CITY 3

FIVE WOMEN CONSTABLES SEEK NOD FOR GENDER CHANGE

WORLD 6 NAWAZ TO RETURN HOME AS

PLANNED: SHEHBAZ

SPORT 8 PRESSURE MOUNTS ON IYER & ASHWIN

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD



PM credits women for passage of quota bill

PNS/PTI VARANASI

rime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday gave credit to the women of the country for the passage of the women's reservation bill in Parliament and said the power of their leadership has been proved in every period in

Modi said this while addressing an allwomen public meeting in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi, where the women showered flower petals on him for the Parliament's nod to the "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam".

Talking about the recent approval to the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, referred to as the "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam", by Parliament, the prime minister said, "Women's Parliament, the prime minister said, "Womens leadership may be a modern system for the rest of the world, but we are the people who worship Mother Parvati and Ganga before Mahadev." Hitting out at opposition parties, especially the Congress, he said, "This law has been named Nari Shakti Vandan Act, although some people have a problem with the word van-dan (worship). Now, what will they do if they

dan (worship). Now, what will they do it diey do not worship mothers."

While discussing the bill in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Congress MP Ranjeet Ranjan objected to its name and said equality is a constitutional right of women and it is not appropriate to link it with divine or worship.

She said even though the BJP-led government talks about "vandan" of women, there is a huge difference between its words and actions. Be it the case of the women wrestlers' protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar or the harassment of women in Manipur — everyone has seen the government's stand, Ranjan said.

Modi sarcastically said, "These people do

not understand the meaning of worshipping and respecting women. But we have to avoid such negative thinking and move towards our goal. With the blessings of our mothers and sisters, the country will continue to move ahead and take decisions in this manner in the Amrit Kaal."

Without mentioning the Lok Sabha polls to be held next year, he said, "The power of mothers and sisters is my biggest security shield

Continued on Page 6



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, flanked by Chief Minister Yogi Aditvanath, BCCI officials and former Indian cricketers at the foundation laving ceremony for an international stadium in Varanasi on Saturday, PTI

PNS/PTI VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday laid the foundation stone of an international cricket stadium in Varanasi and said that through the game, the world is "getting linked" with

Highlighting that the design of the stadium dedicated to Lord Mahadev has instilled a feeling of pride among the citizens of Kashi, he said the facility would witness great cricket matches while young athletes would get an opportunity to train at the international level.

Modi said recent sporting successes of India were due to a changed approach as now sports have been linked with fitness, employment and career of youths.

Compared to nine years ago, this vear's sports budget has been increased threefold, he said.

"Through cricket, the world is get-

'Jo Khelega wo hi Khilega'

PM lays foundation stone of international cricket stadium in Varanasi, says world is getting linked with India through cricket

ting linked with India" and many new countries are playing cricket leading to a greater number of matches, he said, adding this stadium will cater to the rising demand for such facilities in the coming years.

To be built near the Ring Road in Rajatalab area here at a cost of about Rs 450 crores and spread across an area of more than 30 acres, the stadium is likely to be ready by December 2025. The Uttar Pradesh government said it has spent Rs 121 crore to acquire the land for the stadium while the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will spend Rs 330 crore on its construction.

The spectators' gallery of the stadium would resemble the steps of the ghats of Varanasi. This will be Uttar Pradesh's third international cricket

stadium after Kanpur and Lucknow. Addressing the gathering, Modi said he is visiting Kashi exactly one month after India reached the Shiv Shakti point on the moon where Chandrayaan landed. "One place of Shiv Shakti is on the moon, while the other one is here in Kashi," he said.

He also noted the significance of the venue which is at the intersection of the route to Mata Vindhyavasini and its proximity with the village Motikot, the

place from which socialist leader Raj Narain hailed.

Modi underlined that the development of sports infrastructure of such scale not only has a positive effect on sports but also on the regional economy. He said such developments attract more visitors which greatly benefits sectors such as hotels, eateries, rickshaws and auto drivers as well as oarsmen in the region.

The prime minister highlighted that it also has a positive effect on sports coaching and management institutions thereby paving the way for youth to venture into sports startups. He touched upon physiotherapy courses and said a new sports industry is expected to shape up in Varanasi in the coming days.

He also said there is a change in attitude towards sports among parents.

"Now the mood of the nation is - Jo Khelega wo hi Khilega (one who will play will blossom)."

Continued on Page 6

'Residents of Kashi its true brand ambassadors'

PNS/PTI VARANASI

Drime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturdav said the residents of Kashi were its true brand ambassadors and expressed his desire to see the ancient temple town's glory reverberating around the world.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating 16 residential schools for needy children in Uttar Pradesh named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Modi also announced a tourist guide competition and said that be it a tourist spot or a 'dham' (pilgrimage place), good

guides are very necessary.

"The people of Kashi know the most about Kashi. Here, every person, every family is the brand ambassador of Kashi in its true meaning. But it is also important that everyone is able to convey the information about Kashi effectively," he said.

"I want to start for the first time in the country... 'Kashi Saansad Tourist Guide Pratiyogita' ...I want to do this because I want my Kashi's glory to reverberate around the world," he said. Modi represents Varanasi, also known as Kashi, in the Lok Sabha.

The prime minister said a guide should be talented and complete in terms of having all the information.

"This strength should be there in Kashi. Today tourist guide is a very big employment avenue as tourists who come here want to understand everything and they also want to pay," he said.

The prime minister said India established its presence globally through the G20 Summit and there was a special discussion about Kashi and its 'seva' (service), 'swaad' (taste), 'sanskriti' (culture) and 'sangeet' (music) during the

Continued on Page 6

India goes ballistic on terror

Crackdown on Khalistani terrorists; NIA seizes Pannun's properties

RAKESH KUMAR SINGH **NEW DELHI**

Tightening its noose around individual terrorist' Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday confiscated the house and land of the selfstyled general counsel of the outlawed Sikhs for Justice (SFI) outfit in Amritsar and Chandigarh. This is the first time that the NIA has confiscated the properties of an absconding accused under a relevant section of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The action, which comes as a big boost to the country's crackdown on the so-called Khalistani "terror and secessionist network being operated from various countries", including Canada, followed confiscation orders passed by the NIA Special Court, SAS Nagar, Mohali.

Pannu has been on NIA's radar since 2019, when the anti-terror agency had registered its first case against the terrorist, who has been playing a major role in promoting and commissioning terror acts and activities, and spreading fear and terror in Punjab and elsewhere in the country through his threats and intimidation



House of Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, chief of banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) confiscated his immovable properties in Chandigarh on Saturday

tactics, the agency said. Non-bailable warrants of

arrest were issued against Pannu by the NIA Special Court on February 3, 2021, and he was declared a "Proclaimed Offender (PO)" on November 29 last year. NIA investigations have

revealed that Pannu's organisation, Sikhs for Justice, was misusing cyberspace to radi-calise gullible youth and to instigate them to undertake terrorist crimes and activities.

It further emerged during the NIA investigations that Pannu was the main handler and controller of the SFJ. Sikhs

for Justice was declared as an "Unlawful Association" by the Government of India, vide a notification dated July 10, 2019.

"Pannu, who was declared a 'designated individual terrorist' by the Centre through a notification dated July 1, 2020, has been actively exhorting Punjab-based gangsters and vouth over the social media to fight for the cause of independent state of Khalistan, challenging the sovereignty, integrity and security of the country,"

the NIA said in a statement. Recently, Pannu has been in the news for issuing blatant threats to senior Indian diplo-

mats and government functionaries in public forums. He had also threatened Canadian Hindus a few days back, asking them to leave Canada and claiming that they had adopted a "jingoistic approach" by siding with India.

The properties confiscated on Saturday include 46 kanal agricultural land situated in Villaga Phoplosis ing them to leave Canada and

ed in Village Khankot Amritsar, and 1/4th share of House Number 2033, Sector 15/C, Chandigarh.

ferred to the NIA.

been charge-sheeted in the

These properties were ear-lier attached following orders passed by the government in two different cases. The properties have now been confiscated on the court's orders under section 33(5) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967, in the case RC-19/2020/NIA/DLI dated April 5, 2020, registered under sections various sections of the Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The case was originally registered as FIR number 152 dated October 19, 2018, at Police Station Sultanwind Amritsar (City) and later trans-

A total of 10 accused including Pannu, have so far

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Pak haven for terrorists: India at UN

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ **AGENCIES** ■ NEW DELHI/ UNITED NATIONS

 $R^{\text{ejecting Pakistan's caretak-}}_{\text{er Prime Minister Anwaar}}$ ul Haq Kakar's statement on Kashmir, India has termed that country as "home and patron" to the largest number of proscribed terrorist entities and urged Islamabad to take action against perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks.

Making this assertion in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) late on Friday, First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Petal Gahlot also asked Pakistan to refrain from engaging in "technical sophistry."

She enunciated India's stand in its Right of Reply in the UNGA after Kakar raised the Kashmir issue in his address at the General Debate during the high-level 78th session of UNGA. "Pakistan has been the

home and patron to the largest number of internationally proscribed terrorist entities and individuals in the world. Instead of engaging in technical sophistry, we call upon Pakistan to take credible and verifiable action against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks, whose victims await justice even after 15 years," Gahlot said in the

scathing response.

She said Pakistan needs to take three-fold action for there to be peace in South Asia. "First, stop cross-border terrorism and shut down its infrastructure of terrorism immediately. Second, vacate Indian territories under its illegal and forcible occupation, and third, stop the grave and persistent human rights violations against the minorities in Pakistan."

In his address earlier, Kakar said Pakistan desired peaceful and productive relations with all its neighbours, including India. "Kashmir is the key to peace between Pakistan and Îndia," he said.

Gahlot reiterated that the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are an integral part of India. "Matters pertaining to the UTs of J&K and Ladakh are purely internal to India. Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on our domestic matters."

The Indian diplomat asserted that as a country with one of the world's worst human rights records, particularly when it comes to minority and women's rights, Pakistan "would do well to put its own

house in order before venturing to point a finger at the world's largest democracy".

India stressed that Pakistan has become a "habitual offender" when it comes to misusing the august forum of the United Nations to peddle "baseless and malicious" propaganda against India.

The First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN said the member states of the United Nations and other multilateral organisations are well aware that Pakistan does so to "deflect the international community's attention away from its own abysmal record on human rights".

Citing a "glaring example" of the systemic violence against minorities in Pakistan, Gahlot referred to the large-scale "bru-

perpetrated against the Continued on Page 6

Guv: Proud that disabled people are doing great work in society

PNS LUCKNOW

overnor Anandiben Patel Said here on Saturday that she was proud that disabled people were doing great work in society despite their disabil-

She expressed this view at the 10th convocation of Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University. Nearly 1,622 students received their degrees while 112 students received 142 medals.

Governor Anandiben Patel said that Kanubhai Tailor, president of the Disabled Welfare Trust of India in Surat, who was

DSMNRU CONVOCATION

the chief guest at the convocation, was a living example of what a disabled person was capable of doing. "Looking into his work, one does not need to say anything and he himself is a supreme example of how a disabled student can get Padmashri. He is working with thousands of people and what can be more than this. He made such a big school in Surat, bringing light into the life of so many disabled students, teaching them and training them in skill development so that they could stand on their

Recalling the time when she was the education minister in Guiarat, Patel said that she would often see him sitting in a wheelchair in the lobby of the

feet," she said.



Gandhinagar Sachivalaya. "I never noticed him but when he came again and again and moved to and fro, I asked him the reason for his presence there. He told me that he wanted to run a school and get recognition for it but when he approached the officials of the department, they simply passed the buck. I called him to my office and reprimanded the officers for creating problems for him. The Education department thereafter gave recognition to his school along with a grant," she said.

Patel said that it was then that she thought of the other such schools in Gujarat and tried to find out what was the condition in these schools. "On my tours to the districts of Guiarat, I would ask the Education department officials specially about schools with

disabled children and whatever schools were brought to my notice I provided them grant and recognition," she added.

She said that later a decision was taken by the Gujarat government to give one acre land to such schools.

The governor said that one delegation in Gujarat also approached her because they wanted relaxation in marks for the disabled students to help them in their promotion in class 11 and 12. "I accepted this and made a new policy but ultimately when I tried to find out how many students got the benefit of this policy I found to my surprise that nobody took advantage of it and the students got promotion as per the old policy. "This is the strength, skill and capacity of these chil-

dren," she said. The governor said that

and the training of their parents. He went on to do great work in this direction," she Patel said that society had

many people who did different kinds of work. She congratulated Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University for doing similar work. Kanubhai Tailor, who delivered the convocation address, talked about his life. He said that he had travelled across the world but had not seen a university like the DSM-NRU and the disabled students studying in it were fortunate that they had a university like this. "I have always maintained that giving food and tricycles to the disabled will not help them. They have to be given education so that they can be rehabilitated," he said.

He said that when the disabled study, their position in society would rise. "I started off with four students and now 38,000 disabled students have benefited from my school," he

He recalled the time Narendra Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat and came specially to see his organisation and helped him in his aim of establishing a school for the differently-abled. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Governor Anandiben Patel helped him reach the point where he was today. He said that he would sign a memorandum of understanding with Dr Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University.

Their disabilities failed to deter them in achieving their goals

Their disability notwith-I standing, these students of Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, have excelled in their subjects. They did not allow their disabilities to deter them in the achievement of their goals and won medals at the 10th convocation of the university which was held on Saturday.

Talking to 'The Pioneer', Shivam Sharma, who is completely blind and who received two medals at the convocation for getting the highest marks in MA (History) in the disabled category, said that he used to record the lectures of his teachers and then make notes

'We used books in audio and e text and read them through android applications. We write in Braille script but for the examinations I took a writer since writing in Braille takes a long time," he

Shivam Sharma said that he was preparing for his PhD. "My main goal is the Union Public Service Commission examination but there are no resources so I will focus on it when I am settled," he said.

not consider being blind as a disability. "I was not blind by birth and it happened later on in life. When I became blind, I felt that there was nothing in life but then I got a ray of

hope in my life.

Someone from the Anganwadi centre in my village suggested a bridge course for the blind and the hearing impaired children so that they can study in the schools of the basic parishad. I took the course where I was given the training of Braille reading, writing and thereafter I stud-

ied from a normal school and

took admission in blind

school in Class 11 and then

opted for DSMNRU for my

graduation," he added. Shivam Sharma said that he was receiving the medal for the first time and that his family was very happy. He said that his success mantra was that no limitation can restrict you and if you are

determined then you can

even build a road through the mountains. Ranu Tewari, who is partially blind and received two medals in the BA category, said that he would listen to recorded lectures of his teachers and pick up the main

points for the examination.

He said that he wanted to do a special BEd and pursue a career in teaching.

His message to ordinary

students is that they should focus in the class and if they listen to the lectures carefully and then revise it daily it will make a lot of difference in their studies.

'Whatever they write they should always connect it with the present which will make an impact" he added.

Sachin Kumar Mishra, who has a disability in his hands, said that he had received two medals in MA in Hindi. He has no fingers in his right hand by birtȟ.

"I am feeling very happy he said.

Sachin Mishra writes with his left hand and has developed a practice through continuous writing. "I have had this problem since birth and so I do not give any importance to it." he added.

Talking about his success mantra, he said that he worked very hard to achieve success. Sachin wants to pursue teaching as a career and has applied for PhD at Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University.

'This is the first medal that I have ever received in my life," he added.

Girl raped, coerced

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Hashmi Rizwan Ali Hashmi to Rizwan Ali Hashmi. S/o Rashid Ali Hashmi R/o Nai Basti poorvi Lakhpeda Mohammdi Kheri.

मेरा वास्तविक नाम राज कुमार खत्री है और घर का नाम राजू खत्री है। पूर्व पता मकान नं० ६५ चौक गंगादास प्रयागराज था और वर्तमान पता 40 / 1 चौक गंगादास, प्रयागराज है। मुझे आज से भविष्य में राज कमार खत्री नाम से जाना पहचाना जाये। राजकुमार खत्री

NOTICE

I have changed my name from UMA SHANKER MISHRA to UMA SHANKAR MISHRA. In future I Shall be known as UMA SHANKAR MISHRA. UMA SHANKAR MISHRA S/o Triloki Nath Mishraa, Nandan Talab Arail Uparhar, Naini Prayagraj.

AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 12.10.2023 पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे उ०प्र० सहकारी ग्राम विकास बैंक लि०, प्रधान कार्यालय : - 10 माल एवेन्यू, लखनऊ के निष्प्रयोज्य वाहनों :-UP32-CD-5123 (एसेन्ट), UP32-CC-7643 (अम्बेसडर) की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रू० 5,000 / - नगद, प्रति वाहन, लेखा-अनुभाग में जमा होगी / आई०पी० सिंह एण्ड सन्स.

AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 10.10.2023, मध्यान्ह 12:00 बजे राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, विभूति खण्ड, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ में निष्प्रयोज्य वाहनों :- यू०पी० 32-डी0एल0-9944 (टाटा सफारी), यू0पी0 32-ई0वाई0-0484, यू0पी0 32-डी0आर0-9410 (अम्बेसडर कारों), की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रू० 10,000/-प्रति वाहन का बैंकड्राफ्ट ''वरिष्ठ लेखाधिकारी, मण्डी परिषद, लखनऊ नामित, जी०एस०टी० पंजीकरण के साथ जमा होगी/आई०पी० सिंह एण्ड सन्स.

NOTICE

In my Army (GREF) service record the age of my wife Ganeshiya Devi is mentioned as 23 years and the DOB of my son Amit Kumar is mentioned as 01/02/1996, which is wrong. The DOB mentioned on the Aadhar and PAN card of my wife Ganeshiya Devi is 01/09/1968 and the DOB mentioned on the high school certificate, Aadhar and PAN card of my son Amit Kumar is 08/09/2000, which is correct. The DOB of my wife and son should be recorded correctly in my army records. GS No 168899N Harishankar Ram S/o Late Sampati Ram, Vill-Mansurpur, Post-Khoripakad, Ballia (U.P).

Toppers want to pursue higher education

there were many opportunities

to move forward and one

should move forward as per

one's interest whether it was in

information technology, sci-

ence, sports, law or other areas.

what the parents want and one

should ask oneself as to what

one wants to do and the parents

too should recognise the inter-

est and give guidance and inspiration to their children,"

medical doctor in Ahmedabad

who worked with mentally

retarded children, Patel said,

"When their number grew he

left his medical profession and

started working for these chil-

dren. He came to me and

asked for a school under the

Corporation which he said he

would use for these children

Municipal

Ahmedabad

Citing the example of a

"One should not go by

PNS LUCKNOW

 Γ oppers at the 10th convocation of the Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University were elated with their achievements. In an interaction with 'The Pioneer' they said that they wanted to pursue higher education. Abhinav Tewari, the topper

who received three gold medals which included the Chief Minister's gold medal, Chancellor's gold medal and Vice-Chancellor's gold medal for BTech course, said that he was very happy and had not expected that he would be awarded these medals. "I just kept working hard. I am from Pratapgarh and my father works in a private company and my mother is a homemaker," he said

Talking mantra, Abhinav Tewari said that he strongly believed in hard work. "In my preparations for the IIT-JEE and advanced



examinations, I developed the habit of working hard. Teachers were also very supportive and I got the right environment. When the results were positive my interest increased in my

Tewari said that he was preparing for the GATE and wanted to work in the field of information technology.



"Currently I have got a placement in a private company and have completed training for it," he said. He said that the larger picture which he had in mind was to get associated with tions and help the people in need. "This was my inclination right from the beginning and when I was in my native village

I would always help people. This gives me internal satisfaction. I have faced problems financially so I understand this pretty well. It was only because secured a scholarship that I was able to pursue my studies smoothly. Because of financial constraints many students cannot pursue their studies and it is important to help them," he said. Divyanshi Dutta, who received the Chancellor's silver medal, Chief Minister's silver medal and Vice-Chancellor's gold medal for the BTech course, said that self study was the mantra of success. "I always wrote my answers

to the point and gave my 100 per cent," she said, adding that currently she was preparing for

"I want to pursue higher education but if I get a good olic sector iob. I to do a job too," she said.

Divyanshi Dutta said that she wanted to become a good engineer and a good citizen

The police successfully ascertained the identity of the

body recovered from the forest

behind Casa Green Apartment

in Vrindavan Yojana under

PGI Police Station area on

deceased as Satendra Kumar

(45), a retired Air Force person-

number 718 of Kailash Enclave,

Sector 18, Vrindavan Yojana,

with his wife Hemlata, son

Saksham, and daughter

Soumanya. Saksham is a MBBS

student an enrolled in a college

in Kannauj while Soumanya is

The police identified the

He lived in Tower-C, flat

Friday night.

nel from Etawah.

a class 12 student.

Vrindavan identified

and do her duty towards the country. Her role model, she said, was the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Her message to the students who wanted to win a medal was that they should work hard and never feel discouraged because everything was possible.

Preeti, who received the Chancellor's bronze medal, Chief Minister's bronze medal and Vice-Chancellor's silver medal for BTech course, said that the success mantra was self study. "We faced the lockdown period when the classes were held online. One should not depend on teachers; one should always study by oneself too. One should be consistent in one's efforts," she added.

