**OPINION 6** 

INDIA EMERGES AS A

**VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH** 

**MONEY 10** 

MARKETS REBOUND

AFTER 2-DAY SLUMP

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NZ STUNS **CHAMPIONS ENGLAND** 12 SPORT

# RANCHI, FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3 the pioneer

**WORLD 8** 

IMRAN KHAN MEETS

QURESHI IN ADIALA JAIL

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# TEAM INDIA AIMS FOR CENTURY AT ASIAN GAMES

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The ongoing push for India to secure a remarkable 100medal haul at the 2023 Asian Games is gaining momentum. So far, India has secured an impressive tally of 86 medals. On Thursday, three additional gold medals were added to India's count.

Indian archers made their country proud. The women's combine emerged triumphant in an edge-of-the-seat thriller while the men's outfit secured the top prize without fuss as Indian compound archers swept all three gold medals on offer in team events, further bettering their best-ever show at the Asian Games, here on Thursday.

The women's compound team edged Chinese Taipei by the thinnest of margins, securing the gold medal win by just one point with Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Gopichand Swami and Parneet Kaur shooting 60 out of 60 in the final

round of a heart-stopping final. Having knocked out twotime defending champions South Korea, the Chinese Taipei trio of Chen Yi-Hsuan, Huang I-Jou and Wang Lu-Yun fought till the end but the topseeded Indian team won 230-

The scores were locked 200-200 till the last set but the young Indian team that has two teenagers — Aditi and Parneet - remained ice-cool to find three more 10s in the final

It put the pressure back on



their opponents who were to shoot last and needed to match with three 10s to force a shootoff. But Chinese Taipei started off with a nine that sealed the gold for India.

Having conquered the world less than two months back, it also completed India women's compound team's domination by becoming the Asian champions.

In the afternoon session, the men's trio of Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale and Prathamesh Jawkar downed South Koreans 235-230 to seal their sixth medal in archery. India's second gold in

try of at least five medals in archery at the ongoing Asian

archery also assured the coun-

India's mixed team had won a gold on Wednesday. For 27-year-old Jyothi this was also a double gold from this edition, having secured the top spot in the podium with Ojas Deotale in the compound mixed team event on Wednesday.

The Vijaywada archer is in line for a hat-trick of gold as she will fight for the Asian Games title, taking on South Korea's So Chaewon in the compound individual final on Saturday.

India have confirmed at least five medals in archery at the continental showpiece as



Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Gopichand and Parneet Kaur pose with their gold medal during the presentation ceremony of team compound archery event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou in China on Thursday

Deotale and Abhishek Verma are assured of a top-two finish by making it an all-India men's compound individual final.

India's previous best show in archery at the Asian Games was in Incheon 2014 where they had claimed one gold, one silver and one bronze.

In squash, veterans Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Singh

Sandhu survived some anxious moments to clinch the mixed doubles gold, but Saurav Ghosal settled for singles silver as Indian squash players recorded their best-ever performance at the Asian Games.

Dipika and Harinder eked out a 11-10 11-10 win over Malaysian duo of Aifa Binti Azman and Mohammad Syafiq Bin Mohd Kamal in a tense 35 minute final to fetch India's second gold medal in squash at the ongoing event.

However, it was disappointment for India's top player Ghosal as he lost to Malaysia's Eain Yow Ng 11-9, 9-11, 5-11, 7-11 in a little over an hour. But that wouldn't take sheen out of India's brilliant outing in the squash competition in Hangzhou, where they bettered the country's effort in the Incheon Games 2014.

India had won a historic gold in the men's team event nine years ago, with two silver and a bronze to boot with.

However, in the ongoing Games, India have won two gold, a silver and a bronze.

"I don't always remember what happens on court. It's a blur for both of us. We only remember the last point. We are more than happy. We are very proud of the fact we are here and won gold," Dipika said after the win.

Both pairs were neck and

neck in the opening game, with none of them able to hold on to the lead. Dipika kept fetching points with her fantastic forehand.

In wrestling, Indian teen sensation Antim Panghal humbled Tokyo Olympics medallist Bolortuya Bat-Ochir 3-1 to win a bronze medal but other Indian wrestlers struggled badly at the Asian Games here on Thursday.

The 19-year-old Antim bounced back after losing to two-time Japanese world champion Akari Fujinami in the quarterfinals in a superb manner as she did not let the Mongolian attack much in the women's 53kg bronze play-off. Antim saved the day for

the Indian contingent which badly needed a medal after Narinder Cheema (Greco-Roman 97kg), Naveen (Greco-Roman 130kg) and Pooja Gehlot (women's 50kg) were ousted.

Pooja was outplayed 2-9 in the bronze medal bout by Aktenge Keunimjaeva, the Asian championship bronze

A lot was expected from Mansi Ahlawat (women's 57kg) too but she ended up losing her bronze play-off 'by fall' to Uzbekistań's Laylokhon Sobirova, who needed just 70 seconds to win the contest.

Antim had come to Hangzhou after winning a bronze at the world championships and she carried her good form into the prestigious

Her bronze is only the second wrestling medal of this edi-

scoring her first point on the

She raced to a 3-0 lead after

passivity of the Mongolian and later scored off a brilliant counter-attack. Antim foiled a single-leg attack from the Bolortuya and later lost a point in the second

period when she was put on In badminton, HS Prannoy battled his way to the semifinals, becoming only the first Indian in 41 years to win a medal in men's singles at the

tains for PV Sindhu in women's singles here on Thursday. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then progressed to the last four, becoming the second Indian men's doubles pair to secure a medal

Asian Games, but it was cur-

after Leroy D'sa and Pradeep Gandhe won a bronze in 1982. Playing with a taping on his lower back and a belt under his shirt, Prannoy battled severe

back spasm to dish out a performance for the ages, outshining Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia 21-16 21-23 22-20 in the quarterfinals to assure India a second badminton medal at the ongoing Games. India had won a silver in men's team championships

# US refuses to catch the tiger by the tail India to meet Canada on equal footing

RAHUL DATTA NEW DELHI

The US embassy here on Thursday rejected reports that its ambassador Eric Garcetti alerted his team about possible impact of New Delhi's diplomatic spat with Ottawa on India-US relations.

The denial ca American media outlet The *Politico* reported that "Garcetti also has said the US may need to reduce its contacts with Indian officials for an undefined period of time". The report was titled "Why Biden's mum on India-Canada spat".

"The US embassy dismisses these reports. Ambassador Garcetti is working hard every day to deepen the partnership between the people and gov-ernments of the United States and India," a US embassy spokesperson said, when asked

about the report. "As his personal engage-

demonstrates, Ambassador Garcetti and the US Mission to India are working every day to advance the important, strategic, and consequential partnership we have with India," the citizens. spokesperson said.

ınada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in

India rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-fortat move to Ōttawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the

On September 21, India asked Canada to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country as relations between and US Secretary of State

ment and public schedule the two countries plunged to an all-time low following Ottawa's allegations against New Delhi. India also announced temporarily suspending the issuance of visas to Canadian

The Politico, quoting an Garcetti has told his in-country team that, because of the diplomatic spat with Canada, relations between India and the US could get worse for a time.

The White House said on Tuesday that Canada's allegations regarding India's involve-ment in the killing of the separatist are "serious" and need to be investigated fully.

The Joe Biden administration has so far maintained that the Canadian government's allegations need to be probed. The matter had come up during a meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Antony Blinken during the former's trip to the US.

The issue was also discussed when Jaishankar and National Security Advisor(NSA) Jake Sullivan met, John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications The ties between India and unnamed official, said, at the National Security Council in the W

had said.
"We will certainly leave it to those two countries to talk about their bilateral relationship. We've been clear, these allegations are serious, they need to be fully investigated and of course, as we've said before, we urge India to participate actively in that investiga-

tion," Kirby had said. Earlier, The Washington Post had reported that Canadian officials had sought public condemnation of Nijjar's murder from its allies, including the US, ahead of the G20 Summit, but found them reluctant

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

A mid diplomatic stand-off between India and Canada, the External Affairs Ministry on Thursday said it is seeking parity in Canada's diplomatic presence in New Delhi. iscussions on this matter ar

going on.

This reiteration comes in light of reports that New Delhi has asked Ottawa to withdraw nearly 40 of its diplomats from India, setting the deadline for October 10. India has also reportedly cautioned that diplomatic immunity will be withdrawn if the Canadian diplomats do not leave the country by the stipulated date.

"Our focus is on ensuring parity in Canada's diplomatic presence," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi emphasised.

"We have sought parity in



Canada's diplomatic presence in India and discussions are

ongoing," he reiterated.

Bagchi said Canada has higher diplomatic presence, and the two countries are dis-

cussing achieving parity. "On discussions on parity,

given the much higher presence of diplomats here and their interference in our internal matters, we have sought parity in our respective diplomatic presence. Discussions

are ongoing to achieve this.

Given that Canadian diplo-

allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June.

matic presence is higher, we

would assume that there would

asked Ottawa to downsize its

diplomatic presence in India.

The ties between India and

Canada came under severe

strain following Canadian

Two weeks ago, New Delhi

be a reduction," he said.

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

Reports including the one in The Financial Times also said Canada has 62 diplomats in India, while New Delhi has told them to reduce the headcount to 41 at their high commission.

das. Dinesh is in their hands for

the last one and a half years

The statement was given earli-

er. Why is it being brought up

now? Once you had the state-

ment, you did not call me for

an explanation. You want to

humiliate me by arresting me

that he (Amit Arora) did not

remember my name while giv-

ing earlier statements. Dinesh

also did not remember my

name. What happened sudden-

ly that he gave all the state-

ments against me? They are

spreading lies, and this inves-

tigation is baseless. If I am guilty, give me the harshest punishment. All I want to say

is that there cannot be a

different law for me. You are

sitting on the chair of justice,"

am not so unknown

(Singh)," Mathur said.

# **BJP, Congress declare poster war SANJAY SINGH SENT**

BHARAT KHATRE MEIN HA

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

NEW DELHI

With the election season on the horizon, the rivalry between the Congress and the BJP has spilled over into the virtual world, where both parties are engaging in a poster war targeting each other on social media

A day after the Congress posted a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the caption "The Biggest Liar" and another calling him a "Jumla Boy," who was "going to hit the election rally soon," the ruling BJP at the Centre on Thursday shared a poster portraying former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi as a "new age Ravan," evoking strong criti-cism from the Opposition party, which termed it "unac-ceptable" and "downright dan-grove" gerous."

In a sharp retort, the BJP shared the poster of Rahul with several heads with the title "Bharat Khatre Mein Hai — A Congress party production. Directed by George Soros. "The new age Ravan is here. He is Evil. Anti Dharma. Anti Ram. His aim is to destroy Bharat," the BJP said on X. Congress chief spokesper-

son Jairam Ramesh said it is intended to incite and provoke violence against the former Congress chief, whose father and grandmother were assassinated by forces that want to divide India.

Ramesh said, "It is one thing for the PM to give evidence daily of being a pathological liar and suffering from a narcissistic personality disorder. But for him to get his party to produce something this obnoxious is not just completely unacceptable but downright dangerous."
"We will not be intimidat-

ed," the Congress leader also asserted.

Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas B V posted another poster on X portraying Modi as "MODANAV."

"The new age MODANAV is here. He is Evil. Anti

Democracy. Anti Constitution. Anti People. Anti Humanity. His only aim is to destroy Bharat and the idea of INDIA," he said on X along with the poster titled "Hindustan Khatre mein hai — MODANAV. A Bharat Jumlebaaj Party production. Directed by Param Mitra As the battle lines between

the two main parties get drawn



BJP shared the poster of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on social media

in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, their leaders have intensified their attacks

against each other. The poster war between the two parties is likely to escalate further in the coming months as elections in five States and the general elections draw near. Earlier also, both the parties had launched cartoon strips against leaders of both the opposing parties on social media.

A day earlier, senior BJP leader and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa shared images of Rahul's visit to Golden Temple and compared it with action on Punjab unrest by former PM Indira Gandhi, saying, "while grandmother sprayed bullets, grandson is doing seva."

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said in a statement, "No words are enough to con-demn the shameful graphic on the BJP handle comparing Rahul to Ravan. Their nefarious intentions are clear; they want to murder him. He, who lost his grandmother and father to assassinations."

The Congress also reminded the withdrawal of SPG protection to the Gandhi family to score petty political points."

### **TO 5 DAY ED CUSTODY STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI something, Singh claimed he is

The Special Enforcement Directorate Court at Rouse Avenue on Thursday sent Rajya Sabha member and senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh to five days custody until October 10 in the case related to the Delhi excise policy scam.

During the hearing, the

probe agency had sought ten days remand, stating it wanted to confront the AAP MP with the digital evidence, including evidence from his phone, against him in the case. After the court order, Singh

said, "False and baseless allegations. We are not scared. We will fight back." While being brought to the courtroom, Singh said his

arrest was "an act of injustice" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose party is "going to lose the next Lok Sabha elections."

"This is Modi's injustice.

He will lose the election. He is losing the election," he told the Later, when the court asked him whether he wanted to say

being treated unfairly.

money was delivered by Sarvesh, an employee of Dinesh Arora. "There is a direct link to the proceeds of crime," the ED counsel told the court.

searched. The investigation has revealed that ₹2 crore cash was given. A total of ₹3 crore was given," the ED submitted.

Senior Advocate Mohit Mathur, appearing for Singh, opposed the ED's plea for 10 days remand. Mathur argued, "This case investigation keeps going and will never end. Dinesh, who is a star witness, was made an accused earlier by both agencies, and later he turned approver in the case. His stand is changing. When the statement was not favourable to the ED, the agency arrested him. Now he has turned approver. He changes his statement, and the ED arrests me

Singh is the third high-profile arrest of the AAP leader in the excise policy case. AAP communications in-charge Vijay Nair was arrested in September 2022. Then Deputy Chief Minister and AAP leader,

(Singh) on that statement." There are separate agen-

The ED alleged that the

"A total of ₹2 crore transactions are there in two tranches... Dinesh's CA confirmed this... A total of 239 places were

> Manish Sisodia was arrested in February 2023.

# Reclaiming Connections: 334 stolen mobile phones returned to owners

# Police receive 4108 mobile missing cases so far

n a commendable initiative aimed at reuniting residents with their lost or stolen mobile phones, a program was organised at the police station conference hall of Bistupur. The event, spearheaded by Jamshedpur SSP Kaushal Kishore, witnessed the distribution of a total of 285 mobile phones among the public as part of the sixth phase of this mobile distribution drive. The distribution included

49 mobile phones belonging to residents from rural areas, which were handed out in their respective locations. In total, 334 mobile phones were distributed on Thursday, marking a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to reunite citizens with their lost devices. This initiative follows five previous rounds of mobile distribution programs, wherein a remarkable 1149 individuals were successfully



Jamshedpur SSP Kaushal Kishore hands over a phone to its owner as part of the sixth phase of this mobile distribution drive held on Thursday. PNS

reunited with their missing mobile phones. The program addresses a growing concern. with a staggering 4108 reported cases of lost or stolen mobile phones in the region. SSP Kaushal Kishore emphasized the pivotal role of the technical team in restoring lost mobile phones to their rightful owners. Previously,

cases were put on hold after filing an FIR, but the evolving approach ensures a more proactive resolution of such cases. The SSP also highlighted the use of a WhatsApp number for reporting lost mobile phones, providing citizens with a convenient avenue to trace their missing devices without the need to

visit the police station.

In response to a surge in complaints filed at various police stations within the district regarding stolen or lost mobile phones, law enforcement has issued a stern warning to the public against purchasing cell phones without proper documentation. The caution comes as part of a concerted effort by the police to tackle the rising issue of unauthorized mobile phone transactions.

To address the complaints, a specialized team was swiftly assembled by the police, dedicated to investigating the reported cases. This team, in collaboration with the cybercrime unit, embarked on a comprehensive mission to trace and recover lost and stolen mobile phones. The joint efforts of these units resulted in the successful seizure of over 500 mobile phones from individuals who were unable to provide the relevant documents verifying

The warnings to the public emphasize the potential risks associated with acquiring mobile phones without proper documentation, underlining the connection between such transactions and the reported cases of stolen or lost devices. The police urged citizens to exercise caution and conduct due diligence when purchasing mobile phones to avoid inadvertently becoming involved in the illicit trade of stolen or unauthorized This proactive devices. approach by the police not only addresses the immediate concerns raised by the community but also sends a strong message against the illegal trade of mobile phones. The collaboration between the specialized team and the cybercrime unit showcases the authorities' commitment to ensuring the safety and security of mobile phone

### transactions within the dis-Rehabilitation at Jharia after plan gets nod

PANKAJ : DHANBAD

The chairman of Coal India limited PM Prasad rehabilitation of families living in the fire zone of Jharia coalfield is under

union ministry of finance is reviewing the master plans at present after which it would be forwarded to the union cab-

evening on occasion of CSIR foundation day celebration at Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) he said that underground fire and subsidence in Jharia coalfield existed before nationalization of the coal sector and the area under underground fire has come down substantially due to consistence attempts taken to contain them. It may be noted here that the tenure of the Jharia Master Plan has expired in August 2021 and shifting of families including Land Title Holders (LTH) besides others hangs in balance. According to reports, the CIL has proposed monetary compensation to the LTH families instead of shifting them to flats being constructed under the master plan as has been awarded in case of encroachers. According to him, the CIL is working on a long term plan for increasing coal production in all its sub-

Chairman refused to comment on the miners wage issue terming it as

### role of translation in fostering cross-cultural understanding, the English Department of XITE College organised the Students Literary Aligned with the theme of International Translation Day, observed annually on September 30th, the symposium aimed to unravel the intricate world of literary translation and its ability to connect cultures while revealing the diverse

esteemed Assistant Professor at the Department Studies, Central University of Jharkhand, delivered a kevnote address. Her expertise in Gender Studies, Modernism/Postmodernism, Film Studies, and Ecocriticism enriched the symposium's discussions and added depth to the exploration of literary translation.

XITE College explores the

art of literary translation

The meticulous organization of the program was spearheaded by the thirdyear students of the Department of English at XITE College. Their commitment and diligence ensured the seamless execution of the symposium, making it a memorable and intellectually stimulating event.

Beyond celebrating the significance of literary translation, the TransLIT symposium provided a glimpse into the future of translation studies. It served as a dynamic platform for students to refine their research and presentation skills, fostering intellectual curiosity and col-

In his closing remarks, the Course Coordinator of the Department expressed gratitude to all participants, especially the students, for their outstanding presentations and contributions. He emphasized the enduring importance of literary translation in our interconnected world and encouraged continued exploration of

this vital field. The TransLIT symposium concluded with a sense of accomplishment renewed enthusiasm for the art of literary translation. It not only celebrated the richness of literature but also underscored the power of translation in unveiling the many faces of humanity.

As the event drew to a close, participants were left with a profound appreciation for the impact of language, culture, and translation in our global society. The symposium served as a testament to the enduring significance of literary translation in bridging cultures and fostering deeper understanding among diverse communities.

## Seeds of Project Tarumitra Sown at Loyola School

I n a momentous event, Loyola School Bistupur took a significant stride towards ecological consciousness as it welcomed two distinguished guests, Fr Robert Athickal and Devopriya Dutta, to address the student body during the morning assembly on Thursday. The focus of their engaging discourse was to introduce the students to the impactful Tarumitra

Tarumitra, a nationwide student organization, is dedicated to fostering ecological across India. Originating in 1988 in Patna, India, the movement has garnered recognition, with the U.N conferring a Special Status Consultative Tarumitra since 2005. With a vast membership of over 2,00,000 students in more than 1000 high schools and

**Herds of** 

elephants

in the fields

PNS: BOKARO

tramples paddy

On one hand, the houses of

the villagers were collaps-

ing due to the heavy rain,

while on the other hand,

the herd of Gajrajs has also

created terror in the vil-

lages of Gomia block of

Bokaro district. On the

night of Wednesday a herd

of elephants trampled the

paddy fields in various hamlets of Pachmo

Panchayat under Gomia

Jatiatand villages of

Pachmo Panchayat, ele-

phants destroyed the paddy

crop grown in about twen-

trampled the paddy grown

in the fields of Mukesh

Chetlal Manjhi, Jugesh

Mahato of Jatiatand, Prem

Mahato, Nirmal Bhuinya,

Mahato, Meghlal Mahato,

Hiraman Mahata, Tokhlal

Rajwar and Lalmohan

Villager Umesh Kumar

Mahato said that the paddy crop grown in about twen-

ty-five acres has been destroyed by elephants. Forest department officials are informed, but they do

not listen to the villagers. Earlier, villagers were

given torches, firecrackers and other equipment to

protect themselves from

elephants, but this year no

initiative is being seen from

the forest department.

Rajwar, residents

Sairyatand village.

Mahato

Vigan Oraon,

Saraiyapani

block.

Oraon,

Pandanatand,

Pandanatand

at the forefront of raising awareness on crucial ecologic

Loyola School, in collaboration with Jamshedpur Jesuit Province, Loyola School Telco, the Loyola Alumni Association, and the Loyola Hindi School, is set to formally launch a Tarumitra branch at the Jesu Bhawan Campus in Mango. Preliminary discussions are underway with a dedicated team comprising teachers, students, and alumni to chart the course for this ambitious project. The primary objective is to sensitize students about the urgency of environmental conservation.

The school envisions a series of initiatives, including the creation of a green calendar by students to celebrate important days and festivals in an environmentally friendly manner. Bird feeders will be strategically installed across the campus, and an innova-



craft various objects. To mark the inauguration of this transformative project, saplings were ceremoniously planted at the Jesu Bhavan campus in the presence of Fr Cutinha, Provincial, Fr K M Joseph, the Rector, Fr Vinod Fernandes, the Principal, and Fr Robert Devopriya and the office bearers of Loyola Alumni Association. While acknowledging the ambition of the project, the school administration expressed confidence in its success with sustained effort, continuous motivation, and the collaborative support of like-minded institutions. The initiative aims to extend its influence beyond the school premises, enveloping the entire Steel City in a green embrace. Loyola Bistupur is poised to become a beacon for environmental stewardship, nurturing a generation of students committed

### SP reviews crime cases of Bermo sub-division

Bokaro SP Priyadarshi Alok held a review meeting here on Wednesday at the Bermo office of the Sub-Divisional Police Officer. All the police inspectors and station-in-charges of the sub-division participated in it.

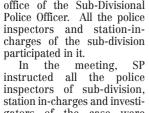
directed for speedy execution of the cases. He further said



be investigated quickly and charge sheets should be submitted to the court.

Everyone was also told that there is a month of puja

the public. On this occasion, sub-divisional police officer Vashishtha Narayan Singh, police inspector Mahesh Prasad Singh and all the police inspectors and station in-charges of the subdivision were present in the



gators of the case were instructed to complete the pending cases soon. Cases pending for more than 4 years were reviewed on the spot.

