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MODI CHANGES THE CLIMATE

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Urging 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. He also called for reforms 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 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.

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 infrastructure and Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) reforms. 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. "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 decisions in this direction 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 development," 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 human-centric 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.



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.

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.

A 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' experience

DEEPAK JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Apart 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 format. 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 artefacts 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 corridor started about six

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 format was sought from each

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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 prosperity," Modi said. He proposed a virtual G20 Summit by November end to take stock of the suggestions and

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 gavel to him. "The path that will take us from New Delhi to Rio de Janeiro will require a lot of dedication and commitment from everyone," Lula said. He said the Brazilian presidency will hold G20 meetings in cities in each of the five regions of the South American continent. 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 IMI," the Brazilian President said.

British PM Sunak, wife offer prayers at Akshardham

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

British Prime Minister Rishi 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 official. "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 Akshardham 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 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 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 darshan and puja this morning. 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 contributions to the world," Sunak said. "We see today in Britain these very same values and culture through the positive contributions the British Indian community makes to our coun-

try," he said. "I was honoured to have received the blessings of His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj conveyed to me this morning, and I understand that His Holiness is inaugurating another 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 also offered a model of the Akshardham temple as a gift. 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 said.

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 held. Calling the claim "exaggerated," 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 party pointed out that Rs 2,700 crores were spent build Bharat Mandapam to host world leaders for the G20 Summit and 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 water-logging. "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 DELHI

Delhi 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 perfection that it did," an official said. Responding to waterlogging at Bharat Mandapam due to overnight rainfall, the Raj Niwas said India Trade



Promotion Organisation (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 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 said. Similarly, the authorities swung into action to repair a water fountain that stopped working due to a choked nozzle, he added. "During the dinner hosted 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 underlined 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 said. 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 Index.

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 protocol. 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 AM. 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 the same day.

G20 leaders pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of participating in the concluding session of the G20 Summit, focussed on 'One Future', Prime Minister Narendra Modi led G20 leaders to Rajghat to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on a rain-drenched Sunday morning Sunday. 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 Babu Kutti. Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram which was his home 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, IMF head Kristalina Georgieva, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong were among the first to reach the venue this morning. 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 barefoot in a customary show of

respect. The leaders stood before wreaths placed around the memorial, which features an eternal flame and was draped with orange and yellow flowers marigold garlands. The Prime Minister was seen explaining to the leaders 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 Kishida, 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 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 24-hour 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 seven-day weekly forecast, along with light rain, the maximum and minimum temperatures on Monday are expected to hover around 34°C and 24°C, respectively. Humidity levels oscillated

between 86 per cent and 100 per cent. The 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 (NDMC) 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 included 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

In a shocking incident a 20-year-old youth was stabbed to death in a busy lane in Delhi's Sangam Vihar area on Saturday night. The Delhi Police has arrested eight juveniles 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.

Modi conveys concerns about anti-India activities to Trudeau

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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 conveyed 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 community in Canada and their places of worship," it said.

The nexus of such forces with organised crime, drug syndicates and human trafficking should be a concern for Canada as well. It is essential for the two countries to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shake hands during the G20 Summit in New Delhi on Sunday.

cooperate in dealing with such threats, the MEA said in a statement.

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 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 citizens," he said.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India'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 Guru and Vishwa Bandhu".

"The historic G20 Summit in New Delhi marks a historic milestone in bridging the global trust deficit and cultivating global trust and confidence," he said.

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



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and said he successfully demonstrated "Bharat's prowess as both a Vishwa Guru and Vishwa Bandhu".

Rahul hits out at BJP during interaction in Paris

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/LONDON

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 53-year-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 Sunday.

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



Rahul Gandhi on Sunday 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.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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. As it has been described, AI has 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



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.

India, France review bilateral ties during Modi, Macron talks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and France reviewed the entire 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 Modi and Macron discussed, assessed and reviewed the progress in bilateral relations since their last 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 the 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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral ties during their talks in New Delhi.

