

**OPINION 6**  
THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR  
IN PERSPECTIVE

**WORLD 8**  
NOBOA WINS PRESIDENCY  
IN ECUADOR

**MONEY 10**  
INDIA EXPECTED TO GROW AT 6.3  
PER CENT IN FY24: FICCI

BHUBANESWAR, TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹



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12 SPORT

# THEATRE OF WAR EXPANDS IN WEST ASIA

## Humanitarian aid stalled as Israeli siege strains hospitals, water supply

AP ■ RAFAH (GAZA STRIP) / WASHINGTON

Palestinians in besieged Gaza crowded into hospitals and schools on Monday, seeking shelter and running low on food and water. More than a million people have fled their homes ahead of an expected Israeli ground invasion aimed at destroying Hamas after its fighters rampaged through southern Israel. As the enclave's food, water and medicine supplies dwindled, all eyes were on the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, where trucks carrying badly needed aid have been waiting for days as mediators press for a cease-fire that would allow them to enter Gaza and allow foreigners to leave. Rafah, Gaza's only connection to Egypt, was shut down nearly a week ago because of Israeli airstrikes. Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said Israel "has not taken a position to open the crossing from the Gaza side". The Israeli government did not respond to a request for comment. With a ground invasion of Gaza expected, Israel was preparing for the potential of a new front opening on its northern border with Lebanon, where it has exchanged fire repeatedly with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group. The

military ordered residents from 28 Israeli communities to evacuate. Speaking to the Israeli Knesset on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Iran and Hezbollah, "Don't test us in the north. Don't make the mistake of the past. Today, the price you will pay will be far heavier," referring to Israel's 2006 war with Hezbollah. Meanwhile in Hamas' horrific killings, Israeli trauma over the Holocaust has resurfaced. Women, children and older adults hiding in safe rooms gunned down mercilessly. Homes set ablaze with terrified residents still inside them. Children, some bound, forced into a room and slaughtered. Jews, helpless. For many Israelis and Jews around the world, the horrors committed by Hamas militants during their stunning onslaught on southern Israeli communities is triggering painful memories of a calamity of a far greater scale: the Holocaust. "I have been strict about not using the word Shoah in any context other than the Holocaust," political commentator Ben Caspit wrote in the daily Maariv, referring to the Holocaust by its Hebrew name. "When Jewish children hide in a protected room and their anguished parents pray that



Israeli armored personnel carriers head toward the border with the Gaza Strip in southern Israel

AP/PTI

they won't cry, so that the marauders won't come in and set the house on fire, it's a Shoah." At present, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians sheltering in UN facilities are on less than 1 litre (1 quart) of water per day. Hospitals warn they are on the verge of collapse, with

emergency generators that power machines like ventilators and incubators down to about one day of fuel and supplies of medicine almost exhausted. Israeli airstrikes have pulverized entire neighbourhoods as Palestinian militants continue to fire rockets into Israel. Israel is widely expected to

launch a ground offensive in order to kill Hamas leaders, recover captives and destroy the group's military infrastructure, much of which is in residential areas. Street-by-street fighting would likely cause mounting casualties on both sides. Israel has ordered more than 1

million Palestinians — almost half the territory's population — to leave Gaza City and the surrounding area for the enclave's south. The military says it is trying to clear away civilians ahead of a major campaign against Hamas in the north, where it says the militants have extensive net-

works of tunnels and rocket launchers. Hamas has urged people to stay in their homes, and the Israeli military on Sunday released photos it said showed a Hamas roadblock preventing traffic from moving south. For a third day, Israel's military announced a safe corridor for people to move from north to south between the hours of 8 am and noon. It said more than 600,000 people have already evacuated the Gaza City area. Hospitals in Gaza are expected to run out of generator fuel in the next 24 hours, endangering the lives of thousands of patients, according to the UN. Gaza's sole power plant shut down for lack of fuel after Israel completely sealed off the 40-km (25-mile) long territory following the Hamas attack. The World Health Organisation said hospitals are "overflowing" as people seek safety. "We are concerned about disease outbreaks due to mass displacement and poor water and sanitation," it said. Four hospitals in northern Gaza are no longer functioning and 21 have received Israeli orders to evacuate. Doctors have refused, saying it would mean death for critically ill patients and newborns on ventilators. The WHO said water shortages caused by Israel's decision to cut off water supplies, com-

bined with a lack of fuel for pumps and desalination stations, put thousands of hospital patients at risk. "Water is needed to ensure sanitary conditions on inpatient wards, in operation rooms, and emergency departments. It is essential for the prevention of hospital associated infections and for the prevention of outbreaks in hospitals," the WHO said. The UN health agency said life-saving assistance for 300,000 patients is currently awaiting entry through Rafah. On the Gaza side, crowds of Palestinians with dual citizenship waited anxiously, sitting on suitcases or crouched on the floor, some comforting crying infants. Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden is considering a trip to Israel in the coming days but no travel has been finalised, a senior administration official said on Sunday. It would be a powerful symbol of sympathy and support following the brutal attack by Hamas. Biden also made his strongest public statements yet to restrain Israel. "I think it'd be a big mistake," Biden said. "Look, what happened in Gaza, in my view, is Hamas, and the extreme elements of Hamas don't represent all the Palestinian people. And I think that it would be a mistake for Israel to occupy Gaza again."

## Jajpur farmer kills self as crops damaged by quarry dust

Had taken Rs 1L loan for paddy cultivation

PNS ■ JAJPUR

A debt-ridden farmer of Jajpur district committed suicide by consuming pesticides on Sunday night after his crops were recently damaged with accumulation of dust and other particles from nearby stone quarries.

The deceased farmer Nityananda Parida (68) of Bajabati village under Dharmasala block raised paddy crops on his three acres of land after obtaining a loan amount of Rs 1 lakh from village moneylenders to purchase paddy seeds and fertilisers. But, his land was recently covered with dust from the nearby illegal black



stone quarry works which ruined all his hopes to maintain family. The deceased farmer is survived by his widow, a daughter and a son. When contacted, Jajpur

Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore said, "After knowing the incident, I directed the Additional District Magistrate to submit a report by visiting the village. After getting the report, we will take proper action."

## Rally in Puri

# Cong demands reopening of all temple gates

Ratna Bhandar opening also sought

PNS ■ PURI

The Congress on Monday took out a large rally in Puri town demanding opening of the Ratna Bhandar of the Jagannath Temple as well as all four gates of the shrine.

Another demand made by the Congress was providing record of rights of land to over 80,000 families living in Puri. Pary workers and leaders led by Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Pattanayak embarked on the rally from the Gundicha Temple here to the Jagannath Temple Administration's office.

The leaders then met the Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Ranjan



Kumar Das and Pattanayak handed over a memorandum to him. "It is unfortunate that the State Government is reluctant to open all four gates of the temple closed?" he questioned. In another development, the BJP also criticised the State Government over this matter.

October 28 before the month of Kartik," said Pattanayak. "As the Covid pandemic is over, what justification is there for keeping the gates of the temple closed?" he questioned. In another development, the BJP also criticised the State Government over this matter.

BJP leader Samir Mohanty said, "Back in August, the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee had urged the Orissa High Court and the Odisha Government for reopening of the Ratna Bhandar. However, it appears the committee's focus has

shifted towards matters like dress codes rather than taking concrete steps to reopen the Ratna Bhandar. We have planned to consult the Puri Gajapati Maharaja soon as he has been advocating for the Ratna Bhandar's reopening and its inventory."

## Pandian reviews EKAMRA Project



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Directed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, his Secretary VK Pandian visited different sites of the EKAMRA Project and reviewed their progress. The project was conceived in 2019 and the CM laid its foundation on June 28 this

year. Pandian directed the authorities to speed up the project implementation. Notably, the Ekamra Kshetra Amenities and Monuments Revival Action (EKAMRA) plan is an integrated approach to revive the heritage value of the inner core of the old town of

Bhubaneswar through urban design. The old town, also known as Ekamra Kshetra, is a living heritage city with numerous temples, sacred water bodies, processional routes and traditional communities of priests and diverse cultural activities and practices.

## All Mini Anganwadis to be upgraded

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

All the 7,579 Mini Anganwadi Centres in the State would be upgraded into regular Anganwadi Centres. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday approved a proposal in this regard.

The upgradation of Mini Anganwadi Centres would boost childcare service in the State, said the CM.

The Mini Anganwadi Centres would be upgraded into regular Anganwadi Centres with an allocation of Rs 55.21 crore. The State Government would allocate Rs 36.41 crore for the purpose while the Centre would provide the rest Rs 18.80 crore. The aid includes medicine kits, furniture and other equipments.

## Mineral blocks auction

# Steel, Mines Dept adds new clause to tender docu

As per direction of SC

TATHYA ■ BHUBANESWAR

As per the direction of the Supreme Court, the State Government has added a new clause for bidders to participate in the auction of mineral blocks.

As per an order of Steel and Mines (S&M) Department (DoSM), the clause... "No tender shall be entertained at the behest of an entity whose outstanding are due or companies in which the same promoters are interested," will be added in the tender document for auction of mineral blocks in future.

All the interested bidders will have to meet the above condition to participate in the future mining auctions in the State. "The Government has been pleased to... include the above text in the tender document as one of the conditions for eligibility of participation in the future auction of mineral blocks in the State," DoSM Additional Secretary Soudamini Sethi said in a recent letter to the Director of Mines and Geology. The Directorate of Mines and Geology has circulated the decision of the Department to all field-level functionaries for

necessary action. In its order on August 14 this year, the Supreme Court had directed the State Government to ensure that the terms and conditions of the tender clarify that no tender would be entertained at the behest of an entity against which outstandings are due or companies in which the same promoters are interested. The SC has also directed the State that expeditious measures should be taken to pursue the recovery proceedings in accordance with law and necessary steps be taken by attaching the assets of the defaulting entities. The State had informed the

court that an amount of Rs 2,622 crore, excluding interest, is due and outstanding on account of illegal mining, out of which an amount of Rs 2,215 crore is recoverable from five lessees. The leases of the defaulters have either expired or, as the case may be, have been terminated and they are not operating any lease or allowed to participate in tenders. Further, proceedings for termination of the leases are pending against some of the defaulters who shall have small amounts comparatively due and outstandings, the Government had informed the SC.

# 'Rampant corruption led to Utkal Univ degrading'

Ex-UU Student Union prez urges Govt to take action against VC

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former president of Utkal University Students Union and OPCC general secretary Manoj Kumar Biswal has alleged rampant corrupt practices adopted in running the Utkal University by the Vice Chancellor, leading degrading

of standards of the varsity, including in NAAC grade from A+ in 2016 to A at present.

In a letter to State Governor and Chancellor of universities Dr Ganeshi Lal, Biswal squarely blamed the VC for poor academic leadership, nepotism, poor governance and corruption which have led to degradation of the premier university of the State.

Biswal alleged corrupt practices in allocating civil works and making unnecessary expenditures like Rs 2.87 crore

for developing lawns prior to NAAC visit in April, 2023, Rs 1 crore for redesigning the Syndicate Hall which was constructed in 2018, Rs 40 lakh for dining hall at Vice Chancellor's residence, repair of two boys hostels at an unbelievably high cost of more than Rs 10 crore and Rs 1 crore each for other hostels repairing. He said the expenditures were too high and work done was of very poor quality.

Similarly, Biswal alleged that the VC was running the

show by a coterie ignoring democratic participation of all stakeholders such as teachers, students, employees and alumni etc and unfair practices in promotions of teachers and PhD admissions. Biswal cited a few instances wherein the rules were bent for admitting a few candidates in PhD programmes. He said that the university staff members are not happy with the incumbent VC and sought an inquiry into all malpractices and action against the accused.

# Hundreds join job fair for PwDs

Organised by AIF, NCSCDA  
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The American India Foundation (AIF) organised a free job fair exclusively for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) at the National Career Service Centre for Differently Aabled (NCSCDA) on October 12.

From more than 150 differently abled young men and women who attended the job fair, 76 of them walked away after landing a job and about a dozen others were shortlisted for further rounds of interview.

The event was graced by Principal Secretary



Bishnupada Sethi and Special Secretary Dilip Kumar Ray along with Assistant Director (Employment) NCSCDA Sonalika Suman. The employ-

ers who participated in the job fair were encouraged with certificates of participation for their commendable inclusive hiring practices. TATWA Tech-

nologies, Southern Odisha, Quess Corp, CIEI HR, Kamalini Associates, Startek, VGM Consultants, etc., participated on the day.

# 'Migrants ignored despite their high remittances'



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In India 13 crore people are working as interState migrant labourers while 2.5 crore Indians are working as migrant labourers outside the country. Though remittance from migrant labourers is the highest in the world to the tune of 83.25 million US Dollar per annum but neither the State nor the Centre has any specific programme for migrant labourers, lamented former Rajya Sabha MP and trade union leader Dr Rama Chandra Khuntia.

The Immigration Act 1981 and Interstate Migrant Workers Act 1979 have not been amended till date in spite of the repeated recommendations of the Parliament Standing Committee on Labour. There are thousands cases of unusual

death, fingers and hands chopping, torture, cheating but not a single Dalal has been punished till today, he said further.

The Government of India has not signed nonbinding acts for protection of rights of migrant workers of the UNO which have already been signed by 121 countries, Khuntia said while speaking at a meeting in Chennai arranged by the Building and Wood Workers Federation.

TMKT leader Pon Kumar, BWT Sub Regional representative Dr Rajeev Sharma, Prerana Prasad and participants from Andhra, Telangana, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Odisha, UP, Bihar participated in the meeting.

Khuntia also addressed the annual meeting of Tamilnadu Fly ash Brick Manufacturing Workers Association.

# State's first rock garden now at Brahmapur

At an investment of Rs 14.85 cr

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Brahmapur Development Authority (BeDA) built its first rock garden in the State on the outskirts of Brahmapur, Ambapua.

Secretary BeDA Sambit Rout stated that the rock garden has been created over nine acres of land at an investment of Rs 14.85 crore.

Major attractions in the rock garden are the mirror maze which has a unique ice age theme and the cosmos gallery.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone for the development of the project on November 30, 2016; however, the work only



was initiated in 2020. The holdup was due to the lockdown and building-related foundations like a reserved water supply distribution and appropriate drainage arrangement.

On Saturday, Brahmapur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu, local MLA Bikram Panda, Brahmapur Municipal Corporation Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai, State Planning Board Chairman Dr Ramesh

Chandra Chauyaptnaik, Subash Moharana, and various other corporators with district administrators like RDC, Ganjam Collector, BeMC Commissioner and Sub Collector visited the rock garden.

# Rs 50L brown sugar seized in Keonjhar

Drug peddler held

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Odisha Police on Sunday arrested a drug peddler and seized brown sugar worth over Rs 50 lakh during a raid in Keonjhar district. The arrested was identified as Debananda Samal (37), a resident of Anandapur.

Following an intelligence input, an STF team with the help of local police laid a trap and intercepted Samal's vehicle at the Silun Chowk.

During search, brown sugar weighing 520 gram was recovered from his possession.

Police have also seized a Maruti Alto car and other incriminating materials, the STF said.

Debananda was arrested as he could not produce any valid authority in support of possession of such contraband material.

The Keonjhar Town police have registering a case against the accused under Section 21(c) of the NDPS Act 1985.

The special drive against narcotics is continuing. From 2020, the STF has seized more than 72 kg of brown sugar, 202 gram of cocaine, 116 quintals of ganja, three kg opium and arrested more than 182 drug dealers and peddlers, said the STF.

# In Ganjam Man hurls stone at judge in court

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A man was arrested for hurling a stone in a courtroom in Chhatrapur of Ganjam district on Monday. Fortunately, the judge present escaped unhurt.

However, a computer was damaged in the incident, sources said.

The accused was identified as Subhas Chandra Sahoo of the Bhanjanagar area in the district.

Sources said Sahoo was

present in the courtroom where a hearing of a case was on. All of a sudden, he took out a stone from his bag and hurled it towards the judge.

Sahoo had brought several stones in the bag. Soon after the incident, he was overpowered by others present at the spot. Sources said Sahoo is mentally unstable. The exact reason behind his throwing the stone was yet to be ascertained. Police were carrying out further investigations.

# 'Implement old pension policy'



Memo submitted to State Govt

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) State branch held a Mahasamavesh here on Sunday demanding scrapping of the new pension policy and implementation of old pension policy.

The speakers strongly opposed the new pension policy and said the Government has made the post-retirement life of employees miserable. They submitted a memorandum to the State Government demanding that the old pension policy for all State Government employees.

The Central Government on January 1, 2004 and the State Government on Janu-

ary 1, 2005 had scrapped the old pension policy and implemented the new pension policy. As a result thousands of Government after working for 25 to 30 years after superannuation got pension of Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000. Due to this they are spending a miserable life, the speakers said.

But the MLAs and MPs are getting pension like earlier. In

the meantime, some States like Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh have implemented the old pension policy keeping the interest of employees in mind, the speakers said.

Among others, employees' leader Prabhat Mohanty, journalist Rabi Das, Basudev Bhatt and Prasanna Bisoi were present.

# World Food Day 'Proper food and nutrition basic human right'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Access to proper food and nutrition is a basic human right. However, millions of people in the world do not have access to healthy food and water. The World Food Day focuses on raising awareness on the importance and taking up initiatives to ensure that every person on the planet is given access to proper nutrition and food.

Ensuring food safety and security and combating hunger are also the focus of celebrating the World Food Day, said UNICEF, Odisha Nutrition Specialist Sourav Bhattacharjee at an event at the Ouat here on Monday. He also elaborated the difference between food and nutrition.

The World Food Day is observed with a lot of new initiatives and fresh ideas by organisations. But the main important thing is to conceive new habits in daily life.

For this year, the theme of World Food Day was "Water is life, water is food". Leave no one behind.

"Water is essential to life on Earth. It covers the majority of the Earth's surface, makes up over 50% of our bodies, produces our food and supports livelihoods. But this precious resource is not infinite, and we need to stop taking it for granted. What we eat and how that food is produced all affect water," said by Ouat Vice-Chancellor Prof Pravat Kumar Roul.

At last the winner of debate competition were awarded.

# World Neighbourhood Day observed

PNS ■ BHADRAK

Neighbours play key roles and take responsibilities for socialisation, provide a platform to relax, lead peaceful and harmonious lives and spread joy around.

Realising the need and importance of neighbourhood, social activist Radhakanta Tripathy along with likeminded people celebrated the World Neighbourhood Day at Bhadrak and Bhubaneswar on Sunday. Since 2016, this day has been celebrated on October 15 which has been appreciated by India Book of Records.

Tripathy opined that neighbourhood should not be confined to villages only; rather, it should be extended



to the panchayats, blocks, districts, States and finally the countries so that it would be helpful in developing the sense of safety, security and free from all types of threats. Besides, each one should take the responsibility to make the

neighbourhood clean and green for the creation of a hygienic and serene environment.

On this occasion, the participants took a pledge that wherever they live, they would strive for good neighbourhood

and develop the sense of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' in its true sense.

Among others Prabash Barik, Ashok Sahu, Sk Mujibur, Sitakanta Tripathy and Krutibash Mahalik assisted in organising the programme.

# 'Moral upliftment key to mental health'

SUGYAN CHOUDHURY  
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

On the occasion of the World Mental Health Day, a seminar was conducted by the Biipbsar and OHFO here. Suresh Mantri, Dr Alok Jyoti and Prof Dhaneswar Sahoo were present as guests.

A rationalist writer of national repute, Prof Sahoo described the anthropological and philosophical aspect of evolution of human behaviour across different cultural and regions of the human civilisations.

The One health foundation of Odisha and the Biipbsar had jointly arranged the event to discuss different aspects of "Teenage crisis and youth de-



spair "which resulted in self harm behaviour, suicide attempt and other mal-adoptive behaviours.

At the outset CMC Vellore trained senior faculty and noted psychiatrist Dr Jayaprakash Russell Ravan welcomed the guests, participants and different significant stakeholders like students, adolescents, writers, teachers, journalists and activists of the State. He dwelt at length the syndrome of increasing spree

of suicide attempts and life loss due to fatal suicide attempt in cities like Kota.

Educationist and writer Nirmala Mohapatra spoke about moral upliftment of society as highly essential for positive mental health of the community.

Chinmayee Panda, member of Ankur Foundation and Niharika focused on childhood experiences and richness of parental commitment which bring best from human life.

AMOFOI secretary B Ramachandra CST Voltaire strongly recommended a prosthesis society, need of free choice in selection of life partner, inter religious marriage and neighbourhood education system to elicit the best from the youth of the world.