### Priyadarshi Alok in the coming time and all the police officers should increase patrolling in their area. Everyone should go among that the pending cases should Van Shramiks stage dharna in tiger project directorate in Daltonganj



Van Shramiks stage a dharna on the premise of the directorate tiger project in Daltonganj on Thursday, photo by PNS

PNS: DALTONGANJ

Scores of Van Shramiks under the banner of the Jharkhand Van Shramik Union led by its president Siddhi Nath Jha sat on dharna in front of the office of the chief conservator of forest and field director PTR

Kumar Ashutosh today.
The Van Shramiks are on dharna in support of their 5 point charter of demands, said Jha. The demands are regularisation to enhanced wages for skilled workers, stoppage to discrimination in distributing anti poaching kits, food allowance, stoppage to harassment to trekkers and tiger protection force and ex gratia relief to the tune of rupees 5 lakh in the event of death of Van Shramiks on duty added

On the other hand field director PTR Kumar Ashutosh said "We take care of our work force. They are 297 in numbers here. The NTCA does not give such fund for all the 297 to get wages at par with the wages meant to the skilled

He said the PTR management is trying hard to pay wages for another 2 months in the coming month of November. As regards discrimination in distributing anti poaching kits Ashutosh said "I will look into it. Let me find out first what the issue is all about." As regards harassment to Van Shramiks and tiger protection force field director said the PTR management respects its work force but if there is any instance of it, then there will be correctional measures but no harassment to any one.

### from union cabinet : CIL chairman

has said that the new Jharia master plan for active consideration of the central government and it would be implemented expeditiously once the union cabinet approves the same.

He said that the inet for approval. Talking to media per-

sons here on Wednesday

pending in Court.

### **Golden Jubilee of Blast** Furnace 1 celebrated at BSL

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

'TransLIT: `

Symposium

Translation"

facets of humanity.

embraced the

heritage.

International Translation

Day recognises the pivotal

role translation plays in pro-

moting communication and

understanding across lan-guages and cultures. This

vear's TransLIT symposium

"Translation unveils the many

faces of humanity," exploring how literary translation

serves as a bridge, offering

insights into the myriad expe-

riences and perspectives that

compose our shared global

The symposium featured

an array of presentations and

discussions, providing a kalei-

doscopic view of literary translation. Students from

XITE College showcased their

research on various aspects of

translation, shedding light on

its impact on literature, cul-

ture, and society. A particu-

larly captivating element was

the presentation of translated

works by students, offering a

firsthand look into the chal-

lenges and creativity involved

in the art of literary transla-

Dr. Pragya Shukla, an

theme,

I n a celebration of linguistic diversity and the profound

 $\mathbf{F}_{ ext{October}}^{ ext{ifty years ago, on 03}}$  ago, on 03 Blast Furnace No. 01 of Bokaro Steel Plant was commissioned and production of hot metal started. Notably during these five decades, Blast Furnace No. 01 has produced a total of 33 million tonnes of hot metal so far and has been continuously contributing to the progress of the country.

The period from 03 October 2022 to 03 October 2023 was celebrated as the Golden Jubilee Year of Blast Furnace No. 01. To make this special occasion memorable a function was organized in the presence of Executive Director (Works) Birendra Kumar Tiwari, Executive Director (Projects) C.R. Mohapatra, Executive (Materials Director Management) Amitabh Srivastava were present at



**Executive Director (Personnel** and Administration) Rajan Prasad, Chief Medical Officer Dr. B.B. Karunamov and Chief General Manager (Maintenance) P.K. Baisakhia, Chief General Manager (Blast Furnace) M.P. Singh and other senior officers and employees of the plant. During the ceremony, the glorious history and golden future of Blast

Furnace No. 01 was dis-

cussed. Apart from this, vari-

excellent performance and the contract workers working here were also honoured for the best performance in their work area. Also to make the day memorable and to increase the greenery and bio-diversity inside the plant, tree plantation was done by all the senior officers. Tiwari and other senior officers congratulated the Blast Furnace team for achieving new stan-

### Admin selects 10 specialist doctors on contract basis

To strengthen medical services in the different blocks of the district, the district administration has decided to appoint specialist doctors for the primary health centres and sub divisional hospitals of the district.

The district administration called the doctors to face direct interviews. On the basis of applicants applying for dif-ferent posts, the administration organized the interviews for the applicants.

After the long interview the district administration has selected 10 specialist doctors appointment will be on contract basis under DMFT ( District Mineral Foundation

The doctors who have been selected for the different posts are gynaecologist Kauzia Sultan Rizivi, Rajlaxmi Yadav, Trishala Singh and Diviya Karan Ekka. On the of Paediatrician post Ravindra Kumar Verma, Richa Rashmi, Gautam Kumar and Annu.

For the post of Orthopaedist Mayank Pratap, for the post of Ophthalmologist Parimal Piyush, Vishakha Gupta, ENT Rahul Kumar and for the post Vimal Krishan Sahay have been selected.

For the post of general physician Mahipal Singh and gynaecologist Priyanka Kmari has been under the waiting list. After the gap of one and half years the Hazaribag medical service gets the radiologist in the medical area.

The district administration sources said that the newly appointed doctors will be posted in such a block where the health centres are not getting the regular services of doctors. The specialist doctors will visit all primary health centres as they will be

### **Examination for Para** medical staff recruitment held

Under the District Mining Foundation Trust (DMFT), the examination for the contractual reinstatement of para medical staff in the district was organized on Wednesday in the multi-purpose building located in the City College campus, Sector 6 of Bokaro Steel City. The gathering of candidates for the examination had started at City College from 10 o'clock in the morning. The examination started at 11.15 am and continued till 1.15 pm. A total of 221 candidates took part in



the examination. For the successful conduct of the examination, adequate number of magistrates/police force/inspectors etc. were deputed by the district administration. Deputy Development Commissioner

Kirtishree G did a surprise inspection of the examination. During this, necessary directions were given to the officials present on the spot, District Planning Officer Raj Sharma, Patrol Magistrate Shtybala Sinha, DMFT team tion in a malpractice-free environment. It is noteworthy that, in order to improve the health system of the district, the district administration has decided to reinstate para medical personnel on various 87 posts on contract under DMFT. Recently, an advertisement in this regard was published, after which candidates applied for various posts. After scrutiny of the applications received, a total of 338 candidates were found eligible. A total of 117 candidates were absent from the written examination today.

**RANCHI I FRIDAY I OCTOBER 6, 2023** 

# jharkhand 03

# Being targeted as I come from tribal community: Soren

# coercion, conspiracy of some-one? The way Central agen-

hief Minister Hemant Soren today reiterated amassing land and other assets are levelled against him as he comes from a tribal

community. On the other hand, he said, what is the use of amassing tribal land, when one cannot sell, purchase or even get help from banks on

Talking to media persons at the State Secretariat here on Thursday, the CM said, "I come from tribal community, I am tribal youth and allegations of amassing benami properties are levelled on me. And, you must be aware tribal assets are very difficult to be purchased or sold in the State. Banks also do not help in such properties. Then what will one do with such an

asset?" "Will I get finished by

cies are being used against us

is evident and people are talk-ing about this too," he said. On being asked for his reaction on the arrest of AAP leader Sanjay Singh, Soren said, "Not only Sanjay Singh but several others are in the queue. There are talks about me also. Benami Assets, benami assets....it's so strange The opposition party (BJP) leaders have been working as Spokespersons of several organisations and using their

intellectual faculties to stop

people from weaker sections of society from progressing." "Anyway, in democracy

every citizen gets an opportunity to show his power every five years. This time is coming soon. Time will tell the truth. We will not finish whatever conspiracy one does," he said. On the question of caste

based census in State, the CM said that they have been ready for it ever since 2021. 'We had sent a proposal to the Governor regarding the same and had even asked for quota for the needy people. We are clear on this ...the communities in the State will get their share as per their population," he said. The Chief Minister had said through a letter that the Constitution has made provision for special facilities and reservation for the development of socially and educationally backward classes. Due to absence of caste data in the census

conducted since independ-

ence, people belonging to backward classes are facing difficulties in providing special facilities. In the proposed census in the year 2021, written information was given by the government in the Parliament about not conducting the caste census of the backward and extremely backward classes who have been oppressed, ridiculed, neglected and deprived for ages, which is unfortunate. Backward and extremely backward classes are not able make the expected progress since ages. In such a situation, if caste census is not conducted now, then the educational, social, political and economic condition of the backward/extreme backward castes will neither be proper-

ly assessed, nor will appropriate policies related to their

betterment and uplift be

determined, nor will their

numbers be determined. The budget will be allocated in

proportion. It is known that 90 years ago, the caste census was conducted in the year 1931 and on the basis of that. the Mandal Commission recommended providing reserva-

We have always stood for caste census, says CM

tion to the backward classes. It was written in the letter that in India, people of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes have suffered the brunt of economic and social backwardness for centuries. After independence, different classes have developed at different speeds. Due to which the gap between the rich and the poor has further increased. In India, economic inequality has a strong relationship with caste and generally those who fall in the socially backward category are also economically backward. The need of the hour is to take grassroots initiatives to implement the slogans of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas. The first condition for preparing a development blueprint is to know the ground reality. For this, caste census will prove to be the most effective medium. Only by conducting caste census can it be ensured that participation is given to all sections of the society in proportion to their share. This demand has been considered the need of the hour, therefore, breaking the party walls, everyone is demanding from the Center that the information about political, economic, social and educational level of all castes should be included in the census and made public. Backward and extremely backward people are not getting share and participation in proportion to their population. The reason is that their accurate caste data is not available. In such a situation. there is an absolute need for caste data to remove these disparities. Through the let-ter, the Chief Minister explained the many benefits

of conducting caste-based census in the policy-making of the country. It was written in the letter that these figures would prove helpful in providing reservation facilities to the backward class people. The data will help the policy makers in better policy making and implementation for the uplift of the backward class people. These data will also highlight the economic, social and educational disparities and then their solution can be found in a democratic manner. There is also a provision in Article 340 of the Constitution to form a commission to obtain information about the actual situation of economically and socially backward classes. Caste census will also ensure compliance with this provision of the Constitution. It will also prove helpful in reducing the errors in including and not including eligible beneficiaries in target based schemes.

### UNION **MINISTER** LAYS FOUNDATIO N OF NEW BUILDING

PNS: RANCHI

Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V. Muraleedharan laid the foundation stone for the building of Regional Passport Office Ranchi in Prabandhan Nagar, Nayasarai Road, Ranchi in the presence of Members of Parliament Samir Oraon, Deepak Prakash, Aditya Sahu, Former Member of Parliament Mahesh Poddar and Member of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly Navin

RPO building complex is being constructed over an area of 02 acres of land provided by the State Government. The project is executed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and is expected to be completed in 2024. The office building of RPO would also house the Protectorate of Emigrants Office (PoE) The project includes

residential buildings. This RPO office building would be laced with state of the art technology and facilities that would further allow the Ministry of External Affairs to provide passport and related services to citizens in a timely, reliable, accessible, transparent and efficient manner and to fulfill Prime Minister's vision of "Ease of Living".



**Chief Minister Hemant Soren meets Archbishop Father Felix** Toppo at Archbishop House in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

### Cabinet nod to best panchayat rewards for health and hygiene

PNS: RANCHI

The Hemant Soren cabinet today decided to award best panchayats in the State which maintain health and cleanliness incentives. Under this consent was given to the proposal to reward Gram Panchayats under the Chief Minister Panchayat Award Scheme. This award ranges from Rs 4 lakh to Rs 20 lakh at different levels. According to the proposal, a reward of Rs 10 lakh will be given to 24 Gram Panchayats and Rs 15 lakh will be given to five Block Panchayats. At the same time, consent has been given to give an amount of Rs 20 lakh to district councils.

Panchayats will also get health and cleanliness incentive awards. Under this, 24 Panchayats will get Rs 10 lakh, Block Panchayat will get Rs 15 lakh and Zilla Parishad will get Rs 20 lakh. Under the Excellent Gram Sabha Award Scheme, Rs 4 lakh each will be given to 48 Gram Sabhas for their excellent work.

In today's Cabinet meeting, nod to 32 proposals were given. Also, the Council of Ministers decided to provide compensation to the people affected by the violence in Lohardaga. There was violence in the district on 23 January 2020. The government approved payment of additional compensation of Rs

51 lakh for the loss of movable and immovable property of 91 Along with this, the gov-

ernment has prepared a blueprint for the training of administrative officers. It is Jharkhand State Training Policy 2023. This proposal was approved in today's meeting. At the same time, the rules for shifting prisoners to open jails of the state have been simplified. It was approved. Along with this, according to the list of Director General of Police office, approval was given to shift him to open jail.

In today's cabinet meeting, the government has decided to set up police stations at many places. These police stations will be Vidhan Sabha in Ranchi, Ganga River police in Sahibganj, Chirachas police station in Bokaro, Korea police station in Chaibasa. Chama and Jalga OPs will be opened in Ranchi. In Ranchi, Rahe was upgraded to a police station. Approval given to receive Rs 9 crore from JCF for payment of salaries of Assistant Municipal Commissioners, Executive Officers, Special Duty Officers and Engineers working in the local municipal bodies of the state. 43500 villages will be established in 4351 gram panchayats of the state. For this, an amount of Rs 4 billion 63

# Marandi calls for corruption, crime-free BJP govt

PNS: RANCHI

s part of seventh phase of A s part of sevenin phase of Sankalp Yatra, BJP State President and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi once again attacked the JMM/ Congress government in Garhwa Assembly and called for the formation of BJP government for corruption-free,

Marandi said that the NDA government in Centre is dedicated to villages, poor, farmers, laborers and women. Recalling the achievements of the Modi government, he said that Modi ji has given a big gift to women by bringing a reservation bill in Lok Sabha and Assembly. Under this bill, 33% women will get the benefit. He said that Prime Minister Modi ji launched Vishwakarma Yojana for artisans during Vishwakarma Puja. Under this, a budget provision of Rs 13 thousand

crore has also been made. He said that for the first time a Prime Minister has worried about barbers, carpenters, blacksmiths and cobblers. He said that the corrupt JMM/Congress government is silent even on appointments, if the BJP government is formed, a large number of recruitments will be done

He said that as soon as Modi ji became the Prime Minister, the first task of his tenure was to construct an Izzat Ghar toilet for mothers and sisters. They understand the problems of mothers and sisters. He said that Modi ji provided permanent housing poor, announcement leader

Hemant wasted even the extra Rs 1 lakh of money being sent by Modi ji. The Prime Minister cares about the poor. Along with gas connection, he also gave subsidies on gas. He said that due to the negligence of the Hemant government, the condition of the Ayushman scheme in Jharkhand is bad. The poor are suffering from health problems. If the government is formed under the leadership of BJP, officials will go door to door to make

Ayushman cards. He said that Indira Gandhi did nationalize banks but for big houses and capitalists. Prime Minister Modi ji connected every poor person with banks by opening Jan Dhan accounts. During the Covid period, when the factories were closed yesterday, Modi ji



State BJP President Babulal Marandi addresses gathering during Sankalp Yatra in Simdega district on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

did the work of depositing the money directly into the account, whereas during the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi, fifteen paise of one rupee was transferred from the Centre. He said that Modi ji is sending grains to the poor but Hemant Soren is black marketing the grains. More than four crore people got the benefit of the housing scheme. Farmers are

getting direct benefits. Marandi said that the law and order situation in Jharkhand has broken down. The fear of law among criminals has ended under the Hemant government. Theft, robbery, murder, kidnapping, rape are happening every day. The criminals are fearless. The common man is scared. The police, which was supposed to maintain law and order during the Hemant government, is busy in recovery at the behest of the JMM government. Engaged in recovering sand from vehicles. Whereas in other states sand is being transported illegally. He said that coal, sand and stone land has been looted. He said that no work is done in the government offices of Anchal, Block and District without payment. One has to pay for making everything from birth certificate to death

certificate. To get the name

added to the ration card, one

# Raqibul gets lifer, Mustaq 15-yr RI

### CBI court gives verdict in National Shooter, Tara Shahdev case

PNS: RANCHI

The Special CBI Ranchi Court Judge, PK Sharma, on Thursday, announced the punishment against the three accused Ranjit Kohli alias Raqibul Hasan, dismissed former High Court Registrar (Vigilance) Mushtaq Ahmed and Kohli's mother Kaushal Rani involved in torturing National shooter, Shahdeo.

The CBI court has found Ranjit Kohli guilty under sections 120B, 376,323,298,506 and 496 of IPC. Kaushalya Rani has been found guilty under sections 120B, 298, 506 and 323 of IPC. Mushtaq Ahmed has been found guilty under sections 120B and 298

Rakibul alias Ranjit Kohli has been sentenced to life imprisonment. A fine of Rs 50,000 has been imposed on him. Mushtaq Ahmed has been sentenced to 15 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000, Kaushal Rani has been sentenced to ten years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000.

The court had declared all of them guilty on September 30, after which they were in



judicial custody. A total of 26 witnesses were presented by the CBI to prove the case. On the basis of those witnesses and the evidence presented by the CBI, the court had convicted Rakibul Hasan alias Ranjit Kohli, Mushtaq Ahmed and Kaushal Rani.

On July 2, 2018, charges were framed against Raqibul Hasan alias Ranjit Kohli, Mushtaq Ahmed and Kaushal Rani. FIR 742/2014 registered in Hindpiri police station of Ranchi was taken over by CBI in the year 2015. Delhi branch of CBI had registered case number RC/9S/15 in this

Kohli alias Rakibul Hasan, Mushtaq Ahmed and Kaushal Rani were accused of assault-

ing Tara Shahdev, torturing her for religious conversion and molesting her as part of a well-planned conspiracy, which has now been proved after the court's decision. As per allegations, on July 7, 2014, Tara Shahdev and Rakibul alias Ranjit Kohli were married as per Hindu customs but on the second day of marriage that is July 8, Rakibul and Mushtaq Ahmed started pressurizing Tara to marry according to Islam and

convert to Islam.

A few days after the marriage, when Tara went to the Iftar party at Mushtaq Ahmed's house, he molested her with wrong intentions. Important witnesses presented by the CBI in the court include Tara Shahdev, late former minister Haii Hussain Ansari, Qazi Jan Mohammad, resident of Blair Apartment, then Sub Inspector of Jharkhand Police Deepika Kumari who had rescued Tara, Case Investigation Officer, Harishchandra Singh and CBI Case Investigating Officer, Seema Pahuja were included. Senior Public Prosecutor, Priyanshu Singh

presented the case on behalf

### **DWA donates water tank to Govt School**



Carrying forward gramme, Doctors Association donated a large size water tank worth Rs 13500 to the Govt Middle School at **Booty** Pitambara Palace.

The Association is trying hard to provide pure water to such schools keeping in mind the health of children. The members present at the venue included Madhu Gupta the Secretary of DWA, Amrita Baidya, Arti Sinha, Rekha Mishra, Shreela Choudhary, Deepa Chouhan, Bibha Singh, Anju Singh, Supriya Thakur and Anjana Barnwal.

### **24 DPS students shine in IOQM (2023-2024)**

Exhibiting excellent mathematical acumen, 24 Students of DPS Ranchi emerged as the proud qualifiers of Indian Olympiad Qualifier in Mathematics (IOQM) 2023-24. With this accomplishment they are also qualified to appear in Regional Mathematical Olympiad (RMO) 2023. Students who are flying the flag for their phrontistery are Tamanna Kumari (Class XII), Shreyam Jha (Class XII), Ashhad Hussain (Class XII), Shaurya Shreyas (Class XII), Devounkar Giri (Class XII), Ved Vatsal (Class XI), Šhubham Jha (Class XI), Dript Divyansh Pandey(Class XI), Rudraksh Rai (Class XI), Raina Singh (Class XI), Sarthak Kumar (Class XI), Yash Wardhan Rajgarhia (Class XI), Aryan Sinha (Class XI), Arnav Sinha (Class XI), Madhav R Pillai (Class XI), Tavish Vats (Class X), Keshav Bajaj (Class X), Aadi Agarwal (Class X), Ansruta Asavari Mandal (Class X), Aditya Pratap (Class X), Shashwat Agarwal (Class X), Akshat Jha (Class X), Ojasv Kumar (Class IX), Pranay Kumar Singh (Class VIII) and Rudransh Ranjan (Class VIII).

### 66TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION -

### SPEAKER RN MAHTO SPEAKS ON ENERGY CRISIS AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

The official proceedings of the 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association began today in Accra, the capital of Ghana. The opening ceremony was held at the Convention Hall in Accra

The main theme of the program is Ten Years of the Commonwealth Charter: Protecting the Values and Principles Set by Parliaments. The inauguration ceremony was addressed by Osei Kayei Mensah Bonsu, Majority Party Leader of the Parliament of Ghana and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of Ghana, Stephen Twigg, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Twigg, in his address, talked about the priorities of the Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association. He described women's representation in parliarights and climate change as priorities of the Association. He congratulated India, New Zealand and Sierra Leone for taking important steps towards increasing women's representation in Parliament. Twigg said that the

Commonwealth Secretariat is making continuous efforts to give a legislative structure to the Commonwealth. If the British government does not take the initiative to make a law in this regard this time, then consideration will be given to removing the headquarters of the

It is noteworthy that the Commonwealth was established as a welfare institution but now efforts are being made to give it a legal form by the British Parliament.

The keynote address of the event was given by the President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo.

Commonwealth from Britain.



**Assembly Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto along** with others during 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association programme in Accra capital of Ghana on Thursday. PNS

Workshops on different topics were organized in the programme.

Speaker Jharkhand Assembly Rabindra Nath Mahato participated in the discussions organized and spoke on three topics. In the workshop organ-

ized on the subject, the

mer Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had said in the conference organized in Stockholm in 1972 that the environment cannot be protected unless poverty is solved. People who are forced to live a polluted life due to their economic difficulties cannot be taught the lesson of environmental protection. Therefore, the priority of all the countries of the world should be to solve the problem of poverty and in this the rich countries should help the poor countries.

Secondly, on the topic of contribution of women's reservation in Parliament to women empowerment, the Speaker said in his lecture that Our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, in his speech had described women as emotionally more powerful than men. Their capacity for sacrifice was said to be greater than that

of men. The Speaker made his presentation in the Parliament stating that reservation for women is neces-The third topic is to fur-

ther streamline the parliamentary process through e-Parliament. While giving his views on this subject, the Speaker highlighted the importance of e-Parliament and highlighted the achievements of Jharkhand in this direction, including taking the members to smart desks through the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) and the ongoing assembly elections. Focused his lecture on topics like making the

public domain etc. The General Assembly meeting of the Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association is scheduled tomorrow in which the Jharkhand branch will be represented by the Speaker.

proceedings available live on

# **Adopt ruthless approach to** destroy terror ecosystem: Shah evident with its rise: CDS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday exhorted the security agencies to dismantle its entire ecosystem and must adopt such a ruthless approach that a new terrorist organisation cannot be formed.

Inaugurating a two-day anti-terror conference orga-nized by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) here, the Home Minister said the Central and State agencies have succeeded in firmly curbing all forms of terrorism in the country in the last 9 years.

"Model Anti-terrorism Structure" should be established under the purview of NIA, the hierarchy, structure, and SoPs of investigation of all anti-terrorism agencies in all the States should be made uniform for better coordination between Central and State agencies, Shah, adding, the NIA and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) to take initiative in this direction.

Noting that the task of



NIA, Anti-Terroist Squad (ATS) and Special Task Forces (STFs) should not be limited to investigation but they should also think out of the box and take innovative measures to counter the terrorism.

Shah said that the fight against terrorism requires collaboration from the global level to the grassroots, involving various States within the country, as well as international cooperation.

He said that the number of terrorist incidents in the year 2001 was 6,000, which the

tion, prosecution, prevention and action and every police station as well as young police officers to make maximum use of the database," he said.

should be used for investiga-

Referring to the recent operations against drug cartels, Shah said that with the coop-eration of the Central and State Governments, major successes have been achieved in the fight against drugs.

