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LUCKNOW, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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'FIVE-STAR' SHAMI SHOWS HIS CLASS 12 SPORT

PARLIAMENT TURNS UNPARLIAMENTARY

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day 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 Chandrayaan 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.

The 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



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

PTI

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 Chandrayaan success, said though he could not hear the comments of his party colleague in the House, he personally 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 derogatory 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 the first that this type of language 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... I 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 common man is being treated... I hope the Lok Sabha Speaker will take appropriate action in this matter."

Several Opposition members 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 criticised BJP MPs Ravi Shankar Prasad and Harsh Vardhan for allegedly laughing while Bidhuri filed a broadside at Ali

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China spits venom, India fires salvo

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Taking strong exception to China denying accreditation to some Indian sportspersons 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 documents on Wednesday when they were scheduled to leave for the Asian Games, while the rest of the players did not face any 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.

Termining the act of denial of accreditation as discriminato-



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

PTI

ry behaviour by China, he also said Information and Broadcasting and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has cancelled his visit.

Describing the Chinese action as targeting of the sportspersons in a "premeditated" manner, Bagchi said the move violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct as they "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 longstanding and consistent position, India firmly rejects differential treatment of Indian citizens on the basis of domicile or ethnicity. Arunachal Pradesh was, is and will always remain

an integral and inalienable part of India," he said.

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 governing their conduct, which explicitly prohibits discrimination against 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

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Each State gets high speed train

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In 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 across the country will now be connected with these semi-high-speed trains.

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

Among these nine trains, the Ministry of Railways led by Ashwani Vaishnav is poised to introduce two trains for West Bengal's Howrah and Tamil Nadu's Chennai, with one each for Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, Gujarat, and the poll-bound Rajasthan.

The nine trains which will be flagged off on Sunday are on routes — Ranchi-Howrah, Patna-Howrah, Vijayawada-Chennai, Tirunelveli-Chennai, Rourkela-Puri, Udaipur-Jaipur, Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram, Jamnagar-Ahmedabad and Hyderabad-Bengaluru.

The inaugural Tirunelveli-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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during the 'Nari Shakti Vandan-Abhinandan Karyakram', a day after Parliament passed the Women's Reservation Bill, at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, on Friday

Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

2:50 pm on all days except Tuesdays.

According to reports, the locomotive will be operated at an average speed of 83.30 km an hour and halt at Virudhunagar, Madurai, Dindigul and Tiruchi.

Meanwhile, this will also be Tamil Nadu's third Vande Bharat route after the launch of Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express in November last year and subsequently the Chennai-Coimbatore Vande Bharat

train.

Odisha's second Vande Bharat express on Puri-Rourkela route is also set to be flagged off on Sunday.

The full trial run of the Puri-Rourkela Vande Bharat Express was conducted on Wednesday. The train will connect the coastal districts of the State to its western region.

Earlier, it was also reported that the semi-high speed train will cover the distance of 505 km in 7 hours and 30 min-

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

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 schedule, the train will depart 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, Dhane, Dharmavaram.

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

Earlier this month, Vaishnav 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-the-art passenger amenities, providing passengers with a faster, more comfortable and more convenient travel experience.

Cubs bear brunt of tiger turf war

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 followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Wildlife experts say that the territorial fight is a natural phenomenon 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 Chinnacoonor 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,

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Kesh Kanti PATANJALI

Ab apne baalon se kaho
JUG JUG JIYO!

Benefits of Kesh Kanti Oil & Shampoo

Stops hairfall, untimely greying and split ends

- Strengthens hair roots and makes them healthy and beautiful with natural nutrition
- Makes hair soft and silky naturally
- Makes scalp dandruff-free
- Repairs damaged hair and grows new hair
- Precious herbs improve the growth and health of the hair

UP govt expedites process for new Assembly building

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh government has expedited the process of the construction of the new building to house the bicameral state Legislature.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna said that the state government was in the process of selecting the site for the new building, but he did not provide a specific time-frame for its completion.

“We have allocated a budget of Rs 50 crore for the construction of a new legislature building in the state’s budget for 2023-2024,” Khanna said.

Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana on the concluding day of the Budget session of March 5 had announced that Uttar Pradesh was all set to have a new Vidhan Sabha building in the state capital. On the concluding day of the March 5th Budget session,

Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana announced that the state was prepared to construct a new Vidhan Sabha building in the state capital and was optimistic that the 18th Assembly, whose term would end in 2027, would be able to have a few sittings in the new building.

Official sources said various options that were likely to be considered for the new building include the Darul Shafa area



around the Lok Bhavan that houses the chief minister’s secretariat. “The Lucknow Zoological Gardens in Hazratganj is also one of the probable site once the zoo is shifted. The available space in the Chak Gajaria Farm area on Sultanpur Road is also an option,” he said.

The Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Bhavan’s existing main building that houses the Vidhan Sabha was constructed in 1928. The

then Governor of United Province Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler had laid the foundation stone of the grand building on December 15, 1922, and it was inaugurated on February 21, 1928. A sum of Rs 21 lakh was sanctioned for the building.

The Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Bhawan continues to face space crunch. Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha had to work on increasing the number of seats in the main assembly hall when it

decided to digitise its proceedings by implementing the National eVidhan Application after 2022 assembly election to make the House paperless.

The state legislative assembly, which has a sanctioned strength of 403 members, had only 379 seats. Additional rows were added and the space within the rows was used to add 35 seats there. There is also a paucity of space in the Vidhan Parishad area.

ATTACK ON WOMAN CONSTABLE ON TRAIN

Main accused shot dead in encounter in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a major breakthrough, the Special Task Force and Ayodhya police claimed to have killed one criminal, Aneesh Khan, and injured two others during an exchange of fire while attempting to arrest them for brutally assaulting a woman head constable on a train in Ayodhya three weeks ago.

The woman constable, Sumitra Patel (47) was found lying unconscious with serious injuries in a compartment of Saryu Express on August 30. She has been admitted to the King George’s Medical University where she is under medical observation and said to be in stable condition.

A few days after the attack, Allahabad high court Chief Justice Pritikiner Diwaker took suo motu cognisance of the incident and asked the state government to provide details of the investigation. On September 16, the UP police announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh to anyone who would provide information about the culprits.

Eight cops suspended as three undertrials escape custody

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Eight policemen were suspended after three undertrials escaped from their custody, when they were being taken to be presented before a magistrate in Jhansi on Friday.

Eight police personnel, including three sub-inspectors, four head constables and a constable, were suspended for dereliction of duty, according to police officials.

The action was taken after CCTV footage of the incident, in which the three undertrials are seen escaping from the van one by one, went viral on social media. Superintendent of Police Rajesh S said that three teams have been formed to nab them.

According to Jhansi police, seven men were arrested for alleged theft in trains by the Government Railway

Police on Tuesday. These men were being taken to be produced before a Railway Magistrate in a police van on Thursday. Two of the seven accused were inside the courtroom while remaining were waiting for their turn in the van parked outside the court.

In the meantime, three of the undertrials escaped from the van. It is yet to be ascertained how they managed to open the rear door of the van and escaped, they said.

Jhansi Superintendent of Police said, “The three prisoners escaped when they were taken to be presented before the Railway Magistrate. The GRP has registered a case.”

He said that two teams of the Jhansi police along with GRP are working to apprehend the escaped ones and eight policemen were suspended on Thursday.

“The accused along with his aides opened fire on the police team. Anish managed to flee from the spot while his aides Azad and Vishambhar Dayal were arrested. The duo sustained injuries in the retaliatory firing and were rushed to hospital,” he said.

He said that a search operation was launched to arrest Anish and he was soon located in an area falling under

police station Pura Kalandar.

“Anish was surrounded and asked to surrender but he opened fire on the police team. He was injured in retaliatory firing from the police side and rushed to hospital where he succumbed to injuries,” Nayyar added.

The police claimed that the two arrested suspects had confessed to the assault on the head constable.

PWD to mend roads with Rs 275 crores

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a resolute endeavor to transform Uttar Pradesh’s roads into a pothole-free network, the Public Works Department has earmarked a substantial budget of Rs 275 crore this fiscal year, extending its scope to all districts across the state.

The tireless efforts of the Yogi-led government in Uttar Pradesh to enhance basic infrastructure and facilities have once again come to the forefront as these projects progress at a commendable pace, closely monitored by the state authorities.

“Our approach extends beyond road rehabilitation to encompass industrial development and the construction and restoration of fundamental structures,” PWD Minister Jitin Prasada said.

According to the latest data from the Public Works Department, Uttar Pradesh has achieved an exemplary 100 per cent success rate in meeting its pothole eradication targets for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Additionally, 93 per cent of the restoration projects have already been successfully completed, with ongoing efforts to address the remaining 7 per cent.

The target of repairing potholes on 1,00,867 roads, spanning various departments in the state, has been fully met. The data for the 2022-23 period shows that the state achieved a perfect score in this regard.

Similarly, the restoration works on 98,355 roads have reached the 93 per cent mark of completion, with the remaining 7 per cent of projects actively underway. The Public Works Department maintains a rigorous review and monitoring process for all ongoing initiatives.

Crucial departments contributing to this monumental effort include the National Highways (PWD), National Highway Authority of India (NHAI-West UP), NHAI (East UP), Mandi Parishad, Panchayati Raj, Irrigation Department, Rural Development, Urban Development, Sugarcane and Infrastructure and Industrial Development.