Dr Udit Panda synthesised different viewpoints of different stakeholders.

Dr Jigyansa Ipsita Pattnaik, child and adolescent psychiatrist from St John's Hospital and currently working as Assistant Professor at KIMS send her valuable message from Kochi. Dr Deepthi RA was given "1st Annual OHFO award for best resident in mental health care" by the distinguished guest of the evening.

# Will Naveen, Modi, Sonia really contest from Puri?

Local BJD, BJP, Cong leaders kick off slugfest  
SARAJ KUMAR MISHRA  
PURI

After a local BJD leader invited Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to fight from Puri for the upcoming Assembly polls, BJP went a step ahead saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to stand from the pilgrim city for the MP election. And Congress was not far behind when its leader gave a call to Sonia Gandhi to file her nomination from this

seat. The invitation to the three stalwarts from three major parties hotted up the poll atmosphere with Puri turning an epicenter in national politics ahead of the 2024 simultaneous elections. Question arises is, are really Naveen, Modi and Sonia going to field their candidature from Puri? Will the three stalwarts accept the call from their respective party's functionaries and test their fate from the pilgrim city? However, most people here have taken it merely as a joke as the invitation is just a buzz to entertain

the voters ahead of the polls. Just a couple days ago, a former Municipal corporator from BJD told, since Naveen is doing much for the progress of Puri, be it Jagannath Parikrama Marg, Jagannath Airport or Jagannath Medical College, people here want Naveen to fight from the seat. A day after such an invitation to Naveen, Puri MLA Jayant Kumar Sarangi told PM Modi is going to stand from Puri as he got this information from his party. "Wait everything will be clear in coming days. Modi is going to fight from Puri for

Parliament. Then you will hear only Modi Modi everywhere with flowers blossoming all around. BJP will win in all the seven MLA seats," said Sarangi to a TV channel. Congress leader Ruresh Routray went two steps ahead saying Sonia Gandhi is the best candidate for Puri LS seat. "If Sonia stands from Puri, she will serve the Lords. Then you will see Modi flying like a kite and Naveen disappearing completely," opined Routray, adding that all the Congress people now solemnly invite Sonia to come to Puri to field her candidature.

# In Balangir 2 die, 2 injured as truck, SUV collide

Two persons were killed on the spot and two others sustained grievous injuries when a sports utility vehicle (SUV) in which they were travelling had a head-on collision with a truck near Fuguda Chhak on NH-59 connecting Khariar-Bangomunda in Balangir district on Monday morning. The deceased were identified as Lingaraj Saraf and Kishore Das, both of whom belonged to Pahanrenmunda village under the Gaisilet police limits of Bargarh district, a police source said.

On being informed, Bangomunda police reached the accident site and launched a probe into the mishap. The bodies of Lingaraj and Kishore were recovered and sent to a hospital in Kantabanji for post-mortem. Police sent the injured to the health facility in critical condition for treatment. On the other hand, locals demanded adequate compensation for the two deceased's next of kin. "A detailed probe to ascertain the reason behind the accident is on," a senior police official said.

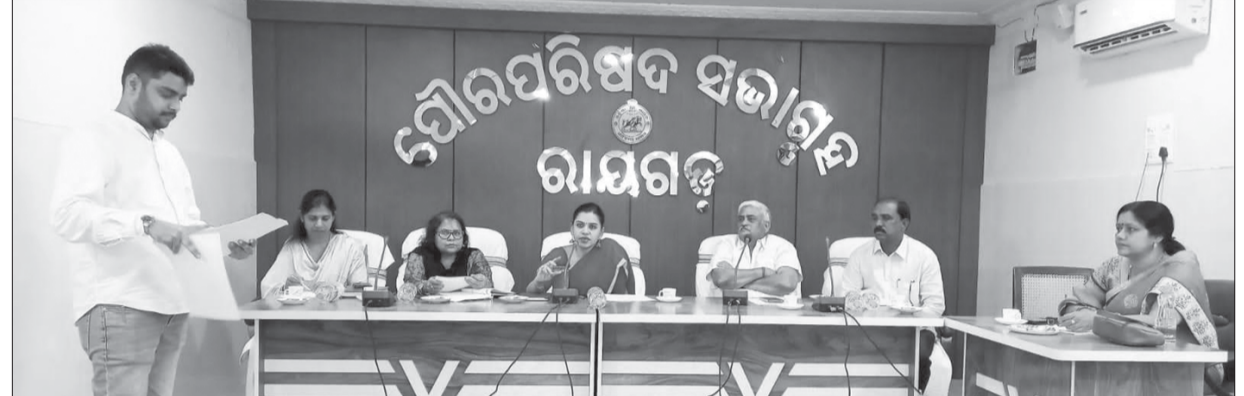
# In Baleswar Video of attempted sexual assault viral

Locals demand action against accused  
PNS ■ BALESWAR

A viral video of a man trying to sexually assault a woman in Jaleswar of Baleswar district has evoked sharp reactions among locals. The footage of 72 seconds, captured by a CCTV installed in Badabazar, shows that on December 11 late night, a woman was sitting alone in front of a cloth store. Suddenly, a man approached her and forcibly tried to assault her sexually. In the meantime,

two bikers passing on the road noticed the incident and raised an alarm. Following this, the accused fled from the spot. Reports said the woman appeared to be mentally-challenged and was seen in the area and slept on the roadside shops and establishments. Similarly, the accused who was seen in the footage also stated to be mentally unstable. He used to beg in the area. Although the video created a flutter in the area, the matter was not reported to police. Locals alleged that the accused pretended to be mentally unstable and he must be taken on to task.

# 'Rayagada DM, SP violating Constitutional norms'



Admn refutes BJP's charges  
BADAL TAH ■ RAYAGADA

Basant Kumar Ulaka, State Permanent Invitee, BJP, has blamed the Rayagada district Collector and SP for repeatedly violating their executive roles thereby murdering democracy. According to Ulaka, the provisions of the Constitution are frequently being disregarded as the administration is working at the behest of the ruling BJP. "Who gave them the right to invite former Rajya Sabha Member N Bhaskar Rao to the Government programmes and

allow him to sit on the dais portraying as if the programmes are implemented under his leadership? Rao is only a party worker now. If there is a rule to sit former MPs or MLAs on the dais then why former tribal MPs or MLAs elected by the people of our district are not invited to the dais," questioned Ulaka. In fact, he was referring to the inauguration of a cyber safety campaign convened by the SP and an information meeting convened by Collector to rehabilitate the agitating families displaced by the Railways in the 52 acre patch identified by the district administration.

Ulaka said that the district unit of BJP would lodge a complaint before the ST Commissioner regarding the repeated neglect of the tribals in the tribal district and making them feel inferior. On the other hand, Collector Swadha Dev Singh has refuted the charges made by Ulaka. "It was neither a political meeting nor an official programme. We had zeroed in on some options for rehabilitation of those who will be evicted from the Railway land in municipal area. We got information that few people in Municipality area were planning a rally on Saturday/Sunday regarding Railway's eviction and so the meeting was sched-

uled on Friday inviting only the slum people and their representatives..No one was specifically invited for the meeting except slum dwellers," said Singh. SP Vivekananda Sharma said, "Though the cyber safety campaign was mainly focussed in Odia language, taking into the context of deep penetration of digital medium into the rural hinterland and prevalence of multilingualism in the district, Telugu, Kuvi and Saura languages were also used to spread the campaign in each nook & corner of the district. There was no conscious intention to avoid any section of the society", said Sharma.

# Bhitarkanika to be entirely plastic-free

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The authorities of the Bhitarkanika National Park have decided at a meeting of the Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism and Development Society held on Friday to make the park completely free from plastic and polythene. The meeting was organised under the chairmanship of Regional Chief Conservator of Forest (RCCF) Sanjit Kumar. DFO of Rajnagar, Sudarshan Gopinath Jada, DFO of Bhadrak, Adhira Kumar Behera, ACF Punam Heera Hansda, ACF Gagan Kumar Malik and other forest range officials were present. The RCCF strictly directed not to allow fishing boats to ferry tourists to Hukitola. It has also been decided that awareness would be created

among the tourists over the ban on plastic and polythene in the park at the entry points of Gupti, Khola and Dangamal. The forest officials would collect Rs 50 from tourists, who would take water bottles inside the park and return the money to them after they hand over the plastic bottle at the entry point. Besides, dustbins would be kept in each boat and steps would be taken to encourage tourists to carry paper bags inside the park. The park would fix prices for tourists on boat ferry from Chandabali to Kalibhanjadiha and Khola to Kalibhanjadiha. As many as 16 trained guides and four forest personnel would be deployed in boats to guide the tourists and provide information about the flora and fauna of Bhitarkanika.

# B'ngir admn faces flak for eviction notice on shrine

Locals take to streets  
PNS ■ BALANGIR

The Balangir town's main street is Radharanipada where 110-year-old Radha Krishna Temple is located. The temple was constructed by a local social worker, Pansari who also set up the Ramgopal Hindi High School and the Maternity Ward in Balangir District Headquarters Hospital in the year 1913 by paying revenue to the then Empire of Patana of which

Balangir as a State was a part. Due to some reasons, late Pansari could not attend the settlement meeting; so the plot where the Radha Krishna Temple exists was transferred to the Government. Presently, the Balangir Municipality has sent an eviction notice to the priest of the temple, Gakulananda Mishra. Meanwhile, the eviction notice to the temple has faced shrap criticism from the people. "The administration should have a minimum idea as the temple is 110 years' old

and it is in the oldest street of Balangir town. Not only are the inhabitants of Radharanipada, but also the entire people of Balangir town and district are worshipping Lord Radha Krishna. So the step is inhuman," said a few local inhabitants here. They took to the streets opposing the eviction order of the municipality. On behalf of the Radha Krishna Temple Safety and Protection Committee, a memorandum was given to the Collector, Municipality,

local MP and MLA for cancellation of the eviction order on plot number 861 of Balangir Tehsil where the 110 years old Radha Krishna Temple is located. "The plot should be transferred in the name of Radha Krishna Temple by following all Government rules, regulations, guidelines and the ROR should be prepared in the name of Radha Krishna Temple. Besides, the district administration should take all responsibilities for overall development of the temple," they demanded.

# Paradip Port Banik Sangha celebrates Durga Puja



PNS ■ PARADIP

In celebration of the Sharadiya Durga Puja for 60th year, the Paradip Port Banik Sangha (PPBS) has launched special preparations this year. Commencing on October 6, a sixteen-day puja extravaganza has been set into motion. "Starting from the 20th, Maa Durga will be revered by the general public with the observance of Sasthi, Saptami, Astami, Navami and Dasami

in accordance with tradition. Every evening, a plethora of cultural and entertainment programmes will captivate the audience," said PPBS president Santosh Kumar Pattnaik. This year, as part of the 60th-anniversary celebration, the entire Badpadia market road, stretching from Lenka Medical Square to Crocodile Park Street, will be adorned with alluring gates and vibrant lights, casting a radiant glow over the port city during the Durga Puja.

Notably, during the recent Viswakarma Puja, while several puja mandaps graced the area, Badpadia Bazar remained modestly-decorated. Paradip's sole Durga Puja reverberates with devotion, illuminating the entire marketplace with garlands and colourful gates. PPBS president Pattnaik cordially invites the public to seek the blessings of Durgati Nasini Maa Durga, encouraging the Paradip community to join this auspicious celebration.

# Chaos at Vedanta public hearing in R'gada



Anti-mining activists oppose decision  
BADAL TAH ■ RAYAGADA

The much-awaited public hearing for the Sijimali Bauxite Mines leased to the Vedanta Limited was held on Monday at Kashipur in Rayagada district. Thousands of locals, including women participate in the hearing. Before the actual hearing,, there was sloganeering against Vedanta and its mining contractor Maitri like "Vedanta, go back, Maitri go back, Sijimali Zindabad, Niyamagiri Zindabad." When the actual hearing was announced by Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) Regional Officer

Ashok Kumar Bhoi in the presence of Raugada ADM Rameswar Pradhan, locals broke the left-side barrier reserved for media and went berserk for a while. But police led by Rayagada SP Vivekananda Sharma controlled the situation and requested the public to put their grievances in peaceful manner. Bhoi urged the people to put their grievance orally or in written to be forwarded to concerned authorities. Amidst vehement sloganeering, a few persons opposed extraction of bauxite by Vedanta. Some persons, who are in jail, came with High Court permission and heavy police escort to put forth their grievance in the hearing. Sources said that though they were coaxed to speak in favour

of the company, they didn't do so. Though the hearing was supposed to end by 12 pm, it ended by 11.15 am and the ADM along with OSPCB RO left the venue. Officers of Vedanta and Maitri were present. Good arrangements were made for the public to put forth their grievances. There was an apprehension that the police would detain anti-mining activists; but nothing of that sort happened as there was free movement of thousands of people from the affected villages and supporters outside. Many villagers also joined from the Niyamagiri region. Adequate police forces were deployed to maintain law and order.

# INBRIEF

## PM GREETES NAVEEN PATNAIK ON BIRTHDAY

Bhubaneswar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on his 77th birthday on Monday. "My greetings to Odisha CM Shri Naveen Patnaik Ji on his birthday. May he be blessed with a long and healthy life. @Naveen\_Odisha," Modi's post on X said. Patnaik thanked the PM for the birthday wishes.

## EX-PIPILI MLA SAMANTARAY PASSES AWAY

Bhubaneswar: Former Pipili MLA Judhishtr Samantaray passed away at a private hospital here on Monday. He was 73. The Congress leader breathed his last while undergoing treatment at the hospital. Samantaray was elected to the State Legislative Assembly in 1995 as a Congress candidate. Various political leaders cutting across party lines expressed grief over his demise.



## LYRICIST BINODINI DEVI PASSES AWAY

Bhubaneswar: Veteran Odia lyricist Binodini Devi passed away on Monday. She was 86. She was undergoing treatment at her son's residence in Angul district. Binodini Devi was an approved lyricist of Akashvani, Cuttack. She rose to fame for writing lyrics in Odia cinema.



## ELDERLY MAN HACKED TO DEATH IN MAYURBHANJ

Baripada: An elderly man was hacked to death at Madhunanda village under the Baisinga police limits in Mayurbhanj district late on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Devendra Sasmal (61), a farmer. Sasmal was sleeping at the verandah of his house, during which his son Ratnakar heard a suspicious sound and then found his father lying in a pool of blood with a severed head. Police reached the village, recovered the body for postmortem and initiated an investigation. The reason behind the alleged attack was yet to be ascertained.

## 20 STUDENTS OF DAV CSPUR IN ELITE LIST

Bhubaneswar: In the recently-published Indian Olympiad Qualifiers for Mathematics, as many as 20 students of DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur here, the highest for any individual institute, have been enlisted among the total 163 qualifiers from Odisha. The test was conducted by the National Board for Higher Mathematics and Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education. The next level RMO will be conducted on October 29.

## BLOOD DONATION ON CM'S BIRTHDAY IN BALANGIR

Balangir: A blood donation camp was held here by the BJD on the occasion of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's birthday on Monday. Chairperson of Balangir Municipality Lika Sahu extended her best wishes to the CM.



## BALESWAR SCHOOL TRIUMPHS IN INTACH NAT'L HERITAGE QUIZ

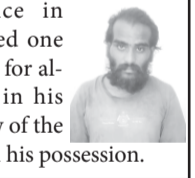
Bhubaneswar: The Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Odisha Chapter, held the Finals of a State-level inter-school quiz competition on at the Blossoms School here on Sunday. It saw the emergence of St Thomas Convent, Baleswar as the victor, securing their place in the next round



which is the National Level Quiz. Anil Dhir, convener of INTACH Bhubaneswar Chapter, said the quiz was part of INTACH's initiative for heritage awareness among school-children. Amiya Bhusan Tripathy, State convener of Intach gave away prizes and certificates to the participants.

## MAN HELD FOR ATTEMPTING TO RAPE AUNT IN K'PADA

Kendrapada: The Marshaghai police in Kendrapada district on Monday arrested one Bisikeshan Senapati of Karamkula village for allegedly attempting to rape a woman in his neighbourhood. The accused is the nephew of the woman. Police also seized a chopper from his possession.



# IIT BBS educates children on solar energy



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar, as part of its efforts to spread awareness on the use of renewable energy and educate children on sustainability, organised a unique solar cooking workshop 'Suryakumbh' to mark the observation of World Students' Day on October 15. Commemorating the birth anniversary of former President of India Late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the institute took the initiative as a tribute to the great scientist and teacher to invoke scientific aptitude among schoolchildren and encourage them to learn and implement a sustainable living style. Over 400 government school students from the five adopted villages and the migrant workers' settlement of the institute participated in the workshop. They received training on building and utilising solar cookers. The students took the cookers home to assist in preparing a portion of their school's midday meals. Vivek Kabra from Simplified Technologies for Life shared his experiences related to solar energy and imparted training to the students on the assembly and usage of solar cookers. IIT Bhubaneswar Director Prof Shreepad Karmalkar interacted with the students and the volunteers of the programme. Prof Chetan Singh Solanki of IIT Bombay shared his experience of leading a sustainable life by efficiently using solar energy.

# Nadda visits Rajasthan to shore up BJP prospects in poll

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
A head of Assembly polls in Rajasthan, BJP president JP Nadda held a meeting with party office bearers of Udaipur division on Monday as former Chief Minister Vasudhara Raje is reportedly not happy with absence of his loyalists name from the first list of candidates released by the party on October 9. After holding talks in Udaipur, the BJP chief is also to visit Jodhpur to interact with party leaders and workers. Nadda held discussions with senior

party workers, present and former MPs and MLAs, office bearers of different morchas and cells of the party in Jodhpur division. In the first list released by the party for Rajasthan, the BJP included royal scion and Rajasamand MP Diya Kumari and Jaipur Rural MP and former Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore which has already created flutter among those denied tickets by the party with some announcing contesting polls as independent candidates. The list of 47 candidates did not have Raje's followers which has apparently miffed the former Chief Minister. BJP's decision to field Rajasamand MP Diya Kumari from Jaipur's Vidhayadhar Nagar seat, denying tickets to its five-term MLA and Raje Loyalist Narpal Sijng Rajvi, son-in-law of Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, has unnerved the Raje camp followers, according to sources. The two-time former CM on Sunday suddenly reached Udaipur and met with Assam governor Gulabchand Kataria at his residence. Kataria has

held Udaipur seat four-times. Kataria, before being appointed as Governor, was leader of opposition in the Rajasthan assembly and has influence over 25 Assembly seats in south Rajasthan. He is also a former State Home Minister. Raje had a 40-minute discussion with Kataria before leaving for Tripura Sundari. The meeting was confidential and no one in the city had any prior information about her visit. Confirming his meeting with Raje, Kataria said both belonged to one family and

keep meeting each other. "Nowadays I don't discuss politics as I have changed my line," he said. The meeting, though, has triggered speculations that both the leaders may not be in "sync with the top leadership". Raje proceeded to Udaipur after her meeting. Elections to 200 Assembly seats is to be held on October 25 and the BJP is set to release its second list for Rajasthan by this week. Some more BJP MPs and Central Ministers are expected to contest Assembly polls, according to sources. Nadda's visit to Jodhpur holds significance in the run up to the Assembly elections in the State where it seeks to unseat the Congress Government headed by Ashok Gehlot. "Party is already faced with unrelenting protests against party candidate Devji Patel from Sanchohere constituency, the only name the party has announced so far, from 33 constituencies of Jodhpur division", said a party leader. Six mandal presidents of Jalore have resigned to protest the party's decision to rope in Patel from Sanchohere Assembly constituency.



## PM to unveil Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 at maritime summit

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the third edition of the three-day Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS), aiming to outline strategic future initiatives, at Mumbai on Tuesday via video-conferencing and unveil "Amrit Kaal Vision 2047". In line with this futuristic plan, the prime minister will inaugurate, dedicate to nation and lay the foundation stone of projects worth more than ₹ 23,000 crore, that are aligned with this vision for the Indian maritime blue economy, a statement from his office said. Modi will lay the foundation

stone of the Tuna Tekra all-weather deep draft terminal, to be built at a cost of more than ₹ 4,500 crore at the Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat. This state-of-the-art greenfield terminal will be developed in PPP mode. It is likely to emerge as an international trade hub and will handle next-gen vessels exceeding 18,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), and will act as a gateway for Indian trade via the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), it said. Over 300 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth more than ₹ 7 lakh crore for global and national partnership in the maritime sector will also be unveiled during the programme. The summit will be the biggest maritime event in the country, the statement said. It will witness participation of Ministers from across the globe, representing Europe, Africa, South America and Asia (including central Asia, Middle East and BIMSTEC region), said the statement. It will also be attended by global CEOs, business leaders, investors, officials, and other stakeholders from across the world. Several Indian states will also

be represented, it said. The three-day summit will discuss and deliberate key issues of the maritime sector including ports of the future, decarbonisation, coastal shipping and inland water transportation, shipbuilding, repair and recycling, finance, insurance and arbitration, maritime clusters, innovation and technology, maritime safety and security, and maritime tourism among others. The summit will also provide an excellent platform for attracting investment in the maritime sector of the country, it said. The first edition of the summit was held in 2016 at Mumbai while the second was held virtually in 2021.

