

PARLIAMENT TURNS UNPARLIAMENTARY BJP lambasts its MP Bidhuri for jibe, issues show cause notice

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Aday after Parliament was adjourned sine die, a massive political controversy erupted on Friday over the use of offensive language by South Delhi BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri against Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the success of the Chandravaan mission on Thursday. While leaders of the Opposition parties, including Ali, demanded swift action against Bidhuri, the BJP issued a show-cause notice to its two-time MP on Friday.

Th BJP sources said the party has sought a reply from the South Delhi MP as to why disciplinary action should not be taken against him for his use of unparliamentary words. Generally, those served the notice are given 15 days to answer.

"We are truly dismayed by our MP's behaviour, especially considering that this incident occurred on a day when the nation was celebrating the passage of the Women's Bill and the success of Chandrayaan, both of which were being widely reported across the country Furthermore, it coincided with an unprecedented record of productivity in both the Houses during the four-day Special Session in new Parliament," a top BJP leader told The Pioneer,

requesting anonymity Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who had earlier initiated a discussion on the country's Chandrayan success, said

though he could not hear the comments of his party colleague in the House, he person-ally apologised for the remarks. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has taken "serious note" of the unparliamentary

remarks made by Bidhuri and warned him of "strict action" if such a behaviour is repeated in the future, officials said. While the objectionable

remarks have been expunged from the proceeding records, a video of Bidhuri, in which he can be heard making deroga-tory remarks against Ali, is now circulating on various social media platforms.

Ali has also written to the Speaker demanding that the matter be sent to the Committee of Privileges.

"Saying this with a heavy heart that I would be considering quitting the Lok Sabha if an appropriate action is not taken against Bidhuri over his remarks," Ali said, adding he was also threatened by Bidhuri in the speech.

"I sent my letter to the office of the Lok Sabha Speaker and I am confident that he will take cognizance of the incident and appropriate action. I have given notice. All things are on record and it is happening for common man is being treated...



A combo of file images shows BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri and BSP MP Kunwar Danish Ali during in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Friday

guage has been used for an elected MP

Ali in his letter said, "I have been waiting to meet Birla since morning but he was not available. I have submitted my letter... I hope he will take appropriate action... everything is on record... it has happened for the first time that such a language has been used against an elected member... is this being taught in new India... "We are the mother of

democracy... I am proud of it... couldn't sleep the entire night... my brain nerves were about to burst... what could I have done ... if this is the behaviour towards me then how a

the first that this type of lan- I hope the Lok Sabha Speaker will take appropriate action in this matter. Several Opposition mem-

bers owing allegiance to the INDIA bloc visited the BSP MP.

After meeting Ali at his Pandara Road residence, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi told the media, "Nafrat ke Bazaar mein Mohabbat ki Dukan (opening a shop of love in the market of hate).

Opposition parties are demanding strict action against Bidhuri, including suspension from the House and even his arrest.

Opposition leaders criti-cised BJP MPs Ravi Shankar Prasad and Harsh Vardhan for allegedly laughing while

in the Lok Sabha. However, both Prasad and Vardhan have distanced themselves from the the controversy

Harsh Vardhan, who rep-resents Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha seat, issued a statement regretting the foul language used by his party colleague in the temple of democracy. "I have been brought up in Chandni Chowk and my childhood spent with Muslims in the bylanes of this old Delhi and am thankful that people have sent me to the Lok Sabha

Vardhan said. The Opposition leaders highlighted instances where members from their own

from this locality only," Harsh

Bidhuri fied a broadside at Ali alliance, such as TMC, Shiv Sena, and AAP parliamentarians, were promptly reprimanded by the presiding officers of either House, and in some cases, they even faced suspensions

PTI

Some of them were suspended for merely protesting in front of the Gandhi statue in Parliament, including women MPs, during the entire last Winter Session.

"Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha (of the AAP) stand suspended even today for exercising their democratic right of protest inside Parliament and Bidhuri has spoken in a language that is an insult not only to Ali but also to every MP and every Indian," Opposition

leaders said

Describing the remarks as an insult to all MPs, Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the apology offered by Singh was a "mere eyewash" and not acceptable. "It is an absolute shame

what Bidhuri has said. Singh's apology is simply not accept-able. It is a half-hearted apology, it was an afterthought. What Bidhuri has said is an insult to Parliament and makes a mockery of what the prime minister keeps repeating Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Sabka Vishvaas, Sabka Prayas' which becomes all 'bakwaas' (nonsense)," Ramesh told reporters.

CPI(M) members have demanded the arrest of Bidhuri, who is known for his abusive nature even on public platforms. "No privilege for hate speech, arrest Bidhuri. Filthy abusive language used by Bidhuri against Ali on the Floor constitutes the worst kind of hate speech indicted by the SC. No MP can claim privilege for such speech. He should be arrested," the CPI(M)

said in a statement. "Abusing Muslims, OBCs an integral part of BJP culture most now see nothing wrong with it. Narendra Modi has reduced Indian Muslims to living in such a state of fear in their own land that they grin & bear everything. Sorry but I'm

Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer

Odisha's second Vande

The full trial run of the

Bharat express on Puri-

Rourkela route is also set to be

Puri-Rourkela Vande Bharat

Express was conducted on

Wednesday. The train will con-

nect the coastal districts of the

Earlier, it was also report-

The video was circulated

between India and Canada fol-

lowing Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau's explosive allegations

of the "potential" involvement

of Indian agents in the killing

of Khalistani extremist

Hardeep Singh Nijjar on his

country's soil on June 18 in

British Columbia. India had

designated Nijjar as a terrorist

On back foot, Canada slams

State to its western region.

flagged off on Sunday.

China spits venom, India fires salvo

Each State gets high speed train

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

n a remarkable feat of historical achievement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate nine Vande Bharat Express trains on Sunday. With this, all States e country will now be connected with these semihigh-speed trains.



utes from Puri-Rourkela and 7 hours and 45 minutes on the down line i.e. Rourkela to Puri.

calling this out. Ma Kali holds my spine," Trinamool Congress

member Mahua Moitra said in

and the Speaker take strict

BJP parliamentarian for fellow

MP Ali. No shame left. This is

sickening. Will Speaker Lok

Sabha take note and take action," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

and Rajya Sabha member

Priyanka Chaturvedi told The

Pioneer when sought for her

Sanjay Singh wondered

whether Bidhuri's language was

a result of the values taught by

the RSS. "I raised the issue of

violence in Manipur and I was

suspended. What action will be

taken against this MP who abused Ali," Singh said on

social media platforms. The AAP also slammed

BJP Lok Sabha members Harsh

Vardhan and Ravi Shankar

Prasad for "laughing" when

"Why is this uncouth, uncultured BJP MP Bidhuri

not suspended for his use of

unparliamentary language and

obnoxious behaviour in the

Lok Sabha? Speaker Birla must

take immediate action. Will

BJP also suspend him from

their party or will they give him a promotion," NCP spokesman

Clyde Crasto said.

Bidhuri was abusing Ali.

Aam Aadmi Party leader

comments on the row.

action against Bidhuri.

She demanded that Modi

"Filthy language used by a

a statement.

Bengaluru and Hyderabad Vande Bharat train will link the two tech cities and will cover

the 610 km distance in 8.5

hours Speaking about its tentative train will from Kacheguda in Hyderabad at 5.30 am and will reach Yeshwantpur around 2 pm. In the return journey, the train will depart at 2:45pm and reach Kacheguda at 11:15 pm. The semi-high speed train is likely to have 5 stops -Mahabubnagar, Kurnool City, Anantapur, Dhone, Dharmavaram.

Taking strong exception to China denying accreditation to some Indian sportsper sons from Arunachal Pradesh for Hangzhou Asian Games, India on Friday lodged a strong protest, and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur cancelled his scheduled visit to China for the Games

This is the second instance in two months that the same three players were unable to visit China for a competition. On Wednesday, the three women wushu players — Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega, and Mepung Lamgu received their accreditation cards from Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee, which also acts as an entry visa.

However, they could not download their travel document on Wednesday when they were scheduled to leave for the Asian Games, while the rest of the players did not face any

Indian e-Sports team poses for photographs upon their arrival to participate in the 19th Asian Games, in Hangzhou in China on Friday

said

cancelled his visit.

issues. Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of China

Making India's stand clear here on Friday, Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said New Delhi reserves the right to take "suitable measures" to safeguard its interests.

Terming the act of denial of accreditation as discriminatothey "explicitly prohibits discrimination" against competitors from member states.

He said a "strong protest" has been lodged against China's "deliberate and selective obstruction" of some of India's sportspersons.

"The Government of India has learnt that the Chinese authorities have, in a targeted and premeditated manner, discriminated against some of the Indian sportspersons from the state of Arunachal Pradesh by denying them accreditation and entry to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China," Bagchi said. "In line with our long-

Information and Broadcasting and Sports standing and consistent position, India firmly rejects differ-Minister Anurag Thakur has ential treatment of Indian cit Describing the Chinese izens on the basis of domicile or ethnicity. Arunachal Pradesh action as targeting of the sportspersons in a "premeditat-ed" manner, Bagchi said the was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part move violates both the spirit of of India," he said. the Asian Games and the rules

Continued on Page 2

In June, Modi inaugurated eight Vande Bharat trains on different routes.

Among these nine trains, the Ministry of Railways led by Ashwani Vaishnaw is poised to introduce two trains for West Bengal's Howrah and Tamil Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during the 'Nari Shakti Vandan-Nadu's Chennai, with one each Abhinandan Karyakram', a day after Parliament passed the Women's Reservation for Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, Bill, at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, on Friday Gujarat, and the poll-bound

be flagged off on Sunday are on routes - Ranchi-Howrah, Patna-Howrah, Vijayawada-Chennai, Tirunelveli-Chennai, Rourkela- Puri, Udaipur-Jaipur, Kasaragod-Thiruvanantha puram, Jamnagar-Ahmedabad and Hyderabad-Bengaluru.

Chennai Vande Bharat Express train will leave from Tirunelveli Junction 6 am and reach Chennai around 1:50 pm, while the return journey will begin at

Rajasthan. The nine trains which will 2:50 pm on all days except train Tuesdays. According to reports, the

Virudhunagar, Madurai, Dindigul and Tiruchi.

The inaugural Tirunelveli-

locomotive will be operated at an average speed of 83.30 km an hour and halt at

> Meanwhile, this will also be Tamil Nadu's third Vande Bharat route after the launch of Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat

ed that the semi-high speed Express in November last year and subsequently the Chennaitrain will cover the distance of $505\,\mathrm{km}$ in 7 hours and 30 min-Coimbatore Vande Bharat

Vande Bharat express between Vijayawada-Chennai will cover the distance between the two cities in 6 hours and 40 minutes.

Earlier this month, Vaishnaw had announced that Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch would soon get a Vande Bharat Express.

Vande Bharat Express is an indigenously manufactured, semi-high-speed, self-propelled train. The train has state-of-theart passenger amenities, providing passengers with a faster, more comfortable and more convenient travel experience.

Cubs bear brunt of tiger turf war

PT

ry behaviour by China, he also

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

Tiger cubs are increasingly becoming the casualties in the tussle for space or mating among adult royal cats in many overpopulated tiger reserves across the country

According to the data available from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Union Environment Ministry, at least 22 cubs have died across the tiger reserves till date this year compared to 23 last year. With three months to go for 2023, the mortality number is likely to surpass last year's. In 2021, 15 cubs had succumbed to various reasons, as per the NTCA data.

Wildlife officials say that the reserves which have reported higher numbers of royal cats have recorded an increase in cub deaths. For instance,

Madhya Pradesh has witnessed the death of 13 cubs, highest in any State of the country fol-lowed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Wildlife experts say that the territorial fight is a naturphenomenon in the areas with a high density of tigers. Sometimes when there is less number of females, males compete with each other to win over the female cat in their territory for mating. At times, they target the new tigress mothers. As a result, cubs are forced to disperse at a very young age which makes them prone to death.

For instance, recently four tiger cubs starved to death in the reserve forest at Kadanad, in the Chinnacoonoor area in Mudumalai Tiger reserve area after their mother abandoned them, as per forest officials. In yet another instance, a

tiger cub was found dead in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh in April. The forest officials had suspected territorial fight as the reason behind the feline's death as the cub's carcass was found near Jutta pond in BTR's Panpatha buffer area, Forest Range Officer SS Shrivastava said, according to reports. Similarly, in February, a

weak cub died of cold amid rain after its mother was killed in a territorial fight at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur. The reserve has witnessed a 45 per cent increase in the big cat population over the last eight years with officials expressing concerns about a lack of adequate space for the big cats to mark their territory.

Moreover, serious imbalance in tigers' gender ratio results in the spurt of the big cat population, forcing many of them to either leave the park or die in fighting over territories and females. In these fights, cubs also get injured by the tigers who have not sired them. Wildlife officials cited the

case of Corbett Tiger Reserve, where over a dozen adult tigers aged between three to five have no territory, i.e. they have been moving in the reserve's periphery, in the process, leaving the cubs vulnerable to other carnivores.

Out of 700 sanctuaries in the country, Ratapani is the only tiger reserve which has 60 tigers and 15 cubs. According to sources, the number of tigers has increased, but their territorial area has dwindled

According to a report, in the Ranthambore National

Khalistanis' hate for Hindus Park, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Mukundra Hills National Park, PTI TORONTO among others, from January The Canadian Government has said the circulation of 2019 to January 2022, most of the 32 female tigresses are in reproductive age, due to which an online video in which Hindu Canadians are told to there has been an increase in the birth of cubs. A total of 44 leave the country is offensive cubs have been born between and hateful, asserting that acts 2019 to 2021. Due to the high of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear have number of tigers in the battered areas of Ranthambore Tiger no place in Canada. Reserve, there is a high numamid escalating tensions

ber of cases of missing tigers, territorial fights and death of the cubs as either their mother dies or moves with another male tiger.

Also, overall, in most of the tiger reserves, almost 10-15 tigers and tigresses are roaming outside as dominant males do not let newborn, young and sub-adult males remain inside the park. In such cases also, felines succumbs in want of adequate nutrition.

India has angrily rejected Turdeau's allegations as

in 2020.

"absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

Public Safety Canada, the department responsible for matters of public safety, emergency management, national security, and emergency preparedness, said the circulation of the video is offensive and hateful and is an affront to all Canadians and "the values we hold dearly". "There is no place in Canada for hate," it said on Thursday night in a post on X.

Indo-Canadian lawmaker Chandra Arya from Prime Minister Trudeau's party has earlier expressed dismay at the "glorification of terrorism" and hate crime targeting Hindus in this country in the name of "freedom of expression" in

Canada.



Standoff hikes India-Canada airfares

RAJESH KUMAR 📕 NEW DELHI

A mid the ongoing diplo-matic downfall between India and Canada, airfares have shot up the roof as travelers are rushed to advance their plans, leaving them in total dismay before the rift grows further. The stand-off between New Delhi and Ottawa has left many in a pickle as Indian students applying to Canadian universities, immigrants aspiring for residency, and people working or having families in either coun-try are left wondering about their next step. On the other hand,

Canadian tourists and business travellers are also rushing to change flights and inquire about their trip deposits.

Data from travel portals show a direct flight between New Delhi and Toronto have crossed ₹2.77 lakh in the last minute fares in economy class. The cheapest fares for a direct flight between New Delhi and Toronto have touched between ₹1.46 lakh and ₹1.27 lakh. The average fare between New Delhi and Toronto is between ₹55000 and 75,000 depending



on the booking The air fares between New Delhi and Vancouver is ₹1.27 lakh in normal class and it is ₹ 2.01 lakh in economy class.

Similar fares for New Delhi-Montreal cost between ₹1.99 lakh and ₹1.61 lakh in the opposite direction. This surge in bookings

encompasses both tourists and citizens rushing to visit friends and family in either country. The number of Indians



travelling to Canada has risen with students forming a sizable proportion. In 2022, Indians made up 40 percent of total international students studying in Canada. The total number of Indian students on study visas in Canada has crossed over three lakh.

The standoff between New Delhi and Ottawa has left many in a fix as students applying to Canadian universities and people working or having fam-

ilies in either country are left wondering about their next step.

In 2023 a remarkable 420,798 passengers traveled the Toronto-New Delhi route, with 171,982 passengers choosing the Vancouver-New Delhi route, and 85,834 passengers taking the Montreal-New Delhi route.

Similarly, the New Delhi's move has left most Canadians confused as they won't be able to travel here if they don't already have a visa. Reports suggested e-visa applications online were also not being processed for Canadians.

Between New Delhi and Ottawa, Air India and Air Canada are the sole carriers, jointly providing a total of 45-48 weekly flights between the two countries

Air India operates daily flights between New Delhi and Toronto and New Delhi and Vancouver, while Air Canada maintains daily flights between New Delhi and Toronto and runs three weekly flights between New Delhi and Montreal

The first air transport agreement between India and

Canada was inked back in 1982. Subsequently, it was expanded in 2011, permitting each nation to operate up to 35 flights per week. In November 2022, the

agreement was further expanded, granting designated airlines unrestricted access between India and Canada. The data shows around 62

percent of total traffic between the two countries are on the Toronto-New Delhi route; 25 percent passenger traffic is operated on Vancouver-New Delhi route and 13 percent on

Montreal-New Delhi route. The stand-off between New Delhi and Ottawa are at their lowest point in decades after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused the Indian government of orchestrating the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian activist who was pushing for an independent Sikh homeland in

the Punjab region. India has denied the allegation, calling it "absurd" and hitting back with measures aimed at curbing travel between two nations. India has further suspended visa services to Canadians.

SC notice to TN on plea to book Udhayanidhi for Dharma slur

FIR against Tamil Nadu Minister sought for his remarks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $T^{he \ Supreme \ Court \ on}_{Friday \ sought \ responses} from \ the \ Tamil \ Nadu$ Government and its Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on a plea seeking an FIR against him for his "eradicate Sanatan Dharma" remark.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi issued notices on a plea filed by B Jagannath seeking an FIR against the Tamil Nadu Minister on grounds that the remarks are akin to hate speech and that the top court had in similar matters passed several directions, including registration of FIR.

Senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that



the Minister allegedly asked school students to say that this religion is not good and that the other religion is good.

"This court has taken note of similar matters where individuals make such a statement against another's faith but in this case it is a minister making the statement. Here it is a state, which is telling the school students that so and so religion is wrong," Naidu said.

The bench asked Naidu what was he seeking from the court, to which the senior lawyer said he is seeking a restraining order against the

minister (Stalin) from making any such statement and secondly that an FIR be registered

nation 02

"We are also seeking that students should be kept out of this," he said. The bench said, Although we are issuing notice, you are turning the Supreme Court into a police station by approaching it for registration of FIR. You should have gone to the high court." Naidu said they were compelled to approach the court as he is a minister and when they went to register FIR, no one

Concerns over complacency in implementing TB elimination programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Parliamentary panel has A expressed its concerns over "a sense of complacency" within the Union Health Ministry and the Government organisations responsible for implementing the TB elimination programme and instead suggested a string of measures such as a network of dedicated TB clinics and centres equipped with necessary diagnostic and treatment facilities with adequate manpower among others to ensure the target to eliminate the deadly infectious disease by 2025.

It is five years ahead of the global target 2030.

As India continues to be the most significant contribu-



tor to global TB incidence and approximately one-fourth of total cases i.E. Roughly 25 lakh out of 1.05 crore are reported in India, the panel suggested that it was doubtful to reach the elimination target.

The report pointed out that the shifting of responsibility to non-governmental organisations "eventually may impede the overall progress" of TB eradication.

NIA chargesheets 13 in Villianur bomb blast case

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday said it has chargesheeted 13 persons in the Villianur (Puducherry) bomb blast case involving the assassination of a tal attack.

assailants had on March 26, 2023, hurled country-made bombs at Senthil Kumaran in front of a bakery located at Villianur in Puducherry Union Territory. The accused then attacked the victim with machetes, killing him on the

The local police had initially registered a case, which was handed over to the NIA which re-registered it on April29, 2023.

The key conspirator in the case, Nithyanandam, was later arrested, along with his asso-ciates, identified as Vignesh, Siva Sankar, Raja, Pradap, Karthikeyan, Vengatesh, Rajamani, Ezhumalai, Rajamani, Ezhumalai, Kathirvel, Ramachandiran, Lakshmanan, Dhilipan and



As part of the conspiracy, All of these accused except Ramanathan were chargesheet-Nithiyanantham had sent ed by the NIA on Friday under Kathirvel to conduct surveillance on Senthil Kumaran in various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Arms Act, Villianur After Senthil's presence in Explosive Substances Act and Activities

the area was confirmed, the main accused sent the six assailants, Vignesh, Siva Sankar, Raja, Pradeep, Karthikeyan and Vengatesh, on three motorcycles to carry out the assassination," the agency alleged in the chargesheet. After the fatal attack, the

accused had hidden the vehi-cles and blood stained machetes used in the assassination, along with their blood stained clothes.

Recovery of these items was made during investigations, on the basis of their dis-

No coercive action against Abhishek, HC restrains ED

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

There was a partial yet time-ly relief for Trinamool Congress second-in-command Abhishek Banerjee with the Calcutta High Court on Friday restraining the Enforcement Directorate from taking any coercive action against him in the school teacher recruitment scam.

Tirthankar Ghosh directed the ED not to take any strong measures against Banerjee as of now, meaning thereby that the investigating agency

The Court order notwithstanding, the petitioner failed to get the proverbial Damocles' quash the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), which is equivalent to an FIR (in general criminal cases), filed by the ED.

The ED can continue with the investigation and if required can summon Baneriee who besides being an MP from Diamond Harbour constituency is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The Court order comes as a big respite for Banerjee before the

On the implication of the order senior advocate and CPI(M) MP Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya said though the Trinamool Congress would claim that this was a relief "in fact it is not because the Court did not quash the ECIR ... meaning thereby that he is very vithin the purview of the investigation ...

and the Court did not quash the ECIR because there is substance in it ... there is prima facie evidence ... the Court only said that no coercive step can be taken because there was no fresh finding submitted by the ED.

Already facing multiple investigations --- in cattle to coal smuggling cases --- Banerjee earlier had exuded confidence that no central agency, not even

the ED or the CBI will be able to do anything to him as he was not involved in any scam. "Knowingly or unknowingly I have never

registered it.

been involved in any scam ... and the ED or CBI will not be able to do anything to me ... if they find a proof against me even worth five paisa then they will not have to come to me ... on my own I will go to the gallows," Banerjee had said early this month emerging from a 10-hour marathon grilling by the ED officials in Kolkata.