Preeti said that she was joining a private company as of now but wanted to pursue higher education. She a nitted that in her larger goals she wanted to teach children who do not get the opportunity to

for a walk and did not returned

Satendra's family got informa-tion about a body lying in the forest behind Casa Green

apartment building. They reached the spot and identified

the body. The family denied

at apartment's gate, shows

Satendra going out around

mitted suicide by slashing the

wrist with some sharp object as

per the autopsy report.

However, the residents of

the society suspected foul play,

suggesting the area is a hub of

drug addicts, and Satendra

might have been attacked by a

Footage of CCTV installed

Police said Satendra com-

any enmity with anyone.

4:45 pm.

drug addict.

On Saturday morning,

until late at night.

Body recovered in

He always avoided talking about marriage despite the promise," the girl said.
On June 12, the accused

lured the girl to a hotel in Gomti Nagar under the pretense of finalising wedding dates, where he raped her once more. Afterward, he abandoned her for another girl and stopped answering her phone calls. When she came to know that Wasiullah was involed with some other girl, she told his mother, Yasmin Bano and sister, Heena Kausar about their relationship.

When she came to know that Wasiullah was involed

their relationship.

It was alleged that the accused's mother and sister pressured her to convert to Islam. When the girl refused, she was beaten and thrown out of the house

to change religion **Man commits**

PNS LUCKNOW

Agirl was allegedly raped and coerced to change her

The accused, identified as Wassiulla from Faizullaganj, allegedly befriended the girl in 2017 through social media.

The girl, who was working in an insurance company, helped the accused secure a job in her company.

Narrating her ordeal, the girl said Wasiullah took a house on rent near his house and both decided to work together from there. On one fateful day, Wasiullah raped her after he spiked her drinks intoxicating it in the room. On a fateful day, Wasiullah raped her by spiking her drink.

marry the girl to avoid any confrontation or police action against him. The victim alleged that he continued to exploit her on the pretext of marriage for

with some other girl, she told his mother, Yasmin Bano and sister, Heena Kausar about

suicide

Lucknow (PNS): A 25-yearold man ended his life following a verbal spat with his wife in Nigoha on Saturday after-

As per reports, the deseased, identified as Naseem Parvez of Shepur Laval village in the area had a verbal fight with his wife on some issue. According to reports, the deceased, identified as Naseem Parvez of Shepur Laval village, had an argument with his wife over some issue.

"In a fit of anger, Naseem locked himself in a room. When we forced the door open, we found him hanging from the ceiling with a bedsheet tied around his neck, Naseem elder brother said.

Thieves made off with copper wire of air conditioners, electric wire bundles, faucets, alternator, television and other valuable items from a newly-constructed corporate office of Shrawasti Agro Tech Company in Viraj Khand of Gomti Naga area. The field executive of

the company, Jamil Ahmad said the office was locked for the last one year and was not operational. Police registered a case in this connec-

Later, the girl was threatened with dire consequences if she reported the matter to

On September 20, the girl filed a complaint against Wasiullah, his mother and sister in Madiaon police station. DCP North Qasim Abdi said that Wasiullah had been detained and was being inter-

Graduation ceremony at **Air Defence College**

sive graduation ceremony was held at Air Force Station, Memaura on Friday to mark the culmination of No. 168 fighter controllers' course.

The course comprising 19 IAF officers commenced on July 3, 2023 at Air Defence College, the alma mater of fighter controllers.

Air Vice Marshal M Bandopadhyay, Air Defence Commander, CAC, graced the occasion as the reviewing officer. The valedictory function included a military traditional Guest Night and award of the coveted Fighter Controllers' Badge to all the graduating officers. During the ceremony, Group Captain Puneet Pathak, Commanding Officer, Air Defence College, presented a report highlighting salient training activities undertaken during the course.

The meritorious Officers were awarded trophies by the reviewing officer. Flying Officer Varsha Sailwal was adjudged 'Best in Overall Performance' and was awarded the AOC-in-C, HQ CAC,

IAF Rolling Trophy.
In his address, the reviewing officer highlighted the critical role of fighter controllers' in air operations. He exhorted the young officers to keep abreast with technological developments in a challenging operational environment and constantly upgrade their professional knowledge.

He wished the graduating officers a successful career following the best ethos and traditions of IAF.

Hasanpur sugar mill set for capacity expansion Lucknow (PNS): After five years of announcement by Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath, the expansion of the daily crushing capacity of the Kisan Cooperative Sugar Mill at Kalakheda Hasanpur in Amroha district is set to commence soon. The cooperative sector sugar mill is one of the units under

the UP Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation Limited. The expansion will increase the mill's sugarcane crushing capacity, which will benefit farmers in the region. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the expansion

of the Hasanpur sugar mill during a public meeting there on April, 2018. The cooperative sugar mill has floated the tender for awarding the contract for the expansion project. The contract is likely to be awarded soon after completing the bidding process.

The district unit of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh had been rais-

ing the demand for the expansion of the daily crushing capacity of the sugar mill for the last over five years. In June 2022, the state government had announced the plan to modernise the sugar mills, distillery plants, production of sulphur-free sugar, and increasing sugarcane yield and sugar production of the sugar mills under UP Cooperative Sugar

Factories Federation Limited in a phased manner in its blueprint for the next five years. As per the blueprint, the government plans to modernise 14 sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Sugar

Saksham informed the Mills Federation Limited. police that his father had gone Principal chief operations



Lucknow (PNS): Principal Chief Operations Manager Northern Railway Headquarters, Baroda House, New Delhi, Manoj Krishna Akhauri asked the officials in Lucknow to expedite the work being done under Mission Raftar during his one-day visit on Saturday.

He conducted an inspection of Charbagh, Gomti Nagar, Amausi and other officials of the division.

Mohanlalgani railway stations, and also observed the operations of goods trains.

Akhauri discussed plans and policies for rail operations aimed at providing safe and hassle-free train journeys for devotees visiting Ayodhya.

He was accompanied by Divisional Railway Manager Manish Thaplyal and

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण (ISO 14001 : 2004, ISO 9001 : 2008 प्रमाणित संस्था)

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सुचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण की आवासीय/व्यावसायिक/रेन्ट/नजूल/इम्प्रूवमेन्ट-ट्रस्ट योजनाओं के निम्नलिखित

क्र. सं.	मूल आवंटी का नाम	भवन/भूखण्ड संख्या	योजना का नाम	मृत्यु दिनांक	मूल आवंटी के उत्तराधिकारी अथवा आवेदक का नाम	उत्तराधिकारी के पर में अनापत्तिकर्ताओं के नाम	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	स्व० सुधीर चन्द्र विद्यार्थी व स्व० कुमकुम विद्यार्थी	भूखण्ड संख्या- B-3/162, विभव खण्ड		19.07.2014 11.01.2010		उत्तराधिकार के आधार पर	पुत्र, पुत्री-वि०
2.	श्री राम कुमार	प्लेटफार्म संख्या-28, विवेक खण्ड-2	गोमती नगर योजना	16.05.2003	अभिनती सुजाता गौतम (विवाहित पुत्री), श्रीमती सोनी (विवाहित पुत्री)		पुत्री, पुत्री
3.	स्व० श्रीनिवास दूबे (मृतक) स्व० कलावती देवी (मृतक)	फ्लैट संख्या-A-71/14 सेक्टर-1, सुलभ आवार	गोमती नगर योजना	16.01.2019 02.11.2021	श्री कैलाश बिहारी द्विवेदी, श्री र प्रसाद दुबे, श्री दिनेश कुमार द्विवे		पुत्र, पुत्र, पुत्र
4.	श्री शरद खरे, श्री नीरज ख श्री शिशिर खरे, श्रीमती नीता	चन्द्रा सेक्टर-जी	/88, अलीगंज योजना	01.07.2023	श्रीमती नीता-पत्नी स्वo श्री पंकज खरे		पत्नी
5.	(विवाहित पुत्री), स्व० श्री पंक डॉ० सुरेश चन्द्र एच	ज खरे भवन संख्या- ०आई०जी०-728, फेज-2	टिकैतराय योजना	29.12.2017	श्रीमती ज्योति विश्वकर्मा, श्री दीप श्रीमती प्रज्ञा रानी, श्री हिमांशु	क कुमार, कुमार	पत्नी, पुत्र पुत्री, पुत्र

उपर्युक्त नामान्तरण के आवेदन के सम्बन्ध में यदि किसी भी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति हो तो वह साक्ष्य सहित प्रकाशन तिथि से 30 दिनों के अन्दर अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में प्राप्त करा दें। निर्धारित तिथि तक कोई आपत्ति प्राप्त न होने पर प्राधिकरण अभिलेखों में कॉलम-6 पर लिखित व्यक्ति का नाम दर्ज कर लिया जायेगा तथा उसके बाद किसी आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

Five women constables seek permission for gender change

PNS LUCKNOW

n an unprecedented develop-Lment, five women constables of Uttar Pradesh Police have submitted applications to the office of the director-general of police seeking permission to change their gender.

Among these applicants is a female constable currently posted in Gorakhpur. The revelation has raised concerns and prompted discussions among officers. This marks

the first instance of its kind in itating counseling sessions to the police force and the authorities are now exploring ways to address this complex issue.

Reports indicate that the Allahabad High Court has held gender change as a constitutional right in a similar case, adding a legal dimension to the matter. However, the DGP's office has taken a proactive approach by requesting that letters be issued to police district captains where these women constables are deployed, facilbetter understand their circumstances and decisions.

One of the constables, identified as Karishma (name changed), is posted in Gorakhpur. She revealed that she submitted an application to the DGP's office, where she also made enquiries about her sit-

Karishma cited gender dysphoria as the primary reason for her request, and she support her application.

As of now, there has been no official decision from the DGP headquarters in Lucknow regarding this matter. However, Karishma expressed her intent to pursue legal action if a favourable resolution is not reached, emphasising her desire to undergo gender transition. Karishma, a resident of Ayodhya, joined the Uttar Pradesh Police force in 2019 and was initially posted in Gorakhpur. Her journey began in February 2023, when she approached various authorities, including the senior superintendent of police (SSP), additional director general (ADG), and the Gorakhpur headquarters. She explained that her experiences included the gradual realisation of changes in her hormone levels, prompting her desire for tran-

sition from female to male. To facilitate her request, Karishma sought counseling

towards gender transition from a prominent doctor in Delhi, who diagnosed her with gender dysphoria. She attached the doctor's report to her application for gender change. Once she obtains the necessary permission, she plans to initiate the gender transition process.

In recent times, Karishma's demeanor and behaviour have evolved to align more with traditional male characteristics. She adopts a masculine hairstyle and clothing style, even riding a Pulsar motorcycle. Her daily attire consists of pants and shirts, and she enjoys shooting, further illustrating her inclination towards traditionally male activities.

Her childhood experiences were marked by discomfort when wearing skirts or engag-ing in activities stereotypically

associated with girls.

The case of the female constable in Gonda mirrors Karishma's, as she has also submitted an application to the high court for gender Allahabad High Court asserted that sex change is a constitutional right, emphasising that denying or failing to acknowledge this right in modern society would only exacerbate gender identity disorder syndrome. The court directed the UP DGP to promptly address the

female constable's application. Inspired by the high court's decision, Karishma and four others now harbour hope that they will receive justice.





ndian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar presenting a jersey BCCI secretary Jay Shah at Vishwanath temple on Saturday

UP INT'L TRADE SHOW

Experts share success mantras with investors

Lucknow (PNS): On the third day of the inaugural Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show being held at the India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida, several sessions were conducted with the goal of offering a worldwide platform for Uttar Pradesh's products.

These sessions emphasised the significance of innovation in establishing industries within the state, explored the potential of startups, and instilled in the youth the entrepreneurial spirit while underscoring the importance of effective time management in the

While experts from various sectors gave success mantras to the investors, they also gave information about the opportunities being provided by the Yogi Adityanath government. Additionally, the managing director of Mumbai Dabbawala emphasised the critical role of logistics, supply chain management and time management in business.

The trade show is not only offering local exhibitors a global platform but also providing global buyers with an opportunity to engage with Uttar Pradesh.

Distinguished experts from Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) graced the session. Maheep Singh, head of the Innovation Hub, Ritesh Saxena, Innovation Hub manager and Vandana Sharma provided valuable insights into how innovation can enhance the industrial landscape of Uttar Pradesh. They elaborated on critical aspects, including the Innovation Hub, the Startup Policy-2020 in Uttar Pradesh and funding mechanisms.

Maheep Singh said the growing prominence of Uttar Pradesh as a major industrial hub, highlighting that investors' keen interest in this unique trade fair, was a testament to the state's emphasis on innovation. He underscored that fostering innovation was crucial to attracting investments, adding that a comprehensive ecosystem was being nurtured within the state in this regard.

The second session focused on 'Academia Industry Partnership.'
experts from Sharda, Shiv Nadar and

Amity University of Gautam Buddha Nagar participated in this session. The session featured a detailed discussion on the importance and possibilities of higher education in the

The third session featured a motivationof logistics, supply chain management and | to industry. While four expressways Yamuna Expressway, Agra-Lucknow

Groundbreaking ceremony for ₹10 lakh crore projects by Dec

PNS LUCKNOW

The groundbreaking ceremony for the launch of private industrial and infrastructure projects worth nearly Rs 10 lakh crore is likely to be organised by the end of December this

These projects are part of the over 19,000 investment proposals worth Rs 35 lakh crore received by the state during its mega UP Global Investors' Summit (GIS) in February this year. The event will further reinforce the state as a preferred investment destination.

Initially, the government was planning to launch projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore at the maiden GIS groundbreaking ceremony by August or September. However, following inordinate delays in the Industrial department as well as in various industrial development authorities, the proposed GBC is now expected in December. "For a mega event like GBC, which is estimated to see an attendance of 10,000 investors and industrialists, the department requires a couple of months for groundwork. As such, the groundbreaking is like-

ly by December," said an official. In fact, UP Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' recently reprimanded officials for their failure to achieve the GBC target of Rs 90,000 crore set for Noida. Šo far, projects worth Rs 54,000 crore of the targeted Rs 90,000 crore have been lined up for the GBC in Noida. Moreover, the state has appoint-

ed special officers to coordinate with investors and facilitate approvals and land allotment so that the projects are launched without any hassle. The GBC is vital to achieve UP's goal of becoming India's first \$1 trillion economy in the coming years.

Meanwhile, UP Expressways

Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) is looking to acquire 100 acres of land in the vicinity of each are operational in UP, several other Expressway, Purvanchal Expressway

CM asks DMs to submit reports on investments

As part of the preparations for the groundbreaking ceremony (GBC), Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued a directive to all district magistrates asking them to submit investment-related reports within a month.

He has also instructed all the district magistrates and divisional commissioners to hold investmentfocused review meetings and fix accountability at every level so that a large number of investment projects can be implemented through GBC. Notably, Uttar Pradesh garnered

investment proposals exceeding Rs 36 lakh crore during Global Investors' Summit, 2023. Throughout this period, investors expressed keen interest in investing in all 75 districts of the state. In a high-level meeting, the chief minister has directed all district magistrates and divisional commissioners to focus on providing land through land banks for investors. He emphasised the need to make GBC as grand as GIS-23 and instructed them to work with utmost transparency and end the pendency at the earliest. The chief minister stated that the current environment in the state is the best for investments. Even smaller districts like Mirzapur, Kasganj, Maharajganj, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Balrampur, Hathras, Ayodhya, Gonda, Barabanki and Sultanpur have received big investment proposals. In view of the proposals, the chief minister has instructed officials to hold one-on-one meetings with all investors and address issues or invest-

such projects, including the 595-km Ganga Expressway costing Rs 36,000 crore, are under construction. The

ment barriers, if any.
Additionally, all district magistrates have been instructed to submit investment-related reports to the Chief Minister's Office within a month. The chief minister said that he would personally review the report. During this process, the chief minister also stressed taking strict

action in cases of negligence.

During the meeting, officials presented a report to the chief minister regarding Section 80 (conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural land), which showed a rapid increase in applications to convert agricultural land to non-agricultur-

al land after GIS-23.
So far, 42,706 applications have been received from various districts of the state. Out of these, 85 per cent of the total applications have been processed, accounting for 36,327. Currently, there are 6,388 pending applications. Among these, 1,224 pending applications fall within the 45-day time limit, while 5,121 pending applications are beyond the time

Similarly, investors have submitted 1,017 application letters through Nivesh Mitra portal. Out of these, 89 per cent of the total applications have been processed, accounting for 904 applications. There are 113 pending applications, with 104 of them falling within the time limit while nine pending applications are beyond the time limit. Of these, two applications are pending in Kushinagar, one each in Bahraich, Barabanki, Bulandshahr, Lucknow, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar and Sitapur.

and Bundelkhand Expressway. The state is aiming to complete the Ganga Expressway project by December Prayagraj in the early months of

Akhilesh slams govt on French tourist's death



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday Slammed Uttar Pradesh government over the death of a foreign tourist in Agra. He shared a screenshot of the news on a media site and

wrote that due to non-availability of an ambulance, the foreign tourist lost life. "Homage! Due to these news, the image of the coun-

try and the state gets tarnished at the international level. Where is the state government?" Akhilesh Yadav wrote on social media. A French woman tourist died in an accident on Thursday. The foreign tourist was roaming with a group in Fatehpur Sikri, Agra. While taking a selfie from a height

of about 7-8 feet, she fell on the ground. A 34-member group of foreign tourists had reached Fatehpur Sikri from Bharatpur on Thursday. According to media reports, the woman's husband and other group members called for an ambulance after the accident. But due to lack of immediate treatment the tourist succumbed

Conditional ban on foreign cos in sensitive sectors

In a significant move to safe-Iguard national security interests, the Government of India has imposed a conditional ban on the participation of foreign companies in sensitive sectors.

In this regard, the Central government has issued comprehensive guidelines to the Uttar Pradesh government, formalising this conditional ban through a government order issued by the Finance depart-

Prior to this update, government departments or agencies were required to treat all companies, regardless of their country of origin, equally when inviting bids for projects.

However, a crucial amendment has been introduced by adding sub-provision 11 to Rule 144, governing the fundamental principles of government procurement. This sub-provision empowers the government to exclude specific countries from especially concerning national security concerns.

The Central government has instructed the state governments to faithfully implement this order concerning public procurement. Under this amendment,

companies and citizens hailing from countries that share land borders with India will only have the right to participate in public procurement if they are registered with the Registration Committee established by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Additionally, they must obtain political and security clearances from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs, respectively, as mandatory prerequisites for bidding.

This order applies comprehensively to all programmes conducted under public-private partnerships (PPP) involving ministries, departments and

impose restrictions on them, ernment. It extends to autonomous bodies, public sector banks, financial institutions, Central public sector enterprises, as well as entities funded by the government or public sector financial assistance. Union Territories and affiliated agencies are also encompassed by this directive.

The sectors categorised as sensitive under this policy include print and digital media, nuclear sector, defence, space, telecommunication, energy, banking, civil aviation, dams and river valley projects, electronics, mining, Railways, pharma, agriculture, health, urban transport, 3D printing, data technology, chemical technology, information technology, software and other allied domains.

This strategic move underscores India's commitment to safeguarding its national interests and security concerns while also ensuring transparency and accountability in government procurement processes," a gov-

government procurement or subordinate bodies of the gov- ernment spokesman said. Ram temple in Ayodhya to be a divine masterpiece

PNS LUCKNOW

The majestic Ram temple under construction in Ayodhya is poised to be a divine masterpiece that will stand the test of time.

Designed to be both grand and enduring, the temple is undergoing meticulous planning, including the possibility of adorning the main entrance of the sanctum sanctorum of Ram Lalla with gold and silver work, although a final decision on this is pending.

Simultaneously, a directive has been issued to com- electrical wiring is being

plete all work on the temple's ground floor by December 15. Dr Anil Mishra, a member

of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, said that specific instructions had been given to ensure that the ground floor of the Ram temple was prepared by December

He pointed out that the sanctum sanctorum of the temple is adorned with exquisite Makrana marble and the flooring work of the ground floor is underway. currently Additionally, underground

installed and the construction of the passenger facilitation centre is progressing at a rapid

In a two-day meeting of the Ram Temple Construction Committee, which commenced on Friday, committee chairman Nripendra Mishra made a comprehensive review of the ongoing projects, including the temple itself, through physical spections

He emphasised the need to expedite all ground floor work of the temple to meet the December 15 deadline.

Mishra also visited the body of Uttar Pradesh

construction site and inspected the progress of the Ram Janmabhoomi Path, Bhakti Path, Yatri Suvidha Kendra, parkota, retaining wall, Kuber Tila and other vital components of the project.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the pace of work during the inspection of the Ram Janmabhoomi Path, Mishra urged expeditious completion of the canopy installation on the path by December.