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

RAKESH SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Russia 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 world must be resolved 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 summit in many ways. It provides us a way forward to move ahead in many issues," he added.

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.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Sunday thanked India saying New Delhi played an important role in "preventing the West" from taking forward their approach on many issues, including Ukraine.

convince all the parties to agree to the workings 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 multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, and efforts to address crises as well as diplomacy and dialogue are critical."

"...We will unite in our endeavour to address the adverse impact of the war on the global economy and welcome all relevant and constructive initiatives," 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 force.

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

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ 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, according to sources.

In 2019 Lok Sabha poll



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday met former Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy to discuss seat-sharing for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Even 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 disappear under the most optimistic scenario of 1.5C of warming. However, if global heating



New research shows that even if the countries stick to goals set out in the Paris climate agreement, half the planet's glaciers will have melted by 2100.

'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 cataracts.

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.



The team, which included a 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.

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.

After reaching Ballia by 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

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 for installing four lifts and

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 also present.

Direct train to link Kashi, Somnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

For the convenience of passengers, the Railway administration 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-

gers to reach Somnath Jyotirlinga Temple and Gir National Park directly as their distances from Veraval railway station are 6.8 km and 63.7 km respectively. 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

pm. However, the regular 12946 Banaras-Veraval Express will depart from Banaras at 7.30 am on every Wednesday 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 pm 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 7.31 am, Ahmedabad at 9.15 am, Sarkhej at 10.36 am,

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 Sand Nodal Officer of Varanasi Division and Vindhya Division 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 skin 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 insemination. 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 scheme. The Additional Director of Varanasi Division Dr RK Singh, Chief Veterinary Officer Dr VK Singh and departmental officers from Ghazipur and Chandauli districts were also present in the meeting. DR GAURAV HON-

ORED: 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 Gaurav 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.

Deputy CM visits Prayagraj, inspects Sardar Patel Hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

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 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 world.



Deputy 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 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 is special vigil in Ghaziabad, Noida, Lucknow and Prayagraj. The campaign has also been

intensified in districts where malaria and dengue patients are 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. This hospital will soon become operational for patients. Doctors, pharmacists and other paramedical staff have been deployed here.

615 students awarded degrees at IIT-A convocation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

As 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 students that they have the unique opportunity to shape India into a "Soney Ki Chidiya 2.0". Mehta said the IT/BPM revolution that NASSCOM kickstarted in the late 1980s has brought us to the doorstep of a new revolution led by AI.

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 before.

"Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is already helping automate mundane tasks. AI 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, technology and connectivity have



come to be a key parameter to describe a generation. In any technology conversation today, the terms data science, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML) have become integral.

As electricity has transformed the way we live at one time, so has AI in the most recent times. We should of course note that advancements through AI need to be tempered with the wisdom and compassion of individual members driving the process, in the absence of these essential human qualities, AI by itself scares people and therefore it is important that while we contribute to the AI 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 IIIT-A has several initiatives, pro-

jects, 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 ECE 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, Riya 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

The Thana Samadhan 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 Chhill 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

Rajendra Prasad Srivastava and 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 POCOS Santosh Tripathi nine cases and Special Judge EC Act Vayu Nandan Mishra 12 cases.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Vasudhaiv kutumbakam

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

The 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 members 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 be 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!

PICTALK



Idols 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 Sheikdoms its military to defend them

Former 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 Yemeni 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 multinational 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 Pakistani 'establishment' (read, Military), the Pakistani Chief, General Asim Munir held a four-hour meeting with Pakistani businessmen! Confirming the



worst-kept secret of the Pakistani Military to be a 'State within a State', the Army Chief shared details about assurances given to him by the Saudi Arabian Prince, Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS), regarding investments up to \$25 billion via Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The surreal details shared by the Pakistani Chief included a specific request to set aside \$10 billion to tide over the depleted foreign exchange issues - and similarly so, with his meetings with United Arab Emirates rulers. As if on cue, he assured the audience of such largesse from other Sheikdoms like Qatar and Kuwait, additionally. Whether it was optimistic grandstanding or even genuinely confirmed investments towards the beleaguered Pakistanis, one thing is clear the only worthwhile thing that the Pakistani Army Chief can offer to these Sheikdoms in exchange, is even more enhanced security imperatives and guarantees.

