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STOKES' FIRE, BUT...



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KHALISTANIS RUN RIOT IN UK

India condemns blocking of Indian envoy's entry to Glasgow gurdwara

PTI ■ LONDON

The Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Vikram Doraiswami, who was touring Scotland this week was blocked from entering a gurdwara in the city of Glasgow by pro-Khalistan extremists, an incident the Indian mission dubbed as "disgraceful" before reporting it to the UK government.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the High Commission of India in London said that three people from outside Scotland "deliberately disrupted" the visit on Friday evening, and one even attempted to violently force open the diplomatic vehicle as senior diplomats arrived at Glasgow Gurdwara Guru Granth Sahib on Albert Drive.

As they hurled threats and abuses, the High Commissioner (HC) and Consul General of India (CG) decided to leave the premises to avert any further altercation.

"On September 29, 2023, three persons — all from areas outside Scotland — disrupted a planned interaction organised by the Gurdwara Committee for the community, the High Commissioner (HC) and the Consul General of India (CG)," said the High Commission of India in a statement.

"This interaction was to discuss community and consular issues. The organisers included senior community leaders, ladies and Committee members, and a member of (the) Scottish Parliament. They were threatened and abused by these elements. In an effort to prevent any potential altercation, the HC and CG decided to leave the premises shortly upon their arrival," it said.

The statement goes on to add that one of three elements attempted to "violently force open the HC's car door," which will require suitable police consideration.

"It is due to the quick reaction of one of the organisers, who physically intervened at the car door, that a bigger incident was avoided. The High Commission of India has reported this disgraceful incident to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Metropolitan Police," the statement added.

The FCDO Minister for Indo-Pacific took to social media soon after to express her concern over the incident.

"Concerned to see that the Indian High Commissioner, Vikram Doraiswami, was stopped from meeting with the Gurudwara Committee at the Gurudwara in Glasgow.



Khalistanis block the car of Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami from entering a gurdwara in Glasgow on Saturday

The safety and security of foreign diplomats is of utmost importance, and our places of worship in the UK must be open to all," Anne-Marie Trevelyan said in a post on X.

The gurdwara committee and local community leaders have expressed their regret over the incident and have called on the authorities to take action against the culprits. The local police said it was called to the "disturbance", and its enquiries remain ongoing.

"We were called around 1.05 pm on Friday, 29 September, to a report of a disturbance that happened in the Albert Drive area of Glasgow. There were no reports of any injuries, and enquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances," said a Police Scotland spokesperson.

The incident follows a diplomatic standoff over the issue of pro-Khalistan extremism after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement in the country's Parliament last week that the authorities are "actively pursuing credible allegations" related to Indian government involvement in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a designated terrorist, allegations which the Ministry of External Affairs has strongly rejected as "absurd and motivated".

"This is exactly how we should be greeting any Indian ambassador, anyone from the Indian government who comes in an official capacity under any excuse of doing visa applications or whatever it might be," a Sikh man is heard saying in a video posted on social media

by a group called Sikh Youth UK following the incident in Glasgow.

The incident came towards the end of a two-day visit of the Indian High Commissioner to Scotland.

During his meeting with Scotland's First Minister, Hamza Yousaf, the issue of British Sikh Jagtar Singh Johal in custody on terrorism charges in India was also raised.

"Replying to some issues raised by FM (First Minister Hamza) Yousaf, HC (High Commissioner) stressed that due process is being given under laws to Mr Johal, who faces 8 serious terror charges. FM also 'appreciated' HC's clear message that rights of all communities are guaranteed in India's pluralist and free democracy," the Indian High Commission tweeted with reference to the meeting.

The Indian mission added that the discussions with Scottish leaders ranged from India-Scotland cooperation in sectors across fintech, sustainable agriculture, tourism and water conservation. A visit to the Scottish Parliament, a lecture entitled 'India@75' at the University of Edinburgh, an interaction at the University of Strathclyde and a breakfast meeting with leading business chiefs on topics ranging from whisky, aviation, energy, agriculture, green economy, space and investments were part of the packed two-day schedule to the region.

Do not normalise Canada situation: Jaishankar

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Hitting out at Canada, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is necessary to call out things like violence, threats and intimidation against Indian diplomats and missions and wondered if this had happened to any other country would the world have taken it with equanimity.

"Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada," Jaishankar said during an interaction with Indian journalists here on Friday.

His remarks came amidst simmering tensions with Ottawa following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia.

India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India has angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

"We have had an ongoing problem with Canada and the Canadian government for some years now. The ongoing problem really revolves around the permissiveness to terrorism, extremism and violence. This permissiveness is also reflected in the fact that some important extradition requests have not been responded to from their side," he said.

"We have had smoke bombs thrown at the mission, we have had violence in front of consulates, there are posters put up. Do you consider this normal? If this had happened to any other country, how would they react? Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada. It is important to call out what is happening there," Jaishankar said.

"What is happening in Canada, had it happened anywhere else, do you think the world would've taken it with equanimity?" he asked. When asked about Trudeau's allegations, he said India has already pointed out to Canada that this is not the government of India's policy.

"But if they are prepared to share with us specifics and

anything relevant, we are also open to looking at it. So in that sense, that's where the matter stands," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar said one of the problems is that no incident is isolated and the totality as there is a context for everything. "There are multiple problems out there. So, I guess in the case of individual incidents, the concerned governments will have to talk to each other and see how they sort of take it forward," he said.

"But there is a larger issue. And I think it's important that the larger issue should be flagged. The larger issue is this permissiveness that I have spoken about," he said.

He also asserted that it was not acceptable to make threats and intimidate diplomats in the name of freedom of speech.

"We don't need to learn from other people what freedom of speech is about. But we can tell people this. We don't think freedom of speech extends to incitement, to violence. That to us is a misuse of freedom," he emphasised.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the launch of a week-long programme for Aspirational Blocks titled 'Sankalp Saptah' at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Saturday

PM Modi ignites hope

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Affirming that the Aspirational Districts Programme has positively impacted over 25 crore people across 112 districts, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated on Saturday that he plans to return next year to assess its progress.

During an event launching "Sankalp Saptah" linked to the Aspirational Blocks Programme, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Aspirational Blocks Programme Portal, declaring, "For me, this gathering is no less important than the G20."

He emphasised that the programme represents the success of Team Bharat and the spirit of Sabka Prayas. The PM highlighted that the Aspirational Districts Programme has transformed these areas into "inspirational districts." He announced an ambitious goal: within the next year, at least 100 out of 500 aspirational blocks will become inspirational.

Modi urged officials from various ministries to select 100

blocks that are lagging behind in their respective departments and elevate them above the national average on various parameters.

Expressing confidence in meeting again in October-November 2024 for an evaluation, Modi addressed an audience that included government officials, representatives from approximately 3,000 panchayats and blocks, and functionaries from across the country.

Around two lakh individuals, including block and panchayat-level functionaries, farmers, and local residents, virtually participated in the event. The Prime Minister noted that the Aspirational Districts Programme will hold a significant place in any list of the top 10 programmes of independent India.

At the Bharat Mandapam event, Modi contrasted the venue's previous role in hosting world leaders' discussions on global matters with its current focus on grassroots-level issues involving participants from all corners of the country.

Vande Bharat reaches Miracle milestone



DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In a rare feat of what is being tagged as "14 Minutes Miracle Cleaning", the semi high speed Vande Bharat Express Trains will now be cleaned in flat 14 minutes.

The new age trains now traversing several important cities across the country that have caught attention of the nation in recent months due to its aesthetics will be cleaned after each round trip in maximum 14 minutes similar to the practice in passenger aircrafts cleaned after every flight.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told The Pioneer that it will indeed be yet another historical step towards making the rail ambience pleasant and will also enhance the passenger as well as public aspiration to keep the rail property always clean and travel worthy.

As of now Vande Bharat and all other trains like Shatabdi, Rajdhani, Humsafar and mail trains take about a minimum of 45 minutes to a maximum of four hours to cleanse to prepare the train for onward journey. Sources in the Ministry of Railways said that the cleaning cue has been taken from the Japanese Bullet Trains where workers have precisely seven minutes to clean the carriages of seven coaches before the next round of passengers board.

Each 100-seat carriage is covered by one worker, who wipes down food trays, clears the seats and sweeps the floor and the same is to be adopted for the trains in India in near future.

"I will personally be on board a Vande Bharat to kick start the wonder cleaning services to begin with Vande Bharat and in due course of time will be replicated in all the trains in future," said Vaishnaw. The Railway Minister will personally kick-start this initiative

at the Delhi Cantonment Railway Station on Shramdaan Divas on Sunday.

More than 32 Vande Bharat trains will simultaneously launch this system across the country on October 1 and the same cleaning process will be followed as per routine and roster. The scheme will also be showcased for passengers at Anand Vihar Terminal, Chennai, Pune and Shirdi.

Vande Bharat train presently takes 45 minutes to clean. Which means for the present train capacity of seven coaches with rotational seating facility, one coach will take two minutes to clean and thereby multiple of two minutes with additional coach in the train.

"For each coach of the Vande Bharat train, a total of 4 cleaning staff would be deployed. The cleaning would be executed manually and for which the cleaning staff has received over a month long training and has held multiple mock drills," railway officials explained when queried on the operation system of 14 minute magic cleaning.

Indian Railways has been working for some time to change the process of cleaning of India's premium trains for optimum use of its rolling stock.

Before launching this concept, the Railways carried out a couple of dry-runs where the attendants cleaned the train first in around 28 minutes and then improved it to 18 minutes. "Now it will take only 14 minutes without involving any new technology," the Minister said.

As of now 68 Vande Bharat train services are functional and Vaishnaw informed that the work on the air conditioned sleeper class is going in full swing and the prototype will be put on tracks by year end and the Ministry hopes to roll on the first such services by February 2024.

Ye Shastra hai Vigyan hai, Puratan ka Gaan hai.
Ye Vedon se mila hua Maharishiyon ka Gyan hai.
Hai Panchtatvon ki Sugandh, naa koi Shak naa koi Dwand.
Vata, Pitta, Kapha ko jo karta hai Nitya Khand-Khand.
Ashuddhta ka Bhaav bhi, isko naa chhu sake kabhi.
Ye Jiwanija Shakti hai, isme naa Atishyokti hai.
Ayurved ka ye Saar hai, Aarogya ka Prakash hai.

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www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8633414/

Conference on entrepreneurship in India - Issues and challenges at XITE college

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In a two-day event generously sponsored by ICSSR-ERC, XITE College in Gamharia, Jharkhand, recently hosted the National Conference on Indian Entrepreneurship: Issues and Challenges. The conference served as a dynamic platform for participants from esteemed institutions worldwide, both in-person and virtually. Day 1 witnessed active engagement from regional institutions, including Kolhan University, Jamshedpur Women's University, Karim City College, Jamshedpur, and the host institution, XITE College itself. With 57 participants, the in-person presence added a vibrant



local dimension to the event. The conference attracted a diverse assembly of participants not only from across India but also internationally, with institutions

from Italy contributing to its global appeal. The online segment saw active participation from 58 individuals representing various roles within academia. Distinguished guests,



including Dr. (Fr.) E. A. Francis, S.J, and Sri Manoj Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of KU cum Divisional Commissioner of Kolhan (Singbhum), graced the event. Accomplished ses-

sion chairs skillfully steered the conference sessions. The conference was organized by a dedicated committee, including Dr. Pramod Kumar Singh, Prof.



Shailesh Kumar Dubey, Dr. Rajesh K. Rana, Naval Narayan Choudhary, Dr. Swati Singh, Dr. Radha Mahali, Prof. Nishit Prasad Singh, Dr. Partha Priya Das. The editorial board com-

prised Dr. Sanchita Ghosh Chowdhury, Prof. Amit Chaturvedi, Prof. Stuti Rag, Prof. Akinchan Xaxa. The event received technical support and design expertise from Y. Dilip Kumar, Sch. Vijay Rayappa, Ashish Singh, Helen Birua, Seema Herenj, Ruby Banik. The National Conference on Indian Entrepreneurship at XITE College facilitated meaningful dialogues and collaborations among participants from diverse backgrounds and geographical locations. It emphasized the pivotal role of entrepreneurship in driving economic growth and fostering innovation in India. As the event concluded, participants departed with a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities awaiting entrepreneurs in the dynamic Indian landscape. This conference served as a beacon, guiding the way for future discussions and endeavors in the field of entrepreneurship.

Annual Christian Growth Camp at Pentecostal School

PNS : BOKARO

Campers Embark on a Three-Day Journey of Spiritual Growth, Teamwork, and Life Lessons. The highly anticipated 30th Annual Christian Growth Camp organized by The Pentecostal Assembly School has commenced with great zeal and devotion. This landmark event in the school's calendar is a haven for students from grades 6 to 12 who are eager to embark on a spiritual journey that encompasses personal growth, teamwork, and valuable life lessons. The grand opening of the camp, held on September 29th, was graced by the presence of the school's esteemed founders, Rev. Dr. D. N. Prasad and Mrs. Rita Prasad, along with the Administrative Officer, Daniel Michael Prasad, and the school's Principal, Dr. Karuna Prasad. 16 other enthusiastic volunteer teachers are also part of this camp. This year's camp



revolves around the theme of "Choice, Chance, and Change." The guiding scripture for this transformative journey is Proverbs 3:5-6, which imparts the wisdom to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Divided into four houses - HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and FAITH - a group of 88 enthusiastic campers are participating in this camp. Each house has chosen a leader, and together they collaborate

to tackle a variety of tasks. These activities emphasize creativity, collaboration, and teamwork, encouraging campers to make the right choices in life while forging meaningful bonds. The highlight of the camp is undoubtedly the games sessions, which are filled with excitement, laughter, and valuable life lessons. Campers learn to live together, manage their time effectively, share meals, and appreciate the simple joys of life, away from the distractions of devices and gadgets. Singing, learning, and engaging in hands-on

activities foster personal growth and spiritual development.

To impart these invaluable life lessons, the camp organizers have gone to great lengths. The campsite is beautifully decorated, and thought-provoking video presentations, skits, and choreography have been meticulously designed to emphasize the theme of being led by God to make the right decisions in life. The 30th Annual Christian Growth Camp promises to be a memorable and life-transforming experience for all participants. It is not just an event but a stepping stone in the spiritual and personal development of the young minds at The Pentecostal Assembly School. As the camp continues until October 1st, campers are expected to return home not only with cherished memories but also with a deeper understanding of the importance of choice, chance, and change in their lives.

Swachhata hi Seva campaign at SAIL, RSP

PNS : BOKARO

The Swachhata Hi Seva campaign at SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has been witnessing active participation of employees as well as residents of the Steel Township and students of different schools.

Massive cleanliness drives were carried out at Civil Engineering Services, Coke Ovens, Raw Materials Handling Plant and Plate Mill on 29th September, 2023. Employees along with senior officers and Heads of Departments cleaned the adjoining areas of the departments and took 'Swachhata Hi Seva' pledge.

The students of RSP run Ispat Vidya Mandir, Sector-19 took out a rally holding banners and placards to create public awareness on Swachhata to mark the observance of 'Swachhata Hi Seva'. The teachers of the school led by Mr. K Nayak, Principal coordinated the event.

Anti-rabies vaccination drive at ESL buildings .

R SHARMA : BOKARO

In a remarkable display of commitment to animal welfare and community engagement, Vedanta ESL Steel Limited, in partnership with TACO and the Hope Foundation, recently organized a month-long rabies vaccination campaign. The initiative coincided with the celebration of International Dog Day and World Rabies Day, with the goal of safeguarding the canine population residing in ESL CSR operational villages.

This campaign was carried throughout the month and was met with resounding success. Over 105+ dogs in the region received life-saving rabies vaccinations. Additionally, each vaccinated dog was adorned with a reflective collar, enhancing their safety, especially during nighttime hours.

Rabies remains a significant public health concern in many parts of the world, and vaccination campaigns like



this play a vital role in curbing its spread. By providing these essential vaccinations, ESL CSR team and its partners are not only protecting the canine population but also contributing to the overall health and safety of the communities they serve.

The collaboration between ESL, TACO and the Hope Foundation exemplifies the power of teamwork and shared values in making a positive impact on society that has contributed to both animal welfare and public

health. The event was also made possible through the support and participation of the local community members who brought their pets for vaccination.

ESL Steel Limited expresses its gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of this campaign, and it reaffirms its commitment to continuing such impactful initiatives in the future with an aim to create a safer and healthier environment for both humans and animals in the region.

SANKALP YATRA

Marandi raises poor law and order issue at Gomia

SURESH NIKHAR : BERMO

Crime and corruption are at their peak in Jharkhand and the aim of this Sankalp Yatra is to make Jharkhand free from crime and corruption. This will be accomplished only when the Hemant Soren government is ousted from the state by forming Narendra Modi government once again at the Centre.



dents of theft, robbery, murder, kidnapping and rape are happening everywhere. On the other hand, in the BJP government, criminals are afraid and corrupt people live in fear.

Raising the problem of sand in the state, Babul Marandi said that during his government, sand was given free to the villagers, but Hemant Soren called the sand buyers from Delhi-Mumbai.

The people of the state will get justice only after ousting such government from power. Former Chief Minister

Babul said that the Prime Minister always worries about the poor, villages, farmers, women and laborers. From building toilets, providing Ujjwala gas connections and stoves, opening bank accounts, PM Modi has done the work of giving 33 percent reservation to women. Therefore, the people of the state should resolve to remove this corrupt government from the state.

Former MP Ravindra Kumar Pandey, while addressing the gathering, said that land has been acquired by IEP and ONGC company in Gomia. Here the Rayats keep agitating demanding jobs and compensation, while the work has to be done to give them their rights. Only BJP government can provide rights to the poor.

complained about the tractor being caught by the police while lifting sand, added Marandi.

Vedanta ESL CSR Walkathon

PNS: RANCHI



Skill School, Project Jivika, and dedicated employee volunteers. The event, held in support of the upcoming Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon (October 15th 2023), aimed to raise awareness for the noble cause of #RunForZeroHunger.

Motivated by a shared commitment to fighting hunger issues, over 100 participants took part in this inspiring walkathon, pledging to make a difference and work towards a nourished and food-secure world for all. Each kilometer conquered during the walkathon translated into a meaningful contribution, enabling the provision of meals to the children of NandGhars across India. Expressing deep appreciation for the remarkable efforts exerted by all the participants, Rakesh Mishra, Deputy Head of CSR, remarked, "The ESL CSR Walkathon was a wonderful opportunity for us to join forces in support of the cause of #RunForZeroHunger. With each kilometer covered, we actively contributed to ensuring meals for the children of NandGhars across India. We extend our sincerest gratitude to all the beneficiaries and employee volunteers whose resolute spirit made this event a resounding success." The walkathon encapsulated the spirit of collaboration, national unity, and the collective commitment of Vedanta ESL to foster positive change. It served as a reminder of the organization's unwavering dedication to transforming lives and championing the cause of eliminating hunger.

Vedanta ESL's CSR Team and Corporate Communications Team came together to organize a highly successful CSR Walkathon, uniting beneficiaries from their Archery Academy, ESL

NPU's personnel retires, manpower crunch deepens



Santosh Kumar Agarwal gets send off at the NPU Daltonganj today photo by PNS

PNS : DALTONGANJ

Santosh Kumar Agrawal an assistant in the office of the registrar of the Nilamber Pitamber university today superannuated at the age of 60.

The upper age of retirement of the non teaching personnel is 60 while it is 65 for the teaching personnel in the state universities of Jharkhand. Santosh Kumar Agarwal was given a warm send off today. Chandon

Kumar Singh said "We decided to make Santosh's last day in office a memorable one for him and we cheered him on his day of retirement today."

Chandon Kumar Singh said "As the registrar of the Nilamber Pitamber university Dr Rakesh Kumar was out of the university for a meeting in Ranchi, our finance officer A K Vaid was present during the send off ceremony of Santosh Kumar Agrawal."

The VC incharge of the NPU Dr Tapan Kumar

Shandilya has conveyed his good wishes to Santosh as speaking to this correspondent Shandilya said "I am not there but I sincerely wish our Santosh a happy health and happy future. It's a great thing to retire at the age fixed for it."

On being asked that the already existing human resource crunch gets further deepens to which the VC incharge said "This is very true. The NPU has acute shortage of man power."

The Nilamber Pitamber university is beset with a severe crunch of human resources where retirement which is a very due and normal process further depletes the numerical strength of the human resources here in this university.

