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INDIA LOOK TO MAINTAIN DOMINANCE
12 SPORTS



French rail sabotage ahead of Olympics

AP ■ PARIS

France's high-speed rail network was hit on Friday with widespread and "criminal" acts of vandalism, including arson attacks, paralysing travel to Paris from across the rest of France and Europe only hours before the grand opening ceremony of the Olympics.

French officials condemned the attacks as "criminal actions," and prosecutors in Paris opened a national investigation, saying the crimes could carry sentences of 15 to 20 years.

As Paris authorities geared up for a spectacular parade on and along the Seine River, three fires were reported near the tracks on the high-speed lines of Atlantique, Nord and Est, causing disruptions that affected hundreds of thousands of travellers.



Stranded passengers wait inside Gare du Nord station in Paris, France, on Friday. France's high speed rail network TGV was severely disrupted following a 'massive attack', according to train operator SNCF, just hours before the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic games. Around 800,000 passengers are expected to be affected over the weekend AP/PTI

Among them were two German athletes in showjumping who were on a train to Paris to take part in the opening ceremony but had to turn back in Belgium because of the closures, and will now miss the ceremony, German news agency DPA reported.

"There was no longer a chance of making it on time," rider Philipp Weishaupt, who was travelling with teammate Christian Kukuk, told DPA.

French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal wrote on the social media platform X that France's intelligence services have been mobilised to find the perpetrators.

Attal characterised them as "acts of sabotage," which were "prepared and coordinated." There were no known reports of injuries. Transport Minister Patrice Vergriete described people fleeing from the scene of fires and the discovery of incendiary devices.

"Everything indicates that these are criminal fires," he said.

The incidents paralysed several high-speed lines linking Paris to the rest of France and to neighbouring countries, Vergriete said, speaking on BFM television.

The French national rail company SNCF said areas affecting rail track intersections were targeted to double the impact.

"For one fire, two destinations were hit," the company's CEO, Jean-Pierre Farandou.

It was "a premeditated, calculated, coordinated attack" that indicates "a desire to seriously harm" the French people, Farandou said.

The attack occurred against a backdrop of global tensions and heightened security measures as the city prepared for the 2024 Olympic Games. Many travellers were planning

to converge on the capital for the opening ceremony, and many vacationers were also in transit.

French authorities have foiled several plots to disrupt the Olympics, including arresting a Russian man on suspicion of planning to destabilise the games.

Also Friday, the French airport of Basel-Mulhouse on the border with Germany and Switzerland was evacuated in the morning and remained temporarily closed "for safety reasons," the airport said. It wasn't clear whether there was a connection to the rail attacks.

The disruptions particularly affected Paris' major Montparnasse station, where the station's hall was full of travellers.

The Paris police prefecture "concentrated its personnel in Parisian train stations" after the "massive attack" that paralysed the TGV high-speed network, Laurent Nuñez, the Paris police chief, told France Info television.

Many passengers at the Gare du Nord, one of Europe's busiest train stations, were looking for answers and solutions on Friday morning. All eyes were on the central message boards as most services to northern France, Belgium and the United Kingdom were delayed.

"It's a hell of a way to start the Olympics," said Sarah Moseley, 42, as she learned that her train to London was an hour late.

"They should have more information for tourists, especially if it's a malicious attack," said Corey Grainger, a 37-year-old Australian sales manager on his way to London, as he rested on his two suitcases in the middle of the station.

Government officials denounced the acts, though they said there was no immediate sign of a direct link to the Olympics. National police said authorities were investigating the incidents. French media reported a major fire on a busy western route.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage at the Kargil War Memorial on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the 'Kargil Vijay Diwas', in Dras, on Friday PTI

Modi warns Pak on terrorism

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Sending out a terse message to the neighbouring country on the occasion of the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday warned Pakistan by asserting that the Indian soldiers will crush terrorism with full force and the enemy will be given a befitting reply.

In his maiden visit to Ladakh after taking the oath of office for the third time, Modi also reminded Pakistan that it has not learned anything from the past.

Without mincing any words the Prime Minister said, "In Kargil, we not only won the

war, we presented an incredible example of 'truth, restraint and strength'." The Prime Minister threw light on Pakistan's deceit at a time when India was making all efforts to maintain peace.

"Falsehood and terror were brought down to their knees by truth", he added.

Condemning terrorism, the Prime Minister said Pakistan has always faced defeat in the past. "Pakistan has not learned anything from its past and has continued to wage war in the garb of terrorism and proxy wars to stay relevant".

Addressing the Shradhanjali Samaroh after paying

homage to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, the Prime Minister said, "Today I am speaking from a place where the masters of terror can hear my voice directly. I want to tell these patrons of terrorism that their nefarious intentions will never succeed. Our soldiers will crush terrorism with full force and the enemy will be given a befitting reply," he added.

"India will overcome all challenges that come in the way of development, be it Ladakh or Jammu & Kashmir", the Prime Minister reiterated.



Kanwariyas walk past the shops on which banners with shopkeepers' name were put up on Kanwar Marg after an order issued by Uttar Pradesh Government, in Muzaffarnagar PTI

Top court to hear Kerala, WB pleas on Bill assent denial

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant development, the Supreme Court on Friday agreed to consider the separate pleas of Opposition-ruled Kerala and West Bengal, alleging the denial of assent to Bills passed by the respective legislative Assemblies. Kerala also alleged that Governor Arif Mohammed Khan referred certain Bills to President Droupadi Murmu and those were yet to be cleared.

Taking note of the pleas, the top court issued notices to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the secretaries of Kerala and West Bengal and his West Bengal counterpart CV Ananda Bose and sought their replies within three weeks.

The bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra also directed the Trinamool Congress-led West Bengal Government to make the Home Ministry a party to the petition.

The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front Government of Kerala moved the SC in March, alleging that certain Bills cleared by the Assembly were referred to the President by the Governor and these were still pending assent.

Opp CMs to skip NITI Aayog meet, Didi to attend

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The first meeting of NITI Aayog in the third tenure of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister is to see a "boycott call" by several non-BJP ruled Chief Ministers on Saturday. The meeting to be chaired by Modi will, however, be attended by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who albeit has called for scrapping of the NITI Aayog and replace it by Planning Commission.

Apart from Congress and its alliance-ruled States like Jharkhand, which are part of the INDIA Bloc, declining to attend the crucial meet in the national Capital, Delhi, Punjab, and Kerala have also announced they will not be part of the meeting.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvirinder Singh Sukhu and Telangana's Revanth Reddy have announced they will not attend the meeting over alleged bias against their States in the Union Budget.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK leader MK Stalin, Kerala's CM and CPI(M) leader Pinarayi Vijayan as well as Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi and Punjab Governments too called to boycott the meeting.

"NITI Aayog should be scrapped and Planning Commission should be brought back. Thought it's my duty to raise our voice on common platform even though I know NITI Aayog has no financial power," Mamata said and confirmed to take part in the meeting. She said she will use the opportunity to register her protest against a "discriminatory Budget" and the



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee arrives at Banga Bhawan, in New Delhi, on Friday PTI

"conspiracy to divide Bengal and other Opposition-ruled States." The Chief Minister said she was asked to send her written speech seven days ahead of the meeting which she has done and it was before the Union Budget was tabled.

"I will stay at the meeting for a while. If I get an opportunity to deliver my speech at the meeting and record my protest against the discrimination and political bias against the Opposition-ruled States in the Budget besides the conspiracy that is being hatched to divide Bengal and its neighbouring States, I will do so. Else, I will walk out of the meeting," the Trinamool Congress supremo said.

An official statement said Modi will chair NITI Aayog's 9th Governing Council meeting which

will focus on making India a developed nation by 2047.

The council, the apex body of NITI Aayog, includes all State Chief Ministers, Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories, and several Union Ministers. Modi is the chairman of NITI Aayog.

According to the statement, the meeting aims to foster participative governance and collaboration between the Centre and State Governments, enhancing the quality of life for both rural and urban populations by strengthening the delivery mechanisms of Government interventions.

The meeting will also focus on recommendations of the 3rd National Conference of Chief Secretaries held in December last year.

NEET-UG final results declared

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday announced the final results of the controversy-ridden medical entrance exam NEET-UG. The results were declared following directive from the Supreme Court after taking into account marks of a physics question, which the NTA had said has two correct answers.

"The re-revised score cards are live now," a senior NTA official said. Forty-four out of the 67 candidates who were earlier declared toppers had scored full marks because of the marks awarded for that particular physics question.

The number of toppers was later reduced to 61 with the agency withdrawing grace marks awarded to six candidates to make up for loss of time at few exam centres.

In a major setback to unsuccessful aspirants of NEET-UG 2024, the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the pleas seeking cancellation and re-test of the controversy-ridden exam, holding that there was no evidence on record to conclude that it was "vitiated" on account of "systemic breach" of its sanctity.

The verdict came as a shot in the arm for the embattled NDA Government and the NTA, which were facing strong criticism and protests, on streets and in Parliament, over alleged large-scale malpractices like question paper leak, fraud and impersonation in the prestigious test held on May 5.

The CBI is probing alleged irregularities in NEET-UG 2024 and has lodged six FIRs. The NEET-UG is conducted by the National Testing Agency for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in Government and private institutions.

India a win away from Women's Asia Cup title

PTI ■ DAMBULLA

Pacer Renuka Singh's three-wicket burst followed by Smriti Mandhana's brisk unbeaten fifty underlined India's ruthless performance as the defending champions walloped Bangladesh by 10 wickets and marched into their record-equaling ninth women's Asia Cup final, here on Friday.

India will face the winner of the second semifinal between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in the title clash on Sunday.

Shafali (26 not out, 28b, 2x4) and Mandhana (55 not out, 39b, 9x4, 1x6) were on song from the word go, as India overhauled the target of 81



without breaking a sweat. India ended up at 83 for no loss in 11 overs.

Mandhana and Shafali's knocks were filled with trademark shots around the ground as India motored to 46 for no loss in the Power Play. Shafali, who was

dropped on 21 off Rabeya Khan, played those powerful heaves across the line to find the fence.

Mandhana, at the other end, unfurled those exquisite drives on the off-side, such as the one the left-hander played through the covers against pacer Marufa Akter. Mandhana also displayed her power while pulling pacer Jahanara Alam for a six over deep square leg as India trotted to a victory that was a long-forgone conclusion once Bangladesh were limited 80 for eight.

Renuka (3/10) upfront and left-arm spinner Radha Yadav in the middle overs (3/14) rattled Bangladesh with excellent spells.

Assam heritage site gets UNESCO tag

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Assam's historical treasure, the Charaideo Moidam royal burial complex and shrines built by Ahom dynasty that ruled the Northeastern State for around 600 years, has received the prestigious UNESCO tag, marking the first cultural site from the region to receive this honor.

This was announced during the 46th World Heritage Committee session in India. With this addition, India now proudly hosts 43 World Heritage Sites.

The 'Moidams' in Assam's Charaideo district with their striking pyramid-like structures captures the State's regal past, and simultaneously offers a fascinating blend of history, architecture, and folklore of the Tai-Ahom dynasty. The UNESCO tag highlights the global appreciation of the Tai-Ahom dynasty's rich cultural



heritage and historical contributions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed pride and joy over the inclusion, highlighting the cultural and historical value of the 'Moidams' while Union Culture Minister

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat called the decision a "day etched in golden letters".

'Moidams' was submitted as India's nomination for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the

year 2023-24.

"The Moidams at Charaideo showcase the glorious Ahom culture, which places utmost reverence to ancestors. I hope more people learn about the great Ahom rule and culture. Glad that the Moidams join the #WorldHeritage List," Modi said in a post on X.

The Moidams are a mound burial system that served as a resting place for Ahom kings and queens. They were constructed by providing an earth cover over a hollow vault made of bricks, stone or earth.

