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WHAT IS IN A NAME,
AFTER ALL?

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DJOKOVIC WINS
US OPEN GRAND
SLAM TITLE
11 SPORT

INDIA EMBRACES ARAB

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Signaling warm and robust relations with Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said ties between India and Saudi Arabia are crucial for stability and welfare of the region and world. Describing the Arab nation as one of India's most important strategic partners, he also said both sides are adding new dimensions to the ties in tune with changing times.

These assertions were made after Prime Minister Modi on Monday reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations with Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

The two countries decided to expedite implementation of the USD 50 billion West Coast refinery project, and identified energy, defence, semiconductor and space as areas for intensified cooperation during talks between Prime Minister Modi and Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

The two leaders held the first meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council. The India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council was announced in 2019 with an aim to further increase cooperation in critical areas. The Saudi Arabia Crown Prince is on a State visit to India following the end of the G20 Summit.

Trade, economy, defence, and cultural cooperation were

the main topics of discussion between Prime Minister Modi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

"For India, Saudi Arabia counts as one of its closest and biggest strategic partners," Modi said. "India-Saudi Arabia partnership crucial for stability, welfare of region and world."

"We are adding a new dimension to our ties in tune with changing times. We have identified several initiatives to take our close partnership to the next level," he added.

The Prime Minister said he had "productive talks" with the Saudi Crown Prince. Both leaders discussed trade ties and the "immense" scope for bilateral cooperation in areas, including grid connectivity, renewable energy, food security and semiconductors.

"His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and I had very productive talks. We reviewed our trade ties and are confident that the commercial linkages between our nations will grow even further in the times to come. The scope for cooperation in grid connectivity, renewable energy, food security, semiconductors and supply chains is immense," he wrote on X.

The leaders assessed the progress of the two Ministerial committees of the Strategic Partnership Council, namely the "Political, Security, Social



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud during signing of minutes of the first meeting of India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday

and Cultural Cooperation Committee" and the "Economy and Investments Cooperation Committee".

They also discussed all aspects of bilateral relations, including political, security, defence, trade, economy, culture, and people-to-people ties.

Additionally, they discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Ahead of the talks, the Crown Prince was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. "I am very glad to be here in India. I want to congratulate India for the G20 Summit," Muhammad Bin Salman told reporters after the ceremonial welcome.

The Saudi leader said the announcements made at the summit will benefit the world. "We will work together to create a great future for both the

countries," he said. This is Prince Salman's second State visit to India.

Saudi Arabia is one of India's key strategic partners in West Asia.

The overall relations between the two countries have witnessed a significant upward

trajectory in the last few years.

The two sides have also been focusing on strengthening their defence and security partnership. Then Army Chief General M Naravane visited Saudi Arabia in December 2020 in the first-ever visit by a head of the 1.3 million-strong Army to the important Gulf nation. Since then, there have been a series of visits of high-ranking military officials between the two sides.

During the two-day G20 Summit in New Delhi, Saudi Arabia was one of the signatories to the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.

The initiative was jointly announced by Prime Minister Modi and the leaders of the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

"Yesterday, we made a decision to start a historic economic corridor between India, West Asia and Europe. This corridor will not only connect two countries but also help in providing economic growth, and digital connectivity between Asia, West Asia and Europe," Modi said.

Once completed, the project can serve as a modern-day Silk Road that functioned as the central trade route facilitating economic partnerships, political alliances, and cultural integration across conti-

nents. Prime Minister Modi also cited Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030" initiative, an all-encompassing nationwide reform programme launched in 2016 for the economic, cultural and architectural development of the West Asian country.

"Under your leadership and Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia has seen tremendous economic growth and I congratulate you for that," Modi said.

India and Saudi Arabia have a long history of cordial and cooperative relations, with extensive people-to-people ties. According to the Government data, bilateral trade between the two countries reached an all-time high of USD 52.75 billion in fiscal year 2022-23.

During his 2019 visit to Riyadh, Prime Minister Modi had said India and Saudi Arabia have a Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) that meets regularly and that the two countries have identified a number of areas of mutual interest and cooperation in the field of defence and security.

The two economic powerhouses are also major trading partners. India is Saudi Arabia's second-largest trading partner, while Saudi Arabia is India's fourth-largest. The two countries have a strong partnership in the energy sector, with India importing a significant amount of oil from Saudi Arabia.

Continued on Page 2



A deserted auto rickshaw stand outside Thane railway station during a 'bandh' called by Sakal Maratha Morcha to condemn the police action at a recent protest in Jalna over Maratha reservation in Thane on Monday

Marathi Manus Marathon

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra continued to reel under developments triggered by the protests demanding reservations to Maratha community on Monday, as one person was killed and eight others injured in clashes in Satara district over an "objectionable" social media post. Thane observed a total bandh against lathi-charge on agitators in Jalna district early this month.

On a day when Chief Minister Eknath Shinde convened an all-party meeting to evolve a solution to end the ongoing agitation demanding reservations for Marathas, the members of two communities in Satara clashed over "objectionable" post in social media on Sunday.

The clashes which took place in Pusesavali village of Khatao taluka on Sunday night sparked tension between the affected castes in Satara district, prompting the authorities to clamp prohibitory orders and suspend the internet services as a precautionary measure.

Satara's Superintendent of Police Samir Shaikh said that the situation was very much under control in the affected village and elsewhere in the district. "After a person put out an offensive post on social media at Pusesavali yesterday, the post was misunderstood by the people and it resulted in a law and order situation. We responded to the situation immediately and

brought it under control. We have deployed additional forces wherever required." Shaikh appealed to the people to remain alert and not to lend credence to the rumours floating around the place.

Though the "objectionable" post that sparked clashes in Pusesavali village had no direct link with the ongoing Maratha reservations agitation, it was posted by a member of a community participating in the agitation in the backdrop of reservations and the post reportedly carried a slur against another community member.

Meanwhile, Mumbai's satellite city of Thane observed a total bandh in protest against the police lathi-charge on the protesters demanding reservations to the Maratha community at Jalna in Marathwada region early this month.

All shops, business establishments and hotels remained closed at Thane, while auto rickshaws were off the roads as part of the bandh called by the Maratha Sakal Samaj. However, the Thane Municipal Transport buses operated normally.

In a related development, the hunger strike undertaken by Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj Jarange-Patil to demand Maratha reservations entered 14th day. To mount pressure on the state government, Patil went off water and medicines from Monday.

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DHARMA SANKAT

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

If the reaction of Hindus in Tamil Nadu towards the hate speech of the DMK leaders condemning Sanatana Dharma as everything from dengue to leprosy is any indication, a strong resentment is brewing up in the State against the Government led by MK Stalin, according to Sanatan Dharma activists like Arjun Sampath.

It all started with Stalin's son Udhayanidhi exhorting people to annihilate and abolish Sanatan Dharma which according to the latter was more contagious than Dengue, Malaria and Corona.

A Raja, former Union minister who shot into notoriety through the 2G spectrum case went one step further and said that the Sanatan Dharma was more dangerous than HIV and leprosy and should be banished from the Dravidian land once and for ever.

Political pundits in Tamil Nadu are baffled by the timing of Udhayanidhi Stalin's reported charges against the Sanatanis.

"There is nothing surprising in these charges against the Sanatan Dharma. The DMK has been telling the same for the last 100 years but the show goes on. I wish Stalin and his son focused more on governance than cakking go-

side of the Sanatanis," said R Rajagopalan, veteran political commentator.

CD Meyyappan, AICC leader, declined to make any observation about these statements by the father-son duo. "Till he called for the abolition of Sanatan Dharma, Udhayanidhi was known only in Tamil Nadu. Now he has become an international figure. But I am sure that the controversy will die a natural death in the next few days," said Meyyappan.

An interesting fact about the silence maintained by the Hindu monks in the State has come out. According to Arjun Sampath, president, Hindu Makkal Katchi, an organisation trying to get the temple doors opened up for all irrespective of caste and creed, the Aadheenams (Ashrams) in Tamil Nadu are afraid to react to the statements by the DMK leaders.

"All these ashrams are controlled by the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments and the minister in charge is Sekhar Babu, a Dravidian hothead. The pontiffs of these Mutts stand to lose their position if they antagonise the DMK," Sampath told *The Pioneer*.

The HMK founder also said that the move by entrepreneurs and industrialists in the

State have to be noticed with concern. "Many of them are planning to move out of Tamil Nadu. The mushrooming of industrial parts in the Tamil Nadu-Andhra Pradesh border is a signal that all is not well in Dravida Nadu," he said.

The monks are on a mission to convince the Sanatan believers that there is no Tamil Nadu without Sanatan Dharma. "The Tamil history, whether it be cultural, social or political history survives because of the contributions made by Shiva and Vishnu saints. The State wakes up everyday to the hymns composed by the 63 Saiva saints, collectively addressed as Nayanmaar and the 12 Vaishnava saints Alvars who composed Divya Prabhandam," said Sampath, who asked whether there was a day in the State which has not echoed with these devotional songs.

An observation made by the Madras High Court chief justice SV Gangapurvala and justice PD Audikesavulu on September 5 has come as a shocker to the DMK Government.

The First Bench termed the continuation of Senthil Balaji who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on charges of money laundering as a Constitutional travesty.

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Grandeur, diplomacy, and lasting legacy

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

India has not only come of age in holding mega events like G20 in magnificent style but also pulled it off with astute diplomacy to bring on board diverse groups within the grouping in forging consensus. India spent ₹4,100 crore for the G20 summit and in the process created a plethora of permanent assets and infrastructure in the national Capital.

Government sources said the Modi Government in a way also exhibited its financial prowess by spending the amount for the mega international historic event when compared to ₹364 crore in Indonesia last year. While Japan G20 spent ₹2,660 crore in 2019, Argentina hosted it at ₹931 crore in 2018 and in the year 2017 the G20 was held in Germany costing the Government ₹642 crore.

As per the official expenditure accessed by *The Pioneer*, the maximum cost of ₹3,600 crore was incurred by IPTO followed by Delhi Police ₹340 crore. Delhi's civic bodies like NDMC spent ₹60 crore, PWD utilised ₹45 crore, MCD ₹5 crore, DDA ₹18 crore, Forest



Department ₹16 crore and the MEA, MES together about ₹one crore. In the annual Budget 2023-24, the Government had allocated ₹990 crore for the G20 presidency.

Sources said security, among the most significant components of G20 preparations, was among the most prominent items on the list of expenditure in addition to the maintenance of roads, footpaths, street signage and lighting.

The money was spent on roads, security, footpaths and lighting, among several other things. Several sculptures have also been installed at various places in the national capital as part of the makeover process.

The maximum was spent by the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) to present a grandeur Bharat Mandapam in the premises of Pragati

Maidan. The newly built international convention and exhibition centre is a state-of-the-art complex and presents a picture of modernity but art and traditions of the country are also reflected in its design and architecture.

The "Summit Meeting Room" has all modern air-conditioning, acoustic and seating facilities but the heritage of India has been tastefully incorporated into its design. The welcome backdrop depicted the ancient Konark temple of Odisha with the G20 logo depicted on one side and the presidency's theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" — One Earth. One Family. One Future — on the other side.

A level above where President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Modi had greeted them before the ceremonial dinner, the backdrop had depicted the ancient Nalanda university ruins in Bihar. In the corridor next to it, a small statue of Nataraja is placed, while the 27-foot tall Nataraja made with ancient lost wax technique used for Chola bronzes, stands majestically in the verdant lawns, adding an artistic and divine touch.

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Sanchi India's first solar city

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ BHOPAL

The famed 3rd-century Buddhist Stupa land of Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh has become the first "solar city" in the country. The city, known for the Great Buddhist Stupa originally built by Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, the then Governor of Ujaini, is now connecting the ancient with the modern through solar light.

Ashoka, who was married to Devi, the daughter of a merchant from the nearby town of Vidisha, is known to have visited the Sanchi Buddhist site.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Sanchi

solar city, saying, "By becoming the country's first solar city, this historic place has shown the way to the world, much like Lord Buddha once did."

Engineers and site officials at Sanchi told *The Pioneer* that a 3 MW solar plant, which caters to the city's needs, is fully operational, and another plant with a capacity of 5 MW — to meet agriculture-related requirements — is under construction. The 3 MW plant has been built close to the UNESCO World Heritage site on a 5-hectare plot. The stupa, majestically overlooking the solar plant amidst lush greenery, stands tall in its height.

Once completed, Sanchi will produce more energy than



it consumes. The majority of the energy requirements of Sanchi city are planned to be met through ground-mounted solar panel projects.

Additionally, rooftop solar panels will be installed on residential and office buildings in Sanchi, including the Sanchi Railway station. Residents in

Sanchi are encouraged to use solar products such as solar study lamps, solar dryers, solar water heaters, or solar lanterns.

Officials have stated that electric vehicle charging stations will be set up to promote e-mobility in the town.

Furthermore, solar water kiosks will be installed at public places, and solar street lights will line the roads in the town. Solar trees will also be placed in common areas, offering free Wi-Fi, mobile charging, and space for community gatherings.

Close to the UNESCO-recognised World Heritage site, wind turbines are planned to be installed near the Stupa to harness wind energy. "Energy

floors" will be laid at the entry gate of the main Stupa to raise awareness about the availability and development of energy in various activities.

The project mentioned that hydro-electric power will continue to supply the city in parallel with solar power, which will soon become the primary source of light for the city.

Incidentally, India's first solar-powered village is Modhera in Gujarat, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October of last year. Sanchi Stupa, monasteries, temples, and pillars dating from the 3rd century BC to the 12th century AD were declared World Heritage sites by UNESCO in 1989.

Not an inch of Indian land occupied by China: Ladakh LG

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After pushing China to the margins of the G20 summit in New Delhi, India on Monday once again asserted its position along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by claiming that not even one square inch of Indian land has been occupied by China and that the armed forces are prepared to give "a bloody nose" to anyone engaging in any misadventure.

The categorical statement was made by Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brigadier (Retd) BD Mishra while talking to media persons at the North Tech Symposium at IIT Jammu near Nagrota on Monday.

When reporters asked a specific question about Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi's remark on China occupying a large chunk of land in Ladakh, Lt Governor Brig (Retd) BD Mishra maintained, "I will not comment on what Rahul Gandhi says, but I will say what I have seen with my own eyes, and the facts on the ground say that not a single inch of land has been occupied (by China)."

"Whatever happened in 1962 is immaterial. But today we are in occupation of our land to the last inch," he said.

Responding to reporters' queries, Brig (Retd) Mishra said, "Our armed forces are prepared for any eventuality, and God forbid if the balloon goes up, people will get a bloody nose from us."

He said the morale of troops is very very high. "Their intent is to defend every square inch of land.

Nobody can dare to come towards India with any design to have a foothold here. I think all the credit goes to great leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

At the symposium, Northern Army Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi also observed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh was "normal and very fine". As an army commander, the area I am guarding is our area, and I will not allow anyone to come on the Indian soil," he said when asked about Gandhi's recent statement.

The Northern Army Commander said the troops in the Northern Command are "always operationally prepared" and ready to take on



challenges on the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan, LAC with China and the counter-terrorist operations in the hinterland.

"Nearly 200 terrorists are waiting across the LoC to infiltrate and those attempting to infiltrate on this side are being eliminated by our alert troops on the border itself," the Northern Army Commander said.

Pointing out that Rashtriya Rifles have been doing a commendable job in counter-terrorist operations, he said this was why people say that normalcy is in the offing. When asked about the

spurt in terror activities in the Rajouri and Poonch districts on the South of Pir Panjal, he said though Pakistan is faced with economic and other problems, it tries to disturb peace wherever it finds it on this side of the border.

North Tech Symposium 2023, jointly organised by HQ Northern Comd, SIDM and IIT Jammu, was inaugurated by Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff.

A large number of companies and start-ups are showcasing their military equipment at the North Tech Symposium. It had active participation from nearly 180 Indian Defence companies, including 50 start-ups, which will showcase their military equipment with cutting-edge technologies at the Indian

Institute of Technology (IIT) campus on the outskirts of Jammu.

Speaking at the three-day event, Northern Army Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi said the army procured 256 indigenous items for defence and security needs at the last North Tech Symposium held in May 2022 and expects to acquire more equipment this time.

It is time for the industry and military to sit together to know about the requirements and each other. Last time when we carried out the North Tech Symposium, after that we procured 256 items," he added.

This time we are looking to acquire more equipment, he said, adding "The best part is that this time, the tech-

nological demonstrations are much better than last time".

The technologies and products on display covered a wide canvas, the prominent being, surveillance and situational awareness, tactical mobility, firepower, soldier/force protection, communications, combat medical facility, robotics, simulators and training aids among others.

Lt Governor of UT of Ladakh Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), Lt Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha, and Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan attended the symposium on Monday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army Chief General Manoj Pande are scheduled to visit the venue of the North Tech Symposium on Tuesday.

Premature to comment on 'One nation, one election': Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a subdued response to Imedia posers quite unusual of Mamata Banerjee, the Bengal Chief Minister on Monday said that her party MPs would prefer prayers at Rajghat if a "politically-guided" Delhi Police denied her party permission to hold dharna or sit-in demonstrations in the national Capital against the alleged Central deprivation of Bengal.

"If the Delhi Police does not give us permission to hold dharna in Delhi, then our MPs and MLAs will pray at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial at Rajghat because no one can prevent anyone from praying at Rajghat on October 2 ... we will pray for early release of the MNREGA funds and other dues so as to relieve the poor unpaid labourers of Bengal their hardships," Banerjee said alleging how the Centre owed several thousand crores to the State on account of MNREGA, Prime Minister's Housing Scheme etc.

"Delhi police is not our enemy, but they will not be able to give us permission to protest at Rajghat as that will be a political call... However, we can still go there to pray, that is always permissible," Banerjee whose nephew and TMC national general secretary Abhishek had earlier told a rally that he would lakhs of TMC supporters to Delhi and jam its streets so as to "snatch our rightful demands, said."

Referring to the special parliamentary session reportedly on the One Nation, One



Election proposal so fiercely being opposed by the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) of which the Chief Minister's party Trinamool Congress is an important constituent said, "They have called a session but it will not be fair for me to speak about that without first going through the Bill that is introduced ... let us first see the Bill ... then our party will decide on it." Banerjee had earlier been vehement on One Nation, One Election claiming how she had "information that they are trying to bring forward the general elections along with the State elections that may take place in the end of this year ..."

The Chief Minister had not only skipped a designated meeting called by Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahald Joshi but also she criticized the proposal saying it was not feasible in a country like India even that meant cutting down on election costs. She then said, "I agree too (on the expenses to hold polls). It (one nation, one election) may be applicable for local elections. But if you go for that and if tomorrow the central government falls then will the states and the central government go for

another election. Please be practical... it is not possible."

Her critics linked her comparatively subdued response to the central ways to the imminent summons sent by the ED to her nephew Abhishek Banerjee who is being probed for his alleged role in the recruitment and other scams.

On the BJP Government suddenly raking up the India-vs-Bharat issue barely a few months before the general elections the Chief Minister said that the Constitution provides for both the names "India that is Bharat" and it would be unconstitutional to use only Bharat without amending the Constitution.

The Chief Minister had been more vehement on the

issue even a few weeks ago when she said that the BJP was out on a name-changing spree ahead of the elections. Alleging that the BJP Government was behaving like Super Gods, Banerjee said "they are changing the history of the country ... they have gone on a name-changing spree ... they have changed the name of Mughal Sarai to Deen Dayal Upadhyay junction ... tomorrow they will change the name of Rabindranath Tagore also."

Referring to her subdued statements against the Centre, the Bengal Left and Congress leadership said that it was the product of the "G20 dinner at Presidential Palace... where she shared the same table with Amit Shah and Yogi Adityanath."

Naidu arrested without proof, claims Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday stood by Telugu Desam Party chief Chandrababu Naidu saying the former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister had been arrested without any proof. Likening Naidu's arrest to the "regular harassment" of her family members, including her nephew and Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee by the Enforcement Directorate, Banerjee said things were the acts of political vendetta and warned things could someday boomerang on them.

The junior Banerjee has been asked by the ED to appear before its officials on September 13 in relation to the

multi-crore recruitment scam case.

"Political differences and statements and counter-statements would continue but if you get to personal level it is bad ... My family members are being harassed regularly and Abhishek is made to run from district courts to the Supreme Court ... they have arrested Chandrababu Naidu without any proof I am told ... this is not good as you may not be in power for ever ... tomorrow some other government may come and things may boomerang on you," she said, adding how she had refused to take revenge on the Marxist leaders after the fall of the Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee Government in Bengal.

AI can be effective in detecting gall bladder cancer: PGIMER, IIT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Offering hope for earlier detection and improved outcomes for patients with gall bladder cancer (GBC), a study conducted by researchers from the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh and Delhi-based Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has found that Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be as effective as experienced radiologists in detecting the deadly disease.