## Mulling making AAP accused in excise policy scam cases: CBI, ED tell SC

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
The CBI and ED told the Supreme Court on Monday they are contemplating making the city's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) an accused in the Delhi excise policy cases. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the two probe agencies, told a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti he has instructions to State that the agencies are considering making AAP an accused, invoking legal provisions on "vicarious liability" and section 70 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). However, the bench asked Raju to clarify his stand on Tuesday on whether there will be separate charge against the AAP in cases being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate. Raju made the statement while the bench was



## SC rejects plea for abortion of 26 weeks old foetus

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Monday declined to permit a married woman, a mother of two, to terminate her over 26-week pregnancy as the foetus was healthy and the AIIMS medical board found no abnormality with it. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the length of pregnancy has crossed 24 weeks, the upper limit for allowing Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP), and therefore it cannot be permitted. The apex court said the foetus is 26 weeks and 5 days old and there is no immediate threat to the mother. There was also no foetal abnormality, it said. "The length of the pregnancy has crossed 24 weeks and it is approximately 26 weeks and 5 days old. The medical

## 1st State education achievement survey to cover 11 million students

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
The first State Education Achievement Survey will be conducted on November 3 by the national assessment regulator Parakh and will cover 11 million students across the country. According to the Ministry of Education, the survey is aimed at identifying areas requiring improvement in learning will be held across states, targeting school students up to the block level. It will be a precursor to the Education Ministry's annual National Achievement Survey (NAS), which is conducted at the district level. MoE said that it will be the first survey conducted by the Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH), an organisation under the NCERT. It is tasked with bringing the school boards across the states and the Union territories on a common platform. Scheduled for November 3, SEAS (State Education Achievement Survey) 2023 has been designed to enhance the learning standards for students in Classes 3, 6 and 9. Operating at the block level, this survey encompasses a comprehensive range of competencies, spanning the foundational, prepara-

## India, UK hold first '2+2' foreign, defence dialogue

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
India and UK on Monday reviewed the entire spectrum of their defence and strategic ties here in the inaugural India-UK '2+2' foreign and defence dialogue at the senior official level. The two sides focused on ways to boost cooperation in a range of key areas such as trade and investment, defence, critical technologies, civil aviation, health and energy. The two sides also discussed international developments including in the Indo-Pacific region and considered the possibility of enhancing anti-terror collaboration, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The 2+2 dialogue at senior official level is a mechanism to discuss and review all aspects of India-UK comprehensive strategic partnership. The dialogue took place as the two sides are exploring the possibility of a visit to India by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak later this month. The MEA said the two sides discussed "possibilities for further collaboration particularly in areas of trade and investment, defence, critical and emerging technologies, civil



aviation, health, energy, culture and strengthening peoples connect." "The officials had an opportunity to exchange assessments about recent international developments including in the Indo-Pacific region, given their shared vision for peace, stability and prosperity and for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region," the ministry said in a statement. "They also considered possibility of enhancing collaboration in areas of counterterrorism, HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) and maritime security," it added. The India-UK relationship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the India-UK virtual summit held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his then British counterpart Boris Johnson in May 2021. At the summit, the two sides adopted a 10-year roadmap to expand ties in the key areas of trade and economy, defence and security, climate change and people-to-people connections, among others. The Indian delegation at the dialogue was co-chaired by Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Europe West) at the MEA and Vishwesh Negi, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) at the defence ministry. The UK delegation was co-chaired by Ben Mellor, India Director at the Indian Ocean Directorate in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Lt General Rob Magowan, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, Finance and Military Capability at the British Ministry of Defence.

REGD. No. D.L.-33004/99  
**THE GAZETTE OF INDIA**  
CG-DL-E-11102023-249291  
Extraordinary  
PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY  
[No. 4216] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023/ASWINA 18, 1945  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**  
(Northern Railway) (Construction Organization)  
**NOTIFICATION**  
New Delhi, the 10th October, 2023  
(The Gazette Notification in this regard published on 06.09.2023 vide S.O. 3968 (E) may be treated as cancelled in view of some clerical mistakes. This Notification may be read in lieu of above mentioned cancelled Notification.)  
S.O. 4387(E).—In Exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20A of the Railways Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose the land briefed discussion of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for execution of the special Railway project namely Development of Freight & Coaching Terminal at Bijwasan in the District South West, Village Bhartal of Delhi state hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.  
Any person interested in the said land may, within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette subject to the acquisition of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 20 D of the said Act.  
Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, Additional District Magistrate, South West District, Delhi in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner and may after hearing all such objection and after making such further inquiry, if any as the competent authority hence necessary, by order either allow or disallow the objections.  
Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of section 20 D of the said Act shall be final.  
The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.  
**SCHEDULE**  
Brief description of land to be acquired with or without structure falling within the District-South West of Delhi for special Railway project namely Development of Freight & Coaching Terminal at Bijwasan

Sl. No.	Name of District/State	Name of Tehsil/Taluka	Name of Village/Hadbasti/Mustee	Khasra No.	Area to be acquired in Bigha-Biswa
1	South West, Delhi	Kapasheda	Bhartal	511/24	4-16
				521/4/2	1-10
				521/26/1	0-6
				521/4/1	3-0
<b>Total = 9-12 (0.8075 hectare)</b>					

[F. No. 190-W/Land/Misc./CSB-I(Kapasheda)]  
3209/23 A. K. SINGHAL, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that (i) Mrs. Neeru Jain W/o. Late Mr. Sushil Jain and (ii) Mr. Samaksh Jain S/o. Late Mr. Sushil Jain, the owner of Portion of Upper Ground Floor, Area Measuring 100 Sq. Yards, being part of built up property bearing Municipal No. 4586/2B, total measuring 191 sq. yards, situated at 11 Darya Gani, New Delhi-110002, vide Registered Relinquishment Deed dated 12.04.2018 Book No. 01, Document No. 3620 Executed by Mr. Shikha Jain D/o. Late Mr. Mohan Lal Jain & Mrs. Gauri Devi, and Late Mr. Virender Kumar Jain, Registered Relinquishment Deed Dated 12.04.2018 Sr. No. 8620/18. All persons are hereby informed that if any person has any claim or interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Mr. Praseem Lata, Advocate, 5G Associates (Law Firm) FF 18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vishakh Khari, Indraprastha, New Delhi-110014. E-mail: ssgassociates@gmail.com, Ph: 91-11-2272-28, 91-11-2272-24, 91-987090937

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that I, Anita Bhatia, W/o. Lalit Kumar Bhatia, R/o. 8/13 West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008, has Lost ORIGINAL DEMAND CUM ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER & NOC against File No. 2005/AA/NA/1369 dated 27.09.05 of LIG flat no. 604, POCGET, SECTOR-A-10, NARELA, DELHI. The online FIR against has been lodged. SO No: 430/2014 P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi LR No. 860253/2023 Date 04/09/2023. Any person claiming any right interest or have any objection or found the above said original documents may write contact the above named person or call on phone no. 9654806047 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

**G20** **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2023-24-18. The details are as under:-

Name of Work	Approx. Cost of work
'Supply & fitment of additional safety sling for traction link of WAP-7/WAP-5 locomotives as per RDSO modification sheet no. RDSO/2023/ELMS/0493 Rev '0' dated 26.07.2023' at Electric Loco Shed, Ghaziabad	₹12,74,400/-

**Earnest Money to be deposited** ₹25,500/-  
**Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender** 06.11.2023 at 11:00 Hrs.  
**Date & Time of opening of tender document** 06.11.2023 after 11:00 Hrs.  
**Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen** www.ireps.gov.in  
**Note:** (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.  
**No. 230-TRS-GZB-2023-24-18 Dated : 13.10.2023 3214/2023**  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## SC agrees to examine AAP leader Raghav plea

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine the plea of AAP leader Raghav Chadha challenging his indefinite suspension from the Rajya Sabha and sought the assistance of the attorney general in adjudicating the issue. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi and lawyer Shadan Farasat, representing Chadha, that the suspension cannot extend beyond the particular session during which the decision to suspend the member was made. The top court issued the notice to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat only on the plea which will be heard on October 30. Besides the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Chadha had made the chairperson of the committee the parties to his petition. Dwivedi said he was not seeking any interim relief in the petition at the moment.

## Army top brass deliberates national security during Commanders' Conference

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Army top brass on Monday here began deliberations on national security challenges including the situation at border in Ladakh and the Line of Control (LOC) facing Pakistan and ways to boost the overall combat capability of the force while kick-starting a five-day conference. Being chaired by Army Chief General Manoj Pande, the commanders are delving into a range of issues, including the ongoing reform process in the 1.3 million strong force, matters relating to jointness among the three services and key geopolitical developments. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to address the conference on October 18. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary are among those addressing the Army commanders. Ajay Kumar Sood, the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, will also deliver a talk on "Leveraging Technology for National Security".



"The apex leadership will brainstorm current or emerging security scenarios besides reviewing the operational preparedness of the Indian Army," the Army said on Saturday. "They will also delve into pivotal subjects including review of the ongoing transformation process, training matters, human resource management aspects and issues impacting serving personnel and veterans," it said. The regional security situation and geopolitical developments, including the Russia-Israel conflict and the Hamas-Ukraine war, may also figure at the conference. The overall situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China as well as along the frontier with Pakistan will be discussed, it was learnt.

## Defence Ministry signs contract for upgrade of INS Beas

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Ministry of Defence on Monday here signed a contract for Mid Life Upgrade and Re-Powering of "INS Beas" with Kochi-based M/S Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) at an overall cost of ₹313.42 crores. INS Beas is the first of Brahmaputra class frigate to be re-powered from steam to diesel propulsion. After completion of mid life upgrade and re-powering in 2026, INS Beas will join the active fleet of the Indian Navy with a modernised weapon suite and upgraded combat capability, defence ministry officials said here. The transformative maiden re-powering project marks a significant stride in the maintenance philosophy of the Indian Navy and repair capabilities of M/s CSL. The project would involve more than 50 MSMEs and would lead to generation of employment for more than 3,500 personnel. The project will be a proud flag bearer of Atmanirbhar Bharat in consonance with the Make-in-India initiative of the Government of India, they said.

# Sansad Khel Pratiyogita Kashi-2023 begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After successful conducting of Kashi Sansad Sanskrit Mahotsav (KSSM) in which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself attended the closing function to award the winners, Sansad Khel Pratiyogita Kashi-2023 was inaugurated at UP College grounds here on Monday. The sports competition was inaugurated jointly by UP ministers Ravindra Jaiswal and Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' by lighting the lamp and hoisting of flag.

The function was also attended by Mayor Ashok Tiwari, city chief of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Vidya Sagar Rai, District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer Himanshu Nagpal, ADM (City) Alok Verma, RSO, BSA, Additional Municipal Commissioner and many other senior officials and BJP leaders. The inaugural function began with the presentation of Saraswati Vandana, welcome song and cultural programmes by the schoolchildren.

In the first event of the sports competition, the 100 metres race for girls and boys was started by both the ministers of state (Independent Charge) by flagging off the same. After this, the students' volleyball competition was also inaugurated by them, along with, Mayor and DM by play-



UP Ministers Ravindra Jaiswal and Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' inaugurating Sansad Khel Pratiyogita Kashi-2023 in Varanasi on Monday.

ing volleyball.

According to the district administration, it is expected that 1,64,250 male and 1,13,227 female players will participate in the competitions at different levels in the district. The competition will run till November 8. There is no age limit in this competition. Competitions of 27 sports and 35 events are being organised from village to city. Transgenders and disabled people will also showcase their talents in this sports event.

According to Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, a good

women's participation in the event is expected as there is enthusiasm among the girls and the attraction of the event will be the participation of 103-year-old Kalavati who will take part in a race event. He said that 2,77,642 people have registered for the event and the number of male participants in the competition is 1,64,250 while of female participants 1,13,227. Besides, 165 transgenders have also registered. The CDO informed that there will be 27 competitions in this sports competition.

The PM during his last visit in the city had launched the

Sansad Khel Pratiyogita Kashi-2023 portal while laying the foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium on September 23 from his parliamentary constituency. The aim was to connect sports with people, so that youth can also take sports as a career. To showcase the talent of players from village to city, sports competitions are being organised at gram panchayat, nyay panchayat, university and school/ college, development block, zone and district levels. The competition will be organised at the district level from November 6 to 8.

# BJP to launch voter awareness drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Regional (Kashi) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Dilip Singh Patel said that the party will launch a voter awareness campaign from October 29 under the Mission 2024. According to him, in this direction, the state unit of BJP has made a blueprint in which the party's first focus will be on the voter list. "For this, a mega campaign to be known as Voter Chetna Maha Abhiyan will be started simultaneously in the entire state from October 29 in which the party will knock every house," he said, adding that to make the campaign a success, a training camp for party workers has been started at the district level from Monday.

On his return after attending a state level meeting addressed by state chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary and general secretary (Organisation) Dharampal Singh, the regional president said that despite the alliance of the parties in the last Lok Sabha elections, BJP had got more than 50 per cent votes. "BJP achieved historic victory in urban body, panchayat and cooperative elections and in



Regional BJP chief DS Patel addressing party workers in Varanasi.

such a situation, the strong organisational structure of BJP is capable of accepting any challenge and giving positive results," he said.

Patel further said that during the campaign, the party workers will approach the concerned employees to add names of the youths in the voter list who have completed 18 years of age, change the residence addresses of married women voters and add new

voters and delete the names of deceased voters. He said that complete information about the proposed campaign would be given to the workers by the senior party office-bearers in the divisional workshops to be held in the coming days so that the work of voter verification can be done successfully and every eligible person can become a voter.

He said that participation of every party office-bearer,

worker and public representative will be ensured in the campaign.

Giving information about the two days training programme being organised at the district level from Monday, he said that training for voter revision will be given through divisional workshops on October 18 and 19. He said that the draft voter list will be published by the Election Commission on October 27.

"After listening to the next episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on October 29, all the party office-bearers, workers, MPs, MLAs and other public representatives will contact every house and get involved in voter verification work. Work has to be done to connect every worker with the campaign," he said, adding that the party would contact each voter by running a special door-to-door contact campaign from October 30 to November 5 and from November 25 to December 3.

He said that by contacting the new voters and connecting them with the party, victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be easy and BJP would achieve the target of winning 80 seats in the state.

# IIT (BHU) organises campus dialogue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

An engaging 'Campus Dialogue with Students' was organised by the Research Cell of IIT (BHU) on Monday with Padma Bhushan & Padma Shri Prof Padmanabhan Balaram, former Director of IISc Bangalore. The talk was titled 'Reflections on Science in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic'.

He spoke about the history of science and how we advanced from primal beings to using microscopes and telescopes to understand different worlds. He reiterated and explained Dr Richard Feynmann's atomic hypothesis that in the event of a cataclysm where all knowledge were to be destroyed, humans should start their research with the fact that 'all things are made of matter'. The evolution of the pandemic was also talked about where he stressed on the importance of biotechnology in today's world. He considered the research on cells as the greatest feat of biological engineering and also that biology unifies all sectors of science. During his talk, Prof Balaram also discussed the interdisciplinary nature of science and the contributions of various scientists like Erwin Schrödinger, Richard Feynman, Lynn Sagan and many more.

The session was organised in the Annie Besant Lecture Theatre, with a capacity of



Padma Bhushan Prof P Balaram at 'campus dialogue with students' programme at IIT (BHU) in Varanasi on Monday.

300, brimming with students, research scholars, PhD applicants and professors. The audience was so pumped up that many students and the faculty stayed back even after the session ended and kept discussing the realms of science with Prof Balaram who kept answering their questions with utmost energy and excitement.

The programme began with a warm welcome of Prof P Balaram by the Dean (Research & Development), IIT (BHU), Prof Vikash Kumar Dubey and the Head of the Biomedical Engineering Department, IIT (BHU) Prof Sanjeev Kumar Mahto, with bouquet and shawl. The event proceeded with Prof Balaram's excellent and informative talk

on advancing science and research post-pandemic. Afterwards, the curious audience and the speaker had an engaging question and answer session. The questions were interesting, and the answers were vividly descriptive and inspiring.

Post the question-answer session, the eminent scholar was given a memento as a token of respect and appreciation. Assistant professor Aditya Kumar Padhi from the School of Biochemical Engineering concluded the talk with a heartfelt vote of thanks to the guest. The session was hosted by Muskan Gupta, Sophomitra head of the Research Cell, IIT (BHU) and third-year undergraduate student of the

Chemical Engineering department. Deans, senior faculty members, and a staggering strength of over 300 students brimming with curiosity and passion attended the talk.

A renowned scientist and a prolific author, Professor Balaram boasts an impressive career with nearly 1,000 publications and 25,000 citations spanning over five decades. After completing his postdoctoral training at Harvard under the Nobel Laureate Robert Burns Woodward at just 24, he later served as the Director of IISc, Bangalore, for over 10 years. Prof Balaram's legacy shines brightly, symbolising unparalleled dedication and scholarly brilliance in the scientific community.

# 2 brothers feared drowned in Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Two brothers were feared drowned in the Ganga in the rural area of Puramufi. Their friends raised an alarm and the local boatmen jumped into the river to trace them, but all their efforts went in vain.

Himanshu (20) of Akbarpur Sallahpur under Puramifti is the driver of the chief medical superintendent of Colvin Hospital. On Sunday he went to Fatehpur Ghat on a bike with his younger brother Mahendra Raj. They were accompanied by some neighbours. Suddenly Himanshu slipped into the area where water was deep. On seeing him drowning the younger brother came forward to save Himanshu, but both of them were swept away. Their friends raised an alarm. Some local boatmen responded but they could not save the brothers.

Efforts were made later to trace them but in vain.

**NABBED:** Samajwadi Party block pramukh from Kaudihar Mohammad Muzaffar tried to dodge the police by wearing a burqa but was nabbed and sent to jail. Muzaffar was wanted in a case of cow slaughter. On May 11, 2022, SO Soraon had intercepted a truck near HP petrol pump in Kurgaon. The truck was from Haryana and had 16 cows out of which eight were found dead. A case had been lodged against unidentified persons in this connection but investigation revealed that Muzaffar was the kingpin of the cow slaughter gang. Aslam has already been sent to jail in this connection. Muzaffar went missing since his name figured in the cow slaughter case. The police raided his hideouts several times, but he managed to escape every time. On a tip off

the police raided a place in the trans-Ganga segment of the district and caught Muzaffar while trying to escape wearing a 'burqa'. After being produced before the magistrate, he was sent to jail.

**TIGHT SECURITY:** Taking a lesson from the murder of mafia don Atiq Ahmed and his brother Khalid Azem alias Ashraf by sharpshooters in a hospital when they were taken there for a medical examination, the police did not allow mediapersons to interact with yet another kingpin of the crime world, Babloo Srivastava. He had been brought here from Bareilly jail under tight security to be produced in the court in connection with kidnapping and ransom demand of Rs 10 crore.

Babloo was fearing his murder while being transferred from Bareilly jail to Prayagraj court, and requested to record

his statement through video conferencing, but the court had turned down the request of the mafia don, who is quite close the 'D' gang.

Babloo was brought here on Sunday and kept in Kaushambi jail for security reasons. When he was produced in the court on Monday a good number of mediapersons and lawyers had gathered there to interact with him but no one was allowed to meet him.

Babloo was produced in a special Gangster Court here in connection with the kidnapping of a trader Pankaj Mahendra and asking for a ransom of Rs 10 crore. Statements of other criminals involved in this kidnapping — Vineet Parihar, Shachchidanand Yadav, Chandra Prakash and Sandeep Chaudhary have already been recorded by the court.

# Bid to ensure foolproof fire security arrangements

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In a bid to ensure foolproof fire security arrangements, the officials of the Fire department have asked all puja pandals to follow a set of directives. Moreover, all puja pandal committees must have NOC from the Fire department for setting up pandal.

