RNI No. 2016/1957



# **SC** says No to same sex marriage **Nation Awards its Artists National Awards for Indian Cinema**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award upon famous actor Waheeda Rehman. She became the eighth woman artiste to receive the award, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema. The 85-year-old actor dedicated it to her "dear film industry" and its various departments.

The President presented the award to Rehman during the 69th National Film Awards 69th National Film Awards ceremony, held at Vigyan Bhawan. The veteran, who received a standing ovation from the A-list gathering as she walked to the stage, said filmmaking is a collaborative process.

"I feel very honoured and humbled... But whatever I have achieved today, it is because of my dear film industry. Luckily, Í got to work with top directors, producers, filmmakers, technicians, writers, dialogue writers, music directors and musicians," Rehman

said in her acceptance speech. "I got a lot of support, respect and love from them," she said, also crediting the make-up artists, hair and costume designers.

try. They gave me a lot of industry. She has made a name respect, support and love from for herself as a woman of dig-



President Droupadi Murmu after presenting the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to actor Waheeda Rehman during the 69th National Film Awards at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

President said.

screen name.

the very beginning. A film is nity, confidence and originalnot made by just one person, we need each other," she added.

President Murmu praised how Rehman refused to Rehman for championing empowerment women through her roles and life.

"I am elated to honour Waheeda Rehman ji with Dadasaheb Phalke award. I "...Which is why I am shar-ing this award with all the departments of the film indus-reached on top in the film ment," she added.

ity in her personal life too," the Rehman was selected for the prestigious honour by a five Murmu also spoke about members jury comprising close friend and last year's Dadasaheb awardee Asha change her name as a newcomer in the film industry Parekh, actors Chiranjeevi, Paresh Rawal, Prosenjit when it was common for actors to opt for a different Chatterjee and filmmaker

Shekhar Kapur. The actor made her debut in "In her movies, she played Hindi films opposite Dev Anand in Guru Dutt's 1956 roles of women who broke shackles. Waheeda ji has set film CID and went on to build the example that women have a stellar career of over five decades, including classics to take the initiative when it comes to women empower-

Pyaasa, Kaagaz ke Phool and Chaudhvin Ka Chand, Guide as well as later hits such as Kabhi Kabhie and Khamoshi.

The announcement of the Dadasaheb Phalke honour coincided with the birth centenary of her *Guide* and *CID* co-star Dev Anand on

September 26, 2023. Rehman, who forayed in cinema with the 1955 Telugu films *Rojulu Maraayi* and Jayasimha, has worked in more than 90 films across more than 90 films across languages. In the 2000s, she appeared in *Om Jai Jagdish*, *Rang De Basanti, Delhi-6* and *The Song of Scorpions*. Film actor producer Devika Rani was the first Dadasaheb Phalke awardee. Other female artists to have received the honour are Sulochana, Kanan Devi, Khote, Durga Lata

Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle and Asha Parekh. Alia Bhatt made a fashion statement at the awards ceremony by repeating her ivory wedding saree as she attended

the ceremony with actor husband Ranbir Kapoor. Alia won the best actress National Film Award for her performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Gangubai Kathiawadi.

Alia shared the best actress award with Kriti Sanon, who also wore a ivory saree. Kriti is receiving the award for her work in Hindi film Mimi while her co-star Pankaj Tripathi won the best supporting actor award for his role in the film.

### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday unanimously refused to accord legal recognition to same sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act, ruling that it is within Parliament's ambit to change the law for validating such union.

The top court, however, recognised equal rights for queer people and their protection, while calling for sensitisation of the general public so they don't face discrimination. The apex court, while passing four separate verdicts, was unanimous in holding that there is "no unqualified right" to marriage, and same sex couples can't claim it as a funda-mental right under the Constitution.

The bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud was critical of the Centre's stand that the pleas for legal valida-tion of same sex marriage was reflective of an urban elitist concept. Queerness is neither an urban nor an elite concept or characteristic, said the apex court, which pronounced the verdicts on 21 petitions seeking legal sanction for same sex marriages. It, however, differed on cer-

tain aspects, especially on the applicability of adoption rules

for queer couples. The five judges bench com-prising the CJI, and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and PS going into the issue of legalis-ing their marriage. Narasimha concurred on the main issue that the court can't

accord legal validation to samesex marriage under the Special Marriage Act, and said the task has to be performed by Parliament. However, Justices Bhat,

Kohli and Narasimha, in two separate judgments, differed with the CJI and Justice Kaul on certain legal aspects.

The CJI said adoption regu-lations are held to be void as they are discriminatory towards queer people and denied them the right to adopt as a couple.

Differing with the CJI's opin-ion, Justice Bhat held that just because queer couples are not allowed to adopt a child does not mean that the regulations are void.

The LGBTQIA++ persons, who had won a major legal bat-tle in 2018 in the Supreme Court which decriminalised consensual gay sex, had moved the apex court seeking validation of same-sex marriage and consequential reliefs such as rights to adoption, enrolment as parents in schools, opening of bank accounts and availing succession and insurance benefits. However, the SC left all these for Parliament to decide. The CJI, whose views were supported by Justice Kaul in a separate verdict, recorded the Centre's submission that it will set up a committee headed by the cabinet secretary to examine the administrative steps that could be taken for addressing "genuine humane concerns" of same-sex couples without

The CJI said the court can't make law but only interpret it and it is for Parliament to change the Special Marriage Act. Agreeing with the views of the CJI and Justice Kaul, Justice Bhat said the Constitution does not grant a fundamental right to marry. At the outset, Justice Chandrachud said there are four judgments — by himself,

Justices Kaul, Bhat and Narasimha— in the matter. Directing the Centre, states and Union Territories (UTs) to ensure the queer community is not discriminated against, the CJI said queer is a natural phenomenon known for ages and is neither urban nor elitist.

Justice Kaul said he agrees with the CJI on grant of certain

rights to queer couples. "Non-heterosexual and heterosexual unions must be seen as both sides of the same coin," Justice Kaul said, adding legal recognition of non-heterosexual unions is a step towards

marriage equality. The CJI said it is for Parliament to decide whether there is a need for a change in the Special Marriage Act regime. "This court can't make law. It can only interpret it and give effect to it," he said.

While reading out the oper-ative portion of his verdict, Justice Chandrachud directed the Centre, States and UTs to take steps to sensitise the public about the rights of queer people and ensure that sex reassignment surgeries are not performed on inter-sex children at an age they cannot fully comprehend the consequences.

# **TMC** silent on its Party MP

#### **SAUGAR SENGUPTA** KOLKATA take any responsibility"

charges brought against its MP Mahua Moitra with some senior leaders privately communicating party supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's views that she should be left to "clean the mess she has created, if at all she has created it". And as a measure to do so, Moitra on Tuesday filed a defamation suit against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey who had written letters to two Union Ministers and Speaker Om Birla charging her with accepting bribes from one business conglomerate in lieu of asking questions against its rival group: In this case the Adanis. A senior party leader and a State Cabinet Minister said all the party leaders were expected to follow the "austere lifestyle and valued principles of Mamata," and if anyone "deviates" from that then "it is for that person to explain her conduct... the party will not

Earlier Dubey had alleged The Trinamool Congress that Moitra had taken bribes most of whom hav from a business house to ask pathy for her now. tightlipped on the cash-for- questions in the Lok Sabha against its rival the Adani group. Dubey claimed "if the claims are found to be true," then it "constitutes a serious criminal breach of trust as well as a violation of India's national security."

wrath of senior TMC leaders that Moitra had taken bribes most of whom have no sym-Even party supremo Mamata has on

Moitra has often earned the veved to the Adanis that Moitra's stance would not reflect on what the TMC thought about the group.

And finally when a number of its senior leaders are already

for-query" complaint made by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey

# Ujjwala beneficiaries to get one LPG cylinder free on Diwali: CM Yogi

**PTI** BULANDSHAHR'HAPUR

tvanath

scheme and reduced cylinder prices by Rs 300, Adityanath Tttar Pradesh Chief said, referring to the Centre's recent announcement increasing the subsidy on cooking gas connections under the scheme. "Now we have also decid-



and Annu Rani (javelin) are now winning gold medals in the Asian Games," he said, adding both have brought lau

Asian Games) will be awarded

Rs 3 crore, silver winners Rs 1.5

crore and bronze medallists will

be given Rs 75 lakh by the state

government. A felicitation cer-

emony for them would be held

Adityanath also lauded the

prime minister for launching

campaigns like 'Khelo India

and 'Fit India', which, he said,

have resulted in players bring-

ing laurels to the country in

Adityanath was joined by

Union minister V K Singh, UP

At Bulandshahr event,

international events.

minister said.

The TMC MP, however, put up a brave front saying she is ready for any kind of probe and iterating that all the alle-gations leveled against her were malicious and untrue. The Speaker is known to have referred the matter to the Ethics Committee.

Moitra on Tuesday filed a defamation case against BJP Dubey before the Delhi High Court. A Supreme Court advocate has also been made a party in the suit.

The reason behind the top TMC leadership distancing itself from the Moitra case, or in the least not openly backing her are three-fold, insiders say. Firstly, as a straight-talker,

occasions rebuked her for in jail in connection with crossing swords with other recruitment, coal and cattle leaders or their supporters. Secondly, the Chief Minister scams the Bengal ruling outfit does not want to get embroiled in more number of who is desperate to showcase some investment in Bengal such issues "particularly when post her Singur movement Moitra is not a mass leader that drove away the Nano car factory of the Tata Motors from the State during the and a dispensable leader", a TMC sympathiser and a polit-ical analyst said. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has referred the "bribe-

couple of

Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee regime is not willing to enter into an issue where the Adanis are involved. 'Remember the Adani

group has offered to construct a deep sea port at Tajpur in East Midnapore district," a senior Bengal Minister said, adding Moitra had gone too far across asking questions against them in her bid to

politically corner the BJP. "If Mamata is not happy with her on certain issues this is perhaps the one of them," said the TMC leader, adding the TMC has privately con-

against Moitra to the Ethics Committee of the lower House. Dubey alleges that Moitra accepted "bribes" from a busi-nessman in exchange for posing questions in Parliament. He has urged Birla to establish

an "inquiry committee" to thoroughly investigate these accusations. The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha is presided over by BJP mem-

ber Vinod Kumar Sonkar.

for the extension of the darshan

period of Sabarimala from the

on Tuesday announced that Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries will be given a cooking gas cylinder free of cost as a "Diwali gift".

Around 1.75 crore families in the state will benefit from the government's decision, he said. The chief minister made

the announcement during an event in Bulandshahr where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of multiple development projects worth Rs 632 crore.

Later in the day, Adityanath also inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 132 projects worth Rs 136 crore in Hapur district, where he was joined by state BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary, Union minister Kaushal Kishore, UP social welfare minister Asim Arun, among others. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has given a gift to every family through the Ujjwala

ed that every Ujjwala Yojna beneficiary will be given one cooking gas cylinder free of cost as a Diwali gift," the chief minister said in Bulandshahr.

Adityanath said getting LPG gas connections was a difficult task before the BJP gov-ernment came to power at the Centre in 2014.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a central government initiative that gives financial support for LPG connection to BPL (Below Poverty Line) families.

Highlighting other BJP schemes, the chief minister said there are 55 lakh women who have become homeowners in UP under the PM Awas Yojna, while 2.75 lakh toilets have been built in the state

"In the last nine years, we all have witnessed a new India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This new India is prosperous, pow-erful and self reliant," he said.

Adityanath said the new India has benefitted all categories of people and citizens, including the youth and women of the country after

2014. "The 'Beti Bachao Beti government's in-charge minister of the district Arun Saxena, Padhao' campaign has now Lok Sabha MP Bhola Singh, reached a point where Parul Chaudhary (women's 5000m)

# Sabarimala continues to plead

#### KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Sabarimala, the holy shrine of Lord Ayyappa, nestled amid the jungles in the Western Ghats, is back in the news and is expected to stir up a hornets' nest, even as the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is getting ready to hear the plea demanding the restoration of the ban on women's entry into

the temple. Adding to the woes of Lord Ayyappa devotees is the demand by a section of MLAs and MPs of Kerala, belonging to a particular community, that the Centre should take up the task of laying a railway track to Sabarimala ostensibly to facilitate the transportation of cannabis from the Western Ghats to the rest of the State.

The demand for women's entry to the shrine has been made by Ranga Hari, former All India Baudhik Pramukh of the RSS, the organisation that spearheaded the agitation against the entry of women in



the age group of 10 to 50 into quoting the shrine. Malaavikagnimithram, a play

"Off with Outgrown Customs", authored by Hari by Kalidasa. Hari has also quoted Malayalam's mystic poet Kumaran Asan, who (93), states that reformation is inevitable in Hindu society. exhorted the society to reform and change the rules. "Else those very rules will be your downfall," the author has quot-Traditionalists have always opposed reformers, and it is a human phenomenon in human ed Kumaran Asan's explosive society. The great Indian poet poem Duravastha written Kalidasa has said that nothing immediately after the Mappila is good only because it is old and nothing is bad only because it is new," Hari writes, Rebellion of 1922.

The nonagenarian has called

present three months to a yearround event. "Sabarimala is a global Hindu pilgrimage Centre. Hence we have to consider the status of Hindu women globally, their psyche, knowledge, finance, inquisi-tiveness, scientific temper, jobs, etc. Today's woman is an entirely different person. Indian women have more adherence to things religion, and cul-ture... Though both men and women have gone through a westernised public instruction system, it is the woman who transforms India into Bharat; it is the man who makes Bharat, India," Hari has written, and he calls for the establishment of a casteless and classless Hindu society in the country. To substantiate his argu-

ments, he draws the attention of the Hindus towards temples in Mauritius, Trinidad, Myanmar, and Singapore. Hari points out in his book that though there are Hindus in

these countries, there is no caste or caste-related discrimination. The custom in Sabarimala, which was in vogue from time immemorial, was not to allow women to worship in the temple, citing that the presiding deity at Sabarimala was an eternal Brahmachari.

The apex court had passed a landmark judgment on September 28, 2018, in which it allowed the entry of women inside the Sabarimala Temple. The petitioners, Indian Young Lawyers Association, had contended that denial of permission to women for worshipping in the temple was violative of the Right to Equality and lib-erty. The association argued that the custom violates the Right to Equality under Article 14 since it is "derogatory to the dignity of women."

Article 25 of the Constitution states that "all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the **Continued on Page 8** 





Netherlands' Logan van Beek celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of South Africa's David Miller during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 match between South Africa and Netherlands, at HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala on Tuesday. Netherlands shocked South Africa defeating them by 38 runs, registering their third-ever World Cup win.



# city 02

# Advocate, friend duped on pretext of jobs for kin

#### PNS LUCKNOW

Aman was accused of defrauding an advocate and latter's friend of Rs 7.5 lakh on the pretext of facilitating jobs to their family members. The Hazratganj police regis-tered an FIR after the complainant petitioned his case to senior officers. The complainant, Subhash Chandra Srivastava of Narhi, said he and his friend Rakesh had given Rs 4.8 lakh to Dr Yogendra Singh of Ayurveda Health Medicals at Hussainganj for facilitating a job to Rakesh's daughter-in-law Bhawna and nephew Ravindra.

"Yogendra promised to facilitate jobs to both Bhawna and Ravindra in some institute or company and took a cheque of Rs 2.7 lakh from us. For two months, he opted for dilly-dallying tactics. He then stopped taking our phone calls. On August 28, he met us in Hazratganj and we reminded him of returning our money. However, he threatened to kill us," Srivastava alleged.

Meanwhile, two members of a gang targeting houses in rural areas of the city for rob-

dents of Sitapur presently liv ing in Lucknow. They were robbery and theft cases in rural parts of the city in the last booked under Section 392 few months. To nab the (robbery) of IPC. As many as accused, a team consisting of eight cases of robbery and Lucknow police's crime branch theft were already registered against Shubham and four personnel and cops from rural police stations such as Mall and against Pankaj. Malihabad was formed," DCP Meanwhile, a two burga-(West) Rahul Raj said, adding clad women and two of their that both are history-sheeters aides stole six pairs of eartops from a jeweller's shop in and as many as 19 cases are reg-

istered against them in was registered in this connec-Lucknow. "With the help of surveil-lance, Manoj of Saadatganj and Vijay aka Golu of BKT were arrested," the DCP said. tion on Tuesday. As per shop owner Santosh Kumar Gupta, two burqa-clad women reached his shop in the evening and asked him to show them The police recovered a large amount of stolen CPUs, motoreartops. Five minutes later, two cycles, guns, keyboards, invertother women also reached the ers, and solar panels, etc from their possession. They said that they would strike at rural areas under Mall, Malihabad, Banthra, Hardoi, and Unnao

police stations. In another case, two brothers, said to be chain-snatchers, were arrested on Monday. They had deprived a couple of their valuables near Utrathiya under PGI police station on Sunday.

police cross-checked the claims They were identified as made by the complaint and reg-Shubham Shukla (22) and bery were nabbed on Tuesday. Pankaj Shukla (19), both resiistered a case in this regard.

# Bank Ioan secured Jail Road Durga Puja pandal by pledging fake gold ornaments

#### PNS LUCKNOW

Two persons duped Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Limited (LDA branch) in Krishna Nagar of over Rs 9 lakh by procuring loan with connivance of the bank's Chinhat on October 15. A case authorised valuer after mortgaging fake gold ornaments.

A case was registered in this connection on the com-plaint of the bank's branch incharge Rakesh Kumar Srivastava. The bank has a valid certificate of issuing loan against gold.

It was alleged that Neeraj Agrawal of Jankipuram shop and asked Santosh to show nose pins. Later, all the women left the shop. "After (Sector F) and Naveen Singh they left the shop, I found a box containing gold eartops miss-Chauhan of Rajgrah Colony in Krishna Nagar took loans of ing. When I scanned the Rs 5 lakh and 4.25 lakh, CCTV footage, I saw one of the respectively, by mortgaging fake gold ornaments. They were allegedly helped by the burqa-clad women picking up the box and giving it to anoth-er woman. The latter kept the bank's authorised valuer box in her bag and then went Ramveer Purohit, who is a out of the shop," he said. The jeweller and is presently lodged in jail for his involvement in several cases of fraud, as he declared their fake gold

as original. The complainant said as

Ramveer Purohit was appointed by the bank, his endorsement was not rechecked. The fraud surfaced when the accused did not pay back the loan and were sent notices, which they did not receive. 'The bank started the

process of auctioning the mortgaged gold ornaments and the new valuer, Ajay Kumar Soni, found them to be fake," the complainant said. He said an internal probe

by the bank revealed that former valuer Ramveer Purohit had duped the bank in the past too. "He is a leader of the gang defrauding banks. He used to give his men fake gold and ask them to secure loans. After the loan was sanctioned, he took the lion's share," the

complaint said. He further said that Naveen Singh gave Rs 3.25 lakh to Ramveer in latter's bank account. The police registered a case and will quiz Ramveer.

 $T_{\mathrm{Durga}\,\mathrm{Puja,\,organised}\,\mathrm{by}}^{\mathrm{he}}$ Naveen Shardiya Utsav Samiti, is styled on Gujarat's Bajrang Bali temple. Tapas Kant Ghosh from the committee said they selected this theme out of the innumerable designs showcased before them. The pandal is 50-feet tall and is made on an area of 6,000 square feet.

On Panchami, there will be a 'Mouni Mela' in which Bengali women will serve home-cooked delicacies. *"Murti sthapna* will take place on Shashti (October

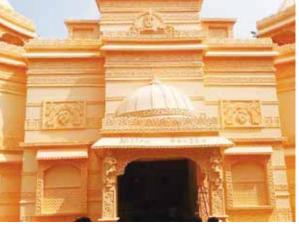
20) and bhog will be served on Saptami, Ashtami, and Navami. Artists have come from Bengal to construct the pandal. Nearly 5,000 to 6,000 devotees visit our 65 years old Durga Puja," Ghosh said.

We have had a wide range of visitors cutting across castes and communities even from outside Lucknow," he said.

About their 65-year journey, he said they had started with only Rs 5,000 but their budget today is around Rs 11-12 lakh.

Meanwhile, Sarvajanik Durga Puja Samiti is organis-ing the celebrations at Vidyant Degree College. Avik Bhattacharya from the committee said their focus is on organising the puja in the tra-ditional way. "It will start with 'Amantaran' on October 20, followed by puja on Saptami and Ashtami. It will

Navami. also including the 'Sandhi Puja' for 48 minutes. On Navami, a yagya will be per-



formed. On October 24, there seen in the last several years, will be a 'darpan visarjan', folhe said there has been a paradigm shift. lowed by idol immersion," he The new generation is

said. "Ours is one of the oldnot interested in social work. est Durga Puja events in the city. Established in 1936, They are not coming forour Durga Puja is completing ward, and it is the old gener-88 years. Old Bengalis still ation which is managing the come here on Durga Puja and puja. With the passage of we have nearly 10,000 to time, we have moved out of 12,000 daily visitors" Ghosh the tradition. There is no emphasis on how the puja has said. to be done, it is all about

He added that they serve khichdi, chadchadi, <sup>'</sup>bhaja, chutney, and pais on Saptami; pulao, paneer, dum aloo, chut*ney, pais and papad* on Ashtami; and *bhaat, moong dal* with coconut, bitter & sweet sukto and cauliflower, pude bhaja and pais on

themed on Gujarat temple

"We will be distributing darbesh, which is a Bengali sweet, as prasad to each and every visitor," he said.

Talking about the change stress on tradition, but the which the Durga Puja has future is uncertain.

# Woman advocate alleges molestation, abuse by colleague

#### PNS UUCKNOW

woman advocate practic-A woman auvocate plant Aing at the court of ACP, Ghazipur, (in Nishatganj) accused a colleague of molestation of and character assassination. The incident was reported on October 16.

The complainant said that she was in the court when Awadhesh Pathak reached the court room and started abusing her. "He used expletives, showing my character in a bad light, and asked me not to interfere in his work," she alleged.

#### "Pathak then caught me by my hair, grabbed my collar and pulled me down. He even kicked in my private parts. The people personnel present there tried to rescue me, but he had already pinned me down. He

sat on my chest with a malafide intention. I somehow saved myself and ran for cover. He then tore his shirt to frame me for assault," she alleged. She further alleged that she was also body-shamed for being a shortheighted person.

The police registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of the IPC.

# New red zone with 15 beds comes up at SGPGI PNS LUCKNOW

#### Now, the red, yellow, and green Director of Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of zones have 27, 18 Medical Sciences Prof RK and 24 beds, Dhiman on Tuesday inaugurat-

ed the new 'red zone' with 15

beds in the emergency medi-

cine at EMRTC, thereby

increasing the capacity to 27

beds from 12.

respectively, in addition to the six stretcher beds

"Emergency medicine with added to the red zone today. 30 beds was shifted to the Now, the red, yellow, and green EMRTC building at SGPGIMS zones have 27, 18 and 24 beds, on May 24, 2022. Based on the respectively, in addition to the acuity of illness, it is structured six stretcher beds. The total into red, yellow, and green number of emergency beds zones. Since then, the emernow is 75," a senior doctor said.

gency medicine expanded its ten times per day, thus the number of patients attended services first to 60 beds, and another 15 beds have been

and managed on stretchers is nearly 60 per day. Recently, emergency beds for SGPGI staff have been increased to eight from five. "The new red zone-2 of 15 beds has seven dedicated beds for unstable patients requiring ventilatory support. The next planned expansion is of a 20-bed tele-ICU and an intervention zone with major minor-OT, endoscopy, bronchoscopy, and interventional radiology. There will be a dedicated radiology wing on the first floor of EMRTC. The commissioning of CT, DSA and procurement of MRI is in final stages. It will pave

the way for care of patients needing emergency care," he elaborated.

**CM** to lay foundation for Naval Valour

# Kannauj, Ayodhya artistes to perform at Ramlila

Rajajipuram Ramlila, being organised by Dharma Uthan Samiti in the city, is over 37 years old and has artistes from Ayodhya and Kannauj. Ashutosh Agnihotri, a

PNS LUCKNOW

member of the committee, said that the Ramlila is shown in its original form without the use of technology and special effects. "There is so much use of technology prevalent in the Ramlilas staged today, but we stick to the natural way with no sage of technology' e point-

Ramlila is organised in the Postal Colony of Rajajipuram. "We call groups from other districts to perform Ramlila and this time it is a group from Kanpur that will be performing. Artistes will come from Ayodhya and Kannauj to accompany them. The groups bring their musicians and costumes," he said.

"We have different lilas performed for the audience everyday. Among the various scenes, 'Ravana Samvad' is appreciated. Our much Evervt Ramay is based on

on October 15, and we will take out a 'Ram Baraat' on October 19. It will start from Sadar and conclude at Kaiserbagh after moving through Hussainganj, Latouche Road, Najibabad, etc. The weapons used are real and not fake," he said.

money and the theme of the

Durga Puja and the participa-

tion of bureaucrats and politi-cians," he pointed out. "All the

rituals have a meaning behind

them and the puja is performed with so many ele-ments of nature, but the

younger generation does not seem to be interested. The

Durga Puja is actually a social

work," he said. He added that

they have survived due to the

"Lakhs of people take part in the 'Ram Baraat' because there are only two 'Ram Baraats'; one by us and the other by Raniganj Ramlila. The ornaments and other items used during the 'baraat' are those procured in 1928. ng about our Ramlil

Each stretcher bed is used



The Jankipuram Durga Puja pandal, which is the biggest in the city, was damaged by the strong winds and showers on Pioneer Monday evening and overnight

# Museum on Oct 21

#### PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh is geared up to take another leap in its tourism glory through the development of 'Naval Valour Museum' at Shaheed Path in Lucknow. The proposal was sent to the cabinet by the Tourism department in August this year. Now, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will lay the foundation for the museum near Police Headquarters, Shaheed Path, on October 21.