The findings, published in The Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia journal, underscore the potential of AI in early cancer diagnosis, a significant breakthrough given the high mortality rate associated with GBC.

GBC is a highly aggressive malignancy with a poor detection and a high mortality rate. Early diagnosis is challenging because benign gallbladder lesions can have similar imaging features, the researchers



said.

The study used abdominal ultrasound data from patients with gallbladder lesions acquired between August 2019 and June 2021 at the PGIMER, a tertiary care hospital. A deep learning (DL) model was trained on a dataset of 233 patients, validated on 59 patients, and tested on 273 patients.

Deep learning is a method in AI that teaches computers to process data in a way that is inspired by the human brain.

The DL model's perfor-

mance was evaluated in terms of sensitivity, specificity, and the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC), which is widely used to measure the accuracy of diagnostic tests.

Two radiologists also independently reviewed the ultrasound images, and their diagnostic performance was compared to the DL model. In the test set, the DL model had a sensitivity of 92.3 per cent, specificity of 74.4 per cent, and an AUC of 0.887 for detecting GBC, which was comparable to both radiologists, according to the study.

The DL-based approach showed high sensitivity and AUC for detecting GBC in the presence of stones, contracted gallbladders, small lesion size (less than 10 mm), and neck lesions, which were also comparable to the radiologists, the researchers said.

The DL model exhibited higher sensitivity for detecting the mural thickening type of GBC compared to one of the radiologists, despite a reduced specificity, they said.

"The DL-based approach demonstrated diagnostic performance comparable to experienced radiologists in detecting GBC using ultrasound," the authors of the study noted.

The authors acknowledged some limitations of the study. The findings are based on a single-centre dataset, and multi-centre studies are needed for broader validation.

The study has a knowledge cutoff date in 2021, and subsequent developments in DL and GBC diagnosis may not be reflected, they added.

Ram temple will be inaugurated on January 22: Swami Nriya Gopal Das

PNS ■ ALIGARH

The long wait of 500 years for the Ram temple in Ayodhya is now over, said Shri Ram Jambhoomi Trust president Sant Nriya Gopal Das. The grand Ram temple will be inaugurated in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024.

He said the inauguration of the temple in the lifetime of people like him is like a dream come true.

On receiving information about Sant Nriya Gopal Das' arrival at industrialist

Satish Gaur's residence on ITI Road, a large number of people reached for his darshan.

Talking to the media, Nriya Gopal Das said, "We all were waiting for thousands of years for a grand temple of Lord Ram to be built in Ayodhya. There was a long struggle for this. But, we all worked with patience. Finally now that wait is about to end. The historic inauguration of the temple will take place on 22 January 2024 in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and five thousand saints. Everyone is happy about this."

However, owing to his poor health, he did not talk much and did not answer most of the questions put to him by the Press. After some time he went to meet the people and supporters. People took his blessings. Industrialist Satish Gaur said that his family was associated with Mahant Nriya Gopal Das since 1992. "It is our good fortune that we keep getting the blessings of Mahantji," he said. Many local leaders and BJP officials including MLC Dr. Manvendra Pratap Singh also reached the venue to see Mahant Nriya Gopal Das.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई
E-Procurement Tender Notice
Main Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
Bhilai/Dated:- 08/09/2023

J.P.N.P.N/ 235/307

Online tender is invited on behalf of the Municipal Corporation, Bhilai for the following work in Lump-sum for Contract from the contractors e-Procurement system portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>)

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Probable amount of contract (in lacs)	Earnest money (in lacs)	Completion period	Bidder and Issue date	Bidder's address	Call Form
1.	146968	A. Design, Construction, water tightness Testing, Commissioning of 04 No. of Overhead Service Reservoirs of Capacity 1500 KL to 3000 KL, staging height 21 m including 12 months trial run. B. Design & Construction of allied civil works such as Compound wall including Steel Main and wicket gates, Guard Rooms complete under Bhilai Municipal Corporation.	808.04 lacs	04.10 lacs	12 month	07/09/2023	29/09/2023	First call Lump sum

NOTE:-
1. For other details visit GoC e-Procurement System portal website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
2. Corrigendum Amendment if any will be displayed on above website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> only and it shall be part of tender document.
3. For more details please download NIT details.

डा. म. निरंजनराव चव्हेर गौरी पुत्रा सुभा करार को अलगा करार करार विना (निगम) को देना।
अधीन - यसका शर्त सर्तको संनिधन हे कि सकार्य न संदी/ककार को फोरो सोचकर
व्यवस्था पर में भेजे।
आधिकार का उपयोग को, पर्यवहार में नाना ओहो।

Executive Engineer

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Lakshmi Sharma W/o Lt. M. Gan Parkash Sharma is the owner of Property bearing No. A-49, area measuring 300 Sq. Yds., situated at Meerza Bagh, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, vide Reinstatement Deed dated 12.08.2022, reg. as Doc. No. 5615, to be financed & mortgaged by my client i.e. Axis Finance Limited. The Original Personal Use Deed dated 18.10.1998, reg. as Doc. No. 6673, and Conveyance Deed dated 22.01.1996, reg. as Doc. No. 264, pertaining to the aforesaid property have been lost and complaint bearing LR No. 889530/2023, was registered on 11.09.2023 with Delhi Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original documents, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 15 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

Raghav Tiwari, Advocate
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts,
New Delhi - 110001 Mob: +91-8076188328

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that initially Entire first floor, second floor (with roof rights) "said floor" of property bearing municipal no. 1000 to 1002, area measuring 80 sq. yds., (approx.), situated at Ward no. IV, Main Chawri Bazar, Delhi 110006, was owned by Mrs. Aparna Surti. Mr. Shree Dhar Sharma sold the said property to Mrs. Aparna Surti vide Sale Deed dated 20.02.2004, Doc no. 1017 and Now, Mrs. Aparna Surti is mortgaging the above said property with IndusInd Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhanwan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-IT, Tower, (R-08), Nestaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 8066707172/9818228636 (M).

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas
A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective successors, assigns, heirs). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rakesh Sharma/ Meera Sharma/ LBDEL0001496111	Flat No-40 D 3rd Floor, Lig, BLK-B-9, Udaygiri-II, Sec-34, Gautam Budha Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ Sep 08, 2023	April 18, 2023, Rs. 10,99,576/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : September 12, 2023
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
Secured Creditor

Trudeau scheduled to depart from India today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is now scheduled to depart from New Delhi sometime on Tuesday afternoon as his backup flight is scheduled to reach India during the wee hours of Tuesday. Trudeau's official plane was grounded shortly before the delegation's departure from the G20 Summit in New Delhi on Sunday.

Sources say the "earliest" departure for the Prime Minister and the Canadian delegation is late Tuesday afternoon.

During pre-flight checks, the Canadian Armed Forces grounded the CFC001 plane due to a technical issue that could not be fixed overnight. According to international news agencies, the Canada Department of National Defence (DND) said the maintenance problem involves a component that will have to be replaced.

Sources say that a technician with the part needed to fix the grounded plane is on a commercial flight to India on Tuesday morning.

Canada's CTV News reported that the prime minister and his delegation are stranded in Delhi due to a technical issue with the aircraft and that they are likely to



depart on Tuesday morning. "Upon our departure for the airport, we were made aware by the Canadian Armed Forces that CFC001 was experiencing technical issues," the channel quoted the statement from the prime minister's office as saying.

"These issues are not fixable overnight, our delegation will be staying in India until alternate arrangements are made," CTV News channel had said quoting a statement from Trudeau's office.

The CFC002 Polaris aircraft departed CFB Trenton for India on Sunday night via London. The Canada government's smaller Challenger jet is also in London and is able to fly to India if necessary. As per news agencies, it is not the first time the Airbus has caused problems for Trudeau and his delegation.

This is the latest issue with the 1980s-era aircraft, which has had a host of mechanical problems over the years.

INDIA... Marathi Manus...

From Page 1
The India-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council was established during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia in October 2019 as a mechanism to streamline and strengthen bilateral ties across diverse domains.

The council operates through two Ministerial committees focussed on political, security, social and cultural cooperation, and economic and investment cooperation, providing a structured framework to foster deeper collaboration and understanding between the two countries.

From Page 1
Jarange-Patil has been demanding that the Marathas be treated as OBCs and Government Resolution (GR) be published to that effect. He has been rooting for the implementation of the Maratha reservations within two months.

The all-party meeting called by the chief minister at 7 pm ran into rough weather as the Maharashtra government did not call the Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders for the meeting.

Leader of Opposition in the State Legislative Council Ambadas Danve of the Shiv

Sena took exception to the State government not inviting his party leaders to the all-party meeting. "I do not know what the Eknath Shinde government wants to achieve by not inviting the Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders to the all-party meeting. If anything, the state government is playing politics in dealing with matters relating to Maratha reservations," Danve said.

Danve said that along the lines of the Maratha community, the state government should consider reservations to the other backward classes in the Dhargar community.

From Page 1
Delhi cabinet ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj thanked the people of Delhi for making the G20 Summit a success and assured that the beautification of the national capital will continue. NDMC said it is contemplating deploying security guards to prevent vandalism or theft of assets like fountains and sculptures installed ahead of the G20 Summit.

"We will maintain the assets, including 65 fountains and nearly 20 sculptures, that were installed at prominent locations and roundabouts for the G20 Summit," NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay told The Pioneer.

DHARMA...

From Page 1
Balaji was the minister for power and excise in the Stalin cabinet but following his arrest by the ED, the Chief Minister took the portfolios held by the former and gave it to two of his acolytes.

Despite the order by Governor RN Ravi, Chief Minister Stalin has not dropped the tainted minister from the cabinet and this has put the government in a dilemma. The DMK's alliance partners say that charity should begin at home referring to the temple visits made by Stalin's wife Durga to all leading temples in South India praying for the success and well being of her husband and son Udhayanidhi. Durga had offered a gold headgear

wearing 32 sovereigns to Lord Krishna, the presiding deity of the famous Guruvayurappan Temple in Kerala on August 11. She also donated a state-of-the-art machine to grind sandalwood into paste at the temple. Her agents in Guruvayur Temple said that her prayers were for the elevation of Udhayanidhi as deputy Prime Minister after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. To queries about the rationalism propagated by the DMK, the agents retorted. "So what? That's for the party cadre".

Well, if anyone feels a resemblance to the words of George Orwell in Animal Farm that all animals are equals though some are more equal, it may be a strange coincidence.

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Grandeur, diplomacy...

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Lawyer found dead in Noida home; hubby arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after a 61-year-old Delhi High Court lawyer was found dead in her house on Sunday, the Noida police on Monday arrested the woman's husband from their residence in Sector 30 in connection with her murder.

According to the police, former Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Nitin Nath Sinha (62), the husband of Renu Sinha, was hiding in a storeroom on the first floor of the couple's house and charged him with the murder.

Nitin had strangled his wife Renu Sinha after a fight on Sunday morning allegedly due to a dispute between them over selling their house - currently valued at around Rs 4.5 crore, according to the police.

After the murder, Nitin hid himself in a small storeroom on the upper-floor of the two-storey house for more than 10 hours and his wife's body lay in a bathroom on the



ground floor.

The main gate of their property was locked with a chain from inside while police and the woman's brother kept searching for Sinha outside, officials said. Deputy Commissioner of Police

(Noida) Harish Chander said Ajay, the brother of Renu Sinha, had approached the local police, saying her phone went unanswered for two days and his brother-in-law was also missing. "A police team went to the house in Sector 30 and

broke open the chain of the main gate and further the door of the house in the presence of the woman lawyer's brother. Her body was found in the bathroom attached to her room," Chander said. "Her brother raised a strong suspi-

cion at Nitin's role behind the killing, saying the couple frequently had fights. After this an FIR was lodged on the basis of a written complaint from him and investigation launched," he said.

The DCP, flanked by his deputy Shakti Avasthy and area ACP Rajneesh Verma, told reporters that forensic experts, dog squad were called immediately in for probe at the spot, and the body then sent for postmortem.

He said inquiry from neighbours and the woman's brother gave an idea that Nitin was in Delhi's Lodhi Garden area in the afternoon. When approached on mobile phone, he told them that he would return in the evening. "However, after some time, around 3.30 pm his phone went off.

Thereafter with help of manual intelligence and surveillance, including analysis of CCTV footage from nearby areas, it appeared that Sinha did

not leave the building," Chander said. The search was once again focused inside the house and this time the upper floor intensively checked. The upper floor was earlier used by Nitin's mother who passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and has been unused ever since, he said.

"There were multiple rooms on the upper floor, most of them locked. They were broken open and ultimately Nitin was found hiding inside a store room which was attached to a room. He was found there around 1 am on Monday," the officer told reporters.

When taken into custody and questioned, Nitin confessed to having strangled his ailing wife after a heated dispute on Sunday morning, the police officer claimed.

Nitin, who took voluntary retirement from the IIS in 1998, revealed that while his wife's body lay in the bathroom on the ground floor, a proper-

ty broker visited him on Sunday noon.

"Nitin took the broker to the first floor of the house and showed him around. He told the broker that both the floors of the house are constructed in a similar fashion and that is why he did not take him to the ground floor but the upper floor," Chander said.

He wanted to sell this house he inherited from his parents but his wife was against him - the main reason for their frequent fights. His wife suffered from cancer and their son lives and works in the US, according to the police.

Nitin the police said, had already taken an advance of Rs 55 lakh from the broker for selling the property. Their domestic worker - who arrived daily for work at 8 am - did not come on Sunday.

She first called up Renu Sinha to inform that she would be taking an off and later called Nitin Sinha but both times the calls went unanswered, the

police said, confirming this as a "coincidence". The police said Nitin told them upon arrest that he was scared after his wife's death and did not know how to respond to the situation because of which he went and hid himself in the storeroom.

"He told police that he had planned to speak to his lawyer in the morning and then take the next step accordingly but got caught before that," an official said.

Renu Sinha's brother had raised suspicion that Nitin is a "well-connected" man and could flee the country as well. On the basis of this information, a Look Out Circular was issued against him and police teams also monitored the routes leading to Delhi airport and highways for Nepal border, the official added.

An FIR has been lodged against Sinha at the police station under Indian Penal Code section 302 (murder) and he was produced in a local court Monday evening.

Govt bans manufacture, sale, storage of crackers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has decided to reimpose the ban on the manufacturing, sale, storage and use of all kinds of firecrackers in the capital as part of an action plan to reduce pollution levels in winter.

There will also be a ban on online sale or delivery of firecrackers in the national Capital. The Delhi Government has been following the practice of banning all kinds of firecrackers for the last three years. The ban on firecrackers in Delhi will impact 15-20 per cent of the Sivakasi fireworks businesses this year.

Addressing a Press conference, Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said the Delhi Police will be issued strict directions to implement the ban in the city. "Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has decided to ban firecrackers on the occasion of Diwali to control pollution.

"The manufacturing, storage, sale, online delivery, and bursting of any type of firecrackers are completely prohibited in Delhi. The police in Delhi-NCR have been instructed to issue a circular on behalf



Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai addresses a Press conference on the ban on manufacturing and sale of firecrackers, in New Delhi on Monday

of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), stating that no licenses will be granted. Celebrating festivals is important, but equally important is caring for the environment. That's why we have made this decision in Delhi for the last two years, and the people of Delhi are supportive," Rai said. Diwali, will be celebrating on November 13 this year. Typically, during winter, in addition to vehicular emissions and industrial emissions, there are additional factors contributing to pollution, including dust storms, stubble

burning (crop fires), burning of solid fuels for heating, along with the use of firecrackers during Diwali.

He added: "This year, there is a fall in pollution levels in Delhi. PM10 levels have fallen compared to figures from 2014. There is a similar fall in PM2.5 levels as well. But considering the parameters of health, this situation is still not favourable. Therefore, we have decided to ban firecrackers this year too.

Delhi government has also appealed to neighbouring states to initiate similar ban on firecrackers. The Delhi government has been following the practice of banning all kinds of firecrackers for the last three years.

Rai mentioned the environmental challenges posed by Diwali celebrations. He noted that traditionally, the day after Diwali sees a significant spike in pollution levels due to firecracker usage. Despite the Supreme Court's decision in October 23, 2018, permitting only the use of green crackers during Diwali, people continued to use various types of firecrackers, leading to elevated pollution levels that year.

Delhi Govt hurting sentiments of Hindus, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP slammed the Arvind Kejriwal Government for reimposing a ban on firecrackers on Diwali and accused it of "hurting sentiments of Hindus". Delhi BJP demanded that the Government allow green crackers. The BJP leaders also alleged that the Government had failed to check air pollution in the city. The Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has opposed the ban on bursting crackers during Diwali for the third consecutive year. "Crackers that contribute to pollution should be restricted but permission should be granted for the use of green crackers. Diwali is not just a festival; it is deeply intertwined with the emotions of millions of Hindus," Bidhuri said in a

statement. There has been no scientific study so far proving that pollution increases due to bursting of crackers during Diwali, he claimed.

"The Delhi Government should not forget its responsibility to reduce pollution. Pollution around Diwali increases because the Government has failed to fulfil its responsibilities," said Bidhuri. He alleged that the Government was hurting the sentiments of Hindus.

Delhi BJP vice-president Kapil Mishra said it has been proved in the court and also by scientists that "firecrackers are not the source of pollution". In a post on X, he asserted that the people will not follow the ban on firecrackers. "It has been proved in the court that firecrackers are not the source of pollution," he claimed.

Govt will beautify, design 1,400 km of roads on lines of G20 makeover

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Arvind Kejriwal Government has decided to beautify, landscape and redesign 1,400 kilometres of roads under the Public Works Department on the lines of the makeover and beautification of roads during the G20 Summit. It has also decided to hire a maintenance agency to safe-keep the assets created during the G20 Summit.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi Cabinet Ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj thanked the people of Delhi for making the G20 Summit a success and assured that there were 1,400 kilometres of roads under the PWD and the Kejriwal Government would carry out beautification work, including decorative horticulture, on them.

"During the preparations for G20, many roads across the city were redesigned and beautified, landscaping was done in the city, and lights and fountains were installed at various spots. The key areas of Delhi were decorated, well-main-



Delhi Ministers Atishi Singh and Saurabh Bharadwaj address a press conference, in New Delhi on Monday

tained and beautified to welcome G20 guests from the world over. Following this success, the Delhi Government has decided to beautify other areas of the national Capital on the lines of key areas beautified during G20 Summit that wrapped up on Sunday," they said.

Atishi, who is also in charge of PWD, said that she held a meeting on Monday morning regarding the beautification work to be carried out in the national Capital. When asked about the measures being taken for the security of the assets created for the mega event, Atishi said, "We will hire

a maintenance agency for safe-keep of statues and fountains installed for the summit."

Atishi added, "Mechanical road sweeping and road washing was going on in a systematic way during the G20 Summit. This will continue now by MCD."

"If the need arises, Delhi Government will support them in buying more machines to keep Delhi clean. We will not wait for even a single day. I called a review meeting today (Monday) morning. From tomorrow, I will be on ground zero to review the areas where the beautification works will be carried out," she said.

LG approves setting up of mental health authority

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor DVK Saxena has approved setting up of the State Mental Health Authority, pointing out a delay of around five years on the part of the Delhi Government in constituting a panel for it. No immediate reaction was available from the Delhi Government over the allegation of delay in the constitution of the authority.

The Central Mental Health Care Act, 2017 mandates setting up of the State Mental Health Authority (SMHA) for the welfare of patients with mental illness.



The Act also mandates the authority to have independent domain experts, patient representatives, care givers and NGO apart from ex-officio government members. "Delhi is yet to have its SMHA. The Delhi government, under pressure from the Centre, finally moved a proposal to constitute Delhi

SMHA after a delay of 5 years, only with ex-officio members," Raj Niwas officials said.

The LG while giving approval to the proposal "slammed government apathy" in the matter and directed it to immediately initiate the process of appointing independent domain experts, representatives of patients and care givers, as well as NGOs to the authority, they said.

In his noting on the file for approval to SMHA, the LG pointed that the authority was to be set up within nine months of the enactment of Mental Health Care Act 2017 with nod by the President.

Student organisations urge JNU to start election process

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Several student organisations on Monday wrote to the JNU administration, seeking the commencement of the students union election process for the academic session 2023-24.

Noting that student union elections have not been held in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) after 2019, these organisations said that they "should not be deprived of the opportunity to contest".

A meeting was held on September 10 to discuss the issue and 16 student groups including the All India Students Association (AISA), NSUI and



AIDSO participated in it. "We have reached a unanimous consensus that the JNUSU elections should be held as per the norms laid out by the JNUSU constitution and the Lyngdoh Committee recommendations with a duly elected student Election Committee at the helm of the election process and without any inter-

ference from the administration," said the letter from these outfits to JNU's Dean of Students.

