corporate." While he did not mention any name, there were conjectures on social media on who could have been Prasad's target

"Nothing personal, just observation," Prasad told PTI when asked if it was meant towards any particular offi-

So were you misinterpret-

"100 percent. That (corrupt) I meant generally in all aspects of life. Be it airline industry, banking industry,

looked mixed up. My criticism for BCCI was clear about the

said, clarifying his position.

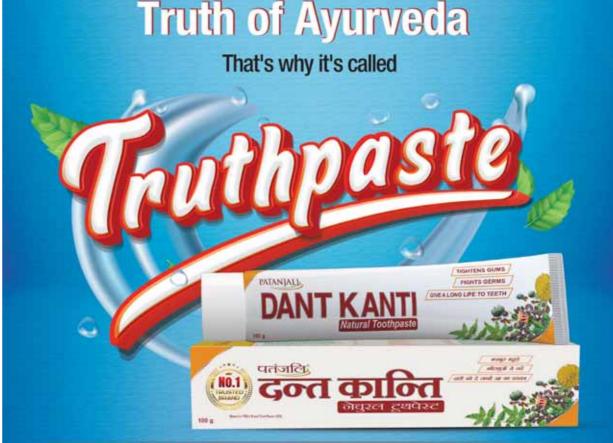
PATANJALI



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the power to fight cavities, foul smell, yellowness, pyorrhea and all other oral diseases.

India's Kiran George wins Indonesia Masters to grab second super 100 title

PTI MEDAN (INDONESIA)

 $\begin{array}{c} R \text{ ising Indian shuttler Kiran} \\ G \text{ George claimed his second} \\ \text{BWF World Tour super 100} \end{array}$ title, lifting the Indonesia Masters trophy with a hardfought straight game win over Japan's Koo Takahashi in men's singles final here on Sunday. The 23-year-old from

Kochi, who had won his maiden title at Odisha Open last year, beat the world No 82 Takahashi 21-19, 22-20 in a 56minute battle. "It is an excellent win, it is

about converting these chances and consistently playing well. Other players are young and equally good, so I'm quite pleased with him," Vimal Kumar, the director of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) and former chief national coach, told PTI.

"Now it is about not to relax but continue his preparation as he is travelling to Hong Kong. He has nothing to lose, so he should look to create

Kiran, who trains at PPBA in Bangalore, fell 1-4 behind at



slowly caught up with Takahashi at 8-8 before gaining a two-point lead at the interval. A tight fight ensued before the Indian jumped to an 18-15

Takahashi slowly reduced the deficit to 19-20 before the Indian sealed the opening game. After the change of sides, the duo once again

the start of the match but engaged in a close battle, moving together till 6-6 when Kiran slowly managed to move away16-11. Takahashi, however, kept breathing down his neck and managed to draw parity at 19-19.

But Kiran kept his nerves to convert his second game point after squandering the first.

On way to the final, the

world No 50 Kiran defeated veteran Tommy Sugiarto 23-21, 16-21, 21-8, while getting the better of Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul, Japan's Takuma Obayashi, Singapore's Jia Wei Joel Koh and Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu Kai in the earlier rounds.

"He has been playing well for a while now and I really feel Kiran, Mithun they are the next line of players. They needed to make a breakthrough by beating good players and it is a good sign that they are doing well," Vimal said. "I feel once the seniors like HS Prannoy and Kidambi Sriknath go out, they can be replaced by them.'

Kiran, son of former national champion George Thomas, had won the the Odisha Open and Polish Open, while finishing runner-up at Denmark Masters last year.

Kiran, who reached a career high ranking of No 43 in January this year, showed his prowess when he had defeated top Chinese players Shi Yuqi and Weng Hongyang at Thailand Open in May-June

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