

OPINION 6
CANADA MUST REIN
IN EXTREMISTS

WORLD 10
NEPAL, CHINA SIGN
12 AGREEMENTS

MONEY 9
SENSEX, NIFTY END 4-DAY
LOSING STREAK

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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REAL'S
STREAK IS
OVER
11 SPORT

GOLD RUSH FOR INDIA AT ASIAN GAMES

TEAM INDIA HOIST THE TIRANGA IN CHINA

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

In a stunning display of skill, the Indian women's cricket team secured victory over Sri Lanka, claiming the gold medal in Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou in China on Monday. In another remarkable feat, India not only set a new world record but also secured the gold in the men's 10 air rifle team event on Day 2 of the Asian Games.

Rookie pacer Titus Sadhu singlehandedly earned a gold medal for the Indian women's cricket team in its maiden appearance as it defeated Sri Lanka by 19 runs in a low-scoring final of the Asian Games here on Monday.

On a pitch difficult for batting, the Indian women's team struggled to 116 for seven but it was just about par score.

However Titus, who is just four days shy of her 19th birthday, bowled a devastating first spell and finished with superb figures of 4-1-6-3 to play a big role in restricting Sri Lanka to 97 for eight in 20 overs.

She had an able ally in leg-spinner Devika Vaidya (4-0-15-1), who kept a tight leash on the islanders.

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (3-0-20-2) and off-spinner Deepti Sharma (4-0-25-1) started off

badly but were on target during the back-end as Indian women always looked in complete control.

This was one gold medal that India were expected to win, but the standard of cricket was pretty poor, and the nature of wicket didn't help matters.

Teenage pace sensation Sadhu on Monday said "staying calm" and "playing according to the plan" devised during mid-innings was key to winning the gold medal in their maiden Asian Games appearance, despite posting a below-par total on the board in the final here on Sunday.

"We all had a clear plan of what we had to do. Obviously, we got a good momentum in the first over itself. We had discussed during the innings break that we will keep calm and stick to what we had decided," said Sadhu, who returned with impressive figures of 3 for 6 from her four overs.

"The way we came back into the match showed exactly that," she added.

The 18-year-old right-arm medium pacer from Bengal was delighted to win the gold for the country in the continental showpiece.

"It was a great opportunity we got this time, and the fact that we were able to grab that



Indian players pose for photos after winning the gold medal in the women's cricket event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou in China on Monday

PTI

opportunity, I'm very glad and grateful," Sadhu said. In shooting, Indian shooters made a telling statement at

the Asian Games, winning three medals, including a team gold, as the country's marksmen asserted their class by

grabbing five podium finishes in just two days of competition here.

A confident Indian 10m air

rifle team led by teenage world champion Rudranksh Patil gave the country its first gold medal at the continental

Games, securing the top place on the podium with a world record score on Monday.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar then earned the country an individual bronze — India's fourth in shooting so far — in the event after a keen duel with compatriot Rudranksh, who finished fourth.

The 25m rapid-fire team, comprising Adarsh Singh, Anish Bhanwala and Vijayveer Sidhu, took the third spot with an aggregate score of 1718 after a tie with Indonesia.

China took the gold with a score of 1765, while South Korea bagged silver, aggregating 1734.

The trio of Rudranksh, Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar and Aishwary aggregated 1893.7 in the qualification round to beat back the challenge of the shooting powerhouse China and South Korea on way to the 10m air rifle team gold.

In one of the most dominating displays seen by Indian air rifle shooters in multi-discipline events, the 19-year-old Rudranksh shot a superb 632.5, Tomar 631.6 and Panwar 629.6 to aggregate the world record score as South Korea

was pushed to second spot (1890.1), while the Chinese team was a distant third with an aggregate score of

1888.2.

Meanwhile, Naorem Roshibina Devi qualified for the semi-finals in the Women's 60 kg Wushu (Sanda) to assure India of another medal in the Asian Games, here on Monday.

She outplayed her opening opponent in the quarterfinal, Aiman Karshyga of Kazakhstan, convincingly through points difference.

Roshibina Devi had won the bronze medal at the last Asian Games in the same category. Notably, she was a gold medallist in the same category at the 2019 South Asian Games.

In the men's section, Surya Bhanu Partap Singh reached quarterfinals after winning his pre-quarters bout against Islozbek Khaydarov of Uzbekistan in the 60kg category in Sanda.

His bout lasted three rounds as the Indian prevailed 2-1. Partap, also a bronze medallist from the previous edition of the Asian Games, has won a couple of medals of the same colour in the World Wushu Championships.

He also won the gold medal in the 2016 South Asian Games. In the final men's bout of the day in the 65 kg category, Vikrant Baliyan was

knocked out in the pre-quarters by Samuel Marbun of Indonesia by a 1-2 margin.

AIADMK breaks up with NDA

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The AIADMK on Monday called off its alliance with the BJP irked over the reported allegations made by the Hindutva party's State chief K Annamalai against former Chief Ministers CN Annadurai and J Jayalalithaa.

"There is no more alliance between the AIADMK and the BJP. We have also come out of the National Democratic Alliance," said party strongman KP Munusamy, who briefed the media after the day-long conclave of the party's State and district leaders held at Chennai.

Munusamy also declared that there would be no more alliance between the AIADMK and the BJP in future.

The entire AIADMK cadre and leadership are upset and shocked over the comments made by Annamalai that Annadurai, former Chief Minister and party icon, had humiliated Hinduism at an

event in 1956.

A prelude to this decision was made by former AIADMK minister D Jayakumar that there was no alliance between his party and the BJP as on date.

"Alliances are made at the time of election. All I can say is that there is no NDA or alliance with the BJP. I don't know what is in store for the party in future," Jayakumar had told reporters last week.

Over the last few months, the ties between the BJP and the AIADMK were getting vitiated over many issues. While leaders of the BJP remained incommunicado about the latest developments, political pundits in Tamil Nadu are of the view that the AIADMK had committed a political harakiri by snapping the ties with the Hindutva party.

"What the AIADMK has done today is the repetition of what the DMK did during 2014 Lok Sabha polls. The DMK had snapped its ties with

the Congress and the result was a disaster for the former. It failed to win even a single seat from the State.

"Jayalalithaa, who led the AIADMK from the front, had projected herself as a Prime Ministerial candidate and bagged 37 of the 39 Lok Sabha seats. Do you think Edappadi Palanisamy, the general secretary of the AIADMK has the charisma of Jayalalithaa? The AIADMK is in for major trouble if it goes solo," said GC Shekhar, veteran commentator.

He also pointed out that if the AIADMK had wanted to come out of the NDA, it should have done in August itself when Annamalai is reported to have made the statement condemning Annadurai.

"If the AIADMK leadership is upset over Annamalai's statement, why did Palanisamy go and meet the Union Home Minister afterwards?" asked Shekhar.

Rangaraj Pande, former editor-in-chief of Thanthi TV,

is of the view that the AIADMK's resentment is only towards the State leadership of the BJP.

"Edappadi Palanisamy has close links with Home Minister Amit Shah and the party's all India chief JP Nadda. Annamalai seems to be the eyesore of the AIADMK.

"Moreover the DMK leadership is ridiculing the AIADMK leaders as slaves and stooges of the BJP. Though it is the end of the road for the BJP-AIADMK alliance, anything can happen after the 2024 polls," said Pande.

The past ties between the AIADMK and the BJP were not at all comfortable. In 1998, the AIADMK brought down the Vajpayee-led NDA Government after a year long political honeymoon.

Though the two parties patched up by 2004, the DMK-led front swept the AIADMK-BJP combination by winning all the 39 seats from the State.

Continued on Page 9

PM Modi's Desert Storm in Rajasthan

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The Ashok Gehlot Government in Rajasthan has wasted five important years of the State's youth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he called upon the people to oust the Congress from power.

Addressing a BJP rally here, the prime minister said the Congress deserved zero marks for the government it ran in Rajasthan for the last five years.

He accused the Congress dispensation of patronising the mafia leaking recruitment exam question papers and said when the BJP forms government, strictest action will be taken against the mafia.

The "Parivartan Sankalp Mahasabha" marked the culmination of four "Parivartan Yatras" that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took out in the poll-bound state. Assembly elections in Rajasthan are due later this year.

Addressing the well-attended rally, Prime Minister



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 'Parivartan Sankalp Mahasabha' at the Dadiya village in Jaipur on Monday

PTI

Modi said the Ashok Gehlot government has wasted five important years of Rajasthan's youth. The people of Rajasthan have sounded the bugle for getting rid of the Congress government for its misrule, he said.

He also targeted the Congress over the women's reservation bill.

It was never the Congress' intention to empower women, else it could have passed a

Earlier, Modi was welcomed by the BJP Mahila Morcha cadre at the venue.

Modi reached the meeting venue in Dadiya village in Vatika on the outskirts of Jaipur from a nearby helipad in an open-top vehicle escorted by activists of the BJP's women wing who raised slogans in his support.

Earlier, kickstarting Madhya Pradesh poll campaign, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Congress and its allies in the new "ghamandiya" alliance "reluctantly" supported the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament and warned people that if given an opportunity, they will backtrack on the historic legislation.

Addressing a massive gathering of BJP workers, "Karyakarta Mahakumbh", here, the PM tore into the Congress, equating the national party with "rusted iron" and alleging its functioning has been outsourced to "urban Naxals" and that the organisation is not run by leaders.



Devotees carry an idol of Lord Ganesha 'Bhopal Ke Raja' during a procession for immersion on the occasion of Dol Gyaras festival in Bhopal on Monday

PTI

Home Minister chairs meet on JK ahead of LS elections

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Before sounding the poll bugle ahead of the urban local bodies and panchayat polls in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Monday chaired the Core group meeting of J&K BJP leaders to take stock of the party's overall poll preparedness.

"We are ready for elections," the J&K BJP leaders informed the Home Minister during the first round of over 90-minute-long meeting convened at his residence.

However, a section of BJP leaders who attended the meeting also suggested that the ULB/panchayat polls can be deferred and conducted only after the Lok Sabha polls.

The meeting was also attended by BJP president JP Nadda, BJP general secretary in charge of Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh and

co-in-charge Ashish Sood. Members of the BJP's J&K Core group headed by J&K unit chief Ravinder Raina, organisational secretary Ashok Koul, both the Members of Parliament from Jammu region Dr Jitendra Singh (MoS PMO) and Jugal Kishore attended the brainstorming session and reviewed the party's poll preparedness.

A senior BJP leader from Jammu who attended the meeting told *The Pioneer* that the Union Home Minister holds quarterly review meetings along with the party's Core group to take stock of the progress of ongoing organisational activities.

Referring to the urban local bodies elections/panchayat polls, the BJP leader said that the first round of the meeting took place in the afternoon while the second round is scheduled to take place in the evening.

The decision to hold the ULB/panchayat polls will be taken later by the concerned election authorities.

"We have appraised the Union Home Minister about the political scenario in Jammu and Kashmir that we are ready for elections".

The Union Home Ministry is expected to review the prevailing security situation separately before taking a final call on holding the polls before the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. The ULB/panchayat polls are due in Jammu and Kashmir between October and December.

The municipal elections were last held in J&K in September 2018, in four phases and on a party basis. J&K has two municipal corporations, 19 municipal councils, and 57 municipal committees.

The term of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) will be complete on November

5 and that of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on November 14.

The terms of all other municipal bodies, including councils and committees in the UT will end between October and November.

The BJP had won the majority of seats in the Jammu Municipal Corporation while Junaid Mattu, candidate of the Peoples Conference was elected as the Mayor with support from the BJP in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

On the other hand, the last panchayat polls were held on a non-party basis during November-December 2018.

Emerging out of the first round of meeting some of the local BJP leaders informed the media persons that the discussion revolved around the party's poll preparedness ahead of the Urban Local Bodies/Panchayat polls.

Social media handler of BJP MLA found hanging

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 30-year-old man handling social media work for a Bharatiya Janata Party MLA allegedly hanged himself at latter's flat-turned-office in New Darul Shafa (MLA quarters) building in Hazratganj past Sunday midnight.

The deceased, identified as Shresth Tripathi, hanged himself allegedly following a fight with a friend over a video call.

"Around 12:45 am on Monday, we got the information from one of the friends of the deceased that he was going to commit suicide. Our field unit rushed to the scene and found him hanging. The team later collected evidence from the scene and we sent the body for autopsy," a police spokesman said.

Shrestha originally belonged to Haidergarh in Barabanki and he worked with Bakshi-Ka-Talab (BKT) MLA Yogesh Shukla. He handled the MLA's social media and other digital work. He lived in the same flat (number 804) on the eighth floor of the 10-storied building along with two other workers.

The man ended his life allegedly after an argument

with his girlfriend. Police said that the mobile phones of the man and his 'friend' had been seized. The forensic team also examined the room before sending the body for autopsy.

"I had a conversation with him around 4 pm on Sunday and I left the flat after that. Later, around 11:30 pm, I was informed that he had locked himself and was not opening the door. Unfortunately, two other workers were on leave or the incident could have been averted," Shukla said, adding that the flat is used for party work. "I live in Rajajipuram and the flat is used as an office and he would live there with the other two," the MLA further added.

Shukla said that the deceased had been working with him for the last one-and-a-half years and was quite professional. "All my social media work was handled by him and I trusted him," Shukla said.

According to Rashmi Khare, manager of the government building, there are around 40 flats, and around 30 CCTV cameras installed in every corner of the building.

The technical team has been called to investigate the last night footage. "We do not have guards but chowkidars,

and we have written to higher authority to hire guards in the flat," she said.

Meanwhile, a 50-year-old man was found dead under mysterious circumstances on Monday, two days after he was reported missing from his house in Sarojininar. However, police claimed that it was a natural death as there were no external injuries detected on the body, which has been sent for autopsy. Identified as Shivnandan of Ranipur village, he was found dead near Paras Nath Academy on Ring Road in the area. The police claimed that Shivnandan was a liquor addict and mentally unstable. His son told the police that he was missing for the last two days.

In another incident, an unidentified train passenger, aged around 40 years, was found dead alongside railway tracks near Harauni railway station in Banthara police station area on Monday morning. Police suspected that the man died after falling from the moving train. The police recovered a general ticket for journey between Deoria and Lucknow. "The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained as locals had no clue about him," the police said.

Couple thrashed by security guards in park

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two security guards thrashed a youth and his girlfriend at Janeshwar Mishra Park in Gomti Nagar Extension. The incident was reported on September 23 but the issue came to light on Monday. An FIR was registered in this connection on September 24 (Sunday).

As per reports, the couple reached the park to spend time with each other and to discuss some personal issues.

"Around 6:30 pm on the fateful day, two security guards reached the scene when we

were busy talking. One of them hit my friend in the leg with a stick. She started crying and I confronted the security guards, both of whom thrashed me with their sticks," said the youth, who suffered contusion.

The victim filed a police complaint in this connection. "I do not know the names of the security guards but I can identify them," he said.

The police registered a case in this regard and started investigation. "We have summoned all the security guards, who will be paraded before the complainant and his girlfriend," the police said.



Dancers performing at a Ganesh Utsav Pandal in Lucknow on Monday

Pioneer

Protest erupts after youth dies in hosp

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Locals protested after a youth died at a hospital in Ghazipur police station area on Monday. Tauheed (18) of Lav Kush Nagar in Ghazipur police station was found in a pool of blood near Fatima Hospital railway crossing around midnight on September 4. He was admitted to KGMU Trauma Centre where he succumbed on Monday.

The victim's family had alleged that he left the house on the fateful night on being asked by Shubham Verma and Anand, both of Ghazipur vil-

lage. The father of the deceased had later given a complaint against the above-named suspects, accusing them of attempt to murder on September 18. The police had registered a case under Section 307 of the IPC.

"Both the suspects, however, were found to be innocent and were let off. The police came to know that Tauheed suffered injuries after being hit by a train. Some eyewitnesses also claimed that Tauheed was mowed down by a train," a police spokesman said. He pointed out that Kuldeep Singh, driver of the Mailani Express going to

Gorakhpur from Dalganj railway station, had also informed the Badshah Nagar railway station manager about the incident on the fateful day. On Monday, a huge number of people flocked to the house of the deceased soon after the body was handed over to the police. Accusing the police of a cover-up, they put the corpse on the ground and demanded action against the "errant constables" and also raised anti-police slogans. Some of the protesters confronted and manhandled a constable. SDM, Sadar, reached the scene and pacified the protesters.

RLD leader slams govt

Lucknow (PNS): The Rashtriya Lok Dal criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government for failing to contain inflation due to which people were reeling under the pressure of rising prices of essential commodities and fuel.

RLD national spokesperson Anil Dubey said in a statement that the continuously rising inflation and unemployment had shattered the economy of the country but the government was not making any effort to overcome the situation. He said that people were forced to meet their financial needs by taking loans and their lives were literally dependent on loans. "Scores of people have committed suicide due to inflation. The country's food providers are forced to take suicidal steps as the double-engine government is not giving timely compensation for the destroyed crops. Had compensation reached him on time, Mahoba farmer Devi Singh Yadav would not have committed suicide," he said.

"The future of the youths is dark and crime incidents are witnessing a spate. According to the current data of the Reserve Bank of India, debt is increasing due to the negative impact of the domestic budget, and the savings rate of the people is decreasing while the liabilities are continuously increasing," he said.

UP RERA issues fresh guidelines for promoters

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority, for ensuring accountability of the real estate promoters, has issued fresh guidelines directing the promoters to provide name, designation, mobile phone number, e-mail address, residential address and office address of the person authorised for correspondence.

The promoter has to ensure an arrangement to receive calls and provide appropriate answers to the callers calling on the contact number that has been provided.

UP RERA Chairman Sanjay Bhosreddy said here on Monday that it was brought to the notice of the authority that the mobile numbers provided by some promoters at the time of project registration were non-functional/not in use and were switched off. Some cases were also received in which either no one picked up the call on the mobile number provided or a suitable response was not given during the conversation.

Bhosreddy said UP RERA had issued new guidelines to promoters to ensure uninterrupted communication with their stakeholders, especially

UP RERA has issued new guidelines to promoters to ensure uninterrupted communication with their stakeholders, especially buyers of the flats and residential units

buyers of the flats and residential units. He said the real estate promoter would have to ensure an arrangement to receive calls and provide appropriate answers to the callers calling on contact number - either of promoter himself or his representative - that has been provided by the promoter for correspondence to RERA and consumers/buyers. If a helpline number has been provided in any project, then the promoter should ensure that the number remains active and arrangements are made to provide proper response to the

consumers/buyers without any delay. Apart from this, UP RERA has directed promoters to provide name, designation, mobile phone number, e-mail address, residential address, office address etc. of the person authorised for correspondence with the regulatory authority.

UP RERA has made it clear that the correspondence made by the representative/officer authorised by the promoter organisation would be valid and no other person would be considered. For this, a form has been provided on the UP RERA portal, www.up-rera.in, to provide appropriate information on the dashboard of the promoters and promptness is expected from the promoters in this matter.

Bhosreddy said that the promoters were important stakeholders in the real estate sector and their accountability and availability as developers was important in Uttar Pradesh.

"It is mandatory and very important for RERA and consumers/buyers. Correspondence via authorised person/officer of promoters is a matter of credibility and gives assurance of official communication," he said.

1.5kg tumour removed from baby's abdomen

Lucknow (PNS): Doctors at King George's Medical University (KGMU) successfully removed a 1.5-kg tumour from a 2-month-old baby.

Dr JD Rawat said that the baby from Khorabad village of Gorakhpur presented with a huge lump in the abdomen since birth. The anxious patients consulted in the local area and were referred to the medical university where they consulted Dr Rawat and Dr Anand Pandey, who advised them surgery to remove the lump. The baby was operated on August 29.

Dr Rawat said it was a tricky surgery as the tumour was large and any mistake would have endangered the baby's life. The operation lasted for about 2:30 hours and the mass was removed. The lump was about 1.5 kg and the weight of the baby was about 6 kg.

Special care was needed after the surgery as the patient developed body swelling and fluid accumulated in the abdomen.

"After supportive management for about three weeks, the patient is now fine and ready for discharge from the hospital. The operative team consisted of Dr Anand Pandey, Dr Muni, Dr Satish Verma, etc," Dr Rawat said.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE
I have changed my name from Kamla Devi Rajput to Kamla Devi W/o Vijay Singh R/o 117/H-1/282 Model Town Pandu Nagar Kanpur

NOTICE
I have changed my name from Shaikh Shehnaaz Samimibhai to Shaikh Shehnaaz S/o Samim Bhai Shaikh R/o 133/170-O Block Kidwai Nagar Kanpur for all future purpose

NOTICE
I am Anuradha Agarwal W/o Amarnath Agarwal resident plot no. 74, Gandhigram, Krishna Nagar, Kanpur. Whose original deed of sale dated of 18/01/1985 has been lost somewhere and its use would be illegal.

सूचना
मेरा हाईस्कूल प्रेजेंटेशन मार्कशीट में father name Rajib Ali हो गया है जो गलत है मेरा सही नाम Saif Ali S/o Rajib Ali है मुझे इसी नाम से जाना पहचाना जाए R/o- 694/A Green Building Tarbagia Jajmau Kanpur-208010

NOTICE
This is to certify that I Amulya Maharishi D/o Vivek Sharma residence of B27/98A, Durgakund Road, Varanasi. I certify that Amulya Maharishi and Amulya Sharma both are same person, so from now onwards I should be known as Amulya Maharishi.

सूचना
मेरा नाम Rizwan Ullah S/o Mohammad Hamid है गलती से मेरे पासपोर्ट में name Rijavanullah हो गया था मुझे Rizwan Ullah S/o Mohammad Hamid नाम से जाना पहचाना जाए R/o 192/184 Ram Rai Ki Sarai Jajmau Kanpur-208010

सूचना
सूचित हो मैं किरन पाण्डेय W/o दिनेश चन्द्र पाण्डेय मेरा प्लाट नं० C-5/97 विनीतखण्ड गोमतीनगर का मूल आवंटन पत्र जो कि पूर्णिमा देवी पत्नी श्री प्रवीन त्रिवेदी व प्रवीन त्रिवेदी के नाम से था जो खो गया है। अब से किसी अन्य के द्वारा उपयोग अवैध होगा।

सूचना
मेरा नाम Sayma Ahsan W/o Mohd Raja है गलती से मेरे पासपोर्ट में Husband name Mohammad Raza हो गया था मुझे Sayma Ahsan W/o Mohd Raja नाम से जाना पहचाना जाए R/o 192/184 Ram Rai Ki Sarai Jajmau Kanpur-208010

NOTICE
NOTICE
The general public is informed that Shri Mati Paragi wife Mohan Lal had purchased a plot of 18/36 from Shri Mati Sonia Bewa Devi and Ram Chander S/o Devi on 16.09.1969, which is registered in the Sub-Registration Office, Mohanlalganj, Lucknow. Whose stamp has been lost somewhere.

