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PARLIAMENT TURNS UNPARLIAMENTARY

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

requesting anonymity.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who had earlier initiated a discussion on the country’s Chandrayaan success, said though he could not hear the comments of his party colleague in the House, he personally apologised for the remarks.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has taken “serious note” of the unparliamentary remarks made by Bidhuri and warned him of “strict action” if such a behaviour is repeated in the future, officials said.

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

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

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

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



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

the first that this type of language has been used for an elected MP...”

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

“We are the mother of democracy... I am proud of it... I couldn’t sleep the entire night... my brain nerves were about to burst... what could I have done... if this is the behaviour towards me then how a common man is being treated...”

I hope the Lok Sabha Speaker will take appropriate action in this matter.

Several Opposition members owing allegiance to the INDIA bloc visited the BSP MP.

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

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

Opposition leaders criticised BJP MPs Ravi Shankar Prasad and Harsh Vardhan for allegedly laughing while



PTI

Bidhuri fied a broadside at Ali in the Lok Sabha. However, both Prasad and Vardhan have distanced themselves from the controversy.

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

The Opposition leaders highlighted instances where members from their own

alliance, such as TMC, Shiv Sena, and AAP parliamentarians, were promptly reprimanded by the presiding officers of either House, and in some cases, they even faced suspensions.

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

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

leaders said.

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

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

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

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

calling this out. Ma Kali holds my spine,” Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra said in a statement.

She demanded that Modi and the Speaker take strict action against Bidhuri.

“Filthy language used by a BJP parliamentarian for fellow MP Ali. No shame left. This is sickening. Will Speaker Lok Sabha take note and take action,” Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi told *The Pioneer* when sought for her comments on the row.

Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh wondered whether Bidhuri’s language was a result of the values taught by the RSS. “I raised the issue of violence in Manipur and I was suspended. What action will be taken against this MP who abused Ali,” Singh said on social media platforms.

The AAP also slammed BJP Lok Sabha members Harsh Vardhan and Ravi Shankar Prasad for “laughing” when Bidhuri was abusing Ali.

“Why is this uncouth, uncultured BJP MP Bidhuri not suspended for his use of unparliamentary language and obnoxious behaviour in the Lok Sabha? Speaker Birla must take immediate action. Will BJP also suspend him from their party or will they give him a promotion,” NCP spokesman Clyde Crasto said.

Each State gets high speed train

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The inaugural Tirunelveli-Chennai Vande Bharat Express train will leave from Tirunelveli Junction 6 am and reach Chennai around 1:50 pm, while



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

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

Bengaluru and Hyderabad Vande Bharat train will link the two tech cities and will cover the 610 km distance in 8.5 hours.

Speaking about its tentative schedule, the train will depart from Kacheguda in Hyderabad at 5.30 am and will reach Yeshwantpur around 2 pm.

In the return journey, the train will depart at 2:45pm and reach Kacheguda at 11:15 pm.

The semi-high speed train is likely to have 5 stops — Mahabubnagar, Kurnool City, Anantapur, Dhoni, Dharmavaram. Vande Bharat express between Vijayawada-Chennai will cover the distance between the two cities in 6 hours and 40 minutes.

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

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

the return journey will begin at 2:50 pm on all days except Tuesdays.

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

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

Coimbatore Vande Bharat train. Odisha’s second Vande Bharat express on Puri-Rourkela route is also set to be flagged off on Sunday. The full trial run of the Puri-Rourkela Vande Bharat Express was conducted on Wednesday. The train will connect the coastal districts of the State to its western region.

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

China spits venom, India fires salvo

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

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

This is the second instance in two months that the same three players were unable to visit China for a competition. On Wednesday, the three women wushu players — Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega, and Mepung Lamgu — received their accreditation cards from Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee, which also acts as an entry visa. However, they could not download their travel document on Wednesday when they were scheduled to leave for the Asian Games, while the rest of the players did not face any issues. Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of China.

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

Terming the act of denial of accreditation as discriminatory behaviour by China, he also said Information and Broadcasting



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

and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has cancelled his visit.

Describing the Chinese action as targeting of the sportspersons in a “premeditated” manner, Bagchi said the move violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct as they “explicitly prohibits discrimination” against competitors from member states. He said a “strong protest” has been lodged against China’s “deliberate and selective obstruction” of some of India’s sportspersons.

“The Government of India has learnt

that the Chinese authorities have, in a targeted and premeditated manner, discriminated against some of the Indian sportspersons from the state of Arunachal Pradesh by denying them accreditation and entry to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China,” Bagchi said. “In line with our long-standing and consistent position, India firmly rejects differential treatment of Indian citizens on the basis of domicile or ethnicity. Arunachal Pradesh was, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India,” he said.

Rising Suicide Rates in Jamshedpur: A Growing Concern for Mental Health



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The increasing trend of suicides in Jamshedpur since April 2023 has become an alarming matter of concern for both experts and the general public. Suicide, often referred to as an everlasting pandemic, has deeply rooted itself in India, earning the country a dubious distinction as one of the nations with the highest suicide rates, accounting for more than 36% of global suicides. Sadly, Jharkhand, with its ongoing battle against this issue, maintains the second-highest rank within the state, with Dhanbad holding the top spot from 2018 to 2020. Yearwise statistics illustrate the gravity of the situation: 2018: 178 suicides, 2019: 177 suicides, 2020: 258 suicides, 2021: 255 suicides, 2022: 206 suicides. While the rate per lakh individuals varied each year, the recent data for 2022 showed a rate of 12.4, which is slightly less than the national rate of 12.7. However, the situation in 2023 is becoming increasingly troubling, with a total of 143 suicides recorded until August. If projections are considered for the period from April to August, the total number may soar to approximately 230, leading to a rate reaching 14, significantly higher than the previous year. According to Meduri Durga Rao, deputy director, Jeevan, experts in the field of mental health highlight the direct and integral connection between suicide and mental disorders such as stress, depression, and anxiety. Shocking statistics reveal that 89% of people suffer from stress, while 88% battle anxiety, both of which can lead to severe depression if left unaddressed. Unfortunately, 75% of individuals in crisis tend to ignore their issues due to the stigma associated with mental health and a lack of education and awareness. Perhaps the most crucial finding is that not all individuals suffering from depression commit suicide, but those who do commit suicide often have a history of depression. Depression is a mental disorder of major public health importance, alongside anxiety. In essence, 98% of suicide victims likely had some form of mental health issue. An alarming statistic reveals that 65% of suicide victims are below the age of 35, making suicide the fourth leading cause of death among the youth. This demographic is the future of the nation, and it is imperative to address their mental health needs urgently. National Health Survey reports indicate that Indian youth require active intervention on a war footing. UNICEF surveys from 2021 highlight that 14% of the age group 15-24 frequently feel depressed and disinterested, while a Deloitte survey in 2021-22 reveals that 59% of working individuals reported symptoms of depression, including sadness, lack of interest, fatigue, and concentration issues. Jeevan is a beacon of hope, consistently putting forth efforts for prevention by extending emotional support to those in mental crisis. However, it requires the support of every citizen of Jharkhand. If you encounter anyone suffering from any type of mental illness, please encourage them to contact "JEEVAN." They stand ready to provide absolutely free services 365 days a year, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with total confidentiality guaranteed. Helpline Numbers: 9297777499/9297777500.

BBMKU VC lambasts Raj Bhawan nominee in university syndicate

PANKAJ : DHANBAD

The vice chancellor (VC) of Binod Bihari Mahto Koylaanchal University (BBMKU) has lambasted Dr Binod Kumar, the nominee of Raj Bhawan in university syndicate, for his alleged filthy words he spoke during the syndicate meeting that was held on Wednesday at university campus here. Talking to media persons VC Dr Sukhdeo Bhoi alleged that Dr Kumar was here with a political agenda and due to his attitude to hijack the meeting by setting his agenda the syndicate meeting ended without holding any discussions on a pre-set agenda. According to VC Dr Kumar also tried to dominate senior university officials including registrar, CCDC and some principals during the said meeting. According to VC Dr Kumar claimed him to be a relative of Health minister Banna Gupta and also to have close association with Dhanbad and Bokaro MLAs as he happens to be associated with RSS. It's worth mentioning that Dr Binod had raised issues of inter admission, irregularities in appointments in class three and four categories as well as on different posts of University besides other issues. This had created a row in the meeting and Kumar too was affected by University officials. The VC claimed that things are going smoothly in the university and BBMKU happens to be one of the best functioning universities of Jharkhand in all respects.

Developmental works in Adra division lead to train cancellations

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In light of essential developmental works scheduled in the Adra Division of South Eastern Railway, a series of changes to train services have been introduced to ensure the smooth execution of these projects. These modifications are set to come into effect on specific dates, and passengers are encouraged to take note of the following adjustments:

Cancellation of Trains: 08680/08679 Adra-Midnapur-Adra MEMU Special: Train services scheduled to commence their journey on 26th September 2023, 29th September 2023, and 1st October 2023 will remain cancelled. 08647/08648 Adra-Barabhum-Adra MEMU Special: Train services with journeys starting on 26th September 2023, 28th September 2023, and 1st October 2023 will remain cancelled. **Short Termination/Short Origination of Trains:** 08174/08652 Tatanagar-Asansol-Barabhum MEMU Special: Train services



with journeys commencing from 25th September 2023 to 1st October 2023 will be short terminated at or short originated from Adra. 18035/18036 Kharagpur-Hatia-Kharagpur Express: Train services with journeys starting on 26th September 2023, 28th September 2023, and 1st October 2023 will be short terminated at or short originated from Adra. 03594/03593 Asansol-Purulia-Asansol MEMU

Special: Train services with journeys starting from 25th September 2023, 26th September 2023, 28th September 2023, and 1st October 2023 will be short terminated at or short originated from Adra. **Diversion of Train:** 18601 Tatanagar-Hatia Express: Train services with journeys from 25th September 2023 to 1st October 2023 will follow a diverted route, passing via Chandil-Gunda Bihar-Muri.

