OPINION 6

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NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4 the plant 1865 the contract of the plant of the contract of th Established 1865

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IRAN DECLARES WAR ON ISRAEL







Times of Israel. Israel's MDA ambulance service said it received a report at 7.01 pm (9.31 pm IST) of

people injured by gunfire. Medics and paramedics provided on-site medical treatment to a number of wounded people with varying degrees of injuries, including some who were unconscious, MDA was quoted as saying by

Videos showed two terrorists armed with rifles exiting the rail before they opened fire. Civilians were seen lying flat on the ground to protect

Meanwhile, sirens were sound across Israel on Tuesday night in anticipation of a missile attack from Iran. Israel Defense Forces said, "Israelis have instructed to remain alert and precisely follow the Home Front Command's instructions.

themselves.

Israel and the United States have warned there would be severe consequences if Iran attacks.

The orders to shelter in place were sent to Israelis' mobile phones and announced on national television. TV stations reported sirens in parts of Jerusalem as well as central

The alerts were sounded after a day of rocket and missile attacks from Lebanon, and as Israel said it had begun limited ground operations in southern Lebanon

Israeli airstrikes and artillery pounded southern

comment. unprecedented direct attack on Israel in April, but few of

Lebanese villages where people

were ordered to evacuate, and

Hezbollah militants responded

by firing a barrage of rockets

There was no immediate word

on casualties as fighting

intensified and concerns of a

A senior White House official

warned of "severe consequences" should Iran

launch a ballistic missile

U.S. ships and aircraft are

positioned in the region to

assist Israel in the event of an

wider regional war grew.

into Israel.

against Israel.

its projectiles reached their targets. Many were shot down by a U.S.-led coalition, while others apparently failed at launch or crashed in flight. On Tuesday morning, Israel

attack from Iran. The official spoke on condition of

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari also

warned of consequences if Iran fired missiles into Israel.?
He urged the public to stay close to sheltered areas. "The Iranian strike could be

widespread. Following Home

Front Command guidelines can save lives," he said. Iranian officials could not be

launched

anonymity intelligence.

warned people to evacuate to the north of the Awali River, some 60 kilometers (36 miles) from the border and much farther than the Litani River, which marks the northern edge of a U.N.-declared zone intended to serve as a buffer between Israel and Hezbollah after their 2006 war.

The border region has largely emptied out over the past year as the two sides have traded fire. But the scope of the evacuation warning raised questions as to how deep Israel plans to send its forces into



Smoke rises from an Israeli airstrike that hit the southern suburb of Beirut,

West Asia meltdown to hit India's oil economy

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA immediately reached for NEW DELHI

> The ongoing geopolitical crisis in West Asia, and further escalation in the Israel-Iran-Lebanon conflict is likely to impact India soon. Industry insiders said it is certain that crude oil and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports will get dearer since the supply could hit both international and domestic markets.

India is the world's thirdlargest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement. "Our economy is too sensitive to oil price volatility and it directly affects inflation, trade imbalance, foreign exchange reserves, and an acute fluctuation in rupee valuation. While the situation is precarious and both the government as well as business stakeholders are keeping a watch on the hourly crisis in

West Asia, we are evaluating the current global oil flows as international oil prices could see an increase anytime. For India it's a festive season and it heavily impacts us," an industry source explained, on conditions of anonymity. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Monday spoke to his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu over the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Modi expressed his concerns about the escalating tensions in West Asia, emphasising that "terrorism has no place in our world." According to media reports,

crude oil futures on Tuesday declined 0.5 per cent to Rs 5,739 per barrel as participants trimmed their positions on low Ôn the Multi demand. Commodity Exchange, crude oil for October delivery fell Rs 3 or 0.5 per cent to Rs 5,739 per barrel with a business volume

of 17,697 lots. Continued on page 2

Record voter turnout in J and K

MOHIT KANDHARI

gunmen were killed.

AGENCIES JERUSALEM

has fired missiles at

Israel, and air raid sirens

sounded across the country as

residents were ordered to

remain close to bomb shelters.

Israeli police reported a

suspected "terror" shooting on

Tuesday in Jaffa in south Tel

Aviv, resulting in multiple

casualties. Israel said both the

The police said four people

were killed, and seven others

ammu and Kashmir recorded an overall voter turnout of over 62 per cent in all three phases of the maiden Assembly polls, held after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A in 2019. The entire poll process was completed peacefully amid arrangements.

However, the 2024 Assembly polls could not breach the previous best 65.91 percent voter turnout recorded during the 2014 Assembly polls. In 2008, a 61 per cent voter turnout was recorded across Jammu and Kashmir

The highest voter turnout of over 66 percent was recorded across 40 Assembly segments across seven districts on Tuesday. The first and the second phases witnessed 61.38 and 57.31 per cent voter turnout respectively.

The first-time voters, belonging to the West Pakistani refugee community, Valmikis, and Gorkha community danced to the polling booths in jubilation and also distributed sweets as they exercised their right to franchise for the first time in the Assembly polls.

24 Assembly segments (across



Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, at Gurez valley in Bandipora district, J and K, Tuesday PTI

Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and Udhampur districts) witnessed over 70 per cent voter turnout while only two assembly segments of Bahu and Jammu West witnessed less than 60 per cent polling till 5 pm.

In Kashmir valley, only two Assembly segments of Gurez and Handwara witnessed over 70 per cent voter turnout while seven segments (across Kupwara, and Bandipora, Baramulla) witnessed over 60 per cent voter turnout. Five Assembly constituencies witnessed over 55 per cent voter In the Jammu region, 18 out of turnout and Assembly Sopore segments of

Baramulla witnessed less than 50 per cent voter turnout on

Stakes were high for the Bharatiya Janta Party in the final round of polling across 24 Assembly segments. Compared to 2014, the 11 Assembly segments of Jammu district witnessed approximately eight per cent less polling in 2024. The significant drop in voter turnout may alter the poll results on seats that were witnessing close contests between the BJP and the Congress/National Conference. BJP is placed comfortably in the Udhampur

Continued on page 2

SIT pauses Tirupati laddu probe

PNS TIRUPATI

Director ndhra Pradesh AGeneral of Police (DGP) Ch. Dwaraka Tirumala Rao on Tuesday said that the Special Investigation Team constituted by the (SIT) State government will temporarily stall alleged 'adulteration' of Tirupati laddus with animal fats. The probe has been put on hold as the matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court. Over the last two days, the SIT has probed the procurement and sampling processes, trying to understand how it is possible to adulterate the laddus, said Rao. "First they (SIT) have to understand the process, study it and take all the information, but in the meantime, an order has come from the Supreme Court and in line with that, we have stopped it (probe)," the DGP said while speaking to reporters.

When the case is being examined under the purview of the apex court, it is not appropriate to talk more, he said, hinting at the next hearing of the case in the Supreme Court on October 3. The top court was hearing a batch of pleas, including those seeking a courtmonitored probe into the alleged use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus.

Team India creates Test history

RISHABH MALIK

The Indian cricket team broke The many records and secured a comprehensive Test series victory against Bangladesh on Tuesday. With this win India sealed the

The game was disrupted due to heavy rain on day two and three. India pulled out a seven wi win in a historic Test Match at

Kanpur. Indian bowlers made their mark. and wiped out team Bangladesh with 233 in the first innings. Jasprit Bumrah took the charge with spin duo R. Ashwin-Ravinder Jadeja to swing the match in India's favour.

With this win India broke many records in its cricket history. It is for the first time in 85 years that Indian batting did not play a single maiden over in the whole match, which indicated the attacking approach to pass the lead to Bangladesh in day's play. In 1939, at the England South-Africa match at Durban, England won without playing a single maiden over in the match. Now India and England have become the only test teams in history of Test cricket who won the Test match without playing a single maiden over in the team innings. After breaking multiple world records with their batting on Day



Indian cricket team players pose for photograpers with the trophy after winning the second test cricket match between India and Bangladesh, at the Green Park stadium, in Kanpur, Tuesday PTI

the hosts bowled out the visitors early on Day 5, and chased down a modest target of 95 with over a session to spare. Their aggressive batting style has led to the setting of a new 19vear-old world record.

The Indian team has established a new world record for the highest team scoring rate across both innings during their impressive victory in Kanpur. In the first innings, they scored 285/9 declared in just 34.4 overs, achieving a remarkable run rate of 8.22.

In the second innings, spearheaded by Yashasvi Jaiswal, they chased down the 95-run abroad.

target in 17.2 overs at a run rate of 5.65. This results in a combined run rate of 7.36 across both innings, significantly surpassing the previous world record of 6.80 set by South Africa against Zimbabwe in 2005 India has achieved an impressive

streak of 18 consecutive Test series victories at home, starting with a clean sweep against Australia in 2013. The last team to beat India in a home Test series was England in 2012. Since their loss to South Africa during the 2021-22 series, India has not lost a Test series, either at home or

Actors Rajinikanth, Govinda stable

CHENNAI

 $T_{\,of\quad Tamil\quad film}^{he\ health\ condition}$ superstar Rajinikanth is stable and the actor got admitted to a corporate hospital here for a "periodic check-Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma.Subramanian said on Tuesday. The actor would return home

after the check-up, the minister said. Rajinikanth was admitted to the hospital late Monday night. Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi said in a

post on the social media platform: "I stand with the millions of devoted fans of Thiru Rajinikanth around the globe, in praying for his swift and smooth recovery. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin

wished the superstar a speedy recovery, and scores of the top actor's fans sent their prayers on social media and wishes, too, for his quick recovery. The 73-year-old popular actor is likely to be discharged on Tuesday evening, the source added

MUMBAI



∆ ctor Govinda was ${\cal A}$ injured in the leg on Tuesday after his revolver accidentally went off at his Mumbai residence, police said. The 60-year-old actor is out of danger and recuperating at a private hospital, a Mumbai police official said.

impeccable comic timing and dancing skills, later issued a statement informing his fans he is doing better. "With the blessings of my fans, my parents and god, I am doing better now. I was hit by a bullet, which has now been removed," Govinda stated. The accident happened around 4.45 am

when he was about to leave home to catch a 6 am flight to Kolkata for a show, according to his manager Shashi Sinha. The trigger of the licensed revolver was pushed accidentally while the actor was keeping the gun in the cupboard, and the bullet hit his leg, police said

soldier's bittersweet homecoming KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

More than five decades after he went missing in an air crash at Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh, Elanthoor village in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district is getting ready to welcome the mortal remains of Thomas Cherian, a craftsman in the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers of the Indian Army and bury him near the tombs of his late parents OM Thomas and Eliyamma.

It was on February 7 1968 that the then Soviet Union made AN-12 transport aircraft went missing somewhere near Rohtang Pass while it was carrying 102 troops from Chandigarh The twin-engine aircraft with

the entire passengers perished in the snowy slopes

of Rohtang Pass, nearly 4000

meters above sea level.

Family 'sad and happy' as mortal remains return after 56 years



Army have been searching who would have turned 78 had he been alive, is coming for the remains of the aircraft and the passengers since home.

in a dilemma. Should they 8 or 9, 1968, that our father

There was not a single day, Cherian's siblings, Thomas Varghese, Thomas Thomas even in happiness and sorrow, he was away from our and Mary Thomas, are now memories. It was on February

our brother was one of the travelers in the flight," Thomas Thomas, one of the younger brothers, told The It took another couple of days

which had reported that an aircraft belonging to the Air

Force had gone missing, and

for the family to get an official communication from the EME Center about Cheriyan's "Our parents were death. shattered over the news. Ours is a close-knit family and we had a strong bond. My mother who breathed her last in 1998 had always hoped that Achayan (Malayalam for elder brother) would come home one day," Mary Thomas said. She was just 12 years old when she saw Cheriyan for the last time. Thomas Cheriyan was the

second son in the family of five. The elder brother late Thomas Mathew too had served the defense forces cry, or be happy, over the came home with a newspaper and later joined the Forest

Department of Kerala. The two brothers and Mary Thomas consider the tracing of the remains of Cherivan as a "miracle and gift from God Almighty". 'We are choked with

emotions of all kinds. God in Heaven has heard our prayers and my brother can have his eternal sleep along with our parents in the family tomb at the village church," Mary said, while Thomas Varghese sat nearby unable to speak even a word. Both Thomas Thomas and Mary expressed their gratitude to the Center for providing family pension to their mother Elivamma till her last. "The only sorrow is that we do not have a single picture of our brother, and are dependent on the Army headquarters for retrieving a picture," Mary said, with tears rolling down her

Continued on page 2

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

No divinty on the road

he Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will lay down pan-India guidelines on demolition of guidelines on demonition of properties and any religious structure in the middle of a road, be it a 'dargah' or a temple, "has to go" because public interest is paramount. The SC reiterated that merely because somebody is an accused or even a convict cannot be a ground for demolition of property.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said unauthorised construction made by any person, irrespective of his religion or belief, has to be removed. The Bench reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas which have alleged that properties, including those accused of crime, were being demolished in several states. The SC said its September 17 order, which had said there will be no demolition of properties till October 1 without its permission, will continue till it decides the



down, we are a secular country. We are laying it down for all the citizens, for the institutions, not for any particular community," the Bench said.

"On the first day we had pointed out, if there is any religious structure on the middle of a road, may it be a 'dargah' or some temple, it has to go because public safety and public interest is paramount," it said, paramount," it said, observing that there cannot be a different law for a particular religion.

We are going to make it clear that merely because somebody is an accused, or even somebody is a convict, can't be a ground for demolition," said the court. The SC made it clear that it not protect any encroachment on public places, roads, footpaths, government lands, forests, water bodies and the likes.

"Whatever directions we issue, it will be applicable pan-India," it said, adding, We will take care to ensure that our order does not help the encroachers on any of the public places."

During the hearing, the Bench observed that notices for demolition of properties be sent through registered post to the owners and it should also be displayed on an online portal so that a digital record is there. It also oversight may also be required over the correctness of order passed by the authorities.

The Bench suggested there

should be a time window of 10 or 15 days between the order of demolition and its implementation so that people can make alternate arrangement." ... it is not a happy sight to see women and children on the roads," the Bench observed, adding, if demolition is done after 15 days, nothing is going to be lost.

The SC was hearing the petitions filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and others seeking directions to various state governments to ensure no further demolition of properties of those accused in cases of rioting and violence takes place. The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind had earlier filed a plea in the SC over the demolition of some buildings in Jahangirpuri area of the national capital.

It had also said no demolition should be carried out without following the due process of law and sans notice.

General appearing for states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, said the SC had rightly indicated that the court would lay down guidelines for the entire country.

He referred to an affidavit filed earlier by the Uttar Pradesh government which said merely because a person is alleged to have been part of some offence, can never be a ground based upon which his immovable property can be demolished. "Even if he is convicted, can that be a ground?," the bench asked. can't be," Mehta adding, responded, "Conviction can never be a

ground for demolition." The advocates appearing for the petitioners told Bench that there have been instances where demolition has been carried out immediately after filing of an FIR against an accused.

One of the counsels said people belonging to almost every community have faced demolition action and their concern was with respect to the misuse of municipal laws as a "punitive measure".

PM to lay foundation stones for several sanitation projects today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Marking the completion of 10 years of the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission on October 2, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for several sanitation and cleanliness projects on Wednesday, Jal Shakti minister C R Paatil said here on Tuesday.

The Minister said projects worth over Rs 6,800 crore, aimed at enhancing urban water and sewage systems under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0, 10 projects worth over Rs 1,550 crore focused on improving water quality and waste management in Ganga basin areas under National Mission for Clean Ganga and 15 Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant projects worth over Rs 1332 croré under GOBARdhan Scheme will be kicked off.

"The Swachh Bharat Diwas programme will showcase Îndia's decade-long sanitation achievements and those in the recently concluded Swachhata Hi Seva campaign. It will also set the stage for the next phase

of this national endeavour," he said at a press conference

Paatil said the prime minister will also launch and lay the foundation stone for several sanitation and cleanliness projects worth over Rs 9,600 crore and these include projects under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0, National Mission for Clean Ganga and GOBARdhan Scheme.

Paatil said the programme will also include nationwide participation from local government bodies, women's groups, youth organizations, and community leaders, ensuring that the spirit of Sampoorna Swachhata reaches every corner of India.

Under Swachhata Hi Seva 2024, he said over 19.70 lakh programmes have been completed with public participation of more than 17 crore people. Transformation of around 6.5 lakh Cleanliness Target Units has been achieved. Nearly 1 lakh Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs have also been organised, benefitting over 30 lakh Safai Mitras.

Further, over 45 lakh trees have been planted under the Ek Ped Maa ke Naam campaign,

Athletes, sportspersons must stay away from drugs: CM Yogi

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Tuesday that athletes and sportspersons must stay away from drugs, emphasising, "Drugs lead to destruction; those who turn to drugs will not achieve anything significant in life."

The chief minister also cautioned them against smartphone addiction.

Speaking at a ceremony organised at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow to honour athletes who made the country and Uttar Pradesh proud on a global scale, Yogi shared his mantra for success with the youth and athletes.

The chief minister noted that smartphones have become the greatest challenge for today's young generation, affecting both their time and

He encouraged the youth to prepare themselves, assuring state governments are creating suitable conditions for

'Sports facilities are being developed in cities and villages across the state to integrate sports into their lives. Alongside quality training, skilled trainers are also being made available," he added.

To motivate the youth towards sports, CM Yogi also shared the inspirational stories of the athletes attending the felicitation ceremony. In the programme called

'Jinhone Badhaya Desh Ka Maan, Aisi Pratibhaon Ko Samman', 14 Olympians and Paralympic athletes were felicitated. During the ceremony, Yogi distributed prize money of Rs 22.70 crore to these athletes. The event was attended by a

total of 7 medal-winning Olympians and Paralympians, as well as seven other participants from the Games.

West

trading 0.18 per cent higher at

USD 68.29 per barrel, while

Brent crude was trading 0.17

per cent up at USD 71.82 per

Analysts said Oil and LNG

prices are expected to increase

significantly if Iran decides to

block the Strait of Hormuz,

through which countries such

as India import crude oil from

Saudi Arabia, Iraq and UAE,

resulting in a surge in inflation,

due to the Iran-Israel conflict.

India, which relies on overseas

suppliers for over 85% of its

crude oil requirements,

imports oil from Saudi, Iraq

and UAE as well as liquefied

natural gas (LNG) from Qatar

through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Strait of Hormuz is a

narrow sea passage between

It is approximately 40 km wide

Oman and Iran.

Intermediate crude

barrel in New York.

From Page 1

Globally,

West Asia meltdown...



ners included Praveen Kumar, Suhas LY, Ajit Singh, Preeti Pal, Simran, Lalit Upadhyay, and Rai Kumar Pal.

Emphasising that every com-

petition, whether small or large, provides an opportunity for athletes to progress, Yogi said, "Today, the sports has transformed. The results of the systematic efforts made over the last decade for the promotion of sports and athletes, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are evident to every-

He added, "The Khelo India Abhiyan, Fit India Movement, and Sansad Khel Pratiyogita launched by Prime Minister Modi have transformed the sports environment across the country."

CM Yogi highlighted that leagues have now begun at the university level and sports competitions at the village level, offering players a platform to advance. He further noted that Uttar Pradesh has initiated various programmes as part of the national efforts to promote sports, and significant progress is being made in this regard.

Highlighting the infrastructure development for ath-

at the narrowest point, with

two kilometres of navigable

channels for incoming and

million bpd). According to

international news agencies,

the Israeli military on Tuesday

warned people to evacuate

nearly two dozen Lebanese

border communities hours

after announcing the start of "limited" ground operations

against Hezbollah. The militant group denied Israeli

troops had entered Lebanon.

Hezbollah and Hamas are

close allies backed by Iran, and

each escalation over the past

year has raised fears of a wider

war in the Middle East that

region in support of Israel.

letes, Yogi stated, "The double-engine government is continuously focusing on this. Currently, Úttar Pradesh has 84 stadiums, 67 multi-purpose halls, 38 swimming pools, 15 synthetic hockey

stadiums, and three synthet-

ic running tracks ready." He further said that the state tional cricket stadiums, 16 hostels, 47 state-of-the-art gyms, 20 synthetic tennis courts, and 19 dormitories for athletes. Additionally, two judo halls, 13 wrestling halls, six shooting ranges, two indoor volleyball courts, 12 weightlifting halls, and 14 synthetic basketball courts have been established in the

The chief minister said that the state government is working with ambitious goals to promote sports and support athletes. The state aims to build playgrounds and open gyms in over 57,000 gram panchayats, mini stadiums in all 826 development blocks, and stadiums in all districts. 'Sports facilities are being provided to athletes at the gram panchayat level," he

Yogi pointed out that former athletes from international, Olympic, Paralympic,

A soldier's

bittersweet...

and Championships are being appointed as trainers to coach young players. He further said that the state government has introduced the Laxman Award for athletes participating in any international competition and the Rani Laxmibai Award for female athletes, which includes both a cash prize and a citation. Additionally, the state government provides assistance of Rs 20,000 to players receiving national-level awards and offers monthly financial support to elderly athletes. Yogi stated that the Eklavya

Krida Kosh has been formed in the state and that the first sports university, named after Major Dhyanchand, is being constructed in Meerut.

While encouraging the youth of the state, Yogi emphasised that the government is committed to providing sufficient funding for athletes.

"Youth should immerse themand bring glory to the country and the state by winning medals.

The Sports department is fully supportive of this endeavour," he added. He said that the state gov-

ernment has decided to appoint athletes who elevate the state's and country's pride in sports as gazetted officers. Specifically, two players will be appointed as deputy superintendents of police, two as naib tehsildars, one as revenue tax officer, and two as district youth welfare officers. president state Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh, Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak, Finance Minister Suresh Khanna, Sports Minister Girish Chandra Yadav, Mayor Sushma Kharakwal, MLA Neeraj Bora, Legislative Council Member Avnish Singh, and BJP Mahanagar president Anand Dwivedi were present on the occasion.

BJP MP inspects development projects in south Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $B^{\mbox{\footnotesize{IP}}}$ MP Ramveer Singh Bidhuri on Tuesday inspected ongoing developmental projects in south Delhi, saying traffic congestion on Mathura Road will likely improve by the end of this year.

The development projects in south Delhi, represented in Lok Sabha by Bidhuri, include the construction of a six-lane national highway at Rs 6,500 crore, said a statement from the MP's office.

Bidhuri along with officials of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)



reviewed the progress of construction work at Meethapur Chowk, new bridges on the Agra and Gurugram canals. He said the construction work will end congestion on

Mathura Road and traffic will be facilitated

The MP also inspected the construction of service lane and drain at Moladband Extension's Prasad Nagar. This work on completion will ease traffic jam in Badarpur area, the MP said.

Officials have assured that the construction work will be completed by year end,

He also instructed officials to start work on a proposed foot overbridge on the bypass from Moladband Extension to

1,492 people died

season: IMD data

during 2024 monsoon

Sonam Wangchuk on indefinite fast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and several others who were detained at the Delhi border while marching to the capital to demand Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh on launched Tuesday, stations where they have Meanwhile been kept. petitions were filed in the Delhi High Court against the detention.

The bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela agreed for listing on October 3 by a lawyer for Wangchuk's "next

Wangchuk was leading the march, 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra', which began from Leh a month ago. He and around 120 others from Ladakh were detained on Monday night.