Apart from security arrangements for visitors, the Fire department has asked committees concerned not to use synthetic material or ropes to construct puja pandals.

Besides, every puja pandal has to leave around 4.5 metre space around it so that people could evacuate puja pandal in case of crisis.

Pandals must have more than three metres height and no pandal should be set up under the electric wire cable. The exit gate must have at least five metres width and distance of pandal from main road must be within 45 metres.

Chief Fire Officer (Prayagraj) RK Pandey told

mediapersons, "We have asked puja pandal committees to hire licensed contractors for lighting of pandals. There should be at least two exit points and both the gates should be opposite from each other". Besides, we have also asked all puja pandal committees to ensure emergency lighting services and there should be no fire crackers show in and around the pandal. Every pandal must have at least two advanced fire-fighting extinguishers and water storage of 200 litres near the pandal, he said.

The CFO said as many as eight teams are being constituted to check puja pandal at frequent intervals in Civil Lines, Naini, Bara, Meja Koraon, Handia, Phulpur and Soraon. Apart from security plan, police have also decided to use separate plan for crowd control or any other emergency, especially during evening hours. Senior cops have advised puja committee to depute additional volunteers to control the crowd thronging the pandals,

especially during peak hours (7 pm to 2 am).

These volunteers are being deployed in shifts to avoid any laxity. All the major puja pandals would be under police scanner and skilled volunteers would be assisting cops to handle emergency-like situation in case of stampede or fire break out.

There will be separate arrangement for water to ensure adequate supply to tackle any accidental fire. There are plans to utilise drone cameras for assessing crowd strength in pandals and also to keep an eye on security measures. Each policeman and private volunteer will be aware about their role and responsibility.

Besides, a reserve water storage facility will also set up to control any fire outbreak. "We are more focused on security arrangements and are coordinating with the local puja pandal committees," said a senior cop.

Majority of visitors throng pandals during evening hours

to enjoy the lighting arrangements and the grandeur of the Goddess while offering puja. There will be shift wise duties of policemen at static locations so that they remain alert to tackle any crowd problem.

On their part, the men-in-khaki have already drafted an elaborate security arrangement plan for Durga Puja pandals to prevent any untoward incident during the festival and the police station concerned will be coordinating with committee members regarding security arrangements. Installation of CCTVs will be mandatory to keep an eye on the visitors and additional security forces have been deployed to maintain law and order.

Puja committees have also been instructed to ensure proper lighting inside and outside the pandals during Durga Puja and Navaratra celebrations. A senior cop said, "There will be around 100 small and big puja pandals in the city and security will be reviewed on a routine basis."

# Devotees throng Brahmacharini Temple

VARANASI (PNS): Hundreds of devotees thronged Brahmacharini Devi Temple located near Brahma Ghat in Kotwali area on the second day of Shardiya Navratra here on Monday. Right from the morning hours, there was a long line of devotees in the nearby narrow lanes and only a few devotees were allowed to enter the temple premises at a time to avoid any awkward situation.

The devotees waited for a long time to reach the temple and offer prayers. Heavy rush of devotees was also seen throughout the day at the famous Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) as usual. Rush was also seen at some other temples of goddesses. This holy city is a rare place where there are separate temples of all the nine Gauris and

Devis where the devotees reach to offer prayers on different days during Basantik (Chaitya) and Shardiya Navratra respectively.

Besides, hundreds of devotees rushed to Vindhyaachal in Mirzapur district by Roadway buses or other vehicles to offer prayer on this auspicious occasion. Rush was also seen at Old Durga Mandir at Ramnagar, Sheetla Mata Mandir at Adalpur (near Chunar, Mirzapur) and others. Due to the high level of water in river Ganga, though it was recorded steady during the day, the devotees faced it tough to reach Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dashashwamedh Ghat. At both Durga Kund and Brahmacharini Devi temples, elaborate security arrangements were made.

# Two commit suicide

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): Two persons committed suicide in the past 24 hours in the city. In the first case, a 27 year-old youth identified as Yashwant, a resident of Pratapgarh committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling at his rented accommodation near Bagh road under the Khuldabad police station. The police said Yashwant was preparing for the competitive exams and had not picked up phone for the past two days. The incident came to the fore when his uncle went to meet him but found door locked from inside. On being alerted, a team of Khuldabad police rushed to the spot and found the youth hanging from the ceiling. The police said foul smell was also coming from the room suspecting that youth might have hanged himself two days back. The body has been sent for the post

mortem. In second case, a 37-year-old man identified as Abhishek of Lukerganj committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence under the same police station. Initial police investigation revealed that he committed suicide due to domestic issues.

**PRAYAGRAJ JN BEING REDEVELOPED:** Prayagraj Junction is being redeveloped in view of the Mahakumbh to be held in 2025 here. Now work has started on platform numbers 9 and 10 from Sunday. No trains will operate on this route for 77 days. As many as 10 trains have been completely cancelled while around 30 trains were shifted to other platforms. Both these platforms are important because trains go to cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Surat from here. This change may also cause some inconvenience to the passengers.

# Millet need of the hour: Minister

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel before flagging off a rally to make people aware to promote the use and farming of 'Shree Anna' at Vikas Bhawan on Sunday said millet is the need of the hour hence it should adopted not only in the larger interest of health but also of nature.

She said that the UNO has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Regarding the district she said farming of millet is the way to cope with the declining groundwater situation. Addressing the gathering District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan said millet needs less water for irrigation hence is very suitable for area like Mirzapur. On the occasion other experts also expressed their views and the vote of thanks was proposed by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS.

Flagging off the awareness rally taken out by the Agriculture department the minister appealed to farmers to



Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel flagging off the millet awareness rally at Vikas Bhawan on Sunday

not only make others aware but also adopt themselves first. The awareness rally which started from Vikas Bhawan passed through different localities and villages and concluded at the agriculture farm house in Bisundarpur.

**INAUGURATED:** Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel has inaugurated the Vindhya Darshan Mela app at Vikas Bhawan on Sunday. She praised the initiative of the district

administration which prepared the app for the convenience of the devotees. She said the app had many information, including medical facilities, police assistance, hotels as well as dhabas, rain baseras, toilet facility, CNG/petrol pump, contact number of district administration, medical camp etc. She said the entire information related to the 'darshan' route will be available to the devotee through one click. DM Priyanka Niranjan and CDO

Srilaxmi VS were also present on the occasion.

**COUPLES REUNITE:** Under Project Milan programme eight couples reunited through the Family Counselling Centre (FCC) located at Police Lines on Sunday. The couples were living separately due to misunderstanding over trivial issues and the case were brought to the police. The police had referred them to the FCC. After separate sittings eight couples agreed to live together. The staff extended their best good wishes to them for a successful life and bright future. Constable Sapna and colleague Sunita were present.

**ARRESTED:** The Madihan police arrested an accused of raping a minor girl on Sunday. A woman had lodged a case on September 22 in this connection. The police started the investigation. On being tipped off by an informer the police nabbed an accused of Belwan village under Padari police station from the Madihan area on Sunday and sent him to jail.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Underdogs no more!

Buzkashi-playing Afghanistan has braved high odds to make a mark on world cricket, and how!

Ignoring long years of wars, conflicts and turmoil, Afghanistan's cricket team threw up the biggest upset in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, vanquishing defending champions England by a convincing margin of 69 runs. This victory marked only their second win in World Cup history. But it changes everything: Afghanistan's battle-hardened cricket team is now firmly established among the sport's elite. Of course, some credit is due to India, which has helped the Afghan team reach this position of strength. The journey of Afghan cricketers was shaped by their early training in Pakistan, with some even starting their crickering careers in refugee camps across the border. As they played in dusty and makeshift grounds, they harboured dreams of representing their country on the international stage. The team from this war-torn country made its T20 and ODI debuts against Pakistan. However, the turning point came when the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) stepped in to play a pivotal role in the swift ascension of the sport within the strife-ridden nation.



In 2015, the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Greater Noida served as a temporary "home ground" for the Afghans. In the world of cricket, few stories are as captivating and inspirational as the meteoric rise of the Afghan team. Over the past two decades, its journey has been a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Afghans and their unrelenting pursuit of excellence. From its humble beginnings to becoming a formidable force, Afghanistan has not only earned the confidence and respect of major crickering nations but also made a mark in history.

Its remarkable progress in cricket came through their participation in domestic and international tournaments, such as the World Cricket League. Under the guidance of coaches and mentors, Afghan players honed their skills and developed a unique brand of cricket. Their bowlers, known for their pace and spin prowess, have become a force to reckon with, while their batters have shown glimpses of brilliance. One of the defining moments for Afghanistan was gaining Full Member status from the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 2017. It meant they were granted the same status as giants like India, England and Australia. The emergence of the Afghanistan cricket team is a story of resilience and dedication. It has captured the hearts of cricket enthusiasts and earned the confidence and respect of their peers. The fear factor now associated with Afghanistan's spinners and batters is a testament to their remarkable journey. As Afghanistan continues to take impressive strides in international cricket, it is crucial to celebrate its success as a reminder of the power of sports to bring people together, regardless of their background or circumstances. Afghanistan's crickering journey is a story of hope and inspiration, one that demonstrates how determination can lead to triumph in the most challenging circumstances. To rephrase Shah Rukh Khan's famous dialogue from a Hindi movie: "Don't underestimate the grit of a war-torn nation!"

### PICTALK



Artists perform during the annual presentation 'Shri Ram', a dance drama on Sampurna Ramayana, in New Delhi

## Is it worth going to study in a foreign university?

Most students fall for the smart marketing tactics and the lure of getting good employment overseas, realising little that the jobs are scarce there

For the past few years, the craze for people from India to go abroad to gain admission to foreign colleges and settle there has been on the increase. According to the government, between 2016 and 2021, 26.44 lakh Indian students went abroad to study. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) estimates show that in the year 2020, 4.5 lakh Indian students went abroad for education and they spent \$ 13.5 billion in this process. In the year 2022, this expenditure was 24 billion dollars that is, about 2 lakh crore rupees. According to the report of Redseer Strategy Consultant, by 2024 this expenditure may reach US\$ 80 billion, that is, 7 lakh crore rupees, when an estimated 20 lakh Indian students will go abroad to study. If we make a state-wise analysis, till the year 2021, among the students going to study abroad, 12 per cent were from Punjab and Andhra Pradesh each; and 8 per cent were from Gujarat. If seen in proportion to the total number of youth, then 7 out of



every thousand youth from Punjab, 4 out of every thousand youth from Andhra Pradesh and at least 2 out of every thousand youth from Gujarat are going to study abroad in Punjab, 30 per thousand in Andhra Pradesh and 14 per thousand in Gujarat. The exponential increase in the number of students going abroad to study is a matter of concern for many reasons. The biggest concern is that these youth are migrating to foreign countries in search of education and employment and this migration is causing a shortage of labour for the economic activities in the country. There has been huge progress in the field of education in the country. If we

look at the admission of students in higher education, then in 1990-91, only 49.2 lakh students took admission in higher educational institutions; but this number reached 414 lakh in the year 2020-21. Broadly speaking, the number of students taking admission to higher education has increased more than 10 times in the last 30 years. If we talk about higher education institutions, we see that in the year 2021, there were 1113 universities and equivalent institutions, 43796 colleges and 11296 standalone educational institutions in the country. As far as the fee for admission into educational institutions is concerned, in most of the Indian educational institutions it's much lower than the fees in foreign institutions and most of the foreign institutions in which Indian youth are taking admission are of very low standard. So, the question arises why do Indian youth spend huge amounts of money and get admission to foreign educational institutions that most of the students who go abroad to pursue higher education, actually don't go to

get a higher degree. The real intent of Indian students going to other countries including Australia, Canada, and European countries including the United Kingdom, is not too keen to get an education. Their real objective is to get employment there. But Indian youth fail to realise that there is a huge shortage of employment in these countries also. In many countries, incidents of violence by local people, against Indians and youth coming from other countries, generally from South Asia, are also being witnessed. Most of the young students leaving the country fail to get employment there and have to return home, due to which they are also facing frustration. The students are not able to realise that today in Canada, Australia and European countries, where they are taking admission to educational institutions, those educational institutions are giving easy admission to Indian students in their institutions, for profit. (The writer is a professor, at PGDAV college, University of Delhi, views are personal)



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

# The Israel-Hamas war in perspective

Religiosity woven into war has the automatic effect of rendering the ensuing bloodshed all the more bitter. The results are devastating



PRAFULL GORADIA

The world is used to the spectacle of scholars, academics and social and political activists propagating and conferencing for global peace, but it is increasingly difficult to dismiss the notion that peace is little more than an uneasy halt between wars. While civilians somehow cling to some unreal hope, those in charge of the political destinies talk of peace, but actually build and sharpen the weaponry for the next bout.

In the land of origin of the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, peace is currently the biggest casualty. Virtually everyone is concerned about the Israel-Hamas war. One, however, does almost immediately ponder as to how Tel Aviv was caught by utter surprise. Needless to add, the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad has been reputed to be one of the most efficient in the world, possibly the best spy agency.

On balance, it appears that Hamas was conscious that there are groups within Israel that desire the Jewish homeland and country to further expand into a Greater Israel, as large and great as possible. Undoubtedly, the Hamas leaders themselves yearn to wipe the Jewish nation out of existence. Curiously, like in love, so in hate; such desires are mutual. With the help of friends and allies, it is likely that Hamas has been, for a long time planning to strike a 'grand slam' at their Jewish neighbour.

Just as the Israeli leaders would like to get rid of Hamas from the country's neighbourhood. All of this lays the grounds for a conflict before the end of which the other side would supposedly be wiped out. A wounded enemy is more dangerous than one who hasn't been wounded. A grand slam, so to say, might have been thought to be necessary. The question is whether Israel too sees the Hamas invasion and barbarity as a great opportunity for "setting things right" in the Middle East.

An organized state in Tel Aviv would certainly be functioning round the clock and would not give its adversaries any chance to destroy it. As luck would have it,



Hamas perceived that its Jewish neighbour was divided over the political divide over the issue of judicial powers enjoyed by the country's Supreme Court. They needed to be reduced or restrained so that the democratically elected Knesset or Parliament could assert its will more effectively.

While the members of the Knesset could not readily reach a settlement, the people of the country took over and protested through public meetings and processions. Such scenes had not been seen ever before and were being played out again and again, on the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. When the adversary is divided, it is human nature for the other side to smell an opportunity. As we have discussed, the desire of Hamas has been intense. The images of an Israel divided in the streets of its cities would certainly have held out the temptation, to believe that this was the opportunity. A terrorist organization like Hamas is unlikely to be foresighted. In fact, terrorism per se can seldom win. For the simple reason that its adventures, however violent and apparently successful, do not



HAMAS HAS GIFTED ISRAEL WITH A JUSTIFICATION TO BLAME ANY COUNTRY OR ORGANISATION IT CHOOSES AS A PARTNER-IN-CRIME THAT EXPRESSES EVEN MINIMAL SYMPATHY FOR HAMAS

capture territory. And without territory, there is no lasting victory. And yet, terrorist after terrorist gives up his life, merely to temporarily devastate places and people. Evidently, such men or women cannot be far-sighted. To expect the Hamas to be, therefore, to have vision is to expect a bat to have eyesight. Regardless, the attacks launched by Hamas on October 7 Bloody Saturday were thoughtless, to say the least. The consequences from Sunday onwards were foreseeable and yet, were not seen by the terrorist fighters of Hamas. It is not impossible that their escape route may, in an eventuality, be the Mediterranean Sea.

On the other hand, Hamas has gifted Israel with a justification to blame any country or organisation it chooses as a partner-in-crime that expresses even minimal sympathy for Hamas. Israel would also, and not without reason, feel justified to heap destruction on not any the Hamas but also the palaces of Qatar (which reportedly funds Hamas to some extent) and Iran's nuclear toys, as well as bomb places in Syria, most of which are in ruins anyway because of the latter's civil war. Fortunately for

Israel, ammunition has begun flying in from the USA; if necessary, even weapons would flow in. When Israel's Prime Minister says that his country will change the Middle East, he isn't bluffing.

Unfortunately, Israel—and India too—has been battling enemies who look upon war as a religious duty. Religiosity woven into war has the automatic effect of rendering the ensuing bloodshed all the more bitter. Such religious beliefs hold the promise of an eternal heaven with unending gratification of one's natural lust, in the pursuit of which the adherents of those dogmas have little hesitation in unleashing hell on earth.

For India, tightening our security, internal and external, in the wake of the war in Gaza will be imperative, for Hamas' initial boldness could well embolden elements in Pakistan to try something similar. This time, the Arab states have not supported Hamas, as several of them are seeking better relations with Israel and a different future.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author, and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### INDIA'S DEPLORABLE HUNGER INDEX

Sir—It's shocking news that the Global Hunger Index for 2023 ranks India 111th out of 125 countries, categorizing the level of hunger as "serious." While the Union government has rejected this index as erroneous, it can't be completely dismissed, considering that India ranked 102nd out of 119 countries in 2022. Despite maintaining buffer stocks, people dying of starvation is a disgrace, especially for the world's fifth-largest economy, ranking lower than nations like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sub-Saharan African countries. Hoarding food grains while thousands starve is extreme callousness. Hollow government slogans claiming that nobody will die of starvation are contradicted. Furthermore, this alarming ranking on the Global Hunger Index points to a harsh reality: millions of our fellow citizens are struggling to access their daily bread, with their basic human rights being compromised. The fact that India, often celebrated for its rapid economic growth and technological advancements, ranks below countries in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa in terms of hunger is a stark contradiction. It highlights the persistent disparities that exist within the nation and the urgent need for comprehensive policy reform. The government's rejection of this index as erroneous should not serve as a shield to deflect from the pressing issues at hand. It's imperative for the authorities to take this wake-up call seriously and delve into the root causes of this hunger crisis. They must work towards a more equitable distribution of resources, food security, and social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable among us.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

#### INDIA TO HOST 2036 OLYMPIC GAMES

Sir—Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 141st session of the World Olympic Committee in Mumbai, announcing India's readiness to host the 2036 Olympic Games. If the World

#### India beats Pakistan, again



An 8-0 verdict against Pakistan in World Cup matches has proven that the team from our neighborhood is not up to the challenge at this level. Even the Pakistan hockey team went

down tamely without a semblance of a fight in the Asian Games. The toss proved vital in the ODI games, and after losing it, the team was progressing at a slow pace.

As the team across the border failed to accelerate the scoring, danger lurked. Once Babar, the star batsman, was out, the wickets started tumbling, and the end was in sight. Instead of boosting their scoring with pinch hitters to upset Indian spin bowling, the lower-order batsmen fell into the trap and perished. The Indian batting did not retreat against Afridi but instead wielded the willow with great effect, hitting fours and sixes, bringing the target within reach. Captain Rohit Sharma's batting and his ability to handle both bowlers and field placements received appreciation. In the end, Pakistan was soundly defeated. However, Pakistan has had a great tradition of cricket and this is not the end of it as they can and will bounce back to the height they once were.

Chk Ramani | Trichy

Olympic Organization accepts this demand, it will be a significant honor for India. India is rapidly emerging as a global superpower, rising from the tenth to the fifth largest economy in a few years. It is expected to be ranked third soon. Hosting the Olympics will introduce India's tourism to the world and be a source of pride for athletes. India's successful organization of the Asian Games and the inclusion of cricket in the World Olympic Games are positive developments. However, India's permanent membership in the UN Security Committee is still pending, which is crucial for maintaining world peace. The Olympics in India will be a momentous occasion with numerous benefits.

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

#### GAZA'S WORSENING CONDITION

Sir—Gaza and the West Bank are becoming a new battleground as we saw in Bucha, Kyiv, and Donetsk region of

Ukraine at the start of 2023 when Russia invaded Ukraine. The condition of Gaza is dire after the Israeli Air Force occupation. The Iron Sword operation by Israel's defense ministry and the suffering of Palestinians paint a grim picture.

The world is marred by struggles for superiority and ethnic and religious tensions. Gaza has seen no peace for years, only shelling, tears, plight, fear, and anger. Wars persist without solutions, causing destruction and suffering. We must shift our mindset from war to peace, as India opposes the erasure of the Palestinian community. The world needs de-escalation, not war. We must focus on peace in conflict zones, or the world will continue fighting for unnecessary supremacy.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

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RAVI VALLURI

Anand was a mere mentee at a celebrated flautist's music school. The youngster was bewitched by a damsel who too was learning to play the flute under the expertise of the legendary musician.