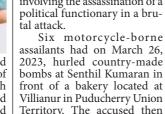
'These are all results of political vendetta ... the BJP is pulling the strings from behind ... they are trying to victimize me because they were badly defeated in the 2021 Assembly elections," Banerjee said adding "I am not afraid of ED or CBI ... let them call me a hundred times and I will face them because I know that I have not done wrong."

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh who is presently in Dubai on a business trip with the Chief Minister said that "the Centre is using the agencies to browbeat the TMC and its leadership ... but Abhishek Banerjee will not be cowed by their action

China spits venom...

From Page 1

Bagchi said India reserves the right to take "suitable measures to safeguard our interests". He also said "China's action violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governtheir conduct, which explicitly prohibits di



Unlawful (Prevention) Act, the NIA said in a statement.

As per the NIA investigations in the case, the conspiracy to attack Senthil Kumaran masterminded by was

Nithiyanantham with the aim to strike terror among the local people in Villianur and surrounding areas. "In furtherance of the con-

spiracy, Nithiyanantham had formed a terrorist gang to fabricate countrymade explosives and had also organised the machetes to commit the brutal

The Bench of Justice will not be able to arrest him for the time being.

Sword off his head as Justice Ghosh did not

next year's elections, experts said.

competitors from member states.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, who served as the former sports minister, condemned China's action and said it is a "violation of the spirit of sports" as well as the "violation of rules governing the conduct of Asian Games". He also asserted that Arunachal Pradesh is not a disputed territory but an inalienable part of India.

"I strongly condemn this act by China to deny visas to our Wushu Athletes from Arunachal Pradesh who were to participate in the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou. This violates both the spirit of Sports & also the Rules governing the conduct of Asian Games, which explicitly prohibits discrimination against competitors from member states," Rijiju wrote on X.

Baba Farid University Sciences, Faridkot Ph: 01639-256232, 256236 Advt. No. BFU-23/16

Vacancies

Online applications are invited on regular basis w.e.f. 23-09-2023 to 13-10-2023 from eligible candidates through University website for the recruitment of post of Senior Scale Stenographer (English)-(02) under Baba Farid University Sciences, Faridkot, For details/ updates / eligibility/ No. of Posts/ terms & conditions visit vebsite www.bfuhs.ac.in

NIT No. MPIDC/Tech-RFP/CE/2023/125

Registra NIL/12/156/2023/28098 Dated CHD :- 9/22/2023

NIT

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform general public that Smt. Marnta & Sh Vignedra have acquired the Property bearing Municipal no 7618 Plot No. 21., Ward no. XV area measuring 200 sc, v5d situated at Ram Nagar, Pahar Guni, New Dehi 110055. Mr Vignedra aquired roof of first floor i.e., second floor area measuring 15.33 sq. mtrs. vide Sale Deed date 10.09.2021 Doc no. 7286 executed by Mr. Bahrinder Kapoor. Smt. Mamti aquired 13/40 Und/vide share in Terrace on Second Floor area measuring 55.74 sq. mtrs. Vide Sale Deed date 12.05.2022 doc. No. 4086 executed by Sh. Rajeev Lal. Smt Marnta acquired 23/dr Und/vide share in Entre Ground Floor and First Floor area measuring 167.22 sq. mtrs. Vide Sale Deed date 12.05.2022 doc. No. 4086 executed by Sh. Rajeev Lal. Smt. Marnta acquired 13/dr Und/vided share in entre Ground Floor Brum. Marnta acquired 13/dr Und/vided share in entre ground floor and first floor, and open terrace on the second-floor area to 61.06.2022 doc. No. 4086 executed by Sh. Manish Goeland the same ist be financed & mortagaed with mr Clemi ta. MS. Suryoday PUBLIC NOTICE

measuring 157.2 sq. mtrs. Vide Sale Deed dated 12.05.202: doc. No. 4086 exercited by Sh. Manish Goel and the same is the Branced & mortgaged with my client i.e. Mrs. Suryodg, Small France Bank 1Ld. That, Sm. Manta 6.Sh. Vijender har misplaced the below memfoned documents-a) Original Sale Deed date 10.50.2014 doc. No. 1453 executed by Rejaev La infavor of Ashu Gupta pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and complaint has been registered on 17.09.2023. LR No. 896407/2023, with Delin Police and typing error in sale date 23 instaet of 112 do soid are dated 15.05.2014, regd ated 221 instaet of 112 do soid are dated 15.05.2014, regd ated 220 instaet of 112 do soid are dated 15.05.2014, regd ated 220 instaet on 12.05 more the Manager of Suryodgy Small "inance Bank Lid Now, Smt. Marnta & Sh. Vijender are nortgaging the above said property with Suryodgy Small "inance Bank & H any person(s) have any objection(s) or jaajm in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 asys from date of this notice on below address, failing which, will be assume that there are no claims or issues in respect if the aforesaid property. **Rachave Tuwari. Advoceste**

New Delhi - 110001 Mob.: +91-807618832

MPIDC M.P. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)

Name of Work

^{i property.} Raghav Tiwari, Advocate Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts

arrest

placed under house arrest at his Nigeen residence on August 4, 2019 ahead of the Abrogation of Article 370.

several political parties in Kashmir welcomed the release of Kashmir's head priest hoping he would be allowed to walk free and discharge his religious duties in the coming days.

Hours after his house arrest ended, Mirwaiz stepped out of his house, in his traditional attire, to lead the congregational prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar. On his arrival Mirwaiz was accorded a warm wel-

come by the worshippers. Before climbing the pulpit Mirwaiz broke down as he was attending the prayers after a long gap of 212 Fridays.

Mirwaiz also recited a Naat Shareef', poetry that is recited in honor of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Addressing the gathering Mirwaiz said he was released following a court order and described the past four years of his house detention as the worst period of his life after his father's death.

unfortunate that he was branded as anti-national, antipeace and separatist as well".

"I was allowed to deliver a sermon on the pulpit of Jamia Masjid after 212 consecutive Fridays. People are aware that after August, 04, 2019, I was kept under house detention and I was not being allowed to move out of my home, due to which I couldn't perform my duties as Mirwaiz" he said

Ban advertisements of junk food: Doctors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Tunk food and sugary drinks are taking an enormous toll on people particularly children, health activists and doctors have warned as they demanded warning labels and a law to ban advertisements of iunk foods

They said that given that one in 4 adults is obese, diabetic or pre-diabetic; rapidly increasing childhood obesity and that unhealthy junk food is alarmingly killing more people than tobacco, it is now important to have effective legislation to

curb the menace. "India faces a severe pubtarget to halt the rise of obesilic health crisis of obesity and ty and diabetes by 2025, which diabetes. As the 2023 ICMRseems nowhere in sight, the

Kejriwal approves ₹10 crore contribution to Himachal Government disaster fund

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has approved a ₹10-crore contribution to the Himachal Pradesh Government's disaster relief fund to aid its rehabilitation and relief efforts following the crore to the Himachal Pradesh devastation caused recent Government's Aapda Rahat heavy rains in the hill state. Kosh 2023.

The file in this regard will at aiding the state in its efforts now be sent to Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai to recover from the devastating recent floods that have left a Kumar Saxena for his approval. The donation of ₹10 crore is trail of destruction in their from the Chief Minister's Relief wake," a Government official Fund. response to a letter written by

"The Delhi Government, under the direction of Chief Minister Kejriwal, will contribute a substantial sum of ₹10



100 million cases of diabetes "Existing regulatory policies remain ineffective to minimise and 1 in every 4 individuals is either suffering from diabetes

or is pre-diabetic or obese.

This contribution is aimed

said. This contribution is in

Himachal Pradesh Chief

Minister Sukhwinder Singh

Sukhu to his Delhi counterpart.

any advertisements of junk foods, which are mostly mis-The Government had set a leading and especially directed at children and adolescents." said Dr Arun Gupta, Convenor of NAPi, the national think tank on nutrition policy.

Citing report "The Junk Push: Rising Consumption of Ultra-processed foods in India-Policy, Politics and Reality", which was released on Friday, he said that it was worrisome that there are evidence from 43 junk food advertisements, which is just the tip of the iceberg.

'These advertisements commonly relied on celebrity endorsements, emotional appeals, unsubstantiated health claims, and targeted children. None of the advertisement provided the "most important information" as demanded by the Consumer Protection Act 2019, for a food product, the amount of sugar, salt, or saturated fat in it," as per the report.

2-day conference on malnutrition, anaemia kicks off

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A^s malnutrition and anaemia continue to threaten a sizable number of population in the country, a two-day conference kicked off here on Friday with an aim to emphasises on the technical advances that have been made in the sector and translates research into practical resources like videos, toolkits, and brochures to simplify the technical insights.

"Partnerships are critical to drive public health progress of the country that's closely linked with its social development. The hallmark of our conference

is stakeholder partnership and an active engagement of com-munities in all stages of research, programme design, implementation to minimise the occurrence of anaemia and its effect on women and children," said Meera Satpathy, founder and chairperson, Sukarya which has organised the conference in partnership with NCEAR-A, IFPRI, George Washington University, Department of Global Health, University of Washington and Global Washington .

Sukarya has reached 70,00,000 women and children across 760 villages of India and continues to engage communities via dialogues, health camps.

SECRETARIAT FOR SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM 21, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011 M.P. (India), Tel. : (91) 0755-2571830, 2575618, 3523555, 3523505, E-mail : helpdesk@mpidc.co.in, Website : www.invest.mp.gov.in CIN: U51102MP1977SGC001392 NOTICE INVITING TENDER He said "that despite advocating for peace, it is Date : 22.09.2023 Online percentage rate bids including Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Testing, Commissioning including defect liability period for 5 (Five) years for the following work are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria :-District **Probable Amount of**

No. Contract (in Rs. Cr.) 125 Development of Smart Industrial Township - Ratlam Ratlam 306.57 (Investment Region Development and Management Scheme) at Ratlam, District Ratlam (M.P.) (Phase-1). The Tender documents can be downloaded from the E-procurement Portal - https:// mptenders.gov.in - MPIDC HO starting from 26.09.2023 M.P. Madhyam/112175/2023 **CHIEF ENGINEER**

Mirwaiz released after 4 years of house

MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

arrest in J&K

The Union Territory A administration on Friday lifted the restrictions imposed on the free movement of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chairman of the Hurrivat Conference, ending the four year long period of house

Mirwaiz, was originally Leaders belonging to the



capital 03



DU WEARS FESTIVE LOOK ON POLL DAY Students throng election booths

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

E across Delhi University over the past weeks culminated in long queues at several colleges as students turned up to cast their votes to select their next students' union.

The North Campus of Delhi University was seen painted in the colours of the student union elections. Tea stalls and eateries were decorated with posters bearing candidates' names and photos while pamphlets were strewn all over Delĥi University's North Campus as students waited to cast their votes for the university's student body elections.

Supporters of various student groups were seen raising slogans at the campus intersec-tion, reiterating the poll promises of the student organisations taking part in the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) election.

The Ratan Tata Library and JP tea stall have become a hub of discussions over the election. Many first-year students were seen filming the scenes on the campus. They also took selfies after casting their votes.

Voting for the student union elections had started since morning. At many places, students who came to vote for the first time were presented with roses. In some places, security personnel were seen using drones to monitor the overall scenario. Besides, in some spots, arrangements were made to provide cold drinking water to the students who came to vote.

During the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) polls on Friday, the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) claimed that fake voting was conducted at



Students raise slogans at the College of Vocational Studies during Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) polls, in New Delhi, on Friday

Lakshmibai College, adding women's rights on the campus the college administration was and women's empowerment in the university. I fully believe also involved in the irregularities. Hitting out at the Akhil and request that our sisters at Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the NSUI said "Delhi Delhi Üniversity will exercise their right to vote in favour of ABVP," she added. NSUI Delhi in-charge Nitish Gaur said the University has become a pup-pet in the hands of the ABVP". university administration was The varsity, however, has dispressurising people "to vote in favour of the other group". NSUI claimed that they have won in ARSD, Moti Lal Nehru missed the allegations. Meanwhile, the ABVP has dismissed the NSUI claims as

"lies", saying "the students are voting of their own free will and a lot of enthusiasm can be seen among the students regarding voting". ABVP's Deshbandu, Sri Aurobindo morning, Ramjas, KM college, Campus Law center 2 posts, Satyawati morning, Miranda, Aparajita, who is contesting for the post of Secretary, said, "I am visiting various colleges of Delhi University. I am appeal-ing to all the students of Delhi University, especially the girl

been allotted to the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) for

relocation of shops in the shad-ow area of the elevated road

the LG had recently approved

allotment of 297 sqmts of land to NCRTC for connectivity of stabling yard at Jangpura for implementation of Delhi-

clearin

The above two allotments were made near the site where

and temporary parking.

college, Rajdhani college, Keshav Mahavidayalya, Bhagini Nivedita college, Deshbandu college, College of Vocational Studies, Bhaskaracharya col-

This year 24 candidates are in the fray for the DUSU polls being held after a gap of three years. While students of day classes were allowed to cast their votes till 1 pm, those from the evening classes could cast morning, Sri Venkateshwara, their votes from 3 pm to 7:30 pm. Around one lakh students Ram Lal Anand, Aryabhatt, are eligible to vote in the election, which also acts as a stepping stone for budding politicians.

Zakir Hussain morning, Shyam Around 500 security personnel have been deployed at The ABVP has claimed to Delhi University's North retain seats in PGDAV college, Campus alone for the election. Dayal Singh, Aditi Mahavidhayala, Ramanujan college, Bhagat Singh college, Aurobindo college, Laxmibai Adequate arrangements have also been made in the univer-sity's South Campus for the polls.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Students participating in the Delhi University Students' Union elections on Friday expressed hope that students' leaders will "work tirelessly and improve the campus envi-ronment." For most of them, this was the first opportunity to yote in the campus electo vote in the campus elec-tions. The Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elec-tions were last held in 2019. The elections could not be held in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 while possible disruptions to the academic calendar prevented its conduct in 2022

Tanupriya, a first-year student of Hansarj College, said they hope for the students' leaders will "work tirelessly and improve the campus environment.

Aastha Verma, another first-year student of Hansraj College, said the outcome of the elections will impact not only the university's future but also their education. Vaishali, a fresher from Miranda House, said several changes are needed to enhance the campus experience and added that the students are eagerly waiting for the promises made by students' leaders to become a reality.

"Students from all around the world come here for education. Several changes are needed to enhance the campus experience. The candidates have made sweeping promises and all students are eager-

when these promises will turn into a reality," she said.



Student aueue outside the polling booths

er used leaves for campaign-ing." Kritarth Apurva, a first-time voter from Kirori Mal students of day classes concluded at 1 pm while those in evening classes can cast their votes till 7.30 pm. College, however, loved the experience. "I am a first-year student

Shambhavi, a first-year student at Campus Law Centre, however, expressed disappointment with the experience.

She said, "I experienced this (election process) for the first time and did not like it much. They (students) wasted lot of papers. I found two candidates who spoke about this — one of them actually The voting process for cleaned the papers and anothexpressed their excitement at being able to take part in the campus polls.

Enhanced security during college fests, menstrual leaves and the presence of women cops outside campus-es were the core issues for female students as they cast their votes in the Delhi University Students' Union elections on Friday. Miranda House student Nikita high-lighted the issue of security, especially during college fests.

"On numerous occasions, some women have found themselves in unexpected and alarming situations during these festivities. Incidents like these dampen the students' mood and also raise concern about their safety," she said.

Ritika, a second-year student of the college, urged the university administration to prioritise security during such events.

Bhumi, another student of the college, emphasised the need for proactive measures outside the campus. She proposed the presence of both female and male police per-sonnel in the vicinity of girls' colleges to ensure discipline and safety.

Nimisha, a final-year stu-dent, echoed her collegemates' sentiments and added that there should be menstrual leaves. The ABVP and the NSUI released separate manifestos for women voters in the run-up to the polls. The NSUI, in its women's manifesto, has

promised menstrual leaves, emergency response system for distress calls and increased police patrolling outside colleges.

Land allocation for utilities approved



Meerut RRTS.

Musical fountain opens at first bamboo theme park in Capital

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Lal colleges

A musical fountain equipped with a Adynamic LED lighting system was on Friday inaugurated at Delhi's first bamboo theme park, which aims at enhancing the ecological character of the Yamuna floodplains and make it attractive as a recreational and cultural venue.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena unveiled a plaque at the upcoming park — 'Baansera' — to mark the inauguration of the fountain.

The fountain grid is 90 m long and 10 m wide and is covered by nine different cials said. water features. The central column can The LG after inaugurating the founspray water jets up to a height of di word 'Basera' meaning aboo



as water jets danced to the tunes of songs

as water jets danced to the tunes of songs such as 'Jai Ho' and 'Rang de Basanti'. Work is currently underway to build 'Baansera' and the project is being execut-ed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA)

More than 25,000 special variety of bamboo saplings, brought from Assam, are being planted here. It will achieve the purpose of augmenting the much-needed public spaces in the national capital as well as ensure that the rich biodiversity of the floodplain is preserved and maintained, the DDA had earlier said.

The city's first of its kind initiative has been named 'Baansera' as derived from the

Two members of Tyagi gang held for extorting money

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Ranjan Dimri / The Pioneer

and it was a great experience for me because I haven't voted

in any other elections. It was

a practice for me ahead of next

polling booths on Friday to

cast their votes. Many second-

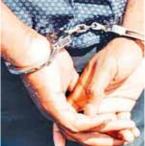
and third-year students who

are experiencing the election process for the first time also

Students thronged the

year's Lok Sabha elections."

The Delhi Police has arrested two members of Salman Tyagi gang for allegedly firing outside two shops for extorting money from the owners in west Delhi's Subhash Nagar area. According to police, the accused have been identified as Deepanshu (21), a resident of 1111 Garden



ly anticipating the moment

 $D^{elhi}\,$ Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the allotment and allocation of parcels of land for the construction of a sewage pumping station, power grid and other utilities, pending for a long, in different parts of the national Capital, Raj Niwas officials said on Friday.

Saxena has approved the allotment and transfer of 3,360 sq mts of land at Bhalswa to the Delhi Ial Board (DIB) for the construction of a sewage pumping station in Badli. The land will be trans-

ferred to DJB by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB).

He also approved the allocation of land measuring 1451.54 sq mts to RRTS on a temporary basis for a year for utility purposes in Jangpura area where construction activities are undergoing for the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transport System (RRTS) and an elevated road connecting the Ring Road, the officials said.

In Jangpura area, a parcel of 919.54 sq mts of land has

posal for allotment of 235 sqmts of land for relocation of shops, the entire cost of the relocation will be borne by the NCRTC which after construction of 17 shops, will return the land to DUSIB that will hand over the shops to the original allottees

Similarly, he approved 220 acres of Gram Sabha land in Badarpur Khadar village of northeast Delhi to be allotted

and utilised by the Education Department (for construction of Schools), DJB (for RO unit installation) and Environment and Forests Department.

He also approved the transfer of 1.2 acres of land of Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) to PWD for the construction of an underpass on the Outer Ring Road near MukarbaChowk. This will include the con-

struction of a road from Badli Junction to Haiderpur Metro Station in North Delhi and will ease traffic congestion on the critical junction where the

Ring Road and National Highway leading to the Northern States intersect.

Govt allows use of loudspeakers till midnight during Dussehra, Ramlila

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has granted permission for the use of loudspeakers until midnight during Ramlila, Durga Puja, and celebrations. Dussehra Presently, loudspeakers were allowed only till 10 p.m.

This permission will be effective from October 15 to October 24. During this period, organisers will be required to strictly adhere to noise pollution regulations. After the Chief Minister's approval, the file has been sent to Lieutenant Govenor Vinai Kumar Saxena for final approval.

The announcement comes a day after Kejriwal met a delegation of office bearers of the Luv Kush Ramleela

ill," Kejriwal said.

asserted

AAP which confidently says,



Committee. "The request, made by various organisers, including the Lav Kush Ramlila Committee, was to extend the permission for using loudspeakers until midnight, instead of the previous limit of

10 pm "The Chief Minister took this matter seriously and, taking immediate action, granted per-

mission to use loudspeakers until midnight on Friday. The file has now been sent to the Lieutenant Governor (LG)," the Chief Minister Office said in a statement. Ramlila organisers must get permission from the police and ensure that the use of loudspeakers does not violate noise levels in residential areas, the CMO statement added

Now, in Delhi, organisers of grand events such as Ramlila, Durga Puja, and Dussehra celebrations can use loudspeakers until midnight.

However, the organisers of these religious events will need to obtain permission from the Delhi Police with the condition that they do not violate the prescribed noise standards for residential areas during the use of loudspeakers. Presently, the use of loudspeakers in Delhi is allowed only until 10 pm.

The Ramlila in Delhi is set to begin on October 15 and will continue until October 24.

Every year, grand Ramlila performances take place in various parts of Delhi with great fanfare. Additionally, Durga Puja is also celebrated on a large scale.

Moinuddin alias Salman (21), a resident of Tihar Village.

On the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, two firing incidents took place in the Rajouri Garden area, police said. In the first incident, Deepanshu and Moinuddin came to a restaurant in Subash Nagar on a scooter and fired two rounds on the flex board of the restaurant. Five minutes later, they reached another

shop and fired three rounds there, they said. It was found that the firing incidents took place over extortion demand of ₹50 lakhs each from the owners of the

shops, they said. During the investigation, over 200 CCTV cameras were checked and analysed. Police got a tip-off that the accused persons would come near Mayapuri Metro Station to meet someone, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav said

A trap was laid and Moinuddin was apprehended. Later, Deepanshu, who was the pillion rider and had fired

the bullets, was also nabbed near Pacific Mall, Subhash Nagar, Yadav said. Deepanshu disclosed that he is a close associate of Salman Tyagi, who is currently lodged in Mandoli Jail. He keeps meeting Tyagi in jail, police said.

During one of his visits last week, Tyagi arranged weapons and instructed him to make an extortion demand of ₹50 lakh from each businessman, police said At the behest of Tyagi, both the accused opened fire in front of the victims' shops, they said.

Tyagi is lodged in Mandoli Jail in several cases of murder and extortion. Over 25 heinous cases are registered against him, police said.