He conveyed his displeasure at the sluggish progress and directed the executive

Rajkiya Nirman Nigam (UPRNN) to ensure that the path was fully equipped with all necessary facilities by the stipulated deadline - December

'The ongoing construction efforts underscore the commitment to create a remarkable and enduring symbol of devotion in the form of the Lord Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya, which is set to become a timeless masterpiece, both in terms of its grandeur and the meticulous attention to longevity and safety," Mishra



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World watching Kashi attain its glory: Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Saturday that there has been a change in people's perception about sports and players in the country in the last nine-and-a half years due to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the international cricket stadium at Ganjari in Rajatalab area, which was graced by the PM who is also Member of Parliament from Kashi, CM Yogi said that there has been overall development in the world's oldest cultural and spiritual city under the PM's leadership and guidance and not only the country, but the whole world was watching Kashi attain its glory.

While welcoming the PM and the country's legendary former players on the soil of Kashi, the CM said: "The PM has once again come to Kashi today with many gifts. For the first time, an international cricket stadium is being con-structed by BCCI in Uttar Pradesh."

He added, "After the unprecedented success of G20, the PM has arrived in his own Kashi today with many achievements. On this occasion, on behalf of the UP government and the people of Kashi, I extend a hearty welcome to him. During the G20, global leaders have seen closely the potential and power of India. Not only this, in the presence of global leaders in accordance with Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India's 140 crore



CM Yogi Adityanath welcoming PM Narendra Modi at a meeting at Ganjari in Varanasi on Saturday.

country emerging as a global

Welcoming former cricket players Sunil Ğavaskar, Kapil Dev, Gundappa Vishwanath, Sachin Tendulkar, Ravi Shastri, Dilip Vengsarkar, Madan Lal, Gopal Sharma, Neetu David, Shubhangi Kulkarni to Kashi, the CM said that all of them have taken Indian cricket to new heights, taking the passion of cricket to every home. Congratulating BCCI Chairman Roger Binny, Secretary Jai Shah and Vice President Rajeev Shukla, Yogi said that all of them have shown special interest in the construction of an international cricket stadium in Varanasi. He said that during the last nine years we have seen a new work culture in the

unprecedented development in every field. Khelo India, Fit India, Sansad Sports Competition have changed the perception of people about sports and players in the country. Along with this, the work of establishing Khelo India Centre in every district, sports ground in every village and mini stadium in every development block is progressing rapidly for sports infrastructure. Sigra Stadium is being redeveloped through Smart City in Varanasi. For the first time, the foundation stone of the third international cricket stadium of Uttar Pradesh is being laid by the BCCI," he added. Later, addressing the women who honoured the prime minister for presentation of Nari Shakti Vandana

ment at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) grounds, the CM praised the PM for the success of Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L1 missions and said that since 2014, a lot of works has been done under the leadership of PM for the women empowerment. He also addressed yet another function held at Rudraksh International Convention Centre, Sigra where the PM inaugurated 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas for the wards of construction workers and those who lost their parents during COVID-19 pandemic. The chief minister said that the sessions in 16 such schools have already been started and two will also be completed within the next two

Man stabs niece to death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In a shocking incident, a man killed his 18-year-old niece, Nisha Bhartiya, because she used to talk to a boy. The incident took place in Bajaha village under the Airport police station area here. After killing the niece, he told the police during interrogation that he had forbidden his niece to talk to the boy several times but she did not listen hence he had killed her. Nisha's father Bhallu has died. Mother Kansa Devi lives with her at her maternal home in Bajaha village. Nisha studied in class X. Her mother went to work on Friday and after she left Nisha was talking to some boy when uncle Rajkumar suddenly arrived. Nisha looked at her uncle and ignored him. When Rajkumar saw her talking, he became mad with anger. After this he went into the house, brought a knife and stabbed her to death. He also attacked Nisha's neck due to which she died. After this the accused fled from the spot. On being informed by her mother the police reached the spot, launched a search for him and arrested him after a few hours. The police have sent the body for postmortem. The accused has been arrested and sent to jail.

ARRESTED: The Bareilly police arrested Atin Zafar, accused of arranging an illegal

Ashraf while he was lodged in the Bareilly Central Jail. The Bareilly police made this arrest from Prayagraj late on Friday night. A non-bailable warrant was issued against him. The Bareilly police reached Prayagraj with a warrant and with the help of Prayagraj police he was brought to Bareilly. A first information report (FIR) has been registered against him at the Bithri Chainpur police station of Bareilly. He was brought to Bareilly on Saturday afternoon and interrogated by the police.

In March an FIR was reg-

istered against Ashraf, his brother-in-law Saddam, Lalla Gaddi, Atin Zafar, jail officials and constables in Bareilly's Bithri Chainpur. The allegation was that he used to provide VIP treatment to Ashraf in jail. Since then Zafar was absconding. While Lalla Gaddi and other accused are in Bareilly jail. Three constables of Bareilly jail have also gone to jail for arranging illegal meetings. The government had suspended five officers, including the Superintendent of the Central Jail. Atiq and Ashraf were murdered in Prayagraj. In this case the court issued non-bailable warrant against Atin Zafar and Guddu Muslim. SSP Bareilly Ghule Sushil Chandrabhan had sent two teams to arrest the accused. First, a sub-inspector (S-I) along with the team meeting with slain mafia reached Prayagraj to serve the

team was sent to Prayagraj. S-I pasted the warrant and returned from there. After this the other team caught Atin Zafar. The Bareilly police left for Bareilly late on night with Atin Zafar. The police have the video of Asad withdrawing money from ATM in Lucknow. Zafar's photo was captured in the CCTV camera while withdrawing money from Asad's ATM in Lucknow at 9 pm on February 24 this year. Umeshpal was murdered In Prayagraj the same day. To mislead the police, Asad left his mobile and ATM in Lucknow due to which the police could not trace his location. Apart from UP Police, STF is also engaged in search of Ashraf's brother-in-law Saddam and

Guddu Muslim. Meanwhile after the arrest of eight accused involved in sensational Panda chauraha triple murder, joint teams of revenue, police and administration, carried out an exercise to identify illegal occupants who have allegedly grabbed the gram sabha land at Moiuddinpur Gaus and adjoining villages. The joint teams have also started demolishing illegal structures, particularly boundary walls being constructed on the gram sabha land. SP (Kaushambi) Brijesh Kumar Srivastava said, "The officials of Revenue department have carried out an exercise to identify those people who have made illegal constructions on the gram sabha land in the village and decided to raze the illegal structures." Sources informed that joint teams have identified over 20 illegal structures (boundary walls and other constructions spread around 56 beeghas of land and all these illegal structures would be razed to ground. The joint teams are currently checking out documents and records to raze the illegal structures. The Kaushambi police had on Thursday arrested all the eight accused involved in the killing of three persons of a family who were found murdered inside their hut under the Sandipan Ghat police station of Kaushambi. The arrested persons were identified as Yadvendra alias Guddu Yadav, Arvind Singh Yadav, Ajeet Singh Yadav, Amar Singh, Amit Singh Chauhan, Anuj Singh Chauhan Suresh Singh and Teerath Nishad, all residents of

SHOPS: With an aim to increase the income of the 'kotedars' (those given licence to run public distribution system shops) operating in the district, 75 model shops will be opened under the Bhava Yojana in the urban and rural areas of the district. The decision was taken by the Prayagraj district administration (PDA) under Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant.

Sachin, Gavaskar, others offer prayers at KVT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANAS

Legendary cricket players Llike Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar and many others, including many of them who were the parts of Indian crick-et team which for the first time registered a triumph winning 1983 World Cup (ODI) offered prayers at one of the Dwadasa lyotirlingas, Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT) here on Saturday. Besides, the President of Board Cricket Control of India (BCCI) Roger Binny, secretary Jay Shah, Vice-President Rajeev Shukla also reached the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (cor-

All these cricket stars and BCCI office-bearers were in the city to attend the foundation laying ceremony of an international cricket stadium at Ganjari in Rajatalab area by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Besides, Ravi Shastri, Kapil Dev, Dilip Vengsarkar, Madan Lal, Gundappa

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Regency Healthcare, a leading institution here, in col-

Society of Anesthesiologists

(ISA), conducted a workshop

on extracorporeal membrane

oxygenation (ECMO) and

renal replacement therapy at

the hospital. This event brought

together intensivists, physi-

cians and healthcare profes-

sionals from across Uttar

Pradesh, providing them

invaluable insights into the

intricate workings of ECMO,

CRRT and SLED machines.

Addressing the gathering Dr Aditya Shukla, consultant

intensivist at Regency Hospital

said this workshop will provide

critical knowledge aimed at

enhancing patient care and

outcomes in health centres

throughout the state. He said

'This workshop represents a

pivotal step towards advancing

ing acute organ failure. These

advanced therapies enhance

our ability to provide immedi-

ate support during critical



Sachin Tendulkar offering prayers at Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi on

Workshop on ECMO, renal replacement therapy

Viswanath, Gopal Sharma, Neetu David, Shubhangi Kulkarni and several others and BCCI office-bearers

The Regency

Hospital is renowned for its

deployment of cutting-edge

technologies like CRRT, SLED

and ECMO in its Intensive

Care Units (ICUs). He said

these innovations had played a

pivotal role in saving the lives

of numerous critically ill

patients. CRRT is a non-stop

24-hour dialysis therapy. He

said it is used to help patients

with acute kidney injury (AKI)

and fluid overload. He said

CRRT gently filters and cleans

the blood by removing waste products and extra fluid. CRRT

keeps everything in line in a

patient's body until the kidneys

recover function. He said SLED

is a recent hybrid dialysis

methodology increasingly used

for patients with renal failure in

the ICU and this form of treat-

ment is a more viable alterna-

tive to traditional methods.

Dr Shikha Sachan, consultant

intensivist at Regency Hospital

Ltd emphasised, "In our pursuit

also attended the function. When these cricket stars

gies. These interventions have

become indispensable tools in

our mission to restore health

and vitality to our critically ill

patients and improve survivors.

ECMO, a pioneering proce-

dure, involves redirecting blood

through an external heart-lung

machine to remove carbon dioxide and infuse oxygen

before returning it to the body's

tissues. This life-saving mea-

sure is crucial in cases where

the heart and lungs face sig-

nificant challenges.

Dr Atul Kapoor MD

Regency Hospital said this

workshop addressed an array of

heart and lung conditions

where ECMO can make a piv-

otal difference, including acute

myocardial infarction, decom-

pensated cardiomyopathy,

myocarditis, sepsis, severe hypothermia, ARDS, pul-

reached the corridor they were warmly welcomed by the temple administration led by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sunil Kumar Verma, Prof Chandramauli and others. These prayers also offered prayers at KVT and saw the grandeur of the corridor. In view of their visit, elaborate security and other arrangements were made there in view of the rush of cricket lovers to have a glance of their super

The stadium will be constructed at a cost of ₹451 crore and it has a capacity of 30,000 which can be extended up to 40,000 in the future. In this project, the Yogi government 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 stadium is likely to be ready by December 2025.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala) Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 site: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-22185)

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https://eproc.punjab.gov

Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 26.09.2023

76155/12/2215/2023/28150

(11:00 AM onwards).

Dated CHD :- 9/22/2023

JBI organises Ioan mela



The Union Bank of India, Jhansi, holding a Ioan mela

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (छ०ग०) Phone No.:-07762-222911, Fax No.:-07762-222923 Email:-nraigarh@ymail.com, Website- WWW.nagarniganraigarh.com

क्रमांक 366/01/स्वा.वि./न.पा.नि./2023 रायगढ़ दिनांक 19.09.2023

!! द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र !! नगर पालिक निगम रायगढ़ द्वारा वित्तीय वर्ष 2023—24 के लिए सफाई सामग्री प्रदाय कार स्वास्थ्य विभाग हेत एकीकत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकत ठेकेदारों / प्रदायकर्ता / फर्म / विक्रेता से निविदा प्रपत्र "स"में नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ की

वेबसाईट uad.cg.gov.in/www.nagarnigamraigarh.com से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड कर पूर्ण रूप से भरकर निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ निर्घारित प्रपत्र शुल्क, डी.डी. के माध्यम से दिनांक 03.10.2023 अपरान्ह 04.00 बजे तक स्पीड पोस्ट/पंजीकृत डांक से मुहर बंद निविदाएं त्रि-लिफाफा पद्धति से आमंत्रित की जाती है। प्राप्त निविदाएं दिनांक 03.10. 2023 को सायं 04.30 बजे उपस्थित निविदाकारों अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के समझ खोली जावेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 750–00 है जो वापसी योग्य नहीं है। कार्य की लागत

1.	स्वास्थ्य विभाग सफाई सामाग्री क्रय।	17.97	17.970 ₹
नोर	:– कार्य का अन्य विवरण एवं नियम शर्ते व		
	सकता है। ''स्वच्छ पर्यावरण के लिए वृः	क्षरोपण करें पालिथीनप व	हा प्रयोग न करे
			हस्ता /
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नगर पालिक निगम

 $T^{\text{he Union Bank of India}}_{\text{(UBI), Jhansi, as part of their retail outreach pro-}$ gramme organised a loan mela at Royal City Society, Shivpuri Road, Jhansi, where it gave details of its various products and apprised the customers of zero processing fee and attractive interest rates at the rate of per cent on home loans.

The bank appealed to its customers to avail themselves of the facility. Informing about the retail outreach programme, Jatin Agarwal said the bank's objective was to reach out to every district of the country to endow loans to eligible borrowers. He said this programme was designed to help and encourage disadvantaged members of the community

and one of the great outreach programmes was meant exclusively for the disadvantaged children. He said under the plan the UBI planned to meet people where they were, extend all possible hospitality and hear their grievance and thus build trust and relationship.

offered service and information

critical care in our region. By mastering ECMO, continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) and sustained lowefficiency dialysis (SLED) techniques we empower healthcare He said the bank also providers to offer life-saving interventions for patients fac-

in a variety of locations and at non-traditional times, especially after work hours. Addressing the camp Shiv Sen said the bank's prime objective was to extend all possible facilities to its customers. He said customer satisfaction was the main mission of the UBI Besides Naresh Ratnakar, Manish Ghosh and Raju Sahu, a large number of customers, officials and staff of the bank were present on the occasion.

To address the sewage prob-lem in Ravindrapuri

Colony and some parts of Assi locality, sewage pipes will be laid in 2,800 metres on both sides of the road from Broadway Hotel to Assi Bridge. Mayor Ashok Kumar Tiwari laid the foundation stone for this work at a brief programme held on Friday. MLA Saurabh Srivastava was also present. The residents of Ravindrapuri Colony and some parts of Assi locality are facing acute problems of sewage and have been demanding the sewage facility for many years. In view of the demand of the residents, mayor took the initiative to address this problem and the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA)



with an estimated budget of ₹3.87 crore to lay sewage pipes in 2800 metres on both sides of the road from Broadway Hotel in Ravindrapuri Colony to Assi Bridge as extension work of the sewage system. In the presence of MLA Saurabh Srivastava chalked out an action plan and others, the mayor laid the

monary embolism, congenital diaphragmatic hernia, meconium aspiration, influenza, hantavirus pulmonary synsion and pneumonia. By providing a platform for knowledge exchange and practical skill development, Regency Hospital aimed to empower healthcare professionals with of excellence in critical care, we the expertise to navigate complex critical care scenarios. have witnessed the transformative impact of ECMO, CRRT and SLED technolo-

CHAMPIONSHIP: Uttar Pradesh Table Tennis Association President Sanjeev Pathak while addressing presspersons at the Sports Hub on Saturday informed that the first TSH ÚP State Level Table Tennis Prize Championship will be held on Sunday at the Sports Hub, Arya Nagar. He said for the first time prize money cash will be given to the winners. He said the objective of this tournament is to promote state para table tennis players and motivate them further to excel in the game. He said for the first time table tennis was being held in Uttar Pradesh on a large scale. He said the organisers were the Sports Hub itself and it will be held for one day in 10 categories comprising five standing and five sitting. Pathak said that winners will be provided cash reward of ₹5,000 each.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद् धार जिला धार म.प्र.

Email- cmodhar@mpurban.gov.in

क्रमांक/5186/लो.नि. शाखा/2023

धार दिनांक 21.09.2023 ः पंचम ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ः

NIT NO: UAD_2023_310513_1 Dhar Date: 22.09.2023 Online bid are invited from registered contractors/reputed firm for work of water supply scheme under AMRUT 2.0 for Nagar Palika Parishad Dhar (M.P.)

S.	Name of Work	Probable Amount	Completion Period In months
No.		(In lacs)	including Rainy Season
1.	Work of Augmentation Water Supply Scheme of Dhar town under AMRUT 2.0	3471.60	24 Months

Interested Bidder can view the detailed NIT on website www.mptenders.gov.in last date of purchase is 07.10.2023 time 17.30 Hrs further details would be published on website only, and not in Newspape

न.पा. परिषद् धार

सभापति, लो.नि. समिति

मु.न.पा. अधिकारी

Three arrested PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

joint team of Army Alntelligence (Lucknow), Special Operation Group (City) and Dhoomanganj police on Friday arrested three miscreants, including Sarfaraj Ahmad, Mohd Syed and Mohd Shamim alias Shammu, all residents of Dhoomanganj near Imli crossing on the charges of cheating students and their guardians on the pretext of clearing competitive exams.

Foundation of sewage facility work laid

foundation stone to provide a sewage facility and said that it will solve the sewage problem of the colony and locality where thousands of people live.

CONTEST: The Centre for

Women's Studies, Department of Social Works, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith

first and Arju Kumari secured the second position while Anees Kumar Gupta and Kavita Verma jointly got the third position. Soni, Ankit and Aleena Khan won the consolation prize. The judges awarded the winners. About 60 students participated in the contest. Head of Department Prof MM Verma apprised the students of the benefits of millets. Dr Chandramani proposed the vote of thanks. Prof Bhavana Verma, Prof Nimisha Gupta, Prof Shail Parveen and Dr Anjana Verma were present.

ised a contest of food items pre-

pared from millets. The judges

were manager of One Stop

Centre Rashmi Dubey and ex-

DPO of Child Development

Harsh Kumar Singh stood

Department Gurmeet Singh.

Citizens should feel law belongs to them: Modi

PNS NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{Modi on Saturday said in}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ International Lawyers Conference that Citizens should feel that "the law belongs to them" and that Government is trying to draft new laws in India "in simple language". Inaugurating the Bar Council of India's (BCI) twoday "International Lawyers Conference 2023", he also flagged concerns about cyber terrorism and money laundering besides the use of artificial intelligence for destructive pur-

Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud was the chief guest of the programme.

Modi said these dangers do not recognise borders and jurisdiction and called for collaborative efforts among legal frameworks of different countries to deal with them.

"When danger is global, then the manner to deal with it should also be global," he

The prime minister cited the example of cooperation between air traffic control sys-

tems of all countries to ensure air travel and said preparing a global framework to deal with these dangers is not about one government or country.

Besides CJI, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice of the United Kingdom Alex Chalk KC, Attorney General for India R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, Bar Council of India chairman and senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra and others, including several judges of the apex court, were present at the event.

Commenting on the legal system, he said the language used to write laws and in the judicial process plays a big role in ensuring justice.

"We in the Indian government are thinking that law should be produced in two ways. One draft will be in the language you are used to," he said to the audience drawn from the legal field. "The second draft will be in a language which the country's common man can understand. He should consider the law his

Modi said there had been a practice of drafting laws in a complex manner.

One of the aspects of justice delivery on which there is very little discussion is the language and the simplicity of law, the prime minister noted.

He said the government is trying to make laws simple and understandable to the common man but the system has been born and brought up in the same framework and he was trying to pull it out of that.

Modi said that he has a lot to do and a lot of time for it. "So I will keep doing it," he said. "We have made the first

beginning in the Data Protection law," the prime minister said, referring to attempts to draft laws in simple language. He also welcomed the preme Court's decision to ovide the operative part of a udgment to the litigant in his

Dubbing the Indian Penal Code and the Evidence Act as colonial-ear laws, the government had recently introduced the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya

Sakshya Bill to replace the IPC, Evidence Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Referring to the passage of the women's reservation bill in Parliament, he said this will give new direction and energy to women-led development. He also spoke of the G20 Summit and the successful Chandrayaan mission.

With India working hard to achieve the goal of becoming a developed country by 2047, it requires the base of a strong and impartial justice system, he said. Impartial justice has a big role in the growing faith of the world in India,

Modi added.

Speaking on alternate dispute resolution, the prime minister said with the increasing complexity of commercial transactions, the ADR mechanism has gained currency all over the world.

To systematise the informal tradition of dispute resolution in India, the government has enacted a law on mediation. Similarly, Lok Adalats are also playing a big role and they have settled nearly seven lakh cases in the last six years.

Speaking on the occasion, CJI Chandrachud said institutional collaboration is the precursor to solution finding while adjudicating judicial questions and it also plays a significant role in increasing access to jus-

He said it is utopian to think that there will be a day when "we find perfect solutions with no challenges to the justice delivery".

"However, it is definitively not utopian to aspire for a world where nations, institutions and most importantly individuals are open to engage with and learn from one another without feeling threatened or belittled," Chandrachud ssaid.

He said that while the Constitution provides for separation of power among the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, it also creates a space for institutions to learn from each other and deliver

"Institutional collaboration is a precursor to solution finding not only while adjudicating judicial questions but it also plays a significant role in increasing access to justice,"

Justice Chandrachud said. In his speech, the CJI said that instead of addressing specific challenges to justice delivery, he seeks to present an 'umbrella framework" to address these challenges and find innovative solutions.