Anand and Bhairavi were ensnared by craving; they were in a tearing hurry to achieve stardom through soulful renditions of the fabled Ananda Bhairavi raga. Their respected Master was however certainly not impressed at the proffer of his novitiates and admonished them.

"One needs enormous tapas to arrive at the world stage," he added.

**A Zen Story:** Years ago, a greenhorn was learning various nuances of breathing techniques and meditation at a temple of knowledge. After acquiring some basic skills, he approached his monk as to how soon he could graduate from the monastery and begin to spread the knowledge of Zen Buddhism. The impassioned monk was to say impassively, "It will take you ten more years."

"Master, I will practice twice the number of hours, then how long will it take me to become a suzerain of Buddhism?"

"Thirty years," was the bland reply.

**Learning to Learn:** Forbearance and endurance are paramount keys to achieving success. Tearing hurry and sheer desperation to climb the ladder to achieve fame in any field leads only to severe psychological problems.



**Psychotherapy:** The intent of a therapeutic approach is to upend the pyramid. It is to ensure the betterment of the victim's life. The therapy reinforces the client's resolve for mitigating distress leading to an improved lifestyle. By adopting a holistic line of treatment, the mind is blessed with positivity, becomes robust and develops the ability to eschew unwelcome habits.

There is astonishing progress in the victim who undergoes a mental transformation; the thinking pattern changes dramatically and becomes empowered to make mindful decisions on the voyage of rehabilitation. Gifted and trained psychotherapists combine their clinical insights and their mental GPS to zero in on suitable psychodynamic therapies.

**Dynamics of Rehabilitation and Recuperation:** Fundamentally, psychodynamic therapy cogitates that it is an intra-psychic conflict that is primarily responsible for the psychological malady. The fountainhead of the problem lies within the psyche of the individual. Research in the field opines that querulous desires of childhood and unmitigated childhood fears are essentially responsible for intra-psychic disorders. Keeping in mind the above two factors, psychotherapists deploy the technique of free association and eliciting information through visualisation, dreams, thoughts, and feelings to create a database. The cutting edge of the therapy is provided as the therapist glides and floats from the intellectual frame to an emotional plane. Psychodynamic therapy enfranchised the therapist to understand the mind of the patient and provide emotional succour.

Last but not least, the duration of treatment is of tremendous significance. The magnitude of the problem is obviously a key determinant of the span of treatment. However, around 15 to 20 vigorous sessions put the patient well on the road to renascence.

**Alternative therapies**

Unbridled ambition could also trigger alcoholism, bulimia, heavy smoking, and substance abuse among others. In such cases, alternative therapies such as practising the unique rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya, Vipassana, sessions of yoga and pranayama, and meditation techniques of Yoga Nidra, help in the relaxation of the mind and body immensely.

*(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd and is a faculty at the Art of Living. Views are personal)*

**Igniting the passion of traditional entrepreneurs**



DINESH SOOD

'PM Vishwakarma' is an attempt to empower the self-employed traditional entrepreneurs who contribute to their communities and create employment



**M**any people strive to secure their dream job and are unwilling to risk becoming an entrepreneur. However, it is notable that professions such as blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, carpenters, sculptors, barbers, cobblers, and others are a significant part of India's workforce. These traditional tiny entrepreneurs work with their hands and tools and are usually self-employed individuals whose skills are passed down from generation to generation. This proves that entrepreneurs are born, not made. The culture in which these individuals are raised plays a significant role in shaping their entrepreneurial mindset. They witness the ups and downs of entrepreneurship and choose to live their lives similarly. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme worth Rs 13,000 crore to promote such traditional tiny entrepreneurs to create more employers than employees. The aim is to integrate traditional tiny entrepreneurs into the domestic and global value chains by providing skill upgradation and modernisation. This will help to enhance their already existing traditional skill sets and make them more relevant, thereby improving their socio-economic status and quality of life.

Successful entrepreneurs are not limited to those who inherit family businesses. An individual's mindset towards entrepreneurship is crucial and develops with age and experience. As people mature, they become aware of the advantages of entrepreneurship and often choose it as a career path. However, how can we motivate those who do not come from entrepreneurial backgrounds to become future employers and contribute to our sustainable econo-



**SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS ARE NOT LIMITED TO THOSE WHO INHERIT FAMILY BUSINESSES. AN INDIVIDUAL'S MINDSET TOWARDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS CRUCIAL AND DEVELOPS WITH AGE AND EXPERIENCE**

*(The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International and a network member of India International Skill Centres, Views are personal)*

my? It is our responsibility to take the necessary steps to make this happen. Can't we start at least with these initial steps?

Home; the parents should start from the early school days of their young ones, read to them the stories of successful entrepreneurs, ones their young buds could relate to and get them acquainted with their day-to-day life attributes and the attributes and benefits they pass on to the society. Well, it is better to tell your bud to aim at making a hospital or hotel than just being a doctor or a chef, in the process, the young mind will keep his trajectory not confined to just being a doctor or a chef but keep his horizons much open and farther even after turning a successful super specialist doctor or a celebrity chef.

Schools; To fuel the entrepreneurship spirit among job seekers, multi-faceted efforts are needed to accelerate the creation of more job providers in the bustling industrial, services and tertiary sectors. Unfortunately, our education system did not focus on the development of essential entrepreneurial skills in school students, while entrepreneurial skill is the main pillar of job providers, intend to march forward.

Thus, to support the entrepreneurial spirit must give a nod to the Business Blaster Young Entrepreneur Programme in schools to encourage school children from class 11 to become entrepreneurs. Successful entrepre-

neurs and unicorns who bring with them years of entrepreneurial experience can play a vital role as mentors and can contribute the angel funding to build entrepreneurial orientation and mindset among the youths, especially school dropouts can be skilled and would equip their budding entrepreneurship to take charge as a job provider.

Colleges; there should be a structured curriculum with frequent seminars and workshops on entrepreneurship, emphasizing hands-on experience rather than just classroom learning. Encouraging idea sponsorships and mentorship from entrepreneurs would be beneficial. Additionally, students should be encouraged to visit actual facilities to better understand the entrepreneurial culture.

Business schools; should place equal emphasis on teaching entrepreneurship as they do on teaching business. Mock drills should be implemented, where students spend an equal amount of time shadowing an entrepreneur as they do during internships with organizations. Evaluations should hold equal weight in determining the student's level of business acumen and entrepreneurial spirit. Skill Development Centres; we have some of the brightest minds who are driving change in skill development. These leaders should focus on imparting entrepreneurship skills with the same energy and dedication as employability skills. Entrepreneurship

Development Institutes; how many successful entrepreneurs have we connected with to mentor our future entrepreneurs? We don't need teachers to teach how to be an entrepreneur; if they knew, they would already be one. We need proven entrepreneurs to guide and support our future entrepreneurs and set them on the path to success. Providing resources is only part of the equation, providing expert guidance is equally important.

Lastly; successful entrepreneurs must step forward and make time in their busy schedules to mentor future entrepreneurs regularly. This can be done for a specific period until the mentee establishes their trajectory, after which the mentor can move on to the next aspiring entrepreneur. This would be a more effective and impactful form of corporate social responsibility.

Entrepreneurship is driven by aspirations that exceed available resources. Entrepreneurs do not start businesses because everything falls into place perfectly. Even the self-employed, or "Vishwakarma" in traditional terms, continue to hone their skills for personal fulfilment and to contribute to their communities. Society as a whole should come together to support these individuals and in doing so, benefit itself. The goal should be to create more employers than employees, and it is hoped that "PM Vishwakarma" will help make this a reality.

**Developing argumentative skills with Moot Courts**

In a bid to improve the argumentative skills of budding lawyers, law colleges and schools across India are choosing 'Moot Court' competitions

**T**he syllabus of the law universities features 'Moot Court' as a compulsory topic, the marks scored in it playing a crucial role in determining the grade with which the students pass out of the LLB degree examination. Persons outside the legal fraternity or law colleges may stare back when they are asked about Moot Court. "Though Moot Courts are as important and interesting as Mathematics Olympiad, they are yet to get the public recognition. For those interested in legal affairs, this is an event equal in status to the Mathematics Olympiad," said Prof V R Jayadevan, principal, of Government Law College, Thrissur, who successfully conducted an all-India Moot Court event in his college in



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

*(The writer is a special correspondent at The Pioneer; views expressed are personal)*

the last week of September. Though planned as a low-profile event the Thrissur Moot Court Competition drew 36 teams from all over India. The winners walked away with the Justice T Ramachandran Memorial Trophy. The event saw intense competition as participating undergraduates switched over from one section of the law to another section with elan and poise.

If you ask a person without a legal background what moot court is about, chances are that you will get a grumpy look. No one can blame him/her because persons without knowledge of legal education are not at all familiar with the term. Moot Courts are simulated lessons held in law schools to make budding lawyers ready to face

real-life battles in courtrooms. It is an intellectual bout conceived to test the prowess of law students in their academic pursuits.

The organisers take out subjects of national and international events, put them as a legal issue and ask the students to argue for and against the topic. Classrooms in law schools are converted into real-life courtrooms with all resplendent ambience. These bouts turn out future Jethmalanis, Servais, Narimans and Sorabjees! Those familiar with the nuances of law and legal codes are sure to take a liking to the event. "I always feel that Moot Courts resemble Kathakali, a pantomime of Kerala, which could be enjoyed only by the connoisseurs of art. For those

who are uninitiated about Kathakali, watching it is a futile exercise. There is a saying in Malayalam that watching the art form without knowing the story is a waste of time," said Parvathi Sreejith Valliathan, Assistant Professor, SRM Law School, Chennai. The Thrissur event was the 12th edition of the annual Moot Court competition held by the College. "This year we selected a topic right out of a real-life event. Dharmanchal, a State in the Union of India, enacted Dharmanchal Infrastructure Investment Fund Act 2001. The preamble of the Act states that it was expedient to constitute a fund for investment in infrastructure projects in the State. The Act was similar to the provisions of the

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Act 1999," explained Prof Sonia K Das, the livewire of the event.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India took strong objections to the way the KIIFB was functioning and the availing of loans beyond the repaying capacity of the State. The Articles concerning the federal structure and the freedom of the States were used as weapons by the participants in simulated courtrooms which were presided over by judges who needed the counsels appearing for the petitioners and respondents with questions that went deep into the subject. The expressions on the faces of the audience spoke a lot. They too were taken to the hitherto undebated issues in the Indian

Constitution. "Our intention is to tone up the skills of advocacy," said Prof Jayadevan. The competition witnessed high-pitch arguments and counter-arguments. "Besides arguments, Moot Courts are the path for law students to have practical knowledge in drafting, pleading and conveyancing. The Moot Courts will intellectually stimulate students to develop skills that will be of great importance in future. The participants (addressed as Mooters) should possess sharp analytical skills to dissect complex legal issues, identify key arguments and develop logical frameworks," said Parvathy Kumar, who has more than a dozen Moot Court events to her credit.

Moot Court also have a

number of participants performing various tasks like researching and drafting which are put to the Court for approval/consideration. The participants are hopeful that one day they will be able to compete in the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court hosted in Washington DC. Considering the fact that there is no empowered body to ask the global community of nations to follow the dictat of the International Court of Justice, it is for the Gen Next to come up with ideas and solutions that make the States obey the orders issued by it. The progress made in science and technology has brought together warring nations of Europe is a hopeful signature. Let the Moot Courts flourish in India.

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# Muslim boy killed, woman hurt in Illinois hate crime

AP ■ CHICAGO

A 71-year-old Illinois man accused of fatally stabbing a 6-year-old boy and seriously wounding a 32-year-old woman was charged with a hate crime Sunday. Police allege he singled out the victims because of their Islamic faith and as a response to the war between Israel and Hamas.

In recent days, police in U.S. cities and federal authorities have been on high alert for violence driven by antisemitic or Islamophobic sentiments. FBI officials, along with Jewish and Muslim groups, have reported an increase of hateful and threatening rhetoric.

In the Chicago-area case, officers found the woman and boy late Saturday morning at a home in an unincorporated area of Plainfield Township, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) southwest of Chicago, the Will County Sheriff's Office said in a statement on social media.

The boy was pronounced dead at a hospital. The woman had multiple stab wounds and was expected to survive, according to the statement. An autopsy on the child showed he had been stabbed dozens of times.

"Detectives were able to determine that both victims in this brutal attack were targeted by the suspect due to them being Muslim and the ongoing Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis," the sheriff's statement said. According to the Will County sheriff's office, the

# UNRWA sends advance team to Egypt

United Nations (PTI): The UN agency for Palestinian refugees on Monday said it has sent an advance team to Egypt to prepare for a possible opening of a corridor to bring humanitarian aid supplies into the Gaza Strip amidst Israeli bombardment that has displaced over one million people in the Hamas-ruled region. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said that heavy Israeli Forces' bombardments of the Gaza Strip have continued, from the air, sea and land, and civilians continue to flee to the southern areas following Israel's warning on Friday to evacuate northern areas.

With Gaza running out of water, food, fuel and essential medicines, UNRWA said it has sent an advance team to Egypt to prepare for the possible opening of a humanitarian corridor to bring humanitarian aid supplies into the Strip. Advocacy continues at the highest levels for humanitarian access for pre-positioned critical supplies to cross into Gaza through Rafah, including food, water, medical supplies, fuel and non-food items.

In a situation report by UNRWA on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the agency said people across Gaza have severely limited access to clean drinking water.

Woman had called 911 to report that her landlord had attacked her with a knife, adding she then ran into a bathroom and continued to fight him off.

The man suspected in the attack was found Saturday outside the home and "sitting upright outside on the ground near the driveway of the residence" with a cut on his forehead, authorities said.

Joseph M. Czuba of Plainfield was charged with first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder, two counts of hate crimes and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, according to the sheriff's office. He was in custody Sunday and awaiting a court appearance.

Attempts to reach Czuba or a family member were unsuccessful Sunday. His home phone number was unlisted. Messages left for possible relatives in online records and on social media were not immediately returned. The sheriff's office and county public defender's office did not immediately return messages about Czuba's legal representation.

Authorities did not release the names of the two victims.

But the boy's paternal uncle, Yousef Hannon, spoke at a news conference Sunday hosted by the Chicago chapter Council on American-Islamic Relations.

There the boy was identified as Wade Al-Fayoume, a Palestinian American boy who recently had turned 6. The organization identified the other victim as the boy's mother.

# Rishi Sunak visits UK's Jewish school to reassure community

PTI ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday visited a Jewish school here and reiterated his government's commitment to protect Britain's Jews from antisemitic attacks amid the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict. The British Indian leader also stressed that Israel's operations must centre on the terrorist group Hamas to avoid an escalation of conflict in the region. He pointed to the spy planes deployed by the UK to the eastern Mediterranean region to monitor and prevent arms shipments from landing in terrorist hands.

"I'm determined to ensure that our Jewish community is able to feel safe on our streets, that there is no place in our society for antisemitism, and we will do everything we can to stamp it out and where it happens," said Sunak during his visit to the Jewish school in north London. He attended an assembly at the secondary school before answering a few questions from those present.

"I stand with all of you, the Jewish community, not just today, tomorrow but always, and I really mean it. Like many of you, I am different; I come from a different background, and our society is strongest when that diversity is respected. There are people who are trying to stir up hatred and division, and I will always strive very hard to protect that diversity," he said.



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak signing messages and prayers for Israel during a visit to a school in north London, England Monday. AP/PTI

# EU leaders to hold emergency summit

Brussels (AP): European Union leaders will hold an emergency summit on Tuesday as concerns grow that the war between Israel and Hamas could fuel inter-communal tensions in Europe and bring more refugees in search of sanctuary. "This conflict has many consequences, including for us in the European Union," EU Council President Charles Michel said in a video statement announcing that he had convened the virtual meeting. "The conflict could have major security consequences for our societies."

Since the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked southern on October 7, triggering the latest Gaza war, France has ordered a ban on pro-Palestinian demonstrations and the number of antisemitic acts has risen. Low-level rallies have been held in other EU countries. Both the 27-nation bloc and the United States consider Hamas as a terrorist organisation.

The Louvre Museum in Paris evacuated people after receiving bomb threats over the weekend.

and the growing humanitarian concerns in Gaza. The Democratic president is weighing a decision to visit the region in a powerful symbol of support for Israel following the October 7 attack by Hamas that killed more than 1,400 people including at least 30 US citizens.

The decision reflects the competing pressures for the president, heading into an election year in which he is trying to showcase his domestic agenda as conflicts abroad in Ukraine and now Israel grow.

# Biden postpones trip to Colorado

Washington (AP): President Joe Biden postponed a trip to Colorado on Monday to stay in Washington and focus on the growing conflict in the Middle East. Biden had been heading to the Colorado district of Rep. Lauren Boebert, where he was to visit CS Wind, the world's largest facility for wind tower manufacturing. The White House said just a few hours before Biden was set to take off for the trip that it would be rescheduled.

Instead, Biden is expected to hold a series of high-level meetings with aides on Israel

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 Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder/ Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares
1	SRFO147008	RAJAN SHARMA	781664	62251742-91	50
			1125163	308181114-2113	1000
			90102749-51	10052650-749	100
2	SRFO147282	RAJAN SHARMA	572159	26206766-815	50
			1125164	308182114-313	200
			90202074-75	15392885-984	100
3	SRF0031890	PARAMESWARAN MANGATE VELAYUDHAN NAIR V SARASWATHI P NAIR	1130477	310215874-6341	468
			915478	21489909-90008	100
			915478	29509251-300	50
4	SRFO151298	DEV PRAKASH BAHETI	1130563	310258974-93	720
			915478	29509251-300	50
			915478	29509701-750	300
5	SRFO029322	VARUN PAWHA	1131294	310555110-7109	2000
			335408-10	16422054-76	23
			484408-10	24441846-68	23
6	R 0004284	RAMESH CHAND ARORA	976704	18593723-35	13
			1126545	308656454-761	308
			1130540	310245034-5034	1000
7	SRF0024422	SARITA BAHETI	9614	1565426	25
			9733	1569076	25
			11200	1611526	25
8	S 0011779	KM SONU BHANOT	11357	1616076	25
			11761	1627451	25
			13749	1687876	25
9	SRFO116327	MENABAI VISHANJI SAMPAT VISHANJI NARSHI SAMPAT	29028	2126801	25
			36462	2335676	25
			149582-83	5938824-923	100
10	K 0000360	KIRON PRAVIN SHETH	1124597	307972818-4017	1200
			52292	2767976-8000	25
			55599	2820664-74	11
11	A 0001576	ASHOK SATYAPRIYA LACHAKE	416918-22	18022056-151	96
			565918-22	26041848-1943	96
			661269-74	47233845-981	137
12	SRFO021937	S R PROTHI	124293	5233898-915	18
			975838	18567506-96	36
			1127862	309159094-309	216
13	V 0002004	VEENA KAPOOR	28642	2115501-25	25
			54785	2809462-69	8
			95085	4085083-98	16
14	K 0003364	KAMLA SHARMA	300777-81	15701154-236	83
			449777-81	23720946-028	83
			90150311-12	10377090-184	95



# Leaders from emerging economies arriving for 'Belt and Road' forum

AP ■ BEIJING

Leaders of emerging market countries are arriving in Beijing for a meeting organised by the Chinese government that will mark the 10th anniversary of its Belt and Road Initiative.

More than a dozen leaders from Africa, Asia and the Mideast were flying into Beijing on Monday, following the arrivals of Chilean President Gabriel Boric and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on Sunday. Others are coming on Tuesday.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative, a signature policy of President Xi Jinping, Chinese companies have built ports, roads, railways, power plants and other infrastructure around the world in a bid to boost trade and economic growth.

But the massive Chinese development loans that funded the projects have also burdened some poorer countries with heavy debts.

A flurry of diplomacy is expected on the sidelines of the third Belt and Road Forum, whose main events are on Wednesday. Orbán met with Xi and Premier Li Qiang, Hungary's state news agency MTI said. The forums also were held in 2017 and 2019.

Kenyan President William Ruto will be seeking additional loans for stalled road projects despite the country's already high public debt, and an easing of the repayment of a Chinese loan for a railway project that has not proven commercially viable.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to attend the forum, as are representatives of the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Putin downplayed the idea that China, through its Belt and Road projects in Central Asia, is competing for influence in a region that Russia has long considered its backyard.

"Our own ideas on the development of the Eurasian Economic Union, for example, on the construction of a Greater Eurasia, fully coincide with the Chinese ideas proposed within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative," he told Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, according to a transcript posted on the Kremlin website.