These achievements include Operation Samudragupta, conducted this year under the leadership of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), during which narcotics worth more than Rs 12,000 crore were seized simultane-

Apart from this, 10 lakh kilograms of drugs have also been disposed of," he said.

The agencies participating in the conference should make five actionable points in every session of the two-day conference and send them to the Union Home Ministry for fur-

# China's assertiveness more

Given China's assertive-ness with its rise, India will have to take this aspect into account in its overall "strategic calculus," Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan said here on

Thursday.

Delving into disruptions in global geopolitical order, he also underlined the need for India to continue maintaining "strategic autonomy" in its approach and that the country move forward from its approach of "non-alignment" to an era of being a "Vishwamitra" — a friend to the

Making these assertions in the fifth General KV Krishna Rao memorial lecture, General Chauhan also referred to India's "major dispute" on its northern borders with China and suggested that New Delhi will have to play a strategic autonomy



The strategic autonomy may be relevant to exploit opportunities rather than to take care of your threats. That's where the future should lie. We should be thinking about opportunities more,"

"This all what I said comes with a little bit of a caveat because of the northern neighbour. In this strategic calculus, India will have to take into account the emergence of China as a major power," the CDS said.

"China's assertiveness is more evident with its rise. India has a major dispute on its northern borders with China and will have to play a strategic autonomy card...," he added.

The Chief of Defence Staff also summarised India's journey of being non-aligned to that of exercising strategic autonomy.

"If I were to summarize the journey of India from non-alignment to exercising of strategic autonomy, it can

be based on what I can say is

First is securing India. Next is self-reliance. And lastly, shaping the environment to India's advantage and benefit,"

he said. General Chauhan also elaborated on economic aspects of global geopolitics and that the global balance of power can be shifted by economic aspects. nomic alignment and even issues like morality, right-

global interests. "In India's famous epic Mahabharata, Lord Krishna shifted the balance of power towards the Pandavas. His military might went to the Kauravas but it was only his righteousness and sage advice which shifted the balance of

eousness and convergence of

"And ultimately the Pandavas emerged victorious in that particular war. We as a nation have utilised the G20 platform to leverage soft power to play a dominating role," he said.

power," he said.

## Congress CWC meet to firm up poll strategy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI** 

 $T^{\text{he Congress' top decision}}_{\text{making body CWC will}}$  meet on Monday to deliberate on the current political situation, caste census and further firm up the strategy for the upcoming Assembly elections in five Sates.

The party is seeking to retain power in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, while hoping to wrest power from the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, BRS in Telangana and the Mizo National Front (MNF) in Mizoram.

While the meeting is likely to have a discussion on the caste census as the party has made a strong pitch for it and has raised the demand for giving rights on the basis of population with emphasis on other backward classes (OBCs), sources said it is likely to discuss and condemn the action by probing agencies like ED, IT, CBI on members of India bloc including the recent cases of AAP leader Sanjay Singh and TMC and DMK leaders.

Congress top leadership will have to take a call on others being targeted by the



The meeting of the top decision making body of the Congress comes just over three weeks after the first meeting of the reconstituted Congress Working Committee (CWC) was held in Hyderabad on September 16 to evolve a strategy for the assembly polls in five states and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Chief ministers of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh will also attend the

Congress president
Mallikarjun Kharge had on
August 20 reconstituted the
CWC, retaining the old guard
and giving space to the years and giving space to the young in the 84-member body.

This will be the first meeting of the CWC in the national capital. The CWC has 39 regular members, 32 permanent including 15 women and sev-

### Minister Vaishnaw inaugurates Nokia's 6G Lab at Bengaluru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

government has now reduced

achieving more than 94 percent

conviction rate and said more

work is needed in this direc-

tion. He also asked all the

States to take steps to increase

agencies of the Center and the

State should make multidi-

mensional and Artificial

Intelligence-based use of the

database, only then will we be

successful in the fight against

terrorism. "The database

He also stressed that all the

the conviction rate.

He lauded the NIA for

to 900 in 2022

Union Railway and Telecom Minister Ashwini U Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday inaugurated Nokia's 6G Lab facilivat Bengaluru established by Finnish telecom gear maker

"The inauguration of the Nokia 6G research lab in Bengaluru today is another step towards PM Narendra Modi's vision of making India an innovation hub. Interesting use cases coming out of this lab will be related to transportation safety, health care and education which will be another big contribution to the entire Digital India suite," Vaishnaw said in a statement.

The first-of-its-kind project aims to accelerate the development of fundamental technologies and innovative use cases underpinned by 6G technology that will address the future needs of both industry and society

Last month, India's vision to have ubiquitous coverage under 6G technology was accepted by UN body ITU's Study Group in its meeting is expected to reduce the cost of deployment of the next-gen-



eration technology. International

Telecommunication Union (ITU) decides on the development of international mobile telecommunication standards after coordination with its member countries, technology companies and other stakeholders. India has already secured more than 200 patents on 6G technology through Industry and academia collaboration with the support of the Department of Telecom.

"Nokia is honoured to contribute towards the realisation of the Indian government's 'Bharat 6G vision'. We look forward to collaborating with key stakeholders to help India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

resources head

news portal received money to

spread pro-China propaganda, seeking a copy of the FIR.
Additional Sessions Judge

Hardeep Kaur directed the city

police to provide the duo a

copy of the FIR. A detailed

the counsel for Chakravarty

also sought in writing the

During the proceedings,

order is awaited.

**NEW DELHI** 

the global arena as a leading developer and supplier of advanced telecom technologies and solutions," Nokia Chief Strategy and Technology Officer Nishant Batra said.

Nokia's 6G lab will function as a platform for collaboration among industry stakeholders and facilitate the testing of innovative solutions while establishing their potential for commercialisation.

The lab includes a setup to research 'Network as a Sensor' technology that enables the network to sense objects, people and movement without the need for onboard sensors. In the 6G era, 'Network as a Sensor' has been identified as a key enabling technology that technology development and the digital and physical worlds adoption, and take its place in together, the statement said. | complete when a bribe is given no member of Parliament shall

### SC reserves verdict on 1998 judgement granting immunity to lawmakers from prosecution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on reconsideration of its 1998 judgment which had held that MPs and MLAs enjoy immunity from prosecution for taking bribe to make a speech or vote in legislature. The constitution bench

headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud reserved the verdict after hearing a battery of senior lawyers including General Attorney Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. The larger bench is recon-

sidering the 1998 verdict delivered in the JMM bribery case by a five-judge bench by which the MPs and MLAs were granted immunity from prosecution for taking bribe to make a speech or vote in legislature.

The apex court is revisiting the judgement 25 years after the JMM bribery scandal rocked the country. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, while arguing the matter, urged the court to not go into the immunity aspect under Article 105



er. It can be tackled under the Prevention of Corruption Act," the law officer said. "Neither the majority nor minority (judgement of 1998) examined the issue from this perspective. The short question, on

which present reference is based, is whether the offence of bribery is complete outside the House. If it is, this court does not need to go into the question of immunity," the law officer said.

On Wednesday, the court said it will examine whether the immunity granted to lawmakers from prosecution for taking bribes to make a speech or vote in Parliament and state legislatures extends to them even if criminality is "The offence of bribery is Article 105(2) stipulates that

court in respect of anything said or any vote cast in Parliament or any committee thereof. A similar provision exists for MLAs under Article A five-judge constitution

bench had in its majority verdict delivered in the PV Narasimha Rao versus CBI case had held in 1998 that parliamentarians have immunity against criminal prosecution for any speech made and vote cast inside the House under Article 105(2) and Article 194(2) of the Constitution. The Rao Government,

which was in a minority, had survived a no-confidence vote with the help of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Lok bribes to back his dispensa-

### Novel robot to help women monitor their breast health

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Ateam of British researchers has developed a novel robot that could revolutionise how women monitor their breast health by giving them access to safe electronic clinical breast examinations (CBE) The device is able to apply

very specific forces over a range similar to forces used by human examiners and can detect lumps using sensor technology at larger depths than before. This manipulator device,

based at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory, applies specific forces similar to those used by human examiners, but its sensor technology can detect deeper lumps.

The system is designed to provide accessible and safe electronic clinical breast exams (CBEs) with accurate results, the researchers said.

These examinations require precision, repeatability and accuracy. A range of existing automatic and semiautomatic devices have been proposed to aid in optimizing the task, especially in difficult-to-detect and hard-to-reach situations, like minimally invasive surgery.

The Bristol research team a mix of postgraduate and undergraduate researchers said ideas conflict over how useful CBEs are for health outcomes. They can be "very useful and low-risk" if performed well, lead author George Jenkinson said.

'There have been a few attempts in the past to use



standard to which healthcare professionals can perform a CBE by having a robot or electronic device physically palpate breast tissue," Ĵenkinson said. "But the last decade or so of technological advances in manipulation and sensor technology mean that we are now in a better position to do this. The first question that we want to answer as part of this is whether a specialized manipulator can be demonstrated to have the dexterity necessary to palpate a realistic breast size and

The team created the manipulator using 3D printing and computerized numerical control techniques. They say they employed a combination of laboratory experiments and simulated experiments on a silicone breast and its digital twin. The simulations enabled the team to perform thousands of palpi-

tations and test hypothetical

Experiments on the breast silicone demonstrated the accuracy of the simulations and enabled researchers to discover the forces needed for the sys-

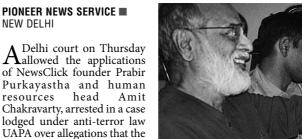
Jenkinson said the team hopes the research can contribute to and complement current techniques used to diagnose breast cancer. With the associated data, it may offer effectiveness in

identifying large-scale trends. Those could help diagnose breast cancer early.

One advantage that some doctors have mentioned anecdotally is that this could provide a low-risk way to objectively record health data," he said. "This could be used, for example, to compare successive examinations more easily, or as part of the information packet sent to a specialist if a patient is referred for further examination."

Researchers plan to combine CBE techniques with AI for their next step. They intend to fully equip the manipulator with sensors to determine the effectiveness of the whole system for identifying potential cancer risks.
Ultimately, they aim to

detect lumps more accuratey and deeper with the robot than is possible with only a human's touch. More options include combining it with other existing techniques like ultrasound examination.



grounds for his arrest, asserting that it was a constitutional safeguard for the accused. The advocate cited some judgments of the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court to claim that though the offences alleged against his client under the Activities



(Prevention) Act (UAPA) were 'serious", there were no statutory grounds for the prosecution to deny him a copy of the Purkayastha's advocate,

appearing through video-conferencing, argued it was the accused's right to get a copy of

opposed the applications. He cited a Supreme Court judgment to say an accused has to first approach the police commissioner, who would then form a committee to consider the request. He said the accused have to

Prosecutor Atul Shrivastava

follow the "step-by-step procedure" prescribed by the apex court. The application filed by the accused were "premature" and they cannot "directly jump before the court", Shrivastava added. "We have already provided the grounds for arrest and the reasons for further remand. We have already complied with the provisions," he

the SPP said the accused undermined the unity and territorial integrity of the country, besides engaging in a discussion regarding a map of India without Kashmir and showing Arunachal Pradesh as a disputed area. They received Rs 115 crore in the guise of foreign funding, he said. "We had duly informed this court (the grounds for arrest) when we sought police custody and the accused were allowed to talk to their family members and advocate," he said. Purkavastha and Chakravarty were arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police on Tuesday. Police have sealed NewsClick's office in

# Esomeprazole used for acid reflux treatment linked to drug reactions: IPC

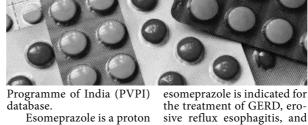
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), through its recently drug safety alert for September has cautioned the doctors that Esomeprazole, used for the treatment Gastroesophageal reflux dis-

ease (GERD), can be linked with a drug reactions (ADRs) named Hyperprolactinaemia.

Following this, it has asked the healthcare professionals to diligently monitor the potential occurrence of ADR in case prescribing the said drug.

This came after a preliminary analysis of ADRS from Pharmacovigilance



pump inhibitor used to treat GERD, reduce the risk of NSAID-associated gastric ulcers. eradicate H. pylori, and treat conditions causing gastric acid hypersecretion. The alert noted that

the treatment of GERD, erosive reflux esophagitis, and prevention of relapse of esophagitis and it helps in the eradication of H. Pylori associated peptic ulcer.

In addition, the alert highlighted that esomeprazole is used for the treatment of

Žollinger-Ellison syndrome. Hyperprolactinemia is

marked by abnormally high levels of the hormone prolactin (which stimulates breast milk production during and after pregnancy) in the blood.

Further, the safety alert added, "If such reaction is encountered, please report to the NCC-PVPI IPC by filling out Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions Form/Medicines Side Effect Reporting Form for C on s u m e r (http://www.ipc.gov.in). through Android Mobile App "ADR PVPI App" and PvPI toll free helpline No. 1800-

1.36 crore school students participate in Veer Gatha Project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than 1.36 crore school students from all 36 States and UTs participated in the Third edition of the Veer Gatha Project. The students sent poems, paintings, essays, videos, etc. to honour the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the Armed Forces.

Project Veer Gatha was instituted under Gallantry Awards Portal (GAP) in 2021 with the aim to disseminate the details of acts of bravery of the Gallantry Awardees and the life stories of these brave hearts among the students so as to raise the spirit of patriotism and instill amongst them values of civic consciousness.

# Mahila Sammelan to be held at assembly level: State BJP chief

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is busy in preparing for next year's Lok Sabha elections, will make its inroads among the women voters by making half the population aware of the features of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act passed on women's reservation. For this, the party will organise big conferences in all 403 assemblies of Uttar Pradesh, informed state party president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary while addressing a meeting of Mahila Morcha (Kashi Region) at party's regional office in Rohaniya here on Wednesday.

"The BJP always encouraged women as it is the first party which has given a stake in the organisation by ensuring 33 per cent reservation for women. With the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, women will get an opportunity to lead and they will also be able to play their role in nation building," he said, adding that by enacting the Act, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken another step towards the empowerment of women as this is a decision which will give women power their rights in the true sense and it will increase the representation of women from assemblies to Lok Sabha.

"This Act is a reflection of the new India being built under the leadership of the PM," he said, and instructed the incharges of all the 71 assemblies under Kashi region to organise big conferences. Addressing



State BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary being welcomed at Mahila Morcha meeting in Varanasi on Wednesday

the conference, BJP state vice president, MLC and state incharge of Mahila Morcha Vijay Bahadur Pathak said that the conferences to be held at the assembly level in 71 assemblies of Kashi region will be held between Öctober 8 and October 31. "The dates for these conferences to be held in three phases have been fixed. According to him, the first phase will be held between 8th to 14th October, the second between 17th to 21st October and third between 26th to 31st October.

Pathak further said that the state leadership has decided to organise Nari Shakti Vandan Yatra at the assembly conferences as well as at the booth level. Through this yatra, everyone has to do door-to-door public relations at the booth level and make people aware of this historic decision taken by

the PM. Regional president (Kashi) Dilip Patel, who was presiding over the meeting, said that in these proposed conferences, we have to tell that BJP has always given priority to the uplift and empowerment of women. The meeting was jointly conducted by regional general secretary Ashok Chaurasia and Mahila Morcha state general secretary Kritika Agrawal, while the vote of thanks was given by regional chief of Mahila Morcha Namrata Chaurasia. MP Keshari Devi Patel, national vice president and Rajya Sabha MP Seema Dwivedi, state general secretary Govind Narayan Shukla, Rajya Sabha MP Darshana Singh, Anamika Chaudhary, Shankar Giri, Meena Choubey, Sushil

Meanwhile, addressing another meeting at the same

Tripathi andothers were also

venue, state BJP chief said that Anushuchit (Scheduled) Mahasammelans' will be organised in all the six organisational areas of the state under the auspices of BJP's Anushuchit Morcha. The Kashi regional unit of this frontal organisation will organise its Mahasammelan on October 27 in which 2,000 people from each assembly falling under Kashi region will partic-

ipate.
"The BJP is committed to the development of Scheduled Caste people. Under the leadership of the PM, the central government has worked for the welfare and uplift of the SC through its many schemes in the last nine years, "he said, adding that today the maximum number of MPs, MLAs and other public representatives from the SC in the entire country belong to the BJP.

# Unnecessary platelet transfusion may prove fatal, says CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

hief Medical Officer C(CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that the lack of platelets is not the cause of death of dengue victims and unnecessary platelet transfusion may worsen the patient's health. "Platelet deficiency is not the cause of death in dengue patients," he instructed the private doctors, nursing home operators and government sector doctors.

"As per international standards, unless a patient's platelet count is less than 10,000 and there is no active bleeding, he/she does not require platelet is not the primary treatment for dengue," he said, adding that in fact, platelet transfusion does more harm than good to the patient if it is used in a patient whose platelet count is more than 10,000. According to Dr Chaudhary, the primary cause of death in dengue patients is capillary leakage, which caus-

es blood loss in the intravascular compartment and results in multi-organ failure. "In case of plasma leakage from the intravascular to the extravascular compartment, the patient should be transfused with fluids in the amount of 20 ml per kg body weight per hour and the same process should be continued until the difference between the upper and lower blood pressure exceeds 40 mmHg, or the patient urinates in sufficient quantity,"he said, adding that this is all that is needed to treat the patient; unnecessary platelet transfusions can worsen the patient's

patients, the CMO said that the physicians should remember the 'Formula of 20' that is increase in pulse rate of more than 20, fall of BP of more than 20, difference between lower and upper BP of less than 20 bleeding," he said. and more than 20. "If the presence of bleeding spots appears

test, this condition suggests a high-risk condition, and the person needs immediate medical attention," he said.

He said that dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease. It is caused by any one of four types of dengue virus, which is spread by the bite of an infected female Aedes aegypti mosquito. "Common symptoms of dengue include high fever, runny nose, mild skin rash, cough and swelling behind the eyes and joint pain. However, some people may develop red and white mottled rashes followed by loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, etc. Patients suffering from dengue should drink plenty of fluids. Paracetamol can be taken to reduce fever and ease joint pain. However, aspirin or ibuprofen should not be taken as they may increase the risk of

Meanwhile, the CMO held a meeting with Nodal Officer on the arm after the tourniquet Dr SS Kanojia, ACMO Dr AK

Maurya and District Malaria Officer Sharad Chand Pandey and informed them that in view of the possible spread of dengue and in relation to the unnecessary demand for platelets by some doctors and the atmosphere of panic created among the patients' families, all private hospitals should be instructed that whenever they send the demand for platelets to the blood bank, the current status of the patient should be included along with it. "Send enclosing forms related to clinical condition and current platelet count. Along with this, all the in-charges of Government Blood Banks/IMA have been asked to ensure giving platelets to serious patients on priority basis,"

he instructed. Dr Chaudhary said that as at present the number of fever patients is increasing in the district, arrangements for their treatment and advice should be

# **RED North visits NTPC Vindhyachal**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 $R_{(North)}^{egional\,Executive\,Director}$ paid a visit to the NTPC . Vindhyachal project, the largest power plant in the country. This visit was marked by a warm welcome extended to the RED by E Satya Phani Kumar, the Head of (Vindhyachal), Project Rajesh Bharadwaj, the General Manager (Operations and Maintenance) and other senior officials. The RED was accompanied by the Chairperson of Uttara Mahila Mandal Neelan

During his visit, Saxena conducted a comprehensive inspection of various crucial areas within the NTPC Vindhyachal. He focused his attention on reviewing the Stage-5 Control Room, the C&M Area, and the FGD Area (Flue Gas Desulfurization). This inspection was carried out in the company of E Satya Phani Kumar and Rajesh Bharadwaj, in addition to other senior officials.

After the inspection, a significant development took place as a MoU was formally signed under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. This MoU represents a collaboration between NTPC and Entrepreneurship

Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad. The primary objective of this collaboration is to empower women in the Vindhyachal areas. The

memorandum outlines a specific focus on continuous livelihood generation through the implementation of the Spice Production Scheme. In addition, 10 girls from the Government Higher Secondary School in Waidhan were presented with bicycles. During his visit, the RED

self-help groups (SHGs) with-

(North) took the opportunity to express his appreciation and admiration for the dedicated employees and workforce of the Vindhyachal. This visit underscores NTPC's commitment region, certificate and diploma to sustainable development and community empowerment, showcasing the organi-

sation's efforts in promoting gender equality and supporting local communities through meaningful CSR initiatives.

RED (North) Praveen Saxena seeing control room during his visit to NTPC Vindhyachal on Wednesday

MGKV TO START SKILL-BASED COURSES: Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) is going to start some skill-based diploma and certificate courses soon, In the meeting of heads of the departments and faculty deans chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof Anand Kumar at the university here on Thursday, it was decided that keeping in mind the need of the courses should be started in about 10 subjects in the univer-

These certificate and diploma courses will be started in the subjects like sewingembroidery, food and nutrition, catering and hospitality, psy-chotherapy, leadership, business management, yoga and naturopathy, textile and others. The V-C asked all the departments and faculties to prepare and submit the syllabus of such courses within a week so that the process of admission to these courses can be started as soon as possible. The university has also

received proposals from many colleges regarding these subjects. This information was given by the Registrar Dr Sunita Pandit in the meeting.

# 3 arrested with illegal firecrackers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

The Pratapgarh police. **I** arrested three people during a checking drive near Raniganj area and seized illegal firecrackers weighing 62 kg from their possession. The arrested persons were identi-fied as Manoj Kumar Jaiswal, Chaggulal Jaiswal and Ramesh Jaiswal of Kaithola Lalganj.

An FIR under section 5 and 9 (K) of the Explosive Act the Lalganj police station. The police said a team of Lalganj

ing near Raniganj road and intercepted three men carrying illegal crackers. They were taking the illegal fire crackers for sale. The police are interrogating them for storing huge quantity of firecrackers. Meanwhile, police have

also arrested three notorious burglars including Dilip Kumar Gaur alias Deepak , Abhishek Maurya and Umesh Kumar soni, of Murgi Farm colony, Maurya Nagar and Achalpur was registered against them at respectively and seized 160 gram gold ornaments worth lakhs, Rs 4,000 cash and other

The police said a joint team of SWAT and Kotwali police received a tip off about an interdistrict burglar's gang roaming around Meera Bhawan road, cordoned the area and nabbed

INSPECTED: ADO Panchayat Vivek Mishra inspected the primary school Sirawal and found two assistant teachers absent. Thereafter, he inspected the upper primary school Siraval where two teachers were found absent. The ADO sent the report to the higher authorities. He exam-

works and asked the official concerned to complete the incomplete work without delay. The ADO inspected the Pieri and Unchadih Goshala and reviewed the situation. He warned the pradhans and secretaries to implement all the schemes as per the intention of the government.

He directed to get the road, water and electricity system improved without delay. The ADO said the salary of teachers found absent during the inspection of schools has been

# 60-year-old trader shot at

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

60-year-old trader identi-Afied as Maqbool Ahmed was allegedly shot at by his neighbour with a licensed weapon for refusing to sell cigarette in Maqrauda village, Tilai bazar locality, under Mauaima police station. The police also arrested Ankush Patel of Tilai Bazar and seized his licensed SBBL gun. The police said on the said night Ankush Patel reached the shop of Maqbool in an inebriated

state and asked for a cigarette. When Magbool said the shop was closed, the accused left and returned after 15 minutes armed with his licensed gun and started arguing and abusing the shopkeeper. He started firing and one bullet injured the trader on his leg. A team of Mauaima police rushed to the spot and arrested Patel.

