**OPINION 6** 

GANDHIAN APPROACH

TO WORLD PEACE

WORLD 8

**GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AVERTED** 

AS BIDEN SIGNS FUNDING

MONEY 10

**GST MOP-UP RISES** 

IN SEPTEMBER

**Published From** 

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

> Late City Vol.16 Issue 267 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

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RANCHI, MONDAY october 2, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

# KANISHKA TO CANADA EAM Jaishankar eases ties with US amid row

**PTI** WASHINGTON

The India US relationship is at an all-time high and the two nations have moved to a position where they see each other as very desirable, optimal and comfortable partners, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, stressing that like the Chandrayaan, bilateral ties will go to the moon and maybe even beyond.

Jaishankar made the remarks while addressing several hundred Indian-Americans who had gathered at the India House from various parts of the US to attend the 'Celebrating Colours of Friendship' event organised by the Embassy of India here on Saturday.

"There is one clear message today that our relationship is at an alltime high. But as they say in America, you ain't seen anything yet. So, we are going to take this relationship to a dif-ferent level, to a different place," he said at the largest-ever gathering of Indian-Americans at the India

"In this changing world, I would say today that India and the US have moved to a position where we see each other as very desirable, optimal and comfortable partners with whom it's a natural instinct today to pick up the phone or if you meet someone and have a natural conversation," he

Jaishankar said the success of the G20 could not have happened without the support of the US.

"As the host, when things go well, the host always gets the credit. It's reaconable. But the G20 could not have

sonable. But, the G20 could not have come together if all the members of the G20 did not work for its success,"

"The contribution, the support and the understanding that we got from the US to make a successful G20, I think that is something I would certainly like to recognise in public in Washington DC," Taishankar said amidst applause from Indian-Americans.

"So, it may have been our success in a literal way, but I think it was the G20 (nations) success. To me, it was also a success of the India US partnership...please keep giving this partnership the support it needs, the support it deserves and the support it expects. And I can promise you that this relationship, like the Chandrayaan, will go to the moon, maybe even beyond," he said. Jaishankar said the human bond between the two countries makes the bilateral relationship unique.

"Countries do business with each other. Countries do politics with each other. They have military ties, they do exercises, and they have cultural exchanges. But when two countries have that deep human bonding,



that's a completely different ballgame. That is today the defining characteristic of our relationship," he said.

He said the people remember Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the US in 1985, Manmohan Singh's visit in 2005 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's several visits.

"But I have to say that this one (PM Modi's recent state visit) was different, it was different in optics, and if you ask me what has changed, I would say India and the US earlier used to deal with each other and now they work with each other," he said.

He recalled the recent collaborative endeavours between the two countries, all starting with the letter I. These initiatives include the India-Middle East Economic Corridor, I2U2 (India, Israel, the US, the UAE), Indo-Pacific cooperation, and the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

"Alphabet T is very good for the

US, certainly," Jaishankar added. He said the contribution of the diaspora in building the bilateral rela-

tionship is something fantastic. There are no words that can capture it. It is on that foundation that today we are looking ahead for...A new hope on the horizon...So, I think

when we look at the horizon, we see fantastic possibilities out there, and it's the community which is going to deliver on that," Jaishankar said. He recalled that when PM Pandit

Jawar Lal Nehru came to the US in 1949, there were 3,000 Indian Americans, when PM Indira Gandhi came in 1966, there were 30,000 Indian Americans, when PM Rajiv Gandhi came in 1985 there were 3,00,000 Indian Americans, when PM Modi came there were more than 3 million Indian Americans and it's grown to almost 5 million.

"If there is something unique about our relationship it is the human bond that we have. The role, responsibilities and commitment of the diaspora to the India US relationship is commendable," he added.

The Minister said the India of

today is different from what it was earlier. "I want to share with you that this is truly a different India for which I speak. It is an India, which as you heard from others, is capable of the Chandrayaan-3 mission," he said. "It is an India which was able to pull off the most spectacular G20 and prove those who said that we will not be able to get 20, I don't want to say quarrelling nations but 20 countries with different positions, to come to the table together," he said.

This is an India, which showed during the Covid pandemic that it could not only look after its people but could extend its hand to more than a hundred countries across the world, he said.

"I want to say in many ways, if there is a spring in our step, a confidence in our voice, a sort of squaring of our shoulders, there are very good reasons for it," he said.

"Because it is built today on 10 vears of hard work...There are domains where our capacities have doubled or tripled," he said. "The new India is an India of

Chandraayan, it's an India of CoWIN, it's an India of 5G. This is really what we are capable of, and it is this India today that the United States also sees. It is this India with which the United States actually has an appetite for working, much more closely," said Jaishankar.

Remembering Mahatma Gandhi ahead of his birth anniversary, he said calling him an extraordinary man would be the understatement of

this century.
"He said so many things so tellingly. But at the end of the day, if we ask ourselves what was the message, the message at the end of the day was about doing the right thing, about doing the decent thing, and about leaving no one behind," he said. "Gandhi*ji*'s message is very complicated, but its essence is very, very simple," Jaishankar said.

## **Azad wants to serve people**

**MOHIT KANDHARI** JAMMU

 $P^{\mathrm{utting}}_{\mathrm{rest},\ \mathrm{the}\ \mathrm{chairman}\ \mathrm{of}\ \mathrm{the}$ Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday urged the party workers not to pay heed to the latest political grapevine, of power, that he is going to occupy the chair of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir in the near future.

Addressing a gathering of party workers on the occasion of the first foundation day of the party in Jawahar Nagar Municipal Park, Srinagar, Azad made it clear he is not interested in becoming the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

Azad said he is not looking for employment but wanted to

serve the people of J&K.
"I will request people not to trust the rumour mills which are working in overdrive.... There is a fresh rumour here that Ghulam Nabi Azad is going to be the next LG. "I have not come (to J&K) looking for a job, I want to serve the peo-



ple", he added. Azad observed some people were trying to give the impression that he is looking for rehabilitation.

'When I came here in 2005 (as Chief Minister), I left two prized (Union) Ministries Housing and Urban Development and

Parliamentary Affairs — to serve the people. It was not as if I was without work," he said, referring to criticism by some quarters that he returned to J&K politics at the behest of the BJP. Azad, who remained vocal

on the issue of the Abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35 A, once again observed in front of the mass gathering that it was a "great mistake".

There were some political mistakes over many years which have pushed the State backwards, instead of going forward. In the last nine years, another great mistake was - Article 370 and

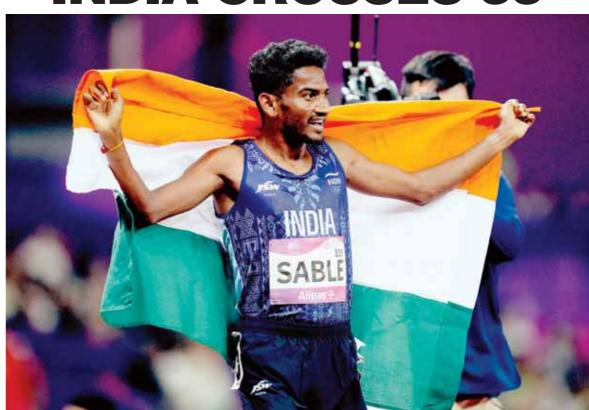
Article 35A were removed. "Article 35A, subsequently Article 35B, was not promulgated after Independence. It was brought by the Maharaja (Hari Singh) in 1925. I said this in Parliament that had the BJP known that they would not have touched Article 370 and Article 35A. This mistake pushed us further back. There was an uncertainty whether the land will stay with us or not,"

The foundation day function in Srinagar was largely attended by the Kashmir-based leaders barring a few close aides of Azad from the Jammu region. After launching his political outfit in Jammu & Kashmir, Azad is concentrating on both the regions of Jammu & Kashmir to consolidate his support base ahead of

the maiden Assembly polls. Several former Congress leaders joined his bandwagon after quitting the Congress

Acknowledging the hard work done by his party workers in the last year of its existence, Azad on Sunday patted their back claiming his party has emerged as a 'political alternative in a span of 12

## **INDIA CROSSES 53**



Avinash Mukund Sable celebrates after winning the men's 3000-meter steeplechase final event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on Sunday

## Defiant Didi marches to Delhi

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress which has dispatched to Delhi about 3,000 of its foot soldiers — allegedly in the garb of unpaid MNREGA workers — to participate in an anti-Centre rally seemed to concede roundly that corruption had indeed taken place in the implementation of the 100-days' work scheme.

While reminding Prime Minister Narendra Modi that his Government in the Centre "cannot browbeat the brave Trinamool Congress cadre into submission", TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Sunday said complaints of corruption should not be made the ground for withholding Central funds meant for the uplift of the

"There may be a few corrupt people who should be punished ... but why do the whole lot of people be punished for that... Why is Prime Minister Narendra Modi punishing 2.5 crore people of

reminding how the Centre had released the funds to the Assam Government despite reports of cor-

ruption there. "Have they not released funds to Assam Government where too corruption has taken place ... if they can release funds for one State then why this discrimination against Bengal," Banerjee who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, reminding how the "poor workers of our State have been made to starve for about two years now" just because they voted against the BJP in 2021 Assembly elections.

They can release ₹20,000 crore for the Prime Minister's house but they cannot release funds for the poor unpaid workers when the Central Act makes the payment mandatory within `15 days of the work getting done," Banerjee said reminding how the "Centre takes away the GST from the people of Bengal and refuses to return the money back to them.

While the TMC claims that the Bengal" for the offence committed by 20 people," Banerjee asked, crore of MNREGA funds which is Centre has withheld about ₹15,000



a small part of the total Central deprivation amounting to more than ₹1 lakh crore the Opposition BJP has hit back saying the "Mamata Banerjee Government is transferring the blame on the BJP whereas even after repeated reminders they have failed to account for the previous

funds released to them."

BJP State president Sukanta
Majumdar said his party would
"soon expose the TMC through a statistic showing the amount of

ated by their workers... About 15 lakh fake job cards have been cancelled ... you can figure out the amount that has been lifted through those 15 lakh fake job cards.... This is public money after all and cannot be released at will ... and now they are trying to transfer the blame at our doors.

The TMC general secretary who had earlier promised to ferry two lakh people to Delhi on

Saturday and Sunday flagged off about 50 buses-loads of party men to take part in dharna in Delhi.

The buses were arranged in a hurry after the train to Delhi, the party had booked, was cancelled by the Éastern Railways on account of unavailability of rakes amid allegations of BJP's manipulations in providing trains to ferry their workers to the national Capital.

While the party grassroots, along with the unpaid job card holders, were left by buses the lesser leaders including panchayat, pradhans, district board members et al flew off to Delhi. The top leadership including Banerjee, his fellow MPs and the Ministers in the Mamata Cabinet and MLAs too went by air.

Banerjee, who is also the MP from Diamond Harbour, was likely to meet his party leaders on Sunday at the Lodhi Estate bungalow of former Union Minister and MP Saugato Roy, sources said. 'Final strategies will be taken there in consultation with Mamata," a senior leader said.

In a related development, much caution came after Bengal BJP pres-

in the lines of the King of Righteousness Hammurabi's recommendations: "eye-for-an-eye" and "tooth-for-a-tooth", the top Trinamool Congress leadership has offered to use "baton-for-a-baton," back in Bengal should their workers are baton-charged by the "BJP-run" Delhi Police during their show of protest in the national Capital on Monday and Wednesday.

A day after TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee warned that "if even a single deprived worker going with us is touched in Delhi then there will be consequences in Bengal," an apparently charged up State Irrigation Minister Partha Bhowmick too let out a war cry warning, "If the batons are used there, the batons will be used here too." He would not however use the word BJP.

Banerjee had on Saturday reminded that "like in Delhi, the Bengal Government too has its own police and they too know how

to act with purpose. The TMC leaders' words of

ident Sukanta Majumdar said the "thieves" going to Delhi "should be arrested," while another saffron leader said that the Delhi Police was not as lacklustre as their Bengal counterparts. "They know how to keep the unruly crowds under control," he said.

The CPI(M) which has recently tasted a good jump in its vote bank — 21 per cent as against the BJP's 22 per cent — in the rural polls immediately said the two sides —the TMC and the BJP — were rattling sabers in public in order to create a

"But the people of Bengal fell in that trap in 2019 and 2021 ... but they will not do so for the third time . they will do what they should do this time," CPI(M) Central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty said. The TMC and the BJP are playing a pre-scripted game, he said. The poor people from Bengal have been taken there ... they will be beaten up and jailed and then the TMC will encash sentiments in the elections by making it a BJP-versus-TMC affair," he said.

## Chandil dam water level rises, authorities take action to avert flooding

Pollowing intermittent heavy rainfall, Chandil Dam witnesses a surge in water levels, prompting authorities to take preventive measures. To curb the rising water levels, all six radial gates of the dam have been opened by one meter each. As of 11 am on Sunday, two gates were already in operation.

Despite the controlled release, concerns mount for villages along the dam, with several facing the imminent risk of inundation. Ichagarh village, particularly affected, expresses apprehension as continuous rain poses a loom-

As of Sunday afternoon, the water level at Chandil Dam reached 181.75 meters. Although stability has been reported after opening all radial gates, the situation remains precarious. With the possibility of further torrential rains, the region braces for potential challenges, emphasizing the need for continued vigilance and proactive measures by authorities.

District administration is geared up flood control initiatives as the level of Subarnarekha and Kharkai is rising up following the incessant rains in parts of the state and Bengal since the past two

cially continues to pose a danger, causing a flood-like situation looming large along it after the Chandil dam authority have opened up nine of its 13 sluice gates open since last evening so as to keep the water level in the dam up to 180 metre.

"We are working on a strategy to coordinate in such a way that the there is no nengetive impact of rains in the city. A meeting was called for making policies and framing rules to deal with calamities. We would examine the city's needs for drainage, con-



SURESH NIKHAR: BERMO

In the villages of Siari and

kept creating havoc through-

department did not lose sleep.

herd of elephants damaged

also trampled crops grown in

pm on Saturday six or seven group of herd of elephants

first entered Chitu village of

Siari Panchayat and demol-

ished seven houses. The ele-

phants that reached here ate

the rice, corn and mahua kept

phants damaged TV, stabiliz-

er, DJ set sound, TV, fridge,

scooter and other items in the

houses. The villagers some-

how drove away the ele-

phants from here by playing

drums and two elephants

In the same sequence, ele-

Villagers said that at 11

During this period, the

other measure required to handle floods," said the offi-

"Concerned over the situation we have instructed Jamshedpur and Mango notified area committees and Jugsalai municipality to remain ready for meeting any emergency. Though there is no flood like situation immediately, but we have to remain alert as the both Subarnarekha and Kharkai is swollen," said the official.

He said that the flood in the Kharkai depends on the release of Bankbeal dam from adjoining Mayurbhanj district, and

**TUSKERS PANIC GRIP** 

released from the Chandil

He pointed out that as the Subarnarekha is continuously swelling due to the continuous release water from the Chandil dam, the situation may turn for a worse if the authority of Bankbeal dam opens up sluice gates of the dam in short notice.

Speaking about the arrangement, the official said that the relief camps have already been identified and in case of flood the administration will swing into action and meet the emergency.

authority

releasing water and before the water takes a proposition of flood here in Kharkai, we will evacuate the people living in low-lying areas to the relief camps, which are schools," h3 said.

"Weather condition will remain same, by and large, and incessant rains in moderate to heavy form will continue for the next two days, said the local met office. The monsoon is back to life, here for the last one week, in the wake of cyclonic circulation over Gangetic Bengal and Bangladesh, said a met offi-

#### Cleanliness campaign at **Koylanchal** Univ

PNS: DHANBAD

Binod Bihari Mahato Koylanchal University also organized a cleanliness campaign program at University premises on honor of Saturday Mahatma Gandhi's birthday , as suggested by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the cleanliness drive all the officials, teachers, and employees of Binod Bihari Mahato Koylanchal University cleaned the academic block, canteen, universi-

ty's main gate, roads.
While explaining Dr.
Sukhdev Bhoi, the ViceChancellor of Binod Bihari Mahato Koylanchal University said, we are doing voluntary work to clean the university campus on the day before Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. This campaign involves all professors, teachers, and staff members and will continue throughout the year as advised by the Prime Minister to spare time for cleanliness of surrounding one resides at.

### Language and culture are our identity: Sameer Oraon

Nagpuri translation of complete Geeta 'Geeta Mahatmya' released



Geeta Mahatmya, written and translated by Lal Rajendra Pratap Dev, resident of Arahansa village under Senha block of Lohardaga, was released on Sunday. In the release program, Rajya Sabha member Oraon, former Legislative Councilor Praveen Kumar Singh, former MLA Shivshankar Oraon, Bhikhari Bhagat of Vikas Bharati Vishunpur, educationist Madan Mohan Pandey, Lal Rajendra Pratap Dev, BJP leader Rajkishore Mahato did release. Mahatmaya, the Nagpuri translation of the entire Geeta, was released at Dev Kunj located on Mahadev Toli Road,

Lohardaga. Releasing the Nagpuri translation of Gita, Geeta Mahatmaya, in this release programme, the Rajya Sabha member said that allround development of local languages and folk languages can happen only when we include it in common behaviour. Our language and our culture are our identity and we should keep it intact. The translation of Geeta in Nagpuri is inspiring. He praises Lal Rajendra Pratap Dev that even at the age of 88 he resolved to translate Geeta into Nagpuri. Praveen Kumar Singh said that Geeta is not just a book, but the truth of life. It shows the path to life. Geeta can be used properly only when we

assimilate it in our life. Don't just read Geeta, also implement it in your life. Writer Lal Rajendra Pratap Dev, who translated Geeta in Nagpuri, said that the purpose of translating Geeta in Nagpuri language is to popularize Geeta among the common people. Geeta is such a book, every word of which shows the right path to man. Because Gita was in Sanskrit, people were not able to read it or understand it. For this reason he translated it into Nagpuri. Before this, the guests were welcomed by giving them bouquets and garlands. The program was conducted by Deepak Kumar Mukherjee. Madan Mohan Pandey presided over the program. Professor Parmanand Aggarwal, Ramchandra Giri etc. also addressed the program. Balbir Dev, Dilip Dev, Ramchandra Giri, Deepak Mukherjee, Ajay Pankaj, Madan Mohan Pandey, former MLA Shiv Shankar Oraon, Vikas Bharati Vishunpur beggar Bhagat, Vishwajit Shahdev, Manish Shikhar, Rambilas Singh, BK Balanjinappa, Balanjinappa, Lal were present in the program. A large number of people including Krishna Nath Shahdev, Dr. T Sahu, Dr. SN Sahay were

reached Tola and Bhavra tand via Ban Chatra village of Lodhi Panchayat. Here elephants destroyed 9 houses and ate the grains kept in the houses. Due to fear of elephants, the people of the village along with their children ran into the forest to

save their lives



Sushila Tudu, a resident of Rasta Tola, told the media that all the people of the village were sleeping in their houses when Rohan Soren reached her house at around 2 o'clock in the night and said that an elephant was vandalizing his house. He somehow saved his life and came to help, but after seeing a herd of four-five elephants, he lost his courage. After this, the herd of elephants went to one house after another, broke the main door, wall etc. and ate the rice, paddy, paddy etc. kept in the house

Sushila Marandi told that she along with five family members ran away from home at night and took shelter in a relative's house about half a kilometer away, which saved their lives. However, the elephants broke the wall of his house and ate the rice

and madua kept at his house. She said that elephants broke nine houses and ate the grains kept in the houses.

Let us tell you that on the evening of Saturday itself, the herd of elephants had reached Karmatand near IEL police station area in Gomia block and had vandalized here too. The elephant drive team of the forest department reached here and tried to send the elephants from Karmatand towards Daniya forest, but instead of going towards Daniya forest, the elephants entered Vanchatra forest. In the night, elephants destroyed many houses in Chitu and Van Chatra villages and ate the grains. In this regard, an attempt was made to contact Tenughat forest area officer Vinay Kumar over phone, but he did not receive

#### **BSF** shramdaan on cleanliness day in Hazaribagh

PNS: HAZARIBAG

On the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary the Nation is

observing an hour dedicated to cleanliness. As part of of this

celebration, the Border Security Force Training Centre and School Meru also held a programme named One Day One Hour' under the leadership of centre IG KS Banyal as a special cleanliness drive at Hazaribag stadium. The programme wit-nessed participation from officials and jawans of the force. The drive was carried out despite heavy rain in the town. The residents of the town were encouraged the efforts of the force.

During the voluntary con-tribution of cleaning the areas of the Hazaribag stadium were contributed by the public of Hazaribag also.

Before, the Hazaribag stadium cleanliness constructed building of ITI at Silwar.

On this occasion the IG KS Banyal said that we are going to celebrate the raising day of BSF Meru camp on 1st December on large level.

In this programme more than 100 jawans and officials from all frontier of BSF will take part. We have decided the all the guest jawans will be stayed in this building.

the tourists under the directive of the National Tiger Conservation Authority Deputy director north divi-

sion of the tiger reserve Palamu P K Jena declared it Such was the enthusiasm

of the tourists that they braved the early morning rains when Jena too was with them declaring it open with just a few umbrellas open for a ten fold high number of the Betla National Park personnel and tourists.

The Betla National Park remains closed for tourists from July to September.

However for research scholars doing work on the biodiversity, wild life, behaviour of wild life, challenges



Deputy director north division of the tiger reserve Palamu P K Jena opening Betla National Park for tourists today

before wild life etc after due permission from the competent authority can have access to the Betla National Park even when it is shut.