Referring to engagement between nations, institutions and individuals, Justice Chandrachud said, "It is in this engagement that I believe lies the framework to find usual solutions.'

Knowledge sharing is a two-way street and decisions of the Indian Supreme Court are being regularly cited and relied upon by foreign courts, he

'At the administrative level too, the Indian judiciary must remain receptive to collaborating with various nations. India has played a pivotal role by constructing the Supreme Court buildings in Mauritius and in Bhutan," the CJI said.

He said that drafting of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly is a classic example of engaging beyond

"We find the same bi-partisan effort and this is something to which we, as citizens of India must be proud, has women's reservation bill in Parliament recently," Justice Chandrachud said.

He further said, "In our tendency to emphasise differences, we often forget the abundant examples of collaboration between institutions to further the interest of justice. This holds true not only in lofty constitutional challenges but more frequently in the everyday interaction between the courts and the government."

Citing an example, the CJI said a constitution bench of the Supreme Court is presently hearing a challenge pertaining to whether a person holding a driving licence for light motor vehicles can drive a commercial vehicle under the Motor Vehicles Act.

"Instead of viewing the case as an adversarial challenge, the court and the government are collaborating to protect the livelihoods of millions of drivers across the country," he said, adding that the ultimate aim of different institutions is the same and that is the progress and prosperity of the

Jaishankar holds talks with Quad leaders on visit to attend UNGA

SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/NEW YORK

External Affairs S Jaishankar has commenced his nineday visit to the United Nations and the US by holding bilateral and multilateral meetings with his global counterparts. He exchanged views on strengthening bilateral ties and issues of common concern as he arrived in New York for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

Jaishankar hit the ground running shortly after landing in New York early Friday morning, beginning his hectic schedule for the day with the Quad Foreign Ministers meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa.

A joint readout of the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting issued after the meeting reaffirmed the group's the positive trajectory of our United Nations, the enduring to take them further. Our mportance of upholding mutually determined rules, norms, and standards, and to deepen Quad cooperation in the international system".

Jaishankar held bilateral discussions with Kamikawa,



exchanged perspectives on "our Special Strategic and Global

'Delighted to meet Foreign Minister of Japan Yoko Kamikawa at #UNGA78. Discussed our regional, multilateral and global cooperation and taking them forward," Jaishankar said on X.

Jaishankar also met Wong for bilateral discussions. "Great to catch up with FM @SenatorWong of Australia on #UNGA78 sidelines. Noted "unwavering support for the ties and discussed specific steps al assessments are always valu-

Later, he held discussions with South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor and Brazilian Foreign Minister Japan's new top diplomat and Mauro Vieira under the IBSA

(India, Brazil and South Africa) grouping.

"A very productive IBSA meeting with Foreign Ministers Mauro Vieira and Naledi Pandor on #UNGA78 sidelines. The Joint Communique demonstrates the strength of our South-South solidarity," he said.

In a heartwarming gesture, Pandor and Vieira applauded and congratulated India when Jaishankar told them about the passage of the landmark Women's Reservation Bill in the Indian Parliament.

In his bilateral with the Foreign Minister of Bahrain, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Jaishankar said he had a "good conversation on connectivity, economic linkages and regional

Coast Guard conducts 2-day conjoined exercise **Sagar Kavach**

PIONEER SERVICE



Guard conducted a two-day conjoined exercise Sagar Kavach for the State of Odisha and West Bengal to validate the effectiveness of coastal security mechanism along the Odisha and West Bengal coast. The exercise commenced on Thursday and ended on Friday, Coast Guard officials said here on Saturday.

The main aim of the exercise was to evaluate the threats emanating from seaward in present geo-political scenario and validate existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of all stakeholders for enhanced coastal security mechanism.

The exercise was also aimed at checking the efficacy of layered security arrangements i.e air-surveillance, deen sea patrol by bigge ships of Coast Guard and Navy and close coast patrol by Coast Guard Interceptor Boats, boats of Marine Police, Central Industrial Security Force(CISF), Customs and Forest department.

views of parties, Law Commission PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The high-level committee I on simultaneous elections headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind in its first meeting on Saturday decided to invite political parties and the Law Commission to seek their views on holding synchronised polls in the country. Home Minister Amit Shah,

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, former Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Finance Commission chairman N K Singh, former Lok Sabha secretary general Subhash C Kashyap and former chief vigilance commissioner Sanjay Kothari attended the meeting.
The committee, according

to a statement said, decided to invite recognised national parties, parties having govern-ments in states, those having their representatives in Parliament, other recognised state parties "for seeking sugs/view points o issue of simultaneous elections in the country'

In addition, the committee will also invite the Law Commission for its suggestions and view points on the issue of simultaneous elec-



One Nation, One Election panel to seek

tions, a law ministry state-

Noted lawyer Harish Salve joined the meeting virtually. Congress leader in the Lok Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was not present in the meeting, the statement

After he was named in the committee, Chowdhury had written to Shah "declining to serve on the committee".

The government had, on September 2, notified the eightmember "high-level" panel to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok abha, state assemblies, munic ipalities and panchayats.

Describing the meeting as introductory in nature, people aware of the details said it was called to discuss the roadmap on how to go about the mandate given to the panel.

Preparation of working apers, how to go about holding consultations with the stakeholders and research on the subject for an in-depth dis-

cussion were also on the agen-

da of the meeting. The government notification said the panel will commence functioning immediately and make recommendations "at the earliest", but has not specify a time-frame for the submission of the report.

The decision to have a committee under former president Kovind had caught opposition bloc INDIA, holding its conclave in Mumbai on September 1, by surprise and ther raised the political heat

The opposition alliance had slammed the decision as a 'threat" to the country's federal structure.

The committee will examine and recommend specific amendments to

Representation of the People Act and any other laws and rules that 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 to be ratified by the

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

The committee will also analyse and recommend possible solutions to scenarios such as a hung house, the adoption of a no-confidence motion or defection or any such event in case of simulta-

neous elections. The panel has also been sary 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".

Controversy erupts in RS over sloganeering in visitors' gallery

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

After the political fracas from Lok Sabha over the Ramesh Bidhuri-Danish Ali row, now a controversy has erupted in Rajya Sabha as political sloganeering alleged-ly happened in the visitors gallery soon after the "Women Reservation Bill" was passed in the night of Thursday which in complete violation of rules and regulations of the visitors manual of the Parliament.

This took place where even 'whispering' is not allowed by the guarding marshals at every

two row of seatings. It might be noted that during the two days of Parliament proceedings women visitors including female artists and actress were in full occupancy in both the house-Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha- to witness the introduction, discussion and then the passage of the historic women reservation bill as known as Nari Shakti Vandan

Vidhiniyam. Sources said female visitors including college and school going students from neighbouring states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh visited Parliament to witness the proceedings.

Ràjya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi has writ-ten to Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar that a group of people sitting in the Visitor's Gallery was heard sloganeering, creating a ruckus in the precincts of the House.



not only caused a commotion but also raised serious questions about the enforcement of rules and regulations within the esteemed House. I write to you with grave concern and deep disappointment regarding the shocking incident that unfolded in the Rajya Sabha on September 21, 2023, during the Special Session," Chaturvedi said in her letter a copy of which is with The Pioneer.

A senior Parliament official said stringent security measures are followed and marshals are deployed to restrict the visitors from doing any activities, talking etc.

"This incident occurred in clear violation of Rule 264, which explicitly outlines the conduct expected of individuals in the Visitor's Gallery during parliamentary sessions,"

official said. As per the rules and conduct of business proposition in

the Parliament, Rule 264 of the

Rules of Procedure and

Conduct of Business in Rajya

for visitors

"Admission to Visitors' Galleries of Rajya Sabha is regulated by the regulations made in pursuance of Rule 264 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha. Under the regulations, a member can apply for a visitor's card for a person who is known to him personally or in select cases, for those who have been introduced to the member by a person who is personally known to him. It is in the latter class of cases that members are to exercise utmost care. Members are advised to bear in mind that they are responsible for any untoward incident or undesirable thing happening in the galleries as a result of anything done by

request of such members. Chaturvedi has allege that over 50 visitors were able to raise slogans in favour of the treasury benches and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a matter of grave concern.

holders of cards issued at the

"In response to this serious breach, Members from the opposition parties walked out in protest." the Shiv Sena (Uddhav) leader said.

Through the letter Chaturvedi has urged the Chairman that the incident be thoroughly investigated to identify how such a breach of security and decorum was possible within the confines of the Rajya Sabha.

The individual responsible for the disruption must be held accountable for their actions. Any MP found to be involved in facilitating this incident should also face appropriate consequences, the Member of the Opposition bloc India said. A day earlier the usage of

unparliamentary words by Lok Sabha BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri on BSP MP Danish Ali came to the fore and went viral on social media fuelling enough political scramble across the country. Ruling BJP and Opposition members have condemned the act by Bidhuri.

BJP MP blames BSP's Danish for provoking Bidhuri



PNS NEW DELHI

BJP leader Nishikant Dubey on Saturday blamed BSP MP Danish Ali of providing provocation to the party MP Ramesh Biduri to make derogatory comments against the former in the Lok Sabha on Thursday and asked Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to also probe the "unsavoury" conduct and remarks of Ali in the lower

In a letter to Speaker , Dubey accused Ali of offering a running commentary during Bidhuri's speech in Lok Sabha and making unsavoury remarks aimed at instigating him to lose his composure.

Dubey, a Lok Sabha mem-

ber, alleged that Ali also made a "highly objectionable and blasphemous" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He used "neech" barb, the BJP leader claimed, saying it was more than enough for any patriotic public representative to lose his calm and fall into his trap by uttering unsavoury words.'

Dubey was, however, categorical in condemning Bidhuri's comments, saying no decent society can justify them and they cannot be condemned

"But the Lok Sabha Speaker should also probe the unsavoury remarks and conduct of Danish Ali. Under Lok Sabha rules, obstructing another MP during the time allotted to him, speaking while sitting and giving a running commentary also call for punishment," he posted on X.

In his letter, Dubey said TMC and DMK members also made comments about faith of another community. What he has written is a

verifiable fact, he claimed. If Bidhuri has committed an inappropriate act, then other

members, including Ali, have also contributed in spreading enmity amongst communities. "I, therefore, request you to constitute an 'Inquiry Committee' to investigate the utterances made by various

members during the said discussion and also to inquire the extent of culpability of various other members of Parliament in instigating our citizens by way of their comments made in the House," he wrote to the

'Malnutrition prevention needs multi-disciplinary, integrated approach'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prevention of anemia and malnutrition requires an integrated multi-disciplinary approach with public-private partnerships and stakeholder engagement, usage of technologies among others, experts from the sector said on Saturday at an event here.

The suggestions came amid concerns that despite several efforts of the government, 67.1 per cent children below the age of 5 continue to grapple with anaemia and 57 per cent of women between the age of 15 and 49 are anaemic as has been indicated by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5.

The 2-day conference which began Friday witnessed participation of senior officials from the Union Health Ministry such as Roli Singh, Additional Secretary, Dr Zoya Rizvi, Deputy Commissioner, Nutrition

Division and Basant Kar, also known as Nutrition Man of India along with key public health experts and researchers.

Yugal Kishore Joshi, Director Mission Life, Niti Aayog called for taking a cue from Singapore which by using an integrated approach, turned itself from a water starved country to water resilient leader. "India should also use a similar strategy to tackle Anaemia to improve the public health system."

The participants also dis-

cussed the role of state and welfare schemes in improving the nutrition outcomes, and that factors like mother's education, age, income, and occupation affect the maternal and child nutrition.

Responding to the reason for lack of funds for longer duration health and nutrition interventions, Meera Satpathy, Founder and Chairperson, Sukarya said that "The government, corporates and nonprofits NGOs should urgently come together and engage with communities to strengthen distribution of maternal and child healthcare to the last-mile."

Talking about the role of data, technologies and implementation research in maternal and child nutrition interventions, the panelists deliberated threadbare on lack of clear regulations and guidelines for the use of AI in healthcare, using diverse training data to mitigate bias and combine technology with human intervention at adequate touchpoints.

Talking about maternal and child health services in Kenya, Dr Kirk Tickell (Faculty at the University of Washington's Department of Global Health) shared how it's important to include men in families and sensitize them about the importance of maternal and child healthcare because when it comes to patriarchal settings, they still play a key role in deciding crucial things pertaining to women's reproductive health.

Can't give exact dates: Pak's poll body

Pakistan's top election body has said that it is not possible to give an exact date for general elections due to technical reasons, a day after the country's political parties demanded an exact polling date from the election commis-

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has come under fire for its failure to announce a specific date for the upcoming elections after it announced on Thursday that polls would be held in the "last

week of January 2024."
A senior ECP official said that it was "not technically possible" to make an official announcement for the date of the general elections.

He said that doing so will demand a kick-start to a formal process that must follow specific timelines in the lead-up to the election, the Dawn newspa-

per reported on Saturday. Elaborating on this justification, the official said that under Section 57 of the Elections Act, the announcement of a polling date should be followed by issuing an election schedule, which sets the entire electoral cycle in motion.

This 'cycle' involves the also questioned the ECP's filing of nomination papers, authority to announce the elec-

Military's manipulation absolutely absurd: Pak PM

United Nations (AP): Pakistan's interim ical turmoil since April 2022 when Khan prime minister said he expects parliamentary elections to take place in the new year, dismissing the possibility that the country's powerful military would manipulate the results to ensure that jailed former premier Imran Khan's party doesn't win.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Friday, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said it's the Election Commission that is going to conduct the vote, not the military, and Khan appointed the commission's chief at the time, so "why would he turn in any sense of the word against

Pakistan has been in deepening polit-

and appeals on their acceptance

or rejection. Each step has to be

completed under a set timeline.

for its failure to hold elections

within 90 days of the dissolu-

tion of Parliament on August 9.

uncertainty surrounding the

election date," Pakistan Peoples

Party leader Qamar Zaman

Kaira said that a level playing

field and a clear and transpar-

ent election process were essen-

tial. Jailed former prime min-

ister Imran Khan's Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party

The ECP is facing criticism

Commenting on the

their scrutiny, and decisions tion date. A media report quot-

was removed from office following a noconfidence vote in Parliament. He was arrested in early August on corruption charges and sentenced to three years in prison, later suspended though he still remains in jail. The country is also facing one of the worst economic crises in its history and recovering from last summer's devastating floods that killed at least 1,700 people and destroyed millions of homes and farmland. The commission announced on Thursday the elections would take place during the last week in January, delaying the vote which was to be held in November under the constitution.

stop criticism.

general elections.

vague statement about the next

ment was violative of Article

48(5a) of the Constitution,

They said the ECP's state-

Kakar resigned as a senator last month after outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and opposition leader Raza Riaz chose him as caretaker prime minister to oversee the elections and run the

Asked whether he would recommend judges overturn Khan's conviction so he could run in the elections, the prime minister said he wouldn't interfere with decisions by the judiciary.

ing to the ECP. But the logic given by the ECP has failed to

The Dawn newspaper reported that PATTAN and Coalition38 — a body of more and violating the orders of the than 150 civil society organisasuperior courts. tions and labour unions issued a joint statement regretting that the ECP had further deepened the prevailing uncertainty by giving an extremely

also not mandatory under the Constitution," the statement which binds the president to issued by the civil society coaliannounce a date for general elections within 90 days of the

day-to-day affairs until a new government is elected. Kakar said that when the commission sets an exact election date his government "will provide all the assistance, financial, security or other related require-

dissolution of an assembly. They also regretted "with deep anguish" that the ECP had eroded its credibility and the public's trust by taking u-turns

'We also note with deep concern that the ECP, instead of holding elections within 90 days of the dissolution of National Assembly, began delimitation of constituencies which was not only based on a flawed and highly politicised population census but [was]

> The CTD said the terrorists the law enforcement agency.
> Police have registered eight

rogation.

Major terror bid foiled in Pakistan

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan's law enforcement agencies foiled a major terror plot to target key installations in the Punjab province and arrested 13 terrorists, mostly belonging to the banned Islamic State (ISIS) and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), police said on Saturday.

According to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police, it conducted 83 intelligence-based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism and arrested 13 suspected terrorists with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials

The CTD said the arrested terrorists belong to ISIS (Daesh), TTP, Tehreek Jafariya Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi militant groups.

The arrests were carried out during intelligence-based operations in Rawalpindi, Attock, Bahawal Nagar, Lahore, Jehlum, Sheikhupura and Bahawalpur districts of Punjab, the counter-terrorism police said. Police recovered nearly 5 kgs of explosives, one IÉD bomb, 29 detonators, 49 feet protective fuse wire, prima cards, one pistol, one SMG rifle with 80 bullets and banned literature from the possession of the terrorists.

had planned sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations, which was, however, foiled by

cases against the arrested terrorists and shifted them to an undisclosed location for inter-

lawaz to return home as planned: Shehbaz

ed PTI leader Ali Zafar as say-

ing, "The election commis-

sion's election date is beyond

that elections should be held

within 90 days of the assem-

has valid reasons for the delay

as it has been determining

new electoral districts on the

basis of a new census. The

delimitation will be completed

would be given for filing of nominations which would be

followed by elections, accord-

Then a 54-day period

The constitution mandates

However, the ECP said it

the constitutional date."

blies' dissolution.

on November 30.

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Tnsisting that there was no change in party supremo Nawaz Sharif's plan to return to Pakistan next month, former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif has said his elder brother would present an 'agenda of progress'on October 21, media reports

Ukraine targets key

said here on Saturday.

Ending his self-imposed exile in London, 73-year-old Nawaz, also the three-time prime minister, is expected to return to Pakistan on October 21 and lead the PML-N party in the general election declared to be held in January 2024. He had left Pakistan on 'medical grounds' in 2019.

"Nawaz Sharif will return to a

resounding welcome in Lahore, and will then address the nation at a rally at Minar-i-Pakistan where he will present the party's plan to tackle poverty, unemployment and improve the economic situation," Shehbaz told reporters after a meeting with Nawaz, party vice president Maryam Nawaz and former finance minister Ishaq Dar at London, the Dawn newspaper report-

The increase in political activity in the PML-N camp comes after the September 15 Supreme Court of Pakistan's ruling that scrapped the recent amendments to the country's anti-graft laws and restored

corruption cases against several p ublic office holders, including Nawaz

Mexican president seeks meeting with Biden on migration issue ter in Mexico City briefly

AP KYIV

Tkraine on Saturday morning launched another missile attack on Sevastopol in occupied Crimea, a Russianinstalled official said, a day after an attack on the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet left a serviceman missing and the main building smoldering.

Sevastopol was put on air raid alert for about an hour after debris from intercepted missiles fell near a pier, Gov. he did not comment on Mikhail Razvozhayev wrote whether Western-made mismessaging Telegram. Ferry traffic in the area was also halted and later resumed.

Loud blasts were also heard near Vilne in northern Crimea, followed by rising clouds of smoke, according to a pro-Ukrainian Telegram news channel that reports on developments on the peninsula. Crimea, illegally annexed by Russia in 2014, has been a frequent target for Ukrainian forces since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a fullscale invasion of the neighboring country almost 19 months ago. Ukraine's intelligence were hit.

Crimean city chief, Kyrylo Budanov, told Voice of America on Saturday that at least nine people were killed and 16 injured as a result of Kyiv's attack on the Black Sea Fleet on Friday. He claimed that Alexander Romanchuk, a Russian general commanding forces along the key southeastern front line, was "in a very serious condition" following

the attack. Budanov's claim could not be independently verified, and siles were used in Friday? strike. The Russian Defense Ministry initially said that Friday's strike killed one service member at the Black Sea Fleet headquarters, but later issued a statement that he was missing.

Ukraine's military also offered more details about Friday's attack on Sevastopol. It said the air force conducted 12 strikes on the Black Sea Fleet headquarters, targeting areas where personnel, military equipment and weapons were concentrated. It said two antiaircraft missile systems and four Russian artillery units Mexico City (AP): Mexico's top diplomat Alicia Bárcena has said that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador wants to travel to Washington DC in early November to meet with

US President Joe Biden about

immigration, development aid

The statement comes after

and drug trafficking.

a surge in migrants moving through Mexico forced the closure of some US-Mexico border crossings and led Mexico's largest railway company to halt about 60 train runs because so many migrants were hopping aboard freight cars. Most appear to be Venezuelans, and many said they had crosse through the jungle-clad Darien Gap that connects Colombia

Bárcena told a news conference in New York Friday that migrant shelters in Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas, are 95 per cent full and that the Mexican government is 'very worried' about the border closures and the migrant surge, especially given Mexico's rocky relationship with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

and Panama.

In the past, Abbott has tightened border truck inspections and strung a series of floating barriers in the Rio



Migrants who crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico to the US work their way through concertina wire on Friday in Eagle Pass, Texas

FROM PAGE 1

Grande to try to deter

Bárcena suggested that more should be done to stem the flow of migrants through the Darien Gap, and that lifting US economic sanctions against Venezuela 'could also help us return some people to their home countries?