Beyond a point, no amount of arms purchased by these Sheikdoms can replace boots on the ground. The rag-tag Yemeni Houthi militias had made a mockery of the multi-billion dollar worth of the supposedly impenetrable THAAD and Patriots systems, with their relatively crude

drones and rockets. Taking on the likes of Houthis or other groups inimical to these Sheikdoms 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 India is about \$69 billion). For these cash-flush Sheikdoms 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 Sheikdoms 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, Hezballah etc., all of which require conventional soldering responses on-ground. Such a quid pro quo will need the Pakistanis to overcome the hesitation of committing themselves to some sectarian issues e.g., they had earlier refused to commit troops to aid Saudis against Yemeni Houthis in 2015, fearing backlash in their backyard, given that 25% of Pakistanis, are Shias. The luxury of selec-

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 unpopular.

So, the Sheikdoms 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 'rupees', are pure diplomatese. Sheikdom money is the only money that comes without strings attached and everyone from General Asim Munir, the Sheikdoms, and even Washington DC, knows that. This arrangement will enable Islamabad to posit its religious diplomacy and duty confidently, yet potentially tide over its financial mess.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 tranquility.

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

TENNIS' GOLDEN ERA ENDS



The 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 level.

Although tennis enjoys popularity in India, there is currently a shortage of world-class 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.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

A MIXED BAG

Sir — I am writing to address the recent bypoll results, often described as "A Mixed Bag." It is important to exercise caution in drawing concrete conclusions from these results, as they were contested on entirely different issues compared to general elections. General elections, as we know are different.

However, it is worth noting that there 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, Dhurguri, 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: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Sanatan dharma: Where are we headed?



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

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

Things 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.



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.

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 DMKD in search of greener pastures, wanted to be more loyal than his masters and

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 ballooned 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 Karnataka has told the

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 them for money and materi-

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 State.

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)



FIRST COLUMN

SELF-CARE IS NOT SELFISH

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



SAKSHI SETHI

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 little free.

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 game 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 elaborate 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 well-being. 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 self-care. 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

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



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

The 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. In 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 the year 2023.

It 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 USA 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



'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 development, 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.



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

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

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

Ladakh is both a loved 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

for cattle and the dry waste is 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 overlooked is its gendered nature. It is widely established

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 managed by two male supervisors. One might assume that this division of labour is based 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.

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, may encounter certain health

challenges. These can manifest as symptoms such as eye irritation, itchininess, and respiratory issues akin to the common cold. Another issue that women face is discrimination about their regular engagement with waste. Additionally, female workers have reported experiencing rude behaviour from male taxi drivers while requesting that they dispose of waste properly. Some workers also experience mixed reactions 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

regions like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, etc. The administration has taken steps to integrate informal workers into the formal system under the Swachh Bharat Mission. However, it was not successful. The situation of informal workers is even more concerning, with no safety equipment, regular pay, social security, sanitation facilities, and formal recognition.

When asked about their 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 Dethon is a climate change activist from Ladakh; Charkha Features)

US President Biden opens Vietnam visit

AP ■ HANOI

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 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 their meeting at party headquarters. Biden and 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 Sunday. 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

taking place," Biden explained 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 limousine 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 persistent questions at home about being 80 years old and running for reelection next year. "You have many aged a day, and I would say you look even better than before," Trong said. "I would say every feature of you Mr President is complementing your image." Biden

chuckled in response. 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 possible." 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

Vietnam and other countries 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

AP ■ KYIV

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 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 disposed of it. Moscow has partially occupied Kherson and 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 Nigerian 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 ECOWAS. "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 Niger, 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 vehi-

Russia turning to old ally N Korea

AP ■ MOSCOW

After a year and a half of fighting 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 Russian army. 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 conflict 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 question."