The designated site contains 90 moidams of different sizes, which were created over a period of 600 years, and include other cultural features like ceremonial pathways and bodies of water, said a spokesperson from ICOMOS, the advisory body of the World Heritage Committee.

Punjab Governor Purohit and CM Mann at loggerheads again

"Why is the Chief Minister scared of me?" Purohit questions
MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH



In a fiery address that may send ripples through Punjab's political landscape, Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Friday minced no words in his critique of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. The tension between these two heavyweights has been simmering for years now, and Purohit's latest remarks have added fuel to the fire. "Why is the Chief Minister scared of me?" Purohit questioned via media — his tone a mix of exasperation and defiance. He emphasized that his approach is merit-based and devoid of political bias, a stance that seems to have irked Mann.

Purohit pointed out that 10 universities in Punjab currently lack regular Vice-Chancellors (VCs), a situation he attributed to the State Government's reluctance to adhere to proper procedures. "The appointment of VCs requires the formation of a search committee as per UGC rules," he explained, underscoring his commitment to transparency and meritocracy.

Border Woes: Drones and Drugs

Transitioning from the corridors of academia to the perilous border zones, Purohit highlighted the grave issue of drug smuggling via drones. Back from his three-day visits to Punjab's border districts, he revealed alarming gaps in coordination among security agencies. "Pakistan is sending drug consignments to Punjab using drones," he stated, underscoring the sophistication and persistence of this cross-border menace. Despite existing anti-drone measures, a significant portion of Punjab remains vulnerable, he maintained.

"This is my seventh visit to border districts to take stock of the situation. First visit observed that there was a lack of coordi-

nation. People were scared and were not coming forward to report about drugs. Local villagers are aware of the activities of each other," he said.

To counter the same, Purohit has initiated Village Defence Committees and incentivized villagers to report suspicious activities with substantial rewards. He has also mandated regular meetings between Central and State agencies to enhance collaboration. "Coordination of all agencies is a must," Purohit asserted, advocating for a united front against this pressing threat.

"We held meetings with all central agencies including the Army, BSF, NIA, NCRB, IB, MI and Special Bureau. We have asked to coordinate with local and state administration and state police to hold the monthly meeting with all agencies," he added.

To bolster these efforts, Purohit also announced the allocation of funds from the Governor's Fund to incentivize villagers. "The village that rids itself of drugs will receive Rs three lakhs from the Governor's fund," he declared. This initiative aimed at empowering the local com-

munities and foster a collective effort to combat the drug crisis. The Governor also mentioned that additional funds will be directed towards expanding the anti-drone system to cover more areas of Punjab.

Governance and Public Welfare

Governor Purohit's remarks were not confined to his clash with the Chief Minister or border security issues. He touched upon broader governance challenges, reaffirming his commitment to public welfare. Purohit declared his dedication to addressing the state's unfinished tasks, irrespective of political affiliations. "I listen to everyone's concerns, irrespective of the political parties they are from... I listened to the AAP leaders, Congress or SAD also," he said.

He highlighted his extensive political experience, having contested elections eight times and won five, with a notable success rate. "I am here to serve Punjab selflessly," Purohit stated, distancing himself from electoral politics and emphasizing his role as a public servant.

Purohit also praised some of the State Government's actions, particularly the transfer of 10,000 police officers to tackle drug-related corruption. However, he urged for more stringent measures and consistent efforts to root out the drug menace. "The fight against drugs is not a one-time effort; it requires continuous vigilance and action," he said.

Poor to receive free medical tests in both Pvt labs and govt hospitals: CM Saini

PNB ■ CHANDIGARH

In a significant move to enhance healthcare facilities for the underprivileged, Haryana Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini has announced a major public welfare initiative. Under this, impoverished residents of Haryana will now have access to free medical tests in both government hospital and empanelled private labs. This decision will benefit millions of people across the state.



An official spokesperson on Friday informed that the government has been made aware that many poor patients are unable to access diagnostic services in civil hospitals for various reasons. To address this issue, the department has directed all Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) to make efficient use of the existing resources within their districts. If necessary, local private laboratories and radiological centers should be empanelled to ensure that diagnostic services are readily available to all beneficiaries. The spokesperson explained that beneficiaries will now be able to have tests conducted at these empanelled labs with a prescription from a government doctor or CMO. The costs for these tests will be covered by funds allocated by the government to civil hospitals.

Athletes from Hry participating in Paris Olympics: CM

PNB ■ CHANDIGARH

In recognition of the athletes' efforts, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday said that the State

Government awards the highest prize money in the country to Olympic medal winners. As many as 25 Athletes from Haryana are participating in Paris Olympics 2024. Saini further said that the Olympic Games-2024, often referred to as the "Maha Kumbh of sports," commenced in Paris. India will be represented by a contingent of 115 athletes, with 25 of these athletes hailing from Haryana.

Extending his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the players from the state and the entire country, Saini expressed confidence in their abilities and hoped they would excel in their respective events, bringing glory and honor to India on the global stage.

Saini said that the selection of 22 percent players from Haryana, which has 2 percent population, is a matter of great pride for the entire state of Haryana. He said that both the Haryana Government and its people recognize the immense dedication, hard work, and perseverance required to compete at this level. They are also aware of the physical and mental challenges athletes face while preparing for such prestigious events. Consequently, the state government is committed to continuously supporting the athletes through various incentive schemes, he added.

The Chief Minister said that in recognition of the athletes' efforts, the Haryana government awards the highest prize money in the country to Olympic medal winners. Gold medalists receive Rs 6 crore, silver medalists receive Rs 4 crore, and bronze medalists receive Rs 2.5 crore. Additionally, all participating athletes from the state are awarded Rs 15 lakh each.

Punjab Tax Dept crackdowns on fake billing scams worth thousands of crores

PNB ■ CHANDIGARH

In a major breakthrough, Punjab's Tax Department has uncovered a colossal fake billing scam worth thousands of crores, targeting both gold and iron trade sectors. The state Finance, Planning, Excise, and Taxation Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Friday announced the findings highlighting the meticulous investigation carried out by the state tax department's enforcement wing.

The two firms, from which this gold was purportedly purchased, had their registrations canceled, with no record of any gold transactions.

A similar fraudulent scheme was detected in Ludhiana, where a firm had generated fake bills for gold transactions amounting to Rs 424 crore. Again, the implicated firms had no record of actual gold purchases, and their registrations were promptly canceled.

The crackdown extended to the iron trade sector, where 303 firms were found involved in fraudulent transactions totaling Rs 4044 crore. Out of these, 11 firms were registered in Punjab, 86 in other states, and 206 with the Central Government. The investigation revealed that 217 firms, registered with the Center and Punjab, had an outstanding Input Tax Credit (ITC) of Rs 89.7 crore, which has now been blocked. The total fake ITC claimed in this case was a staggering Rs 707 crore.

The state tax department has taken strict action against all 11 firms registered in Punjab, canceling or suspending their

registrations. The Central Government has been alerted to the remaining 206 firms for further action.

The investigation also uncovered a case involving 68 firms registered under other people's names. Five individuals have been identified and an FIR has been filed against them in Ludhiana, with a total of 11 people named. This scheme involved bogus billing of Rs 533 crore, leading to a fake ITC claim of nearly Rs 100 crore.

Minister Cheema outlined the state's ongoing efforts to prevent tax evasion and ensure financial transparency. The Punjab Tax Department is now linking GST registration with AADHAR-based biometric authentication to prevent fraudulent registrations.

Initiatives like the establishment of the Tax Intelligence Unit (TIU) and the State Intelligence and Preventive Unit (SIPU) have significantly contributed to a more than 13 percent growth in GST collection under the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's leadership — a stark contrast to the previous government's six percent growth.

Govt doctors' indefinite strike enters second day in Hry

PNB ■ CHANDIGARH

The indefinite strike called by an association representing government doctors in Haryana that hit services in state-run hospitals entered its second day on Friday. However, the Health officials said that alternative arrangements have been made in view of the strike call so that not much inconvenience is caused to patients.

The Haryana Civil Medical Services Association (HCMSA) launched the strike to protest the non-fulfillment of their several demands, including a career progression scheme. Marathon talks between the Association and the Government on Thursday failed to make much headway. "The indefinite strike by government doctors continues. Hunger strike by four doctors is also going on simultaneously," HCMSA president Dr Rajesh Khyalia said while talking to reporters on Friday.

He said around 3,000 doctors joined the indefinite strike on Thursday. It hit services in state-run hospitals and long queues were outside OPDs. On Thursday, some patients said they were being treated by interns or retired doctors. Seeking to resolve the issue, the Government had on Wednesday invited the doctors' body for talks here.

Punjab, Kerala Join Forces to Address NRI Concerns

PNB ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (KERALA)/CHANDIGARH

In a landmark collaboration, Punjab's NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday held a crucial meeting to discuss and resolve pressing issues affecting Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from both states. The discussions aimed at forging new policies and enhancing the welfare of their diaspora communities.

During the meeting, Minister Dhaliwal emphasized the need for permitting NRIs to purchase agricultural land, a privilege currently restricted to commercial land only. Both leaders concurred to jointly petition the Union Government for a policy change, stressing that this move would significantly benefit NRIs and strengthen their ties to their homeland.

Additionally, both the leaders advocated for ensuring that Indian Missions worldwide are staffed with personnel proficient in the native languages of Punjab and Kerala. This measure would facilitate better communication and support for NRIs from these states, addressing a long-standing issue of language barriers in consular services.

Punjab CM attacks Centre on denial of permission to protesting farmers to march to Delhi

CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday attacked the Centre, saying if the BJP-led government will not allow the protesting farmers camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border to enter Delhi then should he "send them to Lahore".

Farmers from Punjab, led by Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, began the 'Delhi Chalo' march on February 13 to press the government to accept their demands which include that the Centre should give a legal guarantee for MSP for crops.

They were stopped by Haryana Police, who had set up barricades, including cemented blocks, on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway. The farmers have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points ever since. "At Khanauri and Shambhu, the border has been fortified with iron nails and barricading so that farmers cannot enter Delhi. The government runs from Delhi so they will go there. If they will not go to Delhi, should I send them to Lahore," Mann said while addressing a public meeting in poll-bound Haryana.

The Punjab CM said that even four years ago, the farm-

ers were stopped from entering Delhi. "As many as 726 farmers died during farmers' protest against now repealed farm laws when they were stopped earlier," he added.

Speaking at the event in Hisar's Barwala, Mann alleged that people of Haryana gave chance to different parties but they all looted the state. "If a doctor is not able to cure an ailment then the doctor should be changed," the AAP leader said, adding that like Delhi and Punjab voters, people of Haryana should also "vote for 'badlav' (change) this time". Mann touched upon several initiatives of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) governments in Punjab and Delhi.

In Punjab, 43,000 government jobs have been given purely on merit basis, the chief minister claimed. "There have been paper leak incidents in Haryana but in Punjab, you will not hear such things," Mann added. He said Punjab and Haryana are brothers. "We may have become separate states but our hearts are one," Mann said. "We are giving 600 units of free electricity to everyone per billing cycle of two months in Punjab," he said.

Mann said the AAP government in Delhi has reformed government schools. "Children

of poor families are cracking top competitive exams in Delhi now," he said. "We have taken government to people's doorsteps to facilitate them and make their lives better," Mann said. He urged the people of Haryana not to be carried away by the promises being made by the BJP and Congress.

"Earlier, they (BJP and Congress) used to rule by turns and people had no other option, but now they have an alternative in AAP," Mann said. "BJP has been in power for 10 years, did they give you any job, did they undertake development," he asked while addressing the gathering. "I am told if it rains for 1 minutes in Barwala, people have to take out boats, such is the situation," Mann said.

Attacking the BJP government at the Centre, he said during the Lok Sabha polls, the safe-fron party talked of "400 paar" but now they are running their government with the support of allies. "Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal belongs to Haryana and he changed the direction of the country's politics. He had said BJP will change constitution if they get overwhelming majority. Thankfully, they did not get majority, otherwise they would have changed the constitution," Mann said.