On being asked if there is any addition to the population of the wild life to which Jena said "It is fatuous to assume

wild life will conceive and deliver. There is a gestation period of every wild life." However Jena said

"Ocularly more calves and fawns are seen. But let there be a census of them all." "As right now bushes and

that in these 90 days or so a

shrubs are pretty high and dense and so we will have to wait for either the end of October or November to begin the head count for the wild life here." the deputy director north division of the tiger reserve Palamu said.

SWACHHTA HI SEVA

DRIVE AT GARHWA COURT

Betla national park reopens after three months

PNS: DALTONGANJ

Betla National Park today opened for tourists after a 3 month mandatory closure for month and a strategically invented for any solid inductive.

The Industries and commerce Association (ICA ) has expressed deep concern over neglecting attitude of both state and union governments as well as the coal ministry towards hardcoke industry has pushed it on death throes.

Addressing the 90th annual general meeting here on Saturday evening association president BN Singh said, post Covid-19 pandemic

stimulus packages announced by the union Finance Minister though pro-

some relief to many sectors but the hardcoke industry was left high and dry despite fact that this industry important industry. The industry faces severe crisis due to the policies of Ministry of Coal, Government of India, Coal India Limited and its subsidiary Bharat Coking Coal Limited( BCCL)".

The industry is on death throes but ministry of coal appears not to be interested in helping this industry to sur-

"All our requests to the Prime Minister. Coal Minister. Coal India Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited has yielded no redults. Though protecting this industry is in the interest of all stake holders as can generate huge revenue for government",he claimed.

Singh said, valuable national resource of coking do not need coking coal for power generation

He claimed, this industry

once was the second largest employer of the Jharkhand State and provided livelihood to the poor, tribal and other deprived sections of the society. But the scenario has changed with one policy change after the other starting from the then Congress Government to the present BJP government that converted linkage coal policy to fuel supply agreement (FSA) and later this too was withdrawn.

He also exprssed concern that state government has failed in increasing the level of ease to doing business to make the state truly industry friendly. Electricity, road and

required for rapid industrial growth. Dhanbad also remains are deprived of air services

and this also a shortcoming for industries . he added. He requested both from union and state government

to announce package to bailout this industry from cri-Association senior vice

president SK Sinha said future of hard coke industry lies in green coke and one should remain prepared for taking up changes keeping in mind the environmental requirements.

Several senior members of the association were present during the AGM held at headquarters of the association.

### Judges take part in Swachhta Hi Sewa in Daltonganj

The battery of judges, judicial officers and office staff in the civil courts Daltonganj Palamu led by its principal district and sessions judge Niraj Kumar Srivastav today took part in Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign.

The battery of judges did sweep the tiled floor with passion. It didn't look any for media lens.

Their eyes on the tiled floor, each clutching a new broomstick could be seen when the judges were out sweeping the

Many viewers who saw it said "Today many big and powerful took the broomstick in their hands and posed for the media lens as if they have removed kilos of trash but the ground reality is there was not even a torn paper there for them to sweep. They posed sweeping which was only for the publicity." End



Battery of judges performing Swachhta Hi Sewa in the civil courts in Daltonganj

Under the National Cleanliness Campaign Day, a cleanliness-cum-plantation program was organized under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Sharan Singh at the Civil Court, Garhwa on Sunday.

PNS: GARHWA

On this occasion, Judge of Family Court Rambachan Singh, District and Sessions Judge First Sanjeev Kumar Singh, District and Sessions Judge Fifth Vimlesh Kumar Sahay, Chief Judicial Magistrate Santosh Anand Prasad, Judicial Magistrate Harshit Tiwari, Abhinav Kumar and Vijay Kumar

Das were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Principal District and



Sharan Singh said that "today we took an oath to clean the Civil Court premises. Later, we all together cleaned the Civil Court premises and also planted

Appealing to the people, he said that "everyone should live cleanly and keep their surroundings clean, only then this day

In today's cleanliness campaign, Behavioral Court personnel Nazir Deepak Kumar Bada Babu Jyoti Prakash Srivastava Rajesh Kumar Mahendra Ram Santosh Kumar

Vishwakarma Ajay Kumar Srivastava Amar Kumar Ajay Singh Prabhadevi and Uday Kumar participated in the cleanliness campaign.

### Members of BWWA celebrates foundation day

The members presented several programs on the day

PNS: HAZARIBAG

The Border Security Force wives welfare association has celebrated its foundation day in the utility hall of campus. The program was inaugurated by the Neetu Banyal, president of association by lighting the lamp. On this occasion the members of the association were organized fashion show, folk songs and

On this occasion the president said in her speech that the BWWA was established in the month of September of 1992.she further said that this association is doing the regular work for the welfare of the families of officers and jawans.

The association has organized stress management, career counselling, medical camp and so many professional courses for their livelihood and skill development programme.

During the function the members of the association were presented folk songs, folk dance and fashion show. She further said that today is festival day for us, because today the association was started in the BSF Meru cam-

Everyone has contributed to their best in the success of this association. She has

conveyed her best wishes to the families of the officers and jawans of the

The vice president of the association Shashi Singh nad senior member Mausmi Parmanik said that we are very happy to be present on the foundation day of such a important association and it foundation day.

They were assured the members that every type of cooperation will be given to the association from their side.



## Heavy rain makes people life miserable in Capital

ue to low pressure forming in the Bay of Bengal, heavy rains are going on since Monday morning in all the districts of Jharkhand. Due to rain, almost all the roads of the State Capital have been submerged in rain water. In these situation, pedestrians and motor drivers are facing problems due to water logging in Kishoreganj-Harmu Road, Karamtoli Chowk, Bariatu-Buti Road, Harihar Singh

The Harmu river, which is disappearing in the city, is in spate after heavy rains after a long time people have seen the speed of water in this river. People living around the river said that even though this rain has caused prob-



lems, seeing so much water in the Harmu river reminds them of the old days. Seva Sadan Road has also been submerged. The situation is that the water of Bada Talab and Seva Sadan Road has

reached one level.

In the State Capital, torrential rains have been continuing since morning. The condition of many areas is miserable due to this rain. Life has gone havwire. Due to

facing problems due to water logging in many areas of the State Capital. People are facing a lot of difficulties in going from one place to another. Ponds have formed at various intersections of the State Capital. Roads in various areas including Main Road, Bariatu, Ratu Road are almost submerged.

It is expected to become more effective in the next 24 hours. Regarding rain, the Meteorological Department has issued orange alert in many districts of the State and yellow alert in many districts. The department has issued orange alert in 6 districts of the State and yellow alert in 7 districts. There is also a possibility of thunderstorm during this period.

Orange alert has been

#### RATAN HEIGHTS BOUNDARY **COLLAPSED DUE TO HEAVY RAIN**

Due to heavy rain since morning another boundary of Ratan Heights located in Morabadi collapsed on Sunday. The wall separating this twelve-storey residential building from the new construction site collapsed amid heavy rains. Besides, the water level in the huge pit dug for construction has also risen considerably. Due to boundary collapse, there is a possibility of water from the pit entering the foundation of Ratan Heights. This has increased the danger to the building. Due to this, the people living in the building

are in great panic. It is noteworthy that in the Ratan Heights case, Jharkhand High Court had recently given a verdict against the builder and ordered to stop the illegal construction immediately. Orders were also given to fill the said pit and make necessary arrangements for the safety of the building. But the builder has not taken any step in this direction till now. Now today another boundary wall collapse has proved that the

building has become unsafe

due to illegal construction.

It is noteworthy that last time a car also fell into a pit along with the boundary wall. Since that time the main road entering the building is still closed. The road on that route has also started sinking and is quite damaged. At present the people of the building are forced to go into the building through a temporary dirt

Meanwhile, the risk of building collapse has increased due to the collapse of two boundary walls of the building due to a big pit dug for illegal construction.

issued regarding rain in Sahibganj, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts of the state. Along with this, the Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert regarding rain in Godda, Dumka, Pakur, Jamtara, Ramgarh, Ranchi and Khunti districts.

The system which is in North West Bay of Bengal will reach West Bengal coast in 24 hours. According to the forecast of the Meteorological Center, there will be light to moderate rainfall with thunder at all places in the State from October 1 to 5. There may be a drop of 2 to 4 degrees Celsius in the maximum temperature during the next 24

### Convention will change State's present scenario: Sudesh Mahto



During this time, veteran leaders of AJSU party like MP Chandraprakash Choudhary, Doman Singh Munda, Umakant Rajak, Sunita Choudhary, Dev Sharan Bhagat were present on the stage.

PNS: RANCHI

he three day AJSU The three way reconnected (Party) convention concluded on Sunday in the State Capital. On the concluding day AJSU (P) Chief, Sudesh Mahto said that from the very first day of the historic convention of AJSU would play an important role in changing the current scenario of Jharkhand. He said that the suggestions and guidance that have emerged from this auditorium for the development of Jharkhand should be welcomed.

On the last day, Sudesh was elected of AJSU Party unanimously. After becoming

took an oath of dedication towards the people and following the principles of the party. During this, he expressed his gratitude to the people from all over Jharkhand and the guests from all over the Country for making the convention a success. Mahato said that even in adverse weather, people from every corner Jharkhand have reached Morhabadi ground in Ranchi. "All this is going to boost my morale. I express my gratitude to the intellectuals, writers and experts and experts on various subjects who have come from all over the country in this Binod Bihari

Attacking the State Government, AJSU (P) Chief

said, "If the governance is unaccountable, involved in corruption and playing into the hands of unbridled administration, if the common man, Panch and village chaupal do not participate in power, then the talk of good governance will be meaningless. This is the picture of Jharkhand that has emerged under Hemant Soren's Government. Consensus and accountability are important in good governance and self-gover-nance. We and our party have set the goal of moving from self-governance to good governance with nine resolutions of Navnirman. Jharkhandi rights and entitlements will be ensured in this. AJSU Party has moved ahead to awaken the dreams of the State." expressed his gratitude to the people, workers and newly elected representatives who came from the village chaupal. He expressed regret that he could not provide the required facilities to the people and his guests during the convention. Along with this, he thanked the people of print and electronic media. Thanks to whom the objective of the convention could reach the people of the State and the entire Country. During this, he also expressed his gratitude to his workers and other people who helped in Mahato Auditorium of said decorating the premises of Morhabadi Maidan," he the convention.

#### Swacchata abhiyan at High Court premises



PNS: RANCHI

Following an appeal by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, lawyers of Jharkhand High Court on Sunday morning participated in the Swacchata abhiyan at High Court Premises. With brooms and shovels in their hands, HC judges, judicial officers and advocates cleaned the premises. On the direction of

Jharkhand High Court Chief Justice, Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra cleanliness drive was also carried out at all district courts. Those who participated at the cleanliness drive included High Court Registrar General, Mohammed Shakir, Registrar (administration) Registrar Kumar Sinha, (Establishment) Kaushal Kishore Jha among others



to a student during convocation ceremony of BIT Mesra in Ranchi on Sunday. PNS

### 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' cleanliness drive at CCL

U nder the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign, cleanliness programs were organized by CCL in Zakir Hussain Park of Ranchi, Vegetable Market run by Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ratu Road, Darbhanga House Campus and 14 other places in the State on Sunday.

On the special occasion, CCL Director (Technical and Commercial), i Ram Babu Prasad, (Personnel), Harsh Nath Mishra and Chief Vigilance Officer, Pankaj Kumar along with General Managers, Heads of Departments and a large number of employees of various departments were present. Ram Babu Prasad administered the cleanliness pledge to all present. Prasad said that cleanliness will have to be made an essential part of daily life and the

pledge taken today will have to be put into practice. Despite heavy rains, about 250 workers and

cleaning friends enthusiastically donated their labor to clean the entire area. At the end of the program, Swachhta Mitras were also honored by the directors and CVOs for their special contribution.

Let it be known that under the leadership and guidance

Despite heavy rain the event was a great success.

of CCL CMD, Dr B Veera Reddy, successful programs were organized under the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign in all the coal fields including the headquarters of CCL and it was pledged to continue this effort continuously. CSR and other departments played an important role in the successful organization of the program.

### Cleanliness drive at Telco colony

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

In a commendable display of community participation, Tata Motors spearheaded a cleanliness drive at Telco Township under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, coinciding with the celebration of Gandhi Jayanti. Led by Mr. Ravindra Kulkarni, Head of the Jamshedpur Plant, the event saw over 100 employ-



Focusing on areas like Hudco Lake, Tata Motors Plant, Tata Motors Hospital, River View Enclave, and Vidya Bharti Chinmaya Vidyalaya, the initiative resulted in the successful collection of approximately 25 kgs of plastic waste from Hudco Lake. The collective effort showcased a commitment to environmental stewardship and community

#### Guv, VC joins 'Swachhata Hi Seva' at RU campus

PNS : RANCHI

The 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign was organized at Ranchi University, with Radhakrishnan participating as the chief guest. The program was conducted as per the UGC guidelines.

Governor and Ranchi University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ajit Kumar Sinha on the occasion also garlanded the picture of Mahatma Gandhi followed Governor taking part in the cleanliness drive.

The Governor said that it is the responsibility of every Indian to keep the country clean. Mahatma Gandhi used to clean his home and



learn from him.

On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ajit Kumar Sinha said that we should clean our university campus every day. He mentioned that there are ten thousand NSS (National Service Scheme) youth volunteers in the university, and they con-

sistently run campaigns.

University Dr PK Jha, Controller of Examinations Dr Ashish Kumar Jha, Dr BR Jha, Coordinator of NSS Dr Brajesh Kumar, Dr GS Jha of IQAC and others participat-

### Swachhta Hi Seva Pakhwada at BSL



Under the ongoing Swachhta Hi Seva campaign in BSL various pro-

gram was organized. In the same episode a cleanliness run was organized from Gandhi Chowk to Ispat Bhawan on 30th September

in the morning. This race was organized with the aim of expressing our commitment towards the call of garbage free India and creating public awareness towards cleanliness. Notably the cleanliness drive was flagged off by Birendra Kumar Tiwari, Executive Director (Works), BSL, Before the start of the race, he also administered the cleanliness oath to everyone. Executive Director (Project) C R Mahapatra, Executive Director (Finance & Accounts) Suresh Rangani, Executive Director (Materials Management) Amitabh Srivastava, CMO (M&HS) Dr. BB Karunamoy, BSL along with ED Tiwari participated in the cleanliness run. Chief General Manager and senior officers of Jharkhand Group of Mines and SRU along with officers of CISF jawans, children of BSL run schools, nursing school students etc. also participated actively. Also in another program under the Swachhta Pakhwada, a health check-up camp was organized for the Safai Mitras working in the plant premises on 30th September at the OHS Center (Plant Medical) of BSL.



Chancellor, RKDF University Ranchi, Jharkhand, Mr. Randhir Kumar S/O -Shri Dindyal Prasad and Smt. Savitri Devi, Grand son of Shri Dineshwar Verma (Rtd. Principal and Best Teacher Awardee by Govt. of Jharkhand) and Late Savitri Devi, R/O-At-Naitand, Post-Baddiha 1, Block - Jamua, District -Giridih, Jharkhand has been awarded Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree on 22nd September, 2023 from Department of English, RKDF University, Ranchi under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Anita Kumari, Head of Department, Department of English, RKDF University Ranchi, His topic of research was "Gynocritical Discussion of the Selected Novels of Anita Nair"

#### **NOBEL PRIZE-**

## Facts about best known award in world across all intellectual fields



7 rom 2nd October 2023 onwards for a week each day, we will have the names of the personalities or organisations, who have been chosen for the coveted and most sought after award on this planet called THE NOBEL PRIZE for the year 2023!

This award is conferred each year in the month of October since its inception in 1901 and continues nearly uninterrupted in the fields of Physiology or Medicine, Chemistry, Peace Literature,

Economic Science The man behind this prize was non other than Alfred Nobel who was an inventor, scientist, entrepreneur and businessman par excellence who also excelled in poetry and dramatics!

Born on 21 st October 1833 in Stockholm, Sweden, Alfred Nobel held 355 patents himself including that of Dynamite , which fetched him millions of dollars during his

life time. Just a year before his death , in the year  $1895\ on$ November 27 th he willed 31 million SEK ( about 265 million dollars today) for Nobel prizes in three branches of science, Literature and Peace to "Those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind " as quoted from Alfred Nobel's will . Since then The Nobel foundation has been given the task to manage Nobel's fortune and fulfil his vision as specified in

Prize for Economic science was added much after the death of Alfred Nobel by Nobel foundation in the year 1968 constituted and funded by Sweden's Central Bank called "Sverings Riksbank " awarded on behalf of Nobel foundation

Mathematics , Music and lately computer science, are considered important omis-

The Story behind the inception of Nobel prize, is indeed very interesting. It all started when Alfred Nobel's lesser known elder brother died in the year 1888 the obituary notes which appeared in French newspapers where he was staying at that time and mistook him for the elder brother and harsh words were expressed such as " Merchant of death " referring to his discovery of Dynamite as agent of mass destruction. This pained Alfred Nobel immensely and made him to introspect and do something

to assuage the feelings of his

fellow countrymen and

friends all over the world. Death of his younger brother while carrying out experiments in making of dynamite with him in an explosion also added to his frustration.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS OF NOBEL LAUREATES

There is no system of self nomination . Nominators are carefully chosen and invited individually to suggest their choice with elaborate details. The entire process of short listing and the names under consideration are kept closely guarded secrets for the next 50 years! Each year thousands of members of academia, University professors, Scientists, previous Nobel prize laureates and members of parliamentary assemblies and others, are carefully chosen for each speciality to submit the details about candidates, their specific achievements for the Nobel prizes for the coming year. These nominators are chosen in such a way that as many countries and experts from universities and academia are covered over time. This is done by different organisations for dif-

ferent specialties as specified for each field. A Nobel prize can be shared by up to three individuals only and in case of Peace prize, can be awarded either to an organisation or an individual

There is no age limits for

the awardees however ,they

have to be living at the time of

announcement of the award.

mous award how so ever it may appear justified. Youngest person ever to

There is no place for posthu-

get the award till date remains Malala Yousafzai in the year 2014 for Peace and the oldest laureate has been Youngest person ever to get the award till date remains Malala Yousafzai in the year 2014 for Peace and the oldest laureate has been John B. Goodenough of University of Texas, USA at the age of 97 for the pioneering work in development of Lithium ion batteries in 2019 along with Britain's Stanly Whittingham and Akira Yoshino from

Japan! Till date 989 individuals and 30 organisations have been conferred with Nobel prizes of which 400 have gone to USA followed by UK with 137 and 111 for Germany

INDIANS AMONGST AWARDEES

There has been only 11 from India (4 Indian citizens and 7 of Indian ancestry Residency ) . Amongst the recipients of Nobel prizes from India ,the first Indian who got this coveted prize was Rabindranath Tagore in 1913 for his much acclaimed collection of poems named GEETANJALI . Mother Teresa is the only woman from India who received Peace Nobel prize in the year 1979 . Satyarthi also Kailash received Peace Nobel in 2014 Sir C V Raman got physics

Nobel in 1930 for his pioneer-

ing work in the field of light

Dr S Chandrashekhar was the other notable physicist to have been recipient of physics Nobel prize in 1983 for his work in the field of Astrophysics.

Dr Amartya Sen was awarded economics Nobel in the year 1998 . In 2019 Abhijit Bannerji also received Economics Nobel prize. Sir Hargobind khorana

was the only Indian to have been conferred with Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine for his path breaking work on structure of DNA way back in 1968.

#### CONTROVERSIES

Controversies as expected always greeted this august prize committee's choices however, it was never overwhelming enough and thus it could maintain its authenticity despite all odds till date.

Sri Aurobindo, the Indian poet philosopher was nominated twice for the award for literature in 1943 and for Peace in 1950

On 1 December 1999 . the Norwegian Nobel committee confirmed that Mahatma Gandhi was unsuccessfully nominated for peace prize five times. In 2006 Geir Lundested the secretary of Norwegian Nobel peace committee cited it as "the greatest omission in our 106 years history

( PROFESSOR JHA IS FOR-MER HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AT RIMS,

## he pioneer

## Modi leads nation in hour-long 'shramdaan'

**NEW DELHI** 

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday pitched for blending fitness and well-being with cleanliness as he led a nationwide cleanliness drive in which thousands of people participated in an hour-long "shramdaan" across the country.

Besides Modi, several other BJP leaders, including Union Ministers, took up cleanliness programmes in different parts of the country.

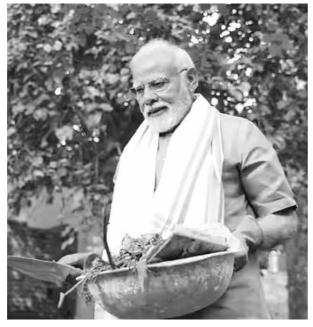
Home Minister Amit Shah participated in Ahmedabad while BJP chief JP Nadda did so in Delhi. According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, more than 9.20 lakh sites across the country were adopted for the mega drive, named as "Swachhanjali" to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve

People from all walks of life,

from politicians to students, wielded brooms and took part in the 'Swachhata hi Seva' campaign, in response to the Prime Minister's appeal the cleanliness drive. Wielding a broom, Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in a cleanliness drive in Ahmedabad. BJP chief JP Nadda also took part in the drive in Delhi's Jhandewalan

Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath participated in cleanliness drive 'Swachhata Pakhwada' in Sitapur. Taking part in the "shramdaan (voluntary labour)", Union Power Minister RK Singh told reporters, "We (Centre) have taken a resolve to make the country clean. It is a big challenge but we will do it."