Russian strikes kill 2 in Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

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 Thy 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 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 Capitol 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 particular. If signed into law by Governor Newsom, California would become the first State in the United States and the first jurisdiction 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 racial 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 protesters, 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. Hindu American 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 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



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 investigate allegations levelled

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

extremist group National 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 nearly 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.

UN envoy urges donor support for Syria

AP ■ DAMASCUS

The United Nations special 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 Daraa. 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 cent 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 years. The UN estimates that some 300,000 civilians died during the first decade of the uprising, while half of the pre-war 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-

ing to restart stalled talks to 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.

Operation to extract American researcher from cave advances

AP ■ TASELI PLATEAU (TURRKEY)

Rescue 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



doctors, paramedics and experienced cavers from across Europe setting up 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 extraction. "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 Ogrencek of the speleological federation previously said. The extraction is expected to take up to 10 days depending on his condition.

Gaza families waited for years to move into new homes

AP ■ GAZA CITY

Israeli 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-square-metre (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 Zorobos 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



how to apply for one, as Gaza's Hamas rulers and the rival, internationally recognised Palestinian Authority bicker over who will be in charge. "No one cares," said 31-year-old Mohammed Zorob, blaming both sides for the delays. "They are sitting under air conditioners with their children and they

don't care about us." The Zorobos are among an estimated 2,000 families, or roughly 12,000 people, whose homes have been destroyed in fighting with Israel in recent years, according to Gaza's Housing Ministry. An additional 90,000 people live in damaged homes that have not been repaired, it

said. A sputtering economy weakened by an Israeli-Egyptian blockade, Hamas' international isolation and a lack of funding from the fatigued international community have all combined to hinder reconstruction 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 semi-autonomous areas of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, even as it claims to be the legitimate international representative of both areas.

Moroccan villagers mourn destruction Maldives presidential runoff set for September 30

AP ■ MOULAY BRAHIM

The ground shook with a 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...

their rubble sliding down hills. "We felt a huge shake like it was doomsday," resident Ayoub Toudite said.



expectations with warnings 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 Ibrahim was severely damaged and appeared at risk of toppling if nudged by another tremor.

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.

Maldivians will return to the polls on Sept 30 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 Sunday.

Opposition in surprise lead but short of mark

AP ■ COLOMBO

Main opposition candidate Mohamed Muiz managed a surprise lead with more than 46% of votes, while the incumbent President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, who is seen as the favourite, got only 39%.

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.

trade — and China's influence — 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.

Drone attack kills at least 43 in Sudan's capital

AP ■ CAIRO

A drone attack Sunday on an open 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 country.

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.

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.

Pakistan soldier killed in shootout with militants

Islamabad (AP): A Pakistani 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.

Pakistani soldiers and 12 militants. Scores of trucks loaded with goods, many carrying perishable items including vegetables and fruits, were still lined up on both sides of the Torkham border point Sunday, waiting for the crossing to reopen.

जनसाधारण सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मुनि सम्बन्धित खसरा नम्बर- 358 व 494, स्थित ग्राम पक्की-जोख परसना लौनी तहसील व जिला गाजियाबाद के मासिक एवं काबिज है उक्त भूमि के क्रमशः मूल बेनाम पंजीकरण सं 563 दिनांक 21.09.1981 है।

Pakistani couple arrested on blasphemy charges

PTI ■ LAHORE

A Pakistani Christian couple has 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 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.

thrown the pages in the street. However, only Kiran and her husband have been booked under 295 B of PPC," he said. 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 five is stated to be critical. The officials said the bus carrying 60 passengers was overloaded.

Six killed, 50 hurt in bus accident in Pakistan's Punjab

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 others.