(Agencies)

HIMACHAL CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO KARGIL MARTYRS ON VIJAY DIWAS

Shimla: Remembering the valor and supreme sacrifice of the Kargil Martyrs on Vijay Diwas, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday expressed his profound respect and gratitude to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives for the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. In a message, he extended heartfelt gratitude to the Kargil Martyrs on behalf of the people of the State. He said that they sacrificed their lives for the cause of the Nation and fought bravely, facing the harsh and lifeless mountains and cold deserts during the 1999 Kargil War. Sukhu also paid homage to the courage and dedication of the Indian armed forces and highlighted the sacrifices made by 52 brave hearts from Himachal Pradesh.

HARYANA CABINET MEETING ON AUGUST 5

Chandigarh: The Haryana Cabinet meeting will be held under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on August 5 at Haryana Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh, a Government spokesperson said on Friday.

HRY ACB ARRESTS HORTICULTURE OFFICER AND TWO OTHERS IN JIND

Chandigarh: The Haryana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) team on Friday arrested Horticulture Officer Vijay Pannu, private individual Kulwant, and driver Pawan in Jind for accepting a bribe of Rs 500,000. The bribe was being taken from the complainant in exchange for providing a subsidy for setting up a polyhouse under a state government scheme. A Government spokesperson informed that the ACB received a complaint where the complainant stated that he had installed a polyhouse under a state government scheme operated by the Horticulture Department, which provides subsidies for such installations. The complainant reported that District Horticulture Officer Vijay Pannu demanded Rs 500,000 as a bribe to facilitate the subsidy. The ACB team, after verifying the facts, planned a sting operation and caught the accused private individual Kulwant and driver Pawan red-handed while accepting the bribe.

HRY CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER INAUGURATES BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS WORTH RS 46 LAKHS IN HISAR

Chandigarh: Haryana Minister of Civil Aviation and Health Kamal Gupta on Friday inaugurated various projects in Hisar Assembly constituency. Symbols of national pride have been installed at various squares in Hisar. He said that he is committed to undertaking as many development projects as possible in the city. The development achieved by the Haryana government over the last 10 years has been possible due to the double-engine government. Gupta inaugurated three beautification projects worth Rs. 46 lakhs in Hisar today. He stated that the government has been focusing on uniform development of the state over the past 10 years. The Municipal Corporation is rapidly carrying out development and beautification works in the city.

DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S WIFE SUNITA KEJRIWAL TO EMBARK ON 2-DAY ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN HRY FOR AAP FROM TODAY

Chandigarh: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal will campaign for AAP in Ambala, Bhiwani and Rohtak during a two-day Haryana tour, the Party announced on Friday. Assembly elections in Haryana are due later this year. "Sunita Kejriwal will begin a two-day tour of the state from Saturday. She will visit Ambala, Bhiwani and Rohtak," the party said. Last week, Sunita Kejriwal announced the 'Kejriwal ki Guarantee' during a programme in Panchkula. In the Lok Sabha elections, which AAP contested in an alliance with the Congress in Haryana, its state unit chief Sushil Gupta was defeated by the BJP's Naveen Jindal in the Kurukshetra seat.

BUDGET IGNORED HRY: PEOPLE WILL IGNORE BJP IN UPCOMING ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: CONG

New Delhi/Chandigarh: Several Congress MPs from Haryana on Friday protested in the Parliament complex for the government's alleged neglect of the state in the Union Budget and said people will similarly ignore the BJP in the upcoming assembly elections there. Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda claimed that the Budget has made no provision for Haryana. "Is Haryana not part of the country? Let me tell that people will ignore the BJP in the polls in the same manner the Budget has ignored the state," Hooda said. The assembly polls in the BJP-ruled state are expected to be held in October.

18 DENGUE CASES REPORTED IN GURUGRAM

Gurugram: Gurugram district health department has recorded 18 fresh dengue cases till Thursday. A 32-year-old woman was found suffering from dengue in Gurugram on Thursday. The district surveillance officer of the health department, Dr JP Singh, said the total count of dengue patients had increased to 18. He said 63 blood samples were collected from the suspected patients for analysis. A total of 2,012 samples had been collected for analysis during the current season. Patients who were diagnosed with dengue complained of high fever, sweating, headache, vomiting, abdominal pain, muscle pain and traces of blood in their stool.

PHYSICAL MEASUREMENT TEST FOR FEMALE CONSTABLE POSTS BEGINS

Chandigarh: The Chairman of the Haryana Staff Selection Commission Himmat Singh on Friday said that the Physical Measurement Test (PMT) for the recruitment of 1,000 female constables (General Duty) in the Haryana Police began today at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Sector 3, Panchkula. Singh, providing information in this regard, mentioned that female coaches from the sports department have been assigned duty for the PMT. Apart from it, other experts are overseeing the entire process. The commission has also established a separate help desk to address grievances.

CENTRAL GOVT DID NOT GIVE BUDGET TO BIG PROJECTS OF HRY DESPITE APPROVAL: DUSHYANT CHAULTALA

Chandigarh: Senior Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) leader Dushyant Chautala on Friday described the Union Budget as extremely disappointing considering the election year of Haryana. He said that the budget was limited only to Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, while despite the approval of the government, big projects of Haryana did not get a place in the budget. Talking to reporters, Chautala said that the Central Government did not give budget to the proposed Rs 3500 crore Hisar-Rewari Highway project of Haryana which had administrative approval, but in the state of Bihar, where 11 bridges collapsed in 10 days, a special budget of Rs 36 thousand crore was given only for the development of roads.

VIGILANCE BUREAU ARRESTS ASI FOR TAKING RS 1,10,000 BRIBE

Chandigarh: The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) on Friday apprehended Gurpreet Singh, Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI), posted at police station Sadar, Dhuri, Sangrur district for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 1,10,000. An official spokesperson of the state VB said the accused was arrested based on a complaint lodged by Gurdeep Singh, a resident of village Rajomajra in Sangrur district. He further informed that the complainant approached the VB and alleged in his complaint, that a case has been registered at police station Dhuri Sadar against members of his in-laws and his brother-in-law and father-in-law have been arrested. He further informed that the aforementioned ASI had demanded Rs 1,50,000 bribe by threatening to implicate the other family members in this police case but the deal has been struck at Rs 1,10,000.

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हम हरियाणवी

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Honouring the heroes

Kargil Vijay Diwas marks India's triumph over adversity and the enduring spirit of its armed forces

Twenty-five years ago, India won a war that was thrust upon it. The war with Pakistan was won by some exemplary soldiers who fought valiantly and many laid their lives for the honour of the country. Kargil Vijay Diwas, commemorating the victory in the Kargil War against Pakistan in 1999 is celebrated on July 26. Prime Minister Modi paid rich tributes to the martyrs on the Vijay Diwas at Kargil Memorial. This year is special as the nation celebrates the silver jubilee of the victory. Prime Minister Modi visited the Kargil War Memorial in Drass, Jammu and Kashmir, to pay homage to the brave soldiers. However, the Indian borders are still far from secure. Terrorist activities are on the rise. So the big question is where do we stand today? Have we learnt our lessons? The Kargil War took place in the months of May and July 1999 and was a result of Pakistan's infiltration into the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC). Pakistani soldiers, disguised as militants, occupied strategic heights in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir. This unexpected intrusion led to Operation Vijay; a historic military campaign launched by India to reclaim the occupied territories. Despite the adverse circumstances, the Indian Armed Forces displayed unparalleled bravery and strategic acumen. The conflict culminated on July 26, 1999, with India successfully regaining control over the occupied regions. The Kargil expedition of Pakistan was indeed an eye-opener. India came to know of it rather late and that too from the locals who reported suspicious activity in the hills.



This was indeed a glaring intelligence failure that cost more than five hundred lives of soldiers. The war underscored the need for better intelligence and surveillance. India has since fortified its intelligence network and improved border security to prevent such infiltrations. The Kargil War also highlighted the importance of modern weaponry and equipment. In response, India has made significant investments in modernising its military capabilities. But the biggest lesson learnt by the Indian army was to prepare itself for high-altitude warfare. The conflict emphasised the need for specialised training for high-altitude warfare. The Indian Army has since established dedicated training programs and infrastructure to prepare soldiers for such challenging environments. The war also showcased the significance of international diplomacy. India effectively garnered global support against Pakistan's actions, leading to increased diplomatic pressure on Islamabad. The lessons learnt from the conflict have led to significant advancements in military strategy, technology, and international relations. However, we have a long way to go as the strained relations with two neighbours — Pakistan and China — can anytime erupt into a war. Indeed, Prime Minister Modi's visit to the Kargil War Memorial serves as a reminder of the nation's gratitude and respect for its armed forces. It also reinforces the commitment to safeguarding the nation's integrity and sovereignty. Jai Hind!

PICTALK



A soldier pays homage at the Kargil War Memorial on the 'Kargil Vijay Diwas', in Drass

PTI

Urban violence: Human nature vs city life

Urban violence and crime persist globally, often blamed on policing and socio-economic factors. However, the deeper cause is the conflict between urban life and human nature



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Urban violence and crime have been matters of continuing global concern. While the quality and adequacy of policing, and some social and economic factors, have been discussed in this context, the basic, underlying cause has escaped sufficient attention. It is the conflict between the very character of urban life and the orientation of the human ethos as it has evolved. The matter has been dwelt upon comprehensively by Desmond Morris in *The Human Zoo*. His focus has not been on crime but on the wider consequences of the conflict in terms of the future of human beings. His observations, however, have implications which no serious researcher in urban violence and crime can ignore.

The primary cause of conflict between urban life and human ethos, according to Morris, is overcrowding caused by population growth. He describes two vastly different scenarios at the very beginning of the book. In the first, people are members of a tribe, comprising a "compact group" of 60, living in a piece of land 20 miles long and 20 miles wide, which is forested and inhabited by "animals, small and large." In the second, they live in an area of the same dimensions but which is "civilized, inhabited by machines and buildings," and where there are a "compact group of six million human beings," a "hundred thousand individuals for everyone in the first scene." The change has taken place in the course of the past few thousand years, which, says Morris, is "almost instantaneous" in evolutionary terms. Human beings have adapted themselves so brilliantly to their new environment that they have come to believe this to have been a gradual process, and they are biologically fully equipped to deal with it. This is not the case. Biologically, humans remain the simple, rural animals described in scene one above. According to Morris, they "lived like that, not for a few centuries," but "for a million hard years." They "changed biologically" and



"evolved spectacularly" during this period when the pressures of survival, which were great, moulded them. The problem, according to Morris, is that humans had evolved as tribal animals and "the basic characteristic of the tribe is that it operates on a localized, inter-personal basis. To abandon this fundamental social pattern, so typical of the ancient human condition, was going to be against his grain." This, however, is precisely what humans had to do with the emergence of towns. Intercity coordination developed with the growth of agriculture and trade. The human being "became a citizen, a super tribes man, and the key difference was that as a super tribes man he no longer knew personally each member of his community." It was this change from the personal to the impersonal society, "that was going to cause the human animal the greatest agonies in the millennia ahead. As a species we were not biologically equipped to cope with a mass of strangers masquerading as members of our tribe. It was something we had to learn to do, but it was not easy we are still fighting against it in all kinds of hidden and ways—and some that are not so hidden." People have tried to satisfy