NOTICE
In my passport my name is written as SHAHABUDDIN S/o NAIMUDDIN and my DOB is 01/01/1981 which is incorrect. My correct name as my highschool marksheet is MOHD SAHABUDDIN ANSARI S/o MOHD NAIMUDDIN and DOB is 12/02/1985 and my R/o H.N.109, Narobhaskar, Jalaun Khas Distt-Jalaun. It is mentioned in my Adharcard and Pan card and which is these details will follow for all purposes.

CITYBRIEFS

CHIKANKARI PROMOTION

In order to implement the MoU signed between the Lucknow district administration and IIM-Indore in July, a study is being conducted currently by a study team of IIM-Indore for the overall development of ODO product chikankari of Lucknow. This study team of IIM-Indore is led by director Prof Himanshu Rai while Prof Bhavani Shankar and Naveen Krishna Rai are members of the team that will submit its report to the district administration in December. The IIM team has been holding discussions and visits with chikankari units and various stakeholders associated with this business for the last one week. In the same session, Lucknow District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar and IIM-Indore team member Naveen Krishna Rai visited a chikankari product unit. Extensive discussions were held by the IIM team with the entrepreneurs and artisans associated with this project and how in the future they can be given the benefits of excellent production in greater quantities, better marketing, new designs, patterns and value addition.

ORIENTATION

The Legal Aid Centre established at Faculty of Law, University of Lucknow, conducted its orientation programme for the academic session 2023-24 under the guidance of Prof BD Singh. The team of Legal Aid Centre explained its motto, which is "To promote equal access to justice for all". The team briefed the attendees about the working of the centre and its initiatives taken in the previous years for the accomplishment of its motto. Anshika Yatharth, a member at Legal Aid Centre, elaborated upon the survey conducted on marital rape. She also mentioned gender sensitisation workshop, pride parade and International Women's Day Fiesta.

WORKSHOP

The Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Lucknow University, conducted a one-day workshop on 'Entrepreneurship handholding and mentoring for entrepreneurs and startup' on Monday. The programme started with a lamp-lighting ceremony. Prof Vinita Kacher said entrepreneurship is essential for mentoring new entrepreneurs. The first speaker was Vikas Khanna, chairperson of Indian Industries Association. He said entrepreneurship is the need of the hour. He spoke on how to start a business, government schemes and entrepreneurship challenges. IIT-IIM alumnus Manu Agarwal spoke on how to create value in the ready market.

TOXICOLOGY WEEK

The department of forensic medicine, KGMU, conducted a comprehensive outreach programme in celebration of Toxicology Week, focused on educating students about snakebite safety. The programme took place at Kathwara primary school, featuring a captivating nukkad natak, followed by an informative awareness camp on snakebite do's and don'ts and first aid in poisoning. Medical professionals from KGMU conducted interactive sessions where students had the opportunity to ask questions and understand the critical steps to take in case of a snakebite.

Road restoration work progressing at fast pace

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is making rapid strides towards its goal to remove potholes and rejuvenate roads.

According to the Public Works Department, it has already achieved 30 per cent of its target of filling potholes and restoration of roads in the state so far in the financial year 2023-24. Besides, in national highways, 75.30 per cent of the restoration target has been achieved.

It is worth mentioning here that the Yogi government has set a target of restoring 62,000 kilometres of roads and ridding them of potholes in this financial year and has chalked out an action plan in this regard. In line with Chief Minister Yogi's vision of a pothole-free Uttar Pradesh, the Public Works Department has so far this year allocated Rs 275 crore for renovation of roads in all districts and the government is regularly monitoring the works being carried out by the depart-

ment. There are 1.14 lakh kilometres roads under the PWD in UP, out of which the government is working on restoration of more than 62,000 kilometre roads this year. Out of 62,000 km roads, the government has set the target to remove potholes from 44,869 km roads and renovate 17,588 km roads.

So far, potholes have been removed from 1,711 roads whereas 5,277 roads have undergone complete makeover in the current financial year. Thus, the Public Works Department has completed works on a total of 6,988 roads. With this, 3.81 per cent work of filling potholes and 30 per cent work of road restoration has been completed.

It may be mentioned here that roads of Mandi, Panchayati Raj, Irrigation, Rural Development, Urban Development, Sugarcane, Housing and Urban Planning, and Infrastructure and Industrial Development departments come under the Public Works Department.

AI-based software helps nab solvers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An artificial intelligence-based facial recognition software helped in nabbing proxy candidates appearing for the UP Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC) examination at different centres in Lucknow on Sunday.

According to officials, as many as eight proxy candidates were held in two shifts. Two women, one resident of Mirzapur and another of Ambedkar Nagar were arrested on Sunday by Madiaon police. The women were booked under section 420 (dishonesty) and 419 (cheating). "The women were caught when their ID and Aadhaar cards did not match to those of the real candidates," according to press communiqué.

Similarly, two solvers, including a man and a woman



— Soni Kumar (25) from Bihar and her friend Dharmendra Kumar Yadav (28) of Jaunpur — were arrested at an exam centre in Hazratganj area.

Likewise, two more impostors, including 35-year-old woman Kiran Singh of Ghosi district and Varsha Rani (25) of Bihar, were arrested and booked in Aminabad and Ashiyana respectively.

The anomalies were detected with the use of AI-based facial recognition software used by the Commission at the examination centres.

NGRI report reveals buried ancient river

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A report released by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) on Monday revealed the presence of an old river between Ganga and Yamuna buried 10-15 metres under ground. The report was released by UP minister Swatantra Dev Singh at the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR). Peeyush Gupta from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, while giving an overview, said that a study was carried out by the institute between Ganga and Yamuna rivers from Prayagraj to Kanpur, which found the 200-km ancient river buried underneath and resembles the Ganga and Yamuna rivers. Principal Scientist Subhash Chandra from NGRI said the study was actually a high-resolution aquifer mapping between Ganga and Yamuna.

"The primary aim was to know the presence of these aquifers so that the recharging of the area can be done in view of the depleting groundwater levels in the river plains. It is important to know the structures in the area for recharging," he said. He pointed out that the Yamuna and Ganga rivers that sus-

tain 40 per cent of the population of India residing over 1,00,000 square kilometres across Uttar Pradesh are well known for the multilayered aquifer system blessed with Himalayan rivers of glacial source.

"However, the river plains are currently experiencing the dwindling of groundwater levels due to inadequate recharge and over exploitation for domestic, agricultural and industrial needs. This results in drying of many branches of the river which are not fed by the glaciers. The deep water table also forces the utilisation of old water that might be enriched with more dissolved solids and may also induce the activation of arsenic release into the groundwater due to change in hydrochemical environment. Therefore, it necessitates the rejuvenation of the aquifer and the river system which can be accomplished through a precise understanding of the aquifer geometry and the dynamics system associated with the river aquifer linkages on a regional scale. And so the study was carried out," he explained.

He said that the project was completed in the stipulated time and brought out the 3D map of aquifers over 10,000 square kilometres of area

between the Ganga and Yamuna. "We also found a river buried at the depth of 10-15 metres," he said. He added that the project has also provided numerous recharge sites to device an effective management plan for sustaining the ground water resources in the region. "It appears that the tectonic disturbances have caused the shifting of the present-day Ganga and Yamuna rivers and the buried river," he said.

Swatantra Dev Singh appreciated CSIR-NGRI for carrying out the study and stressed that it should be further extended towards the north-west region to address the larger perspective of aquifer system and rejuvenation of drying rivers.

He emphasised that the earth is unique and only planet so far known to have water and life. "Life originated from water and can be sustained if water continues to be available. We are fortunate that the state of Uttar Pradesh is blessed with a very rich river system of Ganga, Yamuna and their tributaries, along with vast groundwater resources potential stored in multilayered alluvial aquifers, known to be one of the largest aquifer systems in the world. Uttar Pradesh has nine agro-climat-

ic regions, eight major river basins, and diversified hydro-geological set-up mostly dominated by alluvial aquifers of the Gangetic plain and discontinuous aquifer system of Bundelkhand and Vindhyan. However, over-exploitation of groundwater, erratic & decreasing rainfall, increased water contamination and reduced ecological flows have put the state into a critical and challenging situation. Therefore, there is a need for scientific planning in development of groundwater under different hydrogeological situations and to evolve effective management practices with involvement of the community for better groundwater governance," he said.

He said it is important to note that UP is an agrarian state and the agriculture sector contributes 18-20% GDP employing 50% of the population, where groundwater accounts more than 70% of an irrigation source. "Our government has deployed several new technologies in the management of water in the state as I believe that the technological interventions are the only solutions for water security in India in general and Uttar Pradesh in particular," he added.

Modi to visit Kashi again on Nov 5



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to make another visit to his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi, on November 5 where he plans to inaugurate a series of crucial development projects for the people of Kashi.

The visit will coincide with the closing ceremony of the Kashi MP Sports Competition, where he will honour the winners. The event promises to be a grand affair with the prime minister personally overseeing the preparations.

The prime minister's forthcoming visit was announced during his interaction with administrative officials after the launch of the portal and QR code of the Kashi MP Sports Competition.

A senior official in Lucknow said that Prime Minister Modi emphasised the need for a grand closing ceremony of the sports meet and confirmed his attendance.

The Kashi MP Sports Competition, currently underway, is set to conclude on November 5.

Among the notable projects slated for inauguration

during the visit is the eagerly awaited Phulwaria four-lane overbridge, which is a vital infrastructure development aimed at reducing traffic congestion in Varanasi.

The one lane of the Phulwaria four-lane overbridge has already been built and the second lane is expected to be completed by October 10. By October 25, it is expected that this four-lane road will be ready to be opened to the public.

The visit also includes laying the foundation stones of various social initiatives, including a women's shelter home, orphanage, and recuperating home in Ramnagar.

One of the key highlights of the prime minister's visit is the Kashi MP Sports Competition, which aims to promote sportsmanship among the people of Varanasi. A lofty goal has been set to attract over two lakh participants this year, significantly surpassing last year's participation of 1.15 lakh. Since the launch of the portal by the prime minister, an impressive 10,000 participants have already registered, with registration open till October 15.

SP leader held for cybercrime

Lucknow (PNS): Police arrested three persons, including a Samajwadi Party leader from Mathura, for running an alleged cybercrime racket under the guise of a public service centre, police officials said on Monday.

According to the police, SP leader Munna Malik and two of his associates, Kamaruddin and Ravi, have been arrested.

Senior Superintendent of Police Shailesh Kumar Pandey said that Ravi was running a cyber cafe and public service centre, where they took polymer impressions of Aadhaar cards and thumb prints of the customers. These forged materials were then provided to inter-state cyber criminals and ration dealers.

"Police had been receiving information for a long time that incidents of fake Aadhaar cards and cybercrimes were being carried out through Jan Seva Kendra. City Kotwali police and SWAT team took action and arrested Munna Malik, Kamaruddin and Ravi. The police also recovered fake coins, a letter pad, a laptop, 40 copies of Aadhaar cards, about 140 duplicate thumb impressions, two thumb readers, an ATM swipe machine and cash," Pandey said.

Additionally, they use these fraudulent Aadhaar cards to supply counterfeit SIM cards to cyber criminals and to produce forged passports.

"A large number of Aadhaar cards have been purchased and they have been used to commit cyber fraud incidents, the police will soon arrest other people associated with this gang," the SSP added. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

SP-Cong seat sharing talks reach roadblock

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The big brother attitude of Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav in seat sharing talks with Congress is emerging as a roadblock in an amicable settlement ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

In a clear signal to the Congress that he is the boss in Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav gave a hint of the hard bargaining ahead by saying "SP is not demanding seats but giving them".

Akhilesh Yadav also claimed that his party will get 60 per cent of the votes in the Lok Sabha election. This indicated that the SP is adamant on contesting maximum number of seats and conceding a few seats to the Congress, the only national party in the INDIA bloc.

According to sources, the SP is not ready to leave more than five-six Lok Sabha seats for the Congress in UP in the next general elections, but the latter is insisting on around two dozen seats.

The sources said that the basis of seat sharing should be Congress' performance in UP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, when the grand old party won the lone seat of Rae Bareilly from where former Congress president Sonia Gandhi was elected as MP. Congress had lost even in its stronghold, Amethi, where former Congress president Rahul Gandhi lost to Union Minister Smriti Irani. Congress, on the other



hand, wants 2009 parliamentary polls to be the basis of seat sharing. In the 2009 Lok Sabha polls, Congress had won 21 seats in UP on its own.

"We want at least 18 seats where we think we can win," said a UP Congress leader when queried about the seat-sharing talks with the SP.

The Akhilesh Yadav-led party is not ready to concede the Congress demand.

SP leaders pointed out that the party would also have to leave some seats for Rashtriya Lok Dal in the western region.

"We also have to accommodate Bhim Army leader Chandrashekhar and Apna Dal (Kamerawadi)," said a senior SP leader. The sources said that the recent exchange of barbs between UP Congress president Ajay Rai and SP leaders was the result of SP's reluctance to concede to the Congress demand. Rai had accused the

CM directive to expedite appointment process

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a recent meeting with additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries of various departments, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued a series of directives aimed at expediting the appointment process and implementing performance-based promotions within government departments across Uttar Pradesh.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised the detrimental impact of understaffed government departments on overall efficiency and public welfare.

"Delays in appointments not only create backlogs but also deprive deserving youth of opportunities that match their qualifications," the chief minister said, calling for a prompt appointment process and seeking regular updates on vacancies from districts.

Additionally, the chief minister stressed on a comprehensive assessment of necessary positions at all administrative levels, spanning from villages and cities to districts and government departments. He directed the Appointment and



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at a review meeting in Lucknow on Monday

Personnel department to provide detailed reports on vacancies, ongoing appointment processes, and the required human resources to the Chief Minister's Office.

The chief minister highlighted the implementation of the e-adhyachan (requisition) system, designed to simplify the appointment process. He stressed the importance of careful reviews of reservation

rules before submitting requisitions for appointments.

Recognising the evolving needs of departments like urban development, the chief minister called for the creation of new positions where necessary. He advocated proper training of chakbandi lekhals (consolidation officials) in the Revenue department and the expeditious completion of the selection process for vari-

ous police department posts by December. The chief minister underscored the significance of time-bound promotions, with performance as the primary criterion for advancement. He called for the completion of promotion processes, including those at the chief secretary/additional chief secretary/principal secretary/head of department levels or through the UP Public Service

Commission by September 30 in all cases.

In the interest of expediting the recruitment process, the chief minister stressed the need for increased technological integration to reduce processing times. He also highlighted the importance of expanding training capacity.

Recognising a considerable number of vacancies across districts, including in

Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Ayodhya, Mathura, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad, the chief minister called for deployment of qualified personnel to ensure the smooth progress of vital projects.

"Maintain adequate human resources in aspirational districts, aspirational development blocks and aspirational urban areas," the chief minister said.

Acknowledging the commendable work of outsourced personnel in various projects, the chief minister insisted that all employees receive fair remuneration, disbursed punctually and in full. He pledged to prevent any exploitation of employees under any circumstances.

As the second quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24 nears its conclusion, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urged all departments to ensure appropriate utilisation of funds allocated in the current budget. He encouraged increased allocation and expenditure, with monthly reviews conducted by the chief secretary at the departmental level.

CM: Maintain peace during coming festival season

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday held a review meeting on law and order and directed officers to get ready and ensure peaceful celebration of festivals starting next month.

Reviewing the law and order situation, the chief minister asked the police officials to chalk out a strategy for functions to be organised in the festival season. He said no new traditions should be allowed to avert law and order problems. He asked the officials to go through the festival register and take necessary action accordingly.

He directed senior officials to allocate necessary reserve police force, including jawans of Provincial Armed Constabulary, to the sensitive district so that peace could be maintained during the festivals.

He also asked the officials to deploy anti-Romeo squads to check harassment of members of fairer sex going to public places during festivals. The chief minister said laxity leading to any untoward incident would not be tolerated and stern action would be taken after fixing the responsibility of the officers concerned.

Besides Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad and DGP Vijay Kumar, all senior superintendents of police,

superintendents of police, police commissioners along with zonal ADGs, range 1Gs and Special DG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar were connected through video conferencing during the review meeting.

The incharges of all the 1,578 police stations, 438 circle officers, 176 additional superintendents of police and 65 incharges of Government Railway Police (GRP) stations were also connected through the video conferencing.

Yogi Adityanath reportedly expressed his displeasure over the functioning of district police in-charges of Chandauli, Lalitpur, Kasganj, Balrampur, Mahoba and some other districts and directed them to pull up their socks before the festival season begins.

He also expressed annoyance at the working of Prayagraj's police commissioner and asked him to ensure better law and order. Several other officers were also warned to improve their working.

In a major move towards women empowerment, the chief minister said that apart from women police stations in every district, there should be another woman police station head also.

"Every police station, circle, range, zone is under direct monitoring. If there is any disturbance then the officer con-

cerned could be terminated," he warned.

The chief minister said a new phase of Mission Shakti would start from Sharadiya Navratri and women would be empowered in every village with Shakti Didi. He said the Safe City initiative should be completed in 17 municipal corporations, including Gautam Buddha Nagar, by October 14.

He said officers and personnel with tainted image should not get the charge of police station/circle.

The chief minister gave a clear message to police officers to take stern action against mafias. He said that public interest was the top priority of the government and asked officials to increase patrolling and to not consider any incident small. "Take full care of the security of investors and tourists," he added.

Yogi said qualified police personnel should be posted in GRP, important wings of the police and border police stations. He asked police station officers to communicate with women beat constables and village watchmen every week. He praised Gautam Buddha Nagar police commissionerate for the successful organisation of MotoGP and UP International Trade Show, and said other districts should take inspiration from it.

Yogi pays tribute to Pandit Deendayal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid tributes to the founding member of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, on his 107th birth anniversary and offered floral tributes at his statue in Lucknow on Monday.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's ideals, deeply rooted in the welfare and development of the most marginalised individuals in society, were vividly recalled by the chief minister. He said the present Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, guided by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was committed to fulfilling the dreams of Deendayal Upadhyaya.

He also hailed Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya as a staunch advocate of purity and honesty in politics. Yogi said that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was born in a humble village in Mathura district and possessed a clear perspective on India and Indianness.

"He believed in India's potential to contribute to global well-being and placed unwavering emphasis on the welfare of the most marginalised in society," the chief minister said.

Yogi stressed that economic progress should not be gauged by the person in the highest echelons of society but rather by those on the lowest rungs. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's concept of 'Antyodaya' became a corner-



stone for ensuring the welfare of the underprivileged in independent India.

The chief minister highlighted that the government under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, during 1998 to 2004, initiated several schemes aimed at the welfare of the poor, drawing inspiration from Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. "Today, the guiding light behind all schemes implemented during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure is rooted in Pandit Deendayal's vision of 'Antyodaya'. The transforma-

tive progress witnessed in the country over the past nine and a half years owes much to Deendayal Upadhyaya's visionary approach," he said.

The commemorative event saw the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, BJP city president Anand Dwivedi, Mayor Susma Kharkwal, Neeraj Bora, Mukesh Sharma, Jai Devi, Ramchandra Pradhan, Nirmal, former mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and Neeraj Singh, among others.

Radhasoami Satsang Sabha members clash with police in Agra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): Over a dozen policemen were seriously injured after clashes broke out in Agra's Dayalbagh area when the police attempted to remove an illegal structure belonging to Radhasoami Satsang Sabha which was allegedly constructed on land owned by the Revenue department.

The senior trust officials used women and children as shields while attacking the cops with sticks having iron nails.

Agra Magistrate Anand Kumar Singh said, "As a bulldozer approached to dismantle the gate that restricted public access, a group of approximately 200 satsangs, including women and children, started pelting stones."

Deputy Commissioner of Police Suraj Kumar Rai said, "The Revenue department had requested police assistance to remove an encroachment in Dayalbagh. However, Radhasoami Satsang Sabha members disrupted the anti-encroachment drive and engaged in stone pelting, which resulted in numerous police officers getting injured. As of now, the demolition exercise has been temporarily suspended." Meanwhile, Radhasoami Satsang Sabha representatives claimed that the administration was trying to grab their land to help builders. The religious group claimed that the land belonged to them.

"They have been given 24 hours to show their documents," police said.

Police have been carrying out a drive since Saturday to remove the alleged illegal encroachment in the Dayalbagh area.



SP of "backstabbing" by fielding its candidate in Bageshwar assembly constituency of Uttarakhand, where a bypoll was held recently, as a result of which the Congress candidate lost to his Bharatiya Janata Party rival by a slender margin.

Rai also said that his party was going to contest all the 80 Lok Sabha seats of UP in the next general election.

Akhilesh Yadav has asked the party cadre to get down to work to ensure that the party gets at least 60 per cent votes in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

He said that the "struggle to save democracy and the Constitution through the 2024 Lok Sabha elections would be no less than a revolution". He said that in the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls, the PDA (Pichhada, Dalit, Alpsankhyak (backwards), Dalits and minorities) and all others would make the SP win.

All govt departments linked to e-office

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In order to ensure transparency, timeliness and accountability in the functioning of the secretariat, the Yogi Adityanath government has linked all departments to e-office, and rapid digitalisation is going on by scanning the records and the old files of all the departments.

In line with Chief Minister Yogi's intentions, a decision has been made to expedite the process of implementing e-office. It is noteworthy that in the offices of the Government of India, seven versions are used to create space through digitisation. Now it has been decided to implement it in the state also and Version 7 will be introduced for running the e-office in the secretariat.

Presently, the e-office in the secretariat of Uttar Pradesh is operated on version 6.2, whereas with the start of the process of migrating to version 7, the e-office operations will be able to work in an easier and simpler manner than before.

An action plan has been prepared to start the process of introducing version 7 in the state soon. For the implementation, secretariat employees will be given training on version 7.0 of the e-office. In addition, the secretariat administration has started the process of replacing old computers and equipment to start the migration process.

When Yogi Adityanath took over as the chief minister of UP, he had initially imposed a three-day deadline for disposing of the secretariat files. However, the absence of a monitoring system made it challenging to confirm whether this directive was effectively enforced. Consequently, there was uncertainty regarding its implementation.

After this, Chief Minister Yogi instructed officials to bring secretariat to district level administrative offices on the e-office system for the timely disposal of files.

E-office system is implemented for handling files in all departments of the Uttar Pradesh secretariat. Under this system, till now 14.84 lakh file files have been uploaded to the e-office. About 79

Security guidelines issued for consecration ceremony

PNS ■ AYODHYA

As the eagerly awaited consecration ceremony at Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya is scheduled from January 20 to January 24, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has issued strict guidelines, stipulating that no umbrellas, sticks or wooden sandals will be permitted during the event.