Following the retirement of Santosh, the office of the registrar is now left with only three personnel making the huge work and task of the registrar office further huge and bulky. End

AISECT varsity honored with education services provider award

AVINASH ANJAN : HAZARIBAG

AISECT University, Hazaribag, established on 16 May 2016, has created its own identity not only in Hazaribag but in the entire Jharkhand as well as neighboring states by providing quality education in just 7 years. This is the reason why AISECT University has been awarded ISOCEM Award for its excellent contribution in the field of education, National Education Award from ABP News, World Education Summit Award from Award Elects organization, Top University of India by the famous magazine Competition Success Review Award, has been honored with dozens of awards including Jharkhand's Gaurav Award. In May 2023, the famous English magazine The Vic has ranked AISECT University, Hazaribag at the top in the list of private universities of Jharkhand. In the same sequence, during the National Business Excellence Awards organized by BJEC Business Solutions at the Club Mumbai, AISECT University was honored with the Best Education Services Provider Award to the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. PK Nayak and Registrar, Dr. Munish Govind. After receiving the honour, University Vice Chancellor Dr PK Nayak expressed happiness and said that the university will continue to move forward in its positive direction. Registrar of the University, Dr. Munish Govind said that it is really a pleasure to receive the award. He said that this award also makes us realize our responsibilities to strongly advance the interest of students. He said that AISECT University has been commit-



ted to quality education since its initial days. This is the reason that along with general courses, other professional courses including MBA, MCA, CS & IT, Agriculture, Performing Arts are also being run in the university so that students can move towards a bright future in the field of skills along with studies. Along with the quality of education in the university, the students are always made aware of the importance of moral values so that when the student decides on the path to his destination, he can also become a successful person. Dr. Govind said that many students who have studied from the university are working in government jobs besides many famous companies including Wipro, TCS, Byju's, Cryptotech of Solutions, Vivo, Shriram Finance, Tata AIA.

Lok Adalat at Garhwa dist Court

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

As per the instructions of Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority (JHALSA), Ranchi, under the auspices of District Legal Services Authority, Garhwa, and the directions of Principal District Judge cum Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Garhwa, Rajesh Sharan Singh, a monthly Lok Adalat was held on Saturday.

On this occasion, five benches (including Nagar Untari sub-divisional court) were formed for the execution of various cases, headed by the Sanjeev Kumar Singh, District and Additional Sessions Judge, Arvind Kachhap and the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nagar Untari, Santosh Anand Prasad, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Veena Kumari, Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Abhinav Kumar, Judicial Magistrate. Along with the Judicial Magistrate, one advocate each bench were also nominated for all the benches include Pravind Kumar Sahu, Haseshwar Pandey Nagar Untari, Nityanand Dubey.

Limitations of Justin Trudeau



BANSHIDHAR RUKHAIYAR

A coalition government is always dangerous whether it is India or Canada. It becomes fatal in the hands of lesser mortals like Justin Trudeau. He has put his foot in his mouth by making an unfounded allegation that the Indian intelligence agencies killed Nijjer. Trudeau has, so far, failed to give any dossier of evidence to India regarding his allegation which he wants the world to believe. Such a naive allega-

tion will have far reaching consequences not only for bilateral relations between India and Canada but also for the whole range of political, military and strategic equilibrium. Also, it will have a serious impact on the economy of both the countries.

Trudeau's allegation is the result of many factors. The most apparent one is that he is dancing to the tune of the party, which is pro Khalistan, and whose support is essential for the survival of the coalition government headed by Trudeau. Canada has a history of being hostile towards India and has always patronised Sikh radical groups hostile to India. The most intriguing question is as to why Trudeau made a wild allegation against India. It appears that he could not tolerate the emergence of India as a great political and diplomatic power after the successful completion of the G20 Summit with a joint communique with no word of dissent from any quarter. It was no mean achievement and India was basking in its

glory. Also, he wanted to make political capital out of it. No doubt, the allegation of Trudeau came as a bolt from blue and the focus shifted from the achievement of India after the successful completion of the G20 Summit.

Trudeau's allegation could not cut much ice as he failed to substantiate his allegation. He did not get much support of the seven lakh strong Sikh community living in Canada. There are eight lakh non Sikh Indians living in Canada who are very angry over these developments and they won't vote for Trudeau. The Sikh radicals are marginal elements among the Sikh community living in Canada. The majority of Sikhs are not happy with Trudeau as they want to lead a peaceful life and they have nothing to do with radical Sikhs. Therefore, he won't be getting all the votes of the Sikh community. The plummeting rating of Trudeau testifies it.

Trudeau did not get the support of his allies on this issue. Whatever support came was an expression of

political support to an ally. The voice of support for Trudeau was weak and feeble. Trudeau is quick to realise that it turned out to be a misadventure and he had jumped into untested waters. That's why he came up with a conciliatory statement that India is an emerging power and the bilateral ties have to be strengthened.

In this whole sordid drama, India's Ministry of External Affairs and S. Jaishankar have displayed their diplomatic skill and political courage to take on such an uncomfortable situation by its horns. S. Jaishankar showed mirror to the western world when he said in the UNO that there can not be different yardsticks for the rule makers and rule takers. Gone are the days when the statement of the spokesperson of the foreign department of the US and its western allies were the gospel of the Bible. The world is changing and rebalancing itself vis-a-vis the western bloc and India is playing a cardinal role in the process. India has come a long way.

AJSU (P) pledges to make Khatian based local policy in State

PNS : RANCHI
 On the second day of AJSU Party convention on Saturday, the party Chief Sudesh Kumar Mahato said that Khatian based local policy is not just a demand letter of the natives and tribals of Jharkhand. "This is the dream of our ancestors. For which the land of Jharkhand has made a lot of sacrifices. This is also a determination of today's generation. We will continue to fight for this honestly within the legal framework until we achieve it," he added.
 "For this, even if every youth of the state has to come out with a shroud over their head, then we will come out. We will not let the sacrifices of late Vinod Bihari

Mahato and Martyr Nirmal Mahato go in vain. Our ancestors have sacrificed their lives for this and now it is our determination to achieve it. Dalit minorities, backward classes and tribals of the State should support us, we will give Khatian based local policy. The present Government is conspiring with the indigenous people of the State, especially the Dalits, backward classes, tribals and minorities," said Mahto.
 The party Chief said that the Government says in the House that Khatian based localism policy is not legally possible, but big posters are pasted on the streets that we have given the 1932 Khatian based localism policy to the indigenous people of the State. "If it is not a plant then



what is it? Why does the Government not issue advertisements for appointments by linking its employment policy with the 1932 Khatian based locality policy? It is the

responsibility of those sitting in the Government to resolve these legal complications. But this Government is not really honest towards Dalits, backward tribals and minorities. This is a conspiratorial Government. AJSU Party pledges that we will ensure that these sections get their rights as per the dreams of the martyrs. We will deal with the legal complications - I just need your blessings, support and energy. Don't be disappointed. We will make it happen. Will make it come true," he added.
 Mahto said that the control over water, forests, land, mineral resources and indigenous tribal people, everyone's share in power and participation of all these communities and classes in the decision-

making process of shaping the state has been one of the main goals of the Jharkhand movement. "But what is happening today? It seems that the State is made for a particular family, a particular person and a particular community. In this situation, today there is a lot of anger among the poor and struggling backward classes, Dalits, minorities and tribals of the State. The people in power themselves are involved in land looting. Government protected, outside brokers and mafia are involved in looting of minerals," he added.
 "AJSU will never allow the party and its prince, who reached the pinnacle of power in the name of tribals and indigenous people, to loot the entire Jharkhand today and

hand it over to people from outside the State to loot it. Today, the successor of the Jharkhand Agitator Party in power should tell the natives and tribals of the State as to who are the people and bureaucrats whose names are coming up as the main actors, brokers and middlemen of the looted State? Where have you come from? And to whom are they giving the looted goods? While advising the people of the State not to keep their property in banks but to bury it in the ground, they themselves looted so much that there was less land to bury it and they started looting the land," said Mahto.
 Caption: AJSU (P) leaders including party chief Sudesh Mahto at party convention in Ranchi on Saturday.

THREE GETS LIFER IN MINOR GANG RAPE CASE

PNS : RANCHI
 The Special POSCO court in Ranchi Civil Court on Saturday, has announced the punishment to three persons accused of kidnapping and gang-rape of a minor girl. The court has sentenced the minor convict to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment. At the same time, orders have been given to keep two other culprits behind the bars till their last breath.

The special court of Protection of Child from Sexual Offence (POCSO) located at Ranchi Civil Court has given this decision. Those who have been declared guilty by the court include Vijay Rajwar and Prem Kumar along with a minor.
 On August 11, 2020, an incident of gang rape of a minor was carried out in Pokhar Toli of Doranda police station area of the State Capital. Accused Vijay was known to the victim. Vijay fraudulently called the victim and called her to Birsa Chowk. There the accused forcibly made her sit on a scooter and took her inside a boundary wall located at Pokhar Toli. Where the victim was forcibly made to drink alcohol and everyone took turns to rape her.
 According to the FIR, after the rape, the youth threatened the victim that if she opened her mouth, they would kill her. After committing the incident, the accused left the victim at Birsa Chowk. After which the victim showed courage and informed the family about the incident. On the complaint of the victim's family, a case number 211/2020 was registered against the accused at Doranda police station.

Rotary Club of Jamshedpur West adopts village to transform life



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR
 In a significant stride towards community development, Rotary Club of Jamshedpur West has officially adopted Chintim Paharia Tola, a remote village grappling with poverty, lack of education, and basic amenities. JB Singh, spurred by a compassionate drive, spearheaded the initiative after witnessing the dire conditions in the village. The club, upon learning of the situation, swiftly decided to adopt the

industry for broom making, installing tube wells for clean drinking water, implementing programs for health and education, and addressing alcohol consumption issues.
 Expressing gratitude, Sukanti Kisku urged Rotary to extend its support to surrounding backward villages. Rotary's friend, Gunjan Verma, advocated for another nearby village to be included in the project, receiving assurances of assistance from District Governor Shri Bagaria.
 In a heartening gesture, the Rotary Club provided essential resources for the education of around 30 children and distributed quality sarees to the women of the village ahead of Durga Puja, eliciting joy and appreciation.
 As a part of Project Vasundhara, focusing on environmental sustainability, special guests District Governor Bagaria, Past District Governor Pratim, and Assistant Governor Anjani Nidhi planted saplings in the village.
 The cultural program and grand feast that concluded the event left a lasting impression on both Rotarians and villagers, emphasizing the commendable commitment of Rotary Club of Jamshedpur West towards holistic community development.

Love Jihad: Court convicts three in Tara Shahdeo's case

PNS : RANCHI
 The Special CBI Court Judge, PK Sharma convicted Rakibul alias Ranjit Kohli, Mushtaq Ahmed and Kohli's mother Kausar Rani in Tara Shahdeo Love Jihad case on Saturday, the court will hear the point of punishment on October 5. After being convicted, the culprits have been taken into judicial custody by court order.
 A total of 26 witnesses were presented by the CBI to prove the case. On the basis of those witnesses and the evidence presented by the CBI, the court convicted Rakibul Hasan alias Ranjit Kohli, Mushtaq Ahmed and Kaushal Rani. The four witnesses presented by the defense could not prove the innocence of the three in the court.
 Victim of the case Tara Shahdeo, who was present in the court during the verdict, said that I had asked for justice and I was given justice in the court. She said that this day was awaited for a long time.
 On July 2, 2018, the court framed charges against the



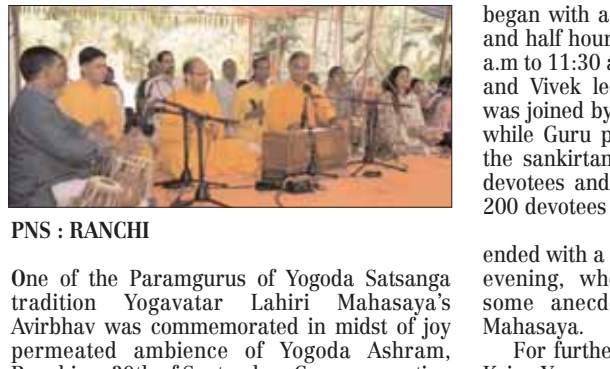
Tara Shahdeo

been proved after the court's decision. According to the allegations, on July 7, 2014, Tara Shahdeo and Rakibul alias Ranjit Kohli were married as per Hindu customs but on the second day of marriage that is on July 8, Rakibul and Mushtaq Ahmed started pressurizing Tara to marry as per Islam and convert to Islam.
 It was also alleged that a few days after the marriage, when Tara went to the Iftar party at Mushtaq Ahmed's house, he molested her with wrong intentions. The important witnesses presented by the CBI in the court include Tara Shahdeo, late former minister Haji Hussain Ansari, Qazi Jan Mohammad, resident of Blair Apartment, then Sub Inspector of Jharkhand Police Deepika Kumari, who had rescued Tara, Case Investigating Officer, Harishchandra Singh and CBI Case Investigating Officer, Seema Pahuja are involved. Senior Public Prosecutor, Priyanshu Singh presented the case on behalf of CBI. He said that he will try to get maximum punishment to the culprits.

FOUR SUSPECTS APPREHENDED IN SUNDARNAGAR IT IMPERSONATION ROBBERY

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR
 In a significant breakthrough, local authorities arrested four individuals for orchestrating a robbery under the guise of IT officials. Ajay Puri, Kandeey Tiria, Kamlesh Tiria, and Pramit Puri were apprehended in connection with the incident.
 The alleged criminals, posing as IT sleuths, targeted the residence of widow M Merry in Dongradih on the morning of September 24. The perpetrators, employing tactics to mimic an IT raid, seized Rs 8,000 in cash and a substantial amount of gold ornaments after taking the widow and her daughter hostage.
 During the arrests, law enforcement confiscated three SUVs, a gas-cutting machine, screwdriver, hammer, and other tools from the suspects.
 Senior Superintendent of Police, Kaushal Kishore, disclosed that a total of seven individuals, including a woman, were involved in the attempted robbery. While four carried out the impersonation within the house, three accomplices stood guard outside. Kishore assured the public that efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining three suspects.
 The arrest follows the establishment of a dedicated police team focused on resolving the case. Kaushal Kishore addressed the media during a press conference on Saturday, shedding light on the successful operation against the criminal group.

Commemoration of Yogavatar Lahiri Mahasaya's 195th Birth Annv



PNS : RANCHI
 One of the Paramgurus of Yogoda Satsanga tradition Yogavatar Lahiri Mahasaya's Avirbhav was commemorated in midst of joy permeated ambience of Yogoda Ashram, Ranchi on 30th of September. Commemoration

began with a special group meditation of one and half hour in Morning and then from 9:30 a.m to 11:30 a.m Brahmacharis Ekatwananda and Vivek led a devotional sankirtan which was joined by devotees attending the program while Guru puja was being performed. After the sankirtan, prasad was distributed to the devotees and sannayasis present there. About 200 devotees participated in this event.
 Celebration of this special day ended with a three hour long meditation in the evening, where Swami Ameyananda read some anecdotes and teachings of Lahiri Mahasaya.
 For further information on meditation and Kriya Yoga: yssofindia.org

Inmate suicide triggers inquiry at Ghaghidhih Central Jail

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR
 In a somber incident at Ghaghidhih Central Jail, Vishwanath Soren, a 34-year-old undertrial prisoner, took his own life by jumping from a stair within the jail premises on Saturday morning. Soren, a resident of Bhalapahadi in the MGM thana area, had been incarcerated for the past year in connection with a murder case. Sources within the central jail reveal that Soren had been desperately attempting to communicate with his family through a jail telephone for the past three days, only to be consistently denied this opportunity. The intense urge to contact his kin reportedly drove him to impulsively take the drastic step. Climbing the stairs leading to the first floor of the jail building, Soren tragically jumped, resulting in a grievous head injury. Despite swift action by the central jail administration, which rushed him to the MGM medical college hospital, Soren succumbed to his injuries soon after. The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Parsudih thana, under whose jurisdiction the central jail falls, confirmed the suicide,

stating, "The undertrial prisoner Vishwanath Soren jumped from a stair and was fatally injured." The body has been shifted to the MGM medical college mortuary, where a post-mortem will be conducted under a medical board. Meanwhile, the family members of the deceased are demanding a thorough investigation by the district administration to uncover the circumstances that led Vishwanath to take such a drastic step.



Six in police net for shoot out

PNS : RANCHI
 Manish Kumar was shot near LN Mishra Colony of Pandara OP area of the State Capital with the aim of spreading domination and terror. Under the leadership of Kotwali DySP, Prakash Soy, a team of Pandara OP In-Charge, Shivnarayan Tiwari and Bittu Pandey alias Sujit Upadhyay to exercise his dominance and spread terror in the area. This incident happened on September 26 September at around 8:30 pm. The criminals shot and

injured Manish Kumar. The injured youth Manish is a resident of LN Mishra Colony. He is living in a rented house with his two sisters, brother and maternal uncle. Manish, originally a resident of Gumla, works in an establishment in Upper Bazaar of Ranchi. In this incident, people of the colony came out after hearing the sound of gunshot. Injured Manish, who fell on the road, was immediately taken to RIMS Hospital, where his condition remains critical.



The arrested crimianls at police station

Para teachers hunger strike in front of JMM/Cong offices

PNS : RANCHI
 Protesting against state government failure over pay fixation of para teachers, more than 62,000 trained assistant teachers will stage dharna in front of JMM and Congress party office. The two JMM and Congress are ruling party in the government. The 24 hours of fasting is in protest against going back on their promise made during the 2019 assembly election.
 Vikash Kumar of the Jharkhand State Trained Assistant Association (JSTATA), the frontal organization of 62,000 assistant teachers, have announced that on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the assistant teachers would hold 24 hours of fasting (from 10:20 am of October 2 to 10:30 a.m. of October 3) in front of the Congress office.
 The Para teachers association claimed that during the 2019 assembly election, both the Congress and the JMM had promised to announce the pay scale for para teachers within three months of forming the government, but even after passing of more than three and half years both the parties have not fulfilled their promises.
 "Chief Minister Hemant Soren had also promised Para teachers to implement the 'same work same pay' policy after forming the government. "But now after forming the government he does not look serious to the demand of Para teachers," said the principal secretary of the association Suman Kumar.
 The teachers body have been demanding pay fixation for long. The state government on different time has tried to settle their demands such as para teachers and provide honorarium and facilities to them on the lines of Bihar government.
 In Bihar, the government has appointed para teachers for 60 years by taking an assessment test. Along with this, the pay scale has also been fixed.
 Also the government had announced that 50 per cent honorarium increase to TET para teachers and 40 per cent honorarium increase to non TET Para teachers, 10 per cent honorarium increase bonus after passing the assessment test and 4 per cent growth in salary per annum.

IMD alerts rainfall till October first week

PNS : RANCHI
 While the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced the departure of monsoon season from the Country on Saturday, on the other hand it has issued an alert of heavy rain in Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha on Sunday. In the yellow alert issued till October 2, it has been said that there will be intermittent rain in many parts of Jharkhand including Ranchi till October 2.
 The IMD informed in its regular bulletin that it will continue to rain in the first week of October. The temperature is also likely to drop by four to five degrees. Meanwhile, there was heavy rain in many areas including the State Capital on Saturday evening. The Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert in Sahibganj, Dhanbad, Bokaro, East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela Kharsawan districts of Jharkhand. There is a possibility of heavy rain in these districts. There is a possibility of rain in Godda,



Girls walking taking umbrella in State Capital.

Dumka, Pakur, Jamtara, Ramgarh, Ranchi and Khunti districts also. Yellow alert continues in these districts. During this period, there may be light and moderate rain at some places along with thunderstorms. There are chances of heavy rain in the southern and western parts of the State that is Simelega, West Singhbhum, East Singhbhum, Khunti, Seraikela, Gumla, Garhwa, Palamu, Latehar, Lohardaga and adjoining areas. The Meteorological Department has predicted rain with thunder in Garhwa and Palamu districts. There is also a possibility of thunderstorms during this period. There is a possibility of rain with thunder in Chatra, Hazaribagh and Latehar districts also. There is also a possibility of thunderstorms during this period. Monsoon in Santal Pargana region may become active again.
 There will be a possibility of rain in Deoghar when the monsoon becomes active. Light to moderate rainfall may occur in many areas of Koderma. The temperature is likely to drop by two to three degrees Celsius in the next two days.