"We demand that the Dean of Students initiate and expedite the steps necessary for the commencement of the JNUSU election," it said. The entire election process should be completed under the aegis of a student-elected Election Committee, as laid out in the JNUSU constitution, it said.

"We demand that your office and administration do not interfere in the election process under any pretext that violates the JNUSU constitution," the letter read.

MCD will keep city clean; Delhiites need to help too: Mayor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Monday said that the city, which was beautified for the G20 Summit, should look beautiful throughout the year. Oberoi said while the MCD will work to keep the city clean, residents should also support the civic body in keeping it spotless.

"I want to thank the MCD officials and staffers who worked round-the-clock keeping the national Capital clean. I have seen that the MCD staffers were doing their work even late at night. I want to thank them for making this summit a success. As we were representing the whole nation, I want to thank Delhiites also for their cooperation with every department," she said.

"The MCD has made the national Capital clean and beautiful for G20. We expect the same from the citizens of the national Capital," Oberoi said. "It will be the responsibility of the MCD, its officers and staff to keep it clean, but the people of Delhi will always have to support us. We want that Delhi should remain clean



not only till the G20 summit, but it should look beautiful every year," she added. The AAP's MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said that all drains, parks and markets in Delhi will be thoroughly cleaned with the civic body monitoring the entire process.

Addressing a press conference, Pathak said that cleaning Delhi ahead of G20 Summit was a challenge and that a detailed report on various wards is being prepared to understand which area needs more attention.

"Cleanliness survey of 48 cities was done and Delhi was in the 47th place. So cleaning Delhi was a challenge," Pathak said. The AAP leader said the MCD will follow a systematic approach to carry out the cleanliness drive.

Day after G20, mandapam wears deserted look

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The newly-constructed Bharat Mandapam that was the centre of activity amid tight security during the just-concluded G20 Summit, wore a deserted look on Monday.

The Bharat Mandapam that boasts of graceful sandstone pillars, ornamental panels inspired from traditional 'jaalis', richly embroidered carpets and Rajasthani style friezes on the oval core of the ceiling, was the cynosure of all eyes on Monday, with authorised people clicked selfies and loitering around the area.

Many security personnel, other staff and some other authorised visitors were seen taking pictures inside the summit room, and also with the board 'Bharat' that was placed in front of India's chair during the G20 Summit. Several others took selfies with flags and the G20 backdrop in the summit room or the welcome backdrop



that was used on Saturday morning when Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted various world leaders just before the summit got underway. The welcome backdrop depicted the ancient Konark temple of Odisha with the G20 logo depicted on one side and the presidency's theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' — One Earth. One Family. One Future — on the other side.

The international convention and exhibition centre has a piece of India in its architecture and interiors. The Mandapam at Pragati Maidan is a state-of-the-art complex and displays a combination of modernity and art and traditions in its architectural design.

The Mandapam hosted the G20 Summit from September 9-10, but beyond limited visuals seen on television and the

internet during the mega event, the elaborate internal features of the new landmark remains a mystery for many as it is yet to be opened to the public. The 'Summit Meeting Room' has all modern air-conditioning, acoustic and seating facilities. However, the heritage of India has been inherently incorporated into its design.

Beneath the oval core of the ceiling of the summit room, are laid richly embroidered and colourful carpets surrounding modern digital screen panels. Next to the round table area, a creamish-colour carpet bearing floral embellishments adorns the floor. Sandstone, a common feature in old buildings in the national capital, from Shahjahanabad to the Raisina Hill complex, has been used in the pillars of the summit room, while ornamental panels inspired from traditional 'jaalis', present in Mughal-era buildings and monuments as well as

in palaces in various parts of India, punctuate the walls of the cavernous room.

Behind each of these panels is another fabric-based panel adorned with motifs of traditional Indian embroidery style, adding to the elegance of the room. Around the oval core of the ceiling, Rajasthani style friezes seen in palaces and havelis have been painted.

Potted Areca Palm plants and rich stocks of daises were added in the royal lounge just for the summit and millet-based snack and Indian coffee, among other items were on the menu for high tea arranged for them.

Outside the 'Summit Meeting Room' and 'Leaders Lounge' a huge hallway is currently hosting the 'Culture Corridor' — G20 Digital Museum' which was tailor-made just for the summit.

High wooden doors with leaf-style ornamental patterns on its outward side open into

the hallway where rare and rich artefacts sourced from all G20 members nations and invited countries are currently displayed as part of the one-of-its-kind project.

"The world leaders experienced the hospitality and heritage of India as also its embrace of modernity and its technological prowess, particularly the growth of the digital public infrastructure of India," G20 India Special Secretary Muktesh Pardeesi told a news agency. A level above where President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Modi had greeted them before the ceremonial dinner, the backdrop had depicted the ancient Nalanda university ruins in Bihar.

A small statue of Nataraja is placed, while the 27-foot tall Nataraja made with ancient lost wax technique used for Chhola bronzes, stands majestically in the verdant lawns, adding an artistic and divine touch.

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SC: Senior babus can be indicted sans prior nod

Apex court ruling on graft cases with retrospective effect from 2003

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Central Government officers of the level of Joint Secretary and above can be probed and prosecuted without prior nod of the authorities in corruption cases with retrospective effect from September 11, 2003, the Supreme Court held on Monday. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, in an unanimous verdict, ruled that its 2014 verdict, which had struck down a provision of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 providing immunity to such officers in graft cases, will have retrospective effect. The top court said the 2014 judgment will come into effect from September 11, 2003 when section 6(A) of the DSPE Act, which pertained to approval of

three questions to decide. "Whether section 6 (A) of the DSPE Act is part of procedure or it introduces a conviction or a sentence? Whether Article 20 (1) of the Constitution will have any bearing or relevance in the context of declaration of section 6 (A) of the DSPE Act as unconstitutional?" Justice Nath said. "The declaration of section 6 (A) of the DSPE Act as unconstitutional and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution would have a retrospective effect or would apply prospectively from the date of its declaration as unconstitutional?" he said while reading out the third question. Answering the questions, Justice Nath said section 6(A) of the DSPE Act is a part of the procedure only in the form of a protection to senior government servants and does not constitute any new offence or sentence. "Article 20 (1) of the Constitution has no applicability either to the validity or invalidity of section 6 (A) of the DSPE Act," he said. The bench had reserved its verdict on the issue on November 2 last year.

the Central Government to conduct inquiry or investigation, was inserted into the DSPE Act. In its May 2014 judgment, the apex court had held as invalid the section 6A(1) of the Act and observed that protection in section 6A has "propensity of shielding the corrupt". On Monday, the top court delivered its verdict on the issue of whether the striking down of the provision granting immunity would have a retrospective effect in view of rights protected under Article 20 of the Constitution. Article 20 of the Constitution provides for protection in respect of conviction for offences. "Declaration made by the constitution bench (in May 2014) in the case of Subramanian Swamy will have retrospective operation. Section 6(A) of the DSPE Act is held to be not in force from the date of its insertion, that is September 11, 2003," said the bench, which also comprised Justices Sanjay Khanna, AS Oka, Vikram Nath and K Maheshwari. While pronouncing the verdict, Justice Nath said the bench has framed

First coordination panel meet of INDIA to focus on campaigns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the coordination committee of the Opposition bloc INDIA on Wednesday will focus on finalising campaigns and rallies to be held in the coming days. The meeting of the 14-member coordination committee of Opposition parties, which is the top decision making body of the group, will be held at the residence of NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Delhi.

Over two dozen opposition parties have formed the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance unitedly in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. RJD Spokesperson Manoj Jha said the results of the recent bypolls in seven assembly seats in six states - of which the opposition won four and the BJP three - show that a narrative is getting built in favour of the INDIA bloc and this will be discussed at length.

"The meeting of the 13th is important, meetings of the different sub-groups have been held, like the social media committee, campaign committee, research committee, all have held their meetings. The deliberations held in these meetings will get a stamp of approval. A final shape will be given to the agenda, what would be the programmes, where the campaigns will be held, it will all be deliberated upon," said, Jha who represents RJD in the Rajya Sabha.

In the recently held by-polls, results for which were announced on Friday, INDIA bloc parties won four seats - Ghosi in Uttar Pradesh, Dumri in Jharkhand, West Bengal's Dhupguri and Kerala's Puthuppally - while the BJP won



two seats in Tripura and Bageshwar in Uttarakhand. In the Bageshwar Assembly seat, BJP candidate Parwati Dass defeated Basant Kumar of the Congress by a margin of 2,321 votes. Sources said as of now the meeting will avoid to deliberate on who face of the alliance for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "In 2004, the Shining India campaign fell apart... Was there any PM name, but we got Manmohan Singh who led the nation for 10 years, and gave one of the best governments... I often say you are not buying shampoo or soap. On one hand there is a party, where no one can speak against the prime minister, is this a good system? Or the system that the opposition is proposing - a first among equals kind of system is better? We are bringing a progressive alternative for the people," said Jha.

Experts hail India's G20 presidency

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Indian and Russian experts on Monday hailed India's G20 presidency where the voice of the Global South was dominant in subduing the hegemonic West that could not push its agenda, leading to a consensus on the controversy over the inclusion of the Ukraine issue in the New Delhi Declaration.

Through an online video bridge, the experts from New Delhi and Moscow discussed the outcomes of the Indian presidency of the G20.

They outlined as success the consensus pulled off by India despite a maximalist position on the Ukraine issue by the G7 led by the US on the one side and Russia and China on the other.

They also outlined India's leadership of the G20 forum and hailed the inclusion of the African Union in the grouping.

The Indian speakers included former ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, National Co-Convenor of Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) Professor Ashwani Mahajan and former

dean at School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Anuradha Chenoy.

The Russian speakers comprised Vice Rector of the National Research University Higher School of Economics and Sherpa of the Russian Federation in the "Women's Twenty (W20), Victoria Panova, Director of the Institute for Research in International Economic Relations and Professor of the Department of World Finance of the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, Victoria Perskaya and Chief Researcher of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Professor of the Department of Modern and Contemporary History of Asian African Countries, Moscow State Pedagogical University, Andrei Ostrovskii.

Khanna said India steered the whole world taking the leadership role as the voice of the Global South by including the African Union and also forged a consensus between the G7 countries and Russia and China on the other hand.

Even as PM flags up issue with Trudeau, Khalistanis hold referendum rally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TORONTO

Even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged the issue of "anti-India" activities by extremists elements in Canada during his talks with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, alleged Khalistani supporters organised a referendum rally in Surrey, British Columbia.

Incidentally, the rally was held on the same day on Sunday when Prime Minister Modi raised the issue with Prime Minister Trudeau on the sidelines of the G20 summit here.

Khalistani separatist and Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) founder Gurpatwant Singh Pannun made a public appearance at the referendum and delivered a speech hinting at 'balkanising' India. He was escorted by a team of security guards.

The referendum was earlier scheduled to be held at a Canadian government school but the permission was revoked after an uproar.

Prime Minister Modi on Sunday conveyed concern about "continuing anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada."

Modi told Trudeau that the extremist elements in Canada are "promoting secessionism and inciting violence against Indian diplomats, damaging diplomatic premises and threatening the Indian community and their places of worship," Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

"The nexus of such forces with organized crime, drug



syndicates and human trafficking should be a concern for Canada as well. It is essential for the two countries to cooperate in dealing with such threats," read a statement from the ministry.

The Prime Minister also mentioned that a relationship based on mutual respect and trust is essential for the progress of India-Canada relationship, the ministry said.

Trudeau, asked if Khalistan extremism and "foreign interference" was discussed at G20, said he discussed both issues with Prime Minister Narendra Modi multiple times "over the years".

Canada will always defend freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, and freedom of peaceful protest and it is extremely important to us. At the same time, we are always there to prevent violence and push back against hatred," he told reporters during an interaction.

"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. The flip side of it, we also highlighted the importance of respecting the rule of law and we did talk about foreign interference," he added.

Setback to Rajasthan Congress as Jat leader Mirdha joins BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a setback to the Congress in boll-bound Rajasthan, former Congress Member of Parliament Jyoti Mirdha joined the BJP here at the party's headquarters on Monday giving a boost to the BJP's Jat vote bank in the State.

Mirdha who hails from the Nagaur region of Rajasthan shifted to the BJP along with the fellow IPS-turned-politician Sawai Singh Choudhary in presence of the sate BJP president CP Joshi and party general secretary Arun Singh.

After joining the BJP, Mirdha accused the Congress of deviating from the path of nation-building and criticised the party for ignoring the leaders and party cadres.

Mirdha assured the BJP leadership that she would contribute towards the party's success in the upcoming Assembly elections and parliamentary elections.

She said that she would work to establish a strong government in the state of Rajasthan and would work towards ensuring a third term to the BJP at the centre.

Mirdha underlined that India has significantly progressed under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"With the joining of Jyoti Mirdha and Sawai Singh Choudhary, the BJP family has been strengthened further," BJP general secretary said welcoming the two leaders into the party fold.

"Jyoti Mirdha is a very popular leader," he said.



Mirdha, a doctor by profession, hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his crucial leadership. "I began as a Congress MP. The Prime Minister is giving a crucial leadership, India is making its name in the world, whereas the Congress is doing just the opposite to it. I had less opportunities there. The workers were overlooked in Rajasthan. The state of law and order is poor here. I will work to strengthen the party and contribute to nation-building," she said.

Mirdha a Jat leader, comes from an influential political family in Nagaur has been under the control of Congress for most of the time since independence. Her granddaughter was Nathuram Mirdha, a veteran Congress leader in western Rajasthan. Nathuram Mirdha had a long and distinguished political career, serving as a Member of Parliament six times and a Member of the Legislative Assembly four times.

Mirdha contested her first election in the year 2009 from Nagaur and won it.

However, in 2014, Mirdha lost the Lok Sabha elections to CR Chaudhary of the BJP during the Modi wave. In 2019 also, Mirdha again contested on Congress ticket from Nagaur but lost seat to Rashtriya Loktantrik Party chief Hanuman Beniwal.

Her joining BJP close to the assembly polls may impact the Jat votes in seven assembly seats in Nagaur and nearby jat-dominated constituencies in the state. The BJP is currently undertaking "Parivartan yatra" which have been flagged off in four divisions of the state.

While the ruling Congress, riven with factionalism, has a challenging task of retaining Rajasthan, the BJP is hoping that anti-incumbency may help it to wrest it from the Ashok Gehlot-led government. The state has the tradition of not repeating a party twice in the assembly polls.

Her joining BJP close to the assembly polls may impact the Jat votes in seven assembly seats in Nagaur and nearby jat-dominated constituencies in the state.

President Murmu to launch 'Ayushman Bhava' health campaign on September 13

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls slated next year, the Government will launch a mega two-week 'Seva Pakhwada' campaign in over 1,17,000 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) across the country to ensure optimum delivery of health schemes to every intended beneficiary, including those in the last mile. The programmes will be launched under the 'Ayushman Bhava' campaign of the Union Health Ministry by President Droupadi Murmu on September 13 virtually.

'Ayushman Bhava' is an umbrella campaign comprising three major components — Ayushman Ape Dwar 3.0, Ayushman Mela, and Ayushman Sabha — to be launched during the 15-day period, starting September 17.

"All the activities will start from September 17. Besides, Swachhta Abhiyaan, Organ Donation and Blood Donation campaigns will also be held during the proposed Sewa Pakhwada," said Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Health Minister.

Several welfare initiatives, including 'Ayushman Mela' and 'Ayushman Sabha' with Jan Bhagidari (public participation) will be undertaken by the Union Health Ministry across the country under 'Ayushman Bhava' for people belonging to economically weaker sections.

The Union Health Minister said that during the



programmes, which will continue till October 2, general awareness about health will be spread and the programmes being run by the central government in this direction will be implemented in mission mode.

Mandaviya said all block-level hospitals and medical colleges will organise health camps on their premises. He informed further that in line with the Ayushman Bhava campaign, an Ayushman Mela will be organised "where all the poor, and middle-class people will be diagnosed and treated".

"If any patient needs tertiary care, he will be taken to the respective medical college and provided treatment," he said, adding that over the fortnight, "Swacchta Abhiyaan" (cleanliness drive) will be also run at healthcare institutions across the country including hospitals and dispensaries, among others.

He said that along with conducting a 'Gaan Sabha' in all rural areas, the campaign will eventually ensure Gram/Nagar Panchayat attain the status of 'Ayushman Gram Panchayat' or 'Ayushman Urban Ward' with saturation of selected health indicators.

SG urges SC's intervention in curbing stray dog menace

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta on Monday told the Supreme Court that the menace of stray dogs was getting worse by the day and needed urgent intervention of the apex court. The SG's response came when Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud noticed the banded hand of a lawyer and enquired about his well-being. The lawyer told the CJ that he was attacked by five stray dogs in his neighbourhood.

The CJ then asked him if he had got any medical treatment for the wound, and directed the registry officials to provide all medical help to the counsel. Mehta, who was appearing in some other case, intervened and cited the recent case of a Ghaziabad teenager who died of rabies infection after being bitten by stray dogs.

"This is a serious menace. Recently, a video surfaced where a child was bitten by a stray dog in Uttar Pradesh. Usually, we don't take much care. It was a heart-wrenching video. Once rabies developed, he was taken to hospital. The doctor said nothing could be done. The child was dying in his father's lap. The helplessness of the father was visible," said Mehta terming the incident as "heart wrenching".

The CJ recalled another incident and said, "Two years ago, my law clerk was parking his car and he was also attacked by street dogs." Justice PS Narasimha, who was part of the bench, said, "This is becoming a menace."

AI-backed tool TTPs developed by IIT to fight online frauds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A unique AI-backed cyber-crime investigator tool TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures)-has been developed to aid the police in its fight against online attacks targeting humans, like insurance fraud, online matrimonial fraud and so on.

Scientists from I-hub NTI-HAC foundation (c3ihub) at IIT Kanpur with support from Department of Science and Technology (DST) have developed the tool which has cyber-crime investigation framework that can help in tracking and classifying cybercrimes identifying chain of evidences required to solve the case and in mapping evidences onto the framework to convict criminals.

With advancing technology, cyber scammers are also following new ways to target people and real money. Some of the common cyber frauds include identity theft, phishing scams, credit card fraud, romance scams, investment



fraud and more. According to reports, cybercrime incidents cause one crore/day loss in many states. Mostly, women, aged and poor people are targeted resulting in loss of entire life savings.

Usually, it has been noted that the number of cybercrime investigations has been significantly lesser than the number of cybercrime reports in India. "The investigation of such cybercrimes depends on the FIR narratives by the victims who usually have extremely low cyber literacy. Hence their narratives frequently mislead or distract investigators. Victims frequently do not maintain

contact after reporting the incident, which makes tracking the crime even more difficult," explained an official from the DST.

The investigator will extract key points from the victim's FIR, provide sufficient information on the reported cybercrime to categorize it systematically and exhaustively, indicate the steps to follow based on pre-existing crime paths, map evidence to the steps taken to decide the following step and finally conclude and convict criminals.

No comprehensive framework exists for cybercrime incident response till now.

HC directs Delhi Govt to disclose measures taken to rehabilitate rescued child beggars

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the Delhi State Government to disclose the steps taken to rehabilitate children who have been rescued after being found begging on streets. The High Court also asked the State Government to file a status report with information on children in conflict with law rescued by the authorities and housed in various rehabilitation centres.

"The Government of NCT of Delhi is also directed to file a detailed status report within six weeks providing information regarding children in conflict with law rescued by the government and housed in various rehabilitation centres, steps taken by the government for rehabilitation of such children and an assessment of long-term impact of such centres upon children in its care," a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula said.



The High Court, hearing a public interest litigation seeking eradication of begging by children here, earlier issued notices to the Centre, Delhi Government and the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR). The petitioner contended that despite the implementation of various schemes and programmes undertaken by various agencies, commissions and Government bodies, the issue of child begging remains widespread in Delhi.

The High Court said it becomes crucial to examine

the impact of various rehabilitation measures in light of the persistence of this grave social issue. The bench listed the matter for further hearing on October 13. The Court had in August 2022 directed the Centre, city government and DCPCR to disclose the steps taken by them to rescue and rehabilitate children begging on Delhi streets.

Petitioner Ajay Gautam has sought directions to authorities to rehabilitate children who are beggars and to identify and arrest persons who are "pushing women using toddlers, teenage girls and small children into begging and...Crime" and exploiting young girls. He has alleged that in spite of the presence of beggars in every part of the city, the authorities have failed to take any remedial steps to curb the menace. "Everyone knows that begging mafia is actively behind this menace of begging by the children and they in fact kidnap, train, force and torture innocent children for begging," the petition stated.

Interim protection to four Editors Guild members extended

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday extended till September 15 the protection from coercive action it has granted to four members of the Editors Guild of India (EGI) in connection with two FIRs lodged against them, and sought the view of the Manipur government on whether to transfer their plea for quashing the FIRs and other relief to the Delhi High Court for adjudication. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra observed orally as to how FIRs were lodged on the basis of a report of the fact-finding committee of the EGI when the four were not

involved in criminal activities on the ground.