To ensure efficient progress, the state has set specific timelines for road rejuvenation projects. State roads are slated for completion within 4 years, major district roads within 4 years, other district roads within 5 years, and rural roads within 8 years.

Within this systematic framework, various aspects have been meticulously addressed, encompassing road restoration solutions, patchwork, road beautification schemes, budget allocation, technical quality assessment, tender adjudication, and regular project monitoring.

“As Uttar Pradesh continues to strive for a robust and reliable road network, these concerted efforts underscore the commitment to better infrastructure and improved connectivity for the benefit of all residents,” Prasad said.

UP INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW

Exhibitors express gratitude to Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show, held at India Expo Mart, featured the participation of over 2,000 exhibitors showcasing products from various parts of the state. These exhibitors expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the opportunity.

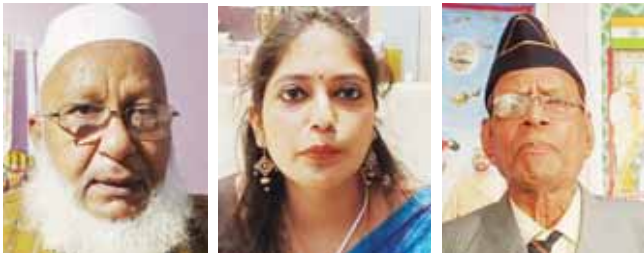
One such exhibitor, Angika Kushwaha, hailing from Varanasi, informed that she specialises in crafting Banarasi sarees and manages a workforce of one thousand individuals operating 300 looms. Angika, who holds a PhD in Textiles, is showcasing the intricacies of making Banarasi sarees. She said that weavers were getting all kinds of facilities under the Yogi government and she no longer had to worry about taking loans.

One such exhibitor, Angika Kushwaha from Varanasi, specialises in crafting Banarasi sarees and oversees a workforce of one thousand individuals operating 300 looms.

A PhD degree holder in Textiles, Angika said that weavers were now receiving various facilities under the Yogi government and they no longer had to worry about taking loans.

Dilshad Hussain, a Padmashree-awarded craftsman from Moradabad, displayed brass carvings at the event. He emphasised that international trade shows offer UP exhibitors a platform to present their products to international buyers. Dilshad Hussain expressed his gratitude to CM Yogi for providing such excellent facilities for exhibitors, describing it as a unique opportunity.

Sheesh Ram, an art enthusi-



Dilshad Hussain Angika Kushwaha Sheesh Ram

UP Tourism’s dome steals the show

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

One of the standout attractions at the UP International Trade Show 2023 is the UP Tourism stall, where the VR show and dome have taken centre stage, captivating visitors with a virtual journey through the enchanting landscapes, historical treasures, and unexplored destinations of Uttar Pradesh.

This immersive technology experience has effectively highlighted the immense tourism potential of Uttar Pradesh, positioning it as the preferred tourism destination for travelers seeking a diverse and culturally rich experience.

This unique stall, representing the essence of Uttar Pradesh, offers visitors a captivating journey into the spiritual and unexplored treasures of the state. Highlighting the spiritual

tourism circuit, visitors will have the opportunity to explore renowned pilgrimage sites, sacred rivers, and the spiritual heritage of UP. Speaking about the UP International Trade Show 2023, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture, Mukesh Kumar Meshram, expressed excitement and optimism. “This event is proof of UP’s commitment to economic growth, innovation, and cultural promotion. We look forward to welcoming visitors from across the globe to explore our vibrant culture, experience our rich heritage, and discover the untapped potential of Uttar Pradesh.”

He further said that Uttar Pradesh Tourism was dedicated to promoting and preserving the state’s rich cultural, historical and natural heritage. With a focus on spirituality, history and adventure,

ast from Meerut and a Padmashree Award recipient as well, was delighted to participate in the UP International Trade Show. After serving in the Indian Army for 40 years, he made significant contributions to portrait painting and sculpture, gain-

ing global recognition. Sheesh Ram emphasised that events like the International Trade Show not only elevate the prestige of artists and craftsmen but also enhance the reputation of Uttar Pradesh and India on the global stage.

SUSPENSION OF SANJAY GANDHI HOSPITAL’S LICENCE

Varun Gandhi writes to DyCM to reopen hosp

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amidst the growing controversy surrounding the suspension of Sanjay Gandhi Hospital’s license in Amethi, Member of Parliament Varun Gandhi has penned a letter to Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, urging him to reopen the hospital.

The institution, bearing the name of Varun Gandhi’s father, has recently faced regulatory action, leading to concerns voiced by the Pilibhit MP.

The deputy chief minister addressed the matter, emphasising its gravity. He cited a

tragic incident where a patient lost her life allegedly due to the hospital’s negligence, prompting an investigation by a local-level team.

Pathak stated, “We are in the process of regularising healthcare facilities across the state. Hospitals found guilty of patient fatalities due to negligence will face severe consequences and strict actions will be taken.”

The controversy stems from the death of Divya Shukla, wife of Anuj Shukla, a resident of Ram Shahpur village in the Kotwali area of Musafirkhana. The incident



occurred at Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in Munsiganj, leading to the suspension of the hos-

pital’s license and the cessation of all its services.

In response to this development, hospital employees, led by Employee Union president Sanjay Singh raised slogans within the hospital premises, demanding an end to the suspension.

Afterward, the group submitted a memorandum to the district magistrate through the sub-divisional magistrate. Some of the employees have served the hospital for over three decades, and the suspension has cast a shadow over their livelihoods.

Meanwhile, Congress state

president Ajay Rai has also written a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath proposing to formation of a committee to investigate the patient’s death while advocating for the continuation of patient care at the hospital.

He also called for the immediate withdrawal of the order to cancel the hospital’s registration.

Rai highlighted the hospital’s long-standing service in providing healthcare facilities to the local community and surrounding districts at minimal charges, without any intention of profit.

IIT-K study: 80% of cyber frauds from 10 districts

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a groundbreaking study conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur in collaboration with the Future Crime Research Foundation, it has been revealed that a staggering 80 per cent of all cyber fraud cases in India are operated from 10 districts.

These startling findings were unveiled in a recent white paper that sheds light on cybercrime trends spanning from 2020 to 2023. The report draws its data from authoritative sources, including the National Crime Records Bureau, Parliament records, and think tank reports.

The most concerning revelation from this study is the alarming concentration of cyber fraud in a few districts, marking them as hotspots for cybercriminal activities.

Among the various cybercrimes, online financial fraud has emerged as the most prevalent, constituting a staggering 77.41 per cent of the total cybercrimes, according to the latest available data.

What raises concerns further is that these 10 districts have become focal points for cybercriminals who are increasingly targeting UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transaction fraud, posing a significant threat to the financial security of individuals and businesses alike.

Leading the list of the top 10 districts grappling with cybercrime is Bharatpur in Rajasthan, contributing to 18 per cent of the total cybercrimes, primarily dominated by cyber fraud cases. In second place is Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, accounting for 12 per cent of the total cybercrimes. Gurugram secures the sixth spot with an 8.1 per cent share of the total cybercrimes. Other districts that have raised red flags in the report include Nuh, Deogarh, Jamtara, Alwa, Bokaro, Karmatand and Girdih.

While online financial fraud remains a grave concern, cybercriminals have displayed a wide range of tactics to exploit unsuspecting victims. Among their deceptive strategies are scams involving fake electricity or water bills, where individuals are tricked into making payments under the guise of outstanding dues. Equally disconcerting is the surge in fraudulent schemes persuading victims to unlock their credit or debit cards, ultimately resulting in unauthorised transactions.

In a sinister turn of events, cybercriminals have taken to trapping victims in fake obscene video calls, only to later threaten them with the

release of compromising videos on the internet. This chilling tactic capitalises on the vulnerability of unsuspecting individuals, causing severe emotional distress and lasting trauma.

The psychological toll on victims subjected to such scams is immeasurable, emphasising the immediate need for enhanced cybersecurity measures, awareness campaigns, and legal safeguards to protect individuals from these heinous acts. Authorities and cybersecurity experts are actively working to combat these evolving threats and bring the perpetrators to justice.

In this digital age, securing financial transactions, protecting personal information and maintaining online safety are paramount. The battle against cybercrime remains an ongoing struggle, underscoring the importance of collective efforts to ensure the safety and security of individuals in the online world.

As the nation grapples with this rising cybercrime wave, it is imperative for individuals to exercise caution, maintain privacy settings and promptly report suspicious online activities. By joining forces, India can better equip itself to confront the ever-evolving challenges posed by cybercriminals and safeguard its citizens from financial and emotional harm.

Maya welcomes passage of women’s reservation bill

REITERATES DEMAND FOR BACKWARD QUOTA

Lucknow (PTI): BSP chief Mayawati on Friday welcomed the passage of the women’s reservation bill in both Houses of Parliament but repeated her demand for quotas for women from the scheduled castes and tribes and the Other Backward Classes within the quota.

In a post on ‘X’, she also said it would have been better if the bill could be implemented “immediately”.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which will reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women, received the Parliamentary nod on Thursday as the Rajya Sabha voted unanimously in favour of it.

The bill will now require the approval of a majority of state assemblies. It will be implemented after a delimitation exercise to redraw parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on a census which the government has said



will be commissioned next year.

Mayawati on X wrote, “We welcome the passage of the women’s reservation bill by both Houses of Parliament, but the country would have greeted it wholeheartedly if it had been implemented immediately as per their expectations. After a long wait of almost 27 years, how justified is it to wait even longer with uncertainty?”