MISHAP: Over a dozen people sustained injuries when roadways bus driver hit a Bolero late on Wednesday night. On getting information the police reached the spot and sent the injured to a hospital for treatment.

The bus collided head-on with the Bolero coming from Banda towards Prayagraj on National Highway 35, Jasra Nai Bazar, at 9 pm. As a result over a dozen people travelling in the Bolero were injured. The police admitted the injured to the hospital.

Station in-charge Ghurpur Sanjeev Kumar Choubey said the injured people were coming back from Gaya Dham in Bihar after 'pind daan'. Gulab Singh (70), Poona Bai, Ramkali (65), Mamta (34), Jaganlal (70) and Mittu Lal (65) were injured. Driver Uttam got trapped in Bolero. The people somehow took him out. All the injured were sent to the Community Health Centre Jasra for treatment by an ambulance where doctors, after first aid, referred the driver Uttam Das and Poonabai to district hospital. Information about the accident was given to the families of the injured.

### MiG 21's farewell to be memorable

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The air show scheduled to be ▲ held over the Sangam area of the city on October 8 to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will bid adieu to the ace fighter of the country — the MiG 21 Bison.

The IAF too has made suitable arrangements to make the farewell of MiG 21 a memorable moment. "The MiG 21 Bison will be flying for the last time in any air show and as such this ace fighter has played a pivotal role in several battles, right from its induction in 1963. As such, this will be a memorable and emotional moment for IAF and we will make sure that this fighter is given an extraordinary farewell which will be remembered in

years to come", said Defence PRO, Gp Capt Samir Gangakhedkar.

The blue horizon over the holy Sangam of Prayagraj echoed with the thundering sound of fighters and choppers of the IAF. The IAF carried out an

impressive practice session from the vast Sangam area to the Parade ground and all the roads leading to Sangam amid a large number of onlookers. The session was nothing short of the actual air show scheduled to be held on October 8 to commemorate the IAF's 91st anniversary.

As a number of fighters, aircraft and choppers flew past the President Viewpoint of the fort, a large number of onlookers, including those who had arrived to perform rituals durhad gathered at the Parade ground for different purposes, all eyes were in the sky applauding the might of the IAF as its fighters and aircraft

ing Pitra Paksha or those who

As it was practice for the air show, quite a number of locals had already arrived at the vast Sangam area. The practice started with

the paratroopers of the Akash Ganga team of the IAF which landed precisely at the marked area just in front of the President Viewpoint of the

The onlookers clapped and took videos of the paratroopers as they landed one after another, especially the last formation wherein three paratroopers sailed down intact as one, only to separate barely a few feet from the touch down. The practice started with the formation of Chetak and Dhruv choppers followed by the two variants of Mi-17 choppers and the Apache. This was followed by

manoeuvres by the fighters of IAF, including Tejas, SU-30, C-130 aircraft, Mirage 2000 and Rafale. Vintage aircraft including the Harvard trainer aircraft and Tiger Moth too entertained the onlookers.

To conclude the practice session, the team of Saarang choppers and Surya Kiran presented scintillating manoeuvres. "These fighters and choppers will continue to do their practice sessions everyday which will give local populace an idea of might of IAF", said Gangakhedkar.

### Sketch book exhibition held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The sketch book exhibition I was organised at the Faculty of Visual Arts, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Thursday. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Dean, Faculty of Visual Arts, Dr Uttama, by paying floral tributes to Mahamana and lighting the lamp. Dr Deepti Prakash Mohanty and Dr Hiralal Prajapati (former Dean of faculty) were also present as special guests.

On this occasion, Dr Mrigendra Singh, Dr Manish Arora, Dr Brahmswaroop, Dr Shanti Swaroop Sinha, Dr Jasminder Kaur, Dr Suresh Jangid, Dr Mahesh Singh, Dr Ashish Gupta, Dr Lalit Soni, Dr Rajeev Mandal and others also shared their views. A total of 39 art students of fourth year BFA of the Painting Department participated in the exhibition.

### **UPRTOU** to start new course for study of religious texts Sanskrit subjects. When the Engineers (India). A course has

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The UP Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU), Prayagraj, has decided to start a new course for the study of religious texts and rituals in view of the increasing demand for professionals for religious rituals for various events associated with Hindu traditions. The lone open university of the state has started three courses, including diploma in rituals from this session. The other two courses are diploma and certificate programmes in public health and community nutrition and disaster management. Window for taking admission in all these courses is open and interested students can apply till October 20. In recent years interest has increased in Sanskrit subjects in the open university. Last year, around 8,000 students were enrolled in

interest in starting new courses, most of them suggested starting courses related to rituals-priesthood and astrology-Vastu. On the basis of this survey, the humanities stream of the university decided to start a diploma course imparting knowledge of rituals in Hindu traditions. This course will consist of two semesters. The rituals included are swastivachan, nitya karma, naimittika karma, sanskar karma, yagya vigyan, pragjanam sanskar, janmottar, sanskar anna prashan, mundan, karnavedha, vedarambh. upanayan, samavartan, marriage sanskar, vanaprastha, sanyas and funeral. It covers points like anatomy and vascular elements. Apart from this, management diploma courses have been started. Recently, an MoU was signed with the Institute of

university administration con- been designed in disaster manof this course has been prepared by taking lessons from disasters like Uttarkashi. Moreover, since Kumbh Mela will be held in 2025, the university believes that this will be a great opportunity for students of this course to have first-hand training and such religious events will help in preparing better professionals. Apart from this, a diploma course on public health and community nutrition has been started in the health stream.

The admission in-charge of the university Prof JP Yadav said along with this a simple Sanskrit teacher awareness programme has also been introduced. These courses have been started keeping in mind the educational upgrading and skill development of learners. The last date for admission in these courses is October 20.

# DM's emphasis on awareness activities to keep Ganga clean

**CORRESPONDENT** ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan while presiding over the meeting of Zila Ganga Samiti at the Collectorate on Wednesday stressed on activities to make people aware about keeping Ganga as clean as possible. In the meeting the issues related to Swachchh Bharat Mission (Rural), Jeevan Dhara Module, Arth Ganga Mission and Ganga Gram Sanstuti were discussed. The DM directed the officials concerned to continue the ongoing schemes and make the plan as discussed in the meeting. National president Jeevan Dhara Namami Gange Foundation Hari Om Sharma said a special plan should be made in all 134 villages of the

district located on the bank of

Ganga. He said proper manage-

ment of solid waste disposal is the need of the hour and proper drainage system should be there to keep the Ganga basin clean. Along with providing sports facilities a Ganga 'chabutara' (platform) should be constructed in each village for Ganga Arati. The meeting was attended by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS, DFO/ convener of the committee, Additional District Magistrate (ADM/ Namami Gange) Devendra Pratap Singh, DPRO, agricul-

ture officer and others.
COORDINATION MEETING: Lalganj Circle Officer (CO) Manjari Rao while presiding over the coordination meeting of police per-sonnel deployed on the state borders of UP and MP said in view of the assembly elections in MP surveillance will be

done by a joint team comprising UP and MP police till the end of elections. In the meeting lists containing details of villages located on the state border were exchanged. The CO asked the officials concerned to ensure strict compliance of model code of conduct in the border area. The meeting was attended by SO Hanumana of MP and SOs Halia and Dramondganj of Mirzapur. **ARRESTED:** The Rajgarh

police on Wednesday arrested two accused in connection with the case lodged by Raj Kumar Maurya of Chitvishram on September 29 against one named and two unknown persons alleging that they demanded jewellery from him and threatened that if their demand was not fulfilled, then he will be murdered. After

registering the case the police started the investigation in which the names of the unknown persons came to light. The police arrested Ramkesh of Khamhawa Jamti under Chunar police station and Muneem of Uttar Deori village under Lalganj police station. The police sent the accused to jail. Meanwhile the Jigna police

on Wednesday arrested an accused in connection with a a named FIR lodged by a person alleging that his minor daughter had been enticed away. Station Officer (SO) Ravi Kant Mishra handed over the investigation to SSI Kamal Tiwari. On being tipped off by an informer the IO succeeded in nabbing the accused within few hours. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

### **New twist**

The India-Canada row escalates amid US endorsement of Nijjar killing allegations

■ n recent weeks, global diplomatic relations have seen a shake-up following the growing rift between the India and Canada Governments. The heart of the conflict lies in Canada's allegations of an 'Indian hand' in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent pro-Khalistan Canadian national and a named terrorist by India for his involvement in several violent crimes. The spat is harming the interests of both countries but Canadian PM Justin Trudeau is not letting go because his political survival currently depends on maligning India's name. Meanwhile, there has been a new turn in the case with the US stating that Canada's allegations are "serious," adding fuel to the fiery debate. State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said, "We continue to be deeply concerned about the allegations referenced by Prime Minister Trudeau." He added, "It is critical that Canada's investigation proceeds and perpetrators be brought to justice; we also have publicly and privately urged the Indian Government to coop-



erate in the Canadian investigation." Nijjar was killed in British Columbia, Canada, by unidentified gunmen which Canada claims were Indian agents. Its intelligence agencies claim that there is credible evidence of Indian agencies' involvement in the murder, though it is yet to be shared with India.

The US statement has caught many by surprise, as it had previously maintained a neutral stance on the matter. This shift in the US position has raised eyebrows and intensified the dispute. The Indian Government has reiterated that it is not its policy to indulge in such acts and that it had no role in Nijjar's killing. The reason for the latest statement is best

known to the US Administration but it certainly is doing no good in resolving the deadlock between two friendly countries, both staunch US supporters. The US has of late shifted its weight in favour of India, ostensibly to counter Chinese influence in the Asia Pacific, and gone ahead with several technical and strategic bilateral understandings. If it goes on pointing the finger at India without any proof, that would result in strained relations and the US design of circumventing China in the region would suffer. Nijjar's killing, though tragic and unfortunate, should not be reason for any diplomatic faux pas. India and Canada should amicably resolve the issue together and cooperate in the ongoing investigation, to which the Indian side has assured full support. The deepening rift between India and Canada has broader implications for international relations, too. Canadian insistence on providing haven to terrorists in the name of supporting freedom and liberty could have far-reaching consequences for that country itself. Moreover, its act has already affected the Indian diaspora in a big way as it faces threats and slurs from the emboldened Khalistanis. Where Trudeau wants to go with anti-India posturing to salvage his falling ratings is his call, but the ramifications are fraught with grave danger for both countries.



# India emerges as a voice of Global South-



### India has been airing the concerns of the Global South vociferously; S Jaishankar's address at the 78th Session of UNGA was a case in point

ndia has tried to use consistently the forum of the United Nations not only in pursuing its foreign policy goals effectively but also in projecting itself as the advocate of the Global South. India's leadership quality was demonstrated in the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment which made it possible for the Stockholm Declaration to embody several principles that protect the interests of the global south. The legacy of Stockholm carries even today when India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar raised the issue of climate change, mobilising resources for sustainable development goals and reforming multilateral development banks at the 78th session of the UN on 29 September 2023.

This has to be seen in the context of the New Delhi Declaration of G20. The declaration set the direction of future negotiations on important economic issues including climate financing which has for the first time put a \$5.9 trillion figure to green financing requirements for developing countries, reforms in multilateral development banks, international taxation and sustainable development. Although this new green financing requirement does not generate legal obligations for the developed north, it amounts to underlining very clearly that in the context of urgency of restricting global average temperature below 1.5 degrees as compared toindustrial level, financial needs will have to enhance over and above 100 billion dollar mark. The requirement of mobilising 100 billion dollars per year by 2020 is the obligation on the part of the developed north.

India as an Advocate in the Context of Climate Change. One agenda item that India has used to position itself as the advocate of the global south is the issue of climate change. The latter is not only a serious environmental challenge but is also a serious economic and developmental concern, which also directly impinges upon realizing the goals of sustainable development. India's contribution is least in the entiation has changed as it is creation of climate change but it reflected in the Paris Agree-

is placed to bear the brunt likewise of many developing countries more. India used its coalitional reach of the global south that the developed countries are historically responsible for climate change and their per capita emissions of greenhouse gases are very high as compared to developing countries. In addition, the developed north is financially and technologically capable of playing a lead role in dealing with the challenge of climate change.

India's arguments relating to climate change galvanized adequate support of the global south in enshrining a regime of differentiation in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFC-CC). The idea of differentiation expressed through the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR) has been held responsible for warding off pressure by the developed north that the developing countries should also bear greenhouse gas mitigation obligations. The formulation of the principle of CBDR is being interpreted as an Indian formula that corresponds between the northern advocates of common responsibilities and southern proponents of a main responsibili ty of the developed north. Álthough the regime of differ-



S JAISHANKAR TOUCHED UPON LIFESTYLE FOR THE **ENVIRONMENT IN** HIS SPEECH AT THE UN, WHICH IS NOT RHETORIC BUT IS GROUNDED IN A REASONED **ARGUMENT** 

ment on Climate Change 2015, it still guides many aspects of climate change and the environment, especially the transfer of finance and technology from the developed north to the developing

Mr Jaishankar touched upon lifestyle for the environment in his speech at the UN, which is not rhetoric but is grounded in a reasoned argument. This is an affirmation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's introduction of the mission of "LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment)" at the Conference of the Parties meeting of the UNFCCC. The lifestyle for the environment is aimed at engaging individuals in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. In other words, it is respectively. also about developing longterm environment-friendly habits. India's lifestyle for environment argument is aimed at curbing and underlining the overconsumption lifestyle more found in the North than in the South. This argument is very close to the argument developed by noted environmentalists Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain in their research titled Global Warming in an

between "survival" emissions of developing countries and "luxury" emissions in devel-

oped countries. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) shows that lower capita GHG emissions in India are not due to poverty alone, but also to more sustainable lifestyles than in developed countries. For example, CO2 emissions from the agricultural sectorfrom the field to the table- are about 0.1 tons CO2/million calories in India against 1.7-2.2 tons in developed countries, inter alia due to a less meat-based diet. CO2 emissions from transportation per passenger kilometre are 16 grams in India against 118 and 193 grams in the European Union (EU) and the US

This is an era when agriculture systems worldwide are in search of sustainable cropping to deal with existing issues of malnutrition, food insecurity, resource depletion, climate-resilient crops, and environmental problems associated with agriculture, millet is a new tool for India which fits in well with India's efforts in strengthening its narrative of lifestyle for environment.

The author is a senior Assistant Professor in International Environmental Law at the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi; views expressed are

# Putting AI to work in business environment



### Generative AI is being trained for commercial use like automated customer support, financial forecasting and fraud detection

or enterprises, gen-erative AI holds massive potential, making CIOs the linchpin of customer experience. Powering GenAI's potential requires purposebuilt approaches to mitigate the inherent risks of its adoption. Generative AI (GenAI), the basis for tools like OpenAI ChatGPT, Google Bard and Meta LLaMa, is a new AI technology that has quickly moved front and centre into the global limelight.

GenAI for Enterprise: Today, an estimated 60% of IT leaders are looking to implement GenAI. At the same time, concerns exist. Most notably, for about 71% of IT leaders, angst about security creates a barrier to adoption, mandating that approaches, infrastructure, data strategies and security be appropriately aligned. According to the Dell Technologies 2023 Innovation Index report, 59% of Indian businesses are currently investing or exploring the feasibility of investing in AI, Machine Learning and advanced analytics to advance innovation. Finding the right, fit-for-use GenAI model for enterprises is the key to mit-



concerns and ushering in GenAI's mainstream adoption in the enterprise world.

Purpose-built GenAI: To enable that revolution, the way enterprises use GenAI will likely differ from general-purpose Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT. Instead, enterprises are likely to use GenAI models that are trained and tuned to solve specific problems; for instance, to enable automated customer support, financial forecasting and fraud detection. Although LLMs such as ChatGPT can be used for enterprise applications, the accuracy of their results will not match that of a purpose-built model created to meet a specific need.

OTHER MAJOR

### **BENEFITS**

Data security: AI's unique capability is handling and analyzing huge datasets with unprecedented speed and efficiency. Simply put, if third-party general-purpose

their LLMs with customer purchase history, support or telesales logs, health records, financial records and other data sources. Consequently, securely handling this data will become even more important than it is today. Additionally, some industries, such as healthcare and finance, must comply with stringent regulations regarding data privacy and security. Time to market: Most enterprises will need to update their GenAI models regularly, which is easier to do with purpose-built GenAI models. The time required to train general-purpose LLMs can take months. That's because massive amounts of data are required for training, eclipsing deployment speed and time to market, the very benefits GenAI enables. Reducing time-to-model and

fuel. Enterprises can tune

efficiency Performance: Purposebuilt models also provide performance benefits over general-purpose models. Specifically, enterprises using

facilitating faster data-to-deci-

sions can improve business

AI is a rocket ship, data is the LLMs may not be able to optimize performance and reduce the latency of their GenAI workloads. This is problematic for applications that require real-time processing, a key attribute of GenAI adop-

Cost: The smaller amounts of training data needed for purpose-built GenAI models also translate into cost savings. As a result, purpose-built LLMs often cost far less to train and re-train compared to general-purpose LLMs like ChatGPT.

According to the Dell Technologies 2023 Innovation Index report, India has the highest number of businesses (37%) using AI-based optimisation software to automate processes. For enterprises, in India and across the globe, GenAI holds the profound potential to automate complex processes, improve customer interactions and unlock new possibilities with better machine intelligence and CIOs are the key to moving it forward.

(The writer is Vice President, Infrastructure Solutions Group, Dell Technologies India; views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR **MICROPLASTICS IN CLOUD WATER**

Sir — It is a well-known fact that plastics that were once considered a boon have turned out to be a bane. From the Earth's crust to the ocean's depths, their presence is ubiquitous. However, the latest study that took cloud water samples from Mount Fuji, Japan's highest peak, and Mount Oyama outside Tokyo last year has arrived at disturbing revelations. This must serve as an eye-opener that has the potential to spur mankind into immediate action. According to the latest report published in the Journal of Environmental Chemistry Letters, about nine varieties of microplastics, including polyethylene, polypropylene, and polycarbonate, have been found in the cloud water samples. Plastic particles less than 5 mm in diameter, referred to as microplastics, are slowly but steadily finding their way into our food chain. This is the first study to detect airborne microplastics in the free troposphere.

The U.N.E.P. states that at least 430 million tons of plastic are produced every year, and two-thirds of it ends up as waste, choking the air we breathe and disturbing even our oceans, biosphere, and lithosphere. The presence of 7 to 13 pieces of microplastics, measuring seven to 94 micrometers, in a liter of cloud water suggests that rainwater might also contain plastic. Scientists opine that if plastic air pollution is not addressed proactively, AMP (airborne microplastics) might trigger climate change and ecological risks. Their harmful nature has come to light, which can be detrimental to our health and can even poison everything that we eat and drink.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

### **DIPLOMATIC INTROSPECTION NEEDED**

Sir-Government should retrospect and also introspect! It is really unfortunate that we have miserably failed in handling many sensitive issues concerning our neighboring and friendly nations like Canada. Our diplomacy, no doubt, has taken a beating mainly due to the haphazard and undiplomatic manner in which the issues have been handled by our Ministry

### India's spectacular performance

Unequal World. They argued

in their work, which consti-

tutes a centreplece of the

argument taken by the global south quite often during cli-

mate change negotiations, that

there is a need to distinguish



he will to be progressive helped the Indian Juggernaut roll on and cross the platinum jubilee (the 75 magic figure). Till now, in

Asiad-2023 (at Hangzhou), India has won 76 medals (16 gold, 28 silver, 32 bronze), the largest ever in an ASIAD outing, ranking fourth out of 45 participating nations. (The 2018 Jakarta record of 70 medals is now a thing of the past).Indians have often proved that where there is a will, there is a way.

Every Indian lip and heart are murmuring, "How many more?" For that, we must wait until the final day (8th Oct 2023). In any field, it has become a habit for India to expertly swim against the tide to achieve victory, despite many obstacles such as funding shortages. lack of access to the latest scientific methods and equipment, and unpredictable weather.

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secundrabad

of External Affairs (MEA). S. Jaishankar, our Minister of Foreign Affairs, has proved beyond doubt that he is the most inefficient Foreign Minister Free India has ever seen.

When the ruling BJP dispensation has one out of the way to make Pragya Singh Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon bombings, an MP and lawmaker of the nation, and when criminals convicted in the Bilkis Bano rape and murder case were given premature release, our Independence Day by the BJP-led Gujarat government, it doesn't sound right to accuse the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of protecting terrorists when he has protested against the murders of his citizens on his own soil.Instead of branding those who speak the truth as anti-Indians, it is time for the Modi-led government to introspect on international matters and make more thoughtful decisions.

Tharcius S Fernando | Chennai

### **UNITY OVER DIVISION**

Sir—No kudos are enough for the author Arundhati Roy for appealing to the people to sink their differences and defeat the merchants of hatred because there is no other option. Else, even the last traces of secularism, democracy, and all ethos of the

Constitution are bound to be crushed beyond recognition.

However, I humbly differ with Roy when she asserts that the saffron ecosystem "makes everyone fight against one another" by playing caste (and communal) games. It must be noted that neither communalism nor casteism can be injected into society unless society itself is casteist and communally-driven in the first place.Perhaps it would not be out of context if some personal experiences are invoked.In my hostel/college life or in office days, I have come across many Muslim batchmates, hostel seniors/juniors, and colleagues. Among the Hindu acquaintances, many are affiliated with various caste

groups.

If the general Indian society reforms itself by transcending narrow barriers of caste and religion and views all citizens as fellow Indians and human beings, all the games of caste and religion will be emphatically defeated, rather exterminated from the soil of India, even if the saffronites play such games the "best.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

### **FIRST COLUMN IMEC: THE MODERN SILK ROUTE**

India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor is India's answer to China's BRI



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

articipants in IMEC (India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor) are expected to meet next month to decide on the architectural framework for the historical infrastructure network physically and digitally connecting many countries. The IMEC was born during the G20 leaders summit in New Delhi in September and the ambitious targets it has set for itself make it one of the most powerful eco-political tools to counter the growing influence of China.

The MoU reads "Pursuant to this, the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the European Union, the Republic of India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Republic, and the United States of America (the "Participants") commit to work together to establish the India - Middle East - Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). The IMEC is expected to stimulate economic development through enhanced connectivity.

As conceived by the participating countries, it aims to create 2 corridors, linking India to the Middle East in the Arabian Gulf and further connecting the Gulf to Europe. The aim is to develop a railway network to facilitate the seamless transmission of goods and services across, India, Israel, UAE, Saudi Arabia and finally Europe. This ambitious infrastructure project was blessed by America which is increasingly using multilateral bodies such as the QUAD (a grouping of India, Japan, the US and Australia) and I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and the US) to maintain its influence on the shifting sands of geopolitics. It is worth mentioning that all four I2U2 nations are participants in the IMEC. These four nations are meeting at regular intervals to cooperate on key areas of secure supply chains, countering terrorism and solutions to climate change.