Union Ministers and BJP





grabbed brooms and took part in the 'Swachhata hi Seva' cam-Gujarat Chief Minister

Bhupendra Patel participated in cleanliness drive in Ahmedabad. BJP MP Dinesh Sharma, who also took part in a clean drive, said "swachhata (cleanliness)" has become the face of the country.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, urging people to join the drive, said in a post on X, "Come, let's create a new history! At 10 am today, let's volunteer for an hour, paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi through cleanliness." "Scan or visit local cleanliness programmes to join. Dream of a #GarbageFreeIndia Together, we'll make it happen,"

Indian Air Force chief Air

took volunteered for a cleanliness activity in New Delhi. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi said it held cleanliness drives at 500 locations across the nation-

Cricketers such as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma also appealed to the people to come together for "Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" and join the largest citizen-led movement to strengthen the resolve towards cleanliness

Among the States, Uttar Pradesh adopted more than a lakh sites for cleanliness drives while Maharashtra will conduct the programme in over 62,000 locations, including the beaches, religious places, schools, colleges and water bodies. In Telangana, temples of historical significance were cleaned dur-

## Canada-based Lakhbir stepping up terror activities in Punjab: Intelligence

RAKESH K SINGH ■

Amid the renewed focus on the Khalistani terrorists and their expanding arc of terror syndicate following the Indo-Canada diplomatic row, intelligence reports have flagged the increasing footprint of Canada-based gang-ster-turned-terrorist Lakhbir Singh alias Landa who has been jacking up terror activities in Punjab via an additional operational base in Portugal.

Backed by the notorious Pakistani spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Landa has been engaged in gunrunning from Pakistan to

Besides Canada, Portugal has emerged as a key operational base of Landa where a number of his cohorts are based and directing the terror operations against India.

Landa is the mastermind behind the RPG attack at the Intelligence Headquarters of Punjab police in Mohali on May 9, 2022 and at police station Sarhali Kalan in Tarn Taran on December 10, 2022.

"Lakhbir Singh alias Landa has been deploying his foreign based associates for retrieving and disposing off consignments consisting of firearms, explosives and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) smuggled from Pakistan in collabo-ration with Pak ISI, into Punjab and carrying terror activities through their local contacts," reads a recent intelligence

The report further said, "It has been discerned that Portugal has emerged as an important operational base of Landa's criminal network as some of his key associates have established themselves in Portugal from where they exer-



cise control over the criminal

One of Landa's foreign ased associates, Parminder Singh alias Pattu has emerged as a key member of Landa's criminal network, who is residing illegally on tourist visa in son of Tarlochan Singh, is a resident of Baghelewala village in Ferozepur district of Punjab.

"It came to notice that recently he (Parminder Singh alias Pattu) arranged one AK-47 assault rifle, one MP-5 submachine gun, hand grenades, pistols along with live cartridges for the use of criminal syndicate in Punjab through his contacts in Pakistan," the report highlighted.

On Wednesday, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted multi-State searches following a similar intelligence input against another gangster and Landa's associate Lawrence Bishnoi, a criminal mastermind with a notorious track record. Bishnoi has been linked to several high-profile crimes, including the murder of renowned Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala and for issuing threats against Bollywood actor Salman Khan.

Recent intelligence inputs warned of an alarming trend in Bishnoi's illicit activities who has established a direct line of communication with Nasir Khan, an ISI operative.

"The connection suggests that Bishnoi and his gang might

be diversifying their criminal portfolio by procuring weapons with the help of Pakistan Intelligence Operatives (PIOs) and making use of these weapons for furthering gang ster activities in the region, reads the Intelligence report.

Bishnoi's gang is notorious for involvement in extortion and killings but the recent revelation of links with Pakistanbased entities suggests a "strategic shift in the gang's operational focus."

"The gang's involvement in arms smuggling represents a significant escalation in their criminal activities and poses a considerable risk to the nation's security. The potential backing by Pak ISI operatives also indicates a concerning overlap between organized crimes and geopolitical adversaries, enhancing the threat profile of Bishnoi's operations," warned

## Rajnath takes part in cleanliness drive



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI** 

As part of 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' campaign, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday took part in a special cleanliness programme 'Ek Taarikh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath,'

Delhi Cantonment. Rajnath led the shramdaan activities, which included a cleanliness drive, beautification of common area and a

plantation drive.

organised by Controller

General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) at its premises in

The defence minister also interacted with the Safai Karamcharis and lauded their efforts in ensuring cleanliness in the premises. He motivated them to continue working with zeal and dedication and carry forward the mass social movement launched by Prime Government to realise the dream of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi of a 'Clean

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Financial Adviser (Defence Service)Rasika Chaube and CGDASG Dastidar also participated in various cleanliness activities on the occasion.

Rajnath also interacted with the Principal Controllers and Controllers of Defence Accounts heading the offices of PCDA (Army) Jammu, PCDA (Air Force) Dehradun, PCDA (Army) Jaipur, PCDA (Pensions) Prayagraj, CDA (Army) Meerut, CDA Guwahati, CDA Jabalpur, CDA (Regional Training Centre) Bengaluru and CDA Chennai and reviewed the implementation of the 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' campaign in their respective jurisdic-

The 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign, which began on September 15, 2023, will culminate on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 02. As part of the campaign, shramdaan activities are being undertaken through community participation as a prelude to the Swachh Bharat Diwas on

Gandhi Jayanti. Over 20,000 officers and staff of Defence Accounts Department across more than colonies across the country have been undertaking cleanliness activities including removal of garbage, weeding out of files and awareness campaigns on the importance of proper sanitation and

Similar cleanliness drives have been launched at various other establishments of Ministry of Defence, Services and related organisations all over the country as part of the 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' cam-

## India needs stronger Armed forces, says Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday called for effective utilisation of financial resources as India needs stronger Armed forces with modern equipment to become a developed nation by 2047. "If we wish to create a developed

nation, we will need stronger armed

forces with modern arms and equipeffectively utilise the financial resources available to us," he said after launching several digital initiatives of the Defence Acccounts Department(DAD) during its 276th annual day celebrations here. "There should be a fine balance between the demands of services and the allocation of available resources," the min-

Describing the DAD as the "guardian of defence finance", he emphasised the need to bolster the internal vigilance mechanism so that any suspicious activity can be detected and reviewed immediately.

bound States on Monday.

my, it said.

Hindustan

lion kilometres annually. This

will help to cut down about 0.5

million tons of CO2 emission

annum, it said.

The Prime Minister's Office



This, he said, will not only help in dealing with the problem quickly but also increase the trust of the people in the department.

Rajnath also suggested to the DAD for the creation of an in-house standing committee that can research and study market forces and provide high-quality market intelligence to the field officers.

He appreciated the organisation for its efforts towards enhancing the country's defence capabilities through a transparent and efficient financial

Terming accounting as extremely important for an individual, organisation and the nation as a whole, he said, "Our wants are unlimited, but the available resources are limited."

He commended the DAD for ensuring judicious use of resources while extracting optimum output.

The digital initiatives launched included an integrated defence finance dashboard for the Ministry of Defence -- SARANSH (Summary of Accounts, Budget and Expenditure

for Raksha Mantralaya) and BISWAS (Bill Information and Work Analysis System and e-Raksha Awaas). While Rajnath lauded the DAD

for coming out with numerous digital initiatives, he exhorted it to develop its professional capabilities to deal with the complexities arising out of the constantly-evolving times. He urged it to collaborate with

reputable institutions such as Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and the Institute of Chartered op and adopt customised training modules, as per requirements.

The minister urged DAD officials to keep in mind two broad aspects while extending financial advice -realistic assessment of the demand of the user agency and understanding of the product's market.

He stressed the need to pay attention to the fact whether there is a need to buy a product or not and if a similar product of equal or greater effectiveness is available somewhere else in the market at a lower cost, according to the defence

This understanding will further increase the quality of financial advice, he said. To develop such an understanding, Rajnath suggested the creation of an in-house mechanism, a standing committee of experienced people who can research and study market forces and provide high-quality market intelligence to the field officers.

"Big banks and financial institutions develop in-house economic intelligence and research teams. On develop an in-house team for market research and intelligence," he said.

The defence minister also recommended collaboration with industry associations and business schools for extensive study of market conditions. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Rasika Chaube, Controller General of Defence Accounts SG Dastidar and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence were present during the

## Afghan Embassy in Delhi announces shut down of operations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The Afghanistan Embassy in New Delhi has announced sonnel and resources.

Making this announcement late Sunday night, the Afghanistan embassy in a statement said it regrets announcing the decision to cease its operations, effective October 1,

ness, regret, and disappointment that the Embassy of Afghanistan in New Delhi announces this decision to cease its operations," the statement said.

The embassy said this decision, while deeply regrettable, was made after careful consideration, taking into account the

between Afghanistan and India. The embassy statement



sion effectively and said that they were the primary reasons for the "unfortunate closure".

The embassy cited a "lack of support from the host government", alleging that it has experienced a notable absence of crucial support from the host government, which it said hindered its ability to carry out duties effectively.

The mission also cited "failure to meet expectations in serving Afghanistan's interests" as one of the reasons. "We acknowledge our shortcomings in meeting the expectations and requirements necessary to serve the best interests of Afghanistan and its citizens due to the lack of diplomatic support in India and the absence of a legitimate functioning government in Kabul,"

the mission said.

It also said due to unfore-

sonnel and resources available to it, making it increasingly challenging to continue oper-"The lack of timely and

seen and unfortunate circum-

stances, there has been a sig-

nificant reduction in both per-

sufficient support from visa renewal for diplomats to other critical areas of cooperation led to an understandable frustration among our team and impeded our ability to carry out routine duties effectively," the statement said. Given these circumstances,

it is with deep regret that we have taken the difficult decision to close all operations of the mission with the exception of emergency consular services to Afghan citizens till the transfer of the custodial authority of the mission to the host country," it

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch multiple development projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during his visit to the two poll-

Modi to visit Rajasthan, MP to

launch development projects

(PMO) said he will launch and lay the foundation stone for development projects worth Among the other projects, he about Rs 7,000 crore in will throw open a four-lane Rajasthan and around Rs road on NH-12 (new NH-52) 19,260 crore in Madhya on the Darah-Jhalawar-Pradesh. During his visit to Teendhar section, which has Chittorgarh in Rajasthan, he been constructed at a cost of will inaugurate the Mehsanamore than Rs 1,480 crore.

Bathinda-Gurdaspur gas pipeline, built at a cost of Rs 4,500 crore in yet another step This will help ease the transportation of the produce of mines from Kota and Jhalawar to promote a gas-based econodistricts, the statement said. Foundation stones for constructing and widening the Modi will also inaugurate railway overbridge from two Petroleum Corporation Limited's (HPCL) lanes to four in Sawai Madhopur will also be laid. LPG plant in Abu Road. This Modi will inaugurate several railway projects, tourism facilplant will bottle and distribute 86 lakh cylinders per annum, resulting in net reduction in ities and a permanent campus running trucks carrying the cylinders by around 0.75 milof the Indian Institute of

Information Technology, Kota. During his visit to  ${\rm \ddot{G}}{\rm walior}$ in Madhya Pradesh, he will inaugurate the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway, which has been

developed at a cost of about Rs 11,895 crore. He will also lay the foundation stone for five different road projects worth over Rs 1,880 crore, the statement said. In line with his vision to ensure a pucca house for every family, the prime minister will initiate the 'grih pravesh' ceremony of over 2.2 lakh homes built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin, it said. Modi will also inaugurate

the houses constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban at a cost of about Rs 140 crore. As part of the Government's focus on providing safe and adequate drinking water, Modi will lay the foundation stone of Jal Jeevan Mission projects worth over Rs 1,530 crore in Gwalior and Sheopur districts. These projects will together benefit more than 720 villages in the region.

He will also lay the foundation stone of nine health centres under the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission and inaugurate and launch several other projects. Assembly polls in both Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are expected to be held in November-December.

## Awareness programme on 'menstrual health' held



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

**▼**oining the Government's initiative on menstrual hygiene to promote women's health, 'Menstrual Health- One more step towards women's health', the Army Hospital (R&R) Delhi Cantonment here organised a menstrual health awareness programme 'Mahawari mein Swachchta' on Sunday.

A lecture cum demonstration was organised at Army Hospital (R&R) and senior officers and women from all walks of life, including adolescent girls participated in the event, army officials said. The social taboos and

myths associated with men-

tions of good menstrual hygiene, and simple but effective ways to deal with menstrual issues were highlighted during the event. The lack of proper men-

strual hygiene can be the source of genital tract infec-tions which can later lead to infertility. It was also discussed how the ignorance about simple

logical process.

facts about menstrual hygiene can stall the overall growth of young girls, and become a hindrance to them getting a good education, and society as a whole needs to change its attitude about menstruation which is essentially a physio-

that it is ceasing operations from October 1 citing a lack of support from the host government, failure to meet expectations in serving Afghanistan's interests and reduction in per-

"It is with profound sad-

historic ties and long-standing partnership

also listed key factors affecting its ability to continue the mis

## Hour-long cleanliness drive | BJP leader praises PM for launched in BLW, BHU

Under the nationwide clean-liness campaign, named 'One Date, One Hour, One Time for Cleanliness' the drive was launched ahead of the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at various places in the city including Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Sunday. In BLW, under the leadership of General Manager (GM) Basudev Panda, the officers, employees and their families joined for a cleanliness mega campaign. The BLW set an example by doing mega shramdaan at 320 identified places in the entire BLW campus on the theme of 'Cleanliness is Service' on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

'Cleanliness Under Fortnight' as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Railways, the campaign began at 10 am under the leadership of GM. Senior officers including Principal Chief Electrical Engineer SK Srivastava, Principal Chief Materials Manager Rajneesh Gupta, Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr Devesh Kumar, Chief Vigilance Officer Pramod Kumar Chaudhary, Chief Engineer VK Shukla, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer (TOT) Ajay Srivastava, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Service) Neeraj Jain, Chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the call of the Prime Minister, under the joint

aegis of 95 battalion Central

Reserve Police Force (CRPF),

Srijan Samajik Vikas Nyas,

Nagar Nigam, Ganga Task

Force and National Disaster

Response Force (NDRF), a

tribute was paid to the 'Father

of the Nation' Mahatma

Gandhi on the eve of his birth

anniversary at Assi Ghat here

participants pledged to fulfill the dream of clean India and

keep the country clean with

Hansraj Vishwakarma, Padma

Shri Dr Saroj Chooramani and also present to offer their

Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLC

In the presence of UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal, the

on Sunday.

their actions.



GM Basudev Panda and other officers offering shramdaan at BLW in Varanasi on Sunday

Massive drive held at Assi Ghat

Quality Assurance Manager Praveen Kumar, Chief Material Manager Tilok Kothari, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer, (Headquarters) Shyam Babu, Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar, members of Staff Council and others also offered their shramdaan in Surya Sarovar premises during hourlong drive.

The campaigns were also launched at Tagore Park and in the workshop areas. The students of BLW Inter College, Civil Defence, St John's

The programme was

presided over by Transport Commissioner (UP Govt)

Chandar Bhushan Singh.

of Bharat Scout Guide, members of different unions and others also participated in the cleanliness drive. The entire programme was conducted by Chief Safety Officer SB Patel.

In BHÚ, the campaign was launched at various placed. At Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH), under the leadership of Medical Superintendent (MS) Prof KK Gupta, the doctors, officers, students and employees conducted a cleanliness campaign in the hospital premises. During this, Deputy Medical Ambulance Brigade, members Superintendent Prof Ankur

Singh, Prof Amit Anand Nursing Superintendent Prakash Sharma and others were present. At Mahila Mahavidyalaya (MMV), one the eve of birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, week-long 'Clean and Healthy India' campaign was launched. BHU Registrar Prof Arun Kumar

Registrar (General Administration) Dr Nandlal and Principal Prof Rita Singh and many others were present.

Kumar Singh, Praveen Singh

and personnel of 95 CRPF

Battalion, members of Ganga

Task force, NDRF officers and

personnel, BJP leaders includ-

ing Saurabh Singh Patel, volun-

Brahma Vidyalaya and others

Singh, Dean of Students Dr

Anupam Kumar Nema, Joint

# fulfilling dreams of Gandhi

Regional Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Dilip Singh Patel praised the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi by launching a nationwide cleanliness drive. He said that in 2014, when Modi became the PM, he himself started this cleanliness campaign from Kashi by sweeping the lane and ghat. 'Today, this campaign has taken the form of a people's movement," he said, adding that recently, in the 105th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', the PM had called for cleanliness and shramdaan in public places under 'One Date, One Hour Together' on Sunday. Cleanliness and shramdaan was done at Amrit Sarovar in view to pay a true tribute to Bapu. "Cleanliness is the basic mantra of a healthy and peaceful life," he said.

In the morning itself, while addressing the people Patel said that the people were seen to be conscious about cleanliness in every nook and corner of the country. "Today, brooms were seen in the hands of Regional BJP chief DS Patel and others at statue of Sardar Patel in Varanasi on Sunday.

common people including dignitaries who offered shramdaan by cleaning public places in their respective areas. The campaign was launched at Aditya Sarovar in Aditya Nagar Nevada under Ravidas Mandal. In this cleanliness campaign and Shramdaan programme which started at 10 am, Patel and other BJP leaders swept the floor, picked up the garbage,

cleaned the silt on the stairs near the lake, made people aware about cleanliness and garlanded the statue of Sardar

In the cleanliness campaign, Surendra Patel, Suresh Singh, regional co-media incharge Santosh Solapurkar, Madhukar Pandey, Abhishek Mishra, Mandal President Shatrughan Patel, corporator

Garima Singh, former corporator Vineet Singh, Anil Srivastava, Dinesh Kalra, Shailensh Pandey, Rakesh Mohan Dixit, Amarnath Singh Patel, Anil Singh, Arun Singh, Sita Gupta, Jitendra Patel, Vijay Verma, Ratneshwar Modanwal, Shashank Prajapati, Sheshmani Devi, Salgu Patel, Shyam Bhushan Sharma and others participated in the campaign.

### CORE GM, others take part in 'shramdaan' cleanliness campaign was conducted in all residential

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

On the call of Prime Minister, officers and employees under the leadership of General Manager of Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) Pramod Kumar took part in a 'shramdaan' related to cleanliness in the office premises and railway colonies. The cleanliness fortnight is being observed in the CORE from September 16 till October 2. To spread awareness about cleanliness among the employees of CORE, a large number of activities related to cleanliness have been carried out during Swachhta Pakhwada.

The swachhta pakhwada started on September 16 with the administration of cleanli-



ness oath by GM to the officers and employees of the CORE. Under the clean office campaign, extensive cleaning was

done in all departments and premises of the office on September 18 and 19.

From September 20 to 22,

were inspected from September Posters, standees and banners were put up at all major places of CORE to create awareness for overall cleanliness, ban on single-use plastic and encourage use of cloth bags and messages were also displayed through social media. The CORE has always been striving towards cleanliness and is making an important contribution in making the

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan suc-

colonies under Swachh Residential Complex. Under

the Swachh Neer Abhiyan, all

water treatment and filtration

plants, overhead tanks, water bodies and drinking water sys-

tems of the CORE complex

Mahakumbh 2025 to be grand in many ways

grand in more than one aspect. The size of the mega religious event will be expanded by around 800 hectares from 3,200 hectares of Kumbh 2019. It will have five more sectors (25) as compared 20 in 2019 and spread towards Phaphamau side (Rasulabad) of Ganga and downstream of Sangam (Chhatnag). Moreover, to ease the movement of around 40 crore expected devotees and tourists there will be 30 pon- capacity to hold 10,000 people here throughout the year so

All these issues were discussed during the 15th board meeting of the Prayagraj Mela Authority, chaired by divisional commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Kumbh Mela Adhikari Vijay Kiran Anand.

This time, 30 pontoon bridges will be built for easy movement of devotees and the mega religious event will be held in 25 sectors," said Anand. Also, a huge pandal with a

workers deployed. There will be

25,000 dustbins, 800 cleaning gangs and an ICT based monitoring system would be put in place. All these proposals have been approved in principle by the Board and will be sent to the Apex Committee for approval. "Efforts to give the message of clean Mahakumbh will start from Magh Mela 2023-24 itself. After the mela, 100 FRP toilets will remain

toon bridges over Ganga and Prom expanding its size to enhancing facilities, the Promotoon bridges and was vispontoon bridges and budget of Rs 23.48 crore for the widening and construction of new roads leading to the Maha Kumbh-2025. The funds will be used for road widening and the construction of a link road and a new road to decongest the gathering of devotees. Additionally, funds have been allocated for the construction of three ghats. With the approval of funds, the work will be expedited.

## **MLA for maintaining environment**

UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal, others offering shramdaan at Assi Ghat in Varanasi on Sunday

Chief of Srijan Nyas Anil Commissioner Shipu Giri,

Kumar Singh, brand ambas- Nagar Swasthya Adhikar Dr

Abhiyan, played an important Commandant Navneet Kumar,

role in making the programme Assistant Commandant Vinod

successful. Commissioner of

Police (CP) Mukta Ashok Jain,

Chief Development Officer

Himanshu Nagpal, Municipal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

 $M_{\text{Cantonment Saurabh}}^{\text{LA from Varanasi}}$ Srivastava and Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) Vineet Kumar Srivastava called upon the people, especially railway employees and passengers to maintain the environment. They were addressing a function organised at the second entry of Banaras railway station under the campaign 'One Date One Hour at 10' to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his birth anniversary. Extensive cleaning was done through collective shramdaan offered from 10 am to 11 am. On the occasion, the branch officers including the DRM have also taken pledge of clean-On the occasion, extensive

tree plantation was done in the park of Banaras station complex by the MLA, DRM and other officers for the purity of the environment. The Drug Free India and Swachhta Hi Seva Abhiyan rally organised under the aegis of Ministry of Justice

Empowerment, Government of India and it was flagged off by the MLA. On the occasion, the DRM and officers participated in the cleanliness drive organised at Banaras station. To stop single-use plastic, jute and cotton bags were distributed to the passengers by the DRM and the MLA. Other officers distributed pamphlets containing information to the passengers about adopting environment-friendly behavior and abandoning artificial resources.