Fusion of Indian language with technology will open limitless possibilities: Pradhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Saturday said the fusion of Indian languages and technology will open the doors to limitless possibilities for the country's talent pool. At the launch of the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and two-day Technology and Bharatiya Bhasha Summit, Pradhan said, "Through technology, contextualisation of the Indian knowledge system will be possible."

"Discussions during the summit on language for technology, language in technolo-



gy, and language through technology would create a strong ecosystem for Indian languages. One-third of the world's coders are of Indian origin, which is a testament to the nation's prowess in technology and innovation," Pradhan said.

The summit, organised as part of the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav, encompasses three pivotal thematic sessions -- Technology FOR Bharatiya Languages; Technology IN

Bharatiya Languages; and Technology THROUGH Bharatiya Languages.

"India being one of the oldest civilisations in the world has an extremely close and inseparable relationship with technology. Scholars from around the globe have for centuries come to understand the Indian knowledge.

Fusion of Indian languages and technology will open doors to limitless possibilities for the talent pool of the country," Pradhan said.

The role of technology in the teaching-learning process of Indian languages, the use of Machine Learning, language

modelling for speech recognition, Unicode standardisation for Indian language scripts and other important aspects were also discussed during these sessions.

"These themes will emphasize the integration of technology in promoting Bharatiya Bhasha, including its role in teaching, training, examination, and translating educational materials.

The summit aims to facilitate a seamless transition from the current education ecosystem to one rooted in Bharatiya Languages, in line with the vision of NEP-2020," a senior MoE official said.

Congress' Jawahar Bal Manch to start Mohabbat Ki Dukaan from November 14

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress "Jawahar Bal Manch" will start a "Mohabbat Ki Dukaan" programme from November 14, the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, to provide food to street children.

On October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the 'Jawahar Bal Manch' will start another programme called 'Ding Dong Bell', under which children can click on a bell icon on the organisation's website and express any wish related to education which would be fulfilled if found genuine.

Jawahar Bal Manch presi-



dent G V Hari said that under the 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan' project, food packets will be distributed among street children once every week. It will be started as a pilot project in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

"We are not doing anything for political purposes. Our aim is ensuring the well-being of children and that they become good citizens," he said.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Hari said that on October 2, the 'Jawahar Bal Manch' will start the 'Ding Dong Bell' programme. "If any child presses the bell icon on the website of our organisation, he/she can express any wish related to education. Suppose if a child wants a bicycle and really needs it, we will provide it," he said.

Dhankhar slams Chidambaram over his remarks on Women's Reservation Law

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday hit out former Union Minister and Congress leader P Chidambaram for his remarks that reservation for women in legislatures was still years away, saying it is shameful to convert ignorance of the people into political equity.

Dhankhar said he lacked words to express his anguish on the remarks made on the women's reservation law by a "senior member of the Rajya Sabha who had been a Union minister and has held high profile positions".

Without naming Chidambaram, Dhankhar spoke on the former Union minister's comments, "What is the use of a law that will not be implemented for several years, certainly not before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections?"

Dhankhar referred to Chidambaram's remarks posted on X last night that the women's reservation law is a "teasing illusion, a reflection of the moon in a bowl of water or a pie in the sky".

The vice president dubbed it a "distorted mindset" and wondered whether a sapling planted today would start giving fruits immediately or whether a person would get a degree soon after admission to an institute. "It is shameful to



convert ignorance of the people into political equity," he said.

The vice president said the youth of today will have to fight this as they have access to information. The bill to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies was passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with unanimity during the special session of Parliament.

President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the bill on Thursday. Now, it will be officially known as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act.

According to its provision, "It shall come into force on such date as the central government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint."

During a special session of Parliament earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the law as "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam".

The law will take some time before being implemented as the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise - redrawing of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies - will ascertain the particular seats being earmarked for women.

The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

While there is quota with-in quota for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) women, the opposition had demanded that the benefit be extended to Other Backward Classes. It had also pressed for its immediate implementation.

There had been several efforts to pass the bill in Parliament since 1996.

The last such attempt was made in 2010, when Rajya Sabha had passed a bill for women's reservation, but the same could not be passed in Lok Sabha.

Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart to begin from October 4 after 3 years gap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Ministry of Tourism on Saturday said India will host the 46th edition of the Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart at Pragati Maidan in Delhi from October 4-6. The physical version of the event is being held after a hiatus of three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said, adding that the PATA Travel Mart 2023 will be held at the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC).

The IECC complex was also the venue for the G20 Summit held from September 9-10. Headquartered in Bangkok, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), which was founded in 1951, is a renowned not-for-profit association recognised internationally for its role as a catalyst in the responsible development of travel and tourism in the Asia-Pacific region, the ministry said in a statement.

The event in Delhi will bring together tourism professionals and business stakeholders from across the world, offering a unique platform for networking, learning and collaboration, the officials said.

India will also be participating in the PATA Travel Mart in a "substantial manner". "A designated pavilion for India at the Mart will create an immersive experience of the gamut of destinations in India



both known and lesser known," the statement said.

State governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and other ministries will also put up stands and stalls to display their products, it said.

"Although the Mart is an exclusively B2B mart, it will help bring forth the diverse gamut of thematic products such as wellness, adventure, heritage, culinary and art and craft of different states to a global audience," a senior official said.

PATA Travel Mart is one of the important international trade exhibitions catering to the tourism sector and it serves as a platform for trade interactions between global buyers and sellers mostly from the Asia-Pacific region.

This year, the event will feature different activities, including the prestigious PATA

Army foils infiltration bid along Kupwara, 2 ultras eliminated



In a separate statement, a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police said, "Based on intelligence input generated by Kupwara Police, a joint operation was launched in the Kumkadi area along the Line of Control in Machhal sector. The joint team observed the movement of terrorists, employing meticulous tactics to infiltrate the Indian territory.

When the terrorists were intercepted they fired indiscriminately upon the joint team. The fire was retaliated, leading to the elimination of two (02) heavily armed unidentified terrorists", the police spokesman said.

The identification and affiliation of the killed terrorists are being ascertained.

So far a total number of 33 terrorists have been eliminated in different operations across the Kashmir valley since January 1, 2023.

Gold Award, the PATA Youth Symposium and the PATA Forum on Sustainability, besides the B2B Mart.

The success of the G20 Summit held this year has already "placed India as one of the sought-after destinations for hosting larger scale events and conferences", the ministry said.

With its sustainable and inclusive tourism activities, "India is fast becoming the preferred choice destination for organising MICE events," it said.

The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration while recommitting to achieving SDGs has highlighted the crucial role of tourism and culture as a means for sustainable socio-economic development and economic prosperity and noted the Goa Roadmap for Tourism as one of the vehicles for achieving the SDGs, it added.

An infiltration bid was foiled by the joint team of security forces along the line of control in the Machhal sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district by eliminating two heavily armed terrorists in the wee hours of Saturday.

According to a statement issued by the Srinagar-based Chinari Corps, "In a joint operation launched by the Indian Army, J&K Police, and Intelligence agencies on the intervening night of 29-30 Sept, an infiltration bid was foiled by alert troops along LOC in Machhal Sector, Kupwara.

Two terrorists have been eliminated along with the recovery of 02xAK Rifles, 02xHand Grenades, 01xPistol & other war-like stores. Joint operation in progress."

PM Modi 'global hero of ground zero', says Naqvi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proved to be the "global hero of ground zero" by depreciating dynastic dominance through decisive delivery and development, BJP leader and former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday.

"Modiji's perfect, potential performance with the passion of never let it rest till your good is better and your better is best" has proved that democracy can deliver with decisive determination without dynastic dominance in governance," Naqvi said at the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry's 'Indian Brand and Leadership Conclave 2023' here.

The BJP leader said that a brand of any product or personality is proved potential and perfect "not by chance but by choice".

Credibility of a product and reliability of production is paramount to convert people's habits into "hysteria for a brand or brand ambassador," Naqvi said in a statement issued by his office.

Integrity and acceptability ensures the global glamour and grace of a product and popularity, he added.

Naqvi further said a technology and connectivity revolution has made the world smaller and the competition bigger.

"People keep a close watch on the business, political, economic, cultural, religious, educational, administrative activities of every part of the world," he said.

"...Keep your eyes on the sky and feet on the ground" so



that if you fell down, you can stand up easily, the BJP leader said.

Maintaining the global credibility of a personality, product, industry or institution is the necessity of today's digital demography, he added.

Naqvi said technology must be saved from the "confinement of chronology".

"Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do," he said, adding, "That is why transformation, conviction, commitment and credibility have become an effective and successful formula for perfect products."

The former Union minister said that while 'Bharat' is one of the fastest growing economies of the world, it has also emerged as a "favourite" global digital destination.

"Bharat is the fifth largest economy of the world after the US, China, Japan and Germany. Bharat's GDP has reached 3.17 trillion dollars and it is expected to grow at the rate of 6.5 per cent in 2023-24; Bharat's foreign exchange reserves have touched 600 billion dollars and according to the International Monetary Fund, Bharat is likely to become the third largest economy of the world by 2027-28," he said.

NIA raids several suspects' premises in connection with LeT attack in Rajouri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted raids on the premises of several suspects in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) attack in Dhangrivillage of Rajouri district, in which five civilians were killed and several seriously injured in January this year.

The raids were conducted at five locations across Gursai village of Mendhar Tehsil of Poonch district. NIA teams made extensive searches at the locations, which were the residential premises of Overground Workers (OGWs) linked with LeT, a proscribed terrorist outfit.

Several digital devices and documents containing incriminating data and content have been seized and are being scrutinised for unravelling the conspiracy, the NIA said in a statement.

Two accused, Nisar Ahmed alias Haji Nisar and Mushtaq Hussain, were arrested by the NIA in the case (RC-01/2023/NIA/JMU) on August 31, 2023 and are currently lodged in Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

Disclosures made by these two men, along with inputs gathered by the NIA, led to the raids on Saturday, the agency said.

"Investigations have revealed that both the arrested accused had harboured the terrorists who had carried out the deadly attack.

They had provided logistics support to the terrorists for more than two months and had sheltered them in a hideout that they had built.

Short bouts of activity can reduce risk of heart attack, stroke: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Short bouts of incidental activity, the kind done as part of daily living and including household chores, has shown to reduce risk of heart attack, stroke and even premature death, new The Lancet Public Health research shows.

However, duration and intensity of the activity matters, the research team from the UK and Australia, led by the University of Sydney, said, having tracked more than 25,000 UK adults over roughly eight years.

"From walking up the stairs to speedily mopping the floors; in recent years we've come to understand that it is not just structured exercise that is good for our health, but we know very little about how these short bouts of incidental activity translate to health benefits," said the study's senior author Emmanuel Stamatakis, University of Sydney.

The adults studied were aged 42-78, all of whom self-reported no participation in exercise or sport.

The researchers used wrist-worn wearables data from the UK Biobank and machine learning and analysed their seven-day incidental physical activity patterns down to a 10-second time window.

They then compared these physical activity micropatterns with the participants' health records, by following them for close to eight years to understand the health impacts of the duration and intensity of the physical activity bouts.

The researchers found that nearly all of the entire day's physical activity, 97 per cent,



was accumulated in multiple slots, each lasting less than 10 minutes, with longer slots being better.

"The idea of accruing short bouts of moderate to vigorous activity through daily living activities makes physical activity much more accessible to people who are unwilling or unable to take part in structured exercise," said Matthew Ahmad, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Sydney, adding that data showed that the length and intensity of these activities mattered.

Further, 'moderately' or 'vigorously' intense activity in these slots were associated with a steep decrease in major cardiac events, like heart attack or stroke, and death by any cause, they found.

Also, those who huffed and puffed for at least 10 seconds per minute, or 15 per cent of one physical activity bout or slot, saw the greatest benefit, they found. "If you are huffing and puffing and unable to hold a conversation for some of that time (in one bout) you have hit the sweet spot," said Stamatakis.

"The take-home message here is any type of activity is good for your health, but the more effort you put into those daily tasks and the longer you keep up that energy, the more benefits you are likely to reap," said Stamatakis.

Monsoon has ended with 94.4% cumulative rainfall: IMD

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The four-month monsoon season has ended with India receiving "normal" rainfall -- 820 mm against a long-period average of 868.6 mm, a deficit of 48.6 mm amounting to 6 per cent. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra on Saturday said with positive factors countering the effect of El Nino, the 2023 monsoon ended with 94.4 per cent cumulative rainfall, which is considered "normal".

The southwest monsoon has been a story of swings, and as the months progressed, the variations only became more intense: 9 per cent deficit in June, excess by 13 per cent in July, deficit again by 36 in August while 13 per cent excess rain recorded in September due to multiple low pressure systems. August 2023 marked the driest month since 1901 and the hottest ever recorded in India, attributed to the strengthening of El Nino conditions. In August, there were 20 break monsoon days, compared to 16 such days in 2005, which held the previous record for the spells when the monsoon is extremely weak. That month was also marked by large-scale rain-triggered devastation in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, even as much of the country remained parched.

Of the 717 meteorological districts, 220 have received rain deficit while 493 recorded normal rainfall and above this year. Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Kerala, East Uttar Pradesh, Mahe, South Karnataka and Lakshadweep among the states which received less monsoon rain



this year. The monsoon is critical for India's economy, where 51 per cent of India's farmed area -- accounting for 40 per cent of production -- is irrigated by rain. As many as 47 per cent of the country's population is dependent on agriculture for livelihood, making such inconsistency a challenge not just for farmers who need to time their sowing and harvesting right, but also the larger economy.

Mohapatra said with positive factors countering the effect of El Nino, the 2023 monsoon ended with 94.4 per cent cumulative rainfall, which is considered "normal".

"Out of the 36 meteorological subdivisions, three (constituting 9 per cent of the total area) received excess rainfall, 26 received normal rainfall (covering 73 per cent of the total area), and seven received deficient rainfall. The seven subdivisions with deficient rainfall are Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, East UP, South Interior Karnataka, and Kerala," the IMD chief said.

The IMD reported that East and Northeast India recorded 1,115 mm of rainfall against a normal of 1,367.3 mm, which translates to an 18 per cent deficit. Northwest India recorded 593 mm of rainfall

compared to a long-period average of 587.6 mm. Central India, where agriculture predominantly relies on monsoon rains, recorded 981.7 mm against a normal of 978 mm. The South Peninsula experienced an eight per cent deficit.

As per the IMD, rainfall between 94 per cent and 106 per cent of the long-period average (LPA) is considered normal. Mohapatra highlighted two factors -- the Indian Ocean Dipole and Madden-Julian Oscillation -- that significantly influenced this year's monsoon season. Mohapatra said 15 low-pressure systems developed over India during the monsoon season against an average of 13, but their temporal distribution remained "skewed".

However, normal cumulative rainfall over the country during the monsoon season doesn't mean even spatial and temporal spread of precipitation.

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

Putin marks annexation anniv amidst drones attack

AP ■ KYIV

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday insisted that the residents of four Ukrainian regions that Moscow illegally annexed a year ago "made their choice — to be with their Fatherland."

In an address released in the early hours to mark the first anniversary of the annexation, Putin insisted that it was carried out "in full accordance with international norms."

He also claimed that residents of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions had again expressed their desire to be part of Russia in local elections earlier this month, in which Russia's Central Election Commission said that the country's ruling party won the most votes.

The West has denounced both the referendum votes carried out last year and the recent ballots as a sham.

The votes were held as Russian authorities attempted to tighten their grip on territories Moscow illegally annexed a year ago and still does not fully control.

A concert was held in Red Square on Friday to mark the anniversary, but Putin did not participate.

The address came after Russia's Defense Ministry said Friday it would enlist 130,000 men for compulsory military service this fall, beginning October 1 in most regions of the country. It announced it would for the first time begin enlisting residents of the annexed territories as part of its twice-yearly military conscription campaign. Russia says conscripts are not deployed to what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine, or to serve in the annexed territories.

However, after their service, conscripts automatically become

reservists, and Russia has previously deployed reservists to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, in Ukraine, the governor of Ukraine's partly occupied southern Zaporizhzhia region, Yuri Malashko, said five people were wounded on Saturday in two missile strikes on the village of Matviivka, located on the northeastern outskirts of the regional capital, also called Zaporizhzhia.

Air defences shot down 30 out of 40 Iranian-made kamikaze drones aimed at the Odessa, Mykolaiv and Vinnytsia provinces overnight, the Ukrainian air force said Saturday.

Vinnytsia regional Gov. Serhii Borzov said that air defenses shot down 20 drones over his central Ukrainian region, but that a "powerful fire" broke out in the town of Kalynivka when a drone struck an unspecified infrastructure facility.

Romania's Ministry of National

Defence said on Saturday that a possible unauthorised entry into its national airspace occurred overnight amid the bombardment.

It said the radar surveillance system of the Romanian Army detected "a possible unauthorised entry" into the national airspace of NATO member Romania, with a signal detected toward the city of Galati, which is close to the border with Ukraine.

"At this moment, no objects have been identified that fell from the airspace onto the national territory," the statement read, adding that NATO allies were informed in real time and that searches will continue through Saturday.

Emergency authorities issued text message alerts overnight to residents living in the counties of Galati and Tulcea, after detecting what the defence ministry said was "groups of drones heading toward Ukrainian

territory" near the border.

In recent weeks, Romania has found drone fragments on its soil from the war next door at least three times as Russian forces carry out sustained attacks on Ukraine's Danube ports.

Russia's Defence Ministry said Saturday that it had shot down nine Ukrainian rockets fired at its southern Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine. Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said that an artillery shell created a crater and shrapnel damaged a house, a store and a gas pipeline in an attack on the regional capital, also called Belgorod.

Local officials in Russia's Bryansk region, also bordering Ukraine, reported disruptions to the power supply following an unspecified attack on the town of Pogor.

Drone strikes and shelling in the Russian border regions are a regular occurrence.

WORLD BRIEFS

SIKH GRANTHI STARTS US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PROCEEDINGS

Washington: In a first, a Sikh Granthi from New Jersey offered prayers to start the proceedings of the US House of Representatives. Granthi Giani Jaswinder Singh from Pine Hill Gurdwara in New Jersey started the day's proceedings at the House on Friday. The prayers before the proceedings are normally offered by a Christian priest.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced that Singh would start the proceedings. Taking up the floor soon after the prayers, Congressman Donald Norcross described this as a historic occasion. He is the first Sikh chaplain to make prayers in the US House of Representatives. "The history made today is a reminder that the United States welcomes and values and will remain committed to free expression of religion. Giani Singh has made South Jersey proud today and it is an honour to be a part of this moment with him," Norcross said.



ILLINOIS ACCIDENT KILLS 1, INJURES 5

Teutopolis: A semitruck carrying ammonia overturned in an Illinois county, spilling the chemical and causing an evacuation of area residents Friday night, police said. The Effingham County Sheriff's Office said the accident happened less than 1 mile (1.6 kilometres) east of Teutopolis near an intersection of Route 40 and residents were evacuated from the area and provided shelter, WCIA-TV reported. Effingham County Coroner Kim Rhodes told the television station that one person was killed and five people were transported for emergency medical care with unknown injuries. Rhodes said a hazardous materials unit was at the scene and additional details about the accident were not immediately available, WCIA reported. Teutopolis is about 92 miles southeast of Springfield, the capital of Illinois.

ITALY, LIBYA RESUME COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS

Cairo: Italy and war-torn Libya on Saturday resumed commercial flights for the first time in a decade, authorities in the Libyan capital said. Flight MT522, operated by the Libyan carrier Medsky Airways, departed Mitiga International Airport in Tripoli for Rome's Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport, according to Libyan airport authorities. There were 25 passengers on the flight, said Hamdi al-Zanad, head of the Libyan airline. A return flight was scheduled to land in Tripoli on Saturday afternoon, according to Mitiga International Airport. There will be a round-trip flight between the Libyan and Italian capitals on Saturdays and Wednesdays, according to the Mitiga airport announcement. The government of Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah in Tripoli lauded the resumed flights, posting photos on social media that showed passengers boarding the flight and officials celebrating.

ZIMBABWE GOLD MINE COLLAPSE: 6 DEAD, 15 TRAPPED

Harare: Six people have died in the collapse of a gold mine in Zimbabwe, and 15 others are still trapped underground, according to state media reports. State-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation quoted deputy mines minister Polite Kambamura as saying 34 miners had been caught in Friday's collapse. Thirteen managed to escape. The broadcaster on Saturday said rescue operations were underway at Beyhose mine in the gold rich town of Chegutu, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of the capital, Harare. The police and the mines ministry could not be reached for comment on Saturday. Incidents of mine collapses, often involving artisanal miners, are rampant in the southern African country that is rich in gold, coal and diamonds.