EVEN WITHOUT MOBS AND GANGS, TRIVIAL CAUSES SPARK VIOLENCE WHEN OVERCROWDING GRATES ON ONE'S NERVES. INSTANCES OF 'ROAD RAGE' ARE EXAMPLES OF THIS

their desire for cooperative personal relationships by forming tribe-sized "sub-groups or pseudo-tribes within the main body of super-tribes" with social or professional companions. This, however, has also meant viewing other sub-groups as being beyond the pale and enabling their members—even those personally known to one—to be treated as badly as members of an impersonal mob. This writer feels that criminal gangs constitute a form of such sub-groups or pseudo-tribes. These are small groups whose members can be compared to tribal hunters searching for prey, which, instead of animals, are the human victims of their crime. This is particularly so in instances of armed robberies or targeted mob violence. Gang leaders, like leaders of the earlier hunters, guide and protect gang members but also demand unquestioning obedience and treat mercilessly anyone who, they feel, have deserted or betrayed them. Mobs have been a part of urban life since the very beginning, and a proneness to violence and criminal activity is inherent in their dynamics. The anonymity it lends to members, hinders detection in cases of collec-

tive violence. Also, tussles for leadership lead to attempts to garner support by resorting to competitive encouragement of violence. Equally, individual members of mobs can try to stand out in a crowd by perpetrating or calling for singularly violent acts. Even without mobs and gangs, trivial causes spark violence when overcrowding grates on one's nerves. Instances of "road rage" are examples of this. Things are going to get worse as rising temperatures, cloudbursts, flash floods, cyclones, tornados and massive tidal waves, become increasingly frequent as a result of climate change—thereby severely affecting cities and towns. There has to be a serious global discourse on all aspects of urban life including law and order. There can doubtless be no question of reversing the course of history and returning to tribal life. One can, however, think of devising patterns of community existence which consciously addresses this problem, encouraging interpersonal contacts and diminishing the scope for sub-group conflicts. Unfortunately, no such effort is under way. (The author is Consulting Editor, *The Pioneer*. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SC MUST INTERVENE

Madam — At last, the Supreme Court of India has stepped in to play a crucial role in involving the state governments of Punjab and Haryana to find a positive solution to the ongoing farmer protests at the Sambhu border. The Court has suggested forming a committee of independent individuals to negotiate with the farmers. It is indeed frustrating that the farmers, the "annadata" (food providers) of our country, are back on the streets fighting for a legal guarantee of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops and other demands to reach the NDA government. Currently, the Centre, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seems to have turned a blind eye to the plight of farmers, particularly in Punjab and Haryana. The prolonged standoff between the Haryana government and protesting farmers, which began on February 13, has led to road blockades, disrupted public life, and traffic movement, compelling the Supreme Court to act. The Centre has yet to address or resolve the farmers' issues, leading to renewed protests with uncertainty. The Congress has only offered hollow assurances and remained a passive observer. It is hoped that the recent meeting between farmer leaders and Rahul Gandhi in Parliament, along with the Apex Court's efforts, will lead to a resolution of the issue without further delay. Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Jalaipauri

BUDGET: THE GOOD BAD AND THE UGLY

Madam — The Union Budget for 2024-25 can be viewed in three layers. The positive aspect is its focus on boosting economic activity and generating employment opportunities across various sectors, with significant support for MSMEs. However, the budget fails to address the needs of the salaried class, leaving them with unmet expectations. The most concerning aspect is the complete disregard for senior citizens,

SC stays nameplate diktat



This refers to the news article, "SC Stays Nameplate Diktat on Kanwar Yatra Path" (July 23).

The Honorable Supreme Court has taken a constitutional, legal, and practical stance by issuing an interim stay on the Yogi government's order regarding name plates along the Kanwar route. The order from the Yogi government appears to have been issued to protect the sentiments of Kanwar Yatris. However, there are differing opinions on this issue within society. Creating a false identity or concealing one's caste, religion, or creed can be considered condemnable, anti-social, and illegal. Currently, the matter is under review by the Honorable Supreme Court, and all related aspects will be examined, taking into account social, religious, and legal provisions. Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

as the Finance Minister has not increased savings interest rates or provided health support through government schemes. Despite Modi 3.0 winning with the support of young and senior citizens, the government seems to have prioritized coalition partners from Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, neglecting these crucial demographics. This budget highlights a troubling trend of prioritising political alliances over national interests. The government could have showed more concern to the marginalised groups and given them more concessions in the budget rather than pleasing its allies. The budget is supposed to be for the entire nation not for the political allies, so it should take care of all. A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

CONCERNS OVER PM POSHAN SCHEME

Madam — Lakhs of underprivileged schoolchildren struggling with anemia and malnutrition have benefited from the "PM POSHAN scheme," which addresses both hunger and education

challenges. India is among the few countries that provide schoolchildren with one nutritious meal a day. However, a scheme as extensive as POSHAN (formerly the midday meal scheme) is vulnerable to issues such as lethargy, corruption, and poor implementation. Reports of food adulteration and poisoning have surfaced, including a 2019 incident in Uttar Pradesh where a roti was served with just salt. Recently, a dead snake was found in a "dal-khichdi" packet served at an anganwadi government school in Maharashtra's Sangli district. The godown storing the food packets has been sealed, but more actions are needed, including holding contractors accountable for these lapses. It is crucial to ensure such incidents are prevented to restore trust in the midday meal program and ensure children feel safe consuming these meals. Ganpat Bhat | Akola

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Exploring our bonds: From castes to communities

Our innate desire for connection spans from school rivalries to the unique structures within organisations revealing the deep-seated need for identity and bonding

Humans, as we are now, evolved around 700,000 years back. It took us millennia to be domesticated, seeking warmth and the safe environs of a family, community, caste, religion, faith, ideology, locality, city, and the country. One only has to travel in a train to understand these bonds. No sooner are you settled, when the friendly co-traveller wants to know the place that you belong to. The ice breaker is enough for complete strangers to explore more intimate details and search for relatives in case of a shared caste, or neighbours or even mutual friends otherwise. I remember a few interesting incidents. I was around 8, when our teacher asked us our castes. I was not aware and was tasked to inquire from my parents. The next day as I excitedly raised my hand to blurt out the response, the teacher stumped me with yet another googly - my sub caste. Almost three and a half decades later, my daughter was also asked the same question in her class. She was also unprepared. This time I



armed her not only with the caste, but the sub caste as well. Though, I am not sure if my ignorance was a reflection on inadequate feelings of belonging, or it was the grand sentiment of patriotism. I lived in a hostel in Japan for three months for a training. There were hundreds of men and women of different nationalities interacting with each other in the mess or during the entertainment programs over weekends. It was interesting to note people bonding with each other in a foreign land based on common language. We from the Indian subcontinent gravitated towards Hindi or Urdu speaking persons, irrespective of the nationalities.

Spanish speaking people from Europe to South America formed their own group. I also remember a train ride in Switzerland in 2005, when an advertisement caught my eye. An Indian movie star stared back at me, exhorting me to buy an expensive item. I did not have the money, but the pride of an Indian face on a Swiss train compensated for the lack of resources. During my professional life in the railways, there was a perennial debate about the utility of having different departments and officer level recruitment based on the same, which many thought led to a departmental bias. The Indian organization has now done away with the practice - it is now a unified management service. Efficacy of the change will be known only in future. I believe railway organisations across the world have department based cadres. It instils a sense of pride in belonging to the department, leading to more efficient working. I also remember our school days. Each of us were divided into Houses, which were usually named after different

colours or celebrity Indians. There was a healthy system of each House scoring points during the academic year, culminating into the grand finale - the annual sports. We would be cheering our House performers till our sore throats would permit. I never witnessed animosity or professional envy on the better performance of rivals. We tend to overlook a reality, probably because it is deeply ingrained in our psyche. Indian army has regiments based on communities. I have yet to come across any community biased incidents in the services. It might have something to do with the organization's resilience and strength of its leaders. Louie Schwartzberg, American director, producer, and cinematographer, aptly remarked, "I think we need to do some deep soul searching about what's important in our lives and renew our spirit and our spiritual thinking, whether it's through faith-based religion or just through loving nature or helping your fellow man." (The writer is an author; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

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FIRST COLUMN THE GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

The intimate relation with God reflects in true peace; joy stem from a deep connection with the divine



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

God is omnipresent. Therefore, His company is available everywhere all the time. However, if someone is very keen on the company of God, He manifests in a 'murti' (idol). This is mostly true for temples, where God is worshipped routinely in a prescribed manner. But God even manifests in murtis kept in home or a photo of God, if He decides that someone deserves this favour. Many sadhus, genuine ones, carry their worshipable God in some form with them. I had the privilege of seeing a sadhu in a park take out His Lord's photo and he worshipped Him before eating his meal. Lord Krishna has stated, "For the conqueror of self, who is blissfully peaceful in cold and heat, in pleasure and pain as well as in honor and dishonor also, he is accompanied by God." (The Bhagavad-Geeta 6.7)

Before I go any further, let us understand our relationship with God. Lord Krishna states, "An eternal soul is my part only." (15.7) God is our Swami (Master) and we are His 'sevaks' (servants). God is prepared to give a lot to those who serve Him because He has so much to offer. But God is never attached to anyone. Lord Krishna says, "I am similarly inclined towards all beings, no one is hateful for Me; and no one is dear. However, those who worship Me with devotion, they are in Me, and I am also in them." (9.29)

God is not like a parent; we can only make a place in God's heart. Do you realize what this means? This is the only place where there is unmixed joy. What does a company of God feel like? God is watching us all the time. Obviously, His presence can be experienced subtly only, even though He may have manifested in a murti or a photo. Similarly, God communicates mainly in a subtle way except in a rarest or rare case like for a highly advanced devotee such as Sant Tulsidas. We get intuitions. How do we know that these are not our thoughts; the communication could only have come from God? For example, I pray for guidance and help in a medical matter. The answer comes, which could not have been known to me. My Lord has shown His 'kripa' (grace). Then, God uses mediums to communicate. These are people close to His devotees. They come forward and provide the needed information. In rare cases, God speaks



in dreams or when we are not in deep sleep, generally around 4 AM. The timing is a big indicator that it is God, who has spoken, not what we have imagined. Whatever God states will also be corroborated in a scripture like the Bhagavad-Geeta. All this happens because a devotee of God has taken the 'chintan' (meditation) option. What does God communicate or what benefits do we derive from such communications? First of all, we begin to become peaceful. Because without peace no enjoyment is possible. If our minds are disturbed, we cannot enjoy even in the most comfortable circumstances. As God is the only source of real peace, not freedom from noise, we become entitled to it. 'Sukha' or genuine happiness follows even in not-so-opulent surroundings. This feeling leads to unmixed joy as our connection with God is strengthened by sustained practice. Our prayers for guidance and help will be answered.

Progressively, God becomes the guiding light of our lives. Help, as needed, will become available, God finds mediums, who can provide such assistance. For example, a competent doctor will become available to treat us. It all sounds so easy; it is. Not only will we be healthy but the necessary energies of all kinds will be ours too. One will feel secure, comfortable, relaxed, good, etc. The best emotions like hope, satisfaction, patience and tolerance will become parts of our psyche. Our consciousness will become better, i.e. spiritual over some time. In short, life will become highly enjoyable. Worrying, sadness, depression and anxiety will be gradually replaced by superior emotions. It is up to us to choose between chintan about God or 'chinta' (worry) about material objects, goals, etc. God is the owner of whatever there is.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher and guide; views are personal)

Israel and Palestine seek solutions amid global strife



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

China's growing role as a mediator in international conflicts hints at a shifting power dynamic, challenging the traditional Western dominance in international diplomacy

He flew to Washington; they went to Beijing. While leaders soar through the skies, ordinary civilians are engulfed in the flames of war. Their children scream not for the luxury of education, but for the sheer will to survive amid the relentless rains of bombs. Famine devastates their lives, and in Gaza and beyond, people are not just yearning for food but for the basic necessity of drinking water. This grim reality highlights the stark polarization in the global order, as non-Western nations struggle with age-old problems made worse by those wielding power. Harvard-educated former combat soldier of Sayeret Matkal in the IDF, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, commonly known by his nom-de-guerre Bibi, flew to the United States to address Congress, followed by a meeting with President Joe Biden, who, battling COVID-19 for the third time, was expected to announce his inability to run for a second term officially. Amidst thousands of protesters and a boycott by dozens of Congress members, Netanyahu addressed Congress. Meanwhile, representatives from fourteen Palestinian organisations flew to Beijing to sign a peace agreement. The presence of fourteen organisations for a population of just over 5 million highlights the profound divisions within this land, once a nation-state ravaged by intricate schemes. Following the horrific October 7 attack, where thousands of Israelis were brutally killed and many more kidnapped by Hamas, the region's conflict landscape has been irrevocably altered.