Rescheduling of Trains: 18036 Hatia-Kharagpur Express: Train services scheduled to depart from Hatia on 25th September 2023, 27th September 2023, and 29th September 2023 will be rescheduled to leave at 11.20 hrs. instead of the originally planned 09.20 hrs. 18036 Hatia-Kharagpur Express: Train service on 30th September 2023 will be rescheduled to leave Hatia at 12.20 hrs. instead of the originally scheduled time of 09.20 hrs. "These changes are necessary to facilitate the ongoing developmental works in the Adra Division of the South Eastern Railway. Passengers are encouraged to plan their journeys accordingly and stay updated with the latest information from the railway authorities. The railway department extends its apologies for any inconvenience these modifications may cause and appreciates passengers' cooperation during this period of necessary upgrades," said an official of SER.

Pre-Matric Coaching students felicitated

PNS : DHANBAD

Tata Steel Foundation, Jamadoba, felicitated the meritorious students of Pre-Matric Coaching (PMC) classes, for their outstanding performance in the Annual Secondary Board Examination 2023, conducted by the Jharkhand Academic Council, Ranchi.

Held at the JRD Tata Auditorium here on Thursday the aim of this programme was to recognise the achievements of 205 students, who have secured an aggregate of 75% and more. Gratitude was also expressed to the 42 teachers from senior classes, without whom this feat would have not been possible. The programme began with a safety pause, followed by students greeting the esteemed guests with the gift of a sapling each. The ceremonial lamp was lit jointly by the Chief Guest, Sanjay Rajoria, General Manager, Jharia Division, Tata Steel, along with the teachers and others.

The Chief Guest congratulated all the students and lauded the efforts of the teachers. He also praised TSE, for running such educational programmes that benefit a large number of students belonging to the Company's leasehold areas. Also present on this occasion were, Col Bhavani Singh Nirwan, Head Administration, Pankaj Kumar Das, Head HRBP, Santosh Kumar Mahato, Regional Secretary, Rashtriya Colliery Mazdoor Union Adarsh Gupta, Manager Education, TSF and Khushbu Prajapati, Manager Education, TSF Jamshedpur.

DC, DDC take stock of Bokaro District Library

R SHARMA : BOKARO

In a significant development the District Library built in Zilla Parishad Mall under Chas Block was handed over to the students of the district. Notably this is a gift from the district administration for the all-round development of the students of the district. Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary and Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC) Kirtishree G visited the library and took stock of the district library at all levels. They looked at the facilities available in the library one by one and gave necessary directions to the concerned officials so that the students of the district can get maximum benefits/facilities in their knowledge development under a good environment.

Also the DC and DDC visited the reading hall, discussion room and locker room etc. respectively where Necessary instructions were given to the concerned personnel regarding arranging all the books in



a row/chain in the book store to ensure basic discipline of the Library is maintained. On the occasion, the DC & DDC also interacted with some students studying in the reading hall and tried to gather feedback to boost the library management. District Public Relations Officer Rahul Bharti, District Sports Officer Hemlata, District CSR Nodal Officer Shakti Kumar, DPM Prakash Ranjan, Assistant Public Relations Officer Avinash Kumar and other officers/personnel, students etc. were also present. It is noteworthy that the District Library will be operated by Zilla Parishad Bokaro. This

has been prepared on the initiative of the district administration through convergence of various departments. This library is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. Students will have facilities like reading hall, discussion room and locker room etc. on the same floor. It is noteworthy that students studying in various schools/colleges and various educational/coaching institutes of the district can become members of the District Library where for this they will have to register. The registration process is on-line. Interested students can register by visiting site <https://zila-parishadbokaro.com>

Health services being strengthened in Hazaribag and Ramgarh : MP



AVINASH ANJAN : HAZARIBAG

MP Hazaribagh Co-Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance Jayant Sinha Hazaribagh has always been striving to improve health services in the Lok Sabha. On the occasion of the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under Seva Pakhwada, he is organizing free health camps in all five constituencies of Hazaribagh Lok Sabha. This camp was organized at the sub-divisional hospital located in Barhi assembly on Friday. During this time a large number of people came to take advantage of the camp.

In this health camp, important tests including eye, sugar, blood pressure, dengue, malaria and typhoid were done free of cost. General physician was also present here. The public appreciated this camp a lot and thanked Jayant Sinha for it. Jayant Sinha inspected this health camp and interacted with the people. He said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, our effort is to provide better health facilities to the public. We are organizing this camp with this purpose and resolve. This event is being organized in every assembly of the area. I appeal to the residents of the area to come in large numbers and take advantage of this. We are strengthening health services on every front. Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas is our basic mantra. We are providing every means for the convenience of the public.

BSL wins Director Personnel Cup

PNS : BOKARO

DIRECTOR : Personnel Cup -2023 Grand Finale of "Ran Niti" Business Simulation Game was organized at MTI, Ranchi under the aegis of All India Management Association. Notably in this Simulation game more than 124 teams from various plant units of SAIL participated in the plant level competition Level One of "Ran Niti", out of which 19 teams were selected for the finals. The team of Sudhir, General Manager (HSM), Amit Anand, Assistant General Manager (HRD), Preeti, Manager (HRD) selected in the Grand Finale on behalf of Bokaro Steel Plant. It is worth mentioning here that Bokaro Steel Plant hoisted the flag in this competition by securing first position. The top management of Bokaro Steel Plant has congratulated all the team members for this achievement.



Jharkhand lad to appear in Tollywood Film 'Angshuman MBA'

PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand's talented actor Abhash Mukherjee will be seen on the big screen of Tollywood on 29 of September 2023 in 'Angshuman MBA' at Zee-5 OTT platform, where he will be seen in the leading role along with another Tollywood Star Soham Chakraborty.

Mukherjee will play the role of a Gujarati boy named "Gopinath Patel" and play a vital role in this film.

Mukherjee's music video Album "ROCK STAR LIVE" which got more than 1.6 million likes in just a few hours was released in December 2020 by Zee Music Company, which became popular not only in our country but across the world also. Many well-known producers, directors, actors such as Faraha Khan, Ravi Behal, Gurmit Choudhary, Vikram Mastal and many more appreciated his music video. Ministers Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Alamgir Alam, MP Mahua Manjhi etc. also appreciated Abhash's work and gave him blessings.

Abhash also got one award "Popping Star of India" in "Just Dance" reality show aired on Star Plus.

Abhash has studied from Ranchi and he entered the world of Entertainment from the age of six. He participated in many T.V reality show's including "Boogie-Boogie" aired on Sony T.V. According to Abhash, his father Surjeet Mukherjee, a Joint Secretary to the Government of Jharkhand and mother Mridula Mukherjee helped him to reach this level thus for these achievements he told that all credits goes to his father and mother.



Smart Classes: Changing lives, one click at a time

PNS : RANCHI

For 15-year-old Kamdev Kumar Sah, going to school every day was a struggle. His parents wanted him to study but he would skip classes often and play in the fields, wander around and chat with people. "I did not think much about it until my Class 8 final exam results were out. I did not do well, and I felt guilty because I knew how hard my parents had been working to support my education," he said.

Uncertain and anxious, Kamdev somehow managed to get admission at Damin High School, Rajabhatta, in Class 9. Once there, he faced a big challenge – the school, students, and teachers, all were new. "But my teachers were very supportive, and I started feeling better soon. The school had Smart Classes, which helped me a lot. To my surprise, it was for the first time that I was looking forward to going to school," said the teenager from Sundarpahari block in Lakhimpur village.

Gyanodaya Godda, an initiative run by the district



administration of Godda and supported by the Adani Foundation, is helping thousands of school students from Classes 6 to 12. The audio-visual curriculum includes regular quizzes, analysis, and practice questions.

The initiative is in line with the government's vision of taking digital education to all rural areas of India. In Godda, Smart Classes were launched in 2018 and so far,

more than 60,000 students have benefited. Currently, 314 government schools in the district are covered under the initiative.

An official associated with the programme said that one of the unique aspects of the curriculum is the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for personalised feedback. The teaching module has PPTs, video presentations and interactive sessions where



students can clear their doubts.

The AI tool is embedded in the app. It analyses a student's performance, maps that against the curriculum and benchmarks it against district and country data. It also generates unique actionable feedback for each student.

The Smart Classes programme runs on some digital platforms as well, and it has reached over 1,30,000 students through YouTube.

According to an official, under the Gyanodaya initiative, they are trying to address key concerns of government schools in Godda – low student count, high dropout rates and lack of subject-specific teachers.

Karishma met the Gyanodaya team in 2022 during a campaign called "Back to School". She was studying in Class 8 at the Middle School Manikpur. Her father Madhusudan Pandit is a farm worker and the only

bread earner for their family of six. Karishma's parents were struggling with their kids' education. And Karishma herself was losing interest in studies. Once the Gyanodaya team members came to know about this, they interacted with Karishma and her family.

"There is a staff crunch at the school and because of that, many students did not feel like attending classes," said Ranu, nodal teacher of Gyanodaya Smart Classes at the Middle School Manikpur. "We kept talking to students who were irregular and tried to convince them. We also interacted with their families. Our team noticed that many students were showing interest in the Smart Classes modules – especially for science. In the absence of dedicated science teachers, the students benefited from the virtual classes," she added.

Sharing her experience, 15-year-old Karishma said she enjoys the Smart Classes and has a good attendance record now. "Science is my favourite subject, and I want to take it up for higher studies," she said.

Jharkhand HC sitting judge, Justice KP Deo, passes away

Governor, CM, who's who pay tributes

PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand High Court sitting judge, Justice Kailash Prasad Dev passed away on Friday at 5:20 am while undergoing treatment at Medica Hospital in Ranchi. Justice Dev was 55 years old and was suffering from critical illness for the past few months.