He and his associates killed a businessman Ajay Choudhary of Keshopur Mandi. It is believed that Tyagi has recently switched sides and joined hands with Naresh Sethi-Kala Jathedi-Lawrence Binshnoi gang. He was earlier a close associate of gangster

Kejriwal launches WhatsApp ₹40 crore opium recovered, three arrested channel, refers to SRK Jawan STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI from different people in Mani

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

AP convener and Delhi AChief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday launched his personal WhatsApp channel and referred to Shah Rukh Khan starrer 'Jawan' to request people to come together and make India the number one country. The Delhi CMO WhatsApp channel went live earlier this week and has garnered over 51,000 followers so

In a post on social media site X, Kejriwal shared the link to his personal WhatsApp channel and said, "Excited to connect with you all through

my WhatsApp channel. Let's based on caste or religion. Instead, ask them if they will provide good education for shine as the number one country in the world." This WhatsApp channel healthcare if your family falls

has been created to provide an opportunity to the people to directly stay connected with Kejriwal, the AAP said in a statement.

Referring to the movie 'Jawan', Kejriwal appealed to the people to unite to make the country number one in the world, saying it was India's right to achieve that goal.

in

said his government built "excellent" schools in the city "Jawan is a very good film which Shah Rukh Khan and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann was bringing says that if someone comes askabout an "education revolution" ing for your vote, don't vote in the AAP-ruled Punjab.

Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested three people and recovered opium worth your children and ensure good around ₹40 crore in the international market. According to police, the accused have been identified as Amra Ram (34), Even 75 years after Bhana Ram Choudhary (33) and Bhalla Ram (31), all resi-Independence, it is only the dents of Rajasthan's Jodhpur. Give us your vote because

The opium was smuggled we will provide quality education to your children," he from the northeastern states and was meant to supply in The Delhi chief minister Delhi and other nearby states, police said.

The accused used a secret cavity to hide opium in the car, which had a temporary registration number for evading law enforcement agencies, they

said. On September 11, police got a tip-off that two persons indulged in drug trafficking activities on the directions of Bhalla reached Delhi with a consignment of opium and would come on Noida Link Road, near Crown Plaza Hotel to deliver the consignment, a

senior police officer said A trap was laid and Amra and Bhana were nabbed, along with a car having no number plate on the back side and a temporary number plate on the front side, he said.

A total of 40.865 kg of finequality opium was recovered from the secret cavities made in the chassis line covered by the front and back tyre fender liner, the officer said.



Police found that Bhalla was admitted to a hospital in Jodhpur on September 11 sensing that the members of his ang may have been arrested as their phones were not reachable, the officer said.

He was arrested after being discharged from the hospital. On his instance, 3.058 kg of

pur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Assam on the directions of Bhalla and supply it in Delhi/ NCR, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Chandigarh on his directions, they said.

Bhalla runs an interstate drug cartel and has been involved in drug trafficking activities for the last six years He used to communicate with suppliers and receivers of opium via social networking platforms and used WhatsApp accounts registered on international numbers, the officer said. He purchased two new cars for the smuggling of opium and made special cavities to hide narcotic substances,

months, police said. They would receive opium police added.

opium was recovered from his

home in Jodhpur, the officer

said. Amra and Bhana dis-

closed that they were part of an

interstate narcotics syndicate

run by Bhalla and were

involved in drug trafficking

activities for the last six

Neeraj Bawania, police said.



PM for 'strong Government with majority' JD(S) joins NDA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made a pitch for having a "strong Government with majority", saying this made the Parliamentary approval for the long-pending idea possible as he told women BJP workers and MPs here that the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' is not an ordinary law but a proclamation of the "New Îndia's democratic commitment." He also said the passing of the women reservation bill an evidence of Modi's guarantee of women-led development

Addressing an event organised by the BJP's 'Mahila Morcha' to felicitate him for the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament, Modi said it was the BJP's good fortune that its Government got the opportunity to pass the

22 सितम्बर, 2023 | केंद्रीय काय

se pass hona, is baat ka bhi women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was talked sakshi hain ki jab purn bahuabout for nearly three decades, mat wali isthir sarkar hoti he noted, adding that the earhain, to desh kese bade phaislier efforts lacked commitment la leta hain, bade padavon ko paar karta hain", the Prime Minister said, adding earlier Governments make superficial efforts because they "did

majority, saying "this made the parliamentary approval for the long-pending idea possible." "Narishakti Vandan

Having reservation for Adhiniyam ka duno sadanon that is why the political parties

and women were even insulted The Prime Minister also made a pitch for having a strong Government with not have intention to pass it". Asserting that his

Government worked to empower women, who have emerged as a power over the last one decade, Modi said that used to tear copies of the women's reservation bill in Parliament had to support it a jibe at parties, such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Samajwadi Party (SP). Every party had to sup-

port it, he saying " jo Bill phada karte they, unko bhi is adhiniware adhiniyam ka samarthan karna pada", Modi said amidst claps and cheers from women MPs.

The Prime Minister said it was the BJP's good fortune that its Government got the opportunity to pass the Bill.

Some decisions have the power to change a country's fate, he said, describing the proposed law as one such measure that will infuse new confidence among women and multiply India's strength to advance.

The Constitution amendment bill will soon become law after the president's assent and the subsequent notification -a procedural formality.

A new history was made

on September 20 and 21, Modi said, referring to the days the bill was passed first by the Lok Sabha and then by the Rajya Sabha. "It was our good fortune that people gave this government the chance to do so," he said.

This is a proof of fulfilling "Modi's guarantee" that he will usher in a new era of womenled development, he said amid loud cheers from the large number of women present at the BJP headquarters.

A large number of women, including beneficiaries of several government schemes, were present at the party office to greet him. Modi bowed to a group of beneficiaries, who garlanded and blessed him.

BJP president J P Nadda and women Union ministers, including Nirmala Sitharaman and Smriti Irani, and other party leaders were present on the occasion. Nadda described Chief Minister H D the bill's passage as historic and Kumaraswamy meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah and credited Modi's foresight and party president J P Nadda. resolve for the feat.



After the meeting, Nadda said on X, "I am happy that Set for the seat-sharing tie-with the BJP in JD(S) has decided to be the part of National Democratic Karnataka for 28 parliamentary Alliance. We wholeheartedly seats, the Janata Dal (Secular) welcome them in the NDA. on Friday joined National This will further strengthen Democratic Alliance (NDA). NDA and vision of Hon PM The decision followed JD Narendra Modi Ji for 'New (S) leader and former Karnataka India, Strong India."

Headed by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, father of Kumaraswamy, the JD(S) has long been a strong

third player in the southern state where the Congress and the BJP have been the two main parties

nation 04

The regional party, however, suffered a sharp decline in the recent assembly polls in the state in the Congress scored a big win, reducing the BJP to a distant third.

JD(S) is demanding six seats of 28 Lok Sabha seats while BJP is agreeing to four. BJP had won 25 of 28 seats in 2019 Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka.

1st 'One Nation One Election' meet under Kovind today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the high-level committee under former president Ram Nath Kovind for simultaneous elections as known as One Nation One Election will be held on Saturday to discuss the roadmap and how to go about holding consultation with stakeholders.

Kovind had recently media told that the meeting will be

held on September 23. The Government had on September 2 notified the eightmember "high-level" panel to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, munic-

ipalities and panchayats. People aware of the details said the meeting will be "introductory" in nature and members will discuss the roadmap on how to go about the mandate given to the panel.

The panel, they said, will also discuss on how to go about holding consultations with stakeholders, research on the subject and preparation of

working papers. Home Minister Amit Shah,

former leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and former finance commission chairman N K Singh are among the committee's members.

Congress' leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was also a member. However, in a letter to Home Minister Shah, he declined to be part of the panel

"I have no hesitation whatsoever in declining to serve on the committee whose terms of reference have been prepared

secretary general Subhash C in a manner to guarantee its Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve and former chief conclusions. It is, I am afraid, a total eyewash," Chowdhury vigilance Commissioner Sanjay had said in the letter. Kothari as members. The government notifica-Law Minister Arjun Ram

al structure.

to

tion said the panel will com-Meghwal will attend the meetmence functioning immediings of the committee as a speately and make recommendacial invitee, while Law Secretary tions "at the earliest", but did Niten Chandra will be the secnot specify a time-frame to retary to the panel. The committee will examsubmit the report.

The decision to have a committee under former presamendments ident Kovind had caught oppo-Constitution. sition bloc INDIA, holding their conclave in Mumbai on September 1, by surprise and



amendments for the purpose of further raised the political heat. The opposition alliance holding simultaneous elections.

had slammed the decision as a It has also been tasked to 'threat" to the country's federsuggest a framework for synchronisation of elections and The high-level committee "specifically suggest the phaswill also have former Lok Sabha es and time-frame within which simultaneous elections may be held if they cannot be held in one go...".

It will also examine and recommend if the amendments to the Constitution would require ratification by states.

Certain amendments to the Constitution require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies.

The committee will also ine and recommend specific analyse and recommend possible solutions to scenarios the such as hung House, adoption the Representation of the People of no-confidence motion, or Act and any other laws and defection or any such other rules which would require event in case of simultaneous

elections

The committee has also been asked to recommend "necessary safeguards for ensuring the continuity of the cycle of simultaneous elections and recommend necessary amendments to the Constitution so that the cycle of simultaneous elections is not disturbed".

The issue of logistics is also on the agenda of the panel as the massive exercise would require additional number of EVMs and paper-trail machines, polling and securi-

It will also examine and recommend the modalities of use of a single electoral roll and electoral identity cards for

tions to the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, municipalities and panchayats. A parliamentary commit-

common electoral roll will help reduce expenses and prevent manpower being deployed for a work on which another

While the Election Commission (ED) is mandated to hold parliamentary and

assembly polls, state election commission's (SECs) hold local body elections. The EC and the SECs are separate bodies under the Constitution with a fixed mandate.

The original proposal was for simultaneous elections to all three tiers of democracy -- Lok Sabha (543 MPs), Vidhan Sabha (4,120 MLAs) and the panchayats/ municipalities (30 lakh members).

The notification had point ed out that elections to the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies were mostly held simultaneously from 1951-52 to 1967 after which this cycle got broken and now, elections are held almost every year and within a year too at different times, which result in massive expenditure by the government and other stakeholders.

duties for significantly pro-longed periods.

Frequent polls, it said, disrupt developmental work on account of prolonged applica-tion of the Model Code of Conduct.

Jaishankar begins 9-day visit to US

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Friday began a nine-day visit to the US, primarily to attend the annual session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York and to host a special event on Global South.

He will visit Washington from September 27 to 30 after the completion of the 78th UNGA related engagements. Jaishankar will hold bilateral meetings with his American interlocutors.

"During his visit to New York from September 22 to 26, the External Affairs Minister (EAM) will be leading the Indian delegation for the high level week at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Friday. "In keeping with India's support for Global South, the EAM will be hosting a special event 'India-UN for Global South: Delivering for Development," it said in a statement.

Jaishankar would also attend various plurilateral and bilateral meetings in New York. He will also be meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly, the MEA said.

It said Jaishankar's address at the high level session of the 78th UŇGA is scheduled for the forenoon of September 26.

His engagements in Washington include discussions with his counterpart American Antony Blinken, senior members of the US administration, US business leaders and think tanks. Jaishankar will also be addressing the fourth World Culture Festival being organised by the Art of Living, the MEA said



Implement Women's Reservation Bill immediately: Rahul PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Rahul said and alleged that the BJP MPs have no role in deciaking an mere "moortis" (idols) in a temple without any power given to them. "The truth is that this bill Reservation Bill and expressed will be implemented in 10 100 per cent regret" that the years from now, if it is impleproposed legislation during mented at all," he claimed at a the UPA Government did not press conference at the AICC include reservation for OBCs. headquarters, a day after He also demanded that Parliament approved the legisthe Government carry out a lation to reserve a third of seats caste census and make public in the Lok Sabha and state its findings along with that of assemblies for women. the previous caste census con-Rahul said that while he favoured the bill, he sought Noting that the Government's intention behind more reservation for women from backward classes and other sections as per their popbringing the bill was political, he said it will not be impleulation ratios. Asked if he regretted that mented in the next 10 years as the erstwhile UPA government it has been linked to the population census and the delimdid not give OBC quota in its women's reservation bill that was passed by Rajya Sabha in The bill was meant for diverting attention from the 2010, Rahul Gandhi said, growing call for a caste census, "There is 100 per cent regret.



later posted on X in Hindi.

building and he said that he is passing a very important law and we agree with him," said Rahul. The Congress leader said he was shocked to find that only three secretary-level officers in the Government of India are from OBCs and only five per cent of the budget is allocated for them.

carried the Constitution of the party having a significant

"And as the prime minister

three OBC (officers) are there

in the Government of India

and why the OBC community

which is the backbone of this

country is responsible for only

five per cent of the budget," he

not been able to respond to this

question and when he men-

tioned it, "I saw in their face the

panic. Because this is the truth

and this is what they are trying

to distract India from - the fact

that the large mass of Indian

people do not have any power.

Gandhi said the BJP was

noted.



ty personnel.

identification of voters in elec-

tee had recently said that a

agency is already working.

It also leads to diversion of security forces and other electoral officers engaged in such elections from their primary



At the press conference, he India from the old building to number of MPs and MLAs said, "You can ask any MP or MLA on how much they participate in law-making, how much they participate in how the money in India is spent, they will tell you there is no participation." keeps saying he an OBC leader, I want him to explain why only

NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 29 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBT DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993. ICICI BANK LTD. Mr. ATUL SHARMA & OTHERS 1. Mr. ATUL SHARMA

B-15 Gate No.10 Sec-49 C/o Ashok Mishra, Pryag Hospital Noida-201301. Also At:-Flat No. C703, 7th Floor Towe T3, Sector-01, Greater Noida, Noida-201307 (Borrower) 2. MR. OM PRÀKASH

72/72A, Kambal Avalbag-2, Muzzafar Nagar, Saharanpur 247343 Also At: Flat No. C703, 7th Floor Tower T3, Sector-01, Greater Noida, Noida-201307 (Borrower)

3. M/S J.S.S. BUILDON PVT. LTD. Registered Office : 197 E, Mayur Vihar, Phase 1, New Delhi.

Corporate Office at H-38, Sector-63, Noida, U.P-

201307 ...Defendants This is to notify that a sum of Rs. 60,22,714/- (Rupees Sixty Lacs Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen Only) together with pendentelite and future interest @ 9.00% per annum from the date of filling, 11 12-2019 original application till full realization is made has become due from you as per the Certificate bearing No. 569/2022 dated 10-02-2022 in Original Application No. 1696/2019 passed against you by the D.R.T Lucknow

 You are hereby directed to pay the sum within 15 days of the receipt of this Notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financia Institution Act, 1993. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on Affidavit the particulars of asset on or Before **10.10.2023**. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned or 10.10.2023 at 10.30 A.M.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid you will also be liable to pay the following Costs. Details of costs:-

Application fee : Rs. 63,000/-Advocate fees Rs. Publication charges Rs. Miscellaneous Expenses Rs Given under my hand and seal at Lucknow this 17th day of August, 2023

Recovery Officer Debs Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

w. carourt singlin tauda Xio Mr. Pottin Ham Yaday, these be ransactions are valid. Any person(s) have any kind of objecth, of atoresaid property, then kindly contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failit which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated i full and void in respect of the subject property.

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

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir,

(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh) Summons for Filing & Appearance by Publication O.A. No. 442/2023 Date, 08/08/2023

of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) ICICI BANK LTD. ... Applicant Versus **JAIDEEP GOEL & OTHERS**

R/o. C-2 Divine Park view Apartments, Abhay Khand-3, Indirapuram Shipra Suncity, Ghaziabad-201014 Also At- Flat No. 1206, Tower-F, 12th Floor, Bulland Elevates, Plot No. Gh-03A Sector-16C Greater Noida, Noida- 201307, U.P. 2. VEENU GOEL W/O JAIDEEP GOEL R/o C-2 Divine Park view Aprtments, Abhay Khand-3, Indirapuram Shipra Suncity, Ghaziabad- 201014 Also At- Flat No. 1206. Tower-F 12th Floor, Bulland Elevates, Plot No. Gh-03A, Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Noida- 201307, U.P. 3. BULLAND BUILDTEH PVT. LTD. Registered office: A-2, Bulland House, Khanpur Extension, New Delhi- 110080

 $F_{\text{Rahul}}^{\text{ormer Congress President}} \\ \text{Gandhi on Friday}$ demanded immediate implementation of the Women's

NFW DFI HI

Lucknow- 226007 ducted during the UPA rule.

(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery itation exercise.

...Defendants

Defendants:-

1. JAIDEEP GOEL S/O. SUBHODH KUMAR GOEL

Extension, New Delhi- 110080 In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the a uthorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and 22-02-2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing hereafter to appear before the Tribunal on which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence. **Registrar**

Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

We should have done that back

then and we will get this done now."

The women's reservation bill is a good thing, but two "footnotes" of census and delimitation have been attached to it which will take many years to give this reservation to women, he said.

"Share on basis of population - this is the right of our OBC brothers and sisters! Release the caste census data now, do the new census on the basis of caste. Implement women's reservation now, not after 10 years," Rahul Gandhi

in Lok Sabha, which is called 'temple of democracy', if they take any decision or take part in law-making - not at all.... MPs are considered a 'moorti' (idol) in a temple, they have been kept like that without giving them any power. A BJP MP has told me this."

The Congress said delimitation and census were "poor excuses" for postponement of the bill's implementation and alleged that the entire exercise was to create an election issue, without actually implementing it. The opposition party also dubbed the bill a "teasing illusion".

"The BJP came up with the idea of a special session. We appreciated that idea. With a lot of fanfare and pomp we moved from the old building to the new building. The prime minister in a very dramatic gesture

The central question now is how many OBCs are there in India and how many are from other communities in India, he said and pitched for a caste census.

"If we want to distribute power to the people of India, we want to know this number, otherwise we are working without data All this data is available as the census has already been done. Why is the prime minister not releasing this data," he asked.

On the BJP's assertion of

Supreme Court rejects plea seeking survey of Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah mosque premises

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday I refused to entertain a plea by Shri Krishna Janambĥoomi Mukti Nirman Trust' seeking a survey of the Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah mosque premises in Mathura to determine whether it was built on a pre-existing Hindu temple. The apex court rejected an appeal challenging a July 10 decision of the Allahabad High Court which had also dismissed the plea finding no error or illegality in the order of a Mathura civil judge who had decided to first hear the issue of maintainability of the suit as raised by management committee of the mosque.

The Trust challenged an order of the Allahabad High Court which dismissed its plea to direct the Mathura civil judge to decide its application for a scientific survey of Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah



mosque premises first before deciding the objections raised against the suit. The objections against the suit were raised before the civil judge by the management committee of the mosque and the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board.

"Thus, we feel we are not required to exercise jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution, more so being an interim order, as there are various issues at large which are pending before the high court as the court of first instance," a bench of Justice Sanjay Kishan

Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia said. Senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia, representing the Trust, submitted before the apex court that aggrieved by the trial court's March order, they preferred a petition before the high court, which on May 26 transferred all the suits related to the matter to itself

The bench said it was conscious of the fact that all related proceedings, including the suits, stand transferred to the high court. However, the trial court passed the order before such transfer took place and it cannot

be said that it did not have the jurisdiction to pass such an order.

'The high court on transfer of all the cases will do the trial and be the court of first instance. That being the position it cannot be urged, as counsel for the petitioner submits, that the said court alone should have exercised the jurisdiction... Also against the order of the trial court," the bench said, adding that the issues related to the suits are to be considered by the high

The top court also noted the submission of advocate Tasneem Ahmadi, representing Shahi Masjid Eidgah Management Committee, that a special leave petition (SLP) has been filed by them against the high court's May 26 order which is pending before the apex court. "Thus what we have observed aforesaid is without prejudice to the rights and contentions of the respondent in that case," the bench said.

Sahyadri deployed in Indo-Pacific

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ndian Navy's indigenously built warship INS Sahyadri, mission deployed in Indo-Pacific, participated in the maiden trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise with the ships and aircraft from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Indonesian Navy from September 20 - 21, navy officials said here on Friday.

The trilateral exercise provided an opportunity for the three maritime nations to strengthen their partnership and improve their collective capability to support a stable, peaceful and secure Indo-Pacific region.

The exercise also provided the opportunity for the participating navies to benefit from each other's experience and



expertise. Complex tactical and manoeuvring exercises, crossdeck visits and cross-deck landings of integral helicopters were conducted for training of crew and enhancement of

interoperability, they said. INS Sahyadri, the third ship of the indigenously designed and built Project-17 class multirole stealth frigates was built at Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai and is commanded by Captain Rajan Kapoor.

court.



nation 05

PM to lay foundation of cricket stadium in Varanasi today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Varanasi city on Saturday. He will lay the foundation stone of the international cricket stadium here. Later the PM will reach Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre (RICC) and participate in the closing ceremony of Kashi Sansad Sanskritik Mahotsav (KSSM) 2023. He will also inaugurate 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya built across Uttar Pradesh during the programme. International cricket stadium in Varanasi will be a step towards realising the PM's vision to develop modern world class sports infrastructure. The modern international cricket stadium to be built in Ganjari near Rajatalab will be developed in more than 30 acre area at a cost of about ₹450 crore. The thematic architecture of this stadium draws inspiration from Lord Shiva, with designs developed for crescent shaped roof cov-ers, trident shaped flood-lights, ghat steps based seating, Belpatra shaped metallic sheets on the facade. The stadium will have a capacity of 30,000 spec-tators. With an aim to further enhance access to quality education, 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya across UP built at a cost of about ₹1,115 crore, have been started exclusively for children of labourers, construction workers and orphans due to COVID-19 pandemic, with an aim to provide quality education and help in holistic development of children. Each school is constructed in an area of 10-15 acres with classrooms, sports ground, recreational areas, a mini auditorium, hostel complex, mess and residential flats for staff. These residential schools intend to eventually accommodate 1,000 students each. The PM's vision to strengthen the cultural vibrancy of Kashi has led to the conceptualisation of Kashi Sansad Sanskritik



Final touches being given to international cricket stadium site at Ganjari on eve of PM's arrival in Varanasi on Friday



Atal Residential School ready for inauguration at Karsada in Varanasi

Mahotsav. The Mahotsav witnessed the participation of more than 37,000 persons across 17 disciplines, who displayed their skills in singing, instrumental playing, nukkad natak, dancing etc. The meritorious participants will get a chance to showcase their cultural skills during the programme at RICC.