The white house fact sheet released post the launch of IMEC read "The United States and our partners intend to link both continents to commercial hubs and facilitate the development and export of clean energy; lay undersea cables and link energy grids and telecommunication lines to expand reliable access to electricity; enable innovation of advanced clean energy technology; and connect communities to secure and stable Internet. Across the corridor, we envision driving existing trade and manufacturing and strengthening food security and supply chains." The white house also committed to increasing investments in regional investment initiatives such as the IMEC.

The IMEC is a direct challenge to the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which is being actively deployed by the dragon as a geo-strategic tool to increase its influence in global affairs. Crafted like IMEC, China, BRI has managed to bring in nearly 150 countries and about 25 international organisations as signatories to the infrastructure investment it pushes. In a decade of its existence, the BRI has managed to give China access to strategic ports and transnational road and rail networks, which have increasingly started to threaten the national sovereignty of many nations including India.

The opaque investment conditions under BRI have also arm-twisted many nations to surrender their strategic infrastructure assets to China. India has been at the forefront of opposing the BRI scheme over national security concerns, as China is actively constructing an economic corridor with Pakistan, over India-claimed territories. The China-Pakistan economic corridor could also be dialled up for military use in case of escalations with India. The IMEC is India's opportunity to have a robust say in regional infrastructure connectivity and retain its edge over China. Chinese state-run media has criticised the IMEC terming it as the Modern Spice route, created by the US. Chinese foreign policy experts have lectured IMEC participants to not compete with BRI and that any regional connectivity initiative should have a China presence. These sparks are expected to become fireballs in a few months' time when the IMEC participants lay the paperwork for this regional transnational rail, ports and digital and energy connectivity.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

# Rationalise taxes on fertilisers



UTTAM GUPTA

The cost of making fertilisers available to farmers by itself is substantially higher than the price the Govt wants them to pay, ideally, it should not levy any tax



n its report laid in Parliament on August 9, 2023, the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers has recommended that the Union Government should propose to the GST Council to reduce tax rates on fertilizers from the current 5 per cent. Initially, fertilizers were placed under the 12 per cent slab. However, following representation made by various states, the tax rate was reduced to 5 per cent. Now, the Committee wants this to be reduced fur-

It has also asked the Government to consider favourably the proposal to lower GST on raw materials in the interest of fertilizer manufacturing companies and ultimately farmers". Currently, raw materials (RMs) such as sulphuric acid and ammonia used in the production of fertilizers, attract GST at a much higher rate of 18 per cent against 5 per cent levied on fertilizers (albeit finished product).

The issue of further reducing GST on fertilisers was placed before the GST council in its 45th and 47th meetings in September 2021/June 2022, but it didn't recommend any reduction. Whether or not the GST Council will accede to the recommendation of the Standing Committee now, one can only wait and watch. Meanwhile, it is important to highlight three major flaws in the taxation of fertilizers.

First, given the critical role of fertilizers in ensuring food security, the Government controls their maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level, unrelated to the cost of production and distribution and reimburses the excess of the cost over MRP as a subsidy to the manufacturers. In the case of urea, the MRP is just about one-tenth of the cost whereas, in the case of non-urea fertilizers, the price is nearly one-third.

When, an overwhelming share of the cost (9/10th in the case of urea and 2/3rd

in the case of non-urea fertilizers) is borne by the Government - using taxpayers' money - just to make fertilizers affordable to the farmers, it makes no sense to levy tax on those very products namely fertilizers and RMs used in their production. The taxes have the effect of increasing the cost

NATURAL GAS WHICH IS USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF ALL DOMESTIC UREA IS TAXED **UNDER** THE PRE-GST DISPENSATION

(The writer is a policy

analyst; views

expressed are personal)

sidy to the manufacturers. It is a typical case of taking from one hand and giving back from the other. There is no justification

of supplying fertilizers which has to

be reimbursed as an 'additional' sub-

whatsoever for levying any tax on fertilizers or RMs used for making

The second flaw has to do with taxing two major components of the fertilizer supply chain under two different regimes; one under GST and the other under the pre-GST regime. All finished fertilizers such as urea, dia-ammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate-of-potash (MOP) and so on are taxed under GST currently attracting a tax rate of 5 per cent. Most of the RMs used in the production of fertilizers are also covered under GST attracting a tax rate of 18 per cent on sulphuric acid and ammonia and 12 per cent on phosphoric acid.

However, natural gas (NG) of all domestic urea (small quantities are used for making ammonia which in turn, is used for making non-urea fertilizers) is taxed under the pre-GST dispensation. Taxation of electricity, a utility intrinsic to the process of manufacturing fertilizers is also outside GST. This results in a much higher cost of these two major inputs than the cost if they were to be brought under GST.

At present, NG attracts 'nil' central excise duty (CED) on supplies to fertilizer plants and value-added tax (VAT) varying from a high of 24.5 per cent in Andhra Pradesh (AP) to a low of 5 per cent in Rajasthan. Then, there are other local taxes; for instance, the Gujarat government collects the "purchase tax" on that portion of inputs consumed for making urea that is sold outside the State. This leads to a cascading effect on the price of NG in

First, being outside GST, gas

companies viz. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and so on, can't claim credit for the taxes paid on their purchase of inputs, consumables and equipment leading to higher prices. Second, the delivered price at the factory gate increases due to the levy of VAT, the impact being the highest in AP where the tax rate is 24.5 per cent. Third, the price fur-ther increases due to local levies.

Electricity too is outside GST. Further, its generation and distribution are exempt from the levy of Central VAT (CENVAT) and VAT. This results in a situation whereby power companies don't get any credit for taxes paid on inputs viz. equipment, stores and so on, used in its generation and distribution. This results in a higher cost of elec-Further, under the Constitution,

entry 53 in the State list of the Seventh Schedule empowers States which is used for the manufacture to impose a tax (or electricity duty) on the sale and consumption of electricity, except when it is consumed by the Union Government or the Railways. For electricity duty, electricity companies don't get any offset. This further exacerbates the cost of power supplied to fertilizer

To put it briefly, whereas, taxation of finished fertilizer products and some inputs/RMs used in their making under GST is intended to lower the cost of making fertilizers available to farmers, taxing other major inputs viz. NG and power under the pre-GST regime militates against this objective.

The third flaw has to do with high taxes paid on inputs used in the manufacture of fertilizers as against the tax liability on the output (read: finished fertilisers) being much lower. This isn't just because of the much lower GST rate but also due to lower MRP. For instance, in the cost-based or market-determined case of urea apart from a tax rate of

5 per cent, the MRP is a mere 1/10th of the cost of supply. This results in an 'unabsorbed' input tax credit (ITC) as the output tax falls far short of input tax and there is no provision in the law whereby manufacturers can claim it. Hence, the Centre has to compensate fertiliser manufacturers for unabsorbed ITC using its fertiliser subsidy bud-

To conclude, considering that the cost of making fertilisers available to farmers (sans taxes) by itself is substantially higher than the price the Union Government wants them to pay, ideally it shouldn't levy any tax. Even if it wants to levy, all components in the supply chain have to be under GST and fertilisers and all inputs/RMs should be in the lowest tax slab of 5 per

While the tax rate on fertilisers is already 5 per cent (the Committee's recommendation to lower it further to say 1 per cent or z per cent would unnecessarii complicate an already unwieldy GST regime with multiple slabs), this will require lowering the tax rate on ammonia, sulphuric acid and phosphoric acid from their current high of 18 per cent/12 per cent to 5 per cent. The same rate should apply to NG and power after bringing them under GST.

As for the third flaw, the recommendation of the Committee to keep the tax rate on RMs lower than on fertilizers alone won't help. This is because the artificially low MRP has no linkage with the cost that results in low output tax liability visà-vis the value of tax paid on inputs in turn, resulting in unabsorbed ITC. To address this, the government should give subsidies directly to the farmers under the direct benefit transfer (DBT) mechanism and let manufacturers charge full

# Philippines fights TB, one barangay at a time

Tuberculosis is rampant and underreported in the Philippines; now early detection by latest portable testing kits is helping its eradication

ever doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has," said the famous anthropologist, Margaret Mead. Bearing testimony to this, a small group of people in the Bantayan Municipality of Cebu, Philippines, has changed the lives of many people affected by tuberculosis. TB, despite being curable, continues to be the deadliest diseases in high

TB burden countries. Carrying innovative new diagnostic tools for TB in plastic tubs, they went from islet to islet on pump boats, braving inclement weather, to screen and diagnose people with TB. This resulted in a tremendous increase in TB case finding upfront: a 316%



**BOBBY RAMAKANT** 

The writers are part of the editorial team of CNS (Citizen News Service). Both are on the governing board of Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and PRB Public Health Reporting Corps; views are personal

rise in new TB case detection, and a 1292% rise in screening of those with presumptive TB. Imagine the difference it can make in the Philippines' fight to end TB if such interventions can be scaled up and become a norm. As per the latest Global TB Report 2022 of the World Health Organization (WHO), out of the estimated 741,000 people with TB in the Philippines, only 321,600 were notified to the national programme, and over 60,000 lives were lost due to TB. As of now, only 43 out of

every 100 people with TB are reached by the TB services in the Philippines, and only 65% of those reached, get a WHOrecommended molecular test diagnosis, while the rest get a smear microscopy (which underperforms in TB diagno-

sis), or get treated without any bacteriological confirmation. As early and accurate TB diagnosis is the gateway to the TB care pathway (and breaking the chain of infection transmission), the Philippines has a two-fold task:- firstly, it must ensure that it is reaching out to all those with TB (and not just 43/100), and-secondly, it must use WHO recommended molecular tests to diagnose TB timely and correctly. This paradigm shift in TB diagnostics is a critical entry point, not only to the full spectrum of TB care cascade but also towards ending TB in the country. When the WHO recom-

mended point-of-care, decentralised, laboratory and battery-operated molecular test Truenat (made by Molbio Diagnostics), along with the ultra-portable and batteryoperated x-ray made by Fujifilm, was deployed in Bantayan islets, new TB case notifications, as well as treatment success rate, increased manifold. Using the latest and state-of-the-art diagnostic tools in the Philippines was made possible in 2022 by introducing the New Tools Project (iNTP) of the Stop TB Partnership and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which has helped in the rollout of a package of latest innovations in diagnostics, treatments, and digital health technologies to strengthen TB care in high burden countries. Bantayan is the largest municipality of Bantayan Island and it has 25 barangays (small townships) and one district hospital which

is understaffed and undersupplied. These areas are also marked as geographically iso-lated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA). Most of the people here are fisherfolk or farmers and their income is Pesos 300-350 (USD 6-7) a day. "During September to

October 2022, we were able to screen 1774 people with presumptive TB by bringing these tools right to their doorstep. Most of them cannot afford to travel to the mainland for diagnosis or treatment. So we brought TB point-of-care testing to their doorsteps and saw a very high increase in case detection as well as in treatment success rate," said Dr. Tinsay. "As TB diagnostic technology was brought to the people (and not the other way

When Dr Samantha Tinsay began the introduction of these new innovative diagnostic tools in September 2022, pounded the challenge. But it

extreme climate events- such as typhoons and storms-comwas sheer determination on her and her team's part to hop on a pump boat and brave the storms and typhoons to go from islet to islet find and treat TB. On 29 October 2022, Tropical Storm Nalgae, locally known as Paeng, hit the Philippines. On that fateful day, Dr Samantha Tinsay and her team were en route to one of the islets with the diagnostics tools in tow. "We did not know that a storm signal had been raised, and that nobody should be travelling. We were

open to getting tested for TB."

stopped as patients were already waiting at the clinic," said the spirited Dr Tinsay.

Because of the introduction of new tools, TB case detection went up from 110 in 2021 to 458 in 2022. The number of people who got tested for TB also went up from 180 people in 2021, to 2506 people in 2022, an astronomical increase of 1292%. These new innovative TB diagnostic tools are very crucial in the fight against TB, especially for people living in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA). These tools can really help eradicate TB. Bringing these tools to the people in a country like the Philippines where TB is very rampant, will help end TB, one Barangay at a round), people were more working and could not have time," rightly said Dr Tinsay.

# **'Ex-Pak PM masterminded May 9** violence to remove Army chief'

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan masterminded the May 9 violence and planned the attacks on sensitive military installations with an aim to remove Army Chief General Asim Munir, his close aide Usman Dar has said.

Dar, regarded as one of Khan's trusted aides, had reportedly gone underground after unrest broke out in Pakistan following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief's arrest by paramilitary Rangers on May 9, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Dozens of military and state buildings, including the Rawalpindi and the ISI building in Faisalabad, were torched and vandalised by many PTI activists during the unprecedented violence that broke out

Dar, who served as the

an organisation comprising young volunteers, reemerged on Wednesday and levelled serious allegations against Khan on a TV programme.

Dar claimed that the plan-

ning to target sensitive instal-lations in the May 9 violence was done in a meeting chaired by Khan, and instructions to attack these were passed in case of the former premier's arrest.

"[At the meetings at Khan's Lahore residence— Zaman Park] it was discussed that we should attack state institutions if needed in order to put pressure on them," Dar said during

Dar said that the purpose the May 9 violence was to exert pressure on the military and remove Gen Munir from his position. He added that May 9 was merely a date, and the conspiracy against the military had been brewing for a long period, the report said.

Thursday, is currently jailed in

Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail in the cipher case for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a cable sent by the country's embassy in Washington last year in March. He has since remained behind bars on judicial remand, which has been extended until October 10.

Dar also alleged that the long march of October 2022 led by Khan to force the government to announce a date for early general elections was organised to prevent General Munir's appointment as the army chief

Dar, who announced his decision to quit the PTI party and politics during the interview, said that a narrative was built in the party that the arrest of the party chairman should be thwarted at all costs. Subsequently, party workers swarmed at Khan's residence to

Pointing out that there were two camps in the party one of which called for adopting a reconciliatory approach towards state institutions and the other in favour of taking the state institution head-on, Dar said that the former premier was inclined towards the latter's

"Imran Khan presided over a meeting where the planning and implementation of the events of May 9 took place, and he endorsed an anti-state narrative," Dar was quoted as saying by Samaa TV.

Khan's Special Assistant on Youth Affairs added that the PTI chief was himself responsible for the situation of the PTI party, which, he said, "is in the state of disintegration".

He also blamed the PTI chief for using the party workers as "a human shield to avoid facing arrest," according to the

# Khan meets Qureshi in Adiala jail

 $\mathbf{F}$ ormer Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan met his senior party colleague and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in the Adiala jail during a hearing in connection with the cipher case, a media report said on Thursday.

The chairman of the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) party, who turned 71 today, has been lodged in the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi since September 26 when he was brought from Attock prison in Punjab province, a day after the Islamabad High Court ordered authorities to relocate him to the high-security jail.

The Express Tribune newspaper said, the Khan-Qureshi meeting was the first between the two jailed leaders and described the "peculiar arrangement" during which a net separated the courtroom from Khan and the former foreign minis-

On September 30, Pakistan's top investigation agency, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) submitted a charge sheet against Khan and Qureshi to a special court established under the Official Secrets Act.

Khan and Qureshi's judicial remand in the same case (cipher) was extended till October 10. Khan was arrested after a case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the



country's embassy in Washington last year in March.

"The lawyers representing PTI had a brief conversation with the party chairman through the net," the report said and further described, quoting sources, that Khan "appeared to be in a normal state" during tion with a special doodle on the occasion the hearing, which lasted for approxi mately an hour.

The report further quoted the sources that revealed that the prosecution had cricket. "3,807 runs and 362 wickets in 88 requested an in-camera hearing and an early

Special Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain also mentioned that copies of the challan, or charge sheet, would be provided to the accused during the upcoming | October 5, 1952, in Lahore where he studhearing of the cypher case in the jail," it said. However, the hearing was adjourned till national team earning a cult-like follow-October 9 upon the lawyers' request.

Imran turns 71

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's former prime minister and cricket legend Imran Khan turned 71 on Thursday while incarcerated in a high-security jail in Rawalpindi in a case related to the violation of the country's secret laws. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

party observed the day by having small gatherings in different cities across the country. In one of its posts on X, PTI shared a picture of a group of supporters celebrating the former premier's birthday at Lahore's Liberty Chowk. "Birthday wish for Chairman Imran Khan at Liberty Chowk, Lahore!," it wrote. A hashtag #HappyBirthdayImranKhan was also trending on X. Google joined the celebrawhile the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also wished the cricketer-turned-politician by sharing stats of his achievements in Tests; 3,709 runs and 182 wickets in 175 ODIs; 1992 @cricketworldcup winning captain; Member of the PCB Hall of Fame...Happy birthday to Imran Khan!," the PCB tweeted. Khan was born on ied and played cricket before joining the ing across the cricketing world.

### TOSHAKHANA CASE

### Imran approaches Pak court seeking suspension of trial court's verdict

Islamabad (PTI): Imran Khan on Thursday approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking suspension of the trial court's verdict in the Toshakhana corruption case more than a month after it suspended the jailed former prime minister's three-year sentence for concealing details of state gifts.

Khan, who turned 71 on Thursday, was arrested on August 5, 2023, and shifted to Attock jail after Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar sentenced him to three years in prison in the Toshakhana (national treasury gifts) graft case. The court had found the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) chief guilty of "corrupt practices"

The Supreme Court later acknowledged "procedural defects" in Khan's conviction by the trial court.

On August 28, the IHC suspended Khan's sentence in the Toshakhana case but the PTI chief was not released because he was arrested in the cipher case for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a cable sent by Pakistan's embassy in Washington last year in March. He has since cial remand, which has been extended until October 10.

On September 26, Khan was shifted to Adiala jail in Rawalpindi from Attock jail in Punjab province following the directives issued by the IHC. Last weekend, the police ramped up security in the vicinity of the Adiala jail by deploying elite commandos and setting up additional security pickets to ensure foolproof measures. Khan, through senior lawyer Latif Khosa, on Thursday moved the IHC against the Toshakhana verdict under section 561-A (saving of the inherent power of high court) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The petition's title stated that it sought "rectification of the order dated August 28 to the extent of suspending the operation of the impugned order along with the sentence as verbally prayed by the learned counsel for the petitioner before this honourable court at the time of arguments".

# 'China seeks to control Pak media'

hina has developed a web of international operations to have a say over media narratives and seeks to gain significant control over the Pakistani media, an official US report has said. In addition to working closely with Russia in the information space, China has attempted to enlist other close partners to counter unfavourable narratives, the State Department said in a report released here last week. Prominent among them is Pakistan, it said.

"With Pakistan, Beijing has sought to deepen cooperation on 'combating disinformation', including under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum," said the report.Beijing and Islamabad use the Media Forum to address what they view as propaganda and "malicious disinformation" and have launched initiatives like the "CPEC Rapid Response Information Network" and, most recently, pledged to launch the China-Pakistan Media Corridor

According to the State Department report in 2021, China sought to negotiate significant control over Pakistani media as part of the China-Pakistan Media Corridor, including establishing a jointly operated "nerve center" to monitor and shape Pakistan's information environment. The scope of the proposal, which does not appear Islamabad seriously entertained, and the fact that the mechanisms it detailed appeared to disproportionately benefit Beijing is notable as an explicit example of Beijing's ambition to assume direct con-

trol over a close partner's domestic information environment, it said.

China's draft concept paper called for China and Pakistan governments to establish a "nerve center" to monitor Pakistan's information environment by streamlining inputs from think tanks, opinion leaders, CPEC study centres, media organisations, PRC companies, and even local Confucius Institutes

'The proposed nerve centre would have relied on "three mechanisms" and "two platforms" to carry out this mission. The mechanisms would have provided means to convert important reports into Urdu products to sway popular opinion; provide PRC Embassy reports directly to Pakistan's official press release system; and monitor and respond to public criticism about the PRC," said the State Department.

The two proposed platforms called for the creation of a joint PRC-Pakistan authoritative system for "dispelling rumours" and a news feed application to promote approved news to the local market, it said. In its report, the State Department alleged that China spends billions of dollars annually on foreign information manipulation efforts. Beijing uses false or biased information to promote positive views of China and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). At the same time, China suppresses critical information that contradicts its desired narratives on issues such as Taiwan, its human rights practices, the South China Sea, its domestic economy, and international economic engagement, it said.

### 'Crackdown on illegal immigrants not aimed at any nationality'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Aday after the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan slammed Pakistan's decision to expel its undocumented nationals and termed it "unacceptable", Islamabad on Thursday clarified that its ongoing operation against illegal immigrants was not targeted against people of any particular nationality. On Tuesday, Pakistan's caretaker government set November 1 as the deadline for thousands of undocumented immigrants, including Afghan nationals, to leave the country or risk imprisonment and deportation as it intensified its crackdown against those involved in militancy and smuggling. Reacting to the develop-

ment, the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan on Wednesday said Pakistan's decision is "unacceptable". "The Pakistani side should reconsider its plan. Afghan refugees are not involved in Pakistan's security



Pakistan voluntarily, that country should tolerate them," spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Replying to a question at the Foreign Office's weekly briefing here, spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the ongoing action envisages repatriation of individuals who have either remained in Pakistan beyond their visa or do not possess "valid" documents to stay

within parameters of its sovereign domestic laws to take action in this context," she said. At the same time, she said, the ongoing operation has nothing to do with the 1.4 million Afghan refugees that Pakistan has been hosting for decades "despite its own constrained economic situation". Pakistan's national policy on Afghan refugees "remains unchanged"; the spokesperson said.

### Japan lifts tsunami advisory issued after earthquake

**Tokyo (AP):** Japan issued a tsunami advisory Thursday after a strong earthquake struck near its outlying islands in the Pacific Ocean, but lifted it about two hours later. No damage was reported.The advisory, the second-lowest of a fourstage warning system, asked people on islands in the Izu chain, which stretches south from the Tokyo region, to stay away from the coast and river

The USGeological Survey said a series of offshore earthquakes hit the area on Thursday morning. The strongest measured magnitude 6.1 and was located at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), it

The quake was not felt on the islands or in the Tokyo region, but the Japan Meteorological Agency warned that a tsunami as high as 1 meter (3.2 feet) could hit the coasts of the islands.

### Drone attacks in Syria kill officers, civilians

drone attack Thursday A struck a packed graduating ceremony for military officers in the Syrian city of Homs, killing an unspecified number of civilians and military personnel and wounding dozens of others, Syrian state television reported. Syria's military said in a statement that drones laden with explosives targeted the ceremony as it came to an end. They accused insurgents "backed by known international forces" for the attack, and said that some of the wounded were in critical condition, including women and children. They didn't specify the number of casualties and didn't accuse anyone in particular of carrying out the deadly strike. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the

However, Britain-based opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that seven officers were killed, and another 20

were wounded. They added iat among the person ceremony was Syria's defence

The Syrian military in its statement said "that it will respond with full force and decisiveness to these terrorist organisations wherever they

Early Thursday, the Syrian

overnment shelled a village in the rebel-held northwestern part of the country, killing at least five civilians, activists and emergency workers said. The shelling, which comes

amid a rise in strikes in the rebel-held enclave in recent days, hit a family house on the outskirts of the the village of Kafr Nouran in western Aleppo province, according to opposition-held northwestern Syria's civil defence organisation known as the White Helmets.

The dead included an older woman and three of her daughters and her son, according to the Observatory. Nine others from the family were wound-

### Philippine boats breach Chinese coast guard blockade in faceoff

L breached a Chinese coast guard blockade in the South China Sea on Wednesday in a recurring confrontation near a disputed shoal some fear could spark a larger security crisis that could draw in the United

Two Philippine coast guard ships escorted the smaller supply boats, but it wasn't immediately clear whether the ships were blocked by the Chinese coast guard from coming closer to the Second Thomas Shoal where a small contingent of Filipino marines has stood guard for years aboard a longmarooned but still actively commissioned warship, the BRP Sierra Madre.