The march was organised by the Leh Apex Body (LAB), which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance has spearheading an agitation for the past four years to demand statehood for Ladakh. They also seek its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of Constitution, an recruitment process along with a public service commission for Ladakh, and separate Lok Sabha seats for

accompanying him were detained at the Delhi border for violating prohibitory orders. They were taken to



different police stations, including Bawana, Narela Industrial Area and Alipur, according to a police officer. 'We tried to convince them to go back as Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) (which prohibits assembly of five or more

people) is imposed in the National Capital but they were adamant," the officer said, adding that they remain under detention, he Meanwhile, Aam Aadmi

(AAP) workers Party mounted a protest against Lt. Governor VK Saxena after Delhi Chief Minister Atishi was stopped from meeting climate activist Sonam Wangchuk at Bawana Police Station. After being denied permission to meet Wangchuk, the CM slammed theBharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Lt. Governor. "I reached Bawana Police

Station to meet Sonam Wangchuk ji and 150 brothers and sisters of Ladakh. Delhi police did not Leh and Kargil districts. let me meet them. We were Wangchuk and those told that LG sahab called and ordered not to let me them. dictatorship is not right,"



A total of 1,492 people died in India during extreme weather events in the 2024 data compiled by the India Meteorological Department. The data revealed that 895 people lost their lives due to floods and rain-related incidents, while 597 fatalities were caused by thunderstorms and lightning strikes during the

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The IMD reported that the country experienced 525 heavy rainfall events (precipitation between 115.6 mm and 204.5 mm) -- the highest in the last five years -- and 96 extremely heavy rainfall events (above 204.5 mm) during the 2024

monsoon season.

monsoon.

According to the data, 17 people died from heatwayes -- 13 in Iharkhand and four in Rajasthan -- during the early part of the season.

Kerala, which witnessed devastating landslides in the ecologically fragile Wayanad district on July 30, recorded 397 deaths due to floods and heavy rains.

Assam and Madhya Pradesh recorded 102 and 100 deaths, respectively, due to floods and heavy rains. In the national capital, 13

deaths were reported as a result of floods and heavy rains. The data also revealed that Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of deaths (189) due to thunderstorms and



season officially ended on Monday, with India recording 934.8 mm of rainfall -- 107.6 per cent of the long-period average and the highest since Central India received 19 per

cent more rainfall than the long-period average for the region, the southern peninsula recorded 14 per cent more than normal, and northwest India saw 7 per cent more than usual.

In contrast, east and northeast India registered 14 per cent less rainfall than normal, according to the data. The country expe rienced an 11 per cent rainfall deficit in June, followed by an excess of 9 per cent in July, 15.3 per cent in August, and 11.6 per cent in September.

Only three meteorological subdivisions recorded deficient rainfall this monsoon season. India's geographical area is divided into 36 meteorological subdivisions. Twenty-one subdivisions recorded normal rainfall, 10 experienced excess rainfall, and two saw large excess

crude oil by Saudi Arabia (6.3 last journey. His mortal million barrels per day), the people remains are expected to UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq (3.3 Pathanamthitta were always reach home this weekend. million bpd) and Iran (1.3

From page 1

enthusiastic about joining the Defense Forces, the men as soldiers and women as nurses. Many Malayalam short stories and novels have had Pathanamthitta and the Indian Army as the background.

the young adventurous from the region which had no industries or major business establishments till the 1970s, the Indian Army was major employment provider before the West Asian gates opened its floodgates.

name would figure in the record books for the feat of Dogra Scouts of the Indian and Mountain Rescue recovering a soldier after 56 years of search mission. Till date only nine bodies out of the 102 passengers who were in the ill-fated aircraft could be retrieved.

Record voter turnout... witnessed 62.76 per cent polling in the final phase. From page 1

All four Assembly segments recorded over 70 per cent voter turnout. Similarly, six Assembly segments of Kathua also recorded a healthy voter turnout of per cent polling. The remote areas of Karnah, Lolab and 70.53 per cent while Samba recorded 72.41 per cent voter turnout. Trehgam also recorded over

Kashmir, Baramulla 60 per cent polling. district recorded a 55.73 per cent turnout till 5 pm while Bandipora reported 63.33 per cent polling and Kupwara

The strong bastion of Peoples Conference leader Sajad Lone witnessed close to 70 per cent polling while Langate, strong bastion of Er Rashid witnessed close to 60

The fate of several senior leaders including two former deputy Chief Ministers Tara Chand and Muzaffar Beig was sealed in the voting machines. Prominent among others in the fray included People's Conference and former chairman Minister Sajjad Lone and National Panthers Party India president Harsh Dev Singh. While Lone contested

from the two seats from

from the Chennai seat of

Former Ministers Raman Bhalla (R S Pura), Usman Majid (Bandipora), Nazir

Udhampur.

Ahmad Khan (Gurez), Taj Mohiuddin (Uri), Basharat Bukhari (Wagoora-Kreeri), Imran Ansari (Pattan), Ghulam Hassan Mir (Gulmarg), Choudhary Lal Singh (Basohli), Rajiv Jasrotia (Jasrota), Manohar Lal Sharma (Billawar), Sham Lal Sharma and Ajay Kumar Kupwara, Singh is contesting Sadhotra (Jammu North), Mula Ram (Marh), Chander Prakash Ganga and Manjit Singh (Vijapur) were other strong contenders in the

outgoing ships. It serves as the primary route for the export of

could draw in Iran and the The East Odalil family has United States, which has rushed military assets to the been busy since Monday

Cheriyan after completing his pre-university course (equivalent to modern day class 12th) joined the Corps of EME when he was hardly 18. He laid down his life for the nation when he had turned 22. Once the body is brought back to Elanthoor, Cherian's

arrangements for Cheriyan's

Tiranga

AAP workers protest against LG Saxena

Workers protest against CM Atishi being stopped from meeting Wangchuk

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

¬he Aam Aadmi Party 1 (AAP) workers mounted a protest here against Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena after Delhi Chief Minister Atishi was stopped from meeting climate activist Sonam Wangchuk at Bawana Police Station. Wangchuk and around 120 others on a march to Delhi demanding Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh were detained at the Singhu border on Monday night. The Delhi Police has stepped

up security around the Bawana Police Station where Wangchuk has been kept. After being denied permission to meet Wangchuk, the chief minister slammed the BJP and the Lt Governor, alleging that this is dictator-

ship.
"I reached Bawana Police Wangchuk ji and 150 brothers and sisters of Ladakh. Delhi police did not let me meet them. We were told that LG sahab called and ordered not to let me meet them. This dictatorship is not right," Atishi alleged in a post on X. She said that Wangchuk and



the people of Ladakh are also fighting against the LG's rule, and demanded that the same rule be ended in Delhi as well. "The people of Delhi stand with the people of Ladakh. The LG rule should end in Ladakh. Also, the LG rule should end in Delhi. Ladakh and Delhi should get the status of a full state," the chief

On being prevented from meeting Sonam Wangchuk the people of Ladakh, the Delhi CM expressed, "I am sure that because of LG Saab's phone call, the representative of the elected government, the Chief Minister of Delhi was not allowed to meet Sonam Wangchuk. Because BJP is from unarmed, peaceful peo-

afraid of the voice of the common people, afraid of

Scores of AAP workers protested outside the Bawana Police Station against Delhi LG. AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal also objected to Wangchuk's detention and said, "Delhi is not any single person's inheritance; everyone has the right to come here." "Sometimes, farmers are stopped from entering Delhi, at other times Ladakhis are stopped. Is Delhi someone's personal property? Delhi is the nation's capital, and everyone has the right to come here. This is completely wrong. "What are they so afraid of

arate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts. Wangchuk and those accom-

panying him were detained at the Delhi border for violating prohibitory orders and were taken to different police stations, including Bawana, Narela Industrial Area and Alipur, according to a police

"We tried to convince them to go back as Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) (which prohibits assembly of five or more people) is imposed in the nationcapital but they were adamant," the officer said. The police had imposed curbs on gatherings of over four people in Delhi between Monday and Saturday in three districts - North, Central and New Delhi—along with all police station jurisdictions on Delhi's borders.

For imposing the curbs, they cited communal tensions over the Waqf Amendment Bill, Municipal Corporation of Delhi's standing committee elections, pending Delhi University Students Union poll results and elections in Harvana and Jammu and Kashmir, among other things.

Police stopped Government's Harit Kalash Yatra on LG's orders: Gopal Rai

lifted the Kalash on their heads,

the police cancelled the pro-

gramme even before I could

Rai also criticised the move,

accusing the police and LG of

stifling the event while neglect-

ing the city's rising crime.

While crime is rampant, the

police are busy removing

women involved in an aware-

ness programme instead of

catching gangsters," Rai said.

Expressing his disappointment

at the disruption, Rai ques-

tioned the LG's stance on envi-

ronmental efforts, stating, "The

LG cuts thousands of trees

without any permission, and

now he chases away those run-

ning a campaign for tree plan-

"The LG doesn't require any permission to cut 1,000 trees, but when the Delhi govern-

ment organises an awareness

tation with police force.

even reach," Rai said

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday alleged that the Delhi Police stopped the government's 'Harit Kalash Yatra,' an awareness campaign of tree plantation in Connaught Place here following orders from Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena. The 'Harit Kalash Yatra' was scheduled to be held on Tuesday morning as part of Delhi government's winter action plan to combat pollu-

Rai said the event, which aimed to raise awareness about pollution and involved over 1,500 women from across the city, was halted just as the participants gathered at Connaught Place for the 'Harit Kalash Yatra' procession. Despite prior approval from the authorities, the police intervened and shut down the campaign moments before it began.

'Last night, LG sahab issued a directive through the police, and today our tree plantation programme in Connaught Place, aimed at curbing pollution, was stopped," Gopal Rai told reporters. "Around 1,500 women had come from different parts of Delhi, and despite having permission from the Police, as soon as the women

permissions, it is forcibly shut down," Rai alleged. According to Rai, the event was progressing smoothly until the police intervened.

According to Rai, the Delhi Government's efforts have significantly expanded the city's green area, increasing it from 20 percent in 2013 to 23.06 percent by 2021. Delhi now ranks

first in the country for per capi-

ta forest cover among big cities.
"The AAP government promised to plant two crore trees in five years, and by the fourth year, we achieved this target. This year, the aim is to plant or distribute 64 lakh trees," he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police on Monday banned protests and the gathering of five or more persons in central and bordering areas of the city for the next six days, citing law and order issues. According to an order issued by the Delhi Police Headquarters, Commissioner Sanjay Arora has directed the imposition of Section 163 (previously Section 144 of CrPC) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita in the districts of New Delhi, North, and Central, and in all police

jurisdictions sharing borders

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the Delhi Police's Terming the Denn 1 Navratri as "Tughlaqi Farman" AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Tuesday condemned it and sought its immediate withdrawal. He also criticized the Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena for mishandling the law and order situation and demanded his resignation. According to Bharadwaj, this decree has sparked outrage as it aims to curtail upcoming religious fes-

The Delhi Police had on Monday issued a prohibitory order against any protests or gathering of five or more persons in the central and bordering areas of the city for the next six days citing law and order issues. The order was issued under the section 163 (earlier section 144 of CrPC) of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha

tivities without any basis to do

Bharadwaj said there is wide-

spread chaos and panic in the city because the Delhi Police has suddenly issued this arbitrary decree, creating a nearcurfew-like situation in most parts of Delhi in the coming

Referring to the ongoing 'Shradh' period, Bharadwah talked about how throughout this time, people don't buy any new goods and would only start visiting markets with the onset of the Navratri which starts from 3rd November this year. "People observe fasts, go to markets and shop, visit temples, regularly during the Navratris. It is a matter of fact that anyone living in Delhi would know that during this time bhandaras are organized in various places across Delhi, but since the LG is not from Delhi, he isn't aware of the culture of the city," he added. The minister further said this

'Tughlaqi Farman' issued today by the LG-controlled Delhi Police is shameful, and the



doing this, Ramleelas in Delhi will stop, or that Jagran or Mata Ki Puja won't be organised, that's not going to happen. I request him to withdraw this order." Bharadwaj hit out at LG Saxena and demanded his resignation, saying he was not able to handle the law and order of the city. "This order is laughable and irresponsible; it has been issued to ban the festivals of Hindus, create chaos and harass Delhi people," the Delhi Minister said. When elections people of Delhi will not accept this. "If the LG thinks that by Can be held in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana, then why can't a festival be held without restriction, he asked. Bharadwaj said that even BJP leaders were not safe in the city and cited an extortion message a leader of the party in Uttam

ple?" he asked. Slamming the

detention, Aam Aadmi Party

leader Manish Sisodia said, "Ís

Sonam Wangchuk a terrorist?

Why does the central govern-

ment want to stop them from entering Delhi?" He alleged that the BJP was working on

converting every state into a Union Territory and jailing

those who happen to oppose

Wangchuk and several of his associates have gone on an indefinite fast at police stations where they have been

kept. According to police

sources, they were all exam-

ined by a team of doctors.

Wangchuk was leading the march, 'Delhi Chalo

Padyatra', which began from

Leh a month ago. He and

around 120 others from

Ladakh were detained on

The march was organised by the Leh Apex Body (LAB),

which along with the Kargil

Democratic Alliance (KDA),

has been spearheading an

agitation for the past four

years to demand statehood for

Ladakh, seek its inclusion

under the Sixth Schedule of

the Constitution, early

recruitment process along with a public service com-

Monday night.

Nagar received. He said, "Please resign immediately, and go back to where you cast your vote. Delhi doesn't need you. Imposing restrictions on festivals is shameful. People are saying - GO BACK LG Saab. I appeal to the central government to send the LG they appointed back to Gujarat and take his resignation."

AAP national convener and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in a post on X said that he was "very concerned" over the "deteriorating" law and order situation in the

Delhi Police has imposed prohibitory orders under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) at several places in Delhi for the next six days over the intelligence inputs that some unsocial elements may attempt to create a nuisance in the first week of October.

Under section 163 of the BNSS (formerly section 144 of CrPc), there will be a prohibition on certain things, which include assembly of five or more unauthorised persons, carrying of fire-arms, banners, placards, lathis, spears, swords, sticks, brickbats etc., pocketing or dharnas in any public area etc. Commissioner Sanjay Arora, through an official order, conveyed that inputs were received

that multiple organisations have given calls for holding and organising various events in the nature of protests, demonstrations and campaigns in the territory of Delhi from September 30 till October 5.

The general atmosphere in Delhi is sensitive from a law and order point of view due to various current issues like prevailing communal atmosphere in view of the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill and issue of Shahi Idgah in Sadar Bazaar area, politically surcharged issue of MCD Standing Committee elections and, pending declaration of results of DUSU Elections etc.," the Commissioner said. There will be heavy movement of VVIPs and dignitaries on October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. In the order, Arora mentioned

that the Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana legislative assembly elections are underway, and thus, there is a need to continuously "check on movement

NDMC organises felicitation ceremony as part of Swachhata Hi Seva campaign

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)on Tuesday organized a felicitation ceremony as part of the ongoing 'Swachhata Hi Seva' (SHS) campaign celebrating the contributions of various stakeholders who have supported NDMC in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene standards over the past 10 years. Under the theme 'Swabhaav

Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata' the event underscored the role of all the stakeholders in maintaining cleanliness into daily habits and cultural practices.

On the occasion, Chairman, NDMC Ashwini Kumar presented the certificates of appre-

ciation to the top-performing

Departments and wards of NDMC for recognizing their outstanding contributions in ensuring cleanliness in their respective areas. These awards were a testament to their unwavering dedication and commitment to creating a cleaner, greener New Delhi.

Atishi inspects roads for second day to ensure pothole-free capital by Diwali

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $D^{\text{elhi Chief Minister Atishi}}_{\text{and cabinet ministers on}}$ Tuesday inspected roads in different parts of the city, for the second consecutive day, to ensure a pothole-free national capital by Diwali. Atishi inspected the roads in the Sarai Kale Khan area. She was accompanied by local MLA Praveen Kumar.

Taking to X, the chief minister said the BJP's "conspiracy" to stop the work being done for Delhiites by putting her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal in jail has failed.

"Under the guidance of Kejriwal, the Delhi cabinet and AAP MLAs are inspecting PWD roads to make them pothole-free," Atishi said.

In this sequence, (I) inspected Sarai Kale Khan, Nizamuddin, Nehru Vihar

Underpass, August Kranti Marg on Ring Road today along with officials," she added. Atishi said the stretch between Ring Road and Nizamuddin railway station is in a dilapidated condition.

There are big potholes on the

road due to which com-

muters face difficulty in trav-

This road was handed over to the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) during the construction of the Rapid Rail station.

Instructions have been issued to PWD officials to coordinate with the NCRTC and repair this road soon, she

In another post, the chief minister said the Moolchand underpass road is also in a dilapidated condition. Gokulpuri area.

Moolchand Potholes have formed on the road due to stagnant water. Officials have been instructed to repair the entire underpass road within a week.

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia inspected the roads in C R Park and the Alaknanda area and directed the officials to repair them. In a post on X, Sisodia said the impact of Kejriwal's mission to make Delhi's roads pothole-free is now visible. The entire PWD system has

become active. Work is being done immediately in areas that can be repaired through routine maintenance and the tender process has started for those areas where the entire road needs to be rebuilt," he said. Minister Gopal Rai inspected the roads in northeast Delhi's

Medha Patkar condemns detention of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Social activist Medha Patkar on Tuesday condemned the detention of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and his supporters, likening their treatment to that of the farmers during their protests. Calling it a conspiracy, Patkar announced that she would observe a daylong fast on Wednesday in solidarity with Wangchuk and

asked for public support. Environmentalists, climate experts, and social activists gathered for a press conference at the Press Club under the banner of the National Alliance of People's Movements to address Wangchuk's detention. They expressed their support for the demands of the 'Padyatris,' which include granting statehood to Ladakh and securing Sixth Schedule status for the region.

"These activists are being treated like the farmers were. After walking all the way on foot, they expected the Centre to engage in dialogue with them. Instead of talking, a prohibitory order was issued and they were detained in different police stations. This is a conspiracy," Patkar alleged. She added that both the Prime Minister's Office and the Home Ministry were informed in advance about their march.

"A letter was written for October 3 but that was also rejected. The government is afraid of us and is using the police to block us," she said.

The speakers at the conference also criticised the detention of Ladakh political activist Sajjad Kargili who was scheduled to speak at a panel discussion on Ladakh's issues at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) later in the day. They claimed that

the police cited Haryana elections and a controversy surrounding the Waqf Board as reasons for detaining the Padyatris, calling these excuses to prevent them from entering the city.

The activists demanded the release of Wangchuk and his supporters and urged the authorities to allow their planned 'Padyatra' to Rajghat. The press conference was also addressed by environmentalist Prafulla Samantara and climate expert Soumya Dutta,

among others. Around 120 people from Ladakh, including Wangchuk, were marching towards the national capital demanding sixth schedule status for the Union Territory when they were detained. Wangchuk is leading the march, 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra,' which began from Leh a month ago.

HC questions insta**l**ation of Maharani Lakshmi Bai statue at Shahi Idgah Park

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI senior counsel appearing for

Stating that Maharani Lakshmi Bai is not a religious figure, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday questioned the opposition to the installation of her statue by the MCD at the Shahi Idgah Park at Sadar Bazar here and said it does not want the issue to become a "flashpoint unnec-

A bench headed by Chief Justice Manmohan stated this while hearing an appeal by the Shahi Idgah Managing Committee against a single judge's order refusing to restrain the installation of the statue of the freedom fighter. "Why is passion so high? We are not able to understand the opposition... You must volunteer rather than the court passing an order. She is not religious (figure)," the court remarked.

The bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, deferred the hearing till

essarily".

October 4 and asked the

"We want you to speak to your client. We don't want a flashpoint unnecessarily in the city. We don't want to force something down your throat.

point?" the court told the senior lawyer. While agreeing that Lakshmi Bai was a national figure, the counsel for the appellant sub-mitted that the park is used for a certain religious programme when prayers are offered

Why should it become a flash-

there. The court also deleted certain objectionable averments in the plea after the appellant sought their removal and tendered an unconditional apol-

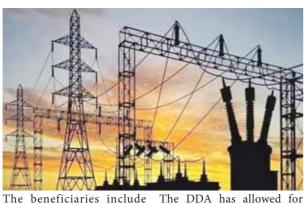
ogy. On September 25, the court had said Lakshmi Bai was a national hero and history should not be divided on communal politics, as it pulled up the Shahi Idgah Managing Committee for making "scandalous pleadings" in its plea.

DDA allows DISCOMs to provide new electricity connections: Raj Niwas

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{n}}$ a major relief to lakhs of people in the development areas of 105 urbanized villages, colonies regularized by Municipal Corporation of Delhi(MCD), the Delhi D e v e l o p m e n t Authority(DDA) has allowed DISCOMs to provide new electricity connections, Raj Niwas said on Tuesday. Giving details, officials said

the move comes after direc-tions from Delhi Lt Governor(LG)V K Saxena, who had received representations from all Delhi MPs, certain MLAs and several Resident Welfare Associations in this regard. Moreover, during the LG's visits to such areas, this demand had been raised by hundreds of people LG interacted with.



The beneficiaries include whose colonies were regu-

prior to issuance of Land Pooling Regulations, 2018, land allotted to the landless persons under 20 Point Program, Industry / Godown situated in non-conforming industrial area as per MPD-2021, and JJ colonies.

such connections on all lands where DDA or any other government agency has issued NoC in the past or where plans stand approved for development by any govern-

A decision had earlier been taken in June, 2023, wherein

no new connections were to

be allowed within the development areas of 105 urbanized villages in the land pooling areas, since authorization for new constructions in these areas were to be issued by DDA subsequent notification of sectors in these areas as per the Land Pooling In this order of June, 2023,

exemption was given to Lal Dora, extended Lal Dora and PM-UDAY colonies within the land pooling areas. Certain areas within devel-

opment area have been reported which have sanction/ prior approval of various government bodies. The MCD has regularized 567 colonies in Delhi, prior to

notification of Land pooling.

Some of the colonies are

falling in the land pooling

area. These colonies were reg-

ularized by the MCD prior to the declaration of the notification of the development However, all such colonies

which have been regularized by MCD prior to 24.10.2018 (date of notification of the Regulations of 2018) would be cover under above mentioned Para 3 (1) (e) Regulations of

Also, land allotted to landless person (falling within Land pooling area) under 20 point Programme by the concerned Departments of GNCTD. Such land allotted prior to 24.10.2018 by the GNCTD are also covered under Para 3 (1)(e) Regulations of 2018. In such cases the concerned DISCOM may take up the matter with the concerned Departments of GNCTD, for any clarification.

BJP councillor withdraws contempt plea against Mayor Oberoi from SC STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI Municipal Corporation of ic process was being deliber-

 $B^{ ext{JP councillor Raja Iqbal}}_{ ext{Singh on Tuesday with-}}$ drew from the Supreme Court his contempt plea against Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi over the election to fill vacancy in the MCD's standing committee after the apex court suggested that he should approach the Delhi High Court as that would be the appropriate forum. Senior advocate Sonia Mathur, appearing for Singh, agreed to the suggestion made by the bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan, and withdrew the plea. The matter was dismissed as withdrawn.

In his contempt plea, Singh submitted that there was a "wilful and deliberate disobedience" by the mayor of

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) of the apex court order dated August 5, passed in a writ petition "for holding elections to the post rendered vacant of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi on account of Ms Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Municipal Councillor, Ward No. 120 (Dwarka-B) being elected as a Member of

Parliament (Lok Sabha)". The contempt petition stated that according to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, such vacancies have to be filled within a period of a month.