On the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign



was organised in the entire country on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti in which the PM has underlined the importance of cleanliness. The basic objectives of cleanliness cannot be achieved without the participation of every section of the society. That is why for the success of the cleanliness campaign, Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway along with the entire country participated in this countrywide campaign and contributed

towards building a clean India. Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar, Chief Medical Superintendent Dr RJ Chaudhuri, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W) Anubhav Pathak, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction) RN Singh, Senior Divisional Safety Officer Balendra Paul, Divisional Personnel Officer Vivek Sharma, Assistant Commercial Manager AK

Suman and other officers, station employees, voluntary organisations, children and teachers of Glenhill School, scouts and guides etc partici-

AWARENESS RALLY **TAKEN OUT:** On the eve of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti, a joint meeting of Central Communication Bureau and Press Information Office (PIB), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Varanasi and Yuvak Mangal Dal, Dhanpalpur and Hariyali Foundation was held on Sunday at Panchayat Bhawan located in Dhanpalpur of Arazilines development block area. The programme of shramdaan was held apart from gosthi, cleanliness rally, quiz competition, and street drama during 'One Day, One Hour' campaign. During the programme, the cleanliness public awareness rally was flagged off by chief guest Prashant Kakkar, media communication officer PIB along with career guru Ravindra Sahay

and gram pradhan Kailash Maurya. This rally went around Dhanpalpur village and spread the message of cleanliness from house to house apart from creating awareness. It ended again at the venue of Panchayat Bhawan. During the programme, Disha Creation Varanasi made people aware about cleanliness through street plays and songs at various places in the village. Ten winners were given prizes by conducting a quiz by Regional Publicity Officer Dr Lalji. All the guests who came to the programme were honoured with mementos by Hariyali Foundation. At the end of the programme, the people present there took a pledge of cleanliness. It was conducted by Nand Kishore Rajbhar. The programme was also attended by Mahesh Maurya, Ram Singh Verma, OP Singh, Chhotelal Gautam, Tarakeshwar Singh, Sandeep, Ramashray, Ajay, Rahul, Ravi Singh, Pradeep Singh, Ashutosh Aditya,

#### Stress on adopting cleanliness by police personnel. Union Minister of State for Commerce proper action should be taken

**CORRESPONDENT** ■ MIRZAPUR

cleanliness drive was Aorganised throughout the district on Sunday. At Deewan Ghat of Vindhachal MLA Ratnakar Mishra, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare and nodal officer, Dr Hari Om and DM Priyanka Niranjan led the drive in which the locals participated on a large

and Industry Anupriya Patel and MLC Shyam Narain Singh 'Vineet Singh' conducted cleanliness drive near Patel Chauraha located at Bharuhna. MEETING: District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan

while presiding over the meeting of Udyog Bandhu at the Collectorate on Saturday



along with police personnel

scale. In the premises of DIG office DIG RP Singh himself took the command himself along with PAC and police personnel. On the occasion he said it is the need of the hour that we adopt cleanliness in daily routine. At Police Lines Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhinandan cleaned the premises. He was accompanied

directed the officials to dispose of cases related to Nivesh Mitra on priority and do the followup regularly. She reviewed the progress in solving the problems which had been brought up in the last meeting. Reviewing different schemes, including PMEGP, MYSY, ODOP, schemes related to brass industry the DM said

by the departments and in case any application was rejected, proper reason should be told to the applicant. The LDM submitted the report regarding the target under different schemes, its achievements and the reason behind the pendency as well as rejection. The DM concluded the meeting with the direction to the officials that the problems of the entrepreneurs vere to be taken seriously.

**DRIVE:** Under the direction of DM Priyanka Niranjan the team led by additional district magistrate (ADM/Finance & Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla challan of 51 vehicles has been done during the period from September 12 to 30. Giving details of the drive against tax evasion and overloading senior mines officer Shailendra Singh said revenue of Rs 43.50 lakh will be realised. He said under the drive 27 vehicles had been handed over to the police across the district and 24 vehicles challaned online.

11 COUPLES REUNITE: Under 'Project Milan' programme 11 couples reunited through the Family Counselling Centre (FCC) located at Police Lines on Sunday. The couples were living separately due to misunderstanding over trivial issues and the cases were brought to the police. The police had referred them to the FCC and after separate sittings the couple agreed to live together. The counsellors and staff wished them a successful life and a bright future. On the day incharge of the centre sub- inspector Shashi Tiwari, head constable Savitri Devi, constables Pinki Jaiswal and Sapna, counsellors Nirmala Rai and Dr Krishna Singh along with others were present

during the counselling.

MAN DIES: One person found in an unconscious state near the treasury office died in a hospital on Saturday. The guard of the treasury informed the PRV 112 that about the person lying on the ground near the treasury office under the City Kotwali area. He was brought to the divisional hos-The police had recovered a

used syringe near the place where the person was lying and a toxic substance from his pocket. According to the police it seemed that the man became unconsciousness due to the overdose of the drug which led to his death in the hospital. On information Station House Officer (SHO) City Kotwali Bal Mukund Mishra reached the spot. On the basis of the photograph the deceased was identified as Deepak Giri (29) of Vijaipura under Dehat Kotwali police station. The SHO said the cause of death can be said clearly only after the post-mortem.

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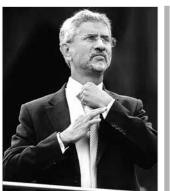
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#### PAPER WITH PASSION

### Resilient

Taking on challenges from the West, India walks with confidence to strengthen ties with the US

mid the diplomatic brouhaha following the killing of India-branded terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, India has embarked on a determined and nuanced offen-Singh Nijjar in Canada, illula has empaired on a document and interaction with sive to present its side of the story on the global fora. During an interaction with Indian journalists in Washington DC, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar criticised Canada for "normalising" violence, threats and intimidation against our diplomats and missions. Tensions between India and Canada have escalated following Justin Trudeau's allegations of Indian involvement in the killing of Nijjar, a Khalistani extremist. Jaishankar highlighted ongoing issues with Canada's "permissiveness" toward terrorism and extremism, as well as the lack of response to extradition requests. He emphasised the need to address the larger issue, rejecting the idea that threats and intimidation should be justified as freedom of speech. The Minister, at an Indian community event in Washington DC, also highlighted the resilience and growth of the India-US relationship, emphasis-



ing the need for continued collaboration between the countries. He underscored the unprecedented trajectory of the India-US partnership, describing it as "desirable, optimal and comfortable". Jaishankar expressed optimism regarding the future of bilateral ties, drawing a parallel to India's historic Chandrayaan mission. He praised the US for its "invaluable support" in ensuring the success of the G20 Summit. The Minister said he believed that the partnership would continue to soar, "possibly even beyond the moon".

Amid diplomatic discussions, he dismissed Trudeau's allegations of the Indian Government's involvement in Nijjar's murder as "inconsistent with

India's policy". Jaishankar's stance sought to vindicate India's position on the matter. In a separate meeting with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, the two explored avenues for strengthening bilateral defence ties, including the co-production of defence items. Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, a meeting of the Indian High Commissioner with the Indian community was disrupted by a few persons with anti-national credentials, bolstering Jaishankar's claim that hardline anti-India elements have taken roots in the West and they get all the leverage to carry out activities against India's interests in the name of freedom of speech. The West must realise that such elements are not fighting for anybody's rights or freedom, they have amassed ill-gotten wealth and wield significant power by claiming to fight for a "just cause" against India. But the fact is that their ideology is based on exclusion, intimidation and violence and that they have no support base in India. An ordinary Punjabi does not identify with them or subscribe to their views. The West must be wary of their presence and activities as these go against its own democratic principles. The Indian External Affairs Minister is doing the proper thing in taking up the cudgels to unmask these elements and show the world that they are just a bunch of desperadoes masquerading as freedom fighters.



Gandhian approach to world peace



#### Mahatma's ideas of nonviolence act as lighthouse in the modern day world where storms of hatred and factionalism rage

n a world marked by conflict and division, the pursuit of global peace remains an enduring aspiration of humanity. It is a quest that has been championed by leaders, thinkers, and activists throughout history. One of the most prominent figures in this quest was Mahatma Gandhi, whose philosophy of nonviolence continues to inspire people around the globe. The concept of nonviolence stands as a beacon of hope and a path toward sustainable peace.

As the world commemorates the International Day of Nonviolence and celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on October 2, it is crucial to move beyond the celebration and understand it as a solemn commitment that global leaders must undertake (read acknowledge) for the betterment of humanity, which in future can offer a transformative vision that should guide us through the turbulent waters of our times.

Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy, of Satyagraha (truth-force), emphasized the power of truth and love to transform societies and resolve conflicts. Gandhi's influence extended far beyond the borders of India, leaving an indelible mark on the global struggle for peace. Historian Eknath Easwaran captured Gandhi's significance when he wrote that "Gandhi's teachings on nonviolence and his fearless commitment to justice resonate not as relics of the past but as timeless lessons for a world still grappling with violence and injustice."

The universality Nonviolence stems from the fundamental recognition of human dignity and the shared aspiration for peace. Drawing inspiration from diverse religious and philosophical traditions, Gandhi synthesised the principles of 'Ahimsa' (non-harm) and 'Satyagraha' (truth force) into a powerful tool for social and political change, demonstrating the efficacy of nonviolent resistance.

Gandhi's influence resonated globally, inspiring figures like viartin Lutner King Jr., who championed Civil Rights in the tions." The International Day United States. King's commitment to nonviolent resistance was the birthday of Mahatma deeply rooted in his Christian Gandhi, serves as a reminder



faith and the teachings of Gandhi. In his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail," King wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," underscoring the interconnectedness of humanity and the necessity of nonviolent action in the face of injustice. He went on to state that "Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it".

Similarly, Nelson Mandela had unquestionable faith in the power of nonviolence. To him, Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence and the truth is the only lasting legacy we have. All other political systems have failed. Ours is the only approach that can guarantee world peace because it is the only approach that can guarantee that mankind will be relieved of the curse of war."

Further, Desmond Tutu's struggle against apartheid in South Africa showcased the transformative power of nonviolence. Tutu emphasized that nonviolence was not just a tactic but a way of life. To him, "Forgiveness and reconciliation are not just ethereal, spiritual things. They have concrete, pragmatic at of Nonviolence observed on





NONVIOLENCE STEMS FROM **FUNDAMENTAL** RECOGNITION OF **HUMAN DIGNITY** AND THE SHARED ASPIRATION FOR

UNIVERSALITY OF

of the global significance of this philosophy. The United Nations, recognising the importance of nonviolence in resolving conflicts and promoting peace, has actively championed this day. The UN has recognised the intrinsic connection between peace and sustainable development in its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In a world grappling with complex geopolitical tensions, the efficacy of nonviolence as a strategy for conflict resolution cannot be overstated. Peace activist and granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, Ela Bhatt underscored this connection. She believes that "Without peace, development is impossible, and without development, peace is not achievable."

In recent years, nonviolent movements have emerged as powerful forces for change in various parts of the world. From Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her bus seat, to Malala Yousafzai, who stood up for girls' education in the face of violence, to 'The Arab Spring' in the Middle East, to The Umbrella Movement' in Hong Kong, and the global climate strikes led by Greta Thunberg are examples of how nonviolent resistance remains relevant in contempo-rary global struggles. The protests, fuelled by a desire for

'Annadata' Dr Swami Nathan is no more

democracy, social justice and environmental concerns for leaders to awake from their slumber, demonstrated that the collective power of nonviolent action could challenge established norms and demand change.

The birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and the International Day of Nonviolence is a clarion call for action. In a world grappling with diverse challenges, the principles of nonviolence offer not just a historical legacy but a roadmap for the future. As Mahatma Gandhi himself had declared, "Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind."

Without exaggeration, it can be said that education stands as a formidable tool for nurturing the values of nonviolence from an early age. Nelson Mandela's insight, from his "Long Walk to Freedom" that people must learn to hate but can also be taught to love, underscores the transformative potential of education. Curricula that incorporate teachings on conflict resolution, empathy, and understanding lay the foundation for a more peaceful and

(The writer is a programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

## Tourism as a green investment for the future



Green investments in the tourism sector are needed for sustainable economy that strikes a balance between growth growth and environmental protection

ourism is intricately connected with aesthetics. Aesthetics in the context of tourism refers to the appreciation and experience of beauty, whether it's in natural landscapes, architectural marvels, cultural expressions, or artistic creations. It is the only sector where the public wants nature to be preserved, unlike other sectors where people support the destruction in the name of develop-

Tourism is the pillar of our economy. In the year 2021, the travel and tourism sector in India made a substantial contribution of approximately 178 billion US dollars to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In the year 2017, the nation experienced the arrival of more than ten million international tourists, resulting in a substantial influx of foreign currency amounting to approximately 27.31 billion USD. The power of tourism is enormous. In many states tourism is the backbone of the rural economy generating employment opportunities for thousands. But many Investments". This emphasis-

times tourists act as a destructive force in polluting the environment. We can see plastic bottles and bags floating in the Dal Lake.

To promote global awareness of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political, and economic value World Tourism Day is celebrated on September 27th under the auspices of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Each year, World Tourism Day is celebrated on a specific theme, chosen by the UNWTO, to highlight different aspects of the tourism industry. These themes often revolve around current global issues, trends, and challenges facing the tourism sector. The designated theme for the year 2023 is "Tourism and Green es the necessity for increased and more precise allocations of resources towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

When we mention green investment in tourism, we're talking about building and taking care of places that are friendly to the environment. This involves things like eco-friendly hotels and lodges, and using less polluting vehicles like electric or hybrid cars. Tourism and green investment are interconnected in several important ways. Green investment in the context of tourism refers to allocating financial resources towards sustainable and environmentally friendly practices within the tourism industry.

This can involve initiatives that aim to minimize negative environmental impacts, conserve natural resources, and promote sustainable development.

Tourism and biodiversity conservation are closely linked, and when managed responsibly, tourism can play a significant role in the protection and preservation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity. For this, we have to

take the local community into confidence. Usually, people in rural places want their place to develop like a metros. They forget that changing the geography will badly affect their economic prosperity. Engaging local communities in tourism activities can lead to a sense of ownership and stewardship over natural resources. When communities see direct benefits from conservation efforts, they are more likely to be supportive.

Ultimately, green investments in the tourism sector are necessary for the creation of a sustainable and resilient economy that strikes a balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and the well-being of local communities. It incentivises a change towards more environmentally conscious and socially responsible tourism practices that are beneficial to both the natural world and the sustainable growth of the tourism indus-

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

#### TROUBLE OVER POETRY

Sir — Rashtriya Janata Dal MP, Manoj Jha, is under attack for the mere recitation of the poem, "Thakur ka Kuan," during the recently concluded special session of Parliament. Poet Om Prakash Valmiki laments, "Oven is made of mud, mud is from the pond, the pond belongs to the Thakur." Munshi Premchand's story by the same title was the inspiration for poet Valmiki. The main character in the story, Gangi, a lower caste, makes a vain attempt under the cover of darkness to fetch some 'clean' water from a Thakur's well for his ailing wife, Jokhu. Manoj Jha read the poem to capture the upper caste dominance over all aspects of life in a village. We read Thakur is a title used by feudal landlords in the past.

It is a fact that cruelty towards people belonging to lower castes is on the rise in new India. Social ostracism and discrimination based on caste refuse to disappear. It was reported recently that in Kantasan village in Patan district of Gujarat, a ration shop owned by a Dalit faced a boycott from the Thakor community. In an inaugural function in a temple in Kannur district of Kerala, a priest refused to pass on the small lighted lamp to Kerala Minister for Temple Affairs, K Radhakrishnan, who belongs to the Scheduled Caste community, to light a bigger traditional lamp. RJD MP Professor Manoj Jha's recital of the poem in Parliament and the DMK Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's caustic comment on the prevailing social injustice and inequality in Sanatana Dharma emerged from a multitude of such incidents in the country. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to dismantle the caste system "root and branch." Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

#### **RBI EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR 2K NOTES**

Sir —The recent decision by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to extend the deadline for the deposit and exchange of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes until October 7, 2023, is a welcome move. This decision comes after the initial deadline of

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



he progress in agriculture should be mea sured not on the basis of agricultural income or growth, but on the basis of the increase in the income of the farmers. Dr Swami Nathan Commission maintained this opinion. In 1966, Nathan created a high-yielding wheat variety by hybridizing wheat seeds from Mexico with local wheat from Puniab. Similarly, the cultivation of improved varieties of rice, the staple food of India. was always striving for the economic upliftment

of poor farmers. Poverty disturbed by the failure of farmers' agriculture due to inadequate credit and the vagaries of nature, the commission headed by Dr. Swami Nathan, concerned with the suicide of farmers in debt, said that the progress in agriculture should be measured on the basis of farmers' income and not on the basis of agricultural income or growth. Dr. Swami Nathan aimed to achieve the objectives of food security, easy supply to agriculture, development of dryland farming, increase in profit by increasing agricultural productivity, reduction of imports, adjustment of prices of agricultural products to the global market, and preservation of the environment and ecosystem, among other things. His efforts were valuable. Dr. Swami Nathan was truly the "Annadata" of Indians

Dattaprasad Shirodkar, | Mumbai

September 30 had passed, providing much-needed relief to citizens who may still possess these notes.

The RBI's decision to review the situation and extend the deadline demonstrates a considerate approach to the circumstances of the people. It recognizes that some individuals may still hold these notes, and it ensures that they have a fair opportunity to exchange or deposit them.

Furthermore, the clarification that banks will cease accepting Rs 2,000 banknotes for credit to accounts or exchange into other denomination banknotes from October 8 is essential information for the

The provision allowing people to approach the 19 RBI Issue offices to exchange the Rs 2,000 banknotes, up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time, is a practical solution for those who may have a significant amount of these notes. The option to send the banknotes through India Post for crediting respective bank accounts, subject to relevant regulations and due diligence,

adds a convenient avenue for compliance. The article's background on the introduction of the Rs 2,000 denomination currency note in 2016 and the cessation of its printing in 2018-19 provides valuable context for readers. It highlights the RBI's goal to ensure an adequate supply of currency in other denominations.

Maimul Safui | Howrah

#### **HC STOPPED FROM HOLDING MEETING**

Sir - High Commissioner, Vikram Doraiswami, was reported to have been stopped from entering a Gurdwara by Khalistani extremists in Glasgow. It is shocking and outrageous. It is an insult to us. Of late, the rising of anti-India forces on foreign soil is a matter of concern. Reports of desecration of temples in Canada, Australia, the USA, and the UK are on the rise. The breeding of terror on foreign soil is unacceptable. It needs to be condemned. Respective governments should not allow such unlawful activities on their soil. India should take up the matter at the highest political level.

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

### **FIRST COLUMN MAGIC OF MUDRA PRANAYAMA**

The science of 'mudras' is intrinsically related to the esoteric knowledge of Yoga



he Yoga Sutras of Patañjali is a collection of sutras on the theory and practice of yoga as elucidated in his treatise. The sutras are known for their reference to Ashtanga or the eight elements of practice culminating in samadhi. The eight limbs are yama, niyama, asana, pranayama, pratyahara, dharana, dhyana and samadhi. Pranayama is the fourth principle of Ashtanga Yoga as delineated by Maharishi Patanjali. Pranayama should be coupled with mindful eating and breathing.

#### The yogic science of mudras

Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita says, "There is nothing as sacred as knowledge." Knowledge can be acquired by the human mind through the 5Ds- dedication, determination, dynamism, devotion, and discipline and one H- Humility. The human mind can harness this potential only if it is in the present moment. By practising proper breathing techniques. like Sudarshan Kriya and Nadi Shodhan pranayama and through regular meditation the mind becomes alert to delve deep into knowledge. It is indeed efficacious to learn about mudras. The practice of mudras is not just in the domain of dancers, painters, and artists, even stock individuals who have nothing to do with the art world ought to learn about mudras.

The science of mudras, is intrinsically related to the esoteric knowledge of yoga and which can be further segregated into the five elements, the five life forces (or subtle forces of energy called the pranas) and the three doshas. The five elements are namely – Akash (ether or space), Vayu (air), Agni (fire), Jal (water) and Prithvi (earth), and the five life forces or pranas are prana, udana, samana, apana and vyana and the three doshas are vata, kapha and pitta. Humans unconsciously practice mudras. For instance, a young child begins learning to walk with his thumbs raised



which is called the Meru Dand mudra. An infant in a deep slumber, his index finger would involuntarily touch the thumb and the other three fingers are on the base of the palm (Chinmaya mudra). The universe in its auto-mode conjures these processes to take place. We are oblivious to the occurrence. Some other mudras which need to be practised are: (a) Jnana mudra

This is performed to increase brain power, improve memory and for the removal of negative thoughts. Thereby one attains peace and bliss.

This helps in balancing the five sense organs, improves blood circulation and enhances our energy levels. Practising this mudra assists in increasing our alertness.

#### (c) Apana mudra

This facilitates an improved elimination process, revitalizing the digestive system, improving the gums and strengthening immunity.

This mudra addresses the problem of fatigue; it provides essential vitamins to the body besides increasing stamina and vigour. It also helps in maintaining the health of our eyes.

Essentially, this mudra helps in making us mindful and wakeful. Over a period, we attain peace of mind.

#### (f) Shunya Vayu mudra

The practice of this mudra helps in combating problems of flatulence and gastric ailments. The gut houses our solar plexus, which is also referred to as the second brain. We need to take adequate care of our abdomen as most human ailments arise from this part of the body. Thus, there is

enormous merit and wisdom in the adage, that your health is in your hands.