GERMANY, MUSK SPAR OVER MIGRANT RESCUE SHIPS

Berlin: Germany's government rebuked X owner Elon Musk after he criticised the recent work of migrant rescue ships that German humanitarian groups operate in the Mediterranean Sea. Musk on Friday shared a video that showed migrants and aid workers on a boat. The right-wing account that first put the content on X, formerly known as Twitter, praised the populist far-right Alternative for Germany party, which has taken a hard line on migration issues. "Is the German public aware of this?" Musk wrote in his repost.

Rishi Sunak under pressure over taxes ahead of Tory conference

AP ■ LONDON

Rishi Sunak will be leading his first Conservative Party conference as British Prime Minister this weekend and goes into the annual event starting on Sunday amid pressure from his backbenches over cutting taxes as the governing party prepares for a general election, expected in 2024.

His predecessor, Liz Truss, who had a historically brief run at 10 Downing Street last year after her attempt at slashing taxes in a controversial mini-budget and former Indian-origin home secretary Priti Patel are among the Tory MPs openly voicing their discontent.

It came after the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) think tank issued a forecast this week that tax levels in the UK are at their highest since records began 70 years ago. "This unprecedentedly high tax burden is one of the reasons our economy is stagnating and why we need to cut taxes to help make Britain grow again," tweeted Truss.

"We should always seek to reduce the tax burden, especially when there's so much pressure on family budgets," she said.

Patel, who was made a Dame by former prime minister Boris Johnson and collected the honour from Windsor Castle earlier this week, told 'GB News' that taxes must start to come down.

"The tax burden is now at a 70-year high. That is unsustainable. And the people that pay the taxes are hard-pressed Brits around the country," said Patel in an interview on Friday.

"It's about being Conservative and ensuring that the public keep more of the money that they earn,



rather than seeing the size of the state continue to grow," she said.

The former Cabinet minister, who was replaced by Suella Braverman as home secretary after Boris Johnson resigned as Prime Minister last year, also disputed the Sunak-led government's claim that taxes cannot be cut while inflation remains high.

"You have to separate the two... I do recall a rather successful Conservative prime minister Margaret Thatcher, who was able to tackle inflation while growing the economy and speaking of economic growth," she told the news and radio channel.

Patel also went on to condemn the 'gamesmanship and shenanigans' that took place within Tory ranks and stressed it was time to be 'forward facing' towards Conservative success in the next general election at a 'challenging' time for the party.

"I don't think the public will forget... we've seen two democratically elected leaders of the Conservative Party [Johnson and Truss] being hounded out of office. I don't support that," she said, dismissing her own leadership ambitions.

Imran, Shah Mahmood Qureshi guilty in cipher case: FIA

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's top investigation agency on Saturday declared former prime minister Imran Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi guilty in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets, popularly known as the cipher case.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) submitted the charge sheet against Khan, the chairman of the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and his deputy Qureshi, both currently detained in jail on judicial remand, to a special court established under the Official Secrets Act, the Pakistan Observer website reported.

Khan, 70, was arrested last month after a case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington last year in March.

The FIA has requested the court to start the trial of the PTI leaders and sentence them according to the law, it said.

Qureshi, 75, is the vice chairman of PTI. Former general secretary of PTI Asad Umar has not been named in the FIA's list of accused, while former principal secretary Azam Khan has been presented as a strong witness of the FIA against Imran Khan, GeoTV, a prominent news channel, reported and added, the challan also carries Azam Khan's statement recorded under sections 161 and 164. The FIA has also attached the transcript of Khan and Qureshi's speeches made on March 27.

The Pakistan Observer also reported that the FIA has submitted a list of 28 witnesses along with the charge sheet in the court. Names of foreign secretary Asad Majid, former foreign secretary

'Elections could be further delayed'

Islamabad (PTI): Amidst an acrimonious political environment and clouds hanging over the upcoming general elections in Pakistan, a former prime minister on Saturday predicted further delay in polls due to the extreme winter.

The Election Commission of Pakistan has announced that it would hold polls in the last week of January after the completion of the delimitation process and fulfilling other legal requirements prior to elections.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in an interview with the Geo News on Saturday night said that elections may not be possible in January in several constituencies of the country due to heavy snowfall in the winter.

"In my own area, people will not be able to go to polling stations as the entire area is covered with snow," Abbasi said, who belongs to Murree Hill Resort near Islamabad, which receives moderate to heavy snowfall in December and January.

Abbasi, who was prime minister from 2017 to 2018, also said that there are many constituencies in the north and northwestern districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province where life is paralysed in winter.

"With people unable to go to polling stations, the process will be tainted and allegations of unfair elections will be made," the leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party said. When asked when the polls could be held, if not in January, he responded by saying that the end of February or March would be a good time for holding the elections.

To a question about the source of his information that the poll might be delayed due to weather, he said that it was his "assessment, not information".

The take of the former premier on election timing comes as the ECP has been criticized by political leaders for failure to hold the election within 90 days of the dissolution of the national assembly on August 9.

Sohail Mahmood, and additional foreign secretary Faisal Niaz Tirmizi are included in the list of witnesses, it said.

Earlier on September 26, it was the third time that Khan was sent to jail on remand. His judicial remand was initially extended till September 13 and then again till September 26, along with Qureshi's.

On the same day, Khan was shifted to the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi from Attock prison, a day after the Islamabad High Court ordered authorities to relocate him to the high-security jail.

Incidentally, a joint investigation team on Thursday submitted charge

sheets that informed an anti-terrorism court here that the jailed former prime minister and several other top leaders of his party were directly involved in orchestrating the unprecedented anti-government violence on May 9.

A large number of PTI activists had attacked military installations, police vehicles, and other public and private properties in Lahore, according to the cases registered with the police. The vandalism at the Lahore Corps Commander's House (Jinnah House), Askari Tower, and the Shadman police station were some of the major incidents during the violence.

Pope creates 21 new cardinals

AP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis created 21 new cardinals at a ritual-filled ceremony on Saturday, including key figures at the Vatican and in the field who will help enact his reforms and cement his legacy as he enters a crucial new phase in running the Catholic Church.

On a crisp sunny morning filled with cheers from St. Peter's Square, Francis further expanded his influence on the College of Cardinals who will help him govern and one day elect his successor: With Saturday's additions, nearly three-quarters of the voting-age "princes of the church" owe their red hats to the Argentine Jesuit. In his instructions to the new cardinals at the start of the service, Francis said their variety and geographic diversity would serve the church like musicians in an orchestra, where sometimes they play solos, sometimes as an ensemble.

"Diversity is necessary; it is indispensable. However, each sound must contribute to the



New Cardinal Américo Manuel Alves Aguiar, auxiliary bishop of Lisbon, returns the salute of a pontifical Swiss guard at the end of the consistory where Pope Francis elevated 21 new cardinals in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Saturday.

common design," Francis told them.

"This is why mutual listening is essential: each musician must listen to the others."

Among the new cardinals was the controversial new head of the Vatican's doctrine office, Victor Manuel Fernandez, and the Chicago-born missionary now responsible for vetting bishop candidates around the globe, Robert Prevost.

Also entering the exclusive club were the Vatican's ambassadors to the United States and Italy, two important diplomatic posts where the Holy See

Israeli soldiers kill a Palestinian militant in WB

Jerusalem (AP): Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man in the West Bank, Palestinian health officials said, the latest death in a monthslong surge of violence in the occupied territory. The Israeli military said that soldiers on Friday shot two Palestinians who hurled Molotov cocktails at an army post near the West Bank city of Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian authority. The Palestinian Health Ministry said the soldiers killed Muhammad Rumaneh from the hardscrabble Amari refugee camp in Ramallah. The militant group Hamas claimed him as a member. Health officials did not identify Rumaneh's age, saying that Israeli authorities were withholding his body.

Israeli officials have suggested in the past that holding onto the bodies of Palestinians slain in security incidents can deter attacks and prevent the exaltation of assailants at funerals that often draw giant crowds of protesters.

ROSHANARA CLUB LTD.

This is to inform all the members of the Company that 102nd Annual General Meeting which was scheduled to be held on 29th September, 2023 at 2:00 pm pursuant to the notice of AGM dated 5th September, 2023, could not be held as the Estate officer, Central Zone, New Delhi, of Delhi Development Authority has issued the Orders bearing no. TN2/04/2023/LM/CZ/396 dated 27.09.2023 for eviction for the premises of the company and took possession of the registered office during morning of 29/09/2023 in the presence of heavy police personnel without any prior notice or intimation.

In view of the unexpected, unusual, unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, and due to absence of requisite quorum, this AGM stands adjourned. The company is taking necessary steps to hold the required AGM and proper notice of the same shall be given to members in due time.

Date: 30.09.2023

For Roshanara Club Limited
RAJAN MANCHANDA
Director & Hon. Gen. Secretary
(DIN-00457119)
37/38 UB, Jawahar Nagar, Delhi - 110007

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
TENDER NOTICE NO: SK/ RC / 04 of 2023-24
Annual Rate Contract

Sr No.	Item	Tender ID
1	Supply of Three Phase Horizontal Mono Submersible Pump Sets, (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10567
2	Supply of Three Phase Submersible Pump Sets, (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10630
3	Supply of Single Phase Submersible Pump Sets (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10024
4	Supply of 3 Core Flat PVC Copper Cable for Submersible Pumps (only Indian Manufacturer)	10429
5	ISI Marked different size U.P.V.C casing Pipe (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10603
6	ISI Marked different size heavy duty G.I. Column Pipes, (only Indian Manufacturer)	10296
7	ISI Marked different size H.D.P.E. Pipes (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10617
8	ISI Marked 32mm dia Medium Duty G.L. Pipes, (only Indian Manufacturer)	10289
9	ISI Marked 200mm & 250 mm dia M.S. ERW Pipes, (only Indian Manufacturer)	10340
10	Various Size of Cubical Control Panel Board (from GWSSB Approved Vendors only)	10578
11	Cage Type Trapezoidal Shape "V" Wire Wound Low Carbon Galvanized / Stainless Steel - 304 Screen Pipes, (only Indian Manufacturer)	10544
12	Spares for Deepwell Hand pumps - Standard and Extra Deep and Tool Kits, (only Indian Manufacturer)	10437
13	ISI Marked Deepwell Handpump with normal & Telescopic stand assembly and Extra Deep Deepwell Handpump with Telescopic Stand Assembly (Indian Manufacturer)	10423

Pre-bid meeting on Dtd. 10/10/2023 at 11.00 Hrs. at GWSSB
Last Date of Online Submission of Tender: 30 / 10 / 2023 at 12.00 Hrs
Last Date of Physical Submission of Tender: 30 / 10 / 2023 at 15.00 Hrs
Bid Opening Date: 30 / 10 / 2023 at 15.00 Hrs
Contact Office : Executive Engineer, Public Health Mechanical Store Division, "A" Block, Patnagar Vojana Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Near GH-4, Sector-16, Gandhinagar-382 016, Gujarat State, Tel./fax. No. (079) 2322844, 9978493321.
TAN No. - AHMP03663C
The detailed tender notice and tender documents are available on web site: www.supplygujarat.gov.in and http://tender.nprcorp.com
GWSSB has all the rights to cancel the tender without reason.
For Village Level Drinking water Complaint Please Contact our Toll Free No: 1916

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Health Mechanical Store Division
No/INF/VPN/2023/G/1475

Rain swamps NYC's subways, streets

AP ■ NEW YORK

Rain walloped the New York metropolitan area with a startling punch Friday, knocking out several subway and commuter rail lines, stranding drivers on highways, flooding basements and shutting a terminal at LaGuardia Airport for hours in one of the city's wettest days in decades.

More than 7.25 inches (18.41 centimetres) of rain had fallen in parts of Brooklyn by nightfall, with at least one spot seeing 2.5 inches (6 centimetres) in a single hour, according to weather and city officials. The 8.65 inches (21.97 centimetres) at John F. Kennedy Airport surpassed its record for any September day, a bar set during Hurricane Donna in 1960, the National Weather Service said.

And more downpours were expected. The deluge came two years after the remnants of Hurricane Ida dumped



record-breaking rain on the Northeast and killed at least 13 people in New York City, mostly in flooded basement apartments. Although no deaths or severe injuries have been reported so far from Friday's storm, it stirred frightening memories.

Ida killed three of Joy Wong's neighbours, including a toddler. And on Friday, water began lapping against the front door of her building in Woodside, Queens.

"I was so worried," she said. It became too dangerous to leave: "Outside was like a lake, like an ocean."

Within minutes, water filled the building's basement nearly to the ceiling. After the family's deaths in 2021, the basement was turned into a recreation room. It is now destroyed.

City officials said they got reports of six flooded basement apartments on Friday, but all occupants got out safely.

Gov. Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams declared states of emergency and urged people to stay put if possible. But schools were open, students went to class and many adults went to work, only to wonder how they would get home.

Virtually every subway line was at least partly suspended, rerouted or running with delays. Metro-North commuter rail service from Manhattan was suspended for much of the day but began resuming by evening.

Amended GST for e-gaming to be implemented from Oct 1: FinMin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has notified October 1 as the date for implementation of the amended GST law provisions for taxing e-gaming, casinos and horse racing.

According to the changes to the Central GST Act, these supplies will henceforth be treated as "actionable claims" similar to lottery, betting and gambling and subject to 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on full face value of bets.

The amendments to Integrated GST (IGST) Act makes it mandatory for offshore online gaming platforms to take registration in India and pay taxes in accordance with



domestic law.

In its meetings in July and August, the GST Council, comprising finance ministers of Centre and states, had

approved amendments to the law to include online gaming, casinos and horse racing as taxable actionable claims, and clarified that such supplies

would attract 28 per cent tax on full bet value.

Parliament last month passed amendments to the Central GST and Integrated GST laws to give effect to the Council's decision. The Finance Ministry has now notified that October 1 will be the appointed date for implementation of these provisions.

The GST Council in its meeting in August had decided that the amended provision to classify these supplies as actionable claims and clarifying the taxation provisions would come into effect from October 1. A review of the implementation was proposed to be carried out after six months, which is April 2024.

Registration of properties in Mumbai up 23% in Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Registration of properties in Mumbai municipal area rose 23 per cent year-on-year this month to around 10,600 units — highest in 10 years — on better housing demand, according to Knight Frank India.

The registration of properties in Mumbai city (area under BMC jurisdiction) touched 10,594 units by 3.15 pm on Saturday. Data pertains to both primary and secondary property market.

The registration process is slow on Saturday because of the start of 'shradh' period. The consultant expects the number to rise to around 10,650 units by the end of the day, out of which 82 per cent would be



housing.

As many as 8,628 units were registered during September last year. In the previous month, 10,902 units were registered.

Registration of properties is expected to contribute Rs 1,127 crore to the state government's revenues.

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman & Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said, " ... For the

first nine months of 2023, we have observed a monthly average of 10,420 property transactions. The growing prominence of properties valued at Rs 1 crore and above indicates a shift in preference towards more spacious and upscale accommodations, mirroring the upward trajectory of property prices."

Amit Goyal, MD, India Sotheby's International Realty, said Mumbai's luxury housing market has been steadily rising for the last three years.

"This signifies that real estate has made a meaningful come-back into the ultra high net worth individuals (UHNIs) portfolios," Goyal said, and expected sales momentum to continue, especially in luxury homes segment.



Dell considering fresh investment in Bengaluru

PTI ■ BENGALURU

In a bid to further strengthen its presence in Karnataka, Texas-based technology conglomerate Dell is considering a fresh investment in its research and development (R&D) centre in Bengaluru, according to the office of Karnataka Large and Medium Industries & Infrastructure Minister M B Patil.

The company already operates a prominent research and development centre in Bengaluru. At the global level, Dell operates around 25 manufacturing facilities with 14 of these facilities dedicated to R&D.

On Friday, senior officials from Dell held meetings with Patil at Austin in the USA and sought support from the Karnataka government to overcome import restrictions on Special Economic Zone (SEZ) operations, which would enhance cost sustainability for Dell's expansion in India, his office said in a statement here.

A business delegation led by Patil is visiting various states in the US to attract investments into the state.

The delegation also met leading semiconductor manufacturing company Global Foundries (GF), which expressed interest in increasing its workforce in Bengaluru with an addition of 200 skilled workers, it said.

The Minister has assured to extend the government's support in this regard and will also help Global Foundries to establish connections with customers and suppliers, it added.

The \$30-billion Global Foundries has also expressed interest in establishing and expanding its Aerospace and Defence (A&D) presence in Karnataka, with plans for further engagement to develop a comprehensive business strategy, the statement added.

Indus Towers inks pact with IOC Phinergy for clean energy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indus Towers and IOC Phinergy (IOP) have inked a pact for the deployment of 300 zero-emission energy systems to optimise diesel consumption at Indus' telecom tower sites.

This move accelerates Indus Towers' progress towards its sustainability priorities, according to a release.

"Indus Towers Limited and IOC Phinergy Private Limited (IOP) have signed an agreement for deployment of 300 zero-emission energy systems based on aluminium-air technology, to optimise diesel consumption at Indus' telecom tower sites," the release said.

Indus Towers' CEO Prachur Sah said as part of the company's ESG vision, Indus Towers believes in nurturing environmental stewardship, being socially responsible and having robust governance.

"Indus Towers' agreement with IOP is a testimony of the company's commitment to build eco-friendly telecom tower sites by investing in solutions for resource optimisation," Sah added.



Govt has allocated ₹100 cr for Aspirational Blocks Programme this fiscal: Official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government in this financial year has allocated Rs 100 crore for the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), which aims to improve governance at the block level, in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens, a top government official said on Saturday.

The Aspirational Blocks Programme is being implemented in 500 aspirational blocks across 329 districts in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide programme on January 7. "The government has allocated Rs 100 crore for the Aspirational Blocks Programme in 2023-24... We expect that all 500 backward blocks will reach the state average in terms of development," the official said

on the condition of anonymity.

Out of 500 aspirational blocks, 160 blocks are part of the 112 aspirational districts.

Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of blocks (68) under this programme, followed by Bihar (61) and Madhya Pradesh. NITI Aayog would undertake ranking of Blocks every quarter based on their performance, the official added.

PM Modi on Saturday said the aspirational districts programme changed the lives of more than 25 crore people in 112 districts of the country and its success will now form the basis of the aspirational blocks programme.

Modi made the remarks as he launched a unique week-long programme for aspirational blocks called 'Sankalp Saptah' at the Bharat Mandapam here.

Espire Hospitality plans to have 20 hotels by FY25 with ₹560 crore capex

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Espire Hospitality Group is planning to have 20 operational properties by 2024-25, with a capex of Rs 560 crore under its brands - Zana, Country Inn Express and Country Inn Premier, a top company executive said on Saturday.

"Currently, we have 10 hotels in the portfolio under the 5 star luxury boutique resort brand 'ZANA - a Luxury Escapes' and the 4 star brand 'Country Inn Hotels and Resorts', with 780 keys. In this financial year, we are adding 200 more keys (3 ZANA resorts) to reach 13 operational hotels with 980 keys," Espire Hospitality Group Chief Executive Officer Akhil Arora told PTI.

The capex, through in-house funding, will also be utilised in phases for renovating, leasing and upgrading the existing hotels, he added.

The hospitality group, Arora said, is exploring both green-field as well as brown-field properties in leisure destinations like Goa, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

"We are exploring opportunities in leisure destinations as well as tier I cities for expanding our footprint. We are looking at Goa, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh as well as Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. Continuing with our expansion we are opening ZANA resort in Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh near Diwali, in Rishikesh in Uttarakhand in December and Jim Corbett in February 2024," he added.



The company, he said, is also looking at opportunities in pilgrim destinations for expansion of its property portfolio.

"Pilgrim destinations are critical and we are eyeing to enter Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh to begin with," he added.

The homegrown hospitality company currently has 10 operational hotels and under the luxury boutique segment it has ZANA Forest Resort, Ranthambore (opening on Saturday), ZANA Lake Resort, Udaipur in Rajasthan.

In the mid-segment, the company has properties in Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Uttar Pradesh. With the current expansion, the company is expecting to more than double its revenue by 2024-25, Arora said, adding that Espire Hospitality has clocked over Rs 30 crore of revenue in

FY23.

With the tourism sector booming, he said, the hospitality industry has been witnessing an average 60 per cent occupancy rate, and Espire Hospitality has also been seeing a similar level of occupancy.