The official information issued by the High Court stated, "It is for information to all concerned that the business of the High Court of Jharkhand and its Offices as well as Subordinate Courts of the State shall remain closed on 22nd September 2023, as a mark of respect to the departed soul of Justice Kailash Prasad Dev, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi."

As the news of the passing away of Justice Prasad spread, the Court decided to suspend the activities of the High Court and Subordinate Courts and all the associated



Chief Minister Hemant Soren pays last respects to mortal remains of Justice of Jharkhand High Court Kailash Prasad Dev at Jharkhand High Court in Ranchi on Friday. PNS

offices. "I am directed to inform you that Justice Kailash Prasad Dev, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi, has left for his heavenly abode today, i.e., September 22, 2023, and as a

mark of respect to the departed soul, the business of all the subordinate courts of the state shall remain closed today," the registrar general of the high court said in a communication to district and

sessions judges.

Justice Deo had been elevated from being a practicing advocate to a Judge of the High Court in 2017.

The mortal remains of the late Justice Kailash Prasad

Dev moved from Medica Hospital to his residence at Doranda Nepal House. From there, it was taken to the Jharkhand High Court premises, followed by a final procession leaving the High Court for Muktidham.

The news of his passing has brought immense grief to the legal community, with Judges and Advocates expressing their sorrow and grief. The legal fraternity remembered Justice Prasad as a kind and cooperative judge of Jharkhand High Court.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren reached the high court premises and paid tributes to Deo.

Soren said he is saddened by the untimely demise of Justice Deo which "is an irreparable loss to the judicial world. May God grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family members at this difficult time of grief." Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan

took to 'X' to express his grief. "The untimely demise of Jharkhand High Court Judge Kailash Prasad Dev is very sad and painful. His demise is an irreparable loss. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family members. May God give them the strength to bear this pain," Radhakrishnan said.

As the High Court was closed, Chief Minister Hemant Soren who was to file a petition at Jharkhand High Court challenging his summons by the Enforcement Directorate could not file his petition.

Soren has decided to approach the High Court after Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain Chief Minister Hemant Soren's plea challenging the summons issued to him by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with money laundering charges and asked him to instead approach the High Court in this regard.



Devotees during immersion of idols of Lord Ganesh Chaturthi in Ranchi on Friday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

Doctors call off strike after assault accused persons' arrest

Demand Medical Protection Act in State

PNS : RANCHI

The IMA, Jharkhand and JHASA today called off their statewide indefinite strike after arrest of main accused persons in the MGM doctor assault case. Under the banner of IMA and JHASA, State Unit, all the government and private doctors across the state protested against the incident of assault on Dr. Kamlesh Oraon, a pediatrician of MGM Medical College. Indefinite work boycott (except casual service) was announced from 6 am. The entire health system came to a standstill in the State.

Notably, the main demands of the doctors were - that the culprits should be arrested immediately, An FIR against the assault should be lodged by the Medical College administration, which till now was lodged only by Dr Kamlesh and Police personnel should be made in the medical college campus.

A few hours after the

movement, the police administration took immediate action and arrested four people including the main accused Santosh and Ravi and the Administrative Officer cum SDO of MGM Medical College and the SSP appealed to IMA and JHASA to withdraw their work boycott. In view of the demands of the organization, the Superintendent of MGM Medical College lodged an FIR on behalf of the administration against the assault and prepared the necessary documents related to making police petitions and sent it to the SSP. All three main demands of the organization were accepted.

As soon as there was official confirmation that the demands had been accepted, IMA and JHASA jointly announced the withdrawal of the work boycott. IMA Secretary Dr. Pradeep Singh said that our movement was successful and the credit for this success goes to all the

members of IMA, JHASA, Junior Doctor Association, Tribal Medical Association, AHPI, FORDA and their unity. Dr. PP Shah, President, JHASA said that we need to remain organized like this and thanked the doctors of all the organizations for the success of this movement.

Dr. AK Singh, President, IMA, Jharkhand raised the question that if a doctor on duty in a medical college is assaulted, then where was the security lapse. It is the responsibility of the SDO, the administrator of the medical college, to provide security to the students, doctors and paramedics inside the college campus. Dr. Thakur Mrityunjay Singh, Secretary, JHASA Jharkhand thanked the Police Administration for directly taking prompt action in the success of the movement and indirectly thanked the Health Minister for strengthening the organization.

There is resentment

among doctors over non-implementation of the Medical Protection Act. Dr. R.S. Das, Vice President, Headquarters, said that today's boycott would perhaps be able to send a message to the government that whenever doctors agitate, health services would be disrupted and thousands of patients would directly suffer and lose their health. The CM and Health Minister will have to understand the importance of this important Medical Protection Act and make efforts to pass it in the next assembly session.

While sharing information related to the Medical Protection Act, Dr. Pradeep Singh said that it is already applicable in 23 states. And wherever this Act is implemented, there has been a significant reduction in the incidents of assault on doctors and paramedics, referrals have reduced, maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate have come down.

FJCCI holds AGM ahead of Executive Committee Polls

PNS : RANCHI

The income and expenditure report along with the balance sheet was presented in the 59th annual general meeting of the Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FJCCI) on Friday on which the members present in the meeting expressed their consent. During the meeting it was informed that during the last tenure 260 new members were added in FJCCI.

The meeting was held on Friday in the Chamber Bhawan in the presence of 138 members. In this, officials of the Chamber of Commerce and affiliated organizations of Giridih, Gumla, Simdega, Khunti, Chaibasa districts including Ranchi as well as businessmen, entrepreneurs and professionals of the district participated. On this occasion, FJCCI General Secretary, Dr. Abhishek Ramadhin presented the annual activities of this session of the Chamber before the meeting, which was approved by the members



present there. The General Assembly unanimously once again gave the responsibility to M/s JN Aggarwal and Company for the audit of the Chamber. Treasurer Sunil Kedia presented the income and expenditure report for the session 2022-23.

Addressing the general meeting, FJCCI Chief, Kishore Mantri said that the committee has made better efforts to give a state level form to the Federation. "During this period 14 districts were visited. Along with the establishment of chambers in many districts, regional conclaves were

received positive consent from the State Government for providing one acre of land in the smart city to the Jharkhand Chamber," he added. Executive Committee Poll Election officers, Lalit Kedia and Pawan Sharma said on the election procedures that voting will be held from 9 am to 5 pm on September 24 at Birsa Munda Football Stadium and after voting, counting of votes and results will be announced.

It was also announced that Pradeep Aggarwal from Coalfield, Nitin Prakash from Kolhan, Akarsh Anand from Palamu and Pritam Gadia from Santhal Pargana were elected unopposed for regional vice president in four divisions. Only regional vice presidents of North and South divisions will be elected.

Some proposals sent by the members for amending the Constitution of the Chamber were also presented by Dr. Abhishek Ramadhin, which was decided to be sent to the Constitution Amendment Committee for consideration.

Symbolic launch of AI technology for poll personnel training held



PNS : RANCHI

As per the predetermined programme, a team of senior officials of the Election Commission of India reached Ranchi on Friday and held a review meeting regarding Special Brief Revision 2024 in a local hotel.

Senior Deputy Election Commissioner of Election Commission of India Dharmendra Sharma, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Nitish Kumar Vyas and Deputy Election Commissioner Manoj Kumar Sahu, Deputy Commissioners cum District Election Officers of all the districts in the presence of Chief Electoral Officer

of Jharkhand K. Ravi Kumar were present in the review meeting. Before the commencement of the special brief review meeting with the Cabinet Election Department and District Election Officers, the English and Hindi versions of the book named "Election Question Bank" prepared by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Jharkhand were released by the officials of the Election Commission of India. This book contains more than 1200 multiple choice questions related to the election process. At the same time, the local language version of Jharkhand's awareness song "Main Bharat Hoon" of the

Election Commission was launched. The local version of this song, prepared by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Jharkhand, has been prepared in Mundari, Kudukh, Ho, Santhali and Khadya languages. Apart from this, a special IT tool designed for the use of 'Artificial Intelligence' in the training of election personnel under the innovation "Integrated Learning Management System" being prepared by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand was also launched. Its demo was also displayed in front of the officials. The officials of the Election Commission of India expressed satisfaction over the efforts being made by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Jharkhand.

In this one-day review meeting, a powerpoint presentation was given by the District Election Officers of all the districts, on which the officials of the Election Commission of India reviewed one by one and gave necessary instructions.

Two-day 'Indra Dhanush' Fair begins at CMPDI



PNS : RANCHI

President, Kasturi Mahila Sabha, Rupali Gupta, inaugurated the two-days Indradhanush Fair at Rabintra Bhawan, CMPDI organised by Women in Public Sector (WIPS), CMPDI Branch. The Fair will run from 22.09.2023 to 23.09.2023 from 10.30 A.M to

8.00 P.M On this occasion, CMD, CMPDI, Manoj Kumar; Sushma Bharti, W/o Ajay Kumar, Director (Technical/P&D); Abha Prasad, Secretary of WIPS; Dr. Shilpi Swaroop, Coordinator of WIPS and Swapnali Basu, Treasurer, WIPS were present on this occasion. Gupta said that this fair is a confluence of tradition and modernity. In this fair, along with manufactured goods, goods made from traditional ways and eco-friendly things were also available.

In this fair, about 75 different stalls of fashionable (modern) garments/sarees, excellent jewellery, medical camps, financial advisors, plants to be kept at home and plants to be planted and delicious food have been set up.

The objective of this fair is to empower the rural women and provide a platform for small entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products and also to promote usage of natural and eco-friendly things like clay, jute and bamboo, etc., among people.

Marandi targets JMM/Cong Govt for looting state wealth

PNS : RANCHI

BJP State President and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi today addressed public meetings at Khunti and Manoharpur as part of Sankalp Yatra where he once again targeted the JMM/Congress alliance government.