“However, not including

women from the OBC community, who form the majority of the country’s population, in the bill is depriving that large section of the Bahujan community of justice.

Similarly, not giving separate reservation to women of SC and ST communities is equally unfair and a denial of the recognition of social justice,” she said in a following post.

Stressing her demand for a quota within the quota, the politician on Wednesday said, “I again appeal for a separate quota for women from SC/ST category in the 33 per cent reservation. And similarly, the quota of the OBC women should also be decided as they are still backward as compared to the general category women.”

“...the government should include the OBC community in this women’s reservation bill, give separate reservation to SC and ST category women and take all necessary measures to implement this bill with immediate effect. Ignoring women from religious minority communities is also unfair,” she wrote.

Preparations begin for crushing season

FOCUS ON CLEARING SUGARCANE DUES

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The UP Sugarcane Department has initiated preparations for the upcoming crushing season, with a primary emphasis on clearing sugarcane dues.

According to government data, sugar mills in the state crushed 1,098.82 lakh tonnes of sugarcane in the last 2022-23 season, producing 104.82 lakh tonnes of sugar.

As of September 20, 90% of the sugarcane dues of the farmers have been paid, amounting to over Rs 34,000 crore. In the previous season, sugar mills in the state crushed 1,016.26 lakh tonnes of sugarcane, producing 101.98 lakh tonnes of sugar.

Official sources said 100 per cent payment would be made to all the 65 lakh sugarcane farmers in the state before the commencement of new crushing season.

The Yogi Adityanath gov-

ernment has paid Rs. 35,158.10 crore, Rs 33,014.44 crore, Rs 35,898.85 crore, Rs 33,048.06 crore and Rs. 35,444.06 crore for the crushing seasons of 2021-22, 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19 and 2017-18, respectively. In addition, Rs 10,668.94 crore has been against previous dues.

During the five years of the Samajwadi Party’s rule, sugarcane farmers received payments of Rs 95,200 crore. The present Bharatiya Janata Party government, has ensured payments of Rs 2.17 lakh crore to the cane farmers.

From 2012 to 2017, a total of 42 crore litres of ethanol was produced while during Yogi Adityanath government tenure the annual production of ethanol has gone up to 153.71 crore litres.

Meanwhile due to delay in payment of dues to sugarcane farmers, the sugarcane department has issued notice to the sugar mills in Shahjahanpur district to clear the payment. Despite repeated directives, the mill has not fully cleared its outstanding dues, causing resentment among farmers.

Man kills wife in Ambedkar Nagar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man allegedly strangled his sleeping wife to death in Ambedkar Nagar district on Thursday night, officials said.

The accused husband, who had previously been in jail for the murder of his first wife, is now on the run following the alleged murder. Police have launched a manhunt to apprehend him.

Reports said that the incident took place at Khetapur village of Tanda Kotwali area of Ambedkarnagar on Thursday night, where the accused, Parshuram (45), allegedly strangled his wife, Sunita (40), while she was asleep, and fled. Tanda Kotwali in-charge Amit Singh rushed

to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. Singh said that Parshuram was a serial criminal who had previously served jail term for the murder of his first wife.

It is learnt that the accused has married five women so far. Parashuram had married for the first time about 25 years ago and has three children from his first wife, which include two daughters and a son. Almost ten years after their marriage, Parshuram strangled his first wife to death in a similar fashion. He was also jailed for the crime.

After being released from jail, Parashuram married three more women but eventually separated from them. He married Sunita three years ago.

Man strangles 13-month-old daughter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A man strangled his 13-month-old daughter in Tulsipur village under Sen Pashchimpara police station area late on Thursday night. On the complaint of his brother-in-law, the police lodged a case and arrested the accused while forensic team collected evidence from the spot. Reports said that Rajiv Rajput (32), a labourer, was living with wife Neha, son Aryan (5) and daughter Sapna (13 months) in a rented house in Tulsipur for the past three years. His wife Neha informed that on Thursday, she was on the rooftop while daughter Sapna was sleeping in a room on the

ground floor. Late in the night, Rajiv first beat up the daughter. On her raising an alarm, when Neha came down, she found him strangling Sapna. By the time she went there to rescue Sapna, he had strangled her. On hearing noise, the neighbours reached the spot who, on learning about the incident, tied Rajiv to a tree and informed the police. Station House Officer (SHO) Pawan Kumar said on the complaint of his brother-in-law Sushil, a murder case had been lodged against Rajiv who had also been arrested. The forensic team collected evidence from the spot. The body was sent for an autopsy, he said.

In another incident upset

due to scolding from family members, a youth jumped into a canal in Makanpurwa village in the Chaubepur police station area late on Thursday evening. On the information the kin informed the police. Reports said that Subhash (20), son of Shiv Kumar, did not go to graze the animals on Thursday and was scolded by family members due to it. Upset by the scolding he immediately went towards the canal track with the cattle and jumped into the canal. On seeing the scenario grazers returning from there and informed his kin. The irate villagers staged an agitation by blocking the Chaubepur-Sheeli road alleging that the police had failed to reach the spot till

late evening. The police immediately rushed to the spot and after pacifying the issue launched a rescue operation. Sub-inspector Muzammil Hussain said due to darkness it was difficult to rescue the missing youth and added divers would be deployed on Friday morning to trace the him.

DRIVE: The Kanpur Nagar Nigam (KNN) has directed its health officers to carry out a drive between September 25 and 30 to launch a crackdown on milk dairies in the city using oxytocin to improve milk yield. The move comes in the wake of sharp increase in use of oxytocin injections to milch cattle for milk let-down which had

become a common practice amongst dairy owners here and the suburban areas. Additional Nagar Swasthya Adhikari Dr Nitesh Dwivedi who had been made the nodal head of the drive said the main hormonal role of oxytocin was to regulate the process of carrying a foetus, child birth and lactation as well as the establishment of social connections from the infancy period (connection with parents with a child) throughout childhood to adolescence and adult periods of life. He said oxytocin could play a facilitatory role in the preovulatory surge in humans and it would not be any exaggeration to state that it facilitated sexual maturation. He

said as per the research it had been proved that oxytocin stimulated GnRH secretion from medial basal hypothalamic explants of males and of cycling female. He said despite a ban violators were managing to lay their hands on the 'hormonal injection', widely used in dairy industry to boost milk production in cows and buffaloes, by importing the drug in disguised names. He said oxytocin injections were being illicitly used by dairy owners to extract milk leading to its harmful effects on humans as well as livestock. He said milk dairies found in possession of oxytocin injection will be banned to operate in city limits and heavy fines will be imposed on them.

People made aware about cleanliness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As per the instructions of the Ministry of Railways, 'Cleanliness Fortnight' is being celebrated in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) from September 16 to October 2 under the guidance of a General Manager (GM) Basudev Panda by the BLW's Safety department. Various programmes, including prabhat pheri, shramdaan, tree plantation, no use of single plastic and others are being organised for public awareness on cleanliness in BLW. In the series of Cleanliness Fortnight a public awareness related to cleanliness was organised in the loco frame

shop of BLW factory through loudhailers here on Friday. Besides, the employees also created public awareness regarding cleanliness by cleaning their respective workplaces and distributing pamphlets. Before this, cleanliness oath was also organised in BLW for cleanliness awareness. Apart from this, posters related to cleanliness were put up at various suitable places in the factory premises and administrative building. In this series for cleanliness awareness a poster exhibition related to cleanliness and no use of single plastic was also organised in the reception area of the administration building and the eastern gate of BLW factory.

CRPF launches plantation drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the eve of the arrival of the Prime Minister in the city, a cleanliness campaign and tree plantation programme were organised by the personnel of 95 Battalion Central Research Police Force (CRPF) in collaboration with Srijan Samajik Vikas Nyas here on Friday. Under the mission of planting one crore saplings, the drive was launched on the instructions of Anil Kumar Singh, President of Srijan and brand ambassador of Ganga Haritima Abhiyan, Surendra Chaudhary, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of CRPF Range Chandauli and Anil Kumar Vriksh, Commandant, 95 Battalion CRPF. The plantation drive was launched at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Park located in Aditya Nagar. In the pond along with the children and teachers of Sanskar Sainik School and My Chhota School, a cleanliness programme was also conducted in the entire park under the 'Mera Mati Mera Desh' campaign. In the tree planting programme con-



ducted in the park, many shady and fruit-bearing trees were planted. The chief guest was Vinod Kumar Singh, assistant commandant of 95 Battalion CRPF while the special guest was Anil Kumar of NDRE. The programme was presided over by Anil Singh, President of Srijan. The programme was conducted

by Saurabh Singh Patel. Among those present were Susuwahi corporator Suresh Patel, former Nevada corporator Vineet Singh, Dr Sudeshna Bashu, Vijay Kejriwal, a large number of school children, NDRE personnel and Praveen Singh of 95 Battalion CRPF participated with full enthusiasm.