The accident took place in Sheikhpura, some 50 km from 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, Sheikhpura. 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'.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice. Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems). NIT No. E-File No: 6S-Efile167799-40. Name of Work and its location: Tender for "Turnkey contract for provision of refurbishment/MLR schedule of 40 Rajdhani (20 LWACCN, 17 LWACCW and 03 LWAFAC) LHB coaches at RCNK/SNP as per scope of work".

Table with columns: Loan No, Customer Name, Date of Loan, Overdue Amount, Branch Name. Includes entries for Amit Kumar, Nasim So Irshadali, Bibhuti Chandra Jha, Satyendra Singh Chandel, Ram Shree Namedev, Anju Devi, Chetan Prakash, Dusha Yadav, Sanjeev Kumar, Kausal Sindrala, Mahendra Pratap Singh, Sanavur So Alisher, Pawan Kumar, Puspaha Yadav, Mohd Imran, Vandra Do Desh, Sandeep Singh, Vikas Kumar, Ramsanehi Chintamani, Nagendra Kumar, Garun Kumar, Amit Kumar, Pradeep Kumar, Amit Kumar.

Oz, Indonesian forces take part in US-led combat drills

AP ■ BANYUWANGI

Thousands of soldiers from 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.

bat exercises in Banyuwangi, a coastal district in East Java province which began September 1. It will include live-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 overlaps with Beijing's unilaterally declared "nine-dash line" demarcating its claims there. Increased activities by

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 joint naval 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 Hawaii.

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

स्त्रीसमृद्ध पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर 19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.)

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (स्था-संशोधित) के तहत सर्वसौभाग्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि जिला - रायपुर के अंग्रेज तहसील में स्थित निम्नलिखित 09 चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन (11) मेसर्स धनुसूची लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो. श्री अनिल जयेश), ग्राम-धनुसूची, तहसील-आगरा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक- 818, 870 एवं 871 (नया 913, 926 एवं 927), कुल क्षेत्रफल - 1.19 हेक्टर में पूर्व से संचालित चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन क्षमता - 23,890 टन (9,556 घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (2) मेसर्स धनुसूची लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (महामाया मिन्सल पॉटेंट्स श्री विवेक अग्रवाल), ग्राम-धनुसूची, तहसील-आगरा, 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, कुल क्षेत्रफल 3.88 हेक्टर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन क्षमता 1,00,494 टन प्रतिवर्ष (3) मेसर्स धनुसूची लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो. श्री सुबोध शिवानी), ग्राम-धनुसूची, तहसील-आगरा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में खसरा क्रमांक- 915 एवं 916/1, कुल क्षेत्रफल - 3.18 हेक्टर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन क्षमता - 79,845 टन प्रतिवर्ष (4) मेसर्स धनुसूची लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री अशोक मलिक), ग्राम-धनुसूची, तहसील-आगरा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक- 705, 706 एवं 716 कुल क्षेत्रफल - 1.6 हेक्टर में पूर्व से संचालित चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन क्षमता 11,050 टन प्रतिवर्ष (5) मेसर्स धनुसूची लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री कमलेश अग्रवाल), ग्राम-धनुसूची तहसील - आगरा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक- 576 एवं 653 (पार्ट) कुल क्षेत्रफल 2.38 हेक्टर में पूर्व से संचालित चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन क्षमता - 1,12,670 टन (45,068 घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (6) मेसर्स नरदा लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो. श्री प्रकाश बनजारा), ग्राम-नरदा, तहसील - आगरा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक- 1972, 1980 एवं 1982 कुल क्षेत्रफल - 2.744 हेक्टर में पूर्व से संचालित चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन क्षमता 53,046,888 टन (21,218.75 घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (7) मेसर्स नरदा लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो. श्री अमय अग्रवाल), ग्राम-नरदा, तहसील-आगरा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक- 1960 एवं 1961/1, कुल क्षेत्रफल - 2.819 हेक्टर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन क्षमता 90,008 टन (36,003.2 घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (8) मेसर्स नरदा लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो. श्री अनुज बखानी), ग्राम-नरदा, तहसील-आगरा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक- 1948 एवं 1950 कुल क्षेत्रफल - 2 हेक्टर में पूर्व से संचालित चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन क्षमता 61,997 टन (24,798.8 घनमीटर) प्रतिवर्ष (9) मेसर्स नरदा लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री गुलशन नादेव), ग्राम-नरदा, तहसील - आगरा, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित पार्ट ऑफ खसरा क्रमांक- 1948 कुल क्षेत्रफल - 2.672 हेक्टर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (गोण खनिज) उखन क्षमता - 35,458 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय सवीकृत बावत सुनवाई दिनांक 11.10.2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से स्थान सामुदायिक भवन, ग्राम धनुसूची तहसील आगरा, जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.) में निजत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि :-