This incident has significantly hampered Israel's efforts to normalise relationships with neighbouring countries. In response, China swiftly intervened, brokering an unprecedented rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. This diplomatic achievement was monumental during Ebrahim Raisi's presidency, although tragically overshadowed by the helicopter crash that claimed the lives of Raisi and his dynamic Foreign Minister while returning from a joint irrigation project inauguration in Azerbaijan province. In his record-breaking address to Congress, Prime Minister Netanyahu outlined his vision for peace, affirming that he would not cease fire until victory was achieved—a notion that seems illusory given the ground realities.

Ironically, before the speech, his entourage hinted that he would present "a vision" for the future of Gaza and the region. Ultimately, that vision consisted of "a demilitarized and deradicalized" Gaza. Netanyahu, who struggles to convince his ultra-Orthodox partners to teach their children basic math, now claims to plan on educating "a new generation that must be taught not to hate Jews." This plan remains unclear, but he quickly shifted to slogans about an "Abraham Alliance" between Israel and "moderate" Arab nations, conveniently ignoring his coalition's refusal to even utter the words "two-state solution," the very foundation for this alliance. "Following our victory, with the help of regional partners, the demilitarisation and deradicalisation of Gaza can lead to a future of security, prosperity, and peace. That's my vision for Gaza," he proclaimed to Congress.

He continued, "A new generation of Palestinians must no longer be taught to hate Jews but to live in peace with us. Those



PALESTINE'S WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE WITH CHINA'S DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES OFFERS A HOPEFUL PATHWAY TOWARDS RECONCILIATION AND PEACE, REMINISCENT OF SUN TZU'S ASSERTION THAT 'THE SUPREME ART OF WAR IS TO SUBDUCE THE ENEMY WITHOUT FIGHTING'

twin concepts, demilitarisation and deradicalisation, were applied to Germany and Japan after World War II, leading to decades of peace, prosperity, and security." Despite his lofty words, Netanyahu's visit was not about peace but about expanding the war towards Iran, a country he mentioned twenty-seven times in his 52-minute, record-breaking fourth address. Tragically, there was not even the slightest hint of how he plans to extricate Israel from the tragic impasse it is trapped in under his watch. Israeli analysts expose these hyperboles, stating, "The goal of Benjamin Netanyahu's trip to Washington, including his appearance before the U.S. Congress, is not and never was to advance a diplomatic agreement to bring home the Israeli hostages safely and to end the fighting and suffering. Rather, it is designed to enlist domestic American support to keep waging the war." Another analyst remarked, "Netanyahu may have won 52 standing ovations from the rapturous, majority-Republican audience, but his rhetoric, which so impressed Washington, offered nothing for Israelis watching back home." Meanwhile, in Beijing, 14 Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Fatah, signed the Beijing Declaration.

This rare display of unity, facilitated by China, marks a significant shift towards reconciliation among Palestinian factions—a unity long deemed unattainable due to numerous internal and external challenges. The persistent disunity has exacerbated the Palestinians' suffering beyond Israeli oppression. Therefore, the recent declaration offers a glimmer of hope for a more cohesive and effective Palestinian political movement, provided the commitments are genuine and actionable. The Beijing Declaration signifies a remarkable step towards Palestinian unity and sovereignty. The declaration's commitment to post-war governance in Gaza and the establishment of a temporary national reconciliation government underscores a unified vision for Palestinian self-governance

and independence. The significance of the Beijing Declaration is profound, echoing ancient and contemporary sentiments on diplomacy and conflict resolution. Chinese scholar Zhu Weilie aptly noted, "The Beijing Declaration represents the mainstream opinions of various Palestinian factions," marking a critical step toward Palestinian statehood. Historical divisions between factions like Fatah and Hamas, ongoing since the late Yasser Arafat's era, have long impeded progress. The success of this meeting, which saw all factions in attendance for the first time, symbolizes a breakthrough in Palestinian unity and reflects the global south's emerging solidarity and cooperation. The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home. The impact of the Beijing Declaration extends beyond Palestinian internal politics. It poses significant implications for the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While Palestine moves towards internal unity, Israel's political trajectory appears increasingly extreme and radical.

The continuous violence and rising death toll highlight the urgent need for a ceasefire and renewed peace efforts. Yet, Israel's alignment with U.S. interests and electoral politics hinders progress. In contrast, Palestine's willingness to engage with China's diplomatic initiatives offers a hopeful pathway towards reconciliation and peace, reminiscent of Sun Tzu's assertion that "the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting." China's role as a mediator and leader in global conflicts is likely to expand. The successful reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran under China's mediation last year, followed by the current Palestinian unity efforts, signals a shift in West Asian diplomacy. China's "active actions," characterized by leadership and initiative, have garnered widespread acceptance and support from various countries in the region. Concurrently, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, during his visit to Beijing this week, informed China's Foreign Minister

that "Ukraine is ready and willing to engage in dialogue and negotiations with Russia" aimed at a permanent settlement. Kuleba is in China to secure their assistance in future negotiations with Russia. He emphasised that the negotiations should be rational and lead to lasting peace. There is no mention of NATO, the US, or the UK being involved, but they cannot be pleased with the prospect of peace in Europe being facilitated by China.

This could drive President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to rethink his approach to destructive promises he was given by his "masters" behind the screen. These developments indicate that Beijing is emerging as a new pivotal key player in global conflicts, advocating its strategic ambitions. As regional powerhouses in Asia, both India and China have the potential to elevate the Global South to new heights. Not only Beijing but also Delhi, with Prime Minister Modi's first foreign visit to Russia after his third election, shares this strategic vision. In this context, it is important to consider the words of Sergey Lavrov, Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs: "It is also obvious that the United States is trying to drag India into its anti-China project. Both China and India are much more deeply involved in the Western system of globalisation in terms of the volume of financial, investment, and trade agreements and many other things. But the fact is that just like us (Russia), China and India are fully aware of the discriminatory nature of what the West is doing." Transcending political affiliations and beliefs, the most noble and imperative pursuit, as Albert Camus profoundly stated, is the fight for peace. Humanity prevails when, at such critical moments, we forge a united front against the relentless forces of conflict and injustice. Humanity triumphs when, at pivotal moments, we unite resolutely against manufactured conflicts and unyielding forces of injustice, setting aside political differences to stand together.

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views are personal)

Empowering India's youth: Skills as a compass for their future

Bridging the skills gap through targeted initiatives can not only enhance employability but also drive economic growth and social stability

Few would believe that 26-year-old Kevin Dahima - a young, successful entrepreneur from coastal Gujarat - was once unemployed. Today he himself employs his thriving niche. Kickstarting his business in 2021 and providing a 24-hour service, Kelvin brings home over Rs. 55,000 per month. Having trained as a Hospital Assistant.



PEARL TIWARI

he is helping people in their hour of need, whilst building something for the future. And his journey to success all began when he signed up for skill training. One doesn't have to look too far to see the social impact of high levels of youth unemployment. In South Africa, where youth unemployment has hit a high of 59.7%, unemployment is considered to be the root cause of many problems the country faces today -

including crime, poverty and suicide. Closer to home, the epidemic of drug use in Punjab has been fuelled by social and economic factors including high unemployment, and underemployment; and pressing national issues like youth suicide are compounded by youth unemployment. Never has it been more important for our young people to have opportunities for bright and productive futures.

Around the world, youth unemployment and underemployment are significant problems in many societies, which can lead to feelings of hopelessness and frustration - which can often fuel social unrest. Over the next decade, the World Bank estimates one billion young people will try to

enter the job market, but less than half of them will find formal jobs. This will leave the majority of young people, many in minority and marginalized groups, unemployed or experiencing working poverty.

With the largest youth population in the world (with 66% of the total population under the age of 35), and the latest data from CMIE (a think tank) claiming youth unemployment could be as high as 45.5% - among the highest in the world - it is important that India takes note here.

There is a lot we can do to ensure we take a preventive approach to these issues to secure productive futures for our many young people. In a country with a gaping skills gap, this presents a major



opportunity - to invest in skills collaboratively to meet the needs of both youth and industry. According to recent studies, India's employable population is far too low to meet the demands of the skilled labour market.

Two-thirds of the country's workforce aren't qualified for current job openings. With such a shortage of qualified workers, businesses are struggling to fill positions creating a significant challenge. It's not just the quantity of skilled

labour that's lacking. The quality of available talent is also wanting. Recent research shows that only 33% of workers in India possess the skills employers seek most. The need of the hour to tackle issues at both ends of the spectrum lies in skill training. Whilst the India Skills Mission abandoned its goal of training 500 million youth by 2022, there is still a clear need for corporates, skill training providers and civil society to step into the breach.

Rural youth, in particular, need greater access to quality skill training providers who also support placement, whilst also requiring help to convince families that skills are indeed the way to go - a route often in conflict with the white-collar aspirations of both youth

and their families. Sadly, half of all graduates in India are unemployable due to a lack of industry-relevant skills. The world faces a multitude of challenges today, many of which affect our youth. Conflicts that disrupt education and stability, a polarized online environment that fosters negativity, and economic inequality that limits opportunities. These issues threaten not only individual futures but the overall stability of communities. It is therefore crucial to equip youth with the necessary skills to become productive citizens and create a more sustainable future for all.

(The writer is CEO, of Ambuja Foundation; views are personal)

'Agreement with Russia is deal with devil'

AP ■ KYIV

Signing an agreement with Russia to stop the war with Ukraine would amount to signing a deal with the devil, a top adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as pressure mounts on the country to seek an end to more than two years of fighting. A deal would only buy time for Russian President Vladimir Putin to strengthen his army and usher in another, potentially more violent chapter in the war, Mykhailo Podolyak told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday. "If you want to sign a deal with the devil, who will then drag you to hell, well, go for it. This is what Russia is," Podolyak said when asked about the prospects for a peace deal for Kyiv, whose forces are locked in a bloody war of attrition with Moscow's troops in eastern Ukraine. "If you sign anything today with Russia, that will not be legally responsible for mass crimes, this will mean that you have

signed yourself a ticket to continue the war on a different scale, with other protagonists, with a different number of killed and tortured people," he said. It is a view held across Zelenskyy's camp and reflected broadly among Ukrainians. But it also increasingly comes up against the current of Western pressure, as Kyiv continues to face difficult front-line conditions against Moscow's larger, better equipped army, as well as uncertainty over the level of future political support from Ukraine's closest ally, the US. War fatigue also appears to be eroding the morale of Ukrainians, who have struggled with constant bombardment, electricity outages and the loss of loved ones. A poll by the Kyiv International Institute for Sociology found that the number of Ukrainians opposed to territorial concessions to Russia in exchange for peace has continued to fall. It was 55% in July, compared with 74% in December. Even Zelenskyy hinted at a willingness to negotiate with Russia for the first time since the 2022