"Along with the industry, we are experiencing a 20 per cent increase in occupancy, rates and demand, compared to pre-Covid times."

"This is because travellers have increased their domestic travel share significantly due to the domestic chains offering more personalised, hygienic services and for their increased focus on sustainability. We are at 60 per cent occupancy pan India, across our portfolio. Our immediate focus is to take it up to 70 per cent," Arora added.

Cyprus hails Moody's two-notch credit rating upgrade bringing the country into investment grade

AP ■ NICOSIA (CYPRUS)

Cyprus on Saturday hailed a two-notch upgrade by credit ratings agency Moody's to bring the east Mediterranean island nation back into investment-grade territory a decade after a financial crisis left the country on the brink of bankruptcy.

President Nikos Christodoulides said he was "deeply satisfied" with the upgrade that he said was the culmination of years of fiscal discipline and will translate into attracting quality foreign investment and creating new jobs.

"We unwaveringly continue on this path as a government ... and so we will carry on with our governance," Christodoulides said in a written message. "We will carry on buttressing our economy and expanding its dynamic course."

Moody's said in its statement the upgrade from Ba1 to Baa2 with a concurrent change in outlook from positive to stable is due to previous and continuing economic, fiscal and banking reforms, as well as a significant drop in bad bank loans.

The agency pointed to "sustained structural improvements" in the labour market, a

rebound in public and private investments, a continuing drop in public debt and a jump in productivity that resulted in economic growth by more than 4 per cent between 2014-2023.

"These developments also support the resilience of the Cypriot economy to external shocks as shown for instance in the context of the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war," the agency said, adding that it expects the Cypriot economy to grow by 2.3 per cent in 2023 and 2.8 per cent in 2024.

It warned that profligate government spending and a jump in the public debt would potentially put "downward pressure" on the credit rating.

Cyprus' Finance Ministry said the Moody's credit upgrade brings Cyprus to investment-grade level according to all major credit rating agencies by two notches, with the exception of the DBRS agency which rates the country a notch higher.

The ministry said in a statement it would continue on a "responsible" management of the economy despite the continued challenges the country faces including the war in Ukraine, inflationary pressures and an energy crisis.

Bengaluru sees 39% fall in office demand in July-Sept: Cushman & Wakefield

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bengaluru, the most prominent city for commercial real estate market, saw a 39 per cent decline in gross leasing of office space during July-September with corporates making delays in taking decisions to expand business, according to Cushman & Wakefield.

According to data released by real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield, the gross office leasing in Bengaluru fell to 22,13,654 square feet (sq ft) during July-September from 36,39,339 sq ft in the year-ago period.

It warned that profligate government spending and a jump in the public debt would potentially put "downward pressure" on the credit rating.

Cyprus' Finance Ministry said the Moody's credit upgrade brings Cyprus to investment-grade level according to all major credit rating agencies by two notches, with the exception of the DBRS agency which rates the country a notch higher.

The ministry said in a statement it would continue on a "responsible" management of the economy despite the continued challenges the country faces including the war in Ukraine, inflationary pressures and an energy crisis.

Across eight major cities, the absorption of office space fell 13 per cent to 151,18,147 sq ft from 173,76,222 sq ft. Anshul Jain, Head of APAC Tenant Representation and Managing Director, India & South East Asia, said, "The office segment is seeing major shifts in terms of evolving occupier demands."

"India is currently in the spotlight as a preferred destination for business expansion, the top tier markets are destined to witness more innovation and traction in the real estate place. We can expect a healthy sustained demand for Grade-A, compliant and sustainable office



assets in these markets," Jain said. As per the data, Mumbai saw a nearly 19 per cent fall to 34,70,098 sq ft from 42,58,198 sq ft. In Delhi-NCR, the office demand was down 11 per cent to 33,96,626 sq ft from 38,24,131

sq ft. Chennai saw a decline of 7 per cent to 18,01,666 sq ft from 19,39,058 sq ft, while Pune witnessed a fall of 42 per cent to 9,66,772 sq ft from 16,56,319 sq ft. However, the leasing of office space in Hyderabad grew 59 per cent to 24,43,523 sq ft from 15,34,851 sq ft.

In Kolkata, the absorption of office space rose 40 per cent to 4,08,273 sq ft from 2,92,000 sq ft. The office demand in Ahmedabad jumped 80 per cent to 4,17,535 sq ft during July-September from 2,32,326 sq ft in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Realtors hail Bengal for extending stamp duty rebate

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The real estate industry in West Bengal on Friday welcomed the state government's decision to extend the stamp duty rebate till June 2024.

CREDAI West Bengal president and Merlin Group chairman Sushil Mohta said the stamp duty rebate extension will help the industry achieve a growth trajectory.

"The real estate industry has been struggling since the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it managed to survive because of the continuous support from the state government in terms of the two per cent rebate in stamp duty and 10 per cent rebate in circle rate. The extension of the rebate will give a much-needed boost to the industry," Mohta said.

"However, the state government's support is helping us keep the costs down for consumers. The extension of the rebate will further encourage real estate buyers to close their transactions and boost the sector significantly," he said.

and the huge rise in the cost of raw materials made it difficult for the industry to pass on the benefits of the rebate to consumers, he said.

"The realtor also said that the extension will be a win-win situation for the state government and buyers, as it will help add revenue to the state exchequer. "Lots of old customers are likely to register their properties, who have not done so in the last two decades. This will also help boost the state government's revenue," Mohta said. The real estate industry contributes 10 per cent of the state GDP.

Godrej Agrovet to set up integrated palm oil complex in Telangana

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Godrej Agrovet Ltd (GAVL) on Saturday said it will set up an integrated palm oil complex in Telangana with an investment of Rs 300 crore over the next 3-4 years.

The palm oil complex, to be set up in the Khammam district of Telangana, is spread over 125 acres and will consist of a crude palm oil mill along with the provision of setting up a refinery in the near future, GAVL said in a statement.

The company will also establish a nursery with a capacity of up to 7 lakh saplings

per year in addition to the seed production and research unit, it added.

"Telangana's ambitious oil palm mission aims to bring 20 lakh acres under cultivation across the state. The mission will improve income for more than 5 lakh farm households, while at the same time contributing to the nation's deficit for edible oils.

"Along with being the rice bowl for the country, Telangana is all set to become the largest edible oil producer in India," Telangana Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Industries and Com-



merce and Information Technology minister K T Rama Rao said.

He said GAVL's expertise

in the oil palm sector will help the state to achieve its goals of unleashing a yellow revolution. GAVL will be investing Rs

300 crore over the next 3-4 years in setting up the integrated palm oil complex and through its Samadhan Centers - a one stop solution for oil palm farmers.

The company would also provide advisory services on best practices / modern technologies, farm inputs (such as fertilisers, drip irrigation, pesticides, seeds, and harvesting tools) and services under one roof.

The company's partnership with the public sector lender, State Bank of India, would also support oil palm plantation farmers during the

plantation period, the statement added.

Currently, with 65,000 hectares of palm oil under cultivation across the country, GAVL plans to increase cultivation to 1.2 lakh hectares by 2027.

"... We intend to handhold oil palm farmers by providing them access to quality seedlings and nursery. With our plans of commissioning of Crude Palm Oil mill in the coming years, it is our honour to set up the country's first integrated palm oil complex in Telangana," GAVL Managing Director Balram Singh Yadav said.

BADMINTON GOLD ONE WIN AWAY

India beat South Korea, enter first-ever Asian Games final in Badminton team event

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Kidambi Srikanth rallied his way to a thrilling win in a tense decider as India kept alive their hopes of winning a first-ever gold medal at the Asian Games, reaching the men's team championships final with a 3-2 win over South Korea here on Saturday.

This is India's maiden entry into the final of the team event at the continental showpiece.

World No. 7 HS Prannoy showed nerves of steel to bounce back from an opening game reversal to outwit Jeon Hyeok Jin 18-21 21-16 21-19 and put India 1-0 ahead but Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lost the first doubles 13-21 24-26 to reigning world champions Seo Seung-Jae and Kang Min-hyuk as Korea made it 1-1.

Lakshya Sen then put up a dominating show in the second singles to bring India back in business with a clinical 21-7 21-9 win over Lee Yungyu but MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila lost 16-21 11-21 to Kim Wonho and NA Sungseung in the second doubles as the two teams found themselves on level terms once again.



Srikanth, a 2021 World Championships silver medallist, then fought his way under pressure to struggle past world no. 163 Cho Geonyeop 12-21 21-16 21-14 and seal India's place in the summit clash at the BJ Gymnasium.

India will look to live up to their Thomas Cup champions tag when they face multiple-time gold medallist China in the final on Sunday.

Saturday's win assured India of at least a silver medal in badminton at the continental championships with two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu winning the first in women's singles in the 2018 edition at Jakarta.

The last time the Indian men won a badminton medal in team championships was at the 1986 edition at Seoul where Sen's mentor Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar played a crucial role.

In total, India have so far bagged 10 badminton medals in Asian Games history, including three individual singles medals, three men's team bronze, two women's team bronze and one medal each in men's doubles and mixed doubles.



Fearless Preeti wins Olympic quota, assures India of medal

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Indian boxer Preeti Pawar secured a quota for the Paris Olympics and also assured herself of a medal along with Lovlina Borgohain as they moved into the semifinals of the Asian Games here on Saturday.

The 19-year-old Preeti put up a fearless display against Kazakhstan's Zhaina Shekerbekova, a three-time World Championship medallist and reigning Asian champion, to eke out a 4-1 win in a fiercely fought 54kg quarterfinal bout.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina, who received a first round bye, used her long reach to expectedly defeat South Korea's Seong Suyeon by a 5-0 unanimous decision in the women's 75 kg category.

Lovlina is now a win away from earning an Olympic quota.

Preeti started the bout on the offensive but her defence was broken several times by the more experi-

enced rival. Unperturbed, the Indian teenager continued to pummel Shekerbekova to take a slender 3-2 lead in the first round.

But Preeti fought a strategic bout as she moved off the center of the ring in the beginning of the second round with a long range jab.

In the last three minutes, the two boxers showered a lot of punches at each other but both were inaccurate. As the clock ticked, the fatigue kicked in for Shekerbekova, while Preeti continued to pepper her opponent with shots to take the win.

On Friday, Nikhat Zareen became the first Indian boxer to win an Olympic quota.

In the women's events, the semifinalists in the 50kg, 54kg, 57kg, and 60kg while the finalists in the 66kg and 75kg will qualify for the Paris Olympics.

The gold and silver medallists in each of the seven weight divisions in the men's event will receive Olympic quotas.

Aditi Ashok closes in on historic gold

Indian women's team marches to top slot

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Aditi Ashok played a sensational third round of 11-under 61 to place herself in a commanding position to win a historic individual gold medal in the golf competition at the Asian Games here on Saturday.

Aditi, who is now seven shots clear of her closest rival, also carried the Indian women's team to the top spot, where it holds a one-shot lead over Thailand.

Indian women have never won a medal at the Asian Games, as Aditi had finished a distant 21st at the Incheon Games in 2014.

Aditi's 11-under scorecard was five shots better than the next best round of the day.

India's other two players, Pranavi Urs (71-68-70) at 7-under and Avani Prashanth (72-69-74) at 1-under are 11th and tied 19th respectively.

However, the day did not go well for the men. Anirban Lahiri, who needed medical aid to help him through extreme heat in the second round, was off-colour.

He shot 2-over 74 on a course that has been yielding low scores.

Lahiri at 10-under was tied-17th, while SSP Chawrasia with a 68 in the third round was on tied 20th and Khalin Joshi with a card of 69 was on tied 24th.

Shubhankar Sharma shot a wayward 76 that saw him dropping to tied 34th.

Hong Kong's Taichi Kho (70) at 24-under leads the men's section with Taipei's Chien-Yao Hung (67) at 21-under and Korea's Jang Yubin (68) at 20-under is third.

The Indian men's team are also out of the reckoning for a medal, as they were eighth with a total of 32-under, which was a massive 26-shots behind Korea, while Thailand and Hong Kong share the second place.

Aditi, who was fourth at



the Tokyo Olympics, is now 22-under with rounds of 67-66-61 for a total of 22-under after 54 holes.

Her closest rival, Arpichaya Yubol (67-65-69) is 15-under, while China's Lin Xiyu (67-67-68) is 14-under.

Aditi's stunning round also gave India a one-shot lead in the team competition.

Aditi's 11-under put alongside Pranavi Urs' 2-under 70 helped Indian women construct a lead.

India is now 29-under and are ahead of fancied teams like Thailand, China, Korea and Japan.

Aditi has dropped just one shot in 54 holes and that came in the second round.

She opened the third round with a birdie on second and added further birdies on fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth to go 5-under.

Then she landed her second eagle of the week on the short par-4 ninth to turn in 7-under 29.

On the back nine, a birdie on the 12th was followed by three more on 15th, 17th, and 18th holes to go 11-under.

Pranavi had three birdies against one bogey, while Avani had two birdies and two bogeys in the first 17 holes and then had a double bogey on the 18th in her 74.

Indian women enter 3x3 basketball quarterfinals, men knocked out

HANGZHOU SEP 30 (PTI)

The Indian women's 3x3 basketball team entered the quarterfinals but the men's campaign ended in the pre-quarterfinals stage of the Asian Games here on Saturday.

The women's team thrashed Malaysia 16-6 in its pre-quarter final match with Vaishnavi Yadav emerging as the star performer, scoring a maximum of nine points in the contest.

The women's team had finished second in its group, having beaten Uzbekistan



while facing a humiliating defeat against last edition's gold medallist China. The women's team will lock horns

with Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals.

In the men's event, the Indian side lost a close contest against Iran 17-19 and was knocked out of the tournament.

India's Princel Singh was the star performer, scoring a maximum of nine points in the match but failed to take his side to the finish line.

The men's side ended the league stage in second place. They defeated Malaysia and Macao and lost to 2018 Games' gold medallist China.

The Indian contingent is making its debut in the event.

Indian athletes make finals in long jump, 1500m, women's 100m hurdles

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Indian hurdlers Jyothi Yarraji and Nithya Ramraj advanced to the women's 100m hurdles final, while ace long jumpers Murali Sreeshankar and Jeswin Aldrin also sailed through, keeping their medal hopes alive at the Asian Games here on Saturday.

Asian champion Yarraji finished second in her heat with a timing of 13.03 seconds to qualify for the women's 100m hurdles final.

Aditi's 11-under put alongside Pranavi Urs' 2-under 70 helped Indian women construct a lead.

India is now 29-under and are ahead of fancied teams like Thailand, China, Korea and Japan.

Aditi has dropped just one shot in 54 holes and that came in the second round.

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Pranavi had three birdies against one bogey, while Avani had two birdies and two bogeys in the first 17 holes and then had a double bogey on the 18th in her 74.

China's Yuwei Lin finished first with a personal best time of 12.79.

India will have a second hurdler in the event as Nithya Ramraj finished fifth in her heat but qualified as second fastest loser with a time of 13.30.

Second-fastest Asian hurdler Yarraji had won gold at the Asian Athletics Championships. She has broken the national record in the 100m hurdles a staggering seven times.



Mirabai's injury ends her Asian Games campaign

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Ace Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu is disappointed that she could not realise her dream of an Asian Games medal as she suffered thigh muscle injury during the women's 49kg event here on Saturday.

The Olympic silver medallist said she felt pain while warming up before the event started and despite her coach asking her to pull out, she continued as she wanted to win a medal for the country.

"When I was warming up before the snatch section, I felt pain on my thigh, I think deep sheathing hit me. They have put ice and some spray, and will see in India what kind of treatment



we will do. I am having pain now also," Chanu said after the event, where she finished fourth.

"It is pain in the glutes and the bones on the right side of the thigh," she added.

An Asian Games medal is the only silverware missing from the Manipuri's decorated cabinet. Chanu had finished ninth in the 2014 edition and was forced to miss the 2018 Games due to a back injury.

"I had trained hard but I could not bring the results because of this pain. I tried my best to win a medal for the country but could not. I am feeling bad.

"I could not take part in the 2018 Asian Games. It was my dream to win a medal in the Asian Games but it is not happening. Now, my target is to do well in the Paris Olympics."

"Pain had started during snatch warm up. Sir (Vijay Sharma) asked me if I wanted to pull out because it may lead to serious injury. But I continued because I wanted to win a medal," she added.

Chanu lifted 108kg in her first clean and jerk but increased the weight to 117kg with an eye on a medal.

Indian canoers enter final with women's kayak pair

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

India's Niraj Verma qualified for the final of the canoe sprint events at the Asian Games along with the men's and women's pairs, here on Saturday.

Niraj topped the canoe single 1000m semi-final by clocking 4:31.626s after missing the final qualification in heat 1, where he managed a time of 4:25.162 seconds.

Taipei's Kuan-Chieh Lai emerged the winner by clocking a blistering 4:02.431s.

Later, the top three in the four-canoe semifinals advanced to the medal round with Niraj taking the top spot.

The eight-man final is scheduled for Monday.

The Indian team of Ribason Singh Ningthoujam and

In long jump, Commonwealth Games silver medallist Sreeshankar jumped more than the automatic qualification mark of 7.90m to make it to the final.

The 24-year-old from Kerala, who boasts a personal and season's best of 8.41m, produced a first jump of 7.97 to directly make the cut.

Having started off with a foul, Asia's best Jeswin Aldrin's third attempt of 7.67 was not enough for an automatic qualification but he still made the cut

after finishing second in his heat and among the top 12.

There will be two Indians in the men's 1500m final as Jinson Johnson and Ajay Kumar qualified from their respective heats.

Johnson finished fifth with a time of 3:56.22 to seal an automatic qualification spot. Ajay Kumar was second to cruise into the final with a timing of 3:51.93, finishing second in his heat.

Finals of all the three events -- women's 100m hurdles, men's long jump and men's 1500m -- are slated on Sunday.



Chess: Vaishali shines as Indian women beat Vietnam

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The second-seeded Indian women's team registered a 2.5-1.5 win over Vietnam in the second round of the team event in the Asian Games, here on Saturday.

The top-seeded men's team was held to a 2-2 draw by a strong Uzbekistan team with all four matches ending in draws.

In the India-Vietnam match, R Vaishali scored the first win with black pieces against WGM Vo Thi Kim Phung.

The country's top player, Koneru Humpy, and Vantika Agarwal drew their games.

On the fourth board, B Savitha Shri drew against Thi Bao Tram Hoang as India closed out a 2.5-1.5 victory.

Meanwhile, it was a solid draw for India against Uzbekistan.

D Gukesh was under pressure on the top board against Nodirbek Abdusattorov, but managed to hold on for a draw.

R Praggnanandhaa had an edge in the middlegame against Javokhir Sindarov, but could not force a win. Vidit S Gujrathi drew against Nodirbek Yakubboev and Arjun Erigaisi held on for a draw in his game against Shamsiddin Vokhidov.

World-conquering compound archers aim Asian domination

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The Indian compound archers will enter the Asian Games as outright favourites after producing exceptional results in the 2023 season while the recurve archers will strive to end a 13-year medal drought at the continental showpiece when competition in the bow sport gets underway, here on Sunday.

India never boasted a world champion in archery but the year 2023 threw not just one but three senior champions, including Ojas Deotale and 17-year-old Aditi Swami, who excelled in compound.

The compound archers also

grabbed seven gold and four bronze medals from three stages of the World Cup to assert their supremacy, similar to what Korean archers brag about in recurve section.

Going into the Asian Games with such stupendous performances, the compound archers will be aiming for all the five gold medals on offer and power India to their best-ever show in archery at the continental showpiece.

India had returned with two silver medals from Indonesia in 2018.

India's best-ever show in archery at the Asian Games came in 2014 with one gold, one silver and a bronze in the com-



ound section.

"This time we are expecting gold in men's and women's sections. God willing, we may end up with four gold medals in compound," India's high perfor-

mance director and Dronacharya Awardee Sanjeeva Singh told PTI referring to individual and team events.

In the women's compound section, all eyes would be on

Aditi who dropped just four points in the semifinal and the final en route to title win in Berlin in August.

India's most-accomplished compound archer Jyothi, who has seven World Championship medals, will also look to make her presence felt.

In men's section, while world champion Deotale will look to live up to his reputation, senior-most Abhishek Verma, who is the only compound archer to have an individual silver (Incheon 2014) in the Asian Games would look to upgrade his medal and sign off on a high.

Then the compound team also have the promising

Prathamesh Jawkar, fresh from winning a silver at the World Cup Final earlier this month.