Marandi said that the present government was not made to work. This Thugbandhan government was made only to loot the state and for corruption, which is visible continuously. He said that the appointment year of the JMM/Congress government, which came to power by talking about giving unemployment allowance or not five lakh appointments every year, has not come, whereas four years of this government are about to be completed.

He said that the achievements of the present government are crime, loot and corruption in the state. In the Hemant government, people are scared and criminals, robbers, brokers and middlemen are fearless.

He said that incidents of murder, robbery, kidnapping and rape are happening daily in the state. Sisters and daughters are being killed by sprinkling petrol and cutting them into pieces. Smuggling of sand from the state is taking place in Bihar, Bengal, Delhi, Mumbai. And the state police are arresting those who collect sand from the river for domestic work and sending them to jail.

He said that the state government has deployed the police not for action against criminals but for recovery. He said that there is corruption everywhere in the police station, block, DC office, secre-



State BJP President Babulal Marandi being garlanded by party workers during 'Sankalp Yatra' programme in Manoharpur on Friday. PNS

tariat. Middlemen brokers dominate. The poor have to pay thousands of rupees as a bribe even to get their names added in the death certificate and ration card.

He said that the officials ask for money after being beaten and say that if they have given, they will take it. The post has to be recharged like a mobile.

He said that there is loot of land in the state.

He said that today when the Chief Minister's property is being investigated and ED is sending summons for questioning, then to save the corrupt, they are spending crores of rupees on lawyers in the Supreme Court.

He said that today there are no teachers in the schools of the state, no doctors, no nurses, no medicines in the

hospitals. The state government is not even able to repair the roads built by the BJP government. The middlemen are also looting the grains of the poor. And kept sending money to Hemant Soren's safe.

He said that BJP cannot see the plight of the state. He said that Jharkhand is the gift of the BJP government. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government formed the state on the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda.

He said that under the BJP government, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and bridges and culverts were constructed on river drains. And today under the leadership of Modi ji, progress is being made in all areas like roads, electricity, water, education and medicine.

Man dead, three injured in road accident

A car filled with employees of Mall of Ranchi overturned near Chiri Patra of Kudu police station area on Friday morning. While going to Natarhat, the car went out of control near Chiri Patra on the Kudu-Lohardaga main road of Kudu police station area at around 5 am on Friday and overturned after hitting a tree on the roadside. In this incident, Paratun Das died on the spot while three people were buried under the car. Among these, the seriously injured car driver has been referred to Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) of the State Capital for better treatment. Kudu police got information about the incident. Kudu police reached the spot with the help of the villagers, took out all four from the car and sent them to Lohardaga Sadar Hospital. After investigation, Paratun Das was declared dead by the doctors while the seriously injured car driver Sadan Sarkar was referred to Ranchi RIMS after first aid. The two injured, Satyajit Patra and Rahul Chakraborty, are undergoing treatment in Lohardaga. All four workers work in the Mall of Ranchi.

Minor girl commits suicide

A minor girl namely Shivani Kumari, 16- years-old, daughter of Sanat Giri, resident of Kargali Bazaar Colony of Bermo police station area, committed suicide by hanging herself with a noose in her CCL quarter on the late evening on Thursday. Police took the body into custody and sent it to Chas for post-mortem. It is said that the father of the deceased, a CCL employee, had forbidden his daughter from going to dance classes. Due to this she became angry. She went to the asbestos room and hanged herself from the fan. As soon as the family members and nearby people got information about the incident, they broke the sheet on the ceiling and entered the room and took the girl out of the noose and took her to the hospital. The doctors there declared the student dead after an examination.

Woman's body found on railway tracks

The body of a woman was found on the railway tracks near Sawang Purana Mines between Gomia and Bokaro Thermal Railway Station here on Thursday. She was identified as Veena Devi, 45, wife of Dularchand Yadav, resident of Hazari Gairwadhi Tola under Gomia police station area. According to the information, she was living in her house for the last one year. After the death of her 13-year-old elder daughter his mental condition had become weak. Police sources said that Veena Devi had suddenly left her mother's house at Dam village in the morning. Her family members started searching for him. When information was received about a woman's body being found on the railway tracks, they reached the spot and identified her. Police sends dead body for post-mortem

PM for ‘strong Government with majority’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

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

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

Having reservation for



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

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

“Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam ka duno sadanon

se pass hona , is baat ka bhi sakshi hain ki jab purn bahumat wali isthir sarkar hoti hain, to desh kese bade phaisla leta hain, bade padavon ko paar karta hain”, the Prime Minister said, adding earlier Governments make superficial efforts because they “did not have intention to pass it”.

Asserting that his Government worked to empower women, who have emerged as a power over the last one decade, Modi said that is why the political parties

that used to tear copies of the women’s reservation bill in Parliament had to support it — a jibe at parties, such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Samajwadi Party (SP).

Every party had to support it, he saying “ jo Bill phada karte they , unko bhi is adhiniyam ka samarthan karna pada”, Modi said amidst claps and cheers from women MPs.

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

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

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

A new history was made

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

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

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

BJP president J P Nadda and women Union ministers, including Nirmala Sitharaman and Smriti Irani, and other party leaders were present on the occasion. Nadda described the bill’s passage as historic and credited Modi’s foresight and resolve for the feat.

JD(S) joins NDA



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1st ‘One Nation One Election’ meet under Kovind today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

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

Kovind had recently media told that the meeting will be held on September 23.

The Government had on September 2 notified the eight-member “high-level” panel to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

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

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

working papers.

Home Minister Amit Shah, former leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and former finance commission chairman N K Singh are among the committee’s members.

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

“I have no hesitation whatsoever in declining to serve on the committee whose terms of reference have been prepared in a manner to guarantee its conclusions. It is, I am afraid, a total eyewash,” Chowdhury had said in the letter.

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

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



further raised the political heat.

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

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

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

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

amendments for the purpose of holding simultaneous elections.

It has also been tasked to suggest a framework for synchronisation of elections and “specifically suggest the phases and time-frame within which simultaneous elections may be held if they cannot be held in one go...”

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

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

The committee will also analyse and recommend possible solutions to scenarios such as hung House, adoption of no-confidence motion, or defection or any such other event in case of simultaneous

elections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concerns over complacency in implementing TB elimination programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The parliamentary committee suggested the need for organising orientation pro-

Implement Women’s Reservation Bill immediately: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



We should have done that back then and we will get this done now.”

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

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

later posted on X in Hindi.

At the press conference, he said, “You can ask any BJP MP in Lok Sabha, which is called ‘temple of democracy’, if they take any decision or take part in law-making - not at all... MPs are considered a ‘moorti’ (idol) in a temple, they have been kept like that without giving them any power. A BJP MP has told me this.”

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

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

carried the Constitution of India from the old building to the new building and he said that he is passing a very important law and we agree with him,” said Rahul.

The Congress leader said he was shocked to find that only three secretary-level officers in the Government of India are from OBCs and only five per cent of the budget is allocated for them.

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

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

On the BJP’s assertion of

the party having a significant number of MPs and MLAs from OBCs, Rahul Gandhi said, “You can ask any MP or MLA on how much they participate in law-making, how much they participate in how the money in India is spent, they will tell you there is no participation.”

“And as the prime minister keeps saying he an OBC leader, I want him to explain why only three OBC (officers) are there in the Government of India and why the OBC community which is the backbone of this country is responsible for only five per cent of the budget,” he noted.

Gandhi said the BJP was not been able to respond to this question and when he mentioned it, “I saw in their face the panic. Because this is the truth and this is what they are trying to distract India from - the fact that the large mass of Indian people do not have any power.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sahyadri deployed in Indo-Pacific

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

PM to lay foundation of cricket stadium in Varanasi today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

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



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

Mahotsav witnessed the participation of more than 37,000 persons across 17 disciplines, who displayed their skills in singing, instrumental playing, nukkad natak, dancing etc. The meritorious participants will get a chance to showcase their cultural skills during the programme at RICC. Meanwhile after the RICC, now a glimpse of Lord Shiva and Kashi will be seen in the new international cricket stadium being built in Varanasi. PM is coming to Kashi on Saturday to give a gift to the sports lovers of Purvanchal (eastern UP) an international cricket stadium in his parliamentary constituency. The cricket lovers of Purvanchal will no longer have to go far to watch international cricket matches. With the construction of an international cricket stadium at a cost of ₹451 crore, along with watching the matches, the basic infrastructure for international cricketers will also be ready. The cricket legends, Sachin Tendulkar and Sunil Gavaskar, are likely to attend the foundation stone laying ceremony of the stadium. In this project, the Yogi gov-

ernment has spent ₹121 crore on land acquisition while the BCCI will spend ₹330 crore to construct the stadium. This stadium will be ready in about 30 months near Ring Road in Ganjari village of Rajatalab area of the district. The double engine government is continuously playing a positive role in the rejuvenation of Kashi. Along with implementing PM's schemes in Kashi, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself has been inspecting from time to time to ensure that all the work is done properly. In the same sequence, as per the intention of the CM to build an international stadium, 30.86 acres of land worth ₹121 crore has been given on lease to Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) for the construction of this stadium. The PM is creating new dimensions of development to change the picture of his parliamentary constituency. The CM is giving concrete shape to development and employment related projects in Kashi. The people of Kashi had never thought that their MP would give such a big gift to Purvanchal in the form of an international cricket sta-



Atal Residential School ready for inauguration at Karsada in Varanasi.

dium. The state government has given this land on long-term lease to the UPCA. On this the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will build an international cricket stadium at a cost of ₹330 crore. The stadium with a capacity of 30,000 spectators will have seven pitches (practice and main wicket) and a state-of-the-art stadium will be constructed as per the rules of international cricket stadium. The stadium is likely to be ready by December 2025. When international matches are held in the international

cricket stadium, the glory of the stadium based on spirituality and religious architecture built in Kashi will be visible to the whole world through live telecast on TV. The shape of the stadium will be half-moon shaped, in which the floodlights installed will be in the shape of a trident. The design of belpatra will be seen in the building, while the shape of damru will also be visible in the design. There will be a spectator gallery like the stairs of Ganga Ghat. Before this, the RICC built in Kashi was constructed in the shape of Shivling, which has 108 Rudraksha beads. Many legendary cricketers like Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar, Ravi Shastri, Dilip

Vengsarkar are likely to be present in the foundation stone laying ceremony. BCCI President Roger Binny, Vice-President Rajiv Shukla, Secretary Jai Shah will also be present in this programme. After Kanpur and Lucknow, this will be the third international cricket stadium of UP in the form of Kashi, which will give an opportunity to the cricket players of not only Varanasi and Purvanchal but also Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to hone their talent and join the Indian cricket team.