EU sends first \$1.6 billion from frozen Russia assets to Ukraine

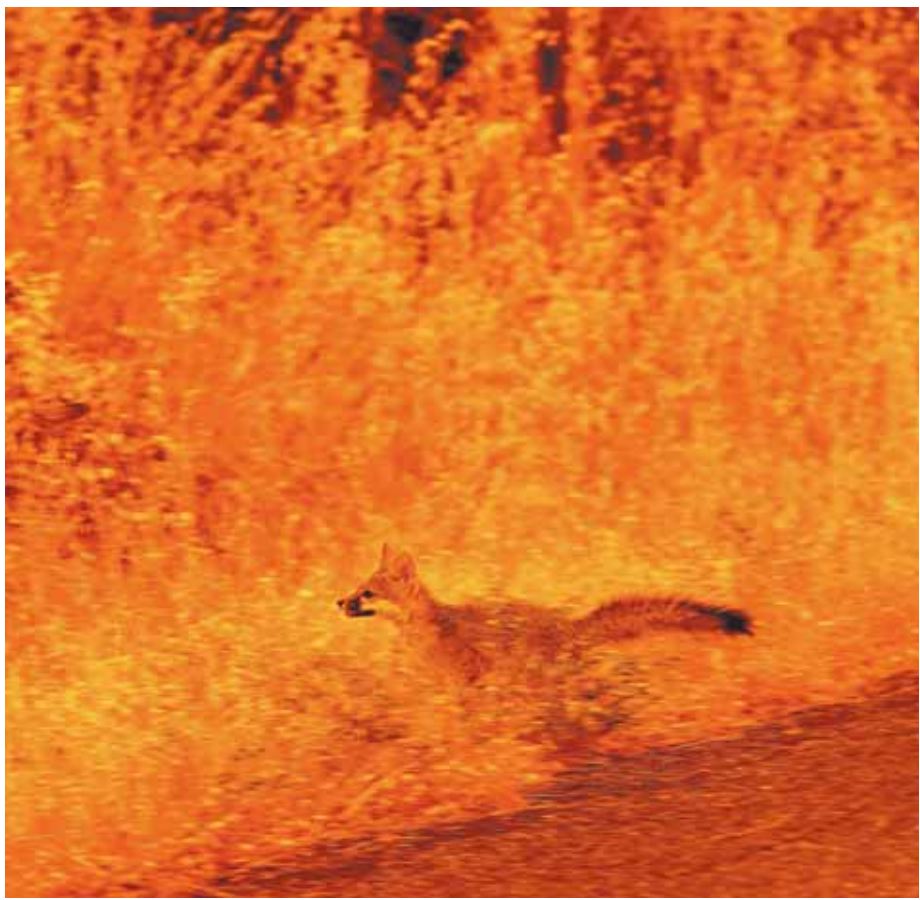
The Hague (AP): The European Union announced on Friday it had made 1.5 billion euros (USD 1.6 billion) available to support Ukraine, the first tranche of money generated from profits on frozen Russian assets. In May, the EU's 27 member states reached an agreement to use the interest earned on some 210 billion euros (USD 225 billion) in Russian central bank assets for military support for Ukraine and rebuilding efforts in the war torn country. The money, most of which is held in Belgium, was frozen as part of sanctions packages in retaliation for Moscow's full-

scale invasion. Brussels estimates that the interest on those assets could provide around 3 billion euros each year. "The EU stands with Ukraine. Today we transfer 1.5 billion euros in proceeds from immobilised Russian assets to the defence and reconstruction of Ukraine. There is no better symbol or use for the Kremlin's money than to make Ukraine and all of Europe a safer place to live," European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement. The move comes days after Moscow announced it had recaptured two villages in Eastern Ukraine.

full-scale invasion, suggesting Moscow should send a delegation to the next global peace summit, which is expected in November. But Podolyak insisted that an

agreement now would only delay greater violence. "Yes, it can be a freeze of the conflict for a certain time. But this means that the Russian Federation will work on its mis-

takes and update its own army," he said. "An aggressor country did not come to the territory of Ukraine to sign a peace agreement. That's nonsense!" A lasting peace that works for Ukraine would ensure a steady erosion of Russian military support, effective economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure to isolate Russia. As he spoke, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba was in China, one of Russia's closest allies, on a mission to forge closer ties. Podolyak said the goal was to provide explanations for Ukraine's positions and for why China should play a more "active intensive function in ending the war on the terms of international law." Few countries are watching the twists and turns of the US presidential election more intently than Ukraine. But Zelenskyy is confident that his government has established good relations with both sides in the US, election, Podolyak said.



An animal runs through a field of grass while fleeing the Park Fire in the Cohasset community in Butte County, California, on July 25, 2024. AP/PTI

SL prez poll on Sept 21

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will hold the presidential poll on September 21, the election commission announced on Friday, ending the months-long speculation over the key contest which is likely to determine the future of economic reforms in the cash-strapped country. This will be the first election to be held in Sri Lanka after it plunged into economic bankruptcy in 2022. The government gazette issued on Friday said in terms of Article 31 (3) of the Constitution the election would take place on September 21 while the nominations would be accepted on August 15. The announcement of the much-awaited election ended months-long speculation that the election would be postponed to extend the term of the incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe. Opposition parties had expressed concern that the election might not be held at all. The government, however, repeatedly insisted that the

election would be held on time. The election announcement set to end the balance term of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was ousted in mid-2022 in a popular public uprising. Rajapaksa had been elected with a record near 7 million votes in November 2019 when the last presidential election was held. Tens of thousands, who took to the streets, in early 2022 demanded Rajapaksa step down for his failure to tackle the island's gravest economic crisis since 1948. Rajapaksa was forced to flee the country on July 9, 2022, and incumbent Wickremesinghe, who was the crisis prime minister at that time, was elected through parliament to succeed Rajapaksa. Wickremesinghe, 75, undertook the difficult task of reviving the bankrupt economy by tapping a bail-out facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). India provided Sri Lanka with a lifeline of USD 4 billion in the first quarter of 2022 which paid for food and essential imports in the balance of payment cri-

sis. By mid-April, Sri Lanka had declared its first sovereign default. A year later came the IMF's first tranche of the nearly USD 3 billion facility to be extended over four years. However, the stringent reforms attached to the programme made the government unpopular. Wickremesinghe stood firm in his commitment to implement reforms and has vowed to steer the country out of bankruptcy. He is expected to vie for his return as the president. Wickremesinghe has yet to officially announce his candidature. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Sri Lanka's former Army chief and the architect of the military offensive that led to the annihilation of the LTTE, on Thursday formally declared his candidacy for the election. The main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) leader Sajith Premadasa, the Marxist JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe are also vying for the post.

Imran to run for Oxford University chancellor position

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/LONDON

Oxford-educated former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan is likely to run for the position of the chancellor of his alma mater in the UK from his prison cell through an online ballot, according to his close aide and media reports. Since August 2023, Khan, 71, has been incarcerated after he was arrested under several cases and convicted for some of them, the longest sentence among them being nine years as of date. Founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, Khan was the prime minister of Pakistan from August 2018 to April 2022. Khan studied Economics and Politics at Keble College, Oxford in 1972. He made a Test debut for Pakistan in 1971 and also captained the cricket team of Oxford University. In 2005, Khan became the chancellor of Bradford University and served in the post till 2014. "Imran Khan will run for chancellor of Oxford University from his prison cell in Pakistan. The former Pakistani prime minister and cricket star will

PTI announces nationwide protest for release of all arrested leaders

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan authorities on Friday braced for a possible showdown with supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf after the party announced a nationwide protest for the release of all arrested party leaders. Apart from the PTI, the rightwing Jamaat-e-Islami also announced a demonstration in Islamabad against the rising high cost of electricity and other commodities. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party will hold nationwide protests for the release of 71-year-old founder Khan and other arrested party leaders and

workers. Khan was arrested on August 5 last year after his conviction in the first Toshakhana corruption case filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan. Since then, he has been kept in jail in various cases. Though the former-cricketer-turned-politician had secured bail or his conviction was set aside, he has not been released. According to the PTI, it will hold a protest in front of the National Press Club in the capital, while the Jamaat-e-Islami plans to stage a sit-in at the famous F-Chowk facing the parliament building. Meanwhile, police in Islamabad imposed section 144, banning

all kinds of gatherings, including protests in the federal capital, and sealing the Red Zone for all entries. The zone houses key government offices and embassies. Police also partially closed the Islamabad Highway at the Faizabad Interchange, which sits at the main entry point from Rawalpindi to Islamabad. Separately, the Punjab Home Department imposed section 144 in the province to ban all protests and gatherings. The PTI has claimed its party leaders are being arrested ahead of nationwide protests, saying that the Punjab Police raided PTI leader Raja Basha's house in Rawalpindi.

earlier on his official X handle and said: "No decision has been made about Imran Khan running for Chancellor of Oxford University; however, we have a series of consultations regarding it today and will be decided in the next 24-48 hrs." However, later speaking with Pakistan's Geo News, Bukhari confirmed: "Imran will be running for the post. Former prime ministers Sir Tony Blair and Boris Johnson are also among the candidates to become the university's chancellor." However, there is no official word from either Khan himself or his PTI. The seat at Oxford University has become vacant following the resignation of 80-year-old Lord Patten, who stepped down after 21 years in the role, The Telegraph said. Oxford University describes the chancellor's role as a ceremonial head, typically an eminent public figure elected for life, presiding over all major ceremonies. The election process for the new chancellor will be conducted online for the first time, allowing the university's 350,000-strong convocation to participate, Geo News said.

US arrests two leaders of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, a longtime leader of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, and Joaquin Guzmán López, a son of another infamous cartel leader, were arrested by US authorities in Texas on Thursday, the US Justice Department said. A leader of the powerful Sinaloa cartel for decades alongside Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzmán, Zambada is one of the most notorious drug traffickers in the world and known for running the cartel's smuggling operations while keeping a lower profile. A Mexican federal official told The Associated Press that Zambada and Guzmán López arrived in the United States on a private plane and turned themselves in to authorities. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to discuss the matter. The US government had offered a reward of up to USD

15 million for information leading to the capture of Zambada, who eluded authorities for decades. Zambada and Guzmán López oversaw the trafficking of "tens of thousands of pounds of drugs into the United States, along with related violence", FBI Director Christopher Wray said, adding that now they will "face justice in the United States". "Fentanyl is the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, and the Justice Department will not rest until every single cartel leader, member, and associate responsible for poisoning our communities is held accountable," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. Mexican authorities didn't immediately comment on the arrests. US officials have been seeking Zambada's capture for years, and he has been charged in a number of US cases. He was charged in February in the Eastern District of New York

with conspiring to manufacture and distribute the synthetic opioid. Prosecutors said he was continuing to lead the Sinaloa cartel, "one of the most violent and powerful drug trafficking organizations in the world". Zambada, one of the longest-surviving capos in Mexico, was considered the cartel's strategist, more involved in day-to-day operations than his flashier and better-known boss, "El Chapo" Guzmán, who was sentenced to life in prison in the US in 2019 and is the father of Guzmán López. Zambada is an old-fashioned capo in an era of younger kingpins known for their flamboyant lifestyles of club-hopping and brutal tactics of beheading, dismembering and even skinning their rivals. While Zambada has fought those who challenged him, he is known for concentrating on the business side of trafficking and avoiding gruesome cartel violence that would draw attention.

China's plan to raise retirement age sparks public resentment

PTI ■ BEIJING

The ruling Chinese Communist Party's plan to raise the retirement age of the working population to cope with the rapidly ageing population has created ripples of resentment among the public. According to the present structure, the retirement age for male workers in urban areas is 60 years while that for female workers is 50 or 55 depending on their occupation. The recently concluded third plenum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has unveiled comprehensive reforms to advance the modernisation of the economy — plagued by a deepening demographic crisis, sluggish growth and mounting local government debt. The powerful body also discussed plans to raise the country's retirement age in a "voluntary and flexible" manner. The World Population Prospects 2024 report released on July 11 said that China's population, currently 1.41 billion in 2024, will fall to 1.21 billion in 2054 and further decline to 633 million by 2100. "It is anticipated that China, the country currently with the world's second-largest population, will likely experience the largest absolute population loss between 2024 and 2054 (204 million)," the report said, adding, "Longer-range

population projections are more uncertain for China." The population and its composition by the end of year 2023, according to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, states that the population aged 60 and above was 21.1 per cent (296.97 million) of the total and of which, aged 65 and above was 15.4 per cent (216.76 million). The population in the working age bracket, i.e. between 16 and up to 60 years is 61.3 per cent (864.81 million). The official document approved by the plenum, held here last week, listed over 300 policy measures as part of the wide-ranging reforms to be completed by 2029. However, the CPC has not officially announced any schedule to implement the plan to increase the retirement age. According to the document, the government would move to increase the retirement age in an "orderly" and "gradual" way and seek to develop the "silver economy" to create diverse jobs for older people. But the plan, which has been in the works for several years, has generated a backlash in Chinese social media with people expressing their dissatisfaction over the prospect of delayed access to their pensions while younger employees averring that the rise of the retirement age will leave them with fewer jobs if the older workers stay.