(Ravi Valluri is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. and is a faculty of the Art of Living; views expressed are personal)

## India's space Odyssey: To Moon and beyond



India has taken a formidable lead in Moon exploration, though it would be a while before Moon's resources would be available for development purposes

ndia is riding high on the success of India's Chandrayaan-3, which scripted a glorious history worldwide. It is not only a matter of national pride but has larger implications on varied dimensions. It has opened up further deliberations on technological capability, resource exploration, international collaboration, scientific contributions, space exploration and diplomacy, geopolitical landscape, global leadership and coopera-

The success of Chandrayaan-3 has redefined the relationship between national prestige and technological capability. Successfully launching and operating a lunar mission showcases a country's technological prowess and capabilities. It can boost national pride and reputation on a global stage, potentially influencing how other countries perceive and engage with that nation. International collaboration is now buzzing around. Lunar missions often involve collaboration with other countries and space agencies. The use of space missions, including lunar explorations, as a means of advancing diplomatic ties is referred to as space diplomacy. The development of international partnerships for space exploration can open up chances for discussions, disagreements, and alliances with other nations, potentially having more significant geopolitical repercussions. These partnerships can foster diplomatic ties and strengthen international relationships, leading to potential geopolitical advantages.

#### SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Without scientific contributions, India's mission could not have been possible. Lunar missions contribute to scientific advancements by conducting experiments and collecting data about the Moon's geology, atmosphere, and other characteristics. Sharing such data and findings can position a country as a leader in scientific research and innovation. Resource Exploration is another area that can be discounted in India's journey in space. If future lunar missions, including Chandrayaan missions, discover valuable resources on the Moon, such as rare minerals or water ice, they could have significant economic implications.

#### SPACE VOYAGE & GEOPOLITICS

Control or access to these resources could influence a country's geopolitical standing. The ability to conduct space missions, including lunar missions, can be used as a tool for diplomacy. It can open channels for negotiations, discussions, and partnerships with other nations interested in space exploration, which can have broader geopolitical implications. Furthermore, a long-running space race may pick up speed in response to the successful lunar mission, which follows Russia's failure. India became the first nation to land a spacecraft on the south pole of the moon. As the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft successfully touched down on the lunar south pole last week, India became just the fourth nation to perform a soft landing on the moon. That area of the moon has not yet been visited by any other country. The trajectory of the Chandrayaan-3, which blasted off from southern India more than a month ago, has captured the attention of the Indian public and dominated headlines for days.
Soft Power Projection is something that

India is going to capitalize on. Successfully

conducting ambitious space missions can enhance a country's soft power – its ability to influence others through cultural, technological, and scientific achievements. The successful completion of ambitious space missions has the potential to increase a country's soft power, which is defined as its ability to sway others through achievements in the arts, sciences, and technology. This phenomenon can help to shape how people view the country and have an effect on how wellknown it is abroad. This can create a positive image of the country and influence how it is perceived by the

international community.

Launching lunar missions requires the development of advanced technology, infrastructure, and skilled workforce. These developments can have a positive impact on the country's overall technological capabilities and economic growth, indirectly affecting its geopolitical position. Precisely, this achievement will enhance the infrastructure and capability building. Now, global leadership and cooperation nave come to the fore for further discussions. If a country like India successfully conducts lunar missions, it could position itself as a leader in space exploration, especially within the developing world. This leadership role can lead to collaborations and alliances, shaping geopolitical dynamics. A nation like India has the potential to become a leader in space exploration if its lunar missions are carried out successfully, especially among developing nations. This particular leadership position has the potential to promote alliances and partnerships.

A long-running space race may be accelerated by the Chandrayaan-3 mission, ushering in a new stage of great power competition. Russia and India, who are allies on Earth, have been vying to be the first nation to set foot on the lunar south pole; a Russian attempt was a failed one. The presence of water raises the

possibility that other nations could use the region of the lunar south pole as a base for further space exploration in the future. The United States established the Artemis Accords in 2020, which seek to foster space cooperation through shared rules and principles, possibly in anticipation of such competition. Several allies and partners, including India, joined. Russia and China have not. The way people on Earth view the moon—and beyond—could change as geopolitical competition in space is set to

#### MOON ECONOMY

Limiting climate change's harmful effects and ensuring a transition to sustainable energy sources have become the two biggest problems the world community has been facing recently. The lack of critical minerals, which are crucial elements of the transition to renewable energy, as studies suggest, makes the transition less seamless than anticipated. Considering the moon economy's importance and potential sources for these essential minerals is necessary in this context. Along with this, a country typically gains a tactical advantage from a space mission when operationalizing satellite communication, in addition to a variety of other benefits. This includes enabling and supplying consistent satellite data, which aids in forecasting many things, including the monsoon and can greatly aid defence forces in maintaining surveillance on other nations.

The moon is a rich source of raw materials, so it should be noted that this will be a geopolitical region where future conflict and cooperation may occur. It is necessary to take a comprehensive look at the essential minerals that have grown in significance recently. According to an ISRO study, the Moon, especially the South Pole, is currently home to enormous amounts of water. A significant amount of hydro-energy could be

produced if this were to be investigated.

Similar to this, a report by Popular Science Magazine titled "The elements we might mine on the moon" suggests the presence of other critical minerals, including plutonium and helium 3, which can be used for the fusion of nuclear energy, as well as cobalt, lithium, titanium, and other critical minerals. In a similar vein, the Energy Information Administration, in its numerous reports, has made predictions of these vital minerals that can be sourced for the RE sector.

The countries that establish bases on the moon first will have the first-mover advantage to benefit from a variety of space projects and businesses on and around the Moon. The geopolitics of lunar colonialism are still unknown, but we do know that they will have an impact on world politics. In a few decades, India may be one of the few nations in charge of the largest portion of the moon economy. A PwC report states that the lunar economy encompasses all of the activities involved in the production, use, and exchange of lunar resources on the Moon's surface, in lunar orbit, and on Earth.

The United States, Russia, China, Japan, and France are just a few of the nations that have congratulated India on Chandrayaan-3's successful landing. These nations are all interested in space exploration and are probably closely observing India's development.

These responses demonstrate the widespread acclaim and admiration that India has received for its performance on Chandrayaan-3. It is a significant accomplishment for India and evidence of its expanding space exploration capabilities.

Other nations may be inspired to pursue their space exploration programs as a result. Now, the moon is India's ventured place. Let's wait and watch on the world's relations with India to shape up the journey



THE UNITED

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THAT HAVE

(The writer is HoD-Digital Marketing and Associate Professor at the School of Management, Presidency University Bangalore, views are personal)

## Growing need for awareness about mental health

#### Approximately every fifth person across the globe experiences mental health issues at some point during his lifespan

n 1992 the World Federation of Mental Health recognised the need to be more vocal about mental health issues as people with mental illness often suffer silently, fearing social stigma, lack of understanding and discrimination.

Approximately every fifth person across the globe experiences mental health issues at some point during their entire lifespan. While Depression and Anxiety disorders are the most common mental health conditions, suicide is one of the leading causes of premature and untimely deaths. It is a serious concern for mental health professionals for timely intervention. The spate of student suicides in Kota (Rajasthan) speaks volumes of the gravity of the situation and Hamdard, views are personal)



the urgent need to address the demic began, more children Mental health refers to

overall mental well-being, a holistic concept that is also about physical and social wellbeing. Promotion of mental health through understanding, support, and access to mental health resources is crucial to de-stigmatizing mental illness and breaking down the negative attitudes and beliefs surrounding it.

Unfortunately, public health developments during recent years have adversely impacted the mental health of elderly and the children alike. It becomes important to make children understand that sound mental health is vital to their emotional development. It is evident from the studies that since the COVID-19 panare reporting higher levels of anxiety and depression than ever before. That makes now the perfect time to break down the stigma connected with mental illness by openly discussing the issue.

The recent United Nations Human Rights Report highlights that people with mental health conditions and those with psychosocial disabilities experience disproportionately higher rates of poor physical health and reduced life expectancy. Discrimination, harmful stereotypes and stigma in the community, family, schools and the workplace prevent meaningful relationships, quality social interactions and the inclusive environments needed for the wellbeing of individuals with mental illness. These issues hurt a person's ability to cope with life situations.

There is a need to educate the public to create a society where everyone feels comfortable seeking help and support without prejudice and discrimination. It is the responsibility and obligation of the State and the global organizations to ensure access to mental health services, which can no longer be ignored. Access to better living conditions, security, food, shelter and housing are all human rights issues necessary for people's mental health. Mental health is a universal right of all citizens of the world and consistent with the 1948 founding principles of the World Federation of Mental Health (WFMH).

Mental Health Day reaffirms every year the commitments made and the action taken. While last year's World Mental Health Day theme was 'Make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority, 2023's theme is to celebrate the

power of community kindness. Mental Health Day 2023 is an opportunity for people and communities to renew their commitment to the theme 'Mental health is a universal human right" to improve knowledge, raise awareness and drive actions that promote and protect everyone's mental health as a universal human right. Mental health must be placed in a human rights framework to re-cast the aspiration for sound mental health

as a fundamental human right. By doing so a better, more needed to carry out these

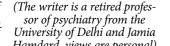
accepting and supportive society can be created where the mentally ill stay included in the larger society with comfort and confidence. Active participation in the events that support World Mental Health Day such as walks, runs, workshops, or panel discussions helps create awareness and clarify misconceptions that

often prevent people from seeking available help. Donations to the organization or charity that provides resources and support to those struggling with mental health issues must be made. Devoting and investing time and working voluntarily with the welfare organizations that support mental health can go a long way in creating awareness within a community. Money is

activities for which funds can be raised by organizing one's event or participating in a fund-raising challenge.

One also needs to self-educate about mental health and the various issues surrounding it through reading books, attending workshops, or simply having conversations with others or following some of the social media accounts that provide genuine information. This year's theme high-

lights a range of issues to involve a variety of stakeholders and global citizens to work together to ensure that a clear message is delivered and an effective campaign to support World Mental Health Day 2023 is carried out on 10th October, particularly when we celebrate WFMH's 75th Anniversary year.



## Govt shutdown averted as Biden signs funding

**AP** ■ WASHINGTON

The threat of a federal government shutdown suddenly lifted late Saturday as President Joe Biden signed a temporary funding bill to keep agencies open with little time to spare after Congress rushed to approve the bipartisan deal.

The package drops aid to Ukraine, a White House priority opposed by a growing num-ber of GOP lawmakers, but increases federal disaster assistance by USD 16 billion, meeting Biden's full request. The bill funds government until Nov. 17.

After chaotic days of turmoil in the House, Speaker Kevin McCarthy abruptly abandoned demands for steep spending cuts from his right flank and instead relied on Democrats to pass the bill, at risk to his own job. The Senate followed with final passage closing a whirlwind day at the

"This is good news for the American people," Biden said in a statement.

He also said the United States "cannot under any circumstances allow American support for Ukraine to be interrupted" and expected McCarthy "will keep his commitment to the people of Ukraine and



secure passage of the support needed to help Ukraine at this critical moment."

It's been a sudden headspinning turn of events in ngress ahead of the midnight funding deadline after grueling days in the House pushed the government to the brink of a ruptive federal shutdown.

The outcome ends, for now, the threat of a shutdown, but the reprieve may be short-lived. Congress will again need to fund the government in coming weeks risking a crisis as views are hardening, particularly among the right-flank lawmakers whose demands were ultimately swept aside this time in favor of a more bipartisan approach.

"We're going to do our job," McCarthy, R-Calif., said before

the House vote. "We're going to be adults in the room. And we're going to keep government

If no deal was in place before Sunday, federal workers would have faced furloughs, more than 2 million active-duty and reserve military troops would have had to work without pay and programs and services that Americans rely on from coast to coast would have begun to face shutdown disrup-

"It has been a day full of twists and turns, but the American people can breathe a sigh of relief: There will be no government shutdown," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

The package funds government at current 2023 levels until mid-November, and also extends other provisions, including for the Federal Aviation Administration. The package was approved by the House 335-91, with most Republicans and almost all Democrats supporting. Senate passage came by an 88-9 vote.

But the loss of Ukraine aid was devastating for lawmakers of both parties vowing to support President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after his recent Washington visit. The Senate

Ukraine, and both chambers came to a standstill Saturday as lawmakers assessed their

"The American people deserve better," said House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, warning in a lengthy floor speech that "extreme" Republicans were risking a shutdown. For the House package to be approved, McCarthy was forced to rely on Democrats because the speaker's hard-right flank has said it will oppose any short-term funding measure, denying him the votes needed from his slim majority. It's a move that is sure to intensify calls for his ouster.

After leaving the conservative holdouts behind, McCarthy is almost certain to be facing a motion to try to remove him from office, though it is not at all certain there would be enough votes to topple the speaker. Most Republicans voted for the package Saturday while 90 opposed.

"If somebody wants to remove me because I want to be the adult in the room, go ahead and try," McCarthy said of the threat to oust him. "But I think this country is too important."

The White House was tracking the developments on briefing the president, who was spending the weekend in Washington. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who has championed Ukraine aid despite resistance from his own ranks, is expected to keep pursuing US support for Kyiv in the fight against Russia.

"I have agreed to keep fighting for more economic and security aid for Ukraine," McConnell, R-Ky., said before

Late at night, the Senate stalled when Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., held up the vote, seeking assurances Ukraine funds would be reconsidered. "I know important moments are like this, for the United States, to lead the rest of the world," Bennet said, noting his mother was born in Poland in 1938 and survived the Holocaust. "We can't fail." The House's quick pivot comes after the collapse Friday of McCarthy's earlier plan to pass a Republican-only bill with steep spending cuts up to 30% to most government agencies and strict border provisions that the White House and Democrats rejected as too extreme. A faction of 21 hardright Republican holdouts opposed it. "Our options are become the House speaker.

slipping away every minute," said one senior Republican, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida. The federal government had been heading straight into a shutdown that posed grave uncertainty for federal workers in states all across America and the people who depend on them — from troops to border control agents to office workers, scientists and others.

Families that rely on Head Start for children, food benefits and countless other programs large and small were confronting potential interruptions or outright closures. At the airports, Transportation Security Administration officers and air traffic controllers had been expected to work without pay, but travelers could have faced delays in updating their U.S. passports or other travel documents. The White House has brushed aside McCarthy's overtures to meet with Biden after the speaker walked away from the debt deal they brokered earlier this year that set budget levels. Catering to his hard-right flank, McCarthy had made multiple concessions including returning to the spending limits the conservatives demanded back in January as part of the

## Suicide bomber detonates device in Turkiye

**AP** ■ ANKARA

 $A^{ ext{suicide bomber detonated}}$  an explosive device in the heart of the Turkish capital, Ankara, on Sunday A second assailant was killed in a shootout with police, the interior minister said.

The attack occurred hours before Parliament was set to reopen after its three-month summer recess with an address by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Two police officers were slightly injured during the attack near an entrance to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, minister Ali Yerlikaya said on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. The assailants arrived at the scene inside a light commercial

"Our heroic police officers, through their intuition, resisted the terrorists as soon as they got out of the vehicle," Yerlikaya later told reporters.

"One of them blew himself up while the other one was shot in the head before he had a chance to blow himself up."

"Our fight against terrorism, their collaborators, the (drug) dealers, gangs and organized crime organisations will continue with determination," he said. The minister did not say who was behind the attack and there was no immediate

claim of responsibility. Kurdish and far-left militant groups as well as the Islamic State group have carried out deadly attacks throughout the country in the past. Last year, a bomb blast in

a bustling pedestrian street in Istanbul left six people dead,

including two children.

More than 80 others were wounded. Turkiye blamed the attack on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, as well as Syrian Kurdish

groups affiliated with it.

Security camera footage on Sunday showed a vehicle stopping in front of the ministry, with a man exiting it and rushing toward the entrance of the building before blowing himself up. A second man is seen following him.

Earlier, television footage showed bomb squads working near a vehicle in the area, which is located near the Turkish Grand National Assembly and other government buildings. A rocket launcher could be seen lying near the vehicle. Turkish authorities later

imposed a temporary blackout on images from the scene. Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said an investigation has been launched into the "terror attack." These attacks will in no

wav hinder Turkiye's fight against terrorism," he wrote on X. "Our fight against terrorism will continue with more determination."

Police cordoned off access to the city center and increased security measures, warning citizens that they would be conducting controlled explosions of suspicious packages. The two police officers were being treated in a hospital and were not in serious condition, Yerlikaya



#### **Pak Army** chief vows to eliminate terrorism

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's Army chief General Syed Asim Munir has vowed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country through "unabated" military operations against militants following Friday's twin suicide attacks that have killed 65 people.

A total of 60 people were killed and more than 60 others were injured in a grisly suicide blast on Friday in Balochistan that targeted a procession to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's birthday near the Madina Masjid in Mastung, an official said. In the second bomb attack

that took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu, targeting a police station's mosque, five people were killed, and 12 others were injured as the mosque's roof collapsed in the explosion's impact, it said. The Chief of Army Staff vis-

ited Quetta on Saturday where he was briefed on recent terrorist attacks, the Army's media wing said in a statement on Saturday Munir said that the heretics

who have nothing to do with Islam were carrying out such attacks with the "backing of state sponsors of terrorism."
"These terrorists and their

facilitators, having no link with religion and ideology, are proxies of the enemies of Pakistan and its people," he said, without giving more details. The Army chief added:

"These forces of evil will continue to face the full might of the state and security forces backed by a resilient nation."
"Our operation against ter-

rorists would continue unabated and the Armed Forces, Intelligence and Law Enforcement Agencies shall not rest till the menace of terrorism is rooted out from the country.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack in Balochistan so far however, the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), responsible for some of the bloodiest attacks in Pakistan, denied its involve-

### Serbia's prez denies troop build-up near Kosovo themselves in an Orthodox

**AP** ■ BELGARDE (SERBIA)

Serbia's president on Sunday Odenied US and other reports of a military buildup along the border with Kosovo, complaining of a "campaign of lies" against his country in the wake of a shootout a week earlier that killed four people and fuelled tensions in the volatile Balkan region. Both the United States

and the European Union

expressed concern earlier this week about what they said was an increased military deployment by Serbia's border with its former province, and they urged Belgrade to scale down its troop presence there. Kosovo's government said on Saturday it was monitoring

the movements of the Serbian military from "three different directions" It urged Serbia to imme-

diately pull back its troops and demilitarise the border area. "A campaign of lies ... has been launched against our Serbia," President Aleksandar Vucic responded in a video post on Instagram.



They have lied a lot about the presence of our military forces .... In fact, they are bothered that Serbia has what they describe as sophisticated weapons." Tensions have soared following the violence in northern Kosovo last Sunday involving heavily armed Serb gunmen and Kosovo police officers.

The clash was one of the

worst since Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008 and prompted NATO to announce it would beef up a peacekeeping force stationed in the country.

Serbia 'has denied Kosovo's allegations that it trained the group of some 30 men who opened fire on police officers, leaving one dead, and then barricaded Christian monastery in northern Kosovo. Three insurgents died in the hourslong shootout that ensued. Kosovo has also said it was investigating possible Russian involvement in the violence. Serbia is Russia's main ally in Europe, and there are fears in the West that Moscow could try to stir trouble in the Balkans to avert attention from the war in Ukraine. John

spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said on Friday that US officials were monitoring a large deployment of Serbian troops along the border with Kosovo, describing it as an "unprecedented staging of advanced Serbian artillery, tanks and mechanized infantry units".

Vucic has several times over the past months raised the combat readiness level of Serbian troops on the border with Kosovo.

Serbia also has been reinforcing its troops with weapons and other equip-

ment mainly purchased from Russia and China.

"We will continue to invest in the defense of our country but Serbia wants peace," the president said on Sunday. "Everything they said they made up and lied, and they knew they were making up and lying." Last weekend's shootout near the village of Banjska followed months of tensions in Kosovo's north, where ethnic Serbs are a majority of the population and have demanded self-rule.

Dozens of soldiers from the NATO-led peacekeeping force known as KFOR were injured in May in a clash with ethnic Serbs protesting the Kosovo police presence in the area. Fearing wider instability

as the war rages in Ukraine, Washington and Brussels have sought to negotiate a normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo, but the two sides have failed to implement a tentative agreement that was recently reached as part of an EU-mediated dia-

#### Turkish security forces cordon off an area after an explosion in Ankara, Sunday, A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in the heart of the Turkish capital. Ankara on Sunday, hours before parliament was scheduled to reopen after a summer recess. A second assailant was killed in a shootout with police. Scotland gurdwara condemns

## Azerbaijan issues arrest warrant against former separatist leader

zerbaijan's prosecutor gen-Aeral issued an arrest warrant for ex-Nagorno-Karabakh leader Arayik Harutyunyan on Sunday as the first United Nations mission to visit the region in three decades arrived in the former breakaway state. Harutyunyan led the

breakaway region, which is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but was largely populated by ethnic Armenians, between May 2020 and last month, when the separatist government said it would dissolve itself by the end of the year after a three-decade bid for independence.

Azerbaijani police arrested prime ministers, Ruben reflects Azerbaijan's intention

he tried to cross into Armenia along with tens of thousands of others who have fled following Baku's 24-hour blitz last week to reclaim control of Nagorno-

Harutyunyan and the enclave's former military commander, Jalal Harutyunyan, are accused of firing missiles on Azerbaijan's third-largest city, Ganja, during a 44-day war in late 2020, local media reported.

The clash between the Azerbaijani military clash and Nagorno Karabakh forces led to the deployment of Russian peacekeepers in the region.