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

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



official said. "Now G20 leaders 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

take a call," the official said.

India has been pressing for a global regulation on cryptocurrencies to tackle tax evasion 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 are akin to gambling.

The official said it would be difficult for one country to ban cryptocurrencies and globally a consensus has to be reached that all countries follow the

"bare minimum" regulation that the IMF-FSB paper has outlined.

"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.

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 jurisdictions.

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 ecosystem.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



India'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 cross-country perspective, India's external debt position is better than most of the Low and

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," the minister noted.

The report said the debt service ratio during 2022-23 has increased marginally to 5.3 per cent from 5.2 per cent during the previous year, mainly due to a rise in debt service payments from USD 41.6 billion in 2021-22 to USD 49.2 billion in 2022-23. The 'debt service ratio' is measured by the proportion of 'gross debt ser-

vice payments' (both principal 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 March-end 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 added.

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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 April.

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 frictionless credit to farmers has helped reduce operational costs for lenders by more than 70 per cent, 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 festival.

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

customer acquisition with this model of lending. The platform 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, uncollateralised 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 Group.

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



to boost domestic manufacturing 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 exam-

ine some of the world's most pressing issues. Economist Impact uses a range of methodologies 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 global stage.

"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.

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Biofuel alliance can generate 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 countries.

The findings of the study assume significance as India is currently hosting the G20 leaders' 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 G20 partner in the next three years.

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 opined.

Netanyahu hails India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor

IMEC largest cooperation project in history: Israel PM

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Hailing 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 Delhi.

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



an ambitious project launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping, which has also drawn criticism about its debt sustainability, especially from smaller 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 Arabia.

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.

"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,

RBI to start Central Bank Digital Currency pilot for interbank transactions

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank is likely to launch the pilot of 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 banks.

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 System. PTI



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation 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 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 24,356.24 crore taking its valuation 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 5,20,706.48 crore.

Nations should pursue growth oriented reforms for faster recovery: IMF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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 Banks (MDBs). The International Monetary Fund



(IMF) has secured over USD 40 billion to support vulnerable countries through its Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) to build climate resilience, she said. Countries also need to

mobilise 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-

kets, she said. Observing that 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

new Global Sovereign Debt 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.

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

expect that something will 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.

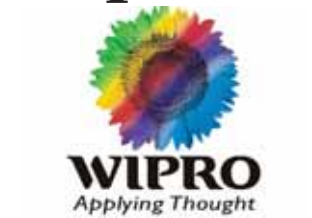
To build a prosperous future, Georgieva said the world needs to harness the potential of digital technology and India's achievement in developing top-tier digital public infrastructure (DPI) stands as a beacon for others. "More work lies ahead, including in the realm of digital money and crypto assets.

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 creditors".

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 manufacturer of 'LT/ HT Electric



panels' before the appellate 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 insolvency 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 of MV Panels. PTI

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

Coco 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.

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 background.

"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 people."

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 runner-up 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 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 anniversary 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 25-year-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 23,000-capacity 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 was on-target 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 off-target more, and the love was being showered only on one of them, the sport's newest Grand Slam champion.