The apex court said it was not inclined to quash the FIRs and was mulling whether their plea can be transferred to the Delhi High Court or the Manipur High Court should take it up. The court decided to hear the matter on September 15. The journalists have sought the quashing of the FIRs against them and protection from any coercive action by the Manipur police. The bench also took note of the submissions of senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Shyam Divan, appearing for the journalists' body, that the EGI members had undertaken the fact-finding study in pursuance of a letter written by the Army on July 12.

AD (Health) inaugurates second IMI 5.0 phase

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Additional Director (Health), Varanasi Division, Dr Manjula Singh inaugurated the second phase of Intensified Mission Inradhanush (IMI) 5.0 from the regular vaccination booth located at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay (DDU) Government Hospital here on Monday. On the occasion, he administered polio drops to the children. Many children were also given vaccinations including measles-rubella (MR) at the booth. Apart from this, the second phase was also started at all the eight block level CHCs/PHCs and other health centres.

Dr Manjula said that IMI 5.0 has been started to immunise children up to five years of age and pregnant women who are missed due to some reason in the regular vaccination campaign. The second phase of the campaign started on Monday. This phase will continue till September 16. She appealed to the family members to motivate the family members around their houses to go to PHCs/CHCs to get their children up to five years of age vaccinated. "If any child is left out, make sure to get him vaccinated. All vaccines are completely safe. Normal fever may occur after vaccination but there is no need to panic. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) have been created to deal with serious situations or adverse effects," she



AD (Health) Dr Manjula Singh inaugurating second phase of IMI 5.0 at DDU Hospital in Varanasi on Monday.

added. Chief Medical Superintendent of the hospital, Dr Digvijay Singh and Additional Chief Medical Officer (Immunisation), Dr AK Maurya also administered polio drops to the children. Dr AK Maurya said that IMI 5.0, 17,476 children up to five years of age and 3,333 pregnant women of the district have been targeted for vaccination. For this, a total of 1,753 vaccination sessions will be organised in the

district. In the first phase, 94 per cent children and 97 per cent pregnant women were vaccinated in the district against the target. In the campaign, children will mainly be vaccinated against MR. Also, the pregnant woman will be vaccinated against tetanus-diphtheria (TD). When given to a pregnant woman, this vaccine protects her from tetanus and diphtheria. Along with this, children are vaccinated to protect against 11 diseases which include diphtheria,

whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis (TB), hepatitis B, meningitis, pneumonia, Haemophilus influenzae type B infection, diarrhoea, rotavirus and measles rubella (MR). She said that the third phase of IMI 5.0 will run from October 9 to 14. On the occasion, DHEIO Hariyansh Yadav, Pradeep Vishwakarma and Dr Shahid from UNICEF, SMO Dr Shriram Swami and Dr Satrupa from WHO, ANM Vartika and other health workers were present.

Mauritius PM visits Kashi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After taking part in the G-20 Summit in New Delhi, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth arrived in this holy city on a two-day visit on Monday. He visited Dashashwamedh Ghat, along with his family, where the rituals were performed for the peace of the soul of his late father-in-law. Riding on a big boat carrying pind-daan, the visiting Mauritius Premier immersed the ashes into the sacred water in the midstream of river Ganga in front of Manikarnika Ghat as per the Hindu tradition amidst the chanting of mantras.

Earlier, when Pravind Jugnauth landed at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Babatpur, he was welcomed by the UP Minister for Labour and Employment Anil Rajbhar on behalf of the state government. Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma and senior district and police officers were also present.

In view of the visit of Mauritius PM, elaborate security arrangements were made at all the places he was scheduled to visit during the day.



Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth being welcomed at a hotel by DC KR Sharma in Varanasi on Monday.

Apart from the police personnel from Varanasi Police Commissionerate, 10 IPS from outside, five ASPs, eight Deputy SPs, five inspectors, 40 men and women sub-inspectors, 200 constables and head constables and three companies of PAC personnel have been deployed at different places.

Tight security arrangements were made at river Ganga, when the Mauritius PM visited there.

Last time, Pravind Jugnauth visited the city to attend the Pravasi Bharatiya Day Conference held in January 2019. He also visited Kashi Vishwanath and other

temples at that time apart from visiting, along with his country's delegates, to Prayag to take a holy dip at Sangam, confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and invisible Saraswati during Kumbh. Mauritius Prime Minister will visit airport on Tuesday morning and then go to Mumbai.

Banarasi sarees ready to attract buyers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The local weavers and artisans are working hard to make their unique Banarasi saree, handicraft and other traditional products ready for the upcoming UP International Trade Show, scheduled to be held at Greater Noida from September 21 to 25. The trade show will not only be important for Kashi but for the entire state as through the display of their products, the entrepreneurs will attract the attention of the whole world as the buyers will see the skills and modern products of the traditional artisans. As many as 31 entrepreneurs associated with 'One District One Product' (ODOP), Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) from Varanasi have registered to take their product on the international platform.

Deputy Commissioner (Industries), Varanasi, Mohan Sharma said that for this trade show, a total of 31 entrepreneurs including 24 handicrafts ODOP, four MSME which include wood, stone carving and silk industries and three exporters from carpet industry and Banarasi silk saree have registered with the Industries department. He said that many types of facilities and concessions are being provided by the government for the trade show



as per the rules. According to him, the state government is providing an international platform to entrepreneurs related to ODOP, Geographical Identification (GI) products and other products. Sharma said that Varanasi products are ready to make a splash in the trade show. Banarasi silk brocade businessmen Taj Ahmed is making special weavings to bring the country's culture on the international platform with the help of loom. "The ghats of Kashi, Nandi, Trishul and the verse of 'Matribhumi Vandana' in Sanskrit have been specially woven on the Banarasi saree," said Taj Ahmed, praising the Yogi government for providing him international markets. "We're making special preparations for the trade show," he said.

Deep Mala Rai said that we are taking various products made from jute and cloth to the international trade show, which are mostly prepared by women. "There are immense possibilities from this trade show. Due to the policies of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, we will move out of the market of Purvanchal (eastern UP) and reach the markets of the country and abroad," he said. Kunj Bihari, national awardee craftsman of Gulabi (pink) Meenakari and Dwarika Prasad, state award winner artisan of soft stone undercut, said that with the help of Yogi government, the craftsmen are getting international market, due to which the vanishing heritage of Banarasi is being kept alive as well as the artisans and weavers are getting a big global market.

Another entrepreneur

Chaturvedi working as senior professor at Faculty of Dental Sciences, Institute of Medical Science (IMS) in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has been selected for fellowship of National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) for the year 2023. The NAMS is a non-constitutional, non-statutory advisory body to the government in matters related to National Health Policy and Planning and as a promoting agency for continuing medical education (CME) for medical and health professionals.

This fellowship will be provided on the basis of research work, patent, academic work and other social work related to medical fields and will be provided by NAMS every year to a few medical scientists. The fellowship will be provided to Dr Chaturvedi on October 7 at Bengaluru at the NAMS. Dr Chaturvedi was promoted recently as senior professor at BHU.

He enlisted in the top 2 percent scientist list of the world prepared by Stanford University, USA for 2021 and 2022. He got two patents for work on orthodontic materials. He published more than 120 research publications, three books and chapters of books which were cited approximately 1,800 times till date by national and international journals.

Three arrested for murder plot

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The police arrested those who had planned to kill advocate Chhviraj Kumari with the 'supari' (contract) amount and two country-made pistols. The murder plot was hatched by the nephew of the advocate who had hired killers to eliminate his aunt. Property dispute is the reason behind this murder plot.

The Shankargarh police and the trans-Yamuna SOG arrested three persons, including the supari killer, and recovered from Rs 1.50 lakh in cash, two pistols, live cartridges, mobile phones and a bike. All the three have been sent to jail.

On an information that a supari killer is being contacted by some people to kill an advocate, the police team raided Shankargarh railway station where the money was being handed over to a history-sheeter. Buddhiraj Singh alias Raj Singh of Kohadiya village under Shankargarh police station, Rohit Kesarvani of Jari Bazar Kaundhiyara and 'supari' killer Bhumiraj Singh of Diha Uparhaa Karchhana have been arrested by the police in this connection.

Reports said there is a dispute over 35 bighas of land

between Kamlakar Singh and his sister Chhviraj Kumari, who is an advocate and lives in Prayagraj. It is alleged that the woman advocate and one of her brothers Ratnakar did not agree to hand over the above land to Kamlakar Singh. The son of Kamlakar, Buddhiraj, decided to eliminate his aunt. He discussed the matter with his friend Rohit Kesarwani and they decided to hire a 'supari' killer.

They approached gangster Bhumiraj Singh and the contract killer demanded Rs 2 lakh. An advance payment of Rs 50,000 was made to ensure execution of the plan, but the killer refused to do the job till the full payment was made. To pay the remaining amount they planned to meet at the Shankargarh railway station, but the police got information about it and arrested them.

KILLED: A man allegedly killed his brother in a dispute over land in Pachdevra village under Nawabganj police station. The police arrested the accused, Subhash Kesarwani, in this connection. The deceased Prakash was the third among five brothers. One of his brothers, Subhash, lived next to his house and often had disputes

regarding distribution and share. Late at night Subhash was getting the railing of his roof made. The wall moved an inch towards Prakash's side. This led to a dispute between the two families. Within a short while a verbal duel turned into scuffle between both the sides. Prakash was allegedly pushed by Subhash and he died after falling down. His sons also suffered serious injuries in the fight. The police admitted the injured to a private hospital.

The deceased Prakash was into soda drink business. His sons Saurabh and Abhishek are currently studying. The family survived on this business. Apart from the two sons, his wife Bindu and daughter Kavita are also in the family.

Nawabganj police station incharge Anoop Singh said on the complaint given by deceased Prakash's son Abhishek, a report has been filed against Subhash and his sons, Aman, Suraj and his mother Manju Kesarwani. Subhash has been detained for interrogation. The other accused are being searched.

Meanwhile in the case of Kuldeep Sharma (20) of Jari Bazaar in the Kaundhiara police station area, who was

killed after allegedly being pushed into the Tons river in Kheri police station area a case of murder has been registered against seven named persons and many unknown people on the complaint by his family members. However, no arrest was made in the case. The police are raiding places for arrest of the accused. Kheri police station incharge Dharendra Singh said a case has been registered on the complaint of the family members of the deceased. The search for the accused is on. All the accused are absconding. Strict action will be taken against them soon.

THEFT: The thieves decamped with 'shivaling' from a temple in Khushhal Parvat locality in Atarsuiya police station area. They also took away the copper snake god. The residents of the locality filed a complaint with the police. The police reached the spot and started investigation. The CCTV footage is being scrutinised.

Inspector Atarsuiya Vinod Yadav, who reached the spot, said a complaint to this effect was received. He said that the 'shivaling' is missing. The police teams are scanning the CCTV footage.

Body of driver found hanging in bus

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The body of a roadways bus driver was found hanging in a bus at the Zero Road bus depot here on Monday.

A contract driver of Banda depot, Ved Prakash was under depression, said his colleagues. He took a bus from Banda to Prayagraj Zero Road depot. The passengers and conductor deboarded the bus when it reached its destination, but the driver stayed here and later allegedly hanged himself in the bus itself. The conductor of another bus saw the driver hanging and raised an alarm. The officials also reached the spot and the police were informed. The brother-in-law of the driver Lavlesh informed the police that Ved Prakash was under tension as he was on contract and officers had allegedly been demanding money to extend it. His wife gave some money but the demand was high and he was unable to fulfil it. The police are

investigating the case.

BUSTED: The Special Task Force (STF) on Monday busted a gang of inter-state liquor smugglers. They used to transport liquor from Punjab and Haryana to Bihar via Uttar Pradesh. The STF stopped a truck which was hiding 631 cartons of liquor worth Rs 90 lakh. The three persons arrested are Gurpreet Singh, Krishna, and Ashu.

CONCLUDES: The sniffer dogs of Railway Protection Force (RPF) Bruno, Jansi and Rambo bagged the first position in their respective categories in the three-day Inter-Zonal Railway RPF Dog Competition that ended at North Central Railway (NCR), Subedarganj, on Sunday evening. The best performers will be trained further for participating in the All India Police Duty Meet to be held in Lucknow in March-April 2024.

NCR General Manager (GM) Satish Kumar presented trophy to the winners and

announced cash reward of Rs 1.30 lakh for the RPF and ITBP Band.

As many as 60 sniffer dogs from 16 zone RPF participated in this competition. The participants in tracker category were 21, 25 in explosive detection category and 14 in narcotics detection category.

Jansi of Southern Railway (SR) claimed first position on tracking event, Bravo of East Central Railway (ECR) was adjudged first in the explosive category, while Rambo of South Western Railway (SWR) bagged first position in the narcotics category.

A cultural programme and Badakhana was organised in the auditorium of RPF Zonal Training Centre here. Amiya Nandan Amin, IG-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PCSC)/RPF, NCR graced the event. M Suresh, Chief Security Commissioner/RPF, NCR and senior divisional security commissioners of Prayagraj and

Agra also took part in the event. All team managers, handlers and support handlers from 16 zonal Railways participated in the programme. Altogether 60 selected RPF dogs took part in the competition. The best performing dogs will be shortlisted and further trained before taking part in the All India Police Duty Meet which is tentatively scheduled to be held in Lucknow. A cultural show was put up by RPF personnel of NCR under the supervision of Jagmeet Singh Chawla, Staff Officer to PCSC/RPF, NCR. Talented singers and performers of RPF from all three divisions of NCR presented different shows. Famous songs of legendary film actor Dev Anand were presented as a tribute to the legend on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary this month. Mementos were presented to all team managers from different zonal Railways by the chief guest and other dignitaries.

COMMUNICABLE & MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES

Launch special drive in hotspot areas: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

For better health care against communicable and mosquito-borne diseases, a meeting was organised under the chairmanship of District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam here on Sunday. The District Magistrate, while giving necessary guidelines, instructed the Health department to launch a special campaign in hotspot areas.

"Every year in April, July and October, special campaigns are conducted with inter-departmental coordination for effective control of communicable diseases. Along with government efforts, public participation is also important in this," he said, adding that a hotspot situation should not be created anywhere in the district. "If such a situation exists anywhere, all the concerned officers

should personally inspect it and availability of medicines should be ensured in all government hospitals and health centres.

The District Magistrate said that there must be regular reporting of new patients in all government and private hospitals and medical colleges.

He directed the Nagar Swasthya Ashikari that if a situation of water-logging and filth arises in vacant plots, then action should be taken against their owners by issuing notices etc as per rules. "The paramedics posted in PHCs/CHCs and other hospitals should provide their services regularly. Urban Development, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj departments should conduct fogging and anti-larvae spraying for effective control of mosquito regularly," he

said, seeking information from the Chief Medical Superintendents (CMS) about the services being provided to the patients coming to the hospitals.

The District Magistrate directed that sensitisation and other activities regarding communicable diseases should be conducted in all the schools and colleges. "In view of the rains, the drains should be properly de-silted. There is a great need for cleanliness in settlements. Regular fogging should also be done here. Supply of pure drinking water should be ensured," he instructed.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary gave information about the work done so far in the communicable disease control campaign and the investigations etc in hospitals. He also gave information

about preventive actions being taken in schools. He said that with the help of the Nagar Nigam (Municipal Corporation) team, the work of spraying and fogging was started from the Government Girls Inter College (GGIC) at Fatman Road in the urban area on Sunday and the campaign would be run in all private and government schools.

The meeting was also attended by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, SICs, Chief Medical Superintendents, Deputy Chief Medical Officers, Additional Chief Medical Officers, nodal officers, superintendents and medical officers and senior officers of Health, Panchayati Raj and other departments along with Nagar Nigam were present in the meeting.

Blood donation camp organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A blood donation camp organised by the Vindhya Dham chapter of Bharat Vikas Parishad on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion Dr Neeraj Tripathi said blood donation is an incomparable contribution to the society. President of the organisation Indu Gupta expressed satisfaction over awareness among the youth about the noble cause. She thanked Dr CB Jaiswal and Dr Mridula Jaiswal for their cooperation and members Rajendra Agrawal, Ashutosh Soni and others for their efforts for the success of the camp. The programme started with the Vande Mataram song and ended with the honouring of the blood donors. The programme was conducted by Shankar Roy in which Dr JK Jaiswal and others

were present.

'KALASH YATRA': Block pramukh Rajgarh Gajendra Singh while addressing a programme organised in Bhagautidevi village under Rajgarh block on Sunday as chief guest said in order to instil spirit of nationalism and connect people with Amrit Mahotsav the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' programme has been undertaken by the government. He appealed to people to be connected with the drive. He said the soil of each house from the entire country is being collected and it will be put in the park known as 'Amrit Vatika' which was to be constructed in Delhi. On the occasion a 'kalash yatra' was taken out and the pitcher was filled with soil and 'akshat' (rice) collected from the houses. The procession was led by

Gajendra Singh and hundreds of people participated in it.

COUPLES REUNITE: Under the Project Milan programme six couples reunited through the Family Counselling Centre (FCC) located at Police Lines on Sunday. The said couples were living separately due to misunderstanding over trivial issues and the case was brought to the police which referred it to the FCC. After different sittings the couple agreed to live together. Incharge of the centre sub-inspector Shashi Tiwari, constable Pinki Jaiswal and counsellor Dr Krishna Singh along with the other were present during the counselling.

CLAIM: Uttar Pradesh Minister for Fisheries Dr Sanjay Nishad while addressing the media at City Club on Sunday claimed that Modi and Yogi

governments are committed to the betterment of fishermen. He alleged that the earlier governments had dwarfed the community but now different schemes had been introduced by the government for empowering it.

Giving details about the schemes he said apart from training courses a welfare fund had been made which will help fishermen in promoting their traditional business. He further claimed that in the upcoming parliamentary elections NDA will win more than 300 seats and Narendra Modi will retain the post of PM. Earlier the minister addressed a training camp held for the fishermen and appealed to become skilled, avail the facilities of the government schemes and increase per capita income.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Way to go!

The G20 Summit has been a resounding success and Modi is being hailed globally

The two-day G20 Summit in New Delhi is over and the delegates have returned with fond memories to their respective countries. Right from the management to the outcome, the impressions of the Delhi Summit would be stamped for long on their hearts and souls. Delhi's master handling of the mega event has drawn widespread acclaim from world leaders and international observers. This Summit marked a significant milestone in global diplomacy and cooperation as leaders from the world's largest economies gathered together at the Bharat Mandapam to address pressing global challenges and explore fresher opportunities for collaboration. Delhi's deft management of the mega event has highlighted India's growing role and influence on the global stage. The Summit's agenda was far-reaching, addressing critical issues such as climate change, economic recovery, trade and global security. Living up to its reputation and expectations, India made the Summit truly inclusive and sensitive towards leaders from developing countries. Not only did the Summit add Africa to its fold, it also succeeded in building consensus on many hot-button and prickly issues. India's persuasion of and commitment to the organisation saw the adoption of Delhi Declaration with full consensus. Earlier, there were doubts — especially about the "Ukraine paras" — since both Russia and China had reservations on it. It was a real threat after the Bali Summit, where the US and the European countries insisted on harshly criticising Russia for the Ukraine war, though India had maintained a fine balance even then.



World leaders have unanimously praised India for the Summit's meticulous planning and seamless execution. From state-of-the-art facilities to world-class hospitality, India left no stone unturned to ensure that the Summit was a big success. The choice of New Delhi as the host city showcased India's capabilities and commitment to multilateralism. With India's G20 presidency ensuring several tangible outcomes, virtually the whole world is hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "decisive leadership" and for championing the voice of the Global South. The participating leaders noted that India's message of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" had a strong resonance. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stated: "Under India's leadership, we have demonstrated that we can come together, at a time when it really matters." US President Joe Biden said: "The African Union is a critical partner. You (Modi) are bringing us together, keeping us together, reminding us that we have the capacity to tackle challenges together." While Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida hailed Modi for providing "great leadership" to the G20, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called for strengthening G20 cooperation based on "the foundation created by the Indian presidency". Aply, Modi had wrapped up the conclave with a prayer for peace: 'Swasti Astu Vishwa' (May there be hope and peace in the whole world).