As per a new rule, only two archers from the same country will make the cut from the qualifying round for the individual elimination round.

Also, this Asian Games will offer two more medals in archery from the previous addition with the addition of mixed sections (recurve and compound events).

"So no country can make a clean sweep in the individual section, and hence I'm expecting four medals from compound archers -- two each in men's and women's sections.

"The mixed team event will be tricky and you never know, it will be a bonus if we make it five (in mixed event)," Singh added.

Redemption time

It's a different story in recurve section which is an Olympic discipline. The last time India won a recurve medal at the Asian Games was 13 years ago at Guangzhou.

That six Olympic quota places will also be on offer and that will be an added incentive.

India's best bet would be 22-year-old Army man Dhiraj Bommadevara, who is enjoying a career-best world ranking of 15.

BUTTLE'S MEN HAVE STOKES' FIRE, BUT...

TACKLING SPIN REMAINS A CHALLENGE

PTI ■ MUMBAI
With Ben Stokes coming out of retirement and the 2019 title winning core group largely intact, England will fancy a successful campaign in challenging conditions in India during the 50-over World Cup starting on October 5. England's squad has depth and variety but adapting to conditions would be crucial for them, and the Three Lions players will also lean on their IPL experience to tread through eight venues for their nine group stage matches.



Jos Buttler's team will face New Zealand in Ahmedabad in the World Cup opener on October 5, but before that, they would hope to make the most of the two warm-up matches against India and Bangladesh, especially in their preparations against spin.

HERE'S THEN A SWOT ANALYSIS OF ENGLAND
Strengths: The presence of Stokes is a massive shot in the arm for them, and they also have a number of players who know how to win a global tournament, something only Australia can boast of among the competitors. They have a long batting line-up but more than the length the fearsome ability to subjugate rivals with an aggressive approach make England stand out from the rest, a key component of their domination in white ball formats. The addition of in-form Harry Brook in place of out of form Jason Roy has only added to their firepower, but they also have class in Joe Root. Fast bowler Jofra Archer will be a reserve player but England have searing pace in Mark Wood, while leg-spinner Adil Rashid will be crucial for them on Indian pitches. **Weakness:** Unlike their Indian and Australian counterparts, England have had no specific build-up to the World Cup. A four-match ODI series against the Kiwis at home, which England won 3-1, was their most recent experience of one-day cricket while their frontline players were rested for the Ireland series.

This lack of game-time for key players could be a major deterrent for England's ambitions, and they have also arrived only a day before their first warm-up match. While England's aggressive batting approach has largely won approvals, it remains to be seen how they would execute it on the surfaces that slow down as the tournament progresses. **Opportunity:** The finest generation of England's white-ball players - most of whom could be in their last 50-over WC - would not get any better opportunity than this to 'create memories', which is essentially the core of their 'Bazball' approach in Tests. Stokes showed his intent to bring a bit of the 'Bazball' into one-dayers when he went ballistic with a 124-ball 182 against New Zealand. At the same time, lesser-known young quick Gus Atkinson, Brook and Sam Curran would know it is their time to cement positions as England gradually heads towards transition. **Threat:** England have played only 10 ODIs in the World Cup year, and Buttler's Buccaneer's even with all their exceptional skills will have to counter a set of spinners, especially from Asian nations, who know how to exploit the conditions.

2023 World Cup could be my last for India: Ashwin



PTI ■ GUWAHATI

champions England here on Saturday, the 37-year-old Ashwin made the admission in a pre-match chat. "Being in a good space, enjoying this tournament will keep me in good stead. This could be my last World Cup for India, so enjoying the tournament is of utmost importance," Ashwin told Star Sports. "I would have said that you were joking. Life is full of surprises. Honestly, did not think I would be here. Circumstances have made sure I am here today, the team management have shown trust," said Ashwin while talking about his inclusion in the Indian squad. Ashwin has played 10 matches for India in World Cup history with his last appearance coming in 2015. He has bagged 17 wickets in the competition at an average of 24.88 and an economy of 4.36 with his best figures being 4/25. Apart from Virat Kohli, Ashwin is the only member of the current Indian side who were also a part of their World Cup winning campaign in 2011. Ashwin said dealing with pressure would be crucial. "All you can do is turn the ball both ways, and I think I can do it. Dealing with pressure is paramount in these tournaments, and it will dictate how the tournament goes," he said.

Kuldeep best spinner going into World Cup, will give India significant advantage: Intikhab Alam

PTI ■ HYDERABAD
Kuldeep Yadav is the best spinner going into the World Cup and will give India a distinct advantage in the middle overs through the course of the 50-over showpiece, reckons former Pakistan captain Intikhab Alam. The 28-year-old Kuldeep is being seen as India's trump card in the World Cup at home, having taken 33 wickets in 17 ODIs at an average of 16.03 this year. Since coming back from a knee injury, Kuldeep has worked on his arm speed and angles, helping him get a bagful of wickets in the middle overs. Alam, who has been to India multiple times as a player

and having also served as a manager of the Pakistan team in the past, feels it will be advantage India in the mother of all clashes in Ahmedabad on October 14. "The way India played in Asia Cup and played the final (decimating Sri Lanka). They look like the team to beat. Their spin attack stands out. Kuldeep is going to play a major role in the tournament. He will test the batters of all teams," Alam told PTI on Saturday. "Jadeja and Kuldeep make a lethal combination. Kuldeep is a match winner. He is the best spinner in this World Cup in my opinion. Now you also have (Ravichandran) Ashwin back," said the 81-year-old, who was born in Hoshiarpur in the pre-

Independence India. Alam added that India's batting, including greats like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, as well as the in-form Shubman Gill makes the hosts a strong contender to win the trophy. **'SPIN ATTACK A CONCERN FOR PAKISTAN'** Alam said Pakistan spinners, however, don't inspire the same confidence. Pakistan could not defend 345 in the opening warm-up match against New Zealand here on Friday as their premier spinner Shadab Khan did not bowl while left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz leaked runs. Leggie Usama Mir, though, made an impact with two wick-



ets. "In the bowling department, Pakistan's spin attack is weak in the middle overs. In Asia Cup we struggled. It is important for them to do well in this phase else teams will easily score 300 against them. Naseem Shah is young and quick and he too will be missed with the new ball," said Alam referring to Shah's injury. **'STICK WITH FAKHAR ZAMAN'** Fakhar Zaman has been battling an inconsistent run and pressure is building on him ahead of the team's opening World Cup fixture against Netherlands, here on October 6. Abdullah Shaheque can replace him at the top.

"On these true wickets in India, most games will be high-scoring. With Fakhar you can expect anything, he will fire in one out of five games but you have to take that risk with him," said Alam. **'SINCE MY FIRST TOUR OF INDIA IN 1961, PAKISTAN HAVE BEEN ACCORDED WARM WELCOME'** Barring two members, Pakistan players are visiting India for the first time including captain Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Upon their arrival here on Wednesday, the entire squad was overwhelmed with an unexpected welcome at the airport. For Alam, who has also

coached the Punjab team in Ranji Trophy in the early 2000s, it doesn't come as a surprise. "Whenever we go to India we get a memorable welcome. I have spent two years there (as Punjab coach). People to people contact should be encouraged in tense times like these," he said. Alam said Pakistan cricketers will feel the pressure of playing on Indian soil. "There will be pressure, for sure. It depends on how team management treat the players to ensure they focus only on cricket. You get four years to prepare for an event like this. You have to do something special so people remember for you a long time. It is a great opportunity for Babar and Co.," added Alam.



Black Caps look to punch above weight despite injury cloud over Williamson

PTI ■ MUMBAI
For a team which has entered the World Cup knockout stage in the last four editions of the World Cup, New Zealand would want to end their wait to win a trophy this time in India. In 2019, Kane Williamson's men came agonisingly close in doing so in the summit clash against England, but only to end on the wrong side of a result, courtesy a strange boundary countback rule. The outcome still rages on in debates but the Kiwis will have to muster all their strength to have a crack at the coveted trophy, and they would want to do that for their affable leader Williamson. **STRENGTH:** The stats may tend to portray New Zealand as a side who struggle in India but in ICC events, the Black Caps are a different beast - often punching above their weight, evidenced by their three ICC tournaments final appearances — two 50-over WC finals in 2015 and 2019 and the WTC summit clash in 2021. The Kiwis have a largely balanced squad for this World Cup consisting of exciting players like Devon Conway, Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips but also ageing stars like Williamson, Tim Southee and Trent Boult, who form their backbone. New Zealand's bowling, especially the spin department, seems to have covered the bases with Mitchell Santner and Ish Sodhi in their ranks while fast bowlers Lockie Ferguson and Matt Henry will be there to support Boult and Southee. **WEAKNESS:** Overall, New Zealand's ODI record in India is pretty dismal: only 18 wins to show from 61 matches with 47

losses and two games ending without any result. Besides, Williamson won't be available for New Zealand's tournament-opener in Ahmedabad against England as he continues to battle a knee injury that he suffered during IPL 2023. How Williamson performs in the tournament could also determine the fortunes for the Kiwis as apart from being their captain, the 32-year-old is also their best batter irrespective of conditions. **OPPORTUNITY:** For the trioka consisting Williamson, Boult and Southee, this World Cup could be the last opportunity to win another ICC trophy for New Zealand. Conway lifted the IPL trophy with Chennai Super Kings earlier this year. The resolute left-handed batter would be itching to have a go in white-ball cricket in India and build more on the success he has had this year with the bat. Mitchell has been a vital cog for New Zealand with both the bat and the ball and he would want to play an impactful role in their campaign. Phillips, Will Young and even Rachin Ravindra would look to make their contributions. **THREAT:** Apart from a dismal ODI record in India, New Zealand have suffered away series defeats against two Asian sides — India and Pakistan - this year. But to their credit, New Zealand did well to edge Pakistan 2-1 in their first of the two away series in 2023. Along with Williamson's injury, New Zealand's trusted bowling weapons in Southee and Boult, 34 each, will have to prove themselves on wickets that may not suit their art.

Rain washes out India-England World Cup warm-up match

PTI ■ GUWAHATI
Persistent rain on Saturday washed out the World Cup warm-up match between India and England at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium here. It began raining a little before the start of the match on Saturday afternoon, which resulted in the toss being delayed but later in the evening the umpires decided to abandon the contest, a little before 6pm local time owing to inclement weather. All 10 teams will get to play two warm-up matches each before the group stage of the 50-over World Cup which gets underway in Ahmedabad on October 5. England will face New Zealand in the World Cup opener. England, who arrived in India a day before their first warm-up match, will remain in Guwahati to play their second and final warm-up game against Bangladesh on October 2. On the other hand, India, who travelled all the way to Guwahati on Thursday after completing a 2-1 series win over Australia, will now fly to Thiruvananthapuram for their second warm-up match against the Netherlands on October 3. The warm-up matches began on Friday with Sri Lanka suffering a seven-wicket defeat at the hands of Bangladesh here, while New Zealand defeated Pakistan in a high-scoring contest in Hyderabad. The warm-up matches are being played at three venues Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Hyderabad.



Jabeur wins Ningbo Open; Pegula, Kudermetova reach final in Tokyo

AP ■ NINGBO (CHINA)
Top-seeded Ons Jabeur won her fifth career title at the Ningbo Open with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over teenager Diana Shnaider on Saturday. The seventh-ranked Jabeur, a three-time Grand Slam finalist, saved her best performance of the tournament for the final and raced to victory in 78 minutes. The Tunisian had 18 winners to only 10 unforced errors, while saving all three break points she faced, denying the 19-year-old Shnaider any chance to get a foothold in the match. This was 85th-ranked Shnaider's first career final in just her ninth WTA tournament main draw. One year ago, she was ranked No. 220 and beginning her freshman year at North Carolina State. At the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, second-seeded Jessica Pegula's impressive week continued as the American secured a 6-2, 6-3 victory over fourth-seeded Maria Sakkari in the semi-finals. Pegula has lost just nine games in her three



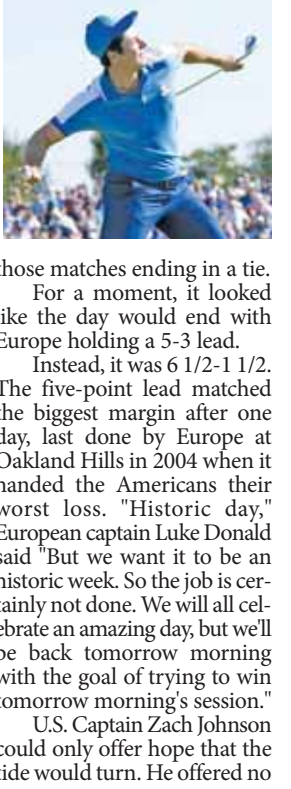
matches and will meet eighth-seeded Veronika Kudermetova in Sunday's final. "When you're top-ranked, I think it just depends on how you play that day and how you execute your game plan, and some days it's better than others," Pegula said. "I think the faster courts here probably help me a little more than the slower surfaces I've played her in the past, so I tried to take advantage of that." In the earlier semi-final, Kudermetova edged past Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-6 (6), 6-7 (2), 6-3. At the Astana Open, top-seeded Tallon Griekspoor defeated qualifier Sho Shimabukuro 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-1 to advance to the quarterfinals. Local favorite and third-seeded Alexander Bublik and fifth-seeded Sebastian Korda play their respective second-round matches later Saturday.

Europe strikes back in Ryder Cup and ties record for largest lead

AP ■ GUIDONIA MONTECELIO (ITALY)
Europe swept the opening session of the Ryder Cup for the first time in its history, a beating so thorough that none of the foursomes matches reached the 18th hole. And then somehow it got even worse for the Americans. Right when they were on the verge of escaping Friday with a manageable deficit, Europe delivered one punch after another on the 18th hole at Marco Simone. It left the Americans without a single win on opening day for the first time in Ryder Cup history, and it gave Europe a record-tying lead in its bid to regain the cup. Three foursomes matches came to the 597-yard closing hole, all of them looking like a red American point on the board. And then Viktor Hovland made a 25-foot birdie putt. Jon Rahm made a 35-foot eagle putt that slammed into the back of the cup. Justin Rose finished it with an 8-foot birdie putt, all

excuses other than a mysterious mention of a bug going through the U.S. Team. "It did not go in our favor today. Doesn't mean it can't tomorrow or Sunday," Johnson said. "Tip my cap to the European team for playing great golf. Our time's coming. Europe now needs only to win eight points from the remaining 20 matches to extend its winning streak at home that dates to 1993. Donald pushed all the right buttons by starting with foursomes, which he considered a European strength that would give him a hot start. And then he let his stars do the work. Rory McIlroy was the only player to win both his matches, even if he rode the amazing play of Matt Fitzpatrick in foursballs. Fitzpatrick won five straight holes on the front nine in the only foursballs match that ended early. Rahm twice holed big shots of the green in foursomes with Tyrrell Hatton and hit the pin with his tee shot on a par 3. In the afternoon, he made

those matches ending in a tie. For a moment, it looked like the day would end with Europe holding a 5-3 lead. Instead, it was 6 1/2-1 1/2. The five-point lead matched the biggest margin after one day, last done by Europe at Oakland Hills in 2004 when it handed the Americans their worst loss. "Historic day," European captain Luke Donald said "But we want it to be an historic week. So the job is certainly not done. We will all celebrate an amazing day, but we'll be back tomorrow morning with the goal of trying to win tomorrow morning's session." U.S. Captain Zach Johnson could only offer hope that the tide would turn. He offered no



two eagles over the last three holes. Hovland got this shot-making clinic started in the morning when he chipped in from 45 feet, off a tight lie on the fringe and over a ridge. He ended his day with that big birdie, a putt that paused ever so briefly before taking one final turn into the cup. "They are studs. They are three of the top four players in the world," Donald said. "You need your superstars firing. You need them playing well. Without that, it's really an uphill battle. They stepped up and did what they needed to do, and I'm so proud of them."

AFFIDAVIT
As per affidavit Ref. No. 1011 dated 30.09.2023 I, **SANJAY PRADHAN S/O JOGENDRA PRADHAN**, resident of Flat no.103, Rupam Enclave, Ashok Nagar, Landmark, Kaveri, Hotel, Ranchi G.P.O., Ranchi, Jharkhand 834001 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-
1. That my correct name is **SANJAY PRADHAN** mentioned in my UID 8129 46334612.
2. That my other name is **SANJAY KUMAR PRADHAN** vide passport no. L5137458.
3. That **SANJAY PRADHAN** and **SANJAY KUMAR PRADHAN** both names are of same and one person i.e myself.

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"Reflecting on where I came from helps me to appreciate and balance what I have now"
— Meghan Markle



REMEMBERING JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

A POET OF DEPTH AND HUMANITY

Jayanta Mahapatra, revered Indian poet, delved into human psyche with poignant verses. His works, spanning social disparity and existential reflection, resonate beyond accolades. His legacy is one of profound introspection and empathetic insight, leaving an enduring impact

All the poetry there is in the world/appears to rise out of the ashes.

Jayanta Mahapatra in "All The Poetry There is"



KK SRIVASTAVA

Poetry and poetic experiences are strange phenomena. That was the precise reason Plato banned poets from entering his ideal Republic. Athenian society, at the zenith of rationality, offered poison to Socrates. Socrates's fault was his belief in the power of scrutiny, of judgement. He found "an unexamined life is not worth living." Genuine poets pierce through the layers "an unexamined life" is made of and then let gathered clouds in their minds get scattered by the sunlight of their musings.

Jayanta Mahapatra, such a poet, was one of the most revered doyens of English poetry in India who delved into deep, unexplored human psyche wherein he slipped into pseudo-realistic visions: more real than real. We lost him.

I knew him since 2005 when the then Sahitya Akademi's Secretary Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee introduced me to him. Since then we cherished a relationship words can hardly describe. Many handwritten letters, a few telephonic conversations and his FOREWORD to my book of poems SHADOWS OF THE REAL are the aftermath. I went to meet him once at Jaipur Airport but briefly, when he was returning from Ajmer after attending a literary programme. He was old but far from serious illnesses. The warmth of his embrace is still a treasure with me.

During the course of more than fifteen years of association, I chanced upon reading many of his poetry books including Relationship that fetched him Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981. He sent me a number of issues of the prestigious literary journal Chandrabhaga. He wanted me to read The Hudson Review from the USA that I subscribed to and was immensely pleased to read Mahapatra's long letter to its Editor (one of the features of the magazine was to feature each issue a long letter from world's top litterateurs across the world.)

If I were to summarise Mahapatra's poetry, I find it in one of the issues of Chandrabhaga, where he pens in "First Page", "It is a small life I live. Perhaps in the way I am, doing small things, like plucking a half-ripe guava from the tree in our yard, the green cozying up to my senses, the mesmerising aroma waking me up.....Perhaps one should not be one of those who suffer because the world is a wreck, it's hard to say. Does it matter?"

HIS POETRY IS ABOUT TRUTH, JUSTICE, DEPRIVATION, SELF-DELUSION, ANXIETY, SELF-PACIFICATION AND SOLACE. AT TIMES LUCIDLY, AT TIMES SURREPTITIOUSLY, HIS POETRY HARPS ON THE ESSENTIAL HARMONY IN THE DIVERSITY OF THINGS: LATENT OR APPARENT. HE OBSERVED EVERYTHING OF THE UNIVERSE AS A COMMON HERITAGE FOR ALL: POOR OR AFFLUENT. READERS OBSERVE IN THE DEPTH AND MAGNITUDE OF THE FEELINGS/SENTIMENTS MAKING HIS POEMS, THE RISING STORMS IN MAHAPATRA'S MIND. HE KEPT ON EXPLORING THE SOCIAL POWER OF THE PLEBEIANS THROUGH HIS POETRY



But look at concluding lines that amaze:
It's my job to love people again and again. To feel flowers blossoming in the sun, butterflies dipping into the pollen.

He was certainly not the poet of the great and prosperous. He evolved over a number of years through his penetrating observations and interactions. He developed a tender fellow feeling for the men, women and children on the margin.

"Hope lay perhaps in burning the home I lived in."

He writes in HUNGER. Readers can interpret the way they wish.

Always there was the question in his lips, the bewilderment in his eyes, the rebellion of his soul. He spent his last days in extreme loneliness tackling the tyranny of his memories and dreams. He writes in SPRING, "Somehow it seems the light/has spent its night in another's arms/But it's here with me now/with a story of a million words." He had faith in the power of words. He transferred his own fluid moment into the frozen store of memory and surveyed his dreams through a pragmatic eye.