It alleged that on September 26, the mayor "arbitrarily postponed the election to

October 5, 2024, leading to

concerns that the democrat-

ately obstructed". "This led to the intervention

of Lieutenant-Governor V K Saxena who directed that the election be held by the end of the day on September 26. But the Mayor arbitrarily deferred this too, in violation of the SC's August 5 order," the plea said. The BJP won the last vacant

seat of the MCD's 18-member standing committee unopposed as the councillors of the ruling AAP abstained from voting.

On August 5, the apex court ruled that the law "expressly enables" the lieutenant governor to nominate aldermen to the MCD and he was not bound by the advice of the council of ministers in the

LAC situation stable but sensitive amid India-China standoff: Army Chief

NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he\ situation\ along\ the\ Line}$ of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh is stable but not normal and remains sensitive, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi said here on Tuesday. His remarks came in the backdrop of continuing standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries in the region.

Though "positive signalling" is coming out from the diplomatic talks between the two sides, the execution of any plan depends on the military commanders on the ground, he said.

In the entire gamut, the "trust" has become the "biggest casualty", General Dwivedi said at a curtain raiser event on Chanakya Defence Dialogue.

"The situation is stable, but it is not normal and it's sensitive. If that be the case what are we wanting. We are wanting that the situation that was there pre April 2020 should be restored," he added. military standoff between the two sides began in early May of 2020.

border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points.

"Till the time the situation is not restored, as far as we are concerned, the situation will remain sensitive, and we are fully operationally prepared to face any kind of a contingency," the Army Chief

He listed several pending issues such as troops on ground, buffer zones along the LAC and resumption of patrolling by troops as planned.

General Dwivedi also briefly touched upon the Indian military's overall approach towards China. "As far as China is concerned, it has been intriguing our minds for quite some time. And I have been saying that with China, you have to compete, you have to cooperate, you have to coexist, you have to confront and contest," he

India and China held two rounds of diplomatic talks in July and August with an aim to find early resolution of standoff on the LAC in

eastern Ladakh

The positive signalling is coming from the diplomatic side, but what we need to understand (is that) the diplomatic side gives options and possibilities," General

"But when it comes to the execution on ground, when it relates to ground per se; it is dependent on the military outstanding issues in their commanders on both sides to take those decisions," he said,

responding to a question. The Army chief also referred to disputes in Depsang and

Demchok and said all the pending issues are on the "Whatever one can imagine is

on the table along the northern front and that includes Depsang Demchok," he said. Asked about

construction of villages along

is carrying out "artificial

"No problem, it is their country," he said, adding India is also having "model villages" in border areas. "But more importantly, now the state governments have been empowered to put in those resources and this is the time when the army, state governments and supervision by the central government are all coming together," he said.
The model villages that are being built now will be even better, the Army Chief said. He said there is no Chinese population close to the LAC and that is the reason Beijing is carrying out the "artificial immigration".

The Army Chief also cited how the Chinese fishermen first came to the South China Sea and then the military

Last month, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks in the Russian city of St Petersburg with a focus on finding an early resolution to the row. In the talks held on the sidelines of a conclave of

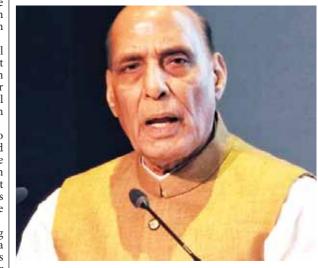
China-South Africa) nations, the two sides agreed to work with "urgency" and "redouble" efforts to achieve complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

In the meeting, Doval conveyed to Wang Yi that peace and tranquility in border areas and respect for the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are essential for return of normalcy in bilateral ties. The ties between the two nosedived countries significantly following the

fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. India has been maintaining that its ties with China

cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas. The two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff. India has been pressing the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas. The two sides held the last round of high-level military talks in

30 lakh defence pensioners linked to SPARSH: Rajnath Singh



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said here out of a total of 32 lakh defence pensioners, 30 lakh have been successfully linked to the SPARSH {System for Pension Administration (Raksha)} portal. He made this observation during the 277th Annual Day celebrations of Defence Accounts Department (DAD) at Bharat Mandapam.

While commending DAD's focus on technology adoption, the defence minister asserted that despite numerous challenges, the department has successful implementation of this websystem, which processes pension claims and credits the pension directly into bank accounts of defence pensioners without any external intermediary.

He commended the efforts of DAD towards modernisation and strengthening of the country's defence ecosystem through optimum utilisation of resources, efficiency and transparency in accounting and adoption of latest technologies. He lauded the department for focusing on every little detail, which leads to necessary improvements in defence related policies and proposals.

Reflecting on the progress achieved in the defence sector in the last few years,

Rajnath Singh stated that there was a time when acquisitions were mainly dependent on imports, and the positive impact of defence expenditure on the economy was very limited. He added that due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government's efforts to attain self-reliance, India is today seen as a defence exporter.

The defence minister urged

the DAD to prepare a roadmap to make the department a 'Centre of Excellence' in the field of finance defence economics. He also batted for establishing a robust and comprehensive management system that gives analytical reports to the government on the impact of defence expenditure on the country's economy, such as the contribution of defence vendors in revenue generation and employment generation. This will prove to be helpful in establishing a holistic policy regime, which would develop a sense of 'Whole of the Government

Tracing its roots to the appointment of the Military Pay Master in 1747, the DAD has continuously re-invented itself to provide exemplary services to the Armed Forces, and in turn to the Nation, in the fields of Internal Audit, Accounting, Financial Advice and Defence Pensions

approach', he added.

Arti Sarin appointed first woman DG of AFMS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, on Tuesday became the first woman officer to take over as the Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS). The DGAFMS is directly responsible to the Ministry of Defence for overall medical policy matters which relate to the Armed Forces, defence ministry said

appointment of DGAFMS, the Flag Officer the coveted appointments of DG Medical Services (Navy), DG Medical Services (Air) and Director and Commandant of Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune.

She is an alumna of AFMC, Pune and was commissioned into the Armed Forces Services in December 1985. She is an



MD in Radiodiagnosis from AFMC, Pune and Diplomate National Board in Radiation Oncology from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, complemented with training in Gamma Knife Surgery University

In a career spanning 38 years, the Flag Officer has held prestigious academic and administrative appointments including Professor and Head, Radiation Oncology, Army Hospital (R&R) and (Southern n Command)/AFMC Pune, Commanding Officer, INHS Asvini, Command Medical Officer in the Indian Navy's Southern and Western Naval Commands. The Flag Officer has the rare

distinction of serving in all three branches of the Indian Armed Forces, having served as Lieutenant to Captain in the Indian Army, from Surgeon Lieutenant to Surgeon Vice Admiral in the Indian Navy and as an Air Marshal in the Indian Air Force. The Flag Officer has been recently appointed as a member of the National Task Force by the Supreme Court to formulate safe working conditions and protocols for medical professionals. She has been at the forefront of motivating young women to join the Armed Forces and is a shining icon for the Nari Shakti initiative of the

PM sends birthday greetings to former president Kovind



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday greeted former president Ram Nath Kovind on his birthday, and said he is widely respected for his service to society and con-

tribution to national progress. Kovind, who served as the President from July 2017 to July 2022, turned 79 on

"Birthday greetings to our former President, Shri Ram

Experts urge NAT to enhance blood donation safety

contribution to national progress," Modi said in a social media post.

'His insights into various subjects are also very former President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji. enriching. Praying for his long and healthy life," the prime minister said.

India to support Jamaica's development in key sectors: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Jamaican counterpart Andrew Holness prior to their meeting at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Photo By: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has been a "trusted partner" in Jamaica's development jour-■ ney and it is ready to share expertise in a range of areas, including digital public infrastructure, biofuel, innovation and health with the Caribbean nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said

He made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

In his media statement, Modi said he and Holness also discussed regional and global issues and agreed that all tensions and disputes should be resolved through talks and that both sides will continue to work towards ensuring global

Îndia and Jamaica are unanimous that reform of all global institutions, including the UN Security Council, is necessary, Modi said India has been a "trusted and committed"

development partner in Jamaica's growth journey and it will "We are ready to share our experience with Jamaica in areas

of digital public infrastructure, biofuel, innovation, health, education and agriculture," he said. In the defence sphere, we will move forward on imparting training and capacity building of Jamaica's armed forces,

Modi said. The prime minister also identified organised crime, drug trafficking, terrorism as common challenges facing both nations. India-Jamaica relations are based on shared history, democratic values and strong people-to-people ties, he added. Holness arrived here on Monday. It is the first ever bilateral visit of a prime minister of Jamaica to India.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

As India grapples with a persistent blood donation deficit, experts have advocated for the mandatory implementation of Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) to enhance the safety of patients in need given that the rate of infections is higher in replacement donors.

NAT is an additional blood safety measure in addition to ELISA screening method as it directly detects the genetic material (RNA & DNA) of the infecting organism or viruses namely HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in reducing their window periods. On the National Voluntary

Blood Donation Day marked on October 1, the experts also stressed on an urgent car raise awareness about the importance of blood donation and the pressing need for voluntary contributions. "Voluntary blood donation

has seen growth, yet we still

have a significant gap in meeting national demand," said Dr RishiRaj Sinha, Transfusion Specialist at AIIMS Delhi. Anubha Taneja Mukherjee, Member Secretary of the Thalassemia Patient Advocacy Group, emphasised that many people are unaware of the urgent need for blood, which affects their motivation



of the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation of 1 per cent of the population donating India requires approximately 14.6 million units of blood annually but faces a shortfall of around one million units. This gap is attributed largely to myths and misconceptions about blood donation, particularly concerns over

of patients requiring regular transfusions, said To address the safety concerns

surrounding blood supply, especially for patients needing frequent transfusions like those suffering with blood disorders such as hemophilia and thalassemia, experts favoured the NAT.

For instance, thalassemia patients often need transfusions every 15 to 20 days. "This (NAT) highly sensitive testing method can detect even minute amounts of viruses in donated blood, significantly improving the

contracting infections like safety of transfusions," said Dr HIV, as well as a general lack Sinha. He explained that undergoes testing, NAT offers a crucial enhancement by reducing the risk of transmitting infections such as HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C through early detection.

VK Khanna, Director of the Institute of Child Health Preeti Tuli Thalassemia Unit at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi too agreed that implementing NAT testing would particularly benefit patients with conditions requiring transfusions, thalassemia, sickle cell

disease, and cancer.

Defence Minister flags off car rally to celebrate IAF's 92nd anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday here flagged off 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally from the National War Memorial to

the Indian Air Force (IAF). With the send-off, over 50 air warriors, including women, have left for Thoise in Ladakh, from where they will undertake an expedition to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, covering a total of 7,000 kms across nine Territories States/Union (UTs). The rally will also witness the participation of former Air Force Chiefs in

different legs. Speaking on the occasion, the deence minister lauded the air warriors for serving the motherland in difficult circumstances with bravery, dedication and patriotism. "IAF has achieved significant and

feats in its bid to protect the

country and its people. It is

by striking them deep into their territory. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to equip IAF with advanced aircraft/platforms and make mark the 92nd anniversary of them more capable through the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative," he said.

The defence minister extended his best wishes to the air warriors, who will be part of the rally that would traverse through tough and varied terrains. The formal flag-off will take

place on October eight from Thoise, which is one of the world's highest altitude air force station at 3,068m above mean sea level. The air warriors will halt at Leh, Kargil, Srinagar, Jammu, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Agra, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Darbhanga, Bagdogra, Hasimara, Guwahati, Tezpur Dirang, before concluding the rally in

Tawang on October 29, 2024.

capable of giving a befitting reply to the country's enemies awareness among the people about the glorious history of IAF; the deeds of valour of the air warriors in different wars and rescue operations and attract the youth to serve the motherland.

The defence minister stated that during the car rally, the air warriors will hold interactions with the youth at schools and colleges in various States/UTs, exuding confidence that the exchanges would motivate the young ignited minds to join the Armed Forces and lead the life of pride and honour.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, former Chiefs RKS Bhadauria (Retired)and A Y Tipnis (Retired) and other senior officials of IAF were present on the occasion.

The rally has been organised by IAF in coordination with the veterans of Uttarakhand War Memorial. Adventure Cell of IAF is leading and coordinating the

heating for retinal drug delivery PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

IIT Madras innovates laser

NEW DELHI

n a ray of hope for millions Lsuffering from retinal disorders in the country, researchers at IIT Madras have developed a groundbreaking method to enhance drug delivery directly to the retina by utilising mild laser heating. The innovative approach promises to significantly improve the efficacy of treatments administered through eye injections.

Published in the peerreviewed Wiley Heat Transfer journal, the research focuses on overcoming the challenges posed by the gel-like vitreous humour in the eye, which is often replaced by less viscous fluids after retinal laser surgery.

Traditional methods of drug delivery rely on slow natural diffusion, which can take hours or even days for drugs to reach effective levels at the target site.

Prof. Arunn Narasimhan, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras, designed an experiment using



mimic eye geometrically similar to the human eye, water, and silicone oil for the vitreous liquid and a heater to simulate laser heating.

The researchers injected a dye as a drug mimic at specific points in the vitreous region of the eye, and measured concentrations at different retinal locations with and without heating the vitreous liquid.

Remarkably, while natural diffusion alone took 12 hours to achieve effective concentration, the application of mild heating reduced this time to just 12 minutes.

"While with natural diffusion alone, the drug mimic took 12 hours to achieve effective concentration at the target region of the retina, heating

the vitreous liquid reduced it to just 12 minutes," said Shirinvas Vibuthe, Graduate Student, at IIT Madras.

This research is particularly vital for the estimated 11 million individuals in India affected by retinal disorders. Since the retina is the region of the eye that contains blood vessels and nerves, such treatments must be performed carefully and with precision, the team said.

"Using glass-eye experiments and bioheat simulations to analyse invasive treatments in the human eye, we have shown that mild targeted heating can enhance drug delivery to the retina. The medical community needs to take this further and implement it in treatments of retinal diseases," Narasimhan said.

Doctors resume cease work following threats, attacks

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

▼unior doctors of Bengal demanding "justice for Abhaya" --- the lady doctor who was on August 9 raped and murdered inside the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital --- and better security in Government hospitals resumed cease work from Tuesday alleging the promises made earlier by the State in support of their demands had not been fulfilled.

The second phase of cease work begins barely within a fortnight of the first phase when the agitating doctors called off their strike following talks with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who reportedly assured them of all cooperation that included creating right kind of working environment inside the hospitals. The resumption of cease work comes after attacks over the past one week on junior doctors in three State-run medical colleges.

"We were hopeful that after our talks with the Chief Minister and following that the Chief Secretary concrete measures would be taken to ensure safety and security of the doctors inside the hospitals ... but while the Government is claiming in the Supreme Court that major steps have been taken things seem to be running in a snail's pace ... our colleague in RG Kar Medical College was raped and murdered due to this slack security system ... despite such a big incident and words given by the Government there has been three to four attacks at Sagor Dutta Medical College, CNM Medical College, Rampurhat Medical College and today at Burdwan Medical College ... whereas the Government is indifferent ... so we had no other way but to return to the cease work," said Dr Kinjal Nanda one of the



leaders of the Joint Platform of

Doctor Debashis Haldar said one of the leaders of the moveleft with no option but to cease work as despite assurances given by the Chief Minister we

are being attacked whereas the administration is sitting idle . . . if this continues then how far away is a second RG Kar like incident." When asked about the removal of senior officers including the former Kolkata Police Commissioner and two talks with the Chief Minister, Dr Aniket said that "those were not the entire list of some preliminary steps that we had asked for."

He also pointed out at how

like Humayun Kabir of Murshiadabad were publicly threatening the doctors with dire consequences everyday should they not stop their agitation, saying "we have come to treat and serve people ... we have come to learn as junior doctors and not to die at the hands of hoodlums."

A list of ten demands presented by the doctors read:

. Abhaya's demand for justice should be addressed without delay, avoiding any extended judicial proceedings, The Health Ministry needs to be held accountable for administrative failures and corruption, and should promptly remove the Health Secretary from their

3. A state-wide centralised referral system must be swiftly introduced in all hospitals and medical institutions.

4. Each medical college and hospital should implement a digital system to monitor bed vacancies.

5. Task forces, with elected junior doctor representatives, must be established in all hospitals and medical colleges to oversee the installation of CCTVs, on-call rooms, and bathroom facilities.

6. Police presence in hospitals should be strengthened by hiring permanent male and female officers, rather than relying on civic volunteers.

7. Immediate action is needed to fill all vacant positions for doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers in hospitals.

8. Investigative committees must be set up in each medical college to probe individuals involved in threat activities, with a state-level inquiry committee also formed.

9. Student council elections must be conducted in all medical colleges without delay, with recognition of RDAs and elected student and junior doctor making bodies. 10. Immediate investigation is

required into the widespread corruption and disorder within the West Bengal Medical Council (WBMC) and the West Bengal Health Recruitment Board (WBHRB). Health While there was no immediate response from the Chief Minister senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said that he hoped "good sense will prevail and the doctors will return to work as they also do not want people to die ... by resuming their cease work they will only harm the common people and

Meanwhile, the joint forum of doctors have called for a Mahamichil or a Grand rally on Mahalaya day --- or the day when Devi Paksha sets in according to the Hindu calendar --- in demand for Justice for Abhaya or the RGKMCH vic-

Cyber attacks have emerged as major threat to national security: President Murmu | HAL delivers first AL-31FP

the gravity of this issue

besides taking concrete mea-

President Murmu said the

role of the armed forces has

expanded far beyond tradi-

tional military matters and

that the future conflicts will

require a multi-state, multi-

'One of the major bottle-

necks in achieving the goals is

that various organisations and

departments work in silos. On

one hand, achieving the larg-

er goals become difficult

while on the other hand, sim-

ilar jobs are performed by dif-ferent departments thus cre-

sures to address it.

agency approach.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said here cyber attacks have emerged as a major threat to the national security and the civil services and armed forces must join hands to create a secure nationwide system capable of thwarting them. She said the country's securi-

ty concerns extend beyond preservation of territorial integrity and encompass other areas of national well-being such as economic, environmental, energy security, and cyber security related issues. "Addressing these concerns requires intensive research, and calls for a holistic approach in dealing with these wide-ranging issues," the president said addressing faculty and course members of 64th National Defence College course, who had called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President Murmu said cyber attacks have emerged as a major threat to the national security. Dealing with and countering cyber attacks requires high-end technological intervention as well as robust digital infrastructure along with a well-trained and specialised human resource,

"It is an issue that affects the entire governance framework of the country across all sectors. This is one of the areas where our civil services and armed forces must join hands to create a secure nationwide system capable of thwarting such attacks," the President

She said huge amounts of data and sensitive information are available in the governance systems "which cannot be left unsecured" and urged them to understand ating a resource crunch," the president said. She said it has also been

observed that officers working in the same department also keep performing over-lapping tasks due to systemic gaps or lack of clear delin-eation of ichs eation of jobs.
"This course, therefore, makes

an important contribution in preparing the officers for enhancing cooperation to perform efficiently," President Murmu told the faculty and course members.

The NDC course is aimed at providing a holistic view of contemporary economic, political and related aspects with particular emphasis on security issues to the participants drawn from different disciplines -- including those from Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers among others.

Visits to important military stations and frontier posts and some foreign countries form an integral part of the course curriculum. She said the dynamic global

geo-political environment poses numerous challenges. The fast pace at which events have unfolded in the recent past, could not have been foreseen perhaps a decade

Thus, all officers, whether from civil services or defence services, must be aware of the challenges and vulnerabilities they face, and the strengths that can help deal with such challenges," the president said.

Addressing the faculty and course members, she said technology is advancing rapidly and it is imperative to keep pace with it.

Whether it is artificial intelligence, data science, machine language processing or blockchain, you have to be aware of these technologies and should utilise them in your departments for creating a more efficient, transparent and productive work culture, the President said.

She said innovation is another factor that will keep the officers future ready. "Each nation is guided in its actions by its national interests and objectives.

Sometimes, you have to face unforeseen situations and crisis. For you to be always prepared for dealing with such situations, it is necessary to be innovative, resourceful and open to collaborations," the

engine for Su-30MKI aircraft to IAF



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has handed over the first AL-31FP Aero Engine, manufactured under the 240 engine contract, to the Indian Air Force at Koraput in Odisha. The contract for 240 AL-31FP Aero Engines for Su-30MKI aircraft was signed on September nine, Bengaluru-headquartered HAL noted in a state-ment on Tuesday. It also said these engines would be delivered in eight years. The statement said Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev

within weeks of signing the contract. "This key milestone reflects HAL's aero engine manufacturing competency and dedication to support the Su-

Kumar lauded HAL's efforts in

delivering the first engine

30MKI fleet of IAF. It is very heartening to see that Koraput Division has mastered cutting edge technologies of aero engine manufacturing

and has set up required infra-

structure to match with the global OEMs," he said.

Chief of HAL D K Sunil said "During this entire engine manufacturing process, we aim to engage Indian industries from present level of work share from 40 per cent to more than 50 per cent in next two-three years and help in employment generation. Sukhoi Engine Division,

Koraput, was created by HAL for manufacture of engines of Su-30MKI aircraft from raw material stage to final engine,

BJP, Congress engage in war of words over Wangchuk's detention

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP and Congress I engaged in a war of words on Tuesday regarding detention of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and several others accompanying him at the Delhi border on Monday. While Leader of Opposition

Rahul Gandhi slammed the government for the action terming it as "unacceptable," the BJP described the Congress' condemnation of the detention as "hypocrisy in extreme". Rahul Gandhi also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have to listen to Ladakh's voice. Wangchuk and more than 100 people from Ladakh, who had marched to Delhi demanding that the union territory be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, were detained at the capital's border on Monday for violating prohibitory orders and taken to



different police stations. Asked about the Congress' reaction, senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar said, "I don't know the facts. I will have to check the facts.

"If Rahul Gandhi has a comment to make, why (does) he maintain a conspicuous silence when cartoonists are lifted in Kolkata and a satirist is jailed in Tamil Nadu," Shankar asked, adding that the Congress leader's reaction to Wangchuk's detention was "hypocrisy in

A Jadavpur University profes-

sor and his neighbour were arrested in West Bengal in 2012 for posting on social media a cartoon showing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

In 2017, a freelance cartoonist was arrested in Tamil Nadu for allegedly depicting the then chief minister K Palaniswami in an obscene manner in a car-The detention of Sonam

Ladakhis péacefully marching for environmental and constitutional rights is unacceptable," Rahul Gandhi said in a social media post. The former Congress chief

Wangchuk ji and hundreds of

also asked why elderly citizens were being detained at Delhi's border for standing up for Ladakh's future.

'Modi ji, like with the farmers, this 'Chakravyuh' will be broken, and so will your arrogance. You will have to listen to Ladakh's voice," Rahul Gandhi

Congress leaders' families are engaged in land grab: BJP

NEW DELHI

Amid a row over MUDA site
Allocation case in
Karnataka, the BJP on Tuesday raised the issue of allocation of a land to a trust run by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's family in Bengaluru, alleging that the Congress leaders' families are engaged in "land grab". Addressing a press conference here, senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad alleged that the Congress government in Karnataka has allocated 5 acres of land to Siddhartha Vihar Trust, run by Kharge's family, under "suspicious circumstances" and demanded a "transparent and honest" reply from the Congress president to the questions being raised on

'It's surprising that the Siddaramaiah government allocated the 5-acre land to the trust in a high-tech defence area in Bangalore for setting up an R&D facility," he said. "And the interesting thing

the issue.

about it is that this 5-acre land was given (to the Kharge family-run trust) within a few days of framing of the rules for (setting up of) R&D facilities in the area," the former Union

minister added. Prasad said this matter has

reached Lokayukta in Karnataka and it is also pending with the court. "Court will do its work. But when there are so many suspicious circumstances surrounding this entire fast-track allotment, Kharge ji will have to reply. He is Congress president and also leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha," he said. The BJP expects a transparent and honest reply from the Congress president, he added.