'Malnutrition a major challenge before nation'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Programme Officer Durgesh Pratap Singh, while addressing a meeting at Vikas Bhawan on Friday informed that the Directorate Child Nutrition Services and Nutrition had decided to observe September 25 as 'Poshan Pathshala' and the theme will be 'causes of malnutrition and nutrition services for children below six months'. He said this will be a virtual workshop where issues and questions raised by the people concerned will be answered. He said there shall also be a live webcast as well. He said those interested could register on the web link webcast.gov.in/up/ncds. He said it was a matter of great concern that malnutrition was a major challenge before the nation and India was facing this problem despite its best effort to control it effectively. He said as per the government's National Family Health Survey 36 per cent of children under age five years were stunted, 19

per cent were wasted, 32 per cent were underweight and three per cent were overweight. He said the major reasons for malnutrition were mother's poor health, social inequality, sanitation, lack of diversified food, lack of food security and failure of government approaches. Singh said a good health care system that provided immunisation, oral rehydration, periodic deworming, early diagnosis and proper treatment of common illnesses can go a long way in preventing malnutrition in the society. He said to end malnutrition it was essential that there was a healthy diet intake and informed that one needs to take plenty of fruit and vegetables, plenty of starchy foods such as bread, rice, potatoes, pasta, some milk and dairy foods or non-dairy alternatives and some sources of protein.

He said inter-sectoral partnerships and mainstreaming efforts like poshan pathshala was a direction that offered much hope but one must ask ourselves whether our goals

were achievable with this alone. Singh said there was a need for everyone to get down to tackling it for themselves and for those around them.

FLAGGED OFF: Mayor Pramila Pandey while flagging off the sapling plantation drive e-rickshaw from her official residence MLA Green on Friday said today clean and green environment had become highly essential and the

roadsides and thus in future the result will be highly encouraging and beneficial for the people of Kanpur. She announced to donate 200 saplings from this noble cause. Perna Sansthan founder, Sumit Agarwal said it was a matter of deep concern that Kanpur had only two per cent of greenery although it should be at least 33 per cent. He said thus Perna Sansthan had taken up the



order of the day and also the responsibility of every individual. She said for the past two years this campaign had successfully planted thousands of saplings outside houses and on

cudgels to plant as many number of trees as possible. He said currently the e-rickshaw carried concrete breaker, generator, two labourers, one supervisor and they reach those

places where the people invite them to plant trees outside their houses or roadsides. He said the organisation sets up a tree guard and plants the sapling there as well. He said the team thus visits the city areas and wherever there seems a possibility to plant trees, plant saplings and protect it with tree guard. He said this drive was totally free. He said the organisation then decided to pay one-third cost for the plantation drive. He said this campaign had become highly popular and said the saplings which had been planted between April and June this year were over 90 per cent existing and had grown substantially.

He said over 8,000 fruit trees, neem, banyan, peepal guava, and over one dozen fruits trees and ornamental trees had been planted till date. He said those who want to plant trees outside their houses or on any specific roadside can call the organisation. Gulafshan Khan, Sumit Kumar, Gaurav Bajpai and others took part in the drive.

Cleanliness drive continues in trains

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the direction of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava and Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar, cleanliness fortnight is being observed in the entire Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) on the lines of Indian Railways. In this direction, on the theme of 'Clean Trains' was observed in which onboard inspection of trains was done by the nominated officers along with the trains operating from/to the terminating and originating stations of Varanasi Division.

A massive campaign was carried out for cleanliness and awareness was created to maintain cleanliness inside the trains. In the same sequence, SDME (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar inspected the cleanliness and hygiene of linen in trains like Kashi-Patna Janshatbdi Express, Banaras New Delhi Superfast Express, Banaras-Gorakhpur Intercity Express etc at Banaras Coaching Depot. In the same direction Sarnath Express, Chhapra-Varanasi City Intercity Express, Loknayak Express and Gomtinagar Express were checked by Coaching Depot Officer Chhapa and train No 15025/26 by Coaching Depot Officer



Mau and train No 22539/40 by Assistant Safety Officer in Azamgarh Kaihiyat Express. etc. Intensive inspection of the special trains identified was done at the stations by the team of officers/supervisors and OBHS employees.

The conditions of cleanliness of trains, availability of cleaning equipment, number of cleaning personnel, arrangements for garbage disposal, availability of dustbins, cleanliness of trains in the washing line, cleanliness of toilets in trains and wash basins, pest control in air-conditioned coaches were also examined. Special attention was paid to the cleanliness and quality of clean linen (blankets, sheets, towels and pillowcases) and the level of facilities provided to the passengers while travelling in the trains and in the context of this, feedback was also taken from the passengers and the feedback of the pas-

sengers. Later, awards for the best OBHS employees/supervisors were also announced.

A street play was organised among the passengers at Banaras station in which the passengers were given information about the use of different coloured dustbins installed at the station.

Other important trains passing through the Banaras station were thoroughly inspected/ cleaned. Under the

'Dustbin Donation' programme at Varanasi City Station, dustbins were distributed among the passengers and it was told that the garbage had to be put in the dustbins.

Under the theme of 'Donate Plant' at Azamgarh Railway Station, passengers were requested to keep the environment clean and pollution free by giving them saplings.

Also, the passengers travelling by trains were made aware about cleanliness in the train and throwing garbage in the dustbins. At Ballia railway station, the passengers in the trains were told about the ill effects of single use plastic and the passengers were made aware to keep their surroundings clean. Apart from this, vendors at the station were made aware not to sell single use plastic.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The National Sugar Institute (NSI) has taken up umpteen cleanliness activities to commemorate 'Swachhta Pakhwada' (cleanliness fortnight) being organised between September 15 and October 2. The drive will not be confined within the NSI premises but will be carried out in every part of the city, including schools and markets and other areas having high footfalls.

Director Prof Narendra Mohan said at the launch of the drive that keeping in view the special drive launched by PM Narendra Modi the NSI had decided to give a little push to the campaign here as well, an industrial city where cleanliness was a big challenge. He said Mahatama Gandhi's dream was a clean and green India and thus NSI has decided to pursue the



drive with the active support of its students.

Nodal officer Ashok Garg said as part of the campaign, besides distribution of person-

al hygiene material NSI students explain the importance of cleanliness and educate people at the grass-roots level the importance of hygiene.

The team of staff and students of the institute also distributed hundreds of cloth bags in the local markets with the appeal to avoid using plastic carry bags and help in reducing plastic pollution. He said students also carried posters and placards sending across a messages about combatting the plastic pollution and pollution in general. The students of NSI went a step ahead by taking cleanliness activities in sugar factories in various sugar producing states. He said they had been provided with the templates of advertisement material for creating awareness amongst factory staff so as have better disposal of waste and a clean and green unit. The students of NSI enthusiastically took part in the campaign and advocated the importance of cleanliness, especially in surroundings of human dwelling.

Essay writing competition held



The winners of the national essay writing competition organised by Dr Sujata Verma Smriti Samiti on Friday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Humour and satire literature is essential for a healthy and progressive social order. It aims at social unification and spreads social harmony. Noted litterateur Sanjay Jhala of Jaipur (Rajasthan) said this while speaking at the sixth national essay writing competition on 'Intolerance: causes and remedies' organised by Dr Sujata Verma Smriti Samiti at the Shashtri Bhawan auditorium here on Friday.

On the occasion, Jhala gave away prizes to winners,

released a book of collection of poems of 21 writers 'Anam Takaze' jointly published by the Samiti and Vikas Publications. He also felicitated six young talented children. A participant from Chennai R Kritika won the first prize and Laxmi Devi Gold Medal. The participants from Uttar Pradesh Ayesha Jamal and Sheela bagged second and third prizes respectively and were given Laxmi Devi silver medals. Six young talents, including Yashvardhan Singh, Avi Sharma, Suhani Yadav, Isha Sahai, Charu Gupta and Adima Mohan were also

felicitated.

Eight poetess included in the book 'Anam Takaze' - Dr Renu Dixit, Dr Shobha Singh, Lata Kadambari, Prachi Dwivedi, Kajal Chaudhari, Seema Shukla, Seema Varnica and R Kritika - recited their self-composed poems. Dr Kamal Musaddi and Priya Varma convened the programme. Earlier, Adims Mohan presented Ganesh Vandana and Dr Suresh Awasthi welcomed the guests. Shubhro Sen spoke about the Samiti and Saran P Varma proposed vote of thanks.

Three swimmers selected in UP & Uttarakhand team

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Three swimmers of the city have been selected in the UP and Uttarakhand team to participate in the National CISCE Swimming Championship (boys/girls) scheduled to be held at Padukone David Centre Swimming Pool, Bengaluru (Karnataka) under the aegis of Vijayshree Public School. The UP & UK team comprised 105

Sheeling House School. UP team manager and coach Chandra Prakash (Prayagraj), Lalit Kapoor (Lucknow) along with assistants, Sandeep Singh, Anuradha and Rupa Chaurasia, also accompanied the team. This has been informed by honorary secretary of the Kanpur District (Urban & Rural) Swimming Association Prakash Awasthi in a press release issued on Friday.

GLASSES DISTRIB-

financial aid of ₹50,000 to Haemophilia Society. Speaking on the occasion, JCI secretary Neha Garg said Dr Gaurav Dubey performed the cataract operation of 50 persons at the RK Devi Hospital while Dr Sunil Taneja extended financial aid of ₹50,000 for the Haemophilia Society. Community service advisor Smriti Agarwal, Jaycee Week president Bhavuk Goel, Community Service Chairman



Members of JCI Kanpur Industrial Club extending financial assistance of ₹50,000 to Haemophilia Society.

swimmers, including three of Kanpur who had been proceeded for the destination from here on Friday. They are Raghav Awasthi (U-17) of St Aloysius' School, Cantt, Devansh Dixit (U-19) and Lavishka Kapoor (U-14) of

UTED: Under the Jaycee Week 'Samyak' celebrations, JCI Kanpur Industrial Club, apart from carrying out the cataract operation of 50 persons, distributed glasses to 50 needy children.