The museum will display missiles, torpedoes and canons of decommissioned warship INS Gomti, which was in the fleet of the Indian Navy for 34 years. It will be the first-of-itskind museum in India to be

displaying ships as old as 5,000 years, ranging from Harappan and Mohenjo-Daro civilization to Satavahanas, Cholas and Gupta Empires of medieval India. The museum will also display ships and warships of Modern Indian kingdoms and

the Indian Navy. Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh said, "I am delighted to announce a historic milestone in our state's tourism journey. We are about to lay the foundation of 'Naval Valour Museum' at Shaheed Path. it will become a symbol of our rich heritage and resilience. This project will not only give a boost to tourism but also provide employment to people of the state."

'BJP govt giving free hand to its

ed out.

He said that the audience comes to watch their Ramlila precisely because of this reason, and also listen to the dialogues which are a mix of Hindi and Awadhi. He said that the message for the public is to follow the dharma and work for women empowerment.

"The women in the Ramayana are showcased in a similar manner for the immense respect they command," he said

The Ramlila commenced on October 15 and will run till October 26. "On October 25, there will be the 'Bharat Milap' programme. A shobha yatra will be taken out and it will move all over Rajajipuram. On October 26, the artistes will be felicitated," he added.

Agnihotri said that their

Ramcharitmanas," he said.

is ancient. We also have a rath He added that crowds (chariot) from 1928," he pointgradually increase up to ed out. "Our Dussehra is also Ravana Dahan'. There are sepvery popular and more than arate sitting arrangements for 20,000 people watch it. We have increased the height of the males and females. Ravana effigy from 45 feet to 60 feet this year. We also have

# SADAR RAMLILA ABOUT A CENTURY-OLD

Sadar Ramlila, which is known for its 'Ram Baraat' is

about a century-old. Manager of Sadar Shri Ram Barat evam Ramlila Manchan Samiti Anand Tewari said it was established in 1928.

Meghnad Vadh, and 'Ravana Vadh'. Today, Dashrath 'yagya' was carried out, which will be "Children who play various characters come from the colony itself. This is the only followed by 'Sita Swayamvar', Ramlila which is not played on 'Ram Vanwas', and then 'Lanka the stage but on the ground. It Dahan," he said. is a unique feature that will not He added that 'Lanka

include

air," he said.

Dahan' is also a big attraction, as Lanka is constructed for the scene.

Sen runs a saloon and had divorced his first wife three

years ago. Rekha concocted a

story of her stepson's kidnap-

ping before her husband and

in-laws, police said. ACP Rai

said Rekha and her friend

Poonam who helped her kill

Shabad have been sent to jail

this evening. Meanwhile, the Ghazipur

police arrested four smugglers

with 170 gm of heroin estimat-

ed to be around Rs 1.20 crore

artists who spit fireballs into the

their Ramayana, he said it is

'Adharshila Ramayana'.

Regarding the base for

"Our famous scenes

'Tadika Vadh',

"Bhumi pujan took place

be found in Lucknow or near-

by areas," he pointed out.

# The pioneer सूचना

मैने अपना नाम Rafi Ahmad से बदलकर Mohammad Rafi Ansari रख लिया है, Mohammad Rafi Ansari R/o- 330/A, रेल बाजार कैंट कानपुर

### NOTICE

I have lost my original sale Deed pag no 10 Deed no 6437 Date 11/08/2011 H. no. LIG /78/B Unnao shuklaganj unnao use of this document will in invalid PURTI SINGH W/O RANJEET SINGH

#### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Raiyyan Farooqui to Mohd Raiyyan Farooqui.In future me known as Mohd Raiyyan Farooqui S/o Javed Akhtar Farooqui.198/4 JK Colony Jajmau Kanpur Nagar.

### **CITYBRIEFS**

#### **ISRO CHAIRMAN CHIEF GUEST** AT VARSITY CONVOCATION

Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University Prof Alok Kumar Rai announced on Tuesday that the convocation ceremony would be held on 6 December. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S Somnath is likely to be the chief guest on the occasion, he said. Among 197 medals to be given away at the convocation, 15 medals will be given by the university while 182 are sponsored. Besides, about 53,000 degrees will also be awarded.

#### **SCIENCE EXHIBITION**

La Martiniere Girls' College hosted a science exhibition underlining the importance given to STEM education in the college, according to the guidelines of the Ministry of Education. The college, in association with RMSA (Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan), a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, is committed to implementing the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) which aims at developing scientific temper in students through various activities like exhi-

workers to commit atrocities' that highlight environmental issues, use of science in everyday life, encouraging the use of renewable alternative energy sources and applying mathematical principles in the field of physical sciences and sports. The students made projects that held solutions encouraging sustainable development through solar drip irrigation and tidal power. The students made comprehensive

projects showing in-depth case studies on poverty, causes, and alleviation. The emerging field of AI found representation in various models depicting surgery, disease identification, and the study of

#### **KHADI MAHOTSAV**

human brain.

The department of Chemistry, University of Lucknow, celebrated 'Khadi Mahotsav' and organised a poster competition on the theme 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion' on Tuesday. Students of MSc (Chemistry, Semester I) participated in it. There were 80 participants divided into 16 groups of five students each. The students presented posters on various aspects of Khadi, exhibiting its importance both economically and in generating employment. Prizes were given bitions, model making and projects away to the first three winners.

#### Lucknow (PTI): Accusing the Uttar Pradesh's BJP government of giving free hand to its workers to commit injustice and atrocities against anyone, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said their houses are not being bulldozed.

Yadav said this while participating in the 'Netaji Mandal Mahotsav' programme organised at Chakeri in Kanpur city.

After that, he went to the residence of businessman Sardar Anmol Bhatia, who was allegedly injured in an attack by a BJP councilor's husband in Shyamnagar, SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said in a statement.

Talking to reporters, Yadav alleged, 'Injustice and atrocities are at their peak in the BJP government. BJP has become very arrogant. "In Kanpur, businessman Anmol Bhatia was beaten so much by BJP leaders and workers that he had to be admitted to the hospital. His eye was damaged. The beating took place in front of the police.

'The BJP government, which talks about zero tolerance towards crime, has given free hand to its workers to beat up anyone and even take away their eyesight. No matter how much injustice and atrocities they commit on the public, bulldozers will not be used on their houses," the former chief minister alleged.

On September 23, Bhatia had an alter-



the present regime, the police is doing injustice to the people by forming gangs. In response to a question, Akhilesh said that SP is continuously demanding caste census, and it will conduct caste census at all costs when it comes to power.

He also claimed the SP will win the maximum number of seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2024 Lok Sabha polls as people are troubled by the ever-increasing inflation and unemployment. "PDA (picche, dalit and alpsankhyak, ie, backwards, Dalits and minorities) will unite and wipe out BJP," he added.

# Woman kills stepson, hides body in sewer tank; held police that she disliked her stepson, they said, adding that

Lucknow (PTI): A woman was on Tuesday arrested for allegedcation with BJP corporator ly killing her stepson and hid-Saumya ing his body in a sewer tank in Shukla's hus-Ghaziabad, police said. On band Ankit Monday, police received a com-Shukla, who plaint that 11-year-old Shadab allegedly beat had gone missing on October which 15, they said. When police checked the

CCTV footage of the nearby to his eye. area, they found that the boy never left his house in Govind Puri locality on Sunday evening, they said. This raised on suspicion and police thoroughly searched the house and found the minor's body in a also sewer tank, Additional Commissioner (Modi Nagar circle) Gyan Prakash Rai said.

in the international market from their possession. A joint team from Rampur Manjha Police Station and SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team stopped a four-wheeler at When police questioned the victim's family members, his stepmother Rekha cona checkpost near Malik Shah on Monday and during the search found 170 grams of heroin from it, SP Omveer Singh said. fessed to killing Shabad with the help of her friend Poonam, he said. Rekha told police that it was a premeditated murder

Manohar Lal and Durga Lal from Rajasthan, and Rajesh and she committed the crime Singh Yadav and Ankit Singh when Shabad returned home from Ghazipur district, all of after playing outside, police whom were in the car, were said. Rekha, who is the second arrested, while a fifth managed wife of Rahul Sen, also told the to escape, police said.

Ankit later fled from the spot and surrendered September 29. The SP president alleged that in



# city 03

# **Budget preparations** Foot patrolling campaign by UP Police begin with Navratri helps strengthen law and order

#### PNS LUCKNOW

With Navratri ushering in a season of new beginnings, the Finance department is already busy in making preparations for the forthcoming budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Deepak Kumar has directed the additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries, and secretaries of all government departments to compile budget-related materials to facilitate the finance minister's budget speech.

The onset of Navratri marks the commencement of budget preparations in the state. The Finance department has provided comprehensive guidelines to streamline the process of estimating the budget

Annually, the finance minister presents the state government's income and expenditure projections before the state legislature.

To ensure precision and accuracy, all government departments have been tasked with meticulously crafting the figures and facts that will constitute the budget speech.

In adherence to this directive, the administrative departments will furnish comprehensive details of their respective schemes and accomplishments within a succinct five-page format. The material intended for the budget speech will be submitted both in digital and hard copy formats, delivered via email.

Furthermore, the department heads have been instructed to incorporate the policies, priorities, flagship initiatives, and any forthcoming schemes of the state government while formulating the budget speech content.

A crucial emphasis has been placed on the exclusion of any schemes or data from the budget speech that are not officially part of the budget.

The departments are not supposed to relay their information directly to the Finance department, but the reports should rather be channeled through the special secretaries of the respective departments.

Moreover, it has been stressed that utmost care must be taken to ensure that there is no variation whatsoever in the figures included in the Governor's address and the budget speech.

PNS LUCKNOW

The foot patrolling carried out by the Uttar Pradesh Police in line with the Yogi government's zero-tolerance policy against mafia, criminals, and crime has played a vital role in establishing peace in the state. Notably, a comprehensive police foot patrolling campaign was carried out across the state from April to September, which led to the identification of suspects as well as recovery of a wide range of illegal items, including weapons and illicit liquor.

In the last six months (from April to September), police teams, including SPs, ASPs, COs, station incharges/inspectors, sub-inspectors, head constables/constables and home guard checked 38,93,386 locations during foot patrolling in the entire state, and 2,09,31,904 suspects were searched, 78,633 cases were registered and 88,486 accused arrested.

During this period, 17,690 illegal weapons and 7,416 illegal vehicles were also recovered in addition to 9,85,186 bottles of illicit liquor.

Four persons were killed and five others were injured in a pow-

erful blast at a soap factory, which

was being operated inside a house

in front of Satyakam School in

Lohia Nagar police station area,

early Tuesday morning. The soap factory belongs to Alok Gupta and Gaurav Gupta,

residents of Shastri Nagar in

Medical police station area. The

factory was being run by taking Sanjay Gupta's house on rent.

There was a massive explosion in

the factory reported on Tuesday

morning, due to which the work-

ers present were trapped under the

32,39,791 places were checked and 1,58,71,828 suspects searched. At the same time, 72,306 cases were registered, whereas 81,270 accused were arrested and sent behind bars. As many as 16,463 illegal weapons were

debris. Four of them succumbed

to injuried while five were said to

and the DM, reached the spot and

rushed those injured to a hospital.

They also called an NDRF team to

rescue those trapped under the

debris. Reports said that when the

rescue team was removing the

debris, another blast occurred,

but no one was injured in it. The

police cordoned off the area soon

according to the reports received

SSP Rohit Singh Sajwan said

Top officials, including the SSP

be critically injured.

afterwards.

cal triggered the blast

recovered, while 6404 illegal vehicles were confiscated. Furthermore, 9,78,782 litres of illicit liquor was also seized in the campaign. sections, malls and other places, parents of

Four killed, five injured in soap factory blast

Furthermore, 15,04,977 parents of miscreants and

youths were called and let off after warning, while

instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath,

the police have been conducting foot patrolling

to combat criminal activities and ensure the

safety of women. In the last six months, a foot

patrolling campaign was conducted at both the

zone and commissionerate levels. During the

patrolling in all eight zones of the state,

DGP Vijay Kumar said that as per the

6,79,534 encroachments were demolished.

Additionally, during the checking at inter-12,61,677 youths were called and released with a warning. Apart from this, 5,62,432 encroachments were demolished during the police

died.

patrolling. Among the eight zones, the Lucknow zone took the most significant action, followed by Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Bareilly, and Kanpur zones. Across the seven commissionerates of the state, a total of 653,595 locations were inspected and 50,60,076 suspects were searched. As a result, 6,327 cases were registered and 7,216 accused were arrested and sent behind bars. A total of 1,227 illegal weapons were recovered during the exercise while 1,012 unauthorised vehicles were confiscated.

Furthermore, 6,404 litres of illicit liquor was seized during the campaign. Additionally, while conducting checks at the intersections, malls and various other locations, the parents of 2,43,300 youth were contacted and released with a warning.

Moreover, the campaign led to the demolition of 1,17,102 encroachments. Among the seven commissionerates, the Lucknow Commissionerate took the most significant action during the campaign, followed by Varanasi, Kanpur, Agra, and Gautam Buddha Nagar.

tration officials to expedite the

ple died in Shamli after being

struck by lightning. Said to be

labourers, they were working in

their field when lightening struck

officials announced to provide

compensation to the family mem-

bers of the deceased. Reports said

that Kasim (35) and Arshad (18)

of Mohalla Afghan in Kairana area

of Shamli were working in their

The district administration

In another incident, two peo-

District Magistrate Deepak also directed the district adminis-

relief work.

them

### **Fraud in crop insurance** scheme rings alarm bells ulent cases," Additional Chief

Lucknow (PNS): In several districts across the state, a con-

Secretary, Agriculture, Dr cerning pattern of abuse has Devesh Chaturvedi said. been detected in the crop insur-The reach of the crop ance scheme, where farmers insurance programme has been have manipulated the system on a continuous rise in the for personal gains. Some have state. In the fiscal year 2022-23, managed to claim insurance a total of 41.47 lakh farmers without actually sowing any were insured, covering both crops, while others have false-Kharif and Rabi crops. ly increased their cultivated Approximately 28.95 lakh

area to get the insurance cover. hectares of land and an insur-Shockingly, in certain ance value of Rs 16,009.19 instances, farmers have mancrore were involved in this aged to claim insurance paycoverage. Farmers contributed a total premium of Rs 283.58 outs from two different banks for the same crop. Reports indicate that around 8,000 such crore, the state government disbursed Rs 612.12 crore, and cases have been reported. the Central government con-Case 1: Many farmers in tributed Rs 610.61 crore in pre-

Mahoba were found to have miums. During this period, the acquired Kisan Credit Cards department disbursed a sum of from two different banks and claimed compensation for the Rs 795.96 crore as compensasame crop from both banks. tion to 10.67 lakh farmers. There have been instances However, it has come to light where both farmers and sharethat there were fraudulent croppers have credit cards assoactivities in nearly 8,000 cases during the distribution of ciated with the same piece of land. The entire district's farminsurance claims. Some farmers are currently under examers made multiple claims, while others attempted to claim ben-

Case 2: A farmer in efits they weren't eligible for. Mathura falsely reported sow-The authorities have taken ing mustard in two bighas of swift action to isolate these land. After successfully obtainfraudulent cases, emphasising on the need for recovery from ing an insurance payout, he attempted to claim an additionfarmers who wrongly claimed al three bighas of crop. An insurance. The Agricultural investigation was initiated Statistics department is curwhen the situation appeared rently collecting district-wise factual reports and conducting suspicious, and it was revealed that mustard had not been investigations, with the majorsown at all. The investigation ity of the multi-claim cases being reported from the unveiled tampered documents, including Khatauni records. Bundelkhand and Western

ination.

Officials of the Agriculture department have initiated a Uttar Pradesh regions. The investigation has also comprehensive re-evaluation cast suspicion on the involvement of departmental officers of all farmers currently enrolled in the insurance programme, and employees in these fraudwith a determination to recovulent activities. Measures are er funds from those who have being taken to identify and take unlawfully benefitted from the necessary action against these scheme. The Agriculture personnel who may have facildepartment is also actively itated these wrongful claims. devising strategies to prevent "To prevent future abuse of further manipulation. the system, the department is

"Every case is being scruactively developing a strategy. tinised, and recovery actions One key initiative includes are underway for those who linking the land records and bank account details of all received improper payments. Farmers who attempted to farmers to a centralised portal. claim benefits multiple times This measure is expected to expedite the detection of fraudwill face warnings, while a comprehensive strategy is being crafted to combat these fraudulent claims and prevent repeat occurrences," Chaturvedi said.

मोहिनी बी० मनवाणी गर्ल्स डिग्री कालेज (अल्पसंख्यक संस्थान) सम्बद्ध—छत्रपति शाहू जी महाराज विश्वविद्यालय, कानपुर आवास विकास–3, पनकी कल्यानपुर रोड, कल्यानपुर, कानपुर-प्रवेश बी0एड0 सत्र 2023–25

अल्पसंख्यक संस्थान में अल्पसंख्यक प्रबन्धकीय कोटे के अन्तर्गत बी0एड0 सत्र 2023–25 ं प्रवेश हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित हैं, अर्हता उत्तर प्रदेश शासन के मानकानुसार होगी। इच्छुव अभ्यर्थी प्रवेश परीक्षा फार्म महाविद्यालय के कार्यालय से निःशुल्क प्राप्त कर दिनांक 25 / 11 / 2023 तक महाविद्यालय में जमा कर दें, परीक्षा दिनांक 05 / 12 / 2023 को कालेज गरिसर में होगी। बी0एड0 2023—25 की प्रवेश परीक्षा में प्रतिभाग करने वाले अभ्यर्थियों प्रवेश मेरिट के आधार पर होगा। अल्पसंख्यक अभ्यर्थियों को वरीयता दी जायेगी। डाक कोरियर द्वारा भेजे गये फॉर्म स्वीकृत नहीं होंगे। यदि प्रवेश परीक्षा तिथि में कोई परिवर्तन होगा तो इसकी सूचना महाविद्यालय वेबसाइट www.mbmgdc.in पर अपडेट कर दी जायेगी

# Forest dept starts tender process for solar fencing

Tiger Reserve.

reached 205.

and humans.

#### PNS LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Forest department has started the tender process for installing solar fencing in regions which have been experiencing mananimal conflicts.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, UP, SK Sharma said: "On a trial basis, solar fences were installed at several locations a few months ago, and now the installation process will be extended to all the conflictprone areas. We have initiated aiming to maintain a safe septhe tender process for the aration between wild animals same.

Uttar Pradesh is home to several tiger reserves, including Amangarh Tiger Reserve, Bijnor, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Lakhimpur Kheri, Pilibhit Sanctuary in Bahraich.

A head of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in Tiger Reserve, and Ranipur 2024, the Uttar Pradesh gov-According to the 2014 ernment is likely to order a sigtiger census, Uttar Pradesh nificant increase in the statehad 117 tigers. By 2018, this advised price (SAP) of sugarnumber had risen to 173, and cane for the 2023-2024 season. in the 2022 census report, it SAP is the price paid by mills to farmers against cane pro-

PNS LUCKNOW

curement. It is more than the fair and remunerative price fixed by the Central government.

As per the estimates of the sugar industry, the SAP is likely to be raised by Rs 25 per quintal. The hike in SAP can be easily absorbed by the industry and benefit the farmers, as the price of sugar is high in domesand internationa market

The UP government last revised the SAP of sugarcane in 2021, ahead of the 2022 UP Assembly elections. The expected hike in SAP for 2023-24 has sparked discussions and debates within the industry. Not everyone in the industry is convinced that such a substantial increase is likely to mate-

rialise. UP Sugar Mills' Association (UPSMA) sources said the customary deliberation on SAP in UP typically takes place in October, and an increase of Rs 25 per quintal at this stage would be unusually high. The sources highlighted another factor influencing the sugar industry's dynamics.

They pointed out that the ficier rainfall in Uttai

yield and availability of sugar for crushing. The challenges faced by the sugar industry are multifaceted, with weather conditions being a critical factor affecting sugar production," they said

Meena said that five people were

injured in the incident and four

far yet to identify the deceased. It

seems that the deceased were fac-

tory workers. Soap-making mate-

rial and stock of soap were found

from the spot. It was a two-storey

building under Lohia Nagar police

station," the police said. Meanwhile, taking cognisance of the incident, Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath extended condo-

lences to the kin of the deceased

"No one has come forward so

Several prominent sugar including companies, Balrampur Chini Ltd, Dhampur Sugar Ltd, Dalmia Bharat Sugar, Mawana Sugars, and Dwarikesh Sugar, are closely monitoring these developments, as any changes in SAP could have a substantial impact on their operations and profitability. With the expected hike in

SAP for 2023-24, the estimated payments to sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh are lv to b 36 000 crore over I as the state gears up for the 2023-24 crushing season. cane crushing season (October-

September) started on October 1, operations are expected to gain momentum in the coming weeks, starting from western UP and gradually covering the

"Sugarcane payments in UP during the current crushing season are expected to top Rs 36,000 crore," a sugar industry official said. The state sugar production stood at nearly

Of the total 120 sugar mills in UP, the private sector leads with 93 plants, followed by the cooperative sector with 24, and UP State Sugar

Nearly 4.5 million households are directly associated with sugarcane farming in the state For the current season, the sugarcane area is estimated at 2.85 million Although officially, the hectares, while the production estimate stands at 235 mt.

so far, either the boiler in the soap and directed the district adminisfield when it started pouring. tration to provide proper treat-ment to those injured. The CM factory exploded or some chemi-Struck by lightning all of a sudden, both died on the spot. **UP govt may increase SAP for sugarcane** 

entire state.

10.7 million tonnes last year.

Corporation with three.

In addition to the Dudhw Tiger Reserve in Pilibhit, fencing was also done at the Katarniaghat Wildlife Katarniaghat

The trial phase involved

fencing of the buffer zone of

the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

According to a forest official,

these solar fences of an appro-

priate height are designed to

deliver a 'very light shock' to

animals attempting to cross,

The Union government has already banned the export of sugar to keep its price under check in the domestic market.

Delhi. During this time, he had

two bank accounts in his name.

One was with Canara Bank in

Pradesh by 17-18% could adversely affect the sugar recovery. "The rainfall deficit has undoubtedly impacted the

**BANK OF MAHARASHTRA** 

# ₹2.21 billion deposited in construction worker's a/c

#### **I-T DEPARTMENT** SHOOTS NOTICE

#### PNS LUCKNOW

A perplexing and astonishing turn of events has left Shiv Prasad, a resident of Bataniya village in the Lalganj police station area of Basti district, scratching his head.

The 25-year veteran construction worker who works in a marble and tile shop in Delhi found himself in a state of bewilderment after a whopping Rs 2.21 billion were mysteriously deposited into his bank account.

Shiv Prasad's ordeal began

February 2021. Unfortunately, the notice was written entirely in English, a language he was not proficient in. As a result, Shiv Prasad paid no heed to the letter, nor did he

Delhi, where his balance was zero and the other was with the Central Bank of India in Lalganj share its content with anyone. Bazaar, where a sum of approximately Rs 30,000 had been However, the situation took a startling turn when, just two deposited. Shiv Prasad and his

family is still grappling with the days ago, yet another notice astonishing turn of events, which has left them in a state of from the Income Tax department landed on his doorstep. This new communication shock The Income Tax depart-

revealed an astonishing deposit of Rs 221,30,00,007 in his bank ment's notice has thrown Shiv account. Startled by this unex-Prasad's life into turmoil as he pected revelation, Shiv Prasad's grapples with unanswered questions, uncertain of how to profamily promptly shared the mind-boggling news, after ceed. The authorities are yet to which he decided to return to provide clarity on the source and legality of the mysterious

his hometown. Shiv Prasad when he received an unassum- recounted that during the finandeposit, leaving Shiv Prasad ing notice from the Income Tax cial year 2018-2019, he lost his and his family with an enigmatdepartment via registered mail PAN card while working in ic financial puzzle to solve.

**₹2,000 crore** to expedite Mahakumbh preparations

#### PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh government is Ugearing up to make Mahakumbh-2025 a divine event and Rs 2,000 crore is being pumped to expedite the work of road infrastructure, bridges, electricity and the expansion and management of the fairground.

process of 260 approved projects from various departments, with a total cost of Rs 3,738

take place for 45 days from January 13 to February 26 and over six crore pilgrims are expected to attend the mega event. Besides, about 40 lakh devotees are likely to participate in the Shahi Snans, and an additional 40 lakh can opt for Kalpwas. "To accommodate the

# Mayawati assessing candidates' potential through secret survey

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party is working on a strategy to win the 10 seats won in the last Parliament elections and the ones lost by less margin. On these seats, bets were placed on trusted and winning candidates of the party.

Some old candidates will be given another opportunity on certain seats, while new faces will be fielded on most of them. The ground reality will be assessed through a secret survey of the candidate panel prepared for these seats.

In the Lok Sabha elections-2019, BSP had contested the elections in alliance with the Samajwadi Party.