Prasad said the BJP does not have any problem if a land is allocated to a "genuine trust for genuine purpose in an authentic manner'

"But the way the political leaders' families are engaging in land grab movement in the garb of trust, it is wrong. We vehemently condemn it. It's a serious issue," he said. "We

Israel's move to set up shell company to send

on this," he added.

The BJP leader alleged that such land deals become "rampant" in the state wherever the Congress comes to power. Today a serious question is being raised as to why the Congress government and its leaders have great fascination for land deals," he said, adding, "Have some of their leaders become property dealers?"

On the MUDA site allocation issue, the BJP leader said the case is being investigated "hon-Karnataka Lokayukta police has registered a case against

Siddaramaiah on the directions of a special court in connection with the alleged irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allocation.

The Enforcement Directorate has also booked the chief minister, his wife Parvathi and some others in a money laundering case linked to the land allotment case, taking cognisance of the Lokayukta FIR.

Travelers to soon share experiences at tourist hotspots using QR codes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Soon, travelers will be able to share their experiences at popular tourist hotspots and destinations, such as monuments, by scanning strategically placed QR codes at airports and railway stations nationwide.

Aiming to actively engage the travelers in the growth of India's tourism sector, the Union Tourism Ministry is in the process of introducing such an innovative feedback mechanism.

"Feedback and ratings of experiences by travelers will be collected by enabling them to scan a QR code placed at relevant points at airports and railway stations, spending around 30 seconds to rate



provide any feedback," will be real-time and dynamexplained an official from ic in nature, allowing the Ministry to address issues

with various stakeholders. This will also prove to be a rich source of data and insights for tourism develop-

"By installing the QR codes provided by the Union Ministries of Tourism, Civil Aviation, and Railways, they are collaborating to set up these mechanisms at airports and railway stations across the country, so that over time, they become a reliable source of insight and information for tourism policy and strategy." Operators in the tourism industry have supported this innovative approach. Rajnish Kaistha, Senior Vice President at the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), said that it will not only enhance the visitor experience but also

enable businesses and author ities to make data-driven improvements. "By actively involving tourists in the development process, the initiative is expected to foster greater collaboration between stakeholders, leading to a more responsive and dynamic tourism environment," he Ritu Jain, Director of Coterie

Tours Private Ltd, concurred, saying that with real-time feedback, the government can address concerns of the stakeholders swiftly, ensuring that every traveler's voice is heard. 'This proactive strategy promises to enrich the tourism landscape in India, making it more appealing and accessible for both domestic and international

explosive pagers to Lebanon masterstroke: Army Chief PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

rmy Chief General Aupendra Dwivedi on Tuesday termed the move by Israel as a "masterstroke" to set up a shell company that manufactured the explosive pagers sent to Lebanon. It was aimed to derail Hezbollah.

Making this assertion here, he also said the move required years and years of preparation by Israel. Speaking at the Chanakya Defence Dialogue, the Army chief "the war does not start the day you start fighting, it starts the day you start planning.

Israel has now shifted its military focus from the Gaza Strip to its northern border



targeted Hezbollah and killed its chief Hassan Nasrallah and several top commanders. "Israel has done something different. Israel had decided that Hamas was their primary target. So, Israel first wiped out Hamas and then focused on the other side (Hezbollah). The shell company that was created for the pagers was something of a masterstroke by Israel," General Dwivedi

Last month, multiple explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies of Hezbollah members in Lebanon killed nearly 40 and left over 3,000 injured. Asserting the need for various levels of inspection at the technological level, General Dwivedi said India needed to be "watchful" of supply chain interruptions.

Supply chain interruption, interception is something we have to be very watchful of. We need to have various levels of inspection at the technological level as well as the manual level to make sure such things do not get repeated in our case," the Army chief said.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Saving Ladakh

Sonam Wangchuk's foot march highlights the urgent need for ecological protection and local autonomy of Ladakh

adakh, a region known for its breathtaking landscapes and unique culture, is now under threat from an ecological disaster. Climate change and unchecked development are eroding its delicate environment, pushing it towards a tipping point. In the face of this growing crisis, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has emerged as a key figure in the fight to protect Ladakh. Recently, he, along with over 100 supporters, embarked on a foot march from Leh to New Delhi to demand concrete steps for safeguarding Ladakh's fragile ecosystem and securing the region's autonomy under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. However, upon reaching Delhi's Singhu border, Wangchuk and his supporters were detained by the police for violating prohibitory orders. Despite this setback, the march has already sparked widespread attention and support for his demands. Ladakh's environment is one of the most sensitive in India. Nestled in the Himalayan range, the region is already witnessing alarming impacts of climate change. Melting glac-

iers, shrinking water sources, and unpredictable weather patterns are threatening not only the ecosystem but also the livelihoods of the local population.

The rapid melting of glaciers is particularly concerning as they are the primary source of water for the region. This has caused Ladakh to face a severe water crisis, with rivers and streams drying up at an unprecedented rate. Unchecked tourism and infrastructure development further exacerbate the issue. Waste management remains a significant challenge, and the increasing construction of roads and buildings has disrupted the natural landscape. Wangchuk, who is known for his innovative environmental solutions like the 'Ice

Stupa' project, has been vocal about the need for sustainable development in Ladakh. His demands are not only about preserving the environment but also about giving the local people the power to manage their resources and protect their cultural identity. One of his primary demands is to include Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The Sixth Schedule provides special protections and autonomy to certain tribal areas in India, allowing them to preserve their culture, manage their resources, and have law-making powers over local matters. Ladakh, with its predominantly tribal population and distinct cultural heritage, has been seeking similar protection. The people of Ladakh in general have expressed disappointment with the current governance structure, which is led by a Lieutenant Governor appointed by the central government. Right now the people of Ladkah have a limited say in decision making. Granting Ladakh Sixth Schedule status would empower its people to make decisions that are in line with their unique environmental and cultural needs. It would allow them to enact laws that protect their fragile ecosystem, manage resources more effectively, and ensure sustainable development. The people of Ladakh are making their voices heard. Now, it is up to the government and the rest of the nation to listen and take meaningful action.



A view of Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO world heritage site, in New Delh

Walking through the woods in UK



Suspension of winter fuel allowances, Starmer's push to reset relations with Europe, and the forgotten legacy of the Gorkhas are echoing in the woods of the UK

lage in Tonbridge Kent, UK, with the Old Hadlow Road leading to it. Tonbridge is a poorer cousin of the historic Tunbridge Wells but a great place for a walking-talking vacation this September when the sun broke through the clouds permitting invigorating small walks. Hadlow Stair is the perfect escape from rain-spoilt London, just 40 minutes away by train to Charing Cross in Trafalgar Square. Ordinary Brits have been stunned by the new Labour, suspending Pound 200 winter fuel allowance to pensioners, ostensi-bly to fill the Pound 22 bn deficit left by the Tories though inflation is below 3 per cent. In the village, most read newspapers only on the weekend: the talk is about Ukraine, Gaza and Lebanon and Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his wife accepting gifts. Former civil servant Sue Gray who sorted out Boris Johnson for his indiscretions during the pandemic is now the chief advisor to Starmer with a pay package of Pounds 180,000, surpassing the wages the PM gets. Modernising Britain's Continuous Sea Deterrence as well as upgrading its nuclear submarines from Vanguard to Dreadnought class is also underway. Peers in the House of Lords warned that 2.5 per cent on defence spending (at present 2.3 per cent) may not be enough to meet the challenges and fix the military.

Here too, there is a Pound 10 bn hole which is proposed to be filled up by taxes. India's spending is below 2 per cent with immeasurably bigger threats. But who cares! All this and more, John Lawson, my walking companion shares with me. Amongst all the walks the one in the undulating woods nearby is most enjoyable as John takes myriad routes and detours along the soggy earthy soil. You can do a dozen different trails here and not know they are in the same woods. Go south from Hadlow Road past the Scottish St Andrews Church across fields and through apple orchards with apples to eat and apples to cook. But there are no pickers due to Brexit, laments



The Chinese have invented an apple-picking machine which is yet to make its commercial debut. Here, in the fields too, John has manufactured several walking trails - the special one is along the Medway river to Tonbridge town which has everything from Marks and Spencers to Waitrose and Sainsburys to Kathmandu Valley and Dalchini restaurants to Humphrey and Bean Pub where we were privy to a brawl. There is also the Tonbridge Castle.

My favourite walk though is through the Higham Woods. This I did every morning, meeting making friends with people walking their dogs. Every house here has a cat or a dog or even a horse! Almost every afternoon John and I did serious walking bringing the milometer to roughly 120 plus miles in 12 days. In his spare time, John moves auto parts and trucks in the UK and Europe where too, Brexit means cost and time overruns. At the Labour Party annual conference, Starmer said he wants to reset relations with European Union and make Brexit work with the EU reset. The biggest applause at the conference was reserved for the Home Secretary, who decried the recent racial riots. Migrants continue to sail



THE PLAN TO RAISE A THIRD BATTALION OF GORKHA RIFLES WAS ABANDONED THOUGH THREE **GORKHA COMPANIES** WERE RAISED FOR THE SPECIAL FORCES. ALDERSHOT IS WHERE RETIRED **GORKHAS ALLOWED** RESIDENCY IN BRITAIN LIVE. WHILE THE BATTALION IS **FURTHER SOUTH** will be settled in Britain. I've and Air Force together make been travelling to the UK another 70,000 warriors but all since the 1970s and can say field state-of-the-art equipthis: Indian or Asian or ment including conventional coloured are no longer looked and strategic forces which are down upon even though many the best in Europe. The military component of the Indian High Commission in of the menial jobs are still being done by them. I was horrified to learn that there is a Aldwych has been downsised Gorkha Cleaning Company in from three officers to just one Kent. The Gorkhas, the Brits with a Naval Commodore once worshipped in battle are holding the fort instead of the all but forgotten except by the Army Brigadier. Returning to likes of Joanna Lumley. This my trudge on the tarmac along became more evident in Whitehall Avenue, the old London where along a side MoD has become Raffles lane from Whitehall Avenue Hotel, RUSI next door renoresides the life-sized stone vated and a few meters ahead statue of the eternal Gorkha are bronze statues of leaders soldier. The plan to raise a who won fame in India: Field third battalion of Gorkha Marshals Slim, Auchinleck, Rifles was abandoned though and Allanbrooke. Another three Gorkha companies were Indian famous is the Duke of Wellington honoured in Trafalgar Square and Wellington Corner. The Brits raised for the Special Forces. Aldershot is where retired Gorkhas allowed residency in Britain live, while the battalion is further south. The other bat-

nurture the military and that's one reason they are respected. Thoughts that wafted during the walk in the woods. We must learn. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and jounaer member of the Defence Planning Staff, cur-

rently the Integrated Defence

Staff; The views expressed are

THE EDITOR

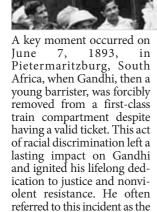
Remembering Gandhi: A journey of justice and simplicity



Gandhi's transformative journey, which began with racial discrimination in South Africa, helped shape his lifelong pursuit of justice, equality and nonviolence

n September 11, 2024, Union Minister for Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, inaugurated a restored railway coach at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi. This coach, donated by the Ministry of Railways and painted in brown with a "III" marking for third class, represents Mahatma Gandhi's simple lifestyle and his close relationship with the Indian railways. A life-size sculpture of Gandhi stepping off the train further emphasises his connection with the masses. Organised by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, the exhibition offers an immersive experience of Gandhi's rail journeys. Shekhawat, in his address, highlighted how Gandhi turned the freedom struggle into a mass movement, remarking that the coach will inspire future generations to uphold the values of justice, equality, and peace for which

Gandhi stood Gandhi's association with the railways was deeply symbolic and formative in his transformation from an ordinary lawyer to the leader of India's independence movement.



Mahatma. Gopal Krishna Gandhi, Gandhi's grandson, poignantly reflected on this moment. He wrote that when Gandhi was thrown off the train, an Indian fell, but when Gandhi rose, both India and South Africa rose with him. The experience transformed

Gandhi, turning a personal

turning point that set him on

the path toward becoming the

humiliation into a public cause. What began as a lawyer's indignation became a revolutionary's commitment to human justice.

His later train journeys in South Africa, including those to Johannesburg and Pretoria, deepened his understanding of racial discrimination in the railway system. Gandhi confronted railway officials and managed to negotiate some concessions for Indian passengers, marking the beginning of his use of negotiation and protest as tools for

Upon returning to India in 1914, Gandhi's relationship with the railways grew stronger. He followed the advice of his mentor, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, by traveling in third-class compartments to stay connected with India's impoverished masses. For

Gandhi, trains were a means to engage with ordinary people and understand their struggles firsthand.

The challenging conditions he faced-overcrowded compartments, unsanitary surroundings-only strengthened his resolve to fight for social justice. His decision to travel third class symbolised his commitment to egalitarianism and helped transform the freedom struggle into a mass movement that resonated with the broader popula-

Gandhi traveled by train from Calcutta to Delhi' and stayed at Birla House where he spent the last 144 days of his life. During this time, he tirelessly worked for peace amidst the communal violence of Partition.

His assassination in January 1948 ended a life devoted to nonviolence and service to humanity. As we celebrate Gandhi Jayanti today as the International Day of Nonviolence, we are reminded of Gandhi's self-sacrifice, dedication, and compassion.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

WEST ASIA TURMOIL Madam — Apropos, 'West Asia on fire'

(September 30). Israel which had vowed 'enough is enough' in the aftermath of a brutal terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7 last year, has dealt a body blow to Hezbollah, the most powerful militant and political force in Lebanon, by eliminating its head Hassan Nasrallah, who had been a global figurehead of anti-Israel resistance for decades. He had been a prime target of Israel since the last Lebanon War of 2008. Now, Hezbollah, considered the vital part of the Axis of Resistance, is leaderless and thus rudderless.

However, Nasrallah's demise may only keep Hezbollah lying down for a while. It cannot be written off. Wounded but not destroyed, it may not be long before Hezbollah tries to avenge Nasrallah by raining a barrage of missiles on Israel to keep its people from returning to the northern region. Netanyahu stakes his political fortunes on this. Meanwhile, with thousands of its citizens fleeing northern Israel in wake of Hezbollah strikes, Israel's main task remains unaccomplished. Its bombarding Lebanon may go on till Netanyahu gets war-weary and domestic pressures mount or until breakthrough on the hostage issue. It is an opportune time for the international community should it desire to prevail upon Tel Aviv to agree for ceasefire. But peace is unlikely to return to Gaza till Hamas frees hostages and a ceasefire is

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Washington

NON BJP STATES WITHDRAW CBI CONSENT Madam — Karnataka has joined the long list of states that have withdrawn general consent to the CBI to conduct investigations relating to corruption, economic offences and crime or violence in that particular state. The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, under which the CBI was setup, has defined general consent and

Women education empowers India

talion is in Brunei for which

the Sultan pays. Sadly, very few

recognise the badges of the

Gorkha Regiment any more.

Why blame the Brits when we

have offered the poor choice of

Agniveer to Nepali Gorkhas who stopped joining five years ago? The British Army is 70,000 (with a reserve of

30,000) soldiers and Infantry



7ice President Jagdeep Dhankhar made insightful remarks on the significance of women's education. He said that a developed India is incomplete without women's empowerment, which is a powerful reminder of the crucial role they play in our society. Women constitute a substantial portion of our

specific consent that can be accorded by the states to the CBI to function in their

Only the Supreme Court and the High Courts can order a CBI investigation in any state without the state's nod if consent is withdrawn. It has to be remembered that states that have refused permission for the CBI are non-BJP ruled thereby underscoring the political undertones in the issue.

The Supreme Court, in 2013, said the CBI was a 'caged parrot' following the orders of its 'master', the government. The federal system of governance in India has clearly demarcated powers between the Centre and the states. By the 1946 rule itself, the CBI is an agency that has no autonomous powers. The apex court has said that keeping in mind the federal structure of the country the CBI cannot infringe upon the states. By the same token, if the agency is accorded unbridled power without making it an autonomous body, its misuse may be the order of the day

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

population, and their active participation in all spheres of life is essential for holistic development. By investing in women's education, we not only unlock their individual potential but also empower their families and communities. Educated women are more likely to make informed decisions regarding health, nutrition, and child-rearing, leading to healthier and

Moreover, women's education is a catalyst for economic growth. When women have access to education and employment opportunities, they contribute to the workforce, boost GDP, and reduce poverty. Their participation in decision-making processes ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, leading to more inclusive and equitable policies

Fiza Fatima | Hyderabad

POTHOLES OF CORRUPTION

more prosperous families.

Madam -No matter which party is in power, the conditions of the roads all over the nation are pathetic. It requires no rocket science to understand why this is happening. Corruption is the root cause as inferior quality materials are used due to cuts taken by everybody from top to bottom in passing tenders and clearing bills. Therefore, it is hard to be enthused about the promise of pothole free roads by the CM of Delhi Atishi Marlena. Accidents caused by bad roads have come at a great cost including injury and sometimes fatality with no accountability fixed for the loss, what is worse, it is not just potholes but literally craters the vehicles are expected to navigate. Recently, there was a container truck that was completely swallowed by the road. This despite the vehicle owners being made to pay all kinds of taxes for permission to park their vehicles on such roads!

Anthony Henriques | *Mumbai*

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FIRST COLUMN

SLEEP, SPIRITUALITY AND THE MODERN MIND

Reclaiming quality sleep requires reconnecting with spiritual practices



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

n the famous poem "Childhood", Ravindra Nath Tagore bemoans the loss of innocence as a child grows up. One thing we can all agree that to sleep like a child is a great asset. But as we grow up our minds begin to play havoc with our sleep. Before I go any further let us understand the basics of sleep. Sleep is one of the most important biological functions and inadequate sleep can cause many problems. Sleep is the time when the body rejuvenates itself. Sleep restores physical well-being and removes fatigue related to emotional activi-

Our brains are beehives of activities during sleep, including the time when one is dreaming. How much sleep is required? It depends on each individual according to age, type of activities, level of activities, etc. Lord Krishna has mentioned sleep as one of the four activities, which must be appropriate. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 6.17) We need sleep excellence. What does the modern man do? There are three types. One cuts on sleep and another cannot fall asleep and resorts to drinks

The third sleeps too much wasting precious human life. Taking up the busy ones, they have no respect for rules made by God – the Creator of our bodies. They feel that they can do with less sleep and nothing adverse will happen. But they get harmed in many ways.

The first causality is the energy level; it goes down. Physical health is affected in many ways, but it takes a long; one feels that he is fine until hit by some serious health problem. Performance declines; cognitive ability reduces; memory consolidation is affected as does mental health. You cannot copy someone else, because, as stated earli-



er, it is, person specific - a bodily necessity. The second group suffers no less, if anything substantially more in the long term.

One thinks that he can order the body to sleep whenever one wants. Have you tried to postpone sleep? What happens? Circadian rhythms are 24-hour cycles that are part of the body's internal clock. Its primary function is sleeping and waking.

We cannot take charge; it controls us. So what does the modern man do? He resorts to artificially induced sleep by taking drinks and drugs. We all know what drinks do to our liver. And drugs are similarly harmful to the brain. Both are habit forming. One is stuck once this is continued over some time. Why is one unable to fall asleep, when bodily and mentally tired? Because we have allowed our minds to take charge of our lives.

We have unlimited desires for a sense of enjoyment, power, fame, etc. We are being driven by emotions like lust, greed, anger, hate, etc. By the way, drinks and drugs do not stop bad and scary dreams from

The third kind harms oneself in more ways than one by making sleep one's shelter. Let us come to our senses. Shelter is available in God. There are simple spiritual practices, which connect one to God. He will help us curb our wrong tendencies, as only God can. But one has to first accept that one is wrong; one has to give up overblown

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

Transforming lives of the Indian farmers



Through modern infrastructure, expanded credit support, and sustainable farming methods, PM Modi's policies are revolutionising Indian agriculture

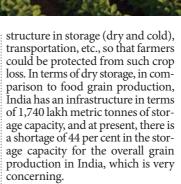
rime Minister Narendra Modi's deep concern and sensitivity towards farmers is visible in the decisions, policies and plans taken for the farming community.

Transforming the lives of our food providers (Annadatas) is the first and foremost goal of our Prime Minister. This is the reason why agriculture and farmers remained the top priorities in the first 100 days of the third term of the NDA government. Under his leadership, the government is making unprecedented efforts for the empowerment and upliftment of the agriculture sector. We are committed to increasing farmers' income, which is reflected in schemes such as the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), and PM AASHA. Post-harvest losses in India are a major challenge, which threatens the production capacity of the agricultural sector and it also adversely impacts the hard work put in by lakhs of farmers. According to the latest estimates, about 16-18 per cent of the total food production is affected every year in India due

These losses can be attributed to various stages of agriculture such as harvesting, threshing, storage, transportation and processing. Lack of proper storage, cold chain, inadequate processing units, and lack of effi-cient logistics contribute to these huge losses, as a result of which the overall food security of our country gets affected.

Keeping all these factors in mind, the Modi government is working with renewed enthusiasm towards strengthening this.Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is making efforts to take the research of scientists from lab to land, due to which the cost of production has reduced considerably and profits have increased for farmers. The Prime Minister with a visionary approach launched the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) way back in July 2020 as a transformative initiative under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. Its objective is to increase the income of farmers and address post-harvest management issues through farm assets to reduce food wastage. These challenges have to be addressed by promoting new projects and new age technologies. Under AIF, banks provide interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum with an interest cap of 9 per cent and financial institutions will provide loans up to Rs 2 crore with credit guarantee coverage under CGIMSE (Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises) for loans. Through this initiative, the government aims to not only increase production to preserve quality and quantity, but also help farmers access markets more efficiently, and as a result, their income will also increase.