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PICTALK



Devotees offer prayers on the occasion Urs of Sultan-ul-Arifeen Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom, in Srinagar

Unlocking MSME potential with G20

G20's trade and finance synergy can fortify India's economic backbone. It can help MSMEs plug into global supply chains and tap international markets

The future is looking bright for India's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Often called the 'engine of growth', MSMEs contribute to over 30% of India's GDP and are the second-largest employment generators after agriculture. Despite their paramount importance, MSMEs face a wide array of challenges, from regulatory tangles to financial constraints. The answer to boosting this vital sector may lie in harmonising global trade facilitation measures with more accessible finance options, as laid out by G20 initiatives.



significant challenges faced by MSMEs. Traditional banking systems are often insufficient for their needs, particularly for smaller enterprises. The G20's trade and finance synergy can facilitate smoother linkages with foreign capital markets. Initiatives could include bilateral agreements that make it easier for MSMEs to access foreign venture capital or special MSME-focused funds that invest in promising startups and medium-sized enterprises in India. The integration with foreign capital markets not only eases the liquidity crunch but also exposes these businesses to international best practices. **Ease of Doing Business:** The ease of doing business is often a litmus test for the health of MSMEs in any economy. G20 initiatives that simplify global trade can be adapted to ease domestic regulations as well. For instance, single-window

systems for all regulatory clearances can significantly speed up the time it takes to start a new business. Tax reforms, simplified registration processes, and quicker dispute-resolution mechanisms can drastically improve the operational efficiency of MSMEs. A business-friendly environment will make Indian MSMEs more competitive globally, fitting perfectly into the G20's larger framework of fostering global trade and economic development. **Strengthening Global Trade:** At a time when the world is grappling with increasing protectionism and strained relations between major economic players, India finds itself in an advantageous position to effect real change within the G20 framework. Owing to its standing in the World Trade Organisation and experience in brokering deals on contentious issues like agriculture and intellectual property, India has a genuine opportunity to guide the G20 toward a trading system that is equitable. **Increased Access to Technology:** The G20's tech-driven approach to modern-

izing trade offers a roadmap for Indian MSMEs. Adopting cutting-edge technologies like ERP systems or advanced manufacturing solutions through international partnerships can elevate MSMEs from followers to leaders in innovation. Specialized training programs can help integrate these technologies, making MSMEs more efficient and globally competitive. **Partnerships for Success:** Collaborations between various stakeholders—including government bodies, financial institutions, and trade organizations—could cultivate a vibrant ecosystem that allows MSMEs to flourish. In India, public-private partnerships have already begun showing positive outcomes, with pilot projects reducing MSME loan processing times by as much as 25%. G20's influence in shaping global policy gives it a unique vantage point. It can help Indian MSMEs acquire foreign technology and skills. Such integration would enhance the competitiveness of Indian MSMEs and make them global champions. (The author is Founder and CEO of Red Fort Capital)



PARRY SINGH

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What is in a name, after all?

Changing names have their pros and cons but the question we must ask is: Would this change have a significant impact on people's lives?

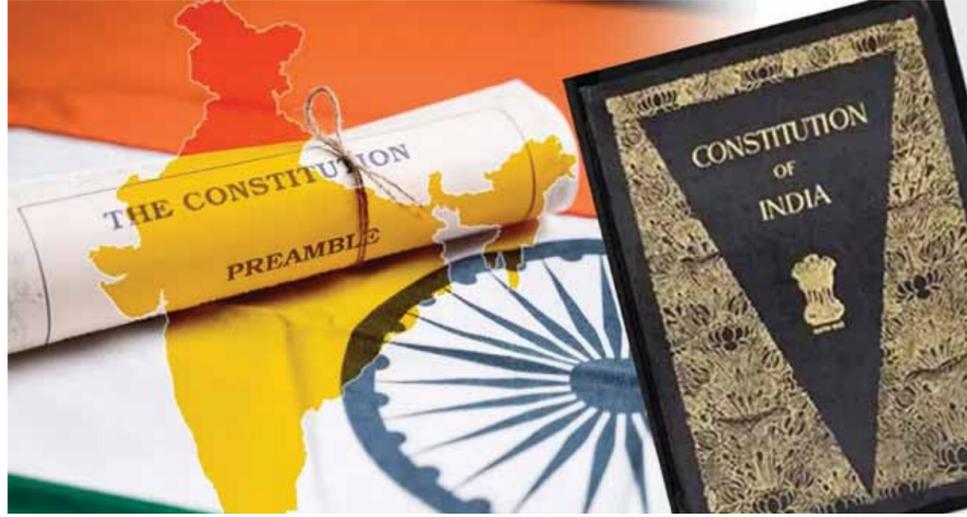
The well-known quote from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name, would smell as sweet," is frequently referenced about name change. It is true of the ongoing debate about India's official name change to Bharat. Regardless of the title employed, it remains the same nation.

The country currently has two names. The Indian government now officially recognises the English name "India" for global use and the Hindi name 'Bharat' for use within the country. Is it necessary for India to alter its official name to Bharat? Would this change have a significant impact on people's lives? People are often used to the old name like Chennai continues to be called Madras and Mumbai as Bombay.

The RSS, the ideological parent of the BJP, has always insisted on calling the country Bharat. "At times, we use India so those who speak English will understand. But we must stop using this. The name of the country Bharat will remain Bharat wherever you go," RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said recently.

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, recently hosted a dinner for G20 world leaders. During the event, she called herself the "President of Bharat" instead of "President of India." Similarly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to himself as the "Prime Minister of Bharat" during his recent trip to Indonesia. These actions have led some people to believe the government may consider changing the country's name. A special Parliament session has been announced from September 18 to 22, which suggests that a Bill proposing the name change may be introduced soon. Implementing such a measure could have both domestic and global repercussions.

In 1949, the Constitution makers discussed the name of the new country. Various options, including 'Bharat', 'Hindustan', 'Hind', 'Bharatbhum', and 'Bharatvarsh', were considered. Finally,



they agreed that "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States," the country's official name as stated in Article 1(1) of the Indian Constitution.

The term "Bharat" is associated with promoting Hindu identity as a part of a broader ideological framework. It originates from the Hindu scriptures and refers to the Indian subcontinent. This term can be traced back to the Puranas and the Mahabharata, where a well-known king named 'Bharat' played a significant role. Although Greek historians and European colonizers commonly referred to India as "India," the term "Bharat" has a rich history deeply rooted in Hindu mythology.

It's not uncommon for names of people, streets, cities, and countries to change due to factors like governments or geopolitics. For example, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Iran have all undergone name changes. Even many Indian cities, like Allahabad (now Prayagraj), Bombay (now Mumbai), and Madras (now Chennai), have had their names changed. The BJ. has renamed various cities and places associated with the Mughal and colonial periods. For instance, the Mughal Garden at the Rashtrapati

CHANGING A NAME HAS ITS PROS AND CONS. POLITICALLY, SOME SPECULATE THAT THE NAME CHANGE WAS AN ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN THE NEW OPPOSITION GROUP, INDIA

Bhavan was renamed Amrit Udyan.

Changing a name has its pros and cons. Politically, some speculate that the name change was an attempt to weaken the new Opposition group, INDIA.

The Opposition argues that India is a globally recognised democratic, secular and diverse nation that encompasses its modern history and reminds us of its struggle for independence from British colonial rule.

In the past, there have been failed attempts to change the name through legislation. Shantaram Naik, a member of Congress, introduced two private member Bills in Parliament in 2010 and 2012, calling for only Bharat as the official name. Yogi Adityanath, the current chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, also supported the proposal as an MP. He suggested that "India that is Bharat" should be replaced with "Bharat which is Hindustan. In 2015, the Chief Justice of India, TS Thakur, declined the proposals when the court considered the issue. In 2020, the court dismissed a similar case. The court stated that the country's triumphant synonym is Bharat, and Hindustan is its home name." Bharat

is where we dream, and Hindustan is where we live," the court interpreted.

It's worth noting that changing a country's name is a bigger deal than renaming streets and cities. The Modi government is hurrying to name change, but it will likely be smooth. The Bill needs approval from Parliament's special session from September 18 to 22 before the states can ratify it. A two-thirds majority vote in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is necessary to pass.

The approval process is expected to be smooth, thanks to the NDA majority. Secondly, The United Nations must accept the name change as the country is known as the Republic of India. But this will be fine, as media reports say the UN will agree. Step three will be taking care of practical matters like updating official documents, currency, and international agreements is essential. Then, you can move on to the remaining steps. In any case, it is known as Bharat Sarkar in Hindi records. Also, if the name change happens, Modi will be the first Prime Minister of Bharat.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA: THE BHARAT CONNECTION

Sir — Article 01 of the Constitution declares that India, also known as Bharat, shall be a union of states. The recent controversy surrounding the mention of "Bharat" during the G20 summit dinner has escalated into a national issue. Politicizing this matter just before the forthcoming general elections would do more harm than good. After all, what's in a name, as the saying goes?

The term "India" is often associated with the British, but this couldn't be further from the truth. Some link it to the Persian or Greek influence, stemming from the inability to pronounce "Sindhu," meaning river—a geographical term used for those residing along the sacred river. According to the Puranas, Bharat was a country stretching from the Himalayas in the north to the oceans in the south.

The ancestors of the Pandavas and Kauravas were known as Bharatas. In fact, the term finds its origins in the Rig Veda when the king of the Bharata clan emerged victorious in the Battle of Ten Kings. Even the son of the first Jain tirthankar, Rishabhadeva, bore the title of Bharata.

Changing names doesn't alter the character or nature of society. We have renamed cities and roads before, but whether inward change is perceptible remains a matter of debate. While there's nothing wrong with altering colonial legacies, it should not be a means to polarize one section of society against another. What truly matters is a nation's actions and commitment to the growth and development of its citizens, not its name. Is it a sign of a progressive society to consider external things as alien or impure and internal things as pure?

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

BY-POLL RESULTS

Sir — The Indian National Development, Inclusive Alliance team has secured victory in four constituencies, while the NDA, led by the BJP, has won three in the recent by-elections across six states in India. This marks a promising beginning, especially

India Shines at G20



In a moment of extreme honor and pride from a national perspective, India played host to the 18th edition of the G20 summit. New Delhi was adorned with exquisite masterpieces, from infrastructure to basic facilities. This G20 summit not only presented us with an opportunity but also bestowed upon us a privilege. The Delhi

Declaration was the icing on the cake, as India successfully garnered consensus on a variety of issues, including Ukraine.

Another noteworthy aspect of the summit was the inclusion of the African Union, which adds inclusivity and diversity to the mix. Furthermore, embracing Africa into the fold means that the responsibility for the people of Africa, who are in dire need of assistance from developed nations to combat hunger, poverty, and diseases, now falls on the G20. We are on the path of global collaboration and connectivity with prosperity for all. In a nutshell, this grandiose G20 summit in New Delhi has taken decisive steps towards reshaping a new and viable global order. The world is poised for constructive change following this summit.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

for the Samajwadi Party nominee, who clinched the prestigious Ghosi seat in Uttar Pradesh. Numerically, this is a significant win for the INDIA team, which marks its first electoral contest since its formation.

These election results suggest that the Opposition alliance is mounting a serious challenge to the ruling NDA in both the upcoming 2024 general elections and state elections. The BJP's setbacks in Kerala and UP should serve as a wakeup call for the ruling authorities there. These by-poll elections have demonstrated the importance of a strong Opposition in a democracy to maintain checks and balances. For the first time, INDIA has the potential to sway the political pendulum, at least partially.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO WORLD HUNGER

Sir — In the famous novel "The Tale of Two Cities," the opening lines go, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." Similarly, we find ourselves in an era of abundance and scarcity. There's a growing global demand for food against the backdrop of diminishing resources, including soil and water, which is partic-

ularly relevant to India. Simultaneously, we must also address environmental and climate concerns. In this context, sustainability, precision, and efficiency are crucial for achieving solutions-based success.

Sustainable irrigation, when combined with healthy soil practices, offers a solution to the pressing issue of food insecurity, especially in a country like India where climate fluctuations are common. Irrigation plays a fundamental role in agriculture by ensuring nutrient supply, facilitating photosynthesis, and supporting various metabolic processes. It also encourages microbial activity, maintaining nutrient cycles and soil health over extended periods. In a geographically diverse nation like India, policymakers must adopt multiple approaches tailored to specific regions. This includes collecting and reusing runoff water in hilly areas to reduce water wastage and soil erosion, choosing drought-tolerant crops, practicing crop rotation to reduce water usage.

Arka Goswami | Durgapur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

THE SCIENCE OF BREATH

Swara Vigyan is an ancient technique which offers mental clarity and spiritual growth



SWAMI CHARANASHRIT

India is a land of profound wisdom and ancient knowledge, with its roots deeply intertwined in spirituality, yoga, and meditation. One such ancient science that has been quietly passed down through generations is Swara Vigyan, a system that delves into the mystical realm of breath and its connection to our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. In this article, we will explore the intriguing world of Swara Vigyan and how it continues to offer invaluable insights into the human experience.

What is Swara Vigyan?

Swara Vigyan, also known as the "Science of Breath" or "Swara Shastra," is a traditional Indian science that dates back thousands of years. The term "Swara" refers to the flow of breath through the nostrils, while "Vigyan" signifies knowledge or science. Therefore, Swara Vigyan can be understood as the science of understanding and harnessing the power of the breath.

The Fundamental Principle of Swara Vigyan

At its core, Swara Vigyan explores the relationship between the breath and the various aspects of our existence, including physical health, mental clarity, and spiritual awakening. According to this ancient science, the natural flow of breath through our nostrils is influenced by the lunar and solar cycles, with each nostril being dominant at different times.

■ **Ida Nadi (Left Nostril):** This corresponds to the lunar or cooling energy. When the left nostril is dominant, it is believed to have a calming and soothing effect on the mind. It is associated with activities that require introspection, creativity, and relaxation.

■ **Pingala Nadi (Right Nostril):** This represents the solar or heating energy. When the right nostril is dominant, it is said to enhance physical energy and alertness. It is associated with activities requiring focus, concentration, and physical exertion.

■ **Sushumna Nadi (Central Channel):** The central channel is considered the balance between the two nostrils, representing a harmonious state of being. Activation of the Sushumna Nadi is believed to lead to spiritual awakening and higher consciousness.



Practical Applications of Swara Vigyan

Swara Vigyan offers a treasure trove of practical applications:

■ **Health and Well-being:** By understanding the dominance of nostrils and their influence on the body's energy, practitioners can optimize their daily activities. For instance, they can choose the right time for physical exercise, meditation, or creative work, depending on their desired outcome.

■ **Mental Clarity and Focus:** Swara Vigyan techniques can help individuals enhance their mental clarity and focus by consciously switching between nostrils. For example, if one is feeling mentally fatigued, switching to the right nostril may invigorate the mind.

■ **Spiritual Growth:** Many yogic and meditative practices incorporate Swara Vigyan to facilitate spiritual growth. Activating the Sushumna Nadi is believed to lead to a profound state of consciousness and spiritual realization.

■ **Healing:** Some traditional healing systems utilize Swara Vigyan to diagnose and treat ailments. Practitioners can identify health issues by observing the flow of breath and take appropriate measures for healing.

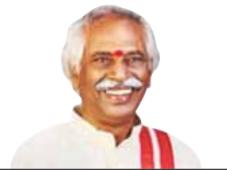
The Relevance of Swara Vigyan Today

In an era of fast-paced lifestyles and growing stress levels, Swara Vigyan offers a profound way to reconnect with our inner selves. By understanding and harnessing the power of our breath, we can better navigate the complexities of modern life. Swara Vigyan offers a unique way to enhance physical health, mental clarity, and spiritual growth. As we continue to explore holistic approach to well-being, Swara Vigyan remains a timeless gem.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

A momentous chapter in India's spiritual history

Swami Vivekananda's lecture at the World's Parliament of Religions revolved around the principle of unity, tolerance, and justice



BANDARU DATATRAYA



We are commemorating 130 years of the Parliament of the World's Religions held in conjunction with the Columbian Exposition in Chicago at the Permanent Memorial Art Palace, now known as the Art Institute of Chicago. It opened on September 11 with international representatives of the world's religions present. The Indian delegate Swami Vivekananda, a great Hindu monk, magnetic orator, poet and India's most progressive social reformer, riveted the audience with his call for religious tolerance and an end to fanaticism. Over the next several weeks, thousands of attendees came to hear Swami Vivekananda and other leaders speak, making the Parliament a watershed moment in inter-faith dialogue.

Swami Vivekananda was a prominent figure in the late 19th-century Indian spiritual and philosophical landscape. Spiritualization of the world in sync with great Sanatan traditions was an article of faith for him. He left an indelible mark on the world with his profound teachings and charismatic personality. He was considered a major force in the revival of Hinduism in India and in bringing Hinduism to par with most of the religions in the world. Born in 1863 in Calcutta, he was deeply influenced by his guru Sri Ramakrishna Paramhans, and went on to become a key proponent of Vedanta and the spread of Hindu philosophy and spirituality to the West. His iconic address at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893 introduced Hinduism and the concept of religious tolerance to a global audience.

Inquisitive to the core, his life underwent a sea change ever since he came into contact with Sri Ramakrishna Paramhans. Under his divine guidance, Swami Vivekananda made strides on the spiritual path. For him, independence was a virtue and dependence a sin; loving others a virtue, and hating others a sin. His speech at the World's Parliament of Religions, Chicago, on September 11, 1893, left an indelible mark on the gathering comprising religious



FOR HIM, INDIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE WAS SO POWERFUL AND MAGNIFICENT BUT PEOPLE WERE SUFFERING. IT WAS LIKE A SITUATION WHERE A LION WAS LIVING IN A HERD OF SHEEP AND WAS BEHAVING LIKE THEM

(The writer is the Governor of Haryana. The views expressed are personal)

and spiritual personalities of different faiths from across the world. With his opening words of "Sisters and brothers of America," he instantly captivated the audience, transcending cultural boundaries. Vivekananda eloquently emphasized the universality of all religions and the importance of tolerance and acceptance.

"I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth," said Vivekananda. His address was more of a convincing patriotism than a religious statement. His condemnation of sectarianism, bigotry and fanaticism found many followers in the Western world. His statements fed to the contemporary American psyche. He was a bridge between East and West.

Swami Vivekananda was equally worried about the mass backwardness of people. He batted for a national resurgence to get rid of chronic poverty, untouchability and caste-based discrimination. As a scholar commentator, he championed the cause of the downtrodden and dedicated himself to uplifting the masses by instilling a sense of pride and self-respect among them. He vouched for the regeneration of Bharat Mata and Sanatan Parampara. He felt the need for self-inspection by all in general and youth in particular because he had great expectations from them. According to him, youth was the most promising means of change he wanted to see happening in our society.

For him, Indian cultural her-

itage was powerful and magnificent but people were suffering. It was like a situation where a lion was living in a herd of sheep and was behaving like them because he had been living with them since his childhood. The lion felt his strength only when he was made to realize that he was a lion by another fellow lion, taking him to a pond where he could see his reflection. He immediately realized that he was a lion, as big and powerful as the other one. Similarly, Swami Vivekananda felt the need for a cultural and nationalist awakening among Indians. He was India's first national hero for whom the dire need of the hour was to revive and restore our country's grand cultural heritage and legacy.

He advocated for the unity of all religions, emphasizing the universal truths they shared. His call for unity, harmony, and the recognition of the divinity within each individual left a profound impact, inspiring a new era of inter-faith understanding. Chicago witnessed not just a speech, but the birth of a global spiritual ambassador whose message of peace and universal brotherhood continues to resonate across the world. He promoted the idea that true spirituality should lead to tolerance, respect, and understanding among people of different backgrounds and beliefs. For him, youth equipped with strong character and willpower can ensure global transformation.

Swami Vivekananda firmly believed that lack of education was the root cause of people's suffering. He appreciated the scientific education of the West but was of the view that Indian education should not be divorced from its rich cultural legacy. For him, keeping our spiritual and cultural identity alive was an equal identity. I am happy that today

India led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has once again given the world the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the theme for the 18th G20 summit. 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' is the message that Prime Minister Modi ji has given to world leaders through the G20 Summit.

The teachings of Swami Vivekananda hold immense importance, resonating far beyond his lifetime. His philosophy centred on the harmony of religions, the unity of all beings, and the power of self-realization. His call for self-confidence, self-discipline, and selfless service continues to inspire individuals to strive for personal growth and contribute positively to society. His teachings have not only shaped modern Hinduism but have also influenced global perspectives on spirituality, interfaith dialogue, and the pursuit of a meaningful and purposeful life.

Swami Vivekananda felt that idealism could inspire us to work towards the greater good and uplift humanity, and advocated for selfless service to society. As we commemorate 130 years of the Parliament of the World's Religions, let us reflect on the progress made in fostering religious tolerance and diversity, while also acknowledging the ongoing work required to ensure peaceful coexistence among different faiths. His teachings remain a beacon of hope, promoting a deeper understanding of our shared humanity and the potential for spiritual awakening. His vision revolved around the principles of unity, tolerance, and justice as essential components of social inclusion and harmony. His ideas will continue to inspire us to build a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Driving gender-responsive sustainable transformation

Women-led development agenda gets a major boost under India's G20 presidency. It is about time women came forward to become leaders of development

G20 EMPOWER is a global initiative that brings together government entities and private organisations from the G20 nations to propel women's empowerment through education and economic participation.