BSP contested on 38 seats and secured victory in 10, while finishing as the runner-up on 27. Additionally, they secured the third position in Fatehpur Sikri.

Mayawati's main focus is on the seats her party won and those lost by narrow margins. Except for a few current MPs, most of them have connections with other parties. Some MPs have

even openly praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Nevertheless, some wish to remain with the BSP even in challenging circumstances. Mayawati intends to field such candidates in constituencies where the party won in the last election or lost by a narrow margin, as they have a better chance of winning.

In 2019, BSP had won Ambedkar Nagar, Amroha, Bijnor, Ghazipur, Ghosi, Jaunpur, Lalganj, Nagina, Saharanpur and Shravasti seats. Apart from this, it lost in Machhali Shahar by 181 votes, Meerut by 4,729 votes, Sultanpur by 14,526 votes.

The BSP supremo has instructed divisional in-charges to focus their efforts on these seats. They are tasked with conducting discreet surveys of potential candidates for these constituencies to assess their grassroots support. Only those with a strong ground presence should be selected.

Additionally, a review

# crore has also begun. Mahakumbh-2025 will

massive influx of visitors, the Yogi government has already started preparations. Targeting cleanliness, adequate availability of sanitation workers will be made available in the Maha Kumbh Mela," a government spokesman said.

Urban Development Minister AK Sharma reviewed 260 projects approved so far by various departments at a cost of about Rs 3738 crore.

In a review meeting on Tuesday, he instructed officials to continually monitor the progress of these projects. He emphasised the need for fundamental facilities like drinking water, toilets, electricity supply and parking.

Place: Lucknow

Date: 18.10.2023

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в	ranch: Sigra, Varanasi	P.0. 10000		Date				
	Borrower: Binda Devi, 505 Bhagwanpur Lanka,	Rs. 28,44,144.56	Arazi No 505 Bhagwanpur, Lanka BHU PArgana					
	BHU Pargana Dehat Amanat, (Near Gardenia	+ Unapplied respective	Dehat Amanat Dist Varanasi, Area Admeasuring: 1360	04.08.2023				
	English School), Dist Varanasi 221005. Also, at Co-Borrower: Mr. Mahendra Pandey, 505	Interest p.a. w.e.f. 04.08.2023 +	Sq Feet., Bounded by: East: Land of Doodhnath West: Land of Binda Devi, North: Land of Lalta	12.10.2023				
	Bhagwanpur Lanka, BHU Pargana Dehat Amanat,	penal interest and	South: Rasta 8 Feet					
	(Near Gardenia English School), Dist Varanasi 221005	other charges/expenses						
В	ranch: Chowk, Lucknow							
2.	Borrower: Mrs Jiji Vijyan, 1/60 Ruchi Khand II,	Rs. 70,12,228.00	Minjumla Khasra no 333 Situated at Village Kasimpur	01.08.2023				
	Sharda Nagar, Lucknow 226002. Also, at Co-Borrower: Mr. Bijesh Vijiyan, 1/60	+ Unapplied respective	Pakri Ward, Hind Nagar Tehsil Sarojini Nagar Dist Lucknow, Area Admeasuring: 1600 Sq Ft, <b>Bounded</b>	12.10.2023				
	Ruchi Khand II, Sharda Nagar, Lucknow 226002	Interest p.a. w.e.f. 01.08.2023 +	by: East: Nala Badhu Road 28 Feet Wide, West:					
		penal interest and	Remaining Part of Seller's Land, North: Proposed Post Office, South: 22 Feet Wide Road					
		other charges/expenses	Post Onice, South. 22 Feet Wide Road					
	ranch: Gonda Borrower: Mrs Pragati Sinha W/o Shri Digvijay	D. 5 00 000 00	House Gird Gonda, District Gonda Sub Dist Gonda,					
э.	Sinha, 134/2 Chote Lal Hata Maharaniganj, Gonda	Rs. 5,20,226.00 + Unapplied respective	CTS/Survey Nos 182min, Area Admeasuring: 711.75	25.07.2023				
	UP 271002. Also, at Mr Digvijay Sinha S/o Shri Keshav	Interest p.a. w.e.f.	Square Feet., Bounded by: East: Land of Beldaar West: Kharanja Rasta, North: House of Sanjay,	12.10.2023				
	Murari Sinha, 134/2 Chote Lal Hata Maharaniganj,	25.07.2023 + penal interest and	South: House of Chandra Prakash					
	Gonda UP 271002	other charges/expenses						
_	ranch: Sultanpur							
4.	Borrower: M/s Shree Enterprises, (Prop. Yogesh Narayan Singh), Jaspara Jaisinghpur, Sultanpur	Rs. 26,46,445.65	Vill Saraiya Kelhanpur Pargana Aldemau Kadipur Tq Sadar Dist Sultanpur/Survey No 328, Area known as	07.07.2023				
	UP 228011.	+ Unapplied respective Interest p.a. w.e.f.	Saraiya, Area Admeasuring: 0.103 Hec., Bounded	12.10.2023				
	Also, at Guarantor: Mrs Champa Devi W/o	07.07.2023 +	by: East: Chak of Badri, West: Road, North: Road South: Chak of Pappu					
	Narayan Singh, Phoore Khusal Pandit, Jaspara Jaisinghpur, Sultanpur UP 228011	penal interest and other charges/expenses						
в	ranch: Barabanki	onin on angour on ponooo						
5.	Borrower: M/s New Shivam Tent and Light	Rs. 9.94.251.48	Equitable Mortgage of Property Situated two House	02.11.2022				
	House, Prop. Archana Yadav W/o Gajraj Singh, Newli Chaurah, Haidergarh Road, Nawabganj	+ Unapplied respective	over plot of area 1500 Sq Ft i.e. 139.405 Sq Mt Khasara No 381, Min in vill Barail, Laxmanpuri Colony	12.10.2022				
	Barabanki UP 225001,	Interest p.a. w.e.f. 02.11.2022 +	Nagar Palika Parishad Nawabganj Dist Barabanki,	12.10.2020				
	also at Guarantors (i) Mrs Brahma Devi W/o Ram	penal interest and	Bounded by: East: Plot of Kedar Lal Saini, West:					
	Bahadur, Laxmanpuri Colony, Kathalibagh, Barabanki UP 225001, (ii) Mrs Rajvanti Devi W/o	other charges/expenses	House of Dharamraj, North: 30 Ft Wide Road, South: Plot of Dr Aslam					
	Gangaram, Laxmanpuri Colony, Kathalibagh,							
	Barabanki UP 225001 (iii) Gajraj Singh S/o Ram Bahadur, Laxmanpuri Colony, Kathalibagh,							
	Barabanki UP 225001							
T	ne borrower in particular and the public in gene	eral is hereby cauti	oned not to deal with the properties and any deal	ings with the				
pr	operties will be subject to the charge of Bank	Of Maharashtra for	an amount hereinabove mentioned. The details of	the properties				
	ortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the ction 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to re		The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub					
Se	ction 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to re		Sets. AUTHORISED					



# state 04

# **One killed, four injured in mishap**

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

A man was killed while four others were injured when a speeding pickup overturned after its tyre burst on the Bundelkhand Expressway under the Rath police station area of Hamipur on Tuesday morning. From the CHC all the injured were referred to the Orai Medical College. Man Singh (46) of Kurra Bhauti Khurd, Mainpuri, said after buying buffalo from Mahoba, when he was returning home

in the Jaria police station area due to which the vehicle overturn on the spot. In the incident Anish Kumar of Mainpuri was killed after being crushed under the pickup while Man Singh, Nawab, Yusuf, Bablu and Yasik Ali were injured. The UPEIDA ambulance got them admitted to the community health centre (CHC) from where they were referred to the Orai Medical College. Circle Officer (CO) Sarila Ashish Yadav and Jaria Station Officer the tyre of his pickup sudden- (SO) Vinod Kumar rushed to

ly burst near Itailia Baja village the spot. They said of the 14 animal in the pickup, two were killed and others injured. Inspector Vinod Kumar said after the 'panchnama' the body was sent for an autopsy.

Meanwhile, a motorcyclist was killed by an unidentified truck in factory area on the Kanpur-Sagar highway in Hamirpur late on Monday night. The mishap took place in front of the Shiv Ratan Palace when he was going to do night shift duty in a factory. He was wearing a helmet. On being knocked down by the truck, he

got entangled into it with the bike. While the bike fell near the police outpost, he was killed and the body dragged with the truck up to about five km and fell near a cement factory. The body was badly mutilated. The deceased was identified as Shashi Kant Yadav (26) son of Raj Kishore Yadav alias Babaji of Unchha Thoak locality. Factory area outpost incharge Rahul Mishra and SO Ramasrey Saroj reached the spot and sent the body for an autopsy. He is survived by wife Kalpana and a five-year old son.

# JCB driver hangs self

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

A fter an agrument with his brother-in-law, a JCB driver committed suicide by hanging himself from a neem tree in Raghunathpur village under the Gajner police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Monday night. The police have started a probe in the matter. Rinku Sonkar (22) of Raghunathpur was a JCB driver. His uncle Reshu Sonkar had recently got a job in army. After training, when he reached home on leave, family members donated a gong in a temple as per their commitment and organised a dinner party on Monday. Apart from family members, all the relatives were also called to attend the event. Rinku's sister Komal of Gajner had also arrived with her husband Dhirendra to attend the programme. During the dinner Rinku had an argument with his brother-in-law Dhirendra over some issue. Annoyed Rinku went from there and hanged himself from a neem tree near the water tank situated on the outskirts of the village. When the incident came to light on Tuesday morning panic prevailed among the family members. The police took possession of the body

and started a probe in it. COMPETITION: The Sociology department of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, organised a poster com-Nagar, organised a poster com-petition on the topic 'Hamare Samajik Vicharak'(our social thinkers) on Tuesday. All the students of the department took part in the event. The winners included Anushka (first), Sahiba (second), Sabina (third) and Muskan and Mansi (consolation). Dr Nishi Singh was the judge of the competition. The faculty of the department Dr Priti Dwivedi, Dr Archana Mishra, Dr Saba Yunus, Dr Rashmi Singh, Dr Akanksha and Vandini Sharma played a key role in the successful conduct of the programme.

# PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUF

 $B_{\text{Panchayat}}^{\text{haratiya Janata Party Zila}} Adhyaksh}$ Swapnil Varun while distributing smartphones and tablets to the students of Shree Shakti Degree College on Tuesday said the purpose of providing these smartphones and tablets to students of the rural areas is to assist them in their studies so that they can also study online. She said it will also help them to hone their social skills. She motivated the girl students to take studies as a challenge and ensure they achieve their goals in life. She said edu-cation is one such platform which provided students a level field to prove their academic skills in different areas and said over 50 per cent of women of the total population can certainly play a vital role in the progress of the country. She said as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi educated women of the country had the potential to play a constructive role for the development of nation. She said as per Modi's vision by 2047 India will be the most progressive and developed country.

Manager of the college Vinay Trivedi said by acquiring knowledge and pursuing higher education the younger generation can contribute majorly to the development and progress of the country. He advised students to always respect their parents and teach-

# Smartphones, tablets distributed श्री शारि डिग्री-

ers and ensure they kept the nation on top priority. He spoke on benefits of smart phones and advised the students to avail themselves of the facility to enhance their academic skills. He said the main benefit of using mobile phones is they make mode of communication easier and cheaper. He said its another major advantage was that it can be used to acquire knowledge or information on various topics. He advised the students to not waste their time on mobile phone but use it constructivey. Dr JK Sachan, Raj Kumar Śharma, Dharmendra Nishad, Raunandan Vidyarthi and others spoke on the occasion.

NIGHT LANDING FACILITY: Night landing facility here has been a long-standing demand since the airport was operationalised. As the president of Merchant Chamber of Uttar Pradesh Abhishek Singhania decided to

Back pain single leading cause

take up the matter with the authorities concerned in defence, civil aviation ministries and also requested the support of the UP Government. After various rounds of meetings and followup, the authorities have given approval for the night landing facility at Kanpur airport. The chamber has received a reply on Monday from Pushpendra Kumar, Director (IAS/SSC/CG Policy), Department of Defence, Government of India, New Delhi, in which he has informed the chamber that the Indian Air Force is actively working to successfully implement night landing operations at Kanpur airport and the system is likely to be available from November. It stated that there will also be meeting with other airlines such as Vistara, Air India Air Asia, Akasa and Spice Jet requesting them to start flight operations from Kanpur to other destinations.

# **Health services improving** continuously in Kashi: MLA PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI deployment of 23 ASHA work-

 $F_{\rm MLA\ from\ City\ South}^{\rm ormer\ UP\ minister\ and}$ assembly constituency Neelkanth Tiwari said that the medical and health services are continuously expanding in Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was speaking while inaugurating the new building of Urban Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Benia Bagh here on Tuesday. The urban PHC in Benia Bagh which was being operated in a rented building since 2015 has got its own building as Benia Bagh Jachcha Bachcha (Mother-Child) Hospital in Dashashwamedh Zone of the Nagar Nigam, which was lying closed for about 20 years, got a renovated work recently.

He informed that earlier, Koniya and Jaitpura urban PHCs have been inaugurated in his constituency area. He said that this building was constructed in the year 1939 as a mother-child centre. "With the inspiration of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the repair work of the new building for Benia PHC was done under the screening of common com-



on Tuesday.

MLA fund year 2022-23. It cost Rs 24.78 lakh. On Tuesday, the building has been handed over to the Health department," he said, expressing hope that the same kind of facilities which are being provided at the urban PHC should be provided to the residents of the area.

He asked all the doctors, ANMs and para medical employees to remain present on duty and ensure running of all health facilities including OPD, regular vaccination of children and pregnant women,

municable and non-communicable diseases and organising of Ayushman and Arogya Swasthya fairs. The effort of the present government is to provide all medical and health services to the people of every section of the community, he added.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that new Benia PHC will have one Medical Officer Incharge, one shortterm doctor, four ANMs, one pharmacist, one lab technician, two associates apart from

dren and pregnant women, testing of common communi-Benia PHC which is located near the SSPG Divisional Hospital and District Women's

ers and medical and health ser-

vices will be provided here

every day from 9 am to 5 pm

in which free services of OPD,

regular vaccination of chil-

Hospital and Ensure research Hospital. On the occasion, Medical Officer Incharge Dr Karthikeya Singh, DHEIO Harivansh Yadav, DUHC Ashish Singh, Dr Rohit Singh, Gopal G Gupta, Nalin Nayan Mishra, Sandeep Chaurasia, Sadhna Vedanti, Rahul Singh, corporator Vivek Jaiswal, Shravan Gupta, Sanjay Keshari, Anant. Raj Gupta, Rajiv Singh Dabbu, Sandeep Chaturvedi,

# World Trauma Day observed

endeavours of Prof

lives but also in providing a pathway to recovery and hope for survivors and their families. Keeping in mind the same and in order to create awareness, Trauma Centre, Institute of Medical Sciences , Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) observed the day on Tuesday. The awareness programme has been instrumented through the

ogy of bone and disc when integrated together developed powerful techniques for treating spinal disorders. He said the Globas Hospital has launched a special seven-day camp for bone remodelling which was an Saurabh lynamic process tive and that relied on the correct balance between bone resorption by osteoclasts and bone deposition by osteoblasts. He said recent studies evidenced a complex interplay between the immune and skeletal systems, which share several regulatory molecules including cytokines, receptors and transcription factors and these data allowed to more deeply understand the mechanisms underlying bone mass regulation and could open new avenue to identify target molecules for alterantive therapies more efficacious ciency. against bone diseases. Dr Singh said as one got older bad habits such as slouching and inactiv-ity caused muscle fatigue and tension that ultimately led to poor posture. He said the complications of poor posture included back pain, spinal dysfunction, joint degeneration, rounded shoulders and a pot-

of disability around the world PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR single leading cause of disability around the world. He said the back was a complex structure to understand, made up of

Noted orthopaedic surgeon, Globas Hospital, Kakadev, Dr RK Singh, while addressing muscles, ligaments, bones, a seminar on World Spine Day nerves and discs. He said said the day was observed with smart phones and comevery year on October 16. The puters being used more contheme for the year was "Move sistently in everyday life, it's Your Spine". He said the day easy to put unwanted strain on was an effort by orthopaedists these muscles and ligaments on to raise awareness of the imporour necks and spines. He said tance of spinal health. He said because overuse of this technology can lead to poor posture the recent advancements in biomaterial development, comand a number of other injuries puter-assisted image-guided technology, and molecular bioldown the line, it can be dangerous to a person's overall health without the right attention. He said by sitting with head leaned over at such high angle, one can put neck and spine at risk of being pulled out of alignment. He said increased strain of necks can be dangerous and lead to muscle

pinched

ing exercises and mindful meditation sleeping on orthopaedic bed and rational use of medications

MAN DIES: A man was killed by a stray bull in Gangaghat Kotwali police station area of Shuklaganj, Unnao, on Monday night. The man had gone to see off a relative on the door of his house when a stray bull present there attacked him by picking him on its horns and threw him on the floor. The seriously injured man was taken to a hospital where the doctors declared him dead. As celebrations of the mundan ceremony of deceased's granddaughter were on in his house, the joyous event suddenly turned into mourning. Ravi Gupta of Binda Nagar said that mundan ceremony of his four-year old daughter Bitti was fixed for nerves and herniated discs. He said over Monday. The celebration was time and in many cases, peron in full swing in his house. sistent symptoms may require Around 9 pm when father additional treatment, including Radhey Shyam Gupta (55) epidural injections and spine went out to see off a relative the surgery. He advised people to stray bull present at the main refrain from sitting crossgate of the house attacked him. legged as it had negative effect His seriously injured father on posture, as well as the was taken to a nearby hospital pelvis, lower back and hips. He in an unconscious state from said when sitting, make sure where he was referred to feet were on the floor with Kanpur. At the LLR (Hallet) ankles resting in front of knees. Hospital there the doctors He said take brief walks as it declared him as brought dead. was good for blood flow and Thereafter, happiness turned into mourning. Executive Officer, Nagar Palika, Mukesh posture as well as work effi-Dr Singh said surgery was Kumar Mishra said directives certainaly effective yet the suchad been issued to depute a cess rate for a herniated lumteam to catch the stray bull. bar disc surgery was 78.9 per cent among 39,048 patients. He said a study reported a 94 per Local corporator Ashok Savita said he had complained to the nagar palika twice in the past. Its cent long-term success rate for workers had caught the bull but instead of sending it to the patients undergoing herniated cervical disc surgery. However non-surgical methods were gaushala had allegedly left it somewhere midway due to which relaxation techniques, breath- it returned to the locality.

# AKTU V-C exhorts students to PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI concentrate on time mgmt

World Trauma Day is an annual event dedicated to acknowledging the global impact of trauma and highlighting the importance of effective trauma care and injury prevention. Every year, on October 17, individuals, organisations, and healthcare pro-SMITaround the wor come together to commemorate World Trauma Day and emphasise the critical role of trauma care in saving lives. Trauma, often resulting from accidents, violence, natural distrained in artificial intelligence. asters, or other unexpected The guest of honour and events, is a major public health Director, Institute issue affecting millions of peo-Management Sciences, BHU ple worldwide. World Trauma Prof Šujit Kumar Dubey also Day serves as a reminder of the urgent need for prevention, expressed his views. Director of RSMT Prof Aman Gupta welpreparedness, and quality care comed the guests and newly admitted students. Prof SK Singh for trauma victims. The theme for World Trauma Day-2023 is 'Empowering Voice, Healing Together'. This theme underand Prof PN Singh gave detailed information about the course and discipline. Dr Vineeta Kalra scores the vital role that trauma coordinated the programme. care plays in not only saving

# Gauri Shankar Pathak and many others were also present.

#### cable and non-communicable diseases will be provided. Apart from this, all national health programmes including Ayushman Mela, Arogya Swasthya Mela will also be conducted. Nagar Swasthya Adhikari Dr NP Singh said that the local residents will also be able to get primary health services at

make more concentration on time management and learn necessary skills relating to management and technology besides the curriculum. Speaking virtually as chief guest in the inaugural session of a 10-day orientation programme of MBA and MCA in Rajarshi School of Management & Technology (RSMT), Udai Pratap (Autonomous) College on Monday, Prof Pandey said that the students should make more concentration on time management to utilise their two years course and they should also learn the necessary skills relating to management and

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Vice-Chancellor, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical

University (AKTU), Lucknow

Prof JP Pandey has exhorted



A guest speaking in the inaugural session of the orientation programme held in RSMT, Udai Pratap (Autonomous) College.

technology besides curriculum as they could take the possibilities of job opportunities to a new level with the help of this. Presiding over the inaugural session virtually, former V-C of Mahamaya Technical University (MMTU), Noida Prof SK Kok said there are immense possibilities of job in the field of artificial intelligence and so, the trainees of technology and management are required to be

Incharge (Purchase)

Singh, Professor Incharge, Trauma Centre. The programme was weaved in three parts - the first part consisting of blood donation camp, followed by a scientific session, which garnered over 150 delegates from across the nursing staff, nursing undergraduates, multitasking staff, etc. The programme ended with the distribution of helmets, which commute from long distances by two-wheelers. The blood donation camp began at 9 am. The certificates of appreciation were distributed to all the participants. Over 50 people volun-tarily donated their blood.

Ander is hereby invited for the supply of following item:-  Name of Work/Item  For Verka Head Office, Sector- 34 A, Chandigarh Freezer On Wheel  Annual/
Constant And Characteria Constant And Consta
i. 100-110 Ltr. 15 Units ii. 200 Ltr. 85 Units

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1	NIT No-3271/gm/mn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Badhaya, Azamgarh, Package-10
2	NIT No-3272/gm/mn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Kharihani, Azamgarh, Package-11
3	NIT No-3273/gm/rnn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Manchubha, Azamgarh, Package-12
4	NIT No-3274/gm/rnn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Barauna, Azamgarh, Package-13
5	NIT No-3275/gm/rnn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Kandharpur, Azamgarh, Package-14
6	NIT No-3269/gm/mn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Kushumhara, Azamgarh, Package-15
7	NIT No-3276/gm/mn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Larpur, Azamgarh, Package-16
8	NIT No-3278/gm/mn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Raunapar, Azamgarh, Package-17
9	NIT No-3270/gm/rnn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Chhihibrahman, Kushalgaon, Azamgarh, Package-18
10	NIT No-3277/gm/rnn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC, Sikraur, Azamgarh, Package-19
11	NIT No-3279/gm/rnn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of PHC Kaptanganj, Azamgarh, Package-20
12	NIT No-1896/gm/mn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of CHC Mohammadpur, Azamgarh, Package-2A
13	NIT No-3298/gm/rnn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of CHC Mirzapur, Azamgarh, Package-2C
14	NIT No-2377/gm/mn/vnsz/2023	Balance work of CHC Chilkahar, Bllia, Package-20
15	NIT No-2193/gm/vnsz/tender2023	Balance work of CHC Shubhkarpur, Ghazipur,

## IM-BHU holds interactive session R NEWS SERVICE 📕 VARANASI

ing Manug

itute of Management idies, Banaras Hindu ersity (IM-BHU) organan interactive session on lay for the students. The nts were graced by the nce of Rajeev Gupta, MD CEO, Resource opment International ) Pvt limited (RDI). Prof ubey, Director, IM-BHU Prof HP Mathur, Dean, FMS, IM-BHU, welcomed the guest by presenting him a bouquet, shawl, and memento.

Gupta shared his wisdom, necdotes, and illuminated pinion of the agenda of 'innoating and grappling in turbuent times - for a sustainable iture and wellbeing'. He start-

d the session by building a irect relationship with the tudents on grounds of dissussing the stress triggers of the tudents that affect their prouctivity. His charismatic peronality and honest words nchanted the students, xplaining complex topics of verindulgence, self-talk, per-eption, and the effects of all vated to do better'. ese on the mindset of a stuent and self-evaluation. His ast resourcefulness and muldisciplinary working expeience brought forward how uccessful people in his expeience have one thing in comtrue self, cumulating self in a

mon, contrary to common belief, 'successful people never competed with anyone, and always encouraged those who succeeded only to be moti-То achieve self-satisfaction, Gupta encouraged the students to follow the same steps, which include spending time with the ideal self without stimulators and distractors, finding and practicing Abhijeet Biswas.

### belly. He said back pain was the Permission for holding dandiya dance & DJ programme is must PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI raking the information L regarding the programmes of Dandiya Dance and Desk Jockey (DJ) are to be organised during the auspicious occasion of Shardiya Navratri into cognizance, the Department of State Tax, earlier known as

Guest speaker Rajeev Gupta being honoured at an interactive session at IM-BHU in Varanasi on Tuesday

relationship between gratitude and fulfillment, feeling resourceful by filtering the thoughts through the sieve of humility. This session was organised by the Student Wellbeing Initiative Committee whose chairman is Student Advisor Dr Shashi Srivastava. The session was also attended by faculty members Dr Ashutosh Mohan, Dr Vishal Kumar Laheri and Dr

holding such programmes.