His poetry is about truth, justice, deprivation, self-delusion, anxiety, self-pacification and solace. His poetry is indispensable irrespective of time and space. His poetry oscillates between the virility and verisimilitude. As in Mask of Longing—

A time when even oxygen seems to hiss cruelly

In those crumpled eyes of hers the light of death goes on gathering shadows. And I feel I'm late with my life. At times lucidly, at times

surreptitiously, his poetry harps on the essential harmony in the diversity of things: latent or apparent. He observed everything of the universe as a common heritage for all: poor or affluent. Readers observe in the depth and magnitude of the feelings/sentiments making his poems, the rising storms in Mahapatra's mind. He kept on exploring the social power of the plebeians through his poetry.

His poems endeavour to trace different facets of human life and existence: love, lust, revenge, sufferings, fears and deprivations. His voice is melancholic, sharp, intimate and scans the movement of time and human beings' silence. Many of Mahapatra's collections are kaleidoscopic collections of poems written with diverse thought processes underway. These engage readers with preoccupation of human beings with fleeting time and man's questionable existence in the universe. His poems weave a quagmire of wonton thought that invades poet's psyche very incisively. Nostalgia aches,

There was something I did not like: his returning Padma Shri in November 2015. I conveyed it to him. Though nothing was heard from him, I got Mahapatra's last letter to me on August 5, 2019. He wrote of the sad demise of his wife, son and son's family, and summarising his concluding days by quoting from my poem DEPRESSION from my book of poetry Shadows of the Real, "the same known fire burns me from inside" and then added, "a fire unknown and nameless still goes on burning through the nights." His greatness lay in making small, unknown writers like me happy and joyous through his words.

His concluding life reminded me of a line from his poem A STILL WINTER MORNING, "standing like a lost sheep/huddled away from death." Or as Brazilian poet, Izacyl Guimarães Ferreira confronts us with what he thinks of life in his poem — A WAR

WITH NO NAME, "There is too much and there is too little/there is warmth and there's a chill." Life links; it delinks too.

In Indian Summer, Mahapatra in his characteristic way, bemoans loneliness of a woman:

The good wife lies in my bed throughout the long afternoon, dreaming still, unexhausted by the deep roar of funeral pyres.

In this poem there are all disconnected pictures, with none of them being in any way inter-related to the others. "funeral fires" convey the deepest amount of mental agony of "a good wife".

Truth is either the most simple or the trickiest of the phenomenon a man has to deal with. It brings awakened enlightenment thought amidst suffocating pains for those who keep truth on the highest pedestal. Look at following lines:

The worn-out face of India/ holds the weak eyes of dumb,/ solitary poets who die alone.

For truth seekers, there are no engrossing dilemmas; no consequences. He clarifies doubts; he clears doubts as far as yearning for truths is concerned.

WH Auden pointed out three attributes in a poet to deserve him a classification of being a great poet, "Firstly a gift of a very high order for memorable language, secondly a profound understanding of the age in which he lives, and thirdly a working knowledge of and sympathetic attitude towards the most progressive thought of his time."

Mahapatra met all these stringent conditions based on which we remember him as a great poet. His deathless poems enabled him to pave his way into the mists of eternity.

Imagist simplicity with dense connotations, oscillating rhythms of ebbs and flows are a few scintillating characteristics of his poetry.

Poets who believe, to use writer, critic and Centennial Professor of English at Vanderbilt University, Mark Jarman's words, in "poetry with an edge", poetry has lasting impact on the world, for every poet contributes his little bit to keep the edges of poetry sharp. The moot question is: how capably each and every poet contributes to that edge. Poets have to determine poetry's strength and future. They possess their own ultimate destiny, which Mahapatra summarises in his poem, Twilight —

Newly-lit lamps in the houses across the street make me look out at the wet August evening that holds up the vast unknown in such small delicate hands.

As for Mahapatra, he belonged to the intellectual aristocracy of the world though he lived a very down-to-earth life in Cuttack, never hankering after literary awards and recognition. Reclusiveness is a serious writer's sine qua non.

(KK Srivastava is a former Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General, an acclaimed poet, writer and columnist for The Pioneer, The Daily Guardian and Brazilian Literary magazine SIBILA. Currently, he is a nominated member from the category of 'Literate person from the public and community' of Ethics Committee on Research of mental health establishment- IHBAS (Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences), of Government of NCT of Delhi where he is working with a group of psychiatrists/neurologists on research work on mental health. Views expressed are personal.)

SEVEN-DAY SELF-CARE FOR HEART HEALTH

Here is a seven-day self-care plan that is sure to get you on the road to improving your heart health:

● **Healthy Eating for Your Heart**
Everyone has heard that they need to eat healthier, but knowing what that actually means can be overwhelming and confusing. If your doctor has told you to lower your cholesterol to reduce your risk for heart disease, then ask the dietitians what type of food will work.

● **Get Your Blood Pressure Checked**

Did you know that you can feel fine and still be suffering from high blood pressure, also known as the “silent killer”? For that reason, it is recommended that you have your blood pressure checked at least once per year. If you also grapple with “white coat syndrome” (an increase in blood pressure due to the presence of a doctor or other medical professional), it is reasonable to use at-home cuffs or grocery store cuffs to get an idea of what your numbers are. Make sure that you remain quiet and calm for several minutes before taking the reading. Knowing your blood pressure and working with your medical team can be life-saving.

● **Engage in High-Quality Sleep**
Sleep disorders can have an impact on heart health; therefore, it is important to know the signs of a sleep disorder. Because you are unconscious when asleep, asking a family member or person with whom you live about your sleep behaviors is informative.

● **Weight Management and Maintenance**

Managing your weight is much easier said than done; however, obesity greatly increases your risk of heart health difficulties. If you have tried dieting and exercising with no success, there is still hope. If you feel that you have exhausted all options, speak with a physician to discuss next steps.

● **Moderate Your Sugar Intake**

Sugar intake is closely linked to inflammation and heart disease. If you have a sweet tooth, try to snag a fruit instead of a treat. Moderating your refined sugar intake will help keep your heart healthy, keep your weight down and get you feeling more energized throughout your day.

● **Quit Smoking and Avoid Smoke**

Smoking and regularly coming into contact with cigarette smoke is detrimental to your overall health and especially to your heart health. Did you know that when you quit smoking you begin to experience health benefits within just half an hour?

● **Be Active for 30 Minutes or More**

If lifting weights at a gym sounds intimidating, fear not. You can improve your heart health by focusing on increasing your physical activity by at least 30 minutes per day. Some ideas include dancing, swimming, walking and anything else that gets your body moving.

Courtesy: Washington University Physician



LOVE YOUR HEART

Ignorance may be bliss sometimes but never when it comes to the heart. Rapid urbanisation inducing stress and a stressful lifestyle, coupled with dietary issues, are alarmingly taking toll on the heart, spiking cardiovascular diseases year after year. These ailments have increasingly affected the younger age groups, imposing economic and social burdens on the society, doctors point out in a chat with THE HEALTH PIONEER

Dr Vivek Tandon, Additional Director, Interventional Cardiology, Fortis Hospital Greater Noida, said, “Cardiovascular diseases are one of the leading causes of mortality in India.

In the last few years, there has been a rise in heart attack cases which has also been recorded in various studies: 25% of Indians below 40 years of age are at a higher risk of suffering heart attacks or other serious heart-related ailment.

This risk increases to 50% for people between 40 and 50 years of age.

Regular Health Screening, Weight Management and moderate exercising lowers the risk of heart attack, advises the medicos.

People with family history of cardiovascular diseases, smoking and high stress levels are at greater risk, they warn.

“Since heart health has been a serious concern in India, the need for introducing light to moderate exercise regime, maintaining body weight, healthy diet intake, reduce consumption of alcohol and tobacco are critical to avert any cardiac related ailments.

“Even if we are active, take a

balanced diet, give up smoking and alcohol, and introduce methods to keep stress levels under control, sudden cardiac arrests can be averted. One of the major reasons for increasing heart attack cases in the young population is the long working hours, reduced sleep, and relationship issues, which cause stress and lead to heart disease. People with risk factors like family history of cardiovascular disease and exposure to an unhealthy lifestyle must get themselves examined by doctors”, added Dr Tandon.

Cardiologists at Amrita Hospital, Faridabad concurred even as they blamed stress, smoking and overeating-led visceral weight gain as the flagbearers of risk factors leading to cardiovascular challenges.

Dr. Vivek Chaturvedi, Head of Department (Adult Cardiology), Amrita Hospital, Faridabad said, “Stress management takes center stage in heart health so, it is crucial to avoid excessive stress and also smoking which is caused by it.

Additionally, maintaining control over eating habits is crucial; overeating should be avoided, and a healthy diet should be embraced. Abdominal obesity is a significant

concern for heart health which can be prevented through regular exercise and physical activity. Such activities hold great significance in preventing a range of diseases, including hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. Weight loss and blood pressure reduction can often be achieved through regular exercise without the need for medication.”

The doctors emphasized upon inculcating healthy habits among students in the early stage itself. “School students should adapt to a healthy lifestyle early on in their lives which will help them sidestep adverse heart diseases in the long run,” said Dr. Mohit Bhutani, Assistant Professor, Dept of Adult Cardiology, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad.

He added, “Students should focus on taking a balanced diet, with an adequate intake of proteins, carbohydrates, fats, and nuts while cautioning against excessive consumption of fatty foods. In the educational setting, schools play a pivotal role in promoting heart health among students. Schools to monitor students’ anthropometry regularly, which includes measurements like height, weight, and body mass index, to identify and address

potential obesity concerns early on.

“Incorporating yoga and meditation into daily routines can enhance mental and emotional health of students. It is essential for students to avoid harmful habits such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, and substance abuse. Teachers are urged to lead by example by proactively integrating heart-healthy practices into their lives, including regular exercise, tobacco and alcohol avoidance, and stress management through activities like yoga and meditation.”

Pramit Mishra, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital, Greater Noida stressed on having complete sleep.

In these competitive times, our sleep takes a toll, which impacts the overall health, whereas people who complete their sleep cycles and have healthier sleep patterns are better at managing health factors like weight and blood pressure along with a healthy heart.”

India’s share of one-fifth in the 17.9 million global heart attack deaths, as per WHO, is a stark reminder that heart disease is now affecting people in their 30s and 40s. This shift highlights the urgent need for preventive measures and

early detection in younger adults to curb this alarming trend.

Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director and Senior Psychiatrist from Manasthali felt that one way to keep heart healthy is by keeping one free from stress.

“Stress is the silent architect of heart disease, weaving a web of risk factors that can shatter the strongest of hearts. It’s not just an emotional burden; it’s a potent risk factor for heart disease. When stress takes center stage in our daily existence, it orchestrates a symphony of physiological changes that can, over time, harm our cardiovascular health. Like a relentless storm, chronic stress can erode the resilience of our hearts, leading to increased blood pressure, inflammation, and unhealthy lifestyle choices.

“To protect the heart’s sanctity, we must become vigilant guardians of our well-being, mastering the art of stress management. As we unravel the knots of tension, we fortify the heart’s defenses, nurturing a future where stress is but a fleeting gust in the gentle breeze of a healthy heart.”

The WHO South-East Asia Region member states need to join the global call to raise awareness

about heart health and accelerate actions to prevent, detect and manage cardiovascular diseases. The region is home to a quarter of the world’s population, said WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh on the occasion of World Heart Day observed on September 29.

The WHO South-East Asia Region is experiencing a very high burden of noncommunicable diseases. Cardiovascular diseases are responsible for 3.9 million or 30 per cent of all deaths annually.

“Alarmingly, almost half (48 per cent) of these cardiovascular disease-related deaths occurred prematurely, affecting individuals aged 30-70 years and imposing significant socioeconomic burdens on families, communities and countries,” Singh said.

The main causes to the burden of cardiovascular diseases include modifiable lifestyle factors such as tobacco use, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diets -- especially high salt intake -- and lack of physical activity. Raised blood pressure and glucose levels are the key drivers and these can be detected, diagnosed and managed adequately in primary care, she added.

Unique SOS QR Code to ensure timely aid within ‘Golden Hour’

This groundbreaking service of detecting the accurate location of the patient in need and providing ambulance service underscores the Manipal hospital’s bid to transforming Bengaluru into a Heart Smart City, reports THE HEALTH PIONEER

In a bid to save lives and provide first aid faster during medical emergencies, Manipal Hospitals has launched an advanced SOS QR code through which one can avail ambulance service at the earliest in times of distress.

Manipal Hospitals has strategically positioned the QR codes at key traffic intersections, apartments, and a few vehicles for easy access during emergencies.

Patients or their caregivers can in an instant scan these codes using their Android and iOS mobile phones. The QR code will seamlessly provide real-time, patient location information to the nearest Manipal Ambulance Response Service and 108 Ambulance team.

These ambulances have been strategically stationed at various key points throughout the city so that they can transport patients to the nearest hospital. Manipal Hospitals has also launched a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) education programme for Bengalureans and proposed to the state government to make CPR education mandatory in colleges and schools

Guj Govt takes lead in heart diseases treatment

The Gujarat Government has spent approximately Rs 1614 crore on the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease patients in last five years even as it included the heart transplant procedure under AB PMJAY-MA.

Thus, making Gujarat the first and only state in the country to do so

On World Heart Day on September 29, the Gujarat Government shared that more than 2 lakh 95 thousand heart disease patients have availed free treatment under AB PMJAY-MA (Ayushman Bharat-Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojana-Chief Minister Amrutam) in the last five years.

When considering the number of claims submitted by these beneficiaries, the figure exceeds 2 lakh 99 thousand.

Under AB PMJAY-MA, a range of diag-



nostic and treatment procedures for heart diseases are available. These include diagnostic angiogram, Coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), Valve Procedures, Pacemaker Implantation, AICD - Automatic Implantable

Cardiac Defibrillator, Device Closure, femoral bypass and Ventricular pacing, etc.

It is well-known that the diagnosis and treatment of heart-related diseases are quite expensive. In such a situation, the Gujarat government has implemented the Prime Minister’s Ayushman Bharat Yojana in the state in such an effective manner that the state’s underprivileged families no longer need to wander extensively in search of heart-related check-ups and treatment.

In a significant move to provide an additional facility to serious heart disease patients from poor and middle-class families, the State Government has also decided to include the heart transplant procedure under AB PMJAY-MA, making it the first and only state in the country to take this step.

to make the community capable of providing critical assistance during medical emergencies.

Through these initiatives, the multi-specialty healthcare chain said, it aims to ensure that every crit-

ical patient receives timely assistance during the ‘golden hour’. In medical circles, the ‘golden hour’ is referred to as the period of time immediately after an adverse health event such as a heart attack or stroke or trau-

matic injury during which there is the highest likelihood that prompt medical and surgical treatment would prevent death.

As part of its health awareness programme, Manipal Hospitals has

also transformed traffic signals into heart-shaped symbols. These traffic signals display SOS QR codes for easy access to the ambulance service.

The heart-shaped signal at the traffic junction is meant to be a

reminder to everyone that every life counts and that one should not neglect one’s own heart health.

This trend was set by introducing red heart signals last year at key traffic junctions, which was expanded to 37 traffic signals this year as well, with the support of Bengaluru Traffic Police and BBMP.

The event was inaugurated by Home Minister G Parameshwara and Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao along with Dr Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal hospitals.

As per data from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 47 per cent of cardiac arrest fatalities occur prior to a patient’s arrival at the hospital. The key to saving lives during heart attacks lies in delivering prompt assistance such as CPR during the ‘golden hour’.

Speaking about the newly launched initiatives, Dr Ballal said that at the time of an accident or a medical emergency, one just needs to scan the QR code and one of the ambulances of the hospital would get activated and rush to the spot as

early as possible.

“We have about 35 ambulances in our system in Bengaluru, which may not be enough. So, we have also sought the help of the ‘108’ ambulance service so that there are enough ambulances to address the issue in case of emergency. We also want to educate as many number of people as possible about CPR so that we can save lives,” he said.

Home Minister Parameshwara said he will make CPR training mandatory in police training academies in the state and also take efforts to include it in school and college curricula. “We have more than 12 police training academies in Karnataka and we will include CPR as part of our police training programme,” he said.

Health Minister Gundu Rao said that in emergency situations, the quicker the patient is brought to the hospital, the better the chances of recovery increases. “We are also working to improve 108 ambulance service facilities and will push for giving CPR training to more and more people, as it can save more lives,” he added.

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: No endgame

The conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is now more than three decades old. This disputed territory lies in the mountainous South Caucasus region, situated between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Known as Artsakh to Armenians, this landlocked region falls within the sovereign borders of Azerbaijan, but it is predominantly populated by ethnic Armenians. While internationally recognised as a part of Azerbaijan, it is currently home to over 120,000 Armenians who resist being under Azerbaijani control. Both Azerbaijan and Armenia fought in the 1980s and 1990s to gain control of this hilly region, but were unsuccessful in their attempts.

As the conflict has resurfaced, it is worth examining the historical background of the issue. In 1923, Vladimir Lenin, the first leader of the USSR who ruled the Soviet Union from 1917 to 1924, established the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. At that time, it was home to a 95 per cent ethnic Armenian population. The problem arose in 1988, just two years before the dissolution of the USSR, when the regional legislature of Nagorno-Karabakh passed a resolution indicating its desire to join Armenia, despite the region being an integral part of Azerbaijan. It is widely understood that ethno-nationalism has played a vital role in mobilising people for nationhood since the beginning of modern civilisation. This strongly influenced the Armenians living in this enclave, and they gradually prepared themselves to become a part of neighbouring Armenia. With the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, both Armenia and Azerbaijan became independent nations.

Meanwhile, the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast declared independence, leading to intense fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan. By 1993, the Armenian security forces had occupied the region and also gained control over 20 per cent of the neighbouring Azerbaijani territory. In 1994, Boris Yeltsin, the first leader of the Russian Federation, successfully negotiated a peace deal known as the Bishkek Protocol between the two former Soviet Republics.



A convoy of cars of ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh moves towards Komidzor in the Syunik region in Armenia

AP

However, it did not resolve the territorial dispute and left the Nagorno-Karabakh region de facto independent. Peace between the two warring neighbours was maintained for some time with the influence of Moscow. However, once the USSR disintegrated, these peripheral republics became more conscious of their rights, priorities, and sovereign frontiers and they tried to re-establish their external relations with other nations around the globe.

From 1994 to 2015, there was peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In 2016, heavy fighting erupted once again. Then, in late September 2020, fresh clashes broke out along the Azerbaijan-Nagorno-Karabakh border. Azerbaijan regained much of the territory from Armenia and left a small portion of Karabakh to Armenia. The war came to an end with a Russia-brokered peace deal in November 2020.

The most significant aspect of this agreement was the

establishment of the Lachin Corridor, which allowed Armenia to connect to the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave under strict monitoring by Russian peacekeepers. The main trouble started in December 2022 when activists from Azerbaijan blocked the Lachin Corridor, halting all supplies coming to Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia. This further led to the opening of a checkpoint by the Azerbaijani government on the corridor, alleging the supply of arms to Armenian separatists in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

To put an end to the hostilities between the two neighbours, the US, Russia, and the European Union hosted talks with representatives from Baku and Yerevan. Finally, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev made considerable progress towards peace after constant intervention by the major powers and pressure from the UN to maintain tranquility in the region. It

is positive for the international community that Pashinyan recognised the entire Nagorno-Karabakh enclave as the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. He also emphasised that Baku must respect the internationally recognised boundary of Armenia and ensure the protection of ethnic Armenians living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region."

What has happened in Nagorno-Karabakh now? On September 19, in the days following the opening of the Lachin border, people from both sides of the frontier hoped that normalcy would be back to the disputed territory. This deal came as a result of an understanding between the Azerbaijani Government and the Armenian separatists of the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast. The agreement aimed to reopen two disputed transport routes, including a crucial link road known as the Lachin Corridor.

What has really worsened the ground situation is that for the last more than nine

months, Azerbaijan authorities are tightly restricting the movements of the Armenian Government with the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast through the Lachin Corridor.

Earlier Azerbaijan accused Armenia of smuggling arms and ammunition by using this route to the Nagorno-Karabakh. When the historic deal was sealed between two warring nations, the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh declared the election of a new President named Samvel Shahramanyan for it simultaneously. This move, which irked the Azerbaijani Government, was declared as illegal. For Baku, this election is purely illegal. Azerbaijan referred to the government as a "puppet separatist regime" at the heart of all troubles between the two nations.