The leaders who arrived on Monday included Ethiopian



Waitresses prepare for meal time at the media center near a display depicting China's Silk Road during the Third Belt and Road Forum held at the China National Convention Centre in Beijing, on Monday

AP/PTI

# Kenya seeks more loans despite rising public debt

AP ■ NAIROBI

Kenya's President William Ruto sought \$1 billion more in loans from China Monday, despite rising public debt that has now reached \$70 billion in the Eastern African country, according to National Treasury figures for 2022/2023. President Ruto was one of a number of global leaders in Beijing to attend the tenth anniversary meeting of China's Belt and Road Initiative, the ambitious plan that aims to connect Africa, Asia and Europe through massive infrastructure and energy projects.

A statement from Kenya's State House Spokesman Hussein Mohammed said, "The president will deliver a keynote address headlined Digital Economy as a New Source of Growth" at the High-Level Forum. "Additionally, the president will participate in a Kenya-China investors round-

table to emphasise Kenya's standing as an investment hub for Chinese companies," said the statement. One of the signature BRI projects in Kenya is the Standard Gauge Railway line, which runs from the port city of Mombasa to the Rift Valley via the capital, Nairobi. It cost \$4.7 billion dollars to build but has faced numerous challenges, including delays and a low uptake of its freight service. The SGR which started operations in 2017, was initially intended to go all the way to neighbouring Uganda to the west, as well as serving other landlocked countries in eastern and Central Africa.

However, those plans were cancelled after Kampala pulled out and opted instead for partnership with a Turkish firm for the construction of its main line. Kenya's SGR was mainly constructed using Chinese banks loans and last week, Deputy President Rigathi

Gachagua told a local radio station that the president will be asking Chinese officials "to repay the loans slowly, while also borrowing a little money to finish stalled road projects."

"The Kenya SGR desperately needs cross-border expansion to make it a financially sustainable project. This is another key element in Kenya's negotiation," said economist Aly Khan Satchu. "The SGR as is a dud. To make it sustainable it needs to connect Uganda's oil to the sea and (Congo) minerals. Therefore, to take the SGR from a negative return on investment into a positive ROI, he needs to increase leverage," added Satchu. Kenya has been struggling with ballooning public debt, with \$6 billion owed to Chinese creditors, according to national data. Some of the loans will mature in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, putting further pressure on the government.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou

Nguesso, Papua New Guinean Prime Minister James Marape and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet.

# Oz watchdog fines 'X' \$385,000 for not tackling child abuse content

Canberra (AP)

Australia's online safety watchdog said on Monday it had fined X — the social media platform formerly known as Twitter — 610,500 Australian dollars (USD 385,000) for failing to fully explain how it tackled child sexual exploitation content.

Australia's eSafety Commission describes itself as the world's first government agency dedicated to keeping people safe online.

The commission issued legal transparency notices early this year to X and other platforms questioning what they were doing to tackle a proliferation of child sexual exploitation, sexual extortion and the livestreaming of child sexual abuse. eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said X and Google had not complied with the notices because both companies had failed to adequately respond to a number of questions. The platform renamed X by its new owner Elon Musk was the worst offender, providing no answers to some questions including how many staff remained on the trust and safety team that worked on preventing harmful and illegal content since Musk took over, Inman Grant said.

"I think there's a degree of defiance there," Inman Grant said. "If you've got a basic H.R. (human resources) system or payroll, you'll know how many people are on each team," she added. X did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

After Musk completed his acquisition of the company in October last year, he drastically cut costs and shed thousands of jobs. X could challenge the fine in the Australian Federal Court. But the court could impose a fine of up to AU\$780,000 (USD 493,402) per day since March when the commission first found the platform had not complied with the transparency notice.

The commission would continue to pressure X through notices to become more transparent, Inman Grant said. "We can keep stonewalling and we'll keep fining them," she said. The commission issued Google with a formal warning for providing "generic responses to specific questions," a statement said.

# 'Russia's assault on eastern Ukraine city is weakening'

AP ■ KYIV

A dayslong attempt by Russian forces to storm a strategically important city in eastern Ukraine appears to be running out of steam, Kyiv officials claimed Monday, as the Kremlin's war entered its 600th day. Ukrainian forces repelled 15 Russian attacks from four directions on Avdiivka over the previous 24 hours, the Ukrainian General Staff said.

That compared with up to 60 attacks a day in the middle of last week, according to Vitalii Barabash, head of the city administration. The slackening suggests the Russian effort to capture Avdiivka has "deflated", Barabash said.

A Washington-based think tank broadly concurred with that assessment. "Russian forces continued offensive operations aimed at encircling Avdiivka... but have yet to make further gains amid a likely decreasing tempo of Russian operations in the area," the Institute for the Study of War said in analysis published late Sunday.

Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, told a UN Security Council meeting last Friday that the ramped-up attacks in the east amounted to a new

stage in Moscow's campaign in Ukraine.

With the looming onset of wintry conditions that will limit military operations, both sides have been seeking battlefield breakthroughs that could invigorate their efforts and raise morale.

Ukraine launched its own counteroffensive about four months ago. It has made some headway but the limited success has underlined the daunting challenge of taking on the Kremlin's more numerous forces. Kyiv's Western allies insist that their military and financial support for Ukraine will continue, even as the Israeli-Hamas war rages and competes for resources.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said Sunday the Biden administration will ask Congress for a combined aid package for Ukraine and Israel worth more than \$2 billion.

Ukrainian officials have said their troops are holding out against fierce Russian efforts to wrest control of Avdiivka, a heavily fortified city. Avdiivka lies in the northern suburbs of the city of Donetsk, in a region of the same name that Russian forces partially occupy. Avdiivka's location grants Ukrainian forces artillery advantages over

the city and could serve as a springboard for them to liberate Donetsk.

It is not possible to verify battlefield claims by either side. Misinformation and disinformation have played a central role in the war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in an interview with the China Media Group released Monday, claimed that Ukraine's counteroffensive has achieved "no results so far, only massive losses".

Meanwhile, Russian children's rights ombudswoman Maria Lvova-Belova claimed Monday that her office has helped 35 Ukrainian children reunite with their relatives in Ukraine and other countries.

Lvova-Belova, who was indicted along with Putin by the International Criminal Court for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, claimed Russia never opposed reuniting children with their families.

Qatar's foreign ministry issued a statement saying it had been involved in recent family reunifications through its embassy in Moscow but it provided no details.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Kamlesh w/o. Mr. Naresh who is purchasing New Property No. 57-B & Old No. 53, measuring 178 sq. yds., Kallawalla Rihatali, Pur, Chander Pur, New Gurgaon, Ghatbatiad, UP-201001, from Mr. Mahesh Chand who was the co-owner of the aforesaid property vide Will dated 20.08.1992, Document No. 640, with execution by the father Mr. Harsharan Dass, after demise of Mr. Harsharan Dass, Mr. Mahesh Chand & Mr. Naresh Kumar became joint owners of the aforesaid mentioned property, and intend to mortgage the aforesaid property against the financial assistance from Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NFC, we give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim / right / title / interest / creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP, 136, Basement Floor, Udyog Park near Mother Dairy New Delhi-49. Contact: 9111-4096316 & 4169322

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Salman Khanis the sole owner of Second floor (without roof rights), "said floor" area measuring 140 Sq. Yds., portion bearing no. K, property bearing no. 252, 254, 215, out of Khara no. 61921, situated within abadi of Lal Dora of village Chhattarpur, New Delhi-110074. This ownership was legally acquired through a Sale Deed dated 11.09.2023 vide doc No. 7470 executed by Mohd. Ahsan Ali. Mr. Salman Khanis currently in the process of mortgaging the aforementioned property with SMO India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Fullerton). Our Client. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Lav Veritas: North at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +911020-3101063/4562809; e-mail: accounts@north.in

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.**  
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)  
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Mobile No. 96461-07205 E-Mail: se-hq-gsstp-repar@pspc.in

**Press Tender Enq. No. 493P/3-EMPV-W-12461 dated 13-10-2023**  
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Press Tender for Outsourcing of 1 No. Truck (Capacity 9.0 MT) along with 1 No. Driver and 1 No. Unskilled Worker in GGSSTP, Ropnagar.  
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://pspc.in> Website  
Note:- Corrigendum & Addendum, if any will be published online at <https://pspc.in> RTP-117/23

76155/12/2288/2023/28892 Dated CHD :- 10/16/2023

# Court rejects Imran Khan's plea against jail trial in cipher case

Islamabad (PTI): A top court in Pakistan on Monday rejected a plea by Imran Khan against holding his trial in the cipher case in jail, saying in-prison hearing was "in favour" of the former prime minister keeping in mind security-related matters. The case pertains to a secret diplomatic document that Khan used to criticise his opponents for allegedly orchestrating his ouster from power in April last year. The document reportedly went missing from his possession.

A special court is hearing the case against Khan, 71, in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi where he was shifted on September 26 from the District Jail Attack.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman in a petition filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on October 4 sought to stay the jail trial.

The IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq announced the reserved verdict, dismissing the plea against the holding of the cipher case trial in Adiala

Jail while directing Khan to approach the special court instead for the same. The verdict stated that the jail trial was "in favour" of the former premier keeping in mind security-related matters. "There is no ill will apparent on the matter of jail trial," it observed.

The court in its order recalled that Khan had voiced his reservations relating to his security "numerous times". "If the PTI chairman has reservations about the jail trial, he may approach the trial court," the order stated.

Earlier this month, the court declared that Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi would be indicted during the next hearing on October 17, which would mark the official start of the trial. Khan was ousted through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022. He was incarcerated on August 5 this year, after an Islamabad court sentenced him to three years in prison in the Toshakhana case.

# Nawaz Sharif to unveil 'recovery plan' at Minar-e-Pakistan gathering on Oct 21

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan's self-exiled former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will give a road map to pull the cash-strapped country out of the economic mess during his gathering here in the capital of Punjab province on October 21, a media report said on Monday.

The Lahore district administration on Sunday allowed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party to hold a gathering at the Minar-e-Pakistan after the former ruling party sought permission in a bid to whip up support for its supreme leader's return later this week, Dawn news reported. Speaking to workers at a party convention in Mustafabad, PML-N Vice President Hamza Shehbaz said Pakistan will "restart its journey towards progress and prosperity" with the return of the PML-N supreme leader later this week.

"In his address at Minar-e-Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif will give a road map to pull the country out of the economic mess," Hamza Shehbaz, the nephew of Nawaz Sharif, said.

He said the PML-N and its allies saved the country while risking their political capital. Had there been no agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan would have gone bankrupt, Hamza said, adding that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government led by its chief Imran Khan brought the country to the verge of default. Hamza, the son of former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, said while the politics of the PML-N revolved around development, jailed former prime minister Khan-led PTI indulged in politics of hate.

He referred to the May 9 incidents to back his point. PML-N leader Malik Ahmed, who was a former aide to ex-premier Shehbaz

Sharif, said October 21 would not be "an ordinary day in fact this would be the day when the country would start its journey towards glory and prosperity". The PML-N is all set to hold the mass public meeting not only to welcome Nawaz Sharif but also to give a befitting reply to the PTI that used the venue to show its massive popularity among the masses, the report said.

In response to the request for holding a public meeting at Minar-e-Pakistan and the submission of an affidavit by PML-N leader Bilal Yasin to take full responsibility for the public gathering in case of any untoward incident, the deputy commissioner's office issued a no objection certificate (NOC) to the party. The organisers have been instructed to ensure stage security, security of ladies' and gents' enclosures, emergency exits, measures for avoiding/controlling stampedes and adequate parking through the hiring of private security and volunteers.



A harvesting machine mows down rows of corn in fields near Dingelstaedt, Germany, on Monday

# Unification Church slams Japan's dissolution request as threat to religious freedom

Tokyo (AP): The Japanese branch of the Unification Church on Monday criticised the Japanese government's request for a court order to dissolve the group, saying it is based on groundless accusations and is a serious threat to religious freedom and human rights of its followers.

Japan's Education Ministry on Friday asked the Tokyo District Court to revoke the legal status of the Unification Church after a ministry investigation concluded the group for decades has systematically manipulated its followers into donating money, sowing fear and harming their families.

The investigation followed months of public outrage and questions about the group's

fundraising and recruitment tactics after former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's assassination last year. The man accused of shooting Abe allegedly was motivated by the former prime minister's links to the church and blamed it for bankrupting his family.

The government's request is "extremely disappointing and regrettable," said the church's legal affairs department chief, Nobuo Okamura. "We believe the request for a dissolution order is a serious development not only for freedom of religion but also human rights." The request asks the court to issue a dissolution order revoking the church's status as a religious organisation.

**KSOLVES INDIA LIMITED**  
(CIN: L72900DL2014PLC269020)  
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**Extract of the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year ended on September 30, 2023 (Amount Rs. in Lakhs)**

Particulars	Quarter ended on		Year to date figures for the year ended on		Year to date figures for the previous year ended	
	30/09/2023	30/06/2023	30/09/2022	30/09/2023	30/09/2022	31/03/2023
Revenue from operations	2598.35	2378.82	1850.26	4977.17	3501.49	7,831.16
Profit before tax	1114.57	1012.73	802.36	2127.30	1511.37	3293.56
Profit after tax	823.09	758.96	591.59	1582.05	1120.80	2472.04
Total comprehensive income for the period	818.16	757.19	583.53	1575.35	1105.25	2444.98
Paid up equity share capital (Face value: Rs. 10 per share)	1185.80	1185.80	1185.80	1185.80	1185.80	1185.80
Total reserves (including non-controlling interests)	1679.82	1809.94	838.80	1679.82	638.80	1052.75
Earnings per equity share Basic and diluted	6.94	6.40	4.99	13.34	9.45	20.85

**Extract of the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year ended on September 30, 2023 (Amount Rs. in Lakhs)**

Particulars	Quarter ended on		Year to date figures for the year ended on		Year to date figures for the previous year ended	
	30/09/2023	30/06/2023	30/09/2022	30/09/2023	30/09/2022	31/03/2023
Revenue from operations	2598.79	2366.14	1826.27	4955.93	3437.31	7711.65
Profit before tax	1113.56	1007.95	808.63	2121.51	1544.76	3299.31
Profit after tax	825.72	754.95	597.33	1580.67	1155.57	2487.03
Total comprehensive income for the period	820.79	753.18	589.28	1573.97	1140.02	2459.97

1. The full format of the quarterly Un-audited financial results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and also on the Company's website [www.ksolves.com](http://www.ksolves.com)

Date : 17.10.2023  
Place : Delhi

By order of the Board  
For Ksolves India Limited  
Sd/-  
Ratan Kumar Srivastava  
Managing Director

**verka**  
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SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66

**Notice Inviting Tender** [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop)

tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr No	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Chandigarh Dairy Vehicles for the Transportation of Verka Products from Milk Plant, Chandigarh to other Verka Dairy Units, Milked Branches & Depots (in the state of Punjab & other states), Upcountry Markets.	Annual
2.	For Verka Mohali Dairy Pest Control Service	Annual One job
3.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy a) Outsourcing of man power Unskilled/Semi-skilled/Skilled/Highly skilled & other Categories. b) Hiring of Insulated vehicles for supply of packed milk and fresh milk products in Bathinda Milkshed area.	Annual Annual
4.	For Verka Mohali Dairy Hiring of Road Milk Tankers for Transportation of milk all over Punjab, Chandigarh, U.P., Delhi & Haryana.	08 No's
5.	For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) Purchase of :- • Total Mixed Ration Machine (TMR). • Conduction Lid Film b) Hiring of Powder plant for Conversion of skimmed milk to SMP	Annual Annual 06 month
6.	For Verka Sangur Dairy Hiring of :- • Godown (store) for storage of Skimmed Milk Powder. • Cold Store for storage of White Butter. • Vehicle (older than seven years will not be consider for employment)	Annual/12000 sq. feet to 14000 sq. feet Annual/Approx. 1000 MT 01 No.
7.	For Verka Ferozpur Dairy Unusable material & plant machinery scrap.	-
8.	For Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy a) Supply of rice husk b) Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of fully automatic SCADA based CIP System.	2000 MT 01 No.
9.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy Providing:- • Labour through service provider who is having EPF/ESI No. • Labour Providing License. • Security Personnel	As per requirement
10.	For Verka Mega Dairy, Bassi Pathana Hiring of Service Contract for packing of Tetra Pak Products.	Annual

**NOTE:**  
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop) & e Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in).  
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

Incharge (Purchase)

# 'India expected to grow at 6.3 per cent in FY24'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic growth is expected at 6.3 per cent during 2023-24 on the back of good health of the financial sector and uptick in private investment even as downside risks remain, said a survey by industry body Ficci unveiled on Monday.

The latest round of Ficci's Annual Outlook Survey pegs annual median gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2023-24 at 6.3 per cent - with a minimum and maximum growth estimate of 6 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, the chamber stated.

The median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activities has been put at 2.7 per cent for 2023-24. This marks a moderation vis-a-vis growth of about 4 per cent reported in 2022-23. The El Nino effect has had an impact on the spatial distribution of rainfall this monsoon. Industry and services sector, on the other hand, are anticipated to grow 5.6 per cent and 7.3 per cent, respectively in current fiscal year, the survey shows.

Ficci said the survey was conducted in September 2023 and drew responses from lead-



ing economists representing industry, banking and financial services sector. "Persisting headwinds on account of geopolitical stress, slowing growth in China, lagged impact of monetary tightening and below normal monsoons pose downside risks to growth," it said. According to survey results, median GDP growth is estimated to slow down to 6.1 per cent and 6 per cent in Q2 2023-24 and Q3 2023-24, respectively - after posting a four-quarter high growth of 7.8 per cent in Q1 2023-24. Further, the chamber said

the median forecast for CPI based inflation has been put at 5.5 per cent for 2023-24, with a minimum and maximum range of 5.3 per cent and 5.7 per cent, respectively. The survey participants opined that the course of inflation remains uncertain. "There was an unanimous view among the participants that global growth is poised to slow in the current year vis-a-vis 2022, and this trend is expected to continue in the year 2024 as well," Ficci said, and added significant downside risks continue to remain on fore that could hamper the momen-

tum in recovery.

Back home, the survey said though India's economic performance has remained relatively steady amid recent challenges, the country has not been unscathed from the external shocks. Weak external demand is already reflecting in India's merchandise exports performance and is expected to be a drag on domestic growth, it added.

"Nonetheless, growth in India is expected to hold ground on the back of good health of the financial sector, robust urban demand, uptick in private investment as a result of government's front-loading of capex, pick up in real estate/construction sector and the forthcoming festive season," the survey said.

It further said Reserve Bank's policy repo rate is expected to remain unchanged until the end of current financial year. The latest survey results forecast repo rate at 6.5 per cent as at March-end 2024.

Economists were of the view that a cut in the repo rate is expected only by the end of the first quarter or second quarter of next fiscal year 2024-25, Ficci added.

# Experts see WPI inflation rising in second half this fiscal

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India is likely to rise in the second half of the ongoing fiscal and a prolonged deflationary trend could impact growth, experts said on Monday.

Wholesale inflation remained in the negative territory for the sixth straight month in September at (-) 0.26 per cent on easing prices of food items, especially vegetables.

Deflation in WPI in September is primarily due to the fall in prices of chemicals and chemical products, mineral oils, textiles, basic metals, and food products as compared to the year-ago period, the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

"In September, the WPI exhibited its sixth consecutive month of contraction, with a decline of 0.3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), lower than the previous month's contraction of 0.5 per cent," CareEdge Chief Economist Rajani Sinha said.

"The continued contraction in WPI can be attributed to the deceleration in food prices, as well as the ongoing decline in fuel and manufactured product prices," Sinha said.

She suggested that while the fading impact of a high base may lead to a "slight increase" in WPI in the second half of the fiscal year, the overall WPI inflation is expected to remain low.

Elevated global crude oil prices and potential risks to kharif harvest due to uneven rainfall also pose upside risks to WPI inflation, Sinha said.

Abhirup Sarkar, an economist and professor at the Indian Institute of Statistics, told PTI that while the decrease in fuel prices is positive news, geopolitical conflicts in Russia and the Middle East could lead to an increase in international oil prices, affecting wholesale price inflation in India.

He said although wholesale food prices have seen a decline, it may take time for this to be reflected in retail prices, as it depends on traders



and their ability to pass on the price reduction to consumers.

Sarkar cautioned that prolonged deflation in WPI can have a negative impact on the economy, indicating lack of demand and potentially slowing down growth.

The WPI-based inflation rate has been in the negative zone since April and was (-) 0.52 per cent in August.

In September last year, it was 10.55 per cent. Inflation in food articles eased to 3.35 per cent in September, after remaining in double digits in the previous two months. It was 10.60 per cent in August.