According to Section 2A of Uttar Pradesh the Cinematograph (Regulation) (Amendment) Act by the "entertainment" includes any performance, presentation, amusement, sports, entertainment (including racing), direct to home broadcasting services, Entertainment Tax has said cable services, exhibitions by means of motion pictures, digthat the permission for holding such a programme is mandaital projection systems and tory otherwise the organisers videos to which persons are admitted through payment. The documentary form includes news films, docucould face the penalty of ₹20,000 or punishment of six

months imprisonment or both for holding such entertain-ment or cultural programmes mentaries, cartoons, advertisements, short films and slides in the case of showing without prior permission. According to the departmental before or during film and digofficers, like the previous years ital exhibition or through a septhis year too, the owners of hotels, auditoriums and mararate projection system. It has also been defined as including riage lawns are holding culturany activity notified as entertainment by the State al programmes such as dandiya Government from time to time. dance or DJ during the auspicious occasion of Shardiya According to Section 4A of the said amended Act, no enter-Navratri or various parties are

tainment on which tax is leviable, whether it is exempt from the liability of paying tax or not, will be organised without the prior permission of the District Magistrate. If any person organises any of the above mentioned entertainments without the permission of the District Magistrate, then a case can be instituted in the competent court, for which a fine of ₹20,000 or six months' imprisonment or both could be imposed under Section 8(a) sub-section (1) of the amended Act and on filing of application for compounding the crime, the District Magistrate may impose a fine of Rs 20,000 under Section 8 (1) of the said Act. According to the officers of the department, the owners of hotels, auditoriums and marriage lawns have been directed to hold such programmes after getting permission from the DM and also paid payable GST as per the rules.

# state 05



#### Shivaji made first attempt to stop | Fire claims lives of woman, two kids PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ attack on Hindutva: RSS leader hospital from where the doctutions across the country on across the country. After a tors referred them to the LLR various issues pertaining to woman and her two minor Hospital in Kanpur. However, education, national subjects,

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Sah Vyavastha Pramukh (co-organisation head) of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Anil Oak said that Shivaji made the first attempt to stop the ideological, literary, cultural and physical attacks on Hindutva. He was addressing a dialogue programme organ-ised before the staging of the historical Mahanatya (grand drama) Janata Raja (visionary king), based on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, at Centre of Vedic Science in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Monday which was also attended by Union Minister Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey. The drama will be organised from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm at Amphitheater grounds in BHU here from November 21 to 26.

Oak said that this great drama is being staged in Kashi to commemorate the completion of 350 years of 'Hindavi Swaraj' established by Shivaji. Elaborating Shivaji's war strategy, he said that as survival is necessary for the establishment of Swaraj so one must fight to win the war. "The war between Shivaji and Afzal Khan has been described as one of the seven major wars of the world by the London Military School," he said, pre-senting the description of this

war in the form of a poem. Regarding Shivaji's good governance policy, Oak said that in reality Shivaji fought only for seven years and worked for 'Suraj' (good gover-



RSS leader Anil Oak addressing a programme at BHU in Varanasi on Monday.

respect. He also sentenced his

maternal uncle Mohite to life

imprisonment for misbehaving

with a poor woman. Taking

quick decisions was the special-

ty of Shivaji, with only 60 sol-

diers he defeated one lakh sol-

diers in a guerrilla war in the

palace of Shaista Khan." He

said, adding that construction

ate appointment, food grain scheme for every family, navy and merchant navy were started during the reign of Shivaji. Aurangzeb has also praised Shivaji's character in a part of the play," he said, adding that to establish the Hindavi Empire, Shiva ji made such friends whose ideals are relevant even in the present situa-

tion. Giving the example of Shivaji's Nai (barber), he said that despite not being expert in war, he did not worry about his life for Swaraj and went straight to the enemy's side. "To save the life of Shivaji, Baji Prabhudesh Pandey, along with only 300 people fought with 4,000 Pathan horsemen and attained martyrdom," he said, adding that presently, that place in Maharashtra is famous by

the name of Pavan Khind. He further said that Shivaji was deeply imbued with the feeling of patriotism. "Shivaji had no desire to become a king but to establish the Hindavi Empire as he assumed the title nance) for 28 years. "The first of Chhatrapati. Shivaji also pension scheme, compassion- treated women with special

as were there during the time of Shivaji. In such a situation, staging Janata Raja Mahanatya will provide us a solution to those situations. Shivaji's guru Samarth Guru Ramdas had called him Janata Raja which means far-sighted king." Dr Pandev said. Rénowned storyteller

through such circumstances

Shantanu Ji Maharaj said that by conspiring with Indian history, the characters of many great men were made to disappear from the pages of history. He said that the Seva Bharti (Kashi Prant) will work to teach, show and narrate one such character. "Just as all the Indians had made their own sacrifices for the construction of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya, similarly everyone's sacrifice should be made for this great drama also," he said.

of new forts, establishment of At the beginning, the navy, appointment of pant guests garlanded the statue of pradhans for good governance Mahamana and lit the lamp showed the vision of Ramrajya and it was followed by a presenby Shivaji. According to him, tation of BHU's Kulgeet by the Baba Saheb Purandare comstudents of the Faculty of Music and Stage Arts. Kashi Prant posed 'Mahanatya' by penning down these ideals of Shivaji. He Pracharak Ramesh Chandra said that the money received and Seva Bharti Kashi Prant from the tickets would be chief Rahul Singh were also present on the stage. Dr utilised for making residential arrangements for the atten-Harendra Rai, co-secretary of dants in front of the Cancer Organizing Mahanatya Committee, Prof Satya Prakash While presiding over the programme, Union Minister Pal, Prof DC Rai, Kashi Vibhag Pracharak Nitin and others Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey were also present. The vote of said that the learned people of thanks was given by Prof Upendra Nath Tripathi, Coordinator of Centre of Kashi also had a contribution in the life of Shivaji Maharaj. "It was here that Pandit Gaga Vedic Science and Prof Gyan Bhatt performed the corona-Prakash Mishra of Journalism tion of Shivaji. In fact, the predepartment conducted the sent period is also passing function.

A woman and net two lines after a fire broke out in their house due to leakage in LPG cylinder in Khatauli village in Fatehpur on Monday evening, the police said. The incident took place when the woman was preparing meal and the gas pipe of the cylinder caught

fire. The deceased were identified as Alka Devi (28), Gaurav (5) and Pari (2). The police said both the kids were sitting next to their mother when she was preparing the meal. After hearing their cries, neighbours and other villagers rushed to the spot and tried to douse the

flames. Upon being alerted, a team of police also reached the spot and took the trio to the district

the family members took them to a private hospital in Kanpur where they succumbed to their injuries, they said adding that the bodies have been sent for postmortem.

SUGGESTIONS INVIT-ED: Under a nation wide campaign the Allahabad University Jnit of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has invited suggestions from the students regarding education and other important subjects.

The ABVP is to pass reso-lutions on the basis of suggestions received from students in its national conference scheduled in Delhi.

The ABVP has invited suggestions from students studying in various educational insti-

environment and other contemporary issues. Students can send their views/suggestions on the aforementioned subjects through the Google Forms available on ABVP's Facebook handle, X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram and other social media handles. They can also send their views/suggestions on the e-mail ID of

thorough discussion with the students present in the conference, the ABVP will pass the aforesaid proposals in its national conference scheduled to be held from November 30 to December 3 in Delhi.

The ABVP in its national conferences and national executive committee meetings, passes resolutions on various topics, including education, environment etc. Based on ABVP national general secre-tary Yagyvalkya Shukla which these passed proposals, ABVP units across the country, along with students and vouth, works abvpyagywalkya@gmail.com . The ABVP Allahabad University unit has also asked relentlessly to achieve the set goals and brings an optimistic change in the society. After having a thorough discussion on the suggestions received from the students across the

proposals based on suggestions received from students

students to submit their suggestions through Google Form and e-mail. The ABVP will prepare country in its Amrit Mahotsav conference, ABVP will finalise its future plans.

Students staging dharna go on rampage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

A large number of students who were sitting on a dharna went on a rampage on the Allahabad University (AU) campus on Tuesday. The chief proctor allegedly got students protesting at the library gate lathicharged. After this the students closed the library gate and started creating a ruckus. Seeing the increasing commotion, forces from many police stations were called. This was followed by heated clashes between angry students, secu-rity guards and policemen. The police then dispersed the students using mild force.

After this the police arrested five protesting students. 2 MEMBERS OF ATIQ Umesh Pal in February this

GANG HELD: The Khuldabad police arrested two members of slain Atiq Ahmed gang from Chaufatka area and seized seven crude bombs from their possession.

Those arrested were Anees Akhtar alias Anees Kabari (46) and his son Mohd Rehman (21), residents of Chakia Kasari Masari. The police said the duo was associated with Atiq and his family members for a long time. They have been booked under Section 4/5 of the Explosives Act. The police have been compiling their criminal sketch.

During interrogation, the duo revealed that they had been carrying these bombs

Five-day Regional Science

year. They have been evading police since then. They also told the police that they used to carry these bombs for their own security. The police said the duo was planning to hide these bombs under the dilapidated office structure of slain

Atiq Ahmed. POSTAL DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN: The Postal department has launched a campaign 'Samriddhi Sukanya -Samriddhi Samaj' to take the benefits of 'Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana' launched by PM Modi under 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme.

General Postmaster Krishna Kumar Yadav said that under Sukanya Samriddhi of her mother or father Yojana, account of girls up to with two photographs.

cent interest, which is higher than small savings scheme. This account, can be opened with only Rs 250. There is provision of exemption of up to 1.5 lakh in income tax under section 80C of Income Tax. Postmaster general said three lakh Sukanya Samriddhi accounts have been opened so far in post offices of Prayagraj region. Senior superintendent of post office, Prayagraj division, Abhishek Srivastava said for opening Sukanya Samriddhi account, people may contact nearest post office with a copy of birth certificate of girl child, a copy of Aadhaar card of her mother or father along

termed as an eco-friendly pan-

dal of the city" says Shailendra

Dwivedi, general secretary of

this barwari. In the same way,

the Durga puja pandal of

Tagore Town barwari, which is

being installed at the ground of

Colonelganj Inter College gives

a look of Kedarnath temple of

Uttarakhand. "I had been to the

shrine a couple of years ago and

age of 10 years can be opened

in post office. It offers 8.0 per

# Dastak Abhiyan launched

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

In order to its efforts to prevent the transmission of communicable and vectorborne diseases, the Health department has launched Dastak Abhiyan under Special Communicable Disease Control Drive.

Under the Dastak Abhiyan launched by the Health department on Monday, the Asha-Anganwadi workers and health workers will identify the patients of communicable and vector-borne diseases by visitng from home to home an conduct the test of their health. They will also make the people aware of these diseases, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary informed and directed the health employees to work continuously with the coordination of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development department to avoid water logging and culmination of contaminated water besides ensuring the cleanliness of drainage and cutting of ambushes.



Hospital

#### daily basis.

departments.

Stickers, posters, etc should be affixed to aware the people of mosquito-borne diseases, he directed and added that the maximum people should be aware about this taking the help of Gram Pradhan in the rural areas and corporators in the urban areas. The Nodal Officer of Communicable Diseases and ACMO Dr SS Kannoujia informed that the Health department has been made the Nodal department of the drive which is working relating to vector-borne diseases makcoordination with 10 other

#### Congress inaugurated VARANASI (PNS): The five- of curiosity among the attenday Regional Science Congress-2023 kick started at Mahamana Hall of Institute of Science in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Tuesday. The event jointly organised by Navodaya Vidyalaya, Varanasi and Institute of Science, BHU, will offer a plethora of activities, sessions, lectures and visits to ignite young minds towards pursuing science. A total of 83 meritorious students from different Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand are attending the event. At the

dees. His simple delivery of words engaged students in the journey he was intended to take them through. He acquainted students with the significance of Gurukul system and its effect on Indian society by taking instances from the story of Raja Raghu, who once with his great dedication towards a disciple guru, filled his chariot with gold to greet his guru with Dakshina. Dr Amiya Kumar Samal, chairman, organising committee, briefed the participants about the activities planned for the pro-Nagesh Ki orar me nai Mishra, Principal, Jawahar Novadaya Vidyalaya, Varanasi, delivered the welcome address. Following the inaugural session, groups of students were taken on a visit to different departments of the institute where they got to see various scientific instruments and also witnessed their use in scientific research. A quiz round was also organised by two members of the organising committee, Atal Singh and Shubham Pradhan.

# Pandal to take visitors on a journey to Nagaland

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

This puja season, when all L barwaris (Durga puja samitis) of the city are using different themes to make their puja pandal stand out, the one being installed by the Bai-Ka-Bagh Durga Puja Committee is very interesting. This pandal will take visitors on a journey to the hilly state of Nagaland.

from there, I got an idea to make our pandal resemble the holy shine," says the general Inside the pandal, the artists have made several houssecretary of the barwari. The es similar to those seen in vilpandal will have a huge figure lages of Nagaland. All structures of this pandal are made of of Nandi in the second sitting hamboo w ch is found in abundance in Nagaland. The small conical shaped houses, slanted roofs, bamboo ladder, solar power connection to harness solar energy etc have all been set up to make it look like an authentic Nagaland village. Interestingly, every decorative item around the inner walls of the pandal is made exclusively by bamboo, i.e. without using any form of plastic or thermocol unlike other pandals of the city. "In this way, our pandal can also be



The health employees making the people aware about communicable diseases under Dastak Abhiyan.

pure drinking water for the families, he directed the health employees and advised that the family members should use toilets. The choked drainages of the rural areas should be monitored and its reporting

To ensure the availability of cleaned, anti-larva spray and

informed that the screening of the persons with symptoms of fever, influenza like illness (cough, nausea, etc will be made during the visit from home to home by Ashafogging should be endured Anganwadi workers and they cent per cent and the source of should also make the list of the communicable diseases should persons with the symptoms of tuberculosis, leprosy, filaria, be destroyed, he directed, etc and ensure their test and adding that the drive should be treatment in case they are tested positive. should be made on e-portal on

The District Malaria Officer Sharat Chand Pandey

gramme Prof Anil K Tripathi, Director, Institute of Science, elaborated on the significance of scientific discoveries and innovations. He shared with students insights on various revolutionary scientific innovations and how they impacted human civilization. He also talked about the difference between invention and innovation. Prof SM Singh, Dean, Faculty of Science, during his interaction with students attempted to cultivate the seed

eremony of the pro-

posture seen at entrance of the Kedarnath shrine. The main stage of the pandal will have a replica of the shivling in Kedarnath and behind the Shivling, will be the statues of all the deities, including Goddess Durga, which will be worshipped for four days of the festival. The highlight of this pandal would be a selfie point, which is being made at the tank installed in one side of the school. This tank was donated to the inter college by the Indian Army.

# Alumnus donates \$ 1.6 m to IIT (BHU)

(BHU).

amenities and will go a long

way in molding technology

DEVOTEES OFFER

AT

leaders of tomorrow."

PRAYERS

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The IIT (BHU) Foundation, a US-based all volunteer, non-profit association of IIT (BHU) alumni, announced that Dr Raj Yavatkar, IIT(BHU) graduate and CTO of Mountain View, California based Juniper Networks, has donated 1.6 million US dollars which will be used to build the Student Academic Centre at the institute here, providing a transformational growth ecosystem for the students on

campus. "IIT (BHU) not only got me started on an excellent engineering path but the experience was truly transformative for someone who arrived on the campus at a young age. The institute helped me grow in many areas such as leadership, communication, and risk-taking." said Dr Raj Yavatkar. He further continued that he was excited to support building the Student Academic Centre which will help students pursue innovative R&D projects while also offering opportunities to showcase their cultural talents and build a strong community focused on collaboration

Dr Raj Yavatkar graduated with BTech in Electronics Engineering from IIT-BHU, followed by a MTech in Computer Science at IIT Bombay, and a PhD in



Alumnus Dr Raj Yavatkar donates \$ 1.6 million for a Student Academic Centre in IIT (BHU).

Purdue University. He is a IEEE fellow and is recognised as a leading expert in the networking industry and holds more than 50 patents.

Raj has co-authored five Internet standards. Dr Yavatkar has also published more than 40 papers in academic journals and conferences and has coauthored the book, Inside the Internet's Resource Reservation Protocol (RSVP) published by John Wiley.

Currently, Raj is the Chief Technology Officer at Juniper Networks, a leading vendor for networking systems and services.

Juniper, Raj leads the corporate strategy and technology innovation to put the compa-Computer Science from ny on a growth path with

expansion in enterprise, data Thatheri Bazar in Chowk area center, and mobile network on the third day of Shardiya segments. Raj also serves as an Navratra here on Tuesday. advisor to and is an early Right from the morning hours, investor in many startups. Sagar Bhimavarapu (ECE '88), CEO of the IIT (BHU) Foundation, noted that Dr there was a long line of devo-tees in the nearby narrow lanes. As the weather conditions turned pleasant after a good unseasonal rain during the night hours, the devotees did Yavatkar is a proud example of what IIT (BHU) alums have accomplished. "We are grateful not feel inconveniences to wait to Raj for supporting our efforts to help the IIT (BHU) for a long time to reach the temple and offer prayers. The community, and we look forcity received over 14.4 mm ward to working with other rains during the night and as the hailstorm also hit the

alums to help grow the Foundation's mission" Sagar region, the same damaged the kharif crops badly at some He further expressed his places gratitude for this generous Heavy rush of devotees donation that supports creating was also seen throughout the a robust environment for globday at the famous Durga al donations and endowment Mandir (Durga Kund) as usual. for the truly remarkable IIT Rush was also seen at some other temples of goddesses. Director of IIT (BHU), This holy city is a rare place Prof Pramod Kumar Jain and where there are separate temthe Board of Governors also ples of all the nine Gauris and expressed their gratitude for

Devis where the devotees reach this generous donation. Prof to offer prayers on different Jain said, "This makes possible days during Basantik (Chaitya) state-of-the-art Student and Shardiya Navratra respec-Academic Centre providing tively. our students with the best

Besides, hundreds of devotees rushed to Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district by Roadway buses or other vehicles to offer prayer on this auspicious occa-

C H A N D R A G H A N T A TEMPLE: Long line of devo-Rush was also seen at Old Durga Mandir at Ramnagar, tees was seen at Chandraghanta Sheetla Mata Mandir at Devi Temple located at Adalpura (near Chunar, Chandraghanta Gali near Mirzapur) and others.

# DM reviews progress in works

#### **CORRESPONDENT** MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan reviewed the progress in works costing more than Rs 50 lakh at the Collectorate on Monday.

working agencies to carry out works with quality and complete it within stipulated time. During the review of works The meeting was also attend-Nagar Panchayat Yojana more

neering college to complete the building in such a period leadership of Chairman NPP Shyam Sundar Keshari who was successful in completing that the next academic session the work before Navratri Mela. could run in it. She directed the The chairman said with a budget of Rs 2 crore under Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Adarsh

under 'Voter Chetna Mahabhiyan' on Monday said vote is one of the strongest way to fulfil our aspiration. He said the party has decided to extend full cooper-

general secretary of BJP Anoop

Gupta in a workshop organised

ation to the upcoming electoral revision drive by the Election Commission. The workshop was attended by all people's representatives, party workers and others

ANOTHER FEATHER IN SCHOOL'S CAP: It is a matter of pride for the district that the leading school of the city Daffodils Public School secured the top position in the country in maintaining high class academic performance as well as social activities.

Giving details director Amardeep Singh said an organisation 'Education World' conducted the survey throughout the country and after the marking done by experts the school was declared first in a programme held in Delhi. He said that the assiduous effort of the dedicated staff of the school was acknowledged by a reputed organisation working in the field of the education for long and it has fixed marks as per the quality of social activities. He congratulated other director of the school Aparajita Singh who led the team of teachers who worked hard and succeeded in securing the top

**WORKSHOP:** MLC and position in India.

DM Priyanka Niranjan reviewing the progress in works at the Collectorate on Monday

related to National Health Mission she was informed that out of 67 Arogya centres, 64 have been completed out of which a letter has been sent to the department concerned for taking over building of 22 centres. The work of one centre was under progress while the budget of two centres was to be sent back due to non-availability of the land. The DM issued strict instruction to the working agency related to engi-

ed by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS and joint magistrate Alok

Prasad FUNCTION: Union Minister State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel while addressing the inaugural function of a project carried out by the Nagar Palika Parishad Mirzapur on Monday said the government is performing very well for every section of life. She appreciated the

than 300 poles were erected in the outskirts of the city from Baraundha to Ojhala bridge which is one of the routes to Vindhachal. He said the poles were equipped with LED bulbs which will illuminate the entire road. The programme started with prayers by the minister amidst the chanting of Vedic shlokas. MLA Ratnakar Mishra, corporators and others ere present.

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# **Murder without killer**

Nithari killing prime suspects win relief, justice for kin families goes abegging

his has become an intermittent habit with our justice delivery system, our judicial system and us as society. From Jessica to Arushi to now at least 19 underprivileged kids in the Nithari are of the NCR, there have been murders most foul discovered, but our learned courts at last tell us that the investigation does not prove that the suspects/accused did it. So they are let off with a rap on the knuckles. The investigators ---- transferred, promoted, retired or dead ---- face no accountability either. That seems to be the bane that has come to revisit us in the form of Allahabad HC's shocking decision on the Nithari murder accused, domestic help Surinder Koli and his master Moninder Singh Pandher. The incident, reported from Noida in 2005-06, took years for the horrifying details to come out. The Nithari murders were especially gruesome as they involved killing innocent children in cold blood; several dead bodies were recovered from a nearby drain. Many bodies had internal organs removed, hinting also at an



organised organ racket. But a botched-up investigation along with loopholes in the judicial system made sure that the perpetrators could go scot-free. Though Koli and Pandher were found guilty in 2009, the High Court has recently overturned the guilty verdict ostensibly because of lack of evidence and the testimony of alleged witnesses.

In the annals of Indian criminal history, the Nithari serial killings stand as a chilling testament to the depths of human depravity. The case shocked the nation as young women and children fell victim to unimaginable brutality. The Nithari killings were a series of abductions, sexual assaults and murders. The victims dis-

appeared without a trace, leaving their families in anguish and despair. As investigations progressed, the police unearthed gruesome evidence at the residence of Pandher and Koli. The house was a charnel house, revealing the ghastly remains of several missing persons. The CBI recovered many bodies and body parts from the nearby drain and it was thought that the case was foolproof against the prime suspects. But turns out that the scales of the blindfolded lady do not tilt equally for the influential and the underprivileged. Most victims were migrants from UP and Bihar, living on day's earnings and thus hardly had any say in the system or resources to pursue the case. The Nithari case is emblematic of the slow, convoluted and frustrating Indian justice system. The Nithari case is not just a local tragedy but a national shame. It epitomises the systemic issues that afflict India's criminal justice system, including lack of accountability, shortage of forensic resources and the inordinate delay in adjudication. It calls for immediate and comprehensive reforms within the Indian criminal justice system. Only then we can hope to prevent the travesty of justice from being repeated. This decision to acquit the prime suspects should stir society's collective conscience. If it does not, we are all as good as dead.



# Hamas's resolve may survive IDF onslaught



pinion 06

Hamas pulled off Pearl Harbour and 9/11 combined, on October 7, which shows its mettle and motivation. Annihilating it will not be easy for Israeli Defence Forces

n this page last week, a colleague expressed misgivings about the Israeli Defence Forces' (IDF) resilience and wondered if the steel was blunted. No one has ever doubted the will, fighting prowess and potential of Israelis given their history of conflict, sur-vival and incredible prosperity. Israel has almost similar experience in its conflicted history as our own: war on creation in 1948, a second bigger round in 1956 and full-fledged regional wars in 1967 and 1973.

IDF, like now, was caught with its pants down when Egyptians executed a cross-Suez offensive that hesitated allowing the counter-Canal riposte led by Ariel Sharon's Centurion Tank division and Squadron and Troop leaders like Chaim Erez and Benny Taran. In the 1973 war on the Syrian front, the hero was Avigdor Kahalani who later became Mayor of Tel Aviv and Minister of National Security. His book Heights of Courage is a prescribed reading for the Israeli military. He was worshipped by Armoured Corps officers who used to take a second oath near Mount Hermon on Golan Heights where a UN Indian Mechanised force is currently located.

And who will not remember Moshe Dayan, the toast of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and Commander of Jerusalem Front? He became a legend: his eyepatch was replaced with the Jaffa orange in an ad proclaiming The Best. I was privileged to know Kahalani, Erez and Taran, all Armoured Corps, the sword in desert terrain. With the last two, we spent year-long training and friendship at Fort Leavenworth, US and Belgravia, UK. I visited Israel before India formally recognized it in January 1992. That travel is etched as the journey that commenced in Cairo where the Yom Kippur War was conceived. The taxi was driven by a retired Artillery Lieutenant Colonel from the Egyptian Army. We crossed the Suez and drove through Sinai still littered with debris from the 1967 and 1973 wars. The drive was punctuated with a vanquished Veteran's narration of victory turned into defeat. In 1991,

Israel had a string of pearls of UN/EU Peacekeeping Forces. Most are still there - Lebanon, Syria and Jerusalem. Before entering Israel on the border with Egypt, we were wel-comed by Lt Gen Johannes Van Ginkle, the Dutch Force Commander of the EU PeaceKeepers. He like I was an Erez admirer who we were going to meet after nearly 20 years since Fort Leavenworth. Since then, I have been in Israel more than a dozen times including attending uninterrupted since 2010, the annual International Institute of Counter Terrorism conference in Herzilya till COVID paused it. So, Í think I know the IDF pretty well. For anyone doubting its combat strength is a strategic error. Israel has signed peace treaties with Jordan and Egypt and the Oslo Accord in 1993. The most recent is the Abrams Accord which hopes to improve Israel's relations with Arab states. Except with Iran, Syria and Lebanon, there is peace including efforts to mend ties with Saudi Arabia. Since 1973, no Arab country

The West Bank, which was infiltrated by Islamic State last year, has opened a third front for the IDF where more than 300 Palestinians and 50 Israelis have been killed this year. But Hezbollah appears to be only shadowboxing. Iran is external enemy no 1. Both Iran and Israel have vowed to destroy each other and do not recognize the other's right to exist. Iran backs Syria, Lebanon and Gaza. Hamas has a stockpile of 130,000 rockets and missiles. It was only in 2012 that their accuracy improved and Israel ISRAEL HAS devised the Iron Dome whose SIGNED PEACE launch I witnessed. It is an expensive antidote to missiles TREATIES WITH but can distinguish which missile will hit populated JORDAN AND areas. Its discrimination capac-EGYPT AND THE ity makes it valuable. The current ground offensive **OSLO ACCORD IN** against Hamas will be the fifth large-scale operation with 1993. THE MOST the first launched in 2008 RECENT IS THE after Hamas took control of Gaza. Similarly, Israel has operation is not the reoccupation of Gaza. Israel is known to have exchanged 1,200 Palestinian prisoners for one soldier. Iran says Hamas will release hostages if air attacks cease. Ultimately the safety of hostages will constrain operations with IDF fighting on enemy terrain.