China also claims the shoal and has surrounded it with its coast guard ships and militia vessels to prevent the Philippines from delivering construction materials that Beijing fears could be used to reinforce the Sierra Madre and turn it into a permanent terri-



torial outpost.

"Despite attempts by a significant number of China coast guard and Chinese maritime militia vessels to block, harass, and interfere with the routine rotation and resupply mission," the two Philippine boats managed to deliver provisions to the Filipino forces at the shoal, a Philippine government body overseeing the disputed waters said in a statement late Wednesday. "The Philippines' resupply missions and mainte-

nance of BRP Sierra Madre are part of regular operations in ine with domestic and international law and ensures safety and well-being of our stationed personnel," the inter-agency body said.

Ít didn't provide other regulations at sea.

details of the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it has condemned in the past as dangerous maneuvers that have nearly caused collisions. and violated international safety

### **Saud: Nepal wants to** develop cordial ties with all countries

**AP** ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal wants to develop cor-dial and friendly relations not only with India and China but also with all other countries in the world, including the US, on the basis of mutual benefits, Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud has said. Saud, who accompanied Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' during his just concluded visit to China, told PTI in an interview that the two sides have agreed to re-activate the joint border committee formed long ago to resolve the boundary issues.

"Some people say that the (Nepal) government is tilted towards China, others say that we are tilted towards India, and some others even say that we are tilted towards the US. Basically, Nepal wants to develop cordial and friendly relations not only with the two big neighbours but also with all other countries in the world including the USA," Saud said while responding to a series of ques-

"We want to develop relations with other countries on the basis of mutual benefits. For example, we have relations with India in diverse areas such as trade, transit, economy, culture and so on. In the same manner, China being one of our important neighbours we also do have the same kind of relations with it," he said.

Prachanda, who politically distanced from the pro-China Communist Party of Nepal (UML) headed by KP Oli after becoming Prime Minister in December last year, made his maiden visit to China last month after visiting India and the US, a trip aimed at maintaining a balance in ties with both the neighbours - China and India. The 68-year-old Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre (CPN-MC) leader visited India in June as his first foreign trip after assuming office for the third time.

'Nepal aiming at facilitating 1 billion Hindu pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar'



Kathmandu (PTI): Banking on the shortest route for Hindu pilgrims to reach Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet, Nepal plans to tap 1 billion travellers to the holy site once the agreement with China is in place, Minister for Foreign Affairs Narayan Prakash Saud said on Thursday.

Situated in the Ngari pre-fecture of the Tibet Autonomous Region, the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage is considered the most sacred by Hindus across the world. The two natural sacrosanct places are also revered by Buddhists, Jains and Tibet's

indigenous Bonpa faith. Saud's ambitious plan assumes significance as scores of Indian Hindus from across the world prefer to go for the revered Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nepal. In fact, even Indians who want to save time and escape the arduous trek through the Indian terrain, prefer to go via Nepal through private operators. That translates into a rich foreign exchange for the Nepal govern-

Post the COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns, China opened the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage this

### Norwegian Jon Fosse wins Nobel Prize in literature prose, which give voice to the Norwegian writer to get the litthe last time a Norwegian literature laureates. In 2018, the

**AP** ■ STOCKHOLM

on Fosse, a master of spare Nordic prose in a sprawling body of work ranging from plays to novels and children's books, won the Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday for writing that gives "voice to the unsayable".

Fosse's work, rooted in his Norwegian background, "focuses on human insecurity and anxiety," Anders Olsson, chair of the Nobel literature committee, told The Associated Press. "The basic choices you make in life, very elemental

One of his country's mostperformed dramatists, Fosse said he had "cautiously prepared" himself for a decade to receive the news that he had won. "I was surprised when



they called, yet at the same time not," the 64-year-old told Norwegian public broadcaster NRK. "It was a great joy for me to get the phone call.

The author of 40 plays as well as novels, short stories, children's books, poetry and essays, Fosse was honoured "for his innovative plays and

unsayable," according to the Swedish Academy, which awards the prize.

Fosse has cited the bleak, enigmatic work of Irish writer Samuel Beckett — the 1969 Nobel literature laureate — as an influence on his minimalist style. Fosse has also taught writing — one of his students was best-selling Norwegian novelist Karl Ove Knausgaard and consulted on a Norwegian translation of the Bible. "He tends to write in a fairly sparse style," said Guy Puzey, senior lecturer in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Edinburgh. There's a lot of repetition of quite simple expressions, which then take on a lot deeper

meaning and make you ponder

what lies in between the lines."

While Fosse is the fourth

nearly a century and the first who writes in Nynorsk, one of the two official written standards. It is used by just 10% of the country's 5.4 million people, according to the Language Council of Norway, but completely understandable to users of the other written form, Bokmaal. Still, Bokmaal is "the language of power, it's the language or urban centers, of the press," according to Puzey. Nynorsk, by contrast, is used mainly by people in rural western Norway.

erature prize, he is the first in

"So it's a really big day for a minority language," he said. Norway' culture minister,

Lubna Jaffery, told news agency NTB that it was "a historic day for the Nynorsk language and Nynorsk literature" and noted that "it has been 95 years since author received the Nobel Prize Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson received the prize in 1903,

In recognition of his contribution to Norwegian culture, in 2011 Fosse was granted use of an honorary residence in the

grounds of the Royal Palace. The literature prize has long faced criticism that it is too focused on European and North American writers, as well as too male-dominated.

Last year, French author Annie Ernaux won the prize for what the prize-giving Swedish Academy called "the courage and clinical acuity" of books rooted in her small-town background. She was just the 17th woman among the 119 Nobel

award was postponed after sex abuse allegations rocked the Swedish Academy and sparked an exodus of members. The academy revamped itself but Knut Hamsun was awarded it in 1920 and Sigrid Undset in faced more criticism for giving the 2019 award to Austria's Peter Handke, who has been called an apologist for Serbian

> His first novel, "Red, Black," was published in 1983, and his debut play, "Someone is Going to Come," in 1992. His work "A New Name:

war crimes.

Septology VI-VII" — described by Olsson as Fosse's magnum opus — was a finalist for the International Booker Prize in 2022. His other major prose works include "Melancholy;" "Morning and Evening," whose two parts depict a birth and a death; "Wakefulness;" and "Olav's Dreams.

# Russian strike on Ukranian cafe kills 49

### Zelenskyy urges stronger Western support

t least 49 civilians were  ${
m A}$ killed Thursday in a Russian rocket strike on a village store in eastern Ukraine, one of the deadliest attacks in recent months that came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyv attended a summit of around 50 European leaders in Spain to drum up support from the country's allies.

Zelenskyy denounced the attack on the store and cafe in the village of Hroza as a "demonstrably brutal Russian crime" and "a completely deliberate act of terrorism".

He urged Western allies to help strengthen Ukraine's air defences, saying that "Russian terror must be stopped".

"Russia needs this and similar terrorist attacks for only one thing: to make its genocidal aggression the new norm for the whole world," he said. "Now we are talking with European leaders, in particular, about strengthening our air defence, strengthening our soldiers, giving our country protection from terror. And we will respond to

Presidential chief of staff Andrii Yermak and Kharkiv Gov Oleh Syniehubov said a 6year-old boy was among the dead, adding that six other people were wounded.

The attack came as Zelenskyy was in in Granada in southern Spain to attend a summit of the European Political Community, which was formed in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. "The key for us, especially before winter, is to strengthen air defense, and there is already a basis for new agreements with partners," he said in a statement posted on his Telegram channel.

Last winter, Russia targeted Ukraine's energy system and other vital infrastructure in a steady barrage of missile and drone attacks, triggering continuous power outages across the country. Ukraine's power system has shown a high degree of resilience and flexibility, helping

alleviate the damage, but there have been concerns that Russia will again ramp up its strikes on power facilities as winter draws

Zelenskyy noted the Granada summit will also focus on "joint work for global food security and protection of freedom of navigation" in the Black Sea, where the Russian military has targeted Ukrainian ports after Moscow's withdrawal from a UN-sponsored grain deal designed to ensure safe grain exports from the invaded country's ports.
The UK Foreign Office

cited intelligence suggesting that Russia may lay sea mines in the approach to Ukrainian ports to target civilian shipping and blame it on Ukraine. "Russia almost certainly wants to avoid openly sinking civilian ships, instead falsely laying blame on Ukraine for any attacks against civilian vessels in the Black Sea," it said, adding that the UK was working with Ukraine to help improve the safety of



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, emergency workers search the victims of a Russian rocket attack that killed at least 49 people in the village of Hroza near Kharkiv, Ukraine on October 5

### Massachusetts shooting: Baby delivered after mother hit by gunfire

Holyoke (Massachusetts) (**AP**): A shooting claimed the life of a baby that was delivered after its mother was one of several people hit by gunfire during a fight on a downtown street in the western Massachusetts city of Holyoke, authorities said.

The pregnant woman was shot on Wednesday afternoon while seated on a public bus and taken to a hospital in critical condition, the Hampden District Attorney's Office said.

"The infant, who was delivered, and needed life-saving medical services, tragically passed away," it added.

Police responded to the shooting at 12.38 pm and said it appeared three male suspects were involved in an altercation before gunshots were fired.

All involved suspects were believed to have been identified, taken to hospitals, and are in custody, according to the District Attorney's Office. No further information was imme-

THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HERE BUY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD

ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE

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diately given on their conditions. The names of the woman shot and of the people involved in the shooting haven't been released. State police spokesperson Dave Procopio said earlier that the shooting stemmed from "an altercation

among people on the street."

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority spokesperson Brandy Pelletier confirmed that one of the agency's buses was on its route when it was involved in a shooting incident but said there would be no further comment on the active investigation.

The Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office and the Holyoke Police Department are investigating. Police said they received a

911 call about the shooting near the intersection of Sargeant and Maple streets, as well as notifications from

# Nearly 50 European leaders stress on support for Ukraine

**AP** ■ GRANADA

Almost 50 European leaders used a summit in the southern Spanish city of Granada on Thursday to stress they stand by Ukraine at a time when Western resolve appears somewhat weakened.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that besides maintaining such unity, more military aid to get through the winter was just as

Despite the political, economic and military support, the desperate struggle to rid Ukraine territory of invading Russian forces has ground to a stalemate, and Zelenskyy insisted that it was no time for wavering in the face of Russian President Vladimir Putin. And especially now that questions about continued support are growing in the United States

"Europe must be strong" despite what happens in other places around the globe, Zelenskyy said, calling for more air defence systems, artillery shells, long-range missiles and drones.

defeat in Ukraine would determine Europe's fate. Zelenskyy flew in early in

the morning to the third meeting of the European Political Community forum, which was

istration announced they

waived 26 federal laws in

South Texas to allow border

wall construction, marking

the administration's first use of

a sweeping executive power

employed often during the

Homeland Security posted the

announcement on the US

Federal Registry with few

details outlining the construc-

tion in Starr County, Texas,

which is part of a busy Border

Patrol sector seeing "high ille-

data, about 2,45,000 illegal

entries have been recorded in

According to government

The Department of

Trump presidency.

formed in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 that drastically reset the continent's political agenda and fundamentally undermined long-held beliefs on peace and stability on the

Support from Europe has become all the more important after US Congress hastily sent President Joe Biden legislation over the weekend that kept the federal government funded, but left off billions in funding for Ukraine's war effort that the White House had vigorously

Biden called other world powers on Tuesday to coordinate on Ukraine in a deliberate show of US support at a time when the future of its aid is questioned by an important faction of Republicans who want to cut off money to Kyiv.

'The main challenge that we have that is to save unity in Europe," Zelenskyy said. Last weekend's election in

Slovakia, where pro-Russia candidate Robert Fico was the big winner, and Hungary's continued recalcitrance to fully back Ukraine have cast increasmitment. That counts especially for the European Union where many decisions on Ukraine need unanimity among the bloc's 27

**Biden admn waives 26 federal laws** 

fiscal year. "There is present-

ly an acute and immediate

need to construct physical

barriers and roads in the vicin-

ity of the border of the United

States in order to prevent

unlawful entries into the

United States in the project

areas," Alejandro Mayorkas,

the DHS secretary, stated in

Drinking Water Act and

Endangered Species Act were

some of the federal laws

waived by DHS to make way

for construction that will use

funds from a congressional

appropriation in 2019 for bor-

der wall construction. The

waivers avoid time-consuming

The Clean Air Act, Safe

the notice.

this region during the current reviews and lawsuits challeng-

to allow border wall construction

# Ramaswamy slams Zelenskyy

Republican presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy has slammed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for seeking additional funds from the US to hold polls in the war-torn country

The 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur also asserted that he is on his way to becoming the party's nominee for the 2024 presidential elections. In an interview with Fox News, Ramaswamy defended his statement that he would cut aid to Ukraine if elected as the US president.

"I have a problem with appeasement too, but I want to be very clear. We have to level with the American people here. Just because Putin is an evil dictator — and he is does not mean that Ukraine is good," he said.

"This (Ukraine) is a country that has banned 11 opposition parties. This is a country that has consolidated all media into one state media arm, whose president iust last week was praising a Nazi in his own ranks, has threatened the United States not to hold its own normal elections this year unless it more funding,

Ramaswamy said. Now polling third and fourth in major national polls, Ramaswamy said he is on his becoming Republican Party's presidential nominee. "Six months ago, even five months ago, most people across this country didn't know who I was. Now we're already polling in

tal laws. Starr County's hilly

ranchlands, sitting between

Zapata and McAllen, Texas,

are home to about 65,000 res-

idents sparsely populating

about 3,108 square km that

form part of the Lower Rio

Grande Valley National

provided in the announce-

ment, a previous map shared

during the gathering of public

comments shows the piece-

meal construction will add up

to an additional 20 miles to the

existing border barrier system

in the area. Starr County Judge

Eloy Vera said it will start

south of the Falcon Dam and

go past Salineño, Texas.

Although no maps were

Wildlife Refuge.

many cases," he said.

"I think we are on our wav to the nomination. But, to me, this isn't about me. It isn't about Trump. It's about putting

sage is resonating across the country. It will take someone of a different generation to reach the next generation," said the Indian-American leader.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Anita Devi is in process to avail loan against her Entire Ground Floor (without roof/terrace rights) Part of Property No. 3-A, area measuring 87 Sq. Yds. part of Khasra No. 350, situated in the Lal Dora of Village Pitam Pura, Delhi having acquired the same vide sale deed dated 24/10/2005 (document no. 32496) whereas she has lost the following original documents pertaining to the said property although they have also lodged a complaint in lieu of that on dated 3/10/23 with the concerned Police station I.Original Relinquishment Deed dated 22-09-2005 executed by 1) Mr. Naresh Kumar 2) Mr. Vijender Singh, 3) Mr. Bobby Benivad 14) Mrs. Sunita in favour of Mr. Surender Singh 50 Late Ram Chander in favour of thatsh (Document No. 30081) All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale

the said rroperty, or any part thereor, or way or start exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are bereby requested to notify the same in writing to are nereoy requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below writin 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, 67b., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

PUBLIC NOTICE IT MAY BE KNOWN TO EVERYBODY THAT MY CLIENT SH. MANISH JAISWAL, S/O SH. G.S. JAISWAL, R/O C-58, GF,

RAMPRASTHA, GHAZIABAD (UP) IS INTENDING TO PURCHASE A BUILT UP PROPERTY MEASURING 100 SQ. YDS PLOT NO. B-32/6, SL. NO. 2052, WARD NO. 87, FORMING PART OF KHASRA NO. 532/5 ETC. SITUATED AT VILL. JHILMIL
TAHIRPUR, IN THE ABADI OF DILSHAD

GARDEN ILLAGA SHAHDARA FROM SH R/o H. No. 251-252-255, POCKET D-16. SECTOR-3, ROHINI, DELHI - 110085, SH BANSAL, R/O. H. NO. C-323, YOJNA VIHAR DELHI – 110092, SH. RAJESH GUPTA, S/O SH, VIJAY GUPTA, R/O, H, NO, 27/92, GAL

NO. 7, VISHWAS NAGAR, SHAHDARA, DELHI – 110032 AND SH. VINOD KUMAR GUPTA S/O SHIMIL GUPTA R/O HING 1382, DDA JANTA FLATS, GTB ENCLAVE NAND NAGRI, SHAHDARA, DELHI -110093, WHOSOEVER HAS ANY CLAIM IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY, IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE

UNDERSIGNED WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE PUBLICATION, FAILING WHICH IT WILL BE PRESUMED THAT NO ONE HAS ANY
CLAIM IN THE PROPERTY UNDER SALE (V.K.SHARMA) ADVOCATE 102, Shivpuri, Delhi – 110051 M: 9811116149

CERTIFICATE of the above said properly have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable inspite of his best efforts. An FLR./NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station. Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No. 975464/2023) attended to 5.10.2023). Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 954001.2991, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Group Housing) or Director (Group Housing). Naveen Aqqarwal (Advocate) Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate)

Ch.No. M-7, Near SBI, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54 B-205A, PHASE - 2, NOIDA

GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR Uttar Pradesh - 201305 BIDDING NO. 2023-24/015/STOCKS

disposal of stock of Fire, Smoke & water Affected Quilt & comforter, pillow & plant 8 machinery as salvage which had been damaged due to Fire i.e. (Fire, Smoke & water) affected on 'As is where is basis'. The interested bidders are advised to visit the www.iustauction.in. The details of the E-bidding including list of items, approximate quantity available for disposal and its pictures are displayed on website

M/s My Home Collections Pvt. Ltd., Contact No. 9560644355 Anita Jha (Surveyor office) Contact No 7011489391.

Inspection of Fire smoke affected damaged Quilt & comforter, pillow & plant & machinery Can be done from 06/10/2023 to16/10/2023 between 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM.

E-bidding will be conducted on 17/10/2023 at 03.00 P.M to 04.00 P.M. hours.

To place your bid, https://shorturl.at/iC068

No manual offers will be accepted against E-bidding. Director M/s My Home Collections Pvt. Ltd

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Rashtriva Jan Karmath Party. The office of the party is located at 2nd, F-110, Nehru Nagar, Near Ganesh Hospital, Ghaziabad-201001. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as a Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows: President/Chairman: Ansul Gupta

2nd, F-110, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001

General Secretary/Secretary: Rajesh Kumar Sair 216, Ram Nagar, Turab Nagar, Ghaziabad, 201001

Treasurer: Priya Gupta

2nd, F-110, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001

If anyone has any objection to the registration of Rashtriya Jan Karmath Party, they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

### **◆** IMPORTANT NOTICE **◆** It is notified for the information of passenger that

Train No. 14087/14088 Delhi Jn.-Jaisalmer-Delhi Jn. Runicha Express will also be provided stoppage at Nawa City station as per following schedule, besides the stoppages already notified in Public Notice published in various

# PUBLIC NOTICE To, be known to all that my client, SHRI SANJEEV KUMAR AGRAWAL alias SHRI SANJEEV AGRAWAL S/O LATE SHRI K. AGRAWAL alias RAI KUMAR AGGARWAL R/O FLAT NO.D-26, GHARONDA APARTMENTS, SRESHTHA VIHAR, DELHI-110092, is the allottee/owner of FLAT NO.D-26, GHARONDA CGHS LTD., Known as GHARONDA APARTMENTS, PLOT NO.2, SRESHTHA VIHAR, DELIT110092. The original documents is. Original SHARE CERTIFICATE of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable inspite of his URMILA 11 MUSKAN The Competent Authority invites E-bids for Contact Person: Mr. Sunil Pandey of 29 BOBI 33 RITU 40 SAIF ALI 42 SANU RAI 44 MONU 45 LOKESH 50 AKASH 52 ANIL

73 AMARJEET SINGH

PLACE: DELHI, DATE: 06.10.2023

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FOR DETAILED TERMS AND CONDITIONS, PLEASE LOG INTO GIVEN WEBSITE HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN

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### B'desh gets first uranium consignment for Russian-built nuclear power plant Hasina - both via video links that Smart Bangladesh," she

Thursday received the first consignment of uranium for its only nuclear plant being built with Russian assistance, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina saying that the country will use nuclear power for peaceful purposes. The development comes amid the Ukraine war, which has led to sanctions from the Western countries on several Russian companies. The sanctions delayed the project, which is expected help the country's growing

economy Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister

joined the ceremony where the uranium fuel for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) was handed over to Bangladesh authorities. Rosatom's chief Aleksey

Likhachev handed over the fuel to Bangladesh's Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman at the ceremony in the northern Pabna district. "Today is a day of pride and joy for the people of Bangladesh," Hasina

"Bangladesh will turn into a smart country in future, and the nuclear power plant is another step towards building

said. "We will use nuclear power to protect peace," she added. Once NPP starts production, Bangladesh will become the 33rd nuclear power-producing country in the world, Hasina's ruling Awami League party said in a post on X. Putin congratulated Bangladesh for its nuclear "graduation", calling Dhaka Russia's "tested friend".