The narrative of women's empowerment took a significant turn when Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the concept of 'women-led development'. This innovative approach, specific to India, has now become part of the shared lexicon of G20 EMPOWER. It has shifted the focus from merely empowering women to fostering an environment where women are not just beneficiaries but also leaders of devel-



SANGITA REDDY

(The author is Chair of G20 EMPOWER and former president of FICCI; views are personal)

opment. Under India's G20 EMPOWER Chairship, we have embraced this concept wholeheartedly and have strived to create a roadmap reflecting this narrative shift. Our focus is threefold: Education, Women's Entrepreneurship, and Creating a Partnership for Promoting Women's Leadership at All Levels. We believe that digital inclusion is a cross-cutting theme across these areas, and we are committed to ensuring that women have equal access to the digital tools and resources they need to succeed.

In the realm of education, we are advocating for enhanced access for women to STEM education and high-growth job opportunities. We encourage corporations to

invest in apprenticeship programs and future-ready, inclusive curriculums. We are also urging governments to adopt a "whole-of-government" approach, with clear policies and legal frameworks that encourage continuous learning for women and girls.

In terms of Women's Entrepreneurship, we have developed a comprehensive strategy to uplift women entrepreneurs, particularly those within micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). We believe that enabling women entrepreneurs to become strong pillars of the economy is a win-win scenario – a thriving economy coupled with enhanced gender equality. We are encouraging the private sector to step up, not only as financiers and procurers but

also as mentors and enablers of growth.

We are also committed to promoting women's leadership at all levels. We are developing capacity-building programmes to boost women's progression to decision-making levels, introducing inclusive workplace policies, conducting regular reviews and publications of gender diversity metrics, and ensuring the safety and well-being of female employees. To empower women truly, we need to nurture their roles in leadership and decision-making across all levels of society.

We are particularly proud to spotlight the six tangible outcomes under India's chairship of the initiative. Firstly, we have launched the TechEquity Platform, a unique digital plat-

form designed to help women stay ahead through knowledge. Available in 120 languages, the platform is expected to reach at least one million women in the next six months.

Secondly, we have developed a KPI dashboard that provides a measurable and systematic way to track women's empowerment and representation progress. By consistently tracking these figures using robust methodologies, we can identify patterns, root causes, and potential interventions to enhance women's participation in all sectors.

Thirdly, we have created a Best Practices Playbook, a survey-based analytical tool that compiles best practices and is designed to share effective strategies and practices from around the globe. The

2023 edition of the playbook comprises 149 best practices from 19 G20 and guest countries.

Fourthly, we have curated a special section on inspirational stories on the G20 EMPOWER Website to highlight success stories of women achievers from across G20 nations and guest countries. As many as 73 inspirational stories from 10 countries are showcased on the G20 EMPOWER website.

Fifth, under our Presidency, India has continued to support the G20 EMPOWER initiative to expand the network of Advocates and adoption of the Pledge. G20 EMPOWER's Advocates Network, which comprises influential organisations committed to promoting gender parity,

has continued its expansion, reaching over 500 Advocates across the G20 nations.

In addition to these initiatives, we have also introduced the Gandhinagar Proclamation, a significant commitment from the private sector to gender equity.

Under this proclamation, companies pledge to ensure that at least 30 per cent of their workforce will be women. For sectors that already have a 30 per cent women workforce, the pledge extends to ensuring that women constitute 30 per cent of all levels of the organisation.

This powerful 30 by 30 declaration, aimed to be achieved by 2030, is a testament to our collective commitment to creating a more equitable and inclusive workforce.

Biden, Vietnam work on business deals

AP ■ HANOI (VIETNAM)

President Joe Biden closed a visit to Vietnam on Monday by spotlighting new business deals and partnerships between the two countries and paying respects at a memorial honouring his late friend and colleague Sen John McCain, who endured a lengthy incarceration during the Vietnam War. Biden met with Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, who also accompanied the president to a quick drop by at a meeting of American and Vietnamese business leaders. Biden also sat down with President Võ Văn Thuong, who hosted the US president for a state luncheon of steamed codfish and Hanoian beef noodle soup. Biden spoke about strengthening Vietnam's semiconductor industry and his administration's commitment to an open Pacific. "My message today is quite simple. Let's keep it up," Biden told the CEOs. "We need to develop and drive our collaboration. We need to forge new partnerships." The prime minister also stressed the need to improve cooperation and said "the sky is the limit" for the expanding U.S.-Vietnam relationship.



US President Joe Biden raises a toast as he participates in a State Luncheon with Vietnam President Vo Van Thuong in Hanoi, Vietnam on Monday. AP

"We truly wish to receive strong political commitment from the US government including you, Mr President, who has had great affection for Vietnam," the prime minister said. Highlights of the major deals announced by the White House during Biden's first-ever visit to Vietnam include U.S.-based Boeing's USD 7.5 billion deal with Vietnam Airlines to buy about 50 aircraft and Arizona-based Amkor Technology's plans for a USD 1.6 billion factory in Bac Ninh Province.

The White House also said the administration would help "build Vietnamese capacity to fight regional and international transnational crime," including targeting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. China has been locked in long-running territorial conflicts with Vietnam, along with the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, as Beijing claims waters in the other nations' exclusive economic zone. Biden arrived in Vietnam on Sunday and met with Nguyen Phú Trọng, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Trông formally announced Vietnam had elevated

the U.S. to its highest diplomatic status, comprehensive strategic partner. Biden said the shift demonstrated how far bilateral relations had evolved from the "bitter past" of the Vietnam War.

At the same time, Biden insisted that his roughly 24-hour visit was not about trying to start a "cold war" with China but was part of a broader effort to improve global stability by building relationships throughout Asia, including with Vietnam, at a time of tensions with Beijing.

Before departing, Biden visited the John Sidney McCain III Memorial near the site where, as a 31-year-old Navy lieutenant commander, McCain's Skyhawk dive bomber was shot down by the North Vietnamese. Both sides exchanged documents Monday on unaccounted U.S. service members and Vietnamese soldiers. Biden left one of his commemorative coins at the memorial, the White House said. McCain parachuted out of the plane and landed in a lake in Hanoi, North Vietnam. He broke both arms and a leg in the fall, was dragged from the water by an angry crowd, and was beaten and bayoneted.

The harrowing 1967 incident began a more than five-year ordeal that became the defining moment for the future Republican senator from Arizona and two-time presidential candidate. After six weeks in the hospital, McCain, who had lost about one-third of his weight, was transferred to a prison cell. After a brief time with cellmates, McCain, the son

and grandson of four-star admirals, began two years in solitary confinement in a 10-by-10 foot (3-by-3 meter) room.

At one point, McCain's captors asked if he wanted to go home, but it was a trick question. The US military's code of conduct required prisoners to be released in the order they were detained. The North Vietnamese wanted to make a show of releasing McCain early as his father assumed command over the Pacific. McCain refused.

For four days after he refused release, McCain was beaten every two to three hours by 10 guards. Filled with thoughts of suicide, McCain broke and agreed to sign an anti-US propaganda statement confessing to "black crimes." He later wrote: "I had learned what we all learned over there: Every man has his breaking point. I had reached mine."

It was the last time McCain would break. He refused to sign any other statements or meet with visiting American anti-war activists. Eventually, McCain was removed from solitary confinement and mingled with other US prisoners of war. He was released on March 14, 1973. McCain returned home, retired from the Navy in 1981, moved to Arizona and launched a political career.

He was elected to the House in 1982 and, in 1986, to the Senate, where he and Biden were colleagues. Despite his experience in Vietnam, McCain was a strong advocate of restoring diplomatic relations with the country that had so badly mistreated him.

Bells toll as US marks 22 years since 9/11

AP ■ NEW YORK

Bells tolled at ground zero and solemn tributes unfolded around the country as Americans looked back Monday on the horror and legacy of 9/11. People gathered at memorials, firehouses, city halls, campuses and elsewhere to observe the 22nd anniversary of the deadliest terror attack on US soil. Nearly 3,000 people were killed when hijacked planes crashed at New York's World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and the attack reshaped American foreign policy and domestic fears.

President Joe Biden is due to join service members and their families at a ceremony on a military base in Anchorage, Alaska. His visit is a reminder that the impact of 9/11 was felt in every corner of the nation, however remote.

Vice President Kamala Harris is joining the ceremony at the trade centre. First lady Jill Biden is due to lay a wreath at the 9/11 memorial at the Pentagon. Harris' husband, Doug Emhoff, is expected at a wreath-laying at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville. Commemorations



First responders work at ground zero after the Sept. 11 attacks, Sept. 12, 2001, in New York. Americans are looking back on the horror and legacy of 9/11, gathering Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, at memorials, firehouses, city halls and elsewhere to observe the 22nd anniversary of the deadliest terror attack on US soil. AP/File photo

stretch from the attack sites — at New York's World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania — to Alaska and beyond. "For those of us who lost people on that day, that day is still happening. Everybody else moves on. And you find a way to go forward, but that day is always happening for you," Edward Edelman said as he arrived at ground zero to honour his slain brother-in-law,

Daniel McGinley. On that day, "we were one country, one nation, one people, just like it should be. That was the feeling — that everyone came together and did what we could, where we were at, to try to help," said Eddie Ferguson, the fire-rescue chief in Virginia's Goochland County. It's more than 100 miles (160 km) from the Pentagon and more than three times as far from New York. But a sense of

connection is enshrined in a local memorial incorporating steel from the World Trade Centre's destroyed twin towers.

The predominantly rural county of 25,000 people holds not just one but two anniversary commemorations: a morning service focused on first responders and an evening ceremony honouring all the victims.

Other communities across the country pay tribute with

moments of silence, tolling bells, candlelight vigils and other activities. In Columbus, Indiana, 911 dispatchers broadcast a remembrance message to police, fire and EMS radios throughout the 50,000-person city, which also holds a public memorial ceremony.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts raise and lower the flag at a commemoration in Fenton, Missouri, where a "Heroes Memorial" includes a piece of World Trade Center steel and a plaque honouring 9/11 victim Jessica Leigh Sachs. Some of her relatives live in the St Louis suburb of 4,000 residents. "We're just a little bitty community," said Mayor Joy Maurath, but "it's important for us to continue to remember these events. Not just 9/11, but all of the events that make us free." New Jersey's Monmouth County, which was home to some 9/11 victims, made Sept 11 a holiday this year for county employees so they could attend commemorations. As another way of marking the anniversary, many Americans do volunteer work on what Congress has designated both Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

One killed, many hurt in Peshawar bomb blast

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Peshawar city on Monday, killed one security personnel and injured several others, including four paramilitary force personnel, a senior police official said. The attack took place on personnel of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) in front of Prime Hospital on Warsak Road in this capital city of the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Warsak Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohammad Arshad Khan said that according to initial reports, five FC officials and three civilians have been injured as a result of the blast. He added that the blast appeared to have been an improvised explosive device (IED) attack. Khan said that further investigation was underway and that a report by the Bomb Disposal Unit would further clarify the nature of the blast. Recently, Pakistan has been hit by a wave of terrorist activities orchestrated by the outlawed terror outfit.

Khan seeks contempt of court proceedings against Attock jail superintendent

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday filed a petition in a special court seeking contempt of court proceedings against the Attock jail superintendent for allegedly denying him permission to speak to his sons over the phone, according to a media report. Khan, 70, is in judicial custody till September 13 in the cipher case for allegedly disclosing state secrets.



He has been incarcerated in the Attock prison since his arrest on August 5 after a trial convicted him in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Last month, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief was granted permission by the special court, formed to hear cases registered under the Official Secrets Act, to speak to his sons - Qasim and Sulaiman.

However, Khan in the petition sought contempt of court

proceedings against the Attock jail superintendent for violating the court's order, Geo News reported.

In the petition, Khan claimed that jail officials denied him permission to have telephonic conversations with his sons on the pretext that he was held under the Secrets Act.

Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain issued notice to Superintendent Attock Jail Arif Shehzad and sought a report on the implementation of the court's order on September 15. The purported cipher (secret diplomatic cable) contained an account of a meeting between US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and Pakistani envoy Asad Majeed Khan last year.

Of late, Khan has come under increased scrutiny following the publication of a purported copy of the secret cable by the US media outlet The Intercept, with many in the previous government led by Shehbaz Sharif pointing fingers at the PTI chief for being the source of the leak.

A division bench comprising Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri on Wednesday suspended Khan's three-year sentence in

Toshakhana corruption and ordered his release from the jail in Punjab province. But he remained in jail after a special court last month extended till September 13 the judicial remand of Imran Khan in the cipher case.

Earlier, Khan, through his lawyers had filed a petition before Judge Zulqarnain seeking permission to talk to his sons Qasim and Sulaiman — living in London with their mother — on the telephone.

The judge had directed the Attock Jail officials to make arrangements for the father to speak to the sons over the phone. Geo News mentioned how the government of Imran Khan in 2018 did not allow former prime minister Nawaz Sharif to speak to his ailing wife who was then battling cancer in a London hospital. Begum Kulsoom Nawaz passed away in September 2018 in the UK capital.

B'desh & France sign bilateral deals on infrastructure



PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh and France on Monday signed two bilateral agreements to improve cooperation in infrastructure and to build the first-ever earth observation satellite after French President Emmanuel Macron held wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here. Macron arrived in Dhaka on Sunday from India after participating in the G20 Summit in New Delhi. It was the first visit by any French president to Bangladesh since 1990. Francois Mitterrand was the last French president to visit Bangladesh in February 1990.

responsible resident powers in the Asia and Pacific, the prime minister said, Bangladesh and France will act to ensure geopolitical stability of the region.

As a trusted development partner of Bangladesh, Hasina said, France has assured Bangladesh of its continued cooperation in infrastructure development, she said.

Earlier, a Credit Facility Agreement was signed between the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Bangladesh, and the France Development Agency (AFD), France on Improving Urban Governance and Infrastructure Programme, Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. The concessional loan will help the Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (UGIIP) project, which will be implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), it said, quoting the French embassy here.

The deal will also serve to provide capital investment for improved municipal infrastructure and service provision in 88 municipalities. A Letter of Intent (LOI) on Cooperation between Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL) and Airbus Defence and Space SAS, France related to the Bangabandhu-2 Earth Observation Satellite System was also signed, the report said.

Israel's legal overhaul comes to head

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plan has plunged the country into nine months of unrest and exposed bitter divisions within Israeli society. On Tuesday, the country's gaze shifts from the streets to the courtroom, where a panel of Supreme Court judges will deliberate over the very laws meant to curtail their power. Israel's High Court is to hear the first of three flashpoint cases in the coming weeks, all dealing with the legality of the overhaul.

Netanyahu unveiled the plan early this year, saying the country's unelected judges hold too much power over parliament. He is backed by an alliance of ultranationalist and religious parties, each motivated by different grievances against the legal system. Opponents say the plan will push the country toward

authoritarian rule by concentrating power in the hands of Netanyahu and his parliamentary allies.

The court's rulings could set the stage for a constitutional crisis, casting doubt on who holds ultimate legal authority in the country — parliament or the courts.

The plan has triggered mass protests, shaken the economy, sparked mass refusals by military reservists and drawn concern from the country's top ally, the US.

But Netanyahu's government has barreled forward. It passed the first major law in July, barring the Supreme Court from striking down decisions by parliament it deems "unreasonable."

Judges have used this legal standard in the past to prevent government decisions viewed as unsound or corrupt.

Earlier this year, the court blocked the appointment of a politician with past convictions

of bribery and tax offenses as finance minister. Netanyahu's allies say parliament should have the final say over appointments.

A second case will look at a law passed early this year that makes it harder for the country's attorney general to declare a prime minister unfit and remove him from office.

The new law allows this only in cases of mental or physical incapacitation. Critics say the law was passed to protect Netanyahu while he is on trial for corruption charges.

The third case involves Justice Minister Yariv Levin's refusal to convene the committee that chooses the country's judges. Critics accuse Levin, a key architect of the overhaul, of holding up the committee until he can appoint judges sympathetic to the overhaul.

Tuesday's case is a contest between fundamentally different interpretations of democracy. Netanyahu and his coalition

say that as the people's elected representatives, they have a democratic mandate to govern without being hobbled by the court.

"A court that sets the laws for itself and decides for itself which laws it operates under is not a court," Simcha Rothman, another key architect of the overhaul, told the Army Radio station Monday.

Opponents say with Israel's weak system of checks and balances, the court must retain the power to review and override some government decisions. They say that if the court loses the reasonability standard, Netanyahu's government could appoint convicted cronies to Cabinet posts, roll back rights for women and minorities, and annex the occupied West Bank.

"This government has already expressed a desire to fire officials like the attorney general and replace them with yes-men that will do whatever the government wants.

Pak accuses Af of border firing

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan on Monday accused Afghanistan of "unprovoked and indiscriminate" firing leading to the closure of a key border crossing, and said such attacks embolden terrorists who already have sanctuaries in the Taliban-led nation.

Torkham border crossing — the main point of transit for travellers and goods between Pakistan and landlocked Afghanistan — was closed on Wednesday last week after security forces from both countries exchanged fire. The incident forced hundreds of vehicles laden with goods to line up and people scrambling to cross over. The two sides have failed to sort out differences over the construction initiated by the Taliban government on the border. In a statement issued on Monday, Foreign Office spokesman Mumtaz Zahra

Baloch said Pakistan cannot accept the construction of any structure by the interim Afghan government inside its territory since it violates its sovereignty.

The spokesperson said on September 6, instead of a peaceful resolution, Afghan troops resorted to indiscriminate firing, targeting Pakistan military posts, damaging the infrastructure at the Torkham Border Terminal and putting the lives of both Pakistani and Afghan civilians at risk, when they were stopped from erecting such unlawful structures.

"Such unprovoked and indiscriminate firing on Pakistani border posts cannot be justified under any circumstances.

The unprovoked firing by Afghan border security forces invariably emboldens the terrorist elements.

UK brings forward top-up vaccines amid new COVID variant fears

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK health authorities began rolling out their winter vaccine schedule for the most medically vulnerable on Monday, brought forward from a planned early October rollout amid concerns around the new COVID variant BA.2.86. The National Health Service (NHS) said residents of older adult care homes and people who are housebound will begin receiving their COVID and flu vaccinations from this week and other high risk groups will begin to be invited to get their "top up protection" ahead of winter from next week. While the variant, BA.2.86, has not been classified as a "variant of concern" by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), it is being moni-

tored closely due to its proclivity to mutate. "While BA.2.86 has a significant number of mutations to the viral genome compared to other currently circulating COVID-19 variants, the data so far is too limited to draw firm conclusions about the impact this will have on the transmissibility, severity or immune escape properties of the virus," said Dr Renu Bindra, an Indian-origin Incident Director for the UKHSA. "It is clear that there is some degree of widespread community transmission, both in the UK and globally, and we are working to ascertain the full extent of this. In the meantime, it remains vital that all those eligible come forward to receive their autumn vaccine as soon as it is offered to them," she said. NHS England

said it is rolling out its adult COVID and annual flu vaccination programmes in tandem following pressures it faced with a "twindemic" of flu and COVID resulting in high occupancy in hospitals and record pressure on staff last year. It stressed the importance for those who are eligible to top up their protection, even if they have had a vaccine or been ill with flu or COVID-19 before, as immunity wanes over time and the viruses change each year. "With concerns arising over new COVID variants, it's vital we bring forward programme for most at risk, and so I strongly urge everyone eligible to come forward as soon as they can for this important protection in colder months," said Steve Russell, NHS Director of Vaccinations and Screening.

Operator: N-waste released by Fukushima plant completed

AP ■ TOKYO

The operator of the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant said Monday that it has safely completed the first release of treated radioactive water from the plant into the sea and will inspect and clean the facility before starting the second round in a few weeks.

The Fukushima Daiichi plant began discharging the treated and diluted wastewater into the Pacific Ocean on Aug 24. The water has accumulated since the plant was damaged by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011, and the start of its release is a milestone in the plant's decommissioning. The discharge, which is expected to continue for decades until the

decommissioning is finished, has been strongly opposed by fishing groups and by neighbouring countries. China has banned all imports of Japanese seafood in response, hurting producers and exporters and prompting the Japanese government to compile an emergency relief fund. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, at summits last week of Southeast Asian countries and the Group of 20 nations, stressed the safety and transparency of the release to win international support and sought the immediate lifting of China's ban. During the 17-day first release, the plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, said it discharged 7,800 tons of treated water from 10 tanks. About 1.34 million

tonnes of radioactive wastewater is stored in about 1,000 tanks at the plant.

Plant workers will rinse the pipeline and other equipment and inspect the system over the next few weeks before starting the release of the second round of 7,800 tonnes stored in 10 other tanks, TEPCO spokesperson Teruaki Kobashi told reporters Monday.