Hamas's daring incursion into Israel is a brilliant strategy but the barbarity and brutality of tactics shaming Chengis Khan. Hamas achieved total surprise and horrendous gains. This time they did 9/11 and Pearl Harbour combined, inflicting on Israel their highest losses since the Yom Kippur war.

It has already become the world's largest man-made humanitarian catastrophe that you and I watch on TV. But no one can stop the mauled Israelis from retaliation and the IDF from wreaking retribution by reducing Gaza to the stone age. Fingers invaded Lebanon thrice – in crossed the Gaza Front does 1978, 1982 and 2006.IDF has not spark Lebanon and the failed to deter Hamas and West Bank. IDF may destroy diminish Hezbollah. Its puni-Hamas's capability to fight; tive strikes only degrade capabut not its will to fight anothbility till their next rocket er day.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)



Israel. Tel Aviv is fighting internal wars against nonstate actors Hezbollah in Lebanon, Islamic Jihad and Hamas which has been misgoverned since 2007 Gaza is the periodic source of Hamas rocketry against Israel.

has challenged de facto nuclear

### **ARAB STATES**

ABRAMS ACCORD

WHICH HOPES TO

**RELATIONS WITH** 

IMPROVE ISRAEL'S

attack. This time IDF is tasked to permanently destroy Hamas and rescue the 199 hostages hidden in an underground web of tunnels. This cordon and search operation can take months and become an abattoir. Taran says the

Artisans prepare effigies of demon King Ravana ahead of the Dussehra festival, in Rampu

# Development census serves our goals better



DHARMAPALAN

A census on the educational and professional profiles of citizens would help the government devise policies to plug in gaps that impede our development

country.

independence despite efforts

to dismantle the formal caste

system through legal means,

caste-based discrimination

and social stratification con-

tinue to be significant chal-

lenges in contemporary India.

It is at this juncture, that the

demand by the opposition parties in "INDIA" pushing

for a nationwide caste census

comes as a retrogressive step.

What do our political parties

ven though scientifically we are one species of Homo sapiens, human beings continue to show discrimination based on religion, race and caste. It's a shame for our country in particular and humanity as a whole when people kill each other in the name of caste, religion and race in different parts of the country. Most of the so-called developed countries have reached the level that we see today as they were able to do away with this social mischief. Unfortunately, in our country caste is a dominating player in our social set-up. To preserve the dignity of one's caste even parents are killing their children who try to move away from the clutches of caste rules. People make relationships, friendships and even helping

hands based on caste factors. The caste system that we see today was initiated during the post-Vedic period when more rigid 'Jathis' emerged from the varnas. Around the 6th century BCE, religious movements led by figures like Buddha and Mahavira challenged the hierarchical nature of the caste system.



However, the colonial British rule, as part of their policy of divide and rule, reinstated the social divisions. They introduced census operations that classified people into various castes and communities. This had the effect of reinforcing existing social divisions.

expect from this? Do they The great spiritual philosopher from Kerala Sree want to reinstate the caste sen-Narayana Guru advised peotiments in the mindset of our ple to follow the " one caste, youngsters? Are they promotone religion, one god" philosing the historical wrongs our ophy for the betterment of predecessors have done and humanity. Unfortunately, want our youngsters to fight even in his home state, no one against one another along is following this in true spircaste lines? Are they not it. The Christian missionaries interested in seeing our counwho converted native people try as a developed nation? Póliticians should not play on the belief that Christianity petty electoral politics by does not follow a caste system and gives respect to everyone fooling people. What is the are also bereft of a culture of ultimate objective of pushing oneness. Few Christian sects for a caste census? If it is for the upliftment of a commuin Kerala are more fanatic than any other community in nity/ caste by providing reser-

the country. It seems that vations, previous experience caste is a deeply ingrained shows that it has failed misaspect of Indian society, its erably as the community that receives reservations remains reflection can be seen in every religious group in the backwards even today. What is the use of giving reserva-

Even after 75 years of tions to the children of government servants based on caste lines? Government support can be provided for one generation for their upliftment. There is no meaning in providing reservations to the next generation, as these people have been lifted from the marginalized category. Many communities that had been the dominant earlier are becoming marginalized now. Irrespective of caste, gov-

ernments should support every citizen who is marginalized based on their financial status. Instead of a castebased census, our political parties should take steps to conduct a census on the educational profile and professional profiles of citizens. This can help devise policy measures to identify gaps that impede our development

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

#### ERS LETT

he four decades before and after

1990 mark two distinct eras in

India, accompanied by differing

#### **SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK IN MANIPUR**

Sir-The Manipur's Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department has confirmed an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the state, with the Pig Farm of the Central Agriculture University (CAU) in Imphal West District declared as the 'epicenter' of this contagious disease. Measures have been taken to prevent, control, and eradicate the infectious disease, including prohibiting the movement of pigs from the affected areas.

Reports indicate that ASF might have been introduced through pigs or pork from neighboring countries like Myanmar and Bangladesh. The outbreak has already caused significant damage to the region's pork industry, affecting thousands of families and causing financial losses. The northeastern region's annual pork business is substantial, and this outbreak poses a severe threat to the livelihoods of many. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

ment, aimed at Pakistan cricket fans during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, has faced backlash for its lack of sensitivity. The ad begins with an "Open Invitation to Pakistani Fans," encouraging them to put aside rivalries

It goes on to offer discounts based on Pakistan's performance: a 50% discount if they lose by 10 wickets or 200 a 30% discount for a 6-wicket or 100run loss, using the code

the Pakistani team.

### **Two distinct eras**

establishment of the first IIT before the nation's first general elections. The present day reflects a thriving middle-class that emerged from this transformation and ushered in the era of aspirational India. While the 1990s witnessed economic liberalisation, the current leadership is focused on leveraging India's political and economic standing.

This progress has, however, led to social strain and disproportionate wealth distribution, exacerbated by jobless growth from disruptive technologies. The next generation of leaders faces the challenge of optimising multiple factors, using technology to promote inclusiveness and bridge socio-political divides. This requires statesmen with vision and foresight, and it's essential to trust in India's ability to produce such leadership through the electoral process.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

gas cylinders, and the list goes on. It appears that the Election Commission  $(E\hat{C})$  can do little to curb this practice. So, who else can put an end to this unsavory practice? The courts, of course. Politicians find courts easy to approach which would otherwise be their own responsibility. The Supreme Court had, on a previous occasion, criticized the "freebie culture," noting that offering freebies disrupts the level playing field in an election, with the party making such promises standing to gain. The Supreme Court suggested the formation of a committee of experts to address this issue. Indeed the country must decide a policy on freebies that are offered by the political parties so that there is no confusion on the issue.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**IN BAD TASTE** Sir-MakeMyTrip's recent advertise-

when visiting India.

runs, with the code "BoysPlayedWell";

"EkShaheenHaar"; and a 10% discount for a 3-wicket or 50-run loss with the code "NoMaukaMauka." India has a historical record of victories over Pakistan in World Cup matches, having won in 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2015, and 2019. Nevertheless, the ad has faced criticism for its tone and the way it ridicules

social and economic philosophies. The 1950s represented a shift from agricul-

tural deficiencies, with the Green Revolution transforming India from a nation living hand-to-mouth to a selfsufficient one. The Nehruite philosophy emphasized technology, economic growth, and progress, leading to the

**CHECK ELECTION SOPS** 

Sir-Election dates have been announcedfor five states. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar has pointed out that freebies offered by political parties have a "tadka" of populism, and voters have and convenient to evade the issue, every right to ask the parties how they intend to fulfill these promises if elected to power. He is correct, and the promises made by these parties are often extravagant, unrealistic, and outright absurd.

However, these promises are still made because there are certain sections of society that are susceptible to such grandiose assurances. As long as there are segments of the population ready to be exploited, there will be political parties willing to offer free rations, direct money transfers to women's accounts, monthly cash incentives for women, free electricity up to a certain unit consump-Manzur Hasan | Howrah tion, specific annual allocations of free

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# **FIRSTCOLUMN SPIRITUAL LITERACY IS A MUST**

Our real enemies are not our rivals but suspicion, fear, hatred and violence



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ

t's a proven fact today that disharmony in human relations gives rise to not only wars but to almost all other problems directly or indirectly related to us. The phenomenon of split in families, the rising number of cases of divorces, and even most of the psycho-somatic diseases which are caused by stress or mental tension are due to disharmony in human relations only and nothing else. In the past few days, we all have witnessed how extreme conflict between 2 countries over a border issue resulted in a mass exodus of people from their homeland as well as deaths of innocent people in massive bombings during night time. Hence one cannot deny the fact that the forces that are leading to the disintegration of nations, communities and political parties crop up primarily from disharmony. Most problems of law & order and even the commotions and disturbances in major Legislatures also are due to disharmony in relations between political parties or various linguistic groups, religious communities, etc. It is, thus, very much essential to find a solution to eliminate this problem lest it will eliminate us. But what is the way out? How does one move ahead? Well!! It is quite clear from some of the examples that have been given of the world-events that these problems are mainly the creations of our minds, our attitudes and our negative thinking. Hence, to create harmony, we need to first of all disarm our minds to dismantle the forces of disharmony. It is estimated that world over approximately two trillion dollars are spent every year by various countries on what is called 'Defence' or 'Security' and yet it's quite surprising that insecurity is increasing rather than decreasing. What's more saddening is that all the diversion of resources to war purposes deprives the poorer sections of society of the help that they need or deserve. In this respect, it is essential to redefine security and to break the link between security and military force. We need to understand that our security lies not in an armed state of readiness for war but in friendliness, love and peace with oth-



Our real enemies are not men and women but suspicion, fear, hatred, violence and feeling of revenge and these enemies cannot be eliminated by military means. It has, therefore, rightly been said in the Gita: 'Arjuna, the soul is its own best friend and it is its own worst enemy'. A deep study of the history of human civilization would reveal that presently, there are prevalent certain wrong beliefs that have led us to this kind of a negative culture, negative lifestyle and negative attitudes, one of these wrong beliefs is that there has always been disharmony in the world and there was no time in the history of mankind when there was total harmony. If that were so, then why today do we have a greater number of wars that are more devastating and which result in mass killings? Why are we today inventing more and more deadly weapons? It shows that there was a time in the distant past when there were less and less wars and there was also the earliest era which was free from all kinds of disharmony. Thus, there must have been a time when the world population was small, the environment was clean and there were no wars and people lived in amity and peace. Such an era was known as the Golden Age. That was the time when there was Universal Harmony. It is that new world which we wish to usher in again. And, we want those attitudes and that thinking which can restore harmony in human relations. So, how can we bring about that change? It's very simple, for that we need to realize that most of our problems arise from our spiritual illiteracy which has to be eradicated. If, therefore, we can get rid of this kind of illiteracy and have a new lease of consciousness beyond war and enmity, then we can open to a new paradise, otherwise, we will end in eternal darkness. (The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

# State doles can put discoms at risk



Discoms will be profitable only when they are unshackled from state controls and electricity distribution is deregulated



ven as the Central government is making all-out efforts to remove the financial distress of power distribution companies or discoms (situated at the core of the power supply chain, they procure electricity from power generating companies or gencos and distribute it to the consumers) and restore them to robust health, actions of the state governments undermine these efforts.

The financial distress of discoms arises fundamentally due to their inability to generate enough revenue to pay for the electric-ity they buy. For over two decades, they have been incurring losses year after year. They have funded these losses by borrowings from banks and other FIs apart from keeping bills pending. At the end of FY 2021-22, their total debt was Rs 620,000 crore. Discoms' inability to generate required revenue has to do primarily with two factors viz. aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses - a jargon for power theft and shortfall in the average revenue realisation from the sale of electricity vis-a-vis the average cost of supply (cost of purchase, wheeling and distribution), or the ACS-ARR gap. During 2020-21, AT&C losses were 22.32 percent while the ACS-ARR gap was Rs 0.54 per kWh. Both maladies arise due to constant meddling in the running of discoms by their owners namely the state governments. Power theft on such a massive scale is unthinkable without the complicity of the political establishment. People living in slum settlements/jhuggi clusters being a big vote bank, the party in power encourages unauthorized connections to enable their access to free power. As for the second malady, the political brass orders discoms to sell a major slice of electricity to households (HHs) and farmers, either at a fraction of the cost of supply or even free (the state electricity regulatory commissions or SERCs which are mandated to fix tariff merely act as rubber stamps). Even as the state government promises to reimburse the differential amount to discoms, most states don't reimburse or do it partially and after considerable delay.

Given nearly a quarter of the revenue lost due to power theft and a substantial amount in subsidies remaining unpaid, the financial stress of discoms is inevitable. The politics of freebies now deeply entrenched in the system has exacerbated the already grim situation. Let us look at the developments in Punjab. Last year, amongst a host of freebies promised by AAP the most prominent was free electricity to households (HHs) for consumption up to 300 units per month.

Going by sheer common sense, the State should give help only to those HHs who can't afford to pay costbased tariffs. The way to go is to identify households whose income is below a threshold. AAP hasn't gone by this. Could it be presumed that only low-income HHs REPORTEDLY, have consumption of fewer than 300 MORE THAN units? So, in essence, the assistance reaches only to those who can't 100,000 METERS afford it. A closer scrutiny would reveal that the approach adopted by HAVE BEEN the AAP government is mischievous. Its real intent was to give the **BIFURCATED OR** dole to 'all and sundry'. TRIFURCATED If a household consumes less than 300 units a month, it doesn't nec-ENABLING EVEN essarily follow that it is a family with HIGH-END low income. For instance, there would be umpteen number of well-**CONSUMERS TO** off/high-income old-age couples liv-AVAIL OF THE ing alone who consume less than 300 units a month. Even for others, FREE BONANZA who consume more than this threshold, we see a dastardly trend of consumers applying for multiple connections within the same HH. For instance, a household consuming 900 units a month, gets three meters installed to keep consumption of each under 300 units thereby ensuring zero bill. Reportedly, more than 100,000

rently almost over 95 per cent of power consumers in Punjab avail of subsidies. The swelling number of connections has increased the subsidy by Rs 125 crore per month on average. As a result, the total domestic subsidy for the current FY is now expected to be Rs 8,813 crore – Rs 1,500 crore higher than the initial estimate of Rs 7,313 crore. In Delhi, where there is no charge

for HHs consuming between 200 and (HHs consuming between 200 and 400 units get a deduction of Rs 800 from their bill), the possibility of the majority of households availing of access to electricity - free of any charge - is not ruled out. The situation in other states won't be different. Given almost the entire population of the State - including the rich, millionaires, billionaires and so on, getting to enjoy the free bonanza, the burden of power subsidy is bound to gallop. Faced with budget has yielded results. constraints, the states will take increasing recourse to underpayment and delayed reimbursement of subsidv dues to discoms. Meanwhile, the Centre is dealing with discoms under a two-pronged strategy (i) forcing them to make timely payments and (ii) helping them cut AT&C losses and reduce the ACS-ARR gap. Under (i), it implemented late payment surcharge (LPS) and related matters Rules, in 2022. The LPS rules made it mandatory for discoms to clear their legacy dues as existing on June 3, 2022, in a time-bound manner in 12 equal monthly instalments (EMI) with the benefit of nonapplicability of the LPS after its implementation date. The same rules are also provided for timebound clearance of current dues failing, which will attract a power supply cut. The pressure tactics have worked. The legacy dues of all stakeholders in the electricity supply chain viz. ed.

power generating companies (gencos) and transmission companies (transcos) from discoms decreased from Rs 1,39,747 crore in June 2022 to Rs 69,957 crore in July 2023. Faced with the threat of LPS, the latter could have used loans taken from PFC and REC (out of Rs 130,000 crore sanctioned under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan') to make payments to the former.

As for (ii), under the 'Reforms-Linked, Result-Based Scheme for Distribution' (RLRBSD) launched in July 2021, the Centre has undertaken a massive investment of Rs 300,000 crore to improve the reliability and quality of the power supply and enhance the efficiency of discoms. It has compulsory pre-paid and smart metering components to be implemented across the power supply chain, including in about 250 million households. The Scheme



meters have been bifurcated or tri-(The writer is a policy furcated enabling even high-end analyst, views are perconsumers to avail of the free bonanza. As a consequence, cur-

The AT&C losses of discoms have gone down from 22.32 per cent during 2020-21 to 13.5 per cent during 2022-23. The ACS-ARR gap has also reduced from Rs 0.54 per kWh during 2020-21 to Rs 0.15 per kWh in 2022-23. A 9 per cent cut in AT&C losses is a stupendous achievement. It seems that pre-paid and smart meters have been installed, and power theft is almost eliminated. The Centre is keen that the ACS-ARR gap should be reduced to 'zero' by March 2025. This will require making power theft 'nil' and timely recovery of all subsidy dues from the States. But, this won't be possible if states continue with business as usual; it could even lead to erosion of the gains made in 2022-23. Modi's efforts would deliver only when (a) discoms are unshackled from state controls; (b) States give subsidies directly to the beneficiaries and (c) electricity distribution is deregulat-

The Israel-Hamas war: Where does India stand?

India's diplomatic stance, which supports a two-state solution, may necessitate a revision in light of the evolving dynamics of the conflict

sonal)

hen the global econ-omy is reeling under the crisis, the current geopolitical crisis in the Middle East has doubly heightened the level of inflation. This crisis emerged following the unexpected offensive launched by the Hamas against Israel, which subsequently led to Israel declaring war. Since Israel is a significant trading partner for India, the effects could be escalating.

With sheer surprise, the weekend's unexpected strike by Hamas on Israel has triggered a huge armed war in the Middle East. More than 2300 people have been killed in the fighting so far, and hundreds more have been held prisoners. Israeli Prime Minister has warned of a harsh response, so the situation is unlikely to



(Chakraborty is HoD-Digital Marketing and associate professor at the School of Management, Presidency University Bangalore; views are personal)



CHAKRABORTY

and Ukraine. Trading third-largest Asian trading

improve very soon. In this context, India, one of Israel's imately Rs 74,000 crore, making it the second largest supoldest and greatest allies, has plier of military equipment to expressed its support for the Jewish state and has pledged to Îndia after Russia. India's assist in the time of crisis. goods exports to Israel consti-India's Prime Minister has tute 1.8% of India's overall timely expressed shock and exports, mostly driven by the condemnation of the terror sale of petroleum products. incident. Inflation throughout Israel imports between \$5.5 to the world is possible if the ter-6 billion worth of refined ror attack and retaliation petroleum products from between Israel and Palestine India. During the fiscal year 2023, the aggregate value of escalate into a full-scale war. This might be economically India's exports to Israel comparable to the beginning amounted to \$8.4 billion. of the conflict between Russia Consequences on India's At present, Israel is India's

Hence, there exists a significant likelihood of rupee devaluation, necessitating intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In such a scenario, the currency range is expected to partner and India's 10thincrease to the ?83-84 bracket. In contrast, India engages largest trade partner globally. Military trade between India in the importation of equip-

ment, pearls, diamonds, and other valuable gemstones, including both precious and semi-precious varieties, from Israel

Israel's primary exports to India are the essential materials and machinery used in India's major industries and factories, such as precious stones and metals, electronic equipment, fertilisers, machines, engines, pumps, medical and technical equipment, organic and inorganic chemicals, salt, sulphur, stone, cement, and plastics. Currently, Israel exports items and equipment to India valued at more than \$3 billion. If bilateral commerce between the two nations is halted due to the terror strikes and the conflict, India might miss out on commodities worth Rs 25,000

crore, resulting in a surge in the prices of several common household items.

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has caused a sense of unease in financial markets worldwide, leading investors to redirect their investments towards safehaven assets. Investors maintain a cautious stance and exhibit vigilance in response to global developments, as a riskaverse mentality pervades the market. Investors may tend to exercise caution when considering high-risk ventures. Indian stock market

Last week, the Indian stock market had a notable decline, along with the performance of other global stock indexes. This decline was influenced by the unexpected multifaceted assault carried out by the ter-

rorist group Hamas, involving land, air, and sea operations, resulting in the loss of more than 1,000 lives in Israel. The aforementioned trend has resulted in an escalation of geopolitical tensions, accompanied by an increase in crude oil prices and heightened

volatility in global stock mar-

There are only predictions

with conclusions. The right-

wing politics in Israel and

Palestine exhibit a disinclina-

tion towards embracing com-

promise. This hinders the

process of negotiation. India's

diplomatic stance, which sup-

ports a two-state solution,

may necessitate a revision in

light of the evolving dynamics

of the conflict. Indian citizens

stuck in Israel may need to be

Only predictions

kets

evacuated as quickly as possible to avert loss of lives. The Indian diaspora residing in these nations may also experience repercussions in their life.

In the context of the broader Israel-Palestine conflict, India has always advocated for a peaceful resolution that upholds the rights of all involved parties. The persistent war has resulted in heightened geopolitical tensions. The attainment of a peaceful resolution of the issue necessitates the collaborative endeavours of the global community. A balanced approach is of utmost importance, as it not only facilitates the cultivation of positive ties with Arab nations but also ensures a productive and meaningful interaction with them.



# nation 08

# **Plans afoot to send Indian on Moon by 2040**

#### PNS NEW DELHI

With the Chandrayaan-3 successfully landing spacecraft on the south pole of the moon and setting new bar for the Indian space enterprises, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday Indian Space asked Organisation (ISRO) to set up an Indian Space Station by 2035 and send the first Indian to the moon by 2040. India's first human space

flight- Gaganyaan- is now expected to take off in 2025, a PMO statement said after the Prime Minister held a meeting with the ISRO Chairman S Somanath here. The Gaganyaan mission entails sending two astronauts to low earth orbit.

Modi's directions for future missions came during a briefing by the ISRO Chairman on the progress of the 'Gaganyaan mission`, which is to have its first demonstration flight of the crew escape system on October 21, and other initiatives.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister outlined the future of India's space exploration endeavours and urged scientists to work towards interplanetary missions, including a

ration, it said.

ISRO's moon exploration

plans will comprise a series of

Chandrayaan missions, devel-

Venus Orbiter Mission and a Mars Lander and also explore the moon in greater detail.

"Building on the success of Indian space initiatives, including the recent Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L1 missions, the Prime Minister directed that India should now aim for new and ambitious goals, including setting up the 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' (Indian space station) by 2035 and

To realise this vision, the

sending first Indian to the Moon by 2040," the statement

Department of Space will develop a roadmap for Moon explo-

uncrewed missions of the Human Rated Launch Vehicle (HLVM3) are planned. First demonstration flight of the Crew Escape System

oping a new rocket - the Next Generation Launch Vehicle Test Vehicle is scheduled on 21 (NGLV), building a new October. Prime Minister Modi launchpad and setting up human-centric Laboratories expressed confidence in India's and associated technologies. capabilities and affirmed the The Department of Space nation's commitment to scaling presented a comprehensive new heights in space explooverview of the Gaganyaan ration. The Gaganyaan mission, Mission, including various techwhich entails sending two astronauts to low earth orbit, nologies developed so far such as human-rated launch vehicles was originally planned for launch in 2022. However, the

and system qualification. It was noted that around 20 Covid pandemic and the commajor tests, including three plexity of the mission led to

delays and the first human space flight was expected to take place in the second half of 2024. From Tuesday's meeting, it has emerged that the Gaganyaan launch will now take place in 2025.

Besides Somanath, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra and other officials were present during the meet-

ing. The meeting chaired by the Prime Minister came after India's successful soft landing Indias successful soft faitung near the unexplored south pole of the moon on August 23. Within 10 days of the lunar landing on September 2, India launched a spacecraft to study the Sun from a place called the Lagrange Point (L1), situated about 1.5 million kilometers from the Earth.

The Aditya L-1 mission will study the solar atmosphere, solar magnetic storms, and their impact on the environment around the Earth.

The Department of Space presented a comprehensive overview of the Gaganyaan Mission, including various technologies developed so far such as human-rated launch vehicles and system qualification.

Army to buy military systems to boost capabilities along LAC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In an effort to further enhance its operational capabilities in border areas, including Ladakh, where tension persists at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Army has rolled out a process to procure six fast patrol boats, eight landing craft assault (LCA) and 118 integrated surveillance and targeting systems.