The ceremony is expected to attract around 7,000 guests to the Ram Janmabhoomi complex and comprehensive safety standards will be diligently enforced throughout.

In a bid to ensure the safety and organised conduct of the event, all attendees, including sadhus and saints, are required to adhere to the specified guidelines.

Trust's general secretary Champat Rai said that preparations were already in progress to compile an exhaustive guest list of those entering the expansive 70-acre Ram Janmabhoomi complex. The event is expected to see participants from all districts and states across the country, with special invitations extended to recipients of the prestigious Padma awards.

Recognising the unique needs of elderly saints and sadhus, Champat Rai issued a heartfelt appeal, urging them to consider planning their temple visit for February, after the consecration ceremony, to ensure they receive the necessary attention.

The participation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other dignitaries emphasises the event's significance, leading to the implementation of robust security arrangements.

Some guests may be required to traverse distances of up to two kilometres, prompting advice to consider their health and individual circumstances when planning their visit to Ayodhya.

Furthermore, guests may be required to sit for extended periods, ranging from three to four hours, within the Ram Janmabhoomi complex.

Access to Ram Lalla to seek blessings will only be granted once the prime minister departs.

per cent of the files are being operated on e-office by all the departments of the secretariat.

As per Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's intention, uploading of files from all secretariat departments onto the e-office platform is currently underway. The secretariat administration aims to upload all the files on e-office by November.

Additionally, the administration is in the process of preparing a ranking of the top 10 and bottom 10 departments. Once the list is released, the top 10 departments will be encouraged by the administration to operate the e-office while the bottom 10 departments will be given training for full implementation of the e-office.

Once the shortcomings of the departments are addressed successfully, they would be connected to the e-office. Furthermore, for quick disposal of files, the channel of presentation of works and the level of decision will be decided and its compliance will be ensured in all the departments.

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People have full faith in PM's ideology: Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Newly-appointed president of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) South City unit Shivram Singh said the name of the alliance of opposition parties was not going to confuse people as they have full faith in the ideology of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the ensuing Lok Sabha elections, people would make the alliance lick the dust. He was speaking at a function organised by the party workers to felicitate him in Sanjay Van, Kidwai Nagar, on Monday.

On the occasion he said earlier the schemes prepared for the poor were confined to paper only. Now these schemes were delivering results at the ground level and benefitting the poor whose standard of living has now changed greatly, he added. Prominent activists who extended rousing welcome to the unit president were Prakash Vir Arya, Dilip Singh, Dr Samardeep Pandey, Ashok Sachan, Vinay Malviya, Surendra Gera, Amit Arora,



Newly-appointed BJP south city unit president Shiv Ram Singh being felicitated by party workers on Monday

Chandra Kanta Gera, Dr Santosh Arora, Guddi Sharma and Raju Pal.

PHARMACY DAY: The Indian pharmacy faced many challenges engendering the need for stricter laws to regulate the pharmacy industry. The Lok Sabha in August

passed the Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which regulates the practice and profession of pharmacy.

This was informed by the president of the Kanpur Pharmacists Association Dheeraj Srivastava while addressing presspersons on Pharmacy Day at the LLR Hospital on Monday. He said under the new amendment it was now mandatory that medicines should be sold only in the presence of a registered pharmacist with a minimum one year of experience or a person with a four-year of experience as approved by the Department of Drug Control.

He said the objective to observe this day was to make the public and health care professionals aware that pharmacists were important members of the health care team and there was a need to make the best use of their services in order to improve patient's safety and good health.

Srivastava said under Section 42 of the Act no per-

son other than a registered pharmacist shall dispense any medicine on the prescription of a medical practitioner and if one does he or she was liable to be punished with imprisonment for six months or fine as well. He said the Pharmacy Council should impress upon the state and Central governments to invest money to initiate pharmacy practice in the country. He said they should come out with a model for remunerating the pharmacist for providing the services of pharmacy practice to patients and health consumers.

He said the new NMC regulation stipulates that physicians can no longer prescribe medicines using brand names. He said instead, they were mandated to use only the generic name. He said in the pharmaceutical market, drugs were broadly classified into three categories. The amendments include a centralised drugs database for effective surveillance across the country.

Motorcyclist killed in road accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A motorcyclist was killed by a speeding potato-laden truck near Shahjahanpur village under the Satti police station area in Kanpur Dehat on Sunday night. Truck driver escaped after leaving the vehicle on the spot. The police rushed to the spot and took out the body of the youth crushed under the truck. When a potato-laden truck was going towards Bhognipur from Rajpur, it knocked down a motorcyclist from behind. After the youth came under the front wheel of the truck, he was killed on the spot. After the incident, a massive jam prevailed on the road. Station House Officer (SHO) Satti Shiv Shanker reached the spot and got the body of the youth crushed under the truck wheel out. Thereafter, he impounded the truck and sent it to the police station. The traffic movement was restored after around 20 minutes. The

deceased was identified as Mohit Gupta (32) of Shahjahanpur. He was employed in a private company of Haryana and had arrived in village a few days ago only. The body was sent for an autopsy.

MEETING: National Advisor of All India EPS-95 National Agitation Committee Rajesh Kumar Shukla, while speaking at a meeting of Kanpur Division at the Rawatpur Bus Stand, said that as per decision taken in the Central Working Committee meeting held in Bhopal on September 16 and 17, lakhs of pensioners would intensify their agitation in October next. Apart from putting a lock on the CPFC-RPFC and Regional PF Offices, they will take part in 'jailbharo' movement and statewide relay fast unto death in Delhi. He said the pensioners had been agitating to press for settlement of their four-point charter of demands for the past six years.

10 couples reunite

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Under 'Project Milan' programme 10 couples reunited through the Family Counselling Centre (FCC) located at Police Lines on Sunday. The couples were living separately due to misunderstanding over trivial issues and the cases were brought to the police. Thereafter the police referred the cases to the FCC. After separate sittings the couple agreed to live together, became agree to live together. During send off of the couples the counsellors and the staff extended their best wishes for a successful life and a bright future. Incharge of the centre sub-inspector (S-I) Shashi Tiwari, head constable Savitri Devi and counsellors Nirmla Rai, Dr Krishna Singh and Prakash Chandra along with others were present.

ARRESTED: The Halia police have arrested three cattle smugglers on Sunday. On September 4 the police had arrested a person who was transporting eight head of cattle on a vehicle. During interrogation he had revealed three other names who had fled during the police raid. On being tipped off by an informer about the location of an accused Vijay Singh of Marhi village under Chandavak police station, Jaunpur. The police raided the place and nabbed the accused along with a motorcycle.

On identification of the accused the police nabbed Surendra Yadav of Kukarkatwa village under Meja police station, Prayagraj, and Najeem of Baluapur village under Chainpur police station, Bahbhua (Kaimur), Bihar. CO Lalganj Manjari Rao said the arrested accused

were sent to jail and the motorcycle was seized because the accused failed to produce the documents.

MEETING: The meeting of Kayastha Sangathit Parivar Nyas (KSP Trust) was held on Sunday. In it resolutions were passed unanimously which might change the scenario of the country, patron of the trust Subodh Srivastava said. He exhorted the community to come forward to show the strength of the organisation for reasonable participation in the each field, including politics. He said talent should be promoted without discrimination on the basis of caste and creed. After the meeting Dr Srivastava while interacting with the media said the organisation was going to launch a signature drive with the demand to form a commission for the forward class. He said it is a matter of contentment that in 19 states the organisation had become the steering force among the intellectuals. Prominent persons associated with the programme were Sushil Kumar Srivastava, Manoj Kumar Srivastava (Haryana), Vijay Sinha (Bihar), Ajay Sinha and Rajat Srivastava.

ROAD ACCIDENT: One person died in road mishap under police station Halia on Monday. Reports said Lalji Rao of Rampur Naudaha village was on his way home on a tractor from his field when it overturned. In accident driver Lalji Rao (35) died on the spot while Radheshyam and Bindu sustained the serious injuries. On getting information about the matter the police reached the spot, took the body of the deceased into their possession and brought the injured to a local hospital.

Teenaged girl hangs self

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

On being scolded by family members, a teenaged girl committed suicide by hanging herself in Majra Sunvarsha of Jajmuia village in the Rura police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Sunday night. After investigation the police sent the body for an autopsy. Reports said Dimple (17), daughter of Virendra Yadav of Majra Sunvarsha, Jajmuia, was scolded by family members on some petty issue. Thereafter, upset Dimple went to sleep in a room. Late at night she hanged herself from the hook on the ceiling. Mother Maya Devi burst into tears while sisters Puja, Rinki and Chandni were also worried. On information of her father, sub-inspector (S-I) Shashi Kant Yadav of Rura police station along with forensic team rushed to the village. Inspector Rura Kapil Dubey said during prima facie investigation the girl appeared to have ended her life on being scolded by family members. On receipt of autopsy report, further action will be initiated, he said.

YOUTH DROWNED: A youth who had arrived from Kanpur city with friends for bathing in the river drowned near Daulatpur village in the Bhognipur police area of Pankharyan in Kanpur Dehat on Sunday afternoon. With the help of divers, police recovered the body and after informing the kin of the deceased, sent it for an autopsy. Sarwar Ali of Ajitganj, Babupurwa, Kanpur city, said he along with friends Neta, Shanu, Sunny and Aman (30) had gone for a bath into Yamuna river near Daulatpur

village on Sunday. Suddenly, Aman began to slip into the area where water was deep. When they failed to rescue him, they came out of the river and raised alarm. On the information of the local residents, tehsildar Sunil Kumar and outpost incharge Atul Gautam reached there. The divers were pressed who recovered the body of Aman. Tehsildar Sunil Kumar said the details of the incident had been collected from the spot. Outpost incharge said the kin of the deceased had already arrived and further action will be taken in the matter on the basis of their complaint.

ARRESTED: The Secunderabad Railway Police of Hyderabad along with the special team of Kanpur Dehat district arrested two criminals involved in stealing jewellery of train passengers on Sunday. Police recovered 100 gm stolen gold jewellery worth around ₹6 lakh from them. ASP (Kanpur Dehat) Rajesh Pandey said the Secunderabad Railway Police of Hyderabad had lodged reports about the theft of jewellery from passengers during journey in different trains. During investigation names of Pawan Soni alias Dipu of Ramnagar (Rura) and Govind Kumar Raidas of Sunbarsa (Sheoli) had come to the fore who were arrested now. They were found in possession of 100 gms gold jewellery and confessed their involvement in the crime. Both the accused had criminal history. Pawan was found involved in criminal cases lodged with the Jhansi and Lucknow GRPs for theft and recovery of stolen goods.

SP for Ramesh Bidhuri's expulsion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of Samajwadi Party (SP) members staged a 'maun dharna' at Gandhi Statue, Phool Bagh, on Monday demanding the expulsion of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Lok Sabha member Ramesh Bidhuri. The members later threatened to intensify their agitation in case he was not expelled and tendered an apology. Addressing presspersons later Fazal Mehmood said it was a matter of grave concern that a BJP MP had openly used 'unparliamentary language'.

He alleged it clearly indicates that the BJP wanted to sow seeds of hatred in the minds of the majority community so as to strengthen its vote bank. He said in the forthcoming 2014 elections the people of

the country will certainly teach the ruling party a proper lesson. Prominent among those who took part in it were KK Shukla, Surendra Mohan Agarwal, Shaileendra Yadav, Sanjay Singh, Paramvir Singh and others.

SPECIAL FORTNIGHT: Secretary of Sakhi Kendra, Neelam Chaturvedi, while addressing the presspersons at its Shyam Nagar office on Monday informed that the Sakhi Kendra will launch a special fortnight from October 1 to highlight the role of rural women in Uttar Pradesh. She said then on October 15 which is International Day for Rural Women the national president of the National Alliance for Women will preside over the function where outstand-

ing women will be felicitated and a draft policy will be prepared. She said it was quite encouraging that the contribution of the women, especially rural women, was now being gradually recognised. She said there was no doubt that women and girls played a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being. She said women account for a substantial proportion of the agricultural labour force, including informal work, and perform the bulk of unpaid care and domestic work within families and households in rural areas. She said they made significant contribution to agricultural production, food securi-

ty and nutrition, land and natural resource management and above all building climate resilience. She said in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh women and girls suffer disproportionately from multi-dimensional poverty. She said although extreme poverty had declined globally, yet a big section continued to live in unacceptable conditions of poverty. She said in rural areas of Kanpur poverty rates across most regions were higher than those in urban areas. She said it was a matter of pride that women farmers were equally productive and enterprising as their male counterparts but were less able to access land, credit, agricultural inputs, markets, and high-value agrifood chains and obtain lower prices for their crops.

NGEL, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port sign MoU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of India's leading integrated power producer NTPC Limited, and Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, for development of green hydrogen hub at Kolkata.

The MoU was signed by Bimal Gopalachari, AGM (NGEL) and Amit Kumar Kar, CME (SMPK) in the presence of Mohit Bhargava, CEO (NGEL) and other senior officials of NTPC and SMPK.

NTPC is India's largest power utility having a total installed capacity of 73+ GW. Its wholly owned subsidiary



A memorandum of understanding was signed between NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port

NGEL is taking up renewable energy capacity addition including projects of green

hydrogen, energy storage. NTPC Group aims for 60 GW of RE capacity by the

year 2032, with 3.2 GW of installed and over 20 GW in pipeline.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Regional Office : 117/HI-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur
Head Office : 239, Vidhan Bhawan Marg, Nariman Point Mumbai

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES | Date of e-Auction : 13-10-2023

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorized officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price & the Earnest Money Deposit or also mentioned hereunder.

Branch Name : Nagar Nigam Jhansi • Address : Nagar Nigam Premises, Jhansi, Branch Head : Shri Manish Ghosh • Mob. : 7860930411

Borrower : Shri Preetwan Singh Yadav S/o Shri Khachore Lal and Smt. Ram Devi W/o Shri Preetwan Singh Yadav, Both R/o : Braham Nagar Colony, Lahargird, Jhansi. Guarantor : (1) Shri Hemant Kumar S/o Shri Rakesh Chandra, R/o : Near Guru Hari Kishan Degree College, Lahargird, Jhansi. (2) Shri Gambheer Singh S/o Shri Preetwan Singh Yadav, R/o : Braham Nagar Colony, Lahargird, Jhansi. O/S Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 6,49,437.00 + Intt. + Other Charges

Property : Residential Building Situated at Arazi No. 1755, Lahargird, Braham Nagar Colony, Jhansi. **Owner of Property :** Shri Preetwan Singh Yadav S/o Shri Khachore Lal, Area : 83.64 Sq. Mtr. **Bounded -North :** 15 Ft. Way. **South :** Plot of Seller, **East :** Plot of Seller. **Date & Time of E-Auction : 13-10-2023 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.**

Reserve Price : Rs. 9.95 Lac. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.00 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TendeViewAllAuction.aspx>

Borrower : Shri Manoj Pandey S/o Late Shriram Bahadur Pandey and Smt. Hemlata W/o Shri Manoj Pandey, Both R/o : House No. 332, New Pal Colony, Simradha, Ice Factory, Distt. Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Kailash Chandra Kushwaha S/o Shri Ram Charan Kushwaha, R/o : 336, Outside Datta Gate Jhansi. O/S Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 5,42,822.38 + Intt. + Other Charges

Property : Residential Building Situated at Plot No. 332, New Pal Colony, Simradha, Distt. Jhansi. **Owner of Property :** Smt. Hemlata W/o Shri Manoj Pandey, Area : 1027.11 Sq. Ft. **Bounded -North :** House of Mahesh Chandra Raikwar, **South :** Plot of Shri Ramesh Pandey, **East :** Steel Mills, **West :** 10 Ft. Wide Way. **Date & Time of E-Auction : 13-10-2023 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.**

Reserve Price : Rs. 9.72 Lac. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 0.98 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TendeViewAllAuction.aspx>

Borrower : Shri Shrif Bux S/o Mohd. Haneef & Smt. Nargis W/o Shri Sharif Bux and Mohd. Haneef S/o Shri Raheem Bux, All R/o : 111/1, Singara, Bhatta Gaon, Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Suheb Khan S/o Shri Rasool Khan, R/o : 1/8, PWD Colony, Jhansi. O/S Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 10,23,541.80 + Intt. + Other Expenses

Property : Residential House situated at Part of Arazi No. 6, Mauza Singara, Bhatta Gaon, Distt. Jhansi. **Owner of Property :** Smt. Nargis W/o Shri Sharif Bux, Area : 1344 Sq. Ft. **Bounded -North-Road, 15 Ft., South :** Land of Ajeet, East-Plot of Mohd. Saheeq, West : Plot of Seller. **Date & Time of E-Auction : 13-10-2023 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm**

Reserve Price : Rs. 19.58 Lac. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.96 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TendeViewAllAuction.aspx>

Borrower : Shri Rafiq Ahmad S/o Late Nazeer Ahmad, R/o House No. 277, Laxmanganj, Distt. Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Ansar Khan S/o Shri Mahboob Khan, R/o 63, Madakkhana, Outside Orchha Gate, Distt. Jhansi. Property : Residential Land & Building Situated at House No. 277, Laxmanganj, Distt. Jhansi. **Owner of Property : Shri Rafiq Ahmad S/o Late Nazeer Ahmad, Area : 750 Sq. Ft. **Bounded -North-Road, South-Shahanshah Plot, East-Road, West-Jameel Plot. O/S Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 7,20,639.00 + Intt. + Other Charges -Date & Time of E-Auction : 13-10-2023 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.****

Reserve Price : Rs. 10.35 Lac. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.04 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TendeViewAllAuction.aspx>

Borrower : Shri Vimal Ahirwar S/o Shri Jagdish Ahirwar & Smt. Tara Ahirwar W/o Shri Jagdish Ahirwar, Both R/o : House No. 439/4, Taliya Mohalla Distt. Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Ram Singh Parihar, R/o 69, Nandanpura, Ditt. Jhansi. Property : Residential House situated at Part of Arazi No. 7, Mauza Kheerakpatti, Talpura, Ditt. Jhansi. **Owner of Property : Smt. Tara Ahirwar W/o Shri Jagdish Ahirwar, Area : 800 Sq. Ft. **Bounded -North-Plot of Seller, South-Rasta 15 Ft. Wide, East-Plot of Seller, West-Rasta 12 Ft. Wide. Date & Time of E-Auction : 13-10-2023 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.****

Reserve Price : Rs. 6.12 Lac. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 0.62 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TendeViewAllAuction.aspx>

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://www.mscecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

Date : 26-09-2023 Place : Jhansi Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

Para UP TT championship held



Chief guest ADG Kanpur Zone Alok Singh giving away prizes to the winners of Para State TT Championship

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Mayank, Priyanka and Pragati won prizes in different categories in the first TSH Para UP State Table Tennis Championship organised at The Sportz Hub (TSH) in association with the UP Table Tennis Association and Kanpur Smart City on Sunday. In the finals of the wheel chair class I event, Mayank defeated Harvardhan, 3-0, to win the medal. In class-II women's event, Priyanka Bajpai of the host Kanpur defeated Priti Singh, 3-1, of the city and won the title. Likewise, in the finals of the women's club event,

Pragati of Lucknow outplayed Priyanshi Kesari of Varanasi, 2-1 and won the trophy. Megha Gupta of Mathura won the third prize of this event. In the men's class-IV wheelchair event, Trivendra Singh emerged winner and Ashish Singh, the runner up. In class-IV wheelchair event, Pawan and Abhshek were the winner and runner-up respectively. Shivam Pal and Anshul Agarwal were adjudged the winner and runner up respectively in class-VII standing event while Kunal Arora and Tushar did so in class-VIII event followed by Vijendra

and Rahul Gupta (class-IX) and Hari Parashar and Rahul Singh (class X). Earlier, Prant Pracharak of RSS Sriram inaugurated the championship while the ADG Kanpur Zone Alok Singh distributed prizes as chief guest with Municipal Commissioner Shivsharanappa P as the special guest. TSH Managing Director Piyush Agarwal and UPTTA president Sanjiv Pathak were also present. Pathak said the objective for organising this championship was to promote para table tennis players. He said this champi-

onship was organised in the state for the first time and TSH was fortunate to host the event. The winners were awarded cash prize of ₹5,000 while the runners-up ₹3,000. The players who tried their hands in the semi-finals were also awarded cash prize of ₹2,000 each. TSH MD Piyush Agarwal announced to give free membership to all participants. Apart from Kanpur, players of Noida, Lucknow, Baghpat, Bareilly, Mathura, Agra, Aligarh, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Jaunpur, Bulandshahr and Muzaffarnagar also took part in the championship.

SEMINAR: The two-day national seminar organised by the UP Taekwondo Association under the aegis of India Taekwondo and World Taekwondo Associations at the Kanpur University campus concluded on Sunday. State general secretary Dr Rajat Aditya Dixit said 172 representatives from all over India took part in it. National referee, chairman of the India Taekwondo Education Community and member of Asian Taekwondo Union Education Community Dinesh Kumar took the black belt test. Arti Dixit was the chief guest of valedictory function. Sports secretary of Kanpur University Ashish Katiyar, Tushar Saini, Vaibhav Gaur, Atul Mishra, Amir Khan and Akash Mishra were also present on the occasion.

World-class cruise terminal to be constructed in Varanasi: Sonowal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a concerted effort to drive cooperative and sustainable growth in the maritime sector, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) organised a roadshow for the upcoming Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS)-2023 at the Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC) here on Monday. Led by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal, the event also saw the presence of key figures, including representatives from governments of UP and Nepal.

Speaking on occasion, Sonowal announced plans to construct a world-class cruise terminal in Varanasi for expansion of river cruise tourism via waterways in the city. He further alluded to facilitation of the movement of goods to and from Nepal via waterways. "In the heart of Varanasi, the cradle of our civilisation, we embarked on a transformative journey to shape India's destiny. Under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is poised to become the third largest economy in the world. Waterways and logistics are the bedrock of our economic growth, and the GMIS-2023 is the catalyst for partnership and realising the shared vision of generating investment of ₹10 lakh crore and creating more than 15 lakh employment avenues for the youth of this nation," said the Union Minister. He elaborated on the government's commitment to create a sustainable and modern ecosystem by stating, "The Jal Marg Vikas Project and Arth Ganga initiative are tangible testaments to our dedication. Our multi-modal terminals, innovative Ganga river transport and modernisation of 60 community jetties are bolstering industries and preserving our cultural heritage. We're fostering regional cooperation



Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurating an event at TFC in Varanasi on Monday.

with neighbouring countries and offering exciting cruises on the Ganga. This transformation is green and sustainable and aligns with our environmental stewardship commitment. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is constructing an Inter Modal Terminal at Kalughat, Bihar. The terminal is slated for completion by December 2023 and is set to revolutionise freight movement by connecting Nepal to Kalughat through road and Kalughat to Haldia via waterways." He further added, "India is also pioneering in the tourism sector with MV Ganga Vilas completing world's longest river cruise. We are creating a viable ecosystem and modernising all ports across the country be it for cargo movement, transportation of goods or reduction of costs. Under the visionary guidance of the PM, we have made significant progress in the inland waterways, coastal shipping and seaways through multiple projects across the country.