Projects to benefit Purvanchal: Patel



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

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

Patel said that the PM is coming to his parliamentary constituency on Saturday around 12 noon. He said that India got international fame due to the successful organisation of G20 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon and passing of Nari Shakti Vandan Act Bill in Parliament. He said that the party has made preparations for a grand welcome of the prime minister when he will land in the city. He informed that the prime minister will reach Ganjari directly from

Varanasi Airport where he will lay the foundation stone of the international cricket stadium to be built at a cost of about ₹450 crore and address the public meeting. "Former and present players of the Indian cricket team will also be present on this occasion," he said, adding that the PM will also interact with women on Nari Shakti Vandan Act at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU).

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

Along with other preparations, the party has also conducted a comprehensive public relations campaign in the villages surrounding the venue of the public meeting which was continued on Friday, he

said, adding that the gram pradhans have also been personally contacted and invited to attend the public meeting along with the villagers. According to him, the people from nearby villages will arrive in the form of a procession with musical instruments to welcome the PM in the public meeting. "People from the city and rural areas will arrive in large numbers on two-wheeler and four-wheeler vehicles to welcome the prime minister on his travel routes and the venues of the programmes," he said, adding that to welcome the prime minister, the entire parliamentary constituency is being decorated with 1,000 small and big hoardings and 10,000 flags. "On the route of the PM's journey, the people of Kashi will give him a grand welcome by showering rose petals at various places and there is huge enthusiasm among the party workers," he said, adding that he was full confident that the public meeting would be historic and all the programmes will be unprecedented successful. The press conference was conducted by Navratan Rathi, media in-charge of Kashi region while it was also attended by Ashok Chaurasia, Pradeep Agrahari and co-media in-charge Santosh Solapurkar.

Plogathon green run organised



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

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

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

Additional Chief Medical Superintendent (ACMS) Dr Sunanda Chaturvedi, ACMS Additional Chief Medical Superintendents Dr RR Singh, Dr Neeraj, Dr Kalpana Dubey and Dr Mamta Singh, Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM) Rajesh Srivastava, Divisional Personnel Officer (DPO) Vivek Mishra, Assistant Commercial Managers (ACMs) Ajay Kumar Suman and Prashant Kumar, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ashok Kumar and many others contributed to the cleanliness campaign and participated in the plagathon green run. After releasing the selfie point and Swachhta Pakhwada pamphlet based on Swachh Bharat theme, DRM Vineet Kumar Srivastava in his presidential address said that cleanliness is such a good habit which is very important for all of us. He appealed to all to keep home, workplace and surroundings clean. This also has a positive impact on our life, working style and efficiency. It also has a clear impact on building good personality and character. The habit of cleanliness gives rise to good character by keeping the body, mind and soul clean and peaceful, he said. Welcoming everyone on the occasion, SDME (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar said under the Swachhta Pakhwada a special cleanliness campaign is being run in various stations, offices and trains of the division on the theme of 'Swachhta Hi Seva'.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A team of researchers from the School of Biotechnology, Institute of Science, BHU, has come up with a major finding, which could be significantly important in exploring new therapy for cervical cancer. The team comprising Dr Samarendra Kumar Singh and Garima Singh, who is pursuing PhD under the supervision of Dr Singh, discovered a micro RNA cluster which specifically suppresses the proliferation of cer-

The Cell Cycle and Cancer Lab conducts research in the field of cancer, especially cervical and gastrointestinal cancers. To execute the work the lab uses various molecular biology, biochemistry and structural biology tools.

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

growth and cancer progression of cervical cancer cells specifically, with no significant effect on non-cancerous cells. The finding could lead to developing a safer and specific therapy in management of cervical cancer. Dr Samarendra Singh

said, "The promising outcome of this study is the first-ever work to show that miR-17~92 suppresses cervical cancer cells by regulating cell cycle. MicroRNAs have emerged as an important regulator of cell cycle and various other cellular processes. Aberration in microRNAs has been linked with development of various diseases including cancers, but the mechanism behind this regulation is yet to be explored". We have reported that the discovered microRNA destabilises certain transcripts of onco-

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

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

The Cell Cycle and Cancer Lab conducts research in the field of cancer, especially cervical and gastrointestinal cancers. To execute the work the lab uses various molecular biology, biochemistry and

structural biology tools. It attempts to investigate why and how cell cycle behavior in cancer cells is mis-regulated. Earlier, the lab reported another micro-RNA, miR-34a which could suppress the cancer progression by targeting an essential viral protein E6 which was published in 'BMC cancer'. The lab has also found a novel way to diagnose cancer by evaluating load of tumor DNA in serum of cervical cancer patients which was published in a very reputed journal of cancer called 'JCRT'.

Conference on 'IIITA MUN' from Sept 28

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

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

To ensure a high-quality MUN experience, Aishnit Yadav and Lakshmi Tandon will constitute the esteemed

Executive Board (EB), leading the committee proceedings. Their extensive expertise guarantees that the upcoming MUN will not only be beginner-friendly but also a valuable learning experience. This underscores the significance of the IIITA-MUN conference for public-speakers and academic enthusiasts alike.

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

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

ACCIDENT: The escort

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TEACHERS FELICITATED: The Women Welfare



Organisation, North Central Railway Headquarters, Prayagraj, organised a programme at Spandan Club, Railway Colony, Subedarganj to felicitate teachers.

On the occasion the prin-


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

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

FIRST COLUMN

A CALL FOR FAITH, PEACE, AND UNITY

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




RADHANATH SWAMI MAHARAJ

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

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

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



otherwise? In the absence of spirituality that fosters resilience and forgiveness, people would naturally tend to slip into the bloody cycle of endless retribution. As a social thinker's question, How many lives per mile would ultimately work, to bring the parties to the table in negotiation? If tooth for a tooth, and eye for an eye is the policy followed, then the whole society will end up blind and toothless.

The quintessential message of Krishna Consciousness, calls forth the positive spirit of hope, meaning and faith in God in critical times. Historically, Kamsa ran a godless kingdom and wreaked havoc in the society by using deceit, fear, and force to maintain his grip on power. To assuage the suffering, Lord Krsna appeared as lightning amid the darkness of the world and neutralized Kamsa who was possessed by the spirit of ignorance beyond redemption. Currently, this lightning potency of the Lord is still accessible, within our reach, as the wisdom of the Gita. Irrespective of social, cultural, or religious diversities, the spiritual wisdom of the Gita empowers us to orient our lives towards a higher purpose, beyond selfish and short-sighted objectives. This higher purpose needs to be placed at the heart of world leaders and citizens, guided by universal qualities of forgiveness, fortitude, simplicity, non-violence, truthfulness, and freedom from anger, among others. Guided by wisdom and integrating such favourable characteristics into our lives as individuals, we feel spiritually empowered to be a positive force, bringing order amid the chaos of godless civilization and bridging the divide among human hearts with faith, peace, and unity.

(The author is the Spiritual Guru of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

Celebrating International Day of Sign Languages



ARMAN ALI

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



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

Communication forms the lifeblood of our interconnected world, serving as the foundation for building relationships, sharing ideas, and engaging in the intricate processes that shape our societies. Yet, for the millions of individuals worldwide who are deaf or hard of hearing, accessing this fundamental human right can be challenging. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), currently, over 1.5 billion people, nearly 20% of the global population, live with hearing loss, and 430 million of them experience disabling hearing loss. Alarminglly, it is projected that by 2050, this number could exceed 700 million people with disabling hearing loss.

The deaf community in India constitutes a significant portion of the population, with a diverse and vibrant culture. India has the largest deaf population in the world. As per WHO estimates in India, there are approximately 63 million people, who are suffering from Significant Auditory Impairment; this places the estimated prevalence at 6.3% in the Indian population.

Despite the challenges they face, the deaf community in India has made considerable strides in recent years. The Indian Sign Language (ISL) is recognized as one of the officially recognized languages of India, which has helped promote communication and inclusion among the deaf population. Additionally, various NGOs, government initiatives, and educational institutions have been working tirelessly to improve access to education, healthcare, and employment

opportunities for the deaf.

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

Efforts are also being made to empower the deaf community through vocational training and employment opportunities, ensuring they can lead fulfilling and independent lives. Indian sign language interpreters play a crucial role in facilitating communication between the deaf and hearing communities in various settings, including government offices, hospitals, and educational institutions.

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

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

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

India, being the most populous nation globally, also has the largest deaf population and therefore it is our collective responsibility to address their needs and aspirations. We have made significant strides in assistive technology, and there must be a decisive push to enable larger access to these technologies for the deaf population. With its inbuilt rich dynamics, the addition of technology will make sign language more profound and relevant. It's also essential for the country to view disabilities as an investment to promote their integration into mainstream society.

In the same vein, it is important to emphasize that achieving inclusion cannot occur in isolation. An ecosystem must be created to facilitate two-way communication through sign language. The responsibility lies not only with the deaf community but with society as a whole. Sign language should be integrated into the standard school curriculum to ensure that everyone becomes proficient in this language and skill. Just as foreign languages are taught in schools, there's no reason why Indian Sign Language shouldn't be part of the curriculum.