Meanwhile after the RICC, now a glimpse of Lord Shiva and Kashi will be seen in the new international cricket stadium being built in Varanasi. PM is coming to Kashi on Saturday to give a

gift to the sports lovers of Purvanchal (eastern UP) an international cricket stadium in his parliamentary constituency. The cricket lovers of Purvanchal will no longer have to go far to watch international cricket matches. With the construction of an international cricket stadium at a cost of ₹451 crore, along with watching the matches, the basic infrastructure for international cricketers will also be ready. The cricket legends, Sachin Tendulkar and Sunil Gavaskar, are likely to attend

the foundation stone laying

role in the rejuvenation of Kashi. Along with imple-menting PM's schemes in Kashi, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself has been inspecting from time to time to ensure that all the work is done properly. In the same sequence, as per the intention of the CM to build an international stadium, 30.86 acres of land worth ₹121 crore has been given on lease to Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) for the construction of this stadium. The PM is creating new dimensions of development to change the picture of his parliamentary constituency. The CM is giving concrete shape to development and employment related projects in Kashi. The

give such a big gift to Purvanchal in the form of an international cricket stadium. The state government has given this land on long-term lease to the UPCA. On this the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will build an international cricket stadium at a cost of ₹330 crore. The stadium with a capacity of 30,000 spectators will have seven pitches (practice and main wicket) and a state-ofthe-art stadium will be constructed as per the rules of international cricket stadium. The stadium is likely to be ready by December 2025. When international matches are held in the international cricket stadium, the glory of the stadium based on spirituality and religious architecture built in Kashi will be visible to ceremony of the stadium. In the whole world through live telecast on TV. The shape of this project, the Yogi governthe stadium will be half-moon ment has spent ₹121 crore on land acquisition while the shaped, in which the flood-BCCI will spend ₹330 crore to lights installed will be in the shape of a trident. The design construct the stadium. This stadium will be ready in about of belpatra will be seen in the building, while the shape of damru will also be visible in 30 months near Ring Road in Ganjari village of Rajatalab area of the district. The douthe design. There will be a ble engine government is conspectator gallery like the stairs of Ganga Ghat. Before this, the RICC built in Kashi was continuously playing a positive structed in the shape of Shivling, which has 108 Rudraksha beads. Many leg-endary cricketers like Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar, Ravi Shastri, Dilip Vengsarkar are likely to be present in the foundation stone laying ceremony. BCCI President Roger Binny, Vice- President Rajiv Shukla, Secretary Jai Shah will also be present in this programme. After Kanpur and Lucknow, this will be the third international cricket stadium of UP in the form of Kashi, which will give an opportunity to the cricket players of not only Varanasi and Purvanchal but also Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to hone their talpeople of Kashi had never ent and join the Indian crickthought that their MP would et team.

Projects to benefit Purvanchal: Patel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Regional president of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Dilip Singh Patel said that like the previous visits, this time also Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate various projects costing worth about ₹1,600 crore and they will not only directly benefit Varanasi but also the people of Purvanchal (eastern UP) and Uttar Pradesh. He was addressing a press conference at the BJP's City Office at Gulab Bagh here on Friday on the eve of the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 23.

Patel said that the PM is coming to his parliamentary constituency on Saturday around 12 noon. He said that India got international fame due to the successful organisation of G20 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, successful landing of Chandrayaan- 3 on the Moon and passing of Nari Shakti Vandan Act Bill in Parliament. He said that the party has made preparations for a grand welcome of the prime minister when he will land in the city. He informed that the prime minister will reach Ganjari directly from Varanasi Airport where he will lay the foundation stone of the international cricket stadium to be built at a cost of about ₹450 crore and address the public



meeting. "Former and present Along with other prepara-Regional BJP chief (Kashi Region) DS Patel addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Friday.

players of the Indian cricket team will also be present on this occasion," he said, adding that the PM will also interact with women on Nari Shakti Vandan Act at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU).

Regional Bharatiya Janata Party chief said that after this, the prime minister will reach Rudraksh Convention Centre by road where he will inaugurate 16 Atal Residential Schools built at a cost of about ₹1,200 crore for wards of poor construction workers. During this, he will interact with the children of Atal Residential School in Karsada. The prime minister will also award the winners of various cultural programmes organised during the Kashi Sansad Sanskritik Mahotsav (KSSM). He said that the BJP has made extensive preparations for the success of all the programmes including the public meeting.

tions, the party has also conducted a comprehensive public relations campaign in the villages surrounding the venue of the public meeting which was continued on Friday, he said, adding that the gram pradhans have also been personally contacted and invited to attend the public meeting along with the villagers. According to him, the people from nearby villages will arrive in the form of a procession with musical instruments to welcome the PM in the public meeting. "People from the city and rural areas will arrive in large numbers on two-wheeler and four-wheeler vehicles to welcome the prime minister on his travel routes and the venues of the programmes," he said, adding that to welcome the prime minister, the entire parliamentary constituency is being decorated with 1,000 small and big hoardings and 10,000 flags.

CANCELLATION/REGULATION/SHORT TERMINATION/ SHORT ORIGINATION/DIVERSION OF TRAINS

In order to upgrade the infrastructure and enhance passenger amenities Northen Railway will undertake the redevelopment work at Jalandhar Cantt. Railway Station and the launching of Foot Over Bridge at Kandrori yard over Firozpur Division. To execute this work traffic block will be taken from 30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023, As a result following trains will be affected temporarily on the dates shown against each :-

CANCELLATION OF T Train No. & Train Name		Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)				
04598 Jalandhar City - Hoshiarpur Special Express			30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023			
04597 Hoshiarpur - Jalandhar City Special Express			30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023			
14506 Nangal Dam - Amritsar Express			30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023			
14505 Amritsar - Nangal Dam Express			30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023			
04653 New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Karmabhoomi Express		06.10.2023				
04654 Amritsar - New Jalpaiguri Karmabhoomi Express		04.10.2023				
04591 Ludhiana - Chheharta MEMU Special Express		30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023				
04592 Chheharta - Ludhiana MEMU Special Express		30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023				
22429 Delhi - Pathankot Superfast Express		30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023				
22430 Pathankot - Delhi Superfast Express		30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023				
04642 Pathankot - Jalandhar City DEMU Special Express		03.10.2023				
06949 Jalandhar City - Pathankot DEMU Special Express		03.10.2023				
PARTIAL CANCEL	LATION OF TRA	INS				
Train No. & Train Name	Short Terminate at/ Originate from		Date (s) (from originating station			
15531 Saharsa - Amritsar Jansadharan Express	at Ambal	а	01.10.2023			

Plogathon green run organised

Finding may lead to developing safer therapy in mgmt of cervical cancer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

cifically, with no sig

inhibiting the growth and can- ered microRNA destabilises cercer progression of cervical can- tain transcripts of oncogenic fac-

15532 Amritsar - Saharsa Jansadharan Express from Ambala 02.10.2023 22551 Darbhanga - Jalandhar City Antyodaya Express 30.09.2023 at Ludhiana



Under leadership of DRM VK Srivastava plogathon green run being taken out by railway personnel in Varanasi on Friday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Aplogathon green run was organised on Friday which started from the Old Officer's Club and ended at the New Officer's Club of North Eastern Railway (NER), completing the cleanliness programme in the Officer's Colony and Railway Colony. In this direction with the aim of making railway officers and employees aware about cleanliness, they took the cleanliness oath in the Officer's Club at 8 am under the chairmanship of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava and registered their participation in

the plagathon green run. On the occasion, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM/Operation) Rajesh Kumar Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM/Infra) Roshan Lal Yadav, Chief Project Manager (CPM/Gati Shakti) Kaushalesh Singh, Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr RJ Chaudhuri, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (SDME/EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar, Senior Divisional Engineer (SDE/Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Paul, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (SDME/Carriage & Wagon) Anubhav Pathak, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Sr DSTE) Rajat Priya, Additional Chief Medical

Superintendent (ACMS) Dr Sunanda Chaturvedi, ACMSs Additional Chief Medical Superintendents Dr RR Singh, Dr Neeraj, Dr Kalpana Dubey and Dr Mamta Singh, Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM) Rajesh Srivastava, Divisional Personnel Officer (DPO) Vivek Mishra, Assistant Commercial Managers (ACMs) Ajay Kumar Suman and Prashant Kumar, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ashok Kumar and many others contributed to the cleanliness campaign and participated in the plagathon green run. After releasing the selfie point and Swachhta Pakhwada pamphlet based on Swachh Bharat theme, Vineet DRM Kumar Srivasvatava in his presidential address said that cleanliness is such a good habit which is very important for all of us. He appealed to all to keep home, workplace and surroundings clean. This also has a positive impact on our life, working style and efficiency. It also has a

clear impact on building good personality and character. The habit of cleanliness gives rise to good character by keeping the body, mind and soul clean and peaceful, he said. Welcoming everyone on the occasion, SDME (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar said under the Swachhta Pakhwada a special cleanliness campaign is being run in various stations, offices

and trains of the division on the

theme of 'Swachhta Hi Seva'.

ASchool of Biotechnology, Institute of Science, BHU, has come up with a major finding, which could be significantly important in exploring new therapy for cervical cancer. The team comprising Dr Samarendra Kumar Singh and Garima Singh, who is pursuing PhD under the supervision of Dr Singh, discovered a micro RNA cluster which specifically suppresses the proliferation of cervical cancer cells. The work carried out at the Cell Cycle and Cancer Lab, School of Biotechnology, showed that a

human microRNA cluster, miR-

nificant effect on non-cancerous cells. The finding could lead to developing a safer and specific therapy in management of cervical cancer. Dr Samarendra Singh said, "The promising outcome of this study is the firstever work to show that miR-17~92 suppresses cervical cancer cells by regulating cell cycle. MicroRNAs have emerged as an important regulator of cell cycle and various other cellular processes. Aberration in microRNAs has been linked with development of various diseases including cancers, but the mechanism behind this regula-17~92 suppresses an oncogenic cell cycle factor Cdt2/DTL tion is yet to be explored". We have reported that the discov-

pressing cervical cancer cell lines. Due to this, the metastatic and proliferative capacity of cancerous cells is highly compromised, added Dr Šingh.

The research findings have been published in one of the prestigious Springer Nature Journals 'Discover Oncology'.

The Cell Cycle and Cancer Lab conducts research in the field of cancer, especially cervical and gastrointestinal cancers. To execute the work the lab uses various molecular biology, biochemistry and structural biology tools. It attempts to investigate why and how cell cycle behavior in cancer cells is misregulated.

Conference on 'IIIT-A MUN' from Sept 28

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

arasva, the Literary Society of JIIIT-Allahabad (IIT-A), in collaboration with Effervescence, the cultural fest of IIIT-A, will organise a three- day annual student conference on "IIIT-A Model United Nations (MUN)" from September 28 at Jhalwa campus. The forthcoming Model United Nations conference presents a unique opportunity for college students from diverse backgrounds to come together and simulate the workings of the United Nations and the Parliament of India. Delegates will engage in stimulating discussions, devise solutions to complex global and national challenges and gain a deeper understanding of diplomatic processes. IIIT-A MUN'23 will feature two engaging committees. The first committee will include the Continuous Crisis Committee focussing on formulating a global strategy for addressing unrest, containment measures and economic reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic. The second committeeLok Sabha will deliberate on the alignment of civil and personal law codes in India with respect

to sociocultural dynamics. To ensure a high-quality MUN experience, Aishnit Yadav and Lakshit Tandon will constitute the esteemed Executive Board (EB), leading the committee proceedings. Their extensive expertise guarantees that the upcoming MUN will not only be beginner-friendly but also a valuable learning experience. This underscores the significance of the IIITA-MUN conference for public-speakers and academic enthusiasts alike.

In the Continuous Crisis Committee (CCC), delegates will be transported back to the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic to explore how countries collaborate in response to the biological threat with an entailing economic catastrophe. In the Lok Sabha, participants will engage in discussions surrounding the debates happening in the Indian Parliament regarding legislative reforms. Alongside the main conference sessions, numerous doubt-clear-

ing sessions will be conducted to enhance delegates' negotiation and problem-solving skills. Team IIIT-A-MUN is

deeply committed to fostering the intellectual growth of young individuals, encouraging them to contemplate global issues and promoting constructive communication among IIIT-A students. This event aims to empower participants with knowledge and contribute to the development of responsible and rational global citizens.

ACCIDENT: The escort Gypsy running in front of the car of Shri Mahant Balbir Giri of Shri Bade Hanuman Temple situated on the Sangam bank overturned in Handia area. In this accident four policemen and a person on the moped were also injured. The mahant brought the injured policemen in his vehicle and got admitted them to SRN Hospital. Shri Mahant Balveer Giri was returning from Varanasi on a Fortuner on Thursday. There was a police escort team in Gypsy ahead for security.

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22479 New Delhi - Lohian Khas Sarbat Da Bhala Express					30.09.23, 01.10.23, 03.10.2023 & 04.10.202	
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2919 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar- S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.		Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 80 Minutes in Firozpur Division				
2471 Bandra Terminus - S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division				1 29.09.23, 01.10.2 & 02.10.23	
2473 Gandhidham - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division				¹ 30.09.2023	
2475 Hapa - Shri Mata /aishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division				י 03.10.2023	
2029 New Delhi - Amritsar Swarna Shatabdi Express	Will regulate 30 minutes in Delhi Division, 30 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division				1 30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
)4652 Amritsar - Jaynagar Special Express	Will depart 155 minutes late from Amritsar				01.10.2023 & 04.10.2023	
)4651 Jaynagar - Amritsar Special Express	Will regulate 60 minutes in Firozpur Division				29.09.23, 01.10.2 & 03.10.23	
1057 Chhatrapati Shivaji T. Amritsar Express	Will re	regulate 60 minutes in Firozpur Division			28.09.2023 to 02.10.2023	
4615 Lal Kuan - Amritsar Exp.	Will reg	Will regulate 100 minutes in Firozpur Division			30.09.2023	
2549 Durg-Udhampur S.F. Exp.	Will re	gulate 40 n	te 40 minutes in Firozpur Division		03.10.2023	
2379 Sealdah - Amritsar Exp.	Will re	Will regulate 40 minutes in Firozpur Division		29.09.2023		
15655 Kamakhya - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will depart 180 minutes late from Kamakhya, will regulate 45 minutes in Ambala Division & 45 minutes in Firozpur Division.		45 on. 01.10.2023			
2920 S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Express	Will depart 90 minutes late from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra & will regulate 65 minutes enroute			^{/i} 03.10.2023		
2472 S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra Bandra Terminus Express	Will depart 60 minutes late from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra & will regulate 60 minutes enroute				ⁱ 03.10.2023	
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Course correction

The IMF's call to tax the rich and shield the poor in Pak will not be easy to implement

akistan's dwindling economy has steadily dug its way into such a morass that even sane, helpful and logical directions from the experts outside, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in this case, do not seem to be able to pull it through. The recent call by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva to Pakistan for increasing taxation on the wealthy and protecting the poor is a stark reminder of the country's economic woes. The cash-strapped nation, which secured a bailout from the IMF in July, is grappling with double-digit inflation and a range of structural issues that need immediate redressal. Kristalina's meeting with Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session has brought the pressing economic issues facing Pakistan to the forefront. Kristalina emphasised the need for Pakistan to collect more taxes from the wealthy and simultaneously protect the country's vulnerable populations. The IMF has long been advocating economic reforms in Pakistan.



Pakistan's economy is reeling under soaring inflation, which has been exacerbated by the conditions attached to the IMF's \$3 billion bailout package. Meanwhile things have only gone from bad to worse for general population. Massive hikes in electricity and petrol prices have driven inflation to a staggering 27.4 per cent last month, placing the citizens under a crushing burden.

The promise of economic stability and growth through the IMF bailout has not yet materialised for the majority of Pakistanis. The IMF's insistence on revenue collection and protecting the most vulnerable segments of society underscores the importance of a bal-

anced approach. But the irony is that this bailout, and even the previous ones, have hardly changed anything. The ordinary Pakistani continues to suffer while the Pakistani elite (especially the army) enjoys the privileges. These measures are essential not only for fiscal sustainability but also for maintaining social cohesion in a country facing considerable economic hardships. The IMF's approval of the \$3 billion standby agreement, which is crucial to prevent a sovereign debt default, has saved the day but the crisis runs deeper in Pakistan's system. It must galvanise and upgrade industry and trade to compete in the international market. But it is resorting to piecemeal reforms such as earmarking 10 Government-owned companies for privatisation. Though this move is in line with the IMF's recommendations as State-owned entities' losses have been straining Government finances, it is not a permanent solution. Pakistan's economy needs structural changes that can create a conducive business environment. The IMF's prescription may not be easy to follow as Pakistan's elite is going to resist it tooth and nail, especially with the general elections slated for January end. In the short term, however, such moves can play a pivotal role in steering Pakistan away from the brink. The path ahead is challenging as it is directly linked with the survival of Pakistan as a State.

PICTALK



Who killed Hardeep Singh Nijjar?



The Indo-Canada relations have deteriorated after the killing of Nijjar, a pro-Khalistani. Are sectional conflicts among Khalistanis in Canada the cause?

rime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that Indian agents had murdered the Khalistani leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, on June 18, 2023, in Canada, is reportedly based on inputs from intelligence sources. This raises the question as to how reliable these inputs are. No final judgement is possible until these inputs and the evidence behind them are made public. Nevertheless, one can have some idea of the efficiency of the Canadian intelligence and security establishment by looking at their performance in respect of the biggest ever terrorist outrage emanating from Canadian soil-the mid-air explosion that brought down Air India's Boeing 747 aircraft, Emperor Kanishka, carrying flight AI 182 from Toronto to Mumbai via Montreal, off the coast of Ireland. All 329 persons, passengers and staff, on board the flight which had taken off on June 23, 1985, were killed. Only 131 of the bodies could be recovered.

The Air India explosion was a result of negligence, intelligence failure, inaction and lax security arrangement on the part of the Canadian authorities. For quite some time before the explosion there was a fear that Khalistani terrorists in Canada were planning a strike. Alerted, India's Intelligence Bureau had sent a telex message on June 1, 1985, both to Air India's management and the Canadian authorities asking them to beef up security measures to forestall a possible attack on an aircraft by Sikh terrorists.

James Bartleman, then head of Canada's intelligence bureau, got a frosty response from an official of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), whose attention he drew to a highly classified Communications Security Establishment (CSE) document saying that Sikh extremists might be targeting AI 182. He was told that officials were probing the matter. Security measures remained lax. Sniffer dogs remained missing

from all Canadian airports because they were under train-

ing at Vancouver. X-ray screens



"broke down" on the day of the flight.

Days before the bombing, Canadian intelligence operatives who were tracking Talwinder Singh Parmar, founder and leader of terrorist group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), and subsequently considered to be the mastermind behind the downing of AI-182 -- heard an explosives test that he conducted in a forest. They ignored it, thinking that it was a "gunshot!"

In its report submitted in 2010, a commission of inquiry, appointed by Stephen Harper, then Canada's Prime Minister, in 2006, and headed by a retired judge of the country's Supreme Court, John Major, condemned several security failures and blunders on part of Canadians that led to the bombing. According to the report, the RCMP and Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) had significant pieces of information that, taken together, "would have led a competent analyst to conclude that Flight 182 was at high risk of being bombed by known Sikh terrorists in June 1985." Lack of coordination among them prevented the risk from being neutralised.

Nor have the post-explosion developments shown any profound regret on the part of the Canadian authorities over what had happened. Nor have they reached out to the victims and their families the way they should have. The earnestness with which investigations into the outrage were conducted is reflected in the fact that only one person Inderjit Singh Reyat, was convicted and, that too, decades after the bombing. Talwinder Singh Parmer, who had returned to India, was killed in an encounter with the Punjab police in 1992. The other accused, including Ripudaman Singh Malik, who was subsequently murdered in Canada on July 14, 2023, were acquitted. In a searing observation, judge John Major, had stated

AND TERMED that Canada had relegated CANADIAN the biggest terrorist attack targeting their country to SECURITY background. He noted, "I stress this is a Canadian atroc-ARRANGEMENTS ity. For too long the greatest AT THE TIME loss of Canadian lives at the hands of terrorists has some-"WHOLLY how been relegated outside the Canadian consciousness." DEFICIENT' Given this background, one can hardly be blamed for doubting, prima racie, Canadian intelligence agenprima facie, cies' conclusion that Indian agents had murdered Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This is particu-

larly so in the context of Ripudaman Singh Malik's subsequent murder. He had written a letter on January 17, 2022, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, praising him for his initiative to redress some of the pending demands of the Sikhs. While thanking Modi for removing the names of some Sikhs from the blacklist which prevented them from visiting India, he accused certain "anti-India members" of the Sikh community of running an "orchestrated campaign" against Modi. Back in Surrey in British Columbia, his praise for Modi had prompted a section of Sikhs to accuse him of treachery towards the Sikh qaum. Was he murdered for the 180degree turn in his attitude to India and Modi?

The world of Khalistani terrorists, it appears, is not one of great mutual camaraderie and friendship, but one of sectional acrimony. Was Hardeep Singh Nijjar a victim of this internecine conflict, and the RCMP, CSIS and the CSE have been clueless about this entire matter as they were about the preparations to blow up the Air India flights? The question needs to be looked at seriousiy (The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel perform during diamond jubilee celebrations of Air Force Station Jammu

Multivitamins: A traveller's companion GAGAN MANCHANDA



PTI

The role of multivitamins cannot be overstated to reinforce your immunity while travelling

◄ravel has become an integral aspect of modern lifestyle. People nowadays are traversing the globe more than ever before for business as well as for leisure. Even though travelling is fun, people who travel a lot often face the challenge of maintaining their health during their trips. This is because of the change in their usual routines, consumption of different foods, and the new environment. These factors can drain travellers, both physically and mentally, besides dampening the excitement of their adventure. This is precisely where multivitamins come into play.

Why is Multivitamins?