All sampling data from seawater and fish since the start of the release have been way below set safety limits, officials said. TEPCO and the government say the wastewater is treated to reduce radioactive materials to safe levels, and then is diluted with seawater to make it much safer than international standards.

BSE-listed Firms' mcap reaches record ₹324L cr

Sensex regains 67,000-mark as stocks rally for seventh day running

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time high of Rs 324.26 lakh crore on Monday as the Sensex regained the 67,000-mark, rallying for the seventh day running.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 528.17 points, or 0.79 per cent, to settle at 67,127.08. During the day, it rallied 573.22 points, or 0.86 per cent, to 67,172.13. In seven days, the BSE benchmark has zoomed 2,295.67 points, or 3.54 per cent.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped to a new high of Rs 3,24,26,555.38 crore, with investors' wealth gaining Rs 14,67,416.68 crore in seven days. The broader Nifty hit its all-time high of 20,008.15, gaining 188.2 points, or 0.94 per cent, during the day. It



ended at 19,996.35, up 176.40 points or 0.89 per cent. "India's resilient growth in the face of global macroeconomic headwinds has given investors the

confidence to maintain bullish bets and propelled the benchmark Nifty past the 20K mark. "The seventh consecutive session of gains has come despite

persisting selling by foreign institutional investors and other vagaries like inflation, rising dollar, spiking US treasury yields and interest rate hike

concerns," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

While the undertone appears bullish, the market seems to be in an overbought position and hence caution may prevail going ahead, Chouhan said.

Among the Sensex firms, Axis Bank, Power Grid, Maruti, State Bank of India, Tata Motors, ITC, Nestle, and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major gainers. Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro were the laggards.

"The domestic markets began the day on a positive note, bolstered by the historic consensus achieved at the G20 summit, which instilled confidence among investors," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. India on Saturday pulled off a big diplomatic win after the G20 summit adopted a con-

sensus declaration overcoming major differences on the Russia-Ukraine war, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for ending "global trust deficit". Modi also announced that the African Union was admitted as G20's permanent member.

"Nifty has finally managed to touch the much-anticipated 20,000-mark in the second attempt after July 2023. Robust flows from local investors amid mixed/negative flows from foreigners have helped Nifty achieve this landmark.

"Successful achievements recently in space and foreign diplomacy by India has boosted sentiments for Indian stocks at a time when the global situation is still shaky," Dhiraj Relli, MD & CEO, HDFC Securities Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.20 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.70 per cent.

All indices ended with gains, with services rallying 3.01 per cent, utilities jumping 2.43 per cent, telecommunication (2.32 per cent), power (2.04 per cent), auto (1.59 per cent), bankex (1.06 per cent), commodities (0.97 per cent), financial services (0.94 per cent) and metal (0.93 per cent).

A total of 2,107 stocks advanced while 1,665 declined and 170 remained unchanged. As many as 370 firms hit their 52-week high while 17 fell to their one-year low.

On Nifty 50 crossing 20,000 milestone for the first time, National Stock Exchange MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan said Nifty 50's progress over the last 27 years, since it was launched at the initial level of 1,000, is a testament to the trust Indian and foreign investors place in the country's capital markets and its regulatory, legal system. This is bet-

ter than the best in the world, not only in terms of trading technologies but also in corporate governance, he said. "More than 7.5 crore direct unique PAN numbers having investors are registered with us, suggesting that 5 crore households now directly invest a portion of their savings in equities market via the best in class and highly regulated markets provided by the NSE consistently since its inception," Chauhan said.

My own feeling is that India has come a long way in the last 30 years in its markets participation, he said. "We have a longer way to go. This is a good beginning. There will be ups and downs in the journey going forward, like in the past. India will continue to progress and markets will continue to reflect that as seen in the Nifty 50 index," Chauhan added.

India, UK for early conclusion of FTA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and the UK on Monday expressed their commitment to an early conclusion of the free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries. Addressing a joint press conference with UK Chancellor of Exchequer Jeremy Hunt, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said both sides intend to expedite the free trade agreement.

"There is definitely some discussion on the FTA, especially the investment aspects, which comes under the finance ministry, and the intention on both the sides to expedite the discussion so that some quick agreement could lead to final signing," she said at the conclusion of the 12th India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue. So, the keenness on both sides is to conclude the



comprehensive free trade agreement between India and the UK as soon as possible, she said. Talking about the meeting, she said the deliberations encompassed collaborations to

secure inclusive growth and resilience, advancing climate action and forging partnerships through technology and infrastructure partnership. The UK has expressed its willing-

ness to further expand its footprint in the IFSC-Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) and foster robust Fintech partnership, the minister said. Sitharaman also said the success of the UK-India Green Growth Equity Fund is a testament to the efficacy of public-private partnerships in channelling large-scale sustainable finance.

Both countries announced the launch of the UK India Infrastructure Financing Bridge, a collaborative venture co-led by the Niti Aayog and City of London Corporation to harness collective expertise in planning and implementing major infrastructure projects.

The minister said emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and India's new Digital Personal Data Protection Act

offer ample opportunities for both nations to collaborate on frameworks for secure and inclusive financial intermediation.

Post-meeting, the UK Chancellor of Exchequer appreciated the efforts being made for the direct listing of Indian companies on the London Stock Exchange (LSE). "We are particularly pleased to have made a big step forward with the first confirmation by India that it will explore the LSE as an international destination for the direct listing of Indian companies.

"Alongside that, there is a new Pensions and Insurance Partnership, the establishment of knowledge and expertise-sharing, and the new UK Infrastructure Financing Bridge and a deepened partnership on the developmental GIFT City.

Rupee plunges 1 paisa to 83.03 against dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee settled 1 paisa lower at 83.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, as positive cues from domestic equity markets failed to allay investors' concerns over elevated crude prices.

A weak American currency against major rivals overseas, however, supported the domestic unit and restricted the fall, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.93 against the US dollar and moved between the peak of 82.83 and the lowest level of 83.06. The rupee finally settled 1 paisa lower at 83.03 (provi-



sional) against the previous close. On Friday, the Indian unit had appreciated 21 paise to close at 83.02 against the greenback.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on the soft US dollar, positive domestic markets and a correction in crude oil prices. However, concerns over global economic slowdown and rising expectations of a rate

hike by FOMC amid strong economic data from the US may cap sharp gains," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

Choudhary said that traders may remain cautious ahead of inflation data from India and the US later this week. "USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.40 to Rs 83.30."

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.42 per cent to 104.65. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 0.30 per cent lower at USD 90.38 per barrel.

Mutual fund SIPs touch record high in Aug, RBI's CRR move impacts debt AUMs: AMFI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Investors poured in a record ₹15,813 crore in August through systematic investments plans (SIPs) route offered by mutual fund players, an industry body said on Monday. The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) also said there was a net outflow of ₹25,872 crore from the income or debt-oriented schemes in August.

Its chief executive N S Venkatesh told reporters that the Reserve Bank's incremental cash reserve ratio (CRR) measure to suck out excess liquidity "partially impacted" the industry's performance on the debt side as such schemes are looked at more from a treasury management perspective by



banks as well. The previous monthly high of SIPs inflows was ₹15,244 crore in the preceding month of July. Venkatesh said the overall assets under management (AUM) for SIPs were ₹8.47 lakh crore at the end of August and a record 35 lakh new SIPs were started in the month.

Venkatesh said the record high SIP flows suggests that retail investors continue to invest in the market, and added

that he expects the same trend to continue in the future as well on factors like strong economic growth which will help market sentiment. The overall AUM for retail investors' bets on equity and hybrid schemes was at Rs 24.38 lakh crore across 12.30 crore portfolios as at end-August.

There was also a record 19.58 lakh SIPs discontinued or matured in August, Venkatesh said, adding the same stood at over 17 lakh in July. The MF industry's overall AUM grew to ₹46.93 lakh crore in August, as against ₹46.37 lakh crore in July. In an SIP, an individual invests at periodic intervals like once a month starting from ₹500 onwards. The 43-player industry has a high

reliance on SIP flows. Meanwhile, Venkatesh said the dip in debt AUMs does not point to any trend as it can be the result of the ongoing treasury operations. There was a ₹348 crore fall in large cap schemes' AUMs, Venkatesh said, adding that he expects a reversal in it soon and the same will be driven by higher earnings growth.

He asserted that the continuing interest in small and mid-cap equity schemes – they showed growth of ₹4,264 crore and ₹2,512 crore, respectively in August – is not an "irrational exuberance" by investors, and pointed out to a 60 per cent dip in asset prices which investors seem to be looking at while taking their calls.

Govt looking at further easing FDI norms in space sector, says DPIIT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is looking at further easing foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in the space sector to attract overseas players, a top official said on Monday.

Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Rajesh Kumar Singh said that huge scope is there for Saudi Arabian companies to invest in India in different sectors such as aviation, pharma, bulk drugs, renewable energy, food processing and agri-tech.

"There is tremendous scope for collaboration... Such as in artificial intelligence, robotics, cyber security, automation and space, where



we are looking to further liberalise our foreign direct investment norms to bring in private sector and foreign investment in our space sector," Singh said at the India-Saudi Arabia investment forum meet here.

Presently FDI in space sector is allowed up to 100 per cent in the area of satellites establishment and operations through government route

only. He added that several Saudi Arabian companies have invested in Indian wind and solar energy sectors. "We look forward for collaboratively working with you," he said, adding there is also tremendous scope for collaboration between Saudi Arabian military industry and make in India campaign, which can enable "us to work" on joint collaboration on defence projects of mutual interest.

The secretary sought investments in areas such as bulk drug parks and food processing sector. As India is the home of several agro-tech startups, huge potential is there to increase collaboration, he added. On trade front, he said that the bilateral trade between

the two countries has reached USD 52.8 billion in 2022-23. India's exports stood at USD 10.7 billion in the last fiscal as against USD 8.8 billion in 2021-22.

The bilateral trade was USD 43 billion in 2021-22. "We have reached a stage where we can move beyond oil trade to new areas of engagement like food processing, tourism, renewable energy, health, entertainment etc... We can work in energy sector," Singh said. Further, he added that India has already proven its might in outsourced services and can be the destination for Saudi companies looking for such opportunities. India is recognised as the pharmaceutical capital of the world.

Gold falls ₹50; silver up ₹500

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price fell by ₹50 to Rs 60,000 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 60,050 per 10 grams. However, silver climbed Rs 500 to Rs 74,400 per kilogram. "Domestic market gold price trends can diverge from international markets due to the rupee's volatility," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the overseas market, gold and silver traded higher at



USD 1,924 per ounce and USD 23.10 per ounce, respectively. "Gold inched higher on Monday in the early morning trade, after reporting a weekly loss, supported by a retreat in

the dollar and expectations regarding a pause in the next Fed meet," Navneet Damani, senior vice-president of commodity research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

Essar, Desert Tech ink pact

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Essar Group on Monday signed a pact with solar PV firm Desert Technologies for developing renewable energy solutions for the Indian conglomerate's KSA Green Steel Arabia project.

"Both parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop renewable energy solutions for Essar Group's Green Steel Arabia (GSA) project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) as well as potential future projects which will put Saudi Arabia on the map, as a pioneering country in Green Steel production and green energy generation," the company said in a statement. Through this partnership, DT and Essar will develop solu-

tions for renewable energy generation and storage for Essar's flat steel complex in the KSA which is the first green steel project in the Gulf region and will also explore opportunities for other potential projects.

Essar is investing USD 4.5 billion in building a 4 million tonne per annum integrated steel plant in Ras Al-Khair, Saudi Arabia. Essar's GSA project is poised to be the largest integrated flat steel complex across entire MENA (Middle East & North Africa) region and first green steel project aiming to set the global benchmark in the reduction of CO2. This is one of the largest investments made by an Indian company in KSA. Essar recently signed letters of intent (LoIs) with Vale International,

a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vale SA, and Bahrain Steel, a subsidiary of Foulath, to secure 100 per cent raw material supply of iron ore feed for its Saudi Steel plant. The project is set to start production in 2027.

Based in Saudi Arabia, and operating in more than 25 countries, Desert Technologies has a proven track record as a PV (photovoltaic) developer, investor, EPC and O&M contractor, PV solar panel manufacturer, and energy storage systems integrator.

Commenting on the occasion, DT Investments chief executive officer Khaled Sharbatly said, the MoU "signifies our long-term commitment to meet the growing demand for renewable energy solutions; especially in the KSA.

DFC OK's up to \$425 mn for Tata Power Renewable Energy project

New Delhi: The US International Development Finance Corporation has approved a financial aid of up to USD 425 million (Rs 3,521 crore) to Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd for setting up a 4.3 GW solar cell in Tamil Nadu by its subsidiary.

The plant's first module production is expected by year-end and the first cell production is expected in the first quarter of the financial year 2024-25 (FY25), Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) said in a statement on Monday.

"The US International Development Finance Corporation board of directors approved USD 425 million of financing in TP Solar Ltd, a subsidiary of TPREL, for its upcoming greenfield 4.3 GW solar cell and module manufacturing plant at Tirunelveli," the statement said.

"We appreciate the DFC's assistance for our solar cell and module production facility in Tamil Nadu. It shows the trust and belief DFC has in Tata Power's ability to set up a state-of-the-art manufacturing supply line in the country. PTI

FCI sells 1.66L tonnes wheat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) has sold 1.66 lakh tonnes of wheat and only 17,000 tonnes of rice from the central pool through 11th e-auction last week as part of the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to control retail prices.

Last month, the government announced it will offload additional 50 lakh tonnes of wheat and 25 lakh tonnes of rice



from the central pool in the open market to bulk buyer to contain cereal prices. The food ministry, in a statement, said in the 11th e-auction held on September 6, a total of 2 lakh

tonnes of wheat from 500 depots and 4.89 lakh tonnes of rice from 337 depots were offered from across the country. "In the e-auction, 1.66 lakh tonne of wheat and 0.17 lakh tonne of rice was sold," it said.

The weighted average selling price was Rs 2,169.65 per quintal for FAQ (fair and average quality) wheat against the reserve price of Rs 2,150 per quintal pan-India, whereas weighted average selling price of URS (Under Relaxed

Specifications) wheat was Rs 2,150.86 per quintal against the reserve price of Rs 2,125 per quintal.

In case of rice, the weighted average selling price was Rs 2,956.19 per quintal as against the reserve price of Rs 2,952.27 per quintal pan-India, it added. To encourage participation of small retailers to ensure reduction in retail prices, the ministry said FCI is offering a maximum of 100 tonnes of wheat and 1,000 tonnes of rice to a buyer.

ITI develops own PCs, wins many orders; stock jumps 20%

New Delhi: State-run ITI Ltd on Monday said it has developed its own branded laptop and micro PC of global quality standards and has won many orders for the same competing against MNC brands.

The central PSU has designed both products, branded as SMAASH, in association with Intel Corporation with which an MOU has been signed

for design and manufacturing, ITI said in an exchange filing. The products are equipped with i3, i5, i7 and other micro-processor series of Intel Corp. Following the announcement, ITI shares surged 20 per cent to settle at ₹149.40 apiece — its upper price band as well as a 52-week high level, on the BSE. On the volume front, 14.29 lakh shares changed hands on BSE.

On NSE, ITI shares surged by around 20 per cent to settle at a 52-week high of ₹149.30. More than 1.81 crore shares changed hands on the bourse. "Branded as 'SMAASH', the products have already been deployed in the market, and ITI Limited has won many tenders competing against MNC brands like Acer, HP, Dell and Lenovo," ITI said. PTI

24-TIME CHAMPION

Djokovic equals Margaret Court's all-time record for most Grand Slam titles after winning US Open 2023



AP ■ NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic defeated Daniil Medvedev in straight sets on Sunday to win his fourth US Open and a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title, cementing his claim as the greatest tennis player in history.

The 36-year-old Djokovic won 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to become the oldest men's champion in New York in the Open era and match Margaret Court's all-time mark for most Grand Slam victories.

"I don't know where to start. It obviously means the world to me," said Djokovic, wearing a white jacket with the number 24 on his chest during the trophy presentation.

season four times, crowning his impending return to world number one in the most fitting of ways inside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The victory added to his wins at the Australian and French Opens earlier this year, with the only blemish his five-set defeat to Carlos Alcaraz in the final of Wimbledon in July.

"You know, some people who are born, he's a genius. He's one of a kind. Not too many people in this world like him in sport-wise," said Djokovic's coach, Goran Ivanisevic.

"This is one of the biggest achievements in the sport history."

Medvedev suffered his fourth loss in five Grand Slam finals, all of which were against Djokovic or Rafael Nadal.

"First of all I want to ask Novak: What are you still doing here? Come on!" quipped Medvedev.

"I don't know when you are planning to slow down a little bit."

"I mean, 24. I feel like I have not a bad career and I have 20 titles. You have 24 Grand Slams. Wow."

Medvedev defeated Djokovic in straight sets in the 2021 final to prevent the Serbian from becoming the first man to win all four Grand Slams in the same year since Rod Laver in 1969.

Djokovic admitted to feeling overwhelmed on that occasion, but there was little evidence of nerves as he quickly took command of Sunday's championship match.

The second seed — who missed

last year's US Open because of his refusal to be vaccinated against Covid-19 — burst out of the gate with a confident hold sealed by successive aces and struck at the first opportunity, punishing Medvedev for a double-fault to break for a 2-0 lead.

A third ace consolidated his advantage before Medvedev got on the board in the fourth game. The pair traded holds largely untroubled until Djokovic again put pressure on Medvedev as the third seed served down 2-5.

Medvedev dug in to twice stave off set points, but Djokovic calmly made the set his the following game.

Medvedev dethroned last year's champion Alcaraz with a "12 out of 10" performance in the semi-finals, but he struggled to replicate his very best consistently against an imperious Djokovic.

Attempting to be the first player to beat the top two seeds en route to the title since 1975, Medvedev once more repeatedly found himself under the pump early in the second set.

He was able to resist, hitting a sweeping volley to fight off break point as he secured a gutsy hold for 4-3 before finally asking questions of Djokovic, who was showing signs of fatigue.

Djokovic sportingly offered to help Medvedev to his feet after the Russian took an awkward tumble early in the third set, but there was no such goodwill when two break points came about soon after.



Djoker not setting any limit on Grand Slam titles

AP ■ NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic said he plans to play as long as possible while he is still capable of competing for the biggest prizes after winning a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title at the US Open on Sunday.

Half of Djokovic's Grand Slam triumphs have come since he turned 30. The Serbian has also won seven of the past 10 majors he has entered.

"I'm going to keep going. You know, I feel good in my own body. I still feel I got the support of my environment, of my team, of my family," said Djokovic. "Grand Slams... have been always the highest goal and the priority of mine in the whole season."

"I don't play as much in terms of other tournaments, so I try to, you know, prioritise my preparation so that I can peak in Slams." Djokovic returns to world number one on Monday for a record-extending 390th week, replacing Alcaraz at the top. Alcaraz is the only man to have beaten Djokovic this year at a Grand Slam.

His five-set win in the Wimbledon final ruined the Serbian's bid for a calendar Grand Slam, but any indication that signalled the passing of the torch was shown to be premature in New York. "Knowing that I play at such a high level still and I win the biggest tournaments in this sport, yeah, I don't want to get rid of this sport," said Djokovic.

"I don't want to leave this sport if I'm still at the top, if I'm still playing the way I'm play-

ing," Djokovic admitted there are times he questions his future in a sport he has dominated for well over a decade.

"Occasionally asking myself, why do I need this still at this stage after all I have done, you know? How long do I want to keep going? I do have these questions in my head, of course," he said. But his habit of setting himself increasingly lofty goals as his career has progressed means there are few thoughts of calling it a day any time soon unless his body dictates otherwise. "I don't put any number right now in my mind on how many Slams I want to win until the end of my career. I don't really have any number," said Djokovic. "I'll continue to prioritise them as my most important tournaments and where I want to play the best tennis."

"So that will not change. That will stay the same in the next season or I don't know how many more seasons I have in my legs. So let's see."

His coach Goran Ivanisevic joked that Djokovic's unquenchable thirst for success could see him carry on until the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

He also said there was little chance Djokovic would hang up his racket if he won next year's Australian Open to claim the outright record with a 25th Grand Slam crown.

"He just enjoying, he likes the challenges. Like you ask me 25, yeah, if he wins 25, he's going to think, if I win 25, why not 26? It's always one more, something more."

Novak pays tribute to Black Mamba

AP ■ NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic paid tribute to late basketball star Kobe Bryant after he won his record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title at the US Open on Sunday, wearing a "Mamba Forever" shirt during the trophy presentation.

Djokovic beat Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 and afterwards revealed a t-shirt with an image of him alongside Bryant — the ferociously competitive basketball great whose nickname was "Mamba". On the back was 24, the number worn by the Los Angeles Lakers icon during his NBA career.