"Deflation in September 2023 is primarily due to fall in prices of chemical and chemical products, mineral oils, textiles, basic metals and food products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

Fuel and power basket inflation was at (-) 3.35 per cent in September, against (-) 0.63 per cent in August. In manufactured products, inflation rate was (-) 1.34 per cent, as against (-) 2.37 per cent in August.

Data released last week showed that the annual retail, or consumer price inflation, was at 5.02 per cent in September, which was a three-month low.



# JK Paper to acquire Manipal Utility Packaging Solutions for ₹90 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

JK Paper Ltd on Monday said it will fully acquire Manipal Utility Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd for nearly Rs 90 crore.

The company has entered into a share purchase agreement (SPA) for the acquisition of 100 per cent shares of Manipal Utility Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd (MUPSPL), JK Paper said in a regulatory filing.

Under the SPA, JK Paper will acquire 4.07 crore equity shares representing 100 per cent of capital of MUPSPL at Rs 21.80 per equity share of Rs 10 each, subject to adjustments as per terms of agreement, it added.

The acquisition is expected to be completed within six weeks of execution of the SPA with the target entity and its promoters/shareholders, subject to fulfilment of conditions mentioned in the SPA, the company said.

JK Paper Vice Chairman and Managing Director Harsh Pati Singhania said, "This acquisition is in line with the long-term strategic objective of the company in the packaging business and gives us an opportunity to offer combined solution to the customers with respect to secondary and tertiary packaging, improve operational efficiencies and ensure that MUPSPL grows and adds value to stakeholders."

MUPSPL is engaged in the business of manufacturing packaging products like folding cartons, corrugated boxes and labels with four manufacturing plants across India. It had a revenue of Rs 147.77 crore in FY 2022-23, the company said.

Packaging business is amongst the fastest growing segments in the Indian paper and packaging industry driven by growth in end use industries such as food and beverage, and FMCG, it added.



# Markets fall for 3rd day on weak global equities

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices ended lower on Monday, falling for the third day running, amid weak trends in global markets and spike in Brent crude oil prices due to geopolitical tension in the Middle East.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 115.81 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 66,166.93. During the day, it fell 243.36 points or 0.36 per cent to 66,039.38. The Nifty slipped 19,30 points or 0.10 per cent to 19,731.75.

From the Sensex pack, Nestle, Tata Consultancy Services, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Hindustan Unilever were among the major laggards.

Tata Steel, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, Power Grid and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the gainers.

"Markets continued to witness range-bound trend with a negative bias amid weak Asian cues as selective profit-taking was seen in banking, realty and IT stocks, whereas buying in metal, auto and consumer durable stocks helped markets curb losses.

"Investors are trading cautiously in an uncertain global environment as ongoing Israel-

Palestine conflict coupled with weak overseas fundamentals and persistent FII selling have dampened sentiment," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.34 per cent and midcap index gained 0.25 per cent.

Among the indices, telecommunication fell by 0.74 per cent, realty (0.39 per cent), teck (0.32 per cent), FMCG (0.28 per cent), services (0.17 per cent), bankex (0.11 per cent) and IT (0.10 per cent).

Commodities, consumer discretionary, energy, industrials, auto and metal were among the gainers.

"Persistent geopolitical tensions continue to weigh down the sentiment on equity, yet the mid and smallcap index witnessed bargain hunting ahead of festival-driven demand and optimistic Q2 results. If oil price moves higher in a sustained manner, it may elevate yields and operation cost, potentially straining margins in H2 FY24," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading mostly in the negative territory. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Friday.

# Sidbi announces growth accelerator programme for small NBFCs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

National development bank Sidbi on Monday announced a growth accelerator programme for small NBFCs to help them become eligible for bank funding.

Under the initiative, being carried out in association with the global alliance for mass entrepreneurship and national NBFC lobby FIDC (Finance Industry Development Council), it has onboarded 18 small NBFCs as the first cohort of the programme.

The five-month-long programme is designed to scale small NBFCs (Non Banking Financial Company) through design interventions, enabling them to apply for institutional funding based on holistic evaluation parameters, Sidbi chairman & managing director Sivasubramanian Ramann told reporters here.

The programme includes mentorship from domain experts on risk, operations, governance, and technology and is structured to encourage and facilitate peer learning, reviews and networking through a blend of in-person, virtual and individualised sessions, Umesh Revankar, FIDC chairman and executive vice-chairman of Shriram Finance, said.

Of the nearly 80 million small businesses, only 15 per cent get access to formal credit, showing the large addressable market for MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise) funding, Ramann said.

Further, he said in the past three years, Sidbi's lending to MSMEs doubled to cross the Rs

50,000 crore-mark, while the system wide MSME loan book is Rs 25 lakh crore, which is slated to double over the next three years. Of the present MSME book, only 28 per cent are met by NBFCs.

The objective of the programme is to design a replicable model to enable MSME-focused NBFCs to become eligible for formal funding and future-ready, Ravi Venkatesan, founder of the global alliance for mass entrepreneurship, said.

When asked how much Sidbi will be lending to NBFCs under the initiative, Ramann said that there is no target or cap. All depends on how many of them clear the programme.

The programme will enhance the fund flow for the MSME sector by enabling NBFCs to get institutional funding. In this cohort, the participating 18 NBFCs will benefit significantly from specific advice, informal interactions with peers, structured reviews and evaluation.

We have built in the process to ensure that participants demonstrate action to be eligible for continuing to the next stage and mentors endorse and support them ensuring accountability, he said, adding that over the next three years, the plan is to prepare 100 non-banks future-ready.



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# Coal India's fuel supply to thermal power plants rises 6 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Coal India on Monday said its supply of fossil fuel to the country's coal-fired electricity generating units increased by six per cent to 23.5 million tonnes in the first half of October, ahead of the festive season.

The supply was increased amid a sudden rise in power demand even as unseasonal rains hit the operations in coal bearing areas of Coal India's arms based in the eastern part of the nation.

Chattishgarh-based South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) also bore the brunt of the inclement weather, it said.

Coal supply to thermal power plants stood at 22.2 million tonnes during the same period of the last financial year.

"Coal India's (CIL) supplies to thermal power plants of the country shot up close to six per cent to 23.5 million tonnes



(MTs) during the first fortnight of October 2023... Comparatively the supplies were 22.2 MTs in the same period of October 2022," the public sector coal producer said in a statement.

The overall supply of dry fuel by CIL to the country's coal-fired plants was nearly 319 MT till October 15 of the ongoing fiscal, which was 12 MT higher in volume terms compared to 307 MTs supplied during the corresponding period of FY23.

"On a cumulative basis CIL's targeted commitment was 316 MT to power sector till 15th October FY 2024, against which the company's supplies were ahead by 3 MTs at 319 MTs. CIL is confident of meeting the tasked target to the power sector," it said.

Coal is the largest source of electricity in the country and CIL produces over 80 per cent of the fuel in India.

"CIL's supplies to all consuming sectors were 389.3 MT during the referred period posting nine per cent growth compared to 356.6 MT of same period last fiscal year," it said.

"With no letup in the output tempo, CIL's progressive production of 360 MTs till 15th October FY 2024 has logged a robust 11.6 per cent year-on-year growth with 37.6 MT expansion in volume terms. This growth is again higher than the fiscal's asking rate of around 11 per cent," the company said.

"The four per cent growth recorded during this period is at par with current year's annual asking growth rate to power plants," it said.

CIL was given a projection of 610 MT supply to the country's power plants for the ongoing fiscal, which is four per cent more than what it supplied to this sector in FY23.

The 'maharatna' firm expects its supplies to exceed the target.

# Delta Corp shares plunge

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Delta Corp plunged nearly 9 per cent on Monday after the company received a GST notice for short payment of tax to the tune of Rs 6,384 crore.

The stock tanked 8.79 per cent to settle at Rs 127.70 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it fell 11 per cent to Rs 124.60 — its 52-week low. On the NSE, it plummeted 8.17 per cent to end at Rs 128.55 per piece.

On the volume front, 28.26 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 2.93 crore shares were traded on the NSE during the day.

In another blow to the company, Delta Corp has received a GST notice for short payment of tax to the tune of Rs 6,384 crore, taking the over-



all tax demand on the firm to over Rs 23,000 crore.

The company said that the tax demands are arbitrary and contrary to law, and added it will challenge them. DGGI (Directorate General of GST Intelligence) Kolkata on October 13, 2023 has served an intimation notice on Deltatech Gaming, a subsidiary of Delta Corp, seeking GST of Rs 6,236.8 crore for the period January 2018 to November 2022, the company said in a filing on Saturday.

For the period July 2017 to October 2022, another demand worth Rs 147.5 crore has been served, it said.



# Petrol, diesel sales fall ahead of start of festive season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel sales fell in the first half of October ahead of the start of festival season that is expected to boost consumption, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed.

Last year, Durga Puja/Dussehra as well as Diwali fell in October. This year the festival season, when consumption picks up, starts in the second half of October.

Petrol sales by three state-owned fuel retailers fell 9 per cent year-on-year, the first drop in two months. Diesel consumption dropped 3.2 per cent.

The decline was largely because of the larger base of last year.

Petrol sales dropped to 1.17 million tonnes during the first half of October from 1.29 million tonnes a year back.

Sales dropped 9 per cent month-on-month as well.

Consumption of diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country — accounting for about two-fifths of the demand, dropped to 2.99 million tonnes during October 1 to 15 from 3.09 million tonnes a year back. Month-on-month sales were, however, up 9.6 per cent when compared with 2.73 million tonnes in the first half of September.

Diesel sales typically fall in monsoon months as rains lower

demand in the agriculture sector which uses the fuel for irrigation, harvesting and transportation. Also, rains slow vehicular movements. This had led to a fall in diesel consumption in the last three months. And once the monsoon ended, consumption has risen month-on-month.

Consumption of diesel had soared 6.7 per cent and 9.3 per cent in April and May, respectively, as agriculture demand picked up and cars yanked up air-conditioning to beat the summer heat. It started to taper in the second half of June after the monsoon set in. It has continued to fall since.

Suppliers' group OPEC sees India's oil demand expanding on average by 2,20,000 barrels per day on the back of vigorous economic growth.

Consumption of petrol during October 1-15 was 12 per cent more than in the COVID-marred October 2021 and 21.7 per cent more than in pre-pandemic October 2019.

Diesel consumption was up 23.4 per cent over October 1-15 in 2021 and 23.1 per cent compared to October 2019.

With the continuing rise in passenger traffic at airports, jet fuel (ATF) demand rose 5.7 per cent to 2,95,200 tonnes during first fortnight of October against the same period last year.

# NDDB Dairy Services' semen station in Maharashtra emerges top in quality parameters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NDDB Dairy Services-owned Rahuri Semen Station in Maharashtra has got highest mark among 55 such facilities across India in an audit report submitted by the government-constituted Central Monitoring Unit.

National Dairy Development Board's (NDDB) arm NDS said in a statement that Rahuri Semen Station has emerged first on parameters ranging from quality, animal genetics to health and safety protocols.

NDS is NDDB Dairy Services. Earlier this month, NDS said that the CMU has submitted a technical audit report of 55 semen stations across the country for 2022-23 to the Union government's Depart-



ment of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development.

In the audit report, Rahuri station was given a mark of 97 followed by 95 for Animal Breeding Centre Salon, a NDS station, in Uttar Pradesh.

The CMU report accorded a total of nine semen stations a score of 90 and above under Grade A.

The other seven include the two NDS stations — Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala, Bidaj in Gujarat and Alamadhi

Semen station in Tamil Nadu.

NDDB Chairman Meenesh Shah, who is also the Chairman of NDS, said "credit to this goes to the dedication of the teams of veterinary experts and scientists who are working for enhancing the productivity of the milch animals and propagation of the genetics of the indigenous breeds".

The semen stations run by NDS adhere strictly to the quality protocols and have in-place stringent bio-security measures

to produce disease-free semen, he said.

NDS functions as a delivery arm of NDDB for field operations relating to promoting Farmer Producer Organisations and Productivity Enhancement Services. This includes supply of high genetic merit semen doses, Artificial Insemination Delivery Services, Embryo Transfer Services, Animal Nutrition Services and induction and supply of high genetic merit live animals under the brand 'SAG Live'.

NDS stations have close to 1,800 high genetic merit bulls of 35 breeds and together sold over 5.2 crore semen doses during the evaluation period 2022-23. These stations are also actively involved in In vivo and Invitro embryo production and transfers.

# LIONEL MESSI REMAINS A DOUBTFUL STARTER

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Lionel Messi's involvement in a 1-0 win over Paraguay last week doesn't necessarily mean he'll be fit for Argentina's next game in World Cup qualifying against Peru.

Messi played most of the second half against Paraguay last Thursday despite struggling with muscular pains in the weeks leading up to the game.

But there's no certainty he'll play against Peru on Tuesday despite practicing with the squad.

Meanwhile in Brazil, Neymar is under fire for his lackluster performance in a 1-1 draw against Venezuela last week that ended with some fans throwing popcorn at the Arena Pantanal in Cuiabá. He will have a tough challenge at Uruguay to show he is back in form.

The next World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada is expanding to a 48-team format, meaning direct entry to the top six teams in South America. The seventh-place team will contest an intercontinental playoff for a berth.

World Cup winner Argentina leads continental qualifying with 9 points, followed by Brazil (7), Colombia (5), Uruguay, Chile and Venezuela (4), Ecuador (3), Paraguay and Peru (1), and Bolivia (0).

The fourth match day in South American qualifying also features Ecuador against Colombia, Paraguay against Bolivia and Venezuela taking on Chile.

## PERU vs. ARGENTINA

Argentina's practice on Sunday didn't show whether the 36-year-old Messi will play against Peru. He took part of the morning session at his national team's training ground, but has



recently felt muscular pains in his right leg that have sidelined him for several MLS matches for his club, Inter Miami.

If Messi plays at Peru, coach Lionel Scaloni might have to remove either Julián Alvarez or Lautaro Martinez from the lineup that beat Paraguay. Keeping the captain in the starting lineup will likely mean Argentina playing Nico Gonzalez again in Lima.

Messi substituted Julián Alvarez in the 52nd minute

against Paraguay, when Argentina was already in the lead. He hit the post twice, but had a low key performance overall at the Monumental de Nuñez Stadium in Buenos Aires.

Peru has lost its latest two qualifying matches in South American qualifying. The squad arrived in silence shortly before dawn so no fans could be at the airport protesting after its 2-0 loss at Chile. Players and coach Juan Reynoso know they will face a much tougher challenge

against the World Cup champion.

"May this defeat today suit us for what is coming," Reynoso said in a news conference after the match in Santiago. "You don't qualify by playing beautiful soccer, you do it by playing well. For us to do that, we need to be a chameleon team that adapts to various circumstances."

## URUGUAY vs. BRAZIL

Brazil fans were frustrated with the draw against Venezuela,

a team that has never qualified to a World Cup. The 31-year-old Neymar was the team's most criticized player after that encounter because of several missed passes and floppy finishes.

The Al-Hilal striker was filmed leaving the pitch in anger as some fans threw popcorn at him. Brazil's soccer tradition calls "pipoqueiro" (popcorn man) the players who fail to deliver in big matches. He is likely to face Uruguay at the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo on Tuesday.

Neymar is Brazil's all-time top goal scorer with 79 goals in official matches.

Brazil's new coach Fernando Diniz, who was also criticized after the draw with Venezuela, is likely to make three changes for the next round of qualifying.

Right-back Danilo is injured, and is set to be replaced by Yan Couto. Left-back Guilherme Arana is expected to be replaced with the 24-year-old Carlos Augusto, who will make his national team debut. And striker Richarlison, on a six-match goal drought for the national team, could lose his position to Gabriel Jesus.

Uruguay has not beaten Brazil in World Cup qualifying since 2001. Captain Federico Valverde is optimistic about the match after a 2-2 draw at Colombia. He said he and Real Madrid teammates Vinicius Júnior and Rodrygo of Brazil have spent weeks talking about the encounter.

"We could have gotten a better result, but at least we returned with one point, which always suits us," Valverde said of the draw. Uruguay has been coached by Argentine Marcelo Bielsa since the start of South American qualifying.



# Gavi goal against Norway, secures 1-0 win

AP ■ LONDON

Gavi's winning goal for Spain against Norway in a European Championship qualifier on Sunday will likely have been cheered as wildly in Glasgow as it was in Madrid.

The Barcelona midfielder's strike at Ullevaal Stadium in Oslo secured a 1-0 win that means both Spain and Scotland have qualified for Euro 2024.

Gavi's goal came in the 49th minute and ensured the three-time European champions will be at next year's tournament in Germany when they will be among the favorites to lift the trophy for the first time since 2012.

Scotland might not harbor realistic ambitions of winning Euro 2024, but it has arguably exceeded expectations by qualifying from Group A. Indeed, until losing to Spain on Thursday, the Scots had made a 100% start to qualifying.

Scotland has now qualified for back-to-back Euros, having

failed to reach the finals from 2000-2016. In Germany it will be aiming to advance from the group stages for the first time in its history.

Turkey also qualified with a 4-0 win against Latvia at the Konya Metropolitan Municipality Stadium, while Croatia made it back-to-back losses in Group D after a surprise 2-1 defeat to Wales.

## CROATIA STRUGGLES

Less than a year after a third-place finish at the World Cup in Qatar, Croatia is making hard work of qualification for the European Championship.

The Croats went into this latest batch of qualifiers atop Group D, with the chance to put daylight between them and Turkey. But a 1-0 loss to Turkey on Thursday has now been followed by defeat to Wales.

Even with stars like Luka Modric, Josko Gvardiol and Marcelo Brozovic in the team, Croatia was trailing 2-0 to goals from Harry Wilson in each

half. Mario Pasalic halved the deficit, but it wasn't enough to spark a comeback. Wales moved up to second in the group ahead of Croatia in third, with both teams on 10 points.

Yunus Akgun set Turkey on course for victory against Latvia, with substitute Cenk Tosun scoring two and Kerem Akturkoglu also grabbing a goal.

## ALBANIA WAITS

Four teams are separated by four points in Group E as results on Sunday meant Albania was left waiting to seal qualification. Czech Republic's 1-0 win against Faroe Islands leaves it two points behind leader Albania in second place.

Poland drew 1-1 with Moldova to leave those teams three points and four points off the top respectively.

Romania is top of Group I after a 4-0 win against Andorra - ahead of second-place Switzerland, which needed goals in the 89th and 90th minutes to draw 3-3 with Belarus.



# Spain coach De la Fuente able to silence doubters

AP ■ MADRID

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente has found a way to turn the doubters into supporters.

Nearly a year after he was appointed amid a wave of skepticism, De la Fuente now has widespread backing at the helm of La Roja, having turned Spain into a contender again and comfortably securing the team a spot in the 2024 European Championship.

Spain qualified for next year's tournament in Germany on Sunday with a 1-0 win at Norway — the team's sixth straight triumph since a loss at Scotland in March had left De la Fuente under pressure just two games into his stint.

"We are always learning," De la Fuente said. "At that moment the analysis was different than it is now. We've just reached an important objective and we have to keep working and learning. We recognize what was done well, but we know there are still things to improve."

The 62-year-old De la Fuente replaced Luis Enrique after the team's loss to Morocco in the round of 16 of the World Cup in Qatar. He was then relatively unknown in Spain after spending years coaching the nation's youth squads.

His first match in charge was a home win in a qualifier against Norway in which Spain struggled from the start, and the subsequent loss to Scotland put

De la Fuente on the hot seat early on. Many didn't think he had the experience to take charge of the national team at the time.

But after the slow start, De la Fuente also helped Spain win the Nations League with victories over Italy in the semifinals and Croatia in a penalty shootout in the final. Spain then routed Georgia 7-1 and Cyprus 6-0 in qualifiers, and defeated Scotland 2-0 at home last week before securing its spot at Euro 2024 against Erling Haaland's Norway on Sunday.

"I'm happy with the work that we've done," De la Fuente said. "When you achieve something like this, things must have been done right. But in soccer one day you are up and the other you are down again, so we have to stay balanced. I'm happy now, but I also stayed composed in the tougher moments."

De la Fuente put Spain back on track in part by betting on the talent of some younger players. He kept players like Gavi, Ansu Fati and Pedri - who played at the World Cup - and brought in others such as 16-year-old Lamine Yamal, the Barcelona sensation.

His experience with the nation's youth squads proved important, and he now has his job secured for a while.

"We have a team for the future, it's what I'm most excited about," he said. "We worked hard to be where we are and we deserve it."