The fast patrol boats are being procured primarily for surveillance in large water bodies, including the Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh.

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

The Army has already issued the request for information (RFI) or initial tenders for procurement of the fast patrol boats, LCAs and integrated surveillance and targeting systems, sources said

and river basins.

here on Tuesday. The RFI for fast patrol boats said the vessels should be "rugged and versatile so as to facilitate seamless execution of small team insertion, surveillance, reconnaissance and patrolling" and that they should be capable of operating across a varying matrix of terrain and conditions. It said the indigenously-

developed boats should have a maximum speed of 29 knots (at sea state level 2) with eight people on board.

The initial tender for LCAs said they are planned to be deployed for search and rescue operations in Creek area

Rajnath exuded confidence

youth to come forward in

sports. You are not just repre-

senting a medal, but are also

representing a narrative of excellence of Indian society.

You are a great medium to pro-

vide inspiration to the youth,"

that the performance of the

players reflected the image of

a rapidly growing and power-ful 'New India'. "Many studies

Rajnath also pointed out

he told the players.

It said the length of the LCAs should be between 13-14 metres and maximum speed not less than 20 knots. The LCAs are generally used for ferrying troops. The last date to respond to the initial tenders for fast patrol boats as well as the LCAs is November 28.The integrated surveillance and targeting systems are being procured for use by mechanised forces in border

areas. According to the RFI, the systems are being procured under the 'buy Indian' category and they must have 60 per cent indigenous content.

# Maharana Pratap's descendant, son of Karni Sena founder join BJP

Vishvaraj Singh Mewar, a descendant of celebrated Mewar king Maharana Pratap Singh and Bhawani Singh Kalvi, son of Karni Sena founder Lokendra Singh Kalvi, joined the BJP on Tuesday, as the party gears up for the Rajasthan Assembly polls scheduled for November 25.

They joined the party in the presence of Rajasthan BJP president CP Joshi, Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, its national general secretary Arun Singh and BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni.

BJP praised the party, with Mewar asserting that people should support the capable and foresighted leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

will elect the BJP to power, vot- time.



ing out the Congress.

Kalvi has also been a well known polo player, while Mewar's father Mahendra Singh Mewar was elected to Lok Sabha on a BJP ticket from Chittorgarh in 1989.

Both are from the Rajput community, which is an important voting segment in Rajasthan. The BJP has sought to reassure Rajputs after Narpat Singh Rajvi, a five-time MLA and son-in-law of party stal-wart Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Meghwal expressed confi- hit out at the party leadership dence that people of Rajasthan after he was denied a ticket this

# Bagchi appointed India's permanent representative to UN

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi has been appointed India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other international organisain Geneva. tions He will succeed Indra Mani Pandey, who is set to return to

New Delhi Bagchi, a 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) official, took over as spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in March 2021 and

deftly handled a number of critical issues and developments including the eastern Ladakh border row, India's Covid-19 response and New Delhi's G20 presidency. "Arindam Bagchi (IFS:1995), presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been

appointed as the next Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva," the MEA said in a brief statement on Monday. "He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," it said. Earlier, Bagchi served as

ambassador to Croatia and deputy high commissioner to Sri Lanka. He also had a stint in the Prime Minister's Office as a director as well as at India's permanent mission at the UN in New York.

signs contract

for construction

of ₹310 crore under the Buy

This is the first dedicated

training platform with integral

helicopter capabilities that will

provide basic sea training to 70

Coast Guard and other inter-

national under-trainee officers

to prepare these budding

mariners on the multi-dimen-

sional maritime aspects of

Coast Guard life, officials said.

advanced and modern high-

tech surveillance and moni-

toring systems will provide

profound insight and expertise

to the ICG cadets on the chal-

lenges at sea while ensuring the

security of coastline and off-

The majority of equipment

The project envisages to

generate significant employ-

objectives of 'Aatmanirbhar

also boost the indigenous ship-

building capability and help in

bolstering maritime economic

and systems will be sourced

from indigenous manufactur-

ers, including MSMEs.

shore assets.

capabilities.

This training ship with

(Indian- IDDM) category.

of ship for ICG

NEW DELHI

# Rainath announces cash rewards to jawans who won Asian Games medals

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Recognising the stellar per-formance of athletes from the Armed forces in the recently concluded Asian Games, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday announced cash reward of ₹25 lakh to Gold medal winners, ₹15 lakh to silver medal awardees and ₹ten lakh to bronze medal winners. He also said medals and per-

formance will inspire the country's youth. The Defence Minister made these assertions here in a function to felicitate the medal winners, participants and support staff from the Armed Forces, who took part in the recently concluded 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou, China. He

interacted with a total of 76 players and staff. Ón behalf of his Ministry, Rajnath announced cash prizes to the Armed Forces personnel, who brought laurels to the country and once again proved



al event, by bagging 16 individual medals (3 Gold, 6 Silver and 7 Bronze) and eight team medals (2 Gold, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze) at the Games.

A contingent of 88 soldiers, including three sportswomen, participated in 18 disciplines at the Games. In his address, the defence minister lauded the efforts of the players, including those who gave their best, but could not win the medals. He reminded them of Flying Sikh a whisker, but became a guid-

show that the progress in sports of any nation is more or less proportional to the economic prosperity of that country. "In this context, as India is

becoming an economically strong nation, our medals are also increasing in every field," he said.

The Defence Minister asserted that the Government is making relentless efforts to develop sports culture in India. "On one hand, we have worked to increase awareness about sports among the youth through Fit India and Khel India campaigns; on the other, through the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, we are committed to increasing India's

medal count in the Olympics. Today, our country is taking steps to host the Olympic Games in 2036. I am confident that with the support of the Government, our athletes will take India to the top of the medals tally through their hard work, dedication and passion,"

their mettle at an internationing star of Indian athletics. Milkha Singh is an inspiration for all even today, he said. that these medals and performance will inspire the country's

Milkha Singh, who missed a medal in the 400-metre race in the 1960 Olympics in Rome by

# Nationwide survey suggests carbon neutral measures for hospitals

#### ARCHANA JYOTI - NEW DELHI

The Indian healthcare sector was responsible for more than 9 per cent of all India's commercial electricity consumption in 2019-20 fiscal, a first-of-its-kind nationwide Government survey of over 600 health institutions across the States has said and suggested a wide-ranging carbon neutral measures including mandating of green building bye-laws among others to make the hospitals climate smart to help achieve the country's net Zero target by 2070.

Thousands of hospitals, health centers and entire health systems around the world are already implementing climatesmart health care strategies.

Titled 'Towards Climate-Smart Hospitals: Insights From A National Hospital Energy Consumption Survey' it found that the penetration of on-site solar PV is 17 per cent in private and 11 per cent in public hospitals. In public hospitals the maintenance of the solar PV plant was not effectively conducted even as some of the healthcare facilities surveyed indicated that the solar PV plants' components needed detailed repairing and replacement.

It was also observed that the healthcare facilities are not using solar PV systems as a source for backup and are relying only on diesel generators during the hours of power supply failure to provide criti-cal services.

Under the aegis of the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH), the exercise in 18 states with diverse climate zones was conducted to understand the quantity and quality of energy consumption in different types of healthcare shown absence of HVAC) there



facilities. It noted that there was a wide variation in hospitallevel energy intensities (measured in Energy Performance Index (EPI) and Annual Energy Use per Bed (AEUB) between and within hospital

typologies. The large EPI diversity can be attributed to factors related to energy efficiency such as the energy efficiency of end-use equipment/appliances and behavioural energy efficiency, and factors unrelated to energy efficiency such as differences in air-conditioned areas, levels of medical services provided, hours of active use, the climate zone, the degree of outsourcing

of services, and patient privacy." The survey spanning over two years has been conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under the Union Health Ministry with technical support from Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC) and Alliance for an Energy

Efficiency Economy (AEEE). The survey pointed to several differences in end-use uptake and utilisation pathways

between the public and private healthcare facilities. "For instance, while heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) use and type depended on the size and level of healthcare in the public health system, (sub-centres and health and wellness centres mostly

is still immense scope to promote informed decisions in procurement of energy-efficient heating and cooling sys-

tems," it said. The study also suggested that the purchase of star-rated medical-use refrigeration even in rural health facilities where storage of vaccines and drugs is required can address both the cost factor and help mitigate the hospital's energy footprint. Similarly, the transition to energy-efficient lighting, medical equipment, and waterheaters (including solar-powered heaters) can be mandated within the NPCCHH.

Other major suggestions included mandating Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) norms for new construction and major renovation. The ECBC has been notified in 18 states. Ensure effective operations and maintenance of renewable energy systems and enhancing awareness and building capacities were also part of the suggestions.

To increase renewable energy deployment in public healthcare, the survey has recommended leverage funding through global, national, and state-level funding mechanisms available through financial mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund, and local and regional funding mechanisms including examples like Arogya Raksha Samiti (ARS).

# Defence Ministry | NHAI upgrades traffic system for advanced road safety

and stalled vehicles.

tatives.

statement said NHAI will allo-

tre for traffic police represen-

and response. ATMS deploy-

(OFC) infrastructure.

coverage increases, it said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

UNATIONAL Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has upgraded the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) for enhanced road safety and digital enforcement on national highways and expressways. The enhancements include replacing previous VIDS cameras with the newly introduced Video Incident Detection and

Enforcement System (VIDES) to emphasise the digital enforcement of traffic rules. VIDES has the capability to

including triple riding, helmet

According to a NHAI statement, depending on the detected incident, VIDES will alert route patrol vehicles or ambulances, generate e-challans, relay alerts to nearby Variable Messaging Boards, or send notifications through the 'Rajmargyatra' mobile app to

art command and control centres at every 100 km integrating various camera feeds.

(VSDS) is now integrated into it added. The Traffic Monitoring Camera System (TMCS) will also be upgraded, national highway, these cameras have been endowed with



reports, as companies conmated detection of accidents cerned are not ready to accept new technology.

Addressing the 'CRISIL Strengthening collaboration with local traffic agencies, the India Infrastructure Conclave 2023', Gadkari said big players in the steel and cement induscate dedicated workstations in the command and control centry are indulging in cartelisation to jack-up prices. According to Gadkari, rating of Moreover, provisions have companies that make DPRs is a big challenge. "The preparabeen made to share camera tion of DPRs is a big problem feeds over the network to enhance real-time coordination for NHAI... There is no perfect DPR anywhere in any project," ment may also play an active Gadkari, who is known for his

role in disaster management by frank views, said. "While making DPR, they providing inputs for effective planning and implementation. (companies engaged in DPR It will also provide online making) are not ready to accept sharing of highway status and new technology, new innovaother important information tion, new research and even the that will help both the agencies standard of DPRs are so low and the highway users. The that everywhere (there is) addistatement said the policy also tional scope of work," he said.

The minister recalled that provisions implementation of Digital Highways by developonce upon a time, there were 50 ing integrated utility corridors big contractors who used to get along the national highways to contracts for road construction. develop optic fibre cables "I felt that was not correct. (So) liberalised the technical and financial norms, by which, today we have 600 big (road) While the ATMS equipment will use OFC to communicate with the command and control contractors," he said.

According to Gadkari, the centre, there are provisions in problem is that some of them the policy for 5G-based comquote prices below 30-40 per munication in the future as the cent for highway construction Meanwhile Union Road projects. "We need to maintain Transport Highways Minister the equilibrium between the Nitin Gadkari said the NHAI quality and the cost. And that is facing difficulties in the is also a big challenge," he preparation of detailed project observed.

# SABARIMALA CONTINUES TO PLEAD

he said.

From Page 1 right freely to profess, practice, and promote religion." The exclusion of female worshippers was a violation of such rights.

The verdict was pronounced by a Bench consisting of the then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justices Rohinton Nariman, DY Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra, and AM Khanwilkar.

Following the Supreme Court verdict, the Kerala Government went all out to ensure the entry of women into the temple. Despite a massive agitation staged by hundreds of thousands of devotees across the State and the resistance under the leadership of Valsan Thillankery, the top RSS leaders in the State, the Kerala Police ferried women activists to the shrine, masquerading them as women cops. Fatima and Bindu Ammini, the women activists who made it to the shrine, are Maoists.

Valsan Thillankeri, who spearheaded the agitation against the Kerala Government's move to allow women into the shrine, told The Pioneer that there was no change in the stance of the RSS. "The Sangh as well as the women themselves are unanimous in their opposition to women entering the holy shrine. What Hari has written are his personal views," said Thillankeri.

The book, written in Malayalam, has been translated into English by eminent journalist and author Rama Chandran. Many scholars with whom The Pioneer spoke expressed their anguish over the views of Hari. "It is an age-old custom and tradition, and there is a scientific reason behind the decision to ban women devotees. A pilgrimage to Sabarimala itself is a ritual that needs stringent regimen," said Unnikrishnan Panicker, a Vedic scholar in Kerala's Parappanangadi. Many lives have been lost in police action on devotees who had thronged the shrine in 2018 demanding a ban on women.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  $M^{\text{inistry of Defence on}}_{\text{Tuesday signed a contract}}$ here for the construction of one training ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) with identify 14 distinct incidents, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai at a cost

and seatbelt violations, wrong lane or direction driving, presence of animals on the highway, and pedestrian crossings, the statement said.

nearby travellers. For comprehensive coverage, the statement said, these cameras are slated for installation every 10 km along national highways, with state-of-the-

Apart from this, Vehicle Speed Detection System VIDES, optimising the use of Automatic Number Plate ment over a period of three years. While meeting the Recognition (ANPR) cameras, Bharat', the contract would

the statement said, adding that positioned every 1 km on the

entral road making agency



# money 09

# **Markets** rebound after 3 days of fall

Equity benchmark indices bounced back on Tuesday after three days of fall amid recovery in global markets and buying in HDFC Bank post its quarterly earnings. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed

261.16 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 66,428.09. During the day, it jumped 392.89 points or 0.59 per cent to 66,559.82.

The Nifty gained 79.75 points or 0.40 per cent to 19,811.50.

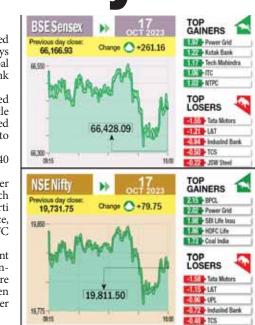
Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Nestle, NTPC, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Infosys and HDFC Bank were the major gainers. HDFC Bank ended nearly 1 per cent

up after the company reported a con-solidated net profit of Rs 16,811 crore for the September quarter, its maiden quarterly earnings announcement after merging parent HDFC with itself. Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, JSW Steel and Mahindra &

Mahindra were among the laggards.

"The market's gap-up opening today, offsetting the losses of the past three days, indicates an optimism over the ongoing Q2 earnings despite concerns about the Middle East and subdued start by the IT sector. The

Vedanta explores tieup with



upward trend was broad-based with particular upside in banking, oil & gas and FMCG sectors.

"However, some profit-taking was evident as the day concluded. FIIs continue to withdraw funds due to rise in the US bond yields. An insight about the future direction of

interest rates is expected from the Fed chair's upcoming speech on October 19th. While the market will also closely monitor the developments in the Israel-Hamas conflict, with a consensus emerging that the geopolitical risk will not elevate," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE

smallcap gauge jumped 0.70 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.39 per cent. Among the indices, utilities rallied 1.21 per cent, power jumped 0.98 per cent, energy (0.94 per cent), oil & gas (0.80 per cent), financial services (0.66

per cent) and telecommunication (0.64 per cent) Capital Goods and realty were the

laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the

positive territory. European markets were trading in the green. The US markets had ended with gains on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.48 per cent to USD 90.08 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 593.66 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark had declined 115.81

points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 66,166.93 on Monday. The Nifty slipped 19.30 points or 0.10 per cent to 19,731.75.

# Rupee rises 3 paise to close at 83.24 against \$

#### PTI MUMBAI

Rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day higher by 3 paise at 83.24 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid a positive trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said the rupee is trading with

a slight positive bias on positive domestic mar-kets. However, a strong US dollar and concerns over the ongoing conflict in the Middle East capped sharp gains.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.24 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 83.22 to 83.26 in the day trade.

The rupee finally settled 3 paise higher at 83.24 (provisional) against the previous close. On Monday, the rupee settled at 83.27 against the US dollar.

We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on the rise in risk appetite in glob-al markets and decline in crude oil prices.

Diplomatic efforts to contain the Middle East conflict may also support the risk assets," said Anuj Choudhary — Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. However, elevated US dollar and any further

escalation on geopolitical tensions between Hamas and Israel may cap sharp gains.

"Selling pressure from FIIs and RBI's matur-ing of dollar/rupee swap transactions may pressurise the rupee at higher levels. Traders may take cues from retail sales and industrial production data from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.90 to Rs

83.70," Choudhary added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the

**RUPEE vs DOLLAR** (Inverted Scale) \*Provisional 83.18 (+7p) 83.24\* (+3p) 83.27 83.24 (+3p) 83.25 (-6p) (+3p) 83.30 (-6p) 13 16 10 OCT GRAPHIC

# greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.09 per cent to 106.33.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.41 per cent to USD 90.02 per bar-

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex closed 261.16 points or 0.39 per cent higher at 66,428.09. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 79.75 points or 0.4 per cent to 19,811.50.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday as they sold shares worth Rs 593.66 crore, according to exchange data.

### **RBI** imposes penalty on ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank for violation of norms PTI MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said it has imposed a penalty or Rs 12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and Rs 3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

The penalty on private sector lender ICICI Bank has been imposed for contravention of norms related to 'Loans and Advances-Statutory and Other restrictions' and 'Frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select Fls. In another statement, the

RBI said the penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited has been imposed for contravention of directions related to "Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks", "Recovery Agents engaged by Banks", "Customer Service in Banks", and "Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions".

In both cases, the RBI said the penalties are based on the deficiencies in regulatory compli-ance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers

# GPT Healthcare refiles IPO papers with Sebi

### PTI NEW DELHI

GPT Healthcare, which operates and manages mid-sized multispecialty hos-pitals under the ILS Hospitals brand, has refiled draft papers with capital market reg-ulator Sebi to raise funds through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The IPO comprises a fresh issue of equi-

ty shares aggregating to Rs 40 crore, and an offer for sale of up to 2.6 crore equity shares by BanyanTree Growth Capital II, LLC, a Mauritius-based structured private equity, according to the draft red herring prospectus filed on Monday.

for payment of debt and general corporate purposes. Kolkata-based GPT Healthcare had in



The company had received the capital markets regulator's nod to float the issue but it didn't go ahead with the launch.

GPT Healthcare, which started with an eight-bed hospital in Kolkata in 2000, operates four full service multispecialty hospitals, with a total capacity of 561 beds, and attends to over 35 specialties and super specialties such as internal medicine, diabetology, gastroenterology, orthopaedics and joint

आई डी एफ सी फस्ट बॅक

replacements, interventional cardiology, neurology, neurology, neurosurgery and paediatrics, as per the DRHP.

The company competes with listed indus-try peers, including Global Health Ltd, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences Ltd, Jupiter Life Line Hospitals Ltd, Yatharth Hospital & Trauma Care Services Ltd, Kovai Medical Center & Hospital Limited

41.66 crore a year ago.

lead manager to the issue. The equity shares are proposed to be listed on the BSE and the NSE.



# India to spend nearly ₹143 lakh crore on infrastructure between FY24 and FY30: Crisil

#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

India will spend nearly Rs 143 lakh crore on infrastructure between fiscals 2024 and 2030, more than twice the Rs 67 lakh crore spent in the past seven financial years starting 2017, rating agency Crisil said on Tuesday.

highways, power transmission, renewable energy and ports have an overall score of 7-plus (out of 10), which underscores the pace of reforms and developments of the past few years," he added. The rating agency noted that the next phase of infrastructure development will be marked by growth in the

"Four of these — roads and

Of the tot

PTI NEW DELHI

Ltd with IDFC FIRST Bank.

IDFC FIRST Bank is in the business

Further, CCI also approved the can-

cellation of the existing shares held by

IDFC Financial Holding in IDFC FIRST

Bank and then the issue of new shares of

IDFC Financial Holding is a non-oper-

ative financial holding company regis-tered with the Reserve Bank of India

the bank to IDFCL's shareholders.

pany signed agreements with 30 Japanese technology companies to foster the development of India's semiconductor and glass display manufacturing ecosys-

tem. Japan is also the second Quad after the United States to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem and maintain the resilience of its global supply chain.

plans to set up chip plant for Japanese companies interested in investing in India," Hebbar

said. Vedanta group firm AvanStrate Inc is headquartered in Japan. Late last year, the com-

Japanese tech firms as it

January 2021 filed preliminary papers with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to raise Rs 450-500 crore through the

issue. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used

and Shalby Ltd.

Its total income increased 7.11 per cent to Rs 366.73 crore in FY23 from Rs 342.40 crore in FY22. The company's net profit declined to Rs 39.01 crore for FY23 from Rs

The company had reported a net profit of Rs 9.98 crore in the June quarter while the total income was at Rs 97.63 crore. IM Financial is the sole book-running

cent at ₹3,551 crore

Bajaj Finance Q2 profit up 28 per

Global Summit roadshow in Japan had said that it is a USD 80billion opportunity for companies willing to come and invest in the electronics manufacturing hub in Guiarat.

Indian conglomerate Vedanta Group on Tuesday said it is

exploring collaborations with

Japanese technology companies

as it continues with its plan to set

up a semiconductor fab in

Vedanta's semiconductor and

display business Global

Managing Director Akarsh K

Hebbar during Vibrant Gujarat

PTI NEW DELHI

Gujarat.

"He (Hebbar) outlined Vedanta's ambitious plans to establish semiconductor and display fabs in Dholera SIR, Gujarat, and invited Japanese companies to partner with Vedanta in helping build the country's first electronics manufacturing hub in the state," the statement said.

Hebbar also pointed out that the hub has the potential to attract hundreds of SMEs and create more than one lakh jobs.

"There is a USD 80-billion opportunity for companies willing to come and invest in this electronics manufacturing hub, and Vedanta will be the anchor their technology partner.

#### and subsequently, the amalgamation of IDFCL with IDFC FIRST Bank. B Ξ

#### GOLD REMAINS FLAT: SILVER DIVES ₹300

New Delhi: Gold remained flat at Rs 60,150 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, according to HDFC Securities. However, silver declined Rs 300 to Rs 73,700 per kilogram. In the previous trade, silver had settled at Rs 74,000 per kg.

#### **GOVT TO SELL UP TO 7 PER CENT STAKE IN HUDCO**

New Delhi: The government will sell up to 7 per cent stake in Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) at a floor price of Rs 79 per share. The Offer For Sale (OFS) for over 14.01 crore shares or 7 per cent stake will open for institutional investors on Wednesday

#### MALABAR SHOWROOM COUNT REACHES 333

New Delhi: Malabar Gold and Diamonds, the world's leading gold jewellery retailer, has taken the global showroom count to 333 with the simultaneous launch of four showrooms located at Rajouri Garden in Delhi, Ambala in Haryana, Bhavnagar in Gujarat and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. Our design versatility which perfectly meets the evolving customer sensibilities and commitment to offer quality, transparency and top-class customer services make us the favourite ieweller among iewellerv buvers in India and bevond, said MP Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group,



Delhi Metro's first Managing Director E Sreedharan, popularly known as Metroman, visited Metro Bhawan on Tuesday. He was received by the present Managing Director Dr Vikas Kumar and Principal Executive Director, Corporate Communications Anuj Dayal. Sreedharan interacted with the senior officials and wished the Phase 4 of the project all success.

With around 100 semiconductor manufacturing plants, Japan is among the top five countries to have a semiconductor ecosystem.

Earlier, Vedanta had formed a joint venture with Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn which announced plans to invest USD 19.5 billion in setting up a semiconductor wafer

fabrication plant. Both the firms have announced that they will invest in setting up electronic chip plants in India separately, but they are yet to announce the name of

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Bank

# CCI approves merger of IDFC Ltd with IDFC FIRST Bank

has approved the deal under the green channel route.  $F_{Commission \ of \ India \ (CCI) \ on}^{air \ trade \ regulator \ Competition}$  Tuesday approved the merger of IDFC

"There are no horizontal overlaps or vertical/complementary linkages between the business activities of the parties in the country.

"Given the absence of any horizontal overlaps or vertical or complementary

tition is deemed to be approved on being

In July, IDFC FIRST Bank announced the merger of its parent IDFC Ltd with itself in an all-stock transaction.

IDFC and IDFC Financial Holding

September quarter a year ago. Its total consolidated income increased to Rs

13,382 crore during the July-September period against Rs 9,974 crore a year earlier, BFL said in a regulatory filing.

PTI NEW DELHI

September 30.

The Pune-headquartered company's total expenditure rose to Rs 8,624 crore compared to Rs 6,222 crore in the year-ago period. Its consolidated assets under management (AUM) as of September 30, 2022, grew by 33 per cent to Rs 2,90,264 crore from Rs 2,18,366 crore a year ago.

Capital adequacy ratio (including Tier-II cap-ital) as of September 30, 2023, was 23.19 per cent. The Tier-I capital was 21.88 per cent, it said.

The board at its meeting held on October 5 has approved raising of capital through a qualified institutions placement (QIP) for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 8,800 crore by issue of equity shares of face value of Rs 2 each.