Tokyo (AP): Heavy rain hit northern Japan on Thursday, triggering floods and landslides, disrupting transportation systems and forcing hundreds of residents to take shelter at safer grounds.

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Chief Engineer/ O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of various Type of L.P. Valves, Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 25-07-2024 from 17:00 hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

GHTP-62/24

76155/12/3176/2023/36071 Dated CHD :- 7/26/2024

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences
Sadiq Road, Faridkot-151203

Admission Notice to MDS Courses under NEET PG-2024
Fresh online Registration/ Applications are invited alongwith requisite fee through University website from eligible candidates on the basis of NEET MDS-2024 for vacant seats as per Punjab Govt. Notification/Prospectus/DCI for admission to MDS courses in Govt./Private Colleges, Private Universities and Minority Institutions in the State of Punjab w.e.f 27-07-2024 to 29-07-2024 upto 5.00 PM. Last date for submitting willingness by fresh registered and already registered candidates alongwith security deposit to participate in 2nd Round is 29-07-2024 upto 5.00 PM. Counseling will be conducted as per schedule published on the University website. Any update issued by MCC/Govt. of India/Govt. of Punjab regarding MDS admission session 2024 shall be applicable. For Prospectus/Schedule/Fee/Details and updates visit at www.bfuhhs.ac.in

REGISTRAR

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Baba Farid University of Health Sciences
Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

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1) Supply of Computer and UPS 2) Purchase of Projector and IT equipments 3) Supply of Classroom Furniture Items 4) Providing of Housekeeping services 5) Providing 04 nos. 4 Tr. Tower Indoor Unit with 2 numbers 10 HP VRV Cold/Hot AC units in Senate Hall of BFUHS, Faridkot 6) Extension of Committee Hall of Senate Block at both floors of BFUHS, Faridkot 7) Repair & Painting of House No.71-A, 75 and 82. Painting & laying kota stone flooring in Multipurpose Hall of UCON and providing MS Gate. Missing etc. in washroom of NELS Building in GGS Medical College & Hospital, Faridkot 8) Installation of Fully automated chemistry Analyzer on reagent rental basis 9) Fully automated chemistry Chemiluminescence on reagent rental basis 10) Purchase of LAN networking.
E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items upto 19.08.2024
1. SSMA Services of various photocopier machines. 2. Disposal of E waste 3. Printing and supply of various printed material. 4. Subscription of Journals and other e resources for HSLIBNET (Health Sciences Library Network) 5. Repair of Medical Superintendent Office at GSSMH, Faridkot
E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items with pre bid meeting upto 09.09.2024
1. Procurement of OCT Machine 2. Procurement of Co2 skin Resurfacing Laser 3. Procurement of Binocular Microscope 4. Procurement of Single Channel Variable Volume Micropipette 5. Procurement of BOD Incubator.
Note: Pre-bid meeting shall be held. Please refer tender document for Date, time and venue for pre-bid meeting
Terms and conditions can be downloaded from <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. The tenders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download tender notification and document from the University website i.e. www.bfuhhs.ac.in

Registrar

nil/12/202/2023/36049 Dated CHD :- 7/26/2024

UN calls for efforts as 'extreme heat epidemic' breaks records

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

After three of Earth's hottest days ever measured, the United Nations called for a flurry of efforts to try to reduce the human toll from soaring and searing temperatures, calling it "an extreme heat epidemic." "If there is one thing that unites our divided world, it's that we're all increasingly feeling the heat," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Thursday at a news conference where he highlighted that Monday was the hottest day on record, surpassing the mark set just a day earlier. "Earth is becoming hotter and more dangerous for everyone, everywhere." Nearly half a million people a year die worldwide from heat related deaths, far more than

other weather extremes such as hurricanes, and this is likely an underestimate, a new report by 10 UN agencies said. "Billions of people are facing an extreme heat epidemic — widely under increasingly deadly heat waves, with temperatures topping 50 degrees Celsius around the world," Guterres said. "That's 122 degrees Fahrenheit and halfway to boiling." The dire warnings came after a barely noticeable respite in back-to-back record global heat. The European climate service Copernicus calculated that Tuesday's global average temperature was 0.01 Celsius (0.01 Fahrenheit) lower than Monday's all-time high of 17.16 degrees Celsius (62.8 degrees Fahrenheit) which was .06 degrees Celsius hotter (0.1 degrees Fahrenheit) than

Sunday. All three days were hotter than Earth's previous hottest day in 2023. "We are not prepared," the UN report said. Guterres urged countries of the world to adopt several proposals aimed at reducing heat deaths, starting with help to cool and care for the most vulnerable people — the poor, elderly, young and sick. The UN also called for better heat wave warnings, expanding "passive cooling," improved urban design, stronger protections for outside workers, as well as greater efforts to tackle human-caused climate change that's worsening weather extremes. But officials said most work will have to be done by countries, with the UN offering aid and coordination, especially when it comes to beefing up

weather warning systems. If countries adopt the United Nations heat-fighting recommendations, "these measures could protect 3.5 billion people by 2050, while slashing emissions and saving consumers \$1 trillion a year," Guterres said, citing a UN Environment Programme estimate. Better heat-health warning systems in 57 countries could save 98,314 lives per year, the report said, based on World Health Organization and World Meteorological Organization estimates. "Crippling heat is everywhere, but it doesn't affect everyone equally," Guterres said. "Extreme heat amplifies inequality, inflames food insecurity and pushes people further into poverty." More than 1,300 people died during this year's annual Haj

pilgrimage after walking in scorching heat. Earlier this year, India's prolonged heat-waves resulted in the deaths of at least 100 people. However, health experts say heat deaths are likely undercounted in India and potentially other countries. Last year, the United States had its most recorded heat deaths in more than 80 years, according to an Associated Press analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data. The death certificates of more than 2,300 people mentioned excessive heat, including 874 deaths in Arizona. Deadly heat is not new, but scientists say it has been amplified in scale, frequency and duration with climate change. Extreme heat, wildfires, floods, droughts and ever more fierce hurricanes are symptoms and

"we need to fight the disease," Guterres said. "The disease is the madness of incinerating our only home. The disease is the addiction to fossil fuels. The disease is climate inaction." "Many things are being done, but too little, too late," he said. "The problem is that climate change is running faster than all the measures that are now being put in place to fight it." Before July 3, 2023, the hottest day measured by Copernicus was 16.8 degrees Celsius (62.2 degrees Fahrenheit) on August 13, 2016. In the last 13 months that mark has now been beaten 59 times, according to Copernicus. Humanity is now "operating in a world that is already much warmer than it was before," Copernicus Director Carlo Buontempo said.

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Whereas complaint has been made before me that the above said accused has committed (or) suspected to have committed the offence punishable under section 138 or Negotiable Instrument Act...

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I hereby informed the General Public that Mr. Rohit Kumar S/o Mr. Ravinder Chandel...

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS...

Table with columns: Sr. No., Branch Name & Authorised Officer, Brief Description of Property/ies, Total Liabilities as on specified Date, Reserve Price (In Rs.), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Detail of A/C No. & Possession Type.

Other terms and conditions:
a) The property is being sold with all the existing and further rights/known or unknown to the Bank...

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Date: 26.07.2024 Place: Panipat

THE CHANDIGARH DISTRICT COURT LAWYER'S COOPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING 1ST SOCIETY LTD., SECTOR 49-D, CHANDIGARH
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of general public and all the concerned...

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Regional Office Panipat
N D TOWERS, FIRST FLOOR
SANJAY CHOWK PANIPAT

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
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STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Date: 26.07.2024 Place: Panipat

सर्वजनिक सूचना
विषय : प्राची को माता की मृत्यु उपरांत कानूनी वारसना तत्वाधिक करने बारे।
उपरोक्त विषय को जानाब से प्राचीना करता हु कि मैं संजीव कुमार पुत्र श्री रामकिशन, निवासी सक्कान...

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGISTRAR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, HANSI
Election program of Managing Committee of The Rakhi Shahrup Multipurpose Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society Ltd. Rakhi Shahrup on Date 07.09.2024

Table with columns: S.No., Programme, Date and Time, Place, Sr. No. of voter list.

World champions India look to maintain dominance in new era of SKY, Gambhir

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

India's newly-forged coach-captain combination of Gautam Gambhir and Suryakumar Yadav will look to make instant impact against a Sri Lankan team in disarray when the familiar South Asian rivals face off in a limited-overs series, starting with three T20s, here on Saturday. Two-time World Cup winner Gambhir is now at the helm of the ship as India's head coach while the T20I reigns have been handed over to one of the best batters in the format, Suryakumar.

Gambhir, who has built his coaching reputation in the corridors of IPL with three title wins for Kolkata Knight Riders - twice as captain and once as mentor - succeeds the immensely popular Rahul Dravid.

The new coach has his task cut out given that the team under his predecessor reached the final in each of the ICC events in their respective last editions.

Gambhir's tenacity as well as his intense approach will make him a different coach to work along for the players, who will also have to learn the ways of the new T20I skipper Suryakumar.

Suryakumar's elevation came as a slight surprise given he leapfrogged Hardik Pandya



for the job. The selectors also ignored his comparative lack of experience as captain. Ajit Agarkar and Co. Made it clear that they wanted a captain who was on the park "more often than not" and went by "dressing room feedback" while hitting the reset button on the T20I side.

The next T20 World Cup, to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka in 2026, gives the selectors plenty of time to rebuild the side which has also suffered a severe talent drain. The overhaul follows the World Cup triumph last month and T20I retirements of seasoned campaigners Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja.

With the side in transition, young batting gun and vice-captain in the white-ball formats, Shubman Gill sees this as an opportunity to cement his place and others like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh and even Riyan Parag will look to do the same.

While the like-for-like replacement Axar Patel fits in perfectly for Jadeja in the eleven, India also have riches in the all-round department given Pandya, Shivam Dube and an in-form Washington Sundar are also available. Jasprit Bumrah has been deservingly rested from this tour which gives the pair of Arshdeep Singh and

Mohammed Siraj to make the most of favourable conditions at the Pallekele International Stadium, where the surface tends to assist pace and bounce.

On the same metric, Sri Lanka will feel dejected since two of their experienced bowlers Dushmantha Chameera (bronchitis and respiratory infection) and slinging Nuwan Thushara (broken finger) have been ruled out.

The hosts have added Asitha Fernando and Dilshan Madushanka, who took a five-for the last time India and Sri Lanka played in the ODI World Cup, as replacements.

The 2014 T20 World Cup winners, Sri Lanka are wading through turbulent times following their first-round exit from the last edition.

Skipper Wanindu Hasaranga, coach Chris Silverwood and consultant coach Mahela Jayawardene tendered their resignations after the debacle in the Americas.

Sri Lanka have appointed 'Matara Marauder' Sanath Jayasuriya as interim coach and he has urged his side to make the most of India's lack

of experienced stars, but knows well that his team is desperately short on solid performances.

The Sri Lankan team of the current does not inspire confidence given their frailties across departments despite Jayasuriya's assessment that

this group will turn around the fortunes in the next two years.

Enterprising batter Charith Asalanka has been handed over the captaincy as Sri Lanka, like India, foray in uncharted waters looking to brighten their fortunes.