# Tom Kim wins PGA Tour, 2nd time in the same season



AP ■ LAS VEGAS

Tom Kim now has something in common with Byron Nelson as the only players to have won the same PGA Tour event twice in the same season.

Kim successfully defended his title Sunday in the Shriners Children's Open when he closed with a 5-under 66 to emerge from a pack of a dozen players who had a chance in the final hour. Kim wound up winning by one shot over Adam Hadwin, who birdied the final hole for a 67.

Kim now has three PGA Tour titles in the last 15 months, at 21 the youngest player since Tiger Woods in 1997 to have three tour wins.

"I really felt confident in myself," Kim said. "I knew that if I did me I was going to be able to do it. I'm stoked to get this one."

He won in Las Vegas a year ago, beating Patrick Cantlay in a play-

off at the TPC Summerlin, when the Shriners Children's Open was early in the season. Now, the Las Vegas event is still part of the same season because the PGA Tour goes to a calendar season starting in 2024.

Nelson won the San Francisco Open in January 1944, and the same tournament in December of 1944, both times at Harding Park. This one was up for grabs until Kim seized control on the par-5 16th.

With an hour left in the tournament, there was a six-way tie for the lead and 12 players were separated by a single shot. The key stretch at the TPC Summerlin was holes No. 13 through No. 16, which ranked as four of the five easiest holes in the final round.

Taylor Pendrith was tied for the lead with a birdie on the 13th, but had to settle for pars the rest of that stretch. K.H. Lee made all pars.

Then, it became a two-man

race between Kim and Hadwin, playing in the final group with Kim holding a one-shot advantage.

Both birdied the 13th, Hadwin with a 35-foot birdie putt that rimmed all the way around the cup before dropping. Both birdied the reachable par-4 15th, Kim with a tough up-and-down and birdie putt from 12 feet, Hadwin narrowly missing a 25-foot eagle attempt.

It turned on the par-5 16th. Kim hit to the fat of the green in two, 50 feet away for eagle. Hadwin knew he missed his shot right after contact and it came up well short and into the water. Hadwin missed a 6-foot par putt after his penalty drop, and Kim three-putted - he had to make a 5-footer on his third one - for par.

"I completely whiffed it, up and out of it, and unfortunately one of my worst swings of the day at the least opportune time," Hadwin said.

"I feel like you dump it in the water there on 16, and I certainly by no means gave the tournament, but I would have liked to have hit a more quality golf shot and put a little bit more pressure on Tom coming down the stretch."

That gave Kim a two-shot lead with two to play, and he closed with solid pars. Kim finished at 20-under 264.

Eric Cole boosted his bid to be PGA Tour rookie of the year by closing with a 62 to finish two behind, along with Alex Noren (65), J.T. Poston (66) and Pendrith (67). Pendrith came into Las Vegas at No. 123 in the FedEx Cup and was projected to move to No. 90, all but assuring a full card for 2024.

Ludvig Aberg, who made his Ryder Cup debut two weeks ago, also shot 62 and tied for 13th. Kim, born in South Korea and raised primarily in Australia, won for the first time in 2023. He had a hot run last summer that included victories in the Wyndham Championship and in Las Vegas, followed by a dynamic debut in the Presidents Cup.

But he said he felt the pressure to live up to the expectations, and it turned this year into a grind. He was a distant runner-up in the British Open, though he injured his ankle during the week that kept him from defending his title in the Wyndham Championship.

"It's been a grind trying to figure it out," Kim said. "My first full season, trying to live up to expectations of a great year. It's been humbling sometimes."

The victory moves Kim to No. 11 in the world ranking.

Isaiah Salinda, who got into Las Vegas as a Monday qualifier, had a 63-67 weekend and tied for seventh, which gets him into the next full PGA Tour event Nov.



# Brooks Koepka defends LIV Golf title

AP ■ KING ABDULLAH ECONOMIC CITY (SAUDI ARABIA)

Brooks Koepka held it together at the end for a 2-Bunder 68 and defended his title at LIV Golf-Jeddah with a birdie on the second playoff hole to beat Talor Gooch on a day when both had reason to celebrate.

Koepka had to birdie two of his last three holes to finish at 14-under 196 and tie with Gooch, who closed with a 62. With his playoff loss, Gooch moved past Cameron Smith and won the season points title and the \$18 million bonus.

Koepka not only won \$4 million from the tournament, his victory bumped Bryson DeChambeau out of the top three in the season standings. Koepka picked up an additional \$4 million for finishing third in the points race.

DeChambeau fell back Sunday with a 70. Smith had a 66 and tied for 24th.

The LIV Golf League wraps up its second season next week at Doral in South Florida with the team championship.

Koepka ends his year with two LIV Golf titles, along with his fifth major at the PGA Championship.

# Rod Pamplung ends a marathon day at SAS

AP ■ CARY (NORTH CAROLINA)

Rod Pamplung of Australia had to play 33 holes Sunday in the rain-delayed SAS Championship and it was worth every step when he finished off a 68 and then closed with a 5-under 67 for his second career PGA Tour Champions title.

The SAS Championship was the final tournament before the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs begin for the top 72 players. Pamplung's victory moved him up 13 spots to No. 17. David Duval shot 71 and tied for

11th, just enough for him to move up seven spots and finish at No. 71 in the Schwab Cup to qualify for the post-season.

Pamplung finished with a bogey for a two-shot victory over Steven Alker, who moved up to No. 2 in the standings behind Steve Stricker.

The Australian finished off 15 holes of the second round in the morning with back-to-back birdies, and then he played bogey-free in the final round until the end, when it only affected his margin of victory. "I just walked as slow as I could,"



Pamplung said. "It was a long day. We knew what we were going to be in for. Just eat the food, take your time. Thankfully, it wasn't too quick out there."

Pamplung had a one-shot lead over Alker, Paul Broadhurst and Vijay Singh when the second round was finished. Singh and Broadhurst fell back early in the final round, and Pamplung had three birdies in a four-hole stretch around the turn to seize control.

"We've been working hard," Pamplung said. "We got rid of our bad

stuff about a month-and-a-half ago. Been closer and closer and this week it was just a great ball-striking week, putting well, everything. It's a great feeling to win again."

Ernie Els had a 68 and tied for third with Mario Tiziani, who closed with a 65.

Tiziani, the brother-in-law of Stricker, split time this year playing on the PGA Tour Champions, managing his wife's brother and occasionally caddying for Stricker. He made it to the postseason for the second straight year.



# Zampa bags four wickets against Sri Lanka

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa roared back to form with a four-wicket haul as Australia bowled out Sri Lanka for 209 in the World Cup here on Monday.

An out-of-form Kusal Perera (78) got some much-needed runs while Pathum Nissanka struck 61 for his second consecutive fifty.

Australia benefitted from the timely return to form of Zampa, who had been having an awful tournament. The wrist spinner enjoyed an excellent outing to help bundle out Sri Lanka in 43.3 overs.

Looking on course for a 300-plus score, the 1996 winners faced a bizarre batting collapse and went from 125 for no loss to 209 all out.

There were lots going on in the field as Mitchell Starc aborted his delivery stride thrice to warn Perera to not leave his crease early on at the non-striker's end.

Perera was also struck in the head by a Marcus Stoinis bouncer which caught the Sri Lankan off guard.

But the experienced southpaw didn't let the blow deter him and went on to send Stoinis' slower cutter down the ground to bring up his fifty.

With both openers piling on the runs, the Australian bowlers looked clueless. But skip-



per Pat Cummins kept shuffling his bowlers in search of that first breakthrough.

Cummins, who has been far from his best with the ball, stood up at the opportune moment to give Australia the breakthrough they needed.

Cummins cramped Nissanka for room and the Sri Lankan hit it high and in front of square only for David Warner to run and complete a stunning catch.

Cummins bowled a peach of a delivery five overs later to clean up the other set batter in Perera, who picked the wrong line to swing his bat.

The dismissal marked the beginning of Australia's dominance as the Sri Lanka batting unravelled and the five-time champions grew in confidence.

Zampa got rid of the in-form Kusal Mendis. But the wicket belonged to Warner who ran across from deep midwicket, covering about 25ms to complete a spectacular diving catch.

Sadeera Samarawickrama, Chamika Karunaratne and Maheesh Theekshana were Zampa's other victims with Mitchell Starc pitching in with two wickets.

Apart from the openers and Charith Asalanka's 25, no other Sri Lankan batter reached double digits.



# Cricket is included in 2028 Olympics

PTI ■ BENGALURU

For long, cricket remained a statistical global sport sans a true global footing. A solid fan base of 2.5 billion and an ever-swelling TV revenue formed its axis to be labelled as a sport with a worldwide appeal, second only to football.

However, in reality, all of it is parked in the Commonwealth countries and even among them India alone helm around 70 percent, if not more, of those numbers.

But now, all this could change as cricket, in its T20 avatar, has made its re-entry into the Olympic fold through the 2028 edition at Los Angeles, and it is a mutually beneficial association from sporting and commercial angles.

From a sporting perspective, the Olympics provides an unmatched platform for cricket, perhaps even bigger than a World Cup.

Standing on the podium wearing an Olympic medal around the neck is an unmatched feeling for any sportsperson, as it is a reverentially warm handshake with history that dates back to 1896.

"It is an excellent piece of news for cricket to be part of the Olympics. It will certainly add to the global image of cricket," says Keith Joseph, president of the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC), who gave a strong backing to ICC's efforts to get cricket included in the LA Olympics.

"T20 provides an excellent platform too in terms of duration and connection with younger audiences. That USA will be co-hosting the T20 World Cup in 2024 will also work as a very good precursor to cricket ahead of the Olympics," he points out.

However, expecting cricket to match the universal appeal of football, something the sport always cherished, just because of an Olympic appearance is quite naive.

Sample this: The ICC men's T20 ranking list features 87 nations in the men's section and 66 in the women's segment. But the FIFA ranking list touches 207 men's teams and 186 women's outfits, the numbers reveal the vast gulf between the two sports.

Of course, this is not to deny that the T20 format has helped cricket to reach some hitherto

unexplored corners of Africa, Europe and Latin America.

"Yes, it is a good first step to take cricket to a global audience. As the USA is a big market and there is a strong presence of sub-continent crowd. But as of now, it has been included only in Los Angeles, and hopefully it will figure in Brisbane as well (in 2032).

"It is important because Australia is a traditional cricketing nation, and being able to play there will be a big boost to the sport. It may even open doors to cricket being a permanent Olympic sport," opines a veteran BCCI administrator.

However, cricket had to leap over several self-imposed hurdles to make its return to the Olympics.

Both the officials and players did not want to follow several clauses, especially the one pertaining to their whereabouts that is mandatory for random dope testing, laid out by the IOC, IOA, WADA etc.

England, the champion side when cricket was last staged in the Olympics in 1900, was another country which was initially reluctant to take this plunge.

"Yes, there were some difficulties in reaching an understanding for some time over certain issues such as the whereabouts clause.

"However, most importantly, the BCCI and ICC and few other boards have found a common ground to take cricket to a global stage," said the administrator.

Beyond the sporting field, the IOA also might have thought about the crowd-pulling power of cricket, especially in the USA, a country with a large Asian diaspora.

An industry insider, whom PTI contacted, said the million eyeballs that cricket ensures will have a massive influence on the purchase of broadcasting rights of the LA Olympics.

"It is great news (cricket in Olympics) if you are a businessperson. America has a large section of Asian expats, who are crazy about cricket and they will fill the stadium and of course will follow the game on TV or streaming apps.

"Since cricket is in LA, our estimate is that the selling price of broadcasting rights might see at least a 20-30 percent jump from the existing one, which is huge for a single edition," the expert said.

# South Africa looks strong against Netherlands



PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

South Africa are making quite a statement at the World Cup, playing entertaining cricket and plundering tons of runs as they steamroll rival teams.

As the Proteas take on the Netherlands in this hilly paradise on Tuesday, the perennial under-performers and 'chokers' have shown in the last two games their determination to go the distance in the tournament.

Their 102-run win against Sri Lanka in the opener in New Delhi after putting a record 428/5 on the board, followed by 134-run victory against five-time champions Australia in Lucknow, have made South Africa the team to beat in the competition.

From staying under the radar in the lead-up to the ODI showcase to becoming high-flyers, the Proteas have started playing to potential and will be firm favourites against the Dutch.

Unlike the Australian and England cricket teams, whose

patchy performance so far has left a lot to be desired, the South Africans have come out with full combat capabilities - with the likes of wicket-keeping stalwart Quinton de Kock, top-order batter Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram making a massive impact here.

The trio smashed a century each against Sri Lanka to pile up a mountain of runs with Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller playing useful cameos in the 428-run total. Though their bowlers did take a beating from the Sri Lankans, they hit back with full force against the Australians in the next match.

A second consecutive century by De Kock and a massively improved performance from tall pace bowler Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada floored Pat Cummins' side.

The 177-run loss for the five-time champions following the humiliating loss to India in the opener has put the Kangaroos on the mat.

The Proteas would look to attack with even more firepow-

er against the Netherlands, a side that has very few recognisable faces in mainstream cricket. But they have posed a challenge occasionally, like the huge upset they made during the 2009 T20 World Cup, defeating England at Lord's.

Last year, the Dutch eliminated the Proteas, handing them a shocking 13-run defeat in the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

The Scott Edwards-led side will certainly take inspiration from that victory, though T20 and 50-over formats are like chalk and cheese.

But, on a cricket field, where miracles happen, the Dutch would want to aim for a victory for the ages after seeing Afghanistan overrun defending champions England on Sunday night in New Delhi.

# England have to show resilience: Buttler

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

England will have to play some of their "best cricket" to come out of the hole they find themselves in following their shock defeat to Afghanistan in the ODI World Cup.

England suffered a shock 69-run defeat to the Hashmatullah Shahidi-led side with the defending champions faltering in their chase of the 285-run target at the Ferozeshah Kotla on Sunday. The win was Afghanistan's second-ever in a World Cup match and lifted them to sixth position on the points table behind England.

On whether it was premature to say that England's World Cup defence was under threat, Buttler, whose team is yet to face India, Australia and South Africa, said, "Yeah. As I mentioned just before, it's not been the way we wanted to start the competition, but this is the situation we find ourselves in and we're going to have to play some of our best cricket moving forward."

The skipper said he had full faith in his team to pull through this crisis. "Yeah, it's a big setback obviously. Before the tournament starts you have a different idea of how the first three games would pan out. We've got to show a lot of character, a lot of resilience within the team and most of all a lot of belief.

There was a lot of excellent players in there and we haven't played well enough today but we must keep that belief," said Buttler.

Afghanistan were helped on their way to their second-highest World Cup total by a fine 80-run innings from Rahmanullah Gurbaz at the start and a superb 28-run cameo by Mujeeb Ur Rahman in the final overs. Afghanistan didn't lose a wicket till they had crossed the century mark. England, on the other hand, were 91/4 at one stage. Asked if he could pinpoint where things started going wrong for England, Buttler said, "No, we didn't, no we started poorly, first ball of the game I missed one and it sort of set the tone for that first 10 overs, we didn't hit the areas that we wanted to and credit to Gurbaz (80 runs) as he put us under a lot of pressure, played some good shots, but maybe a few too many easy boundaries in there."

England's aggressive style of batting, called 'Bazball', has come to epitomise their cricket in all their formats, more so in Tests under coach Brendon McCullum.

Asked if the team could not "execute properly" the style he wanted it to play, Buttler said, "We always want to play positive and be aggressive and some days you don't play as well as you want to. Though Afgha-

nistan built good pressure on us, maybe the wicket didn't play exactly how we thought it would play and maybe the dew didn't come in as much as we thought as well."

England have played their best cricket when their backs are to the wall of late, with the fight-back during the Ashes this year being fresh in the mind. Asked if the two losses in three World Cup matches will sharpen the team's focus a little bit more, Buttler added, "We've played some good cricket in all scenarios, whether we've been on top and frontrunners and fancied or whether we've had our backs against the wall. It's a position you find yourselves in, it's not the position you wanted to be in three games ago but the character is excellent as I've mentioned, there'll always be belief and we'll dust ourselves down and go again."

## CHANGE OF NAME

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate Bhubaneswar, I, BASANTA KUMAR NAYAK R/O G C CRPF CAMPUS BHUBANESWAR changed my son name from SATISH RAJ NAYAK to SATISH RAJ NAYAK. Henceforth he will be known as SATISH RAJ NAYAK for all future purposes.

# OTHER SPORTS

## Injured Prannoy withdraws from Denmark and French Open

PTI ■ ODENSE (DENMARK)

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy has pulled out of the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament due to a back injury that troubled him during his maiden bronze medal-winning run at the recently-concluded Asian Games.

The 31-year-old Indian had battled excruciating back pain to secure India's first medal in men's singles in 41 years at Hangzhou but now he will have to sit out for two to three weeks due to the injury.

"We are not looking at playing any tournament this month. Something also came up in the MRI as well, so I will have to be out for 2-3 weeks, so I will not be able to play Denmark and France," Prannoy told PTI.

"I will need to rest and then start with rehab."

In his absence, India's charge will be led by Lakshya Sen, who will be back on the



court after playing a vital role in India's first-ever silver medal in men's team event at the Asian Games.

World No. 15 Sen, who remained unbeaten at the Asian Games, will open against Thailand's Kantaphon Wang-

charoen and is likely to meet sixth seed Shi Yuqi of China in the second round.

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu too will look for a good outing after a semifinal finish at the Arctic Open last week. She will be up against

Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour.

World No. 20 Kidambi Srikanth, who is also desperately looking to accumulate ranking points to make the cut for the Paris Olympics, will take on China's Weng Hong Yang in his opening game.

It is going to be a tricky affair for the former world No. 1, who has blown hot and cold throughout the season.

Priyanshu Rajawat, currently ranked No. 30 in the world, will also have his task cut out as he faces world No. 14 Lee Zii Jia, who is brimming with confidence following his title-winning run in the Arctic Open.

Newly-crowned world No. 1 pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who claimed an epic gold at Hangzhou, is pitted against Malaysia's Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi.

MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila will also miss out after the former suffered a back injury at Hangzhou.

The women's pairing of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, however, will be back on the court after the Asian Games and will take on Thailand's Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BHADRAK.**  
 ee\_rwbdk2@yahoo.co.in  
 "e" Procurement Notice for Road Works  
**Identification Online Tender 05/RWD/BDK-II / 2023-24 Dtd.07.10.2023**

- Name of the Work :-RoadWorks as per Annexure
- Total Number of Works :-58 Nos
- Approximate Estimated Cost :-Rs 5.04lakhs - Rs 30.2" lakhs
- Class of Contractor :- As Per Annexure
- Period of Completion :- As Per Annexure
- Other details :- The details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of bid
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer,R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak	05	18.10.2023 At 4.00 P.M.	30.10.2023 up to 4.00 P.M	30.10.2023 up to 3.00 P.M	31.10.2023at 11.00 AM

7. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"  
 8. Any other changes / Corrigendum may be seen only in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

OIPR-25090/11/0013/2324  
 Executive Engineer  
 R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak

**B-1092**  
 E-mail: eeroads.kbr@rediffmail.com  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**KHARLIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARLIAR, DIST. NUAPADA, ODISHA.**  
 Letter No. 4970 Date 16.10.2023  
 1st Corrigendum to  
**Bid Identification No.SER&BKHR - 16 /2023-24**  
 The following changes are being made for E-Procurement Notice- 16, Bid Identification No. SER&BKHR\_16/ 2023-24 vide Letter No. 4713 Date 30.09.2023 in the above Tender Call Notice. The details are as given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Provision as per NIT		Modified as per 1st Corrigendum	
		Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	Date of Opening	Extension of Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	Date of Opening
1	External Electrification work for Power Supply to 100 Seated Girls Hostel Building of OAV at Badi, Kharliar in the district of Nuapada for the year 2023-24.	10.00 hours of 05.10.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 16.10.2023	17.10.2023 at 11.30 hours	10.00 hours of 16.10.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 18.10.2023	19.10.2023 at 11.30 hours
2	Widening and strengthening of Kharliar-Bhulliskuan Road from ch.0/000 km Block chowek to 3/200km such as shifting of HT Line, Substation and LT lines in the district of Nuapada for the year 2023-24.	10.00 hours of 05.10.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 16.10.2023	17.10.2023 at 11.30 hours	10.00 hours of 16.10.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 18.10.2023	19.10.2023 at 11.30 hours

• All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.  
 Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer,  
 Kharliar (R&B) Division,  
 OIPR-34062/11/0031/2324