With the PM Gati Shakti initiative, we have achieved a groundbreaking milestone in waterways-centric transport, doubling the multimodal freight share to 12 per cent and reducing logistics costs. We are confident of attaining the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission and 'Net-zero' goals by 2047 and leading India towards a resilient and self-reliant future." Anchored by the IWAI, the roadshow served as a precursor to the highly anticipated 3rd GMIS-2023 slated to occur between October 17 and 19 at MMRDA Ground, BKC, Mumbai. The summit, organised in partnership with FICCI, strives to foster connections, advance collaborative endeavours and spark innovation, all encapsulated under the overarching theme of 'Connect, Collaborate & Create'.

During his welcome address, IWAI Chairman Sanjay Bhandopadhyay said, "We celebrate IWAI's remarkable achievements: ₹1,517 crore to ₹ 5,210.81 crore in nine years, 16 per cent (pc) growth in cargo movement (315 pc increase since 2014-15), river cruise tourism flourishes, international cooperation with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan." The IWAI has facilitated development of two private terminals at Maia, West Bengal for transport of cargo using river Ganga/Padma up to Sultanganj and Godagari (in Bangladesh). Maia has been declared as Customs Port under Section-7 of Indian Customs Act which has divertible potential of cargo of about 2.6 million metric tonnes, mainly stone chips. The transportation on this route shall be commenced shortly in consultation with Bangladesh. On the occasion an agreement was signed between IWAI and Government of Uttar Pradesh for operation of electric catamarans at Varanasi, Ayodhya and Mathura. Also, recently, the IWAI initiated operationalisation of NWs through PPP mode in the state of

Elderly man found murdered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Panic gripped Danpur Chakia, Karma and adjoining villages under Ghurpur police station for hours after an elderly man was found murdered in a field.

According to a report received here, the deceased was identified as Ram Vishnu Bharatiya (76), a resident of Karma village. A team of senior police officials, forensic experts rushed to the spot for investigations. The police recovered a blood stained rod a few metres from the site. The family members have lodged a named first information report (FIR) on the basis of which the police arrested a man identified as Arvind (32), a resident of Karma village. The Ghurpur police said Arvind was released on bail four months back from the Naini Central Jail.

"Arvind had been behind bars on charges of murder," said Ghurpur SSI. "Police are interrogating the accused to know the motive behind the murder," he added.

DENGUE CASES: City's urban and semi-urban areas have turned into hotspots for dengue cases. With fresh six cases of dengue, the total number of cases has gone up to 107 as per the UDSP (Unified Disease Surveillance Portal).

Out of six new cases, four of them are from urban pockets including Transport Nagar, Mundera Chungi, Preetam Nagar and Jhunsu. While rest of the two cases were from Kaurihar and Chaka. District Malaria Officer (Prayagraj) AK Singh told reporters that 83 out of total 91 patients have already recovered and there are only eight active cases in the city. He, however, said, "Out of eight active cases, six patients are being treated at different hospitals while two patients are being treated at home". Moreover, out of total 91 verified dengue cases reported in the district so far, 74 cases were reported in urban pockets, while 34 in

trans-Ganga and trans-Yamuna areas. Officials of the health department, however, claimed, there is no need to panic as fogging and anti-larve spray exercise has been extensively carried out across the district. Officials also added, urban pockets are witnessing an increasing trend in dengue cases since past 15 days, but effective measures are being initiated to check the vector-borne disease.

Officials also claimed that city pockets have undoubtedly more dengue cases, particularly in semi urban pockets, and all the hotspots are under scanner. An anti-larve spraying drive has been intensified in these areas, including Ashok Nagar, Rajapur, Teliyarganj, Govindpur, and old city localities. City residents have, however, been urged to take preventive measures to check the spread of dengue, said a senior health official, adding, health teams are appealing people to use mosquito nets and repellents.

Spl lecture organised to mark Deendayal Upadhyaya Jayanti

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A special lecture was conducted by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Chair, Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on the occasion of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Jayanti on Monday at the Sambodhi Sabhagar on varsity campus here. Prof Tej Pratap Singh, coordinator of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Chair inaugurated the programme by welcoming the dignitaries. In his welcoming address, Prof Singh explained the rising significance of 'soft power' in influencing external relations. Key speaker Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President of the Indian Council for Cultural



Relations (ICCR), former Member of the Parliament of India and a researcher delivered his special lecture on the topic 'Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay: Cultural Nationalism and India's Soft Power'. The chair for the session, Prof Bindu Paranjape, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, talked about

the significance as well as challenges of maintaining cultural solidarity in a multicultural nation like India.

Prof Singh proposed the vote of thanks. Prof Amarnath Mohanti, Prof Abhinav Sharma and students from various departments were present on the occasion.

IRRI Philippines team visits BHU



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A team of scientists from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines led by Dr Amelia Henry and members Mignon Natividad and Caesar Arlo Centeno visited the IRRI-funded Rice Breeding Project running at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) under leadership of Prof Shrawan Kumar Singh. The objectives of the project are to develop high-yielding rice varieties coupled with different specific genes to address the biotic and abiotic stresses and nutritional qualities like high zinc, iron, protein and low glycemic index rice. The team expressed happiness over the progress made by the BHU centre. Many advanced breeding lines are in the pipeline to meet the global food

demand. Prof Singh said rice is important food crop of the world population and India is the top rice exporter country. Hence, enhancing India's rice production is very important for world food and nutritional security and in balancing global inflation. The BHU is continuously joining hands with IRRI in the development of high-yielding rice varieties to meet global challenges and food security, Prof Singh added.

APPOINTED: Venugopal Badaravada, an activist of Varanasi working for preserving and promoting of Zebu Cattle Breeds, has been appointed by the Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and the President of ICAR Society Narendra Singh Tomar as a member of the general body and governing body of the

ICAR Society, for the key role in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Venugopal who attended the prestigious international events like PM Natendra Modi's programmes at Madison Square Garden in New York, Howdy Modi in Houston, USA, and Namaste Trump in Ahmedabad, has been appointed as a member of the general body and governing body of the ICAR Society, for three-year term. Venugopal has so far travelled to 21 countries across five continents and his main focus is on Zebu cattle, livestock and agricultural research. He also enjoys privilege of honorary citizenship in Canada and Brazilian city Uberaba, world capital for Zebu cattle, underscoring his global recognition for outstanding contributions to agriculture. Venugopal serves as the Central Advisory Member for the Rashtriya Gokul Mission and is an ex-member of the National Livestock Mission under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Swamishri to arrive in Kashi on October 6

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After completing his 'A'Chaturmas' stay at Paramhansi Ganga Ashram in Madhya Pradesh, the Shankaracharya of Jyotishpeeth Swami Avimuktsharananda Saraswati, popularly known as Swamishri, will arrive in this holy city via Seoni on October 6. Giving this information here on Monday, his media in-charge Sanjay Pandey said during his stay in the city where Swamishri was born and brought up till his appointment as the Shankaracharya, religious rituals will be held for the people who died during the corona pandemic period. Besides, Swamishri will also deliver his religious discourses on Shrimad Bhagwat Katha.

He said that the Chaturmas stay of Swamishri will be completed in Barheta district (MP) on Bhadrapada Purnima. Later, after participating in various religious events in the Seoni area for three days, he will reach Kashi on October 6. Sometime ago, Swamishri had announced that religious rituals will be organised in Kashi during Pitru Paksha for the peace of the souls and salvation of those who died in the country and abroad during the corona pandemic period and those whose last rites could not be performed as per the rituals. The path of Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana will be organised apart from religious rituals like tarpan etc by the Vedic scholars in this direction, Pandey added.

NSS DAY: The motto of National Service Scheme (NSS) "Not Me But You" reflects the essence of democratic living. Its ideological concept is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi in which welfare of the people and the society lies and these underline that the welfare of the individual ultimately depends on the welfare of the society. These words were expressed by the Head of Comparative Theology Department, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) Prof Hari Prasad Adhikari while speaking in a programme organised by NSS Unit of the university on NSS Day on Sunday.

Passengers to get sleeping pod facility at Chheoki railway stn

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Now passengers will get the facility of sleeping pods at Chheoki railway station here. A few days ago the tender process for making sleeping pods at the Prayagraj Junction has started. A Pune-based company will manufacture sleeping pods here. The company has also started the construction process on the building containing the old booking counter and reservation counter located on the Civil Lines side of the junction. Passengers will be able to get this facility at Prayagraj Junction possibly in October or November. Railway passengers will be able to rest here. Passengers will be able to book couple and single sleeping pods. Along with Chheoki, sleeping pods will be prepared at Kanpur Central, Aligarh Junction, Etawah and Mirzapur railway stations. It may be pointed out here that for the first time in North India a

sleeping pod is being prepared at Prayagraj Junction.

Senior DCM of Prayagraj Division Himanshu Shukla said that such pods are to be made at Prayagraj Junction as well as other railway stations. In view of Mahakumbh 2025, there will be a large number of passenger traffic here. Keeping this in mind sleeping pods are to be made at Prayagraj Junction, Chheoki Junction etc.

MAHAKUMBH: With around 40 crore devotees and tourists expected to converge at Prayagraj during Mahakumbh-2025, the state government has laid special emphasis on widening and constructing new roads leading to the mela area.

To expedite this work, the state government has approved the budget of ₹23.48 crore for the widening of 12 roads leading to the fair area. Of this, first tranche of ₹17.43 crore has been released. The work of road widening will be done by the Cantonment Board and

funds released by public works department (PWD). Apart from widening roads, new ones will also be constructed to decongest the mammoth gathering of devotees. Among this, a link road will be constructed, connecting old GT Road to Kali Marg near Patel Sansthan. For this, ₹1.52 crore has been released. Likewise, a new road will be constructed from Alopibagh flyover to Kali Marg via PWD store for which ₹1.91 crore has been given. Apart from this, an amount of ₹1.75 crore for widening of road from Harshvardhan intersection to Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, ₹60.51 lakh for interlocking at VIP Ghat, ₹69.51 lakh for construction of Yamuna Patti interlocking route (from Akshayvat Marg), ₹1.58 crore for interlocking on Lal sadak (road) and interlocking and widening on Sangam return route have also been released. Also, ₹1.82 crore has been released for inter-

locking and widening of Jagdish ramp. Along with this, funds have been released for construction of three ghats. The government has approved ₹34.55 crore for acquiring 11,754 sqm of land for pucca ghats. These will come up at Dashashwamedh Ghat in Daraganj, Nehru Ghat near Saraswati Ghat and a 30m long ghat behind ECC for which ₹1.48 crore has been released for acquiring 504 sqm land.

Funds have also been released for several other works related, including interlocking of road near Talab Naval Rai, new road near Triveni Marg stretching from Jagannath temple to Bangar Dharamshala.

"Now that funds are being approved and released, work for construction of new roads and widening of existing ones will be expedited," said MahaKumbh Mela Adhikari, Vijay Kiran Anand.

Commerce Faculty wins volleyball championship

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Commerce Faculty won the Inter-Faculty Volleyball Championship (Men) 2023-24 defeating Arts Faculty in the final match played on Monday. The championship was organised by the University Sports Board (USB), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on varsity sports ground here.

The final match of the Inter Faculty Volleyball Championship (Men) 2023-24 was played between Arts Faculty and Commerce Faculty and the latter won the final match and championship as well by defeating the former by 25-18, 25-10, 25-14. Earlier the semi-final matches were also played. In the first semi-final, the Arts Faculty became the winner by defeating the Institute of Science in four sets 25-21, 25-23, 22-25, 25-18. In the second semi-final match, the Commerce Faculty became



The team of Commerce Faculty which won the Inter-Faculty Volleyball Championship (Men) 2023-24 organised by the USB, BHU.

the winner by defeating Institute of Agricultural Science in three straight sets by 25-17, 25-17 and 25-10. In the match played for third place, the Institute of Science emerged victorious by defeating Institute of Agricultural Science in two straight sets by 25-12 and 25-4. The chief guest of the final match was chief proctor of the university Professor Abhimanyu Singh and the special guest was vice-

president of USB Professor SBS Raju. The guests distributed trophies and medals among the winning players. The organising secretary Robin Kumar Singh, secretaries of USB Dr Rajeev Singh and Professor Archana Singh, teachers from various institutes, faculties and colleges of the university and all the assistant directors of the USB were present besides all officers and employees of the USB.

'Clean Food Day' observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Along with the entire Indian Railways, the eighth 'Swachhata Pakhwada' (Cleanliness Fortnight) is being run on the theme of 'Swachhata Hi Seva' from September 16 to October 2 in different stations of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER). In the same sequence, 'Clean Food Day' was observed on Sunday and during the day, a thorough inspection of the cleanliness of the catering facilities available at the food stalls of the stations and in the pantry cars of the trains was carried out. On the instructions of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava, the nominated officers checked food stalls, mobile vendors and pantry cars of trains at different stations of Varanasi Division of NER. Under the leadership of Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar, food stalls were inspected at Prayagraj Rambagh station along with Shramdaan, tree plantation



and public awareness. A cleanliness rally was also taken out. The quality of food and beverages available at Jan Aahar units, canteens, food stalls, food plazas and local vendors, Varanasi City, Ballia, Ghazipur City, Azamgarh, Mau, Bhatni, Siwan and Chhapra stations. During the day, pamphlets were distributed among the passengers on the harm caused by filth in stations and railway premises. With a view to promote self-motivation and

awareness nearby the general public was made aware through audio/video messages at the stations.

Earlier, 'Clean Premises (Railway Accommodation and Colonies) Day' was observed in which all the wards and premises of Railway hospitals and health units were cleaned under the guidance of designated officers. High level cleanliness was ensured and plaster and electrical fittings of Railway colonies, rest houses, retiring rooms, waiting rooms

and dormitories were also checked. During the day the cleanliness campaign was launched in Varanasi Divisional Officers' Residential Colony, Vasundhara Railway Colony, Divisional Hospital premises apart from Varanasi City, Ghazipur City, Banaras, Prayagraj Rambagh, Ballia, Azamgarh, Mau, Belthara Road, Deoria Sadar, Kaptanganj, Aunrihar, Bhatni, Chhapra Junction railway stations. The railway colonies of Chhapra Kacheri and Siwan stations were thoroughly made clean, trees planted for beautification and garbage disposed of from different places. The cleanliness campaign was also launched by the railway officers and employees in the coaching depots, diesel lobbies, divisional hospital, primary schools, goods depots, diesel lobbies, Ghazipur and Banaras training centres and circulating areas of small and big stations of all categories. With a view to spreading awareness about the responsibility of cleanliness, the general public was also



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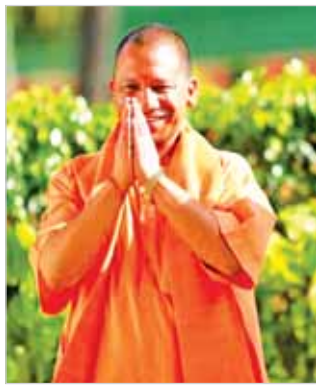
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PAPER WITH PASSION

India's El Dorado

UP emerges as investors' hot favourite as CM Yogi lays out red carpet, opportunities

Ever since first-time Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took over the reins of Uttar Pradesh, he has turned its earlier sobriquet 'Uttar Pradesh' on its head and into 'Uttam Pradesh'. The wheels of infrastructure, development, economy, pro-business policies, investment, safety, security, law and order, sound administrative decisions and overall satisfying governance for all sections of society are clucking at the right pace, in the right direction. The State's journey under Yogi's leadership is a living testament to its potential as an investment destination. As Uttar Pradesh continues its march towards progress and prosperity, it continues to beckon investors to participate in its transformation and be part of the heartland's success story. India's most populous State has witnessed remarkable transformation under Yogi's dynamic leadership. He has steered the State towards unprecedented development and economic growth. His visionary leadership has not only improved the law and order situation but also created a conducive environment for business and investment growth.



As Uttar Pradesh strides confidently into the future, there are abundant investment opportunities that await both domestic and foreign investors. Yogi Adityanath has been vocal about his vision to transform Uttar Pradesh into a global investment hub. His proactive approach towards development has been guided by the mantra "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas," which translates to "Development for all, with everyone's support and trust". Yogi Adityanath's Government has undertaken massive infrastructure projects to improve connectivity across the State viz., the 'Ganga Expressway' and 'Purvanchal Expressway'. These projects not only enhance transportation convenience but also open up opportunities in real estate and logistics. Uttar Pradesh has a thriving industrial sector with established industrial zones like the Noida-Greater Noida region and the upcoming defence corridor in Bundelkhand.

The State offers various incentives to attract industries, such as tax exemptions and subsidies. With fertile land and a large agricultural base, Uttar Pradesh offers excellent prospects for investment in agriculture and food processing industries. Initiatives like "One District, One Product" (ODOP) promote unique regional products and boost agro-based businesses. Investments in the tourism sector, including hospitality, travel and infrastructure, are poised for growth as the State promotes religious and cultural tourism with gusto. The Chief Minister has actively engaged with potential investors and made a compelling pitch to invite them to Uttar Pradesh. The State has introduced single-window clearances, industry-specific incentives and land acquisition reforms. Existing and upcoming airports, highways and state-of-the-art amenities for visitors add to the charm of Uttar Pradesh. Last but not the least, improved law and order has created a secure environment for businesses.

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PICTALK



Tourists and locals at Ghanta Ghar on a cloudy day, in Srinagar

Canada must rein in extremists

Ottawa must be made to understand the sentiments of New Delhi; it should stop pampering pro-Khalistan elements



KALYANI SHANKAR

The ongoing massive diplomatic row has brought a sudden spotlight on the Canada-India relationship.

Differences emerged between the two countries after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged Indian involvement in killing a separatist Sikh activist, Nijjar. Outraged, New Delhi vehemently denied the claim and dismissed it as "absurd and motivated."

On June 18 this year, a pro-Khalistani leader Najjar was shot dead outside a Gurudwara in Surrey, British Columbia. India had declared him a wanted terrorist. If the relationship between India and Canada had been trending smoothly, it was because of the Geopolitical developments, economic relations, and demographic trends. It worsened after the Nijjar killing. The two countries resorted to tit-for-tat reactions against each other. The ties between the visiting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the G20 summit last week were visibly frosty.

New Delhi has been protesting the presence of the pro-Khalistani elements in Canada. New Delhi also frowned on the referendum for Khalistan by them. When Trudeau was on a bilateral visit in 218, there were embarrassing moments about the presence of a Khalistani activist in his delegation. The pro-Khalistani elements sent death threats to Indian diplomats in Ottawa. The request for their extradition also has yet to be addressed so far.

Why is Canada important to India? The former British colony has the highest population of Sikhs outside their home state of Punjab. About 1.4 million Indian immigrants live in Canada out of 40 million. About 770,000 people follow Sikhism. New Delhi has often complained about their activities.

After the controversy, Canada and India acted swiftly to expel senior diplomats in reciprocal moves earlier this week. On Thursday, India's foreign ministry suspended visa services temporarily for Canadian citizens. Ottawa claims that Canadian security agencies had uncovered



evidence linking the Indian government to the assassination.

As for domestic politics, the Congress and other parties supported the Indian government and criticised Trudeau's statement. They are shocked at the allegation that the Indian government had orchestrated the killing of an Indian-origin Canadian citizen on Canadian soil and supported the South Bloc. Only Sukhbir Badal, the leader of Akali Dal, suggested that political parties should work together to stop anti-Sikh propaganda in the media.

As for the international scenario, the reaction towards India from its Western allies has been cautious. Top U.S. diplomat David Cohen claimed the shared intelligence among the Five Eyes made Justin's allegation. Five Eyes Network is an intelligence alliance comprised of the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. The New York Times said on Sunday, "In the aftermath of the killing in June of the Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, U.S. intelligence agencies offered their Canadian counterparts context that helped Canada conclude that India had been involved."

Trudeau called on India to cooperate with Canadian

authorities to "uncover the truth" about the killing but stated that he was not looking to escalate tensions between the two countries. The stand-off will have repercussions for both India and Canada. India is Canada's tenth most significant trading partner.

Secondly, India has a vital role in Canada's 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy. Thirdly, India is Canada's tenth most significant trading partner. The two countries have been in discussions about a trade agreement for more than a decade. In 2022, the total trade value between them only reached C\$13.7 billion, a small portion of Canada's overall trade volume amounting to C\$1.52 trillion.

A favourable climate for high-level negotiations for an Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) existed. The October meeting for EPTA talks has now been postponed indefinitely.

Fourthly, the Canadian merchandise trade had grown from approximately \$3.87 billion in 2012 to \$10.18 billion in 2022. Trade will be hit for both sides. Fifthly, there could be a reduction in immigration from India to Canada. Canada has been home to many immigrants in recent years. It has tripled since 2013, overtaking Philipponmes and China. The

students' traffic would also be affected adversely. Over 30 per cent of the students come from India to study in Canada. Further, tourist traffic will also be affected. On September 21, India declared that it would temporarily stop issuing visas to Canadian citizens because of security concerns affecting their missions in Canada. New Delhi is also considering cancelling overseas citizenship to pro-Khalistanis.

India has come a long way since the 1980s and 1990s, rapidly gaining political and economic power. The United States wants to partner with India to balance China's influence and would prefer to avoid strains developing among its allies. A former Pentagon official said that if the U.S. chose the two countries, it might favour India as Washington has been wooing India to balance China in the region.

However, any negative impact on India-Canada relations could prevent Canada from joining the Indo-Pacific network of institutions. Ottawa recognises India's regional power and influence. Ottawa must be made to understand the sentiments of New Delhi and should not pamper pro-Khalistani elements.

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

THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO PARTNER WITH INDIA TO BALANCE CHINA'S INFLUENCE AND WOULD PREFER TO AVOID STRAINS AMONG ITS ALLIES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A TICKING TIME BOMB

Sir — Hypertension is a ticking time bomb. It is imperative that people take note of the fatalities and disabilities caused by this "silent killer" known as hypertension. The first report from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the perils of hypertension revealed that nearly 80 per cent of individuals worldwide with high blood pressure suffer due to inadequate treatment. Shockingly, only 37 per cent of Indians with hypertension are diagnosed, and merely 30 per cent receive treatment, despite the abundance of anti-hypertensive medications, the expertise of skilled physicians, and a wealth of literature outlining its dangers. The danger of hypertension is encapsulated in the "rule of halves" - half of the global population is diagnosed, half of those diagnosed receive treatment, and only half of them attain sustainable normal blood pressure levels.