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Sharma hangs in to stay in contention at Irish Open

PTI ■ KILDARE (IRELAND)

India's Shubhankar Sharma endured a testing mid-round crisis to salvage the day with a two-over 74 that kept him in 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 hole.

He trailed the leader Hurlly 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 two-time 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 shots on the 12th and the 13th. He birdied the 17th and closed at 74.

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 par 73.

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 Club, 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

Manju Rani outpunched Afghanistan's Sadia Bromand 3-0 in the final as India finished with nine gold and a silver medal in the 21st Mustafa 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 Shagolsheem 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 1-2.

In the men's 63kg category, Manish Kaushik dominated his bout, triumphing over Palestinian Mohammed Soud 3-0.

India's dominance continued in the men's 92kg category, where Naveen Kumar emerged victorious in a nail-biting 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 (FLORIDA)

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 points."

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

Spanish. "We are capable of winning any type of match. 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 evident 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 match.

Minjee Lee storms to 2-shot LPGA lead in Cincinnati

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Two-time major champion 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 three-putt 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



year. 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 16th.

Hull tried to keep pace with three birdies over his last six holes.

"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 my hands."

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

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.

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 20-year-old dropped one point in the opening round of their final clash, here late on Saturday.

Trailing 89-90 at the midway 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 shoot-off.

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

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 hat-trick of World Cup Final titles. Schloesser is a winner of four World Cup

Final' (2016, 2019, 2021 and 2022).

It was Jawkar's second win over the 'Mr Perfectionist' in four months. At the final of the Shanghai World Cup in May, Jawkar had prevailed over the

Dutch heavyweight 149-148. Schloesser, however, managed 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 second 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 147-150.

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

Punjab FC add four Indian players ahead of 2023-24

MOHALLI, SEP 10 (PTI)

Punjab FC has added four Indian players to their 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 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.

"The talented left-footed 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 has joined Punjab FC on one-year contract.

"He started his professional career at Chennai City before moving to NorthEast in October 2020," the release said.

Shereef has made 37 appearances 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

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Intermittent rain pushed the marquee Asia Cup clash between India and Pakistan to a reserve day here on Sunday. India were 147 for 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 Cricket 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

PTI ■ COLOMBO

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 wicket-keeping requires a lot of



keeping, squatting down every 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 gratitude towards the physios who guided him through the tough phase. "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 back." 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 quite clear that in terms of how I can get better from this injury was to go under the knife and do surgery. "When you are wicket-

Warner, Labuschagne hundreds set up another big Australia ODI win

AP ■ BLOEMFONTEIN (SOUTH AFRICA)

Quick-fire centuries by David Warner and Marcus 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 which Australia reached 102 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

in ODIs against 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 bowled by 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. Shamsi took 4-61. 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 opinion. However, one of his tweets on Saturday that caught attention was: "It takes one corrupt, arrogant 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 level." 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 of ire. "Nothing personal, just observation," Prasad told PTI when asked if it was meant towards any particular official. "So were you misinterpreted?" "100 percent. That (corrupt) I meant generally in all aspects of life. Be it airline industry, banking industry,

even IPL franchises have been banned as well. "Since in my other tweets, I had tweeted about tickets, it looked mixed up. My criticism for BCCI was clear about the ticketing and scheduling," he said, clarifying his position. Many in BCCI believe that since he hasn't been a part of system for sometime, he has been angry?"

India's Kiran George wins Indonesia Masters to grab second super 100 title

PTI ■ MEDAN (INDONESIA)

Rising Indian shuttler Kiran George claimed his second BWF World Tour super 100 title, lifting the Indonesia Masters trophy with a hard-fought 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 56-minute 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 upsets." Kiran, who trains at PPBA in Bangalore, fell 1-4 behind at



the start of the match but 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 lead. Takahashi slowly reduced the deficit to 19-20 before the Indian sealed the opening game. After the change of sides, the duo once again

engaged in a close battle, moving together till 6-6 when Kiran slowly managed to move away 16-11. 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 Srikanth 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 this year.

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