Due to the able leadership of the Prime Minister, the benefits of the scheme, till August 2024, the amount sanctioned under this scheme has crossed Rs 47,500 crore. Of this, more than Rs 30,000 crore has already been disbursed for various projects. Notably, 54 per cent of the projects that were sanctioned are linked to farmers, cooperative societies, agricultural production organisations and self-help groups (SHGs), which is in line with the Prime Minister's vision. It reflects the strong participation of farmers in providing farm-gate level infrastructure.Prime Minister Modi is very committed towards strengthening farm gate infrastructure to solve the major problem postharvest losses in agricultural produce. He prioritised the development of infra-



Similarly, for horticulture produce, about 441.9 lakh metric tonnes of cold storage is available in India, while the cold chain capacity is only 15.72 per cent of the production of fruits and vegetables in the country. AIF initiative has helped bridge the storage capacity gap by approximately 500 lakh metric tonnes. Contributing to saving about Rs 5,700 crore post-harvest losses for the nation. Furthermore, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the development of proper cold storage facilities has reduced the loss of horticulture products by 10 per cent, due to which 3.5 lakh metric tonnes of produce is being secured post harvest and about Rs 1,250 crore is being saved every year. This commitment of the Prime Minister towards the agriculture sector and farmers will not only ensure economic empowerment but also raise their standard of living. Under the AGRICULTURE
RASTRUCTURE
guidance of the Transconding new impetus to the growth and development of agricultural infrastructure. As of August guidance of the Prime Minister, the 2024, as many as 74,695 agriculture infrastructure-related initiatives across the country have been approved under AIF. These include 18,508 custom hiring centres, 16,238 primary processing centres, 13,702 warehouses, 3,095 sorting and grading units, 1,901 cold stores and cold chains, and 21,251 other types of infrastructure facilities. These 74,695 projects have attracted a total investment of Rs 78,702 crore in the agriculture sector since 2015, which marks significant progress in the sector. Prime Minister Modi has encouraged entrepreneurship among farmers, as approximately 50,000 new agricultural enterprises have been set up in the country. These efforts have helped create more than 8,00,000 employment opportunities, and this number

will only increase in the future, even-

tually leading to the creation of 2.5 million jobs, directly or indirectly. The Prime Minister's welfare policies have brought about positive changes in the working style of farmers. The creation of advanced infrastructure on farms has facilitated farmers to sell directly to a wider consumer base, thereby enhancing price realisation and increasing their overall income. Due to modern packaging and cold storage systems, farmers can time their market sales more strategically, resulting in better value realisation.

On average, this infrastructure initiative has enabled farmers to get 11-14 per cent higher prices for their produce. Prime Minister Modi's policies will not only encourage the development of agricultural infra-structure but also reduce credit risk. Through credit guarantee support and interest subvention, lending institutions can give loans with minimal risk, thereby helping their customers. This helps in expanding their base and portfolio diversification. Significantly, this fund is involved in the creation of agricultural infrastructure in collaboration with the refinance facility of NABARD, reducing the effective interest rate for Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) to

1per cent. This has brought significant benefits to thousands of farmers associated with such PACS. Under AIF, 9,573 PACS projects have been approved with a loan amount of Rs 2,970 crore to date by NABARD. In an important step under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government has approved the progressive expansion of the ambitious Agriculture Infrastructure Fund scheme, making it more inclusive and substantially more influential. The make agriculture a profitable business we have come up with a six-point strategy to increase the income of farmers, such as increasing production, reducing the cost of farming, fair prices for production, providing the appropriate amount of relief during natural disasters, diversification of agriculture and natural

farming.
At present, some promising projects for agricultural asset development, such as hydroponic farming, mushroom cultivation, vertical farming,

aeroponic farming, polyhouse and greenhouse, are reserved for only farmer groups and collectives.

Now by expanding the scheme

coverage to include integrated processing projects, farmers will get better prices for their produce through the creation of integrated processing plants, which include both primary and secondary processing.In addition to this, component A of PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) Yojana provides the facility for the installation of solar power plants up to 2 MW on barren, fallow, cultivable, pasture or marshy lands, and it can be easily be converged with the AIF scheme. This strategic convergence will help individual farmers and empower farmer groups, enhancing their role from being 'Annadaata' (food givers) to 'Urjadata' (energy providers). The dedicated credit guarantee cover window, which was exclusively kept for FPOs, i.e. NAB Sanrakshan Trustee Company Private Limited, will remain open for AIF beneficiaries as well, where they will be eligible for guarantee fee reimbursement. These changes will increase processing capabilities, diversify food production, and increase and improve the quality of the yields.

They will increase the shelf life of the produce, boost transport capacity and improve rural supply by link-ing it to the urban demand. Additionally, these changes will help in generating rural employment opportunities. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is making a significant contribution towards the development of the agriculture sector and empowerment of Indian farmers, by providing a sustainable solution. Due to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, even the minutest problems faced by farmers are being resolved, intense communication and combined efforts have brought a new dawn in the context of farmers' welfare, and this will prove to be a key milestone to fulfil the dreams of a developed agriculture sector of a 'Viksit Bharat.

(The writer is the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development; views





THE PRIME MINISTER WITH A VISIONARY **APPROACH** LAUNCHED THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (AIF) WAY **BACK IN JULY** 2020 AS A TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVE UNDER THE 'ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT' INITIATIVE

year, four of which are shovel-ready with the industrial plots being allotted, and four others are being implemented

All these sites have been validated using the geospatial data on the PM Gati Shakti National Platform to minimise disturbances to existing habitations and ecology, with prioritisation to availability of land parcels with the State Governments, covering land of relatively lesser agricultural value, with proximity to major transport modes for multi-

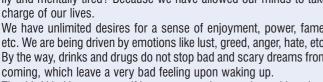
model connectivity. A new aspect of using PM Gati Shakti to not only ensure the enhancement of transport infrastructure for improved connectivity but also to combine such network planning with an area planning approach by asking States to start filling social infrastrucgaps (schools, Anganwadis, ITls, accommodation) concurrently with pro-

ject implementation, has been

initiated. This combination of transport network planning and area planning should lead to these green field industrial cities getting plug and play infrastructure and multi-model transport links ahead of demand for the private sector and particularly for foreign investors who wish to participate in India's growth story.It may be recalled that India's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) ranking had improved from 143 in 2014 to 63 in 2020, in the last year that such rankings were published by the World Bank. While contract compliances and improvement are linked to the broader issue of judicial reform, the NICDP programme will substantially address, along with

parallel initiatives by the States, the issues of land availability and its transparent administration, for any investors seeking industrial sites in these cities. The NICDP Programme also de-risks the investor from one key compliance burden that new investors are concerned about, the issue of environmental clearances by ensuring that full environmental clearance for the entire township is already in place and is backed up by a full spectrum of utility services like power, sewage and waste treatment, roads etc., in a smart city with stateof-the-art infrastructure and digitized grievance redressal (The writer is former Secretary,

DPIIT and currently OSD, Ministry of Defence; views are



It is quite strange that a small, ignorant and helpless soul has such a big ego. What is the conclusion? There is only one shelter, as instructed by Lord Krishna. You will get plenty of sleep and of good quality too sans bad dreams.

Navigating manufacturing landscape: Bridging growth, disparities, and industrial ambitions

India stands as the world's fifth-largest manufacturing powerhouse, generating nearly \$560 billion in goods annually

ndia is the world's fifth largest manufacturing pow-Lerhouse producing nearly 560 Billion Dollars' worth of goods per year but our share in global manufacturing output is below 3 per cent. And the share of manufacturing in India's Gross Value Added (GVA) is stuck at just 17 per cent, not far ahead of the share of agriculture. It is often stated that India seems to be transitioning directly from a primary sector-dominant economy into one dominated by the service sector.

The question often asked is whether manufacturing is going to play its part in India's often paradoxical and counterintuitive growth story. However, one element of India's industrial landscape is



of growth poles first pro-pounded by the French Economist Perroux along with its accompanying concepts of the inevitability of unbalanced regional growth in industrial clusters, with an agglomeration effect that will accentuate regional diversity, seems pretty close to India's development experience.

Thus, even where India had set

places like Rourkela, Bokaro or even Jamshedpur in an earlier era, these do not appear to have led to broader regional development, with the nearby hinterland areas remaining under-developed for the most

part.
The broader issue of regional disparities that have emerged in India has been sought to be addressed institutionally by various Finance Commission's devolution formula which gives overwhelming weightage to per capita income and, therefore, ensures higher resource flows into backward areas.

The market, on the other hand, has responded to these disparities by the movement of migrant labour to the faster growing parts of the country, quite predictable. The concepts up new industrial townships in with the migrant labour being

struction and manufacturing growth in these areas. The concepts of growth poles and growth centres are now being supplemented by the phenomena of port-led industrial growth with major ports, old and new, serving as growth centres in many countries. The National Industrial Corridor Development

the unsung hero of the con-

Programme (NICDP) takes on the challenges of accelerating India's manufacturing growth, creating multiple industrial growth foci and linking industrialisation to transport nodes, The NICDP has focused on

the development of industrial townships adjacent to 11 key transport corridors. Eight such townships had been approved till the current

with trunk infrastructure being set up. As against eight projects implemented or under implementation over the last 17 years, the Government has recently approved twelve such smart industrial cities in 10 States, at one go, with a big bang approach which is characteristic of PM Modi's style which focuses on Speed and

I pleaded guilty to journalism for freedom: Assange

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said Tuesday that he was freed after years of incarceration because he "pled guilty to journalism." Assange gave evidence of the impact of his detention and conviction to the legal affairs and human rights committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. The Parliamentary Assembly includes lawmakers from 46 European countries.

A group of supporters, holding a banner that said "Thank you, Julian" greeted Assange as he stepped out of van smiling and raising his fist in defiance along with his wife, Stella, and WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Kristinn Hrafnsson.

"Assange is free! We are here. The world is with you," one supporter shouted before Assange entered the Council of Europe building for his first public address since his release from



Wikileaks founder Julian Assange and his wife Stella Assange raise their arms as they arrive at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, eastern France, Tuesday. AP/PTI

today because the system free today after years of incar-

prison in June "I am not free worked," Assange said. "I am

ceration because I pled guilty to journalism."

He added: "I pled guilty to seeking information from a source. I pled guilty to obtaining information from a source. And I pled guilty to informing the public what that information

Assange was released in June after five years in a British prison after he pleaded guilty to obtaining and publishing US military secrets in a deal with Justice Department prosecutors that concluded a drawn-out legal saga. Prior to his time in prison, he had spent seven years in self-imposed exile in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he claimed asylum on the grounds of political persecution

The transition from years in a maximum security prison to addressing the European parliamentarians has been a "profound and a surreal shift," Assange said as he detailed the experience of isolation in a

"It strips away one's sense of self,

leaving only the raw essence of existence," he said, his voice cracking while he offered an apology for his "faltering words" lives — such as people who provided information to US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan — at risk, and strayed far beyond the and an "unpolished presenta-

"I'm not yet fully equipped to speak about what I have endured — the relentless struggle to stay alive, both physical-ly and mentally," Assange said. The Australian internet publisher was accused of receiving and publishing hundreds of thousands of war logs and diplomatic cables that included details of US military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan. His activities were celebrated by press freedom advocates, who heralded his role in bringing to light military conduct that might otherwise have been con-

Among the files published by WikiLeaks was a video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists. Critics say his conduct put American national security and innocent

risk, and strayed far beyond the bounds of traditional journalism duties.

The yearslong case ended with Assange entering his plea in a US district court on the Northern Mariana Islands, an American commonwealth in the Pacific. Assange pleaded guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlaw-fully obtain and disseminate classified national defence information. A judge sentenced him to the five years he had already spent behind bars in the UK fighting extradition to the United States. Assange returned to Australia a

free man in late June. At the time his wife, Stella, said he needed time to recuperate befre speaking publicly. His appear-ance on Tuesday comes after the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly published a report on Assange's detention in a high-security UK prison for five years.

Japan's parliament elects Ishiba as PM

Tapan's parliament on Tuesday formally elected Shigeru Ishiba, head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, as the country's new prime minister. Ishiba was chosen as the party's leader on Friday to replace Fumio Kishida, who then stepped down earlier on Tuesday to pave the way.

. Ishiba will announce his new Cabinet later on Tuesday. Kishida took office in 2021 but left so his party could have a fresh leader after his government was dogged by scandals. Ishiba plans to call a parlia-mentary election for October

"I believe it is important to have the new administration get the public's judgment as soon as possible," Ishiba said Monday in announcing his plan to call a snap election. Opposition parties criticised Ishiba for allowing only a short period of time for his policies to be examined and discussed in parliament before the national election.

Kishida had announced in August he would resign at the end of his three-year term. Kishida and his ministers stepped down at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said. Kishida left his office after a brief send-off ceremony in which he was presented a bouquet of red roses and applauded by his staff and for-

mer Cabinet members. "As we face a critical moment in and outside the country, I earnestly hope key policies that will pioneer Japan's future will be powerfully pursued by the new Cabinet," Kishida said in a statement, citing the need to bolster security amid a deepening global divide, such as Russia's war in Ukraine, while tackling a declining birthrate and population, as well as economic and political reforms at home. Ishiba earlier announced his



party's leaders ahead of naming his Cabinet. Former Minister Environment Shinjiro Koizumi, who came in third in the party leadership race, will head the party's election task force. He is expected to name defense experts Takeshi Iwaya as foreign minister and Gen Nakatani as defense chief.

The majority of his Cabinet ministers, like Ishiba, are expected to be unaffiliated with factions led and controlled by party heavyweights, and none are from former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's powerful group linked to damaging scandals.

Ishiba's lack of stable power base could also mean a fragility of his government, and "could quickly collapse" even though Ishiba hopes to build up party unity as it prepares for the upcoming election, the liberal-leaning Asahi newspaper said.

The move is also seen as revenge by Ishiba, who was largely pushed to the side during most of Abe's reign. Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and more discussion among regional partners about the use of the US

He also suggested a more equal Japan-US security alliance, including joint management of US bases in Japan and having Japanese Self Defense Force bases in the United States. Ishiba outlined his views in an article to the Hudson Institute

nuclear deterrence.

Gunmen kill 6, including local paramilitary Guard chief in Iran

AP TEHRAN

 $U_{\text{six people}}^{\text{nidentified gunmen killed}} \\ \text{local chief of the paramilitary}$ Revolutionary Guard, in two separate attacks on Tuesday, state TV reported. The head of a town council

and two volunteer members of the Guard were also among the dead in the first attack, it

It occurred after the victims participated in a school ceremony in Nikshahar town, about 1,350 kilometers (840 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran, the report said.

It identified the town council chief as Parviz Kadkhodaei but provided no other details of the attack in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan.

Two police officers were killed



in the second attack, which took place in Khash town in the same province, it said. No one immediately took responsibility for the attacks. In September, gunmen killed four border guards in the province in two separate attacks. The militant group Jaish al-Adl, which seeks greater rights for the ethnic Baluch minority, claimed responsibility for one the attacks, in which one officer

and two soldiers in the border guard were killed.

The province, bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, has been the site of occasional deadly clashes involving militant groups, drug smugglers and Iranian security forces. It is one of the least developed parts of Iran. Relations between the predominantly Sunni Muslim residents of the region and Iran's Shiite theocracy have long been strained.

UK chartered plane to fly out British nationals from Lebanon

A UK government-chartered flight will on Wednesday fly out of Lebanon those British nationals who want to leave following escalating violence in the region. UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy's announcement on Monday evening comes amid growing safety concerns following the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Israeli airstrikes on Beirut at the weekend. Prime Minister Keir Starmer previously called on British nationals in Lebanon to "leave immediately" as tensions continue to mount in West Asia. Lammy, who described the situation in Lebanon as "volatile" and warned it could "deteriorate quickly", said in a statement: "The safety of British nationals in Lebanon continues to be our utmost priority." "That's why the

UK government is chartering a flight to help those wanting to leave. It is vital that you leave now as further evacuation may not be guaranteed," he said. According to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), British nationals, their spouse or partners and children under the age of 18 are eligible to be accommodated on the charter flight which is due to leave Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport on Wednesday. The FCDO said it has been working with partners in recent weeks to increase capacity on commercial flights to enable British nationals to leave, with the chartered flight intended to provide additional capacity. Those who have registered their presence with the FCDO will be sent details on how to request a seat. "If you are a British national in Lebanon

who has not already registered your presence, please do so immediately. Vulnerable British nationals and their spouse or partner, and children under the age of 18, will be prioritised for this flight," the FCDO said. The UK government said it would pay to charter the flight, with British nationals expected to pay a fee of GBP 350 per seat. It reiterated that no one should arrive at the airport unless they have a confirmed seat on the plane. Any non-British dependants boarding the flight will require a visa granted for at least six months to enter the UK in line with usual immigration rules and entry process, it said.Meanwhile, 700 British troops alongside Border Force and Foreign Office officials have been deployed to Cyprus to continue contingency planning for a range of scenarios in

Walz and Vance to face off in their only VP debate anonymity to discuss strategy. with Walz, saying he was "not

AP WASHINGTON

Tim Walz and JD Vance will meet for their first and possibly only vice presidential debate Tuesday, in what could be the last debate for both campaigns to argue their case before the election. The debate in New York hosted by CBS Republican freshman senator from Ohio, and Walz, a twoterm Democratic governor of Minnesota, the chance to introduce themselves, make the case for their running mates, and go on the attack against the opposing ticket.

Tuesday's matchup could have an outsized impact. Polls have shown Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump locked in a close contest, giving added weight to anything that can sway voters on the margins, including the impression left by the vice presidential candidates. It also might be the last debate of the campaign, with the Harris and Trump teams failing to agree on another meeting.

The role of a presidential running mate is typically to serve as an attack dog for the person at the top of the ticket, arguing



against the opposing presidential candidate and their proxy on stage. Both Vance and Walz have embraced that role. Vance's occasionally confronta-

tional news interviews and appearances on the campaign trail have underscored why Trump picked him for the Republican ticket despite his past biting criticisms of the former president, including once suggesting Trump would be "America's Hitler.

Walz, meanwhile, catapulted onto Harris' campaign by branding Trump and Republicans as "just weird," creating an attack line for Democrats seeking to argue Republicans are disconnected from the American people. A new AP-NORC poll found Vance, potentially giving the Republican an added chal-After a Harris-Trump debate

in which Republicans complained about the ABC News moderators fact-checking Trump, Tuesday's debate will not feature any corrections from the hosts. CBS News said the onus for pointing out misstatements will be on the candidates, with moderators "facilitating those opportunities." Ahead of the debate, allies of both men were lowering expec-

tations that their candidate will have a decisive performance. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.,

called Vance "an accomplished

debater" and contrasted that

a lawyer-debater type."
Klobuchar said Walz spent
time growing up thinking
about football, not debating.
Jason Miller, a senior adviser
to Trump, portrayed Walz
much differently than
Klobuchar

Klobuchar.
"Tim Walz is very good in debates, really good. He's been He'll be very well prepared for tomorrow night," Miller told reporters Monday. He predicted the Democratic governor of Minnesota will be much more "buttoned up" than he is on the campaign trail and ready to defend his record, but added, 'That's not to say that JD Vance won't be prepared tomorrow, or that somehow he

isn't up to the challenge." Vance, speaking to reporters last week, said he didn't "have to prepare that much" for the debate because he had "welldeveloped views on public pol-

But Vance has been doing debate prep sessions where he's been joined by his wife, Usha Vance, Miller, senior Vance aides, and Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., who has played Walz, according to a person familiar with his preparations who requested

Moderating their mock debates was Monica Crowley, who served in the Trump administration, hosts a podcast and contributed to Project 2025, a conservative blueprint for remaking government that Trump claims he knows " nothing about?

"JD Vance is prepared to wipe expose him for the radical liberal he is," Emmer told reporters on Monday.

Walz's debate prep has included sessions hunkered down in a Minneapolis hotel, with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg standing in for Vance, according to a person familiar with the process who requested anonymity to discuss the campaign's internal dynamics. Others helping in the preparations include Rob Friedlander and Zayn Siddique, who helped Harris prepare for her debate with Trump, along with other aides to Walz and the cam-

paign. Klobuchar said Walz will show the American people "a real person" who brings "buoyancy" and positivity to the debate stage that will contrast with Vance, but "he is not going to be shy about pointing out the problems?

Suspected Yemen Houthi rebel attack targets ship in Red Sea

AP ■ DUBAI

Asuspected attack Tuesday by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a ship in the Red Sea, likely marking their first assault on commercial shipping in threatens to become a regional conflict

The attack comes as Israeli ground forces entered Lebanon after days of Israeli airstrikes that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and other top leaders and the earlier explosions of sabotaged electronic devices used by the Shiite militia. The Houthis had threatened "escalating military operations" targeting Israel on Monday after they apparently shot down a US military drone flying over the country.

The attack Tuesday morning took place some 110 kilometres off the port city of Hodeida in the Red Sea, which has become a battlefield for shippers since the Houthis began their campaign targeting ships travelling through a waterway that once saw USD 1 trillion a year of cargo pass through it. A captain on a ship saw four

"splashes" near his vessel, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said in a warning. That likely would have been missiles or drones launched at the vessel.

"All crew are safe and the vessel is proceeding to (its) next port of call," the UKMTO said. The Houthis did not immediately claim the attack. However, they sometimes take hours or days to acknowledge one of their assaults.

Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They have seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a US-led coalition in the Red Sea

or failed to reach their targets, which have included Western military vessels.

The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the US or the United Kingdom to force an end to Israel's cam-However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran.

The last attack on a merchant ship by the Houthis came on September 2.

The Houthis claimed an attack targeted American warships last week. The rebels fired more than a half dozen ballistic missiles and anti-ship cruise missiles and two drones at three US ships that were travelling through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, but all were intercepted by the Navy destroyers, a US official said Friday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet publicly released.

The Houthis also continue to launch missiles targeting Israel, drawing retaliatory airstrikes from the Israelis this weekend on Hodeida.

Congo rebel group generates \$300,000 monthly from seized mine, says UN

An armed rebel group in Congo generates around USD 300,000 a month in revenue through its control of a mining area in the east of the country, the UN Security Council heard

In April, the M23 - a rebel group with alleged links to Rwanda — seized the Rubaya mining area in eastern Congo, which holds deposits of a key mineral used in the production of smartphones and computers. Over 15 per cent of the world's supply of tantalum, a rare metal extracted from coltan, comes from Rubaya, Bintou Keita, head of the UN mission in Congo, told the Security Council

"Unless international sanctions are imposed on those benefiting from this criminal trade, peace will remain elusive and civilians will continue to suffer," Keita

Tantalum is among the minerals that was identified earlier this year in a letter from Congo's government questioning Apple about the tech company's knowledge of "blood minerals" being smuggled in its supply chain. The decadeslong conflict in eastern Congo has produced one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with more than 120 armed groups fighting for power, land and valuable mineral resources while others try to defend their communities. Some armed groups have been accused of mass killings, rapes and other human rights violations. The violence has displaced some 6 million people in the country's east.

M23, or the March 23 Movement, is a rebel military

group mainly made up of ethnic Tutsis that broke away from the Congolese army just over a decade ago. They staged a large offensive in 2012 and took over the provincial capital of Goma near the border with Rwanda. the same city they are threatening again. Congo alleges that Rwanda has been involved in war crimes in the east and US and UN experts accuse it of giving military backing to M23. Rwanda denies the claim, but in February admitted that it has troops and missile systems in eastern Congo to safeguard its security, pointing to a buildup of Congolese forces near the border. In July, UN experts estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 Rwandan government forces are deployed in eastern Congo alongside M23, which has been making major



A man walks through a damaged street after Hurricane John passed through Coyuca de Benitez, Guerrero state, Mexico

doubles down on asylum restrictions per day. The daily numbers Washington (AP): The had to average below 1,500 per day for a week in order

Biden administration said on Monday it is making asylum restrictions at the southern border even tougher, as it's increasingly eager to show voters uneasy over immigration that it is taking a hard stance on border security.

The new rules, which toughen restrictions announced in June, bar migrants from being granted asylum when US officials deem that the southern border is overwhelmed. Under the previous rules, the

border crossings hit 2,500

tions can be lifted. And the administration is now counting all children toward that number, whereas previously only migrant children from Mexico were counted. These changes, which go into effect on Tuesday, will make it much more difficult to lift the restrictions and allow people entering the country between the official border crossings eventually to apply for asylum in the US.

for the restrictions to be

lifted. The version rolled out

on Monday says the daily numbers will have to be

below 1,500 for nearly a

month before the restric-

School bus in Bangkok catches | S Korea unveils its most powerful missile fire, more than 20 feared dead

Abus carrying young students with their teachers caught fire in suburban Bangkok on Tuesday, with more than 20 of those on board feared dead, officials and rescuers said.