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

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

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


In a world that prides itself on progress and inclusivity, such oversights should be deemed unacceptable. The International Day of Sign Languages serves as a stark reminder of the imperative for governments, organizations, and individuals to prioritize accessibility and inclusivity in all facets of society. It is a day when we should reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that sign languages are accessible to all, everywhere.

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

Cooperatives can end Punjab's agriculture woes

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

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



SUKHDEV SINGH

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

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

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

clothing and health facilities for the family, children's education and other social responsibilities, on the other. Thus, the farmers have to take a loan for the next term. Small landowners face difficulty in loan sanctions from banks or moneylenders. Due to a lot of paperwork and lateral guarantees, the sanction of bank loans is delayed and sometimes completely refused or else the partial amount is sanctioned. Then the farmer has to approach some private moneylender for a loan at a high interest rate to save the crop. Due to the high interest rate, the real income from the crop decreases, while due to delayed loans, the use of fertilizer and pesticides is delayed causing low yield and losses. Some moneylenders sell fertilizers and pesticides instead of giving the loan amount in cash, so the farmers have to buy these products at the moneylender's price. What is worse is that sometimes the farmers double their losses when they happen to buy fake products.

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

Cooperative societies can

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

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

Future Action Plan:

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

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

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

Ramaswamy calls for economic independence from China

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

power phones, satellite systems, medical devices and other communication devices.

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

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

“Take BlackRock, the first asset manager ever to be granted the right to sell mutual funds as a foreign asset manager in China.

How did they get it? It was only after BlackRock’s CEO Larry Fink lobbied in the United States for lowered listing standards for Chinese companies in the US,” he claimed.

Ramaswamy said he is focused on declaring economic independence from China.

“This is what the US president can do. Keep us out of World War III, revive national pride, unlock the regulations that hold our economy back under the executive branch,” he said.

The mistake most presidents make is focusing on the legislative agenda first, he said. Former president Donald Trump promised to repeal and replace Obamacare but it did not happen, Ramaswamy said. “It is a false promise if it’s contingent on Congress. So, everything I’m telling you, we’re going to get done. We’re actually going to get done because I don’t need to ask Congress for permission or for forgiveness,” he asserted. PTI

US and China launch economic groups with aim of easing tensions

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

Economic conference in San Francisco.

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

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

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

China is one of the United States’ biggest trading partners, and economic competition between the two nations has increased in recent years.

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

The US military shot the balloon down off the Carolina coast after it traversed sensitive military sites across North America.

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

At least 80 corruption cases to be revived in Islamabad’s Accountability Court

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

At least 80 high-profile corruption cases, including those against former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari, would be revived following a recent landmark ruling by the Supreme Court, according to a media report on Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Supreme Court had in its order

Pakistan political parties demand exact date for Jan 2024 elections

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

‘War in Sudan could spread beyond borders’

AP ■ NIGERIA (ABUJA)

The war in Sudan could spread beyond the northeast African country’s borders if it is not stopped, Sudan’s army chief told the United Nations General Assembly, while urging world leaders to designate the rival paramilitary force as a terrorist group.

“The nature of this war is now a threat to regional and international peace and security. ... This is like the spark of war, a war that will spill over to other countries in the region,” Sudan’s Army Chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan told world leaders late Thursday. Sudan plunged into conflict in April when long-simmering tensions escalated between the military, led by Gen. Burhan, and the rival Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Both had joined forces in 2021 to seize power in a coup that cast aside Sudan’s pro-democracy forces.

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

his resignation last week.

Gen. Burhan said the Sudanese military has “knocked (on) all doors to stop this war” and asked the U.N. to designate the RSF as a terrorist group. The RSF, he said, has committed “all sorts of crimes that give grounds for such a designation,” including receiving the help of “outlaws and terrorist groups” from other countries.

“Those who have supported killing, burning, raping, forced displacement, looting, stealing, torture, trafficking of arms and drugs, bringing mercenaries or recruiting children - all such crimes necessitate accountability and punishment,” Burhan said. Both the Sudanese military and the RSF have been accused by Amnesty International of extensive war crimes, including deliberate killings of civilians and mass sexual assault. At least 4.6 million people have been displaced in the fighting, according to U.N. data. Children are among those affected the most, with at least 1,200 of them killed in displacement camps because of a deadly combination of measles and malnutrition.

Af migrants get temporary legal status from Biden administration

Washington (AP) The Biden administration said it was giving temporary legal status to Afghan migrants who have already been living in the country for a little over a year.

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

On Thursday, the administration announced it was giving Temporary Protected Status to nearly 5,00,000 Venezuelans in the country. But many Afghans who would benefit from the new protections took enormous risks in getting to the US, often after exhausting all other options to flee the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Supporters have argued that they are deserving of protection.

Syria, China announce strategic partnership

AP ■ BEIJING

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

“In the face of the unstable and uncertain international situation, China is willing to work with Syria to firmly support each other ... and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice,” Xi said in a video clip posted online by state broadcaster CCTV.

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



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

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

the Asian Games opening ceremony on Saturday night along with the king of Cambodia, the crown prince of Kuwait and the prime ministers of Nepal, East Timor and South Korea, China’s Foreign Ministry has said.

King Charles III winds up his France state visit

AP ■ FRANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

China presents itself as member of Global South at UNGA

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

China told assembled world leaders that it considers itself part of the Global South, saying it identifies with the goals and challenges of less-developed nations and offering them an alternative to what it has long called “Western hegemony”. The message came from a second-tier official after the country’s powerful president, Xi Jinping, skipped the annual U.N. meeting again. Xi sent Vice President Han Zheng to deliver a policy statement at the General Assembly’s leaders’ meeting that covered the government’s usual positions with familiar language but appeared to focus on building coalitions around its approach to development and international relations.

“As the largest developing country, China is a natural member of the Global South. It breathes the same breath with other developing countries and shares the same future with them,” Han said Thursday. He also said China supports those nations’ development path “in keeping with their national conditions”.

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

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

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

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

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

“China,” Han promised, “will remain a member of the big family of developing countries.”

Zelenskyy visiting Canada for first time since war started

AP ■ TORONTO

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

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

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

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

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

per cent of the population.

The Ukrainian president is making the trip after stops at the United Nations and the White House.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zelenskyy to speak before Canadian Parl

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

Zelenskyy flew into Canada's capital late Thursday



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

after meetings with US President Joe Biden and lawmakers in Washington. He spoke at the United Nations' annual meeting Wednesday.

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

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

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

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

the Ukrainian people."

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

More than 175,000 Ukrainians have come to Canada since the war started and an additional 700,000 have received approval to come as part of an initiative that supports temporary relocation of those fleeing the war.

The initiative allows for an open work permit for three years with pathways to permanent residency and citizenship.

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

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

Ukrainian missile strike hits Russia's Black Sea Fleet HQ

AP ■ KYIV

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

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

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

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

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

A stream of ambulances arrived at the

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

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

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

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

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

Police asked residents to leave the central part of the city, Tass said. Ukrainian officials, who have claimed responsibility

for a series of other recent attacks on Crimea, didn't immediately announce Kyiv launched the strike.

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

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

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

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

Pope visits multicultural Marseille

AP ■ MARSEILLE

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Migration estimates that more than 28,000 Europe-bound migrants have died since 2014 while attempting to cross the Mediterranean.

Francis, who has long lamented that the Mediterranean Sea has become "the world's biggest cemetery," confirmed his visit months ago, but it comes as Italy is again seeing an increasing number of migrant arrivals.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni resurrected calls for a naval blockade and announced new centers to hold those who don't qualify for asylum until they can be sent home.

France, for its part, beefed up patrols at its southern border with Italy, a few hours' drive from Marseille, and increased drone surveillance of the Alps to keep newcomers from crossing over. With a European Parliament election set for next year and France's far right challenging the centrist government's policies, French government officials stood firm.

"France will not take in migrants from Lampedusa," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said this week on

French TV network TF1.

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

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

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

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

Quad group expresses concern over 'raging' war in Ukraine

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We call for a UN Security Council that is more representative, transparent, effective, and credible. We underscore the need to address attempts to subvert the international system, including in the UN, and promote accountability," they said. The ministers also discussed the recent Quad Counterterrorism Working Group's Consequence Management Exercise, which explored the capabilities and supports Quad countries could offer regional partners in response to a terrorist attack and look forward to the upcoming Quad Counterterrorism Working Group meeting and tabletop exercise in Honolulu, Hawaii in December which will focus on countering the use of emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. "We continue to cooperate on countering the use of the internet and other technologies for terrorist and violent extremist purposes," they said.

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

Israeli forces kill Palestinian militant

Jerusalem (AP): Israeli forces killed a Palestinian militant in the restive northern West Bank on Friday, Palestinian authorities said, the latest death in a spiral of violence that has gripped the occupied territory over the last year and a half, surging to levels unseen in two decades. The militant Islamic Jihad group claimed the man as its fighter and identified him as 18-year-old Abdallah Abu Hasan. The Palestinian Health Ministry said Hasan was shot in the abdomen by Israeli forces early Friday morning in a Palestinian village north of the West Bank city of Jenin. The Israeli army said the incident occurred during a nighttime raid into the West Bank, after Palestinians fired and threw explosives at soldiers in the town of Kafr Dan.



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

Azerbaijan sends food, other aid to Nagorno-Karabakh

AP ■ YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

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

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

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

under the control of ethnic Armenian forces since 1994.

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

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

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

Anxiety is high among the region's people.

"The majority of the population wants to be evacuated

to Armenia. We cannot live with Azerbaijan," 21-year-old Hayk Harutunyan said in Stepanakert, the regional capital.

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

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

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

Azerbaijan's emergencies ministry said two 20-ton trucks with food and hygiene products as well as two trucks with bread were dispatched to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More than 10,000 people fled their homes to escape the offensive, he said. Electricity and phone service were knocked out, leaving people unable to contact each other, and "Azerbaijani troops control main roads in Nagorno-Karabakh, which makes it impossible to visit and get information on the ground," he said.