While echoing concerns for a new flare-up, the Azerbaijani foreign ministry reiterated that "the only way to achieve peace and stability in the region is the unconditional

and complete withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the disbandment of the puppet regime".

Meanwhile, both Ukraine and Turkey voiced support for Azerbaijan's claim over Karabakh and denounced the election held in the region. The European Union has taken a very cautious stand by saying that it did not recognise the election but wanted the people of the Nagorno-Karabakh to consolidate around its de facto leadership while dealing with Armenia.

Many in Armenia fear that the people in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave may face genocide in 2023. The way Baku is asserting control over the disputed territory is alarming. We are all aware of the Armenian genocide of 1915, when people of Armenian origin were massacred in Anatolia, in what is now modern-day Turkey. It is ironic that the US remained silent about the Armenian genocide until 2021,

when President Biden finally publicly recognised it.

Currently, the ethnic Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast need the support of global governance institutions like the UN, as well as intervention from major powers such as the US, the Russian Federation, and the European Union, to prevent a potential genocide in the enclave.

What is concerning are the messages coming from Baku and President Aliyev. In the past, Aliyev did not abide by the verdict of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which instructed Baku to reopen the Lachin Corridor. He has consistently disregarded requests from the UN and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to comply with the ICJ's ruling. His government has assured the international community that reintegration will bring development and prosperity to Nagorno-Karabakh.

However, it is alarming that since 2010, Aliyev has reportedly stated that Armenia itself is "Western Azerbaijan", and last December, he declared that "present-day Armenia is our land". Furthermore, for years, Azerbaijan has maintained that Armenia is an illegitimate state. These are serious warning signals for the entire world, for Armenia, and for the conflict-ridden Nagorno-Karabakh oblast.

At present, Azerbaijani forces have fully occupied the Nagorno-Karabakh region whose separatist leaders have laid down their arms. However, thousands of ethnic Armenians are fleeing to Armenia, fearing for their lives and the sudden change in the status quo.

It is time for the international community to ensure the future safety of ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan. President Aliyev must work towards restoring peace and tranquility to the Nagorno-Karabakh region. He should refrain from seeking further escalation of the crisis. Otherwise, pressure on Pashinyan might lead Armenian forces to reclaim the oblast, potentially sparking a bloody war in the region.

The time has come for both Baku and Yerevan to bid farewell to arms.

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

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict spans over three decades, rooted in territorial disputes between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Despite internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, the region is predominantly Armenian-populated. Recent tensions, exacerbated by border restrictions, pose a risk of genocide. International intervention is crucial to ensure ethnic Armenians' safety and regional peace.



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Planet burns as superpowers desert multilateralism

The planet is on fire, but almost all the firefighters have deserted. At the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, which began on September 19 in New York, the leaders of four of the five permanent members of the Security Council — the UN's most powerful executive body — were absent.

The absence of the top representatives of France, the United Kingdom, Russia and China, replaced by ministers or diplomats, demonstrated the emptying of the main global multilateral forum and highlighted the speeches of the two presidents who opened the General Assembly: Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and the US' Joe Biden.

Both leaders, with decades of experience, referred bluntly to fires that are ravaging the planet — starting with the climate emergency and the war in Ukraine. And both, albeit in very different tones, pointed the finger at the central issue hanging over the meeting, which the absentees made clear: the crisis of the UN and the multilateral system that has been built around it in recent decades.

The UN was created in 1945, on the initiative of the United States and with the support of the allied countries that had defeated Nazism and

fascism (primarily the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France) with the aim of "preserving future generations from the scourge of war".

A year earlier, in 1944, the Bretton Woods Agreements had laid the foundations for the post-war global financial system, and created the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Over the years, dozens of agencies, funds and specialised programmes have been added, gradually building up what is known as the UN System.

Practically every country in the world is a member of the UN and the organisation deals with countless issues, ranging from protecting life in the oceans to coordinating satellite orbits, humanitarian aid operations, vaccination campaigns, agreements to limit climate change and, more recently, attempts to create regulations against disinformation on social networks and to combat tax avoidance by large international corporations.

An imperfect system, but one that worked

The system, as Biden pointed out in his speech, "is not always perfect and has not always been perfect", but with its ups and downs, it worked reasonably well for seven decades. During the Cold War,

the UN was a crucial channel of communication that contributed to avoiding nuclear conflict. After it, the UN's remit expanded further: for example, with the multiplication of peacekeeping operations.

Despite the genocide in Rwanda, the civil war in the former Yugoslavia and the invasion of Iraq in 2003, in those two decades the number of armed conflicts (between countries and within countries) steadily declined, as did the number of victims. The curve reversed in 2012, when the civil war in Syria worsened, and since then it has continued to rise year on year. According to the Conflict Data Programme at Uppsala University, 184 different conflicts were recorded in 2022, including the war in Ukraine, with more than 238,000 victims in total, compared to an average of 120 conflicts and 30,000 victims per year between 2001 and 2012.

The UN's inability to respond appropriately to the war in Ukraine is more an indicator than a trigger of the crisis of multilateralism. Russia has brought the war of aggression, of territorial annexation, back as a tool of foreign policy. But the same Western powers with permanent seats on the Security Council that are right-

ly criticising the Russian invasion today have resorted to the unilateral use of military force in recent decades, contrary to the UN Charter and international law.

What we usually call multilateralism is the way in which the international system adopts a grammar of principles and norms that, in theory, should be followed by all states. It is a process of institutionalising forms of coordination and cooperation in public policy that generates a certain stability and predictability in relations between states and societies.

In the way the UN works, there is an element of equality in the treatment of states (all 193 member countries have the right to vote and voice in the General Assembly), but there are also obvious asymmetries of power, such as the special status of the five permanent members of the Security Council. The so-called P5 have kept their veto power unchanged since 1945 and often ignore the rules they are supposed to enforce — a historical incongruity that Lula rightly attacked again in his speech in New York.

Global governance

Even so, this grammar organises a large part of global governance mechanisms,

which increase international dialogue and cooperation, and decrease the propensity to use force as the main instrument for settling disputes.

The UN system is based on the idea that power relations between states should not be the only element that determines the shape of international relations. In fact, as recently as 2015, the multilateral system reached a consensus to adopt two global agreements of great importance and impact: the Paris Agreement for the reduction of greenhouse gases, responsible for the climate emergency, and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

From then on, the multilateral system was able to do little more than try to manage a growing number of humanitarian emergencies. In June 2023, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) estimated that there were 362 million people around the world in need of international aid to meet their basic survival needs.

Crisis of legitimacy and authority

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organisation, under heavy fire from the administration of then US President Donald Trump, was virtually ignored

by the richest countries in its attempt to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines. The conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Israel/Palestine drag on, with no solution in sight. Efforts to strengthen the UN's capacity for preventive diplomacy, promised by Secretary-General António Guterres, have backfired, and the organisation has been unable to do anything to prevent the invasion of Ukraine or to facilitate a ceasefire. The system has apparently ground to a halt.

It continues to shape a large part of international interaction, but today there are two key areas of resistance to it: the emergence of countries in the Global South willing to reinterpret the hegemony of the liberal order, and the growth of a transnationally articulated radical right.

In the international debate, there is much more attention paid to the first question than the second. However, as the experience of the Trump and Bolsonaro governments has shown, the radical right's sovereignist vision is at odds with the essence of multilateralism, which requires agreed transfers of national sovereignty in favour of common goals, such as the fight against climate change. It is no coincidence that the Spanish radical right party Vox has been running a

campaign against the 2030 Agenda for years, which has been expanding throughout Latin America. Even so, the entire UN bureaucracy, from Secretary-General Guterres onwards, is reluctant to engage in open conflict with the radical right.

A strategic problem

For Brazil, and Latin America in general, the crisis of the multilateral system is a strategic problem. The region has an old multilateralist tradition, in which conflicts between states have been resolved by diplomatic means and not by arms. A dozen countries from the region took part in the creation of the League of Nations in 1920, and 20 were among the 51 founding nations of the UN. To this day, the multilateral space represents the only international arena in which the region has any influence, since from an economic and military point of view Latin America's weight is extremely limited: the region is home to 8 per cent of the world's population, but in 2022 it accounted for only 5.26 per cent of global GDP.

At the same time, the collective influence of the so-called Global South is increasing. In the weeks leading up to the UN General Assembly, the leaders of developing nations

met at the BRICS summits in South Africa, the G20 in India and the G77+China in Cuba.

For Brazil and the other countries of the Global South, the challenge is to maintain political independence and action, seeking to defend the interests of their populations, without taking sides in the dispute over the new global hegemony between China and the US. It is the concept of active non-alignment.

Concluding his speech in New York, Lula recalled that "the UN needs to fulfil its role as a builder of a more just, supportive and fraternal world. But it will only do so if its members have the courage to proclaim their indignation at inequality and work tirelessly to overcome it".

Brazil and the Global South must endeavour to reform the multilateral system, such as the unsustainable composition of the Security Council, while respecting all its norms, especially with regard to the UN Charter and all human rights protection mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court. Only in this way will it be possible to reaffirm the legitimacy of multilateralism, reduce global power asymmetries and try to put out the fires that threaten our planet.

(The Conversation)

WHEN A CULTURE HAS FALLEN TOTALLY AWAY FROM SPIRITUAL PURSUITS INTO MATERIALISM, ONE MUST BEGIN BY DEMONSTRATING THEY ARE EACH A SOUL, NOT A MATERIAL ANIMAL
— L RON HUBBARD

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
The cosmos emphasizes the need to judiciously manage your monetary resources. While abundance is foreseen, your expenditures might surpass your earnings if not monitored. Seeking equilibrium between fiscal management and other fast-evolving aspects of life is essential. Your domestic sphere, real estate matters, educational pursuits, and career advancements are beckoning for your consideration. As the week draws to a close, you'll experience a lightening of burdens, making way for a harmonious flow of energy. A spirited and exuberant aura will envelop you, enhancing your zest for life's journey. However, a cautionary cosmic whisper advises staying vigilant to avoid any unforeseen snags. The tarot's wisdom reiterates the need to cultivate balance, assuring a smoother sail through life's various arenas.
Lucky number 24 | **Lucky colour** Lavender
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
The stars bestow upon you a commanding presence, allowing you to steer situations with confidence this week. While emotions and passions run deep, they remain within your grasp. Engaging in creative endeavors, whipping up delightful dishes, and catering to family needs will occupy your time. Additionally, you'll indulge in some self-care and leisure activities. By midweek, a shift in your convictions and operational methods emerges. An epiphany about harnessing your talents might strike you. A journey beckons and unforeseen events might catch you off guard. However, with meticulous planning, you'll navigate these scenarios adeptly. A surge of optimism and trust in the cosmic order fills you. You'll perceive the guiding hand of destiny, and perhaps, witness serendipitous occurrences or a string of fortunate events.
Lucky number 26 | **Lucky colour** Indigo
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
There are numerous shortcomings that require prompt rectification. Master the art of delegating tasks and pre-scheduling your routine to ensure efficient time and energy management. If a promotion is on the horizon, you might see it materialize this week, alongside indications of financial gains. Work or business-related travel will be fruitful, paving the way for new associations poised to benefit you in the long-term. Your self-confidence and valor are your ladders to success, propelling you upwards. By the week's end, substantial monetary and financial gains await, leading to enjoyable material comforts. This period is auspicious for property acquisition, though caution and thorough deliberation are crucial in the decisions you make. Don't let career anxieties bog you down; you're on the brink of a significant breakthrough, just one step away.
Lucky number 23 | **Lucky colour** Amber
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
You might come across harsh or unkind remarks from a colleague or even a loved one, which could be unsettling. Despite this, the week kicks off on a cheerful note with new opportunities presenting themselves. It's advisable to remain grounded and not get carried away by unrealistic expectations. There's a possibility that a budding relationship might hit a rocky patch. It's crucial to manage your emotions and temper, as it may otherwise lead to a stressful and tiresome situation. Although this is a transient phase, gaining control over the situation will soon be achievable. A supportive interaction with a senior female figure, be it your mother or a distant relative, could prove beneficial during this time.
Lucky number 17 | **Lucky colour** Coral
Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
This week, you find yourself on an emotional whirlwind, reminiscing about old friends or yearning to be with family if you're away. A trip to your hometown may be on the cards, offering a chance to exchange gifts and share joyful moments with friends. However, when it comes to love or romance, you might find yourself lagging. Your emotions may tilt towards possessiveness with your partner, thus maintaining a balanced emotional state and a calm demeanor is advisable. Meditation can serve as an excellent solace. Donning white attire is recommended. Rather than dwelling in gloom or disappointment, channeling your energy into artistic or spiritual pursuits could be more rewarding. Remember, after every phase of darkness, there's light, signaling that change is on the horizon, so keeping an optimistic outlook is beneficial.
Lucky number 14 | **Lucky colour** Marigold
Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
Guidance on your life's path ahead may come from a guru or a senior family member, as high aspirations and desires are causing confusion. Steer clear of illusions and false narratives; a practical approach will serve as your shield against these adverse circumstances. Fantasizing without grounding may lead to further complications, and while relationship issues might arise, providing space and time to your partner before making decisions can pave the way for better outcomes. Uphold honesty and exercise wisdom and intellect to accurately assess the reality in front of you. A negative ambience surrounding you requires clearing to let the joys of life color your days. Have faith in your capabilities and proceed forward with confidence.
Lucky number 15 | **Lucky colour** Mauve
Lucky day Sunday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
Many positive occurrences are on the horizon. Experiences of love, romance, heightened emotions, recognition, applause, and triumph over adversarial situations will elevate your self-esteem. The week commences with nurturing support and a strengthened bond with your spouse. The altruistic love and mutual understanding within existing relationships will invigorate your spirit, enabling you to give your utmost. With a positive outlook, you'll overcome the negative forces that previously stifled your ease. Your capability and intelligence will earn the admiration of even those opposed to you, marking a significant victory. Your persona inspires those around you. You'll experience healing both physically and mentally, ultimately leading to a sense of justice being served.
Lucky number 29 | **Lucky colour** Turquoise
Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
This week, your energy, creativity, and determination toward achieving professional aspirations take center stage. If you've been anticipating news or messages from overseas, this period seems promising, with good news likely to buoy your spirits. Come mid-week, financial matters will engage your attention, encompassing transactions, payments, and investments. While money flows favorably, remember, channeling some towards charity or assisting the less fortunate will usher in blessings. As you transition into this next chapter laden with myriad possibilities, a significant shift in your behavior or thought processes is essential. Embracing this change will pave the way for positive outcomes and the taste of success. Though obstacles may arise, your seasoned experience and intellectual prowess will equip you to confront and overcome these hurdles proficiently.
Lucky number 21 | **Lucky colour** Oliviolet
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
The week appears promising both professionally and romantically. An unexpected pay raise or a superior position might be on the horizon. Be prepared for work-related travel, which is poised to yield significant benefits in the future. There may be a change in your workspace or residence if you're currently renting. Mid-week brings a wave of romantic and sentimental feelings, fueling your passions. A particular relationship or situation may leave you torn; though your heart and mind seem at odds, following your heart is advisable. As the week concludes, a sense of stability and emotional control will prevail. Your perspectives will broaden, inviting a host of opportunities related to your career, the birth of a child, or fertility.
Lucky number 28 | **Lucky colour** Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22
Your sentimental tendencies are taking hold, leading to potential remorse over past actions and displaying resentment or aggression towards those close to you. It's vital to steer clear of disappointment and depression, and engaging in mental exercises could provide significant relief. Practices like meditation, yoga, Pranayama, or even delving into enriching literature may prove beneficial. The past is behind you, and reflecting on the present to brighten your future is the week's motif. By closing an old chapter and adopting a fresh perspective, you showcase your strength and intelligence. Dodging an issue won't resolve it. It's optimism and faith that will propel you towards your desires. It's advisable to steer clear of any risky endeavors.
Lucky number 12 | **Lucky colour** Peach
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
This week unfolds a tapestry of delightful and amusing narratives for you. You'll find yourself immersed in a challenging task or mission, dedicating your heart and soul to it, and experiencing a unique journey altogether. Collaborating with a group towards a common goal will enrich your character, exposing you to new insights, talents, and revealing your own potential. Around mid-week, an overseas connection might emerge, possibly through a friend or plans for a foreign visit may be laid down. Your goal-driven attitude ensures that distractions like love, romance, or leisure won't sway you off course. Your ambition to attain financial success and carve a notable reputation is strong. The recognition for your diligent efforts is on the horizon, potentially manifesting as a promotion or salary increment.
Lucky number 19 | **Lucky colour** Teal
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
This week will be marked by a reflective analysis and evaluation of your recent work, helping you learn from past mistakes. Negative thoughts could surface during this period. However, come mid-week, a sense of contentment and joy may emerge as unexpected opportunities in business, new assignments, or job offers come your way. This period is ripe for financial gains, investments, and launching new business ventures. Various offers will cross your path, requiring careful consideration to select the most suitable one. It's also essential to keep a tight rein on your budget to avoid overspending. As the week winds down, travel seems likely—be it for leisure, a romantic outing with your partner, or a pleasant picnic, plans for a rejuvenating excursion might be in the offing.
Lucky number 11 | **Lucky colour** Beige
Lucky day Friday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331

ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Dhyana process proper

In Indian tradition, Mantra plays an important role in Dhyana process. It will therefore be desirable to explore its relevance and the way it works. Mantra is usually a set of syllables placed in a logical sequence to create a particular sound effect. It could be just a seed letter, syllable, word, or a set of words. That, as a sequel to stress created and uttered by mouth, is heard by ears, and apprehended by mind. Mantra is so called because it involves a mental process. The word comprises of 'mana' out of 'manana' and 'tra' from 'trana'. In Hindi lingua-franca 'mana' means mind; 'manana' implies reflection in mind; and 'trana' stands for liberation. So, chanting of mantra helps attain liberation from mental limitations, and therefore, serves a great purpose. For, it happens to be a radiant energy, rather a sound-body of consciousness, set in correspondence with the consciousness of the related imagery. Following repeated

chanting with focus on the related imagery, consciousness of the seeker comes in harmony with that of the mantra and the imagery. Eventually, with time, the seeker's consciousness becomes one with the eternal element of consciousness. While pursuing the process, one is continuously confronted with distracting thoughts that drifts our attention away from the focal point, again and again. So, you won't have an easy go. Don't confront those distracting thoughts. If you ever do that, they will stay put in mind, and keep visiting again and again. The only way out is training one's mind not to pay attention to them. It needs to be appreciated here that unless you pay attention to something, it won't bother you. Continue chanting and try to bring back attention to the imagery sought after again and again. Gradually, the distracting thoughts go out of reckoning. You



may then be able to remain focused for a longer stretch of time. Let me add here that when the sound notes of the mantra resonate to the imagery in focus, with time, one gets so involved that distracting thoughts go out of sight. Once fully established in the process, mind becomes one pointed. In the process, one also inculcates a value system, coming as it may with the educative import of the imagery in focus. As one gets established in the dharana process, the seeker is in harmony with the imagery and its related educative import, as well as the resonating mantra. State of dhyana is thus arrived at. Pursuing the process further, one reaches a stage when mantra, though playing in the background, but apparently goes unnoticed. One remains steadfast with the concept synonymous with the imagery in focus. This state is termed as being in savikalpa samadhi (immersed in

nirvikalpa (formless) samadhi. In samadhi, all thoughts, whether pertaining to the past or future get dropped. The sense of past and future having been lost, nothing is there to process in immediate terms. Mind, therefore, is at peace. You then live in just your present moment, which is termed as mindfulness. The question now is: If all about life, including the mind, involves play and interplay of nature driven energies, always pulsating, how comes mind would become inactive and be at peace? Well, it can never become immobile the way a running vehicle is halted. But pursuing dhyana, a state is arrived at when mind is in perfect harmony with the element of consciousness. The unitary mind then submerges with the cosmic mind. Mind then becomes an integral part of nature's flow, and so is at peace with self and the rest. Just the way someone doesn't have a

feel of earth spinning at such a great speed while standing on its plane. For, the person and the earth become synonymous. This is what may mean attaining a state of Yoga. In this state, mind enters an infinite domain having no distinctive existences. It is something like a river stream merging with the ocean. In that state the river water loses its identity and becomes one with the ocean. Having thus struck upon the core of existence, mind realises its wholesome nature, when it has nothing more to explore. The unitary mind having thus been dropped the sense of individualistic existence too goes away. That leaves no scope for any comparison or differentiation and hence at peace by the self and with the rest. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@gmail.com

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