The arrest warrant announcement by Prosecutor one of Harutyunyan's former General Kamran Aliyev

Vardanyan, on Wednesday as to quickly and forcefully enforce its grip on the region following three decades of conflict with the separatist

While Baku has pledged to respect the rights of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, many have fled due to fear of reprisals or losing the freedom to use their language and to practice their religion and cultural customs. In a briefing Sunday, Armenia's presidential press secretary, Nazeli Baghdasaryan, said that 100,483 people had already arrived in Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh, which had a population of about 120,000 before Azerbaijan's offensive.

Some people lined up for days to escape the region because the only route to

tain road — became jammed

with slow-moving vehicles. A United Nations delegation arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh Sunday to monitor the situation. The mission is the organization's first to the region for three decades, due to the "very complicated and delicate geopolitical situation" there, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters Friday.Local officials dismissed the visit as a formality. Hunan Tadevosyan, spokesperson for Nagorno-Karabakh's emergency services, said the UN representatives had come too late and the number of civilians left in the regional capital of Stepanakert could be "counted on one

## Khalistani extremists

The gurdwara in Scotland, which was the scene of disruption by Khalistani extremists who blocked a planned visit of Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami, has strongly condemned the "disorderly behaviour" and said that the local police are investigating the matter.

In a statement issued on Saturday night, the Glasgow Gurdwara Guru Granth Sahib Sikh Sabha said the "unknown" and "unruly" individuals disturbed the peace at a place of worship and attempted to disrupt the personal visit of the envoy facilitated by a member of the Scottish Parliament.

It followed the High

Commission of India in London's statement that said the UK Foreign Office and Metropolitan Police have been upraised of the "dis-graceful incident" after vio-lent force was also used at the diplomat's car during the disruption on Friday afternoon. "Certain unknown indi-

viduals from outside the Glasgow area attempted to disrupt the visit, following which the visiting party decided to leave the premises," the gurdwara statement noted. "After the departure of the visitors, these unruly individuals continued to disturb the gurdwara congregation. Police Scotland was in attendance thereafter and have taken cognisance of the matter. "Glasgow Gurdwara strongly condemns such dis-

orderly behaviour to disrupt the peaceful proceedings of a Sikh place of worship. The Gurdwara is open to people from all communities and backgrounds, and we welcome everyone openly as per our principles of faith," it

Earlier on Saturday, the Indian High Commission said that three people from areas outside Scotland disrupted the planned interaction to discuss community and consular issues.

One of the three radical elements attempted to "violently force open the HC's car door" and it was due to the quick reaction of one of the organisers, who physically intervened at the car door, that a "bigger incident was

## Contemporary retelling of 'Mahabharata' premieres on London stage

PTI ■ LONDON

contemporary g of the Aretelling of the Mahabharata opens in London on Sunday, incorporating several Indian musical and dance art forms and bringing together a worldwide cast of charac-

The UK premiere of the musical extravaganza, which runs at the Barbican Theatre until next weekend, follows a critically acclaimed world premiere in Canada by Torontobased Why Not Theatre and Indian-origin co-creators Miriam Fernandes and Ravi

The production is presented in two parts: Karma setting out the origin story of the rival Pandava and Kaurava great battle that destroys the planet leaving the survivors behind to rebuild. The two parts are bridged

by a community meal, which is called 'Khana and Kahani'. So, if you do the whole experience it's a seven-hour journey; and we start all the way from Bheeshma's vow at the very beginning of the story and we Theatre Co-Artistic Director who also plays the narrator in the production.

We are a small strand among a great lineage of storytellers who have weaved this epic of the 'Mahabharata' over the ages. These stories have been passed from storyteller to

clans and Dharma capturing a

go through to the war until Yudhishtir goes to heaven," said Fernandes, Why Not audience for thousands of years and span the earth, travelling in

the memories and imaginations of the South Asian diaspora. an ancient time, the themes of

Though first composed in greed, revenge, ecocide and

privilege feel acutely relevant in

our globalised world," she said.

Almost 40 years since Peter

Brook's legendary international production of the great

Sanskrit epic, Why Not Theatre's adaptation also explores the act of storytelling The staging evolves from ancient and intimate - a story-

teller around a fire and classi-

cal Kathakali dance - to a

tion, dynamic soundscapes and poetic stage design. There is also a new opera

modern spectacle with projec-

for the most revered portion of the epic, the 'Bhagavad Gita', with a live onstage band creating the musical score featuring traditional instruments such as Lord Krishna's favourite flute. "We spent a lot of time

looking at how to contemporise this, especially as values have changed in such a big way, and culturally values clash. Canadian culture is very different from Indian culture," said Jain, Founder of Why Not Theatre and co-writer of the production.

"One of the ways that we addressed the issue was we really have been conscious about our casting, with women

playing some men roles. So, women find themselves in the story in a very different way than they are traditionally portrayed. The casting is really exciting," he said.

Jain, whose parents hail from Delhi, launched Why Not Theatre in 2007 with a show featuring his mother's not-very-successful attempts at arranging his marriage. Since then, the company has grown in its mission to tell diaspora stories and challenge the status

"As a student in London, I watched the world masters dazzle audiences on the Barbican stage. Twenty years later it's a dream come true to share this complex work we're so proud of at this truly special venue," added Jain.

#### 24 Pak beggars held Lahore (PTI): Twenty-four

alleged Pakistani beggars disguised as pilgrims were offloaded from Saudi Arabiabound flights and arrested for trying to travel to the Gulf Kingdom to indulge in begging, according to a media report on Sunday.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) late on Saturday night offloaded eight alleged beggars in the disguise of Umrah pilgrims from a Saudi Arabia-bound flight at the Multan airport, Dawn newspa-per reported. This was the second incident in as many days at the Multan airport in Punjab province. Two days ago, the FIA offloaded 16 persons, including a child, 11 women

and four men, from a Saudi-bound flight at the Multan airport. They

were travelling on Umrah visas. The Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca that can be undertaken at any time of the According to a statement

issued by FIA immigration officer Tariq Mehmood after the second incident, it transpired during the immigra-tion that the group was traveltion that the group was travel-ling to Saudi Arabia for the "purpose of begging".

"They said they would beg there and half of the begged amount would be handed over to the sub-agent," the FIA state-ment said adding that state-

ment said, adding that statements of the group along with their passports were seized and the said passengers were sent to FIA's Anti Human Trafficking and Smuggling Wing in Multan for further

2 terrorists, 1 cop killed

in attack on patrolling

on a police post in Punjab

province, killing two most-

wanted terrorists of Tehreek-e-

the attack on the Kundal

patrolling post in Mianwali

during the early hours of

Sunday, Punjab police chief

Usman Anwar said in a state-ment. "Kundal Punjab

Highway Patrolling Post,

Mianwali (some 300kms from

Lahore), in an operation assist-

ed by the Counter Terrorism

Department (CTD) of Punjab,

police successfully thwarted

an attack by 12 to 15 terrorists

last night at approximately

Head Constable Haroon lost

his life. Multiple terrorists sus-

tained injuries and following a

During the operation,

23:45 hours," he said.

One policeman also died in

Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

## Populist ex-premier leads his party to victory

populist former prime Aminister and his leftist party have won early parliamentary elections in Slovakia, staging a political comeback after campaigning on a pro-Russian and anti-American message, according to almost complete results.

Former Prime Minister Robert Fico and the leftist Smer, or Direction, party had 22.9 per cent of the votes, the Slovak Statistics Office said early Sunday after counting 99.98per cent of the votes from some 6,000 polling stations.

Saturday's election was a test for the small eastern European country's support for neighboring Ukraine in its war with Russia, and the win by Fico could strain a fragile unity in the European Union and NATO. Fico, 59, has vowed to withdraw Slovakia's military support for Ukraine in Russia's war if his attempt to return to

The country of 5.5 million

ing the breakup of Czechoslovakia has been a staunch supporter of Ukraine since Russia invaded last February, donating arms and opening the borders for refugees fleeing the war.

Slovakia has delivered to Ukraine its fleet of the Sovietera MiG-29 fighter jets, the S-300 air defense system, helicopters, armoured vehicles and much-needed demining equipment. The current caretaker government is planning to send Ukraine artillery ammunition and to train Ukrainian service members in demining.

Winning approval for sending more arms to Ukraine is getting more difficult in

In the US Congress, a bill to avert a government shutdown in Washington, DC, excluded President Joe Biden's request to provide more security assistance to the war-torn

In other countries, including Germany, France, and

#### **SLOVAKIA ELECTIONS**

Spain, populist parties skeptical of intervention in Ukraine also command significant sup-

Many of these countries have national or regional elections coming up that could tip the balance of popular opinion away from Kyiv and toward Moscow. With no party winning a majority of seats in Slovakia, a coalition government will need to be formed.

The president traditional ly asks an election's winner to try to form a government, so Fico is likely to become prime minister again. He served as prime minister in 2006-2010 and again in 2012-2018. A liberal, pro-West new-

comer, the Progressive Slovakia party, was second, with 18per ent of the votes Its leader Michal Simecka, who is deputy president of the European Parliament, said his

party respected the result. "But

it's bad news for Slovakia," he

said. "And it would be even worse if Robert Fico manages to create a government."

He said he'd like try to form governing coalition if Fico

The left-wing Hlas (Voice) party, led by Fico's former deputy in Smer, Peter Pellegrini, came in third with 14.7 per cent. Pellegrini parted ways with

Fico after the scandal-tainted Smer lost the previous election in 2020, but their possible reunion would boost Fico's chances to form a government. Pellegrini replaced Fico as

prime minister after he was forced to resign after major anti-government street protests following the 2018 killing of journalist Jan Kuciak and his Pellegrini congratulated Fico on his victory but said that

two former prime ministers in one government might not work well. "It's not ideal but

tion can't be created," he said. Another potential coali-

tion partner, the ultranationalist Slovak National Party, a clear pro-Russian group, received 5.6 per cent. Those three parties would have a parliamentary majority if they joined forces in a coalition government.

Fico opposes EU sanctions on Russia, questions whether Ukraine can force out the invading Russian troops and wants to block Ukraine from joining NATO.

He proposes that instead of sending arms to Kyiv, the EU and the US should use their influence to force Russia and Ukraine to strike a compromise peace deal. Fico's critics worry that his return to power could lead Slovakia to abandon its course in other ways, following the path of Hungary under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and to a lesser extent of Poland under the Law and Justice

"It can't be ruled out that he will be looking for a partner

the partner will be Viktor Orbān," said Radoslav Stefancik, an analyst from the University of Economics in Bratislava. Orbán welcomed Fico's victory.

"Always good to work together with a patriot," he posted on X, the former Twitter. "Looking forward to

Hungary has been sanctioned by the EU for alleged rule-of-law violations and corruption, while EU institutions say Poland has been on a slippery slope away from the EU's rule-of-law principles. Fico has threatened to dis-

miss investigators from the

National Criminal Agency and

the special prosecutor who deals with the most serious crimes and corruption. Hungary also has

uniquely among EU countries - maintained close relations with Moscow and argued against supplying arms to Ukraine or providing it with post in Pak's Punjab Lahore (PTI): Pakistan's secuthorough area search conductrity forces on Sunday claimed ed by CTD personnel, two to have thwarted a terror attack bodies were found, said Anwar.

"The operation concluded at 07:45 hours Sunday and it resulted in the recovery of the bodies of two terrorists. One of the terrorists has been identified as Zubair Nawaz, brother of Arshad Nawaz, the chief of TTP Tipu Group of Lakki

Marwat," Anwar said.

Zubair was on the mostwanted list in both Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces due to his involvement in the killings of police officers, Shia Muslims and extortion activities. The second terrorist, Muhammad Khan, was also on the most-wanted terrorist list, said Anwar. At least 59 people were killed in a suicide attack in Mastung, a town 60kms from the capital city of Quetta in Balochistan province on Friday.

## could move into Ukraine

London (AP): Britain's new defence secretary has suggested that British military training of Ukrainian soldiers, which currently takes place at UK bases, could move into western Ukraine. In an interview with the Sunday Telegraph, Grant Shapps said he was in discussions with the British army about "eventually getting the training brought closer and actually into Ukraine as well". Minister Rishi Sunak was quick to rule out speculation of an imminent deployment of British soldiers to Ukraine. Shapps' suggestion was not for the "here and now", Sunak told reporters, but a possibility "for the long term".

"There are no British soldiers that will be sent to fight in the current conflict. That's not what's happening," Sunak said. Russian politicians immediately criticized the pro-

posal. Former President Dmitry Medvedev, who is deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council, claimed Shapps was actively pushing "towards a Third World War".

The British minister "will be turning his instructors into a legal target for our armed forces, knowing perfectly well that they'll be mercilessly destroyed — not as mercenaries, but as NATO specialists," Medvedev wrote on social

Since Russian President

Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine more than 19 months ago, Medvedev, a law school graduate, has emerged as one of the most hawkish Russian officials, regularly issuing blustery remarks that combine Latin mottos and legal expressions with four-letter words. Observers have interpreted Medvedev's rhetoric, which sounds

tougher than the statements of even old-time Kremlin hardliners, as an apparent attempt to curry favour with Putin.

Yan Gagin, advisor to the head of the Russian-occupied part of eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, also dismissed Shapps' idea but without Medvedev's fiery warnings.

"Even if British instructors do organise training for Ukraine's armed forces inside Ukraine, it won't bring any results," Gagin told Russian state news agency RIA

"Ukraine's failed counteroffensive has already shown the level of such training," he added. More than 23,500 recruits from Ukraine have received combat training at army bases across the UK since the start of 2022, receiving instruction on skills that include weapons handling and battlefield first aid.

## British training of Ukrainian soldiers | Ukraine aid dropped from govt funding bill

**AP** ■ WASHINGTON

ongressional supporters of Ukraine say they won't give up after a bill to keep the federal government open excluded President Joe Biden's request to provide more security assistance to the war-torn nation. Still, many lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war between Russia and Ukraine grinds on. Republican resistance to the aid has been gaining momentum in the halls of

Voting in the House this past week pointed to the potential trouble ahead. Nearly half of House Republicans voted to strip USD 300 million from a defence spending bill to train Ukrainian soldiers and purchase weapons. The money later was

approved separately, but opponents of Ukraine support celThen, on Saturday, House

Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., omitted additional Ukraine aid from a measure to keep the government running until November 17. In doing so, he closed the door on a Senate package that would have funneled USD 6 billion to Ukraine, roughly a third of what has been requested by the White Both the House and Senate

overwhelmingly approved the stopgap measure, with members of both parties abandoning the increased aid for Ukraine in favour of avoiding a costly government shutdown.

The latest actions in Congress signal a gradual shift in the unwavering support that the United States has so far pledged Ukraine in its fight against Russia, and it is one of the clearest examples yet of the Republican Party's movement toward a more isolationist stance. The exclusion of

ebrated their growing numbers. Ukraine funding came little more than a week after lawmakers met in the Capitol with President Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who sought to assure lawmakers that his military was winning the war, but stressed that additional aid would be crucial for continuing the fight.

After that visit, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said that one sentence summed up Zelenskyy's message in his meeting with the Senate: "If we don't get the aid, we will lose the war," Schumer said. Yet, McCarthy, pressured

by his right flank, has gone from saying "no blank checks' for Ukraine, with the focus being on accountability, to describing the Senate's approach as putting "Ukraine in front of America.

He declined to say after the vote on government funding whether he would bring aid for Ukraine up for a House vote in the coming weeks.

"If there is a moment in time we need to have a discussion about that, we will have a discussion completely about that, but I think the administration has to make the case for what is victory," McCarthy said. Biden said in a statement after Congress averted a shutdown that "we cannot under any circumstances allow American support for Ukraine to be interrupted."

He called on McCarthy to "keep his commitment to the people of Ukraine" and push through "the support needed to help Ukraine at this critical moment."

In the Senate, both Schumer and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky pledged to move quickly to try and pass the full White House request. But it was clear that goal will be increasingly difficult as more rank-and-file GOP senators have questioned the

aid or demanded that it be attached to immigration policy that would help secure the southern border — echoing similar demands in the House.

Florida Sen. Rick Scott, a Republican who voted for the spending bill after the Ukraine aid was stripped out, said that Congress needs to have "a conversation with the American public." He said he was optimistic after seeing the money taken out of the bill.

"In my state, people want to be helpful to Ukraine, but they also want to be helpful to Americans," Scott said. "And so they want to really understand how this money has been spent." Democrats said they were disappointed by the lack of Ukraine funding, but expressed determination that they would get the aid to the war-torn country. "We will not stop fighting for more economic and security assistance for Ukraine," Schumer said after the bill passed.

#### Sharif's party to approach court for bail before he arrives in Pak

minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party will approach the Lahore High Court (LHC) for his bail before he arrives in the country later

Nawaz, 73, recently said that he is excited to return to Pakistan on October 21, ending a four-year "self-imposed exile" and to lead his party in the election likely to be held in January 2024. The decision to approach the LHC for bail was taken to avoid Nawaz's arrest at Lahore airport because he was declared a proclaimed offender, Geo News reported.

It said it was unclear when the party would exactly approach the court for bail. Citing PML-N officials,

Geo News said the party's legal team would approach LHC for bail a week before the threetime prime minister's return to the country. The PML-N leaders said that the decision to approach the court was dis-

Lahore (PTI): Former prime cussed with Nawaz, his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz in recent meetings held in London.

Citing sources, it said that a protective bail application court just two days before Nawaz's return in which it would be urged that the PML-N supremo should not be arrested for seven days and he would surrender himself before the relevant court. If the bail is approved then Nawaz would not go to jail immediately on his return home and he would also be able to address the public gathering planned at Minare-Pakistan grounds, sources said. PML-N President Shehbaz on Saturday said that the main goal and agenda of Nawaz will be to provide relief to the masses, rescue them from the miserable situation and eradicate economic darkness. He made the comments during a party meeting to review preparations for Nawaz's return to Pakistan.

### Imran, Qureshi named 'principal accused' in cipher case

**PTI** ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan and his close aide Shah Mahmood "principal accused" in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets, a media report said on Sunday. The Federal Investiga-tion Agency (FIA) on Saturday filed a charge sheet in the Special Court established under the Official Secrets Act, declaring Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Khan and Vice Chairman Qureshi "principal accused" in the case, Dawn newspaper reported

Both Khan and Qureshi are currently detained in jail on judicial remand. Khan, 70, was arrested in August after the 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, Oureshi, 67-year-old former foreign minister, was arrested under the Official Secrets Act for violating the secrecy of the official cable sent US to the foreign office when he was the foreign minister.

Khan and Qureshi have been placed in column 3 which describes the names and addresses of the accused sent for trial, the paper said.

The FIA invoked in the charge sheet sections 5 and 9 of the Öfficial Secrets Act which may lead to a death sentence, or two to 14 years' imprisonment if proven. While the investigation agency cited 27 witnesses in the charge sheet, the paper said that about a dozen of them would be produced in the witness box.

The FIA has also attached the transcript of Khan and Qureshi's speeches made on March 27. The cricketerturned-politician is charged with the violation of the

Official Secrets Act in connection with the leakage of a confidential diplomatic cable from Pakistan's embassy Washington.

the vote of no-confidence that resulted in his ouster, Khan pulled out a piece of paper allegedly the cipher - from his pocket and waved it at a public rally in Islamabad, claiming it was the evidence of an "international conspiracy" being hatched to topple his government. However, during the interrogation with the joint investigation team (JIT) in the jail on August 26, Khan denied that the paper he waved at a public gathering last year was the cipher. He also admitted to losing the cipher, saying he couldn't recall where he kept it.

His principal secretary Azam Khan stated before a magistrate and the FIA that the Khan used it for his 'political gains' and to avert a vote of noconfidence against him.



A portrait of Chinese President Xi Jinping is placed in front of Hong Kong activists living in Taiwan during a protest on China's National Day in Taipei, Taiwan, on Sunday

**Maldives opp candidate Muiz** 

### UK museum to sign pact for Shivaji's 'Tiger Claws' journey to India

PTI ■ LONDON

The Victoria and Albert ( V **▲** and A) Museum is all set to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government next week, which will see 17th century 'Tiger Claws' weapon believed to have belonged to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj make a journey back to India for an exhibition.

During a protracted military engagement in 1659, the legendary Maratha leader held metal claws, or wagh nakh, concealed in his hand and is said to have disembowelled his opponent Afzal Khan - the commander of the opposing Bijapur army

It is believed, though unverified, that the set of claws then came into the possession of James Grant Duff, an officer of the East India Company who was appointed Resident or political agent of the Satara state in 1818 and gifted to the V and A by a descendant.

"The V and A looks forward to welcoming senior leadership from the Maharashtra government, to sign a memorandum of understanding," a V and A spokesperson said.

The story of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's triumph over Afzal Khan is legendary, so we are delighted that the 'Tiger Claws' will return to India as part of the 350th anniversary events where they can be enjoyed as part of the celebrations. We hope that their display might also enable new research into their history and look forward to working in partnership with colleagues in the months ahead as we develop plans for their display," the

spokesperson said. The MoU, expected to be signed on Tuesday, coincides with Maharashtra's 350th anniversary celebrations of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji. It is then expected to be dispatched to India later this year for an agreed period.

According to the V and A, the weapon is accompanied by a fitted case made after Grant Duff returned to Scotland. The inscription on the case reads: The 'Wagnuck' of Sivajee With Which He Killed the Moghul General. This Relic was given to Mr. James Grant-Duff of Eden When he was Resident at Satara By the Prime Minister of the Peshwa of the Marathas".

According to historical accounts, Shivaji and Afzal Khan had arranged a truce after political upheavals in order to meet in a tented enclosure, virtually alone.