Govt to make IT hardware import authorisation process fully online

Seeks 3 years' import data from firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

October 1 to assess the situation.

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

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

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

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

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

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



BSE to discontinue stop loss market orders to check freak trades

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We believe that this is a positive and progressive step that will benefit all market participants by improving the trading process and market quality as SL-M can also lead to extreme price executions during low volumes or when the market price fluctuates sharply," Tejas Khoday, Co-founder and CEO of FYERS, said.

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

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



Glenmark Pharma shares fall over 3% after Nirma deal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"Shares of Glenmark Life Sciences, however, recovered during the afternoon trade and climbed 2.95 per cent to settle at Rs 645.60 on the BSE.

"Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Thursday said its board has approved divestment of 75 per cent stake in its subsidiary Glenmark Life Sciences to Nirma Ltd for Rs 5,651.5

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

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

"After the divestment, Glenmark, which currently owns 82.84 per cent in GLS, will own just 7.84 per cent stake after the completion of the transaction, the drug firm said in a statement.

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

"Later addressing a virtual press conference, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Chairman and Managing Director Glenn Saldanha said a major reason for the stake sale in GLS was the divergent business models of the company and its subsidiary.

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

Forex kitty drops USD 867 million to USD 593 billion

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange reserves declined USD 867 million to USD 593,037 billion in the week ended September 15, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

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

In October 2021, the country's reserves had touched an all-time high of USD 645 billion.

The reserves took a hit as

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

For the week ended September 15, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased USD 511 million to USD 525.915 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Expressed in dollar terms,



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

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up USD 32 million to USD 18,092 billion, the apex bank said. The country's reserve position with the IMF was down USD 4 million to USD 5.03 billion in the reporting week.

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

"After oscillating nearly 500 points between gains and losses during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 221.09 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 66,009.15. During the day, it hit a high of 66,445.47 and a low of 65,952.83.

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

"In the early trade, the benchmark indices had climbed after global financial firm JP Morgan said it plans to include Indian government bonds (IGBs) or government securities (G-Secs) into its Emerging Market index from next year, a move that will bring down borrowing cost for the government.



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

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

a decline in bond yields.

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

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

Tata Motors.

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

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

"Downward spiral continued in the markets despite

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

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

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

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

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

"Global shares sagged, and US yields climbed multi-year highs on Friday after a week packed with central bank meetings signalled that the US Federal Reserve's interest rates would stay higher for longer," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

"European markets were trading mostly lower. The US markets ended in negative territory on Thursday.

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

"Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.59 per cent to USD 93.85 a barrel. "The BSE benchmark fell 570.60 points or 0.85 per cent to settle at 66,230.24 on Thursday. The Nifty declined 159.05 points or 0.80 per cent to end at 19,742.35.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"The brands are Piclin (Picosulphate Sodium),



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

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

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

USD 4.4 billion and over 17,000 employees.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

update.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



brushes, and mother and child care products.

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

"The addressable market has shown a high single-digit growth in comparison to the previous year, the strong tailwinds on

account of the acute increase in healthcare needs during the pandemic," it said.

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

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

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

BUSINESS BRIEF

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

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

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

LIVERPOOL, WEST HAM WIN IN EUROPA

AP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jonathan Clauss and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang hit back before half time.

In Brighton, Djibril Sidibe put AEK ahead with a bullet



header from 13 yards.

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

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

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

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

They fell behind to a 14th-minute rocket from Florian Flecker.

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

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

Within two minutes they were ahead when Ryan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Odegaard signs new contract

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

The former Real Madrid player scored 15 Premier League goals and provided seven assists as the Gunners finished second behind Manchester City last season.

He has three goals in all competitions this season.

"It was an easy decision for me," said the Norway international, who initially joined on loan from Real in January 2021.

"As I said many times, I felt connected and I felt at home here since the first day."

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

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



Garcia, Kenin reach WTA Guadalajara semis

AP ■ GUADALAJARA

France's Caroline Garcia overpowered Victoria Azarenka in straight sets to reach the semi-finals of the WTA 1000 Guadalajara Open on Thursday.

Third-seed Garcia was always in control against her 10th-seeded opponent from Belarus, winning 6-3, 6-4 in 1hr 37min.

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

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

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

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

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

In other quarter-final action

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Naglesmann is Germany's new boss

AP ■ MUNICH

Julian Nagelsmann has been given nine months to revive flailing Germany ahead of hosting Euro 2024 after being named as the sacked Hansi Flick's successor as national team coach on Friday.

Germany fired Flick with the national team struggling, the German football association (DFB) fearing another embarrassing performance in a major tournament, this time as hosts at next year's European championships.

Former Bayern Munich boss Nagelsmann has signed a deal until the end of next July, allowing the 36-year-old to leave after Euro 2024.

"We have a European

Championship in our own country -- that's something special," Nagelsmann said in a statement.

"I have a great desire to take on this challenge."

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Verstappen gets back on track ahead of Japanese GP qualifying

AP ■ SUZUKA

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

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

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

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

He said his car was "enjoyable to drive again".

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



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

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

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

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

Paris Olympics berths up for grabs at Asian Games boxing

AP ■ HANGZHOU

Flyweight world champion Hasan-bey Dusmatov will be one of the favourites for gold when boxing gets under way at the Asian Games on Sunday, with qualification for the Paris Olympics also up for grabs.

The 30-year-old Uzbek was Olympic champion in 2016 and in Hangzhou will be seeking the one gold medal absent from his collection in the 51kg division.

His first bout will be on Monday, with gold and silver medallists in the seven men's weight divisions all guaranteed a place at next summer's Paris Olympics. In the women's competition, 20 Paris berths can be won in Hangzhou.

Dusmatov was stunned in the 2018 Asian Games final by Amit Panghal in a massive upset, but the Indian is a notable absentee this time.

Another hoping to turn 2018 silver into gold is middleweight (71kg) world champion Aslanbek Shymbergenov from Kazakhstan.

Shiva Thapa, a winner at the 2013

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

In the women's competition, light flyweight (50kg) Thi Tam Nguyen has recovered from a torn knee ligament suffered at the SEA Games earlier this year and will lead a nine-strong Vietnam team.

The world championships silver medallist has already secured her place at Paris and will become the first Vietnamese boxer to take part in two consecutive Olympics.

She could again come up against India's multiple world champion Zareen Nikhat, who beat the Vietnamese by unanimous decision to lift the world title in New Delhi earlier this year. Nikhat also won gold in the 2022 world championships in Istanbul in the 52kg category.

Oh Yeon-ji from South Korea returns to defend her Asian Games lightweight (60kg) gold medal.

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

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

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

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

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

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

gold medals than the 16 won in 2018.

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

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

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

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

Going by current form,



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

China are not only fielding

the most number of athletes in this edition of the Games but they are also set to continue their domination by bagging the top spot in the medal tally, which they have been doing at every edition since 1982 with several Olympic champions participating. South Korea are sending their largest ever athletes' contingent of 867 with an aim to finish second in the medal tally.

The Asian Games are expected to be declared opened by Chinese president Xi Jinping.

Organisers have already spent about 10.2 billion yuan (USD 1.4 billion) on venues for competitions and training, according to reports.

Hangzhou is the third Chinese city to hold the Asian Games, after Guangzhou in 2010 and Beijing in 1990. The Chinese capital has also hosted the Summer and Winter Olympics.

All the venues will use green electricity as the goal is to host a carbon-neutral and green Asian Games.

Five-star Shami, classy Shubman set up Indian victory

PTI ■ MOHALI

Mohammed Shami's crafty bowling performance was beautifully complemented by the grace and poise of Shubman Gill as India defeated Australia by five wickets in the opening ODI of the three-match series here on Friday.

Shami displayed his artistry with impressive figures of 5 for 51, reminding all and sundry of his skills while helping India restrict Australia to 276 after asking the visitors to make first use of the strip.

In reply, Gill once again stamped his authority with a 63-ball 74 and added 142 for the opening stand with the Asian Games-bound Ruturaj Gaikwad (71 off 77 balls) to set the foundation for victory, which, on paper, might have looked a bit more stretched than it actually was. Victory was achieved in 48.4 overs as Suryakumar Yadav (50 off 49 balls) and skipper KL Rahul (58 not out off 63 balls) also played their part with only Shreyas Iyer (3) and Ishan Kishan (18) missing out on a batting party.

Surya would especially be happy with his effort as he came in when India still needed 92 runs to win. It could have been a bit tricky but along with his skipper, the Mumbai batter showed calmness and also earned confidence with a much-needed half-century.



Gill, who hit his ninth half-century in ODIs, was undoubtedly the batting star of the day. He had six fours and two sixes in his knock but the short-arm pick-up pull off Marcus Stoinis left everyone stunned.

Off-spinner spinner Matthew Short was at the receiving end when he was lofted over

long-off for the other six.

Gaikwad, who would have to switch on to the T20 mode in another two weeks' time, had 10 boundaries to his credit. He hit cover drives and square drives and was especially severe on Sean Abbott. For Australia, the only bright spot was leg-spinner Adam Zampa finding some

bowling form with figures of 2/57 off 10 overs.

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

the weakest link among pacers Shardul Thakur (0/78 in 10 overs), who has been selected in the 15, primarily due to his batting skills. Shami was literally unplayable in his opening spell, and then came back to remove a set Steve Smith (41 off 60 balls) in a short second stint, to disturb the visiting team's momentum.

Stockily built wicketkeeper Jos Inglis (45 off 45 balls) and Marcus Stoinis (29 off 21 balls) added 62 runs for the sixth wicket to take Australia past the 250-run mark but it was certainly below par as Shami got Stoinis in the nick of time to put the brakes on their scoring.