Neglected hypertension can lead to an enlarged heart and inefficient blood vessel function, resulting in casualties. This is particularly unfortunate given the simple and effective ways to prevent and manage this debilitating condition. Lifestyle adjustments, such as regular physical activity, a balanced diet with limited salt and sugar intake, minimal alcohol consumption, smoking cessation, stress reduction, and consistent medication under supervision, can make a significant difference. Measuring blood pressure is a straightforward process, made even easier with the availability of compact devices.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

TAGORE'S VISION

Sir — Rabindranath Tagore envisioned that Indians should embrace the best that the international community has to offer by embracing the spirit of the "Global Village" and emphasising the exchange of thoughts and culture in harmony with nature. This vision was embodied in his brainchild, Visva-Bharati or Santiniketan, where the rich cultural tapestry of Bengal, India, and the entire world would intermingle freely. From Manipuri dance in

5-Star victory for India



India secured a resounding 5-star victory. Three batsmen — Gill, Shreyas, and SKY (Surya Kumar Yadav) — along with two bowlers — Ashwin and Jadeja — crushed Australia by a convincing 99-run margin.

Earlier, centuries from Gill (his 6th in ODIs, 9th in international matches) and Shreyas Iyer (his 3rd in ODIs, 4th in international matches) provided a solid foundation for India. Bowlers Jadeja (3 for 42), Ashwin (3 for 41), and P. Krishna (2 for 56) spun their magic, clinching the 2nd ODI match and securing the series for India. SKY (Surya Kumar Yadav) played a pivotal role with four sixes in an over and a whirlwind 72* (37 balls), propelling India to an imposing total of 399 runs (for 5 in 50 overs) and securing a substantial victory.

SKY's staggering strike rate of 200% begs the question: should he be considered as an opener in shorter formats, perhaps in T20s?

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secundrabad

Tagore's dramas to the works of great artists like Ananda Samarakoon (composer of Sri Lanka's national anthem 'Sri Lanka Matha...'), all exemplify this cultural and intellectual exchange aimed at enlightening both the individual and society. Tagore remains a living example of an ideal human being who takes pride in his roots while embracing the global community.

It is disheartening to witness certain forces working tirelessly to narrow India's perspective and isolate it from the rest of the world in the name of "national pride." We earnestly request the relevant authorities to follow Tagore's ideals. Would the all-embracing, secular, and humanitarian Tagore, who despised the concept of "nationalism" from the depths of his heart, have supported the actions of political leaders on campus who propagate hatred against minority groups?

As far as continuing Tagore's legacy is concerned, it is being carried forward by the paragon of ethical values, Amartya Sen. The constant attempts to tarnish his noble image as a "land-grabber" are a direct assault on Tagore's legacy itself. Sen and Tagore's legacies are synonymous terms. Unlike the current political custodians of

the university, Sen's worldview encompasses the world, transcending the confines of narrow "nationalism," and places the utmost importance on secularism, religious tolerance, humanity, and the economic upliftment of all. It is high time that the narrow-minded mindset opposing dissent, freedom of speech, secularism, and humanity be consigned to oblivion within the campus, and justice be done to Santiniketan's UNESCO-awarded status as a "World Heritage site."

Kajal Chatterje | Kolkata

GOD OF LOGIC

Sir — The God of logic, Lord Ganesha, also known as 'Pratham Pujya,' which means the first one to be worshipped, teaches us the importance of beginning with logic. In essence, He encourages us to approach our goals with prudence and rationality. This wisdom from Lord Ganesha also guides us to foresee potential challenges and address them proactively. Rather than regretting our actions later, we should think logically before we act.

Ananisha Godani | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

New science awards to unearth fresh talent

The rationalisation of awards providing equal opportunities to people working in every sphere of science will help identify the best scientific talent

The government of India has decided to rebrand the science awards delivered by various ministries into a single new avatar. As per the new decision, there is a rationalisation of awards. Previously, the Department of Science and Technology presented a total of 207 awards, including four with national significance. Additionally, there were 97 private endowments and 56 internal awards. The Department of Biotechnology granted six fellowships as part of its awards program.

The Department of Atomic Energy distributed 25 performance-based honours and 13 awards in non-core domains. Except for the one internal award given by the Department of Atomic Energy in the name of Homi Jehangir Bhabha, all other internal awards have been stopped. The new avatar 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' shall be limited to 56 prizes under 4 categories, viz., Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and Vigyan Team. The Vigyan Ratna Award will honour the lifetime accomplishments of scientists,



while the Vigyan Shri Award will acknowledge notable contributions to a specific field. The Vigyan Yuva Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award aims to inspire young scientists who have demonstrated outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar will be conferred across 13 disciplines, encompassing Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Environmental Science, Mathematics and Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology and Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, among others. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is open to every Indian citizen and also to people of Indian origin working in

other countries. However, there is a limit to the number of people of Indian origin to be considered for these awards. Out of the total number of 3 awards in the Vigyan Ratna, a maximum of only 1 can be considered from people of Indian origin, while in Vigyan Shri and Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar it is 3 out of 25, while the Vigyan Team award is exclusively for people working in India. Similarly except for

Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) there is no upper age limit for applying. In VY-SSB the upper age limit is fixed at 45.

In the earlier version of the award that has been followed for many years only people working in government sectors were considered. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is open to all researchers, irrespective of the organization. Even people working outside the gamut of any organization can also apply for these awards. This will help thousands of outstanding researchers working under various NGOs in the country to showcase their scientific talents and come to

the limelight.

A panel headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser will be responsible for choosing the recipients. The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee will comprise secretaries from all six science departments, four presidents chosen from science and engineering academies, and six eminent scientists and technologists representing various realms of science. Each year, nominations for these awards will be open from January 14 to February 28, coinciding with National Science Day. One landmark decision in the new award is the clause for self-nominations, which was not possible in the earlier version. Often the malpractice and unethical practices happening in science are because of this nomination culture. The rationalisation of awards providing equal opportunities to people working in every sphere of science will help identify the best scientific talent from the country.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore; views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN



FIRST COLUMN

EMBRACING LIFE...
THE UTMOST NEED

This autumn, let go of the things that trouble you; let them fall like dried leaves



SAKSHI SETHI

Our heart is wide enough to embrace the world and hands are long enough to encompass the world." Life can be a beautifully complex tapestry, where on the surface, everything seems picture perfect—the marriage, the career, the health and the loving family all paint a pretty picture. But in quiet moments, when the thoughts drift and one finds yearning for something more or something different, then it's time to listen to that inner voice. It's not about dissatisfaction, rather it's about growth.

In a world that often tells everyone to stick with the status quo, this is the permission slip to break free from those chains and chase dreams. In a world often defined by expectations and conformity, embracing the authentic self is a superpower that can propel an individual to move forward.

As a younger self, everyone had a sense of naivety that allowed them to approach the world with curiosity and fearlessness. With time and growth, the brains get wired to keep themselves safe which in turn leads to making to resist change. But if tapped into that childlike sense of wonder, one can embrace change with excitement and enthusiasm. One needs to trust the process and keep moving forward. One shouldn't be afraid to take risks and try new things. With a bit of naivety, an individual can approach change with a fresh perspective and an open mind.

To make a change, one needs to determine the value of the change. As a human being, one doesn't do things simply for the sake of doing them, rather one needs to have a purpose, value or benefit.



Stepping out of your comfort zone can be scary but it's where the opportunities and growth lie. Moving to a new frequency may crumble some aspects of life, but at the same time will also make room for new opportunities and experiences. There is no denying the fact that change can be scary but everyone must face it. It's the words and perceptions of an individual that matter and make an impact on the behaviour and actions. Reframing the way an individual thinks about change is very valuable in whether one worries about it or embraces it. One needs to stop thinking about embracing change as the big bad wolf—"scary," "uncertain" and "negative" and start thinking about it as an adventure and a fun experience where they learn, grow and have fun in the process.

Remember, there is no better time than autumn to begin forgetting the things that trouble us, allowing them to fall away like dried leaves.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Digital medium and
new economic paradigm

Attaining the balance between business and social values in the digital realm is the need of the hour

Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon has rightly argued, "There is no alternative to digital transformation. Visionary companies will carve out new strategic options for themselves those that don't adapt, will fail."

Attention economy is the latest lexicon in the landscape of business and digital communication. There is hardly any space that digital media has not reached and influenced, whether it is for good or bad. Technology and digital connectivity have evolved a new paradigm in the sphere of economy, the attention economy, which is doing around all across. This new model has redefined the very rudiments of the economic paradigm and there have been shifts in Ferments, foundations and the future of the economy on a global scale. The confluence of economy and interactive digital communication emanating from the economy has wider implications on the genesis and praxis of economy and digital communication. It has caused concerns about privacy, manipulation, and the toll it takes on mental health which need to be amicably addressed.

No wonder, the attention economy has transformed the way we live, work, and interact, and it's time we take a closer look at its impact and the challenges it presents. Such a form of new economic model has emerged in the digital age. It's a framework that recognizes that attention has become a finite resource in an information-rich world. In the traditional economic model, goods and services are exchanged for money. In the attention economy, however, the currency is not dollars or euros; it's our precious time and cognitive resources.

The attention economy revolves around capturing and holding the attention of individuals to monetize it. This is principally achieved through advertising, content consumption, and social media. Social media platforms have played a pivotal role in the rise of the attention economy. They have created a digital landscape where individuals willingly share their personal information, preferences, and behaviours, providing an invaluable resource for advertisers and content creators. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok have mastered the art of keeping users engaged and scrolling for hours on end.

One of the key features of social media is the algorithm-driven feed, designed to show users content that will keep them on the platform as long as possible. These algorithms analyze user behaviour, preferences, and interactions to curate a personalized feed that maximizes the chances of holding the user's attention. Whether it's endless scrolling on Instagram or watching recommended videos on YouTube, these algorithms are designed to capture and retain our attention.

Companies and platforms vie for our attention because they know that the more of it they can capture, the more advertising revenue they can generate. In this light, social media has not spared any space whether it is personal or professional. Numerous social media platforms have played a pivotal role in the rise of the attention economy. They have inevitably created a niche digital landscape where individuals willingly share their personal information, preferences, and behaviours, providing an invaluable resource for advertisers and content creators. It is startling but true. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok have mastered the art of keeping users engaged and scrolling for hours



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(Chakraborty is HoD, Digital Marketing & Associate Professor, Presidency University, Bengaluru and Biswal is Associate Professor & Head, Journalism and Mass Communication, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar; views are personal)

on end. Moreover, artificial intelligence and machine learning are the new entrants that have started positioning curated and personalized content which have larger implications for the economy by capturing the users' attention. Whether it's never-ending scrolling on Instagram or watching recommended videos on YouTube, these algorithms are designed to capture and retain attention.

The attention economy is not all free from flaws. Social media platforms and advertisers are constantly refining their techniques to keep us hooked. These models of business activities can foster the spread of misinformation and echo chambers. Algorithms often prioritize content that aligns with a user's existing beliefs and preferences. This can lead to the reinforcement of biases and a lack of exposure to diverse perspectives, ultimately contributing to polarization and the spread of fake news. The attention economy's impact on mental health is a growing concern. Every notification, every "like," every comment is a small reward that keeps us coming back for more. Take control of your social media feed by unfollowing accounts that don't add value or contribute to negativity. Curate a feed that inspires and educates rather than drains your energy. This can lead to addictive behaviour and compulsive checking of social media, negatively impacting our mental health and productivity.

The constant barrage of content also makes it challenging for individuals to focus and engage in deep, meaningful activities. Continuous

partial attention (CPA) is an automatic process that allows people to pay attention to multiple sources of information at the same time while searching for relevant information. This allows people to move from a superficial focus on a lot of information to focus on highly relevant information within a short attention span. CPA has been used to describe our tendency to be constantly distracted by notifications and the fear of missing out (FOMO).

Fear of missing out (FOMO) is a feeling of anxiety about not being aware of or missing out on information, events, experiences, or life decisions that could improve one's life. It is characterized by the desire to constantly stay in touch with what others are doing. FOMO has increased recently due to technological advancements. Social networking sites create many opportunities for FOMO. While it provides opportunities for social engagement, it provides a view of the myriad of activities in which one does not participate. Psychological dependence on social networks can lead to FOMO or even pathological use of the Internet. This hampers our ability to concentrate, which is essential for tasks that require sustained attention and critical thinking.

Research has shown that excessive use of social media and digital devices can lead to feelings of loneliness, depression, and anxiety. The constant comparison with others, the pressure to curate a perfect online persona, and the fear of missing out on social events can take a toll on our well-being. The relentless stream of information and sen-

sationalized news can contribute to information overload and heightened stress levels.

There is little doubt that the attention economy enjoys a coveted space in digital marketing and business strategy. However, in a view to mitigate the ill effects of excessive digital media consumption, sanity in terms of focused work, leisure, resetting your mental state, algorithmic accountability and minimizing mindless scrolling is highly warranted. Periodically disconnect from digital devices and social media. A digital detox can help reset your mental state and reduce dependency on technology. Allocate time for focused work, leisure, and social media, and try to minimize mindless scrolling.

The attention economy is a double-edged sword. On one hand, it has revolutionized the way we access information, connect with others, and do business. On the other hand, it has raised significant concerns about privacy, manipulation, and the toll it takes on our mental health.

Finding a balance between benefiting from the opportunities of the attention economy while safeguarding our well-being is a complex challenge. It requires a combination of individual responsibility, societal awareness, and ethical practices from tech companies.

Finding a balance between benefiting from the opportunities of the attention economy while safeguarding our well-being is a complex challenge. It requires a combination of individual responsibility, societal awareness, and ethical practices from tech companies.



UTTAM CHAKRABORTY

SANTOSH KUMAR
BISWAL

Women's reservation Bill: A pathbreaking achievement

It is a historical step and culmination of a series of progressive reforms that the Modi Government has undertaken for the welfare of women

Empowerment began with the much-acclaimed Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign, launched by the Prime Minister in 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women's empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. Speaking on the success of this programme, the Prime Minister while addressing citizens of his adopted village Jayapur said, "Our Mantra should be: 'Beta Beti, Ek Samaan.'" Let us celebrate the birth of the girl child. We should be equally proud of our daughters. I urge you to sow five plants when your daughter is born to celebrate the occasion."

The next step was the hugely successful campaign



VINEETA HARIHARAN

((The author is a public policy expert and spokesperson, BJP and State Vice President, BJP Women's Wing; views are personal))

of the Swachh Bharat Mission which provided izzat ghars to more than 120 million women thus ensuring access to safe sanitation for women and girl children across rural and urban Bharat. Saving millions of women from chronic respiratory disorders by providing smoke-free kitchens through the widespread Ujjwala Yojana which provided gas cylinders to more than 96 million women was another significant life-changing provision for the women of our country. Apart from these, several important programmes were delivered for the betterment of the health and hygiene of our women.

Distribution of over 270 million sanitary pads priced at Re. 1 through Jan Aushadhi Kendras, providing 39 million

free antenatal check-ups under PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan; benefitting more than 30 million women through the PM Matru Vandana Yojana; increase in paid maternity leave period from 12 weeks to 26 weeks; were some of the significant health initiatives. As an outcome of these, we could achieve a decline in Maternal Mortality Rate from 130 in 2014 to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-20. Modi Government also facilitated holistic well-being development schemes such as Mission Poshan.

This was an integrated nutrition support programme to overcome the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. Poshan Abhiyan has reported benefi-

ciaries of more than 100 million which includes more than 5 million lactating and pregnant mothers and more than 4 million children below 6 months.

Apart from social welfare, this Government has also ensured economic empowerment through various interventions beginning with opening more than 270 million Jan Dhan accounts and providing more than INR 200 million to women entrepreneurs through the MUDRA Yojana. There has been a 28% increase in registration of women-owned MSMEs in just 3 years.

More than 45,000 DPIIT-recognised startups have at least one woman director. Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) for girls and women which was anno-

unced by Finance Minister Nirmala Seetharaman ji in the Union Budget 23-24, celebrates Nari Shakti by providing financial freedom and dignity for women and girl children. Apart from social and economic empowerment, this Government has also taken bold steps in bringing much-needed reforms for Muslim women. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 declared the pronouncement of instantaneous and irrevocable triple talaq by a Muslim husband as illegal. The Women's Reservation Bill is now the culminating transformation being introduced to ensure adequate women's participation in the electoral canvas of Bharat. The chequered legislative history of the Women's Reservation Bill

began 27 years ago when the H D Deve Gowda-led government introduced it in Parliament in September 1996.

Almost every government has since tried to push it through — the UPA government managed to get it passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2010 but later could not get it through in the Lok Sabha. The move has not come to fruition so far due to a lack of political will and consensus.

The bill will help to represent those who remain under-represented. The proportion of women MPs was just five per cent in the first Lok Sabha in 1952 reaching a figure of less than 15 per cent today. In Rajya Sabha too, women's representation is about 14 per cent and below 10 per cent in many state assemblies. Bring-

ing in the 1/3 representation will enable many more women's voices to be heard in the wells of the parliament houses. This will also ensure that women's issues and challenges in the most backward areas are represented before the policy and lawmakers which will go a long way in not just keeping our women and girl children safe in the country but also empowering them to play a critical role in nation-building.

The Women's Reservation Bill will be etched in the history of Modern Bharat and the Modi Government will always be known as the most progressive Government that provided 360-degree empowerment for the women of our country—social, economic and now electoral. A proud and jubilant moment in history for all of us.

C-295 transport aircraft inducted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/GHAZIABAD

The IAF on Monday formally inducted the first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Hindan airbase in Ghaziabad.

He exuded confidence that the latest induction will bolster medium lift tactical capability of the IAF. He termed the defence and aerospace sectors as the two important pillars for making India self-reliant in the coming years.

Rajnath also inaugurated Bharat Drone Shakti 2023, a first-of-its-kind two-day drone exhibition cum display was inaugurated at the airbase.

The expo has been jointly organised by IAF and Drone Federation of India (DFI). The event features over 75 drone start-ups from across the country. As regards the C-295 plane, the induction ceremony saw Rajnath taking part in a 'Sarva Dharma Pooja' that was performed in the hangar to mark the occasion. IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari along with senior officials of the IAF as well as of Airbus attended the induction ceremony.

The first C-295 aircraft was inducted into Squadron No. 11 of the IAF. It is one of the oldest squadrons of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and is currently based at Vadodara Air Force Station.



The aircraft was unveiled at the hangar after two sliding screens, bearing '11 SQN; Pioneers of C-295 MW; Rhinos: The Trailblazers of C-295 MW', and image of the newly-inducted aircraft, moved sideways. One-horned rhino is the emblem of Sqn. No. 11.

The IAF chief had on September 13 received the first of the 56 C-295 transport aircraft two years after India sealed a ₹21,935-crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space to procure the jets to replace its ageing Avro-748 fleet.

The aircraft had landed in Vadodara on September 20, days after it was handed over to the IAF in the southern Spanish city of Seville. Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft in fly-away condition from its final assembly line in Seville by 2025 and the subsequent 40 air-

craft will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.

The production of components of these aircraft has already started in the Main Constituent Assembly facility in Hyderabad.

These parts will be shipped to the Final Assembly Line in Vadodara which is expected to be operational by November 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of the manufacturing facility for C-295 planes in Vadodara in October last year. It will be the first military aircraft to be manufactured in India by a private consortium.

The IAF is procuring the C-295 aircraft to replace its fleet of ageing Avro-748 planes that entered the service over six

decades ago.

The C-295 is known to be a superior aircraft used for tactical transport of up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers and for logistic operations to locations that are not accessible to current heavier aircraft.

The aircraft can airdrop paratroops and loads, and also be used for casualty or medical evacuation. The aircraft is capable of performing special missions as well as disaster response and maritime patrol duties. Meanwhile, the drones featured during the exhibition can be employed for a variety of military and civil applications. By showcasing their capabilities through a series of aerial and static demonstrations, the IAF and DFI seek to bolster the Government's initiative to make India a major drone hub by 2030.

Institutions likely to face problems in NEP implementation: Panel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of the multiple entry and exit system in the academic career as cited in the National Education Policy, a Parliamentary panel has noted that Indian institutions are likely to face issues in implementation. While the panel observed that the system is carried effectively in western educational institutions, it noted that uneven geographical distribution of higher education institutions would create hurdles in managing MEME in several areas, mostly countryside in India.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, headed by Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Thakur, said in its report tabled in the Rajya Sabha that the institutions have not thought very clearly about this problem and how they will resolve it when it is at their doorstep.

"NEP proposes multi-entry and multi-exit options for the students. While it looks like a flexible system, which is being operated by western education institutions quite effectively,



Indian institutions are likely to face several issues in implementing this system. Due to high population, the estimated intake of students in higher education every year is quite high.

"If institutions allow MEME (multiple entry and multiple exit), it would be very difficult for the institutions to predict how many students would exit and how many would join midway. Since institutions would not know the in-and-out-traffic, it will certainly disturb the Pupil-Teacher Ratio," the report said.

According to the "Guidelines for Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programmes offered in Higher Education Institutions" issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC), flexible learning is important to choose one's academic pathway leading to the award of certificate, diploma, and degree.

Attached land worth ₹125.06 crore in money laundering probe: ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has provisionally attached land worth ₹125.06 crore belonging to Unitech Infopark Limited in connection with a money laundering probe linked to allegations of complaints from home buyers of the Unitech group.

The ED has provisionally attached 39.83 per cent share of 4.79 acres of land that forms part of the Uniworl City township at Nallambakkam in Chennai.

"The value of the land attached is ₹125.06 crore. The said land is owned by Unitech Infopark Limited in which 39.83 per cent shares are held by Narnil Infosolutions Private Limited (a benami company of the Chandras, the promoters of Unitech Group)," the ED said in a statement.

The action is part of an investigation undertaken by the ED based on cases registered by the Delhi Police and CBI on the complaints from home buyers against Unitech Group, its promoters and others, it said. In its investigation, ED detected that the Chandras of Unitech had allegedly invested the 'proceeds of crime' to the tune of USD 1.50 crore (present



value ₹125.06 crore) through Narnil Infosolutions Private Limited into Unitech Infopark Limited in 2009-10 by acquiring 39.83 per cent shares of the said company, the agency said.

The agency probe revealed that Narnil Infosolutions Private Limited is beneficially owned by the Chandras and was being controlled through their associates.

"During the course of investigation, ED had arrested five individuals namely Sanjay Chandra, Ajay Chandra, Ramesh Chandra, Preeti Chandra and Rajesh Malik. Till now, two prosecution complaints have been filed by the ED and cognisance of the same have been taken by the PMLA Court," it said.