Playing at home, Sri Lanka should feel confident about turning the tide given the richness of talent in the ranks, which includes a combative former skipper Dasun Shanaka, Kusal Perera, Kusal Mendis and the experienced Dinesh Chandimal.

TEAMS (FROM):
India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Riyan Parag, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Mohammed Siraj.
Sri Lanka: Dinesh Chandimal, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis (wk), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Perera, Charith Asalanka (c), Wanindu Hasaranga, Kamindu Mendis, Dasun Shanaka, Chamindu Wickramasinghe, Binura Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka, Maheesha Pathirana, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Welalage.



Gambhir's key task will be man-management with Indian team, reckons Patil

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gautam Gambhir's key task as India head coach will be man-management and not coaching a bunch of talented players in their respective skills, said former player and ex-chief selector Sandeep Patil on Friday.

Gambhir is set to start his tenure with a limited-overs tour of Sri Lanka comprising three T20Is and as many ODIs, with the first game in the shortest format set to be played on Saturday.

"I don't think his job is to coach the Indian team. His job is to help the Indian team," Patil told PTI Videos in an exclusive interview here.

"That's how it works at the top level. You need player management. That will be the challenge for Gambhir."

"He has done it and I am sure he will continue to do the same with the Indian cricket team," said Patil on the sidelines of an event organised by Shrachi Rajasthan Tigers.

Patil, a member of India's World Cup winning team in 1983, hoped Gambhir will continue to have success at international level after excelling in the IPL.

"Gambhir had done an exceptional job as a coach for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL. I hope that he continues to help the Indian team in the same way," he added.

Chinese-Chilean table tennis player makes Olympics debut at age 58 in Paris Games

AP ■ SANTIAGO (CHILE)

Table tennis player Zeng Zhiying left China in 1989, the same year of the Tiananmen Square massacre, to teach the sport in northern Chile. Fast-forward 35 years, she will debut in the Olympic Games at age 58 under the name she adopted in the South American nation: Tania.

Tania Zeng, who became famous in Chile after winning a bronze medal at the Pan American Games in Santiago last year, retired from table tennis long ago. Though the sport brought her to Chile, she stopped playing to have more time to dedicate to a business she opened and eventually start a family. Her dream of becoming a professional athlete returned during the pandemic. Her pinnacle will be reached in Paris: "I never imagined (making it to the Olympic Games) because I took it up for entertainment, to do some sport," Zeng said in an interview with The Associated Press at the country's Olympic training centre.

"I gained confidence by playing a lot. Since I always won, I liked playing more and more."



"Qualifying for an Olympics is a big, gigantic dream, and being able to fulfill it at that age is a huge happiness," said Zeng, the oldest athlete in her country's delegation.

Born in Foshan, in southern China, Zeng is the daughter of a local table tennis coach. As a child, she used to follow her mother to professional table tennis training sessions. For a decade, the Chinese-Chilean athlete was a high-performance player.

But her life took a turn in 1989, when she

accepted an invitation to teach the sport to young athletes in Arica, in the far north of Chile. She married soon afterward and moved to Iquique, also in northern Chile, another city where Chinese presence was unlikely at the time.

Zeng is currently the 151st-ranked table tennis player. She is part of Chile's national team, beating Dominican Eva Peña Brito in her debut in the women's singles table tennis tournament at the Pan American Games. She lost to American Lily Ann Zhang in the following round but still managed to win the bronze in the team competition.

Zeng's life is now split between Iquique and Santiago, fuelled by the appetite for the game and the affection of the fans.

"Everyone knows me, greets me, wants a photo and for me it's just joy," she said. "I am already Chilean in heart and soul, everything. They are going to bury me here."

Zeng will play in Paris with more experience and the same determination to fulfill a lifelong dream. She hopes no injuries affect her performance at the Olympics, which is a concern for any older athlete.

Olympic tennis schedule has Djokovic, Nadal and Alcaraz in action today

AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz all are on the Paris Olympics' tennis schedule on Saturday, the first day of action at Roland Garros.

Serbia's Djokovic will compete in singles only, Nadal in doubles only and Alcaraz in both. Nadal and Alcaraz are teammates in doubles for Spain and will face Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni of Argentina at Court Philippe Chatrier during the night session.

Nadal's singles debut will come on Sunday against Marton Fucsovics of Hungary. If he wins, and Djokovic wins his first-round match against Matthew Ebden on Saturday, the two rivals will face each other in the second round of what could be the final event of the 38-year-old Nadal's career.

Djokovic owns 24 Grand Slam titles. Nadal has 22, plus two Olympic golds - one in singles in 2008 and in doubles in 2016. When Djokovic played in the French Open, he tore the meniscus in his right knee and needed surgery in Paris on June 5. He

recovered in time to compete at Wimbledon, where he made it to the final before losing to Alcaraz.

"Expectations for the Olympics are high, and I can't and don't want to change that. It creates a personal motivation for me to approach it in the best possible way for the best possible result," said Djokovic, who took home a bronze in 2008.

The first match in Chatrier will involve top-ranked Iga Swiatek of Poland, who has won four of the past five championships in that stadium at the French Open, against Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania. That will be followed by Djokovic vs Ebden. After Nadal and Alcaraz start the night session, the day's program concludes with a pair of former No. 1 players who own multiple major titles: Naomi Osaka of Japan vs Angelique Kerber of Germany.

Jasmine Paolini of Italy, the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open in June and to Barbora Krejickova at Wimbledon this month, opens play at Court Suzanne Lenglen against Ana Bogdan on Romania.

Canada women's soccer coach removed by Canadian Olympic Committee over drone controversy

AP ■ PARIS

The Canadian Olympic Committee removed women's national soccer head coach Bev Priestman for the remainder of the Paris Games following an alleged drone spying scandal.

The COC said in a statement released early on Friday that assistant coach Andy Spence would lead the defending gold medalists for the remainder of the tournament.

Canada's camp was thrown into disarray this week after two team staffers were sent home for allegedly using a drone to spy on a New Zealand practice.

Priestman denied any



involvement, but did not attend Thursday's 2-1 victory over New Zealand as FIFA - soccer's world governing body - and the International Olympic Committee investigate.

Canada Soccer CEO and

was suspended from her duties until the end of the tournament and the completion of the organization's independent external review.

The COC said on Wednesday that assistant coach Jasmine Mander and analyst Joseph Lombardi were "sent home immediately," and that it had accepted Priestman's decision to remove herself from coaching the opening match.

Priestman held a brief media availability on Wednesday after guiding her team through a one-hour practice.

"My reaction was you feel like this program has let the country down," the 38-year-old Priestman said.

Unbeaten Fiji on track for third successive Olympic rugby seven gold by reaching semis

AP ■ PARIS

Fiji stayed on track for a third successive Olympic gold medal in rugby sevens by reaching the semifinals at the Stade de France.

The Tokyo Games silver and bronze medalists - New Zealand and Argentina - were knocked out, however.

Host side France and Australia reached the semifinals for the first time, while South Africa, the 12th and last team to qualify only a month ago, was back in the semis for the first time since the inaugural Olympic sevens in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. In the quarterfinals on Thursday, Fiji came from behind against Ireland to win 19-15.

New Zealand was stunned by

South Africa 14-7, Argentina lost to France 26-14, and Australia shut out the United States 18-0.

In the semifinals on Saturday, Fiji plays Australia, and France meets South Africa.

South Africa lost to New Zealand 17-5 in pool play on Wednesday, but shot to a 14-0 lead in their quarterfinal.

Captain Selwyn Davids scored the opening try and, late in the half, countered from a dropped New Zealand pass in front of the South Africa tryline. Davids hacked and dribbled and popped up for Tristan Leyds to score. Leyds converted both. But deep in added time, New Zealand kept the ball alive and Moses Leo slipped Rosko Specman to cross for a converted try.

New Zealand continued to attack in waves in the second half but the South Africa defense was incredible. Davids and Ryan Oosthuizen stood firm on their tryline. Shilton van Wyk made another try-saving tackle on a tearaway Akuila Rokolisoa, and Ronald Brown's last-ditch tackle ended a gripping match.

France enjoyed an almost perfect first half, much to the delight of the 69,000-strong crowd.

Andy Timo cut inside his marker and scored, then Aaron Grandier Nkanang scored twice in three minutes; the first from a ruck turnover, and the second from Jefferson-Lee Joseph's offload. Rayan Rebbadj converted all three for 21-0.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
"A State Government Undertaking"

(E-Tendering Mode only)

Online tenders (two parts bid) are hereby invited for the following works on through rates basis for the contractors listed in the appropriate class having Civil contractor License (HPPWD/IPH). The dates of sale / receipt and opening of tender is as per detail given below. The detailed tender notification can also be downloaded free of cost from the HPSEBL website <http://www.hptenders.gov.in>. Bidders would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidders are required to have digital signature certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authority (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPSEBL may obtain the same from the website <http://www.hptenders.gov.in> DSC is mandatory to participate in e-tendering. Bidders already possessing valid DSC issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of works	Estimated Amount (in Rs.)	Completion Period	Earnest Money deposit @1% (in Rs.)	Price of tender document (ic GST) (Non-Refundable) (in Rs.)	Date of publication	Start date and time of bid submission	End date and time of bid submission	Date and time of opening of bid / Eligibility criteria
1.	HPSEBL/EDM/NIT-04/2024-25	Tender for Construction of drainage, chamber and providing and fixing chain link fencing with allied civil works at HPSEBL Colony Aleo under ED HPSEBL Manali against Bid Specification No. HPSEBL/EDM/NIT-04/2024-25.	7,50,200/-	3 months	7,520/-	560/-	26-07-2024	27-07-2024 (15:00 PM)	02-08-2024 (Up to 01:00 AM)	02-08-2024 at 15:00 PM
2.	HPSEBL/EDM/NIT-05/2024-25	Tender for providing & fixing interlocking pavers, Floor Tiles and Boundary wall of Type-II Quarter at HPSEBL Colony Aleo under ED Manali against Bid Specification No. HPSEBL/EDM/NIT-05/2024-25.	7,36,933/-	3 months	7,370/-	560/-	26-07-2024	27-07-2024 (15:00 PM)	02-08-2024 (Up to 01:00 AM)	02-08-2024 at 15:00 PM

For other Terms & Conditions see tender documents.

(Er. Puran Chand)
Sr. Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division, HPSEBL, Manali

Save Energy For the Benefit of Self & Nation.

NOTICE

1. Approval under Regulation 23 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023 for determination cum tripping up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for Asset-1: 01 no. 420kV, 125 MVAR Bus Reactor alongwith associated bays at Kala Amb sub-station in Northern Region.

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (1) Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (2) Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (3) Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (4) Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (5) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (6) Power Development Deptt, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (7) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (8) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (9) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (10) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (11) Chandigarh Administration (12) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. (13) North Central Railway (14) New Delhi Municipal Council (15) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (16) AD Hydro Power Ltd. (17) Himachal Sorang Power Pvt. Ltd. (18) Adani Power Ltd. (19) Lanco Anpara Power Ltd. (20) Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd. (21) PTC India Ltd. (22) Lanco Budhli Hydro Power Pvt. Ltd.

3. Tariff details: Transmission tariff for 2019-24 & 2024-29 Tariff Block (₹ in Lakhs)

Asset	Apportioned approved cost	Cost upto DOCO	Add-Cap during 2023-24	Add-Cap during 2024-29	Total
Asset-1	4269.87	2042.45	131.65	787.70	2961.80

Transmission tariff during 2019-24

2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.32

Transmission tariff during 2024-29

2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
580.25	646.44	658.58	648.16	638.34

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at <https://pgrvit.in/pkatl.aspx>

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th floor, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110 029, with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurugram **Sd/-**
Date: 19.07.2024 **MD (PKATL)**

POWERGRID KALA AMB TRANSMISSION LIMITED
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001