The stress of travelling can cause discomfort like a stiff neck, sore muscles, back pain, and joint aches, which can be quite tiring. Multivitamins can soothe these symptoms besides providing the essential vitamins and minerals that could be deficient in your diet throughout your journey. Besides this, multivitamins can prove beneficial in several other ways:

Supporting Natural

come in various forms, from traditional tablets and capsules to gummies and powders, catering to different preferences and dietary restrictions. Their portability makes them an ideal travel companion. When choosing multivitamins for your journey, consider a blend that

blend of vitamins and minerals usually found in our food. They are beneficial for bridging nutritional gaps and naturally improving health. One daily multivitamin during travel can serve as a reliable support system, countering the deficiency of essential nutrients induced by changing diets. Changing time zones and long flights can dis-

role in balancing irregular

rupt our sleep patterns and travellers often struggle to leave us fatigued and stressed. meet their nutritional needs while on the go. Dietary B vitamins, particularly B6, restrictions can impact their B12, and folic acid, play a subenergy levels and overall stantial role in stimulating the health during their journey. nervous system for combatting stress. Including these Multivitamins play a crucial role in bridging these nutrinutrients in a multivitamin tional gaps for such individcan help travellers manage uals. Furthermore, multivitafatigue and adjust to new time zones more effectively. Thus, min supplements for this consuming health supplegroup contain medicinal herbs and higher levels of zinc, vitamin B12, iron, and ments or multivitamins during travel can play a crucial

system.

& Vegetarian Travellers

Vegan and vegetarian

algae-derived omega-3 fatty Wellness: Multivitamins are a meal patterns. Multivitamins acids to address deficiencies

commonly found in plant-based eating patterns. For instance, multivitamins composed of Ashwagandha, an age-old medicinal herb renowned for its rich reserve of Vitamin C, calcium, and iron, are known for enhancing stamina. Similarly, certain multivitamin products includes all the essential nutriinclude Shilajit, a mineralents for travellers- Vitamin B dense resin used in Avurveda complex, Vitamin C, magne-This natural substance is rich sium, probiotics, and ginin nutrients, including iron, seng. For instance, vitamin B magnesium, retinol, and vitcomplex boosts cognitive per-formance while Vitamin C amins B, C, and E. It also aids in stress and anxiety reducaids in fortifying the immune tion, which makes it an ideal companion for vegan and Vital Nutrients to Vegan vegetarian travellers.

Multivitamins, the tiny powerhouses are not just supplements; they are the steadfast companions that can empower you to conquer new horizons with strength, and vigour. So, whether you are chasing sunsets on remote beaches or sealing business deals in bustling cities, let multivitamins be your trusted companions. Your journey is extraordinary-let your health be equally exceptional.

(The writer is the CEO, Co-Founder, of Positive *Gems; views are personal)*

The report called the security lapses "inexcusable" and termed Canadian security arrangements at the time at Toronto's Pearson Airport "wholly deficient".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE REPORT

CALLED THE

"INEXCUSABLE

SECURITY

LAPSES

PLAYING POLITICS

Sir — The proposal by Karnataka State Cooperation Minister Rajanna to appoint three additional Deputy Chief Ministers in the Karnataka government seems to be a well-calculated political manoeuvre aimed at weakening the current Deputy CM, D K Shivakumar, who is poised to replace Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the second half of the government's five-year term. Rajanna has openly aligned himself with CM Siddaramaiah, fueling speculation that he is the latter's spokesperson. Reports indicate that only one Deputy Chief Minister position was created in response to D K Shivakumar's demand to assert his position as the second most powerful figure in the government after the Chief Minister. In this context, Rajanna's statements hint at a power struggle behind the scenes. Moreover, the open rebellion staged by senior leaders B K Hariprasad and Bsavaraja Raya Reddy against the government undermines the expectation that the Congress, with its 135 seats, can provide a strong and stable government in the state. Failure to address these troubling developments with firm corrective measures early on may spell trouble for the Congress government, erode its credibility, and pave the way for political instability.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

WOMEN REPRESENTATION

Sir —It is disheartening that despite being proud to call ourselves the world's largest democracy, we have failed to achieve gender equity in our legislative bodies at both the national and state levels even after seventy-six years of independence. While women constitute nearly half of India's 95 crore registered voters, they make up only 15 percent of lawmakers in Parliament and 10 percent in state assemblies. Therefore, the move to reserve 33 percent of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures, initiated in 1996, is a significant and commendable step toward promoting gender equality in politics. However, due to political maneuvering, we have failed to enact it into law.

Neutralise the Khalistan movement



ate Indira Gandhi, who had a keen awareness of the dangers posed by the divisive Khalistan movement, confronted it head-on through Operation Blue Star. Without this intervention, the movement could have taken deeper root within our nation. Although its leaders were compelled to disperse abroad, in 1984, she paid the ultimate price with her life for the greater national cause. Canada, with its enthu-

Finally, after six attempts and twentyseven years since its first introduction in 1996, the Women's 33 Percent Reservation (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) Bill passed in the Lok Sabha on September 20, 2023. Despite all political parties' efforts to attract women voters with various schemes and financial incentives, they have remained silent on the 33 percent reservation. Now that the bill has cleared this hurdle, the question arises of how soon it can become law. According to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, "After the next year's elections, the census and delimitation exercise will take place. After this, there will be 1/3 women in this house." This implies that it is unlikely to happen before the 2029 elections, unless there is a significant shift in the government's stance and amendments to the Constitution. Nevertheless, involving women in policymaking is essential to address issues concerning them adequately.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

RAHUL GANDHI MEETS COOLIES

Sir — Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi once again surprised people by vis-

siasm for immigration and a relative lack of experience in dealing with terrorism, tragically suffered the loss of 268 of its own citizens in the 1985 bombing of Air India's Kanishka Flight 182. It appears that, perhaps due to a delayed examination of history, Canada is now recklessly aligning with proponents of the Khalistan movement within its borders for short-term political gain. Sooner or later, the nation will realize that these renegades owe their allegiance to nothing but blind devotion to a misquided cause. The Indian government must step far beyond the scope of diplomacy and demonstrate unwavering resolve through every possible means to neutralise the Khalistan movement, not only within Canada but also in other emerging regions, to prevent the ignition of domestic unrest.

R Narayanan | *Mumbai*

iting a railway station in New Delhi and engaging with porters to understand their concerns. The Congress leader arrived at Anand Vihar Railway Station to interact with the coolies. Gandhi engaged in extensive conversations with them and discussed the challenges they face. This visit comes several months after a group of porters requested him to meet them and comprehend their issues, and to work towards their betterment.

In recent months, Rahul Gandhi has consistently surprised people with his interactions with the public. He visited Bengali Market, the Jama Masjid area to have a meal, and Mukherjee Nagar to engage with UPSC aspirants.

Recently, he undertook a motorcycle journey in Ladakh, Leh, and Kargil regions to interact with the local population. Rahul Gandhi's fearless and courageous efforts to engage with ordinary people and understand their problems are commendable.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com NEW DELHI | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

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FIRSTCOLUMN A CALL FOR FAITH, **PEACE, AND UNITY**

The positive spirit of hope and faith in God is essential for our well-being



RADHANATH SWAMI MAHARAJ

he Bhagavat Gita verse (BG 8.15) states, that the world is a place of ordeal and unease for the living beings. Further, it outlines the genres of trouble caused by nature (adi-Devika), by society (adibhautika), and by body & mind (adhyatmitka). Does the cause of discomfort trigger resentment, bitterness, and anger? Does it invoke a victimhood mindset? Does the innate troubles of the world have a license for perpetrating violence, causing generational rivalry and spreading animosity?

Humans look forward to living in peace and harmony however still we see fights between individuals, family, friends and nations. The underlying reason behind such fights/war shows the obvious failure of any potential dialogue, but more than that it reveals the true characters of an individual or and leaders involved directly in this fight/war. The Bhagavad Gita 16.4 states; that hypocrisy, arrogance, conceit, anger, harshness, and ignorance are the traits of a person possessed by ignorance. And, these fights/war exposes the deep-seated dark traits seated within the hearts of individual/leaders, leading to the unfortunate dehumanization of humanity.

Every fight/war historically, globally and generationally has been fought due to conflicting ideologies between the well-intentioned and not-sowell-intentioned people or groups. But people bereft of spiritual wisdom; act whimsically, instinctually, and emotionally to further their selfserving ideologies without much thought. Additionally, when people start believing they are 'right' 20 times a day, it gets into their heads. They act as (pseudo) God displaying their ignorance brazenly, adversely impacting the lives of many. What they fail to recognize is that, at the core, every being is equal in spiritual identity (nastatmano). Steeped in arrogance and ignorance they fail to perceive the sanctity of life, and thus engage in unbeneficial, destructive work (Agra karma) bringing sociocultural and economic ruins (ksayaya Jagat). True greatness lies in forgiveness, sacrifice, and compromise for a higher objective of life, peace, and harmony. If those are not the values that drive us; how could it be



otherwise? In the absence of spirituality that fosters resilience and forgiveness, people would naturally tend to slip into the bloody cycle of endless retribution. As a social thinker's question, How many lives per mile would ultimately work, to bring the parties to the table in negotiation? If tooth for a tooth, and eye for an eye is the policy followed, then the whole society will end up blind and toothless. The quintessential message of Krishna Consciousness, calls forth the positive spirit of hope, meaning and faith in God in critical times. Historically, Kamsa ran a godless kingdom and wreaked havoc in the society by using deceit, fear, and force to maintain his grip on power. To assuage the suffering, Lord Krsna appeared as lightning amid the darkness of the world and neutralized Kamsa who was possessed by the spirit of ignorance beyond redemption. Currently, this lightning potency of the Lord is still accessible, within our reach, as the wisdom of the Gita. Irrespective of social, cultural, or religious diversities, the spiritual wisdom of the Gita empowers us to orient our lives towards a higher purpose, beyond selfish and short-sighted objectives. This higher purpose needs to be placed at the heart of world leaders and citizens, guided by universal qualities of forgiveness, fortitude, simplicity, nonviolence, truthfulness, and freedom from anger, among others. Guided by wisdom and integrating such favourable characteristics into our lives as individuals, we feel spiritually empowered to be a positive force, bringing order amid the chaos of godless civilization and bridging the divide among human hearts with faith, peace, and unity. (The author is the Spiritual Guru of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

Celebrating International Day of Sign Languages



analysis

On this day, let us recognise the power of communication and the indispensable role sign languages play in bridging the gap for the deaf-mute community



very year, on September 23rd, the world unites to observe the International Day of Sign Languages, acknowledging the vital role sign languages play in our global society. This year, with the theme "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!," we contemplate the significance of sign languages in reshaping the world, especially in a context where communication is an integral part of our daily lives.

Communication forms the lifeblood of our interconnected world, serving as the foundation for building relationships, sharing ideas, and engaging in the intricate processes that shape our societies. Yet, for the millions of individuals worldwide who are deaf or hard of hearing, accessing this fundamental human right can be challenging. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), currently, over 1.5 billion people, nearly 20% of the global population, live with hearing loss, and 430 million of them experience disabling hearing loss. Alarmingly, it is projected that by 2050, this number could exceed 700 million people with disabling hearing loss. The deaf community in India constitutes a significant portion of the population, with a diverse and vibrant culture. India has the largest deaf population in the world. As per WHO estimates in India, there are approximately 63 million people, who are suffering from Significant Auditory Impairment; this places the estimated prevalence at 6.3% in the Indian population. Despite the challenges they face, the deaf community in India has made considerable strides in recent years. The Indian Sign Language (ISL) is recognized as one of the officially recognized languages of India, which has helped promote communication and inclusion among the deaf population. Additionally, various NGOs, government initiatives, and educational institutions have been working tirelessly to improve access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for the deaf.

In terms of education, there are specialised schools and institutions across the country that cater to the needs of deaf students, offering tailored curricula and sign language instruction. However, there is still a need for more inclusive education practices and increased awareness about the rights and potential of deaf individuals.

Efforts are also being made to empower the deaf community through vocational training and employment opportunities, ensuring they can lead fulfilling and independent lives. Indian sign language interpreters play a cru-PROCEEDINGS cial role in facilitating communication between the deaf and hear-AND POLICIES ing communities in various settings, including government offices, hospitals, and education-ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THE DEAF al institutions.

Indeed, the dear community in

share their stories, and connect with the world around them. On the International Day of Sign Languages, we celebrate the diversity of these languages and the sense of unity they foster among the global deaf community.

India, being the most populous nation globally, also has the largest deaf population and therefore it is our collective responsibility to address their needs and aspirations. We have made significant strides in assistive technology, and there must be a decisive push to enable larger access to these technologies for the deaf population. With its inbuilt rich dynamics, the addition of technology will make sign language more profound and relevant. It's also essential for the country to view disabilities as an investment to promote their integration into mainstream society. In the same vein, it is important to emphasize that achieving inclusion cannot occur in isolation. An ecosystem must be created to facilitate two-way communication through sign language. The responsibility lies not only with the deaf community but with society as a whole. Sign language should be integrated into the standard school curriculum to ensure that everyone becomes proficient in this language and skill. Just as foreign languages are taught in schools, there's no reason why Indian Sign Language shouldn't be part of the curricu-

employment, healthcare, and

civic engagement. They empow-

lum.

er deaf individuals to access quality education, pursue meaningful careers, make informed healthcare decisions, and participate in the political and social life of their communities. Without sign languages, millions would find themselves excluded, unable to fully engage in society.

To ensure that government proceedings and policies are accessible to the deaf community, it should be mandatory to have a sign language interpreter at every government event. This way, a significant portion of the population would not miss out on essential government information and programs

In a world that prides itself on progress and inclusivity, such oversights should be deemed unacceptable. The International Day of Sign Languages serves as a stark reminder of the imperative for governments, organizations,

COMMUNITY, IT India is a significant and dynam-SHOULD BE MANDATORY TO HAVE A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER AT EVERY GOVERNMENT **EVENT**

TO ENSURE THAT

GOVERNMENT

ic part of the country's diverse population. While there have been positive developments in terms of recognition and inclusion, ongoing efforts are needed to further improve the quality of life and opportunities for deaf individuals in India. Accurate and up-todate statistics will be essential to track the progress and tailor interventions to better meet the needs of this vibrant community. For this vast community, sign

languages act as a conduit to participate in the broader narrative of global communication. Sign languages are not just tools of communication; they are intricate and vibrant linguistic systems in their own right, featuring distinctive grammar, vocabulary, and cultural nuances. They provide the means through which deaf individuals convey their thoughts,

The significance of sign language reaches beyond everyday conversations. In an increasingly interconnected and diverse world, sign languages are pivotal in areas such as education,

and individuals to prioritize accessibility and inclusivity in all facets of society. It is a day when we should reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that sign languages are accessible to all, everywhere. As we commemorate the

International Day of Sign Languages in 2023, let us recognize the power of communication and the indispensable role sign languages play in bridging the gap for the deaf community. Let us also advocate for increased awareness, investment, and action to guarantee that sign languages are accessible to everyone, everywhere. Only through such collective endeavours can we genuinely create "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!" and transform the global order for the better, making it a more inclusive and equitable place for all.

Cooperatives can end Punjab's agriculture woes

(The writer is Executive

Director, National Centre for Promotion of

Employment for

Disabled People)

Cooperative societies can make agricultrue viable by providing cheap loans, selling agricultural inputs at reasonable rates and buying farm produce at fair price

Punjab has been the leader in food grain pro-duction; despite the bad weather, this year too, the contribution of wheat to the national grain reserve from Punjab is more than 46 per cent. However, the economic condition of the farmers of Punjab is getting worse. They cannot repay the loans taken on crops and commit suicide. One-third of the farmers in Punjab are either marginal with up to 2.5 acres of land or small farmers with 2.5 to 5 acres of land. Their total land is only 9.7% of the cultivable land in the state. According to a survey, the number of marginal and small farmers with up to 5 acres of land is 3,61,938, while the number of semi-medium farmers with 5 to 10 acres of land is 3,67,938



SUKHDEV SINGH

The writer is Professor (Retd) Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and a member, the

and medium farmers with 10 to 25 acres of land is 3, 05,220. There are only 57,707 farmer families with more than 25 acres of land. Despite their hard work and optimization of the yield, more than 80 per cent of the farmers in the state are in debt

The majority of the farmers depend on six-month yield crops i.e. wheat and paddy, and earn what barely meets the repayment of the money borrowed during the previous six months for expenditure on growing the crop and supporting the families. Then the cash is needed for the next cycle. But they don't have savings to defray the expenses on agricultural implements,

seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, on the one hand, and on Governing Council Amritsar personal needs, such as food,

for the family, children's education and other social responsibilities, on the other. Thus, the farmers have to take a loan for the next term. Small landowners face difficulty in loan sanctions from banks or moneylenders. Due to a lot of paperwork and lateral guarantees, the sanction of bank loans is delayed and sometimes completely refused or else the partial amount is sanctioned. Then the farmer has to approach some private moneylender for a loan at a high interest rate to save the crop. Due to the high interest rate, the real income from the crop decreases, while due to delayed loans, the use of fertiliser and pesticides is delayed causing low yield and losses.

Some moneylenders sell fertil-

clothing and health facilities izers and pesticides instead of encourage farm support activgiving the loan amount in cash, so the farmers have to buy these products at the moneylender's price. What is worse is that sometimes the farmers double their losses when they happen to buy fake products. In such circumstances,

cooperative societies can be a solution to this thorny issue. They can purchase agricultur-al inputs like quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in bulk at competitive prices and sell to the farmers at a marginal profit, sanctioning the total cost as a crop loan at low interest. Societies can buy farm machinery and tools and rent to such farmers at a reasonable cost. This will benefit both farmers and cooperatives.

ities and set up processing and procurement centres for agroproducts to help farmers generate their daily, weekly or monthly income. If possible, they may employ marginal farmers on a part-time basis in the processing units.

Future of Cooperative Societies: There are 19164 cooperative societies in Punjab out of which 3953 are Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS). Of these, 56% are in profit, 38.6 in loss, while the rest are in 'no profit, no loss'. While effecting administrative reforms in cooperative societies and efficient utilisation of funds, the Punjab Government can take advantage of the recent Union Cabinet decision to expand

eties, by setting up new PACS in unrepresented villages and by computerizing PACS for their efficient, transparent and accountable performance. **Future Action Plan:**

In Punjab, the State Agricultural Development Bank (SADB), Primary Agricultural Development Bank (PADB) and Primary Agricultural Cooperative/ Credit Societies (PACS) should jointly support dairy, poultry, fisheries, piggery and agro-processing units in addition to loans for crops. oper-ative farming should be devel-oped by pooling the holdings of 2.5 to 5 acres of land to form a unit of at least 25 acres to which 10 acres of Panchayat land on concessional contract may be added making it a unit Cooperative societies can the scope of cooperative soci- of 35 acres. In addition to

other facilities, such cooperative farms may be provided electricity connections for tube wells on priority and the necessary machinery at concessional rates.

The other types of cooperative farms can be the coop-erative farm for Dalits, the cooperative farm for women and the cooperative farm for landless farmers, each on 10 acres of Panchayat land attached to a subsidiary business of dairy, piggery, poultry, fish farming etc. Similarly, by combining 5-10 acres and 10-25 acres of land holdings, cooperative farms of 35-50 acres can be created without the addition of Panchayat land. These farms should also be given the same facilities as other cooperative farms.



world 08

Ramaswamy calls for economic At least 80 corruption cases to be revived independence from China

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nesses."

US

economic and financial seg-

Yellen said the groups

America's interests and con-

cerns, promote a healthy economic competition between

our two countries with a

level playing field for

American workers and busi-

The announcement fol-

PTI 📕 WASHINGTON

Indian-American Republican presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy has called for declaring "economic independence" from China, for which he proposed a slew of measures including an expanded rela-tionship with countries like India

In a major foreign policy speech in his home state Ohio on Thursday, Ramaswamy also underlined the need to move away from Chinese-controlled pharmaceutical supply chains and increase military spending.

"What we are laying out here is a clear and pragmatic vision for how we will actually, finally at long last declare economic independence from China while actually advancing American prosperity at home, the 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur said.

"I will not sell you a fake vision of onshoring everything immediately. That's not going to happen if we are serious about decoupling from China. It will also require expanded relationships with India, Israel and Brazil," said Ramaswamy, whose popularity has been on the rise since his impressive performance at the first Republican presidential pri-mary debate last month.

Ramaswamy said if he is elected president of the country in November 2024, his policy of declaring independence from China will have four elements. This includes declaring "independence from the climate change agenda" that Ramaswamy described as a "farce" and "hoax".

He said that he would also achieve economic independence from Taiwan by increasing production of US semiconductors, the "little chips" that

power phones, satellite sys tems, medical devices and other communication devices.

He called for increasing military spending to "defend our own homeland," and move our own homeland," and move away from Chinese-controlled pharmaceutical supply chains out of concern that China "could lace our legal pharma-ceutical supply chain with poi-son, including fentanyl". The Chinese Communist

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Ramaswamy said, builds a great wall that stops one from entering the Chinese market if you criticise the CCP but they will roll out the red carpet if one criticises the United States. "Take BlackRock, the first ties between the nations.

asset manager ever to be granted the right to sell mutual funds as a foreign asset manager in China.

How did they get it? It was only after BlackRock's CEO Larry Fink lobbied in the United States for lowered listing standards for Chinese companies in the US," he claimed. Ramaswamy said he is focused on declaring econom-

ic independence from China. This is what the US president can do. Keep us out of World War III, revive national pride, unlock the regulations that hold our economy back under the executive branch," he said. The mistake most presidents make is focusing on the legislative agenda first, he said. Former president Donald Trump promised to repeal and

replace Obamacare but it did not happen, Ramaswamy said. "It is a false promise if it's contingent on Congress. So, everything I'm telling you, we're going to get done. We're actually going to get done because

I don't need to ask Congress for

permission or for forgiveness,

he asserted. PTI

US and China launch economic groups with aim of easing tensions AP WASHINGTON

Economic conference in San Francisco.

Treasury The two finance ministers The US Department and China's have agreed to meet at a "regular cadence," the Ministry of Finance launched a pair of economic working Treasury Department said in groups on Friday in an effort a news release.

Yellen, along with other to ease tensions and deepen Biden administration offi-Led by Treasury Secretary cials, travelled to China this Janet Yellen and Vice Premier year after the Democratic He Lifeng, the working groups will be divided into president directed key senior officials to "maintain communication and deepen constructive efforts after he met The working groups will "establish a durable channel with Xi in Bali last year.

The groups' launch also of communication between comes after Secretary of State the world's two largest Antony Blinken met with China's vice president on economies," Yellen said in a series of planned tweets shared with The Associated Press ahead of Friday's Monday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

China is one of the United States' biggest trading partners, and economic comwill "serve as important forums to communicate petition between the two nations has increased in recent years.