So far, the ED has provisionally attached domestic and overseas assets worth ₹1,257.61 crore.

'Southwest monsoon withdrawing from India' Ensure Aadhaar to Manipuris displaced due to conflict, SC directs UIDAI, Govt

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced on Monday the southwest monsoon has started withdrawing from India, eight days after the normal date of September 17.

The late retreat of the monsoon this year is the 13th consecutive delayed withdrawal. India is divided into 717 meteorological districts, of them 221 have received deficit rainfall while 492 received normal or excess rainfall so far.

India received 796.3 mm rainfall as against the normal of 843.2 mm, deficit of 46.8 mm amounting to 6 per cent. Nearly 2 per cent of rainfall needs to be offset in the remaining 6 days of the month, for the monsoon season to turn 'normal'.

Rainfall between 94 per cent and 106 per cent of the long-period average (LPA) is considered normal. Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Kerala, East Uttar Pradesh, Mahe, South Karnataka and Lakshadweep among the states which received less monsoon rain this year.



Typically, the southwest monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17, withdrawing entirely by October 15.

"(The) southwest monsoon has withdrawn from parts of southwest Rajasthan today, September 25, 2023, against its normal date of withdrawal from southwest Rajasthan of September 17," IMD said in a statement.

For withdrawal of monsoon, the IMD considers certain conditions to be fulfilled, including dry weather over an area for five consecutive days,

a considerable reduction in moisture content as inferred from satellite water vapour imageries and tephigrams and an anticyclone in the lower levels of the atmosphere. Normally, the country receives an average of 870 mm of precipitation during the four-month monsoon season (June to September).

Withdrawal of the monsoon from northwest India marks the beginning of its retreat from the Indian sub-continent. Any delay in the monsoon's retreat means a longer rainy season, which can significantly impact agricultural production, particularly for northwest India where

monsoon rainfall plays a crucial role in the Rabi crop production.

The onset month of June remained 10% below the normal. This shortfall was made up in July when the month accumulated a surplus of 13% rainfall. The monsoon rainfall was 105 per cent of LPA at the halfway mark of the season. And then, there was a collapse. With prolonged break-monsoon conditions, the core monsoon month of August slumped miserably to be the lowest on record since the time record-keeping began.

35 per cent shortfall in August nearly dragged the season to the brink of a drought. However, against all hopes, remarkable recovery commenced in September and the season could be freed from the scare of yet another drought.

The Indian monsoon refers to inherent fluctuations and changes that occur over time due to various natural factors. This is called natural variability. However, research shows climate change is making monsoon more variable. Increased variability means more extreme weather and dry spells.

As far as Delhi is concerned, till September 25, the

national capital should have received 118.2mm of monthly rainfall, making it a deficit of 30% so far.

Overall, in the month of September, Delhi averages 123.4mm of rainfall, meaning if no rain is recorded for the remainder of the month, Delhi will end with a deficit of 33 per cent this month.

August too was on similar lines, with only 91.8mm of rainfall being received throughout the month — a deficit of 61% as compared to the monthly normal mark of 233.1mm for August. This was the second lowest monthly rainfall total for August in Delhi in at least 14 years.

The Ministry of Agriculture data showed Kharif sowing has exceeded the levels of last year led by a surge in paddy and sugarcane, while pulses, oilseeds and cotton fell, at a time the erratic south-west monsoon has cast a shadow over this year's sowing and harvest.

According to data released by the agriculture ministry on Friday, total kharif planting until 22 September was up 3.7 per cent from the previous year to touch 110.2 million hectares (mh).

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Unique Identification Authority of India and the Manipur Government to take steps to ensure that Aadhaar cards are provided to people displaced due to the ethnic conflict in the State whose records are already available with the UIDAI.

Observing that it does not propose to run the administration in Manipur, the apex court said necessary verifications shall be carried out before issuing the Aadhaar cards expeditiously.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud clarified that UIDAI, which would have the biometric details of people to whom Aadhaar cards were already issued, will match the claims of those displaced about the loss of their cards.

The bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, directed the secretary of Manipur's finance department to issue appro-



In the reports filed in the apex court, the committee had sought certain directions on issues including lost personal documents of those displaced.

During the hearing on a batch of pleas, including those seeking court-monitored probe into cases of violence, besides measures for relief and rehabilitation, the bench observed that for issuing Aadhaar cards, the authority will have to verify whether these are genuine residents or citizens.

"What if somebody is an illegal entrant?" it asked and added "We will say the authorities will verify whether the person is genuine."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Manipur government, said several of these issues can be sorted out if the committee discusses them with the authorities.

"Let the committee be aware of its remit," he said. The bench said the committee has not pressed for several of the directions mentioned in its reports.

Uplifting marginalised should be article of faith for IAS officers: Murmu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said a compassionate civil servant whose heartbeats for the poor and the underprivileged is a true civil servant as distinct from merely a career bureaucrat.

Addressing a group of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers, she said uplifting the marginalised sections of society should be an article of faith for them. "You should make efforts to understand the link between 'file to field' and also between 'field to file'. This people-centric alertness and sensitivity will make you engage with the files in a far more meaningful manner," Murmu said.

The President asked the officers to always visualise the people who are going to be impacted by the files "you deal with".

A group of 182 IAS officers of 2021 batch, currently posted as assistant secretaries in various Union ministries and departments, had called on Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre here.

"I have seen from close quarters the difficulties and problems faced by the people living in backward areas and belonging to the deprived segments of our society. I have also seen some sensitive civil servants who went the extra mile to help such people," she said.

A compassionate civil servant whose heart beats for the poor and the underprivileged



is a true civil servant as distinct from merely a career bureaucrat, the President said.

She said an inclusive, progressive and sensitive society allows greater space to women in all walks of life.

"The nation is on the path of women empowerment and women-led development. I am very happy that the historic 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament.

"Women are breaking stereotypes and the glass ceiling. They are playing increasingly larger roles in all aspects of growth and development," Murmu said.

She expressed happiness over increase in percentage of women IAS officers in the past four years.

"I have been told that in the batches from 2019 to 2022, the

percentage of women IAS officers had ranged between 28 per cent to 34 per cent. I am very happy to note that the percentage of women IAS officers has gone as high as 42 per cent for the batch 2023.

"Also, out of the top 25 ranks, 14 positions have been occupied by women. These are fresh winds of positive changes. "All of you have to further strengthen this trend and make our society more and more inclusive," Murmu said.

She said their training component include "Bharat Darshan and not Bharat Bhraman" and that they have learnt a lot from it.

"You should build upon the glimpses of our great nation seen by you and make your awareness deeper and wider through continuous learning," the President said.

Ministry mulling to provide tablets to divyangjan

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed to help deaf students get access to good education, the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is mulling to provide the tablets — loaded with digital video to such students.

"Our department is planning to provide tablets to deaf students to enable them to access educational videos in sign languages," Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD said recently at an event here recently.

Sources in the Ministry said that nitty-gritties are being worked out in this direction to identify the beneficiaries and details on financial provisions.

The move follows concern that only 5 per cent hearing impaired children get basic schooling and 1 per cent of the total deaf population has access to quality education in the country. Of these just 2-5 per cent of students with impaired hearing in the country have access to university education.

The cohort is too small given that India is home to the highest number of children with hearing impairment in the world. At least 1.57 million children are hearing disabled in the educational age group 0-19 years.

The experts in the sector say that more need to be done as most of the children face difficulties in understanding concepts on a daily basis in schools because education and infor-



mation are not accessible in Indian languages.

In fact, Director at the Gurugram centre of Haryana Welfare Society for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment, Dr Seema had recently pointed out that there is little or no emphasis on sign language and 98 per cent of the special educators in the country have limited or no sign language skill.

As a result, despite years of schooling, students with hearing impairment remain language and education deprived. More than 90% of such children are born to parents who don't have the required information and resources to provide early communication skills," she said, according to reports. The experts also rued that most policies for hearing impaired students are framed by people who can hear and only few deaf researchers are involved in decision-making, resulting in substandard teacher training courses for such students.

Doing its bit, Solunus Inc., a leading provider of Salesforce

services, had recently distributed 50 tablet computers loaded with digital learning materials to hearing-impaired students in Telangana.

Sudhakar Pennam, the founder and CEO of Solunus Inc. had said, "Unfortunately, less than 10% of students with hearing challenges who have completed Class 10 only are pursuing intermediate courses. Even more disturbing is the fact that only 2-5% of students with impaired hearing in our country have access to university education."

"One of the key challenges in delivering quality education and training to these students is inadequate special learning facilities," Pennam said, lamenting that "This is further complicated by an abysmally-low number of skilled trainers in sign language, considering the huge number of students with disabilities."

Banking on technology-assisted learning programs, the firm has partnered with the creators of E Sign Meta app, a novel e-learning solution for such children.

Need to pull out all stops to tackle anaemia, suggests NITI Aayog

PIONEER NEWS SERVICES ■ NEW DELHI

With a vast majority of children and women still anemic despite concerted efforts of the Government, there is a need to pull out all stops for tackling the menace as has been done by Singapore to transform itself from a water-starved country to a water-resilient leader, a senior official from NITI Aayog, the country's top think tank, has suggested.

"India should also use a similar strategy (as adopted by Singapore) to tackle Anaemia to improve the public health system," Yugal Kishore Joshi, Director Mission Life, NITI Aayog said as he noted that the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 indicate 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.

Today, Singapore is leading the way in innovative and resilient water infrastructure, harnessing the power of digital technologies to deliver this vital resource to the population, said Joshi while speaking at a 2-day conference on anaemia menace held here recently. It was attended by senior officials from the Union Health Ministry such as Roli Singh, Additional Secretary, Dr Zoya Ali Rizvi, Deputy Commissioner, Nutrition

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

Responding to the reason for lack of funds for longer duration health and nutrition interventions, Meera Satpathy, Founder and Chairperson, Sukarya, a non-profit said that "The government, corporates and non-profits 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 touch-points.

Dr Kirk Tickell (Faculty at the University of Washington's Department of Global Health) dwelled on maternal and child health services in Kenya, sharing that 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.

Sensex, Nifty end 4-day losing streak

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed marginally up in highly volatile trade on Monday, snapping their four-day losing streak even as weak global trends and foreign fund outflows dented the investor sentiment.

After gyrating 461.6 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex eked out a marginal gain of 14.54 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 66,023.69. During the day, it hit a high of 66,225.63 and a low of 65,764.03.

Snapping its four-day losing streak, the broader Nifty settled marginally up 0.30 points at 19,674.55 as 24 of its components advanced while 26 declined. Gains in financials, consumer durables, realty and banking shares were offset by losses in IT, oil & gas and pharma shares.

In the four sessions to Friday, the 50-issue barometer declined 3.37 per cent or 518 points while Sensex plunged



1,829 points or 3 per cent following a record 11-day rally.

Analysts said a fresh uptick in US treasury yields is making investors jittery amid rising concerns over inflation and high interest rates while FIIs continue to offload shares in local equities.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance jumped the most by 4.64 per cent. Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, NTPC, JSW Steel and Tata Steel were among the

major gainers. Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, IndusInd Bank and HCL Technologies were the major losers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The day presented a mixed picture in the market, with sectors such as realty, banking, and consumer durables performing well while IT and pharma struggling. Investors were actively repositioning, shifting away from

stocks tied to the global economy and focusing on the domestic economy."

Concerns loomed over a potential global economic slowdown due to the prolonged period of high-interest rates, Nair added.

Analysts also said that India's entry into JP Morgan's Emerging Markets Government Bond Index is benefiting the financial sector in anticipation of a reduction in funding cost.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.46

per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.12 per cent.

Among the indices, realty jumped 1.56 per cent, financial services climbed 0.46 per cent, consumer durables (0.43 per cent), bankex (0.29 per cent) and commodities (0.23 per cent).

Industrials, IT, telecommunication, auto, capital goods and tech were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the negative territory while Tokyo settled in the green. European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended in negative territory on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.39 per cent to USD 93.63 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,326.74 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. FIIs have pulled out over Rs 10,000 crore from Indian equities in the first three weeks of September.

India's first green hydrogen-run bus that emits just water unveiled

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top oil firm IOC on Monday unveiled the nation's first green hydrogen-powered bus that emits just water as it takes the lead in bringing out unrivaled tools to replace fossil fuels.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will produce close to 75 kg of hydrogen by splitting water using electricity from renewable sources. This hydrogen will be used to power two buses which will ply across the national capital region for trial runs.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, flagging off the buses, said hydrogen will be India's transition fuel for moving away from fossil fuels.

IOC's R&D Centre at Faridabad is producing green hydrogen for the pilot run. Four cylinders with a capacity of 30 kg can run the buses for 350 km. It takes 10-12 minutes for the four tanks to fill.

Hydrogen when burnt emits only water vapour as a by-product. With three times the energy density and the absence of harmful emissions, hydrogen shines as a cleaner, more efficient choice to meet the energy requirement.

As much as 50 units of renewable electricity and 9 kg of deionized water are needed for the production of one kilo of green hydrogen. Hydrogen can be used as a fuel for fuel cells.

Puri said by the end of 2023, IOC will scale up the number of buses to 15. IOC will undertake opera-



Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri flags off 1st Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus at India Gate in New Delhi on Monday

tional trials of 15 fuel cell buses powered by green hydrogen on the identified routes in Delhi, Haryana, and UP. Under this programme, the first set of 2 fuel cell buses was launched on Monday.

"Our government has ambitious plans on clean and green energy. India has taken many steps towards low carbon development - through emerging fuels like hydrogen and bio-fuels and shall account for 25 per cent of global incremental energy demand growth over the next two decades," Puri said.

Upon the launch of the two buses, a cumulative mileage of more than 3 lakh kilometers will be covered for long-term assessment of performance and durability of the new technology.

India has one of the largest synchronous grids in the world, capable of handling intermittent renewable energy and it has achieved 'One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency'.

"With the low cost solar,

synchronous grid, large demand and engineering, India will be a global champion in production and exports of hydrogen and is set to emerge as the hub for green hydrogen," he said. Puri said recently the world's first BS 6 (Stage II) Electrified Flex Fuel vehicle prototype was launched that encompasses both the flex fuel engine as well as an electric powertrain that offers higher use of ethanol combined with better fuel efficiencies.

Hydrogen is deemed as the fuel for the future with immense potential to help India meet its decarbonization targets. The global demand for hydrogen is expected to increase by four to seven times to 500-800 tonne by 2050.

Domestic demand is expected to increase by four times, from the current 6 tonne at present to 25-28 tonne by 2050.

Oil and gas PSUs shall produce around 1 million tonne per annum of green hydrogen by 2030.

RBI 'not comfortable' with NPAs in urban co-op banks

Asks lenders to focus on governance

PTI ■ MUMBAI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank is "not comfortable" with the gross non-performing assets ratio of 8.7 per cent in urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and asked them to work towards improving the same.

Addressing directors of UCBs in the financial capital at an RBI-organised conference, Das urged that such lenders should improve the governance standards, avoid related-party transactions and focus on credit risks, among others.

It can be noted that the UCB sector has been fraught with multiple challenges and also witnessed difficult times in the recent past, like the implosion of the city-headquartered Punjab and Maharashtra Bank.

Das reminded the directors of the UCBs that banks run on depositors and added that protection of the hard-earned



money pooled in from the middle class, poor and retirees is far more sacred than going to a temple or a gurdwara.

While the overall picture at an aggregate level looks nice, the situation on GNPA and capital adequacy is "not at all satisfactory," Das said.

He said the overall GNPA have improved to 8.7 per cent, which is "not a good number. It is not a comfortable number even at an aggregate level."

Scheduled commercial banks' GNPA stood at a decade best level of 3.9 per cent in March 2023 and are widely estimated to improve further.

To manage the scourge of NPAs better, Das suggested that

there should be a focus on credit risk management with better underwriting.

He said the RBI has come across instances of conflicts of interest or related party transactions, which need to be avoided.

Similarly, there have been instances of many of the top defaulters being individuals or businesses having the ability to pay, Das said.

The top 20 defaulters account for over 60 per cent of the loan overdue, and focusing on this segment can help improve the overall NPAs, he added.

On the capital adequacy front, he noted that there has been an improvement in the ratios to 16.6 per cent at the end of FY23 from 15.5 per cent a year ago.

Making it clear that he wants to share the RBI's concerns with the lenders, Das exhorted the UCBs to focus on the quality of governance by paying attention to compliance, risk management and internal audit.



Ban lentil import from Canada, traders' body urges Centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi traders' body CTI on Monday urged the Central Government to ban import of lentil (masur) from Canada, over Ottawa's allegations relating to the killing of a Khalistani separatist on Canadian soil.

In a letter to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) said that there was a need to exert economic pressure on Canada. A growing dispute between India and Canada has erupted following allegations made by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Chairman of CTI, Brijesh Goyal, said that the development has sent ripples through the business world. Indian traders

have demanded that India should ban import of lentils from Canada, which is a major supplier.

"Canada is becoming a stronghold of Khalistanis and their anti-India sentiment was displayed by protests at the Indian embassy. However, Trudeau is making politically motivated statements in view of upcoming elections in Canada," he said. India's annual pulse consumption is estimated at around 23 lakh tonnes of which 15-16 lakh tonnes is produced domestically and rest is imported from other countries. In the last financial year, India imported 4.85 lakh tonnes of lentil from Canada, Goyal said.

The Central government may contact other countries for pulses like Russia, Singapore, and Turkey, he added.

Demat accounts grow 26 per cent to 12.7 crore in August

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The number of demat accounts rose to 12.7 crore in August 2023, a surge of 26 per cent on a yearly basis, primarily due to attractive returns from equity markets, and ease of account opening process.

Also, the incremental additions of such accounts were higher in August in comparison to the preceding month. Further, this was higher than the average 21 lakh monthly additions in fiscal year FY23, according to an analysis by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The new account additions rose 4.1 per cent month-on-month to 31 lakh in August compared to 30 lakh additions in July. Going by the data, a total of 12.7 crore demat accounts were registered with the two depositories — NSDL and CDSL — at the end of August 2023 as compared to 10.1 crore a year earlier. The number of demat accounts was 12.3 crore at July-end.

Of the 12.7 crore total, 3.3



Rupee falls 20 paise to close at 83.14 against \$

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee declined by 20 paise to settle at 83.14 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday due to rising crude oil prices and a strong American currency against major rivals overseas.

Subdued equity markets and withdrawal of foreign funds also weighed on the domestic currency, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.04 and traded between a high of 83.04 and a low of 83.15 against the greenback. It finally settled at 83.14 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 20 paise from the previous close.

On Friday, the rupee climbed 19 paise to close at 82.94 against the US dollar.



Member of Parliament NK Premachandran with CMD King's Infra Saji Bady John and other delegates during the launch of 'SISTA 360' at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi on Monday

Dabur promoters makes ₹2,116 crore open offer for 26 per cent stake in Religare

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Enterprises belonging to the Burman family, the promoter of Dabur India, on Monday announced Rs 2,116 crore open offer to the shareholders of Religare Enterprises Limited (REL) to acquire up to 26 per cent stake in the company.

The open offer is made with the intention to increase the family's stake and take control of REL. Post offer the family's stake in the financial services firm is expected to increase from about 21 per cent at present to 51 per cent.

MB Finmart Private Ltd (Acquirer 1), Puran Associates Private Ltd (Acquirer 2), VIC

Enterprises Private Ltd (Acquirer 3), and Milky Investment & Trading Company (Acquirer 4) have announced an open offer for acquisition of up to 90,042,541 fully paid-up equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each from the public shareholders of the company representing 26 per cent of the expanded voting share capital of the firm, at a price of Rs 235 per unit, REL said in a regulatory filing.

The total consideration for the open offer is Rs 21,159,997,135 payable in cash, it said.

Shares of REL was trading at Rs 256.40, down 5.89 per cent, in the afternoon trade on the BSE.

The completion of the open offer is subject to receipt of statutory approvals required, to be set out in the detailed public statement and the letter of offer that are proposed to be issued in accordance with the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, Dabur said in a statement.

Speaking on the development, Anand C Burman, Chairman Emeritus, Dabur India Limited, said: "The proposed transaction is in line with our vision to create a leading financial services platform that encompasses lending, broking and health insurance services. We are convinced that REL is the right platform and positioned for sustained success."

IN BRIEF

90,000 STUDENTS FROM ACROSS INDIA PARTICIPATE IN FEST

New Delhi: Aarush 23, the four-day annual tech festival organised by the students of SRMIST at Kattankulathur near Chennai, turned out to be an impressive affair with the participation of over 90,000 students from educational institutions located across India. The fest was themed around Envisioning Futuristic Breakthroughs-Shifting Paradigm, Enriching WellBeing. The inaugural was held on 21 September in the presence of eminent scientist Dr Vipparthi Adimurthy, dean at IIST Thiruvananthapuram.

DMRC WINS MULTIPLE AWARDS

New Delhi: The Corporate Communication Department of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation headed by Anuj Dayal (Principal Executive Director) has been awarded three prestigious awards at the 17th Global Communication Conclave organized by the Public Relations Council of India in New Delhi on 21 and 22 September 2023. The DMRC won the Crystal award in the Crisis Management Communication category and two bronze awards in the Digital Newsletter and Best Use of Media Relations Categories

REPORT TO HELP ASIAN ECONOMIES PUBLISHED

New Delhi: The Asia Transition Finance (ATF) Study Group, where Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has been a core member since July, 2023, has published a report to help Asian economies achieve a just and orderly transition toward a more sustainable future. It is a private-led initiative whose core participants are financial institutions with operations in Asia.

IRCTC OFFER TO MARK 24TH FOUNDATION DAY

New Delhi: The IRCTC has special offers to mark the occasion of its 24th foundation day and World Tourism Day. They are: Zero convenience fee on booking flights tickets through www.air.irctc.co.in. The offer is valid on the flight tickets booked on IRCTC website and mobile apps for ticketing. It is valid on flight tickets booked from 25th to 27th September 2023.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

New Delhi: A bunch of youngsters who bravely fought cancer visited the Delhi Metro Museum. As part of the Childhood Cancer Awareness month in September, these enterprising boys and girls enacted a play at the Metro Museum to raise awareness about the disease.

LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

New Delhi: With the twin offering financial security and wealth creation, Bharti AXA Life Insurance has partnered with PolicyBazaar to launch Bharti AXA Life Wealth Maximizer, a Unit-linked, non-participating individual life insurance plan.

Investments in Indian agri-tech startups fell 45 per cent during 2022, '23: FSG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investments in Indian agri-tech startups fell by 45 per cent during 2021-22 and 2022-23 fiscal years, primarily due to a hike in global interest rates and heightened investor caution amid rising uncertainty, reveals consulting firm FSG's new report. Meanwhile, global agri-tech investments declined by 10 per cent during calendar years 2022 and 2023, it said.