There were signs that some in Mexico, too, were getting overwhelmed by the surge in

Bárcena said about 1,40,000 migrants were waiting to register for transit or asylum papers in the southern Mexican city of Tapachula, near the border with Guatemala, adding 'we need reinforcements, because it is impossible to process 1,40,000 people'.

And early Friday, a few dozen residents who live near an overcrowded migrant shel-

city's main expressways, saying migrants living in the streets outside the shelter were causing problems. Mexico is also where most

blocked traffic on one of the

of the synthetic opioid fentanyl is produced for the US market, using precursor chemicals smuggled in from China. Bárcena's comments came

just a day after López Obrador announced he will skip the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in November in San Francisco because his country "has no relations" with Peru.

claimed Peru's current government was installed by a coup and that he still considers ousted president Pedro Castillo to be the country's legitimate leader. Both countries recalled their ambassadors following those comments.

It would not be the first time that López Obrador has skipped international meetings in the United States because of who else was or was-

Last year, he skipped the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles because Nicaragua and Venezuela were not invited.

LEBANESE TROOPS RESCUE 27 FROM SINKING BOAT

BEIRUT: The Lebanese army and the country's civil defence recused early on Saturday 27 migrants whose boat was sinking off the coast of north Lebanon, the military said in a statement. The army did not say where the migrants were heading nor did it give their nationalities. Over the past years, thousands of Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinian migrants took the dangerous trip from Lebanon across the Mediterranean seeking a better life in Europe. Such migrations intensified since the country's historic economic meltdown began in October 2019. Lebanon has hosted refugees for years. It has some 805,000 UN-registered Syrian refugees, but officials estimate the actual number to be between 1.5 million and 2 million. Lebanon is also home to tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees and their descendants, many living in 12 refugee camps scattered around the country.

5 DEAD, OVER 100 INJURED IN TAIWAN FACTORY FIRE

BEIJING: A fire and subsequent explosions at a golf ball factory in southern Taiwan killed at least five people and injured more than 100 others, and five people are still missing. The fire began on Friday night at the factory in Pingtung county and raged overnight. Three firefighters were among the dead, authorities said. Rescuers were still looking for four factory workers and one firefighter who remained unaccounted for, officials said. More than 100 people were taken to the hospital with injuries. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen in a speech in Taipei on Saturday expressed her condolences to the families of the victims and said she would travel to Pingtung to visit those affected by the disaster, according to Taiwanese news outlet Focus Taiwan. Tsai said the Pingtung county government had set up an emergency operation centre to offer assistance to those impacted by the fire.

UYGHUR SCHOLAR SENTENCED FOR LIFE IN CHINA

BEIJING: A prominent Uyghur scholar specialising in the study of her people's folklore and traditions has been sentenced to life in prison, according to a US-based foundation that works on human rights cases in China. Rahile Dawut was convicted on charges of endangering state security in December 2018 in a secret trial, the San Francisco-based Dui Hua Foundation said in a statement Thursday. Dawut appealed but her conviction was upheld, the foundation said. "The sentencing of Professor Rahile Dawut to life in prison is a cruel tragedy, a great loss for the Uyghur people, and for all who treasure academic freedom," John Kamm, executive director of the Dui Hua Foundation, said in a statement. Dawut was a professor at Xinjiang University and founder of the school's Ethnic Minorities Folklore Research Centre. She disappeared in late 2017 amid a brutal government crackdown aimed at the Uyghurs, a Turkic, predominately Muslim ethnicity native to China's northwest Xinjiang region. For years, her exact status was unknown, as Chinese authorities didn't disclose her whereabouts or the nature of the charges against her.

INDIAN GETS JAIL TERM FOR MONEY LAUNDERING

WASHINGTON: An Indian national has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for conspiring to commit money laundering, the US Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado has said. Dhruv Jani, 40, has also been ordered to pay USD 1.1 million restitution, a media release issued on Friday said. According to the plea agreement, starting in January 2020, Jani was part of a conspiracy to launder funds obtained through a government official imposter scheme. Victims in the US were contacted by telephone and coerced into believing that they were under investigation by 'agents' of federal law enforcement agencies. Federal prosecutors said the victims were told that their identities had been connected to a criminal incident, that their imminent arrest and/or deportation from the United States had been ordered by law enforcement and that the only way to avoid arrest and/or deportation was to pay the 'government' large sums of money. The 'agent' then convinced the victim to package and ship the cash to alleged government officials via Federal Express or United Parcel Service. Many of these victims were also directed to mail packages of cash to individuals in other states.

9 CROATIAN SOCCER FANS DETAINED FOR VIOLENCE

ZAGREB: Croatian police have arrested nine soccer fans sought on European warrants for involvement in deadly violence last month in Greece, state television station HRT reported on Saturday. Greece has issued arrest warrants for 10 fans of Croatia's Dinamo Zagreb soccer club, but one of them remains at large, the report said. Croatia's Justice Ministry said in a statement it had been informed of the warrants by the Croatian police. The fans, members of the so-called Bad Blue Boys fan gr pected of taking part in the August violence in Athens that killed one person. Dozens of other Croatian soccer fans already have been detained in Greece over the violence, during which a 29year-old Greek fan was stabbed to death outside AEK Athens stadium, prompting the cancellation of a Champions League qualifier against Dinamo Zagreb. Amateur video of the attack showed dozens of youths wielding bats and iron bars running past the stadium as flares and firebombs exploded.

'AIR STRIKES KILLED MANY REBELS IN CONGO'

KAMPALA: Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni said on Saturday that recent airstrikes against rebels with ties to the Islamic State group in eastern Congo have killed "a lot" of the militants, possibly including a notorious bomb maker. The statement issued by the president's office didn't provide details on the September 16 airstrikes targeting the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, a shadowy extremist organisation blamed for regular violence targeting civilians from bases in Congo's volatile east.

PM CREDITS WOMEN FOR PASSAGE OF QUOTA BILL

('suraksha kavach'). Your blessings are my greatest source of energy."

The prime minister was addressing the "Nari Shakti Vandan Samaroh" organised at the ground of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accompanied Modi at the

"This Kashi of ours is also the birthplace of a brave woman like Rani Lakshmibai. From brave women like Rani Lakshmi Bai during the freedom struggle to Mission Chandrayaan in modern India - we have proved the power of women's

leadership in every period. 'Take the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam for example. This law was pending for three decades. But today, it is your strength that even those political parties who never got tired of opposing it earlier had to support it in both Houses of

Parliament," the prime minister said. Giving credit to the women of the country for this, he said, "Because you, the mothers and sisters, have become aware and united, all the political parties of India are afraid and trembling and that is why this bill was passed — this is your

Striking a chord with the voters of Varanasi, Modi said "your MP from Kashi got the privilege" of getting the women's

reservation bill passed in Parliament. "Kashi is the holy city of Mother Kushmanda, Mother Shringar Gauri, Mother Annapurna and Mother Ganga. The glory of their power is attached to every part of this place. Vindhyavasini Devi is also not far from Banaras.

ness to the virtuous deeds and management of goddess Ahilyabai Holkar and hence, after the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was passed in Parliament, I came to Kashi first to seek blessings from all of you. It is my good fortune that you are blessing us in such large numbers," he said. The prime minister added that the fes-

"The city of Kashi has also been a wit-

tival of Durga Puja is around the corner and pointed out that the preparations for Durga Puja pandals have begun at various aces in Varanasi. "The passage of the Nari Shakti Act during this time has increased the enthusiasm of Navratri manifold," he

Modi hoped that the law would open new avenues for women's development in

'The presence of women will increase in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. I heartily congratulate you, the mothers and sisters of the country, for this achievement from the holy land of Kashi," he said.

The prime minister said over the last nine years, his government has worked keeping the lives of women and their dreams at the centre.

"There was a tradition of not keeping property in the name of women. Cars, land, shops — all were bought in the name of men. This used to be the rule here, but Modi has come and started the tradition of registering property in the name of mothers, sisters and daughters.

"We have also made a provision for giving houses in the name of women under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana. Today, house registration is being done in the name of thousands of women in Kashi. This has also increased their importance in the family and the society," he said.

From the field of sports to flying Rafale fighter jets, "our daughters are doing wonders", the prime minister said, adding that Varanasi is witness to the speed at which development takes place when women get equal opportunities. Enumerating the schemes implement-

ed by his government and the benefits they

provide to women, he said a large number of women self-help groups have been formed in Varanasi and all over Purvanchal. The prime minister reached the venue of the programme after laying the foundation stone of an international cricket stadium in Varanasi. Modi is currently rep-

second consecutive term. The 128th Constitution amendment bill to reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women received the Parliament's nod on Thursday.

resenting Varanasi in the Lok Sabha for a

'JO KHELEGA WO HI KHILEGA'

The prime minister also saw a change in Kashi towards sports. He said effort is to provide world-level sports facilities to the youth of Kashi.

That is why, along with this stadium Rs 400 crore are being spent on Sigra stadium where facilities are being developed for more than 50 sports, he said, adding this is going to be the first multi-sports complex which will be divyang friendly. Khelo India's budget got a hike of

about 70 per cent compared to last year, said. "Government moves with the athletes like a team member from school to the

Olympics podium," he asserted.

The prime minister highlighted the World University Games where India won more medals in this year's edition compared to all the medals bagged in the previous editions. He acknowledged the presence of

sporting potential in every village, city nook and corner of the country and emphasized the need to find them and develop their skills. Youth coming from small towns and villages have become the pride of the nation today," Modi said as he stressed cre-

Former India cricketers Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar and Ravi Shastri, BCCI president Roger Binny, vice president Rajiv Shukla and secretary Jay Shah were present on the occasion. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also attended the function.

ating more and more opportunities for

Acknowledging the presence of the stalwarts from the sporting fraternity on the occasion, Modi thanked them for their affection towards Kashi.

'Good coaches and good coaching are equally important to encourage and hone new talent," he emphasised as he informed that athletes who have won national and international accolades are encouraged to take up the role of coaches.

Modi said that new infrastructure will give new opportunities to the athletes from small towns and villages. He informed that under the new

National Education Policy, sports is treated as a proper subject rather than an extracurricular activity. The expansion of sports infrastruc-

nation," he emphasised. Modi mentioned that several cities in

the world are known for organizing global sporting events and stressed developing sports infrastructure in the country capable of hosting such global events.

This stadium, he said, will be a witness to this resolution of development which will not merely be a structure of bricks and concrete but will also become a symbol of the future of India

'RESIDENTS OF KASHI ITS TRUE BRAND AMBASSADORS'

"Kashi is now seeing unprecedented development. Today I laid the foundation of an international cricket stadium. I also got the opportunity to dedicate to the nation 16 Âtal Awasiya Vidyalayas," he said.

"When I came here in 2014, the dream of development and heritage of Kashi that I had imagined is now gradually coming true," he said, referring to his first election from the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat. The prime minister also said the biggest base for the educational success of Varanasi is its all inclusive nature.

People from different corners of the country and the world come here to study, he said. He also spoke about the new National Education Policy and the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) initiative. The 16 schools inaugurated by the prime minister have been built at a cost of about Rs 1,115 crore.

These schools — Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas — have been opened to provide quality education to children of labourers and construction workers and those orphaned in the COVID-19 pandemic. ture is essential for the development of a

Before dedicating the schools to the nation, Prime Minister Modi interacted with some students. The residential schools will accommo-

date 1,000 students each.

These will enhance access to quality education and help in holistic development of children. Each of the schools is constructed on an area of 10-15 acres with classrooms, playground, recreational areas, a mini auditorium, hostel complex, mess and residential quarters for staff members.

PAKISTAN HAVEN FOR TERRORISTS: INDIA AT UN

minority Christian community in Jaranwala in the country's Faisalabad district in August 2023, where a total of 19 churches were gutted and 89 Christian houses burnt down.

"Similar treatment has been meted out to the Ahmadiyyas whose places of worship" have been demolished.

The condition of women belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, notably Hindus, Sikhs and Christians, remains deplorable, she said.

According to a recent report published by Pakistan's own human rights commission, an estimated 1000 women from minority communities are subjected to abduction, forced conversion and marriage in Pakistan every year, Gahlot added. A Pakistani diplomat took the floor to exercise Islamabad's Right to Reply to India's response. India fields its young diplomats posted at its Permanent Mission in New York to give scathing and hard-hitting responses to Pakistan's Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers, who repeatedly raise the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in their annual addresses to the high-level General Assembly sessions.

Hangzhou Asian Games opens with futuristic ceremony

lending elements of artifi-Britaining elements of at un-cial intelligence and eco-friendly technology, the Hangzhou Asian Games began here on Saturday with a one-ofa-kind opening ceremony, head-lined by a futuristic light show and a digital torch relay. The dazzling programme, held amid a diplomatic row over the denial of entry to three

Indian athletes from Arunachal Pradesh, was a melange of technology, cultural history of China, and the spirit of the continent's

In keeping with the main theme of 'Tides Surging in Asia', the ceremony was about the intermingling of China, Asia and the world in the new era, as well as the unity, love and friendship of the Asian people.

The water element through the surging tide of Qiantang river — which flows through Hangzhou — was the underlying theme of the grand evening which lasted more than two

The ceremony sought to portray a distinctly Chinese and an uniquely Asian flair, capturing the country's cultural heritage and romantic imagery through the blending of its thousands of years old civiliza-tion and modern technology,

through stunning visuals.

It portrayed the efforts of China's path to modernisation in a presentation that combined Eastern aesthetics and a viewpoint that connects with a global audience.

The technological might of China was written all over with the lighting of the cauldron— the Games' Flame—being done in a unique way.

Digital technology was utilised as torchbearers in the virtual and physical worlds joint-

ly lighted the cauldron. 3-D dual aerial performance technology was also used for the first time in a major stadium while depicting the tidal bore of the Qiantang river. Two performers, one male and one female, danced in the air and closely interacted with the tidal bores which appeared on the LED ground display. A variety of tidal bores, including a scissor-shaped bore,

a lineal bore, a back-flowing bore, and a bore resembling the scales of a fish, rose and fell on the LED ground display.

Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the Games open as more than 12,000 athletes from 45 countries gear up to fight for top honours till October 8.

The Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) acting president Randhir Singh, International Olympic Committee (IOC) head Thomas Bach, heads of several countries, officials of National Olympic Committees and host of other dignitary were present on the occasion.

Singh urged the athletes to respect fellow athletes and the judges, and take part in the Games in the spirit of friendship and fair competitions.

The Games are being held belatedly due to a surge in Covid cases in China last year.

In keeping with the concept of 'Green Asian Games' or carbon-neutral Games, the opening ceremony used digital fireworks instead of real ones. It, nevertheless, created a thrilling atmos-

The nearly-packed 80,000 capacity 'Big Lotus' stadium was decked up elegantly for the occasion and welcomed the athletes from the participating countries, including India, with loud cheers.



from Arunachal Pradesh were denied visa by the Chinese gov-ernment, India had cancelled the visit of its sports minister Anurag Thakur. Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha was not present as she is currently in Paraguay as part of a Parliamentary delegation, though other officials attended the ceremony.

Loud cheers greeted the nearly 100 Indian athletes and officials as they marched into the stadium, led by flag-bearers Harmanpreet Singh and Lovlina Borgohain. The Indian contingent walked out for the athletes' parade in eighth position. From the tennis team, only

Ramkumar Ramanathan participated in the parade since the other players have matches on The male athletes were clad

in bandhgala jacket and khaki kurta while their female counterparts donned high-necked blouse and khaki-textured saree made from recycled fabrics. India is fielding 655 athletes

in the Games. To begin with, the theme

'Water in Autumn Glow' depict-

ed water as the heart and soul of Hangzhou, where water comes in many forms — West Lake, Oiantang Tidal Bores, the thousand-year-old Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, and the

water conservation system of the

Archeological Ruin of Liangzhu

In a bid to use culture as a medium of blending the power of technology and the beauty of art inspired by traditional Chinese culture, the opening ceremony combined the flavour of Hangzhou, Zhejiang province

imagery and elements unique to

the country.

Through innovative modern technologies, the ceremony also showcased the attractiveness, appeal and unique nature of Eastern aesthetics, as well as the profound impact culture has, the power of science, and the encompassing reach of art. After around an hour-long protocol part of the ceremony,

a cultural programme of 30 minutes and a laser show enthralled the crowd. That was followed by the lighting of the Cauldron and playing of the offi-

As September 23 falls on Autumn Equinox, or the Qiufen, one of China's 24 solar terms, it's the country's time to celebrate the harvest and welcome guests from around the world.

The Ruins of Ancient Liangzhu City, a sacred site in China's civilization and also a UNESCO Heritage site, from where the torch relay began, was also highlighted and 19 pieces of jade cong were used to represent the number of editions of the Asian Games.

The cultural programme part had sections on the natur-

Hangzhou and other cities of southern China, including Ningbo, Shaoxing, Suzhou and Wenzhou where a few events of

the Games are also being held.
Instead of the traditional single torchbearer lighting the Cauldron, digital torchbearers were involved for the first time in a moment when the virtual and the real worlds meet.

Many individuals were selected as digital torchbearers to carry the hopes and dreams of hundreds of millions of people in Asia, join in as torchbearers in the final leg at the venue and light the Cauldron togeth-er. By hosting the continent's biggest multi-sporting event, China has heralded its opening from the pandemic with a giant competition, the largest ever in its history.

No doubt, the Olympics is the pinnacle multi-sporting event in the world but more athletes compete in the Asian Games, with over 12,000 taking part in Hangzhou.

About 11,000 participated in the Tokyo Olympics two years ago and about 10,500 will do so in the next year's Paris Games.

The 2018 Asian Games had seen a little over 11,000 athletes taking part, which will be surpassed in Hangzhou.

Besides Hangzhou, the 19th edition of the continental showpiece will be held in five other cities - Huzhou, Ningbo, Shaoxing, Jinhua and Wenzhou.

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 Games.

Competitions in football, volleyball, cricket, rowing, sailing and modern pentathlon began even before Saturday's opening ceremony.



Monaco slip to defeat after Balogun misses two penalties

 $F^{\text{olarin Balogun missed two}}_{\text{penalties on his first Monaco}}$ start before local rivals Nice grabbed a stoppage time winner to go top of Ligue 1 on Friday.

One week after stunning champions PSG at the Parc des Princes 3-2, Nice claimed the three points again when Jeremie Boga slalomed through the Monaco defence to score as Francesco Farioli's team continued an undefeated start to the season. Nice leapfrogged previously unbeaten Monaco to take top spot by one point after a third win in six games.

It was a miserable first start for US international striker Balogun who left Arsenal for Monaco in the summer on a 30million-euro transfer.

He had penalties saved by Nice goalkeeper Marcin Bulka in the 12th and 54th minutes.

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Pochettino defends Chelsea medical team amid rash of injuries

Mauricio Pochettino insists Chelsea's medical department are not to blame for the rash of injuries that have derailed the start of his reign.

Chelsea's injury crisis left Pochettino with only 15 fit senior players for last weekend's disappointing draw at Bournemouth in the Premier

spent over £1 billion (\$1.2 billion) on signings since Toddy Boehly's consortium took over in 2021, the squad is stretched to breaking point.

The Blues had 12 stars absent against Bournemouth, forcing Pochettino to include

three players aged 19 or under who had no first-team experience on his bench, as well as two

goalkeepers.
Christopher Nkunku, Reece
James, Romeo Lavia, Wesley
Fofana, Carney Chukwuemeka,
Trevoh Chalobah and Moises
Caicedo are among the players
filling the treatment room.

Chelsea are languishing in 14th with one win from five games ahead of Sunday's clash with Aston Villa, but Pochettino doesn't believe the medical staff are at fault.

"Before we arrived here we did everything to try and have a clear idea of why there were



too many injuries last season also, to analyse the risk," Pochettino told reporters on

"Ít's about the profile of the player, the risk of the player. It's not the people working in the medical staff of performance

"I think we need to respect these areas at the club are very

good professionals, qualified people. That's why they are working in football. But there's an individual risk to certain players, you need to assess.

Then there's bad luck. We have injures that maybe happen in one season or maybe in two, but have happened to Chelsea because of different situations



Ten Hag baffled by Man Utd's defensive frailties

Erik ten Hag admits he does Enot know why Manchester United have defended so poor-ly throughout their dismal start

Ten Hag's side have conceded 14 goals in their last five games in all competitions after slipping to a 4-3 defeat at Bayern Munich in their Champions League opener on Wednesday.

League opener on Wednesday.

The Bayern collapse came after Brighton won 3-1 at Old Trafford in the Premier League to pile pressure on United boss Ten Hag. With a clash against struggling Burnley looming on Saturday, Ten Hag desperately needs to shore up United's leaky defence. Alarmingly for United defence. Alarmingly for United fans, the Dutch coach conceded he is still trying to get to the

root of the problem.
"We have shown that we can
do it because last year we had the most clean sheets in the Premier League because of the team, League because of the team, because we defended very good as a team, so we have to get back to that standard," Ten Hag told reporters on Friday. "Of course I am pushing the team and demanding from the team, and from the start of the season, but they are human beings, not robots, so, why they are not doing it, I try to find out and I try to give the solutions and try to motivate the players to do the job.