Djokovic said Bryant, who died in a helicopter crash three years ago, had helped him through some of the most challenging times of his career — notably a career-threatening elbow injury in 2017.

"I thought about doing this t-shirt a few days ago," said Djokovic. "I didn't share it with anybody. Kobe was a close friend of mine, we



chatted a lot, about the winner's mentality. "When I was struggling with injury and trying to work my way back to the top he was one of the people I relied on the most he was always there for support in the most friendly way."

"His passing hurt me deeply and 24 is the jersey he wore at Lakers so I thought it would be nice to acknowledge him."



Voeller tasked with getting Germany back on track

AP ■ BERLIN

Nine months before Euro 2024 kicks off in Germany, the hosts have turned to Rudi Voeller to get the team back on track before Tuesday's friendly against France after coach Hansi Flick was sacked.

Flick became the first German coach in history to be relieved of his duties after his side slumped to a 4-1 loss to Japan in Wolfsburg on Saturday, the latest in a run of poor results which included a group-stage exit at the World Cup in Qatar last year.

The German Football Association (DFB) have turned to 1990 World Cup winner Voeller to take over on an interim basis for the friendly against 2022 World Cup finalists France in Dortmund.

While Voeller's first point of call will be to inject some pride and stability into the struggling team, his broader task is to right the ship before next year's European Championship on home soil.

Voeller, who was part of the Flick set-up as the DFB's sporting director, was also appointed on an interim basis after Germany's disastrous group stage exit at Euro 2000.

He took the side all the way to the final at the 2002 World Cup, before losing 2-0 to Brazil, but 63-year-old Voeller said on

Sunday this time he will not be in the hot seat for long.

"The most urgent task is to hire a national coach who will quickly get the team back on track and prepare us for the big European Championships next year," Voeller said.

He said the sacking was "not an easy moment for me... I joined in February to support Hansi Flick so that he could be successful."

"I firmly believed that as a national coach he could manage to get our team back on track."

Voeller will be assisted by Under-20s manager Hannes Wolf and former Bayern striker Sandro Wagner.

Several candidates have been mentioned to take the position on a permanent basis, with Julian Nagelsmann, who replaced Flick at Bayern Munich only to be sacked in March, believed to be the frontrunner.

Oliver Glasner, who took the final at the 2022 World Cup, was also mentioned. Voeller will need to start by giving the struggling side some defensive stability.

Germany are winless in five matches, having conceded 13 goals in that time.

AP ■ NEW YORK

Daniil Medvedev lavished praise on Novak Djokovic after the Serbian star defeated the Russian at the US Open on Sunday for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam crown.

Medvedev, who joined the exclusive club of players to have beaten Djokovic in a Grand Slam final with his victory at the US Open in 2021, was unable to repeat the feat on Sunday.

Speaking after Djokovic completed victory to capture his fourth US Open crown, Medvedev revealed how the Serbian great had treated him earlier in his career.

"When we first played I was probably 500th in the world. And he was super kind to me," Medvedev said.

"Nothing special, but he treated me like a normal person. And he still does. Nothing changed: 24, 30, 12 Grand Slams? Nothing changes."

"And I think that's something great about a person you can say."

Medvedev salutes 'great' Djokovic

Medvedev said that beating Djokovic at the US Open final was the greatest achievement of his career to date.

"From one side I can say, and really I find this amazing, that I beat Novak in a Grand Slam final, which probably at this moment is the pinnacle of my career," he said.

"At the same time, maybe if he and Rafa (Nadal) didn't exist... I played five finals against them and I only managed to win one. I don't know if it's good or bad. But you know, [Djokovic] pushes me to be better."

Medvedev meanwhile was left rueing his inability to level Sunday's final at one set apiece after holding a set point in a gripping, 104-minute second set.

Instead, Djokovic saved the set point and forced a tie-break which he would go on to win to take a strangle-



hold on the match.

"Should have won it," Medvedev said of the second set. "Should have won it, but sometimes tennis is not that easy."

"Second set was the best set I played and I didn't win it. So that's why it's kind of normal that the match went that way."

"Because first and third he was kind of better and not much to say. If I'd won the second, it maybe could have been a different game."

"If I wanted to win the match, I had to win that set."

Medvedev had produced a scintillating display to upset defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in the semi-finals.

But he acknowledged that trying to replicate that quality of performance 48 hours later had been a bridge too far.

"It's not easy to repeat, because against Carlos I played one of best matches of my life," Medvedev said.

"I mean, against Novak here two years ago it's kind of in the same category. It's not that easy to repeat it day in, day out."

DUTCH EDGE OUT IRELAND

AP ■ BELFAST

Wout Weghorst scored a second-half winner as the Netherlands beat Ireland 2-1 in Dublin to boost their Euro 2024 qualifying hopes on Sunday, while Poland lost for the third time in qualifying against Albania. Ronald Koeman's Dutch side had to come back from behind against a spirited Ireland but did enough to stay in the second qualifying spot in Group B behind France.

They are level on points with third-placed Greece who have played an extra match and thrashed Gibraltar 5-0.

The Netherlands were stunned in the first five minutes when Adam Idah scored a penalty awarded for handball against Virgil van Dijk. But Ireland's momentum was halted in the 19th minute when a mistake from Matt Doherty led to Denzel Dumfries being brought down by home goalkeeper Gavin Bazunu.

Cody Gakpo stepped up to put away the spot-kick and score for the second time in the international break.

Bazunu made a good save to keep out an effort from Donyell Malen before half-time but the Netherlands did take the lead in the 56th minute when Weghorst fired home from Dumfries' header across goal.

Ireland could not summon a late push for an equaliser and remain fourth in the



table, six points behind the Dutch with only three matches left.

In Tirana, Poland's bid to qualify for a fifth straight European Championship suffered another blow with a 2-0 loss.

Albania moved to the top of Group E, two points above the Czech Republic and surprise package Moldova, with Poland two points further behind in fourth. The other game in the group saw Moldova continue their remarkable bid to qualify with a 1-0 win over the Faroe Islands in their first qualifier since shocking Poland in June.

Denmark, semi-finalists at Euro 2020,

took a big step towards qualification from Group H as Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg's 86th-minute strike grabbed a 1-0 away win over Finland.

The Danes jumped a point above their beaten opponents into the top two, level with Slovenia who saw off San Marino 4-0.

Aleksandar Mitrovic scored a first-half hat-trick as Serbia beat Lithuania 3-1 to stay on course for next year's finals in Germany. Serbia sit second in Group G, two points ahead of Montenegro who kept pace thanks to Stevan Jovetic's 96th-minute winner in a 2-1 victory over Bulgaria.

Spanish football chief Rubiales resigns over kiss scandal

AP ■ MADRID

Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales resigned from his post on Sunday because of the scandal caused by his kiss on the lips of a Women's World Cup player.

The already-suspended chief sent his resignation to the federation's interim president, he said in an open letter, and also explained his decision to eventually step down in a television interview.

"I'm going to (resign), yes, because I cannot continue my work," Rubiales told television show "Piers Morgan Uncensored".

"(Family and friends) say to me 'Luis, you need to focus on your dignity and continue your life. If not you are going to damage people you love and the sport you love.'" Rubiales, 46, sparked a worldwide backlash after forcibly kissing midfielder Jenni Hermoso during the medal ceremony following Spain's World Cup triumph in Sydney on August 20.

In an open letter published by Rubiales on Sunday night, he said he had informed the federation he was also stepping down as a vice-president of European football governing body UEFA.

"After the swift suspension carried out by FIFA, plus the rest of the procedures opened against me, it is evident that I will not be able to return to my position," said Rubiales in the letter.

"Insisting on waiting and clinging to it is not going to contribute to anything positive, neither for the federation nor for Spanish football."

"Among other things, because there are powers that be that will prevent my return."

Rubiales, who insists the kiss was consensual, said he did not want Spanish football to be hurt by "such a disproportionate campaign" against him. "I have faith in the truth and I will do everything in my power so that it prevails," he wrote.

Rubiales said his departure would contribute "stability" to the 2030 men's World Cup bid in which Spain are involved.

KOHLI, KL TAKE INDIA TO 356-2

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Virat Kohli returned to his record-breaking ways with his 47th ODI ton while KL Rahul dispelled all doubts over his fitness with a scintillating hundred and powered India to a mammoth 356 for 2 against a hapless Pakistan in an Asia Cup Super Four match here on Monday.

Kohli also became the fastest to reach 13,000 runs in the format as he closed down on Sachin Tendulkar's world record 49 ODI centuries.

The contemporary legend's love affair with R Premadasa Stadium continued as his unbeaten 122 off 94 balls was his fourth hundred on trot at this very venue.

Kohli's hundred did not overshadow Rahul, who raced to his sixth ODI hundred — a chiselled 106-ball-111 not out in a superb 233-run stand for the unconquered third wicket.

The highly-rated Pakistan bowling attack lay in tatters and was hamstrung on the day due to absence of their fastest man Haris Rauf, who didn't turn up due to an injury.

Shaheen Shah Afridi, considered to be India's biggest threat was taken to the cleaners by India's top four as he leaked 79 runs in his 10 overs.

Overall, the Pakistani bowlers struggled to contain the opposition batters, who hit 37 boundaries and nine sixes in all.

India started the innings, which was suspended on Sunday because of rain, at 147 for two in 24.1 overs, as Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill had given them early momentum



Raina backs Ishan to open for India

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former cricketer Suresh Raina has thrown his support behind Ishan Kishan's potential as an opener for Team India, citing the 25-year-old's strong character and his ability to foster a positive team atmosphere, a quality reminiscent of the injured Rishabh Pant.

The wicketkeeper-batter has impressed with a matured 82 while batting at No. 5 in the rained-out Asia Cup opener against Pakistan in Pallekele on September 2.

But the lefthander, who opens for Jharkhand and his IPL franchise Mumbai Indians, also gives the flexibility to bat at the top of the order.

"I always said that Ishan Kishan has to open because he is a strong character who maintains a good team atmosphere," Raina told JioCinema.

The former India and Chennai Super Kings lefthander had a small stint together with Kishan at the now-defunct IPL franchise Gujarat Lions in 2016 and 2017.

Raina remembered his time with the youngster, and how the wicketkeeper-batter brought camaraderie and team spirit to the squad.

Recalling an incident,

Raina said, "I told (Aaron) Finch that if Dwayne Smith and Brendon McCullum aren't playing, then Ishan Kishan should open. I'll bat at No. 3, and you can decide the rest of the batting line-up."

"I remember in one match, he hit four-five sixes in Rajkot against Mumbai Indians, and the way he showed intent is what a team needs. Just like Rishabh Pant, who keeps laughing and maintains good team bonding, that's what's crucial," Raina added.

Raina also remembered that MS Dhoni had asked him to keep a watch on the youngster.

"Since he (Ishan) hails from Ranchi, he spoke to MS Dhoni, and everyone wants to be like Dhoni there. Also, because of the way Ishan contributed to Jharkhand, Dhoni told me to observe his wicket-keeping progress," Raina recollected.

India have a set opening pair in skipper Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill, both of whom have performed decently in the ongoing Asia Cup.

The current opening duo are expected to continue in the upcoming World Cup in India next month as Kishan's chance to open in the format may have to wait.

Haris Rauf sidelined due to strain

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf was on Monday ruled out of the Asia Cup Super 4 match against India due to a side strain. Rauf had bowled five wicketless overs for 27 runs on Sunday before relentless rains stopped proceedings, with India reaching 147 for two in 24.1 overs.

With no overs lost despite

another delay lasting more than an hour on the reserve day on Monday, Rauf was revealed to have experienced "a little discomfort in his right flank" on Sunday itself.

"Fast bowler Haris Rauf will not be bowling any further in the Asia Cup Super 4 match against India as a precautionary measure," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement.



"He felt a little discomfort in his right flank during the match yesterday and was subsequently taken for a precautionary MRI, which revealed no tear. He remains under the observation of the team's medical panel," the statement added.

The rain-affected contest resumed here late in the afternoon when rains prevented the start of play at the scheduled 3:00pm local time.

with fifties. But there was no ennuï surrounding the Indian batting, and they maintained a run rate close to 7.

Rahul's innings might have been particularly heartening for the team management.

He might have batted well in the match simulation process at the NCA, but here the 31-year-old proved his readiness for bigger battles with an ebullient innings against a top opposition.

At the other end, Kohli was a little slow to get off the blocks, sussing up the conditions and also allowing space to Rahul to slot himself into his gear.

But once settled, Kohli bruised the Pakistan attack as only he can.

As he was the previous day, pacer Naseem Shah (0/53 in 9.2 overs) was the most threatening of Pakistan bowlers as others largely struggled to hit the right button.

They were also hit hard by the absence of Rauf, who did not enter the field after suffering an oblique muscle pull while bowling yesterday.

It meant that Pakistan had to use part-time off-spinner Iftikhar Ahmed longer than they would have liked.

However, Kohli and Rahul were not complaining. There were sparkling shots all around as one would expect from two of the finest shot-makers around.

Kohli conjured his drives, on-the-up shots and pulls out of the draw, while Rahul's swat-flick six off leg-spinner Shadab Khan (1/71 in 10 overs) was worth freezing inside a frame among an array of on-side shots.

Rahul completed his hundred in as many balls, and Kohli went past the mark in 84 balls as Pakistan wilted under tremendous pressure.

Williamson to lead Kiwis in WC

AP ■ WELLINGTON

Kane Williamson and Tim Southee were included Monday in an experienced New Zealand squad for next month's 50-overs World Cup in India.

Williamson will captain the Black Caps despite still working his way back to fitness after a serious knee injury last April.

The 33-year-old led New Zealand in their nail-biting defeat by England in the 2019 World Cup final and was named player of the tournament.

Williamson's return to the crease will boost the Black Caps as he has scored more than 6,500 runs in one-day international cricket.

New Zealand coach Gary Stead said it is unclear whether Williamson will be ready in time for their opening World Cup game against England on October 5 in Ahmedabad.

"We haven't put a date on whether he will be available for that first game or not," Stead told reporters on Monday.

"That's still three or four weeks away and time will tell a little bit closer, but he is doing everything in his powers to make that happen."

Southee, New Zealand's Test-match captain, leads a powerful bowling line-up alongside Trent Boult, one of the world's best ODI seamers.



Boult returned to the Black Caps by taking three wickets in Sunday's 79-run defeat to England when he knocked the top off the hosts' batting line-up on his 100th ODI appearance, his first for nearly a year.

"He's a real weapon for us with the new ball. It was very pleasing to see," Stead said of Boult's bowling performance to dismiss England's Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root and Ben Stokes.

All-rounder James Neesham, who came within a whisker of glory for New Zealand when the 2019 World Cup final

was settled by a tense Super Over, also makes the 15-man side.

Only six of the squad will be playing at their first ODI World Cup, while this will be their fourth for both Southee and Williamson.

NEW ZEALAND SQUAD: Kane Williamson (capt), Trent Boult, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Will Young

Ramraj misses out on breaking PT Usha's record by 1/100th of a second

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Tamil Nadu's Asian Games-bound R Vithya Ramraj came agonisingly close to breaking the legendary PT Usha's 39-year-old women's 400m hurdles record as she clocked 55.43 seconds during the Indian Grand Prix 5 here on Monday.

The 24-year-old Vithya's time was just one hundredth of a second less than Usha's 55.42 which she had clocked while finishing fourth in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Usha's record is the second oldest national record in athletics after Shivnath Singh marathon NR of 1978.

Usha is currently serving as the president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

"Madam Usha is so talented and that is why her record stood for so long. I wanted to break the record, it was in my mind before the race today. I wanted to be the new Ma'am (Usha)," Vithya said.

"I was a bit slow in my first 200m and then picked up speed. Had I run faster in the first 200m, I would have broken the national record today itself. But there is the Asian Games coming up, and I will try to break the NR there," the athlete added after her event.

We shouldn't expect much from Sindhu at Asian Games: Vimal



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Repeated failures in tournaments this season has dented P V Sindhu's confidence and not much should be expected from the ace Indian shuttler at the Asian Games, says former India coach Vimal Kumar.

The double Olympic medallist has found the going tough ever since returning from a five-month long lay-off following an ankle injury enroute to the Commonwealth Games gold last August.

Desperate to arrest the slide, the 28-year-old sought help of legendary Prakash

Padukone and trained under him at his Academy PPBA in Bengaluru last week.

"We have been sitting and observing her sessions. Prakash spoke to her and tried to motivate her. We have also interacted with her coach (Muhammad Hafiz Hashim)," Vimal, who is the director of the PPBA, said.

"She is at the moment low on confidence and she has some work to do. We shouldn't expect much from her at the Asian Games," he added.

The 2019 world champion has lost seven times in the first round of BWF tour events this year.

A semifinal finish at the Canada Open and two quarterfinals — US Open super 300 and Australian Open super 500 — are the only notable performances so far this season.

Plagued by a string of underwhelming performances, Sindhu had conceded that the quarterfinal loss at the US Open had "a significant emotional impact" on her.

"This loss has left a significant emotional impact on me, especially considering the challenging and demanding year I've had. It's disheartening to experience a disappointing defeat after each successful tournament," she wrote on 'X' in July.

After observing the shuttler from close quarters during her week-long stint, Vimal feels Sindhu needs to make a few technical changes in her game and is likely to take some time to regain her form. "She is a big player and it is important to give her some time, it might take her a few months to regain her touch. There are a few technical aspects, where she can make some changes. Some initiatives she needs to take in the technical aspect."

Ahead of the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Sindhu has pulled out of the China Open Super 1000 and Hong Kong Open Super 500 to focus on the multi-sport event beginning September 23.

Her personal coach, Malaysian Hafiz Hashim was also with her when she trained at the PPBA last week.

"The last week has been a good change for her. She had a good experience of learning from Mr Prakash Padukone. He was very kind to be there and watch her practice session," Sindhu's father PV Ramana, who had won a bronze medal as part of the Indian Volleyball team in the 1986 Asian Games, said.

"They have been very supportive and have given her great encouragement. It is good to learn from different coaches, everyone has different views and ways. As a player, she might like to go again, every player have their own strategy."

For world number 14 Sindhu, it is a crucial period in her career with the Olympic qualification period for the 2024 Games having already started from May 1.

Livingstone scripts ENG's win over NZ in 2nd ODI

AP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Liam Livingstone's unbeaten 95 powered England to a 79-run win over New Zealand in the second ODI in Southampton on Sunday.

England, who begin the defence of their World Cup title against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on October 5, collapsed to 8-3 in a match reduced by rain to 34 overs per side.

They were still struggling at

55-5 in the 13th over when Livingstone came into bat.

But he took England to 226-7 and New Zealand were then dismissed for 147 as the hosts levelled the four-match series at 1-1

Reece Topley, whose 3-27 ended a wait of over a year for an ODI wicket, and fellow left-arm quick David Willey (3-34) did the damage with the ball.

New Zealand great Trent Boult had marked his 100th

ODI — and first in nearly a year — by taking the first three England wickets. The veteran left-arm quick removing Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root and Ben Stokes.

But Livingstone's career-best ODI innings, a tribute to his composure as much as his celebrated hitting power, bolstered the total and enhanced his prospects of selection for England's final 15-man World Cup squad.

Sam Curran (42) offered fellow all-rounder Livingstone excellent support in a sixth-wicket stand of 112 in 77 balls.

"I wouldn't quite say it was a rescue mission," said man-of-the-match Livingstone.

"We pride ourselves on depth in our batting and getting out of situations like today. I thought Sammy (Curran) batted really well."

Livingstone, whose 52 was a rare England highlight during



their comprehensive eight-wicket defeat by New Zealand at Sophia Gardens on Friday, added: "It has been a frustrating year for me...The innings at

Cardiff did myself the world of good."

England captain Jos Buttler was elated after a victory that ended a run of three straight white-ball losses to New Zealand, who won the last two matches of a drawn T20I series.

"From the position we found ourselves in to post a score was credit to the way we wanted to play," he said. "The partnership between Livingstone and Curran was fantastic."

New Zealand skipper Tom Latham added: "I think we're disappointed, we started outstandingly with Trent Boult back in the mix...Setting a score is probably harder (in a 34-over match) than knowing what was needed to do. It was a great innings from Liam Livingstone, credit to him."

New Zealand, defeated by England in a dramatic 2019 World Cup final at Lord's, lost a wicket to the second ball of

their chase when the big-hitting Finn Allen was bowled for a duck by Willey.

Devon Conway, fresh from a hundred in Cardiff, was then caught behind off fast bowler Gus Atkinson for 14.

Off-spinner Moeen Ali then struck twice in three balls, with Daryl Mitchell — who also made a Cardiff century — falling for 57 to leave New Zealand on the brink at 140-8 before Willey polished off the tail.