"The flagship project meets interests of both countries and promotes further deepening of mutually beneficial cooperation," Putin said, adding that he kept an eye on the implementation of the project.

newspapers on 05.10.2023:-Train No. 14087/14088 Delhi Jn.-Jaisalmer-Delhi Jn. Runicha Express Train (Daily) TRAIN NO. 14087 **TRAIN NO. 14088 STATIONS** ARR. DEP. DEP. ARR. Nawa City 16:05 16:03 **4** 04:00 04:02 For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in RailMadad Helpline No. www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download Railmadad App 139 **NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

security. The demand notices were issued to the borrowers/guarantors calling up the borrowers, guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the gold loan facility availed. As the borrowers, GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT. THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 16.10.2023 AT 12.30 PM TO 3.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "NO RECOURSE BASIS" DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT **CUSTOMER NAME** B.O.: ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL] 1 PANKAJ KUMAR 2 PANKAJ KUMAR XXXXXXXXXXXX3350 106,630.05 30-05-2023 33.70 3 SUNIL KUMAR 08-02-2023 57.50 444,289.13 JITENDER KUMAI XXXXXXXXXXXXX0033 2.415.444.31 30-05-2023 B.O.: BALI NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL 6 RASHMI TANEJA 7 GULAB SINGH 8 UPENDRA SINGH XXXXXXXXXXXX8135 41,921.00 28-02-2023 12.60 9 RAHUL KUMAR SHAR XXXXXXXXXXXX2550 198,739.00 28-08-2023 143.90 B.O.: JYOTI NAGAR DEL DI XXXXXXXXXXXXX7106 43.20 62,593.00 12 DEV KUMAR GUPT 08-03-2023 29.80 13 VINIT BHATI 103,603.00 30-05-2023 29.40 14 GOVIND KUMAR XXXXXXXXXXX7973 117,872.56 28-02-2023 38.10 36.40 15 SANJEEV KUMAR XXXXXXXXXXXX2411 135,587.00 30-05-2023 44.40 16 ANUJ KUMAR 37.70 XXXXXXXXXXXX7545 B.O.: KALKAJI, NEW DELHI [DL] 18 SUMIT BIDHURI XXXXXXXXXXXXX8542 412,375.24 19 PAWAN KUMAR B.O.: KISHANGANJ OD DL 20 AMIT SETTHEE 30-05-2023 B.O.: LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL 21 SANDEEP KUMAR 233,212.89 B.O.: MALVIYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DI 22 GUDIA DEVI XXXXXXXXXXX1438 90,151.00 B.O.: MAYUR VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL] 24 SANIAY SINGH XXXXXXXXXXXX7825 62,928.00 25 RAVINDER KUMAR CHAUHAN XXXXXXXXXXX4407 B.O.: NANGLOI DEL DL 26 ABDUL NOOR P XXXXXXXXXXXX3663 52,423.0 **B.O.: NEW FRIENDS COLONY, NEW DELHI** 27 SACHIN GUPTA XXXXXXXXXXXX6135 67,723.24 03-09-2022 19.00 B.O.: ROHINI, DELHI [DL] 28 JAGJIT KAUR XXXXXXXXXXXX0498 54.584.00 25-08-2023 35.60 34.00 30 MUKESH KUMAR MANDAL XXXXXXXXXXXX0943 75,160.00 27-06-2023 24.60 22.90 52.90 31 RESHMA KUMARI XXXXXXXXXXXX1570 185,533.00 30-05-2023 55.30 32 SARABJEET KAUR 214,823.00 137.70 XXXXXXXXXXXX6879 05-09-2022 144.20 XXXXXXXXXXXX5205 284.534.00 30-05-2023 78.90 76.00 B.O.: SECTOR-24, ROHINI, NEW DELHI [DI 34 RESHMA KUMAR B.O.: SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI [DL] 35 NAGENDRA KUMAR XXXXXXXXXXX5979 B.O.: TILAK NAGAR, DELHI [DL] 36 PAWAN KUMAR B.O.: UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL 37 MANAS KUMAR PARIDA 102.30 B.O.: VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI [DL] 38 MANOJ KUMAR XXXXXXXXXXX5335 XXXXXXXXXXXX3584 39 SWETA SINGH 26.961.78 18-07-2023 11.40 B.O.: DLF, GURGAON [HR] XXXXXXXXXXXXX187 25-08-2023 20.00 19.50 30-05-2023 151.40 B.O.: FARIDABAD [HR] XXXXXXXXXXX9114 08-02-2023 XXXXXXXXXXXX8412 25-08-2023 36.28 90.40 XXXXXXXXXXXX4270 161,428.78 85.70 81.10 22-06-2022 46 JITENDER KUMAR XXXXXXXXXXX9641 262,588.00 08-02-2023 77.90 74.20 47 KSHITIJ SHARMA 205.56 298,531.89 25-08-2023 245.40 XXXXXXXXXXXX0659 48 AKSHAY PANDEY 257.40 49 TEK CHAND XXXXXXXXXXX5944 712.671.72 27-06-2023 244.90 B.O.: NEW RAILWAY ROAD, GURGAON [HR] XXXXXXXXXXXXX4371 B.O.: PALAM VIHAR, GURGAON [HR] 51 SANJAY SANJAY XXXXXXXXXXXX9947 03-09-2022 9.80 9.80 XXXXXXXXXXX4597 57,930.00 30-05-2023 18.00 17.20 27-06-2023 53 BRAJESH KUMAR JHA 68,412.00 20.30 XXXXXXXXXXX3258 54 GAURAV SHARMA XXXXXXXXXXXX2456 78,631.00 30-05-2023 24.50 55 MAMTA DEVI XXXXXXXXXXXX6744 150,611,19 25-08-2023 39.90 56 HARJEET SINGH 792,930.00 261.50 XXXXXXXXXXXXX0261 286.50 08-02-2023 162.05 **B.O.: PARADISE MALL S GUR HF** 58 PRITAM RANA XXXXXXXXXXXX5786 27-06-2023 89,202.00 52.20 59 RAVINDRA SHISHRAM XXXXXXXXXXXX4640 25-08-2023 B.O.: SECTOR 10A, GURGAON [HR 60 MANOJ KUMAR JAISWAI 10.10 61 RAJEEV MALHOTRA XXXXXXXXXXX5679 120,503.00 30-05-2023 38.00 36.40 RAVINDAR PRATAP SINGH XXXXXXXXXXX9395 65,526.00 18-07-2023 17.80 B.O.: SECTOR 16, FARIDABAD [HR] 64 PAWAN KUMAR 14.80 XXXXXXXXXXXX5141 61,285.40 27-06-2023 15.10 65 TARA CHAND XXXXXXXXXXX7928 30-05-2023 210.10 201.00 B.O.: SECTOR 31-32A, GURGAON [HR] 66 BIJENDER KUMAR 14.30 30-05-2023 B.O.: GHAZIABAD [UP] 67 ANJALEE PATHAK XXXXXXXXXXXX8332 34.00 102,430.58 B.O.: NOIDA [UP] 68 RAZAUDIN XXXXXXXXXXXX3620 69 AMIT KUMAF XXXXXXXXXXXXX0984 68,499.00 12-09-2022 16.40 15.50 70 ANIMESH ADITYA 30-05-2023 72.80 69.80 XXXXXXXXXXXX2904 454,479.00 71 MITTHAN YADAV 28-02-2023 XXXXXXXXXXX1680 30-05-2023 72 RAMKRIPAL SINGH XXXXXXXXXXXX1463 285.195.92 93.30 88.70 B.O.: VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP]

# Markets rebound after 2-day slump, L&T top boost

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply on Thursday after sliding for the past two sessions, propelled by bargain hunting in capital goods, banking, and IT stocks amid a sharp correction in global crude prices.

An encouraging PMI data further bolstered sentiment, even as relentless foreign capital outflows trimmed gains, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 405.53 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 65,631.57. During the day, it rallied 527.16 points or 0.80 per cent to 65,753.20.

Nifty advanced 109.65 points or 0.56 per cent to end

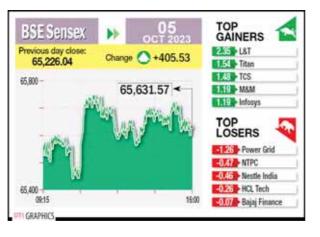
"The positive signal from the PMI data and the correc-

ed the market sentiment. While regarding RBI policy, positively, the market expects the interest rate to be hold-on as external demand outlook indicates muted trend fearing disinflationary trend in the future," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Larsen & Toubro was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.35 per cent, followed by Titan, Tata Consultancy Services, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, ICICI Bank and Asian

In contrast, Power Grid, Nestle, NTPC, HCL Technologies and Bajaj Finance were among the lag-

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.59 per cent and the



midcap index dipped 0.03 per

Among the indices, capital goods jumped 1.31 per cent, services climbed 1.03 per cent, IT (0.98 per cent), industrials (0.95 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.93 per cent), teck (0.83 per cent) and auto (0.81 per cent).

FMCG, telecommunication, utilities and metal were the laggards.

"Global markets steadied on Thursday rebounding from previous losses after a strong



lead from Wall Street. A plunge in oil prices and softer U.S. Labour data late on Wednesday helped bring US Treasury yields back down from 16-year highs," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities,

said. In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the green, while Seoul ended lower. Trading was closed in Shanghai for a holiday.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in positive

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.89 per cent to USD 85.05 a barrel.

"Recovery in global mar-kets followed by a sharp drop in international crude oil prices and steady trend in US bond yields triggered a relief rally in domestic shares after two sessions of losses. Buying in IT, banking, auto and capital goods stocks led the upsurge, whereas selective profit-taking in metals, and power stocks trimmed gains of key benchmark indices.

"Despite the rebound, uncertainty over more rate hikes going ahead coupled with slackening demand and recessionary fears would mean that markets are likely to witness strong bouts of intra-day volatility with a slightly negative bias in the near to medium term," Shrikant Chouhan,

Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,424.02 crore on Wednesday, accord-

ing to exchange data.
"Though the market bounced back today, uncertainty persists, which would keep the Nifty range bound. Investors would watch out for US weekly jobless claims that would be released late today.

Also, the release of US non-farm payroll data, along with the RBI policy outcome tomorrow would be key events to watch out for,' Khemka said.

The BSE benchmark declined 286.06 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 65,226.04 on Wednesday. Nifty slipped 92.65 points or 0.47 per cent

# RBI expected to retain benchmark rate: Experts

PTI KOLKATA

The RBI is expected to retain the benchmark rate of 6.5 per cent in its latest bi-monthly monetary policy review, amid inflation concerns and other global factors, experts said.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) started its three-day meeting on Wednesday, and the policy review will be announced on Friday morning.

"I think that between the last MPC meeting in August and this time, inflation has gone up, growth remains strong while global factors have turned a little adverse in the sense that the US Federal Reserve is still aggressive in its stance, which has led to hardening of yields. In this situation, the central bank is expected to maintain a status quo on policy rates in the ensuing policy," Crisil Chief

Economist D Joshi told PTI.

He said the RBI would focus more on inflation given that growth is strong right now, adding oil price movements need to be watched carefully,

"We believe that the interest rates will be on the higher side, which essentially means that we will not see any rate cut

The Reserve Bank has been mandated by the central government to ensure the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either

Retail inflation jumped to a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, as prices of vegetables and other food items spiked, according to official data.



Chief Economist of Bandhan Bank, Siddhartha Sanyal, said, "The global macroeconomic backdrop remains complicated with uncertainties around growth. This will prompt the MPC to stay watchful, with a likely guidance of rates to remain higher for longer.

"Nevertheless, softening in prices of agro commodities since August has offered the MPC some breathing space, which will allow it to refrain from any rate action at the

Founder and Director of CreditWise Capital Aalesh Avlani also said there will likely be no change in the policy rates on Friday

The RBI started increasing the policy rate in May 2022 in tranches, in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war and took it to 6.5 per cent in February this year. Since then, it has kept the rate unchanged in the last three successive bi-monthly monetary policy reviews.

of Titagarh Rail Systems, Umesh Chowdhury, added: "The government's policies and capital spending have certainly fuelled infrastructure growth. There are a lot of opportunities for the manufacturing sector, which means the private sector would have to incur capital expenditure. For that, the interest rate regime would continue to play a very important role".

### PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Clean energy solution provider Amplus on Thursday said it has entered into an initial pact with Microsoft to enhance and market its renewable energy remote monitoring

The two companies signed a long-term Renewable Energy Agreement last year for a 100 MW solar power project in Rajasthan, the company said in

Amplus is collaborating with Microsoft through a

Memorandum Understanding (MoU) to enhance and market Amplus's innovative Renewable Energy Remote Monitoring Solution, it stated.

According to the statement, the strategic collaboration promises to usher in a transformative era in RE plant performance monitoring on the proposed future energy platform supported by Generative AI.

'This collaboration marks a pivotal moment for both Amplus and the renewable energy industry. As part of this new



collaboration, we are eager to harness the power of Generative AI and Large Language Models to set new standards for the codevelopment of the proposed future energy platform," Sharad Pungalia, MD & CEO of Amplus, stated.

Amplus is a member of clean energy solutions provider Gentari. "Ăt Gentari, we welcome industry-level collaborations where we can combine complementary strengths to unlock greater synergies. This collaboration with Microsoft is aligned with our commitment to technologies required to develop and deploy leading-edge innovations that will put clean energy into action," Gentari Chief Executive Officer Sushil Purohit said. "This new collaboration

invest in the capabilities and

reflects our commitment to help Amplus accelerate its digital transformation and the overall renewable energy sector by harnessing the power of the cloud and technologies like Generative AI and machine learning," Microsoft Malaysia Managing Director K Raman said.

# Coffee Day Enterprises total default at ₹433.91 crore in Jul-Sep quarter

Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL) on Thursday reported a total default on payments of loans' principal and interest amount of Rs 433.91 crore for the September 2023 quarter.

This is lower than the June quarter when CDEL had reported a total default of Rs 440.25 crore.

Its "total financial indebtedness of listed entity, including short term and long term debt", is Rs 433.91 crore in the July-September quarter, the to bourses on Thursday. According to CDEL, its

total outstanding amount is Rs 189.14 crore from loans or revolving facilities like cash credit from banks or financial institutions.

Of this, CDEL defaulted on Rs 183.36 crore principal amount and an interest payment of Rs 5.78 crore as of



securities, such as NCDs and NCRPS, is Rs 244.77 crore. Of this, the total amount of default as of date is Rs 200 crore along with an interest of Rs 44.77 crore, the company

"Due to default in repayment of interest and principal to the lenders, the lenders have sent 'loan recall' notices to the company as well as ini-

The company's total out- tiated legal disputes. In view legal disputes and pending one-time settlement with the lenders, the company has not recognised interest from April

> Earlier in August, the NCLAT had stayed insolvency proceedings against its subsidiary Coffee Day Global Ltd (CDGL), which owns and operates the popular Cafe Coffee Day chain.

On September 13, 2023, CDGL reached a settlement with its financial creditor IndusInd Bank, following which the NCLAT has set aside an insolvency process against it.

CDEL is trying to pair its debts through asset resolu-tions and has significantly scaled it down from the time when the trouble started after the death of founder Chairman V G Siddhartha in July 2019. In March 2020, it announced repaying Rs 1,644 crore to 13 lenders after concluding a deal with Blackstone business park.

Earlier this year, capital markets regulator SEBI had also levied a penalty of Rs 26 crore on CDEL for failing to stop the diversion of Rs 3,535 crore from the company's sub-

The company is trying to recover the amount legally from Mysore Amalgamated Coffee Estates Ltd (MACEL).

# Rupee pares initial gains, settles 3 paise lower at 83.27 per \$

The rupee pared initial gains and settled 3 paise lower at 83.27 against the US dollar on Thursday, following a recovery in the American currency. Forex traders said the

rupee consolidated in a narrow range as investors preferred to stay on the sidelines ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's rate decision. At the interbank foreign

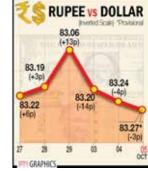
exchange market, the rupee greenback and touched an intra-day low of 83.30 and a high of 83.16.

It finally settled at 83.27, down 3 paise over its previous close of 83.24.

"The Indian rupee erased opening gains following recovery in the greenback but ended almost steady ahead of the US weekly jobless data and the RBI's rate decision," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Parmar said the rupee was well supported by lower crude oil prices, the central bank's dollar supply and recovery in the domestic equity markets.

"Spot USDINR is expected to trade between 83.10 to 83.35 with the trend remain-



sideways to bullish," he

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent lower at 106.79.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures dipped 0.97 per cent to USD 84.98 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 405.53 points, or 0.62 per cent, higher at 65,631.57, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 109.65 points, or 0.56 per cent, to 19,545.75.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Wednesday, offloading shares worth Rs 4,424.02 crore, as per stock exchange data.

### declines **₹150**, silver climbs Gold

Old price declined Rs 150 to Rs 57,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid a fall in the yellow metal prices globally, according to

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs

500 per 10 grams. However, silver climbed Rs 300 to Rs 71,300 per kg. "Gold traded negative on HDFC Securities, said.

Thursday, with spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 57,350/10 grams, down by Rs 150 against its previous close," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at



In the international markets, gold was down at USD 1,820 per ounce, while silver was trading higher at USD 21.15 per ounce. Comex gold prices consolidated their lowest level since March amid mixed cues, Gandhi said. Meanwhile, in futures trade the December contract of gold

fell Rs 7 to Rs 56,714 per 10 grams. Also, December contract of silver jumped Rs 387 to Rs 67,272 per kg on the MCX.

# 'Cyber insurance gains momentum in India'

The cyber insurance market in India is expected to grow by 27-30 per cent in the coming years, a Deloitte report said forecasting cyber insurance gaining momentum.

The report indicates that the current Indian cyber insurance market is valued at USD 50-60 million, maintaining a steady 27-30 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in the past three years.

"This growth is expected to continue for the next 3-5 years, driven by an increased awareness of the need for cyber insurance," the report 'Cyber Insurance in India' said.

It identifies industries heavily involved in digitisation, such as IT, pharma, and manufacturing, as well as those integrated with broader economic sectors like supply chain, retail, critical industries, and finance, to be the prime targets of cybercrim-

"These sectors are typically early adopters of cyber insurance," it said. The report included a survey of several Chief Information Security Officers (CISO), with 70 per cent of next three years.

"Notably, willingness was most prominent among mid-sized firms. Conversely, certain leading companies in the consumer sector overseeing substantial consumer databases exhibited a cautious approach when expanding their digital infrastructure budgets," Deloitte said in a statement.

However, they expressed an interest in boosting their insurance coverage. "About 60 per cent of respondents wanted to increase insurance coverage without wanting to invest much in improving their digital infrastructure security," it said. The survey suggests that the

ditional players including technology giants and MNCs entering the cyber insurance domain, intensifying competition. Debashish Banerjee, Partner and Insurance sector leader, Deloitte India, said, "It is crucial to shift the perception that cyber insurance isn't merely an expense; it is a strategic investment. The dynamic cyber insurance market caters to rising demand to counter cybercrime losses. In this era of rapid digitisation,

by three key factors - the pace at

which firms achieve digital maturi-

ty, government initiatives to digitise

and enforce stringent cyber laws, and

the evolving landscape with non-tra-

of cyber insurance as indispensable."
"As organisations embrace the digital realm, they must prepare to tackle surging cyber threats. The boards and CEOs of organisations need to elevate their cybersecurity knowledge, acknowledging that cyber risks are now central to comprehensive risk management," he

businesses must see proper coverage

# BUSINESS BRIEF

**NATION CELEBRATES SHASTRI BIRTH** 

**ANNIVERSARY NEW DELHI:** The nation celebrated on 2nd October 2023, the 119th birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. The occasion was marked by various programmes held in the capital beginning with bhajans at his

Samadhi at Vijay Ghat organised by

### WIDEST ARRAY OF SOLAR **SOLUTIONS LAUNCHED** GREATER NOIDA: India's leading

the Government of NCT of Delhi.

solar tech start-up, Loom Solar under its initiative Mission- Zero Emission launched a series of innovative and India first solar solutions today at REI Expo 2023

### **L&T SHARES CLIMB OVER 2 PER CENT** NEW DELHI: Shares of Larsen &

Toubro (L&T) climbed over 2 per cent on Thursday after the company bagged several 'large' projects under its various business

# **Future Consumer Ltd** defaults on ₹369.59 crore loan repayment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Future Consumer Ltd (FCL) has defaulted on the payment of Rs 369.59 crore towards principal and interest on loans from banks, financial institutions and unlisted debt securities in the September quarter.

FCL, the FMCG arm of the debt-ridden Future Group, had defaulted on Rs 253.95 crore loans and revolving facilities like cash credit from banks and financial institutions as on September 30, a filing said on Thursday.

The default amount for

unlisted debt securities such as Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) and Non-Convertible Redeemable Preferential Shares (NCRPS) is Rs 115.64 crore for the quarter, as per the regulatory disclosure.

FCL's total financial liabilities

short-term and long-term debts. This includes Rs 266.80 crore

debt from banks and financial institutions and Rs 201.32 crore from NCDs and NCRPS, the filing added. However, FCL added it is "is

planning/working for asset mon-etization and debt reduction over the period in this year". FCL, part of the Kishore Biyani-led Future Group, is in the business of manufacturing, branding, and distributing FMCG food and processed food products. It was part of the 19 group companies operating in retail, wholesale, logistics and ware-

housing segments, which were supposed to be transferred to Reliance Retail under a Rs 24,713 crore deal announced in August 2020, which was called off in respondents expressing willingness to increase spending on securing their digital infrastructure over the

cyber insurance market will experience modest growth in the short term, expecting exponential acceleration with momentum.

In India, the cyber insurance

# NEWCASTLE HUMILIATE PSG

return to the Champions League at St James' Park as Paris Saint-Germain were humbled in a 4-1 victory for the Magpies on Wednesday.

Miguel Almiron, Dan Burn, Sean Longstaff and Fabian Schar scored the goals as Newcastle made their first home game in Europe's elite competition for 20

years a night to remember.
"We hope this gives us the belief we need to be successful in the competition," said Newcastle boss Eddie Howe.

"It's only by doing that you can prove it to yourselves.

Howe's men move to the top of what is considered the toughest Champions League group in this season's draw. Newcastle have four points

from their opening two Group F games, one more than PSG while Borussia Dortmund and AC Milan picked up their first point in a 0-0 draw in Germany. The first ever clash between

the clubs pitted the sporting interests of Saudi Arabia and Qatar head-to-head.

A Saudi takeover two years ago has transformed Newcastle's fortunes in similar fashion to how the influx of cash from the Middle East has made PSG the



dominant force of French football over the past decade.

PSG boss Luis Enrique warned before the game that Newcastle were the side no one

wanted from the fourth pot of Enrique boldly stuck with a seeds and the Premier League side showed why. Despite being acutely aware

of Newcastle's threat. Luis

star-studded front four featuring Kylian Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele, Goncalo Ramos and Randal Kolo Muani.

"These games are tough for coaches," said the former Spain boss, who defended his team

selection.
"Honestly, I think the score-

congratulate Newcastle, who played very well. But I think 4-1 is harsh.

Once the home side, roared on by a raucous 52,000 fans, got their claws into the visitors, they did not let go.

### **MILAN DRAW**

AC Milan were held to a second successive goalless draw in the Champions League at Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday to slip to third in Group F. Stefano Pioli's Italian side, semi-finalists last season, created the better chances but failed to convert them, just as in their opening 0-0 draw with Newcastle at the San Siro.

"I'm disappointed," Milan winger Rafael Leao told Prime

"We can't be happy with this draw, we missed too many chances and in the Champions League that's unforgivable.'

Dortmund drop to the bottom of the early standings, one point behind Milan and three adrift of early leaders Newcastle after their 4-1 victory over second-placed Paris Saint-

The Germans are also yet to score in the competition this term after losing 2-0 to PSG at the Parc des Princes.



## Barca secure important 1-0 win against Porto

Ferran Torres's strike earned Barcelona a tense 1-0 win at Porto in the Champions League on Wednesday, which coach Xavi Hernandez said 'got rid of ghosts" the club had from previous years. Barcelona have been elim-

inated in the opening stage in the past two editions but this hard-fought triumph on the road puts them in a strong position as Group H leaders to avoid a third consecutive strike-out.

Xavi said the trip to the north of Portugal would be the hardest group game and his team had to dig deep, surviving a penalty which was cancelled after a VAR review and an offside goal in the gripping final stages. Barca midfielder Gavi was sent off in stoppage time for a second yellow card as the Catalans clung on desperately to secure victory.

"We lacked a lot of calm, a lot of patience (but) this is Europe, it's Porto, it's away from home, everything is hard, very hard," Xavi told reporters, after his 100th game as Barca coach. "If we talk about negatives there are a lot, but if we talk about positives there are a

"We came from having ghosts', but now we've got rid of them. We were able to win away from home against a historic team.



# Pedro strikes late to lift Lazio

**AP** ■ GLASGOW

Lazio kick-started their Champions League campaign with a last-gasp 2-1 win against Celtic as Pedro netted in the final seconds of Wednesday's clash in Glasgow.