"When you are in a period

like we are in always as a manager you are asking yourself these questions. My job is to get them to do the job.'

Question marks have been raised about the attitude of

United's squad, with clips from the Bayern game apparently showing players not chasing back as hard as they might. Ten Hag does not believe a

lack of willingness was to blame, though, saying: "It's always a concern when we didn't run but I think against Bayern it was not the case. "In certain situations: yes. So it's also to recognise which situation. Is it about they didn't recognise it and didn't make the right decisions or is it about willingness?

"Against Spurs, we didn't run too much. But I think against Bayern we did our best from physical outputs but we didn't

always run in the right moment.
"If we bounced back like we did in Munich, you can't say the spirit isn't right. I think we have other problems than that."

AFP MIAMI

Seven Caribbean countries will host matches at next year's T20 World Cup, including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Friday.
The ICC awarded the host-

ing of the event, to be held in June 2024, to the West Indies and the United States in November 2021.

Dominica, Guyana, St Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have also been named as hosts.

"The matches will again give cricket fans the unique experience of enjoying cricket in the Caribbean," said ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice.

Matches will also be held in New York, Florida and Texas in the United States, the first time a major ICC event has been held

in the country.

One notable absence from the list of Caribbean host nations is Jamaica, whose Sabina Park ground in the capital Kingston is one of the iconic homes of West Indies cricket.

Jamaica has the largest population of the main cricketplaying nations in the Caribbean

Caribbean nations named as T20 World Cup venues but no Jamaica



but did not submit a bid to host the tournament.

Courtney Francis, chief executive officer of the Jamaican Cricket Association, said Cricket West Indies engaged with

national governments over potential bids and that Jamaica's administration had opted

against participation. "The government is the one who determines whether we

could be able to host matches because all the expenses would have come back to the government," he told CVM television. "The government is the one who would have put up the bid

money. They would have been the one to carry out repairs to the infrastructure and so on. "The government did not

see it as a viable option in their view and that is the reason why

I believe that we have not been able to bid." West Indies hosted the tournament in 2010, three years after holding the 50 overs World Cup, and Cricket West Indies chief executive Johnny Grave said they were ready to

put on a show again.

"The West Indies has got a huge experience in hosting ICC events and we're currently hosting the Caribbean Premier League, which has been another successful tournament.

"We have very experienced operators throughout the region

that we work with and partner with and all the stakeholders will be ready to welcome the world and stage this iconic ICC event," he said. "We're all tremendousthe said. We can terminiously excited by the opportunity and the platform that it gives our region to promote itself to the world for tourism, for economic development, as well as hopefully to give our men's team a huge home advantage and going for a record third title."

Next year's tournament will be the first edition of the event to include a record 20 teams.

England are the current T20 world champions, winning their second title when they beat Pakistan in the final in Melbourne last year.

Record-equalling Guirassy fires Stuttgart to top of Bundesliga

AFP ■ STUTTGART (GERMANY)

Serhou Guirassy scored twice Sto tie a Bundesliga record and propel Stuttgart to the top of the table with a 3-1 home victory over struggling Darmstadt on

Friday. Stuttgart fell behind after 18 minutes when defender Dan-Axel Zagadou turned a low cross inside his own near post. Enzo Millot replied five

minutes later, side footing home from a Guirassy lay off. The Guinea striker then put Stuttgart ahead in the 32nd minute, smashing the ball in from the edge of the area. It was

his ninth league goal from nine strikes at goal this season. In added time, Guirassy dinked over goalkeeper Marcel Schuhen to become the second player to reach 10 Bundesliga goals in five games. The first was

Robert Lewandowski. "I am very happy," a beaming Guirassy said. "We won, that's the most important thing. But of course I'm also happy



about my goals and that I was able to help my team with them. I have to continue that now." Stuttgart have a league-lead-

of them. "He's in top form, outstanding. We are happy to have him," said midfielder Chris Fuehrich.

ing 17 goals and Guirassy has 10

The victory lifted Stuttgart to 12 points, two ahead of Bayer Leverkusen who host Heidenheim on Sunday and third-

place Bayern Munich, who entertain Bochum on Saturday. Darmstadt dropped to last place on goal difference.

Pressure mounts on lyer, Ashwin for performances that count



PTI ■ INDORE

hreyas Iyer will be desperate for some runs after missing out on a flat track while the skillful R Ashwin will be searching for wickets in the middle overs when India take on Australia in the second ODI here on Sunday.

Despite missing four first-XI players, including skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, India were able to win the first ODI rather comfortably and look on course to secure the series at the Holkar Stadium which usually produces high-scoring games.

Rain in the city has brought the temperature down which will be welcomed by the players from either side after experiencing unusual heat and humidity in Mohali. The game on Friday had enough positives for India, mainly the performance of Mohammad Shami and Surya-

kumar Yaday, but few questions still need to be answered ahead of the World Cup, beginning October 5.

India's designated number 4 Iver, whose fitness came under the scanner in the Asia Cup even though he was coming back from a long injury-lay off, has not been able to get time in the middle due to different reasons.

While a back spasm ruled him out of the business end of Asia Cup, an avoidable run out on Friday ended his nervy 8-ball stay in the centre.

The right-hander will be hoping for a bagful of runs in the coming two games which would make him and his team feel much better going into the glob-

Ashwin, on the other hand, came up with a tidy bowling effort in his comeback game but was not able to put the Australian batters in much discomfort on a flat track. He was not able to generate much turn and his flatter deliveries were easily negotiated by the opposi-

The champion spinner could still make a last minute entry into India's World Cup if Axar Patel doesn't get fit in time but the team management expects more from the 37-yearold than what he managed on

It also remains to be seen if another off-spinner Washington Sundar gets a game. If that happens on Sunday, Ashwin might ve to warm the bench.

Shardul Thakur too would be looking for an improvement from the first game, having conceded 78 runs in 10 overs while all the other bowlers returned frugal figures. He does have a knack of

picking wickets and coming up

with a useful cameo with the bat

but he has not been able to do that consistently in the ODI format. Thakur will only be used sporadically in the World Cup and therefore, he would be keen to make the most of the chances he gets in the ongoing series.

In the batting department, world's best T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav seems to have cracked the ODI code after a prolonged lean patch. The management has told

him to consume 45-50 balls every game, which is enough for someone like him to make a telling impact on the match. He just did that on Friday with a well paced half-century.

Like India, Australia too were missing some of their key players in the opener including Mitchell Starc, Glenn Maxwell and Josh Hazlewood. Skipper Pat Cummins hinted after the game in Mohali that they might only be ready by the third game in Rajkot on September 27. Australia won the series in India earlier this year and find

themselves in a must-win situation on Sunday. Josh Inglis showed promise with a run a ball 45 but the middle-order needs to be more consistent.

Veteran opener David War-ner has carried his good form from South Africa to India and would be looking to maintain it over the next couple of months.

Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne were guilty of throwing their starts in Mohali and a big hundred will be needed from either of them if Australia are to comeback in the series. The last ODI was played here in January when India amassed 385 against New Zealand with Rohit and Shubman Gill smashing hundreds.

Rohit will not be around but trust Gill to do an encore in front

You shouldn't feel low if you are not playing XI: Shami



"When I was playing reg-ularly, there must have been someone, who had to sit out and I wasn't guilty. So you can't feel low if you are sitting out because the team is winning," a pragmatic Mohammed Shami said when asked about the sporadic chances he has been getting in 50-over crick-

The Indian team management has indicated that when it plays full strength during the upcoming World Cup, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj will be the two front-line pac-

But after his match-winning figures of 5 for 51, Shami said that rotation isn't a bad thing when you play so many matches on the bounce.

"This is the team's plan and it is important to stick with it. You can't be always in the playing XI because a lot

Martin wins 11-lap sprint ahead of main race

depends on the team combination," Shami said.

"If you are playing, well and good and if you are not in the playing XI, then you should be supportive of those, who are playing. I think there is no point feeling low and I am ready to play the role the team gives me," Shami said as he steered clear of anything that could be remotely controversial.

He was also asked if he approves of this rotation policy where he has to sit out.

"What you are trying to know is beyond my comprehension but obviously when you build a team, (the) coach has a role to rotate players and, based on the situation, it is decided," Shami said with a wry

He made it clear that rotation before a big event like the World Cup is a good thing.

"You have seen we have (had) got results due to rotation and I believe before the World

Cup, you shouldn't put too much workload in back-toback games, and its going well and we are getting good results."

Shami had taken a break after the World Test Championship final and he didn't travel to the West Indies for the two Tests and three

"It was important to take that break because I had played back-to-back games continuously for 7-8 months. At the back of my head, I felt I need-

ed a break for a series.

"I discussed with coach
(Rahul Dravid) and captain (Rohit Sharma) and took a break (from the West Indies series). But my break never seemed like a break for me because I have an elaborate training set-up at home (Sahaspur in UP's Amroha) and I end up training more at home than when I am with the Indian team," he stated.

He was asked if he did any thing special to dismiss Steve Smith, but his answer was in the negative.

"Just tried to do my basics right and hit the top of offstump and wait for the batters to make a mistake.'

The conditions were humid and Shami was used in small spells. Could it be a template going into the World Cup?

"It depends on the situation. How a partnership (is) going and how well you are bowling at that time. Sometimes, you end up bowling a six-over spell as well while sometimes you bowl only three

He admitted that heat does

The heat does play a part and we are also human beings. It takes a toll on our bodies and on stamina. But when you have played international cricket for so long, it will not affect your fitness but it depends how much effort we are putting

Pakistan await India visa for World Cup travel

PTI ■ INDORE

Players and team officials of Pakistan's World Cup-bound contingent are yet to get visas for their scheduled travel to India on September 27, two days before their opening warm-up fixture.
The Pakistan squad was

supposed to reach Hyderabad via Dubai where a two-day team bonding exercise was planned before travelling to India on September 27.
The Babar Azam-led side is

scheduled to play its first warmup game against New Zealand on September 29.

PCB sources told PTI that the team bonding trip to Dubai has been cancelled as players await their visas from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

Sources also confirmed that the PCB has raised the matter with the International Cricket

Pakistan last visited India for the T20 World Cup in 2016. The arch-rivals only play each other in Asia Cup and ICC tournaments due to the tense relations between the two countries.

"PCB had sent its officials to Islamabad for passport collection yesterday but the visas are still in process. That has forced the board to cancel the team bonding trip in Dubai. If the visas come through, the team will reach Hyderabad on September 27 via Dubai," said a

Another source privy to the matter added: "the visas will come through after due vetting process. When it comes to issuing an Indian visa to a Pakistan passport holder, clearances need to come from three

ministries - home, external affairs and sports. That process takes time but it will happen."

A total of 33 members of the Pakistan contingent, including players, three travelling reserves and team officials, are awaiting their visas. Tournament host BCCI could not be reached for a comment.

Pakistan's second warm-up will be against Australia on October 3, also in Hyderabad.

They will remain in the city for their opening two World Cup games against Netherlands and Sri Lanka on October 6 and 10 respectively before flying to Ahmedabad for the big game against hosts India on October 14. Only two members from the current Pakistan squad have toured India for cricket Mohammad Nawaz and Salman



Rain delayed the start of the sprint race by close to an

the marque event at the Buddh

International Circuit here on

Martin, however, had predicted the scenario after Saturday's practice sessions. "First lap at the sprint will be interesting," he commented.

Turn one is a really tight corner. It looks a bit wider. The first gear corner we arrive is not easy. It's difficult to find the reference, maybe I found mine so I'm quite confident," he added.

And it turned out as he predicted. Starting number one on the grid, Bezzecchi's teammate Luca Marini's erroneous



braking on Turn 1, pushed the others out of the race. Italian off the track, and five

pushed down to the 17th posi-While Bezzecchi was tion, Martin sped away main-

taining the lead throughout the sprint.
"I didn't need to put my

100% today. I was just trying to concentrate on the turn. My main target was to increase the gap and understand the conditions. We have some margin to row," Martin said after winning the sprint.

Martin, who is second in the championship, took 12 points for the sprint while leader Francesco Bagnaia finished second with nine points and eight-time world champion Marc Marquez rode to third spot on the podium. This was Marquez's second podium of the season.

However, it was Bezzecchi who defined the exhilarating speed associated with the sport. He rode like there was no tomorrow.

From being pushed to 17th on the opening lap, he was fighting for the fifth place on lap 10. He successfully pipped Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo for the position.

Gambhir picks Babar as best player for World Cup

PNS NEW DELHI

 $F^{ormer\ India\ cricketer\ Gautam}_{Gambhir\ picks\ Pakistan\ captain}$ Babar Azam over Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and David Warner for the upcoming ODI World Cup which will start from October 5 in India. LSG mentor also reckoned that Babar Azam has a different level of quality. In the recent outing against

India in the Asia Cup 2023 Super Four clash Babar Azam was unable to fire runs from his bat he just scored 10 runs and Pakistan lost that match by a huge margin of 228 Gambhir reckons that Babar

out in the upcoming tournament. "Babar Azam. I mean Babar Azam has the quality that he can set this World Cup on fire. And I



have seen very few players who have so much time to bat. And I believe that Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, David Warner, Kane Williamson, Joe Root, but Babar Azam has a different level of qual-

ity" said Gambir on Star Sports. The first match of ODI World Cup 2023 will be played between defending champion England and New Zealand at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

I love to put myself in challenging situations: KL Rahul

PNS MOHALI

Tndia's stand-in captain KL Rahul believes it is always good to put himself in "challenging situations", especially after returning from a

long injury lay-off. Leading the side in the first two ODIs against Australia in absence of Rohit Sharma, Rahul struck an unbeaten 58 as India won by five wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match dress rehearsal

series before the World Cup. "Not the first time, always happens with me. I'm used to it, I love it," Rahul said about leading the side in place of regular skipper Rohit Sharma

"I think the intensity in the afternoon was great, after Colombo this felt like heaven at the start but it was really hot and humid. It gets tough and physically challenging, but we've all worked on our fitness and that's showing on the

Rahul said it was imperative to build a partnership with Suryakumar Yadav (50) once set Shubman Gill (74) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (71) departed.

"After Shubman got out, it was a bit tricky with the set batter out. But managed to build a good partnership with Surya, need to put heat you feel like bowling 4-5 overs

myself in such challenging situa-

"We kept talking about hitting good cricket shots, rotating the strike and this is something all our batters are working on. We didn't want to get bogged down, we were always on par so we wanted to take it deep," he said.

Man-of-the-match Mohammed Shami, who returned with brilliant 5 for 51, felt good after bowling his full quota of 10 overs on Friday in hot and humid con-

"It depends on the captain and the game situation, but despite the



with the new ball," Shami said of bowling longer spells in the sultry conditions.

"I enjoyed the wicket of Marsh, that's a different feeling when you get the outside edge, when you control your swing nicely. It was important to hit the right lengths on this wicket, either at full pace or go slow, but bowling the right lengths were key," he said.

Australia captain Pat Cummins said it was not an overall performance from his injuryridden side but hoped the series would help them to build a good rhythm in the run-up to the ODI World Cup starting in India next

"Personally, happy to be back. Good to get my first game in India. A few guys batted well, few guys bowled well but overall not good enough.
"(On injuries) They'd proba-

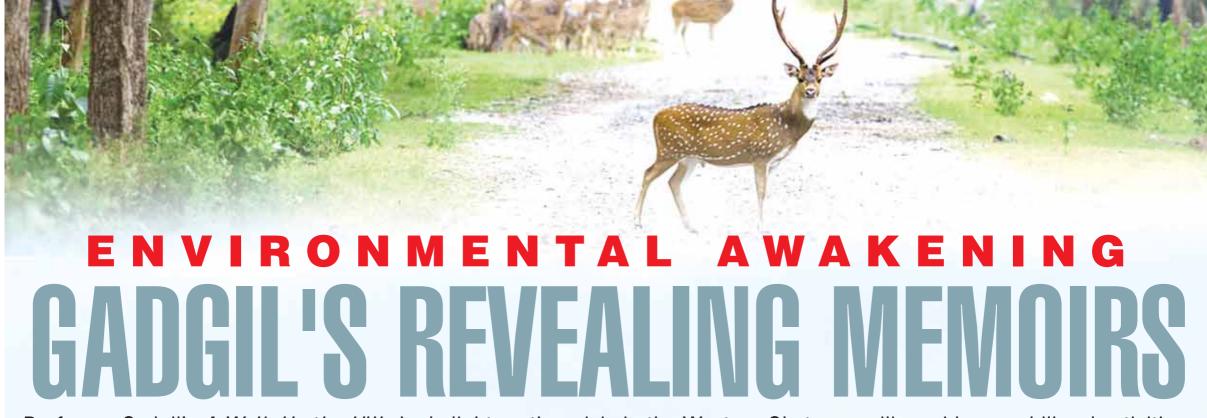
bly not be ready for the second game, maybe the third game. Maxi (Glenn Maxwell) has just arrived in India. (Steve) Smith's first hit as well, and Davey (David Warner) was brilliant," he said.

"Good to see them out there together. We've got one eye on the big tournament, but you want to set the standards early and build a good rhythm," he added.

a Common the pioneer of the pioneer

"I just don't really believe in mistakes and worst choices. Everything I have done and not done has made me who I am"





Professor Gadgil's *A Walk Up the Hill* sheds light on the crisis in the Western Ghats, unveiling widespread illegal activities, and conflicts between the Church and political entities, writes **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**

he memoir, "A Walk Up the Hill," authored by Professor Madhav Gadgil, a distinguished environmental scientist who headed the government-appointed Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), is poised to make a significant impact in India. The WGEEP was established by the Central Government through an order dated March 4, 2010.

The panel's mandate included assessing the current ecological status of the Western Ghats region, demarcating areas within the Western Ghats region in need of designation as ecologically sensitive, and recommending the notification of such areas as Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs) under the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986. Additionally, the panel was tasked with making recommendations for the conservation, protection, and rejuvenation of the Western Ghats region, following a comprehensive consultation process involving the people and governments of all concerned states.

The report by the Gadgil committee was presented to then Union Minister for Environment and Forest Jairam Ramesh on August 30, 2011. This, in itself, was a rare event, as a committee usually submits its final report years after it was constituted, availing as many extensions as possible so that the head of the panel and members could continue receiving funds indefinitely.

Though Prof Gadgil was told that the WGEEP report would be made public on September 21, it was not to be. The Government had a change of heart, and the panel members were instructed not to discuss the contents with the public or the media. The Delhi High Court had to intervene to make the report public, and the Ministry for Environment and Forest uploaded it on its website.

The reasons behind the ministry's initial opposition to releasing the report were numerous. What the Gadgil committee members witnessed during their studies across the Western Ghats was shocking. A cabal of private industrialists, contractors, and elected

representatives of the

people were involved in

plundering the ecologically fragile
Western Ghats, despite the resistance of
both the local population and the local
self-governments. Although the
Constitution of India demands that no
industrialisation or commercial
exploitation of ecologically and
environmentally sensitive regions
should be undertaken without
obtaining green clearance from the
local population and the Gram Sabhas,
these laws were blatantly violated by
politicians, religious leaders, and
contractors whose sole ambition was to
make more money without making any

The Western Ghats, the mountain chain running parallel to the west coast of the Indian peninsula, covers an area of 1,60,000 sq km over a stretch of 1,600 km spanning across the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. All over the world, such mountains, endowed as they are with high levels of environmental heterogeneity, are treasure troves of natural diversity. In the Western Ghats, the annual rainfall ranges from as much as 8000 mm in the southwestern corner of upper Nilgiris to a mere 500 mm in the Moyar gorge just 30 km to its east... The Western Ghats are no ordinary biome. They constitute the water tower of peninsular India, providing water to 245 million people and draining a large part of the country's land surface,"

writes Gadgil.

The studies conducted by Gadgil and other ecologists have confirmed the fact that Western Ghats have become an ecological hotspot. Only 7 per cent of the Ghat's primary vegetation has survived and it has 51 critically endangered species. Climate change will cause further stress.

Observations and inferences made by Gadgil and others have proved to be true as the entire area that comes under the shadow of the Ghats experience unexpected torrential downpour, landslides and even dry spell lasting

The verdant forests and greenery of the region have given way to barren lands. Unabated felling of trees and uncontrolled mining and quarrying have taken its toll as the forest and mining mafia have taken control of the entire stretch. Readers may be remembering forest brigand



THE SHOCKING DISCLOSURES MADE BY THE ECOLOGIST ARE WHAT HE CAME ACROSS IN THE WESTERN GHATS. THE FORESTS, RIVERS. **MOUNTAINS AND** VALLEYS ARE ON DEATHBED AND ARE ON LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS. THE WESTERN GHATS HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED TO THE HILT BY THE MINING AND TIMBER MAFIA. THE REGION COULD NOT WITHSTAND ANY MORE INVASIONS ON ITS **ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY**

Veerappan kidnapping Kannada matinee idol Rajkumar to the Sathyamangalam forests in Tamil Nadu. The reason for the kidnapping was the turf war between various mafia groups engaged in looting the forest wealth, including exotic trees and mining of costly granites from the reserve forests in the Ghats, though Gadgil has steered clear from this part.