Besides, the board has also approved preferential issue (Pl) of up to 15,50,000 warrants convertible into equivalent number of equity shares to Bajai Finserv Limited, the promoter and holding Company, for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 1,200 crore in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, it said.

crore will be green investments, marking a five times rise com-Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL) on Tuesday reported a 28 per cent rise in its consolidated net profpared with the amount spent during fiscals 2017-2023, it

it to Rs 3,551 crore for the second quarter ended added. "India's infrastructure spend-The non-banking finance company had post-ed a net profit of Rs 2,781 crore in the Julying will double to Rs 143 lakh crore between fiscals 2024 and

2030, compared with 2017-2023," Crisil said in its Infrastructure Yearbook 2023. Crisil Ltd managing director and CEO Amish Mehta said the agency expects India's gross domestic product to grow at an average 6.7 per cent through fis-cal 2031 to be the fastest-

expanding large economy. "Per capita income is seen rising from USD 2,500 now to USD 4,500 by fiscal 2031, cre-ating a middle-income country," he said, adding that this growth will be underpinned by massive all-round infrastructure development, with sharp focus on

integrating sustainability." While releasing 'CRISIL Infrastructure Yearbook 2023', which includes a unique national index CRISIL InfraInvex, Mehta said policy interventions and a conducive investment climate have aided the uptrend in the CRISIL InfraInvex scores across sectors.

average ticket size of projects and a significant number of mega-scale projects.

Appropriate and consistent policy and regulatory interventions and focus on timely execution build an attractive case for various stakeholders to accelerate investments across infrastructure sectors, Crisil said. The rating agency predicted that prominent sectors such as roads and power are expected to remain major contributors, while relatively nascent ones such as EVs, solar, wind, and hydrogen will pick up pace. "The share of EVs in India's

overall automobile sales is likely to reach 30 per cent by 2030.

'Two-wheeler EV sales are expected to outpace other segments up to 2028, while demand for EV buses will be driven by state transport undertakings," it said.

According to Crisil, favourable total cost of ownership and total cost of acquisition, as well as model availability for two- and three-wheelers will support EV offtake in coming years. It said the share of renewable energy in total capacity is estimated to grow 4x between fiscals 2023 and 2030.

# SUV segment to see intense competition among players: Tata Motors

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

(RBI)

Tata Motors on Tuesday said it plans to keep updating its SUV range as it expects the SUV range as it expects the robustly growing segment to remain highly competitive with presence of all leading players. Sports utility vehicles are driving the overall growth of the domestic passenger vehicle segment. As per the latest SIAM data, SUV sales account for 60 per cent of the overall passenger vehicle sales in the country. In an interaction with PTI, Tata

Motors Passenger Vehicles Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said the company has a leadership position in some of the SUV sub-segments and is looking to consolidate in others. "The SUV segment is going to be an intensely fought segment.

The top three-four players will have just a few thousand (units) here and there. At some point someone will be number one, sometimes somebody else will become number two," he said. He noted that in such scenarios it is more important to focus on the individual products and whether they are in the top two consideration for buyers.

Chandra said Punch and Nexon are market leaders in their respective segments while Harrier Safari combo was number two in its vertical.

Tata Motors on Tuesday rolled out new versions of Harrier and Safari with price starting at Rs 15.49 lakh and Rs 16.19 lakh, respectively.

"Going beyond this, we are coming with two more models - Curvy and Sierra - in 2024



and 2025, respectively," he stated. So the company's SUV portfolio is going to further strengthen from where it is now, Chandra noted.

We have been number one for quite some time. There have been few new launches by other players. The ranking will keep changing... There is no clear number one here.

"Important thing is that we are doing excellent in all these four SUVs that we have. More importantly, we are adding to this portfolio, so our strength in SUV is going to always remain very strong going forward," he added. The updated versions of both Harrier and Safari have received top safety ratings from the vehicle safety group Global

NCAP.

"With their 5-star GNCAP rating and highest scores by any Indian vehicle to date, our ŚUVs are the safest spaces on Indian roads," Chandra said.

In a separate statement, Global NCAP said it has given five-star safety ratings to the new versions of Tata Safari and Harrier SUVs.

Both models have achieved the highest ever score for adult and child occupant safety in the crash tests done by Global NCAP on Indian cars so far, it stated. Global NCAP rates vehicles from zero to five based on their safety features and automobiles with a higher rating are considered safer for occupants.

"This is a very strong result... The top adult and child safety score in our testing to date confirms the manufacturer's strong commitment to developing safer vehicles, which we warmly welcome and applaud," Global NCAP Secretary General Alejandro Furas said in a statement. Global NCAP's crash test protocols assess frontal and side impact protection for all models, as well as electronic stability control.

1.11.

of providing banking services, while its parent IDFC Ltd (IDFCL) is an RBI-reglinkages between the parties, the transaction is being notified under the green channel route," CCI said. istered non-banking financial company. The deal is subject to conditions, Under the green channel route, a trans-action which does not raise any risk of including the merger of IDFC Financial Holding into IDFC Ltd in the first step

an appreciable adverse effect on compeintimated to the CCI.

Also, boards of IDFC FIRST Bank and IDFC have approved the reverse merger and said the composite scheme of amalgamation includes the merger of Company with IDFC First Bank.

# The Competition Commission said it





# **Belgian cops shoot** suspect accused of killing two Swedes

#### AP BRUSSELS

 $P_a^{\text{olice on Tuesday shot dead}}_{a \ suspected \ Tunisian}$ extremist accused of gunning down two Swedish soccer fans in a brazen assault on a Brussels street that sent shockwaves through Belgium and Sweden.

Hours after the suspect dis-appeared into the night and a manhunt was launched in the Belgian capital, Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden posted on X, formerly Twitter, that "the perpetrator of the terrorist attack in Brussels has been identified and has died?

She thanked Belgium's intelligence and security services, as well as prosecutors, "for their swift and decisive action."

The man was shot in the Schaerbeek neighbourhood near where the rampage took place. The weapon used in the assault was recovered. Amateur videos posted on

social media of Monday's attack showed a man wearing an orange fluorescent vest pull up on a scooter, take out a large weapon and open fire on people getting out of a taxi. He chased them into a

building to gun them down. He was also filmed calmly loading his weapon as cars drove slowly by.

Questions remain unanswered over how a man who was on police files, thought to be radicalised and being sought for deportation was able to obtain a military weapon and launch such an attack.

"Last night, three people left for what was supposed to be a wonderful soccer party. Two of them lost their lives in a brutal terrorist attack," Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said at a news conference just before "Their lives were cut dawn. short in full flight, cut down by extreme brutality.

'The attack that was launched yesterday was committed with total cowardice," he said. Security was beefed up in

'Alleged attacker in French school stabbing declared allegiance to IS'

Brussels, particularly around places linked to the Swedish community, and at Belgium's

southern border with France. Not far from the scene of the shooting, the Belgium-Sweden soccer match in the national stadium was suspended at halftime and over 35,000 fans were kept inside as a pre-

caution while the attacker was at large Caroline Lochs, a fan from Antwerp, said the alarm left her feeling "frustrated, confused, scared. I think everyone was quite scared."

At a news conference in Stockholm, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said that "everything indicates this is a terrorist attack against Sweden and Swedish citizens, just cause they are Swedish.

He said the suspect had occasionally stayed in Sweden but was not on police files there.

"It's not an unusual pattern to move around," Kristersson added. "We have an openness in Europe, which is one of the important reasons why we need to keep an eye on the EU's external border because otherwise people can easily move between European countries."

Kristersson has been invited to Brussels to mourn the victims and pay tribute to the work of police at a commemoration ceremony on Wednesday, De Croo announced on X, saying: We wish the people of Sweden strength and courage to get through these difficult times."

Sweden's foreign ministry said the two fatalities were men aged in their sixties and seventies. A third man, also in his seventies, was wounded and remains in hospital.

De Croo said the assailant was a Tunisian man living illegally in Belgium who used a military weapon in the attack. Federal prosecutors said later that the suspect was found after witness spotted him in a Schaerbeek cafe.

# **ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR**

AP BRUSSELS

 $T^{he European Union leaders}_{are trying to overcome the}$ cacophony of different opinions and voices over the Israel-Hamas war into one single political hymn in an attempt to have a bigger diplomatic impact on the global stage. Even if their summit on Tuesday is by virtual video con-

ferencing only, the attack in Brussels that left two Swedes dead last night further underscored the need to show a unified stance in the face of com-

mon threats. Ever since the attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7, the EU has shown it is a group of 27 different nations and even their common institutions have sent out different messages, sowing confusion about the bloc's intentions and reaping international criticism.

Many member states feel that EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen overstepped her authority by visiting Israel on Friday without a pre-agreed political message and then toed what many saw as an excessively pro-Israeli line.

"Foreign and security policy remains a responsibility of the member states," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Tuesday ahead of the the virtual summit. Von der Leyen's executive Commission maintains she is free to travel as she wants and express solidarity with a nation in need as she pleases, and will do so again if need be. Still, the unease was compounded because, for some, an EU insistence that

Israel respect international law in its fight against Hamas was not expressed explicitly enough by von der Leyen.

The position is clear: Israel has the right to defense, but this defense has to be developed in compliance with international laws and in particular humanitarian laws because war also has its laws," Borrell said.

He insisted that it would be the main common message coming out of the summit.

On Tuesday, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz travelled to Israel for an impromptu visit. French President Emmanuel Macron said that he will travel to the region "as soon as I consider that we have a useful agenda and very concrete actions to drive forward."

Few other international crises divide the bloc like the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

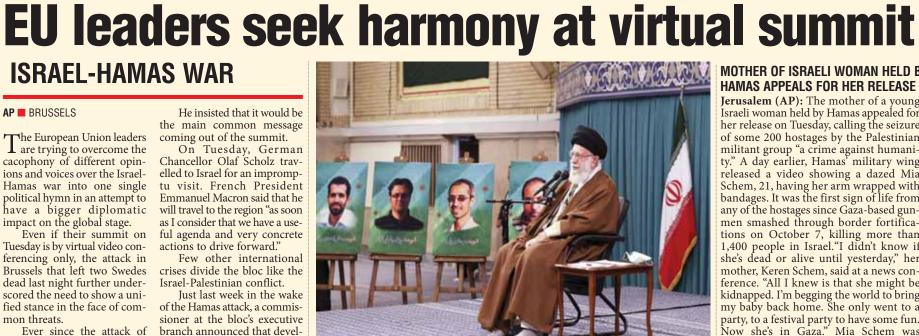
Just last week in the wake of the Hamas attack, a commissioner at the bloc's executive branch announced that development aid meant to help the Palestinian Authority reduce poverty would be immediately suspended. Hours later, the Éuropean Commission's position changed. It announced an urgent review of the assistance to ensure that no money is being misused. Since it is listed by the EU as a terror group, Hamas does not receive any such funds anyway. Then on Saturday, the

commission said it was tripling humanitarian aid to Gaza money meant to be used in times of crises or disasters.

Macron, a key player in Tuesday's summit, said that beyond supporting Israel's right to defend itself, he also has been able "to pass on warning messages calling for respect for humanitarian law, international law and civilian populations in Gaza and the West Bank, and for non-escalation of the conflict in Lebanon."

"We remain extremely vig-ilant and committed," he added. EU Council President

Charles Michel said in announcing the summit that "the conflict could have major security consequences for our societies." He said that the leaders would look at ways to help civilians in Israel and Gaza caught up in the war and to work with other countries in the Middle East and Persian Gulf regions to try to prevent the conflict from spreading.



In this photo released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Khamenei warned that Israel's continuing offensive in Gaza would cause a violent reaction across the region. AP/PTĬ

# Medics in Gaza struggle to save lives

AP 📕 GAZA CITY

 $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{Abu}}^{\mathrm{or}\ \mathrm{hours}}$  and hours, Moen rubble of demolished homes to find survivors of Israeli airstrikes, toiling in a vast and desperate search complicated by the shortage of critical supplies and the sheer scope of destruction across the Gaza Strip

Even as rescue worker Abu Aish, 58, and his col-leagues struggle to pry lifeless bodies from the concrete and twisted metal where residential towers once stood, the death

reported that Israel's bombardment - launched after Hamas mounted a bloody, unprecedented attack on Israel on Oct 7 - has killed more than 2,700 Palestinians, many of

them women and children. But far more Palestinians have been killed than have been officially reported, with 1,200 people, among them around 500 minors, believed to be trapped under the rubble awaiting rescue, or recovery,

health authorities said. They based their estimates on dis-

"So many times medics say they hear victims scream, but they cannot do anything about it," said Mohammed Abu Selmia, general director of Shifa Hospital, Gaza's biggest medical centre. The untold scores of victims buried beneath destroyed buildings shed light on the struggles of rescue teams in Gaza trying to save lives, while cut off from the internet and mobile networks, running out of fuel

MOTHER OF ISRAELI WOMAN HELD BY HAMAS APPEALS FOR HER RELEASE

Jerusalem (AP): The mother of a young Israeli woman held by Hamas appealed for her release on Tuesday, calling the seizure of some 200 hostages by the Palestinian militant group "a crime against humani-ty." A day earlier, Hamas' military wing released a video showing a dazed Mia Schem, 21, having her arm wrapped with bandages. It was the first sign of life from any of the hostages since Gaza-based gunmen smashed through border fortifica-tions on October 7, killing more than 1,400 people in Israel."I didn't know if 1,400 people in Israel. I didn't know it she's dead or alive until yesterday," her mother, Keren Schem, said at a news con-ference. "All I knew is that she might be kidnapped. I'm begging the world to bring my baby back home. She only went to a party, to a festival party to have some fun. Now she's in Gaza." Mia Schem was seized at a desert rave just over the border from Gaza that became the site of what is believed to be the worst civilian massacre in Israeli history.



the spokesperson for the Palestinian Civil Defence, which provides emergency ser-vice, his voice cracking as he fought back tears.

Where are the Arab countries? Where is the rest of the world? We are begging you, please, save us from this madness.

At dawn Monday, Israeli warplanes struck the head-quarters of the Civil Defense in Gaza City, killing seven para-medics as they prepared for a rescue mission, the Interior Ministry said. In widely shared videos of the aftermath, medics, shellshocked and exhausted, crouched on the back of their blood-smeared ambulance with their heads in their hands. "They targeted a centre for ambulances," one of them cried out, his voice frantic. "There are no weapons. There are no militants. There is nothing, nothing but civilians." The Israeli military didn't immediately comment on the airstrike, but has alleged in the past that Hamas militants use hospitals and rescue services as protective cover.

# Greta Thunberg among detained climate activists

Johannesburg (AP): The bat- court that Ramaphosa's decitle for the throne of South Africa's ethnic Zulu nation has reached the courts as a faction tificate was rushed. of the royal family seeks to

Legal challenge to dethrone

Zulu king heads to court

sion to recognise Misuzulu and grant him the relevant cer-Previous attempts to stop coronation of

# Polish election winner urges prez to move quickly to form new govt

AP WARSAW

The opposition leader who



the collapse of the oppressive Soviet-backed communist system. I aw and Justice had bee

and exposed to unceasing

airstrikes. Israel imposed a

siege on Gaza after the Hamas

attack, severing the crowded

strip's access to water, power

and fuel. Health authorities

have warned that without

humanitarian aid, hospitals

and emergency services will

soon break down. Hospitals

running on backup generators

say they have enough fuel for

intense, there are hundreds of

dead under the rubble as we

speak," said Mahmoud Basal,

"The destruction is so

another day or two at most.

London (AP): Greta Thunberg was detained by British police on Tuesday alongside other climate ctivists who gathered outsic central London hotel to disrupt a meeting of oil and gas company executives. Thunberg was among dozens of protesters who chanted "oily money out" and attempted to block access to the InterContinental Hotel on Park Lane, which is hosting the Energy Intelligence Forum.

# tress calls they received.

toll keeps rising. Gaza's Health Ministry has



Paris: France's anti-terror prosecutor said Tuesday a suspected Islamic extremist declared allegiance to the Islamic State group before fatally stabbing a teacher in school attack last week.

The prosecutor, Jean-Francois Ricard, said, in a press conference, an audio recording was found by police investigators in the suspect's phone. In it, the alleged attacker declared allegiance to the Islamic State and expressed "his hatred of France.

Ricard took no questions. A teacher was fatally

stabbed in the neck and three other people injured in the school attack Friday in the

the king after less than a year. The North Gauteng High Court in the capital Pretoria is hearing legal arguments this week in the royal succession battle between King Misuzulu kaZwelithini and his half-brother, Prince Simakade

Zulu, who believes he is entitled to be king. The Zulu nation is the largest ethnic group in South Africa with an estimated 12 million Zuluspeaking people, predominantly in the KwaŻulu-Natal region.

They are acknowledged for resisting British colonialism in the early 1800s and the Zulu king is arguably the most influential traditional leader in South Africa. Prince Simakade wants the court to overturn President Cyril Ramaphosa's recognition of

King Misuzulu as the rightful heir. He is disputing the traditional and legal processes followed to appoint Misuzulu, northern town of Arras. AP and his lawyers have told the

were unsuccessful last year.Misuzulu ascended to the throne last year after the 2021 death of his father, King Goodwill Zwelithini, who ruled for over 50 years, making him the longest reigning Zulu monarch. He is the oldest son of King

Zwelithini and Queen Mantfombi of the royal house of eSwatini. The late king had six wives and several sons. After the king died last year, Misuzulu's mother served as the regent for just a month before she died, but in her will she named her son to be the next king. Addressing the court on Tuesday, Ramaphosa's lawyer, Marumo Moerane, argued that the president's issuance of the certificate recognising Misuzulu as the heir to the throne followed con-

sultations with the Zulu roval family, which confirmed him as the king.

election, Donald Tusk, appealed to the nation's president Tuesday for "energetic and fast decisions" so that a new government could be formed quickly.

Three opposition parties that vowed to restore democratic standards in Poland together won over 54 per cent of the votes in the nation's weekend parliamentary election, putting them in a position to take power, according to a complete ballot count reported Tuesday. Poland's constitution now requires President Andrzej Duda to assess the new political alignment of forces and to appoint a new prime minister who is tasked with forming a government that will need parliament's approval, all within a set timeframe.

In a video statement, Tusk appealed to Duda, saying, "I would like to ask for energetic and quick decisions" and stressing that "the winning democratic parties are ready to take over responsibility for governing the country any moment." "People are waiting for the

first decisions that will be the result of the elections" that took place Sunday, Tusk said. Duda is an ally of the con-

servative Law and Justice party, which has been in power since 2015. His term runs until 2025. Law and Justice, which

governed the country for eight

turbulent years, won slightly over 35 per cent of the votes, making it the single party with the most votes. But the party and its leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski lost their majority in parliament and appeared to have no way to hold onto power.

Turnout was nearly 75 per cent, the highest since Poland's return to democracy, surpass-ing even the level of 63 per cent in 1989, a vote that triggered

leading the country down an illiberal path, taking control of courts in a manner that violated the country's constitution. The party politicised state institutions, including taxpayerfunded public media which it used as a propaganda tool to praise itself and vilify opponents

The election result was a huge victory for Tusk, the head of the largest opposition group, Civic Coalition. He appeared likely to return to his past role as Polish prime minister, a job he held from 2007-14. He also served as European Council president, a top job in the EU, from 2014-19.

Tusk's success is all the more remarkable given that state media went into overdrive to portray him as a stooge of Germany and Russia. That portrayal, which appeared baseless, also won him much sympathy.

The conference is hosting speakers, including the chief executives of Saudi Arabia's Aramco and Norway's Equinor, as well as the UK's energy security minister.

An Associated Press photographer saw Thunberg being led away by officers and taken into a police vehicle, along with about 10 other activists.

Earlier Tuesday, London's Metropolitan Police said five people were arrested on suspicion of obstructing a highway during the protest.

Protesters attempted to block access to the conference venue by sitting on the sidewalk by the entrance. They held aloft banners and chanted "oily money out" and "cancel the conference," while some lit yellow and pink smoke flares.

Greenpeace activists abseiled down from the roof of the hotel to unfurl a banner reading "make big oil pay."

The protesters accuse fossil fuel companies of deliberately slowing the global energy transition to renewables in order to make more profit.

"The world is drowning in fossil fuels. Our hopes and dreams and lives are being washed away by a flood of greenwashing and lies," Thunberg told reporters before she was detained. "It has been clear for decades that the fossil fuel industries were well aware of the consequences of their business models, and yet they have done nothing." "We cannot let this continue. The elite of the oil and money conference, they

showing them that they are not

going to get away with this."

cumventing the controls and providing chips to China.

The updates also introduce new requirements that make it more difficult for China to manufacture advanced chips abroad.

# Sikh teen assaulted in NY for wearing turban

New York (PTI): In a suspected hate crime, a 19-year-old Sikh was assaulted and injured in New York for wearing a turban while travelling in a shuttle bus, the police said.

The attack took place early on Sunday when the Sikh teen was riding a shuttle bus in Queens, a borough of New York City, CBS News channel reported.

According to the police, the suspect approached the vic-tim, asking him to remove his turban and said, "We don't wear that in this country and take that mask off!"The attacker then repeatedly punched the teen in his face, back, and the back of his head, causing minor cuts. He also tried to remove the victim's turban from his head before getting off the bus and leaving the scene on foot, the report said.Police described the suspect as "a male, 25-35 years of age, dark complexion, slim work for the next few days.

#### build, approximately 5'9" tall with brown eyes and black hair," and sought the public's help to find him.

Department hate crime unit is investigating the incident, and the police department is calling it a hate crime assault, NBC New York TV channel reported. No arrests have been made in the case yet, The Messenger

Glassdoor and Trustpilot as The New York Police

news portal reported. The victim, who was not named, refused further medical treatment at the scene, police said in the statement sent to The Messenger. "Right now, the victim is very traumatised," community activist Japneet Singh was quoted as saying by ABC7 television station. "The family is very scared for him," Singh

Some of the most used plat-forms for travel and online shopping said Tuesday they're going to team up to battle fake reviews. Amazon, reviews site

well as travel companies Expedia Group, Booking.com and Tripadvisor said in an announcement they're launching a coalition that aims to

protect access to "trustworthy consumer reviews" worldwide. The companies said the members of the group, which will be called Coalition for Trusted Reviews, will look for best practices for hosting online reviews and share methods on how to detect fake

despite their efforts to eradi-

ones. That will include developing standards for what constitutes a fake review and sharing information about added.Though he refused treatment at the scene, Singh says the how bad actors operate. victim was injured badly Phony reviews have long enough that he won't be able to plagued online marketplaces

## Amazon to battle fake reviews AP NEW YORK

cate it. Much of the problem is fueled by brokers who solicit fake customer reviews through social media platforms, encrypted messaging apps and other channels in exchange for money, free items or other benefits. Brokers can solicit positive reviews to boost sales for businesses or sellers. They can also also post negative reviews for competitors in order to tank their sales.

Last month, Amazon said two review brokers in China were sentenced to two-and-ahalf years in prison and three years of probation after using messaging apps to advertise and sell fake reviews to Amazon selling accounts.

The company has filed a flurry of other lawsuits in the past year against operators that it says were doing similar things. Last year, it also sued the administrators of more than 10,000 Facebook groups that it alleged were coordinating bogus reviews in exchange for money or free products.

es, were also discovered earlier this year by the British consumer watchdog group Which?"

Federal regulators have also been aiming to crack down on bogus reviews aiming to deceive consumers. In June, the Federal Trade Commission proposed a new rule that, among other things, would prohibit businesses from selling or obtaining fake reviews, suppressing honest reviews and selling fake social media engagement. Businesses would also be prohibited from creating or controlling a website that claims to provide independent opinions about its products and

employing other practices like "review hijacking," which makes reviews for one product appear like they were written for different ones. If the proposal is adopted, violators can be face penalties.

US updates policies to stop China from getting advanced computer chips

Washington (AP): The US Commerce Department on Tuesday updated and broadened its export controls to stop China from acquiring advanced computer chips and sulting with industry and conthe equipment to manufacture them.

The revisions come roughly a year after the export controls were first launched to counter the use of the chips for military applications that include the development of hypersonic missiles and artificial intelligence.

"These export controls are intended to protect technologies that have clear national security or human rights implications," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said on a call with reporters. "The vast majority of semiconductors will remain unrestricted. But

### when we identify national security or human rights threats, we will act decisively and in concert with our allies." The updates stemmed from con-

ducting technological analyses. There will now be a gray zone that will be monitored for chips that could still be used for military aims even if they might not meet the thresholds for trade limitations. Chip exports can also be restricted to companies headquartered in Macao or anywhere under a US arms embargo, preventing countries of concern from cir

have no intention of transition. she added. "We have no other option but to put our bodies outside this conference and to physically disrupt. And we have to do that every time, we have to continue

# Facebook groups trading reviews for Google and Trustpilot, which allows users to leave feedback for business-



# **SABITZER'S PENALTY SENDS AUSTRIA TO EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP**



#### AP BRUSSELS

Substitute Marcel Sabitzer Scored from the penalty spot shortly after entering the game to secure a 1-0 win for Austria at Azerbaijan and send his country to next year's European Championship in a day overshadowed by a deadly shooting in Brussels which saw Belgium's game against Sweden halted at halftime.

"Due to the incidents in Brussels earlier tonight, play is suspended. Our thoughts are with all those affected," a post

#### from the Belgian national team read on X, formerly known as

Twitter. European soccer gov-erning body UEFA confirmed the Group F match had been called off following consultation with both teams and local police. The score was 1-1 at the time. Viktor Gyokeres gave Sweden a 15th-minute lead, but Romelu Lukaku had Belgium level just after the half-hour.