The bus was carrying 44 passengers from central Uthai Thani province for a school trip in Ayutthaya and Nonthaburi provinces, Transport Minister Suriya Jungrungruengkit told reporters at the scene.

Videos posted on social media showed the entire bus engulfed in fire with huge

plumes of black smoke pouring out as it stood on the side of the road. Bodies were still inside the bus hours after the fire. The students on the bus were reported to be in elementary and junior high school. Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said officials could not yet confirm the number of fatalities because they had not finished investigating the scene. He said the driver survived but appeared to have fled and could not yet be found. Anutin had earlier said 25 were feared dead, but Piyalak Thinkaew, a rescuer of the Ruamkatanyu Foundation

told reporters later that two more survivors had been found, reducing the number of those still missing to 23 three teachers and 20 stu-

Rescuers and officials were able to access the bus hours after the fire was put out. Pivalak said they were still unable to identify the bodies, most of which were found in the middle and back seats, leading them to assume that the fire started at the front of the bus. Thai media reports and rescuers said the bus was heading to Nonthaburi when the fire started around noon in Pathum Thani province, a northern suburb of the capi tal. A rescuer at the scene told Suriva that the fire likely started after one of the tires exploded and the vehicle scraped against a road barri-Prime

Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra offered her condolences in a post on social media platform X, saying the government would take care of medical expenses and compensate the victims' families. The patRangsit Hospital, which is located near the scene, said in a news conference that it admitted three young girls one of whom suffered burns to the face, mouth and eve.

Couth Korea unveiled its) most powerful ballistic missile and other weapons that could target North Korea during a massive Armed Forces Day ceremony on Tuesday, as the South's president warned the North's regime would collapse if it attempts to use nuclear

South Korea's weapons displays and warning against North Korea came after its northern rival recently rose regional animosities by disclosing its uranium-enrichment facility and tested missiles ahead of the US presidential election in November. "If North Korea attempts to use nuclear weapons, it will face the resolute and overwhelming response of our military and the (South Korea)-US alliance,"

President Yoon Suk Yeol told thousands of troops gathered at a military airport near Seoul. "That day will be the end of the North Korean regime." "The North Korean regime must abandon the delusion that nuclear weapons will protect them," Yoon said. During the ceremony, the South Korean military displayed about 340 military equipment and weapons systems. Among them was its most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile, which observers say is capable of carrying an 8-ton conventional warhead that can penetrate deep into the earth and destroy underground bunkers in North

It was the first time for South Korea to disclose that missile. The United States flew a longceremony in an apparent demonstration of its security commitment to its Asian ally. South Korea also flew some of its most advanced fighter jets. Later Tuesday, South Korea paraded its troops and weapons through the streets of Seoul, the country's capital, as part of efforts to boost military morale and demonstrate its deterrence capabilities against potential North Korean aggres-

Since taking office in 2022, Yoon, a conservative, has put a stronger military alliance with the US and an improved trilateral Seoul-Washington-Tokyo security cooperation at the centre of his security polices to cope with North Korea's advancing nuclear programme.

In recent years, North Korea has performed a provocative run of missile tests and threatened to use

nuclear weapons preemptively in potential conflicts with South Korea and the United States. Last month, concerns about North Korea's bomb programme further grew after it published photos of a secretive facility to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. It was North Korea's first unveiling of a uranium-enrichment facility since it showed one at the country's main Yongbyon nuclear complex to visiting American scholars in 2010, South Korean officials say North Korea will likely try to further dial up tensions with high-profile weapons tests ahead of the US election to increase its leverage in future diplomacy with a new US government.Experts say North Korea likely thinks an expanded nuclear arsenal would help it win bigger US concessions like exten-

Road ahead may be stormy, Xi warns as China celebrates 75th National Day

PTI BEIJING

hina celebrated its 75th National Day Tuesday, with President Xi Jinping issuing a stern warning that the road ahead for the Communist nation won't be smooth as it is weighed down by economic headwinds coupled with intensifying rivalry with the US and growing tensions with neighbours, including India. A large number of people attended the ceremonial flag hoisting at the sprawling Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Tuesday to celebrate the National Day as the country shut down for a week-long holiday.

Other than this, there were no festivities nor grand military parades displaying China's military might like in the 60th and 70th anniversaries of the National Day, but a rallying call from Xi asking people to prepare for hard times

"The road ahead won't be smooth and flat, there will be difficulties and obstacles. [We] might face high winds and rough

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client Sh. Bahadur S/o Sh. Pardeshi, R/o G-73, Block-G,

Saurabh Vihar, Jaitpur, Badarpur, New Delhi 110044 hereby debars his son Mr. Anand Kumar from all his moveable & immovable properties and has severed all his relations from them. Anybody dealing with them in any manner shall be doing so entirely at his/her cost, risk & consequences & under no circumstances my client shall be liable for T.S. VARUN (Advocate) Mob.: 9891588500

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Annual General Body Meeting of AMIA-TUL-BANAT-AL-ISLAMIA (Educational & Social Society) Registered under the Societies Registration Act-XXI of 1860, is going to be held on 27.10.2024 at the Madarsa premises Plot No. B-112, Zyed College, Shaheen Bagh, Street No. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meetin

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting 2. Discussion on ongoing situation of the society and other legal steps.
3. To discus the auditor report and income & expenditure report with balance sheet for the financial year 2023-24.
4. To elect the members of the society and confirm the membership of the applicants 5. To consider the annual report of the society.
6. To appoint the auditor of the society.
7. Any other matter with the permission of the chair.

the chair.
All the members of the Society i.e Life Members General Body Members are requested to attend the meeting positively.
N.B. Kindly bring your Identity Proof.
Mohammad Zakarya

(Chairman of Managing Committee

VARIOUS TYPES OF BRIDGE RELATED WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. DCBL/12/ 2024/MLG, dated: 28-09-2024. Open E-Tenders are invited by the undersigne for the following works: Tender No. DCBL212024MLG; Name of works: 3-D scanning of River bed in identified bridges of N.F. Railway under Dy. CE/BR-Line Maligaon. Approximate Tender Value ₹2,89,08,960.90; Bid Security: ₹2,94,600.00. Tender DCBL232024MLG; Name of works Supplying, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Intelligent Water Level Monitoring Instruments (WLMI) for two years for Identified Important/Major oridges under Dy. CE/Br-Line/Maligaon Approximate Tender Value ₹1,90,59,101.7; Bid Security Approximate ₹2,45,300.00. Tender DCBL252024MLG; Name of works Under water inspection in identified oridges by RORV. Approximate Tende Value: ₹66,41,899.23; Bid Security 1,32,800.00.Tende DCBL262024MLG; Name of works Portable Train Detection and Alarn system in identified bridges of N.F. Railway under Dy. CE/Br-Line/Maligaon Approximate Tender Value ₹52,80,000.00; Bid Security ₹1.05.600.00.Tender DCBL272024MLG; Name of works Assessment of fatigue load at 09 nos major bridges (Br. No. 44UP, 73UP, 32UP 3UP, 40UP, 59DN, 209, 293DN & 270DN by doing instrumentation and REM Approximate Tender 45,69,997.00; **Bid Security** ₹4.22.900.00. Tender DCBL282024MLG; Name of works Assessment of the strength of the Pier & Abutment with RDSO standard of 251 loading-2008 standard PSC Slab Approximate Tender Value ₹5,31,86,581.6; Bid Security ₹4,15,900.00.Date of closing of Tender 21-10-2024 at 15.00 hrs. Date of Opening of Tenders: 21-10-2024 at Engineer/Bridge-Line/Maligaon

please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Dy. CE/Bridge-Line/Maligaor NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

seas, even stormy seas," Xi said at a banquet on the eve of the anniversary as China tries to regain economic momentum amid an increasingly challenging set of geopolitical headwinds. "We must be vigilant in times of peace, plan ahead, and rely

closely on the entire (Communist) Party, the entire army, and people of all ethnic groups across the country," he said. "No difficulties can stop the Chinese people from moving forward," he said. Heading the

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Kiran Verma, Mrs. Virinda & Mr. Vivan are the Owners of DLF property bearing no. D-6/5, (block no. D-6 & olot no. 5). Area measuring 97.40 sq. mrs. Situated in the layout plan of "Krishan Nagar", In the area of village Ghondii, Shahdara, Delin 110051. Mr. Rajesh Verma was the owner of said property through 2 Sale Deed ie. Sale deed dated 18.06,2012 regd. as doc 11673 executed by Mr. Krishan Lalin favour of Mr. Rajesh Verma in respect of half undivided share of area measuring 116.5 sq. yds. of said property and Sale deed dated 01.08.2012 regd. sas doc. No. 15414 executed by Mr. Krishan Lal Lalin favour of Mr. Rajesh Verma in respect of half undivided share of area measuring 116.5 sq. yds. of said property Later on, Rajesh Verma expired on 24.09.2012 leaving behind Har Devi. Mrs. Virinda & Mr. Vivan as his legal heirs. Mrs. Har Devi relinquished her 1/4th undivided share to Mrs. Kiran Verma wich Relinquishment deed dated 15.05.2014 regd. as doc. No. 3604. Mrs. Kiran Verma wich regions or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Ary objections submitted after the completion of this 7-days period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of sur client.

one wishes to raise an objection, please do s

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Built-up Plot No. 97, area measurin 132 sq.mtr., Khasra No. 10/18, in Villag Qutubapur, Situated in Unauthorize

Ihe "Said Property").

Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our clientess, Mrs. Hem Lata, she is the sole and absolute owner of the said property vide Conveyance Deed executed by POI through DDA (PM-Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi Awasadhikar Yojana Cell) and registered as Document No. 11381, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 12431, pages 55 to 59 on 22.09.2023 (SRO-IX). Earlier, the said property was transferred to her by Mr. Vijay Pal vide POA documents viz., Redd. GPA Document No. 7991)) ATS and Will date 1/12/2004. Now our clientess intends t nortgage the said property with SMFC ndia Home Finance Company Ltd., fo availing loan facility.

any person, society, bank, financia objection against the ownership of outlientess on the said property and ubsequently rightful mortgage of the sail roperty in favour of SMFG India Hom Finance Company Ltd., by our clientess may raise his/her/their objection/s, i writing, by Registered AD post, to th undersigned, within 07 days, on addres entioned below. Otherwise after expiry days from the date of publication of the office, the said property shall be ortgaged by our clientess in favour of MFG India Home Finance Company Ltd ind no objection shall be acceptable acceptable and the produced of the said of the said

SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE FOR M/S INTELLECTIVE LAW OFFICES. A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR

ENGINEERING WORKS

OVER LUMDING DIVISION Tender Notice No.: 29 of 2024, Dated 27-09-2024: E-Tender are invited by the ndersigned for the following work Tender No.: DENGHY-17-2024; Name of Work: At New Guwahati-Specia repairs to Railway staff quarters of running staff under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/New Guwahati (100 Units) Tender Value: ₹1,48,33,870.96/ Earnest Money: ₹2,24,200/-; Tender No.: DENGHY-18-2024; Name of Work: At Guwahati-Repairing of station building, platform surface, PP shed repairing and painting of CDO office building, repairing of road from parce office to CDO office, repairs to leaky roo of AC Sick line shed and othe miscellaneous works under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/Guwahati. Tende Value: ₹1,35,47,958.70/-; Earnes Money: ₹2,17,700/-; Tender No. DENGHY-19-2024; Name of Work: A Pandu-Through repairs to 32 uni Type-II DS building No. 67, 69, 70, 38 (All 8 units) at Rest camp (32) units under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/E/Pandu Tender Value: ₹59,95,905.31/-; Earnes Money: ₹1,19,900/-; <u>Tender No.</u> DENGHY-20-2024; Name of Work: A New Guwahati-Maintenance of service building under the jurisdiction of SSE W/New Guwahati, Tender Value ₹67,93,266.64/-; Earnest Money ₹1,35,900/-; <u>Tender No.</u>: DENGHY-21 2024; Name of Work: Repair work a Kamakhya station & nearby service building like CDO office, pitline, sickline ₹79,58,014.85/-; Earnest Money ₹1,59,200/-; Date & time of closing opening of tender at 13:00 hrs. or 21-10-2024. For complete information with the tender document of above tender will be available in website

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

www.ireps.gov.in

Party, the military and the Presidency, 71-year-old Xi is currently in his unprecedented third five-year term and expected to continue life-long in power. The People's Republic of China (PRC) was formed in 1949 after the Communists headed by Mao Zedong seized power in the civil war while the nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek retreat-

To be known to all that, Smt. Promila Raweri wife of Late Shri Satish Kumar Raweri, R/o 4/
63, First Floro, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110
015, is the absolute owner/mutate of physical ossession of D.D.A. BUILT-UP SFS FLAT NO. BG-138-B, ON FIRST FLOOR, BLOCK-BG-1, STUT/FBB-7, DR. BLOCK-BG-1, DR. BLOCK-BG

ed to Taiwan, which over the years emerged as the self-governing island adhering to a democratic system.

But 75 vears on Taiwan's integration with the mainland continues to be an unfinished agenda for China's Communist Party, especially for Xi, who has been vowing to reunify it with

PUBLIC NOTICE

clients Mr. Ratan Kumar Sharma s/o Sh. R F ma and his wife Mrs. Rajni Sharma r/o A-3/34-D, Green Apartment, Paschim Vihar New Delhi-63 have severed all relations with their son Udit Sharma and his wife Himanshi Sethi due to their bad habits and bad conducts as well as being out of control of my clients in al manners. My above named clients have also from their movable and immovable properties Anybody dealing with Udit Sharma and his wife Himanshi Sethi will do so at their own risk and responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Udit Sharma and his wife Himanshi Sethi SANJEEV DWIVED! (ADVOCATE) 48. Gaianand Block, Tis Hazari Courts, N.D-54

TO WHOMSOEVER MAY IT CONCERN

Limited, having their corporate office at G-34, Sector 63, Noida – 201301, is in the process of canceling the allotment of the residential unit bearing No. 1006, Tower-C2, in the project Panchsheel Greens-II, located at Housing Plot No. GH-01A, Sector-16, Greater Noida District Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.), which was initially allotted to Mrs.Santosh Verma. Following her demise, the said unit was transferred to her son, Mr. Mohammad Nayil. The general public is hereby notified that our client intends to cancel the allotment of Uni

No. C2-1006 at Panchsheel Greens-II, situated at Plot No. GH-01A, Sector-16, Greater Noida. District Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.), due to the inability to trace the current address of the Allottee. Several notices have been sent to the Allottee, but no response has been eceived to date. The Allottee has failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Builder Buver Agreement. In light of this, the Allottee is hereby called upon to settle their account in accordance with

he terms and conditions of the Builder Buyer Agreement within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Should the Allottee fail to come forward and settle the account within this period, any claims by the Allottee will not be entertained and shall be deemed waived and/or abandoned. Our client shall be compelled to cancel the said unit and proceed with the necessary steps to conclude negotiations, and no claims will be

SANJEEV ARORA (ADVOCATE) Enrol. No. D-259/03

Ch.-Lawver's Chamber No. K-48, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

TO WHOMSOEVER MAY IT CONCERN The general public is hereby informed that our client, M/S Panchsheel Buildtech Private

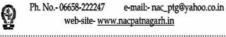
Limited, having their corporate office at G-34, Sector 63, Noida – 201301, is in the process of cancelling the allotment of the residential unit bearing No. 1902, Tower-C2, in the project Panchsheel Greens-II, located at Housing Plot No. GH-01A, Sector-16, Greater Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.), which was initially allotted to Mrs.Rinky Kumari and Mr. Vinod Kumar Kaul.

The general public is hereby notified that our client intends to cancel the allotment of Unit No. C2-1902 at Panchsheel Greens-II, situated at Plot No. GH-01A, Sector-16, Greater Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.), due to the inability to trace the current address of the Allottee. Several notices have been sent to the Allottee, but no response has been received to date. The Allottee has failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the

In light of this, the Allottee is hereby called upon to settle their account in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Builder Buyer Agreement within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Should the Allottee fail to come forward and settle the account within this period, any claims by the Allottee will not be entertained and shall be deemed waived and/or abandoned. Our client shall be compelled to cancel the said unit and proceed with the necessary steps to conclude negotiations, and no claims will be

> Enrol. No. D-259/03 Ch.-Lawyer's Chamber No. K-48, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, PATNAGARH



Letter No...1882/ Dated: ...26/09/2024 1st Corrigendum

C-689 Financial BID

For providing smooth sanitation services, the Tender committee has decided that each bidder must quote his rate not less than 3.85% and not more than 7% on T & P and Contractor Profit only, unless bid shall be rejected. Also, wrong computation in finance bid will be liable for rejection.

For reference Estimate is enclosed Detaestimate for sweeping of streets, collection of garbage, cleaning of drains & lifting of

Current Population (Approx.)

OIPR-13102/11/0005/2425

Population as per 2011 cen 21024

Length of drain			25km 38 km 5528		
Length of Road					
No. of Households					
No.	of commercial units, Govt. and private institutions				
SI No	Details	Required Labour	Rate	No of Days	Cost (In Rs)
1	Sweeping of Road (Lane/by-lane) as per requirement, bush cutting and shifting of dead animals, transportation of solid waste. (Un-Skilled)	80	450.00	1	36,000.00
2	Labour (Semi-Skilled) Supervisor	4	500.00	1	2,000.00
	Labour (Skilled) Driver	4	550.00	1	2,200.00
3	TOTAL	88			40,200.00
4	EPF (13%)				5226
5	ESI (3.25%)				1306.5
6	Tools & Plants and Contractor profit (5% + 5% = 10%)				4,020
7	Vehicle (Tractor) with driver along with fuel 4 nos. Tractor (Detained hour 8 hrs & working hours 6 hours) @ 357.55 per hours.			.1	8581.20
8	GRAND TOTAL (Per Day)				59,333.70
9	Annual cost			365 Days	2,16,56,801.00

Executive Officer NAC Patnagarh

27000

range B-1B bomber during the **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

Korea.

1011	stretectionic tenders for direct noted work-				
S. Io	Name of Work	Approx Cost of Work	Earnest Money to be deposited	Completion period	Date of opening
1	Providing and fixing single piece spring inserted reusable seize nut for size M-25 lock nut M-25 for fish plate bolt over DLI Division. (Cost is inclusive of GST)	8171136.40	Rs 1,63,400	12 Months	22.10.2024

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Engineer/IV, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entr Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealer

The tender is to be submit through railway website 'https: ireps.gov.in The tenders can be submit on website up to 15:00 hrs. on 22.10.2024 and shall be opened then after. NO: 128-W/Sr.DEN-C/NIT-15-2024-25-WC Date: - 01.10.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER'2024

-Auction programme for Sale of Railway Scrap material unde urisdiction of Dy.CMM/NFR/New Jalpaiguri for the month of OCT'2024 is hereby fixed as under:

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

N	Month	Date Fixed		
1	OCTOBER'2024	07-10-2024		
		to bid through IREPS website, training, participation in e-auction. Dy. CMM, New Jalpaiguri		





TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for supply of Cyphenothrine 5% EC (300

The Tender forms with terms and conditions may be purchased from the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme. Directorate of Health Services, Campal, Panaji Goa on all working days during office hours on payment of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) (Non-refundable) till 03.00 pm on or before 14/10/2024 The tenders will be opened on 17/10/2024 at 3.30 pm in the office of

D1/Advt/991/2024

ELECTRICAL TRD WORKS AT ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

F-Tender Notice No. AP-FL-TRD-

05-24-25-RT2, F-Tenders are invited

by the undersigned for the following

works: Tender No. AP-EL-TRD-

05-24-25-RT2. Name of work

with OHE modification work for

provision of additional goods line at

Dhupguri for simultaneous loading

unloading and handling and holding

two rakes at a time. Tender Value:

₹90,49,521.03/-. Earnest Money:

₹1,81,000/-. Date & time of closing

of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 21-10-2024

& opening at 15.30 hrs.of 21-10-

2024 at DRM/Elect (TRD)/Alipurdual

Jn. office. The complete information

with the tender document of above

e-tender will be available in website

Sr DEE/TRD, OP & GS

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reg: Upper First Floor without/roof/terrace rights, referred to as the "Said floor" built or portion of area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. "Saic portion" part of Property Bearing No. NW-23 measuring 100 sq. yds., out of Khasra No 4/11/2, 10/1, situated in the area of Village Khyala, Delhi state Delhi, Colony known styishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018 (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property".

Ivishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018, (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property"). Be it known to all that our client, Mrs. Nahim Khan (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intends to purchase the said floor from Mr. S. Satnam Singh (hereinafter called the "Attorney-holder). In this connection, the Attorney-holder has informed the purchaser that he is the sole and absolute attorney of the said floor vide POA documents viz., GPA, ATS and Will dated 19.12.2023 executed by Mr. Mahesh Pal in his favour. The Attorney holder has further informed the purchaser that the said property was owned by Mr. Krishan Pal vide POA documents viz., GPA, ATS, and Will dated 02/11/1988 executed by Ms. Kalawati, Mr. Narinder Kumar and Mr. Mahinder Singh in his favour. Mr. Krishan Pal expired and the said property devolved on his legal heirs viz. Msaha Rani, Mr. Mahesh Pal, Ms Seema Pal, Ms Suman Pal and Ms Sunita Pal. Later on, Ms Asha Rani, Ms. Seema Pal, Ms Suman Pal and Ms Sunita Pal. Later on, Ms Asha Rani, Ms. Seema Pal, Ms Suman Pal and Ms Sunita Pal, In respect of their shares in the said portion. The said Relinquishment Deed in favour of Ms. Mahesh Pal, in respect of their shares in the said portion. The said Relinquishment Deed was registered as Document No. 14526, Book No. 1, Volume No. 26782, pages 138-142, on 23/11/2022 (SRO-11) Finally Mr. Mahesh Pal transferred the said

Document No. 14526, Book No. 1, Volume No. 26782, pages 138-142 on 23/11/2022 (SRO-II). Finally, Mr. Mahesh Pal transferred the said floor to Mr. S Satnam Singh vide POA documents viz., GPA, ATS and Will dated 19.12.2023. Thus, Mr. S Satnam Singh (the present Attorney-Holder) became the sole adsolute attorney of the said floor. The Attorney-holder has further informed the surchaser float the said floories not mortagaged.

nywhere and there is no charge or dispute

Shivkant Arora, Advocate

New Delhi-110024

M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony,

www.ireps.gov.in

(Dr. Kalpana Mahatme) Dy. Director, NVBDCP, DHS

Email: nvbdepgoa@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that we, ANJANI KUMAR To be known to all that we, ANJANI KUMA BISHNOI son of SH.MADAN LAL BISHNOI an RUPA VARSHNEI wife of SH. SUNIL KUMA RUPA VARSHNEI wife of SH. SUNIL KUMAR VARSHNEI, have applied for conversion of H. NO.5-241,PANCHSHILA PARK,NEW DELHI from lease hold to free hold vide Request Id No.1D41178CS/CON/18072024 in DDA. The original document i.e.PERPETUAL SUBLEASE DEED dt. 25.03.1970 of the above said property has been lost. An NCR/LR NO.21688 85/2024 dated 01.10.2024 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch,Delhi. Any person(s)claiming any right,Interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address, Phone No.9999257387 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The erson claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personal

form or write to Deputy Director (CS)/Ass

is is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Mohi, mar Mundra along with Smt. Sushma Mundra the Title Holders' in possession of 'Entire cond Floor of Freehold Built up Residentia operty Bearing Plot No. 4, Block No. F-31 shah Nagar, Shahdara, New Delhi-51' vide labe Deed duly registered as Regn. No. 2941, Bool of No. 10, No. 3668, pp. 158-169 on 27. O3. 23 in the fire of the Suit Registrar - USA Vivek (Vihar, New Fire of the Suit Registrar - USA). No. 1 Vol. No. 3688, pp. 158-169 on 27.03.23 in the Office of the Sub Registrar –IV-B, Vivek Vihar, Ne Delhi. And Sh. Manish Kumar Mundra along wish. Uma Mundra are the "Ifle Holders" possession of 'Entire Thier Floor with Roc Terrace Rights of Freehold Built up Residenti Property Bearing Plot No. 4, Block No. 5-1 Krishan Nagar, Shahdara, New Delhi-51' vic Sale Deed duly registered as Regn. No. 2942. Boc No. 1, Vol. No. 3688, pp. 170-181 on 27.03.23 in the Office of the Sub Registrar–IV-B, Vivek Vihar, Ne. Delhi. That the original documents in relation to the Comments of the Sub Registrar–IV-B, Vivek Vihar, Ne. I, Shivendra Pratap Singh R/o mentioned lost/misplaced documents or otherwis having any claims, rights, title, interests possession etc. in the Schedule Plot/Schedul Floors as mentioned herein above, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sal Mortgage (except for the ongoing loan with RB Bank Ltd. of the Title Holders as mentioned herein Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbranc etc., may come forward with supportin documents, to be delivered to the undersigne within 15 days from the date of this Publication, possible of the provided of the control of the c

sive sanctions relief. **PUBLIC NOTICE** My client Javed Malik and Mohd Israfil the owner of built up property bearing no. B-48/B area measuring

100 sd.yds out of Khasra no. 442 situated at Villagi Uldhan Pur in the abadi of Gali no. 4 and 5 Kanti Nagar extn., illaqa Shahdara Delhi-110051 through gistered Sale Deed Dated 22 04 2022 executed by Sh. Mahender Singh and others vide Reg. no. 3675 at SR-IV B Delhi the above–mentioned property is going to be mortgage with SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd . If any person/ bank/ financial institution having any claim, right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned Adv Vishal Mehan E-713 karkardooma court delhi 110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any laim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile No. 9811215181

ATHE PIONEER A

CHANGE OF NAME

3358/4, 3rd Floor, Narang Colony, Tri Nagar Delhi-35, Informed you the my minor son Shravan Pratap Singh and Sarvan Pratap Singh both are the same and one person and shall hereafter be known as Shravan Pratap Singh.