The V and A description of the history of the 'Tiger Claws' explains: "Both came armed: Shivaji wore mail under his clothes and metal skull protection under his turban. He also held a metal 'Tiger Claws' weapon concealed in his hand. The two men fought, and Shivaji disembowelled his

#### Federal agency sues Chipotle after Kansas manager rips off an employee's hijab Kansas City (AP): A federal on religion, and created a hos-

agency has sued the restaurant chain Chipotle, accusing it of religious harassment and retaliation after a manager at a Kansas location forcibly removed an employee's hijab, a headscarf worn by some Muslim women.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleged that in 2021, an assistant manager at a Chipotle in Lenexa, Kansas, repeatedly harassed the employee by asking her to show him her hair, despite her refusal. After several weeks, the harassment culminated in him grabbing and partially removing her hijab, according to the complaint. The manager's

"offensive and incessant

requests" that she remove her

hijab, and his attempt to phys-

ically take it off, were "unwel-

come, intentional, severe, based

tile working environment based on religion," the complaint alleged.

Chipotle's chief corporate affairs officer, Laurie Schalow, said the company encourages employees to report concerns, including through an anonymous hotline. "We have a zero-tolerance

policy for discrimination of any kind and we have terminated the employee in question," she said in an emailed statement. The harassment began in July 2021, when the manager began asking the employee,

who was 19 at the time, to remove her hijab because he wanted to see her hair. According to the complaint, he demanded to see her hair at least 10 times over the course of one month. She refused on every occasion, say-

ing she wore it because of her

religious beliefs.

#### wins presidential runoff: Media ety." Muiz also requested that Solih transfer former president Abdulla Yameen to house arrest

**AP** ■ MALE

Opposition candidate Mohamed Muiz won the Maldives presidential runoff on Saturday, securing more than 53 per cent of the vote, local media reported. The election has turned

into a virtual referendum on which regional power - India or China — will have the biggest influence in the Indian Ocean archipelago nation. Mihaaru News reported

that incumbent President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih had received 46 per cent of the vote and that Muiz had won by more than 18,000 votes. Official results were expected on Sunday.

"With today's result we have got the opportunity to build the country's future. The strength to ensure the freedom of Maldives," Muiz said in a statement after his victory. "It's time we put our differences aside and come together. We need to be a peaceful socifrom prison.

It was a surprise win for Muiz, who entered the fray as an underdog. He was named only as a fallback candidate closer to the nomination deadline after the Supreme Court prevented Yameen from running because he is serving a prison sentence for money laundering and corruption. Yameen's supporters say he's been jailed for political reasons. "Today's result is a reflection of the patriotism of our people. A call on all our neighbours and bilateral partners to fully respect our independence and sovereignty," said Mohamed Shareef, a top official

of Muiz's party. He said it was also a mandate for Muiz to resurrect the economy and for Yameen's release. Neither Muiz nor Solih got more than 50 per cent in the first round of voting earlier in

Solih, who was elected pres-

ident in 2018, was battling alle-

gations by Muiz that he had allowed Índia an unchecked presence in the country. Muiz's party, the People's National Congress, is viewed as heavily pro-China. Solih has insisted that the Indian military's presence in the Maldives was only to build a dockyard under an agreement between the two governments and that his country's sovereignty won't be violated. Muiz promised that if he won the presidency, he would remove Indian troops from the Maldives and balance the country's trade relations, which he said were heavily in India's favour. Ahmed Shaheed, a former foreign minister of Maldives, termed the election verdict as a public revolt against the government's failure to meet economic and governance expectations rather than concerns over Indian influence.

## **GST** mop-up rises 10 per cent to over ₹1.62 lakh cr in September

PTI NEW DELHI

relped by improved compliance, GST collections pliance, GST collections increased by 10 per cent to over Rs 1.62 lakh crore in September, crossing the Rs 1.6 lakh crore mark for the fourth time during current financial

Gross GST revenue collected last month was Rs 1,62,712 crore. Of this, Central GST was Rs 29,818 crore, State GST was Rs 37,657 crore, Integrated GST was Rs 83,623 crore (including Rs 41,145 crore collected on import of goods) and cess was Rs 11,613 crore (including Rs 881 crore collected on import of

September 2023 was 10 per cent higher than the GST revenue of Rs 1.47 lakh crore in the same month last year, the finance ministry said in a statement on Sunday

"During the month, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 14 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. It is for the fourth time that gross GST collection has crossed Rs 1.60 lakh crore mark in FY 2023-

Gross GST collection in the first half (April-September) of



an increase of 11 per cent from the year-ago period.

Average monthly gross col-lection in April-September FY24 was Rs 1.65 lakh crore, 11 per cent higher than the year-ago period, it said.

As the normal period of limitation for FY17-18 ended on September 30, some of this increased collection could be linked to businesses having settled issues with payment of taxes for the said period, KPMG Indirect Tax Head Abhishek

While Rs 1.6 lakh crore plus seems to be the new normal, this could see a further uptick with

incentive scheme for semicon-

ductor sector is seeing a lot of

traction and some investments

have started flowing in.
"Our humble submission

and perseverance is going to be

to do the same for non-semicon-

ductor component sector also.

For which we request govern-

ment's intervention," said Lall,

who is Vice Chairman &

Managing Director of Dixon

tronics industry body of the

country established in 1967.

ELCINA is the oldest elec-

According to the industry

Technologies.

'India has scope for 130-150 more wide-body aircraft'

**Electronics industry body seeks PLI** 

scheme for non-semicondcutor sectors

the festive season round the corner, he said.

According to Deloitte India partner M S Mani, the September GST collections augur well for the coming months of the festive season and is in line with the other high frequency indicators which reflect an uptick in the economy.

EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said increased GST collection indicates that the economy continues to be on a stable growth trajectory and rising collections from domestic transactions is an indicator that 'Make in India' policies of the government have started showcasing its impact.

electronics and industrial elec-

tronics account for the major

demand (85 per cent) for elec-

tronic components in India. This is followed by computer

electronics and lighting indus-

try contribute to the balance of

the market and industries like

mobile phones, industrial elec-

tronics (due to the advent of

electric vehicles) and strategic

electronics are expected to wit-

ness substantial growth in the

tional passengers from the coun-

try also augur well for the wide-

traffic, the government is also

working on ways to develop

international aviation hubs in

India so that domestic carriers

can ferry passengers directly to

various overseas destinations.

carrying our passengers. That is

the next step of growth we are talking about," Rai said.

With rising air passenger

ELCINA said that strategic

hardware.

 $T^{ ext{he number of resolutions}}$  of stressed assets under the insolvency law is likely to touch 300 this financial year, after rising 80 per cent in the last fiscal, and efforts are on to speed up the process for faster resolutions, senior offi-

the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) ecosystem needs to be pre-pared to deal with 1,000 resolutions.

Under the IBC, which provides for a market-linked and time-bound resolution process of stressed assets, creditors have witnessed recoveries of nearly Rs 3 lakh crore so far and the recovery amount stood at more than Rs 51,000 crore in 2022-23 financial year.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairperson Ravi Mital said the number of resolutions rose 80 per cent to 180 in the last financial year and is likely to touch 300 this year (2023-24 fiscal) and added that till August 2023, the resolutions stood at around 135.

Further, he urged insolvency resolution professionals to speed up their efforts in

He also stressed that the law is not a recovery mechanism but a resolution mech-

to speed up the resolution process and that the government is willing to take up make the resolution process

Mentioning about the pace of resolutions under the IBC, Govil said this financial year, the expectation is that the number of resolutions will go up to 300 and also wondered whether that is "sufficient" to unclog the

Citing a study, he said that around 5,000 new cases are filed every year under the

ecosystem should have the capacity to deal with at least 1,000 resolutions.

Efforts are on to make

the resolution process faster and more smooth. This can be done by filling up posts, improving processes and regulations, among others, he As many as 300 resolu-

tions will be good but the ecosystem should be prepared to deal with 1,000 cases, Govil said.

NCLT President Chief Justice (Retd) Ramalingam Sudhakar stressed on prepackaged insolvency resolution process in the context of Micro, Small and Medium

Enterprises (MSMEs).

"Post Covid, it has been shown very evidently that MSMEs are in great distress... The next phase of evolution in the IBC should

Further, Sudhakar said an incremental approach is proposed for the development of a comprehensive and overarching platform for

The system should be

ecosystem," he said. Sudhakar also mentioned the need for develop-ing an AI-enabled centralised

e-platform for case management before the NCLT. An AI-enabled platform of the NCLT that will handle

all processes, including delivery of notices and fixing of

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal Justice Ashok Bhushan said the judiciary's role in interpreting the IBC has been

Through judgements, it has not only resolved disputes but has also shaped the IBC's evolution ensuring that it remains a robust and effective tool for insolvency and bankruptcy in India, he said and added that technology has been a force multiplier in

### 'Resolutions under insolvency law likely to touch 300 this fiscal'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

cials said on Sunday.

Corporate Affairs
Secretary Manoj Govil said

resolving the cases.

Speaking at the event in the national capital to mark the seventh annual day of the IBBI, a key institution in implementing the IBC, Mital said the law is a factor in the reduction of non-performing

Govil said efforts are on

IBC and added that the IBC

BYJU'S targets to reach break-even

be to fine tune... Pre-packaged insolvency," he said.

the insolvency ecosystem.

AI-enabled with a proper decision support system and must have technology... For an integrated case management system... AI will be considered for suitable deployment as part of future contours in the insolvency

hearings, with minimal human interface is another area of focus, he added.

transformative.

implementation and evolution of the IBC.

### Tata Motors total sales in domestic market rise 2 per cent to 80,633 units in September

PTI NEW DELHI

 $T \hbox{ata Motors Ltd on Sunday} \\ T \hbox{reported a 2 per cent rise in} \\ \hbox{its total domestic vehicle sales at} \\$ 82,023 units in September, as against 80,633 units in the same month last year.

Passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market, including electric vehicles, were down 6 per cent at 44,809 units last month, as compared to 47,654 units in September 2022, Tata Motors said in a regulatory fil-

Electric vehicle sales, including in international markets were at 6,050 units as compared to 3,864 units in the year-ago month, a growth of 57 per cent.
"Passenger vehicle sales

remained strong in Q2 FY24 driven by new launches and prefestive offtakes. Tata Motors posted quarterly sales of 1,38,939 cars and SUVs in Q2 FY24, about 2.7 per cent below our highest ever quarter, Q2 FY23," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said.

He further said, "Our EV business continues its strong momentum and has posted growth of about 55 per cent vear-on-vear.

PTI NEW DELHI

Vestian.

In Q2 FY24, the company

verage monthly rentals for

Aprime office space in India's

top seven cities are very low at

USD 0.4-2 per square feet,

which is one of the major factors

driving demand for workspace

from global firms, according to

Vestian on Sunday released

rentals data for major cities

globally, which showed that

Real estate consultant



extended the innovative twincylinder CNG offering to Tiago, Tigor and Punch, which have been received well by the mar-

The company said its total commercial vehicles sales were higher by 12 per cent at 39,064

Director Girish Wagh said the company's commercial vehicles domestic sales stood at 99,178 in Q2FY24, 6 per cent higher than

mercial vehicles segment saw a strong growth of 24 per cent over Q2 of FY23, fuelled by continued government infrastructure push, robust replacement demand, and growth in core sectors, along with sustained growth from the e-commerce sector," he added.

average rent in New York,

London, Miami, Seattle and

Boston is USD 40-80 per sq ft

Singapore and Shanghai are

USD 3-8 per sq ft a month.

Vestian said the demand for

office spaces in the medium to

long term would remain strong

in India's seven big cities because

Vestian, said: "Indian office mar-

Shrinivas Rao, CEO,

of cost-effectiveness.

Rentals in Hong Kong,

#### or computer chips sector which is dominated by imports, a senior official of the organisation Industries Association of India (ELCINA) report, total electronic component market in the country was estimated to be around USD 39 billion, of which

ket, Chandra added.

units in September 2023, as compared to 34,890 units in September 2022. Tata Motors Executive

"Medium and heavy com-

have 130-150 more wide-body planes as airlines expand their operations and there is also the potential for more such aircraft to be deployed in dense domestic routes, GE Aerospace South Asia CEO Vikram Rai said. GE Aerospace, a leading aircraft engine maker, sees a "great potential" in India, which is also

India's fast-growing civil aviation market has the scope to

PTI NEW DELHI

Electronics industry body ELCINA has requested the

government to come up with a

production linked incentive

scheme for non-semiconductor

According to Electronic

the world's third largest aviation market and domestic airlines have nearly 1,500 aircraft on

"India is a focus market and a

ket has grown leaps and bounds

in the past decade due to robust

demand from large multination-

al companies. These companies

set up their operations in India

spaces in India is expected to be

buoyant amid current macro-

economic uncertainty across

the globe as companies are

majorly focusing on optimizing

operational costs for their busi-

The demand for office

to reap the cost benefits."

priority market for GE Aerospace", Rai said that in his view, domestic airlines would consider having more wide-body planes in their fleet and also deploy them in dense domestic routes. "I see widebody aircraft as a growth path for us and the airlines which is a win-win (scenario)," he told PTI in a recent interview.

68 per cent requirement was met

While speaking at 48th ELCINA Award Ceremony,

organisation's new President

Atul B Lall said that the govern-

ment's scheme for devices has

been hugely successful and the

through imports in 2021-22.

Currently, India has around 700 commercial planes in operation and out of them, there are only about 50 wide-body aircraft. Air India has around 49 wide-body aircraft in its fleet while IndiGo has two wet-While emphasising that leased wide-body planes in

As per the data, the average

per square feet monthly rentals

in New York is USD 60-80,

London USD 60-70, Miami

USD 55-65, Seattle USD 45-55,

Boston USD 40-50, Hong Kong

USD 6-8, Singapore USD 6-8,

Mumbai commands an average

monthly rentals at USD 1-2 per

square feet, Delhi USD 0.5-1.5,

Bengaluru USD 0.8-1.2, Pune

USD 0.7-1.1, Chennai USD 0.6-

Among Indian cities,

Shanghai USD 3-4.



In the current wide-body ments required. So, there is body planes in India," Rai said

#### Currently, a majority of the people flying from India to international destinations travel by connecting flights operated by foreign carriers. "We have to get to a point where we can get end-to-end

fleet, there would be replace-'scope to add 130-150 wideand added that rising interna-

0.9, Hyderabad USD 0.6-0.9

and Kolkata USD 0.4-0.7 per

Delhi's central business district

(Connaught Place and adjoining

area) the average rent is USD 3-

multinational corporations have

set up their offices in India to

effectively manage and execute

real-time tasks across the globe

from their Indian base.

4 per square feet a month.

In Mumbai's BKC and

Vestian noted that several

square feet.

Average office rent in top 7 cities at \$0.4-2/sq ft: Vestian "This preference is chiefly driven by substantial cost advantage associated with operating from India, as the cost of occupancy and overall operational expenses in India are notably lower in comparison to many

> The availability of highquality talent pool at an affordable rate is also an important factor for MNCs to set up offices in India, it added.

other countries," the consul-

### **Luminous Power aims to** double growth in 4 years; to invest ₹2,000 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Energy storage solutions company Luminous Power Technologies aims to double its growth in the next four years, and is looking at solar energy vertical as a major growth enabler, where it is investing substantially, CEO Preeti Bajaj said.

Luminous Power, now completely owned by French engineering company Schneider Electric, has plans to invest around Rs 2,000 crore in capacity expansion of its existing plants, a solar greenfield project, research and development (R&D), digitisation, brand building and channel engage-

The company sees solar as a "growing market" and reach an "inflection" point in the next 2-3 years in terms of cost, as demand for clean energy sources is going to rise, where Luminous Power aims to be a leading company in this transformation journey here, she said. "Our vision is that solar will be a substantial part of our business," said Bajaj

With the rise in per capita income and increase in power

consumption due to multiple appliances in urban households, the demand is shifting towards higher capacity inverters, batteries and residential solar adoption. It is in the process of opening a PV (photovoltaic) module factory at its Rudarpur plant in January, which will have 500 MW to 1 GW (expandable) solar production capacity. 'For the organisation, the growth engines to increase mar-

ket capitalisation include a stronger focus on solar products. Solar is important towards sustainable and profitable growth," she said. The company is making "forward-looking investments" to build capacity for solar prod-

ucts and create an ecosystem,

which Bajaj sees "as a manufac-

turing imperative and an opportunity".

"We believe in this market and it is growing at 25 per cent. We want to play a part in that and to that effect, we are bringing new products to market,'

Besides, Luminous Power in collaboration with its channel partners is providing solar solutions to its customers as

said Bajaj

### Maruti Suzuki posts highest ever monthly sales in September

PTI NEW DELHI

nesses, Rao added.

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Sunday said its total wholesales increased 3 per cent year-on-year to 1,81,343 units in September, its best ever in a

The country's largest carmaker had dispatched 1,76,306 units to dealers in the same month last year Total domestic passenger

vehicle sales rose to 1,50,812 units last month, up 2 per cent from 1,48,380 units in September 2022, MSI said in a statement. In the April-September

period, the company's total sales

crossed the 10-lakh sales mark.

units in the first half of the cur-

MSI dispatched 10,50,085

rent fiscal as compared with 9.85,326 units in the same peri od of last fiscal.

It is for the first time that the company surpassed the half-yearly sales mark of 1 million units, the automaker

In September, the company

said the sales of its entry level cars -- Alto and S-Presso stood at 10,351 units, down 65 per cent from 29,574 units in the year-ago period. Sales of compact cars also declined to 68,552 units last

September 2022. Utility vehicle dispatches, however, witnessed a jump of 82 per cent to 59,271 units last month from 32,574 units in September last year.

month from 72,176 units in

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Edtech major BYJU'S has set the target to become profitable by March 2024 on account of consolidation and restructuring of the organisation and settlement on USD 1.2 billion loan, sources aware of the devel-

The company has undertaken exercise to reduce workforce by about 3,000-3,500 this month by ending duplication in roles across the organisation. "Think and Learn Private

Ltd (TLPL) restructuring will see the current operations spread across several business units streamlined into four core areas of K-12, test prep, online and

hybrid. The business restructuring, aimed at matching resources with cash flows, will see the company achieve break-even by coming March, in fourth quarter of current fiscal," a source said.

by March, hive off Epic

BYJU'S declined to comment on a query sent in this

TLPL operates under BYJU's brand name.

BYJU'S had earlier set the target to become profitable by March 2023. BYJÚ'S booked a loss of Rs 4,588 crore for fiscal year ended March 31, 2021, 19 times more than the preceding The losses in the 2020-21

fiscal widened from Rs 231.69



crore in 2019-20. Revenues during FY21 dropped to Rs 2,428 crore from Rs 2,511 crore in FY20. But in the fiscal ending March 31, 2022, the company had announced increase of revenue by four-fold to Rs 10,000 crore. However, it did not reveal

profit or loss numbers for that The company has convened

a meeting of shareholders in the second week of October to finalise its delayed financial results for 2021-22.

"BYJU'S is in talks with investors to hive off EPIC to help settle USD 1.2 billion Term Loan B. The company wants to dispose it off within 150 days. The proposal has gone to lenders and their response is awaited," the source said.

Another source said that if required, BYJU'S may hive off Great Learning too, but it expects that the money raised through EPIC sale will meet its requirement.

### Hyundai reports highest ever monthly sales in September at 71,641 units

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor India on Sunday said its total wholesales increased 13 per cent yearon-year to 71,641 units in September, its highest ever in a The country's second largest

carmaker had dispatched 63,201

units to dealers in September last

cent from 49,700 units in September 2022, Hyundai Motor India said in a statement. Exports were higher at 17,400 units last month from 13,501 units in September 2022,

year. Domestic sales last month

rose to 54,241 units, up 9 per

an increase of 29 per cent. "While the industry grew by 2 per cent last month, our

domestic dispatches were up 9 per cent. The share of SUV sales in our overall volumes continues to grow," Hyundai Motor India ČOO Tarun Garg told The ongoing festive season

momentum, helping the

automaker achieve 9 per cent

growth, he added.

the exceptional customer response to the newly launched Exter," Garg said. The company has garnered has resulted in strong sales

over 80,000 bookings for its recently introduced micro SUV Exter, he added. Garg said SUVs now con-

"Our strong SUV portfolio

has received a further boost with

sized SUV segment. Garg noted that despite var-

the company's domestic sales. He said that despite enhanced

competition in the market, Creta

continues to lead in the mid-

ious challenges like high interest rates and inflation in the market, the automaker remains positive about its sales perfortribute more than 65 per cent to mance this year.

## Alcaraz, Sabalenka sail through at China Open

op seeds Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka both breezed into the next round of the China Open with routine victories on Sunday.

Alcaraz sealed a place in the men's quarter-finals with a smooth 6-2, 6-2 victory over Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in

Beijing.
The world number two overpowered his opponent and seized the first set when Musetti whacked a baseline backhand into the net.

The Spaniard then broke serve twice in the second set and saw out a comfortable match with an unreturned serve.

He will next face Casper Ruud after the world number nine came back to beat Argentina's Tomas Etcheverry 1-6, 7-5, 7-6 (9-7). "I feel great, honestly. It was

a good performance against a really tough opponent," Alcaraz said at a post-match press brief-

"(My level) didn't (go) up and down. I stayed at a high level, high quality, during the whole match," the 20-year-old

A sticking point in the tournament's early rounds has been the match balls, which Alcaraz's main challenger Daniil

Medvedev described on

Saturday as "like a grapefruit". Alcaraz said Sunday he had also felt the distinct quality of the balls -- allegedly quick to fluff up -- "since day one". "It's something tough, but

tennis players have to get used to the balls in every tournament," he said in response to a question from AFP.

"Here, in just one or two games, the balls become really different from (when they're) new. It's a kind of different (style of) play," he said.

Also on Sunday, world number seven Jannik Sinner obliterated Japan's Yoshihito

Nishioka 6-2, 6-0.