The shocking disclosures made by the ecologist are what he came across in the Western Ghats. The forests, rivers, mountains and valleys are on deathbed and are on life support systems. The Western Ghats have been exploited to the hilt by the mining and timber mafia. The region could not withstand any more invasions on its environment and ecology. The WGEEP committee, after a series of brainstorming sessions, suggested to the government that enough was enough and it was time to put a full stop to mining activities and tree felling. Some of the crucial recommendations made by Gadgil and his colleagues include no special economic zones, no new hill stations, rescheduling reservoir operations to improve downstream flows, participatory sand auditing and strict regulation of sand mining, rehabilitation of mined areas with special focus on reviving water resources, promoting organic agricultural practices and precision agricultural practices, strictly controlling use of dynamite and other explosives to kill fish, no mining in areas demarcated as Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ1), where mining exists it should be phased out in five years, by 2016 illegal mining to be stopped immediately, etc. The report was submitted to then minister Jairam Ramesh.

The UPA governments began its hide and seek game with the Gadgil committee report and it refused to divulge the details of the same. The Delhi High Court intervention made the ministry upload the report on

reacted as if it had seen red despite the fact that it remained a closely guarded secret. Then Bishop of Idukki Mathew Aanikuzhikkattil issued a laity message with instruction to read the same on weekly congregations. He said in the message that the attempt has a diabolic nature and has been conceived to evict the population from the forests. The bishop also alleged that the report if implemented would make hundreds of thousands of people staying in the region homeless and destitute. The campaign was of the same style as we saw in the aftermath of the Citizen Amendment Bill getting legislated in Parliament. A campaign was unleashed across southern India alleging that the Bill was an attempt to get rid of a particular community from India.

portal. But the report caused an

earthquake in Kerala. The church

Jolted by the stance of the church, the then Kerala Government p resolution in the Assembly condemning the Gadgil committee report. Though Gadgil was a fellow traveller, his comrades in the State had no qualms in lambasting the report. The resentment by the church led the Centre to appoint a committee headed by space scientist Kasturirangan to study the viability and feasibility of the Gadgil report. Kasturirangan did what he was asked to do and the story ended there. The Western Ghats continue its downward slide without any interruption. The man-animal conflict has become a regular event in the region as elephants, leopards and tigers come out of the forests in search of drinking water and a square meal which would sustain their lives. Who cares?

Even as Gadgil recounts his Western Ghats odyssey, another equally important study from Chennai-based CPR Environment Research Centre led by Dr Nanditha Krishna has more shocking disclosures to make. Sacred groves across India, home to local flora and fauna and mini biosphere reserves have shrunk and most of them have disappeared altogether from the face of the earth. "Sacred groves represent an ancient Indian conservation tradition protected by local people out of reverence, respect and fear. These untouched patches of forest contain some endangered rare and threatened medicinal plant species. The rural folk conserve and preserve species diversity that are the last remnants of native vegetation," explained Dr Nanditha Krishna, the first winner of Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskaar for her relentless campaign against destruction of sacred groves which are known as Swami Shola, Koil Kadu in Tamil Nadu, Pavithra Vanam in Andhra Pradesh, Kavu in Kerala, Mawflong in Assam and Meghalaya, Mangaoon in Nestern Ghats. Dev Vana in MP and Karnataka.

This is a unique conservation style which makes use of religion and tradition to preserve ecology as a natural heritage. Wherever there are sacred groves, they are adored as spiritual retreat. Before concluding, let me draw readers attention to what SK Pottekat, the legendary travelogue writer, wrote in 1955 about his experience in Finland. "Pine trees are the main source of income for European countries. When one cuts down a pine tree, he has to convince the authorities that six pine saplings have been planted." Did we have such laws in India at any time?

(The writer is special correspondent, The Pioneer)



LOW-INCOME NATIONS ILL-EQUIPPED FOR CVD FIGHT'

Even as cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) such as stroke, diabetes and hypertension are claiming millions of people prematurely every year, most healthcare facilities in many Low-and Middle-income Countries (LMICs) are unprepared to treat such patients, says a study. It comes as a wakeup call for India which is already facing burgeoning CVDs epidemic, reports ARCHANA JYOTI

lobally, nearly 18 million premature deaths in 2019 were due to CVD, of which 75 per cent were in LMICs, where they are leading causes of death and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in adults. Diabetes and hypertension are key risk factors for CVD and amongst the top three risk factors for deaths and disability, globally.

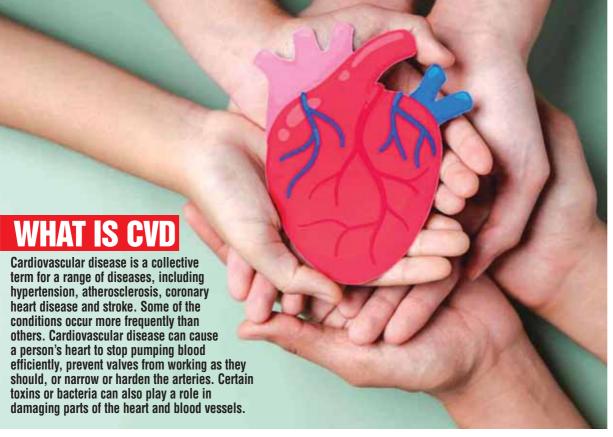
Publishing their findings recently in PLOS Global Public Health, an international team of researchers led by the University of Birmingham, looked at readiness to provide care for HIV or in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Haiti, Malawi, Nepal, Senegal, and

They discovered that most facilities are unprepared to deliver services to treat or manage cardiovascular disease risk factors (CVDRF) such as diabetes and hypertension.

However, the increased investment in facilities to treat HIV - received as part of the drive to meet UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets - may form part of a solution to tackle CVDRFs, which have been relatively neglected in terms of receiving global funding and attention. The study authors found that if facilities are able to provide HIV care, they are much more able to supply care for CVDRFs.

They found that despite UN targets to reduce CVDRF, facilities were significantly less ready to provide CVDRF care than HIV care, even though despite years of investment in HIV, facilities were often not ready to fully provide care for

Lead author Professor University of Birmingham, commented: "We've had global targets to reduce burden of CVDRFs since 2011, but tackling the problem requires healthcare services to have all the ingredients to care for patients vide healthcare for people with



- including staff, facilities, medicines, or equipment.

"Given the long-term financial investment and advocacy for HIV, we looked to see what readiness to provide care could be achieved with good longterm investment. We then compared readiness for CVD care with that of HIV care. We found that, despite years of investment in HIV, facilities were often not ready to fully provide care. But we found that the situation for CVD was far

Neil Cockburn, another lead author on the paper from the University of Birmingham, commented: "There needs to be a large scale up of investment to ensure facilities are ready to pro-

CVDRF if global targets are to

"Our findings provide policy makers, funders, and researchers evidence of where there are gaps in service provision which need to be filled to enable achievement of current global health goals."

The researchers found that in individual countries, readiness across all healthcare facilities to handle CVDRF was generally lower than for HIV. There were consistently weakand medicines. Lack of readiness of facilities to provide CVDRF care in rural and primary care facilities threatens SDG 3.8 to provide high quality universal

According to health experts, essential package of interven-

high blood pressure, air pollution, tobacco use, and elevated LDL cholesterol are among the leading contributors to CVD

Yet another study published in PLOS One, has called for a multifaceted approach to prevention that includes fiscal, inter-sectoral, public health and health-service level interventions at all—primordial, primary, secondary as well as tertiary—levels.

"Several interventions have low-to-middle income countries and have shown to improve the CVD burden in a cost-effective manner. For example, the Disease Control Priorities report of the World Bank enlists an tions that can prove beneficial," say the authors.

Some of the interventions enlisted include taxation on tobacco and sugar-sweetened beverages, regulations on processed and salt-rich food, ban on trans-fatty acids, improvements in built environment and introduction of school health programs to encourage physical activity, task-sharing or task shifting in cardiac care, improving screening activities and better use of combination

In India too, the situation is grim. The Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology (APSC) recently published a report revealing that heart failure alone leads to 1.8 million hospitalisations each

Experts have been calling to tighten the noose around the companies marketing highly processed food which are mostly responsible for a spike in CVD with kids also being impacted.

For instance, a report, titled 'THE JUNK PUSH: Rising Ultra-processed Food Consumption in India -Policy, Politics and Reality', has recommended stronger policies to protect children from the harmful impact of food marketing.

Most of the products

analysed as part of the study are widely consumed brands mainly targeted at children. These included packaged products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) or ultra-processed foods (UPF), such as chips, cookies, sweets, soft beverages, instant noodles, sugary cereals, frozen meals, ice cream, bakery items, and choco-

According to the document, their advertisements were found to be in violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, with some of them even violating the Food Standard and Safety Act, 2006, as they hid crucial information related to nutrients of concern.

"None of the legal frameworks or guidelines in India has the potential to stop most of the misleading advertisements of prepackaged junk or HFSS foods, or to ban misleading claims or warn people about the risks to health," said Dr Arun Gupta from Delhi-based nutrition think tank Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPi) which has prepared the

He said that cardiovascular disease risk factors starting in childhood have important of life, health care costs and societal costs across the whole life course. Facing challenges with resources, it is time to work on prevention rather than waiting to be cured, Dr Gupta said mat-

tain mutated tau particularly

prone to tangling — as is the

case in genetic tauopathies —

stress granules can kickstart

the aggregation process by

get this stress-induced pro-

tein-aggregation pathway,

maybe we can inhibit the devel-

opment of tau pathology,"

'If we could somehow tar-

concentrating tau.

Bĥagat said.

HEALTH BRIEFS

CADILA PHARMA PHASE I CLINICAL TRIAL FOR CHICKEN POX SHOT: SEC **RECOMMENDS NOD FOR TRIAL**

posals and advises the Drugs Controller General (India) in matters for biologicals and post approval change proposals, has recommended granting nod to Gujarat-Pharmaceuticals to conduct phase I clinical trial for its

chicken pox vaccine. The decision was taken in a recent meeting last month of the SEC after the company submitted a revised phase I clinical trial protocol for grant of permission to conduct the trial for Varicella-Zoster Virus

(VZV) vaccine.

The pharma firm had earlier submitted its proposal for grant of permission to conduct Phase I clinical trial of its Varicella-Zoster virus (VZV) vaccine along with preclinical data and it was considered in a SEC meeting held on May 16.

The SEC, during then, after detailed deliberation

The Subject Expert recommended that the company should submit single dose toxicity data as per the pany should submit single dose toxicity data as per the provisions of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules,

Further, it recommended, the firm should revise the phase I clinical trial protocol with some changes such as the volume of blood to be withdrawn for analysis should be reduced.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Varicella (chickenpox) is an acute, highly contagious disease caused by varicella-zoster virus (VZV), a member of the herpesvirus

family.

"Only one serotype of and humans are the only reservoir. Following infection, the virus remains latent in neural ganglia and in about 10-20% of cases it is reactivated to cause herpes zoster, or shingles, generally in persons over 50 years of age or immunocompromised individuals," it said.

THIS ROBOT CAN NAVIGATE LIVING LUNG TISSUE TO DETECT TUMOR

Scientists from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Vanderbilt University in the US have developed a robot that can autonomously traverse human lungs, enabling physicians to reach tumours that are extremely small and hide deep within

The robot with an autonomous steerable needle can go from "Point A" to "Point B" while avoiding important structures, such as tiny airways and blood vessels, in a living laboratory model.

"This technology allows us to reach targets we can't otherwise reach with a standard or even robotic bronchoscope," said Jason Akulian, from the UNC Department of Medicine. "It gives you that extra few centimeters or a few millimeters even, which would help immensely with pursuing small targets in the lungs," he added.

The robot, detailed in the journal Science Robotics, is made of several separate components. A mechanical control provides controlled thrust of the needle to go forward and backward and the needle design allows for steering along curved paths. The needle is made from a nickel-titanium alloy and has been laser etched to increase its flexi-

QCI CALLS FOR HEALTHCARE QUALITY **INTERVENTIONS IN RURAL AREAS**

The Quality Council of India (QCI) has highlighted the importance of initiating healthcare quality interventions in rural areas and tier 2 and tier 3 cities with Accreditation Standards for Hospitals among others.

In order to achieve the goal of patient safety, the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) has recently released new standards including 1st Edition of Digital Health Accreditation Standards for Hospitals, Entry Level Certification Standards for Dental Clinics, Care Home Accreditation Standards and 3rd Edition of Accreditation Standards for Dental Service Providers among others to ensure patient safety at the grassroots level.

The NABH is a constituent board of QCI, set up to establish and operate accreditation programmes for healthcare organisations.

Jaxay Shah, chairpercaid that quality change begins at the very foundation of our healthcare system, not limited to only metropolitan cities but also in the rural and tier 2 and tier 3 cities of India."

Dr RP Singh, secretary general, QCI said, "Recognizing the profound significance of quality and well-being of patients, a robust quality ecosystem in healthcare is not only crucial for elevating our healthcare industry but also for positioning it firmly on the global

map.
Dr. Atul Mohan Kochhar, CEO, NABH emphasized on the intricate link between technology and patient safety.

NEUBERG DIAGNOSTIC STRENGTHENS ITS POSITION IN SECTOR

Neuberg Diagnostics Diagnostics' position as a Private Limited, a frontrunner in the diagnosprominent player in the diagnostics sector with a global presence, has announced the successful merger of Neuberg Supratech Reference Laboratory, Ahmedabad, and Neuberg Anand Reference Laboratory, Bangalore, into Neuberg Diagnostics Private Limited. This merger has been facilitated through an NCLT court-based process, further solidifying Neuberg

frontrunner in the diagnostic industry.
Dr GSK Velu, chairman

and managing director of Neuberg Diagnostics said, "The merger marks a significant step forward in our journey to provide unparalleled healthcare solutions. By integrating these renowned laboratories, we reinforce our commitment to delivering excellence in diagnostics and patient care."

TECHEAGLE, AIIM JODHPUR BID TO **REACHOUT TO TRIBALS**

TechEagle, India's leading drone delivery company, announces partnership with AIIMS Jodhpur to deliver healthcare essentials for the tribal population. Its state-of-the-art, hybrid e-VTOL Drone, Vertiplane X3 took off for its maiden flight from Sirohi carrying medicines to Waloriya, a location habited by the tribal population. AIIMS, Jodhpur is recognised as a "Centre of Excellence

(COE) for Tribal Health" by the Union Ministry of Tribal

Vikram Singh Meena, founder & CEO of TechEagle said, "Time is the most crucial dimension when we talk about emergency healthcare as every second is important in such a scenario and by deploying innovative solutions such as drones a lot of time could be saved and in turn lives.'

DECODED: How toxic proteins accumulate in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's?

When Tau protein -- part of the brain's infrastructure -- gets knotted up into tangles, it turns toxic to injure brain tissue, causing tauopathies, a group of neurodegenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other brain diseases, researchers have found. The HEALTH PIONEER shares the findings published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry

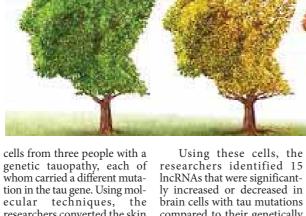
nder normal circumstances, tau protein is part of the brain's infrastructure, important for stabilizing neurons into their proper shapes. But sometimes tau gets knotted up into tangles and turns toxic, injuring brain tissue and causing tauopathies, a group of brain diseases characterized by problems with learning, memory and movement. Alzheimer's disease is the most common tauopathy, but the group also includes Parkinson's disease, chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and several rare genetic conditions.

In search of ways to prevent these destructive tau tangles, researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have identified a key step in their development. Intervening at this step potentially could forestall the destructive cascade of events that results in brain damage, the researchers said. The findings are published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry.

'Tauopathies are devastating diseases that have limited treatment options right now, and they all have this feature of tau aggregation," said senior author Celeste Karch, PhD, a professor of psychiatry. "We've been thinking for a long time about whether there are factors that impact that common process of tau aggregation and if so, whether we could target those factors as a novel approach to treatment. These findings move us one step closer to finding a way to intervene and stop the process of tau aggregation that leads to First author Reshma

Bhagat, PhD, a postdoctoral researcher, came up with the idea of looking for such factors among a group of RNA molecules known as long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) that are not translated into proteins. Historically, RNA has not been considered an active element in biological processes, and most disease research has not focused on them. Only in the past decade have scientists recognized that these RNA molecules can play critical roles in disease processes. Bhagat became interested in lncRNAs because they are involved in regulating diverse cellular processes and have been implicated in cancers.

To investigate the role of lncRNAs in tauopathies, the researchers started with skin



genetic tauopathy, each of whom carried a different mutation in the tau gene. Using molecular techniques, the researchers converted the skin cells into brain neurons that carry each of the three mutations. For comparison, they used a molecular technique known as CRISPR to correct the mutations in some of the skin cells before converting them into neurons. In this way, they were able to obtain human brain cells with and without tau mutations, which didn't require using human

researchers identified 15 lncRNAs that were significantly increased or decreased in brain cells with tau mutations compared to their genetically matched controls. One lncRNA in particular stood out: SNHG8, which was low not only in the three human brain cells with tau mutations but also in mice with a tau mutation and in brain samples from people who had died of any of three different tauopathies: Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal lobar degeneration with tau pathology, or progressive supranuclear palsy. In other words, SNHG8 levels were down in tauopathies regardless of mutation, species or disease all signs that point to its role in a common pathological process. Further investigation

revealed that neurons with low SNHG8 levels also had high levels of stress granules, RNA-protein complexes that form to help cells survive stressful situations such as excessive heat or low oxygen and disintegrate once the threat passes. Stress granules are rich in tau, and therein lies the danger. If too many stress granules form or if they con-

Bhagat went back to the human neurons with tau mutations, the ones she had developed out of skin cells from tauopathy patients. These cells exhibited persistently low levels of SNHG8 and high levels of stress granules. By replacing

the missing SNHG8, she was able to bring down the levels of stress granules in such cells. "That's really the killer experiment," Karch said. "That shows that lncRNAs are impacting stress granule formation and that this pathway can be targeted to treat, poten-

tially, a variety of tauopathies." Bhagat, Karch and colleagues are working on identifying compounds that can shore up SNHG8 levels and looking at the effects of such compounds in animal models of tau aggregation and tauopathy.

The rise of Sikh

Khalistan terror: Globalised 21st century challenge

he rise of Sikh ethnonationalism in the 1980s posed a threat to India's territorial integrity. Since then, it has transcended the borders of India. The way the 21st-century Khalistan movement is shaped and propagated to its followers is markedly different from the violent upsurge of the 1980s. It is much more globalised now. While hardcore advocates like Amritpal Singh have followed in the footsteps of the Bhindranwale cult, the worldwide network of Khalistani sympathisers has provided the movement with an easier source of sustenance than in the past.

The history of Khalistan lies in the roots of Sikhism. The revered Sikh religion was founded by Guru Nanak in Punjab in the 15th century. It boasts more than 25 million followers worldwide, with Sikhs constituting a minority group in India, making up less than 2 per cent of the country's total population of 1.4 billion today. However, they are a majority in their home State of Punjab.

The word "Khalistan" signifies the establishment of an ethno-religious sovereign state for the Sikhs, referred to as the land of the Khalsa. This is defined as the "land of the pure." Additionally, Khalsa encompasses both a community of believers who consider Sikhism their faith and a group of initiated Sikhs. Devout orthodox Sikhs are ritually admitted to this community upon reaching puberty. The very concept of Khalsa was established by the tenth Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh, in the

However, the demand for the establishment of Khalistan is a relatively recent development, originating during the period of British colonialism in India. It primarily emerged in the Punjab region. Some proponents of Khalistan assert that their envisioned state encompasses the current Punjab State, while others advocate for the inclusion of the Punjab region in Pakistan, along with a demand to incorporate other significant neighbouring states such as Harvana, Himachal Pradesh, and the

Chandigarh region. Furthermore, Shimla and Lahore are considered the two otential capitals of Khalistan. The original call for the formation of Khalistan was, in fact, a response to the Pakistan Resolution of 1940. This resolution, also known as the Lahore Resolution, was authored and prepared by Muhammad Zafarullah Khan and ratified by the All India



Muslim League on March 23, 1940. The term "Khalistan" was first coined by Dr VS Bhatti to signify an independent Sikh State in March 1940.

The primary objective behind the Khalistan demand was to secure better representation for Sikhs in political institutions and to establish a homeland for the community. After the partition of India in 1947, the Sikhs were deeply affected as Punjab was divided into two parts — one remained with India and the other with Pakistan. This further fueled the demand for a Sikh home-

The Canadian connection to the Khalistan movement is longstanding. The current controversy surrounding Khalistan has strained the relationship between India and Canada, particularly after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated in Canada's Parliament that there were credible allegations linking Indian Government agents to the June murder of the Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The country. Indian Government promptly Trudeau is attempting to avoid openly addressing the issue of dance of evidence pointing to

the growing Khalistan movement in Canada.

India has repeatedly accused Canada of continuously supporting the Khalistan movement, which is banned in India. However, this movement enjoys widespread popularity among a substantial section of Sikhs worldwide.