Going forward, FSG expects the funding slump to continue into FY24 before springing back in FY25. It expects that startups will continue focusing on profitability to tide over the next financial year.

"Investors are likely to continue being cautious and direct their limited funding towards established business models, such as follow-on funding for companies in the mid-stream agri-tech category," it said.

Godrej Properties sells flats worth ₹2,000 crore in Noida

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Godrej Properties Ltd on Monday said it has sold about 670 flats worth more than Rs 2000 crore in its new housing project at Noida on strong demands.

Godrej Properties purchased the land through an e-auction conducted by the Noida Authority in November last year. In a regulatory filing, Godrej Properties informed that it has "sold 670 homes worth over Rs 2,000 crore in its project, Godrej Tropical Isle, located in Sector 146, Noida."

This is Godrej Properties' most successful ever launch in terms of the value and volume

of sales achieved, the company said. The project was launched in August.

Gaurav Pandey, the MD and CEO of Godrej Properties said, "Noida is an extremely important market for Godrej Properties and we will look to further strengthen our presence in the years ahead."

Godrej Properties, an arm of business conglomerate Godrej Industries, is one of the leading real estate developers in the country. It mainly focuses on the Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Bengaluru and Pune markets for the development of residential projects.

The company expects 14

per cent growth in sale bookings this fiscal year to a record Rs 14,000 crore. During the April-June quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal, Godrej Properties' sales bookings declined 11 per cent to Rs 2,254 crore from Rs 2,520 crore in the year-ago period. On financial performance, Godrej Properties has posted a nearly three-fold jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 124.94 crore in the June quarter as against Rs 45.55 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income during the first quarter of this fiscal rose to Rs 1,265.98 crore from Rs 426.40 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Amazon investing up to \$4 billion in AI startup

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Amazon is investing up to USD 4 billion in Anthropic and taking a minority stake in the artificial intelligence startup, the two companies said on Monday.

The investment underscores how Big Tech companies are pouring money into AI as they race to capitalise on the opportunities that the latest generation of the technology is set to fuel.

Amazon and Anthropic said the deal is part of a broader collaboration to develop so-called foundation models, which underpin the generative AI systems that have captured global attention.

Foundation models, also known as large language models, are trained on vast pools of online information, like blog posts, digital books, scientific articles and pop songs to generate text, images and video that resemble human work.

Under the agreement,

Anthropic is making Amazon its primary cloud computing service and using the online retail giant's custom chips as part of work to train and deploy its generative AI systems.

San Francisco-based Anthropic was founded by former staffers from OpenAI, the maker of the ChatGPT AI chatbot that made a global splash with its ability to come up with answers mimicking human responses.

Anthropic has released its own ChatGPT rival, dubbed Claude.

The latest version, which is available in the US and UK, is capable of "sophisticated dialogue and creative content generation to complex reasoning and detailed instruction," the company said.

Amazon is scrambling to catch up with rivals like Microsoft, which invested USD 1 billion in OpenAI in 2019, followed by another multibillion-dollar investment at the start of year.

FROM PAGE 1

AIADMK BREAKS UP WITH NDA

From that day onwards, the AIADMK had kept off the BJP alliance and this was revived only in 2019 which didn't cut ice with the electorate.

Shekhar is of the view that the AIADMK is likely to face a rout if it sticks to the decision of calling off the alliance. "The BJP under

Annamalai is getting stringer by the day while the AIADMK is a divided house. With O Panneerselvam, VK Sasikala and TTV Dinakaran being sent out of the party, the AIADMK has lost a major vote share. Palaniswamy is no match for the BJP's central leadership as he is waging a losing battle as on date," said Shekhar.

Philippines removes barrier placed by China in disputed shoal

AP ■ MANILA

The Philippine coast guard said on Monday it has complied with a presidential order to remove a floating barrier placed by China's coast guard to prevent Filipino fishing boats from entering a lagoon in a disputed shoal in the South China Sea. Philippine officials condemned the installation of the 300-metre (980-foot)-long barrier at the entrance to the lagoon at Scarborough Shoal as a violation of international law and their Southeast Asian nations' sovereignty.

The Philippine coast guard's report that it has removed the barrier underscores intensifying Philippine efforts to fight China's increasingly aggressive actions, against many odds, in one of the world's most hotly contested waters.

Chinese coast guard vessels laid the rope and net barrier, held up by buoys, last week as a Philippine government fisheries vessel approached and more than 50 Philippine fishing boats swarmed outside the shoal, the Philippine coast guard said.

The Philippine coast guard said in a statement Monday night that it has success-

fully removed the floating barrier in a "special operation" in compliance with the order of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It did not provide other details like if the entire barrier was removed and when, and how Chinese coast guard ships, which have closely guarded the shoal for years, reacted.

The decisive action of the Philippine coast guard to remove the barrier aligns with international law and the Philippines' sovereignty over the shoal, the coast guard said. "The PCG remains committed to upholding international law, safeguarding the welfare of Filipino fisherfolk and protecting the rights of the Philippines in its territorial waters."

Video issued by the Philippine coast guard to journalists in Manila showed a diver cutting a part of what appears to be the barrier rope. A man onboard a motor boat tries to lift what appears to be a part of the barrier rope in another video released by the coast guard to the media.

Earlier Monday, Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said that "the placement by the People's Republic of China of a barrier violates the traditional

fishing rights of our fishermen."

Ano said in a statement that the Philippines "will take all appropriate actions to cause the removal of the barriers and to protect the rights of our fishermen in the area." He did not elaborate.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the shoal and its adjacent waters are "China's inherent territory," where Beijing "has indisputable sovereignty".

A Philippine government fisheries vessel "trespassed into the waters" without China's permission on Sept 22, Wang said, and "attempted to intrude into the lagoon" of the shoal. "China's coast guard took the necessary measures to stop and warn off the ship in accordance with the law, which was professional and with restraint," he added.

It's the latest flare-up in long-simmering territorial disputes in the busy and resource-rich waterway, most of which is claimed by China. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan are involved with China in the conflicts, which have long been regarded as a potential Asian flashpoint and a delicate fault line in the US-China rivalry in the region.

Nepal, China sign 12 agreements

PTI ■ BEIJING/KATHMANDU

China and Nepal on Monday signed 12 agreements, including seven MoUs, to enhance bilateral cooperation in sectors including trade, road connectivity, and information technology after Premier Li Qiang and Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" held wide-ranging talks in Beijing. During the meeting, the two leaders comprehensively reviewed the bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction over the close and cordial ties subsisting between the two countries, according to a press release issued by the Nepal embassy in Beijing.

The two sides exchanged views on the ways to further strengthen and consolidate the mutual understanding and cooperation and give a new impetus in the front of economy, trade and people-to-people contacts, it said, two days after Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Prachanda in Hangzhou on the sidelines of the Asian Games being held in



the eastern Chinese city.

Prachanda, who politically distanced from the pro-China Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) headed by KP Oli after becoming Prime Minister in December last year, made his maiden visit to China after visiting India and the US. Following the official bilateral talks, 12 agreements were signed between the two countries, the Nepalese embassy

said.

The agreements include an MoU for Cooperation between The National Planning Commission of Nepal and China's National Development and Reform Commission; an MoU on enhancing digital economy co-operation; an MoU related to cooperation on green and low-carbon development; and an MoU on cooperation in the field of agriculture, livestock and fisheries, the

release said.

The two sides also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of a Joint Technical Working Group for the review and modification of the Nepal-China trade and payment agreement.

They also signed a protocol of phytosanitary requirements for the export of plant-derived medicinal materials for Chinese medicine from Nepal to China.

China and Nepal also signed MoUs on the Hilsa-Simkot Road Project and the Nepal-China Power Grid Interconnection Project (Chilime-Kerung). The other agreements include cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation; and in the field of Human Resources Development, the release said.

Prachanda also met with National People's Congress Chairman Zhao Leji during which they focused on further broadening the historical ties between Nepal and China and

EU commissioner calls for more balanced trade with China

PTI ■ BEIJING

The European Union's trade commissioner called for a more balanced economic relationship with China on Monday, noting an EU trade deficit of nearly 400 billion euros (\$425 billion), while also warning that China's position on the war in Ukraine could endanger its relationship with Europe. Valdis Dombrovskis, in a speech at China's prestigious Tsinghua University, said that the EU and China face significant political and economic headwinds that could cause them to drift apart.

"The strongest, yet not the only, headwind is Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and how China positions itself on this issue," he said.

Dombrovskis spoke before high-level economic and trade talks with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng.

EU leaders have expressed concern about the bloc's growing trade deficit with China, which reached 396 billion euros last year. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen recently announced an investigation into Chinese subsidies to electric vehicle makers, saying a flood of cheaper Chinese cars is distorting the European market.

The Chinese government has called the investigation a protectionist act aimed at distorting the supply chain. Dombrovskis, in his Tsinghua address, said the probe would follow well-established rules and be done in consultation with Chinese authorities and stakeholders.

The EU trade commissioner urged China to address the lack of reciprocity in the economic relationship, saying "the figures speak for themselves".

He said that China has created a more politicised business environment to protect its national security and development interests, resulting in less transparency, unequal access to procurement, and discrimina-



tory standards and security requirements.

Dombrovskis cited as examples a new foreign relations law and an updated anti-espionage law that has European companies struggling to understand their compliance obligations.

"Their ambiguity allows too much room for interpretation," he said about the laws, adding they deter new investment in China.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that China provides a market-oriented, law-based business environment for foreign companies.

"As long as the companies are operating in accordance with the law, they don't have to worry," he said.

Chinese officials have been trying to lure back foreign investment to help the economy emerge from a sluggishness that has persisted despite the lifting of pandemic restrictions last December.

The Chinese government has tried to remain neutral in the war in Ukraine rather than joining the United States and much of Europe in condemning the Russian invasion. Dombrovskis, who is Latvian, noted that territorial integrity has always been a key principle for China in international diplomacy.

"Russia's war is a blatant breach of this principle," he said. "So it's very difficult for us to understand China's stance on Russia's war against Ukraine, as it breaches China's own fundamental principles."

Poland accuses Germany of meddling in its affairs

Warsaw (AP): Poland's foreign minister accused Germany of trying to interfere in his country's internal affairs after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Warsaw needs to clarify allegations that Polish consulates in Africa and Asia sold temporary work visas to migrants for thousands of dollars each.

Poland's right-wing ruling party, Law and Justice, is facing questions about the alleged scheme ahead of an Oct 15 national election in which it is seeking a third term in power. Scholz, whose government is under pressure to do more to limit migration to Germany, called on neighbouring Poland on Saturday to provide clarification of what was happening.

"I don't want people to just be waved through from Poland and only for us to have a discussion about asylum policy afterward," Scholz said in comments reported by the German news agency dpa.

Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau retorted late Sunday on X, formerly Twitter, that Scholz's statement "violates the principles of the sovereign equality of states".

Rau said he appealed to Scholz "to respect Poland's sovereignty and refrain from statements that damage our mutual relations".

Rau himself is under political pressure at home because the alleged visa scheme operated out of the Foreign Ministry.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said last week that Berlin was considering establishing short-term border checks with Poland and the Czech Republic to help curb the smuggling of people into Germany.

She added that the increased border checks would need to be combined with random police checks that are already being carried out. The government said Monday that she is in discussions with her Polish and Czech counterparts.

Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic belong to Europe's visa-free zone, commonly known as the Schengen Area.

Kosovo mourns slain police officer

AP ■ PRISTINA

Kosovo on Monday was observing a day of mourning for the Kosovo Albanian police officer killed by Serb gunmen who then barricaded themselves in an Orthodox monastery in an attack that left three assailants dead and further raised tensions between the two former wartime foes as they seek to normalise ties.

Flags were at half mast on all public buildings in the capital Pristina to mourn Afrim Bunjaku. In the north, where most of Kosovo's ethnic Serb minority lives in four municipalities around Mitrovica, police were patrolling in search of the armed assailants after they left the monastery.

About 30 gunmen dressed in combat uniforms were involved in the attack, but it is not clear who they are or who is supporting them. Pristina accuses Belgrade of backing the "terrorists," an accusation Serbia denies, saying they are Serbs from Kosovo protesting the government there. On

Sunday the masked gunmen opened fire on a police patrol at about 3 a.m. (01:00 GMT) in Banjska, a village located 55 kilometres north of Pristina, killing Bunjaku and injuring another officer.

They then used an armoured vehicle to break down the gates to the monastery in the village, where they remained in a stand-off with Kosovo police until evening.

The two sides exchanged gunfire sporadically until darkness fell, when the assailants escaped from the monastery on foot. Three of the attackers were killed and two injured. Another Kosovar police officer was injured in the confrontation near the monastery.

Two of the gunmen and four Serbs discovered nearby with communication equipment were arrested and are being investigated for terrorist acts.

Police seized vehicles used by the gunmen which contained an arsenal of firearms of different calibers, explosives,

ammunition and logistics capable of equipping hundreds of persons, according to Kosovo Interior Minister Xhelal Svecla.

"It's a terrorist, criminal, professional unit that had planned and prepared what they did and who are not a smuggling band but a mercenary structure which is politically, financially and logistically supported by official Belgrade," said Prime Minister Albin Kurti.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said the gunmen were local Kosovo Serbs "who no longer want to stand Kurti's terror." Vucic condemned the killing of the Kosovo policeman, but still said the clash was the result of "brutal" pressure on Kosovo Serbs by the Kosovo government.

He denied that Belgrade had anything to do with the attack.

Vucic also blasted the West and its "hypocrisy" over Kosovo. "You can kill us all. Serbia will never recognize the independence of Kosovo, that

monster creation that you made by bombing Serbia," Vucic said, referring to the 1999 NATO intervention which led to Kosovo separating from Serbia.

Serbia and its former province, Kosovo, have been at odds for decades. Their 1998-99 war left more than 10,000 people dead, mostly Kosovo Albanians. Kosovo unilaterally declared independence in 2008 but Belgrade has refused to recognise the move.

The international community condemned the "hideous attack." The European Union and the NATO-led international peacekeeping force in Kosovo are in close contact with Kosovar authorities.

Earlier this month, an EU-facilitated meeting in Brussels between Kurti and Vucic to normalise ties ended in acrimony.

The United States has supported the negotiations and the EU's position in trying to resolve the ongoing source of tension in the Balkans.

Taiwan factory fire: Death toll lowered to 9

Taipei (AP): Authorities said late on Sunday that one person remained missing following a fire at a golf ball factory in Taiwan, after forensic analysis revealed that some bones found earlier in the day were not human. The blaze on Friday night killed nine other people, including four firefighters. Launch Technologies Co., the operator of the plant, is a major global supplier of golf balls. Authorities had reported earlier that the remains of two people were found Sunday morning and of a third person in the afternoon, putting the death toll at 10. But one set of bones from the morning turned out to be non-human, officials said.

Taiwan's Central News Agency, quoting a Pingtung County fire official, said an explosion caused part of the building to collapse about 6:10 pm Friday, trapping firefighters and workers under rubble.

8 officials jailed as part of investigation into dams' collapse

AP ■ CAIRO

Libya's chief prosecutor said Monday he ordered the detention of eight current and former officials pending his investigation into the collapse of two dams earlier this month, a disaster that sent a wall of water several metres high through the centre of a coastal city and left thousands of people dead.

The two dams outside the city of Derna broke up on Sep. 11 after they were overwhelmed by Storm Daniel, which caused heavy rain across eastern Libya. The failure of the structures inundated as much as a quarter of the city, officials have said, destroying entire neighbourhoods and sweeping people out to sea.

Government officials and aid agencies have given estimated death tolls ranging from more than 4,000 to over 11,000. The bodies of many of the people killed still are under rubble or in the Mediterranean, according to search teams.



A statement by the office of General Prosecutor al-Sidiq al-Sour said prosecutors on Sunday questioned seven former and current officials with the Water Resources Authority and the Dams Management Authority over allegations that mismanagement, negligence and mistakes contributed to the disaster.

Derna Mayor Abdel-Moneim al-Ghathi, who was sacked after the disaster, was also questioned, the statement said.

Prosecutors ordered the eight to be jailed pending the investigation, the statement added.

The dams were built by a Yugoslav construction company in the 1970s above Wadi

Derna, a river valley which divides the city. They were meant to protect the city from flash floods, which are not uncommon in the area. The dams were not maintained for decades, despite warnings by scientists that they may burst.

A report by a state-run audit agency in 2021 said the two dams hadn't been maintained despite the allocation of more than USD 2 million for that purpose in 2012 and 2013.

A Turkish firm was contracted in 2007 to carry out maintenance on the two dams and to build a third one in between them. The firm, Arsel Construction Company Ltd., said on its website that it completed its work in November 2012. It didn't respond to an email seeking further comment.

Two weeks on, local and international teams were still digging through mud and hollowed-out buildings, looking for bodies. They also combing the Mediterranean off Derna,

searching for bodies swept away in the floods. The floods have left as many as a third of Derna's housing and infrastructure damaged, according to the UN's Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA. Authorities have evacuated the most impacted part of the city, leaving only search and ambulance teams, OCHA said. The World Health Organization says more than 4,000 deaths have been registered dead, including foreigners, but a previous death toll given by the head of Libya's Red Crescent was at 11,300. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says at least 9,000 people are still missing.

The storm hit other areas in eastern Libya, including the towns of Bayda, Susa, Marj and Shahatt. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced in the region and took shelter in schools and other government buildings.

'New poll shows Biden trailing behind Trump by 10 points'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A new poll by the Washington Post and ABC News has shown President Joe Biden trailing behind his predecessor Donald Trump in a hypothetical November 2024 match. "Trump edges out Biden 51-42 in head-to-head matchup," the poll said. Trump is way ahead of his other Republican rivals in the party's presidential race. The GOP's formal nomination process will begin with the Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire Primary in January.



While two of the Indian-American Republican presidential aspirants — former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy — have gained

momentum in recent weeks, Trump is far ahead of his GOP rivals and political pundits believe that he is on his way to becoming the party's nominee. The Washington Post-ABC News poll released on Sunday said that a record number of Americans say they have become worse off under his presidency. Three-quarters say he's too old for another term

and Donald Trump is looking better in retrospect — all severe challenges for Biden in his reelection campaign ahead, according to the poll results.

However, the Washington Post disagrees with the results of the poll. The prominent American daily reported that the poll showing Trump beating Biden by 10 points is likely an "outlier" as the two rivals are in a dead heat according to other polls.

"The Post-ABC poll shows Biden trailing Trump by 10 percentage points at this early stage in the election cycle, although the sizable margin of Trump's lead in this survey is significantly at odds with other public polls that show the general election contest a virtual dead heat.

Inquest opens into death of 2 Indian-origin teens

London (PTI): An inquest opened on Monday into the death of two Indian-origin teenagers who died when they got into difficulty while swimming in Northern Ireland. Reuven Simon and Joseph Sebastian, both 16 and belonging to the local Kerala community in County Derry, drowned while out swimming in the Enagh Lough, or Enagh Lake, in August last year.

According to local news reports, one of the boys was taken from the water and transferred to Altnagelvin Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. The second boy was pronounced dead at the scene after being recovered from the water after searches by police divers. "We know both families and can only imagine the incalculable

pain they are feeling today," the North West Migrants Forum said in a statement at the time.

"Thanks must also go to emergency services who were on the scene. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Kerala community as they try to make sense of this awful tragedy. Remembered fondly," it said.

Both boys were pupils at St Columba's College in Derry, Northern Ireland. The school principal, Finbar Madden, expressed "shock and sadness" of the local community.

"No words can express the devastation that we feel as a school community, but first and foremost our thoughts and prayers are with both boys' families, community and friends," he said.

Trial opens over killing of police couple in France

AP ■ PARIS

It wasn't the deadliest attack in Europe linked to the Islamic State group, but it was among the most disturbing: One evening in 2016, an assailant killed two police officers in their family home, in front of their 3-year-old son. On Monday, a trial opens in a French counterterrorism court over the attack in the Paris suburb of Magnanville.

The attacker, Larossi Abballa, was shot to death by police. According to court documents, he told police negotiators that he was responding to an IS leader's call to "kill miscreants at home with their families."

A childhood friend of Abballa's, Mohamed Aberouz, is going on trial for complicity to terrorism-related murder,

complicity to kidnapping and terrorist conspiracy. He faces up to life in prison if convicted.

The killings came amid a wave of attacks in France linked to the Islamic State group and had a lasting effect on police officers around France.

Some moved, changed services or resigned to protect their loved ones after the Magnanville killings.

According to court documents, Abballa broke into the home of police officers Jessica Schneider and Jean-Baptiste Salvaing before they returned from work. When Schneider came home, Abballa slit her throat in the living room, with the child present. The father

texted her from the office to say "I'm leaving," the documents say. There was no response. He was stabbed upon arriv-

ing home. Neighbours called police, and the attacker said he was holding the couple's 3-year-old hostage, according to the documents.

He told a negotiator from a special police unit that he acted because the French government was preventing the faithful from joining the caliphate, and stressed that he had not targeted civilians but representatives of the French state.

Police stormed the home and killed Abballa, and rescued the child. The boy has been raised by family members since.

After more than five years of investigation and multiple arrests, only Aberouz is facing trial. Charges were initially brought against two others but later dropped.

REAL'S STREAK IS OVER

MORATA BRACE HELPS ATLETICO END REAL MADRID WINNING STREAK

AP ■ MADRID

Alvaro Morata struck twice for Atletico Madrid as they inflicted rivals Real Madrid's first defeat of the season, with a 3-1 derby triumph on Sunday in La Liga.

Champions Barcelona sit top of the league as Los Blancos lost their 100 percent record, with Antoine Griezmann also on target for Atletico, fifth, at their raucous Metropolitan stadium.

Real Madrid are third, a point behind Barcelona and high-flying Girona in second place, after they failed to match Atletico's level of intensity in an enthralling clash.

Morata netted an early header and Griezmann doubled Atletico's lead, before Toni Kroos pulled Madrid into the game with a stinging drive before half-time.

However, Morata headed home again at the start of the second half and Madrid could not find a way back against an Atletico side bouncing back from what coach Diego Simeone labelled their "weakest" performance of his long reign last weekend.

"It was a problem of defensive fragility, which we haven't had in the first few games," Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters. "In just over 45 minutes they put three past us, it was not a good night ... the team was not compact, above all in the first half. Atletico took advantage of that."



Morata led the line well for Atletico and was rewarded with two goals, which he celebrated wildly.

"What I need is to feel important and this year, maybe I feel more important than in other years — I hope we keep winning because I really want to win a title with Atletico," Morata told DAZN.

"I'm very happy for all the fans, I said it the other day ... that the fans are going to have the

most important role, and that's how it was.