The club also extended

Niharika Gupta, JCI president Sidharth Gupta, Jaycee Week advisor Akash Goenka and Dheeraj Bhatia, vice-president Prakhar Jain, Ankrit Agarwal, Dhruv Malani, Pranit Agarwal and secretary Neha Garg were present.

APPENDIX IV-A (See proviso to rule 8(6)) Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property	
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.	
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Commercial Credit Ltd. [CIN: U65923DL2006PLC150632] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 11.10.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 68,16,267/- (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HLLABRL00496564, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.09.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.09.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Mubarak Khan (Proprietor, Dynamite Traders), Zeba Fatima and Hatsoff Metals Private Limited.	
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs.70,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 7,00,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.	
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	
PROPERTY BEING RESIDENTIAL FREEHOLD PLOT OF LAND BEARING PART OF KHASRA NO. 101 ADMEASURING 140.42 SQUARE METERS + 140.00 SQUARE METERS, TOTAL ADMEASURING 280.42 SQUARE METERS SITUATED IN VILLAGE BARWARA MAZRA, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT MORADABAD -201001, UTTAR PRADESH.	
PROPERTY BOUNDED AS MENTIONED IN SALE DEED (AREA 140.42 SQUARE METERS)	
EAST : AARAJI ILTIMA NAZ	WEST : AARAJI ALEEM WALI
NORTH : RASTA 3.65 MTRS. WIDE	SOUTH : AARAJI DEEGAR SHAKSH
PROPERTY BOUNDED AS MENTIONED IN SALE DEED (AREA 140.00 SQUARE METERS)	
EAST : AARAJI VIKAR	WEST : AARAJI SARFARAZ
NORTH : RASTA 3-65 MTRS. WIDE	SOUTH : AARAJI DEEGAR SHAKSH
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullscommercialcredit.com . For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in	
Date : 18.09.2023	Authorized officer
Place : MORADABAD	INDIABULLS COMMERCIAL CREDIT LTD.

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 covers, trident shaped flood-lights, ghat steps based seating, Belpatra shaped metallic sheets on the facade. The stadium will have a capacity of 30,000 spectators. 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 Mahotsav. The



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

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 ceremony of the stadium. In this project, the Yogi gov-

ernment has spent ₹121 crore on land acquisition while the BCCI will spend ₹330 crore to construct the stadium. This stadium will be ready in about 30 months near Ring Road in Ganjari village of Rajatalab area of the district. The double engine government is continuously playing a positive role in the rejuvenation of Kashi. Along with implementing 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 people of Kashi had never thought that their MP would give such a big gift to Purvanchal in the form of an international cricket sta-



Atal Residential School ready for inauguration at Karsada in Varanasi.



dium. 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-of-the-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 the whole world through live telecast on TV. The shape of the stadium will be half-moon shaped, in which the floodlights installed will be in the shape of a trident. The design of belpatra will be seen in the building, while the shape of damru will also be visible in the design. There will be a spectator gallery like the stairs of Ganga Ghat. Before this, the RICC built in Kashi was constructed in the shape of Shivaling, which has 108 Rudraksha beads. Many legendary 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 talent and join the Indian cricket team.

Projects to benefit Purvanchal: Patel



Regional BJP chief (Kashi Region) DS Patel addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Friday.

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 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.

Along with other preparations, 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. "On the route of the PM's journey, the people of Kashi will give him a grand welcome by showering rose petals at various places and there is huge enthusiasm among the party workers," he said, adding that he was full confident that the public meeting would be historic and all the programmes will be unprecedented successful. The press conference was conducted by Navratan Rathi, media in-charge of Kashi region while it was also attended by Ashok Chaurasia, Pradeep Agrahari and co-media in-charge Santosh Solapurkar.

Plogathon green run organised



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A plogathon 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 plogathon 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 plogathon green run. After releasing the selfie point and Swachhta Pakhwada pamphlet based on Swachh Bharat theme, DRM Vineet Kumar Srivastava 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'.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A team of researchers from the School 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 cer-

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.

vical cancer cells. The work carried out at the Cell Cycle and Cancer Lab, School of Biotechnology, showed that a human microRNA cluster, miR-17~92 suppresses an oncogenic cell cycle factor Cdt2/DTL inhibiting the

growth and cancer progression of cervical cancer cells specifically, with no significant 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 first-ever 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 regulation is yet to be explored". We have reported that the discovered microRNA destabilises certain transcripts of onco-

genic factors suppressing the growth of cervical cancer cell lines. Due to this, the metastatic and proliferative capacity of cancerous cells is highly compromised, added Dr Singh.

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 mis-regulated. Earlier, the lab reported another micro-RNA, miR-34a which could suppress the cancer progression by targeting an essential viral protein E6 which was published in 'BMC cancer'. The lab has also found a novel way to diagnose cancer by evaluating load of tumor DNA in serum of cervical cancer patients which was published in a very reputed journal of cancer called 'JCRT'.

Conference on 'IIT-A MUN' from Sept 28

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Sarvasa, the Literary Society of IIT-Allahabad (IIT-A), in collaboration with Effervescence, the cultural fest of IIT-A, will organise a three-day annual student conference on "IIT-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. IIT-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 committee- Lok 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 IIT-A-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-clearing sessions will be conducted to enhance delegates' negotiation and problem-solving skills.

Team IIT-A-MUN is deeply committed to fostering the intellectual growth of young individuals, encouraging them to contemplate global issues and promoting constructive communication among IIT-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 Balbeer Giri was returning from Varanasi on a Fortuner on Thursday. There was a police escort team in Gypsy ahead for security.

Around 7 pm a person riding a moped came from the opposite direction in front of the gypsy near Bagaha village of Handia. After colliding with it, the gypsy went out of control and overturned. Head constable Ajay Singh, head constable Mukesh, constable Ambuj Yadav and Nagendra Kumar were injured in the accident. The Handiya police reached there. The overturned gypsy was straightened with the help of the villagers. Moped rider Parasnath Gupta (55) of village Manikpur police station Handia, was also injured. The police admitted him to a private hospital in Handiya town.

Meanwhile a car parked in the boundary wall plot of two bighas of Shivpujan Yadav alias Pappu of Katka caught fire due to breakage of high voltage wire in Jhunsni on Friday morning. Within a few moments

flames started rising. When the local people noticed it, they informed plot owner Shivpujan Yadav. Shivpujan informed the police as well as the fire brigade. By the time people could control the fire, more than half a dozen cars were burnt to ashes. Some were also partially damaged. A native of Cuttack Shivpujan Yadav alias Pappu has given his two bigha plot with boundary wall on rent for ₹50,000 per month to Srijan Bajaj of Lucknow. A convoy of several dozen new cars is parked in this boundary wall. On Friday morning the wire of the high voltage line going over the boundary wall broke and fell on the cars. Due to which a fire broke out. Several fire brigade vehicles arrived and brought the fire under control after an hour's effort. During this period more than half-a-dozen vehicles were burnt to ashes and some were damaged.

DENGUE CASES: The number of dengue patients here has reached 96. The maximum dengue patients are admitted in Swaroopnari Nehru Hospital (SRN) and Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital.

According to the Health Department data, 96 dengue infected patients have been confirmed so far. Whereas more than 300 infected patients are being admitted to the dengue ward and being treat-

ed. The department is considering those patients as dengue patients whose dengue has been confirmed in the ELISA test. The department is not counting the dengue patients received through cards etc. in the counting of dengue patients.

Meanwhile District Malaria Officer (DMO) Anand Singh said that so far 96 dengue patients have been found. The situation is normal now.

TEACHERS FELICITATED: The Women Welfare



Organisation, North Central Railway Headquarters, Prayagraj, organised a programme at Spandan Club, Railway Colony, Subedarganj to felicitate teachers. On the occasion the prin-

cipal as well as all the teachers of Tender Feet School were present. President of the organization Ruby Rani Singh heartily congratulated the school principal and teachers. Cultural programme were presented by the school principal and all the teachers and games were organised. On the occasion all the teachers of the school and all the women working in the crèche were felicitated by the president NCRWWO. Vice-president Jyotsna Kumari, secretary

Nupur Aggarwal, Meena Mathur, Mithlesh Kumari, Rakhi Jain, Renu Ponia, Rita Sinha, Supriya Sinha, Richa Verma, Neelam Kumar as well as other members of the organisation were present.

FIRST COLUMN

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

The 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 (adi-bhautika), and by body & mind (adhyatmitika). 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 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-so-well-intentioned people or groups. But people bereft of spiritual wisdom; act whimsically, instinctually, and emotionally to further their self-serving 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 socio-cultural 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, non-violence, 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



ARMAN ALI

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



Every 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. Alarming, 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



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

(The writer is Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People)

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 crucial role in facilitating communication between the deaf and hearing communities in various settings, including government offices, hospitals, and educational institutions.

Indeed, the deaf community in India is a significant and dynamic 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-to-date 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,

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 curriculum.

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, employment, healthcare, and civic engagement. They empower

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, 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

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 production; 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

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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 personal needs, such as food,

clothing and health facilities 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-

izers and pesticides instead of giving 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 agricultural 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.