Maurizio Sarri's side arrived at Parkhead under a cloud after a wretched run in

But Lazio banished the gloom in the most dramatic fashion when Pedro headed stun raucous Parkhead into

Celtic took the lead through Japan striker Kyogo Furuhashi's first Champions

League goal. However, the Scottish champions' hopes of winning

on home soil in the Champions League group stage for the first time in 10 years were dashed

Matias Vecino headed Lazio's equaliser before the interval and former Chelsea winger Pedro produced the late

"We had a great first half, then we had a period of being under pressure, but this time we showed more character to stay in the game. When that happens, usually you are

"I told the lads before the match that we were nearly there, not to listen to what anyone else says

"We are close to being competitive. I hope this result can give us a positive reaction, some confidence and belief.

Tulian Alvarez and Jeremy Doku came off the bench to grab late goals and push Manchester City to a 3-1 victory at RB Leipzig in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Facing Leipzig in the competition for the third straight year, City dominated from the start, Phil Foden slamming in the opener after some impressive lead-up play from teenage wing-back Rico Lewis.

Clearly outclassed in the first half, Leipzig struck back immediately after half-time, Lois Openda scoring

after a sweeping counter attack to equalise.

But with Leipzig focused on talisman Erling Haaland, who scored five in 60 minutes the last time these sides met, it was the Norwegian's understudy who scored the crucial goal, curling in City's second just five minutes after being introduced.

Doku sealed the win with a goal in injury time.

City forward Foden praised Alvarez's "magical" goal, telling TNT sports "he's someone we look to for the big goals."

"He came on and changed the



game. He's a really important player

City boss Pep Guardiola praised his "perfect" side, saying "we took the game with a lot of passes and when a team is able to do this, very nice things are going to happen to you." We played a fantastic game in all

departments.' City came into the game after two losses in a row for the first time since

Guardiola told the post-match press conference the victory put his

team's recent struggles "in perspec-

# Atletico produce another comeback to beat Feyenoord

Alvaro Morata hit a brace as Atletico Madrid twice came from behind to beat Feyenoord 3-2 and move top of Champions League Group E on Wednesday.

Spanish striker Morata has excelled this season, Diego Simeone's side in attack, alongside Antoine Griezmann, who netted Atletico's other goal.

The Rojiblancos were inconsistent but moments of quality from Morata and Griezmann proved the



difference in an end-to-end clash at the Metropolitano. They all have great

teams, this is the Champions League, you have to suffer to win," Morata told Movistar

"We pressed for it, we knew how to suffer and took three very important points.'

was delighted by the atmosphere Atletico fans

"If we continue like this, with the fans giving everything to us, it will be difficult for anyone to beat us," he added.

### Fluminense stun Internacional to reach Copa Libertadores final

**AP** ■ PORTO ALEGRE

Terman Cano scored a late winner as Fluminense staged a dramatic fightback to beat Internacional 2-1 and reach the final of the Copa Libertadores on Wednesday. Cano — the two-goal hero of the first leg — swept home an 87th-minute strike just six minutes after John Kennedy's equaliser as Fluminense completed a 4-3 aggregate victory in the all-Brazilian clash.

Fluminense will face either Argentina's Boca ors or another Brazilian club November 4 final at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. Fluminense have never won the Copa Libertadores and for long periods of Wednesday's second leg in Porto Alegre it looked as if their frustrating record of disappointment was set to con-

Internacional dominated the early exchanges and were handed a dream start when Gabriel



Mercado headed home Alan Patrick's corner to put the home side 1-0 up, 3-2 ahead on aggregate,

Substitute John Kennedy sprang the offside trap to dink in a superb equaliser to silence the home crowd in the 81st minute.

Six minutes later, Fluminense snatched a second, when Arias crossed low from the right. Kennedy helped the ball on with a sublime flick into the path of Cano who made no mistake with an emphatic finish into the bottom corner.

### Alcaraz 'feels ready' for Shanghai

Shanghai Masters top seed Carlos Alcaraz on Thursday said he was ready for the tournament and would change what he did wrong in Beijing, where he crashed out of the China Open this week.

The world number two said he had been "out of my mind" during his semi-final match against Jannik Sinner in the Chinese capital, which the Italian won 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.
Asked on Thursday how he

would avoid cracking under pressure again in Shanghai, where he is the favourite in Novak Djokovic's absence, the 20-year-old said he had to "do my homework". "I have just one day to prac-

going to start, but... I feel ready, and I'll change what I did wrong in Beijing," he told reporters at a press conference. Sinner went on to claim the

tise and then the tournament is

China Open title, and could well end up facing Alcaraz again in Shanghai.
"I wasn't surprised at all," the
Spaniard said of Sinner's win. "I

know the capacity of Jannik. I know his level. He's one of the best in the world right now and he can beat anyone. It is Alcaraz's first time at the Shanghai Masters, with the event

called off for the last three years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Alcaraz beat top-rated

Djokovic in a memorable Wimbledon final in July and is looking to close the gap on the Serbian at the top of the rankings with strong performances in China.



### Gauff in China Open quarters

US Open champion Coco Gauff shook off an indiffer-ent first-set performance to glide into the women's quarter-finals of the China Open with victory over Russia's Veronika Kudermetova in Beijing on Thursday.

The world number three triumphed 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 to set up a quarter-final tie with either Greece's Maria Sakkari or homegrown talent Wang Xinyu. Sakkari and Wang go head-

to-head later on Thursday, as does world number one Aryna Sabalenka who faces Jasmine Paolini of Italy. Earlier, world number 10 Caroline Garcia progressed to the quarter-finals with a 6-3, 6-

2 defeat of Ukraine's Anhelina Garcia will play second-ranked Iga Swiatek in the next round after the Pole swatted

aside compatriot Magda Line-



tte on Wednesday.

The China Open is taking place for the first time since 2019 after Beijing did away with its long-standing zero-Covid

The men's draw culminated on Wednesday when Italy's Jannik Sinner downed world number three Daniil Medvedev to take the trophy



# MLS: Chicago Fire beat Messi-less Miami 4-1

Missing Lionel Messi again, Inter Miami's hopes of squeezing into the MLS playoffs suffered a body blow on Wednesday with a 4-1 defeat to Chicago Fire.

The defeat leaves Miami next to bottom of the Eastern Conference and five points off the last playoff spot with just three games remaining and their destiny no longer in their own hands

Wednesday's action saw five teams in the Western Conferencem, including defending champions Los Angeles FC, earn places in the playoffs along-side top seed St. Louis City. The prospect of seeing the Argentine World Cup winner

Messi in action drew a record

Field in Chicago but with no Messi, it was Chicago's own diminutive number 10 who put on the show.

Swiss former Liverpool and Bayern Munich playmaker Xherdan Shaqiri scored twice with his compatriot Maren Haile-Selassie also grabbing a brace. Chicago's win strengthens their chances of making the post-season for the first time since 2017, moving them up to eighth place.

'It's beautiful to see Soldier Field packed full for soccer game and I hope they're going to come more and more because we showed today how good we are and the team spirit is here," said Shaqiri.

"We needed that win obviously and every game now is a final...It was a perfect night for home crowd of 62,124 to Soldier us," added the 31-year-old.

### Biles wins 20th world title



AP ■ ANTWERP

Simone Biles claimed her 20th world title as she continued her return from a two-year break to lead the United States to a seventh straight women's team gold at the world gymnastics championships in Antwerp on Wednesday.

domination going back to 2011, in the absence of Russia, the last team to beat them in a major competition. "It's crazy, we still pulled it out, I'm really proud of the team," said Biles. "It's the seventh title in a row

The USA extended their

for the United States. For some girls, it's their first World Championship, I'm excited to share that with them." The Americans scored 167.729 points to take gold

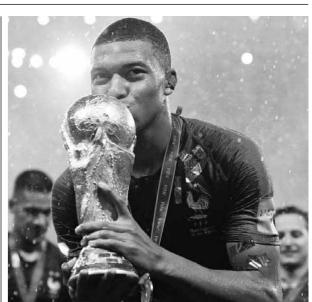
ahead of Brazil (165.530) with Olympic hosts France winning bronze (164.064). "She's the leader, having someone so inspiring and so encouraging... Team USA came together and we did what we needed to do tonight," said Biles' teammate Shilese Jones. The team victory gives Biles her

26th world medal and a record-extending 20th world title. And

she could extend that tally as she

is still in the running for five

other podiums in Antwerp.



### Europe, Africa and South America all to host games in 2030 World Cup

**AP** ■ LAUSANNE

Morocco, Portugal and Spain will be joint hosts for the 2030 World Cup but games will also be played in Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay as the footballing showpiece celebrates its centenary, FIFA announced

on Wednesday FIFA said in a statement that the matches in South America one each in Montevideo, Buenos Aires and Asuncion were part of the celebration to mark 100 years since the first

World Cup in Uruguay. The announcement puts an end to competition between two major bids, one led by Spain and Portugal and the other from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and Paraguay. "In a divided world, FIFA and football are uniting," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

The FIFA Council, representing the entire world of football, unanimously agreed to celebrate the centenary of the FIFA World Cup, whose first edition was played in Uruguay in 1930, in the most appropriate way."
World football's governing

body said the hosts must still be officially rubber-stamped by the FIFA Congress next year. FIFA said Spain, Portugal

and Morocco would all qualify automatically for the competition. Morocco, which was last week named as host for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations, will become the second African country to host the World Cup after South Africa in 2010.

# NZ STUNS CHAMPIONS ENG Pak face Netherlands in opener



PTI AHMEDABAD

nbeaten centurions Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra produced their own version of bruising 'Bazball' as New Zealand hammered defending champions England by nine wickets in the World Cup opener here on Thursday.

After England posted a below par 282 for 9 largely due to Joe Root's pragmatic 77, New Zealand romped to 283 for 1 in just 36.2 overs, courtesy buccaneering hundreds by Conway (152 off 121 balls) and Ravindra (123 off 96 balls).

While New Zealand, who regularly punch above their weight in the ICC events, put the rest of the teams on notice with that brutal onslaught, England

will have to do more than one boardroom session to regain some confidence.

Kiwis would thank Conway and Ravindra for that, who creamed a record-breaking 273 off 211 balls during their stunning unbroken second wicket

For the record, this was the fourth highest stand for any wicket in the World Cup.

The 23-year-old Ravindra, who became the third youngest batter to score a hundred on World Cup debut, and Conway produced a masterclass of cricketing shots all around to ground to leave England gasping for

To drive in a bit of perspective to Ravindra's innings, he stands behind Virat Kohli (22 years) and Andy Flower (23 years, 301 days) in that list of young century makers.

The trophy holders simply could not muster any response to the assault by the Kiwis pair which began as early as in the second over.

Ravindra brought up his maiden century in his 13th ODI and first in the World Cup, whereas Conway's ton was his fifth in the format, first in the World Cup and second against England.

Having batted only once at the No. 3 position in his fledgling career, Ravindra matched Conway in strokes all around the ground, displaying the authority of a top-drawer player.

England might have hoped for a better outcome when left-Ravindra's outstanding 123 arm pacer Sam Curran (1/47) (11x4s, 5x6s) may as well have had Kiwi opener Will Young

caught down the leg for a first-ball duck in the second over.

But after that early success, what transpired was completely demoralising for England, as Ravindra and Conway maintained a strike rate of 125 without a fuss.

Of course, the pitch eased up a bit more, compared to the gripper that it was during the

England innings. Neither Adil Rashid's leg-spin nor Mark Wood's express pace — who was hit for 38 runs in his first three overs - could

come to England's rescue. Earlier, New Zealand made regular inroads to keep England's long batting line-up in check and restrict the defending champions to a moderate 282 for

New Zealand spinners exploited the hot and humid conditions in the afternoon perfectly to be on top against England's free-flowing and aggressive batting approach, while producing a collective

bowling performance.

With his part-time spin,
Glenn Phillips delivered an unexpected but successful spell of 3-0-17-2 accounting for Joe Root (77) and Moeen Ali (11).

Mitchell Santner's 2 for 37 and pacer Matt Henry's 3 for 48 were the other key performances that helped New Zealand keep England under 300 on a surface that offered a good amount of turn and grip in the first session.

The first runs of the 2023 World Cup came off a six when Jonny Bairstow (33 off 35 balls, 4x4s, 1x6s) cleared the backward square ropes with a flick off the pads on the second ball of the tournament from Trent Boult.

A boundary followed soon as England collected 12 runs off the first over to make their intentions clear, but soon the New Zealand bowlers applied breaks on the Three Lions' innings from which they never

**D**akistan would be desperate T to plug the gaping holes and hope their star players regain form when they open their World Cup campaign against a free spirited Netherlands here on Friday.

Following a pre-mature Asia Cup exit and defeats in the two warm-up games, Pakistan definitely need to raise their game to go deep in the ODI show-

The problems begin from the top with the opening combination not looking the most threatening in the competition. Imam-Ul-Haq averages an impressive 50 in ODIs but on flatter decks in India, he need to better his strike rate of 82 by a few notches.

Imam is expected to start against Netherlands but the team will need to choose between the destructive but out-of-form Fakhar Zaman and Abdullah Shafique who doesn't have the experience of world

The big positive for the unpredictable team is that its number three and four, skipper Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, are in sublime touch.

Iftikhar Ahmed too has been getting the runs but it remains to be seen if Salman Agha also gets accommodated in the middle-order.

If the warm-ups are an indication, the game on Friday is expected to be another highscoring affair with bowlers having no margin for error. Getting used to the varied conditions in India will be another challenge for Babar and his players, who don't get to play in the IPL like the players of other teams.

In the absence of injured Naseem Shah, the Pakistan bowlers were at the receiving end in the couple of warm-ups against New Zealand and Australia Pakistan vice-captain Sha-

dab Khan has been struggling since Asia Cup and goes into the

opener under pressure. Fellow leg-spinner Ûsama Mir is breathing down his neck and there is a possibility that both may start against the Nether-lands as Pakistan search for wickets in the middle overs.

The seasoned Hasan Ali has big shoes to fill in Naseem's absence as he will open the bowling alongside Shaheen Afridi.

Haris Rauf, who leaked 97 runs in nine overs against Australia, too need be at his best if Pakistan are to advance in the competition.

Of late, Pakistan have left a lot to be desired in the fielding department and will be looking to correct that.

Netherlands, the only associate team in the competition, cannot be taken lightly and it's only better for Pakistan to face them early in the competition before taking on the bigger

Netherlands, playing their

first ODI World Cup since 2011, go into the competition a bit short on game time. Both their warm-ups were hit by rain and they last played an ODI in the Qualifiers in July when they finished ahead of West Indies and

Wesley Barresi, the only one in the current lot who played in 2011, has come out of retirement for his last dance. Former South African left-arm spinner Roelof van der Merwe, 38, is another key member of the

another full-member Ireland.

The team which is packed with semi professionals will rely on Andhra-born Teja Nidamanuru for runs in the middle-

All-rounder Bas de Leede, whose father Tim has also featured in World Cups, is the xfactor player for Netherlands.

Scott Edwards will captain the side. Having come this far, Netherlands have nothing to lose and Pakistan will be wary of that.

# Stimac's contract extended until 2026 | Prannoy battles his way to Asian

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior national team head coach Igor Stimac's contract has been extended until 2026, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced on Thursday, rewarding him for overseeing

As per the contract, the Croat will automatically get an extension by another two years if India qualify for the third round of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

Former India stopper Mahesh Gawli, the assistant coach of the senior men's team, was appointed as the head coach of the men's U-23 team.

Stimac, a member of the Croatia side that finished third at the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France, took charge of the Blue Tigers in 2019 and has won four major titles with the side, including two SAFF Championships.

"The federation, the members have decided to extended the contract of our national team, Igor Stimac, until the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers. We have agreed to this, agreed to continue as one team," AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran said during a virtual interaction.

Stimac was seated beside Prabhakaran and Gawli as the top AIFF official made the announcement.

Most recently, Stimac guided the Indian men's team to the round of 16 at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. It is the



first time in 13 years that the team has progressed thus far in the continental showpiece.

"We are seeking to ensure stability in the national team. What we have experienced in the last few months, winning back-to-back tournaments, the performance on the pitch, even in the Kings Cup match against Iraq was great. We can only progress, we can only improve

from here. The process cannot be halted in between," Prabhakaran said. Stimac was last week offered a fresh deal of two more years as head coach of the senior team with the AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey proposing the

contract extension. Meanwhile the AIFF said the I-League is set to start from October 28 and the fixtures will be released soon.

### Games medal, Sindhu bows out men's team championships last

**PTI** ■ HANGZHOU

valiant HS Prannoy battled in 41 years to win a badminton medal in men's singles at the Asian Games but it was curtains for PV Sindhu in women's singles here on Thursday.

given New Zealand a happy

headache since his runs came at

the position usually occupied by

regular captain Kane William-

son, who is recuperating from

Having amassed 672 runs for IPL 2023 winners Chennai

Super Kings, Conway went

about his job as if the field here

erally preferred to score his

runs through the floor, and he

played just two aerial shots dur-

ing the duration of his innings,

which gave a semblance of hope

to England to make another

The Black Caps opener gen-

was like his backyard.

his surgery.

breakthrough.

Playing with a taping on his lower back and a belt under his shirt, Prannoy battled severe back spasm to dish out a performance for the ages, outshining Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia 21-16, 21- $23, 2\dot{2}$ -20 in the quarterfinals to assure India a second badminton medal at the ongoing

India had won a silver in

Sunday.
"I think it was a really tough

A valiant HS Prannoy valued one out there. I think Lee is one out there. I think Lee is a very physical match today for me," Prannoy said after the match. "I'm not at all in a condition

where I could say I'm 80 per cent right. But I think to pull off something like this, I would give a lot of credit to myself. I think the will to fight was always there. So I think that paid off." After fighting his way

through a marathon 78 minute contest, the 31-year-old from Kerala fell on the court in disbelief. He then removed his shirt, fist-pumped and ran into



the arms of chief coach Pullela Gopichand. Prannoy thus ended India's long wait for a men's singles medal at the Asian Games

with Syed Modi winning the first a bronze — at the 1982 edition in New Delhi.

The world championships

Pavourites India endured a forgettable 0-4 drubbing at

the hands of China in the

women's hockey semifinals, a

result that not only pushed

the team out of the gold

medal race but also denied it

a direct entry to the Paris

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

bronze medallist was ruled out of team championships final due to the back injury as India went down 2-3 to China to settle for

"It is affecting me. But that's how sport is. You can't be 100 per cent every day. But you have to learn to pull off matches even when you're 60 or 70 per cent. I think today was one of those days when I had to do that," he

While it was ecstacy for Prannoy, Sindhu had to endure the pain of returning without a medal for the first time in nine years after she lost 16-21, 12-21 to world No.5 Chinese He Bingjiao in 47 minutes to bow out of the competition.

### India to face Pak in kabaddi semis India's gold medal dream in women's hockey ends in agony last league match to top group nent's 15 in the second period.

PTI HANGZHOU

Seven-time champions India On Thursday set up a semifinal clash with Pakistan in the men's kabaddi competition after topping their group following an unbeaten run in the Asian Games here.

India first thrashed Chinese Taipei 50-27 to enter the semifinals and assure a medal and then notched up a 56-28 win over Japan in their

India will next face Pakistan, who finished second in

Group B. Against Chinese Taipei, India inflicted three all-outs on their opponents while the raiders notched four bonus

points. The Indians led Chinese Taipei 28-12 in the first half before pocketing 22 more points as against their oppo-

Chinese Taipei also made an all-out on the Indian

Later in the day, India led by 24 points at halftime against Japan. In kabaddi, the two losing

semifinalists are awarded bronze medals since the 2010 edition at Guangzhou.

India were bronze medal-

list in the 2018 edition in

Last edition's silver medallist India, the highest-ranked Indian climbers progress to semis team in the tournament at world number seven, was no match to world number

Olympics.

China, who were the bronze medallist in 2018 in Jakarta. Jiaqi Zhong (25th minute), Meirong Zou (40th),

Meiyu Liang (55th) and Bingfeng Gu (60th) scored the goals for China. "Definitely not the result

we were looking for today. I'm quite disappointed with the performance of my team," skipper Savita said.

We knew that China is a

n't our day today, as we were not able to execute the plans we had made for this game. We gave it

### शपथ—पत्र सुमित्रा देवी, पति-

रविदास, ग्राम– बलुरी, पोस्ट बलुरी, थाना— हंटरगंज, जिला-चतरा का निवासी हूँ। मेरा आधार कार्ड नंबर ३१५५८४ 538559 है। जबकि मेरा वोटर पहचान पत्र जिसका नंबर जेएफडी— 1105023 है। लेकिन दूसरा आधार कार्ड में मंती देवी पति मोती रविदास ग्राम बथानी पोस्ट नीमचकबधानी, जिला गया बिहार गलत से छाप गया है। जो गलत है इसीलिए शपथ पत्र के साथ आवेदन दें रही हूं कि मेरा नाम सुमित्रा देवी पति मोती रविदासं, घर, बलुरी पोस्ट बलुरी थाना हंटरगूंज, जिला चतरा झारखंड का निवासी हूं, जो सही है। शपथ पत्र संख्या-7225 दिनांक — 27 सितम्बर 2023 है।

## Antim wins bronze on tough day for Indian wrestlers

**PTI** ■ HANGZHOU

Teen sensation Antim Panghal humbled Tokyo Olympics medallist Bolortuya Bat-Ochir 3-1 to win a bronze medal but other Indian wrestlers struggled badly at the Asian Games here on Thursday.

The 19-year-old Antim bounced back after losing to two-time Japanese world champion Akari Fujinami in the quarterfinals in a superb manner as she did not let the Mongolian attack much in the

women's 53kg bronze play-off. Antim saved the day for the Indian contingent which badly needed a medal after Narinder Cheema (Greco-Roman 97kg), Naveen (Greco Roman 130kg) and Pooja Gehlot (women's

50kg) were ousted. Pooja was outplayed 2-9 in the bronze medal bout by Aktenge Keunimjaeva, the Asian championship bronze winner. A lot was expected from

Mansi Ahlawat (women's 57kg)

too but she ended up losing her bronze play-off 'by fall' to Uzbekistan's Laylokhon Sobirova, who needed just 70

> seconds to win the contest. Antim had come to Hangzhou after winning a bronze at the world championships and she carried her good form into the prestigious

Her bronze is only the second wrestling medal of this

In other match-ups,

Cheema lost his quarterfinal 1-3 to South Korea's Lee Seyeol 1 3, while Mansi was defeated 2-5 by Japan's Sakurai Tsugumi in

the last-eight round. Greco-Roman grappler Naveen, too, lost his quarterfinal contest 0-3 to 25-year-old Chinese Meng Lingzhe.

Bajrang Punia (65kg), who was widely criticised for accepting a direct entry into the Asian Games and the supremely talented Aman Sehrawat (56kg) will be in action on Friday.

### **PTI** ■ HANGZHOU

The Indian climbers started their campaign in boulder and lead events on a positive

note as all four advanced to the semifinals of the Asian Games here on Thursday. In the men's qualification match, Aman Verma finished the semifinals.

eighth with a combined score of 118.8 (64.8 in boulder and 54 in lead) and advanced to the last four. Bharath Stephen Kamath Pereira followed suit after finish-

### ing 13th with a combined score of 97.8 (69.7 in boulder and 28.1 in lead).

In the women's event, Saniya Farooque Shaikh, who finished 17th with a score of 51.4 (44.3 in boulder, 7.1 in lead) and Shivani Charak who finished 18th with a score of 45.9 (39.8) in boulder, 6.1 in lead) entered

The men and women will play their semifinal clashes on Friday and Saturday, respec-

good team, but our team is quite good too. Maybe it was-

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