The Italian will play a quarter-final against either fourth-ranked Holger Rune or Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov, who play each other on Sunday

#### SUPER SABALENKA

Earlier, world number one Aryna Sabalenka sailed into the second round of the women's draw with an imperious 6-1, 6-2 defeat of American Sofia Kenin.

The Belarusian pummelled Kenin with a succession of mighty serves and groundstrokes and wrapped up the opening set with an ace after just



twice more in the second set as Kenin -- playing with heavy strapping on her left thigh --failed to muster a response. Sabalenka sealed the match

with yet another unreturned serve to set up a tie against either Magdalena Frech or Katie

Boulter in the next round. "Honestly, I didn't expect to play that good on my serve -- in practice, it didn't work very

well," Sabalenka said at a postmatch briefing. "But I was super hyped that I was able to bring that level on my serve today. I think it helped a lot," she said.

"I think that was the key of

today's match." The China Open is taking

place for the first time since 2019 after Beijing ended its isolationist zero-Covid policies. All of the eight top-ranked

men are taking part except ten-nis legend Novak Djokovic, while all of the women's top eight are in action.

The women's tournament is also the first since its global governing body ended a boycott of China this year. The embargo had been

declared after Chinese player Peng Shuai made sexual assault accusations against a top government official.



## **Jerome Boateng** trains with **Bayern Munich**

**AFP** ■ MUNICH (GERMANY)

ermany defender Jerome GBoateng trained with Bayern Munich on Sunday, amid reports the centre-back may be set to make a return to the Bundesliga champions.

The club wrote on its website that Boateng was "among those involved" in Sunday's session, adding the defender "will continue to train over the coming days".

Free since the expiry of his contract with Lyon in June, Boateng, 35, could serve as a backup solution for Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel.

Bayern currently have only three recognised central defenders Dayot Upamecano, Kim Min-Jae and Matthijs de Ligt -- with the lat-ter having missed his side's 22 draw with RB Leipzig on Saturday due to injury.

Tuchel was also forced to

play midfielder Leon Goretzka and wing-back Noussair Mazraoui in central defence in Bayern's Cup tie against Muenster on Tuesday, which the German champions won 4-

Boateng played for Bayern from 2011 to 2021, winning the 2013 and 2020 Champions League titles, as well as the 2014 World Cup with Germany.

Boateng is also currently undergoing a continuing court procedure in Bavaria for domestic violence.

A German court last month threw out the assault conviction against Boateng for attacking his ex-girlfriend in 2018 and ordered a new

Four Paris Saint-Germain players on Sunday apologised for offensive chants aimed at rivals Marseille after a Ligue 1 game, saying they "sincerely regretted" their words. French internationals Ousmane

Dembele, Randal Kolo Muani, and Layvin Kurzawa and Moroccan Achraf Hakimi were filmed singing an



PSG players apologise for anti-Marseille chants

insulting song towards Marseille fans after a 4-0 victory at the Parc des Princes on September 24.

"We let ourselves get carried away by the euphoria and we sincerely regret the words we should not have said and would like to apologise," the four said in identical posts on social

"We are well aware of the impact of our actions and our words on the public, notably the youngest who dream watching a football match," they continued, adding "in the future, we will do everything to further respect our duty to set an example". Homophobic chants were also

sung during this match by Parisian supporters for several minutes.

The club and its four players will appear before the French football league's disciplinary committee next Thursday, the day after PSG's Champions League trip to Newcastle.

## Kudermetova beats Pegula to win Pan Pacific Open



**AFP** ■ TOKYO

 $R^{ussia's} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{Veronika} \\ \text{Kudermetova won the Pan} \end{array}$ Veronika Pacific Open in Tokyo on Sunday, upsetting tennis' world number four Jessica Pegula in straight sets.

19th-ranked The Kudermetova overwhelmed the American 7-5, 6-1 in an hour and 24 minutes.

"I knew it would be a tough final... I need to fight for every ball and today it worked really well," she said

"I'm really happy that I managed to win my second title," said the 26-year-old, who won her first WTA singles title

in Charleston in 2021.

She beat Pegula in three sets on the clay in Madrid this "I played better today than

in Madrid," Kudermetova said, adding that Pegula "always fights and plays solidly every "Today I followed my

game and my plan" to play agressively, she said.

Kudermetova had a tough semi-final, needing three hours and 25 minutes to defeat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova. She stunned four-time

Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek in the quarters. Pegula was aiming for her

second title of the season following victory last month in Montreal.

Kudermetova "put a lot of pressure on me at the beginning so it made it very tough", the American said.

"Luckily I was able to get back to the first set but I just don't think I was serving well enough... She was a better player today."

The 29-year-old went into the US Open dreaming of a first ever Grand Slam title, but her campaign came to an abrupt halt as compatriot and close friend Madison Keys recorded a dominant win in slagged offside.
iust 61 minutes. VAR official Darren



## **VAR officials stood down** after Liverpool goal error

The match officials at fault ■ for a botched VAR call that cost Liverpool a goal in their 2-1 defeat at Tottenham on Saturday have been removed from duty for the rest of the Premier League weekend.

Referees' body the PGMOL admitted a "significant human error" had meant Luis Diaz's strike, when the game was level at 0-0, was not awarded by a VAR review after being

official at Sunday's Premier League match between Nottingham Forest and

And his assistant VAR Dan Cook was to be assistant referee for Monday's west London derby between Fulham and Chelsea. Spurs struck in the 96th

Brentford.

minute through Joel Matip's own goal to edge a highly controversial encounter.

Liverpool were reduced to nine men as Curtis Jones and Diogo Jota were sent-off either

"I never saw a game like

this with the most unfair circumstances, crazy decisions," said Liverpool boss Jurgen PGMOL chief Howard

Webb apologised to the Reds after the match for the error that ruled out Diaz's strike.

This was a clear and obvi ous factual error and should have resulted in the goal being awarded through VAR intervention, however, the VAR failed to intervene," the PGMOL said in a statement.

Spaniard saw an opening to race to

ning of the race I was very calm,

just tried to understand the tyres,"

Marquez said.
"When I saw that there was

water on the track, I started to attack and I was increasing the speed step by step," he said. South African Brad Binder on

KTM crashed out early in the race.

He set a lap record on Friday, before Martin renewed it on

was not allowed to return to the

race after he took a shortcut to get

Johann Zarco also crashed and

I enjoyed (it). In the begin-

the podium.

## Martin 3 points off Bagnaia with wet Japan MotoGP win

AFP MOTEGI (JAPAN)

**T**orge Martin narrowed the gap on championship leader Francesco Bagnaia to just three points with six races left on Sunday after winning a Japan MotoGP cut short by

Starting from pole, the Spaniard had already cut the difference to Italy's Bagnaia to only eight points on Saturday with his third straight sprint victory and

fifth of the season. Ducati's Bagnaia came second in the race, giving the defending world champion 319 points compared to 316 for Martin from Ducati satellite team Pramac. Marc

Marquez took third. The 24-lap race began under overcast skies and light rain quickly intensified once the race start-

ed in mountainous Motegi This made for treacherous

a sea of spray, and most riders came into the pits early on to change tyres. Martin and Bagnaia worked

their way back to the top of the field before organisers suspended the race with 12 laps to go. They attempted a restart but the red flags quickly came out

ed full points according to their positions at the stoppage.
"I was committed to do a great result today," Martin said after-

again and the riders were award-

"I felt really good with the rear grip and I was able to overtake all of them (after the pit stop) and make this gap to win today," he

"I'm so so happy. Luckily everybody's away but it was too dangerous to keep going," he

Bagnaia said he was happy conditions with slippery turns and with the result but said he thought



he could have overtaken Martin. "I was hoping to do more laps

to catch Jorge because I was trying to gain (on him) lap by lap without pushing too much," he said. Unluckily, we didn't have time

to finish the race... I think, with the time management, I was quite competitive in the last part of the race," he said.

Looking ahead, Bagnaia said competition was turning more "difficult" and "intense" as he duelled with Martin for the cham-

"I think it will be interesting. Could be a great fight. For sure, it's more intense right now. It's more difficult," he said.

Six-time world champion Marquez on Honda made his first

podium finish of the year at the home circuit of the Japanese brand. He started from the third row,

but as rain caused other riders to

Last weekend, Martin had already narrowed the difference to 13 points in India in Greater Noida.

back into the pit lane.

Saturday.

go wide or even into gravel, the

1 seconds later by Bagnaia, and 0.353 seconds by 2022 Japanese GP winner Jack Miller on KTM.

## Sable becomes 1st Indian to win 3000m steeplechase title

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

A vinash Sable became the first Indian man to win the gold medal in 3000m steeplechase at the Asian Games while shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor defended his title with an amazing final throw to beat back the challenge from his Saudi Arabian rival here on

Sable, the 29-year-old national record holder, earned India its first gold medal in athletics, completing the race in 8:19.50 seconds.

Sable rewrote the previous Asian Games record of 8:22.79 held in the name of Iran's Hossein Keyhani set at the 2018 Jakarta Games.

Sudha Singh had won a gold in women's 3000m steeplechase in the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou.

Toor, the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games gold medallist, came up with a mighty throw of 20.36 metres on his sixth and last attempt to overhaul his Saudi rival Mohamed Daouda Tolo's distance of 20.18 metres.

Toor, however, could not break his own Asian Games record of 20.75m set in 2018 Jakarta. But the 28-year-old's final throw was way too good for his Saudi rival to overhaul in his final attempt.

In the 1500m for women,



silver while Ajay Kumar Saroj and Jinson Johnson won silver and bronze respectively in the men's 1500m.

Earlier, the toast of the nation in the last edition, Indian heptathlete Swapna Barman's one "last shot" at turned into a nightmare as she struggled with injuries to virtually go out of medal reckoning after the javelin

glory at the Asian Games

The defending champion, who boasts of a personal best

of 52.55m in javelin throw, managed a throw of just 45.13 in the penultimate event of the gruelling two-day compe-

Javelin throw was one of the two events Swapna had

becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian ames gold.

Overall, Swapna was ranked fourth with 4840 points, 11 points behind her nearest rival Jingyi Liu of China ahead of the 800m

### **India floored by China** in basketball; qualify for quarterfinal

PTI N HANGZHOU (CHINA)

The Indian women made it to the quarterfinal despite being pummelled by China in their 5x5 bas-ketball final group-stage match in the ongoing Asian Games here on Sunday.

Indian team suffered a crushing 53-111 defeat, which was its maiden loss in the sport this term, having won the previous two matches versus Indonesia (66-46) and Mongolia (68-62).

race, which is the last segment

of the seven-event competi-

The other Indian in the fray, Nandini Agasara notched a personal best of 39.88m in javelin throw that took her overall ranking to

Earlier in the day, Swapna

Barman leapt 5.71m in the long jump, while Nandini Agasara had a season-best

ification in the sport is earned by the combined ranking of the teams in the tournament post-completion of the group stage, i.E. The top eight-ranked sides, where the Indians are cur-

rently ranked sixth.

It is India's fifth appearance in the competition in this sport, having finished ninth in the presions addition in Jakarta. vious edition in Jakarta-Palembang 2018, whereas its best performance came in its first appearance in New Delhi 1982, finishing

The quarterfinal qual-

5.94m jump. With her career ravaged by a spinal injury, the six-toed Indian athlete had contemplated retirement last year. But she took one last shot at glory and came to Hanghzou in her title defence bid.

This year she won the Inter-State meet and also bagged a silver medal in the build-up to the Asian Games. She also avoided surgery so as

to ensure that she does not miss her training despite a

bad back. "But her body condition could not cope up and she failed to get a good start," her coach Subhash Sarkar told

"She was expecting a good result in high jump but a fourth place finish shattered her and she couldn't recover from there." he added

from there," he added. Swapna had a jump of 1.70m, which was nowhere close to her personal best of 1.87. "The poor start has affected her morale and it showed in today's javelin throw event. It's as good as

throw event. It's as good as over," Sarkar said of Swapna's prospects this time.

Earlier, India's Amlan Borgohain finished at the third position after clocking 21.08 seconds in the men's 200m heats and advanced to the semifinal the semifinal.

The first three athletes in each heat make the cut for the semi-finals. The top four times from all the heats who have not made the cut will also advance to the semifinals.

The sprinter from Assam, currently the country's fastest, holds both the men's 100m and 200m national records.

However, Jyothi Yarraji failed to make the cut for the women's 200m final. The Indian had a timing of 23.78s.

Yarraji, however, is in contention for a medal in women's 100m hurdles.

# India sign off with first-ever team silver after losing to China

Injured HS Prannoy's absence hurt India as they went down fighting 2-3 against badminton powerhouse China to sign off with their first-ever silver medal in the men's team championships at the Asian Games here on

After world No. 7 Prannoy was ruled out due to a back injury, Lakshya Sen produced a gutsy show in the first singles and doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then bossed over their opponents to put India 2-0 ahead. So, it was once again left to

Kidamby Srikanth to carry the team on his shoulders. The former world No. 1, who had produced a gritty show against South Korea in the semifinals, couldn't go the distance this time despite a healthy lead and multiple game points as China fought back to make it 1-2.

won the remaining two matches to maintain their hegemony in the Asian Games. With Prannoy missing the summit clash, Sen was handed the responsibility of leading the Indian charge. Sen recovered from a mid-game



slump to erase a five-point deficit in the decider and put India ahead with a 22-20 14-21 21-18 win over world No. 6 Shi

World No. 3 men's doubles pair of Satwik and Chirag then went on a smashing spree to outclass world No. 2. Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang 21-15 21-18 in 55 minutes to extend the

Srikanth, however, squandered an 18-14 lead and multiple game points in the first game to go down 22-24 9-21 Shifeng in the third singles to expose India's weakest link -- the second doubles and third singles matches.

Scratch pair of Dhruv Kapila and Sai Pratheek Krishna Prasad then lost 6-21 15-21 to world No. 8 Liu Yu Chen

and Ou Xuan Yi, while Prannoy's replacement Mithun Manjunath, ranked 53, went down 12-21 4-21 against world No. 20 Weng Hong Yang in the third singles as India finished second best. Despite the loss, it is a creditable performance from the Indian team as it sealed India's second 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. The last time the Indian men won

a badminton medal in the team championships was at the 1986 edition in Seoul where Sen's mentors Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar played a

India now has 11 badminton medals in the Asian Games, including three individual singles medals, one silver and three bronze in the men's team, two women's team bronze and one medal each in men's doubles and mixed

Up against Shi Yuqi, Sen dictated the pace of the rallies to lead 11-6 at the interval. The duo played some exciting rallies with Sen keeping the pressure on his Chinese rival with his resolute defence to lead 15-10.

## Nikhat signs off with bronze

fifth place.

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen's long winning streak came to an end as she signed off with a bronze medal while Parveen Hooda grabbed a Paris Olympic quota at the Asian Games here on Sunday.

Competing in the women's 50kg category, Zareen lost a fiercely contested 50kg semifinal battle 2-3 to two-time world championships medallist Raksat Chuthamat of Thailand. Parveen, who won the

bronze medal in the 63kg at the World Boxing Championships, moved past Uzbekistan's Turdibekova by unanimous verdict to move the 57kg semifinal and confirm India a

The in-form Zareen, who has dropped down from her preferred 52kg weight class as it doesn't feature in the Paris since October's National Championships in 2021. She had even out-punched Chuthamat at the world championships earlier this year.

But on Sunday, Chuthamat

came well prepared for the Indian pugilist, who has stamped her authority in the international arena.

After losing the first round on three cards, the Thai boxer cramped Zareen and resorted to clinching every time the Indian tried to mount an

incredible run in the past coutigious Strandja Memorial boxing tournament, two world championships and the Commonwealth Games.

She returns home with not only a bronze but also an

Olympic quota. Parveen and wins quota, Jaismine crashes out

Parveen, the reigning Asian champion was in her elements from the word go, using her long arms to throw punches from a distance and control the proceedings.
She switched between the

Zareen has enjoyed an left jab and the right cross to unnerve the 21-year-old gic bout as after going on the offensive in the opening round, she waited for Turdibekova to come forward, only to pummel her with accurate scoring

## Slow bowling issue but can't rule them out

Never judge a book by its cover and rule out an Australian cricket team from title contention at your own peril, are the two old concrete jungle sayings.

The five-time ICC ODI World Cup champions, at least on paper, can't be rated ahead of India and England during this edition of the tournament.

But the quality of this team is such that one won't be surprised if it pulls a rabbit out of the hat at some point in time during the tournament.

Australia begin their cam-paign against India in Chennai on October 8. Here's the SWOT Analysis

STRENGTH

The strength of this Australian team is certainly its batting, which does have a lot of depth with capable hitters right down till No. 9 in the line-up. David Warner is no doubt playing his last ODI tournament and has been in ominous form during the pre-cursor against India.

The maverick southpaw would like one final hurrah and

a second 50-over silverware in his cabinet before calling time on his illustrious career. Travis Head's injury has given Mitchell Marsh a chance to open and the big all-rounder has taken to the role like fish to water. Steve Smith, Cameron Green, Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis are all big hitters and good players of spin bowling, which

is an advantage. **WEAKNESS** 

The real weakness of this side is the spin bowling department which only has one specialist spinner Adam Zampa.



Missing Ashton Agar's restrictive wicket to wicket bowling in sub-continental conditions is going to affect them on tracks

where there would be some turn on offer and the odd ball will be gripping off the surface.

Maxwell's part-time off-spin is likely to come in handy as it was evident in Rajkot during the third ODI last week. But expecting 10 overs on most days from Maxwell will be a bit too much and Zampa's form since the tour of South Africa has tapered off a bit. He has been pretty expensive in the past few games.

OPPORTUNITIES

The number of all-rounders in the Aussie ranks gives them the chance to create opportuni-

ties like no other team. Green, Stoinis, Maxwell, Marsh (if he bowls) give the team a multidimensional look and there remains a lot of cover in case one of them has an off-day.

Not to forget when Travis Head gets fit, he can also bowl some part-time spin. Also the experienced skipper Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood is possibly on par with Pakistan and India if not better. Left-armer Starc could be inconsistent but the day he gets deliveries to dart in, most top batters find him unplayable.



in women's hockey

**PTI** ■ HANGZHOU

The Indian women's hockey team was held to a 1-1 draw by South Korea but the Savita Punia-led unbeaten side still continued to lead its pool in the Asian Games here on Sunday.

Navneet Kaur (44th min) scored the equaliser for the higher-ranked India after Cho Hyejin (12th) had put South Korea ahead at the Gongshu

Canal Sports Park Stadium. Thanks to the draw, the Indian team, currently ranked sixth in the world, held onto the top spot in Pool A by goal dif-

ference over 12-ranked Korea. The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the

semi-finals. India crushed Singapore

Both teams looked to score from the word go but the Koreans had the first opportunity of the match when Cho Hyejin shot at the goal. However, Deep Grace Ekka effected a fine save to keep India from going behind.

The Koreans, though, took the lead minutes later as Cho Hyejin scored off a penalty stroke after she was fouled by Udita inside the circle. The first quarter ended with Korea 1-0 ahead with the Indians lacking the finishing skills upfront.

Desperate to find the equaliser, India earned a few penalty corners but none of them resulted in a goal as the first half ended with South Korea leading by a goal.

The third quarter also went along similar lines until Navneet found the back of the net off a penalty corner.

## Floored by Rohit's talent, fascinated by Singham: Shadab

PTI HYDERABAD

Tackling a marauder like Rohit Sharma is right at the top of leg-spinner Shadab Khan's check-list but when the Indian skipper doesn't occupy his mind-space, the Pakistan vicecaptain doesn't shy away from expressing his love for Bollywood movies and local food.

Ajay Devgn would have lit-tle clue about how big an impression he had made on Shadab.

Glancing at the top cop from Hyderabad police manning the media conference

room, the leg-spinner couldn't

help saying: "Singham bhi aaye hain yaha pe. (I see Singham is also present here)?

The reference of super-hit Bollywood cop movie wasn't lost on anyone as Shadab spoke with a lot of warmth about how the 'City of Nizams' have received their cricket team with open arms.

"The welcome was fantastic at the (Hyderabad) airport and also a lot of people have been thronging the team hotel and hospitality wise it's been really good," Shadab told mediapersons during the first official media conference organised by



Hyderabadi food is meant to tickle everyone's taste buds and Shadab is no different.

'The food has been really tasty and the support staff (all South Africans) are worried that we end up increasing our fat percentage (laughs). Hope, we

get the same love in Ahmedabad where we play India (laughs)," said Shadab referring to his team's much-awaited clash against the arch-rivals on October 14. As the discussion turned

towards cricket, the reverence for Rohit was there to be seen. He also picked up Kuldeep Yadav as the most dangerous Indian bowler. "I admire Rohit Sharma a lot and among the leading bats-

men in the world he is the most

difficult to bowl to. Once he gets

set he becomes very dangerous.

Among the bowlers, since I am

a leg-spinner, it will be Kuldeep

Yadav given his recent form," where four of his six wickets said Shadab. came against Nepal and he 'We have learnt from our Asia Cup mistakes"

Pakistan failed to defend 346 against the New Zealand and have plenty to think about in the bowling department including the form of premier spinner Shadab who did not bowl in the warm-up but had a forgettable Asia Cup. The next warm-up game is against Australia on October 3.

His form is key for Pakistan in the middle-overs and the 24year-old had no qualms in admitting that he did not have the best of times in Asia Cup

ended with an average of 40.83.

The Asia Cup didn't go well but that's the beauty of cricket you learn from your mistakes and there is always an opportunity to learn and play good cricket. After we lost the Asia Cup we got good rest and I believe it's no more a skill game but a mental game and it's the World Cup situation. You can take good decisions when you are relaxed mentally."

Shadab is already a star but he knows the World Cup provides him with the opportunity of becoming a superstar.

13-0 in the opener before notching a 6-0 win over Malaysia.

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