"(We're) all together, us on the pitch and them in the stands."

Ancelotti has given veteran midfielders Luka Modric and Kroos limited minutes this season but chose to start them both in the team's biggest game of the campaign to date, dropping Aurelien Tchouameni and striker Joselu.

The Italian pushed new

arrival Jude Bellingham even further into attack, alongside Rodrygo, instead of in the number 10 role he has starred in since his move from Borussia Dortmund in the summer, scoring six goals in his first six games before the derby.

Real Madrid were without star forward Vinicius Junior, who has recovered from his hamstring injury but suffered a stomach problem on Sunday morning, according to Spanish

reports. "The three goals were a photocopy," complained Ancelotti.

"Space opening between the centre-backs, we were not well positioned in the area — we were not compact on the three goals."

"The important thing is that the team got their spirit back, because if that has been recovered, it doesn't matter who the opponent is," the Atletico's coach Diego Simeone told DAZN.



PSG demolish Marseille

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain demolished Marseille in Ligue 1 on Sunday with summer signing Goncalo Ramos scoring twice in a 4-0 victory for the reigning champions, but Kylian Mbappe came off injured in the first half.

Mbappe appeared to hurt his ankle in winning the free-kick which saw Achraf Hakimi put PSG ahead in the eighth minute at the Parc des Princes.

The France superstar was eventually replaced just after the half-hour mark, but the home side went on to double their lead before the break through Randal Kolo Muani. Ramos then headed in the

home side's third goal just after half-time and completed the rout late on as PSG followed up their 2-0 victory over Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League in mid-week.

The win leaves Luis Enrique's team in fourth place after six games, two points behind surprise leaders Brest, who beat Lyon 1-0 on Saturday.

Luis Enrique suggested after the game the injury suffered by his top scorer Mbappe was nothing serious.

"I think it was a knock. He tried to change the strapping on it and continue but the pain wouldn't go away," the coach said.

"I don't think it is anything

serious and I suppose he will be back soon, but it is better not to take risks when a player is not 100 percent."

The former Barcelona and Spain boss added: "I think this was without doubt the most complete performance in my time here and luckily for us it came against our biggest rivals."

Marseille had started the day unbeaten and were above PSG in the table, but they were outclassed here at the end of a turbulent week.

Their coach Marcelino Garcia Toral resigned on Wednesday after only seven games at the helm and following an angry meeting between club officials and fan representatives.



Chelsea need to 'grow up': Pochettino

AP ■ LONDON

Mauricio Pochettino admitted struggling Chelsea need to "grow up" after their troubled season hit a new low with a 1-0 defeat against Aston Villa on Sunday. Pochettino's side have won just once in six league games under Pochettino after Ollie Watkins' second-half goal sealed the points for Villa at Stamford Bridge.

The Blues are languishing in 14th place, just four points above the relegation zone, after failing to score in their last three games. Chelsea's latest flop was sparked by young defender Malo Gusto's dismissal after 58 minutes for a challenge on Lucas Digne.

After a pitchside VAR review, referee Jarrod Gillett upgraded the initial yellow card to a red for dangerous play. Adding to Pochettino's woes, Chelsea striker Nicolas Jackson, who has scored just once since his move from Villarreal, picked

up his fifth booking for attempting to block a Villa free-kick, earning a one-game ban.

Pochettino refused to criticise the officials and instead said he and his players must take the blame for Chelsea's woes.

"It's our responsibility and the players' responsibility. We can't blame the VAR or the referee," Pochettino said.

"The situation, we need to act different, in a different way. I'm not going to blame or say anything against Malo Gusto."

"Situations happen in football and they affect the game and the team in a negative way."

"We need to grow up like a team, not only in an individual way. A player like Nico (Jackson) that is so young, feeling the Premier League and he's learning, he needs time."

Despite spending over £350 million (\$428 million) on new signings since his arrival in July, Pochettino has been unable to improve a Chelsea side that struggled badly last term.

Messi-less Miami play 1-1 draw with Orlando

AP ■ MIAMI

Inter Miami, without Lionel Messi, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, battled to a 1-1 draw at Orlando City in Major League Soccer on Sunday.

The result leaves Miami five points adrift of the last playoff spot with five games of their regular season campaign remaining.

Miami can win their second trophy of the Messi era on Wednesday when they look to add the U.S. Open Cup to the League Cup they won last month and with that goal in mind head coach Gerardo Martino took no risks with his line-up.

As well as Messi and Alba, both ruled out for fitness reasons, Martino opted to rest Spanish midfielder Busquets who had been ever-present since joining the club in July.

With homegrown youngsters Noah Allen and David Ruiz brought into the side, Miami fielded a line-up similar to the ones that had seen the team fall to the bottom of the Eastern Conference before Messi's arrival.

Orlando, second in the East and already assured of a playoff place, began the brighter and could have grabbed the lead in the 29th minute when striker Duncan McGuire found himself in space on the edge of the box but his shot was well saved by Drake Callender.

At the other end, in-form Ecuadorian striker Leonard Campana went close for Miami with a header from a corner which Orlando keeper Pedro Gallese got down well to.

Miami broke through in the 52nd minute when Campana fed Josef Martinez whose low shot was parried out but David



Ruiz slid in the loose ball.

Callender did well again to keep out a curling left-footed effort from Martin Ojeda and then Orlando wasted another chance when Ivan Angulo found himself clear on goal but poked his shot wide.

But the home side finally got their reward in the 66th minute when a deflected pass fell into the path of McGuire who drilled a first-time shot through the legs of Callender.

Miami tired badly in the final stages as they hung on for a point.

"They are a very competitive team just like us and we just try to fight through and get the get the win," said Ruiz.

"Sadly we didn't get the result, but it's just another point to give us a hope to go to playoffs," he added.

"Obviously we didn't have

players key players like Busi, Jordi and Messi, but we've been working every day hard to get a spot on the team and I mean you can see that in the game," he added. After Wednesday's U.S. Open Cup final against the Houston Dynamo, Miami face one of their direct rivals for the playoffs — New York City FC.

NYCFC moved above D.C. United into ninth place with a 3-0 win over Toronto FC on Sunday in a game re-arranged after Saturday's fixture was called off due to a broken water main at Red Bull Arena.

The win was crowned by a fine solo goal from Argentine forward Julian Fernandez.



Rapinoe makes triumphant US farewell

AP ■ CHICAGO

Megan Rapinoe was a winner in her farewell game for the United States on Sunday, setting up a goal with a corner kick in a 2-0 triumph over South Africa.

The iconic 38-year-old striker, celebrated for off-field activism as well as glories on the pitch, ended her epic US career with 63 goals in 203 caps over more than 17 years with a 54th-minute exit at Chicago's

Soldier Field. "It makes me really proud to know we've been as successful on the field as we have, but also that we've helped make the world a little bit better of a place," Rapinoe said after the victory.

Rapinoe sparked the Americans to crowns at the 2015 and 2019 Women's World Cups and gold at the 2012 London Olympics, but was a champion for social causes as well.

Lukaku on scoresheet again

AP ■ ROME

Romelu Lukaku struck again but Roma was held to a 1-1 draw at Torino and only has one win in five league matches.

Lukaku's goal - following a good team move in the 68th minute - was his third in four matches since his move from Chelsea. The Belgium forward was on loan at Inter last season.

Duvan Zapata leveled for Torino with five minutes remaining when he headed in a free kick. Zapata almost joined Roma in the off-season from Atalanta.

Elsewhere, Rudi Garcia's job could be at risk only a few months into his tenure as Napoli coach.

Garcia took over in June after the resignation of Luciano Spalletti, who had just ended Napoli's 33-year wait for the Serie A title.

But Napoli is now winless in its past three league matches. Victor Osimhen should have given Napoli the lead with



18 minutes remaining but he fired a penalty wide of the right post. The spot kick had been awarded after Bologna midfielder Riccardo Calafiori knocked the ball away with his wrist as he stumbled.

Osimhen had also hit the post early on.

Garcia was jeered by Napoli fans when he substituted

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and later Osimhen. There were also loud jeers at the end of the match.

Claudio Ranieri's Cagliari is still looking for its first win back in Serie A after it lost 2-0 at Atalanta.

Goals from Ademola Lookman and Mario Pašalić secured Atalanta its third win of the season.

Team World seal Laver Cup title

AP ■ VANCOUVER

Team World won a second straight Laver Cup title on Sunday as Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe sealed a 13-2 victory over Team Europe with a 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/5) doubles win over Hubert Hurkacz and Andrey Rublev.

Team World captain John McEnroe, who had endured four straight defeats in the event that began in 2017 before seeing his side rally for victory in London last year, was thrilled to celebrate a dominant triumph that began with a four-match sweep on Friday.

"It felt unbelievable to kick their ass, baby!" McEnroe crowed. "They kicked ours many times, OK. It was a battle to the end when we won last year."

This time around, with a blend of youth and experience, McEnroe said he "felt it from the word go" against a Team Europe side that was without fourth-ranked Holger Rune of Den-



mark and world number five Stefano Tsitsipas of Greece, who both withdrew from captain Bjorn Borg's side with injuries. That left sixth-ranked Rublev and Norway's ninth-

ranked Casper Ruud as Europe's top players. Ruud nabbed the visitors' only points of the three-day event with his victory over Tommy Paul on Saturday.

Europe was unable to build on that win, with Tiafoe downing Hurkacz in singles on Saturday night before Felix Auger-Aliassime and Shelton teamed up to beat Hurkacz and Gael Monfils in doubles and put

Team World one win away from victory heading into the final day.

"We stepped up, and I thought all the guys played great," said McEnroe, who also had singles wins from Americans Shelton and Taylor Fritz, Canada's Auger-Aliassime and Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo. Every World Team player contributed at least a point, with Paul gaining a win alongside Tiafoe in doubles on Friday.

"This was like a special year for us," McEnroe said. "I know they're going to come back strong, but I'll take two in a row any day. And I'm starting to think it is possible three in a row, Team World?"

Auger-Aliassime, who had two key wins on the final day as Team World rallied for victory last year, was thrilled to lift the trophy in front of his home fans in Canada.

"Amazing to win on home soil with the crowd behind us," he said.

BUMRAH BACK FOR THIRD ODI



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will be available for the third ODI against Australia after being given a one-match break but all-rounder Axar Patel will be given a few more days to recover from his quadriceps tear ahead of the

World Cup, BCCI sources said on Monday.

While Ravichandran Ashwin has done decently in his two outings, the team management is still bullish about the fitness of Axar, the left-arm spin bowling all-rounder. "The team management wants to give Axar full chance of recovery. His forearm

and finger bruises have healed but may be in another few days, he would get fit for World Cup. India's first match is on September 8 and hence there is time.

"As far as Ashwin is concerned, we now know that he is match fit and in rhythm. If Axar can't make it, Ashwin walks in,"

a BCCI source privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The final squad announcement is on September 27 and it is understood that Axar still remains the team management's top choice for the reserve spinner's slot ahead of the Tamil Nadu veteran.

It is understood that young batting star Shubman Gill and bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur have been given a few days rest ahead of the third ODI in Rajkot on Wednesday. "As per rotation policy of the team, Bumrah, who was given a couple of days off to freshen up is back along with skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep Yadav. Gill, who has been playing continuously gets to cool his heels for 3-4 days along with Shardul Thakur," the source added.

Ruturaj, Mukesh released for Asian Games

India's Asian Games cricket team captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, who played the first two ODIs, has been released from the squad as he will link up with the Hangzhou-bound outfit. Also released is pacer Mukesh Kumar, who came as cover for Bumrah, who was given a break. It is understood that Washington Sundar is also supposed to leave on the evening of the game or day after.

While the Indian World Cup-bound team won't have any travelling net bowlers, Prasad Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh and Mukesh Kumar will be summoned as and when required.

Jemimah urges Indian men's team to aim for gold in Asian Games cricket

PTI ■ HANGZHOU (CHINA)

India's Jemima Rodrigues on Monday urged the men's team to aim for the gold after the women's team created history in the final of the Asian Games.

India Women's side beat Sri Lanka by 19 runs in the final to clinch the gold medal here on their maiden appearance.

Batting first, India posted 116 for seven on a difficult batting track before the Titas Sadhu-led bowling attack restricted Sri Lanka to 97 for eight in 20 overs.

"We have spoken to the men's team. We have told them that we are bringing the gold; you guys also bring it," an elated Rodrigues told reporters here.

"(It) feels great. Just to win the gold is special, and being the first Indian cricket side to win the gold will make people go back in history and see that this was the team that actually won the first-ever gold in cricket in the Asian Games. It's an amazing feeling," she added.

Rodrigues said it was a proud feeling to add to India's medals tally at the Games.

"It is a very different experience, wearing this India jersey is a (matter of) different pride. Also, we can add a medal to India as a sporting nation," she said.

Talking about the gold medal contest on a challenging surface, Rodrigues said the contest had its own challenges.

"It wasn't easy as Sri Lanka gave us a good fight. Their bowlers bowled spot-on, and we really had to apply ourselves. Very proud of the girls, and the way we played today displays our character," she said.

"It was an important partnership between me and Smriti (Mandhana) because the Sri Lankan bowlers were at the top of their game.

"We are glad the way we played and built the partnership, along with the other girls coming in and chipping in," said Rodrigues (42), who added 73



runs with Mandhana (46) for the second wicket in a low-scoring contest.

Rodrigues said the team had to adapt to different surfaces for every match. "We honestly did not know what to expect when we came over here," she said.

"We knew that we had to be ready for any condition, and in all three matches we had different kinds of wickets that we had to adapt to, which is the best part of our team's performance," Rodrigues added.

"It's been a great experience in general, the way everyone has

welcomed us in China."

"It's not been easy since the communication has been a problem. But, they (the organisers) went out of their way to make us feel comfortable and make our stay easy," she added.

India coach and former international Hrishikesh Kanitkar too was delighted to have added to the country's tally.

"We rank this gold right up there because it adds to the country's tally of gold medals. So, I think it's very, very important that we directly contribute to the country," he said.

Gold medal favourite Bopanna-Bhambri pair suffers shock exit

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

In a huge upset, gold medal favourites and top seeds Rohan Bopanna and Yuki Bhambri were knocked out of the Asian Games after being stunned by lower-ranked Sergey Fomin and Khumoyun Sultanov from Uzbekistan, here on Monday.

Bhambri struggled with his serve and strokes in the latter part of the match while the Uzbek players raised their game against their superior opponents to walk away with a 2-6-6-3 10-6 win in the second round.

The defeat will rattle the Indian pair all the more as Bopanna is a top-10 player in the doubles and Bhambri too is ranked among the top-100. The Uzbeks are not even in the top-300.



Serving at 3-4, 30-all in the second set, Bhambri served a double fault to go down by a break point. A wide backhand from Bhambri's racket handed the Uzbeks the crucial break.

Sultanov made no mistake in serving out the set by consistently putting in his first serves.

In the super-tie breaker, the Uzbeks raced to a 3-0 lead and soon the Indians were down 5-1. The Uzbeks pulled off a stunning service return winner to make

it 6-1 on Bopanna's serve.

Fomin earned four match points with a backhand winner. The Indians saved the first but Sultanov found an inside-out forehand winner on the second to close the contest in their favour.

Bhambri could not support Bopanna enough

India coach Zeeshan Ali said that Bopanna did not get the required support from Bhambri in the match.

"At this level and being an experienced player, one cannot afford to make many errors at crucial moments of the match. You have to be able to grab any opportunity that presents itself," Zeeshan told PTI.

"Not taking anything away from the Uzbekistan players, they probably played

the best match of their lives, with nothing to lose. We had chances in the second set with a couple of break points at 3-all and, had we won that game, the outcome of the match would have been different."

The Indians could not convert 12 out of the 16 break-points they got in the match.

"Rohan played a good match but unfortunately did not get the required support needed to win today from his partner who otherwise has been having a very good doubles season," added Zeeshan.

Bopanna had ended his Davis Cup career last week, playing against Morocco in Lucknow. At 43, he is also playing his last Asian Games. He had won gold in the 2018 edition with Divij Sharan.

Dalmiya, Dhumal re-elected in IPL GC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former CAB president Avishek Dalmiya and current IPL chairman Arun Singh Dhumal have been re-elected in the IPL governing council as per decisions taken at the Annual General Meeting of the BCCI held in Goa on Monday.

The general body was apprised about BCCI earning more than 38 per cent from annual revenue generated by the ICC and also Rs 67 crore (approx) per match earning from media rights during the next cycle of bilateral series.

"All routine decisions happened. The list of names for the cricket committees and the sub-committees will be prepared by the office bearers as entrusted by the House. As far as IPL GC is concerned, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal and Avishek Dalmiya were supposed to be elected and it happened on expected lines," a state unit representative told PTI.

It has also been learnt that Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer will continue as per his contract which is due to expire next year.

"The Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer will continue till June, 2024. He will serve his full contract," the state unit source said.

The board members were also apprised about the new budget and the profit that BCCI made in the last financial year.

Former India left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha will no longer be Indian Cricketers' Association's



representative in the Apex Council.

"The ICA will have its election and then choose their new representative."

There were talks about removal of Salil Ankola from the national selection panel as chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, who is also from Mumbai, is already a part of the panel.

The BCCI has a convention that five selectors represent five zones and this time, there are two from West Zone.

"There has been no such discussion about this during the AGM. If there is anything, it can only happen after the World Cup. As of now, no selector is being changed," the source said.

Pakistani players issued Indian visa for WC travel

PTI ■ INDORE

Members of the Pakistan cricket team were on Monday issued Indian visas for the ODI World Cup, the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed, hours after the PCB raised serious concerns with the global body over the delay in the national team's travel to Hyderabad.

The visa clearance came less than 48 hours before Pakistan's scheduled travel to India in the wee hours of September 27. They play their first warm-up game against New Zealand in Hyderabad on September 29.

"Visas have been issued to Pakistan," an ICC spokesperson told PTI.

However, confusion remained in the Pakistan camp over the grant of visa.

"We have not got the call from Indian High Commission yet over visa clearance. Member of our team is stationed there," PCB spokesperson Umar Farooq told PTI.

The confirmation from the ICC came after the PCB wrote to ICC CEO Geoff Allardice on Monday over the visa delay besides claiming the anxious wait has adversely impacted the team's preparation for the 50-over showpiece.

Pakistan were supposed to have a



two-day team bonding session in Dubai before their scheduled arrival in Hyderabad on September 27 but was cancelled due to the uncertainty over Indian visa.

The Babar Azam-led side plays two warm-up games and as many World Cup matches in Hyderabad starting with the practice fixture against New Zealand.

In the letter addressed to Allardice, the PCB also claimed that its concerns over visa being granted to players, team officials, fans and journalists for the World Cup in India have not been addressed for more than three years. It also added that such inequitable treatment to Pakistan will not be acceptable.

Reiterating those concerns, Farooq added: "There has been an extraordinary delay in getting clearance and securing Indian visas for the Pakistan team for ICC World Cup."

Zverev in Chengdu final

AP ■ CHENGDU (CHINA)

Top-seeded Alexander Zverev will play for a 21st career title after beating third-seeded Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 7-6 (2) in the semifinals of the Chengdu Open on Monday. The 26-year-old German will meet Roman Safiullin in Tuesday's final. The 55th-ranked Russian defeated second-seeded Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 6-4. Zverev hit 10 winners and four aces in the first set and his serve continued to be effective in the second set.

The 26-year-old Safiullin will be playing in his first career final in his eighth year on tour.

At the Zhuhai Championships, top-seeded Karen Khachanov defeated fourth-seeded Sebastian Korda 7-5, 6-4 to move into the final in his second tournament since returning from injury.

Khachanov will face Yoshihito Nishioka in Tuesday's final. The eighth-seeded Japanese player beat Aslan Karatsev 6-4, 6-4.

In a tight first set, Khachanov gained the crucial break in the 11th game when Korda found the net with a drop shot. The 15th-ranked Russian improved in the second set and dominated the baseline rallies to overpower the 23-year-old American.

On the first day of the Ningbo Open, Russian wild-card Vera Zvonareva upset seventh-seeded Katie Boulter 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (3) to advance to the second round. Zvonareva, a two-time Grand Slam finalist, will next play Clara Tauson, who beat Elina Avanesyan 6-4, 6-1.

Yulia Putintseva, a semifinalist last week at the Guangzhou Open, defeated Daria Saville 6-4, 6-1.

Asian Games 2023: Titas helps India to win gold

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Titas Sadhu must be believing in pleasant coincidences. Else, how could she logically explain that two of the most defining spells in her short but eventful career read almost eerily similar.

It was 4-0-6-2 in the ICC U-19 World Cup final against England and on Monday, playing only her second senior international match, her figures were 4-0-6-3 against Sri Lanka. A three-over first spell that literally ensured the gold medal for Indian women's cricket team.

"We all had a clear plan of what we had to do. Obviously, we got a good momentum in the first over itself. We had discussed during the innings break that we will keep calm and stick to what we had decided," said Titas, who hails from Hooghly district's suburban Chinsurah, where she had a sporty father Ranadeep, who encouraged her to take up every sport possible.

Father being a decent state-level athlete, Titas had taken the sport like fish to water and also at the same time making a splash at the



pool. She got 93 percent marks in her state class Xth board exams but cricketing commitments prevented her from appearing for the plus two during the next two years.

Cricket rather happened accidentally as she would keep scores for her ancestral club Rajendra Smriti Sangha, near Hooghly Mohsin College in Chinsurah.

One fine morning, when her club side fell short of a net bowler, they called up Titas. Since then, she has never looked back, even

dropping out of school to pursue the sport. The 18-year-old right-arm medium pacer from Bengal was delighted to win the gold for the country in the continental showpiece.

"It was a great opportunity we got this time, and the fact that we were able to grab that opportunity, I'm very glad and grateful," Titas said.

On the day, the bounce that Titas extracted off the surface was there for everyone to

see and it was something that his Bengal women's team coach Shib Shankar Paul realised.

"I remember one of my former Bengal teammates Priyanka Mukherjee called me few years back. He said, 'Maco (his nickname), there is girl I coach, she is nearly 5 feet 9 inch tall and is quick for a 16-year-old. Why don't you check her out for senior Bengal team,'" Paul recollected on the day.

"When I first saw her at the Bengal nets, I was surprised that she was way quicker for her age. Had a physique that you rarely find in a pace bowler from Bengal, Jhulan (Goswami) obviously was an exception. She bowled good outswing and had good grasping power. She was a good student and fared well in her 10th boards. I didn't waste time to convince erstwhile CAB secretaries Snehashish Ganguly and Debu Das to allow me to take her in senior Bengal team," said Paul, pride in his voice palpable.

So did he talk to Titas today after the final?

"Yes, she and Richa (Ghosh) both called up. Titas said, 'Thank You sir for all the support!'"

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