Cooperative societies can

encourage farm support activities and set up processing and procurement centres for agro-products 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 the scope of cooperative soci-

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, piggy and agro-processing units in addition to loans for crops. operative farming should be developed 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 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 cooperative 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, piggy, 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.

PM for ‘strong Government with majority’

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 India’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 Bill.

Having reservation for



women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was talked about for nearly three decades, he noted, adding that the earlier efforts lacked commitment and women were even insulted.

The Prime Minister also made a pitch for having a strong Government with majority, saying “this made the parliamentary approval for the long-pending idea possible.”

“Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam ka duno sadanon

se pass hona , is baat ka bhi sakshi hain ki jab purn bahumat wali isthir sarkar hoti hain, to desh kесе bade phaisla leta hain, bade padavon ko paar karta hain”, the Prime Minister said, adding earlier Governments make superficial efforts because they “did 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 is why the political parties

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 support it, he saying “jo Bill phada karte they, unko bhi is 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 women-led development, he said amidst 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 the bill’s passage as historic and credited Modi’s foresight and resolve for the feat.

JD(S) joins NDA



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Set for the seat-sharing tie-up with the BJP in Karnataka for 28 parliamentary seats, the Janata Dal (Secular) on Friday joined National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The decision followed JD (S) leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah and party president J P Nadda.

After the meeting, Nadda said on X, “I am happy that JD(S) has decided to be the part of National Democratic Alliance. We wholeheartedly welcome them in the NDA. This will further strengthen NDA and vision of Hon PM Narendra Modi Ji for ‘New 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.

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 eight-member “high-level” panel to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities 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 in a manner to guarantee its conclusions. It is, I am afraid, a total eyewash,” Chowdhury had said in the letter.

The government notification said the panel will commence functioning immediately and make recommendations “at the earliest”, but did not specify a time-frame to submit the report.

The decision to have a committee under former president Kovind had caught opposition bloc INDIA, holding their conclave in Mumbai on September 1, by surprise and



further raised the political heat. The opposition alliance had slammed the decision as a “threat” to the country’s federal structure.

The high-level committee will also have former Lok Sabha secretary general Subhash C Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve and former chief vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari as members.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will attend the meetings of the committee as a special invitee, while Law Secretary Niten Chandra will be the secretary to the panel.

The committee will examine and recommend specific amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act and any other laws and rules which would require

amendments for the purpose of holding simultaneous elections.

It has also been tasked to suggest a framework for synchronisation of elections and “specifically suggest the phases 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 analyse and recommend possible solutions to scenarios such as hung House, adoption of no-confidence motion, or defection or any such other 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 security personnel.

It will also examine and recommend the modalities of use of a single electoral roll and electoral identity cards for identification of voters in elections to the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

A parliamentary committee had recently said that a common electoral roll will help reduce expenses and prevent manpower being deployed for a work on which another agency is already working.

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 pointed 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.

It also leads to diversion of security forces and other electoral officers engaged in such elections from their primary duties for significantly prolonged periods.

Frequent polls, it said, disrupt developmental work on account of prolonged application 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 UNGA 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.

Concerns over complacency in implementing TB elimination programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI



Parliamentary panel has 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 contributor 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.

The committee suggested that the government establish a robust selection process for Ni-kshay Mitra and implement effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure their diligent fulfilment of responsibilities.

Under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (Ni-kshay Mitra initiative) implemented by the Ministry, community support is provided to TB patients through the Ni-kshay 2.0 portal on which TB patients can be adopted and cared for by an individual, elected representatives or institutions.

The parliamentary committee suggested the need for organising orientation pro-

grammes for Ni-kshay Mitras to acquaint them about TB and its management.

“The close connection between nutrition and TB further reinforced the significance of this programme, as it not only strengthens the immune system of TB patients to fight against disease, it also facilitates community engagement making the TB elimination program a vital part of 24 community-driven efforts,” the committee stated.

In order to ensure the proper utilisation of assistance extended by Ni-kshay Mitras, the committee recommended that the government introduce a monitoring mechanism to track the attitude and behaviour of the patients towards the Ni-kshay Mitras, and to provide them appropriate counselling, if required.

“The committee feels that the global resources and guidelines would lead to more effective implementation of PMTBMA and achieving universal health coverage. Moreover, community involvement in TB control efforts, fostering awareness, understanding of TB prevention, care-seeking behaviour, and adherence to treatment are imperative steps to manage TB disease,” the panel said.

The committee suggested that under PMTBMA programme, political commitment at all levels of governance through regular meetings, discussions, and engagements with key stakeholders should be strengthened.

Implement Women’s Reservation Bill immediately: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Friday demanded immediate implementation of the Women’s Reservation Bill and expressed “100 per cent regret” that the proposed legislation during the UPA Government did not include reservation for OBCs.

He also demanded that the Government carry out a caste census and make public its findings along with that of the previous caste census conducted during the UPA rule.

Noting that the Government’s intention behind bringing the bill was political, he said it will not be implemented in the next 10 years as it has been linked to the population census and the delimitation exercise.

The bill was meant for diverting attention from the growing call for a caste census,

Rahul said and alleged that the BJP MPs have no role in decision-making and they are like mere “moortis” (idols) in a temple without any power given to them.

“The truth is that this bill will be implemented in 10 years from now, if it is implemented at all,” he claimed at a press conference at the AICC headquarters, a day after Parliament approved the legislation to reserve a third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women.

Rahul said that while he favoured the bill, he sought more reservation for women from backward classes and other sections as per their population ratios.

Asked if he regretted that the erstwhile UPA government did not give OBC quota in its women’s reservation bill that was passed by Rajya Sabha in 2010, Rahul Gandhi said, “There is 100 per cent regret.



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

later posted on X in Hindi.

At the press conference, he said, “You can ask any BJP MP 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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea by ‘Shri Krishna Janambhoomi 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 Tarwaq 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 court.

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



Indian 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, cross-deck 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.

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 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 management 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 will be processed completely online without any manual interventions for speedy approval," an industry source said.

The authorisation will be initially granted for about a year, after which there will be gradual reduction of 5 per cent

on import quota of finished products.

"There may be conditional relief on import quota on a case to case basis," the industry source said.

Minister of State for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar will hold a meeting 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 supply 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 crore.



BSE to discontinue stop loss market orders to check freak trades

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading stock exchange 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.



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.

At the NSE, it fell 6.36 per cent to Rs 775 apiece during the day. Shares of the company ended at Rs 803.05, lower by 2.97 per cent.

Shares 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

crore, and proceeds would be used to repay debt and deleverage the balance sheet.

As per the definitive agreement, the Mumbai-based drug maker will offload 75 per cent stake in Glenmark Life Sciences (GLS) to Nirma Ltd at a price of Rs 615 per share.

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.

Nirma will make an open offer for a 17.15 per cent stake in GLS at an offer price of Rs 631 per share.

Later addressing a virtual press conference, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Chairman 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 subsidiary.

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

Forex kitty drops USD 867 million to USD 593 billion

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

the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

For the week ended September 15, the foreign currency 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,



the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves were down USD 384 million to USD 44 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up USD 32 million to USD 18.092 billion, the apex bank said. The country's reserve position with the IMF was down USD 4 million to USD 5.03 billion in the reporting week.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty stayed on the back foot for the fourth straight session on Friday as investors offloaded healthcare, consumer durable and commodity stocks amid a weak trend in global markets.

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 of 65,952.83.

The Nifty fell 68.10 points or 0.34 per cent to end at 19,674.25.

In the early trade, the benchmark indices had climbed after global financial firm JP 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 borrowing cost for the government.



On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark fell 1,829.48 points or 2.69 per cent, and the Nifty declined 518.1 points or 2.56 per cent.

"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 India's inclusion in JP Morgan's government bond index led to



a decline in bond yields.

"...Risk-averse sentiment 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

Tata Motors.

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

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

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

"While Indian market valuations 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.

Among the indices, consumer durables fell by 0.84 per cent, really declined by 0.73 per cent, commodities (0.62 per cent) and oil & gas (0.45 per cent).

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.

"Global shares sagged, and US yields climbed multi-year highs on Friday after a week packed with central bank meetings 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 territory on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,007.36 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. FIIs were net sellers of Indian equities in this week.

"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.

FROM PAGE 1

PARLIAMENT TURNS UNPARLIAMENTARY

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

Harsh Vardhan, who represents 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 from this locality only," Harsh Vardhan said.

The Opposition leaders highlighted instances where members from their own 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.

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 acceptable. 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 'bak-waas' (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 calling this out. Ma Kali holds my spine," Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra said in a statement.

She demanded that Modi and the Speaker take strict

action against Bidhuri.

"Filthy language used by a 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 comments on the row.

Aam Aadmi Party leader 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.

CHINA SPITS VENOM, INDIA FIRES SALVO

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.

He added, "...Entire people of Arunachal Pradesh resolutely oppose any illegal claim of China on its land and people. The International Olympic Committee should reign in China's illegitimate action."

Meanwhile, in response to reports about Indian players being denied entry to China, the country's foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning on Friday said, "As the host country, China welcomes athletes from all countries to come to Hangzhou to participate in the Asian Games with legal documents."

"As to the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh', the Chinese government doesn't recognise it. Zangnan (southern part of Southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region) is part of China's territory," Ning said.

Chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Ethics Committee Wei Jizhong has claimed that Indian athletes were not denied visas to enter China for the upcoming Asian Games. In fact, Chinese authorities have claimed that the athletes did not accept the visas after they were issued the travel documents.