Tensions between the countries reached a fever pitch earlier this year when a Chinese surveillance balloon was spotted travelling over

sensitive US airspace. The US military shot the lows a string of high-ranking balloon down off the administration officials' vis-Carolina coast after it traits to China this year, which versed sensitive military sites sets the stage for a possible across North America.

meeting between President China insisted the flyover was an accident involving a Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in civilian aircraft and threat November at an Asia-Pacific ened repercussions.

in Islamabad's Accountability Court

PTI ISLAMABAD

At least 80 high-profile corruption cases, including those against former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari, sharif and ex-president Asin An Zardari, would be revived following a recent land-mark ruling by the Supreme Court, according to a media report on Friday. These are among the hundreds of cases closed as a result of amendments

cases closed as a result of amendments made to the anti-corruption laws by the previous government led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led by Nawaz Sharif. The hearing for these cases would begin soon, officials sources said.

An apex court bench, headed by former Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, had on September 15 declared the amendments to the anti-graft laws void and directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to revive within seven days the closed cases against public office holders.

The apex court had announced its reserved decision on jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's plea filed last year, challenging the amendments made to the accountability laws by the then government led by Śhehbaz Śharif.

NAB prosecution has submitted the record of 80 cases to the accountability court in Islamabad, the Dawn newspaper reported. Several others have been returned to the accountability courts of

Rawalpindi and Quetta. According to official sources, about 2,000 cases, which were earlier closed, are being reopened against officials and busi-nessmen after the intervention by the apex court.

The 80 cases transmitted to the local accountability court included the Park Lane case against Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Zardari, Universal Services Funds, in which former prime minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and others are suspects; the Rental Power Projects case against former premier Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, and the case of Benazir Income Support Programme's former chairperson Farzana Raja.

The cases against former prime minister Shaukat Aziz and fake accounts cases against Zardari and Omni Group's directors also stand revived.

The Supreme Court had in its order

Pakistan political parties demand exact date for Jan 2024 elections

AP ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's political parties have demanded an exact polling date from the election commission, a day after it announced that the general election will be held in the "final week of January 2024". The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday issued a vague timeline for elections without disclosing a specific date for the polls, sparking mixed reactions from politicians.

HUM News TV, in a story, highlighted the reaction of various parties to the ECP announcement. The main opposition party, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), rued that the ECP failed to announce a definitive date and demanded clarity.

"The election commission has not provided a definitive date yet," PPP leader Shazia Marri said. Senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ahsan Iqbal said that his party welcomed the decision by the ECP as it has ended the uncertainty about the delimitation.

"Everyone knew from the first day that the election commission was bound to conduct delimitation after the census," he said.

Iqbal said that uncertainty should end after the announcement of polls and all political parties should start preparations now."It is important that the elections are held peacefully and a stable government

directed: "The NAB and / or all other fora shall forthwith return the record of all such matters to the relevant fora and in any event not later than seven days from today, which shall be proceeded with in accordance with law from the same stage these were at when the same were disposed of closed / returned," according to the

Former premiers Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif would also face cases that were closed due to the amendments made by the government led by the PML-N party

is formed that takes the country out of the economic crisis," the former planning minister was quoted as saying by Geo News. He added that any party that comes into power should take all the parties on the same page and work on the economic agenda with consensus.

Commenting on the "uncertainty surrounding the election date," PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira stressed that a level playing field and a clear and transparent election process were essential. The ECP had on Thursday said in an official statement that it had assessed the progress of constituency delimitation and decided to release the initial list for constituency delimitation on September 27.

Following a period of consideration of objections and suggestions regarding this process, the final list will be unveiled on November 30. It had said that by the end of delimitation, it would announce a 54-day election programme after November 30 and "polls will be held in the last week of January 2024."

The HUM News TV report quoted the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), another opposition party, which has also sought clarity on the final election date. It quoted PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal as saying, "Once the process of constituency delimitation is completed, the ECP should announce the final election date. We need to put an end to this uncertainty."

before it recommended the dissolution of the National Assembly last month ahead of the general elections.

Incidentally, Nawaz Sharif's return from London next month, ending his almost four-year exile, is possibly in question with the corruption cases against him restored, a senior leader of PML-N said on Thursday. PML-N thinks that these may cause some legal implications for the threetime former prime minister ahead of his planned return and lead the party in the general elections.

'War in Sudan could spread beyond borders'

AP 📕 NIGERIA (ABUJA)

The war in Sudan could spread beyond the northeast African country's borders if it is not stopped, Sudan's army chief told the United Nations General Assembly, while urging world uesignate the riva paramilitary force as a terrorist group. "The nature of this war is now a threat to regional and international peace and security. ... This is like the spark of war, a war that will spill over to other countries in the region," Sudan's Army Chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan told world leaders late Thursday. Sudan plunged into conflict in April when long-simmering tensions escalated between the military, led by accused by Gen. Burhan, and the rival Rapid Support Forces, com-manded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Both had joined forces in 2021 to seize power in a coup that cast aside Sudan's prodemocracy forces.

his resignation last week

Gen. Burhan said the Sudanese military has "knocked (on) all doors to stop this war" and asked the U.N. to designate the RSF as a terrorist group. The RSF, he said, has committed "all sorts of crimes that give grounds

Washington (AP) The Biden administration said it was giving temporary legal status to Afghan migrants who have already been living in the country for a little over a year. The Department of Homeland Security said in the Homeland Security said in the announcement Thursday that the decision to give Temporary Protected Status to Afghans who arrived after March 15, and befo

Af migrants get

temporary legal

administration

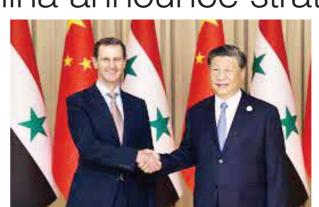
status from Biden

Syria, China announce strategic partnership

AP BEIJING

China and Syria announced the formation of a strategic partnership on Friday as Chinese leader Xi Jinping Washington (AP) The kicked off a series of diplomatic meetings ahead of the upcoming Asian Games. Xi met Syrian President Bashar Assad in the southern Chinese city of Hangzhou, which is hosting the 15-day sports competition.

^{*}In the face of the unstable and uncertain international situation, China is willwork 2023, would affect roughly firmly support each other ... 14,600 Afghans. This status and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice," Xi said in a video clip posted online by state broadcaster CCTV.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, right shakes hands with Syrian President Bashar Assad before their bilateral meeting in

Xi also met Kuwaiti 12 years. He was expected to discuss

Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah on Friday and said he would work with him to take bilateral relations to a new level, CCTV reported.

Both meetings took place at the West Lake state guest house. West Lake is a scenic and his government for standing on the side of the Syrian people "during the crisis and tourist destination that has suffering." inspired Chinese painters over the centuries. Security Council eight times to

Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni arrived on Friday at the airport in Hangzhou. CCTV video postdown the stairs from his plane to the tarmac for a red carpet welcome that included the Asian Games mascots. Assad, who is making a rare trip abroad, is looking for ways to emerge from the international isolation brought on by a brutal war at home that shows no sign of ending after

government. Assad expressed hope that would b basis for "wide-ranging and long-term strategic coopera-tion in all fields" between China and Syria. The Asian Games were scheduled for last year but postponed because of China's then-strict pandemic restrictions. China eased its restrictions in December of last year.

economic assistance from

China, which could play a

major role in Syria's future reconstruction.Syrian state TV

quoted Assad as thanking Xi

China has backed Assad,

using its veto on the UN

block resolutions against his

The conflict has killed at least 5,000 people and wounded 12,000 others, according to Volker Perthes, the U.N. envoy in the country, who announced

ing receiving the help of "outlaws and terrorist groups" from other countries.

doesn't give affected Afghans a Those who have supportlong-term right to stay in the ed killing, burning, raping, forced displacement, looting, country or a path to citizenship. It's good until 2025, when it stealing, torture, trafficking of would have to be renewed arms and drugs, bringing meragain. But it does protect them cenaries or recruiting children from deportation and give all such crimes necessitate them the ability to work in the accountability and punishment," country. A relatively small Burhan said. Both the Sudanese number of people are affected. military and the RSF have been On Thursday, the administration announced it was giving Amnesty International of extensive war Temporary Protected Status to crimes, including deliberate killings of civilians and mass nearly 5,00,000 Venezuelans in the country. But many Afghans who would benefit sexual assault. At least 4.6 million people have been displaced from the new protections took in the fighting, according to U.N. data. Children are among enormous risks in getting to the US, often after exhausting all other options to flee the those affected the most, with at Taliban - controlled least 1,200 of them killed in dis-Afghanistan. Supporters have placement camps because of a deadly combination of measles argued that they are deserving and malnutrition. of protection.

Assad's visit parallels in some ways that of Russian President Vladimir Putin last year for the opening ceremo-

Hangzhou, China on Friday

Ólympics. Both leaders are virtual pariahs in the West but welcomed by China as it tries to expand its global influence and promote an alternative to the US-led international order. The Syrian leader will attend Ministry has said.

King Charles III winds up

his France state visit

ny of the Beijing Winter the Asian Games opening ceremony on Saturday night along with the king of Cambodia, the crown prince of Kuwait and the prime ministers of Nepal, East Timor and South Korea, China's Foreign

China presents itself as member of Global South at UNGA

PTI UNITED NATIONS

hina told assembled world leaders that it considers itself part of the Global South, saying it identifies with the goals and challenges of lessdeveloped nations and offering them an alternative to what it has long called "Western hege-

meeting that covered the gov-

ernment's usual positions with

familiar language but appeared to focus on building coalitions

around its approach to devel-opment and international rela-

country, China is a natural member of the Global South. It

breathes the same breath with

other developing countries and

shares the same future with them," Han said Thursday. He

also said China supports those

nations' development path "in keeping with their national

The loosely defined term

"Global South", which has come

up frequently at the United

Nations this year, identifies

"As the largest developing

tions

conditions".

are less developed and less rich than what have typically been called "first-world nations". They're not necessarily in the Southern Hemisphere; many, in fact, are not.

nations around the world that

Leaders of a number of larger developing nations, including Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and India's Narendra Modi, have of late pitched themselves as leaders around whom the Global South could coalesce.

Just Tuesday, Lula told leaders at the UN meeting that "Brazil is back" in a speech widely received as Global South-focused manoeuvring. And Modi in January hosted a 'Voice of the Global South" virtual summit.

China, too, has loosely cast itself in a similar role for more than a decade — and more so since Xi launched the "Belt and Road Initiative" to drive Chinese development, infrastructure and influence in other nations, particularly developing ones. The sprawling project has been widely touted but has encountered bumps along the

way. "China," Han promised, will remain a member of the big family of developing coun-

Indian-origin author's debut novel shortlisted for Booker Prize 2023

PTI LONDON

ondon-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel 'Western Lane' has been shortlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize.

Kenya-born Maroo's novel set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions. It revolves around the story of an 11-yearold girl named Gopi and her bonds with her family."Chetna Maroo's deeply evocative debut of a family grappling with grief conveyed through crvstalline language which reverberates like the sound of 'a ball hit clean and hard with a close echo'. It is stunning and it stays with you," said Canadian novelist Esi Edugyan, the chair of the Booker Prize 2023 judging panel, as she announced the shortlist here on Thursday.

With reference to her shortlisted work, Maroo said it would be fair to call it a "sports novel"."It's also been called a coming-of-age novel, a domestic novel, a novel about grief, a novel about the immigrant experience. Recently a friend asked me if the book has something of the detective story about it, with Gopi trying to find her way, piecing together the clues of small gestures,

actions and fragments of overheard conversations; she has little to go on and since she's dealing with the mysteries of loss, there are no answers for her," she said. Sarah Bernstein's 'Study for Obedience', 'If I Survive You' by Jonathan Escoffery, Paul Harding's 'The Other Eden', Paul Lynch's 'Prophet Song' and Paul Murray's 'The Bee Sting' complete the shortlist of six that will compete for the 50,000pounds prize to be unveiled on November 26 at an award ceremony in London.

"Together these works showcase the breadth of what world literature can do, while gesturing at the unease of our moment.

From Bernstein and Harding's outsiders attempting to establish lives in societies that reject them, to the often-funny struggles of Escoffery and Murray's adolescents as they carve out identities for themselves beyond their parents' mistakes, to Maroo and Lynch's elegant evocations of family grief - each speaks distinctly about our shared journeys while refusing to be defined as any one thing," noted Edugyan. Although full of hope, humour and humanity, the books address many of 2023's most pressing concerns: climate change, immigration, financial hardship, the persecution of minorities, political extremism and the erosion of personal freedoms.

After pageantry and politics in Paris, King Charles III concluded his three-day state visit to France with a trip down south to Bordeaux on Friday to focus on a more personal passion: the environment. As the skies cleared after a morning downpour, Charles and Queen Camilla helped plant a loquat leaf oak tree, known for adaptability to a changeable climate, in the garden of Bordeaux City Hall.

AP FRANCE

The UK monarch will meet emergency workers affected by wildfires in the Bordeaux region last year and visit an experimental forest designed to monitor the impact of climate on urban woodlands.

Locals waved French and British flags, and some shouted "God Save The King," as the royal couple greeted well-wishers outside Bordeaux's town hall.

Charles and Camilla are also scheduled to visit a vinevard known for its sustainable approach to wine making, in a region where wine exports are a pillar of the economy.

Severe drought last year forced Bordeaux's earliest-ever harvest, and the region has long been working to adapt to climate change.

Friday's events mark the third and final day of a state

visit aimed at shoring up the alliance between Britain and France after years of disputes related to Brexit, migration and other issues.

Charles' warm words toward France have been met with a standing ovation in the Senate and even cheers of "Long Live the King!", an uncommon phrase in a country that beheaded its last monarchs.

In Bordeaux, the royal couple joined a reception on a royal navy frigate to celebrate military ties between the countries

The surrounding Aquitaine region — an English possession in the Middle Ages that English and French royalty fought over

for centuries - is home to a large British community today, and the king and queen met with Britons running businesses in the region.

city square.

In an address to the French Senate on Thursday, Charles praised France and the United Kingdom's "indispensable relationship" and its capacity to meet the world's challenges, including Russia's war in Ukraine and climate change. He called for a new 'entente for sustainability.

After flying in to Bordeaux from Paris, the king and queen will briefly switch to more environmentally friendly public transport, riding a pioneering electric tram to the main

mony". The message came from a second-tier official after the country's powerful president, Xi Jinping, skipped the annual UN meeting again. Xi sent Vice President Han Zheng to deliver a policy statement at the General Assembly's leaders'



Zelenskyy visiting Canada for first time since war started

AP 📕 TORONTO

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will President address the Canadian Parliament on Friday as he continues his efforts to shore up support from Western allies for Ukraine's war against the Russian invasion.

Zelenskyy was scheduled to arrive at Ottawa's airport late Thursday after meeting with US President Joe Biden and lawmakers in Washington, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office said.

Trudeau planned to greet Zelenskyy and also to speak in Parliament in Ottawa on Friday.

It is Zelenskyy's first visit to Canada since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. He previously addressed the Canadian Parliament virtual-

ly after the war started. Zelenskyy and Trudeau are scheduled to go from Ottawa to Toronto to meet with the local Ukrainian community. Canada is home to about 1.4 million people of Ukrainian descent, close to 4

per cent of the population. The Ukrainian president is making the trip after stops at the United Nations and the

White House. Canada's UN Ambassador Bob Rae said it is important for Zelenskyy to see the extent to which Canada supports Ukraine in the war.

'We have done a lot to help him and we need to do more, Rae said. "We're going to continue to do everything we can to support the Ukrainian people.

Canada has provided more than 8.9 billion Canadian dollars (USD 6.6 billion) in support to Ukraine in what Trudeau's government calls the highest per-capita direct financial support to Ukraine in the Group of 7 industrial nations.

More than 1,75,000 Ukrainians have come to Canada since the war started and an additional 7,00,000 have received approval to come as part of an initiative that supports temporary relocation of those fleeing the war. The initiative allows for an open work

permit for three years with pathways to permanent residency and citizenship.

Żelenskyy is facing questions in Washington about the flow of American dollars that for 19 months has helped keep his troops in the fight against Russian forces.

Ukrainian troops are struggling to take back territory that Russia gained over the past year. Their progress in the next month or so before the rains come and the ground turns to mud could be critical in rousing additional global support over the winter. Zelenskyy made his first official visit to Canada in 2019.

Zelenskyy to speak before Canadian Parl

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will speak to the Canadian Parliament on Friday as part of his campaign to bolster support from Western allies for Ukraine's war against the Russian invasion.

Canada's capital late Thursday



Zelenskyy flew into Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, greets Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as his wife Olena Zelenska AP/PTI looks on as they arrive at Ottawa airport, Canada, on Thursday.

the Ukrainian people. after meetings with US Canada has provided more than 8.9 billion Canadian dol-President Joe Biden and lawmakers in Washington. He spoke at the United Nations'

annual meeting Wednesday. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who also planned to speak to Parliament on Friday, gave Zelenskyy a warm welcome on the tarmac at Ottawa's airport.

It is Zelenskyy's first visit to Canada since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. He previously addressed the Canadian Parliament virtually after the war started. After their speeches,

Zelenskyy and Trudeau are scheduled to go to Toronto to meet with the local Ukrainian community. Canada is home to about 1.4 million people of Ukrainian descent, close to 4 per cent of the population. Canada's UN ambassador,

Bob Rae, said it is important for Zelenskyy to see the extent to which Canada supports Ukraine in the war. "We have done a lot to help him and we need to do more," Rae said. "We're going to continue to do everything we can to support

Migration estimates that more

than 28,000 Europe-bound

migrants have died since 2014 while attempting to cross the

Francis, who has long lamented that the Mediterranean Sea has become

"the world's biggest cemetery,"

confirmed his visit months

ago, but it comes as Italy is

again seeing an increasing

Meloni resurrected calls for a

naval blockade and announced

new centers to hold those who

don't qualify for asylum until

Parliament election set for next

year and France's far right chal-

lenging the centrist govern-

ment's policies, French govern-

ment officials stood firm.

"France will not take in

migrants from Lampedusa,"

Interior Minister Gerald

they can be sent home.

Italian Premier Giorgia

number of migrant arrivals.

Mediterranean.

lars (USD 6.6 billion) in support to Ukraine in what Trudeau's government calls the highest per-capita direct financial support to Ukraine in the Group of 7 industrial nations. More than 175,000 Ukrainians have come to Canada since the war started and an additional 700,000 have

world 09

received approval to come as part of an initiative that supports temporary relocation of those fleeing the war. The initiative allows for an open work permit for three

years with pathways to permeant residency and citizenship. Trudeau's office said Canada has provided 1.8 billion Canadian dollars (USD 1.3 billion) in military aid, including tanks, artillery, armored vehicles and ammunition.

Zelenskyy is facing questions in Washington about the flow of American dollars that for 19 months has helped keep his troops in the fight against Russian forces.

French TV network TF1. "It's not by taking in more people that we're going to stem a flow that obviously affects our ability to integrate" them into French society, he said. Marseille's archbishop,

Cardinal Jean-Marc Aveline, who was born in Algeria and moved to France as a child, said such "aggressive" measures weren't the answer. But he said "naive" and peacenik speeches about everyone living together happily ever after weren't helpful either.

The church must measure these evils well and find a path that is neither naively irenic nor aggressive out of special interests, but prophetic" by being close to migrants and living among them, Aveline told reporters in Rome before the

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the maritime rescue organization SOS Mediterranee, which operates a ship that assists migrants, issued Friday an "urgent call for all actors to dignify the lives of children, women and men survivors of rescues at sea.

Ukrainian missile strike hits Pope visits multicultural Marseille **Russia's Black Sea Fleet HQ**

Ukraine carried out a fiery missile strike on Friday on the main headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet and one serviceman was missing, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

Photos and video showed large plumes of smoke over the building in Sevastopol in annexed Crimea.

The ministry initially said one servicemember was killed but then issued a subsequent statement saying he was missing.

The Russian-installed governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said no one was injured outside the burning headquarters, and he didn't provide information on other casualties. Firefighters battled the blaze, and more emergency forces were being brought in, an indication the fire could be massive.

Sevastopol residents said they heard explosions in the skies and saw smoke, Russian news outlets reported. Images circulated in Ukrainian Telegram channels showed clouds of smoke over the seafront. The Associated Press could not immediately verify the videos.

A stream of ambulances arrived at the

fleet's headquarters, and shrapnel was scattered hundreds of metres (yards) around, the Tass news agency reported.

The Defence Ministry said five missiles were shot down by Russian air defense systems responding to the attack on Sevastopol. It was not immediately clear if the headquarters was hit in a direct strike or by debris from an intercepted missile.

Oleg Kryuchkov, an official with the Crimean administration, said one cruise missile downed near Bakhchysarai, about 30 kilometres (18.5 miles) inland, sparked a grass fire.

Razvozhayev said civilian infrastructure wasn't damaged but did not mention the impact on the fleet headquarters. He initially warned Sevastopol residents that another attack was possible and urged them not to leave buildings or go to the city centre.

He later said there was no longer any threat of an air strike but reiterated calls not to go to the central part of the city, saying roads were closed and and unspecified "special efforts" were underway.

Police asked residents to leave the central part of the city, Tass said. Ukrainian officials, who have claimed responsibility for a series of other recent attacks on Crimea, didn't immediately announce Kyiv launched the strike.

The attack comes a day after Russian missiles and artillery pounded cities across Ukraine, killing at least five people as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with President Joe Biden and congressional leaders in Washington with an additional USD 24 billion aid package being considered.

The port city of Sevastopol serves as the main base for Russia's Black Sea Fleet. A Ukrainian drone hit the fleet's headquarters in July 2022, injuring six people and causing minor damage to the building. Last week, the Russian-installed

authorities in the city accused Ukraine of attacking a strategic shipyard in the city, damaging two ships undergoing repairs and causing a fire at the facility.

The Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014 in an act that most of the world considered illegal has been a frequent target since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a fullscale invasion of Ukraine more than 18 months ago. The attack on the shipyard was the biggest in weeks.

AP MARSEILLE

Pope Francis arrived on Friday in the French port city of Marseille, for centuries a multiethnic and multifaith melting pot, to amplify his call for the Mediterranean to be a place of welcome for migrants, not a cemetery for people who die trying to cross the sea to Europe. French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne awaited the pope on the airport tarmac for the arrival ceremony.

His two-day visit comes as Europe is again seeing an increasing number of people who set off in flimsy boats from Tunisia for Italy.