I, Dharam Wati W/o Sh. Govind

Ram R/o VPO: Baghola, Tehsil & Distt. Palwal, Haryana-121102 declare that my name has been wrongly written in my son Ravinder Vashisth Army Service record as Dharam Vati. my correct name is Dharam Wati for all future purposes vide afidavit no. 36AA773657 dated 30 sep 2024.

PD(817)C

Period/Tentative

Qty

Annual

PUBLIC NOTICE **DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES**

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) Name and address of candidate: RABIA KIDWAI at 1081-P, Sector-47,

Gurgaon District Gurgaon-122108 Name of political party: AAM AADMI PARTY

Name of Election: Haryana Legislative Assembly Election-2024

Name of Constituency: **79 –NUH** I, RABIA KIDWAI (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned

election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents: (A) Pending criminal cases

Case No.

SI. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and dated	Status of case(s)	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1.	SAKET COURT DELHI INDIA	C.C No. 41418/2019	PENDING 2019	SECTION OF U/s 138 INDIAN PENAL CODE ACT
D) Details about seems of conviction for evincinal effection				

ı	(0) 0	(B) Betails about cases of conviction for criminal offences			
I	SI.	Name of Court &	Description of offence(s)	Maximum	
I	No.	No. date(s) of order(s)	& punishment imposed	Punishment Imposed	
l	NA	NOT APPLICABLE	NOTAPPLICABLE	NOTAPPLICABLE	
I	*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council				

by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

verka

SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66 **Notice Inviting Tender**

	Hiring of agency for packaging of dahi pouch/ cups/ matkas, lassi pouches, kheer cups, ghee, paneer and yoghurt packaging and recombination of white butter and reconstitution of SMP.	As per day to day requirement of Market
2.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Wifi & LAN networking infrastructure complete in all respects for Verka Bathinda Dairy.	01 complete job
3.	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy a) Hirring of passenger vehicles Innova crysta without driver for minimum running of 2000 kms per month on lump sum basis. b) Pest control service, DIET (GADVASU) and MCCs which include control of flies, mosquitoes, lizards, rodent etc. c) Transportation of LSHS/HPS (Heavy Petroleum Stock) from Panipat/ Mathura refinery to Verka Ludhiana Dairy.	01 No. Annual/One job Annual
4.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy a) Lifting/Sale of Paneer whey from Verka Jalandhar Dairy. b) Labour contract for loading /unloading of milk products (SMP/WMP, Dairy Whitener, White Butter, Ghee, Pio etc) and empty tins, cartons, jars etc.	Annual Annual
5.	For Verka Sangrur Dairy Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Wi-Fi, LAN networking infrastructure complete in all respects for Verka Sangrur Dairy.	-
6.	For Verka Cattle Feed Plant, Bhattian (Khanna)	

No.

1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop 8 e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in. 2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

a) Transportation of Molasses from The Budhewal and The Morinda co-

operative sugar mills ltd. to Verka cattle feed plant, Battian (Khanna)

anywhere and there is no charge or dispute of any litigation pending regarding the said floor. Any person including Bank/s, Financia Institution/s, relative/s having any claim, right title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said floor is hereby called upor to make the same known, in writing, wit documentary evidence, by RegisteredAD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the Attorney-holder in respect of the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever.

b) Disposal of old bardana (Jute & P.P Bags)

NA/12/25746/2023/38151 Dated CHD :- 10/1/2024 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

India's manufacturing growth hits | Car sales fluctuate in September

eight months low in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $I_{
m growth}^{
m ndia's}$ manufacturing sector growth fell to an eightmonth low in September amid softer increase in factory production, sales and new export orders, a monthly survey said on Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMIfell from 57.5 in August to 56.5 in September, registering the weakest pace of growth since January.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"Momentum in India's manufacturing softened in September from the very strong growth in the summer months.

"Output and new orders grew at a slower pace, and the deceleration in export growth



especially evident as the new export orders PMI was the lowest since March 2023," Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said.

The September PMI data revealed a mild setback in manufacturing growth across India. For the third straight month, rates of expansion in factory production and sales Moreover, international orders rose at

the slowest pace in a year-

companies' hiring demand, as the pace of employment growth slowed for a third month," Bhandari noted. Hiring growth also receded in September, reflecting a reduction in the number of

manufacturers

part-time and temporary workers. Going ahead, the overall level of business confidence fell to its lowest since April 2023. Around 23 per cent of Indian

intensifying the compression

Weaker profit growth might

impact on

on manufacturers' margin.

ahead, while the remaining firms predict no change. HSBC Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global responses questionnaires sent

output growth in the year

purchasing managers in a around

forecast

PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian automotive market has showcased a diverse performance among key players in September, reflecting varying consumer preferences and market conditions.

Talking about the stats, Mahindra Mahindra & reported a notable 24% surge in SUV sales, achieving 51,062 units compared to 41,267 units in the same month last year. The company also saw overall sales, including commercial vehicles (CVs) and three-wheelers, rise 16% year-on-year to 87,839 units. the festive season approaches, Mahindra is aloso set to launch the muchanticipated Thar RoXX on October 3. Conversely, JSW MG Motor

India experienced an 8% decline in retail sales, with only 4,588 units sold compared to 5,003 units in 2022. September automaker noted that new energy vehicles (NEVs) accounted for 49% of their total sales, emphasizing a shift in consumer interest amidst market challenges.





reported a 14% increase in waiting periods for popular wholesales, reaching 26,847 models units, up from 23,590 units last

Hyundai Motor India faced a year. The brand's success is 10% dip in total sales, down to attributed to significant 64,201 units from 71,641 units growth in its SUV, MPV, and in the previous year. Domestic dispatches also fell by 6%, with small car segments, bolstered strategic operational exports down 25%. The

company noted that SUVs now comprise 70% of its overall sales and introduced new models to attract consumers during the festive season. In addition the domestic dispatch of vehicles to dealers saw a 6 per cent dip to 51,101 units last month from 54,241 units in the year-

ago period.
Finally, Maruti Suzuki India showcased a slight 2% increase in total sales, reaching 1,84,727 units, up from 1,81,343 units a year prior. Sales of compact cars, including Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift, Tour S and WagonR, however, declined to 60,480 units as compared to 68,551 units in the year-ago month.

However, domestic passenger vehicle sales declined by 4%, despite growth in utility vehicle sales. Exports showed positive momentum, rising to 27,728 units from 22,511 units last September. Overall, the fluctuating sales

figures reflect a complex landscape in the Indian automotive market, influenced by consumer trends, economic conditions, and approaching festive season.

Andhra Pradesh notifies new liquor policy

panel

demand

Indian

Andhra Pradesh I government has notified a new liquor policy, allowing private retailers to sell spirits on the lines of Haryana and others with the state expecting to rake in Rs 5,500 crore revenue.

In a complete overhaul of excise policy based on best practices from other states Andhra Pradesh has decided retail sales of liquor through 3,736 notified private shops across the state.

The new policy will take effect from October 12, 2024, as per the notification dated September 30, 2024.

The permission to sell IMFL (Indian-made foreign liquor) and and FL (foreign liquor) will be granted to private persons or entities through a selection process, notification said.

The period of licence for



On the price front, there were

moderate increases in input

As a result of rising

purchasing prices, as well as

greater labour costs and

manufacturers marginally

increased their charges in

According to Bhandari, input

prices rose at a faster rate in

September, while factory gate

inflation

costs and selling charges.

favourable

conditions,

September.

selling IMFL and FL by shops shall be from October 12, 2024 to September 30, 2026, it

shops to be licensed in 2024-26, as many as 3,396 will be in the open category, while 340 shops will be reserved for allocation to 'Geetha Kulalu'

(a toddy tapping community) with a view to empower them and promote equity and social justice.

Out of the total number of 'The selection process for granting licence will be through a draw of lots and an applicant can apply for more than one shop. There shall be

of shop licences a person can hold, it added.

Applicants will have deposit a non-refundable fee of Rs 2 lakh for each shop. As per the notification, the retail excise tax (RET) ranges from Rs 50 lakh for locality with population of 10,000 to Rs 85 lakh per annum for a

corporation having population above 5 lakh during the fiscal 2024-2025. It will be increased by 10 per cent for 2025-26.

estimated to result in the state government raking in Rs 5,500 crore. The RET per annum shall be

The overall exercise is

paid in six equal advance instalments as applicable for each year during the licence period 2024-26.

As per the notification, the retailer margin will be 20 per cent on issue price across all categories of IMFL and FL, including beer, wine and RTDs (ready to drink).

For the premium stores, the notification said, "In order to provide an enhanced and high-end retail experience within the state of Andhra Pradesh, a total of 12 Premium Store Licenses shall be granted as a separate

These premium stores shall be strategically located across major municipal corporation cities namely Vijayawada, V i s a k h a p a t n a m, Rajamahendravaram, Kakinada, Guntur, Nellore, Kurnool, Kadapa, Anantapur or any other city as notified by the state government from time to time, it added.

A cabinet sub-committee of the state government had studied the excise policies of states such as Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Ňadu, Kerala, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and also took extensive feedback from key stakeholders, before framing the latest policy.

had assessed performance of the existing policy with respect to public health impact and other critical metrics including revenue generation efficiency

SEBI to enhance F&O regulations

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi is expected to take measures regarding the Futures and Options (F&O) segment very soon, in a bid to enhance investor protection, its senior official said on Tuesday.

In addition, Sebi has urged the government to introduce tax breaks for subscribers of municipal bonds, which are crucial infrastructure development. The regulator will make a case

for a tax break for municipal

bonds during a meeting with the finance commission, the regulator's whole time member Ashwani Bhatia said Since 1997. municipalities have raised Rs 2,700 crore through bonds for infrastructure projects. Talking about F&O, Bhatia said," Sebi is very soon going to do something about F&O.

Study has come (recently)".

The regulator, in its consultation paper recently, tighten the rules for index derivatives-revise the minimum contract size and require upfront collection of option premiums intra-day monitoring of position limits, rationalisation of strike prices, removal of calendar spread benefit on expiry day and increase in near contract margin. implemented, these measures

would help in improving risk management and increase transparency in the derivatives

In its consultation paper, the regulator had suggested to revise the minimum contract size for index derivatives in phases, considering market growth.

In phase 1, the minimum contract value at the time of introduction should be between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 20 lakh. After six months, phase 2 will raise the minimum value to between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 30 lakh. The current minimum contract size of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh was last set

A recent study by Sebi revealed that 93 per cent of over 1 crore individual F&O traders incurred average losses of around Rs 2 lakh per trader (inclusive of transaction costs) during the three years from FY22 to FY24. The aggregate losses of individual traders exceeded Rs 1.8 lakh crore over the three-year period between FY22 and FY24

CAG: Development of hinterland essential for India's goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Without the development of hinterland, India cannot become Viksit Bharat or a developed nation by 2047, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu said on Tuesday.

Noting that decentralisation of power has not taken to the extent it should have happened, he said, gram sabha or rural bodies are yet to get its due importance in the federal structure.

"Without the development of grassroots level at the local level, we cannot achieve

Viksit Bharat. More than 50 per cent people live in rural area, and until their governance, their development, their

administration, their resources are not augmented, we will not be able to reach (Viksit Bharat goal). As our prime minister says

that if everyone take one step, we will have 1.4 billion steps... That is why Jan Bhagidari is important," he

There are about 2,60,000 panchayats and 7,000 urban local bodies in the country. He empahsied the need for strengthening of local bodies

so that efficiency of government schemes are achieved and the sooner it happens, the better it is for the country. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be achieve without strengthening local bodies, he said, adding, that accounting and auditing play important roles in flow of funds to the local bodies.

With regard to urban local bodies, the CAG said, municipal corporations cannot be given permission to raise resources from market if they have not followed proper accounting

Lenders recover ₹ 3.5 lakh crore through IBC: IBBI Chairperson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Last lake crore through enders have recovered Rs resolution of stressed assets under the insolvency process in the last eight years, a period during which NCLT approved 1,000 resolution plans, IBBI Chairperson Ravi Mital said on Tuesday.

Insolvency The Bankruptcy Code (IBC) provides for a market-linked and time-bound resolution of stressed assets. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of (IBBI) are



institutions in the IBC ecosystem.

In the last two years, NCLT has cleared 450 resolution plans. This accounts for 45 per cent of the 1,000 such plans approved in the last eight years, Mital said at a function to mark the eighth foundation day of the IBBL According to him, Rs 3.5 lakh crore has been recovered

directly by lenders, of which Rs 1 lakh crore was in the last two years. Under the IBC, the recovery is about 84 per cent of the assets' fair value, as per official data.

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said a continuously improving and evolving bankruptcy system is important for economic

INBRIEF

PARAMJEET SINGH GETS WARM FAREWELL

PATIALA: Er Paramjeet Singh, Director Generation, Punjab State Power Cornoration Limited was given farewell on his retirement on Monday



MOU BETWEEN CCRH AND SRMIST



Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST). The partnership aims to enhance collaborative research efforts by leveraging the advanced infrastructure of SRMIST.

5000 LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED IN NARELA

NARELA: On Sunday a ceremony was held in the Comfort Zone to commemorate the birth anniversary of martyr Bhagat Singh. The event's organizer Dheeran Maan shared that hundreds of tractors and vehicles

formed a rally.



GNDU 'B' ZONE ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL CONCLUDED



AMRITSAR: Zonal Youth Festival of Zone 'B' of the Guru Nanak Dev University was concluded in Dasmesh Auditorium of the

REC SIGNS MOU WITH GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

NEW DELHI: REC Limited has signed MoU with Govt of Rajasthan, Department of Finance during the Rising Rajasthan Investors meet today. As per MoU, REC will provide Rs. 50,000 Crore annually to

finance projects for a period of six years.



Digi Yatra to be made available in regional, international languages

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Digi Yatra, which seeks to provide seamless movement at airport check points, will be made available in regional and international languages, according to a senior official.

The facility is now available at 24 airports and is expected to be rolled out at 4-5 more airports in the coming months.

Digi Yatra Foundation CEO Suresh Khadakbhavi on Tuesday said a pilot project is likely by June next year for connecting two countries with

Digi Yatra. Under the pilot project, foreign citizens will be able to use Digi Yatra.

Speaking at the CAPA India Digital Aviation Summit in the national capital, Khadakbhavi said a campaign will be started to sensitise passengers about the facility.

While Digi Yatra is slowly gaining traction, concerns have been expressed in various quarters about the privacy of data of the passengers. He said Digi Yatra will be made



available in regional and international languages. Based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), Digi Yatra provides for contactless, seamless movement passengers at various check points at airports.

not-for-profit entity, the foundation is the nodal agency for Digi Yatra, which was introduced in December 2022. The shareholders of the foundation are Airports Authority of India (AAI), Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL), Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), Delhi International (DIAL), Ltd Airport Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (HIAL) and Mumbai International Airport

Ltd (MIAL).

Jet fuel prices cut, LPG hiked



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tet fuel, or ATF, price was on Tuesday reduced by 6.3 per cent to its lowest level this year, while the rate of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants was hiked by Rs 48.5 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price trends. Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price was cut by Rs 5,883 per kilolitre, or 6.29 per cent, to Rs 87,597.22 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the lowest price of jet fuel this year. The price reduction, the second in a month, will help ease the burden of airlines for whom fuel makes up for almost 40 per cent of the operating cost. Prices were on September 1 cut by Rs 4,495.5 per kl, or 4.58 per cent. The ATF rate in Mumbai was reduced to Rs

81,866.13 per kl on Tuesday from Rs 87,432.78 previously. Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes. Alongside, oil firms increased

the price of commercial LPG

by Rs 48.5 to Rs 1,740 per 19-kg cylinder. This is the third straight monthly increase. Prices were hiked by Rs 6.5 per cylinder on August 1 and by Rs 39 on September 1. The three rounds of increase follow

monthly

reductions. In four price reductions, rates were cut by Rs 148 per 19-kg cylinder and now in three rounds of increase, prices have gone up by Rs 94 per bottle.

Commercial LPG now costs Rs 1,692.50 per 19-kg cylinder in Mumbai, Rs 1,850.50 in Kolkata and Rs 1,903 in Chennai. The rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat

Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of every month based on the average price of benchmark international fuel and foreign capital. exchange rate.

Reliance Infra approves US \$ 350 million **fundraise**

PNS NEW DELHI

The Board of Directors of Reliance Infrastructure Limited (Reliance Infrastructure) on Tuesday approved raising of funds upto US\$ 350 million (INR 2,930 cr) to VFSI Holdings Pte. Limited, an affiliate of Värde Investment Partners, LP, a leading global alternative investment firm. The FCCBs will be unsecured and will have ultra-low cost coupon of 5% p.a. with a long maturity of 10 years. The FCCBs will be convertible into Equity Shares at INR 330 per share. The Board of Directors also

approved an Employees Stock Option Scheme (ESOS) for all employees of the Company and its Company and its subsidiaries. ESOS provides for grant of upto 2,60,00,000 fully paid-up equity shares of INR 10 each, representing approximately 5% of the Company's fully diluted

MANE LEADS AIR RIFLE DOMINANCE WITH DOUBLE GOLD

It was double delight for Parth Rakesh Mane as he was crowned junior world champion in 10m air rifle and also claimed a team gold to lead India's impressive performance at the ongoing ISSF Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru. In a thrilling 24-shot final, the 16-year-old Mane overcame a field oozing class with consummate ease, shooting 250.7 to edge out reigning junior Asian champion Huang Liwanlin of China by 0.7 points.

Braden Peiser of the USA took the bronze medal. Paris Olympic silver medallist Victor Lindgren of Sweden was fourth while reigning double junior champion Romain Aufrere was sixth.

Parth's own compatriots, the in-form Ajay Malik and the seasoned-at-15 Abhinav Shaw finished fifth and seventh

in shoot-off to Lindgren to finish with 186.7 while Abhinav bowed out in seventh with 144.2.

Mane also won the men's team event alongside Ajay Malik and Abhinav Shaw. India's third gold of the day came when Gautami Bhanot, Sambhavi Kshirsagar and Anoushka Thakur also picked up the junior women's 10m

Earlier in the 62-strong qualification round, Malik secured second place with a score of 628.8, followed by Mane in fourth with 627.7, and Shaw in sixth with 627.0 after 60 shots.

air rifle team title.

Their combined total of 1883.5 easily surpassed teams from the USA (1877.6) and Germany (1873.9) to win the team gold.

Two other Indians in the fray Umamahesh Maddineni (625.5) and Talwar Singh (625.2) finished 13th and 14th respectively.



Three Indians also made the junior women's air rifle final but missed out on individual

Gautami Bhanot finished second in the 90-strong qualification field with a score qualification field with a score of 634.7 as China's Wang Zifei topped with a junior world record score of 635.7.
Shambhavi Kshirsagar finished fourth (632.6) and

Ojasvi Thakur (631.4) qualified in fifth place. Anoushka Thakur was 17th with 627.5, while Saumya Khedkar was 20th with 627.4. Gautami then finished fourth in the final going down to the in the final, going down to the bronze-winning US athlete by 0.2 after the 20th shot. She finished with a score of 209.3. Shambhavi (188.4) was fifth and Oicyi (146.1) howed out and Ojasvi (146.1) bowed out in seventh place.

Gautami and Shambhavi, however, combined effectively with Anoushka Thakur to clinch the team competition, bossing USA with a junior world team Norway was third.

Indians also competed in the junior men's and women's skeet competition at the shotgun ranges but couldn't reach the finals.

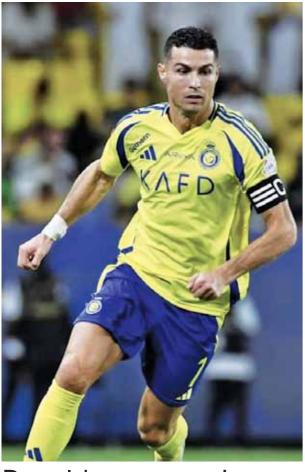
Gurfateh Singh Sandhu finished 29th with a score of 112 in qualification, while Bhavtegh Singh Gill shot the same score in the junior men's skeet to finish 31st on

countback. Harmehar Singh Lally was 44th with 107.

In junior women's skeet, Mansi Raghuwanshi was the best placed Indian in shotgun. Her score of 109 giving her 8thplace as she missed out on qualification by a point. Mufaddal Dessawala and

Shivani Raikwar shot scores of 98 each to finish in 30th and 31st positions respectively. With five gold medals till

date, India continues to lead the overall medal tally at the championship.



Ronaldo scores winner for Al-Nassr in AFC Champions League Elite

AP ■ RIYADH

ristiano Ronaldo scored Cthe winning goal as Al-Nassr of Saudi Arabia defeated Al-Rayyan of Qatar 2-1 in the AFC Champions League Elite group stage on Monday. The five-time Ballon d'Or

winner missed Al-Nassr's opening 1-1 draw against Al-Shorta of Iraq two weeks ago because of a viral infection. On Monday, he had a goal ruled out for offside, but his shot into the top corner with 14 minutes remaining in Riyadh proved to be decisive.