CUBS BEAR BRUNT OF TIGER TURF WAR

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 Park, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Mukundra Hills National Park, among others, from January 2019 to January 2022, most of the 32 female tigresses are in reproductive age, due to which there has been an increase in the birth of cubs. A total of 44 cubs have been born between 2019 to 2021. Due to the high number of tigers in the battered areas of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, there is a high number 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 succumb in want of adequate nutrition.

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), Menoclyl (Otilonium 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.

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-Punjab, BISCOAUN-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, an 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, Maryam Reshii, Chef Araminder Sandhu, Aslam Gafoor, Amin Ali and Khurafati Nitin were among the many luminaries who attended the most sought-after Big F Awards.

Ramaswamy calls for economic independence from China

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 relationship 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 primary 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 systems, medical devices and other communication devices.

He called for increasing military spending to “defend our own homeland,” and move away from Chinese-controlled pharmaceutical supply chains out of concern that China “could lace our legal pharmaceutical supply chain with poison, including fentanyl”.

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 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 economic 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

The US Treasury Department and China’s Ministry of Finance launched a pair of economic working groups on Friday in an effort to ease tensions and deepen ties between the nations.

Led by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Vice Premier He Lifeng, the working groups will be divided into economic and financial segments.

The working groups will “establish a durable channel of communication between the world’s two largest economies,” Yellen said in a series of planned tweets shared with The Associated Press ahead of Friday’s announcement.

Yellen said the groups will “serve as important forums to communicate America’s interests and concerns, promote a healthy economic competition between our two countries with a level playing field for American workers and businesses.”

The announcement follows a string of high-ranking administration officials’ visits to China this year, which sets the stage for a possible meeting between President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in November at an Asia-Pacific

Economic conference in San Francisco.

The two finance ministers have agreed to meet at a “regular cadence,” the Treasury Department said in a news release.

Yellen, along with other Biden administration officials, travelled to China this year after the Democratic president directed key senior officials to “maintain communication and deepen constructive efforts after he met with Xi in Bali last year.

The groups’ launch also comes after Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with China’s vice president on Monday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

China is one of the United States’ biggest trading partners, and economic competition 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 balloon down off the Carolina coast after it traversed sensitive military sites across North America.

China insisted the flyover was an accident involving a civilian aircraft and threatened repercussions.

At least 80 corruption cases to be revived 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, would be revived following a recent landmark 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 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 Shehbaz Sharif.

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 businessmen 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

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.”

‘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 leaders to designate the rival 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 Gen. Burhan, and the rival Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Both had joined forces in 2021 to seize power in a coup that cast aside Sudan’s pro-democracy forces. 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

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 for such a designation,” including receiving the help of “outlaws and terrorist groups” from other countries. “Those who have supported killing, burning, raping, forced displacement, looting, stealing, torture, trafficking of arms and drugs, bringing mercenaries or recruiting children - all such crimes necessitate accountability and punishment,” Burhan said. Both the Sudanese military and the RSF have been accused by Amnesty International of extensive war crimes, including deliberate killings of civilians and mass sexual assault.

At least 4.6 million people have been displaced in the fighting, according to U.N. data. Children are among those affected the most, with at least 1,200 of them killed in displacement camps because of a deadly combination of measles and malnutrition.

Af migrants get temporary legal status from Biden administration

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 announcement Thursday that the decision to give Temporary Protected Status to Afghans who arrived after March 15, 2022, and before September 20, 2023, would affect roughly 14,600 Afghans. This status doesn’t give affected Afghans a long-term right to stay in the country or a path to citizenship. It’s good until 2025, when it would have to be renewed again. But it does protect them from deportation and give them the ability to work in the country. A relatively small number of people are affected.

On Thursday, the administration announced it was giving Temporary Protected Status to nearly 5,000,000 Venezuelans in the country. But many Afghans who would benefit from the new protections took enormous risks in getting to the US, often after exhausting all other options to flee the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Supporters have argued that they are deserving of protection.

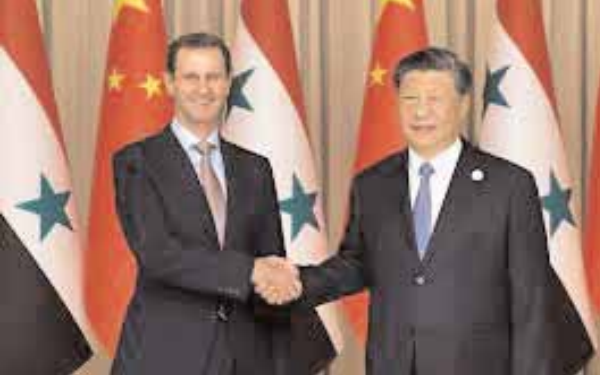
Syria, China announce strategic partnership

AP ■ BEIJING

China and Syria announced the formation of a strategic partnership on Friday as Chinese leader Xi Jinping 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 willing to work with Syria to firmly support each other ... and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice,” Xi said in a video clip posted online by state broadcaster CCTV.

Assad’s visit parallels in some ways that of Russian President Vladimir Putin last year for the opening ceremony



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 Hangzhou, China on Friday.

ny of the Beijing Winter Olympics. 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

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 Ministry has said.

King Charles III winds up his France state visit

AP ■ FRANCE

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.

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 vineyard 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.

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 city square.

In an address to the French Senate on Thursday, Charles praised France’s 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’.

China presents itself as member of Global South at UNGA

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

China told assembled world leaders that it considers itself part of the Global South, saying it identifies with the goals and challenges of less-developed nations and offering them an alternative to what it has long called “Western hegemony”. 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’ meeting that covered the government’s usual positions with familiar language but appeared to focus on building coalitions around its approach to development and international relations.

“As the largest developing 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 conditions”.

The loosely defined term “Global South”, which has come up frequently at the United Nations this year, identifies

12 years.

He was expected to discuss economic assistance from China, which could play a major role in Syria’s future reconstruction. Syrian state TV quoted Assad as thanking Xi and his government for standing on the side of the Syrian people “during the crisis and suffering.”

China has backed Assad, using its veto on the UN Security Council eight times to block resolutions against his government.

Assad expressed hope that the meeting would be the basis for “wide-ranging and long-term strategic cooperation 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.

nations around the world that 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.

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 countries.”

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

PTI ■ LONDON

London-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-year-old girl named Gopi and her bonds with her family. “Chetna Maroo’s deeply evocative debut of a family grappling with grief conveyed through crystalline 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 50,000-pounds 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.

LIVERPOOL, WEST HAM WIN IN EUROPA

AP ■ PARIS

In a meeting of two former European champions in crisis, 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 season 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



header from 13 yards.

Brighton twice levelled with Joao Pedro penalties. AEK twice regained the lead when sudden deflections in the rain opened up chances. Mijat Gacinovic buried one and Ezequiel Ponce tucked home the winner.

"We can improve but it's difficult to accept this defeat," said Brighton coach Roberto De Zerbi. "I can't be happy when we win at Old Trafford and sad today with a good performance." "We didn't show as much experience as AEK Athens."

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 14th-minute 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 League.

"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

Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard 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.



Garcia, Kenin reach WTA Guadalajara semis

AP ■ GUADALAJARA

France's Caroline Garcia overpowered Victoria Azarenka in straight sets to reach the semi-finals of the WTA 1000 Guadalajara Open on Thursday. Third-seed Garcia was always in control against her 10th-seeded opponent from Belarus, winning 6-3, 6-4 in 1hr 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

on Thursday, former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin's recent resurgence continued as she overpowered 2021 US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez of Canada 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-1 to reach the last four.

Kenin, 24, has gradually worked her way back up the rankings after tumbling to 426th in the world last year following a slew of injuries and upheaval in her coaching set-up.

She has won 14 of her last 17 matches on the WTA Tour since July, and is poised to climb back into the top 30 after this tournament.

On Thursday, she secured her latest semi-final berth the hard way, advancing despite coughing up 14 double faults, with Fernandez racking up 15 aces.

Kenin, who also reached the semi-finals in San Diego last week, will face unseeded American Caroline Dolehide in the last four.

Dolehide defeated Italy's Martina Trevisan 3-6, 7-6 (11/9) 6-3 in their quarter-final.

The American battled into her first WTA 1000 semi-final after saving four match points in the second set before winning the deciding set.

Naglesmann is Germany's new boss

AP ■ MUNICH

Julian Nagelsmann has been given nine months to revive flailing Germany ahead of hosting Euro 2024 after being named as the sacked Hansi Flick's successor as national team coach on Friday. Germany fired Flick with the national team struggling, the German football association (DFB) fearing another embarrassing 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 Euro 2024. "We have a European

Championship in our own country -- that's something special," Nagelsmann said in a statement. "I have a great desire to take 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".

Verstappen gets back on track ahead of Japanese GP qualifying

AP ■ SUZUKA

Max Verstappen laid down a mark with the fastest times in both practice sessions for the Japanese Grand Prix on Friday, as he looks to put one hand on his third-straight Formula One title.

Red Bull's Verstappen put down a lap of 1min 30.688sec to finish 0.320sec quicker than second-placed Charles Leclerc of Ferrari in the second practice.

Verstappen, who leads teammate and nearest rival Sergio Perez by 151 points in the championship standings, cannot clinch the title on Sunday but a favourable result can set him up to seal the deal at the Qatar Grand Prix next month.