Speaking to reporters on the plane en route to Marseille, Francis was asked about the recent influx of migrants to the Italian island of Lampedusa, where the thousands of people who arrived last week briefly outnumbered the island's resident population.

"Cruelty, a lack of humanity. A terrible lack of humani-ty," Francis said. The pope's position on migration is an increasingly lonely one in Europe, where some countries



are emphasising border fences, repatriations and the possibility of a naval blockade to keep new influx of would-be

North Africa and beyond.

ern French city's basilica, Francis is scheduled to hold an interfaith prayer at a monument dedicated to those who have died at sea. The UN's International Organisation for

Darmanin said this week on 'No place for hate, agression

Quad group expresses | Israeli forces concern over 'raging'





refugees out.

Francis is presiding over the closing session of a gathering of Mediterranean Catholic bishops, but his two-day visit to Marseille is aimed at sending a message well beyond the Catholic faithful to Europe,

After a prayer at the south-

France, for its part, beefed up patrols at its southern border with Italy, a few hours' drive from Marseille, and increased drone surveillance of the Alps to keep newcomers from crossvisit. ing over.With a European

and intimidation in Canada'

country and only serve to

war in Ukraine

PTI NEW YORK

he Quad grouping compris-I ing India, Australia, Japan and the US on Friday expressed deep concern over the "raging" war in Ukraine and asserted that the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons would be unacceptable, underscoring that the rules-based international order must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko met here on the margins of the high-level 78th session of the UN General Assembly for the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting.

The Quad group reaffirmed its unwavering support for the United Nations, the enduring importance of upholding mutually determined rules, norms, and standards, and to deepen Quad cooperation in the international system, a joint readout of the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting said.

Quad expressed "deep concern over the war raging in Ukraine and mourned its terrible and tragic humanitarian consequences," the Joint Readout of the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting said without naming Russia.

The four-nation bloc underscored the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine in accordance with international law, consistent with the principles of "We are the UN Charter. deeply concerned about the global food security situation and support the efforts of the UN in the resumption of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI). In the context of this war, we concur that the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons would be unacceptable," the joint readout said.

We underscore that the rules-based international order must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states," the joint readout said, in a veiled reference to China and Russia.

The Quad also affirmed its support for a UN that solves the consequential challenges of "our time and safeguards our shared and interconnected resources".

The ministers said they are committed to advancing a comprehensive UN reform agenda, including through expansion in permanent and non-perma-nent seats of the UN Security

Council. "We call for a UN Security Council that is more representative, transparent, effective, and credible. We underscore the need to address attempts to subvert the international system, including in the UN, and promote accountability," they said. The ministers also dis-

Counterterrorism Working Group's Consequence Management Exercise, which explored the capabilities and supports Quad countries could offer regional partners in response to a terrorist attack and look forward to the upcoming Quad Counterterrorism Working Group meeting and tabletop exercise in Honolulu, Hawaii in December which

of emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. "We continue to cooperate on countering the use of the internet and other technologies for terrorist and violent extremist purposes,"

The four nations said they are committed to countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including preventing the international and cross-border movement of terrorists and countering terror finance networks and safe havens, in a veiled reference to Pakistan

Jerusalem (AP): Israeli forces killed a Palestinian militant in the restive northern West Bank on Friday, Palestinian authorities said, the latest death in a spiral of violence that has gripped the occupied territory over the last year and a half, surging to levels unseen in two decades. The militant Islamic Jihad group claimed the man as its fighter and identified him as 18-year-old Abdallah Abu Hasan. The Palestinian Health

Ministry said Hasan was shot in the abdomen by Israeli forces early Friday morning in a Palestinian village north of the West Bank city of Jenin. The Israeli army said the incident occurred during a nighttime raid into the West Bank, after Palestinians fired and threw explosives at soldiers in the

town of Kafr Dan. cussed the recent Quad

will focus on countering the use

they said.

necting the region to Armenia.

"Khaibar-buster" missiles are carried on a truck during an annual military parade marking anniversary of the beginning of war against Iran by former Iragi Dictator Saddam Hussein, in front of the shrine of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini AP/PTI just outside Tehran, Iran, Friday

¬anada on Friday said that →acts of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear have no place in the country amid the circulation of an online video in which Hindu Canadians are told to

Public Safety Canada, the department responsible for matters of public safety, emergency management, national security, and emergency preparedness, said the circulation of the video is offensive and hateful and is an affront to all Canadians and "the values we hold dearly

"There is no place in Canada for hate," it said in a post on X.

"Acts of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear have no place in this

divide us. We urge all Canadians to respect one another and fol-

low the rule of law. Canadians deserve to feel safe in their communities," it added.

The video was circulated

amid tensions flared between India and Canada following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on his country's soil on June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's

expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

Azerbaijan sends food, other aid to Nagorno-Karabakh

AP VEREVAN (ARMENIA)

zerbaijan said it was deliv-Azerbaijan said it was deny dering food and other humanitarian aid to Nagorno-Karabakh on Friday, two days after the region's ethnic Armenian separatist government called a cease-fire in a short but intense fight with Azerbaijani forces.

But the aid will be only a slight relief to the region that has endured severe food and medicine shortages since last December, an ordeal now aggravated by thousands who fled the recent fighting without being able to take food with them. Nagorno-Karabakh's 120,000 people began suffering shortages late last year when a blockade began of the road con-

Improving the supply of food and other basic needs will be a key issue in building stability in the region, which is within Azerbaijan but had been

under the control of ethnic Armenian forces since 1994.

Azerbaijan on Tuesday launched intense fire on Armenian positions in what it called an "anti-terrorist operation," demanding that the Armenians lay down their arms and the separatist government disband.

A day later, Nagorno-Karabakh authorities agreed to the military demands, but talks on how the region will be reintegrated into Azerbaijan have not reached final agreement.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Friday said at a government meeting that there was no immediate need for the region's ethnic Armenians to leave their homes, but said Armenia is prepared to receive as many as 40,000 evacuees if needed.

Anxiety is high among the region's people.

"The majority of the population wants to be evacuated to Armenia. We cannot live with Azerbaijan," 21-year-old Hayk Harutunyan said in Stepanakert, the regional capi-

"During the last 30 years thousands of Armenians were killed, our brothers and sisters," he told The Associated Press by telephone, referring to decades of conflict over the region.

"Azerbaijan's goal is the annihilation of the Armenian nation; how can we live with those who want to kill us?"

Harutunyan said "the whole city is full of refugees brought from those regions ... that came under the control of Azerbaijan after the September 19 attack. These people left their homes empty-handed, they had no food, no clothes, no place to

stay. Azerbaijan's emergencies ministry said two 20-ton trucks with food and hygiene products as well as two trucks with

bread were dispatched to

Nagorno-Karabakh on Friday, travelling on the road from Aghdam, which lies east of the region.

Supplies for Nagorno-Karabakh previously had come from Armenia, to the west. Jeyhun Bayramov, Azerbaijan's foreign minister, said at the United Nations on Thursday that his country is determined to guarantee Nagorno-Karabakh residents "all rights and freedoms" in line with the country's constitution and international human rights obliga-tions, including safeguards for ethnic minorities.

Talks with Nagorno-Karabakh in the Azerbaijani city of Yevlakh will continue, he said

A Stepanakert woman who gave her name only as Mary said the ceasefire regime appeared to be holding on Friday, but that she feared living under the new conditions. Azerbaijan starved us for

nine months, deprived us of deprived Nagorno-Karabakh basic living conditions, then attacked the civilian population, how can we stay here after all these atrocities? It's impossible," she said

Nagorno-Karabakh came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian military in separatist fighting that ended in 1994. Armenian forces also took control of substantial territory around the Azerbaijani region. Azerbaijan regained control of the surrounding territory in a six-week war with Armenia in 2020. Russia-brokered armistice ended the war, and a contingent of 2,000 Russian peacekeepers was sent

to the region to monitor it. The agreement left Stepanakert connected to Armenia only by the Lachin Corridor, along which Russian peacekeepers were supposed to ensure free movement. But a blockade by Azerbaijan

of basic supplies for the last 10 months, until Monday, when the International Committee of the Red Cross was able to make a delivery via that road from Aghdam. Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at the UN that Azerbaijan's offensive this week targeted critical infrastructure such as electricity stations, telephone cables and internet equipment, killed more than 200 people and wounded 400 others, including women and children. More than 10,000 people fled their homes to escape the

offensive, he said. Electricity and phone service were knocked out, leaving people unable to contact each other, and "Azerbaijani troops control main roads in Nagorno-Karabakh, which makes it impossible to visit and get information on the ground," he said.

ne pioneer NEW DELHI | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Govt to make IT hardware import authorisation process fully online

Seeks 3 years import data from firms

PTI NEW DELHI

The government on Friday informed IT hardware I players that the process of import authorisation for laptops, tablet, servers etc, will be completely online and has sought data of the past three years for the inbound shipments of mobile, IT and telecom products, sources aware of the development said.

Industry players have been informed that the "import management system" portal, which will be managed by Directorate

General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), will go live by the end of this month.

"MeitY has informed companies that 'import man-agement system' will go live by September end. It will be managed by DGFT. It has asked importers to feed their organisation data and import data subsequently for the past 3 years," a source, who did not wish to be identified, told

PTI. The government has proposed to implement new rules for import of IT hardware from November 1. The new rule will allow imports of IT hardware by authorised firms.

The import management system will handle imports related to mobile phones, IT and telecom products



The import authorisation on import quota of finished will be processed completely products. "There may be conditional online without any manual interventions for speedy relief on import quota on a case

approval," an industry source to case basis," the industry source said. The authorisation will be Minister of State for electronics and IT Rajeev initially granted for about a year, after which there will be Chandrasekhar will hold a meetgradual reduction of 5 per cent ing with the industry on

October 1 to assess the situation.

"The minister has told industry that he will also speak with commerce minister Piyush Goyal and request him to set up a similar consultation with the industry on this subject," the industry source said.

Earlier in the day, Chandrasekhar told reporters that the government aims to meet up to 70 per cent of the country's IT hardware requirement through local production in the next three years and reduce dependency on imports from non-trusted sources.

"At present, almost 80 per cent of our supplies to the digital ecosystem come from imports. We want to make sure whatever the sources are, they are trusted. "As part of emphasising trust, it is obvious that the

Indian component of that sup-ply chain will have to grow. Today 8-10 per cent of our supply requirement comes from India, we want to make that 65-70 per cent in the next three years," the minister said.

As many as 40 companies, including Dell, HP, and Lenovo, have applied for the IT hardware production linked incentive (PLI) scheme with a commitment to make personal computers, laptops, tablets, servers and other equipment worth Rs 4.65 lakh crore during the scheme period.

If all companies get selected under the scheme then the government will need to increase the incentive amount to Rs 22,890 crore against the budgetary allocation of Rs 17,000



BSE to discontinue stop loss market orders to check freak trades

PTI NEW DELHI

eading stock exchange Leading stock the Last BSE has decided to discontinue Stop Loss Market (SL-M) orders from October 9 to prevent erroneous order placement arising out of manual or algo trades.

This came after a recent freak trade incident caused a lot of angst among the trading community earlier this month due to an SL-M order.

SL-M is a type of order that automatically sells or buys a security at the market price when the trigger price is reached.

"As a measure to prevent erroneous order placement, stop loss orders with market condition in equity segment, equity derivatives segment, currency derivatives segment, and commodity derivatives segment shall be discontinued by the exchange with effect from October 9," BSE

said in a notice. Welcoming the decision, Narendra Solanki, Head, Fundamental Research -Investment Services, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said it is a good step

to prevent erroneous orders and should prove beneficial to small and retail traders as such freak trades harm and create unnecessary volatility in the markets.

"We believe that this is a positive and progressive step that will benefit all market participants by improving

the trading process and market quality as SL-M can also lead to extreme price executions during low volumes or when the market price fluctuates sharply," Tejas Khoday, Co-founder and CEO of FYERS, said.

This measure will protect traders from such incidents and align its operations with the NSE, which discontinued SL-M orders in September 2021. Khoday said traders can use Stop Loss Limit (SL-L) orders instead of SL-M orders.

An SL-L order is another type of stop-loss order that only sells or buys a security at the specified price in a range. This helps to avoid executing orders at strike prices with low volumes or sharp movements in the market.

6 Glenmark

Glenmark Pharma shares fall over 3% after Nirma deal

PTI NEW DELHI

Shares of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Friday ended over 3 per cent lower after the company said its board has approved divestment of 75 per cent stake in its subsidiary Glenmark Life Sciences to Nirma Ltd for Rs 5,651.5 crore.

'The stock opened on a weak note and declined 6.40 per cent to Rs 775 on the BSE during the day. It later ended at Rs 802.25, down 3.12 per cent.

'Nirma will make an open offer for a 17.15 per cent 'At the NSE, it fell 6.36 per cent to Rs 775 apiece during stake in GLS at an offer price of Rs 631 per share. the day. Shares of the compa-'Later addressing a virtuny ended at Rs 803.05, lower

by 2.97 per cent. al press conference, Glenmark of Glenmark Life Sciences, however, recovered during the afternoon trade and climbed 2.95 per cent to settle at Rs 645.60 on the BSE. 'Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Thursday said its board has approved divestment of 75 per cent stake in its subsidiary Glenmark Life Sciences to Nirma Ltd for Rs 5,651.5

Forex kitty drops USD

PTI MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange reserves declined USD 867 million to USD 593.037 billion in the week ended September 15, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves dropped USD 4.99 billion to USD 593.90 billion.

In October 2021, the country's reserves had touched an all-

time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves took a hit as

PTI MUMBAI

 $E_{\text{Sensex and Nifty stayed on}}^{\text{quity benchmark indices}}$ crore, and proceeds would be used to repay debt and deleverthe back foot for the fourth 'As per the definitive straight session on Friday as agreement, the Mumbai-based investors offloaded healthcare, drug maker will offload 75 per consumer durable and comcent stake in Glenmark Life modity stocks amid a weak Sciences (GLS) to Nirma Ltd trend in global markets. at a price of Rs 615 per share.

'Foreign fund outflows and heavy selling in HDFC Bank shares also hit investor sentiments, traders said.

'After oscillating nearly 500 points between gains and losses during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 221.09 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 66,009.15. During the day, it hit a high of 66,445.47 and a low

or 0.34 per cent to end at

kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last

rency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased USD 511 million to USD 525.915 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Expressed in dollar terms



Sensex, Nifty extend losses into 4th session; HDFC shares weigh



'On a weekly basis, the BSE a decline in bond yields



Tata Motors Rank Maruti State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers.

recovery in other Asian peers, as investors booked profits for the 4th straight session after the recent upsurge.

uations have become expensive, other bigger concerns like rising crude oil prices, firm US Dollar index and treasury yields coupled with continuous FII selling have been denting the sentiment," Amol Athawale, Vice President - Technical Research, Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

'Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equi-'Among the indices, conoles fell by 0.84 cent, realty declined by 0.73 per cent, commodities (0.62 per cent) and oil & gas (0.45 per cent).

of 65,952.83. 'The Nifty fell 68.10 points

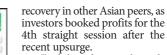
nmark tell 1,82

the central bank deployed the For the week ended September 15, the foreign cur-



USD 4 million to USD 5.03 billion in the reporting week.

The Special Drawing Rights



"While Indian market val-

and Managing Director Glenn Saldanha said a major reason for the stake sale in GLS was the divergent business models of the company and its sub-

age the balance sheet.

After the divestment,

Glenmark, which currently

owns 82.84 per cent in GLS, will own just 7.84 per cent

stake after the completion of

the transaction, the drug firm

said in a statement.

sidiary 'He noted that the generic drugs environment has changed over the years and is highly competitive, especially in the US market.

ment.

'In the early trade, the or 2.69 per cent, and the Nifty benchmark indices had climbed declined 518.1 points or 2.56 per after global financial firm JP cent. Morgan said it plans to include Indian government bonds (IGBs) or government securities (G-Secs) into its Emerging Market index from next year, a move that will bring down bor-

"Domestic markets closed on a sombre note as mixed cues from US and Asian markets weakened domestic investors confidence. Nevertheless, PSU bank stocks outperformed as rowing cost for the govern-India's inclusion in JP Morgan's government bond index led to

prevailed due to the ongoing ascent of US bond yields and concern over higher rates for a prolonged period," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit

Financial Services. 'Wipro was the biggest loser among Sensex firms, sliding 2.32 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, ITC, ICICI Bank and

' In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.14 per cent and smallcap index gained marginally by 0.04

per cent. '"Downward spiral continued in the markets despite

Capital Goods, bankex, consumer discretionary and industrials were the gainers.

'In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled in the negative territory while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green.

007 36 worth Rs 3 Thursday, according to exchange data. FPI's were net sellers of Indian equities in this week.

'Global shares sagged, and

US yields climbed multi-year

highs on Friday after a week

packed with central bank meet-

ings signalled that the US

Federal Reserve's interest rates

would stay higher for longer,"

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

'European markets were trading mostly lower. The US

markets ended in negative ter-

ritory on Thursday.

'Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.59 per cent to USD 93.85 a barrel. 'The BSE benchmark fell 570.60 points or

0.85 per cent to settle at 66,230.24 on Thursday. The Nifty declined 159.05 points or 0.80 per cent to end at 19,742.35.

Lupin inks pact to acquire 5 drug brands from Menarini for ₹101 crore

PTI NEW DELHI

Drug firm Lupin on Friday said it has inked a pact to acquire five drug brands from Italian firm Menarini for Rs 101 crore.

'The company has signed an agreement to acquire five legacy brands catering to gastroenterology, urology and anti-infective segments, the Mumbai-based company said in a statement.

'The brands are Piclin (Picosulphate Sodium),



(Otilonium Menoctvl Bromide), Sucramal O (Sucralfate + Oxetacaine), Pyridium (Phenazopyridine) and Distaclor (Cefaclor), it added.

'Lupin has been exclusively marketing these brands in the Indian market since July 2021 under a distribution and promotion agreement with A Menarini India Pvt Ltd.

'Menarini Group is a leading international pharmaceutical and diagnostics company, with a turnover of over

USD 4.4 billion and over 17,000 employees.

'Menarini India is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Menarini Group.

'Lupin Managing Director Nilesh Gupta said the acquisition aligns well with the company's strategic goal to broaden presence in the Indian market. "By offering a comprehensive range of products, our aim is to deliver even greater value to our stakeholders and the communities we serve," he added.

Sebi empanels 34 entities for forensic probe of mutual funds, AMCs, trustees

PTI NEW DELHI

Sebi has empanelled 34 entities, including Ernst & Young LLP, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP and Grant Thornton Bharat LLP to conduct forensic investigation of mutual funds, their asset management companies (AMCs)

and trustees. ʻKPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP, Chokshi & Chokshi LLP, Nangia & Co LLP and Pipara & Co LLP are among the other empanelled entities, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a latest

update. 'The period of empanelment is from September 20, 2023 to September 19, 2026, it added.

These 34 entities have been empanelled after evaluation of all the applications in response to Expression of Interest (EoI) invited by the capital markets regulator in February.

'The entities are required to undertake acquisition, extraction and analysis of digital evidence from mobile, computers, tablets, hard drives and USB drives. Also, they need to prepare and submit a report mentioning the findings and conclusions of the analysis.

BUSINESS BRIEF

66TH AGM OF NAFED HELD

New Delhi: The 66th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) took place on Friday in New Delhi. 558 delegates representing various societies and state federations, such as RAJFED, MARKFED-Puniab, BISCOMAUN-Bihar, BUNKUS, Delhi State Co-op Federation, and Ahilya Co-operative Society Federation, participated. NAFED Chairman Bijender Singh said during FY 2022-23, NAFED earned a net profit of remarkable ₹264.51 crore, seeing NAFED went through a dark period of extreme financial losses during 2010-2015. As on March 31, NAFED has registered 646 FPOs, aiding around 2.06 lakh farmers. The organisation's membership also grew from 974 to 994, resulting in an increased shared capital of Rs 43.07 crore from Rs 41.02 crore.

INSPIRE FILMS ISSUES IPO

New Delhi: Inspire Films Limited, a Indian media production company, is set to launch an IPO comprising 35,98,000 shares at a price of ₹59 per share, with a face value of ₹10 each. The minimum investment lot comprises 2,000 shares. The IPO subscription window will open from September 25 to 27. Following the IPO, the company's shares will be listed on the NSE Emerge platform on October 9. With a robust portfolio, Inspire Films has spearheaded numerous projects, including "Dear Ishq" for Disney+ Hotstar, "Tu Zakhm Hai" for MX Player

BIG F AWARDS HELD

Gurugram: The 10th edition of The Big F Awards, organised by Indian Food Freak, in Gurugram was attended by the who's who of the hospitality industry. "Our steadfast commitment to transparency and fairness remains the cornerstone of our values," said the host Pawan Soni. Indian Food Freak founder. Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi, Chef Kunal Kapur, Sourish Bhattacharya, Marryam Reshii, Chef Amrinder Sandhu, Aslam Gafoor, Amin Ali and Khurafati Nitin were among the many luminaries who attended the most soughtafter Big F Awards.

PTI NEW DELHI

Philips India has reported 4.6 per cent rise in revenue from operations at Rs 5,734 crore for FY23, though the profit after tax (PAT) was down 2.2 per cent to Rs 260 crore, according to financial data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler.

'Revenue from operations was at Rs 5,481.4 crore in FY22 and PAT was at Rs 265.9 crore.

'Philips India is a subsidiary of Dutch multinational company Koninklijke Philips N.V.

'Philps India's other income in FY23 was at Rs 71.9 crore, up 10.95 per cent from a year ago. Total income was up 4.68 per cent to Rs 5,805.9 crore. Total expenses were at Rs 5,485.1 crore, higher by 3.24 per cent year-on-year.

Philips India FY23 revenue up 4.6% to ₹5,734 cr, profit down 2%

'Philips India, which operates in verticals Personal Health, Health Systems and Innovation Services, is not publicly listed.

'Its revenue from Personal Health segment was down 13.78 per cent in FY23 to Rs 774.6 crore. It was at Rs 898.5 crore in FY22.

'Philips' Personal Health business includes the beauty and grooming segment, with products such as hairdryers, hair straighteners, hairbrushes, beard trimmers. Its health business also includes oral care -- electric tooth-



brushes, and mother and child

care products. 'Similarly, Health Systems' revenue was down 4.42 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,649.3 crore in FY23. Under this section, Philips is in the field of medical electronics equipment such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), ultrasound and customer services.