Former Liverpool forward Sadio Mane headed home for Al-Nassr just before the break and the points seemed secure when Ronaldo added a second.

Al-Rayyan came back in the game three minutes from the end when Roger Guedes scored from close range.

title, hung on, however.

Riyad Mahrez scored his first goal of the season as Al-Ahli of Saudi Arabia won at Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates 2-0 for a second straight win.

The Algerian attacker, who joined the Jeddah club from Manchester City in 2023, had been struggling for fitness. Mahrez opened the scoring

after just three minutes. He ran on to a long pass from defender Roger Ibanez and shot home from inside the area. He returned the favor seven minutes before the break as his corner was headed home powerfully by Ibanez. Elsewhere, Al-Sadd of Qatar defeated Esteghlal of Iran 2-0, whose Tehran rival Persepolis drew with Pakhtakor of

Uzbekistan 1-1.

HI announces 40 probables for national camp to prepare for home series against Germany PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Tuesday announced a 40-member core probable squad for the senior men's national coaching camp in Bengaluru to prepare for the upcoming two-match home series against world champions Germany.

The team for the two matches against Germany to be played at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on October 23 and 24 will be selected from the camp. The camp will run from October 1 to 19.

The team heads into this camp following their recent successes that include a second consecutive bronze medal at the Paris Olympics and a successful title defence at the Asian Champions Trophy in

The focus will be on honing



skills of the players and strategies during matches, a Hokey India release said. India captain Harmanpreet Singh said the camp will help in ensuring that the team is well-prepared and in peak

before facing

Germany. 'Playing against the world champions is a tremendous opportunity for us to showcase our abilities, and having an exciting mix of players in this camp will allow us to improve our strategies and build the cohesion needed," he said.

condition

"Each player in this core group brings unique strengths and varying levels of experience and we'll be focusing on how to harness these individual talents and help us grow as players. "Our objective is to create an environment where everyone

pushes each other and by the

Singh; 2. Amit Rohidas; 3. Harmanpreet Singh; 4. Sumit; 5. Sanjay; 6. Jugraj Singh; 7. Amandeep Lakra; 8. Nilam Sanjeep Xess; 9. Varun Kumar; 10. Yashdeep Siwach; 11. Dipsan Tirkey; 12. Mandeep

Midfielders: 1. Rajkumar Pal; Midtielders: 1. Najkuma 2..., 2. Shamsher Singh; 3. Manpreet Singh; 4. Hardik Singh; 5. Vivek Sagar Prasad; 6. Nilakanta Sharma; 7. Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh; 8. Mohammed Raheel Mouseen; 9. Vishnukant Singh; 10. Rajinder Singh; 11.

Poovanna CB Forwards: 1. Abhishek; 2. pusnes each other and by the end of this camp, we want to be an even stronger and better coordinated team."

THE PROBABLES:

Goalkeepers: 1. Krishan Bahadur Pathak; 2. Pawan; 3. Suraj Karkera; 4. Mohith

Defenders: 1. Jarmanpreet

Forwards: 1. Abnishek; 2. Sukhjeet Singh; 3. Lalit Kumar Upadhyay; 4. Mandeep Singh; 5. Gurjant Singh; 6. Angad Bir Singh; 7. Aditya Lalage; 8. Boby Singh Dhami; 9. Sudeep Chirmako; 10. S. Karthi; 11. Maninder Singh; 12. Shilanand Lakra; 13. Dilpreet Singh.



Pegula out of China Open after a 4th round loss to Badosa

Daula Badosa reeled off 11 of The last 12 games in a 6-4, 6-0 victory over US Open finalist Jessica Pegula at the China eighth career quarter-final at a WTA 1000-level event.

From 3-1 down in the opening set, former No. 2-ranked Badosa dominated in her firstever win over third-ranked Pegula.

"She's one the of the players I never want to face -- she's very solid, hits very flat, changes very well direction," said Badosa, who was 0-3 previously against Pegula. "I prepared myself for a battle, but I think today everything worked pretty well.

"Every point was very important for me, especially against Jessica, because she can come back at any moment." Badosa next faces 35-year-old Chinese player Zhang Shuai, who continued her resurgence with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Magdalena Frech of Poland.

Zhang entered the China Open on a 24-match losing streak and ranked No. 595, but she's

matches this week. includes eliminating US Open semi-finalist Emma Navarro in straight sets for her first win over a Top 10 player in two years.

hang women's tour quarter-final since Tokyo in 2022, and her first at a WTA 1000 tournament since Cincinnati in the same year.

Later Tuesday, No. 14-ranked Anna Kalinskaya was scheduled to meet Yuliia Starodubtseva of Ukraine, before the marquee women's match of the day between fourtime major winner Naomi Osaka and sixth-ranked Coco

Gauff. It will be the first meeting between the two Grand Slam champions in over two years, with the head-to-head series tied at 2-2.

On the men's side, Carlos Alcaraz was playing fifth-ranked Daniil Medvedev in the first semi-final, with the Spaniard holding a 5-2 advantage in their head-tohead history.
Defending champion and top-

ranked Janner Sinner was set

Mumbai City FC hope happy homecoming against high-flying Bengaluru FC

 M^{umbai} City FC would look to notch their first win of the Indian Super League (ISL) this season and move up the points table when they face high-fi Bengaluru FC in a clash between two heavyweights here on Wednesday.

Bengaluru have made a commanding start, winning all their three outings so far to sit atop the points table, while Mumbai are surprisingly placed at 11th after two away matches, with just one

Mumbai have found the back of the net in their previous eight matches at home and are looking to equal their longest such ISL run, having done so in nine meetings between October 2022 and February

Interestingly, they have also won their previous three matches versus Bengaluru. Bengaluru have scored one-third of their goals in the competition this year within the opening 15 minutes, the highest such rate for any team so far.

Mumbai City head coach Petr Kratky said his team needs to avoid conceding goals from set-pieces.

We need to get better in the area where The 24 teams are divided into two groups of 12 - one based in the west and one in the east -with the top eight from each progressing to the round of 16.



"We have to keep working and keep going. We need to analyse and identify what's (going) wrong and have to find why. The 'why' is very important.

"If we know why we're conceding, why we're losing, or why we're not getting the points, then we can figure out what to fix. So, this is our and my first goal."
On the other hand, BFC head coach

Gerard Zaragoza expressed his happiness at the impressive start but admitted that they cannot afford to slow down yet. "Let me enjoy. Three games, three wins,

"Mumbai City FC will be there, and Odisha FC will be there. We are going to Mumbai, and it will be difficult there. The two sides have face each other on 16 occasions in the tournament, with Mumbai winning on eight instances, as against seven victories for Bengaluru. One match ended in a draw.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru FC legend and former India captain Sunil Chhetri has netted nine times versus Mumbai City in the competition. He will be aiming to become the first Indian to score on 10 occasions against a single opponent in the

and we are happy. But it's too early," he Al-Nassr, seeking a first Asian yet to drop a set in four to face No. Women's soccer on a high as new Asian Champions League launches

Women's soccer is on a high in Asia after some World Čup performances that captivated nations, raising expectations for the new AFC Champions League.

North Korea's win over Japan in the women's Under-20 World Cup last month has the women's game back in focus across the continent.

Australia's run to the semifinals at the Women's World Cup it co-hosted last year with New Zealand drew record crowds and attention to the talent in the region.

Now, the continental club championship has been revamped and the group stage of the Women's Asian Champions Lagrangian Champions League launches this week with the Urawa Red Diamond Ladies flying the flag

for Japan. The Reds defeated South

Korea's Incheon Red Angels in the final of the Women's Club Championship in May, a pilot tournament for the AFC's Women's Champions League, and would like nothing page and would like nothing more than to repeat that success.

"To have two Asian nations in the (under-20) World Cup final is good for Asia and good for us, too, as we have rivals to compete with," Urawa coach Naoki Kusunose said.

We are grateful for this new challenge in club soccer - and we want to move on to the next step and win the Women's AFC Champions League."

12-team tournament,

including four teams that advanced through a through preliminary stage, is divided into three groups of four. Urawa kicks off against India's

Odisha on Thursday and will go on to face Ho Chi Minh City and Taiwanese team Taichung Blue Whale.



The Group C games will take place in Vietnam as each group is played in a single

top two advancing to the quarter-finals next March along with the two best thirdvenue over nine days, with the placed teams. The semi-finals

and final will be held in May of Australia's Melbourne City is in Group B and kicks off against Iran's Bam Khatoon in Thailand. Melbourne City who will also face Kaya-Iloilo of the Philippines and Thailand's College of Asian Scholars.

"For women's football in general in Asia, it's a great opportunity," Melbourne City coach Michael Matricciani

"To be in the inaugural campaign, it's an honor for us representing Australia , and also an opportunity for silverware and to test ourselves against the best in Asia."
Incheon Red Angels are in

Group A along with Sabah of Malaysia, China's Wuhan Jiangda and Abu Dhabi Country Club from the United Arab Emirates.

Football Asian Confederation has confirmed that the champion will receive at least USD 1.3 million in

prize money.
"We are confident that the

competition will empower women in Asian football, contributing to gender equality and breaking down societal barriers, to make a positive impact on the growth of the women's game," AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said in a

With varying degrees of professionalism in the women's game across the continent, going deep into the tournament can make difference financially.

statement.

There are concerns, however, that the new tournament does not reflect the reality of women's soccer in Asia.

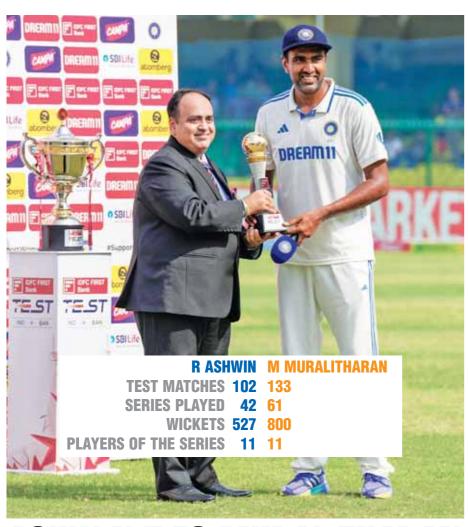
FIFPro Asia/Oceania, part of a worldwide organization representing 65,000 soccer players, compiled a report on the tournament in August based on 88 players who participated in the pilot Women's Club Championship. It found that just 62% of players in the tournament identified as professional, less than half earned more than USD 10,000 from soccer per season and a quarter reported that the sport was not their primary income.

FIFPro wants more cooperation between the AFC and other stakeholders.

"Whilst the potential of the women's game in Asia is immense, we must ensure it is developed in a way that is responsive to the lived realities illustrated in this report," said Kathryn Gill, a FIFPro board member and former Australia international.

'This can only occur through establishing a genuine partnership between the AFC, leagues, clubs and players, and not through unilaterally overlaying regulations that are fit for men's competitions onto female competitions.





ASHWIN TIES MURALITHARAN

RISHABH MALIK NEW DELHI

off-spinner Ravichandaran Ashwin has etched his name in the records book once again, equalling the most number of Player of the Series in Test cricket's history, with his stellar performances in Bangladesh series Ashwin now stands with Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan

They both now shares the 11 Player of the Series accolades, Ashwin performance in the Bangladesh series conquered many records in history of cricket. Ashwin's took 11 wickets and scored 114 runs in both the innings two Test

matches. Ashwin performances throughout his test career gave many cherish moments for India, In first test match in Chennai his crucial knock of 113 runs gave team a fighting total and took 6 wickets in second innings for winning

the Test match. Ashwin awarded his 11th number of Player of the series, Back from his Test debut in 2011 he has only played in 42 hand Sri Lankan legend Muralitharan featured in a total of 61 series for Sri Lanka during his 18-year-long career and won the Player of the Series award on 11 occasions. In the list of most number of Player of the Series Ashwin alongside with muralitharan tops the list followed by Jacques kallis (South Africa)-9, Imran Khan (Pakistan)-8, Richard Hadlee(New Zealand)-8, Shane Warne

For India Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag are second in the list of India players with most Player of the Series awards in Tests five number of occasions they were rewarded. Virat Kohli has three Player of the Series awards to his name in Tests, whereas Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, and Rahul Dravid in their careers with four Player of the Series awards each.

(Australia)-8

Ashwin who considered as an All-rounder batting at number eight scored six centuries allowed him to Vettori who scored five centuries batting at lower

year old spinner currently ranks number two in ICC Test All-rounder rankings.

Ashwin's heroic show in the second Test against Bangladesh has tossed him to the top of the wicket-takers list in the ongoing 2023-25 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

He has taken 53 wickets from 10 matches at an average of 21.18 and a strike rate of 37.30, surpassing Josh Hazlewood, who is second in the list of most wicket takers with 51 wickets.

It would be an epic battle to see in the upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy later this year in Australia which might be his last Border Gavaskar feat in Australia currently he is second most wicket taker after Nathan Lyon in Border Gavaskar Trophy.

This achievement further highlights Ashwin's crucial role in India's Test cricket success marks as one of the greatest spinners of his generation. Ashwin's ability to adapt to different conditions match New Zealander Daniel and bowl effectively in all Vettori who scored five phases of the game and made him a nightmare for batsmen

We were willing to get all out for 100: Rohit on India's boldplay in Kanpur Test

India were willing to take the risk of being bowled for 100-odd in its bold push for a result in the weather-hit second Test against Bangladesh, said Rohit Sharma after the hosts pulled off a dramatic win here on Tuesday.

India managed to win the game comfortably on day five despite two full days were lost due to wet outfield at the Green Park Stadium. Even on day one, only 35 overs possible. After bowling out Bangladesh for 233, India batted in T20 mode to smash 285 in 34.4 overs before declaring their first innings. Having lost two batters overnight, Bangladesh were bowled out in their second innings at stroke of lunch and India ended the game in the second session.

Once we lost two and a half days, when we came on day 4 we wanted to get them out as quickly as possible and see what we can do with the bat. When they got bowled out for 230, it wasn't about the runs we



get but the overs we got at them," said Rohit at the postmatch presentation.

To make a game out of it on that pitch was a superb effort. It was a risk we were willing to take because when you're trying to bat like that, you can be bundled out for a low score. But we were ready for it even if we got bowled out for 100-120. It was India's record extending 18th series win in a row at home. Among the new players, Rohit was pleased by Akash

Deep's relentless effort.

"He's been good (Akash Deep). Lot of domestic cricket he has played. When you come up through the ranks like that, there are a lot of overs in the legs. He has the quality and the skill. Good body as well - can bowl long spells. You have to make sure you prepare your bench strength," said the skipper.

It was the first Test series under new head coach Gautam Gambhir who overtook the responsibility from Rahul

Dravid. "We had a fantastic time (with Dravid) but life moves on. Gautam Gambhir, I've played with him and know what sort of mindset he comes in with, said Rohit

Ashwin was named player of the series for his all-round show. He rated the improbable win was "massive" in the context of World Test

Championship.
"When we bowled them out

yesterday, it was little after lunch. Rohit was keen that we needed 80 overs to bowl at

"And the moment he came inside out and gave that talk where we're going to go after it even if we get out under 230. It's not only him saying it, he went out there and hit his first ball for six. He set the tone that way," said the premier spinner. Opposition skipper Najmul Hasan Shanto said that team's batting through the two Test

series let them down. "Both the Tests we didn't bat well. In these conditions we need to bat well. If you look at our batters - we played 30-40 balls and got out. It's important in a Test match, when batsmen get in, you should look to score ig runs," said Shanto.

"The way Ashwin and Jaddu batted at that time (in Chennai after India were six down) -they batted really well. As a bowling unit we need to look at those moments - how we can get those wickets. That partnership cost us that game," added Shanto.

Whenever it comes to the team, I go and give my life out there: Rodrigues

Jemimah Rodrigues feels adaptability and maintaining a team-first mentality will be key for India to achieve their dream of claiming a maiden ICC title at the T20 World Cup beginning here on Thursday. India, who reached the finals of the women's T20 World Cup in 2020, will start their campaign in the ninth

start their campaign in the ninth edition of the tournament against New Zealand on October 4.

"For me, it's all about assessing the conditions and playing the situation. I just want to keep it simple and do whatever it takes to help the team win and whatever the team needs," Rodrigues, who hit a 52 in the first warm-up game against West Indies, told Star Sports.

When I put things in that perspective, it gets the best out of me and motivates me. For me, whenever it comes to the team, I go and give my life out there. That gets me more passionate, energetic, and enthusiastic. I want Team India to win. We, as a unit, want Team India to win. For me, it's all about keeping it in that perspective."
The 24-year-old from Mumbai

emphasised on the importance of playing to the situation irrespective of

"For me, it's not about specific bowlers but about playing to the situation.



batter, I need to assess which bowler to attack and when to hold back. The satisfaction comes from playing smart and doing what's best for the team."
In other ICC events, India has reached the finals of ODI World Cups in 2005 and 2017 but never gone the distance. Harmanpreet Kaur and Co, meanwhile, made a good start by winning the first warm-up match against West Indies by

"For this team, it's a mix of absolute youngsters and some like me who have had experience. Richa (Ghosh) and Shafali (Verma) have also played World Cups before, so we are young but not

"Then we have Harman and Smriti (Mandhana), who have played more World Cups than all of us. That coming together is the strength of this team. This team is special. There's something in this team, a fire to win, and at the same time, an energy and bond that's very special.

"We keep talking about sticking to our processes in team meetings and doing whatever it takes to help Team India win. That's the entire goal of this team."
Talking about New Zealand legend Sophie Devine, Rodrigues said: "I remember watching her hit five sixes in a row at my first Under-19 camp at If I see her lifting the trophy, I know I'll Stadium

incredible, and since then, I've always admired her game. We've prepared well to bowl against her, and now it's just about executing our plans."

India will face Australia in a Group A

clash in Sharjah on October 13, and Rodrigues stated that execution will be

key against the former champions.
"I love playing against Australia because you have to bring your Agame. There's no other option if you want to win. The rivalry has been intense over the years, and it brings out the best in us. "We've prepared well and put in the

work. Now it's time to execute our

Rodrigues lavished praise on senior colleagues - opener Mandhana and skipper Harmanpreet. "What stands out about Smriti is her

maturity. Even though she's young, she understands the game and her role so well. As the vice-captain, her inputs are invaluable, and she's developed a great understanding of players. She doesn't just tell you to do something her way; she puts herself in your shoes and offers advice that works for you."

"Harman di is a big-match player. We've seen it time and again - from her 171 in the World Cup to her performances in key matches. As a team, we know how much this World Cup means to her, and we want to win it for India and for her.

Associate nations might abandon 'costly' red-ball cricket: Whatmore

PTI ■ SHARJAH

World Cup-winning coach Day Whatmore voiced concerns about the sustainability of the ICC's multi-million dollar initiative to support Test cricket suggesting that several countries, especially associate nations, may abandon the "costly" red-ball format entirely.

The International Cricket Council is mulling a dedicated fund of at least USD 15 million for Test cricket that would increase the minimum match payment for Test players and cover the cost of sending teams on overseas

"Saving Test cricket is one of the challenges. The ICC is very keen to maintain some sort of status in Test match cricket. They have created a pool of money to assist countries that are struggling. A step in the right direction, but I'm not sure how sustainable that is," Whatmore told PTI on the sidelines of the Cricket Predicta Conclave here.

"There are a number of countries, particularly the Associates, which may abandon the red ball and focus on the white ball," he added.

The dedicated fund would support national boards that struggle to compete with the wages offered in global T20 competitions.
"It is a very costly format of the game.

A number of countries do it really well, and they're very successful at it, but there's also many who are struggling.

India, Australia, and England appear to be the only three countries prioritising Test cricket, with India



reaching the finals of the World Test Championship on both occasions.

Whatmore attributes this success to the presence of a strong red-ball domestic calendar.

"It appears as though those three countries are very strong in their domestic red ball tournaments, and that reflects internationally," he said.
"New Zealand played in the championship not all that long ago. They're also keen to be active in that format, but they're struggling when they travel to the subcontinent. They'll be tested again when they come to India." The 70-year-old, who coached Sri

Lanka to the World Cup in 1996, lauded India for its robust domestic

calendar while adding that the IPL

and the under-19 program contribute significantly to accelerating player development.

"Well, it's very robust. It's a very good, strong, healthy domestic calendar that throws up very good new cricketers that come along, and then you add IPL onto that. It really does accelerate

development for a lot of youngsters. "Add to that the Under-19 program, which is always successful. There's always been one or two boys that continue on with a very good form from every second year in the World Cup, and they've been successful in winning the World Cup too on many occasions. So all in all, it's a very good

While Bangladesh registered a historic Test series victory against Pakistan and host Sri Lanka defeated New Zealand, the two struggled against India and England respectively. Whatmore, who has coached both the

teams in the past, feels they need to be more consistent.

"Sri Lanka were reasonably competitive in England, and they come back to their own conditions, which they are very familiar with and having won some very important tosses in Galle, makes it very difficult for touring teams, particularly the

Western countries. "So they're doing well, and so is Bangladesh. They did well against Pakistan, but then they had a real tough time in Chennai in the first against India.

"So overall, they're very encouraging performances, but you've got to have consistency, and that's what will separate the teams," he added.



Sabalenka extends winning streak, Osaka to play Gauff at China Open

AP ■ BEIJING

Aryna Sabalenka's dominant hard-court season showed no signs of slowing down as she cruised to a 6-2, 6-2 win over Ashlyn Krueger at the China Open on Monday for her 14th consecutive victory.

The three-time Grand Slam winner started her streak with a title at Cincinnati in August and continued with a run to the championship at the U.S. Open earlier this month. She also won the Australian Open earlier in the year.

The second-ranked Sabalenka converted five of her seven breakpoint opportunities in a lopsided contest against Krueger and will next face Madison Keys, hoping to equal her career-best 15 consecutive victories set in 2020-21.

Keys had a 6-3, 6-3 win over Beatrice Haddad Maia of Brazil. Haddad Maia won the Korea Open last week but struggled to combat the baseline power of Keys.

Former No. 1 Naomi Osaka continued her positive start with new coach Patrick Mouratoglou with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Katie Volynets, advancing to a round of 16 match against sixth-ranked Coco Gauff.

It will be the first meeting between the two Grand Slam champions in more than two years, with the head-to-head series tied at 2-2.

"It's going to be a really cool test for me," Osaka said. "She's played really well this year. I'm excited to play the match, and I know people are excited to

watch the match. Osaka, who returned from maternity leave at the start of this season and is No. 73 in the current rankings, fired five aces and produced three

service breaks. The four-time major winner joined Mouratoglou shortly before the China Open after splitting with Wim Fisette. Her run here so far is the first time since May that Osaka has had

three consecutive wins. Also, No. 14-ranked Anna Kalinskaya was leading 3-6, 6-3, 3-1 when Peyton Sterns retired from their match. She

will next play Yuliia Starodubtseva of Ukraine. Karolina Muchova beat Jaqueline Cristian 6-1, 6-3 and will play the winner of the match between Cristina Bucsa and 24th-seeded Elise Mertens in the fourth round.

In the men's draw, Andrey Rublev beat Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-4, 7-5 in a match that was carried over from Sunday because of a rain delay.

No. 6-ranked Rublev had six aces and 21 winners to extend his career record against Davidovich Fokina to 5-0.

The fifth-seeded Russian will play local favorite No.

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