The Dutchman is looking to bounce back from a disappointing fifth-place finish at last weekend's Singapore Grand Prix that ended his record streak of 10-straight wins.

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.

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

Paris Olympics berths up for grabs at Asian Games boxing

AP ■ HANGZHOU

Flyweight world champion Hasan-bey 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 Olympics 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 medalists 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

Asian Championships, will lead the Indian squad in Panghal's absence.

In the women's competition, 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 medalist 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.

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

Led by Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, India will seek to showcase its ascendancy as a sporting power at the Asian Games, which opens formally on Saturday after an unprecedented one-year delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 medalists 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.

The other Olympic medalists 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 team captain Harmanpreet Singh.

The eight-gold show in athletics 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,



India can win gold in both men's and women's hockey competitions. India can also win a gold each in men's and women's kabaddi and make amends for missed chance in Jakarta. The men's team had won a bronze and the women's settled for a silver last time.

Shooters had given nine medals in 2018, including two gold, but they may not be able to surpass the tally this time.

In boxing, the likes of Nikhat Zareen and Borgohain are favourites to win a medal but it is difficult to predict the colour. The same is the case with the wrestlers who had won three medals, including two gold, in 2018.

By hosting the world's biggest multi-sporting event, China is heralding its opening from the pandemic, a giant competition which will be the biggest ever in its history.

No doubt the Olympics is the pinnacle of multi-sporting event in the world but more athletes compete in the Asian

Games, with over 12,000 taking part in Hangzhou.

The 19th edition of the continental showpiece, which will run till October 8 in Hangzhou and five co-host cities of Huzhou, Ningbo, Shaoxing, Jinhua and Wenzhou, was to be held in September 2022 but was postponed by a year after a surge of COVID-19 cases in China.

Forty-five nations and territories in Asia will compete for 481 gold medals from 40 sports and 61 disciplines, including Esports which is making its debut in the Asian Games. Competitions in football, volleyball, cricket, rowing, sailing and modern pentathlon began before the grand opening ceremony.

China are fielding their second-largest contingent in their Asian Games history with 886 athletes, including 437 women, taking part in Hangzhou. It is 91 less than the 977 athletes China fielded at the 2010 Guangzhou Games.

China are not only fielding

the most number of athletes in 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 Asian Games are expected to be declared opened by Chinese president Xi Jinping. Organisers have already spent 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

PTI ■ MOHALI

Mohammed Shami's crafty bowling performance was beautifully 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 Matthew Short was at the receiving end when he was lofted over long-off for the other six.

Gaikwad, who would have to switch on to the T20 mode in another two weeks' time, had 10 boundaries to his credit. He hit cover drives and square drives and was especially severe on Sean Abbott.

For Australia, the only bright spot was leg-spinner Adam Zampa finding some bowling form with figures of 2/57 off 10 overs.

But the game-changer on the day was Shami, who doesn't seem to feature in India's first XI plans for the World Cup. He literally made a statement with his second five-wicket haul in ODIs.

His performance also put tremendous pressure on the weakest link among pacers Shardul Thakur (0/78 in 10 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 wicketkeeper 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 their scoring.

Warner (52 off 53 balls), Smith and Marnus Labuschagne (39 off 49 balls) all got starts but the lack of conversion did hurt the Aussies on a day when the Indian bowling unit was 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 dismissals, 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.



Shami will force team think-tank to think differently

PTI ■ MOHALI

It is very difficult not to respect Mohammed Shami for his mastery over his craft.

Also, how much a player means to the dressing room speaks volumes about his worth.

Just as he was coming off the 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 devastating 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 success 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 bowling composition India played against Pakistan, it is dif-

ficult to imagine how Shami would fit in if India is playing two spinners and Hardik Pandya is the third seamer during most matches.

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 Shami cooling his heels during important games would be a travesty as India is looking at multi-skilled cricketers, especially those who can bolster the batting. It can be very difficult to adjust being in and out of the playing XI, but after 179 international games for India across formats in the last 10 years, Shami knows how to adjust current demands.

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 didn't matter that it wasn't a red Dukes or SG Test ball with a pronounced seam in his hands.

"When you operate with the new ball, you have the responsibility of finding the right line and length, set the tempo and that's exactly what I wanted to do today," he said.

ICC selects 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, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago.

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 competing for the trophy. They're all popular venues with players and fans alike that will provide a wonderful backdrop to the event," ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said in a statement.

"This will be the third ICC senior men's event hosted by the West Indies, and the matches



will again give cricket fans the unique experience of enjoying cricket in the Caribbean. I'd like to thank Cricket West Indies and the seven host governments for their continued commitment and support of our sport."

Cricket West Indies CEO Johnny Grave said: "This is an 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 year.

"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 region for a generation," he said.

"We are confident that together we will deliver a world-class tournament showcasing the best this region has to offer with our unique culture and carnival atmosphere that will ensure there is a real celebration of the sport next June."



Injured Naseem ruled out of World Cup

PTI ■ LAHORE

Young pacer Naseem Shah was on Friday ruled out of the ODI World Cup due to a shoulder injury as Pakistan named their final 15-member squad for the showpiece beginning next month.

Chief Selector Inzamam ul Haq said experienced medium pacer Hasan Ali has been recalled because of the injury to Naseem.

Naseem, 20, had suffered a shoulder injury during their match against India in the Asia Cup. He has been advised to undergo surgery and is expected to recover in three to four months.

Inzamam also announced three travelling reserves -- wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Harris, mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed and fast bowler Zaman Khan for the World Cup who would be considered if there were any injuries in the squad.

"I have not tried to tinker or make too many changes in the squad because this is a World Cup and we have to remember these same players have been playing together for a while now. We have opted for continuity in the team," Inzamam told the media in Lahore on Friday.

"We were forced to make one change because of an unfortunate injury to Naseem Shah. We had a few injury scares in the recent Asia Cup, but I am glad to share that all the players are fully fit and are eager to perform for their country in the all-important tournament."

Giving a breakdown on the fitness of Naseem, Inzamam

said: "The doctors are looking after him but what we are learning is that he might be out for a long time, not only the World Cup."

The Chief Selector said that Naseem is also doubtful to make the tour of Australia after the World Cup.

Inzamam also defended the decision to call up Hasan Ali, who has been out with a finger injury for a while now and last played for Pakistan in any format in January this year against New Zealand in a Test match.

Hasan, who fractured his finger while playing in the Lanka Premier League a few months back, last played a ODI for Pakistan in June, 2022.

"The only reason we have picked Hasan is because he is an experienced bowler who has played and bowled well before in big tournaments and matches and that is why we have gone for Hasan. He was only picked after the doctors cleared his fitness," he said.

There were concerns about fast bowler Harris Rauf's fitness after he missed the last Super four game against Sri Lanka following an injury during the India game.

Pakistan World Cup squad

Babar Azam (Caps), Shadab Khan (V.Capt), Muhammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq, Abdullah Shafique, Saud Shakeel, Fakhar Zaman, Harris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Wasim Junior, Agha Salman, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Osama Mir.

Travelling Reserves:



India to open U-19 World Cup campaign against B'desh

PTI ■ DUBAI

Five-time winners and defending champions India will open their campaign at next year's U-19 World Cup against Bangladesh, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Friday.

Featuring a total of 16 teams, the U-19 World Cup will be held from January 13 to February 4 in Sri Lanka, with the hosts taking on Zimbabwe in the tournament-opener in Colombo.

India are the most successful team in the tournament, having lifted the trophy on five occasions -- 1999-00, 2007-08, 2012, 2017-18 and last year in the West Indies during the 2021-22 edition.

India are placed in Group A along with Bangladesh, Ireland and USA. After taking on Bangladesh on January 14, India will face the USA on January 18 and Ireland on January 20.

"The teams will be divided into four groups, each consisting of four teams, the top three teams from each group will now progress to the Super Six stage. Group stage matches will take place from 13 to 21 January," the ICC said.

"Additionally, the fourth-placed teams in each group will compete in one more match against another fourth-placed team before concluding their tournament," it added.

After the conclusion of the group stage, 12 teams will move to the Super Six stage wherein they will be divided into two groups of six teams each.

Top three teams from Groups A and D will form one

group in Super Six stage and similarly, top three sides from Groups B and C will be the part of the second group.

Based on their positions in the initial group stage, each team will play two matches in the Super Six stage against the second and third teams from the other group.

"For instance, the top team in Group A (A1) will play against the second and third teams in Group D (D2 and D3). A2 will play against D1 and D3, and so forth," the ICC said while explaining the format.

The two teams finishing on the top of their respective Super Six groups will make it to the semifinals, with the final to be played on February 4 at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo.

The tournament will be preceded by a round of warm-up matches to be played from January 6-12.

Hosts Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, Pakistan, South Africa, West Indies and Zimbabwe have made it to the tournament through automatic qualification.

The teams coming into the tournament through regional qualification are Namibia (Africa Regional Qualifier), Nepal, New Zealand (EAP Regional Qualifier), Scotland (Europe Regional Qualifier) and USA (Americas Regional Qualifier).

The tournament will be played across five venues in the island nation at Nondescripts Cricket Club, R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium, P Sara Oval,

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 fours and a six to make 49 from 31 balls whereas Jaiswal scored 31 from 17 balls with seven



hits to the fence.

The pair of Bhandage and Hegde ran through the Indian top and middle-order as none 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 showpiece 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.