"The addressable market has shown a high single-digit degrowth in comparison to the preous year, the strong tailwinds on account of the acute increase in healthcare needs during the pandemic," it said.

'However, revenue from Innovation Services in FY23 was up 27.35 per cent to Rs 2,172.9 crore. Under this segment, Philips India woks on the development of embedded software.

'Its revenue from 'others' was at Rs 71.4 crore in FY23.

'Philips India has manufacturing facilities in Pune, Maharashtra, and Software Development Centre in Bengaluru.





LIVERPOOL, WEST HAM WIN IN EUROPA

AP PARIS

In a meeting of two former European champions in cri-sis, Ajax and Marseille drew 3-3 in "a crazy game" while Liverpool and West Ham were also winners on Thursday in the opening round of Europa

League group games. Liverpool fell behind for the fourth time in five matches this season but fought back to beat LASK 3-1 in Linz to make Jurgen Klopp the first coach to win 50 European games at the Merseyside club.

West Ham, who won the Conference League last season, also hit back to beat visiting Serbian club TSC Backa Topola 3-1

Brighton, making their European debut in the Europa League, and Aston Villa returning to Europe, after 12 years, in the Conference League, both fell behind early and although they each equalised twice, lost 3-2.

In Amsterdam, Ajax, who have won just two games all sea-son and sit 12th in the Dutch league met Marseille who are third in Ligue 1.

Ajax carved open the visiting defence in the first 20 minutes and took a two-goal lead with goals by Carlos Borges and Steven Berghuis.

Jonathan Clauss and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang hit back before half time. In Brighton, Djibril Sidibe

put AEK ahead with a bullet home the winner

header from 13 yards. "We can improve but it's dif-ficult to accept this defeat," said Brighton twice levelled with Brighton coach Roberto De Joao Pedro penalties. AEK twice regained the lead when sudden Zerbi. "I can't be happy when we deflections in the rain opened up win at Old Trafford and sad chances. Mijat Gacinovic buried today with a good performance. one and Ezequiel Ponce tucked

'We didn't show as much experience as AEK Athens."

given nine months to revive flail-

the sacked Hansi Flick's successor

as national team coach on Friday.

national team struggling, the German football association

(DFB) fearing another embarrass-

Germany fired Flick with the

Liverpool, playing in the Europa League for the first time since finishing runners-up in 2016, changed their entire starting 11 away to LASK.

They fell behind to a 14thminute rocket from Florian Flecker

Darwin Nunez levelled with a 55th-minute penalty kick after Luis Diaz was brought down.

After 61 minutes, Klopp started to replace teenagers with regular starters. Within two minutes they

were ahead when Ryan

Gravenberch, on his full debut, burst down the right and crossed low for Diaz to score from close

range. Two minutes from the end Mohamed Salah, a second-half replacement, poked home a third

"I'm really, really happy, because I said before, I knew it would be difficult and it was difficult," said Klopp.

'A well-deserved win in the end, and that's it."

Elsewhere in the Europa League, Romelu Lukaku earned last year's beaten finalists Roma a 2-1 victory at Sheriff in Moldova.

Abdallah Sima scored the only goal as Rangers beat Real Betis 1-0 in Glasgow.

Bayer Leverkusen crushed Swedes Hacken 4-0, Rennes cruised past Maccabi Haifa 3-0 in France, Spaniards Villarreal lost 2-0 to Panathinakos in Greece

In the Conference League, Aston Villa fell behind in the third minute to Legia Warsaw and despite equalising twice lost 3-2

"We have to be demanding of ourselves to impose the game plan, but we didn't do it," said Villa boss Unai Emery, three time winner of the Europa

"I like demanding games that are a challenge and not easy. Now these will be the types of matches we will face in the group.



Odegaard signs new contract

AP LONDON

rsenal captain Martin Addegaard has signed a new five-year contract at the club, becoming the latest player to commit his long-term future to the Gunners.

The 24-year-old midfielder follows in the footsteps of Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli and William Saliba, who have all extended their deals. The former Real Madrid

player scored 15 Premier League goals and provided seven assists as the Gunners finished second behind Manchester City last season. He has three goals in all competitions this season.

"It was an easy decision for me," said the Norway international, who initially joined on loan from Real in January

2021 "As I said many times, I felt connected and I felt at home

here since the first day.' "Also, I was moving around a lot (during loan spells) and struggling to really settle down, so I felt like I needed a place to come and settle down and to kind of find a home."

Arteta said Friday that the new deal was "great news" for Arsenal.Arsenal are fourth in the Premier League table ahead of Sunday's home match against Tottenham

Germany's new IS OSS AP MUNICH



Garcia, Kenin reach WTA Guadalajara semis

AP 📕 GUADALAJARA

France's Caroline Garcia over-powered Victoria Azarenka in straight sets to reach the semifinals of the WTA 1000 Guadalajara Open on Thursday.

Third-seed Garcia was always in control against her 10th-seeded opponent from Belarus winni

on Thursday, former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin's recent resurgence continued as she overpowered 2021 US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez of

Verstappen gets back on track Canada 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-1 to reach the last four. Kenin, 24, has gradually worked her way back up the

ahead of Japanese GP qualifying AP SUZUKA rankings after tumbling to 426th in the world last veat Max Verstappen laid down a mark-er with the fastest times in both a slew of injuries and upheaval in her coaching set-up. She has won 14 of her last practice sessions for the Japanese Grand Prix on Friday, as he looks to put one 17 matches on the WTA Tour since July, and is poised to hand on his third-straight Formula One climb back into the top 30 after title Red Bull's Verstappen put down a lap of 1min 30.688sec to finish 0.320sec this tournament. On Thursday, she secured quicker than second-placed Charles her latest semi-final berth the hard way, advancing despite coughing up 14 double faults, eclerc of Ferrari in the second practice. Verstappen, who leads teammate and nearest rival Sergio Perez by 151 with Fernandez racking up 15 points in the championship standings, Kenin, who also reached the cannot clinch the title on Sunday but a semi-finals in San Diego last favourable result can set him up to seal week, will face unseeded the deal at the Qatar Grand Prix next American Caroline Dolehide month The Dutchman is looking to bounce in the last four Dolehide defeated Italy's Martina Trevisan 3-6, 7-6 (11/9) back from a disappointing fifth-place finish at last weekend's Singapore Grand 6-3 in their quarter-final. Prix that ended his record streak of 10-The American battled into straight wins

Euro 2024.

Championship in our own country -- that's something special," ulian Nagelsmann has been Nagelsmann said in a statement. "I have a great desire to take ing Germany ahead of hosting Euro 2024 after being named as

on this challenge. Nagelsmann said he signed the short-term deal "to keep the Euros in focus" but insisted he 'would not rule out" an extension.

Flick, who became the first coach in Germany history to be sacked, had won just four of 17 matches leading up to his dismissal and took the team to a disappointing group-stage exit at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

The four-time world champions were also knocked out in the group stage at the 2018 World Cup in Russia under previous boss Joachim Loew.



DFB president Bernd Neuendorf called Nagelsmann an outstanding coach" and said: 'We are convinced (he) will ensure that the national team inspires its fans and that the Euros are also a

sporting success." Flick was sacked after a humiliating 4-1 friendly loss to Japan in Wolfsburg in early September.

Nagelsmann, who also succeeded Flick as Bayern coach, has been jobless since he was sacked by the German champions in March

DFB sporting director Rudi Voeller called Nagelsmann "an absolute football expert" and said he had "proven himself at a very young age for a head coach".

Paris Olympics berths up for grabs at Asian Games boxing AP HANGZHOU Asian Championships, will lead the

Ivweight world champion Hasan **I** boy Dusmatov will be one of the favourites for gold when boxing gets under way at the Asian Games on Sunday, with qualification for the Paris Ólympics also up for grabs. The 30-year-old Uzbek was Olympic champion in 2016 and in Hangzhou will be seeking the one gold medal absent from his collection in the 51kg division. His first bout will be on Monday, with gold and silver medallists in the seven men's weight divisions all guaranteed a place at next summer's Paris Olympics. In the women's competition, 20 Paris berths can be won in Hangzhou. Dusmatov was stunned in the 2018 Asian Games final by Amit Panghal in a massive upset, but the Indian is a notable absentee this time. Another hoping to turn 2018 silver into gold is middleweight (71kg) world champion Aslanbek Shymbergenov from Kazakhstan. Shiva Thapa, a winner at the 2013

Indian squad in Panghal's absence. light flyweight (50kg) Thi Tam Nguyen has recovered from a torn knee ligament suffered at the SEA Games earlier this year and will lead a nine-strong Vietnam team. The world championships silver medallist has already secured her place at Paris and will become the first Vietnamese boxer to take part in two consecutive Olympics. She could again come up against India's multiple world champion Zareen Nikhat, who beat the Vietnamese by unanimous decision to lift the world title in New Delhi earlier this year. Nikhat also won gold in the 2022 world championships in Istanbul in the 52kg category Oh Yeon-ji from South Korea returns to defend her Asian Games lightweight (60kg) gold medal.

ing performance in a major tournament, this time as hosts at next year's European championships. Former Bayern Munich boss Nagelsmann has signed a deal until the end of next July, allowing the 36-year-old to leave after

"We have a European

37min.

The 29-year-old French woman will face Maria Sakkari in the last four on Friday after the second seed from Greece eased past Colombia's Emiliana Arango 6-3, 6-4.

Garcia, who is chasing the 12th title of her career, used her powerful serve to gain the upper hand on Azarenka, slamming down 10 aces during the match

Garcia was also able to save no fewer than 11 break points to deny Azarenka any chance of an

opening. "It's always tricky," said Garcia. "She had a lot of break point opportunities, but I served really well at those points, so I guess I have to thank my serve."

The win ensured that Garcia, the world number 11, will move into the top 10 at the end of this tournament

In other quarter-final action the deciding set

He said his car was "enjoyable to drive again"

'We had a strong day on short runs, long runs," said Verstappen.



"There's a lot of degradation on this track so it will be quite tough on tyres in the race, but so far it's a good start to the weekend.

Verstappen made his intentions clear from the start of the day, finishing the first practice quickest ahead of

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and McLaren's Lando Norris. And there was no let-up in the second session. He briefly ceded top spot to Leclerc before switching to fresh tyres and reclaiming first place.

settled for a silver last time.

surpass the tally this time.

biggest ever in its history.

event in the world but more ath-

letes compete in the Asian

gold, in 2018.

Norris had the third-fastest time with 1min 31.152sec

Organisers will be desperate to avoid the chaos of five years ago in Jakarta when the Asian Games boxing competition was marred by judging protests and controversy.

Asian Games: Chance for Chopra-led India to showcase its sporting prowess

PTI HANGZHOU

ed by Olympic champion Led by Olympic champen LNeeraj Chopra, India will seek to showcase its ascendency as a sporting power at the Asian Games, which opens formally on Saturday after an unprecedented one-year delay due to the COVID-19 pandem-

India will hope to surpass the 70 medals (16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze) won in 2018 in Indonesia with largest contingent of 655 athletes competing in 39 sports in Hangzhou to show the world the rapid strides the country has made in sports since the historic performance in Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

India have not finished in the top-5 in medal tally standings since the 1986 edition in Seoul. For the first time in the Asian Games history, India will be having five Olympic medallists in their ranks led by javelin superstar Chopra, who will be defending his title, raising hopes of the country grabbing more gold medals than the 16 won in 2018.

her first WTA 1000 semi-final

after saving four match points in

the second set before winning

The other Olympic medallists are weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, shuttler PV Sindhu, wrestler Bajrang Punia and boxer Lovlina Borgohain.

Still, it is difficult to predict the gold medal count for India. Sindhu has been struggling for some time, Chanu has had fitness issues recently while Bajrang started training only a few months ago after taking part in the wrestlers' protest.

Borgohain and Chopra have, though, become world champions recently. Borgohain will also shoulder the responsibility of being the Indian contingent flag-bearer during the opening ceremony on Saturday along with the men's hockey tecaptain Harmanpreet Singh. am

The eight-gold show in ath-letics in 2018 will be hard to repeat but hockey (men and women), kabaddi (men and women), chess and archery can swell India's yellow metal tally. Going by current form,



Games, with over 12,000 taking India can win gold in both men's and women's hockey part in Hangzhou

The 19th edition of the competitions. India can also continental showpiece, which win a gold each in men's and women's kabaddi and make will run till October 8 in amends for missed chance in Hangzhou and five co-host cities of Huzhou, Ningbo, Shaoxing, Jinhua and Wenzhou, was to be Jakarta. The men's team had won a bronze and the women's held in September 2022 but was Shooters had given nine postponed by a year after a surge medals in 2018, including two of COVID-19 cases in China.

gold, but they may not be abe to Forty-five nations and territories in Asia will compete for 481 gold medals from 40 sports In boxing, the likes of Nikhat Zareen and Borgohain and 61 disciplines, including Esports which is making its are favourites to win a medal but it is difficult to predict the debut in the Asian Games. colour. The same is the case with Competitions in football, volleyball, cricket, rowing, sailing and the wrestlers who had won three medals, including two modern pentathlon began before the grand opening cere-By hosting the world's mony

China are fielding their secbiggest multi-sporting event, China is heralding its opening ond-largest contingent in their from the pandemic, a giant Asian Games history with 886 competition which will be the athletes, including 437 women, taking part in Hangzhou. It is 91 No doubt the Olympics is less than the 977 athletes China the pinnacle of multi-sporting fielded at the 2010 Guangzhou Games

China are not only fielding

this edition of the Games but they are also set to continue their domination by bagging the top spot in the medal tally, which they have been doing at every edition since 1982 with several Olympic champions participating. South Korea are sending their largest ever athletes' contingent of 867 with an aim to finish second in the medal tally.

the most number of athletes in

The Asian Games are expected to be declared opened by Chinese president Xi Jinping

Organisers have already pent about 10.2 billion yuan (USD 1.4 billion) on venues for competitions and training, according to reports.

Hangzhou is the third Chinese city to hold the Asian Games, after Guangzhou in 2010 and Beijing in 1990. The Chinese capital has also hosted the Summer and Winter

Olympics. All the venues will use green electricity as the goal is to host a carbon-neutral and green Asian Games.



Five-star Shami, classy Shubman set up Indian victory

ohammed Shami's M crafty bowling per-formance was beauti-fully complemented by the grace and poise of Shubman Gill as India defeated Australia by five wickets in the opening ODI of the three-match series here on Friday.

Shami displayed his artistry with impressive figures of 5 for 51, reminding all and sundry of his skills while helping India restrict Australia to 276 after asking the visitors

to make first use of the strip. In reply, Gill once again stamped his authority with a 63-ball 74 and added 142 for the opening stand with the Asian Games-bound Ruturaj Gaikwad (71 off 77 balls) to set the foundation for victory, which, on paper, might have looked a bit more stretched than it actually was.

Victory was achieved in 48.4 overs as Suryakumar Yadav (50 off 49 balls) and skipper KL Rahul (58 not out off 63 balls) also played their part with only Shreyas Iyer (3) and Ishan Kishan (18) missing out on a batting party.

Surya would especially be happy with his effort as he came in when India still needed 92 runs to win. It could have been a bit tricky but along with his skipper, the Mumbai batter showed calmness and also earned confidence with a much-needed

half-century. Gill, who hit his ninth



half-century in ODIs, was undoubtedly the batting star of the day. He had six fours and two sixes in his knock but the short-arm pick-up pull off Marcus Stoinis left everyone stunned.

Off-spinner spinner For Australia, the only Matthew Short was at the bright spot was leg-spinner receiving end when he was lofted over long-off for the other six. 2/57 off 10 overs.

Gaikwad, who would have But the game-changer on the day was Shami, who doesto switch on to the T20 mode n't seem to feature in India's in another two weeks' time, first XI plans for the World had 10 boundaries to his cred-Cup. He literally made a stateit. He hit cover drives and ment with his second fivesquare drives and was espewicket haul in ODIs. cially severe on Sean Abbott.

His performance also put tremendous pressure on the Adam Zampa finding some weakest link among pacers Shardul Thakur (0/78 in 10 bowling form with figures of overs), who has been selected

in the 15, primarily due to his batting skills.

Shami was literally unplayable in his opening spell, and then came back to remove a set Steve Smith (41 off 60 balls) in a short second stint, to disturb the visiting team's momentum.

Stockily built wicketkeep er Jos Inglis (45 off 45 balls) and Marcus Stoinis (29 off 21

balls) added 62 runs for the sixth wicket to take Australia past the 250-run mark but it was certainly below par as Shami got Stoinis in the nick of time to put the brakes on

Warner (52 off 53 balls), Smith and Marnus Labuschagne (39 off 49 balls) all got starts but the lack of conversion did burt the to think differently PTI MOHALI conversion did hurt the Aussies on a day when the Indian bowling unit was It is very difficult not to respect Mohmmed Shami for his supremely effective without being exceptional.

All eyes were trained on Ravichandran Ashwin (1/47 in 10 overs) and he did find his rhythm in the second spell after looking rusty during the first spell. He went for 36 in his first six overs from the 'Harbhajan Singh End' but Rahul changed his end during the second spell and it read 4-0-11-1. The Australian team also

suffered due to freak dis-missals, first when Labuschagne missed an Ashwin delivery while trying to play a reverse sweep and the ball ricocheted off Rahul's pads with the batter out of his ground.

Then it was Cameron Green (31 off 52 balls), who was slowly but steadily setting it up with Inglis before a miscommunication led to his run-out.

But no praise will be enough for Shami, probably the most versatile seam and swing bowler of his generation, who has magic in those fingers and wrists.

ficult to imagine how Shami would fit in if India is playing two spinners and Hardik Pandya is the third seamer during most matches.

Shami cooling his heels during

important games would be a travesty as India is looking at multi-skilled cricketers, especial-ly those who can bolster the bat-

ting. It can be very difficult to

adjust being in and out of the playing XI, but after 179 inter-

national games for India across formats in the last 10 years,

Shami knows how to adjust

The first spell to David Warner, where the left-hander

faced 11 balls and scored only

one run, was where Shami's

skills were in full bloom. It did-

n't matter that it wasn't a red

Dukes or SG Test ball with a pro-

new ball, you have the respon-

sibility of finding the right line

"When you operate with the

nounced seam in his hands.

current demands.

mastery over his craft. It is also impossible in Indian conditions for any pacer to play 11 games in the World Cup (if India reaches final) in six weeks, including travel, but Also, how much a player means to the dressing room speaks volumes about his worth. Just as he was coming off the

Shami will force

team think-tank

field after a match-turning 5/51 against Australia, it was rested pacer Mohammed Siraj who came out and was engaged in a bear hug with his senior pace bowling partner.

Shami didn't bowl a devas-tating spell like Siraj did in Colombo last week, but considering the quality of opposition combined with sultry and unhelpful conditions for fast bowling in Chandigarh, this spell was as lethal, if not more.

Siraj knew it more than anyone else as to what Shami had done for the team.

"We enjoy each other's suc-cess a lot. We have spent the last so many years together and this is a result of the same," Shami said during a snap interview with host broadcasters Jio Cinema.

If one looked at the kind of and length, set the tempo and that's exactly what I wanted to do today," he said. bowling composition India played against Pakistan, it is dif-

ICC select seven venues in Caribbean to host 2024 T20 WC

PTI DUBAI

The ICC on Friday said seven venues in the Caribbean and three cities of USA will co-host the next year's men's T20 World Cup from June 4-30.

The seven Caribbean venues shortlisted by the ICC are Antigua & Barbuda, Barbadas Da Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad &



exciting moment as we announce the venues approved to host the largest ICC Men's T20 World Cup in history, with 20 teams playing in 55 matches in June next

"We are grateful to the host Governments of the Caribbean for their overwhelming responses and enthusiasm for hosting what will be the most significant sporting event held in our generation





Besides three places in the USA -- Dallas, Florida and New York will co-host the event

"We're delighted to announce the seven Caribbean venues that will host the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams compet-

popular venues with players and fans alike that will provide a wonderful backdrop to the

event," ICC Chief Executive Indies and the seven host gov-Geoff Allardice said in a statement "This will be the third ICC our sport. senior men's event hosted by

Cricket West Indies CEO Johnny Grave said: "This is an the West Indies, and the match-

the unique experience of enjoy-

said.

"We are confident that ing cricket in the Caribbean. I'd together we will deliver a like to thank Cricket West world-class tournament showernments for their continued casing the best this region has to offer with our unique culture commitment and support of and carnival atmosphere that will ensure there is a real cele-

bration of the sport next June."

Hangzhou-bound India T20 team go down to Karnataka

PTI BENGALURU

India's Asian Games-bound T20 cricket team lost to Karnataka by four wickets in a pre-departure warm-up fixture, here on Friday.

Manoj Bhandage returned 4-1-15-4, while Vasuki Koushik and Shubhang Hegde claimed three wickets each as the Indian XI were shot out for 133 in 20 overs.

In reply, Manish Pandey struck an unbeaten 52 (40 balls) while opener LR Chethan (29), Mayank Agarwal (19) and Abhinav Manohar (17 not out) also contributed in Karnataka's chase as they romped home with five balls to spare.

Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi and R Sai Kishore took one wicket apiece for the Indian Asian Games T20 side.

The Indian team crumbled against the Karnataka bowlers but only after openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Prabhsimran Singh made strong contributions.

Prabhsimran cracked seven 31 from 17 balls with seven hits fours and a six to make 49 from to the fence.



The pair of Bhandage and

Hegde ran through the Indian

top and middle-order as none

31 balls whereas Jaiswal scored

among Rahul Tripathi (6) Jitesh Sharma (2), Rinku Singh (5) and Shivam Dube (0) could trouble the scorers

India were bowled out with Koushik taking the last three wickets.

The Asian Games-bound team was without captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, who was named in the Indian playing XI for the first ODI against Australia in Mohali.

India's men's team will compete in the Asian Games for the first time, with the competition set to take place between September 28 and October 8.

India's women's team have already qualified for the semifinals of the continental show piece in China. **Brief Scores:**

India 133 in 20 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 49, Yashasvi Jaiswal 31; Manoj Bhandage 4/15, Shubhang Hegde 3/17, Vasuki Koushik 3/36) lost to Karnataka 136/4 in 19.1 overs (Manish Pandey 52 not out, LR Chethan 29; R Sai Kishore 1/20) by six wickets.



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Printed and published by Shobori Ganguli for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 100k Milap Bhawan, 8/A Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli AIR SURCHARGE of 🕈 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.