Belgium had already qualified for Euro 2024 while Sweden's chances of a top-two place had been ended by Austria's victory earlier.

### **AUSTRIA ADVANCES**

After losing 3-2 to Belgium in Vienna last week in the fight for Group F supremacy -Austria's only defeat in seven qualifying games so far -Sabitzer and his teammates knew a win in Baku would secure a spot at the tournament hosted by Germany. With several key players sidelined because of injuries,

Austria struggled to create real chances in the first half. It was awarded a penalty just minutes into the second half after a

hand ball. Sabitzer was clinical in converting with a strike into the corner in the 48th.

Sabitzer, who plays for Borussia Dortmund, recently returned to competition after recovering from an adductor injury he picked up last month in a Champions League match against PSG. Austria finished with 10 men after striker Guido Burgstaller was sent off in stoppage time for a second yellow card. Austria became the seventh team to qualify after Belgium, France, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Turkey,

#### along with host Germany. **RONALDO SCORES 2**

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice for Portugal in a 5-0 demolition of host Bosnia in Group J. Bruno Fernandes, Joao Cancelo and Joao Felix also scored with all goals com-ing in the first half. Iceland routed Liechtenstein 4-0 and Slovakia won 1-0 at Luxembourg in the same group. Netherlands came away from Greece with a 1-0 win in Group B to revive its hopes. Virgil Van Dijk's penalty in sec-

match.'

ond-half stoppage time sent the Netherlands above their opponents and into second in their group. Both have 12 points.

group. Both have 12 points. Wout Weghorst earlier failed to convert his penalty. "We do not have a special-ist for penalties, corners and free kicks," said Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman. "When Virgil was behind the ball for the second one, I suddenly thought Surely it won't be one of those evenings when this one goes wrong too.' But Virgil took it well and decided the



# Sweden players take overnight flight home, returning to clubs

their clubs.

The suspect in the shoot-ing was shot dead by police on Tuesday, Belgian Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden

said, and the weapon believed

to have been used by the man

Authorities had been searching for a 45-year-old suspected Tunisian extremist

who was known to police and

was living in Belgium illegally. Swedish FA officials said

information about the shooting incident, which also led to another Swedish national get-

ting seriously injured and taken

to hospital, reached them just before the match began and

that Belgian authorities and

police considered the game

should be played because the stadium was viewed as the

safest place for the Swedish

fans. A decision was made to

halt the match at halftime.

Martin Fredman, the federa-

tion's head of security, said about 400 Swedish fans

has been recovered.

AP BRUSSELS

Sweden players were returnafter taking an overnight flight home from Brussels following the suspension of their European Championship qualifier against Belgium at halftime because a gunman killed two Swedish nationals before kick-

off. The squad went directly to the airport and flew back to Sweden once they were allowed to leave King Baudouin Stadium, which was locked down for 2½ hours for security reasons before officials began an evacuation process around midnight local time.

It was around 4 am local time when the last of the Swedish supporters — totaling about 650, according to the Swedish Eactball Association Swedish Football Association - left the stadium under police surveillance, along with some staff from the federation.

All hotels where Swedish supporters were staying were also guarded by police, the federation said.

"received help during the evening and night." "The cooperation between supporters, federations and The Swedish FA confirmed to The Associated Press that the authorities has worked very national-team players were now making their way back to well in an extremely stressful situation," Fredman said.



In the opening singles of the World Group II play-off tie against Yassine Dlimi on

# AITA actions against Sasi for not wearing official jersey

The AITA is contemplating action against Sasi Mukund

September 16, Mukund wore

for not wearing the official jersey during the Davis Cup tie against Morocco and has also introduced a players' code of conduct to ensure 'discipline' in





Contrasting results for Indian sub-junior hockey teams

# sport 11

# compactly at Asian Games: Somaya

Indian men plays

#### PTI BHUBANESWAR

Olympic gold medallist M M Somaya feels the Indian men's hockey team produced one of the most "compact" performances to win its fourth yellow metal at the recentlyconcluded Hangzhou Asian Games.

Somaya, who was the Indian contingent's deputy chef de mission at Hangzhou, said it was mostly an unblemished performance from the Harmanpreet Singh-led side, who directly qualified for Paris Olympics by winning the gold. "I think they (India) played

outstanding in all the matches, barring a few lapses of concentration against Japan and Korea, but otherwise, overall, I think one of the most compact and sound performances we have seen," said Somaya, a member of India's 1980 World Cup-winning team in Moscow.

With next year's Paris ticket secured, the Indian team can focus on its preparations now. "Now that the burden of

qualifying is gone, they can concentrate on making a strong

program up to Paris. So just because they're not playing in the tournament for qualification doesn't mean that they will be complacent. They can now engage in preparatory camps and tours with Paris in mind," Somaya said. The 64-year-old also lauded the women's team, who bagged the bronze at the

Asian Games but missed out on a direct ticket to Paris.

"The women also played very well, barring that game against China in the first half where they were a little over-whelmed. And then in the second half they opened up, but it was too late. Overall, it was an excellent performances from both the teams." Somaya also had words of

appreciation for the Odisha government for its overwhelm-

supported the national team,

the jersey provided by his per-sonal sponsor and not the one made available by official Indian team sponsor 'OOK'

The team name printed on the back had an extra 'I'.

ing support to Indian hockey.

'Odisha have stood out because of their support for hockey, I don't remember any other sport where a state has supported the national team. It's always been a corporate, but in this case the state itself has

which is a big thing."

after taking "permission" GOK skipper Rohit Rajpal. To make matter worse, the jersey that Mukund wore had 'INDIA' spelt wrongly and the matter was brought to AITA's notice by the team sponsor.

It may be mentioned that the official sponsor only pro-vided the kit and no sponsor-

ship money was given to either All Indian Tennis Association (AITA) or the players who were part of the tie that India won 4-1 in Lucknow last month. AITA issued a showcause notice to Mukund on September 28, asking him to explain within seven days why action should not be taken against him for not wearing the official jersey and playing with a jersey that had India written

wrongly. On October 3, Mukund sent his reply to the national federation, saying that "shorts received from OOK were not comfortable".

denied giving him any permis-sion and further asked him to Mukund also wrote that he had taken prior permission from both captain Rajpal and and coach Zesshan Ali to wear clarify his stand. the jersey that had his sponsor's

Mukund said captain Rajpal

Explaining the spelling fiasco, Mukund wrote that he

had received eight T-shirts

from his sponsor and unfortu-nately he picked the only one

that had printing mistake. He also lamented that nei-

ther the captain nor his team-mates noticed when he stepped

on to the court. "I have

immense respect for my coun-try and I would never do some-

thing intentionally to tarnish its

image," he wrote and also apol-

ogised for the inadvertent mis-

take. On October 13, the AITA

communicated to Mukund that

his explanation was not accept-

able since the captain has

When contacted by PTI,

name printed. had indeed allowed him.

"There was no money involved. The players were not

given any sponsorship fee for this tie. Only the kit was provided by the official sponsor. Captain Rajpal had under-stood this and allowed me," Mukund, who had lost his match to Dlimi, said.

"Usually the players are asked to sign a contract with the AITA for that one week if they are being paid for wearing that official kit. In this case, we did not sign any contract. My personal sponsor 'Indian Tree' pays me, so what's wrong in it. The pockets of the shorts were such that the ball were coming out. "These are the reasons that the players lose interest in playing for the national team,"

he said. AITA Secretary General Anil Dhupar said they

have introduced a players' code of conduct for clarity and all players will be bound by it.

"The players code of con-duct is before the Executive Committee members. It will come into effect immediately. It is for all players, be it men's, women's, boys or girls," he said. Asked if they will indeed take action against Mukund, Dhupar said, "Mukund has apologised but we are still dis-cussing the matter".

Asked for his viewpoint, Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali said,"All players should be wearing only the official kit. During the Asian Games all the players and support staff wore the official kit only. Procedure has to be followed by all".

It is not the first time that an Indian player has preferred playing with the kit that has his nis.

personal sponsor's name written. They do get paid for wearing the sponsor's name. If the match is telecast live, the amount increases.

duced the system of paying the players for official sponsor's name. The initiative was taken by captain Rohit Rajpal. If you have to stop players from wear-ing the name of their personal sponsor during the Davis Cup, then you have to compen-

sate," said a team source. "In this case (Morocco tie), no sponsor was willing to pay any sponsorship money to the players and the AITA. Just the kits had arrived through OOK, it is difficult to even arrange for kits for Indian Davis Cup team," the source said, summing up the state of Indian ten-

"The AITA had also intro-

maiden tour to the Netherlands. While the boys beat the Netherlands' U-16 side 4-0, the Indian girls lost 1-

4 against the Dutch. Rohit Irengbam Singh, Ketan Kushwaha, Rahul Rajbhar and captain Manmeet Singh Rai scored for the Indian

boys team. "This is a great way to fin-ish off such a historic tour. The boys showed immense character and grit and the efforts that have been put in are unmatched. It's a matter of pride to have produced such a fine show especially in overseas conditions," Indian sub-junior boys' team coach Sardar Singh said.

In the girls' game, Kajal Jr scored the lone goal for India. Former India captain and

sub-junior girls' team coach Rani Rampal, said, "The girls played their hearts out and that is exactly what is expected of them every time they step out on the field.

"There are a few areas for us to work on and this tour has given us exactly what we need-ed to identify our strengths and shortcomings."

### Kusale now aiming tor gold

#### PTI NEW DELHI

Rifle marksman Swapnil Kusale's dream for winning an Asian Games medal in Hangzhou might have gone sour, courtesy one poor shot, but that has not stopped him from aspiring for gold at the Asian Championships, scheduled to commence in Changwon, South Korea on October 22.

One of the best 50m rifle 3-positions shooter in the country, the 28-year-old Kolhapur marksman was leading by a huge margin in his event at the Asian Games recently before a rank bad 7.6 on the thirdlast shot in the finals saw him take a mighty tumble from No.1 to 5.

That effectively ended his hopes of winning even a bronze medal in the qua-drennial continental showpiece as he fin-

ished fourth. However, as the shooting team leaves for the Asian Championships, Kusale has put the disappointment on the back-burner and wants to concentrate on the next assignment.

'That shot... How did it go that way, I have absolutely no idea. It's a game basically. I still had two shots remaining and I focused on them. I just forgot that had I shot a poor score," said Kusale, one of the early birds to secure a Paris Olympic quota place.

"Initially, I was a bit shocked how it could happen to me. But without bothering about it much, how and why it happened, I prepared myself for the next two shots," said Kusale, who had bagged the 2024 Olympic quota by finishing fourth at the World Championships in Cairo last "Yes, it did strike me that I had

missed the gold medal because of that one shot, but then I thought it can happen in this sport and I will concentrate on the next championship." A similar last shot in the finals at the

2022 World Championships in Cairo had robbed him of a medal, but that disappointment was masked by the Olympic quota place he won there.

"It had happened to me at the World Championships in Cairo last year as well, but yes, I bagged an Olympic quota there and finished fourth, so that was the saving grace," said Kusale on the sidelines of a function organised by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) to felicitate the Asian Games medal winners.

# LOCAL EVENTS

**CAG, CRPF ENTER FINAL** CAG Delhi defeated Indian Oil in the shootout (4-3) to

enter the final the 41st All-India KD Singh 'Babu' Men's Invitation Hockey tournament at Mohd Shahid Stadium on Tuesday. CAG will now face CRPF in the final. CRPF beat Indian Navy 2-1.

#### HANDBALL TRIALS

Sports directorate is organ-ising handball trials to select the Lucknow region team for State-level Senior Women's Handball tournament to be held at Azamgarh from October 29. Interested may reach Chowk Stadium on 20 October at 9.30 AM.



**GULSHAN IN INDIAN TEAM** Gulshan of Saharanpur will represent India in the Asian

Para Games to be held at Hangzhou in China. He will be the part of 16-member blind

judo team. The team will depart from Lucknow on Wednesday.

# PTI NEW DELHI The Indian boys' and girls' sub-junior (U-16) hockey teams endured contrasting results on the final day of their

### sport

the pioneer LUCKNOW | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 18, 2023

ICC MEN'S

# Dutch stun Proteas |NZ aim to keep their unbeaten run intact

CRICKET WORLDCUP INDIA 2023

#### PTI DHARAMSALA

Netherlands stunned South Africa by 38 runs in the ICC World Cup's second big upset in three days here on Tuesday.

Netherlands scored 245 for eight after South Africa opted to bowl in the rain-hit match. In reply, South Africa were all out for 207 in 42.5 overs.

The game began late owing to inclement weather, and was reduced to a 43-over-a-side contest.

When their turn to bat came, the Proteas were off to a decent start before losing four wickets in a heap to be reeling at 44 for four in the 12th over.

The South Africans could not recover from there as the Dutch bowlers shared the spoils between them to script one of the World Cup's biggest upsets. On Sunday, Afghanistan humbled defending champions England by 69 runs for this tournament's first shocker of a result.

Earlier, Scott Edwards played a captain's knock to lead the Netherlands' remarkable recovery and take them to 245 for eight. Intermittent rain added an

extra chill in the mountain air and reduced the game to 43over a side contest. South Africa expectedly opted to bowl amid the overcast sky and their bunch of formidable pacers including Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen and Lungi Ngidi, got a lot out of the surface. However, their death overs bowling left a lot to be desired as the Netherlands plundered 68 runs in the last five overs.

arm pacer Jansen induced a

shared an entertaining 64-run partnership off 37 balls with Roelof van der Merwe (29 off 19) towards the end of the innings to take the team past 200. South Africa's pace attack

is among the potent ones in the The pacers also took a flurry of wickets in the middle competition and the Dutch top-order found them too hot to handle. Aryan Dutt's unbeatovers before Edwards and foren 23 off nine balls also mer Proteas star Van der propped up the total. Rabada struck in his very offensive.

first ball of the match as Vikramjit Singh (2 off 16) could not control the pull shot off a delivery that hurried on to him.

The Netherlands were strug-gling at 140 for seven in the 34th over. Edwards (78 off 69) Vikramjit's opening part-ner Max O'Dowd (18) depart-ed six balls later as the tall left-

### PTI CHENNAI

A fghanistan's upset win over defending champions England has given the side a new stature and New Zealand would underestimate Hashmatullah Shahidi's side at their own peril when the two sides clash in their World Cup match here on Wednesday. While the Kiwis would

look to keep their unbeaten run going in the tournament, going in the tournament, Afghanistan, who shocked E n g l a n d by 69 runs, would be keen to create another big upset and put their campaign firmly on track in the showpiece event.

New Zealand are going great guns in the tournament, having won all three matches so far and are currently placed second on the points table, trailing India on net run rate.

On the other hand, Afghanistan had an inauspicious start to their campaign losing to Bangladesh and India before leaving Jos Buttler's England in a tizzy with a vic-tory to be cherished for long in New Delhi on Sunday. New Zealand will again be

led by wicketkeeper-batter Tom Latham after their charis-Star all-rounder Bas de Leede (2) was trapped in front matic skipper Kane Williamson suffered a fracture on his left thumb during the match against Bangladesh and was ruled out for a few by Rabada, who got the ball to cut back sharply from length. games

Merwe went on a counter Williamson, who had missed the opening two match-es — against England and the Netherlands — due to an ACL Netherlands: 245/8 in 43 overs injury suffered during IPL (Scott Edwards 78 not out; 2023, was looking good to South Africa: 207 all out in strike a century after being out of action for more than five 42.5 overs (David Miller 43; months. But the skipper's innings was cut short at 78 Paul van Meekren 2/40, Logan

accounted for five England when he was struck on the an issue. Omarzai and Ikram Alikhil thumb by a throw from the The Kiwis will rely heavicould come in handy as well.

outfield. Despite the huge setback, the Kiwis would be banking on their success so far to win their fourth game on the trot

against an unpredictable Afghanistan, who played their guts out against England. It would be interesting to see if pacer Tim Southee final-

gets a chance against ly Áfghanistan, having recovered from a thumb injury, though his match fitness has remained

ly on their top order compris-ing Will Young, Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell, while allrounder Rachin Ravindra, with his impactful performances across departments, will also be the player to watch. The Kiwi batters would

certainly have watched the video footage of Afghanistan spinners Rashid Khan and Mohammed Nabi many times having scored 50-plus in two matches so far, while the likes of skipper Shahidi, Azmatullah over to counter the slow-bowling threat, given that the duo

wickets

With the meeting happen-ing at the Chepauk, where the Matt Henry's searing pace will pitch has traditionally assisted be feared by the Afghan batters, spinners, New Zealand will their main challenge could unexpectedly come from the spin duo of Ravindra and have their hands full when they take on the trio of Rashid, Mujeeb Ur Rehman and Mitchell Santner, with the latter being the most successful Nabi. As for the Afghanistan bat-ting, opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz is the man in form, slow bowler in the competition

so far. The two teams have clashed in this format only twice with New Zealand winning on both occasions.

While Trent Boult and

# Rohit best man to lead Shami's role is clear still no place in 'Perfect IX' India to third WC title

#### PTI 📕 DUBAI

Australian legend Ricky Ponting believes a "laid-back" Rohit Sharma is the ideal captain to lead India to their third ODI World Cup title, the second on home soil after the 2011 triumph.

With three convincing ns under their belt. India have made a perfect start to their World Cup campaign. India defeated Australia by six wickets in their tournament opener, before registering emphatic eight and sevenwicket wins over Afghanistan and Pakistan to sit on top of the points table. "He's very laid back, Rohit. Very laid back with everything he does. You can even see that by the way that he plays. He's a pretty laconic sort of batsman as well, and that's the way he is both on and off the field," Ponting told the ICC on Tuesday.



And Ponting believes the tournament. "But he'll (Roh bhit's character fits perfectly for the India job, allowing Kohli to focus on his batting. "Someone like Virat, who is a bit more heart-on-the-sleeve, and probably listens to the fans and plays up with the fans a little bit more, someone with his personality would probably find it a bit harder," the twoPTI NEW DELHI

At times, the greatest of actors don't fit the characperforming in front of home fans would definitely be there, but Ponting feels Rohit is the ter of a particular film and in director Rohit Sharma's 70 best man to deal with that. "We can't sit back and say mm World Cup panorama, Mohammed Shami is that protagonist who is missing out on that the pressure won't get to a meaty role.

them (India) at some stage, or Unlike the 2019 World it won't affect them, because it will, just with the enormity of Cup campaign, the Indian team management seems to have absolute clarity on the role of each squad member, leaving a world class operator like Shami on the bench for the first three games of the ODI showpiece. With the team ticking all the boxes so far, Shami, who is among the best in the business and ended with a five wicket haul against Australia ahead of the World Cup, might just have to keep warming the bench in the coming fixtures. Mohammed Siraj is Jasprit Bumrah's new ball partner at the moment while all-rounder Hardik Pandya is performing the role of a third pacer effectively. Shardul Thakur, who has bowled a total of 8 overs in two games, is the fourth fast bowling option on a flat deck and if



courses and it is working fantastically well for the team. If you see they used Ashwin in Chennai and Shardul for the other two games (in Delhi and Ahmedabad). Last game, Shardul was not required as the others did the job (he bowled only two overs)," said the for-mer India wicketkeeper.

"Shami will come into picture if they want to rotate Siraj. Replacements are very clear right now. Sky will replace Shreyas if there is a need, Ishan will replace Gill at the top and Shardul will play if it is a flat deck. Aswhin will come in his place if it is a turning track." Hardik lends a critical balance to the playing eleven but considering his fitness issues in the past, can he be expected to bowl 10 overs game after game as the third seamer if the need arises? "With Hardik, you can't expect him to bowl 10 overs in of Thakur as the latter has not yet been required with the bat every game. The job that he is doing. Of bowling 5-6 overs per game, that is good enough. Team management seems to have absolute clarity on the role of every individual," added "They are using horses for Prasad

Rohit took the captaincy reins from Virat Kohli in both the white-ball formats in December 2021.

time World Cup winning Australia skipper said. "But I think Rohit will be fine with it. He's a terrific bloke and has been a great player for a long time, and he's done a great job as leader of India." The Men In Blue last won

the World Cup when the tournament was jointly hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in 2011. So, the extra pressure of

and cope with it as well as prob-ably anyone," he said. Ponting said that with all

faint edge off his bat with an

angled away delivery.

**BRIEF SCORES:** 

Marco Jansen 2/28).

van Beek 3/60).

bases covered. India are the team to beat in the ongoing showpiece.

"I said from the start that I think they're going to be the team to beat. They've got a very talented team," he said.

"They've got all bases cov-ered with their fast bowling, their spin and their top-order, middle-order batting. They're going to be extremely hard to beat. But we'll see how they hold up under extreme pres-sure as well," Ponting con-

cluded. India will next play Bangladesh in Pune on Thursday.



it is a spin friendly track like the one in Chennai, R Ashwin comes in to the eleven in place of Thakur to complement Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja. There seems to be crystal

clarity even on the batting front. Unlike the 2019 edition, the lead up of which saw the number four position become

a game of musical chairs, Shreyas Iyer, if he is fit, is the clear choice in that position. Even though he oozes X factor, Suryakumar Yadav has to wait for his return.

Speaking to PTI, former chief selector MSK Prasad Rohit Sharma has led from the front thus far and India lauded the team's horses for look the team to beat in the World Cup. However, there courses approach. are a few questions that need to

# Want to take more wickets: Zampa

#### PTI LUCKNOW

Panned for his poor show in the opening two World Cup matches, Australia's sole frontline spinner at the World Cup Adam Zampa said that expensive figures don't bother him as he bowls to get wickets. Australia found themselves

in a precarious situation after suffering back-to-back losses against India and South Africa before notching up a five-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Monday.

Zampa, who has enjoyed a lot of success between the 2019 World Cup and the start of the ongoing edition, flattered to deceive in the opening two games, going for plenty of

runs. "I'm very good at self-reflection. I look back on the first two games and I'll probably look at the last game as one where I could have made a difference there and made it easy

for those other guys," Zampa said after Australia's win.

"But yeah, the Indian game, I mean, we're under the pump defending 200 and I'm always going to be the guy who tries to get wickets. I'm not going to try and let the game peter out and let it go into nothing. So yeah, figures, whatever."

He registered figures of 0/53 and 1/70 against India and South Africa respectively for a combined figure of 1/123 in 18 overs

"It's more about my attitude and reflecting on that too. Did I bowl the ball where I wanted it to? Did I make the right decisions? Did I put my game on the line to try and make a difference? And that's how I think about it.

"I don't really care about combined figures. It's just doing what I can to try and help win the game," Zampa added.

Against Sri Lanka too Zampa looked sluggish at the



beginning, giving away 22 runs in his first three overs but he roared back to form with a match-winning spell of 4/47. as well.

"It took me a lot longer than I wanted to get into the game today. Bowling to set batters as well, trying to build some pressure, I just wasn't really able to do that.

think I should be good enough to kind of play that role

The wrist spinner revealed that he suffered "random back spasm" and had to undergo a fitness test before the game against Sri Lanka.

"I did a gym session a cou-

ple of nights ago and I don't know if you've ever had a back spasm, but I was worse for over the last couple of days.

"I had to do a fitness test before the game today. Yeah, I felt like adrenaline was going to get me through and a bit of Panadeine Forte (medicine). It was a tough one to get through today, but as I said, one of those random ones that will wear off in the next day or so."

## CUMMINS' SPELL CHAN-GED THE ENERGY FOR US

With Sri Lanka going strong following a 125-run opening stand between Kusal Perera and Pathum Nissanka, it was skipper Pat Cummins who stepped up, dismissing both openers before producing a direct throw to mark the end

of Dunith Wellalage. "I thought Cummins' spell in particular was a bit of a game changer for us and even his energy in the field, the run-out roll.

after the rain break, yeah, it changed the energy for us. "He kind of led from the

front. His spell changed the momentum of the game. And then same as in the field, that run out, those little things can turn scores from 210 to 260, and it's game on. So, he partic-ularly led from the front," Zampa said.

Australia flies off to Bengaluru for their next game against Pakistan on Friday.

"After the first two games, there's definitely a flat feeling in the change rooms. We all know that you could probably go from 1 to 11 and say we all could do our roles a little bit better, particularly those first two games.

for whom it was the first "But we know, as boss offence in a 24-month period. (Cummins) said the other day, we get backed into a corner and the 19th over of Afghanistan's guys step up and we get on a innings, when after his dismissal, Gurbaz slammed his bat roll, then anything can happen. It's a World Cup, so get on a on the boundary rope and a chair. Gurbaz admitted the

### Gurbaz reprimanded for breaching ICC's Code of Conduct

#### PTI NEW DELHI

at number 8?

fghanistan batter Rahma-Anullah Gurbaz has been handed an official reprimand for breaching level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during their epic World Cup match against England. Gurbaz was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment

or fixtures and fittings during an International Match."

demerit point has been added

to Gurbaz's disciplinary record,

In addition to this, one

The incident occurred in

be answered. Can the team rely

on Hardik as the third seamer?

Should Shami not play in place

offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Jeff Crowe of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Rod

Tucker and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, third umpire Paul Reiffel and fourth umpire Paul Wilson levelled the charge.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points. Afghanistan had defeated England by 69 runs to create one of the biggest upsets in World cup history.

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