What Trudeau is doing today amounts to nothing more than resorting to vote bank politics in Canada. According to Indian estimates, nearly 8,000-9,000 Khalistani radicals exert influence over approximately 15 gurdwaras, using them as centres for fundraising and garnering support for political parties in Canada. Their primary sphere of influence lies in political mobilisation in Brampton, Ontario, as well as Vancouver and Surrey in British Columbia. Instead, Trudeau should have recognised the gravity of the situation and cooperated with the Indian Government in expelling all Khalistani activists from his

The day will come when denied any involvement in they may pose a potential secu-Nijjar's killing. It is evident that rity threat to Trudeau's fellow citizens. There is an abun-

the growth of Sikh militancy in Canada. In June 2020, Indian intelligence agencies issued a warning that criminal gangs based in Canada, comprising Indian expatriates from Punjab, including Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), are directly providing funding to the Khalistanis. The infamous Dhaliwal and Grewal gangs, operating in the British Columbia Province and involved in a drug-trafficking

network, have connections to

Gurpatwant Singh Pannu of the

SFJ. Additionally, another noto-

rious syndicate called the

Brother's Keepers of Vancouver has been linked to these gangs. Furthermore, the SFJ is establishing close links with the Pakistani establishment and agencies in order to reignite the Khalistan movement. It is reported that the SFJ is diligently working to organise a referendum for self-determination on the issue of Khalistan. Canadian authorities must take note that SFJ activists in Puniab and the Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh are consis-

that country. Pannun has issued a threat to Indo-Canadian Hindus, urging them to leave Canada and

tently receiving substantial

funds from gangs based in

return to India. In a public video message, he stated, "Indo-Canadian Hindus, you have renounced your allegiance to Canada and the Canadian Constitution. Your destination is India. Leave Canada and go

This has sparked another diplomatic dispute between India and Canada. This will result in significant economic losses for both nations. Moreover, the expulsion of diplomatic staff from both sides, along with visa restrictions, will only lead to a severe strain in their bilateral relations.

"While there is currently no active insurgency in Punjab, there has been ongoing support for the Khalistan movement in the State. Consequently, successive Central governments issued repeated warnings about Khalistanis attempting a resurgence and seeking to influence the youth of Punjab.

Moreover, Puniab's political instability, fueled by infighting within the Congress and the rise of the Aam Aadmi Party to power, has created an environment where neighbouring Pakistan, its state agencies, and Sikh extremist factions based in Canada have been relentless in their efforts Oberoi, 'From Punjab to

India's healthcare in uncertain times

to destabilise Punjab in recent

The warning issued by Ganga Singh Dhillon was stark: We are not seeking just a piece of land. We are looking for a territory where Sikhs can safeguard their women and children. Where a Sikh can determine his own destiny — where our religious shrines are not subject to being overrun by army tanks. You can call it an independent Punjab, a sovereign state, or Khalistan. What we are requesting is a homeland for the Sikh nation" ('Give us Khalistan and leave us in peace,' The Illustrated Weekly of *India*, July 21, 1985).

However, Harjot strongly contends that the emotional attachment with Punjab among Sikhs is relatively recent and does not trace back to the early days of the Sikh community as some Khalistan ideologues might assert today. It is the convergence of history and geography, discourse and space, territoriality and metacommentaries that has transformed Punjab into Khalistan. Both Punjab and Khalistan are human-made constructs, and there is nothing inherently natural about them (Harjot S

Khalistan: Territoriality and Metacommentary, Pacific Affairs, Spring 1987)

Answers to these underlying currents are not very difficult to find in a globalised world. We are all part of a flat world where identities and cultural insignia are often overshadowed by economic desires, in contrast to what we experienced in a pre-globalised era. Migration has become a way of life. As more and more Sikhs migrated abroad, particularly to the US, the UK, and Canada for a better life, these extremist elements started relying on this extensive diaspora for their sustenance.

Back in India, all these groups are banned, and authorities are closely monitoring their activities and local connections. Consequently, they have found Canada to be a favourable ground for promoting and motivating many youths to support their agenda. For a long time, Khalistanis have been organising against India in Canada, and successive administrations in Ottawa are well aware of this.

Trudeau should not have aligned himself with one of the banned terror groups in India. He is well aware that he is on the wrong side. These Khalistanis have no allegiances; they simply want to keep their agenda alive so that their supporters and sympathisers remain intact for the long run.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended a helping hand to Trudeau, and he should have responded by taking decisive action to eradicate these criminal gangs from Canadian soil altogether.

We all must understand that terrorists recognise no religion or boundaries. They are enemies of civil society and universally recognised liberties of modern society. They stand against peace and humanity. As two democracies, India and Canada must join forces in the fight against Khalistanis. It is now time to prevent them from spreading their agenda and destabilising peace in both countries. The resurgence of the Khalistani movement is a warning signal for both Punjab and all of India. This must be addressed with a superior security and intelligence strategy and network. Undoubtedly, Delhi today possesses much stronger anti-terror infrastructure and more robust leadership than it did in the 1980s to deal with Bhindranwale-like symptoms.

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research Foundation)

ethno-nationalism in the 1980s threatened India's integrity. Today's Khalistan movement is more globalised, with a worldwide network of sympathisers. Khalistan movement has ties to Canada, straining India-Canada relations. Khalistanis aim to influence Sikh youth in Punjab. Addressing this threat requires a robust security and intelligence approach. It is imperative for India and Canada to collaborate against terrorism, transcending boundaries and religions.



MAKHAN SAIKIA

out any capping.

waiting period.

insured.

11) Automatic unlimited

12) Covid-19, Ayush treat-

13) Ideally claim settle-

14) No Co-payment clause

Given the substantial cost

of healthcare in India, the inclu-

sion of health insurance is an

essential element in individual

financial strategising. Health

insurance provides individuals

and families with a sense of

security by safeguarding them

from the economic strain

recharge or restoration benefits

should be there for unrelated or

the same illness without any

ments, domiciliary hospitali-

sation and organ donor cover

should be there up to sum

ment should be done within 30

days of last document submis-

sion to the hospital or insured

by the insurance company.

should be there.

PERSPECTIVE -

vital, especially Throughout the Covid-19 viduals and their families. In contemporary society, posduring unpredictable loss of their loved ones, and a significant portion of them also had the dual burden of losing both loved ones and financial resources while their hospitalisation for treatment. There exists a well-known adage that posits food, clothing, and shelter as the fundamental necessities of human existence. However, it is crucial to healthcare acknowledge an additional eleaccessibility through



While it is indeed accurate that money cannot purchase life itself, it can provide assistance in navigating challenging circumstances for both indi-

ment that is often overlooked

experienced the unfortunate sessing a robust health insurance coverage is imperative due to the prevailing uncertainties. It is a cornerstone of personal financial planning, encompassing an individual's comprehensive financial inflows and outflows. A significant portion of the

population lacks awareness regarding medical inflation, of medical inflation, which is the highest form of inflation. Specifically, it compounds at an annual rate of 15 per cent. This implies that a medical treatment currently priced at ₹10,00,000 will escalate to ₹40,00,000 over a period of ten years. Therefore, one may comprehend the significance of ossessing a comprehensive health insurance policy.

Undoubtedly, India's healthcare infrastructure has shown significant progress in recent years. In order to provide universal access to healthcare services for all citizens inside the nation, the government has implemented various measures. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-



public health insurance schemes. RSBY was established in 2008 to offer those living in poverty access to health insurance. The scheme has now been combined with the 2018born AB-PMJAY. This programme was created to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its overarching promise to "leave no one

Aiming to cover 100 million households, or around 500 million individuals, nationwide with health insurance, is AB-PMJAY. As of April 2023, data from the National Health Authority shows that over 50 million hospitalisations under AB-PMJAY had been authorised, with a total cost exceeding ₹80,000 crore. Additionally, the programme has enrolled over 23,000 hos-

pitals nationwide, which offer There are some crucial factors beneficiaries a wide range of medical services.

As of March 2022, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) reported 62 non-life insurance companies in operation, with 29 offering health insurance products. In addition, the country possessed a total of six autonomous health insurance carriers.

According to data from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the health insurance market in India has experienced significant growth over a period of time. As of March 2022, health insurance companies had accumulated a total of INR 64,230 crores in premiums, reflecting a year-onyear growth of 15.2 per cent. During the corresponding time period, a total of 7.69 crore policies were successfully sold, indicating a growth rate of 12.6 per cent compared to the

previous year. In today's era, it is crucial for individuals to protect their families by obtaining comprehensive health insurance coverage to guard against unforeseen medical emergencies.

to take into consideration before to purchasing a health insurance policy:

1) The sum insured ideally should be 15 to 20 times of your annual income.

2) Purchase super top up policy along with base insurance policy to increase sum insured cover, once your base policy cover will exhaust then super top up will come into existence.

3) If you are a family person then go for family floater

4) Claim settlement ratio should be above 95 per cent. 5) High number of net-

work hospitals with cashless treatment facilities. 6) Pre and post hospitali-

sation expenses should be cov-7) Less waiting period for

named ailment and pre-existing diseases. 8) No claim bonus or

cumulative bonus in case of claims also should be there. 9) No room rent capping

should be there in the policy. 10) Policy should have day care; in-patient care treatment,

caused by medical emergencies. This is made possible by the availability of many insurance plans and the benefits offered by insurance providers. (The writer is a Research

Fellow, Atal School of ICU cover and ambulance Management, Jawaharlal Nehru cover up to sum insured with-University (JNU), New Delhi)

times like the Covid-19 pandemic. It helps cover medical expenses and provides financial security. India has made progress in

Health insurance is

DIPANSHU NIJANANDI



GREAT MEN ARE THEY WHO SEE THAT SPIRITUAL IS STRONGER THAN ANY MATERIAL FORCE - THAT THOUGHTS **RULE THE WORLD** — RALPH WALDO EMERSON

September 24, 2023























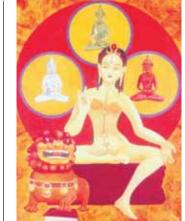




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week is bathed in the essence of renewal and vitality for you. You'll find yourself brimming with zeal, ready to tackle challenges that once seemed daunting. Ideas that have been simmering in your mind are now ready to evolve, igniting a creative fervor that will engage you throughout the week. The universe may present you with promising professional avenues, be it a role that aligns more with your passion or a deserved financial uplift. As the week unfolds, expect to be enchanted by a heartfelt gesture or proposal, leading to cherished moments with someone special. For some, the winds of change beckon, signaling a shift in personal or professional surroundings. Embrace the week's blessings in both love and career, for they hold the potential to reshape

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Teal Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your coffers are full, but so is your penchant for spending. You embrace life grandly, with every moment brimming with joy, satisfaction, and delight. As the week unfolds, you're propelled by aspirations, particularly in the realm of creativity. Engagements like shopping, social gatherings, and perhaps even plotting a leisurely journey or business expansion will keep you occupied. However, anticipate unexpected shifts around mid-week. Your generous spirit, coupled with your keen intuition, makes you attuned to the needs of others. Mystical studies and spiritual quests might captivate your attention. While you're diligent and exacting when addressing various matters, be wary of potential disagreements with those close to you. This week also presents an opportunity to invest in your intellectual growth, driven by a strong desire to refine and perfect your abilities

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Red Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

A harmonious and joyful ambiance is anticipated at home, where the embrace of familial love awaits. Those distanced from their families may find themselves returning to the fold, cherishing these moments of togetherness. Preparations for a significant event or gathering at home might be on the horizon, with family reunions, special occasions, and social engagements filling your schedule. Journeys, especially those related to work, promise to be rewarding and fulfilling. Your drive and laser-focused approach set you apart. As the week concludes, a potential air journey looms, or perhaps surprising news from abroad that works in your favor will delight you. The universe seems to be aligning in your favor, ushering in waves of

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

In the uncoming week, financial matters take center stage for you. Your focus sharpens on monetary affairs, be it recovering funds lent to friends or relatives, or delying into investments, loans, and credits. The idea of channeling resources into a new venture might captivate your thoughts, prompting you to strategize financial arrangements. As the week progresses, expect a surge in professional tasks. A significant role or duty, demanding both your time and expertise, will be entrusted to you. It's your unique qualifications and foundational skills that make you the chosen one for this task. While this recognition might stir envy among peers, remember that time is as invaluable as your talents. Embracing confidence in your capabilities not only elevates your professional stature but also cements your esteemed position in

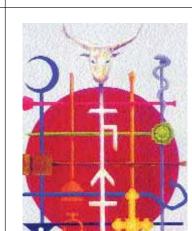
Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You find yourself tethered to bygone days, hindering your progress and causing you to overlook fresh prospects. Old adversaries continue to cast shadows, leading you to question your own capabilities. While certain things may have slipped away, hope still lingers. If recent times saw the end of a relationship, it's an opportunity to transform this setback into a leap forward. Adopting a 'glass is half full' mindset can liberate you from lingering regrets. It might also be beneficial to re-evaluate the expectations that brought about this sense of disillusionment. In understanding and addressing these feelings, you'll find a path to healing and self-assurance. Embracing the present moment and its myriad possibilities can be your guiding light.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Your presence will radiate leadership and influence, enabling you to accomplish tasks effectively. However, be cautious, as this might inadvertently upset others. A blend of selfassuredness and magnanimity enhances your allure, facilitating smoother operations. Overconfidence, stemming from personal achievements, can sometimes strain relationships. As the week progresses, a deluge of responsibilities, both professional and personal, might weigh on you. If you're considering expanding your family, the stars seem aligned. Matters related to property, be it acquisitions or home construction, will occupy your attention. You stand at the helm of various initiatives, from new projects to business ventures. Recognizing the value of time becomes paramount. With unwavering concentration, this period promises lucrative gains. The number 3 seems to resonate positively with your endeavors this week

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Sea Green Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, your dedication and perseverance bear fruit. You emerge triumphant in every endeavor, mastering challenges and molding them to your advantage. Your innate leadership qualities empower you to take charge and navigate situations with ease. A harmonious blend of physical vigor and mental resilience enhances your aura, making you shine distinctively. As the week draws to a close, anticipate uplifting news. A lucrative job offer might be on the horizon, or perhaps a long-awaited salary hike. There's also potential for unforeseen financial windfalls that will bring a smile to your face. Prepare vourself for a journey, perhaps related to your professional pursuits. Indeed, the week holds a bounty of blessings for you.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You possess immense wealth, not just in material terms but also in emotional depth. This affluence grants you influence and respect among peers and family. Your unwavering determination and zeal are commendable. The wisdon shared by an elder in the family will prove invaluable. As the week progresses, your financial gains will increase. Consider investing in noble endeavors during this phase. The prospect of a significant business venture or expansion looms large, with plans coming to fruition. An opportunity to participate in a seminar, lecture, or to be a distinguished quest at an event might present itself. Embrace the fresh prospects that unfold. However, there may be moments when you seek solitude, desiring a break from the whirlwind of activities to reflect in quietude

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Tangerine Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

The week commences with philanthropic endeavors, drawing you towards spiritual engagements. Financial concerns might preoccupy your thoughts. Whether it's executing monetary transactions or anticipating the return of lent funds, money remains central. You might find yourself approached for financial assistance, and your generous nature ensures you're there for those in need. However, by mid-week, potential misunderstandings regarding finances could unsettle you. Misplaced documents like account records or checkbooks point to a momentary lapse in attention. Insights from a close friend or partner will help you see things clearly. Your interests may lean towards the arts, encompassing cinema, theater, and poetry.. It's advisable to steer clear of excessive alcohol consumption, as equilibrium in life is best achieved through

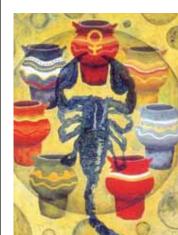
Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You need to harness your emotions! Your deep feelings and sensitivities are currently at the forefront, potentially leading to regrets about the past or unintended outbursts towards loved ones. To navigate these intense emotions, consider grounding practices. Meditation, yoga, and pranayama can offer solace, as can immersing yourself in uplifting literature. Remember, the past is behind you; reflecting on the present to illuminate a brighter future should be your focus this week. Embrace the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, showcasing your resilience and wisdom. Evading challenges isn't the answer Instead let ontimism and faith quide your path For this week, it might be wise to steer clear of the number eight in significant endeavors.

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Your mental fortitude is the driving force behind overcoming challenges. At your workplace, you might encounter obstacles, disagreements, and differing viewpoints. Succumbing to impatience can lead to disputes, disrupting harmony both professionally and personally. Thus, maintaining a calm and balanced mindset is crucial now. Pay attention to your wellbeing; issues like elevated blood pressure, emotional fluctuations, or for women, irregular menstrual cycles, might arise. As the week concludes, stay vigilant of rivals who might seek to undermine you. Navigating these challenges requires both resilience and introspection. Surrounding yourself with supportive individuals can bolster your spirit and provide clarity. Remember, every experience, even the trying ones, offers lessons that contribute to your personal and

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

The week begins on a challenging note, with potential discord from colleagues or family members. Unmet expectations or delays in your endeavors might lead to feelings of frustration. However, patience is key, as a shift in circumstances is on the horizon. An unexpected opportunity, one you've anticipated for a long time, might suddenly present itself. Seize it promptly before someone else does. Financially, this period is set to be prosperous, with significant inflows. Some might be tempted to indulge in luxury purchases. It's wise to steer clear of negative influences during this time, as they could lead to confusion or harm. Your spiritual strength acts as a protective shield against any adversities. Exercise caution in relationships and financial dealings.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Mustard Lucky day Thursday

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et us now move to the four successive steps of dhyana process, which begins with Pratyahara. It implies withdrawing the senses away from the external world and turn our attention inwards. The whole dhyana process is pursued in this very mode. It needs to be appreciated that all happenings out in open originate within one's mind. You visualise, ideate, discriminate, articulate, and then will upon to act. And the nature of any action is influenced by how each mind is inherently framed. You need to look within to figure out what lies in store of the inner realms of the mind. In the process, before the final desired destination is struck upon, one passes through various layers of mind that throw light on memory impressions picked up in the immediate and distant

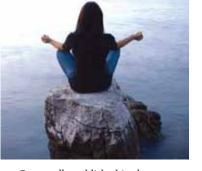
Going through the process, first comes to sight thought crowd gathered

up that relate to immediate past. Mind keeps flirting with them nonstop. Large majority of them are inconsequential and negative. They engage our attention in immediate terms. Also, persistent desires keep chasing us. Impressions of unpleasant experiences in the past keep alive hurt feelings, which keep disturbing our emotional frame of mind. In turn, they induce a sense of fear and insecurity about future. Mind remains so much occupied with these thoughts that it doesn't allow space necessary to process any fresh thought objectively. Mind, thus, remains unnerved and therefore becomes restive. But then, without becoming aware of them, it would not be possible to resolve and get disengaged from them. So, the first call is to get disengaged from that thought crowd with the help of fresh educative inputs. Denial does not help. Having thus disengaged oneself from the indwelling thought crowd which other-

wise keep hounding us from within, one feels unburdened and relaxed. Following

which, doors open to strike even still deeper layers of mind.

As we move deeper, one's true nature gets revealed – inherent vulnerabilities and workable part of indwelling potential - coming as they may as reflection of the Karmic imprints carried over from the past. We, thus, become aware of our inherent tendencies – desires, habits, likes & dislikes, prejudices & obsessions, virtues & attributes. Also, our indwelling potential. Accordingly, one could take necessary corrective initiatives to get over limitations of mind again through fresh educative inputs. Also, acknowledge the workable part of indwelling potential, hone them further, and make them worthy of being applied in contemporary terms. Even creative abilities could be further amplified by expanding one's reach through conscious efforts.



Dharana leads to Dhyana

Once well established in the process, step-by-step one could go deeper and deeper, and unravel memory impressions laid down even at unconscious level. Eventually, one may strike at the core of existence. One's true self then gets revealed. One then realises the unity underlying all diverse existences. That makes one rise above the sense of duality

and thereby relative perception. One's full potential of mind thus gets unfolded when it would know no limits.

Once mind gets interiorised, the next step is to develop Dharana. Here begins the dhyana process proper. It calls for training one's mind to remain focused to wherever attention is paid. It needs to be appreciated here that to get to the bottom of an issue in hand, or successfully make it to the desired destination, focused attention is necessary. To go about, one needs a concept to work upon, is what dharana literally stands for. That drives the process further. Concept involves thought. You may reflect upon a thought but can't concentrate on it, no matter how valuable it is. To overcome this limitation, some iconic imageries are made use of in Indian tradition over which one is supposed to concentrate. They are named as deities so that we could engage with them with a sense of veneration. An image has

instant appeal. They are so drawn as to portray the dharana that drives through the dhyana process. The educative message entailed in the imagery, does also throw light on how to organise our thought process that may help us conduct with ease and comfort overriding all challenges coming our way. Simultaneously a mantra identified with the imagery in focus is chanted, which again is a verbal projection of the concept. That makes the process even more potent. As the mantra resonates with the imagery in focus, it helps develop concentration. The process does also help inculcate a value system. Here comes the role of a Guru, who identifies and suggests an iconic figure suited to individual needs.

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