Warner (52 off 53 balls), Smith and Marnus Labuschagne (39 off 49 balls) all got starts but the lack of conversion did hurt the Aussies on a day when the Indian bowling unit was supremely effective without being exceptional.

All eyes were trained on Ravichandran Ashwin (1/47 in 10 overs) and he did find his rhythm in the second spell after looking rusty during the first spell. He went for 36 in his first six overs from the 'Harbhajan Singh End' but Rahul changed his end during the second spell and it read 4-0-11-1.

The Australian team also suffered due to freak dismissals, first when Labuschagne missed an Ashwin delivery while trying to play a reverse sweep and the ball ricocheted off Rahul's pads with the batter out of his ground.

Then it was Cameron Green (31 off 52 balls), who was slowly but steadily setting it up with Inglis before a miscommunication led to his run-out.

But no praise will be enough for Shami, probably the most versatile seam and swing bowler of his generation, who has magic in those fingers and wrists.



Shami will force team think-tank to think differently

PTI ■ MOHALI

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

Also, how much a player means to the dressing room speaks volumes about his worth. Just as he was coming off the field after a match-turning 5/51 against Australia, it was rested pacer Mohammed Siraj who came out and was engaged in a bear hug with his senior pace bowling partner.

Shami didn't bowl a devastating spell like Siraj did in Colombo last week, but considering the quality of opposition combined with sultry and unhelpful conditions for fast bowling in Chandigarh, this spell was as lethal, if not more.

Siraj knew it more than anyone else as to what Shami had done for the team.

"We enjoy each other's success a lot. We have spent the last so many years together and this is a result of the same," Shami said during a snap interview with host broadcasters Jio Cinema.

If one looked at the kind of bowling composition India played against Pakistan, it is difficult

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

It is also impossible in Indian conditions for any pacer to play 11 games in the World Cup (if India reaches final) in six weeks, including travel, but Shami cooling his heels during important games would be a travesty as India is looking at multi-skilled cricketers, especially those who can bolster the batting. It can be very difficult to adjust being in and out of the playing XI, but after 179 international games for India across formats in the last 10 years, Shami knows how to adjust current demands.

The first spell to David Warner, where the left-hander faced 11 balls and scored only one run, was where Shami's skills were in full bloom. It didn't matter that it wasn't a red Dukes or SG Test ball with a pronounced seam in his hands.

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

ICC selects seven venues in Caribbean to host 2024 T20 WC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC on Friday said seven venues in the Caribbean and three cities of USA will co-host the next year's men's T20 World Cup from June 4-30.

The seven Caribbean venues shortlisted by the ICC are Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Besides three places in the USA -- Dallas, Florida and New York will co-host the event.

"We're delighted to announce the seven Caribbean venues that will host the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy. They're all popular venues with players and fans alike that will provide a wonderful backdrop to the event," ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said in a statement.

"This will be the third ICC senior men's event hosted by the West Indies, and the matches will again give cricket fans the unique experience of enjoying cricket in the Caribbean. I'd like



to thank Cricket West Indies and the seven host governments for their continued commitment and support of our sport."

Cricket West Indies CEO Johnny Grave said: "This is an exciting moment as we announce the venues approved to host the largest ICC Men's

T20 World Cup in history, with 20 teams playing in 55 matches in June next year.

"We are grateful to the host Governments of the Caribbean for their overwhelming responses and enthusiasm for hosting what will be the most significant sporting event held in our region

for a generation," he said.

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

Hangzhou-bound India T20 team go down to Karnataka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India's Asian Games-bound T20 cricket team lost to Karnataka by four wickets in a pre-departure warm-up fixture, here on Friday.

Manoj Bhandage returned 4-1-15-4, while Vasuki Koushik and Shubhang Hegde claimed three wickets each as the Indian XI were shot out for 133 in 20 overs.

In reply, Manish Pandey struck an unbeaten 52 (40 balls) while opener LR Chethan (29), Mayank Agarwal (19) and Abhinav Manohar (17 not out) also contributed in Karnataka's chase as they romped home with five balls to spare.

Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi and R Sai Kishore took one wicket apiece for the Indian Asian Games T20 side.

The Indian team crumbled against the Karnataka bowlers but only after openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and



Prabhsimran Singh made strong contributions.

Prabhsimran cracked seven fours and a six to make 49 from 31 balls whereas Jaiswal scored 31 from 17 balls with seven hits to the fence.

The pair of Bhandage and Hegde ran through the Indian top and middle-order as none among Rahul Tripathi (6), Jitesh Sharma (2), Rinku Singh (5) and Shivam Dube (0) could trouble the scorers.

India were bowled out with Koushik taking the last three wickets.

The Asian Games-bound team was without captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, who was named in the Indian playing XI for the first ODI against Australia in Mohali.

India's men's team will compete in the Asian Games for the first time, with the competition set to take place between September 28 and October 8.

India's women's team have already qualified for the semi-finals of the continental showpiece in China.

Brief Scores:

India 133 in 20 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 49, Yashasvi Jaiswal 31; Manoj Bhandage 4/15, Shubhang Hegde 3/17, Vasuki Koushik 3/36) lost to Karnataka 136/4 in 19.1 overs (Manish Pandey 52 not out, LR Chethan 29; R Sai Kishore 1/20) by six wickets.



Injured Naseem ruled out of World Cup

PTI ■ LAHORE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Giving a breakdown on the fitness of Naseem, Inzamam said: "The doctors are looking

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan World Cup squad


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

Travelling Reserves: Muhammad Harris, Abrar Ahmed, Zaman Khan.

NOTICE

WHEREAS it is stated that Smt. Sumita Sarkar, D/o Late Rajendra Nath Sarkar, Ex-Staff No. 147513 has applied for regularization of Qr. No. 122 in Sector-1/C, B.S.City, Pursuant to death of Smt. Sikha Sarkar, the Lessee, upon obtaining "No Objection" Certificate from co-sharers as per Family Tree dated 08.09.2023 issued by Circle Officer.

If any person or persons have any objection to such regularization, he/she shall file the same before DGM(TA-L&E)/ Estate Affairs, Bokaro Steel Plant, Town Administration Department, Nagar Seva Bhawan, Sector-3 Bokaro Steel City, within 30 days of publication, failing which the application for regularization shall be pursued as per rules.



TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Office: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013. CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices as mentioned below calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules.

The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date mentioned below.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Amount as per Demand Notice	Date of Possession
10024826 & TCHFP05350 00100065998	BISWAJEET SINGH, BANDANA DEVI	Rs.31,59,999.78p (Rupees Thirty-One Lakhs Fifty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Nine and Seventy-Eight Paise Only) as on 22-02-2023	20-09-2023
Description of Secured Assets/Immovable Properties : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEING A RESIDENTIAL FLAT BEING FLAT NO. K4-22 ON 2ND FLOOR, ADMEASURING AN AREA OF 1270 SQ. FT. OF SUPER BUILT-UP AREA, INCLUDING CAR PARKING SPACE, COMMON RIGHT OF STAIRCASE, LANDING SPACE ON EACH FLOOR, POOL AREA, SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE PASSAGE, ALL ADVANTAGE, PRIVILEGES, AND COMMON SERVICES INCLUDING UNDIVIDED PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF LAND MEASURING 100 SQ.FT., OUT OF TOTAL LAND MEASURING 15 KATHAS BEING IN PORTION OF PLOT NO. 21, UNDER KHATANO. 727, RECORDED UNDER WARD NO. 10 JAMSHEDPUR NAC, SITUATED WITHIN THE PREMISES OF BLOCK SATLAJ OF BINDA APARTMENT, SIROMAN NAGAR, DIMNA, NEAR MGM COLLEGE, P.S. M.G.M. IN TOWN JAMSHEDPUR, DISTRICT-SUB REGISTRY OFFICE AT JAMSHEDPUR, DISTRICT, SINGHBHUM EAST; PROPERTY BOUNDED BY: NORTH - FLAT NO. K4-21 & COMMON STAIRCASE; SOUTH - ALLEY & K3 (BHAGIRATHI BLOCK); EAST - COMMON ROAD; WEST - FLAT NO. K4-23			
10486928	ARUN KUMAR VIJAY, DEEPIKA VIJAY, AMAN VIJAY	Rs.44,37,335.92p (Rupees Forty-Four Lakhs Thirty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Five and Ninety-Two Paise Only) as on 15-02-2023	21-09-2023
Description of Secured Assets/Immovable Properties : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEING A FLAT NO- A-3, ON THE 3RD FLOOR WITH SUPER BUILT-UP AREA MEASURING AN AREA OF 1427 SQ. FT. MORE OR LESS WITH ONE CAR PARKING SPACE IN THE GROUND FLOOR INCLUDING UNDIVIDED PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF LAND OF THE BUILDING "BASUKINATH BHAWAN" BEING MUNICIPAL HOLDING NO. 1447/ A-1 OF OLD WARD NO. 7, NEW WARD NO. 19 OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, STANDING ON MUNICIPAL SURVEY PLOT NO. 2211, SITUATED AT VILLAGE KONKA, MOHALLA THARPAKHNA, UDHAW BABU STREET, RANCHI, POLICE STATION LALPUR, P.S. NO. 198, DISTRICT RANCHI, STATE JHARKHAND.			
10576833	SAHIL JAMAL & RANJANA JAMAL	Rs.9,99,155/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety-Nine Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Five Only) as on 30-08-2021	22-09-2023
Description of Secured Assets/Immovable Properties : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEING A FLAT MEASURING 775 SQ. FT. OF SUPER BUILT-UP AREA IN THE DISTRICT OF DHANBAD, DISTRICT SUB-REGISTRY OFFICE AT DHANBAD, P.S. GOVINDPUR, UNDER THANA NO. 129, KHATA NO. 31, PLOT NOS. 596, 597, 598, 603 & 604, IN THE STATE OF JHARKHAND			

Date : 23.09.2023

Place : Jharkhand

Sd/- Authorized Officer

For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited