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HUMBERT KNOCKS OUT ALCARAZ TO JOIN ZVEREV AND TSITSIPAS



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NOBODY STOOD BY DELH

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

The National Capital was ranked the world's most polluted city on Friday morning by Swiss air quality monitoring firm IQAir, a day ofter. Divaling calebrations after Diwali celebrations pushed air quality to hazardous levels. Residents in Delhi and its neighbouring areas woke up to a blanket of toxic smoke the morning after Diwali, as people defied a ban on firecrackers on Thursday night causing severe noise pollution and reducing

visibility. The Air Quality Index (AQI) in New Delhi was around 362 at 11 am on Friday a day after Diwali, which settled at 339 by 4 pm. Ironically, the firecrackers continued to be burst even on Friday evening as many celebrated Diwali on this date.

Delhi Police too chose to completely 'ignore' the 'ban' and 'raids' on fire crackers imposed by the judiciary, and as the noise decibel peaked in the Diwali evening, stakeholders from the administration personified the phrase: "Nero fiddled when Rome burnt". Men and women of all ages, young children, those medically vulnerable, and other living beings such as birds, animals, plants were left to fend for themselves, as the National Capital turned into a smokey black city

The resulting pollution had a health impact on people, many of whom were dealing with breathing issues, and in inflamed throats within hours of bursting firecrackers. Hospitals also saw an increase



in the influx of such patients. "Exaggerated respiratory distress response with prior respiratory issues (asthmatics, COPD patients, etc.) due to cracker combustion smoke begins within four to six hours of smoke exposure. Symptoms including breathing, difficulty

generalised visceral pain and heaviness in upper chest and skin irritation reach peak around 24 to 36 hours," Dr. Akansh Kirodiwal, a PG

Resident at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia hospital (RML) said. He added that this was visible with the higher influx of such patients in the hospital. The relentless bursting firecrackers caused severe noise pollution and blanketed the National Capital in dense smoke with residents flouting the restrictions till late at night. This creates several issues with animals who become extremely stressed during such times.

A Campaigns Coordinator in PETA India Utkarsh Garg stated, "The fireworks displays that accompany Diwali can seem more like a terrorist attack than a celebration to the dogs, cats, cows, and other animals who don't understand that the explosions are meant entertainment, During

bombardment. fireworks displays, many animals become frightened by the loud noises and run away from their homes.

Dr. Asher Jesudoss, who is a Member Executive in Committee of Delhi Animal Welfare Board said that amid celebration, several terrified birds could be seen flying away from trees and dogs as well as cats have been maimed, paralysed, attacked by other dogs or killed in road accidents just because some citizens refuse to follow the law. "Phone calls to the police have proved to be futile as well," he said.

In contrast to the clearer sky on Diwali last year, when favourable conditions kept the AQI at 218, this year's celebrations returned Delhi to its notorious pollution levels, a pattern worsened unfavourable meteorological conditions, stubble burning and vehicular emissions.

A combination of adverse weather, vehicle emissions, local pollution, and crop stubble burning in nearby states is intensifying the smog

across Delhi, worsening air quality for residents.

The smog-laden sky brought back memories of the "severe" pollution in 2020 as the PM2.5 and PM10 levels surged to 145.1 and 272 micrograms per cubic metre respectively at 9pm. These fine particles, which easily penetrate the respiratory system, pose serious health risks, especially for children, the elderly and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions.

The pollution levels at many of the pollution measuring stations of Delhi NCR touched the peak around midnight. While the PM2.5 and PM10 levels dipped cignificantly but they remain significantly but they remain critical. The deterioration started after 5 pm on Thursday, around the time the bursting of firecrackers was reported in the national capital.

Due to the defiance of the cracker ban, PM2.5 levels in several areas soared as high as 900 micrograms per cubic metre - over 15 times the acceptable limit. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) reported extreme AQI levels across various parts of Delhi, with Anand Vihar PM2.5 registering

concentrations high enough to categorise it as "severe," raising health concerns for those breathing the air on Diwali night. Neighbourhoods such as Wazirpur, Pusa, and Vivek Vihar recorded AQI levels of 601, and respectively. Many other Burari including Crossing, Jahangirpuri, and

readings exceeding 370, far

surpassing safe limits. In 2023, the 24-hour average AQI in the capital, as of 10 am on the day after Diwali which was on November 13, was 433 This figure at 10 am on Friday was much better than last year, at around 360. The wind speed picked up to 10kmph around 9 am, creating favourable conditions for the dispersal of pollutants.

On Friday morning, the AQI was 353 in Alipore, 395 in Anand Vihar, 387 in Ashok Vihar, 392 in Bawana, 395 in Burari Crossing, 395 in Chandni Chowk, 371 in Mathura Road, 372 in Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, 375 in IGI Airport, 334 in ITO, 390 in Jahangirpuri, 343 in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, 314 in Lodhi Road, 374 in Mundka, 329 in Najafgarh, 385 in Nehru Nagar, 390 in North Campus, 352 in Dwarka, 369 in Okhla Phase 2, 392 in Punjabi Bagh, 388 in Shadipur, 395 in Sonia Vihar, 314 in Sri Aurobindo Marg, and 389 in Wazirpur.

Many places in Haryana and Punjab as well as in the Union Territory of Chandigarh reported air quality index in the 'poor' category.Last year, Delhiites enjoyed a clearer sky and abundant sunshine on Diwali, with an AQI of 218, compared to 312 in 2022, 382 in 2021, 414 in 2020, 337 in 2019, 281 in 2018, 319 in 2017 and 431 in 2016, according to the CPCB. In Delhi's neighbouring areas, such as Faridabad, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Noida, the air quality was slightly better, with all of them falling in the 'poor' category

on Thursday.



Toxic millet claims another wild elephant

 $T^{\text{he death of yet another}}_{\text{wild elephant at the}}$ Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve takes the toll of dead pachyderms to 10 since the discovery of four corpses at Salakhaniya on Tuesday, confirmed forest officials. Officials said that postmortem examinations have been completed on nine of the 10 dead mammals, who are believed to have been killed by mycotoxins present in Kodo - a locally grown millet. Samples have been dispatched to the School of Wildlife Forensics and Health in Jabalpur for further

Wildlife veterinarians are in constant touch with experts at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) constituted by the state Bareilly, Wildlife Institute India (WII)

Dehradun State Foren Science Laboratory (SFSCL) Sagar, and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad to get in-depth details about the said mycotoxins.

The remaining

elephants from the herd originally comprising 13 large mammals - are said to be in good health and are being constantly monitored in the forests where they are roaming. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden were also camping the Bandhavgarh sanctuary to supervise the medical and geographical investigations into the horrific incident, being conducted by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) government and experts from the State Tiger Strike Force (STSF).

Indian Army begins patrolling at Demchok

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Days after complete disengagement by India and China from the Line Of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, the Indian after army on Friday commenced patrolling at Demchok. Patrolling at Depsang Valley two sides disengaged from the two friction points in Demchok and Depsang, sources said here while informing that the Indian army has commenced patrolling. Indian and Chinese troops have completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh and patrolling is set to commence soon at these points, they had said on Wednesday.

The following day, Indian Chinese troops exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali. The traditional practice was observed a day after both the countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points, bringing a fresh thaw in India-China relations.



Indian and Chinese Troops Exchange Sweets Amid Border Disengagement Progress

areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to pre-April 2020 level. The verification process after disengagement was in progress and patrolling modalities were to be decided between ground commanders, the sources had said on Wednesday. "Talks will continue at the

local commander level," they had added. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on October 21 said in Delhi that an agreement was finalised between India and China following negotiations

Sources had earlier said the over the past several weeks end the over four-year and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that arose in 2020.

On October 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping endorsed the agreement on patrolling and disengagement along the

LAC in eastern Ladakh during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan in Russia. The agreement was firmed on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a breakthrough to

standoff.

The move marks a significant development in the pursuit of reduced tension along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. Twenty Indian Army personnel including the commanding officer were killed in the clash. At least 40 Chinese soldiers also died in the clash. The ties between the two Asian nations had nosedived following the clash

Two migrant workers shot

saw AQI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Puram,

Unidentified terrorists once again targeted two migrant workers hailing from Uttar Pradesh in the central Kashmir district of Budgam late Friday evening.

reports, two workers who have been identified as Sufiyan and Usman were injured after being shot at in the Mazhama area of Magam in the central Kashmir district.

The injured workers were immediately rushed to a hospital where their condition was stated to be stable.

The attack comes close on the heels of a successful antiterrorist operation in the Batal area of Akhnoor in which all three foreign terrorists were eliminated by the joint team of security forces in the 27-hourlong operation.

Meanwhile, this is the fifth attack by terrorists in the Kashmir Valley since the formation of an elected government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

On October 24, two soldiers and two Army porters were killed in action while another porter and a soldier were



iniured in an attack on an Army vehicle six kilometres from the tourist hotspot Gulmarg.

Earlier that day, terrorists shot at and injured Shubam Kumar, a labourer from Uttar Pradesh, in the Tral area of Pulwama district.

On October 20, a local doctor and six non-local labourers were gunned down by terrorists at a tunnel construction site in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal. A labourer from Bihar was shot dead by terrorists in Shopian district on October 18.



Overworked, understaffed: Traffic Police passes the buck Lack of interdepartmental coordination also doesn't help unclog Delhi's jams

BY **SAUMYA SHUKLA**

The Delhi Traffic Police claims to be helpless when it comes to resolving the perennial issue of traffic jams in the National Capital. They are blaming the poor engineering of the roads on the persistent congestion. There is also a dearth of police personnel in the traffic department, creating a shortage of traffic police on different junctions of Delhi who help in regulating the flow of

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Kime Kaming toldThe Pioneer that, "While dealing with traffic, there are three principles, which dwell on three E's. The first E is engineering which is the most important. The road engineering, which includes the broadness of the road and topography, should be such that it is congenial to traffic movement. However, I have seen many roads in Delhi are outdated from

an engineering point of view and no longer congenial to the current capacity of vehicles which have been growing exponentially.

The traffic department said that on an average 2,500 new vehicles are added in the national Capital everyday over the existing fleet of vehicles in Delhi which are already over a crore. "Hence it is necessary to work on these old roads which had been designed in the 70s and 80s and no longer capable of taking the load of the vehicles that have grown exponentially," the officer said.

Furthermore, the interdepartmental coordination also doesn't work in favour of Delhi's roads. The traffic department has written repeatedly to the construction agencies including Public Works Department (PWD) for undertaking new projects in the national Capital to resolve the issue. "However, sometimes the PWD doesn't find it feasible," he said, stating that such



issues will remain unless road engineering is made congenial with the traffic load.

Additionally, the traffic police has identified and shared top 12 chronic points, 134 congested roads and several dilapidated roads in a high level meeting with the Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to resolve the issue of traffic jams in the national Capital, that have been causing significant inconvenience to the commuters on a daily basis.

The top 12 pain points in Delhi include Munja Chowk-Chelmsford Road, Tis Hazari Red-Light on Boulevard Road, Peeragarhi Chowk, Uttam Nagar Chowk, Khanpur M. B. Road, Kalindi Kunj red light, Kondli Bridge, Khajuri Chowk, Madhuban Chowk, Azad Pur Chowk, Samalkha T-Point Dwarka Expressway and Rangpuri, South foot, Mahipalpur flyover, NH-48 as revealed exclusively by the Delhi Traffic Police department.

of traffic on the ground, Kaming claimed that despite their best efforts, the department remains short staffed making it difficult to manage traffic even as commuters complain often of the lack of police personnels on the "In Delhi we have 50 circles and in each

Moreover, when it comes to regulation

of the circles, there are at least on an average 15 to 25 points. These points are either T-point or crossing junctions. So there we have to put people for regulation," he stated, adding that however, the staff remains limited.

He added that in each circle, on an average, the police has 50 police personnel. "Now, when you have to put 50 people in 20 or 25 points, then only two people can be put on each point. And two people have to work 24 hours, day and night. So how do we do it? We have to forgo certain less important points," the officer said.

the pioneer

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I Poonam Rani W/o Late Sh. Meen Kumar R/o H.no 634 Sector 19 Panchkula, declared that my daughter Vaishnavi is out of my control so I disown her from my moveable immovable properties anybody dealing with her at their

I, Satnam Kaur W/o Sukhwinder Singh R/o Village Raju Bela Distt Gurdaspur (PB) declare that in my Passport No. H8201043, my husband's name wrongly written as Sukhjinder Singh, but his correct name is Sukhwinder Singh. Concerned

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Yudhishthir Prasad Singh S/o Om Prakash Singh R/o H.No. 896, Railway Road, Raja Vihar, Sras Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110042 declares that in EPFO Portal my name, Date of Birth & fathers'a name were wrongly entered as Yudhister, 01/01/1983 8 Phullu Psd. My actual name, Date of Birth & Father's Name are Yudhishthir Prasad Singh, Prasad 01/01/1984 & Om Prakash Singh

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Malkeat Singh S/o Vijaypal Singh R/o Village Munanawali PO Dodwan Distt Gurdaspur (Pb) have changed my name from Malkeat Singh to Malkit Singh. Concerned please note.

I, Sheetal Pahwa W/O Lokesh Abrol R/O 4. S.G.Citv-1. near Millennium School, Majitha Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Sheetal Pahwa to Sheetal Abrol. concerned please note.

I. Sheetal Pahwa W/O Lokesh Abrol R/O 4, S.G.City-1, near Millennium School, Majitha Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Sheetal Pahwa to Sheetal

Abrol. concerned please note. I, Gurdiyal Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/o H.No. L-8/164, Dilbagh Nagar, Tarn Taran Road Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Gurdiyal Singh to Gurdial Singh

I, Mahtab Singh Sadhawala S/o Vir Singh R/o House No 3815, Street no 19, Vikas Nagar Naya Gaon Mohali Punjab have changed my name from Mahtab Singh Sadhawala to Mahtab Singh.

I, Harvinder Kaur W/o Sh Gulzar Singh R/o H.No. 196, Gali No. 7, R.K. Puram, Karnal I declare that I have changed the name of my minor daughter from Harleen to Harleen Kaur. In future she should be known as Harleen Kaur

I, Parvin Kumar s/o Rajpal r/o h.no 1748, NHBC, sec-24, panipat declare that my name parveen kumar in my son school document but my right name is Parvin kumar. Parveen kumar and Parvin kumar are named is one person.

I. Arushi Jasuia D/o Sh Devender Jasuja R/o H. No. 114, Urban Estate-II, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Arushi Jasuja D/o Devender Jasuja to Arushi D/o Devinder Kumar Jasuja for all purposes in future.

I. Rachna W/o Jeet Thakur R/o H.No. B-8, MCH 506/14, Near Gur Mandi, Hira Colony Distt. Hoshiarpur Puniab have changed my name from Rachna to Rachna Thakur. Concerned note.

I Mohit Kataria S/o Sh. Brij Pal Kataria R/o House No. 216B Chopra Garden, Yamuna Nagar That now I have change the name of my minor daughter from Siddhima Kataria to Shreea Kataria. I. Khum Bahadur S/O Sh

Gopi Lal (Old Name) W/o H.No. 1747/20, Krishna Nagar Gamri, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Khum Bahadur to Khumb Bahadur.

I Kritika W/O Sandeep Malik R/O Ambala Chandigarh National Highway Sighpura Road Zirakpur Distt Mohali . I Have Changed My

Name Kritika To Kritika Malik. I. Sat Pal S/O Diva Ram Saini R/O village Doburji Sham Singh P.O. Dinanagar have changed my name from Sat Pal to Sat Pal Saini S/O Diya Ram Saini, All concerned

I, Amarjeet Singh S/o Jwala Singh # 203/1, Village Maloya, Chandigarh have changed my name to Amarjit Singh

I, Narinder Singh S/o Mohan Singh # 1003, 2nd Floor, Sector 19-B, Chandigarh have changed my name to Narinder Khurana. I, Harpreet Kaur W/o

Floor. Sector 19-B. Chandigarh have changed my name to Harpreet Khurana. I Kulwant Rai S/o Tula Ram Sood R/o House no 1341 sector -15 Panchkula Haryana have

Narinder khurana # 1003, 2nd

changed my name from Kulwant Rai to Kulwant Rai Sood. I Sandeep S/o Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood R/o House no 1341 sector-15 Panchkula Haryana

have changed my name from Sandeep to Sandeep Sood. I, Ashok Kumar S/O. Radhey Sham R/O. House No. 3065 Ambedker Awas Yohna, Sector 56 Chandigarh. In My Educational Certificate My Father Name Is Wrongly Mentioned As Radhai Shyam But The Correct Name Of

My Father Is Radhey Sham. I, hitherto Known as Surinder Singh Gill Son of Joginder Singh Gill residing at Sodhi Wala, Tehsil Zira District Ferozepur-142050 have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Surinder

I, Baz Singh S/o Tara Singh R/o H.No.236, Azad Nagar, Kot Khalsa, Amritsar have changed my name from Baz Singh to Baj

I, Savita W/o Sushil Kuma R/o H No.1708. Gali No.2. Near Goal Masjid, Sharifpura, Amritsai have changed my name from Savita to Shaweta. One and same

I, Surbhi Rawat D/o Surinder Singh Rawat R/o H4/1034, Street No.1, Judge Nagar, Joura Fatak from Surbhi Rawat to Given Name Surbhi Surname Rawat

I hitherto Sofia Malik mother of Joshua Jesse malik, residency 3310/1 sector 40 D Chandigarh have changed my name as Sofia

I, Asha Rao W/o Satbir R/o H. No. 6, Telanwali (27), Mandi Adampur Hisar. Harvana (125052) declare that I have changed my name from Asha Rao to Asha Devi for all future

I, Rajender Singh S/o Raj Mal is father of No. 21013773KGNR (DMT) Amit, Unit Fd, Regt. R/o VPO Sundawas. Sub Tehsil Balsamand, Distt. Hisar declare that in my son's record my DOB is 01.01.1971 which is wrong, correct DOB is 01-01-1964.

I, Sheela Devi W/o Rajender Singh is mother of No. 21013773KGNR (DMT) Amit, Unit 262 Fd, Regt. R/o VPO Sundawas. Sub Tehsil Balsamand, Distt. Hisar declare that in my son's record my DOB is 01.01.1974 which is wrong, correct DOB is 01-01-1964.

I. Veena Khurana W/o Manoi Kumar R/o Village Siwan, Distt Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Veena Khurana to Veena Rani. In future, I will be known by the name of Veena Rani. All concerned please note.

I, Rajwinder kaur W/o Ram singh Village Khaira Kotli P/o Gurdaspur de that in Some documents my Name wrongly written as Kuldip Kaur and in others is Rajwinder Kaur. Kuldip Kaur and Rajwinder Kaur is one

and same person. I, Manju Shree Jayveer Singh W/o Sh Pawan Kumar R/o H.no 390/ Tower 17, Police Complex, Dhanas, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Manju Shree Jayveer Singh to Manju Jayveersingh Poonia.

I, Tina Vadehra W/o Krishan Kant Vadehra, GHS 25 Flat No 10 Sector 20 anchkula, have changed name to Tina J Blaggan.

I, Harjit Kaur Bhangu W/o Paramjit Singh R/o Vill. Kharal Kalan, Po. Cholang, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Harjit Kaur Bhangu to Hariit Kaur.

I, Anshul Maggu S/o Kultar Krishan R/o H.No. 262, Gulab Devi Hospital Road, Amar Nagar, Jalandhar-144008, Punjab have changed my minor daughter name from Amayra to Amayra Maggu.

I, Surpeet Kaur W/o Avtar Singh Vill. Ugara, p.o Ambala distt Ambala Haryana have changed my name Surpreet Kaur to Sapna

Kuldeep Singh Darshan Singh R/o Vill: Jhatra Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my namè from Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal to Kuldeep Singh.

I Virpal Kaur W/o Jaswinder Singh R/o VPO Mallu Nangal, Tehsil: Ajnala, Distt Amritsar have changed my name to Veerpal Kaur concerned Note.

R/o #374, Ward No. 4, Shera Wali Gali, Naraingarh, District Ambala have changed my name from Ashu to Ashu Gupta.

I, Avtar Singh S/O Piara Singh Resident Of Village Chur Chak Distt. Gurdaspur, State Punjab Changed His Name Avatar Singh To Avtar Singh I, Harmail Singh S/o Ujagar

Singh Sandhu R/o Muktsar Road. Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed name to Harmail Singh I, Charanjit Kaur W/o Harmail Singh Sandhu R/o Muktsar Road,

my name to Charanjeet Kaur I, Simran Jangra D/o Dr Subhash Chander R/o H.NO. 466. Sector 15A Hisar declare that I

have changed my name from Simran to Simran Jangra.

Kotkapura (Faridkot) have changed

Disclaimer

The Pioneer does not take for the advertisement (Display Classified) carried in newspaper. The Paper does are requested to verify the content on their own.

PUBLIC NOTICE

jogender Singh deshwal s/o balbir ingh r/o village mahawati teh samalkha distt panipat declared lost my client sale deed vasika no.404 dated 27.4.2012 vasika no. 465 dated 1.9.1993 vasika no. 3393 dated 23.8.1982 which is registered in the office S.R samalkha ost at samalkha tehsil and lost date 10.1.2022 if some one found plz contact

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Smt eenus that Sale Deed dated 16.01.2008 learing Vasika No. 12118, Bahi No. 1, Jil No. 613, SRO- Panipat, executed b Smt. Veena Rani in favour of Smi Shakuntla Devi & Ors. for Propert easuring 300 sq.yds. i.e. 06 Biswa bein /198 share out of Land measuring (Bigha 15 Biswa comprised in Khasr No.3083(3-15) situated within revenu estate of Taraf Rajputan, abadi known /irat Nagar, Tehsil &Distt. Panipat, h-peen lost/misplaced. Further Smt. Veen staking financial assistance from KOTAI MAHINDRA PRIME LIMITED. Public i pleng warned not to deal with the said locument. If anybody finds the said locument or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, concerned person is required to communicate in the total purpose the locument. riting to the undersigned at belo ddress within 15 days.

Adv. Jogender Deshw Mob:989698309

PUBLIC NOTICE

As Shahnaj W/o Sh. Kadir Ahmed R/o H.Nk. 3. Gate No. 4, Ward No. 28, Kharal dangoli, Old Panchkula has submittee tecessary documents to this office for the ransfer of Flat No. 248A, SF, HBC, Sector leath of her husband. In case any body any objection for the transfer of the said flat, he should file objection to the undersigne within 30 days from the issue this notice.

Estate manage Housing board Haryana Panchkula.

BUBLIC NOTICE

It is herby informed that House no. 599
GF, BPL, in sector 28, Housing Board
Colony, Karnal stands in the name of
Smt. Santosh Devi W/o Sh. Satvir Singh
R/o House no. 1400, Prehladpuri,
Yamunanagar now at house no. 599/GF,
sector 28, Karnal. Smt. Santosh Devi W/o
Sh. Satvir Singh Ram now wants to
transfer the above said flat in favor of Sh.
Ram Niwas s/o Sh. Zile Singh, R/o VPO
Barana, Kurukshetra now at 580/FF,
sector 28, Karnal on the basis of General
Transfer before execution of conveyance
deed. Opportunity is given through this
notice to file any objection regarding the
transfer of ownership of house with this
office with strict documentary proof
within 30 days from the publication of this
notice otherwise this house will be
transferred in favor of Smt Sh. Ram Niwas
s/o Sh. Zile Singh and no further claim
whatsoever shall be entertained later on.
Estate Manager, Housing Board Haryana. PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate Manager, Housing Board Haryana

DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES

RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 10 PLATINUM THURSDAY WEEKLY LOTTER MRP Rs 10/- Per Ticket

1st Prize Amount (10)Rs.10,000/-,Common to all series (On last 4 digits) Seller Prize Amount Rs.500/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.10500/- each)

2nd Prize Amount (10)Rs.2000/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits) Seller Prize Amount Rs.200/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.2200/- each

3rd Prize Amount (100)Rs.500/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits) Seller Prize Amount Rs.50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.550/- each) 4th Prize Amount (100)Rs.200/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits)

(Seller Prize Amount Rs.20/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.220/- each) 1937 3154 3478 4139 5820 6690 807: 9507 5th Prize Amount (2000)Rs.100/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits) (Seller Prize Amo 0013 0025 0234 0245 0733 0735 1086 1149 ount Rs.10/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.110/- each) 0228 0675 1049 1510 1996 2705 2369 3135 3137 3274 3373 3447 3880 3736 3812 3826 4216 4029 4110 4222 4232 4251 4275 4423 4784 5310 5101 I, Ashu S/o Shri Dina Nath,

> NJAB STATE LOTTERIES PUBLIC NOTICE

Election program for the election of the Managing Committee of the Yuvak Kalyan Cooperative House Building Society Ltd., Tipra to be held on 08.12.2024.

S.No.	Particular	Date	Time	Place
1.	Exhibition of the list voters as required under Sub-Para (2) of Rule 35, for Objection, if any.	to	9.00 AM to 5.00 PM	In the office of ARCS Panchkula, Bays No. 23-24, Top floor, Sec-2. Panchkula. Inspector Co-Opsocieties, Kalka. In the Regd. Office of the Society.
2.	Hearing of objections to the list of voters, as required under sub para (4) of Rule 35, decision and finally approval	12.11.2024	9.00 AM to 2.00 PM	In the office of ARCS, Panchkula Bays No. 23-24, Top floor, Sec-2, Panchkula
3.	Filling of Nomination Papers	19.11.2024	10.00 AM to 2.00 PM	- do -
4.	Scrutiny of Nomination papers	20.11.2024	10.00 AM to 2.00 PM	- do -
5.	Display of list validly nominated candidate	20.11.2024	3.00 PM	- do -
6.	Withdrawal of Nomination papers	22.11.2024	10.00 AM to 2.00 PM	- do -
7.	Allocation of Symbols	22.11.2024	3.00 PM	- do -
8.	Display of the List of contesting candidates	22.11.2024	4.00 PM	- do -
9.	Taking of poll, if necessary.	08.12.2024	8.00 AM to 4.00 PM	In the premises office of Society Election premises Radha Krishna Mandir Tipra Kalka.

class in the Society, two seats are reserved for Woman. Voters will bring photo I-card for casting their votes

Assistant Registra Cooperative Societies, Panchkula

स पब्लिक नोटिस के मार्फत जन- साधारण को सूचित किया बाता है कि बिन्दिया गुप्ता निवासी म.न. 421, सैक्टर-8 अर्बन भस्टेट, अम्बाला शहर से मृतक स्व. कमलेश तलवार पत्ती अतन्द्र कुमार तलवार के प्राकृतिक वारिस की रिपोट जारी करने हेत् एक प्रार्थना पत्र इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त हुआ है। प्रार्थी के गर्थना पत्र व मलंग्न हल्फनामों व रिपोर्ट नगरपार्धद व अधीक्षक प्राथना पत्र व सलन हल्कनामा व रापाट नगरपायद व अभावका नगर निगम, अंकाला अनुसार गृनक कमलंश तलवार पत्नी जितन्द्र कुमार तलवार के निर्मालीखत प्राकृतिक वारिस है-1, समीर तलवार -पुत्र 2, अयेशा चन्द्र पाश महागींबी -पुत्र बिन्दिया ग्राम -गुजब ५, टिक्व तलवार -पीत्र । यदि इस बारे किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आर्थान है, तो वह तहसीलदार, अंबाला शहर के कार्यालय में पब्लिकेशन के 30 दिन के अंदर-2

आपत्ति दर्ज करवा सकता है। यदि प्राधी द्वारा दी गई सूचना किसी भी समय गलत पाई जाती है तो प्राधी भारतीय दंड सहिता की धारा 177 व अन्य संबंधित कानूनों के तहत दंड का भागी होगा। **तहसीलदार, अंबाला शहर**

सार्वजनिक सूचना

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sunil Kumar son of Mahendar Singli idence of house number 649 Siddharth nclave sector 2 Sonipat admit that my origina ale deed number 4146 dated 05 .08.2008 sub registrar ,Sonipat which is in the name of me and my wife Rashmi Devi have been lost or 29th October near Patel Nagar, Sonipat and declare, I have not done any misuse of that document and also register a police complaint with DDR NO.132390092401096IF ANYONE FOUNDED PLEASE SEND TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS or contact me at 9996991447

alka in the name of Ms. Anita W/o Sh. On arkash R/0 Flat No. 248B, SF, HBC, Sector-3 4A, Pinjore Kalka. In case anybody has any ojection for the transfer of the said flat, he ould file objection to the undersigned wit days from the issue this notice. Estate manager Housing board Haryana Panchkula.

PUBLIC NOTICE

hazia D/o Sh. Kadir Ahmed R/o H.No 63 ate No. 4, Ward No. 28, Kharak Mangoli, Ok

has submitted necessar ocuments to this office for general transfer of lat No 248B, SF,HBC, Sector-3-4-4A, Pinjore

That my client Shree Ram Residency through Rohit Bansal, Sh. Rohit Bansal Sio Sham Sunder, Sh. Sham Sunder Sio Sh. Atma Ram, Smt. Isha Bansal Wio Sh. Rohit Bansal Ali Rio Site No. 1, Sector 12, Panchkula is going to file the caveat petition against the general public in respect of land comprising in Khatauni No. 258. Khasra No. 987 (4-9), 989 (4-0), 990 (4-0), 993 (4-0), 98613(0-7), 1130/1994(3-19), 1753/19892 (1-6), Khasra No. 1001 (0-7), 17 (4-0), 18 (4-0), 1000/2 (3-8), 1003/2 (5-0), 1004/2 (0-17) (3-18), 1003/2 (3-0), 1004/2 (0-17) (3-18), 1003/2 (3-0), 1004/2 (0-17) Is (4-0), TOUDIZ (3-8), TOUDIZ (3-0), TOUPIZ (0-7). Stituated in revenue estate of village Jharmari, Tehsil Dera Bassi, Als istrict S.A.S. Nagar at Civil Courts Dera Bassi, As such through this notice you the general public is hereby informed that if anyone has any public is hereby informed that if anyone has any public at Civil Courts Dera Bassi before filling any suit, in respect of above stated Khasra numbers.

Gramin (PG) College of Education

Staff Required M.Ed.:-Professor-02, Assistant Professor in Education-03

B.Ed.:-Assistant Professor in Education-01, Assistant Professor in Teaching of Life Science, Physics Science, Commerce, Mathematics, English, Social Science (one each)

D.El.Ed.:- Lect. in Punjabi, Maths, Science, English, Sanskrit, Fine Arts/Performing Arts (one each)

Qualification as per norms of NCTE, CDLU Sirsa, SCERT Gurugram & HBSE Bhiwar

Applications for M.Ed., B.Ed., D.El.Ed. Course, A copy of application along with tes

must be sent to the Dean of Colleges & SCERT Gurugram within 21 days. Number of Posts may be increased/decreased as per guideline of affiliating & approval body

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED (A State Govt. Undertaking) **DETAILED TENDER NOTICE(Short Term)**

Name of Work

Online tender is invited for the execution of following works, on the prescribed form (Tende Document).The detailed tender notice can also be downloaded from website https://hptenders.gov.ii any other corrigendum/Addendum to this tender notice shall not be published in newspaper, but shall only be uploaded at website https://hptenders.gov.in HPSEBL so the Bidder are advised to keep visiting the NIC web-site for any such corrigendum/Addendum. The dates of Sale, receipt and opening of Tender i as per detail given below:

				Amount ten (Rs	Earnest (R	Com	Price of t documen including (Non-refu (Rs.)
1.	MED/M-I- 47/2024-25	Tender for damage transformer bed and fencing of 100 KV S/stn due to ongoing construction work by HPPWD Bridge in (E) section Jail Road UESD No-I Mandi.		998/- 3,42,501/-	8,563/-	3 Months	590 (GST 18%)]
2.	MED/M-I- 48/2024-25					3 Months	590 (GST 18%)]
3.	MED/M-I- 49/2024-25	Tender for shifting of utilities during widening of Road in Jail Road under ESD No-I, HPSEBL Mandi*	(E) Section	2,27,172/-	5,679/-	3 Months	590 (GST 18%)]
4.	MED/S- 50/2024-25	Tender for Providing and fixing Prepainted Steel She and Rennovation of Type-II Qtrs (2 Sets) at Saigloo HPSEBL Saigloo.		9,25,41	23,135/-	3 Months	590 (GST ⁽
5.	MED/M-III- 51/2024-25	Tender for hiring of One No. Diesel Driven Taxi Mahi (MUV) Model not before January 2024 (A/F Vehicle Existing supply system including carriage of movement of Field staff etc under Electrical Division Mandi (H.P) including other areas of Operation und Mandi.) for R/M of aterial and n, HPSEBL,	2,64,600/-	6615/	12 Months	590 (GST 18%)]
Key I	Dates:-						
1. 1	nitial date fo	or sale of tender	04/11/2024	11:00 A	M		
2. L	ast date for	sale of tender	1/11/2024	11:00 A	M		
3. 0	pening of te	ender 1	2/11/2024				-71
Sav	e Energy for	Benefit of self and Nation	E				ngineer. SEBL, Mand

Format C-1

(For Candidates to publish in newspapers, TV) Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

Tender

No.

(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 of the Candidate: Ravikaran Kahlon Name of Political Party: Bharatiya Janata Party

Name of Election: Bye-election to 48 Assembly Constituencies and 2 Parliamentary Constituencies of 15 States. Name of Constituency: AC-10: Dera Baba Nanak

I, Ravikaran Kahlon, a candidate for the abovementioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

S No	Pending Criminal Cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences		
	Name of Court/Police Station	Case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date (s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	
1.	Ld. CJM Pathankot	CHI-900-2021 (FIR No. 139/2017 PS Sujanpur, District Pathankot.	U/s 143, 145, 147, 149, 283, 341, 431, 188, 120-B of IPC 1860 & Sec 8-B of N.H. Act, 1956.	N/A	U/s 4(1) of the probation of the Offenders Act, 1958	

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

HP.PWD Division Ghumarwin, Distt. Bilaspur(H.P)-174021 Tel:- 01978-255281, e-mail id;- ee-ghu-hp@nic.in.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Sealed item rates tenders on PWD form 6 & 7/8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer H.P.P.W.D. Division Ghumarwin on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the eligible contractors/firms of appropriate class for the following works as per detail given below. The important/key dates of tenders are as under:-

Date of receipt of application for the tenders 06/11/2024 Date of issue/sale of tender forms 07/11/2024 The tender which will be received on 08/11/2024 up to 11.00 AM shall be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives who may like to be present. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment as shown below (Non-refundable) during the working hours on 08/11/2024. The earnest money in shape of NSC/Deposit at call/Time deposit in any Post Office/Nationalized bank in H.P. duly pledged in favour of undersigned must accompany with each application. The conditional tenders and tenders received without earnest money will be rejected. The tenders will be kept open for

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender form	Time Period.
1	C/o link road to vill Chandoh Km 0/0 to 1/600 (Sh: - ROFD i.e formation cutting 5/7 mtr wide in Km 0/090 to 0/150) (D/W)	49877/-	1000/-	350/-	Two Montl
2	RRD on link road to vill Panyala at RD 0/0 to 1/500 and link road to vill Nalti at RD 0/0 to 2/0 (Sh: - Removal of slips at various RDs)	89866/-	1800/-	350/-	Two Month

TERMS AND CONDITIONS;-

Proxi application will not be entertained.

RO NO. 3037/2024-2025 Dated: 01-11-2024

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reasons The Tender forms will not be issued to those contractors, whose performance is not found satisfactory

The GST,EPF,EMD, Cost of tender forms and copy of enlistment should be accompanied with the application The application without documents will not be entertained.

6. The contractors should have executed two similar types of works 1/3 of each amount put to tender. **Executive Engineer Ghumarwin Division**

H.P.P.W.D. Ghumarwin For & on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Format C-2 (For Political Parties to publish in newspapers, Website, TV)

U/s 143, 145, 147, 149, N/A

283, 341, 431, 188, 120-

B of IPC 1860 & Sec 8-B

of N.H. Act, 1956.

U/s 4(1) of the

probation of the

Offenders Act, 1958

Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party (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 of Political Party : Bharatiya Janata Party Name of the Election : Bye-election to 48 Assembly Constituencies and 2 Parliamentary Constituencies of 15 States.

: Punjab

AC-10: Dera Baba Ld. CJM Pathankot

Name of the Candidate Name of Constituency Pending Criminal Cases Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences Name of Court/Police Case No. & status of the | Sections Name of Description concerned & brief Court & date offence(s) case(s) description of offence(s) (s) of order(s) punishment imposed S. Manpreet Badal AC-84: Gidderbaha District Court at FIR No. 21 of 24.09.2023, U/s 13(1) a & 13(2), PC N/A Bathinda Act, Sec. 420, 409, 467, PS Vigilance Bureau Bathinda. District | 468, 471, 120-b of IPC Bathinda. 1860 & Sec 66c & 66d of IT Act, 2000.

CHI-900-2021 (FIR No.

139/2017 PS Sujanpur,

District Pathankot.

N.K. Verma Advocate

Convener, Legal Cell, BJP Punjab

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

Name of State

Ravikaran Kahlon

Punjab's Post-Diwali Air Quality Plummets to Hazardous Levels

MONIKA MALIK CHANDIGARH

¬he morning after Diwali in The morning and a worrisome picture as cities across the State recorded hazardous levels of air pollution, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) spiking to unprecedented levels. Despite government-imposed restrictions on cracker usage, and continued incidences of Stubble burning, the pollution levels surged to the "very poor" and "severe" categories, exceeding AQI readings of 500 in some

In several cities, the AQI soared to alarming levels, with cities like Amritsar recording a peak of 500 by 10 pm, Mandi Gobindgarh hitting 493 by 5 am, and Khanna nearing 491 by midnight. Even Ludhiana and Jalandhar showed readings in the "very poor" range, averaging above 200 through the night, indicating an environment highly detrimental to respiratory health.

The average AQI across Punjab's main cities fluctuated between 250 and 350, pushing the air quality into categories where sustained exposure can trigger significant health issues.

The Punjab Government, to curb Diwali-related pollu-tion, had limited the burning of green crackers to a two-hour window, between 8 pm and 10 pm, and strictly prohibited those made with harmful chemicals like barium salts and lithium. However, these rules were widely flouted as residents continued to set off fireworks late into the night. The aftermath has left environmental experts and health professionals deeply concerned, with many emphasizing that regulatory frameworks must be tightened to prevent future spikes in pollution.

Health experts have raised

PGIMER reports 21

eye injuries on Diwali

Eye Centre of PGIMER,

Chandigarh with alleged histo-

ry of fire crackers injuries in the

last 48 hours on Diwali. There

were 16 males and 5 females. 12

of the 21 patients (57 per cent)

were children (less than 14 years

of age) including the youngest being a 3 years old female child.

There were eight patients from

tricity (all from Chandigarh).

The remaining 13 patients were

from the neighbouring States of

Punjab (4), Haryana (4),

Himachal Pradesh (1), UP (1)

Rajasthan (1), said the PGIMER

that the Advanced Eye Centre,

with round-the-clock staffing of

doctors, nurses, and allied per-

sonnel, treated 21 cases of eye

injuries resulting from fire-

cracker incidents. PGIMER's

Trauma Centre handled 5 burn

cases related to Diwali celebra-

tions. Among these, an 18-month-old boy suffered 30 per-

cent burns on his right side, and

a 16-year-old girl sustained 50-

55 per cent burns, predomi-

nantly on her upper body. Both have been stabilized and are now

in the Burn ICU for continued

management, while the other

three cases are under care at the

ATC OPD and being managed

accordingly for the injuries suf-

Chandigarh: A total of 21 patients came to the Advanced

and long-term health implications of poor air quality, particularly for vulnerable groups. With pollution levels at their peak, hospitals across Punjab saw an influx of patients reporting respiratory issues, allergies, and eye irritation. Children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions are among those most affected. The state Health Department have advised the residents to wear masks and minimize outdoor activity, especially during peak pollution hours in the early morning and late evening.

A senior doctor based in Ludhiana said: "We've observed an increase in patients complaining of asthma exacerbations, breathlessness, and other respiratory complications. Exposure to high levels of PM 2.5 and PM 10 pollutants, which are much higher than safe limits post-Diwali, heightens the risk for chronic respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular conditions."

In cities such as Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, and Mandi Gobindgarh, AQI levels peaked dangerously due to the dense smoke from firecrackers. Amritsar recorded a maximum AQI of 500 at 10 pm, while Ludhiana's AQI reached 500 by 2 am. Such hazardous levels are far above the World Health Organization's guidelines, and prolonged exposure to these concentrations can cause lasting health

As per the data available, Punjab's cities saw alarming surges in air quality levels on Diwali night, with pollution reaching hazardous peaks. Amritsar recorded an average AQI of 292, spiking dramatically to 500 by 10 pm; while Ludhiana, with an average AQI of 233, also hit a critical reviewing measures to improve

Several places in Haryana, report AQI in 'poor' and 'very poor' categories PNS CHANDIGARH

Diwali was celebrated with great fervour, gaiety and enthusiasm in Haryana on Thursday. Candles, diyas (earthen lamps) and electric lights dotted houses as people exchanged sweets and gifts on the occasion and burst firecrackers. But several places in the State reported air quality index (AQI) in the 'poor' and 'very poor' categories on Diwali night. According to the app that provides hourly updates of the national AQI published by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), as of 11 pm on Thursday, the AQI in Gurugram in Haryana was recorded at 322,336 in Jind and 306 in Charkhi

Among other places in Haryana, as of 11 pm, AQI in Ambala was recorded at 201, in Bahadurgarh it was 292, Bhiwani 278, Ballabhgarh 211, Faridabad 245, Kurukshetra 270, Panchkula 220, Rohtak 222 and Sonipat at 258. Chandigarh's AQI was recorded at 239 as of 11 pm on Thursday.

It should be mentioned here that an AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'.

In Jalandhar, the AQI climbed from an average of 248 to an astonishing 500 at 11 pm, echoing similar trends in Mandi Gobindgarh, where levels soared from an average AQI of 325 to 493 by 5 am.

Despite prior government directives, many residents celebrated with a range of fire-crackers, some of which were not compliant with the "green" classification. Punjab Government had issued strict guidelines permitting only eco-friendly crackers during limited hours, cautioning residents against violations and warning of legal action. However, the continued use of traditional firecrackers past midnight in numerous areas has exposed the gap between regulations

Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has acknowledged the shortfall in enforcing restrictions effectively and is

compliance. PPCB chairperson Dr Anil Bhaskar said: "While the use of green crackers was allowed within a strict timeframe, enforcement was difficult in certain districts. Moving forward, a more robust monitoring system and awareness campaigns are essential to control pollution levels."

Experts have expressed the need for a stricter approach to curb pollution spikes during festival seasons. Many recommend more extensive public awareness campaigns and assertive government action to ensure adherence to restrictions on cracker usage. Advocates for cleaner air are also urging the government to expand awareness initiatives that highlight the health hazards associated with poor air quality. Many experts argued that only through widespread education can communities be motivated to adopt more eco-friendly practices during

Punjab Sees Record Diwali Spike in Farm Fires, 1,000+ Cases in Two Days

MONIKA MALIK **C**HANDIGARH

 $P_{\text{surge in stubble-burning}}^{\text{unjab saw a significant}}$ incidents over Diwali, with farm fire cases reaching new highs despite ongoing efforts to curb the practice. The state logged 587 stubble-burning incidents on Friday, marking the highest daily tally of the season, following 484 cases reported on Diwali, Thursday. These back-to-back spikes pushed the season's cumulative total to 3,537 incidents as of November 1, a number that, while concerning, is notably the lowest at this point in the season over the past five years.

In a comparison of historical data, Punjab recorded a staggering 37,078 cases by November 1 in 2020, followed by 15,065 in 2021, 17,846 in 2022, and 9,594 in 2023. This year's relatively lower count reflected a gradual decline, yet the numbers remain troubling in light of the state's air quality crisis. Pollution control experts had anticipated a Diwali surge, cautioning that enforcement resources would

tive period, which may have contributed to the recent esca-

Till Friday, Amritsar emerged as the district with the highest count, recording 569 incidents of stubble burning since September 15. Tarn Taran followed closely with 503 fires, while Sangrur and Ferozepur reported 427 and 421 cases, respectively. These four districts alone accounted for a substantial portion of the daily total, underscoring the persistence of residue burning in the state's agricultural heart-

According to daily district data, Sangrur led the Diwali tally with 89 fires, followed by Ferozepur at 65, Mansa at 40, and Fatehgarh Sahib at 36. Tarn Taran and Kapurthala each reported 35 cases, while Patiala registered 33. Amritsar, Bathinda, and Gurdaspur saw 29, 28, and 20 fires, respectively. This distribution indicated that stubble burning is not limited to a few hotspots but is widespread across Punjab's agricultural zones.

The buildup to this sharp increase began in mid-October, with notable upticks recorded in successive days: 177 incidents on October 12, 173 on October 15, and 163 on October 13. By the end of October, the trend showed little sign of abating, as exemplified by the 219 incidents reported on October 29. Over the past 10 days alone, the state witnessed nearly 2,000 cases, suggesting that efforts to promote crop residue management have had limited success in the face of deep-seated agricultural practices and a lack of viable alternatives for

Pollution control officials are now bracing for further increases as Punjab approaches the prime wheat-sowing period, which spans from November 1 to November 15. Farmers, eager to clear their fields promptly, often resort to burning paddy residue to prepare for the next planting cycle. The Punjab Pollution Control Board has warned that with limited time for enforcement and rising fuel

costs making mechanical alternatives less feasible, the state could see another spike before mid-November.

Despite the pressing need for solutions, Punjab's air quality continued to deteriorate as stubble smoke contributes to hazardous AQI levels. The smoke from these fires not only impact local communities but also drifts into neighbouring states, exacerbating the air quality crisis across northern India. For instance, during peak stubble burning seasons, cities like Delhi experience sharp declines in air quality, raising public health concerns.

While state authorities have implemented awareness campaigns and encouraged mechanized solutions like the Super Straw Management System (SMS) and subsidized balers, the high cost and logistical challenges associated with these alternatives have limited their uptake. As pollution levels soar, the pressure is mounting on the state to find effective, scalable solutions that can ease the transition for farmers while protecting public health.

Anurag Rastogi assumes charge as Chief Secretary

Chandigarh: Anurag Rastogi, an officer of the 1990 batch of the Indian Administrative Service, on Friday assumed charge as the new Chief Secretary of Haryana. As per the orders issued by the government, Vivek Joshi, an officer of the 1989





Secretary of Haryana. Till he assumes charge, Rastogi has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of Haryana.

HRY CM CELEBRATED DIWALI WITH ELDERLY AT LADWA OLD AGE HOME



Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini celebrated Diwali with the elderly and children by visiting Baba Bansivala Vridha Ashram and Sakshi Balkunj Ashram in Ladwa, Kurukshetra. He distributed sweets, shawls, and fruit baskets, wishing everyone a Happy Diwali. Saini began his visit at Baba Bansivala Vridha Ashram, where he offered his respects. Speaking to the elderly, he expressed his joy in being with them and mentioned that he had come to seek their blessings. On this occasion, he inquired about the accommodation and food arrangements for the elderly residents. During this interaction, some elderly individuals requested the Chief Minister's assistance in obtaining old age pensions and Ayushman cards. In response, he directed the Deputy Commissioner, who was present, to take immediate action to address these issues. After this, the Chief Minister visited Sakshi Balkunj Ashram in Ladwa, where he extended his blessings to the children living there and wished them a Happy Diwali. He encouraged the children to study with dedication and hard work, emphasizing that goals can only be achieved through perseverance.

57 FIRE ACCIDENTS IN GURUGRAM ON DIWALI Gurugram: The Gurugram Fire Department registered 57 fire-related incidents during Diwali as the city residents burst firecrackers from 6 pm till late at night, officials at the Gurugram Fire Service said on Friday. The majority of the cases were addressed quickly and there were no reports of any casualties so far, they added. Last year, the Fire department received 11 fire and emergency calls. "A total of 57 calls related to fire incidents were received in Gurugram from 4:33 p.m. on Thursday to 12:21 a.m. on Friday during the Diwali celebration. All the reported inci-

dents were minor as we barely use four or five fire tenders in any incidents," a fire official told. CHD FIRE DEPT RECORDS 20 EMERGENCY CALLS ON DIWALI

Chandigarh: The Fire & Rescue Services Department, MC, Chandigarh has received 20 emergency calls on Diwali night, marking the lowest number of incidents in the last three years. Four minor injuries were reported, said the MC official. In his statement, MC Commissioner Amit Kumar said that there was no major fire incident reported as the MC had meticulously devised a comprehensive plan to ensure the safety and security of the cit

GANG INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL MONEY TRANSFERS ABROAD BUSTED IN HRY

Chandigarh: Haryana Director General of Police (DGP) Shatrujeet Kapur on Friday said that the State Crime Branch has cracked down on a major organized crime network involved in sending black money abroad through fake companies. The investigation revealed that the accused had illegally transferred approximately Rs 700 crore to foreign bank accounts under the guise of business transactions. So far, seven people have been arrested, with charge sheets filed against five other suspects in court. The police first received a complaint on March 18, 2024, regarding suspicious financial transactions. Acting on the complaint, He formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by Additional Director General of Police, State Crime Branch, and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Gurugram, Nitish Aggarwal. During the investigation, it was uncovered that the accused had systematically created fake companies under the names of "dummy directors" to carry out illegal transactions. These fake directors opened bank accounts with the cooperation of bank officials, completing the necessary e-KYC formalities, while the accused retained control over these accounts, including ATM cards, net banking credentials, and registered mobile SIMs. The companies, falsely registered in the names of these dummies, operated imports and exports through Gujarat and Mumbai ports, claiming business transactions with foreign companies. By inflating the prices on invoices far beyond market rates, the accused funneled large amounts of money abroad and earned hefty commissions on each dollar transferred ille-

Punjab Cracks Down on Fertilizers Hoarding with 5 Flying Squads

PNS CHANDIGARH

Tn a decisive move to curb fer-■ tilizer hoarding and ensure fair access for farmers, Punjab's Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department has constituted five flying squad teams dedicated to monitoring the distribution and sale of DAP and other essential fertilizers, as well as quality seeds and pesticides

Punjab Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian on Friday announced that these specialized teams will conduct extensive raids to detect and prevent illegal stockpiling and black-market trading of fertilizers. The squads will also crack down on the practice of tagging chemicals to DAP, a scheme some suppliers use to inflate costs for farmers.

Minister Khudian emphasized that the teams will conduct thorough checks at retail and wholesale outlets and closely monitor manufacturing and marketing units to uphold quality standards and prevent profiteering at the expense of

As part of a robust quality control campaign spanning from April 1 to October 31, 2024, the Agriculture Department tested as many as 2063 pesticide samples, resulting in the revocation of 43 licences for misbranding. Additionally, tests on 1,751 samples of chemical fertilizers, 100 samples of biofertilizers, and 40 organic manure samples led to the cancellation of 48 more licenses and

Minister Khudian reiterated Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests, assigning each flying squad a coverage area of four to five districts to maintain strict oversight and closely monitor the sale and supply of seeds, pesticides and fertilizers. The squads are tasked with balancing the supply and demand for essential agricultural inputs, and any instances of illegal hoarding or price inflation will face immediate legal consequences.

"No one will be allowed to exploit farmers, and strict legal action will be taken against those found indulged in illegal practices," he made it clear.

Punjab Police busts inter-state weapons smuggling module; Seven held with 12 pistols

PNS CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR

Amritsar Commissionerate Police has dismantled an inter-state illegal weapons smuggling module linked to USA-based Dilpreet Singh with the arrest of seven operatives and recovered 12 pistols along with 16 magazines and 23 live cartridges from their possession.

Sharing details, the state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Friday said that those arrested have been identified as Karanjeet Singh alias Maya alias Chillar, Ishmeet Singh alias Rishu, Amritpal Singh alias Spura and Dilpreet Singh alias Dil all residents of Chheharta, Amritsar; Varinder Singh alias Ravi and Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi of Baba Bakala Sahib in Amritsar.

DGP Yadav said that preliminary investigations revealed that the module was providing logistical support to various gangs by procuring weapons from Madhya Pradesh. Probe also revealed that accused Karanjeet Dhanni along with his brother Jashandeep Singh and Ishmeet brought weapon consignments from Madhya Pradesh to further deliver them

to different persons on the instructions by USA-based Dilpreet Singh, he added.

Further investigations are on to trace the other people involved in the module and more arrests are expected in the coming days, said the DGP.

Also sharing operation details. Amritsar Commissioner of Police (CP) Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said that acting swiftly on a secret

information about illegal weapons being smuggled from Madhya Pradesh and are being supplied to criminal elements in the state, Police teams from Islamabad Police Station and CIA Staff-2 under the supervision of DCP Investigation Harpreet Singh Mander launched a special operation and apprehended the accused

from the area of Chheharta and Baba Bakala.

Preventive Clinic focused on cardiovascular risk assessment and management on Saturday. This initiative aims to address critical aspects of heart health, including dietary assessthe official in a statement. "This clinic represents a ventive healthcare. By sive assessment, we hope to empower individuals to take control of their heart health," stated Dr Neelam Department of Cardiology, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in today's fastpaced world.

CM Saini greets people of State on Haryana Day

PNS CHANDIGARH

The State Chief Minister ■ Nayab Singh Saini on Friday greeted the people of Haryana on the State's formation day and wished them a bright future. Haryana was carved out as a separate state on this day in 1966.

"Today we are celebrating the 59th foundation day of our state. On this historic day, I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to all the people of the state. I wish you all a bright future," Saini said in a video message on X.

In his message, Saini said that Harvana is among the top states in India in terms of development. Harvana has achieved great strides, be it in economic strength, industrial progress, or public services. The state will continue its nonstop advancement on the path of growth and development.

Saini further said that Haryana is the land of brave soldiers, hardworking farmers, and athletes. Our Jawan (soldiers), Kisan (farmers), and Pehalwan (athletes) play a pivotal role in the state's development journey. He said that

Minister Narendra Modi, the double-engine sarkar in Haryana has worked with the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' to elevate Haryana's growth to new heights. The Chief Minister said

that in the journey to make India a developed nation by 2047, Haryana will contribute significantly alongside Prime Minister Modi. He urged the people of Haryana to help make the state the most advanced region in the world by adopting new technology and innovation, bringing prosperity and happiness to Harvana.

The Chief Minister said that when Haryana became a separate state on November 1. 1966, resources were limited. Today, however, Haryana has madé remarkable progress in agriculture and industry. Besides this, Harvana has earned worldwide acclaim in sports, with athletes from the state bringing home the maximum medals in international

mpetitions, said Saini. The Chief Minister said that, under the guidance of the

over the past ten years, under the leadership of Prime development will be further accelerated to improve the lives of its people. Infrastructure projects are being implemented to bring direct benefits to the people, raising Haryana to new heights in terms of development, said Saini.

This is the season of festivals and celebrations, he highlighted and said, "After Diwali, extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to people on the holy festival of Govardhan Puja and to sisters on Bhai Dooj.' Meanwhile, Prime Minister

Modi also greeted the people of Haryana on State's formation day. In posts on X, Modi also highlighted various features of the State. Haryana is known for its rich and historic heritage and has always made important contributions to the country's development, the PM said. Responding to the Prime

Minister's post on Haryana, Saini said in Hindi, "On behalf of all Haryanvis, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, I also extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes on Haryana Day." Saini further said Haryana would play an important role in building a developed India under the prime minister's guidance.

'Will rebuild Haryana in line with PM Modi's Viksit Bharat-2047 vision' In another event, address-

ing the gathering in Gohana, Sonipat district, Saini said the present state government is dedicated to realizing the vision of an empowered and progressive India, as envisioned by our revolutionary heroes. Emphasizing the importance of unity and collaborative effort, the Chief Minister affirmed the present government's resolve to rebuild Haryana in alignment with Prime Minister Modi's ambitious Viksit Bharat goal by the year 2047. He said, "The present state government will lead a new era of development in Haryana. We will fulfill all the promises made in the election manifesto as pledged, advancing the state's 2.80 crore citizens along a path of inclusive growth.

The Chief Minister said that the BJP government in Haryana, elected for a third consecutive term, will work with commitment to meet the aspirations of 2.80 crore citizens under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi. He said that officers have been directed to expedite projects in line with the promises made in the election manifesto. As Haryana completes 58 years of progress, all communities deserve congratulations for their contributions, said Saini. The Chief Minister said

that he also acknowledges the role of party workers and voters in reinforcing their trust in the BJP, leading to a historic victory. He said that under the robust system established by former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, his double-engine government will operate at full speed.

The Chief Minister said that during the elections, Congress spread misleading information on unemployment and attempted to delay the recruitment of thousands of youth, revealing an anti-youth mindset. Through the efforts of our dedicated workers, people understood that the BJP is committed to securing the future of young people without favouritism and parchikharchi, and the public, especially the youth, have shown their trust in our government,

Saini added.

PGIMER inaugurate its new Preventive Clinic focused cardiovascular risk assessment

PNS CHANDIGARH

Pto inaugurate its new ments, psychological issues, and physical activity, said significant step forward in our commitment to prefocusing on early inter-vention and comprehen-

Congress stands badly exposed for making unrealistic promises: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said the Congress stands "badly exposed" in front of people for promising to them what the party knows it will never be

able to deliver.

Modi launched a fierce attack on the opposition party as he seized on its president Mallikarjun Kharge's comments that the Congress' state units should make promises that are properly budgeted and do not lead to financial troubles amid reports of fiscal problems the party-ruled states are facing in keeping some of their prepoll announcements.

The prime minister said, "The Congress party is realising the hard way that making unreal promises is easy but implementing them properly is tough or impossible. Campaign after campaign they promise things to the people which they also know they will never be able to deliver. Now, they stand badly exposed in front of the

He said the developmental trajectory and fiscal health in the Congress-ruled states of He said the "so-called



Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana is turning from bad to worse.

People will have to be vigilant Congressthe sponsored culture of fake promises, he said. "We saw recently how the people of Haryana rejected their lies and preferred a government is stable, progressoriented and action-driven." There is a growing realisation across India that a vote for the Congress is a vote for nongovernance, poor economics and unparalleled loot, the prime minister said in a series of social media posts with the hashtag "fake promises of Congress"

lie unfulfilled, which is a "terrible deceit" upon the people of these states.

Modi added that the victims of such politics are the poor, youngsters, farmers and women who are not only denied the benefits of these promises but also see their existing schemes diluted.

In Karnataka, the Congress is busier in intra-party politics and loot instead of even bothering to deliver on development. Not only that, they are also going to roll back existing schemes, Modi

In Himachal Pradesh, he added, salaries of government employees are not paid on are waiting for the waiver they were promised.

"Previously, in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, they promised certain allowances which were never implanted for five years. There are numerous such examples of how the Congress works. The people of India want development and progress, not the same old fake promises of Congress," the prime minister

Earlier, the BJP on Friday here demanded Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge's apology following the Congress president's advise that his party's state units should make only those promises that are fiscally doable, a statement seen by many as an acknowledgment of financial constraints that some of its guarantees face in states.

BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad asked mockingly if Kharge has given his first "gyan" to Rahul Gandhi, noting the former Congress president often boasts of "khata khat" (immediate) transfer of money to different population segments during state and national elections in the case of his party coming

Congress should not make reckless announcements, the former law minister told reporters, claiming that the party-run governments in like Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh are faced with financial hardships fulfilling the guarantees offered to people

Pradesh, Himachal Congress ministers were asked to not take salary and even a toilet tax introduced, which was withdrawn after protests, he added. In Karnataka, the state government is reviewing its promise for free bus rides to women, Prasad added.

Hitting out at the Congress, he said it is the party's history of fooling voters by making them false promises, and recalled the "garibi hatao" slogan given by India Gandhi during the 1971 polls. Unlike the Congress, he claimed, the BJP makes only those promises which are guided by "fiscal prudence". The party had promised to transfer Rs 6,000 annually to 11 crore farmers, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been fulfilling it with a click

President Murmu, PM Modi and Home Minister greet residents on formation day of states and UTs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday greeted the residents of various states and Union Territories on their formation day.

Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep came into being on this day in 1956.

Punjab and Haryana were formed in 1966 while Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000. In a social media post in Hindi, President Murmu said,

'I extend my heartfelt greetings to the people of Madhya Haryana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Nadu, Tamil Kerala. Puducherry and Lakshadweep on their formation day."

"I wish that the people of all these states and Union territories continue contribute to the country's development journey and that their lives be filled with peace and prosperity. I wish them and all the countrymen a bright future," she added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana Kerala, Chhattisgarh on their states'

formation day. In social media posts, Modi highlighted various features of these states as he extended his wishes to the people living

'Kannada Rajyotsava' is a very special occasion, recognising the exemplary culture and traditions of Karnataka, he said.

"This state is blessed with outstanding people, who are powering growth innovation across sectors. May the people of Karnataka always be blessed with happiness and success," he added.

Modi noted that Madhya Pradesh is blessed with bountiful natural resources and cultural heritage and described Chhattisgarh as a state known for its impressive

folk traditions and tribal culture, wishing the states continued development.

He said in another post, Kerala is known for its mesmerising landscapes vibrant traditions hardworking people. People from Kerala have made their mark all over the world, across different fields. May the people of the state keep progressing in the times to come.

Haryana is known for its rich and historic heritage and has always made important contributions to the country's development, the minister added.

In his greetings, Home Minister Shah said people of these states had contributed immensely to nation-building. In separate messages on social media, Shah expressed hope that the states would continue the journey of progress and development uninterrupted in the coming years.

Jharkhand CM urges EC to direct district administrations to grant leaves to employees amid festive seasons



PTI RANCH

Tharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Friday urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to issue directions to district administrations not to the ongoing festive season. He stated that leaves were

denied to the employees in people, view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the state and election PM Modi is scheduled to

address two rallies at Chaibasa and Garhwa in poll-bound Jharkhand on November 4. Diwali was on October 31, now there is Bhaiya Dooj, Sohrai, Gohal Puja, Bandhana festival and Chitragupta Puja. The great festival of Chhath

falls between November 4 and

deny leaves to employees, November 8. These festivals including police personnel, in are very important for the people of Jharkhand.

> In this, all the common employees, police personnel take leave and go to their homes. But it has been informed that the district administrations are not giving any kind of leave due to elections and the proposed visit of the prime minister,' Soren posted on X.

The Jharkhand assembly polls will be held in two phases -November 13 and 20. The counting of votes will take He urged the ECI to issue clear directives to district officials to grant leaves during this vital time, stating that it is essential that "public servants are able to participate in significant cultural events with their families"

Additionally, the CM called for the temporary release of buses and other vehicles currently seized for election purposes. He proposed that these seized vehicles be released for a period from November 2 to 8 to ensure smooth travel by residents to visit their homes and celebrate

BJP accuses Congress of converting farmers' and temple lands into Waqf properties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The BJP on Friday here The BJP on ring, accused the Congress of seeking to convert the lands of farmers and temples into Waqf properties due to its vote-bank politics and asserted that it would oppose such attempts "tooth and nail." Senior BJP leader and former law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad cited notices served on farmers in Karnataka's Vijayapura for állegedly n Waqf district encroaching

properties and alleged that a temple is also facing similar

Forty-four properties of farmers have received such notices in three weeks, he told reporters.

The Congress has been doing it due to its vote bank politics, Prasad added while asserting that the BJP would "protest any such attempt tooth and nail". Only after a row erupted that Karnataka law minister M B Patil sought to defuse the crisis by blaming a gazette error for

Prasad also slammed Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant for his derogatory swipe at Shaina N C, a BJP leader who has switched to Shiv Sena to become its candidate from the Mumba Devi constituency. described Sawant's comments as shameful, scandalous condemnable.

At the press conference,

To a question about former US president and Republican nominee in the November five presidential Donald T

condemnation of attacks on Hindus, he said it is for the External Affairs Ministry to comment.

Trump, in a social media has vowed to strengthen ties with India described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his "good friend". Bangladesh, he said, remains in a total state of chaos and alleged that his Democratic rival Vice President Kamala Harris and her boss President Joe Biden have ignored Hindus around the world and in America

Karnataka Government approves tourism Policy 2024-29 with ₹1,349 Crore allocation

PTI IIDIIPI/KARANATAKA

has approved the Tourism Policy 2024-29, allocating Rs

celebrations Rajyothsava' hub tourism enhanced

Karnataka's investment appeal, Hebbalkar that Bengaluru continues to lead the nation in investment inflow, a feat credited to the government's

1,349 crore to develop essential infrastructure and attract international tourists, state Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar announced on Friday. Speaking at the 'Karnataka

here, the Women and Child Welfare Minister, who is also Udupi district in-charge, emphasised the government's commitment to transforming Karnataka into a global through services and facilities.

Highlighting strategic efforts. She noted that youth skill

development programmes greater autonomy in social have equipped local talent to and economic realms," she various industries, further driving economic growth and investor confidence.

Reaffirming the government's dedication to promoting the Kannada language, Hebbalkar urged the public to engage more deeply with Kannada literature and culture. are committed to

establishing Kannada as the primary administrative language and have initiated several measures to support this goal. celebrating Programmes

literature, folk arts, and environmental and cultural heritage are central to our mission," she added. Hebbalkar also highlighted the government's broader

vision for socio-economic

empowerment. "Our five guarantee schemes are designed to give people

Addressing educational initiatives, she announced Rs 14.2 crore grant under the 'Odhu Karnataka' (Read Karnataka) programme, aimed at improving literacy among government school students in Classes 4 and 5. Study materials and teacher training have been implemented to ensure the scheme's success.

irrigation Turning to developments in the Udupi district, Hebbalkar revealed plans to construct vented dams worth Rs 1.88 crore under the Paschima Vahini project this financial year. These dams will irrigate 33 hectares of farmland. Additionally, embankments will be built along 151 km of riverbanks at a cost of Rs 6.15 crore to prevent farmland flooding," she explained.

Indian Army contingents depart for US and Indonesia PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Two Indian Army contingents on Friday left for US take part in Special Forces exercises there.

Giving details here, officials said the Indian contingent left

the 15th edition of India- US joint Special Forces Exercise Vajra Prahar. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from November two to 22 at Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA.

Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Meghalaya Umroi, December 2023.

This will be second exercise of the year between Indian and the US Army, the previous being Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2024, conducted at Rajasthan in September.

Contingents of both the countries taking part in the upcoming joint exercise will comprise 45 personnel each.



The Indian Army contingent will be represented by Special Forces units and the US Army contingent will be represented by Green Berets of US.

Aim of the exercise is to promote military cooperation between India and the US through enhancement of interoperability, jointness and mutual exchange of special operations tactics.

The exercise will enhance combined capabilities in executing joint Special Forces Operations in desert/ semi desert environment. The exercise will focus on high

degree of physical fitness, joint planning and joint tactical

Drills/ aspects to be rehearsed during the exercise will include planning a Joint Team Mission, Reconnaissance Mission, employment of Unmanned Aerial Systems, execution of Special Operations, actions of Joint Terminal Attack Controller and Psychological Warfare in

Special Operations. Exercise Vajra Prahar will enable the two sides to share their best practices and experiences for conduct of Special joint Forces Operations. The exercise will facilitate

developing inter-operability,

bonhomie and camaraderie between soldiers of both the countries. The Indian Army Indonesia to take part in the ninth edition of India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise Garud Shakti 24. The Exercise will be conducted from November one to 12. The Indian contingent is being represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) Indonesian contingent comprising 40 personnel is being represented Indonesian Special Forces Kopassus. The aim of Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24 is to acquaint both the sides with each other's operating procedures, enhance mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the Special Forces of both armies.

The Exercise is designed to develop bilateral military cooperation and strengthen

Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Kumar Singh

through conduct discussions and rehearsal of contingent comprising 25 tactical military drills. personnel departed for The drill will involve planning operations, orientation to advance special forces skills, sharing of information on

weapon,

innovations, techniques & procedures. Joint Exercise will also involve jointly practicing Special Forces Operations in Jungle terrain, strikes on terrorist camps and a Validation Exercise integrating basic and advance special forces skills apart from gaining an insight into the lifestyle and culture of both countries to foster

equipment,

military cooperation. The Exercise will provide an opportunity to both the contingents to strengthen their bond and share best practices. It will also act as a platform to achieve shared security objectives and foster bilateral relations between two friendly

Congress slams EC for rejecting allegations of irregularities in Haryana Assembly Polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

The Congress on Friday hit Tout at the Election Commission(EC) after it rejected allegations over irregularities in the Haryana assembly polls, saying if the poll panel's goal is to "strip itself of the last vestiges of neutrality", then it is doing a "remarkable job" at creating that impression.

The opposition party claimed that the EC's reply was written tone that

condescending and warned that if the poll panel persists with such language then it would have no choice but to seek legal recourse to expunge such remarks.

The Congress's response came days after the EC rejected allegations levelled by it over irregularities in the just-held assembly polls, saying the party was raising "the smoke of a generic doubt" about the credibility of an entire electoral outcome like it did in



In its letter to the EC signed by nine senior Congress leaders, including general secretary incommunications Jairam Ramesh, the party said, "We have carefully studied your response to our complaints. Not surprisingly, the ECI has given a clean chit to itself. We would normally have let it be at that. However, the tone and tenor of the ECI's response, the language used, the allegations made

against the INC compel us to

submit the counter-response."

advising or guiding the hon'ble Commission, but it seems that the Commission has forgotten that it is a body set up under the Constitution and charged with the discharge of certain crucial functions both administrative and

quasijudicial," the response by the Congress leaders said.

Posting the reply on social media, Congress general secretary Ramesh said, "ECI gave a non-reply to Congress' specific complaints in 20 Vidhan Sabha constituencies "We do not know who is in Haryana.'

The Congress letter said if the Commission grants recognised national party a hearing or examines issues raised by them in good faith it is not an 'exception' or 'indulgence' but it is the performance of a duty which it is required to do. "If the Commission is refusing

to grant us a hearing or refusing to engage on certain complaints (which it has done in the past) then the law allows recourse to the higher extraordinary jurisdiction to compel the ECI to discharge this function (as happened in 2019)," the letter

The Congress leaders, who had petitioned the EC alleging irregularities in the polls, said every reply from the EC now seems to be laced with adhominem attacks on either individual leaders or the party

The leaders said the Congress' communications confine themselves to issues and are written with a regard for the high office of the CEC and his brother Commissioners.

"However, the ECI's reply are written in a tone that is condescending. If the current ECI's goal is to strip itself of the last vestiges of neutrality, then it is doing a remarkable job at creating that impression," the party said in its letter to the EC. "Judges who write decisions

do not attack or demonise the

Hooda, Ajay Maken, Abhishek Singhvi, Uday Bhan,

Partap Bajwa and Pawan

party raising the issues. However, if the ECI persists then we shall have no choice but to seek legal recourse to expunge such remarks (a remedy with which the ECI is familiar since it unsuccessfully on August 20. sought to do the same with a high court's unflattering but accurate observations after Covid)," said the letter signed by Ramesh, K C Venugopal, Ashok Gehlot, Bhupinder

takes over as new Defence Secretary PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Husbandry & Dairying. Singh has held many other important positions in the

Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Kumar Singh took over as

defence secretary on Friday. The 1989-batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre assumed charge at the South Block, where the ministry is housed. Before taking charge, Singh laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial. He had assumed charge as

officer on special duty (defence secretary-designate) The nation will remain

forever indebted to our brave soldiers who make the supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland. Their extraordinary bravery and sacrifice is a source of strength and inspiration for us to make India a safe and prosperous nation," he said



after laying wreath. Singh held the post of secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry from April 24, 2023, to August 20, 2024. Prior to that, he was

secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying under the Ministry Fisheries, Animal

Union government, including director of works and urban transport in the Ministry Development; commissioner (lands) in the Delhi Development Authority; joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; joint secretary in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare; and chief vigilance officer in the Food Corporation of India, the ministry said in a statement. He has also held charge as urban development secretary and finance secretary in the Kerala government. Singh succeeds Giridhar

Aramane, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the Andhra cadre, Pradesh superannuated on Thursday.

Party confident of

TMC leaders

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

rape and murder

elections.

Notwithstanding the mass upheaval post RG Kar Medical College and Hospital

case the Trinamool Congress is confident of winning all the

six Assembly seats up for the grab in the November 13 by-

seats," said a senior leader and

minster in the State Government. That the RG

Kar started with a bang and

ended in a whimper and the way the Left forces led by the

CPI(M) which was primarily behind the movement failed

to capitalise on it would only help the TMC's cause, he said.

"There are people who are

trying to compare the Singur and Nandigram movement

with the one we saw recently

stoked largely by the CPI(M)

the fact that those were

primarily rural movements

led by a mass leader like

Mamata Banerjee who was

tactically and strategically far more superior than the

Meenakshi Mukherjee says it all," the TMC leader

said adding "simply they failed to carry RG Kar movement to the villages ... move so the women." His

views were buttressed by a

former CPI(M) leader Samir Putatundu who said that strategically the doctors' movement failed because they

could not realize the importance of the villages. "There were at least half a

dozen cases of rape and even murder after RG Kar ...

mostly in villages ... but instead of shifting the

epicenter from RG Kar to the

villages they remained grounded in Kolkata," he said adding unlike in the past when the Mamata Banerjee

successfully transferred the

epicenter of the farmers'

movement from Singur to

Nandigram and then to

Lalgarh in the recent case the

doctors remained confined to

Kolkata. Continuous protests

by junior doctors for the last

two months --- in the wake of

the brutal rape and murder of

a postgraduate lady doctor of

RGKMCH --- compelled the

TMC government to replace

the Kolkata police commissioner, Director of Kolkata

Medical Education, and

Director of Health

present

leaders

winning by-elections:

BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana passes away; cremated with full honors

MOHIT KANDHARI

A close aide of a common man and sitting Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) MLA from Nagrota Assembly constituency Devender Singh Rana, who passed away late Thursday night in a Faridabad hospital after a brief illness, was cre-mated with full state honors in Jammu on Friday. He was 59 and is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son.

Rana's elder brother and MoS PMO Dr Jitendera Singh, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and people from different walks of life also attended the last rites.

His supporters were left shell-shocked to hear the news of his sudden demise. Rana, who took oath as an MLA on October 21, was often described as the 'voice of Jammu'. He was last seen in public on October 24, the day he visited the residence of Shashi Abrol to offer his condolences. Abrol was killed in the terror attack on construction workers in Sonamarg on October 20. Condoling his death Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a



assembly polls and had also

played a noteworthy role in

making the BJP stronger in

Jammu and Kashmir.' "In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and supporters. Om Shanti,"

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed grief over Rana's untimely passing.

"Devendra ji, who was always political advisor. Before visiting his residence

dedicated to the peace and development of Jammu and Kashmir and the interests of the people, made an invaluable contribution to the progress of the region. His demise is an irreparable loss for the BJP family. I express my condolences to his family and supporters," he said.

Omar Chief Minister Abdullah along with his colleagues also cabinet arrived here from Srinagar to bid farewell to his former

and will be missed. May your soul rest in peace now, DSR. My heart goes out to your family as I struggle to find the words to convey my condolences to them," he said. Conference National president Farooq Abdullah also expressed shock at Rana's sudden passing.

sudden passing.
"We had a great relationship with him and his father before him. Omar liked him a lot. He (Rana) held a big position in our party in Jammu and had made the party stronger," he told reporters in Srinagar.

Rana who spent a major part

Rana, who spent a major part of his political career in the National Conference, joined BJP in October 2021. He won the recent Assembly polls by the highest margin of over 30,000 votes. Rana's family members, including his daughters, the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir chief Ravinder Raina, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, and MLA Pawan Gupta carried his body on their shoulders for his final journey amid chants of "Rana sahib amar rahi (Long live Rana saheh)"

"Rana's death is an irreparable loss to Jammu and Kashmir and the BJP. He was a political stalwart whose influence reached beyond party and religious lines," Raina said. The Congress's Jammu and unit cara Ravinder his Kashmir spokesperson Sharma also expressed his condolences.

This is very unfortunate. ideological Despite differences, he maintained a friendly relationship with everyone," he said.

A civil engineer by training, Rana graduated from the Institute National (NIT), Technology Kurukshetra, and ventured into business, founding the Jamkash Vehicleades group, which became a leading automobile company in Jammu and Kashmir. Rana's political career began at a young age when he joined the National Conference. He quickly rose to prominence as a key strategist, serving as the provincial president and political advisor to Omar Abdullah. Rana was also a vocal advocate for the Jammu Declaration, which sought the restoration of statehood for the Jammu region following the August 2019 abrogation of

protestors. But the movement tended to stumble post that despite 17-days fast unto death undertaken by 12 doctors with the Chief Minister playing waiting game for the agitators to exhaust and then surrender. TMC MP Saugato Roy too said that the RG Kar movement had failed. "It has entered a blind lane from where it can never come out ... the movement has ended

"There is no problem with the elections "the party is confident of winning all the without any political impact remaining, he said. Even Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari whose BJP had tried to control the movement in the beginning but failed too said that the "doctors made a mess ... they started impressively but failed to convert it to a bigger movement." It is against this backdrop that TMC leader Kunal Ghosh once again repeated his prediction saying, "we will win all the six out of six Assembly seats ...

the CPI(M) tried to play mischievous games in RG Kar but they have failed ... now they will end up even behind the BJP their goal to come up to the second spot will also fail." Another TMC leader and a former MLA said that the though doctors movement impacted the party's image it failed to make inroads in the rural areas and particularly minority vote the Muslim Apparently community that comprises about 30 percent of the voters remained spectator to the

movement. 'It's true our image took some beating. But that doesn't mean our election machinery is weakened. That was intact and this movement has no impact in the village areas .. they simply failed to capitalize on the women sentiments by taking the movement to the

villages," the leader said. With the sitting TMC MLAs getting elected to Parliament in this year's general elections, by-elections will be conducted in six seats which are Sitai and Madarihat in Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri districts of North Bengal, Haroa and Naihati in North 24 Parganas, Taldangra in Bankura and Medinipur in

West Midnapore district. The TMC had won five out of the six seats in the 2021 Assembly elections with the BJP winning the sole seat of Madarihat. "This time round amidst mounting allegations of corruption and a lack of cooperation with doctors and position," said Ghosh.

Marine fishing ban enforced along Odisha coast for Olive Ridley turtle conservation

PTI ■ KENDRAPARA (ODISHA)

The Odisha government on Friday enforced a sevenmonth-long prohibition on sea fishing activity within 20 km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya as part of the annual Olive Ridley turtle conservation programme, officials said. The fishing ban would remain

effective from November 1-May 31 to ensure the safety of marine animals during their breeding and mating season, they said. The ban has been clamped in accordance with Sections 2, 7 and 4 of the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), Fishing 1982 and provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, they said.

The fishing ban imposed along a specified coast of the sea comprising sea turtle congregation area and their buffer zones at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulva

The prohibition will be done every year as the turtles marine fishing in prohibited habitation corridor of these perish in larger numbers zones, said Sudarshan highly endangered marine either by getting entangled in Gopinath Yadav, Divisional



fishing nets or hit by fishing trawlers' propellers.

It will be a multi-layered patrolling exercise involving forest, fisheries, and marine police besides the coast guard personnel, an official said. To ensure effective patrolling, 61 on-shore camps and five off-shore camps have been set

up in the state's four wildlife divisions - Bhadrak, Rajnagar, Puri and Berhampur. The armed police constabulary force will flank the forest and fisheries

patrolling teams. Five highspeed boats, 13 trawlers and support boats are pressed into

CPI(M) leader PP Divya in custody

that the Collector was trying

to help Divya by saying that

Babu had later admitted to

He said that the Collector

should be ready to rectify his

Sudhakaran also alleged that

Divya was being involved in

After his speech concluded,

the police used water

cannons several times to

disperse the protestors, but

were unsuccessful. Protestors

also clashed with the police

The Congress protest came a

couple of days after it alleged

that the Collector was forced to say that his former colleague the late ADM

Naveen Babu had admitted to

committing a mistake following the graft allegations

According to the Collector's

statement to the police, after

the farewell function, in which Divya had levelled

corruption allegations against the ADM, Babu met Vijayan in his chamber and

present at the collectorate.

making a mistake.

corrupt activities.

committing

against him.

corruption

Forest Officer, Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest

Around 10,666 fishermen's families will be affected following the fishing ban. Therefore to compensate for the loss of income avenues, the state government has decided to extend one-time livelihood assistance of Rs 7,500 to the affected fishermen families.

The female turtles virtually invade the nesting beaches usually at the dead of the night for laying eggs, the phenomenon otherwise described as 'arribada'.

After laying eggs, the turtles leave the nesting ground to stride into the deep seawater. Hatchlings emerge from these eggs after 45-60 days. It is a rare natural phenomenon where the babies grow without their mother, the official said.

The ban on sea fishing, however, remains enforced round-the-year in the Gahirmatha coast, which is widely regard habitation corridor of these

West Bengal Governor launches 'Apna Bhaarat - Jagta Bengal' initiative

PTI KOLKATA

in Jammu

Omar Abdullah posted an

emotional message on his X handle, saying, "The terrible

news from late last night isn't

really sinking in. I know the

last few years have been

marked by our differences,

Devender, but I prefer to

focus on the fun times we

shared together, the excellent

work we did together and the

memories.""You have been

taken from us all too soon

West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Friday launched a mass outreach initiative for the welfare of the weaker society. As part of the initiative, 'Apna

Bhaarat - Jagta Bengal', special stress will be given to the empowerment of women, safety and security of children, and how to deal with human trafficking and drug abuse, a Raj Bhavan statement said.

The initiative will also encompass cultural and educational aspects in which the educated youth can benefit from interactions with experts about their future, it said. "The programme, in keeping with Hon Die Governor's continued policy of mass outreach, will be earmarked by several initiatives and multipronged strategies that are aimed at addressing different



was launched on the occasion of Bose completing two years in office.

One of the important components of the initiative is the 'Abhaya Plus' self-defence

courses for girls. Notably, 'Abhaya' is the name given by a section of the media to the on-duty medic who was raped and murdered at R G Kar Hospital on August 9 triggering a mass face and also to guide the young," the statement read.
'Apna Bhaarat - Jagta Bengal'

The statement read also to guide the young," the statement read.
'Apna Bhaarat - Jagta Bengal'

The state covering all the districts. In the 'Duare Rajyapal' or

programme, Bose will visit tribal areas and visit anybody who calls him, especially those in distress.

Among the other planned

events, the governor will visit various colleges and schools and interact with students. Scholarships will also be provided to meritorious and needy students. The 'Jan Ki Baat' programme will be outpouring of anguish and oriented at listening to the protests across the state. views and interacting with Identifying a rape victim is anyone who wishes to contact the governor directly. Under initiative will also have a 'File another scheme, those who To Field' segment - where the have contributed to the enri ment of life in diverse fields are to be awarded by the Raj Bhavan, the statement

Jharkhand Election to save 'Sanatan':



PTI ■ KANNUR (KERALA)

A Kerala court on Friday granted CPI(M) leader P P Divya's custody to the police for six hours for being questioned in the Additional District Magistrate Naveen Babu suicide case. The Judicial First Class

Magistrate (JFCM) court allowed the police to question Divya, accused of abetting the suicide of Babu, till 5 PM. The police had sought her custody for two days.

Subsequently, Subsequently, she was questioned at the Kannur Town police station by the investigation team.

Meanwhile, the Thalassery Principal District Sessions Court adjourned Divya's bail application to Tuesday. The day also saw the

Congress carrying out a protest march to the collectorate seeking action against District Collector Arun K Vijayan.

The protest was led by Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief K Sudhakaran, who said the Collector should have had the courage to stop Divya from making her allegations.

the statement given to the Babu's family, on the other hand, said he would not have

made any admission of mistake before the Collector. Babu's wife said that he was not that close to the Collector for him to make any such submission.

reporters here that he was

sticking to what he said in

She also said that she did not like the Collector's body language in the video of the send-off event and claimed that had he consoled Babu after the allegations by Divya, what had happened could

have been prevented.
Attending Babu's send-off function allegedly uninvited on October 14, Divya had criticised him for delaying approval for a petrol pump in Chengalai for several months and remarked he had okayed it only two days after being transferred, hinting she knew the reasons behind the sudden approval.

The following day, Babu was found dead at his quarters in Kannur.

Divya had moved the Thalassery Sessions Court on October seeking anticipatory bail after the police registered a case against her for abetting the suicide of the ADM under Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

The sessions court on October 29 rejected her Vijayan in his chamber and said that he had committed a mistake.

The Collector on Friday told vijadicial custody for 14 days.

Yogi Adityanath promises swift and fair redressal of public grievances

BISWAJEET BANERJEE GORAKHPUR

In a public outreach initiative, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a Janta Darshan in Gorakhpur on Friday, addressing the grievances of over 200 citizens who gathered outside the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan. In a move that underlines his commitment to public welfare, CM Yogi personally interacted with attendees, assuring them of timely and effective solutions to their

concerns Reaching out to each individual seated in the designated area, CM Yogi listened to their issues and accepted written applications, directing officials to address every case with urgency and compassion. "Don't worry; the government will take effective action on every issue," he assured the crowd.'
The Chief Minister focused particularly on complaints related to crime and land encroachment. He directed police officials to take strict measures against those involved in criminal activities land and grabbing, particularly targeting 'dabang" elements and mafias who encroach on lands.

Those who exploit the poor should not be spared," he declared, emphasizing his administration's firm stance against individuals who harm vulnerable sections of society. Several attendees at the Janta Darshan requested financial aid for medical treatments, reflecting the ongoing need for healthcare support. CM



Yogi assured them that the government would provide financial assistance to ensure that no one is denied critical care due to lack of funds. He instructed officers to expedite the preparation of cost estimates for those requiring advanced medical treatments and pledged immediate disbursement of funds upon submission. Additionally, he urged officials to facilitate smooth access to medical facilities for Ayushman cardholders and to issue cards promptly to eligible individuals still awaiting them. The day began with CM Yogi following his traditional traditional routine at Gorakhnath temple. Known for his strong spiritual connection to the temple, he offered prayers to Guru Gorakhnath and paid respects at the samadhi sthal of his guru, Brahmalin Mahant Avedyanath.

In a touching moment, the Chief Minister spent time at the temple's Gaushala, where he greeted and fed the cows, calling them by affectionate names such as Shyama, Gauri, Ganga, and Bhola. The cows responded warmly, gathering around as he gently stroked their foreheads and fed them



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on

Pargana region, Deoghar Dumka, Of the total population, tribal girls, occupying lands jaggery with his own hands.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma



PTI ■ DEOGHAR (JHARKHAND)

Friday said that the upcoming assembly election in Jharkhand was for saving 'Sanatan' in the

He claimed that the Hindu population in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana region has declined from 90 per cent in 1951 to 67 per cent in 2011. Sarma, also the BJP's Jharkhand election coincharge, was addressing an election rally in Deoghar district in favour of BJP nominee Randhir Sties, who filed his nomination from Sarath assembly constituency. The election this time is not for JMM or Congress but for saving the Sanatan in Jharkhand," he said.

He claimed that Santhal which comprises six districts of Sahibganj, Godda, Pakur, and Jamtara, had a total population of 26 lakh in 1951.

around 90 per cent were Hindu and 9.43 per cent were Muslim. The tribal population at that time was 10.34 lakh, which was 44 per cent of the total Hindu population. In the 2011 Census, the Hindu Census, the Hindu population declined to 67 per cent and the tribal population to 28 per cent in the Santhal Pargana region,"

claimed. He said that the Hindu population might go down to 60 per cent in the latest census, which is yet to be conducted.

Sarma claimed that the native Muslim population in the region has not increased that

"We don't have any issue with them. But we have a problem with the Bangladeshi infiltrators, who are coming to Jharkhand through West Bengal's Murshidabad and

getting the government's patronage here," he said. He claimed that infiltrators are marrying

and becoming 'mukhiya' (village head).
"They are disturbing the social fabric of the region. But

the Hemant government will not take any action against them," he alleged.

sarma said after the formation of the BJP government in Jharkhand, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) would be implemented and infiltrators would be chased out of the

Sarma claimed that if the BJP is voted to power, it would fill up 2.87 lakh government vacancies and provide 1.5 lakh jobs in the very first

He said that the BJP, if voted to power, would build 21 lakh

houses under PM Awas Yojana and provide sand for free to construct houses. Elections to the 81-member

assembly in the state will take place in two phases on November 13 and 20, and votes polled will be counted on November 23.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Message from Kutch

PM Modi's Diwali with the troops shows the profound respect and support between a nation and its defenders

■ n a powerful address from Kutch, Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his Government's unwavering commitment to the country's sovereignty, vowing that India will not cede "even an inch" of its land. This steadfast message, delivered while celebrating Diwali with India's security forces, emphasised the government's pledge to fortify the nation's defences to meet the challenges of the 21st century. "When the world looks at you, it sees India's strength," Modi said to the soldiers. "When our adversaries look at you, they see the end of their malicious plans." Addressing personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF), Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force at Lakki Nala in Gujarat's Kutch region, the Prime Minister highlighted his administration's dedication to transforming the country's military into one of the most advanced in the world. Modernisation efforts, he said, are anchored on the principle of self-reliance, a cornerstone of his government's vision for India's defense sector. PM Modi also spoke on the lesser-discussed role of

border tourism, an initiative he believes holds strategic importance in national security. With Kutch being a crucial geographical area, he mentioned that promoting tourism in border areas helps increase awareness, instills a sense of patriotism, and brings citizens closer to the nation's defense reality. This Diwali marks yet another year of Modi's cherished

tradition of celebrating the festival with India's armed forces. Since 2014, the Prime Minister has made it a point to spend Diwali with soldiers across various fronts, symbolising both gratitude and solidarity with the defenders of the nation. Each year, his Diwali visits have become moments of deep emotional connection with

the troops, underscoring the mutual respect and morale shared between the leader and his soldiers. As the Prime Minister continues to foster self-reliance in defence, his words serve not only as a reassurance to the nation but as a warning to adversaries. Indeed, the soldiers stationed in India's remote borders stand as sentinels of peace, and their Diwali with the Prime Minister serves as a reminder of the unity and resilience that drive India forward. In times of celebration, when families gather to share in the joy of festivals, there exists a silent, steadfast group of heroes who forgo these moments with loved ones to protect the heart and soul of our nation. Our soldiers, standing guard at the borders, embody resilience, courage, and patriotism that transcends any personal sacrifice. They endure the harshest of conditions, from the scorching sun to the bitter cold, and face unforeseen challenges to ensure that our celebrations remain undisturbed, safe, and joyous. This sacrifice takes on a deeper meaning during festival seasons, such as Diwali. While we light our homes with lamps, these brave souls light the way of duty, standing as sentinels against any threats to our country. They spend their festivals under the open sky, far from the warmth of family and loved ones, driven solely by their sense of duty and deep love for the country.



A pathway to deeper connections



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Effective communication demands more than mere words; it requires rhythm, empathy and the ability to adapt to the nuances of each moment

ommunication is central to existence. All living creatures communicate with each other, and there are people who believe that even plants and foliage, amongst other leafy life existences, communicate with each other. In certain cases, language is coded, and in other cases, the impact is seen not because of a translation of a coded language but because of the results it pro-

The long and short of the matter is that communication is a way of transmission of feelings, ideas, possible actions, and more. Volumes of literature have been surfaced in different languages about communication, which can take place through eyes and without making a sound.

However, a language code is necessary if somebody other than two live existences, in communication, are involved. Therein comes the language, the sound, and the script. The language of sounds has developed as phonetics, and the language of the written word with or without oral transmission is known as linguistics. The sophistication of these specializations has used the machine and technology to lend both credence and depth to the field of specialization.

The present understanding of digitalization needs to be more enriched while incorporating these ideas. However, the moot point remains that communication is central to existence. The more adept persons have incorporated music and rhythm into such communication, not to overlook the power of touch, which ranges from fingers to other parts of the body.

Accordingly, the study of communication needs to be enriched by the realization of the wide spectrum of its ambit. Many aspects of process are still to be explored in a deep scholascredible theories to emerge. This process will be a major contribution to the concerns of relationships.



response. If someone is annoyed, the level and pitch of the voice is often raised. A common response to somebody's annoyance is a follow-up question, some what to the effect of 'Why are you annoyed?'

and so forth. This is not only

the touch but also the rhythm

and words which impact a

The truth is, one knows why the other person is annoyed. One is only waiting for a verbalization of the cause of annoyance. This act by itself may or may not help. In fact, unless sincerely intended, asking this question is questionable and indeed could have the effect of aggravating the situation.

For good communication, rhythmic synchronization of each other's moods is necessary. Usually, the opportunity for rhythmic understand ing is disturbed by the different moods of the two or more persons involved in communication. In such circum-



THE MIND IS SUPPOSED TO BE AFFECTED BY **VARIOUS KINDS** OF WAVES. WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS ALPHA WAVES,

BETA WAVES, AND SO ON AND SO FORTH. THIS IS NOT ONLY THE TOUCH BUT ALSO THE RHYTHM AND WORDS WHICH IMPACT A stances, a change of topic, a change of tone, or even some humour may help in 'aiding' ease all-round. The challenge is that in the

heat of the moment, one

loses track of the options for

keeping the communication on track or simply persisting with one's perspective. The message is simple: at all stages, one needs to keep one's calm, look at the

options, and select wisely. This would help one to not only adjust better in communication but also help carry the other person along. To do this, it is essential to realize that a major purpose

of any communication is to be able to share one's own chosen facts in an appropriate tone and content, for the other person to hear. Similarly, to intertwine the communication, it is important to hear what the person is stating. A person who can read the other persons unstated wish to 'posture' can communicate better. It is this complexity coupled

with intangible simplicity that makes communication so much of an art and a skill beyond words. Deft negotiators know how to be flexible and accommodating to the other person's point of view. There is also scope for

emphasizing an assertion, but that is few and far between and has to be timed properly with chosen words. appropriate posture, accompanying softness, and suitable intonation in the voice or more.

At the end of the day, unless

there are special circumstances, in most of communication to win, both must win. It is a rarity to have 'peace' if one wins and the other person loses. People generally do not like to accept defeat, which means that the apparent loser will bounce back in the communication and raise it again sooner or later. All in all, it is important to realize that communication, like all arts, must be gradually perfected. It also requires technological sensitivity. It requires choice of appropriate methods/medium such as the telephone, video, and more to relate with each other. In many cases, the choice of medium itself can convey a message. The art of communication is challenging and fascinating. There are many who are better than others in the practice of

management consultant of international repute; views expressed are personal)

(The writer is a well-known

A good lifestyle is essential for overall wellbeing



Lifestyle changes can significantly reduce risk of brain stroke. One can recognise it by its early symptoms and take preventive measures

nderstanding the Neurological Damage of a Stroke: What Happens in Your BrainDr Praveen Gupta, Principal Director & Chief of Neurology, Fortis HospitalBeing the central organ of the human nervous system, the brain controls both motor and sensory functions throughout the body.

During a stroke, the blood supply to a part of the brain is obstructed depriving the brain of much-needed oxygen and nutrients. This lack of oxygen damages the brain cells resulting in inflammation and swelling in the brain. As the blood supply remains obstructed, more cells die, weakening the blood-brain barrier. This breakdown of the barrier causes water to enter the brain, worsening the swelling.

The swelling usually lasts for seven days, following which the brain's natural mechanisms begin to take effect, causing the swelling to subside as the body starts to repair the damaged tissue. How Strokes Can Be Prevented,

A healthy lifestyle is key to the prevention of stroke. To begin with, consume a diet rich in fresh fruits and veggies, have walnuts and almonds, engage in regular physical activity, aim for 30 minutes of walking every day, take care of central abdominal obesity, control your salt intake (less than 6 grams per day) along with eating food low in saturated fats like oil, butter, ghee. In addition, develop a proper sleep schedule to get at least six to eight hours of

peaceful sleep every night,

and avoid smoking and

you need to be watchful of excess pollution and keep your blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure under control. In addition to a healthy lifestyle, you need to keep other parameters in check. If you suffer from heart disease, it's essential to take appropriate medical care to prevent the clots from moving to the brain.

This can control the possibility of strokes in at least 50 per cent of people. Warning signs everyone should know. The warning signs of stroke can be classified as excess alcohol intake. Also, BEFAST, where B stands for

balance. Being unable to walk properly or losing your balance can be one of the first signs of stroke. E is for eyes - if you suffer from a stroke; you may have difficulty seeing properly or have double vision. F is for face, your face droops to one side, A is for arms – you may have trouble lifting one of your arms and S is for speech - there is slurring of speech or inability to speak. T is for time. Time is of the essence when you suffer from a stroke. A person suffering from a stroke loses 1.9 million brain cells for every minute. A person's risk of being disabled or dying increases with the length of time they have a stroke.If you can recognize the symptoms of a stroke within the first four and a half hours, you can receive clotbusting drugs, which can break the clot, restore the blood supply to the brain, and prevent the occurrence of a cascade of events.

(The writer is a Principal Director & Chief of Neurology, Fortis Hospital; views expressed are personal)

AMUSING AND EMBARRASSING!

Madam-A recent news report mentions that the French Ambassador's phone was stolen by "experts" in the trade, only to be promptly recovered, likely due to the high-profile nature of the owner. An average citizen, however, would not have been as fortunate in similar circumstances.

The incident was undoubtedly amusing for readers, likely alarming for the Ambassador, and ultimately embarrassing for India as a nation. This is one experience the Ambassador may never forget. As the saying goes, "When in Italy, keep three purses, two pairs of shoes, and one heart open to adventure." Perhaps this applies equally well to India, particularly to areas like Chandni Chowk. Finally, a note of reassurance: some CCTV cameras do indeed function at strategic locations—at least, sometimes.

Avinash Godboley | Dewas

ISRAEL BANS UNRWA Madam— Israel's recent policy to ban UNRWA, the UN agency assisting Palestinian refugees, is a deeply concerning move that only intensifies an already devastating humanitarian crisis. This decision raises critical questions: by cutting off an agency that has supported Palestinian refugees for decades, what alternative does Israel propose to address the immense health and nutrition needs of millions?

Additionally, can Israel's detachment from global efforts be deemed legitimate if it comes at the expense of the welfare of vulnerable populations? This policy appears to prioritize political gains over humanitarian duty and risks further destabilizing the region. If sustainable peace is the ultimate goal, policies must aim to reduce suffering, not exacerbate it, ensuring all vulnerable populations are given the support they urgently need. The war must end before it spills over across the region.

Anshu Bharti | Begusarai adequately punished, it might have



he editorial "Traffic Mavhem" addresses the pressing traffic issues plaguing Delhi—an issue common to most major metro cities. Despite only 7% of Indians owning cars, a large portion of this car-owning population is concentrated in metropolitan areas. In high-traffic zones, parking becomes another major hurdle that demands effective solutions. The experience of being stuck in traffic during peak hours, often resulting in delays and frustration, detracts from

the convenience and enjoyment of car travel. Unfortunately, governments typically respond only once traffic congestion reaches critical levels. Even then, plans are often focused on immediate needs rather than long-term solutions. By the time projects like flyovers are completed, the surge in vehicle numbers has already reduced their effective-

Given the significant resources spent on infrastructure, planning should be forward-looking, ideally considering projections for the next fifty to a hundred years. For main traffic arteries, threetiered flyovers with side wings to manage separate lanes for heavy vehicles, cars, and smaller vehicles could greatly improve traffic flow. While long-term planning may demand greater initial investment, it offers lasting relief from congestion while creating employment opportunities during project development

A G Rajmohan | Ananthpur

LONG WAIT FOR JUSTICE

Madam — It has been 40 years since the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, yet justice remains elusive. Thousands of Sikhs were brutally killed in cities across the country, yet not a single individual has been sentenced to death for orchestrating, planning, or participating in these atrocities. Despite numerous inquiries, commissions, extensive charge sheets, and the establishment of fast-track courts, justice has been endlessly delayed, leaving the accused in limbo as undertrials. One wonders what kind of "fast" justice these courts offer, given that even after four decades, they have yet to reach a conclusion.India, as a nation, failed to learn from the horrors of 1984, leading to repeats of such violence in places like

Gujarat and Manipur. The impunity with which the orchestrators of these riots operate is evident, as convictions remain rare. The system has allowed mass murderers to escape accountability, and justice has turned a blind eye. Had the perpetrators been

served as a deterrent to others. For the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots who still await justice, hope fades with each

passing day. The saying "justice delayed is justice denied" rings painfully true when thousands of deaths remain unacknowledged in the eyes of the law. Justice may have lifted her blindfold, but she remains blind to the tears of the widows and mothers who witnessed their loved ones burned alive four decades ago.

As a country that has greatly benefited from the Sikh community's contributions, we should feel a deep sense of shame for the suffering they endured. While an apology was offered by the Prime Minister, an apology is no substitute for justice.

The time has come to correct this injustice and enact laws that deliver timely justice—before both the victims and the accused are lost to time.

Gurnoor Grewal | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

BUILDING A MENTAL RETREAT

We often chase external escapes, yet the true sanctuary lies within



RAVI VALLURI

e should develop a holiday home in the mind to relax. Instead, we build concrete jungles of thoughts where we fear to tread. Summer was simmering, temperatures were rising in Delhi, and the beer-guzzling husband and wife duo, and their college-going children fed on junk food, were looking forward to their first overseas trip 'together'. "Eureka," he screamed, "Leave sanctioned." "Trip to Chiang Mai will now be a reality," screamed the children and wife. Bonding at last," the wife mused effusively. The manic and frenetic-paced lifestyle had invaded a bonding that ought to have been a natural part of their

This is a familiar tale of several upper-middle-class families and the ones who mimic them as they crave to keep up with the Joneses. The prana levels of such individuals are low. In several cases, opulence without proper responsibility has corrupted their minds and they carry the burden of the twin maladies of inflated egos and judgmental attitudes. But this was not the case with the family. Would they have relished the get-

The human mind is both a friendly retainer and a dangerous liege. A beleaguered mind causes immense suffering to the individual, those around him and also society at large. An alert mind learns positive lessons from life to take recourse to remedial measures and discovers ingenious ways to address and arrest negativity. Just as an architect designs buildings, we humans can construct an oasis of peace in our minds where we can luxuriate on a genuine holiday. This is mandatory for individuals who are at the worn-off edge or the precipice of disequilibrium. The land-



scape of the mind should be attractive and harmonious, which one would like to frequent. Aeon's ago, there was an old farmer. One day his horse ran away. Upon hearing the news, his neighbours came to commiserate. "Maybe," the farmer replied laconically. The next morning the horse returned, bringing along with it three other wild horses.

Taken aback at the turn of events, the neighbours congratulated the farmer. "Maybe," was the reply. His son tried to ride one of the untamed horses and was thrown off the saddle and broke his leg. The neighbours expressed their grief. "Maybe," answered the farmer. Shortly, some military officials came to the village to draft young men into the army. The wounded son was not recruited. Soon congratulatory messages poured in from the neighbours as the son escaped the hazardous employment. "Maybe," said the farmer.

The stoic farmer remained unfazed in all situations. The supercilious family from Delhi was so full of themselves hurtling towards an imminent disaster that it would undeniably benefit by learning a few secrets from the old farmer. Instead of planning an annual holiday, the family ought to create a sacred space within their hearts and minds where positivism mushrooms and develop a delicate balance of detachment like the old farmer. They could visualise and connect to a soothing terrain in their minds, which would restore equilibrium to their disoriented lifestyles. This topography could upend the pyramid and radically alter a desultory lifestyle to a more harmonious one. Imagine the mind conceptualises a retreat within its containments, where supposedly a thousand monks practice meditation, observe their breath and remain in silence say for three months. Pranayama and the practice of yoga – be it for the propertied or poor, healthy, or unhealthy - help in mental reconfiguration, rejuvenation, and revitalisation, which soothes frayed nerves and makes individuals happy. This should rekindle happiness, energy and joy in their minds.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd.and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Turn of the tide in As the opposition secures control over key territories, including vital trade

corridors, the junta's authority appears increasingly tenuous



yanmar's ruling junta is facing defeat and ouster, which will happen sooner than most people think. The latest, and one of the most serious, reverses suffered by the Sit-Tat (Myanmar's Army's name), has been the fall, on October 8, 2024, of the town-ship of Pinlebu to the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), an important part of the coalition of forces fighting the junta, and its allies. Located on the border of the Sagaing Region and Kachin State, its capture opens up to the opposition forces the routes leading to the Kawlin township and the surrounding areas.

Apart from its geo-strategic importance, the township's capture is significant for what it revealed of the Sit-Tat's state. It suffered a resounding defeat. A report by Saw Lin, published in the news website, The Irrawaddy, on October 14, 2024, cites the opposition National Unity Government as claiming that the junta's troops, numbering 800, were defeated despite 670 airstrikes and the dropping of over 5,000 bombs, that around 70 junta soldiers were killed, 275 were missing, 225 were wounded, 48 sur rendered and 102 captured during the fighting. Around 400 firearms and other military equipment were seized.

The report further cites Thoe Gyi, the leader of Kawlin District People's Defense Team, as saying that Pinlebu, surrounded by forests and mountains, was easy to defend, and difficult to attack. There had been four attacks since the first one in 2022, each of which had almost succeeded but the regime held on with air support and airlifted troops. The fifth one, which began on August 15, 2024, was successful. The enemy, Thoe Gyi said, was weak. Those who were forcibly recruited or drafted under the conscription law dared not fight and surrendered when the fighting broke out. Others surrendered after they ran out of food and could no longer fight. The Sit-Tat suffers from other weaknesses as well. There is discord within. Several three-stars generals have been removed. Many younger officers are unhappy as they recognise that almost the entire country is



THE ODDS ARE **NOW RAPIDLY INCREASING** AGAINST THE JUNTA. THE **DOUBTLESS HAS** OTHER **ARMOURED** VEHICLES, ARTILLERY AND AIR FORCE. TANKS AND

ARMOURED VEHICLES ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEPLOY IN THE AREAS DOMINATED BY THE ETHNIC

FORCES

Prior to Pinlebu, anti-junta forces had captured four towns in northern Mandalay. According to a report by Andrew Nachemson published in Al Jazeera dated September 23, 2024, their capture had placed them within striking distance of the city of Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest urban centre, with a population of nearly two million.

In fact, the Sit-Tat has suffered a series of reverses since the opposition Three Brotherhood Alliance (henceforth the Alliance) launched its offensive, codenamed Operation 1027, on October 27, 2023. Comprising the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), active in the Kokang Special Region of northern Shan State, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), also active in the Shan State and the Arakan Army (AA), based in the Rakhine State in the country's western part, it has been acting in TANKS AND close cooperation with the oppo sition National Unity Government's military arm, the People's Defence Force (PDF) and other ethnic armies like the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)

and Karen National Army, The AA had brought almost the entire Rakhine State under its control by April, 2024. In a major development, the MNDAA claimed on July 31, 2024, that it had captured Sit-Tat's military base in Lashio, a city in Shan State close to the border with China, and its airport. This was a major loss for the junta. As Vivek Shankar has pointed out in a piece in The New York Times datelined August 5, 2024, the "city of Lashio and its airport lie on a crucial trade corridor to Yunnan Province in China, which is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a highspeed rail link and other infrastructure projects on both sides of

the border."

The opposition forces now control large swathes of territory along Myanmar's borders and mountainous region; the military retains control over the major cities and lowlands in the central Irrawaddy Valley. It is losing even the cities and towns. As Vivek Shankar has stated in the article cited above, the forces resisting the junta now held "roughly 75 cities and towns across Myanmar and two airports, one in Thandwe in Rakhine State in the west, and the other in Lashio."

The odds are now rapidly increasing against the Junta. The latter doubtless has tanks and other armoured vehicles, artillery and air force. Tanks and armoured vehicles are very difficult to deploy in the areas dominated by the ethnic forces. With densely forested mountainous terrains, deep gorges and steep climbs, these are ideal for staging ambushes. Moreover, airstrikes and artillery do not win wars, even wnen backed by neavily armed and trained infantry. Ótherwise, the United States would have romped to a victory in Vietnam.

Can the junta see the writing on the wall? During its 8 p.m. news broadcast on September 26, 2024, the junta seemed to offer, for the first time, a major concession to the opposition armed resistance groups. It said in a statement, "The state lost a large number of human resources, infrastructures, lives and property of the people due to the fact some individuals and organizations chose to resort to armed terrorism and armed struggle line without solving political problems through political ways." Given the statement's accusatory undertones and unbelievable inherent irony, it is hardly surprising that several commanders of the rebel forces, ethnic armies, and the opposition NUG government,

promptly rejected the offer. A report (datelined September

27, 2024) by Sui-Lee Wee in The New York Times, quoted Ye Myo Hein, a visiting senior expert for the Myanmar programme of the United States Institute for peace, as saying, "The reason they made this announcement is to appease China." It could well be so.
As Wee points out in her report,

while expressing support for the junta, Beijing has also been engaged in talks with northern Myanmar's ethnic armed groups. According to the report, China's forcing spiritus Wars Victoria. foreign minister, Wang Yi, had travelled to Myanmar in August, 2024, to urge the country's army chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, to pursue political reconciliation and hold elections. Earlier, in a meeting with Myanmar's president, Thein Sein, in China in June, Wang Yi had also called on the military to hold talks with Aung San Suu Kyi, who is currently serving year prison term on totally false charges.

There is no indication that the junta has any intention of holding talks with Suu Kyi. In fact, in an interview to Myein Myein carried in The Irrawaddy on October 24, 2024, her son, Kim Arris, said she had been kept completely incommunicado in prison in Naypyitaw with even her family and lawyers barred from meeting her. The conditions in the prison being terrible and with Suu Kyi having serious health issues, he expressed the fear that she might die in prison, which may well happen. In that case, the burden of guilt not only be on the junta but the Western democracies which seem no longer bothered about developments in Myanmar.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed

Reforming India's education system for job market alignment

With comprehensive planning, a revitalied education system could become the catalyst for national prosperity and social stability

n today's industrialised economy, formal educa-bone of personal and national development. Originally introduced around 1830 by Lord Macaulay, formal education gained momentum postindependence, facilitating India's shift from an agrarian to an industrialized economy. However, as the job market has evolved, a concerning mismatch has emerged between the skills provided by the education system and the needs of the workforce. This disparity has led to high unemployment rates, particularly among educated youth, while certain sectors experience a shortage of skilled labor. Thus, India's education policy requires significant reform to better align with employment needs and sup-



port the country's develop-

ment goals Human capital is undoubtedly the most valuable resource for a nation's growth and development. However, to leverage this asset, it must be channeled appropriately into the economy. Failure to do so could lead to an increase in poverty rates and potential social unrest. For meaningful employment and economic must be equipped with skills relevant to market demands. By bridging the gap between education and employment, India can reduce unemployment, enhance income levels, and improve overall econom-

According to a survey by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), in the third quarter of fiscal year 2022-23, only 12% of job-holders were graduates. The majority, 40%, had completed only high school (10th grade), 28% had not completed high school, and the remaining 20% had education levels below the 5th grade. Surprisingly, the unemployment rate among graduates was 17.2%, compared to 10.2% for high school graduates and 1.6% for those with data reveals that India's education policy is misaligned with its employment demands, underscoring the urgent need for change.

The first step in this reform should involve conducting a comprehensive survey to assess current and future labor demands across various sectors. Such a survey would help young people make informed decisions about their education and career paths. Using this data, policymakers could create a dynamic, responsive education system that evolves with changing market needs. Firstly, completing basic education, up to matriculation, should be universally encouraged. Financial assistance programs could be provided for those in need. improvement, the workforce lower education levels. This Physical activities, like yoga



and sports, should be made compulsory to promote physical health. Ancient teachings on humanity, ethics, and nationalism could also be incorporated to build a responsible, compassionate society. After completing matriculation, students should have access to short, specialized courses (2-4 years) in fields such as engineering, nursing, and hospitality management. Research and innovation are to a lack of alternative oppor-

This model could be expanded to cover a broader range of fields based on market demand. These courses should blend formal education with vocational training, with course duration varying according to job requirements. For students pursuing higher education, curricula should be adapted to reflect the skills demanded by the job market, and mandatory internships should be introduced to provide hands-on experience. Developing soft skills, like communication and problem-solving, is also essential. With India's growing population, opening new educational institutions, supported by both public and private sectors, is necessary to meet increasing demand.

crucial for a nation's future. India must support a select group of students pursuing research to meet the country's long-term needs. However, given the limited market for research roles domestically, many scholars are compelled to seek opportunities abroad. Governments, both central and state, should invest in research institutions, providing more funding to retain skilled researchers and encouraging innovation within India. Self-employment accounts for nearly 50% of India's workforce, with a large portion comprising farmers and small business owners. However,

these individuals often earn less than those in salaried positions and may have entered self-employment due

Beyond the industrial sector, there is a significant demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers, including drivers, electricians, masons, cooks, and security guards, among others. Many self-employed individuals, like craftsmen and repair technicians, have learned their trades informally, often without pay. Vocational training combined with formal education could significantly enhance their earning potential. For example, an educated driver with certification in vehicle maintenance and traffic regulations would have better job prospects and could command higher wages.

(The writer is an author and writes on education; views are personal)

Five schoolchildren among seven killed in blast in southwest Pakistan

Seven people, including five schoolchildren and a policeman, were killed while 17 others were injured on Friday in a remote-controlled blast targeting a police van in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province.

The blast occurred at 8.35 am near a girl's high school at the Civil Hospital Chowk of the Mastung district of the province.

Terrorists used a remote control device to detonate explosive material hidden in a parked motorbike, officials said.

"It was an IED (improvised explosive device) used in the blast, and the target apparently was a police mobile parked near the school," Kalat Division Commissioner Naeem Bazai said.

The IED detonated when the police mobile came close to it, and a school van was caught in the mayhem. The police van and several auto-rickshaws were also damaged in the explosion.

"The blast was so powerful that schoolchildren who were going to the school at that time were hit by the explosion," Bazai added.



Police Mastung District (DPO) Miandad Officer Umrani confirmed that five schoolchildren, one police official and a civilian were killed in the blast.

schoolchildren between the ages of eight and 13 as well as policemen, were shifted to various hospitals in the province.

Those with the most serious The 17 injured, including injuries were taken to the showed policemen and other terrorists often attack the

capital Quetta for treatment. According to DPO Umrani, 11 people were moved to the Quetta Trauma Centre for

people surrounding a charred vehicle.

has claimed No group responsibility for the attack treatment. yet, but TV footage after the attack terrorists ethnic Baloch Taliban and

security forces in the province, which has been facing a lowlevel insurgency for about two decades now.

Meanwhile, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti took to X to condemn the blast, calling it "inhumane".

He said terrorists had now "targeted innocent children along with poor labourers" in an apparent reference to a recent attack by unidentified gummen at a dam construction. gunmen at a dam construction site in the province's Panjgur district, which killed five workers and injured two

"We will avenge the murder of innocent children and people," CM said, adding that civilians in urban areas also needed to be on the watch for the terrorists. "The monster of terrorism can only be fought together," he said.

He added that terrorists had targeted children, deeming them to be a "soft target". In the aftermath of the blast,

an emergency was declared across all Quetta hospitals, Geo News reported, quoting provincial health department spokesperson, adding that all doctors, pharmacists, staff nurses and other medical staff were

Not just for summer: 'Brat' is Collins Dictionary's word of the year

Collins Dictionary has declared "brat" - the album title that became a summerliving ideal - its 2024 word of the year.

The word, used by singer Charli XCX as the title of her sixth studio album, has been defined as "characterised by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude?

Collins lexicographers said on Friday that in the phrase "brat summer," it became "one of the most talked about words of 2024.

"More than a hugely successful album, brat' is a cultural phenomenon that has resonated with people globally, and brat summer' established itself as an aesthetic and a way of life," the dictionary said. Collins experts monitor their

20-billion-word database to create the annual list of new and notable words that reflect the ever-evolving English language.

Other new and notable words for 2024 include "era," in the sense of "a period of one's life or career that is of a distinctive character." It's inspired by Taylor Swift's worldconquering Eras tour.

Other notable neologisms among the dictionary's word-

of-the-year finalists include the growing movement against mass tourism, "anti-tourism"; "delulu," meaning utterly mistaken or unrealistic in one's ideas or expectations; and "rawdogging," taking a long-haul flight with no devices or distractions.

"With many of this year's notable words popularised by generations Ž and Alpha, we can confidently say this is the most brat' Word of the Year list ever," said Collins managing director Alex Beecroft.

Collin's 2023 word of the year was "AI," short for artificial

missiles and 48 drones of

various types, including Shaheds, at Ukraine overnight,

Ukrainian air force said. One missile and 31 drones were

intercepted, 14 drones were iammed, three drones flew to

North Korea's top diplomat is in Moscow as Pyongyang sent troops to help the war on Ukraine

Russia's top diplomat on Friday hosted his North Korean counterpart for talks amid reports that Pyongyang has sent thousands of troops to Russia to support its military in the war in Ukraine.

Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui's visit to Moscow and her meeting with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov came on the heels of the Pentagon's statement that North Korea has deployed about 10,000 troops to Russia to fight against Ukraine within "the next several weeks."

leaders Western described the North Korean troop deployment as a significant escalation that could also jolt relations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Moscow Pyongyang have specified the agenda for Choe's talks in Moscow, but in a closed-door

hearing at South Korea's series of issues regarding parliament, the South's spy politics and foreign policy as parliament, the South's spy agency said Choe may be involved in high-level discussions on sending additional troops to Russia and negotiating what the North would get in return.

South Korean and Western officials have voiced concern that Russia may offer technology that could advance the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programme.

Meeting Choe in Moscow on Friday, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov hailed ties between Moscow and Pyongyang, saying that they "have reached unprecedented high level over the past few years," and proposed discussing the implementation partnership strategic

well as matters that require a joint response between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation," Choe said, invoking the North's formal

She reiterated Pyongyang's support "for the just fight of Russia's military and people to defend their country's sovereign rights and security interests" in Ukraine.

Moscow and Pyongyang have responded vaguely to South Korean and Western claims of the North Korean troop to Russia. deployment emphasising that their military cooperation conforms with international law, without directly admitting the presence of the North's forces in Russia. The United States and its allies agreement the two nations signed earlier this year.

also have accused North Korea of providing millions of "We will have discussions on a artillery shells and other"

Agreement the two nations also have accused North Korea of providing millions of Bussia, along with China, has its recent missile testing, which intensified after Russia's mandate of monitors in



equipment to Russia to fuel its

Security Council to tighten

invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

March, in a move that effectively abolished oversight by UN experts of Security Council sanctions against North Korea.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol last month raised the possibility of supplying Ukraine with weapons while saying Seoul is preparing countermeasures that could be rolled out in stages depending on the degree of military cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow.

South Korea, a growing arms exporter, has provided humanitarian aid and other non-lethal support to Ukraine and joined US-led economic sanctions against Moscow. It has so far resisted calls by Kyiv and NATO to directly supply Ukraine with weapons, citing a longstanding policy of not providing arms to countries engaged in active conflict. In other developments: Russia

launched three aviation

the territory of Belarus, the air force said in a report on Friday morning said. Several civilian facilities, as well as apartment buildings and private houses in Poltava, Cherkasy, Kyiv and Odesa regions were damaged by drone debris. The Russian military on Friday said it intercepted and

destroyed a total of 83 Ukrainian drones over four Russian regions near the border with Ukraine and the annexed Crimean Peninsula. In the Bryansk region, a drone hit a residential block, local authorities said. No casualties were reported. In the Stavropol region, a drone hit an oil depot, according to local

Spanish residents appeal for help, 3 days after historic floods left at least 158 dead



AP MADRID

Three days after historic I flash floods swept through several towns in southern Valencia, in eastern Spain, the initial shock was giving way to anger, frustration and a wave of solidarity on Friday.

Many streets are still blocked by piled-up vehicles and debris, in some cases trapping residents in their homes. Some places still don't have electricity, running water, or stable telephone connections. Residents turned to media to appeal for help.

This is a disaster. There are a lot of elderly people who don't have medicine. There are children who don't have food. We don't have milk, we don't have water. We have no access to anything," a resident of Alfafar, one of the most affected towns in south Valencia, told state television station TVE. "No one even came to warn us on the first

So far 158 bodies have been recovered - 155 in Valencia, two in the Castilla La Mancha region and one more in Andalusia - after Spain's deadliest natural disaster in

living memory. Members of the security forces and soldiers are busy searching for an unknown number of missing people, many feared to still be trapped in wrecked vehicles or flooded garages. And as authorities repeat over

and over, more storms are expected. The Spanish weather agency issued alerts for strong rains in Tarragona, Catalonia, as well as part of the Balearic Islands.

Meanwhile, flood survivors and volunteers are engaged in the titanic task of clearing an omnipresent layer of dense

Residents in communities like Paiporta, where at least 62 people died, and Catarroja, have been walking kilometres to Valencia to get provisions, passing neighbours from unaffected areas who are bringing carry water, essential products or shovels to help remove the mud.

Juan Ramón Adsuara, the mayor of Alfafar, one of the hardest hit towns, said the aid isn't nearly enough for residents trapped in an

"extreme situation." "There are people living with corpses at home. It's very sad. Gallego river in Biescas, in the northeast, killing 87 people.

We are organising ourselves, but we are running out of everything," he told reporters.
"We go with vans to Valencia,
we buy and we come back, but
here we are totally forgotten."
Rushing water turned narrow streets into death traps and spawned rivers that tore through homes and businesses, leaving many uninhabitable. Social networks

channelled the needs of those affected. Some posted images of missing people in the hope of getting information about their whereabouts, while others launched initiatives such as Suport Mutu - or Mutual Support - which connects requests for help with people who are offering it; and others organised collections of basic goods throughout all the country launched fundraisers.

Spain's Mediterranean coast is used to autumn storms that can cause flooding, but this was the most powerful flash flooding in recent memory. Scientists link it to climate change, which is also behind increasingly high temperatures and droughts in Spain and the heating up Mediterranean Sea.

Human-caused climate change has doubled the likelihood of a storm like this week's deluge in Valencia, according to a partial analysis issued Thursday by World Weather Attribution, a group made up of dozens of international scientists who study global warming's role in extreme weather.

Spain has suffered through an almost two-year drought, making the flooding worse because the dry ground was so hard that it could not absorb the rain.

In August 1996, a flood swept away a campsite along the Gallego river in Biescas, in the



Shooting kills two, wounds six during Halloween celebrations in Orlando

AP ■ ORLANDO

Two people were killed and six others were wounded in a shooting early Friday at a public Halloween celebration in Florida, police and local media said.

The Orlando Police Department said in a social media post that it was conducting an investigation into a shooting in the city's downtown area.

Orlando Police Chief Eric Smith said the victims were shot while hundreds were celebrating Halloween in public around around 1 am, WTVT reported. A 17-yearold male suspect was being interviewed by detectives, Smith said. Additional details were expected to be released at an upcoming briefing, police said.

Greek police say fatal Athens apartment blast was likely caused by improvised bomb

Greek police said Friday that an explosion in an Athens apartment that killed a man and severely wounded a woman appeared to have been caused by an improvised bomb.

Police searching the wrecked apartment seized two handguns and ammunition, authorities said in a statement, as well as mobile phones and other "digital evidence." The statement added that the blast is being investigated by the police's special violent crimes unit.

Firefighters who responded to the explosion Thursday afternoon freed the wounded woman from the wreckage, and later found the man's body while using sniffer dogs to search the apartment for other survivors, the fire service said.

The injured woman is Greek, police said, while the dead man has not been identified. No further details on

her identity were released. The explosion in the capital's central neighborhood residential Ambelokipi demolished internal and external walls in a third-floor apartment, blowing away its balcony railings and damaging neighboring apartments.

Greece has a decades-long history of far-left extremism involving small urban groups, while organized crime and racketeering groups have also carried out small-scale bombings and targeted killings.

The major extremist groups that carried out a string of assassinations from the mid 1970s to the early 2000s have been eradicated and their members jailed.

They were succeeded by smaller and less efficient groups which mostly staged bomb attacks on symbols of state authority and wealth but have been largely dormant in recent years.

Bus carrying students skids off road in Sri Lanka, killing two and injuring 39 others

AP ■ COLOMBO

A bus carrying university students on a field trip skidded off a road and tipped over in central Sri Lanka on Friday, killing two students and injuring 39 others, officials said.

Police said the accident occurred when

the driver lost control of the vehicle on a curve near the town of Badulla in the country's mountainous tea-growing region, about 330 kilometers (205 miles) north of Colombo, the capital. Derana television showed residents helping health workers remove the wounded students from the toppled

Police and doctors said 39 wounded passengers, including six in critical condition, were admitted to the main hospital in Badulla. Two others were declared dead.

Deadly bus accidents are common in Sri Lanka and are often caused by reckless driving and poorly maintained

Kenya's new deputy president sworn in as his predecessor challenges his impeachment in court

AP ■ NAIROBI

Tenya's new deputy president has Kenyas new depath, r been sworn into office, two weeks after his predecessor was overwhelmingly voted out in an impeachment motion in parliament over allegations of corruption and inciting ethnic division. Kindiki Kithure took office on Friday after a colourful event in the capital, Nairobi, attended by government officials and western envoys among other guests. His swearing-in was cleared by the court on Thursday after orders that had suspended it were lifted, despite a

continuing court case challenging the

impeachment of the previous deputy

president, Rigathi Gachagua.

Gachagua is challenging the impeachment before the High Court in Nairobi, arguing that the charges are unsubstantiated and that the hearings were unfair. The former deputy president was impeached and removed from office by a vote of more than twothirds of legislators on October 17 on charges of corruption, inciting ethnic divisions and support for antigovernment protests. President William Ruto nominated Kindiki for the deputy role the next day. Gachagua's impeachment had highlighted divisions within the ruling

Gachagua had been accused of

and deaths. United Democratic Alliance, or UDA, and friction between Ruto and Gachagua, both UDA members.



insubordination when he opposed the government's policy of forced evictions during heavy rains that caused flooding

Kindiki - the former interior minister takes the deputy president's office at a time when arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances in Kenya have

raised concerns among western envoys and human rights groups. The country is also going through economic hardships with a rising cost of living and newly increased taxes. In June, the country witnessed a series of nationwide anti-government protests over a finance bill that proposed to

increase taxes, culminating in the storming and burning of parliament on June 25, when several protesters were shot dead outside parliament gates.

Ruto, who came to office claiming to represent Kenya's poorest citizens, has faced widespread criticism over his efforts to raise taxes to pay off foreign creditors. But the public opposition led him to shake up his Cabinet and back off from certain proposals.

Donald Trump unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance: Kamala Harris

week's election.

 $F_{\text{Trump}}^{\text{ormer}} \stackrel{\text{President Donald}}{\text{is becoming}}$ becoming unstable, increasingly obsessed with revenge and is out for unchecked power, Vice President Kamala Harris said on Friday in an unprecedented attack on her Republican rival ahead of next

In a rally in Las Vegas, Harris, the Democratic leader of Indian heritage said Trump is all about "hate" and more division and that he would bring an "enemies list" to the White House while she would carry a "to-do list"

Singer Jennifer Lopez joined

the Democratic leader at the rally. "We all know who Donald

Trump is. He is not someone who is thinking about how to make your life better. He is someone who is increasingly unstable, obsessed revenge, consumed with grievance, and he is out for unchecked power," Harris said at the rally. With just four days left for the

November 5 vote, the race between Trump and Harris remained very tight in the key battleground states.

"If he (Trump) is re-elected, Donald Trump will walk into the office with an enemies list. If I am elected, I will walk in with a 'to-do list' on behalf of



And at the top of my list is bringing down the cost of

your living. That will be my focus every single day as the President," she added. Harris said she would put the

country ahead of her party and be a president for all Americans.

"Unlike Donald Trump, I do not believe that people who disagree with me are the enemy. He wants to put them in jail. I want to give them a seat at the table. That's what real leadership look like," she

"I pledge to always put country above party, and self and to be a president for all Americans," she added.

Harris said, if elected to the White House, she would make housing more affordable by building more houses.

"We will cut taxes for small business, we will lower health care costs."

"I see the promise of America in everyone here," she said. The Democratic leader also attacked Trump for his

comment that he would

protect women whether they

'like it or not". The comments showed that Trump "does not understand women's rights to make decisions about their own lives, including their own

The remarks by Harris came as the presidential election

bodies," she said.

The latest CNN polls showed that Harris has a narrow advantage in Michigan and Wisconsin, while she and Trump remain tied in

Pennsylvania. In Michigan, Harris holds a lead over Trump by 48 per cent to 43 per cent among likely voters, according to the

findings.

Harris also leads Trump in Wisconsin, where 51 per cent support her to 45 per cent for Trump, but the race is tied in Pennsylvania with both having 48 per cent support. More than 62 million voters have cast early ballots,

according to the University of Florida's Election Lab. Adani reduces power supply to Bangladesh by half over outstanding bills: Report



Ben Mendelsohn, LaKeith Stanfield & Juno Temple board true-life heist movie 'Rooftop'

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES

Actors Ben Mendelsohn, LaKeith Stanfield and Juno Temple joined the cast of American filmmaker Derek Cianfrance's new feature film "Rooftop"

The trio joins Hollywood stars Channing Tatum, Kirsten Dunst and Peter Dinklage in the project, according to entertainment news outlet Deadline.

The director, known for critically-acclaimed titles such as "Blue Valentine", "The Place Beyond the Pines" and the HBO miniseries "I Know This Much Is True" has also penned the movie along with Kirk

"Rooftop" is based on the unbelievable true story of Jeffrey Manchester, a US Army Reserve officer turned rose to infamy as the 'Rooftop producer.

A midst tension between India and the US over the

alleged targeting of Sikh separatists by India, National

Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke over the phone with his

Indian counterpart Ajit Doval during which they discussed

developments, bilateral issues

discussed the need for further

efforts to ensure stability in

the Indo-Pacific region and

globally, the White House

said on Wednesday in a

"They welcomed progress in the bilateral partnership,

Critical and Emerging
Technology (iCET)

Intersessional and Indian

Ocean Dialogue. They also

opportunities for closer

collaboration in key domains,

including clean energy supply

The two leaders spoke over

"They also discussed further

opportunities for closer

collaboration in key domains,

including clean energy supply

chains and defence cooperation," said the White

House. Early this week, the

US had said that Canada's

allegations against Union

Home Minister Amit Shah are

"The allegations made by the

government of Canada are

concerning, and we will

continue to consult with the

Canadian government about those allegations," State

"concerning".

the phone on Wednesday.

and

cooperation, it said.

through the

Initiative

The two leaders

readout of the call.

including

upcoming

Technology

discussed

chains

security

defence

regional

including

cooperation.

Robber' or 'Roofman'. Tatum will essay the role of Manchester, who was a specialist in robbing McDonald's locations across robbing

His exploits kicked off in November 1998 and his modus operandi was to drill through the roof during the night or early morning, maintaining and demeanour rarely resorting to violence over the course of 40-60 estimated robberies, even while holding employees at gunpoint. Additional cast members for

"Rooftop" are Uzo Aduba, Melonie Diaz, Molly Price, Lily Collias, Emory Cohen and Tony Revolori.

Jamie Patricof, Lynette Howell Taylor, Alex Orlovsky, Duncan Montgomery, and Dylan Sellers will produce the movie with Rachel Halilei is a co-Halilej is a co-

Sullivan calls Indian counterpart Ajit Doval

Department Spokesperson

Matthew Miller told reporters

Canada's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison had "confirmed" a

leaked Washington Post report alleging that Shah was

behind a campaign to target

In response to a question Morrison said he had "confirmed" Shah's name to

"The journalist called me and

asked if it was that person. I

confirmed it was that person,"

The United States also said

it welcomes any

Khalistani separatists

The Washington Post.

on Thursday.

Canada.

US National Security Advisor Jake

PTI ■ DHAKA

India's Adani Power Jharkhand Limited (APJL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Power, has stopped half Adani Power, has stopped half of its power supply to Bangladesh because of outstanding bills of USD 846 million, according to a local media report on Friday. Data from Power Grid Bangladesh PLC showed the Adani plant reduced supply on Thursday night, The Daily Star newspaper said

Star newspaper said. Bangladesh reported shortfall of more than 1,600 megawatts (MW) on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday as the 1,496 MW plant is now producing 700 MW from a single unit, the newspaper reported.

Earlier, the Adani company wrote to the power secretary asking the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) to clear its outstanding dues by October 30.

The letter, dated October 27. said that if the bills are not paid, the company shall be constrained to take remedial action under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) by suspending the power supply on October 31.

The company said that the PDB has neither provided a letter of credit (LC) for an

amount of USD 170.03 million from Bangladesh Krishi Bank nor cleared the outstanding amount of USD 846 million

The newspaper quoted a PDB official as saying that they had



earlier cleared a portion of previous dues, but since July, Adani has been charging more than the previous months.

He said the PDB has been

paying around USD 18 million weekly, while the charge is more than USD 22 million.

"This is why the due payments increased again," he

said, adding that they had submitted last week's payment to Krishi Bank as well, but due to a dollar shortage, the bank failed to open a letter of credit against the payment. About the ac

About the additional payment, he said, when the PDB raised a question on the coal pricing in February last they signed supplementary deal that obliged Adani to quote coal prices less than the rates charged by the other coalfired power plants.

After the tenure of the oneyear supplementary deal, Adani has again started charging as per the PPA, the report said.

According to the PPA, coal prices are calculated based on the average price of two coal

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरूक्षेत्र

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KURUKSHETRA

(Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

KURUKSHETRA-136119 (HARYANA)

indices — the Indonesian coal index and the Australian Newcastle index — which increases the prices. Adani said that during the

period of suspension of supply, the company reserves its right to recover capacity payments under Section 13.2(1) of the PPA. Adani has been pressing the

interim government to pay the dues since they took charge after the ouster of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

An interim government led by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus was installed in Bangladesh on August 8. Gautam Adani, chairman of Adani Group, also wrote to Chief Adviser

Algeria pardons, releases journalist Ihsane El Kadi

voice during the country's 2019 pro-democracy protests and was later imprisoned for taking foreign funding for his media outlets and threatening state security.

from prison on Thursday evening, along with eight others who were imprisoned after criticising the state. Their release coincided with the 70th anniversary of the start of Algeria's revolution, a date that authorities have in the past used as an occasion to offer pardons. Fetta Saddat, one of El Kadi's

been serving a sentence for receiving foreign financing for Radio M and Maghreb Emergent, two media projects that were key outlets during the Hirak protests that led to the resignation of octogenarian presilaziz Routefl

He was among 4,000 released on Thursday based on clemency decrees signed by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, according to a statement from his office. Those released included people imprisoned for low level crimes and for "undermining

public order," a charge that

 $A^{\text{lgeria has pardoned a jour-}} \\ \text{nalist who emerged as a key}$

Ihsane El Kadi was released

awvers told Press that he was released from

reduction in tension along the

India-China border and

noted that it has been briefed

"We are closely following the developments (between India and China). We understand

that both countries have

taken initial steps to withdraw troops from friction points

along the Line of Actual Control. We welcome any

reduction in tensions along

Responding to a question, Miller said that the US has played no role in this. "We have talked to our Indian

partners and been briefed on

it, but we did not play any role in this resolution," Miller said.

the border," Miller said.

by New Delhi on this.

El Harrah prison after receiving a presidential pardon. He had

target dissidents in the past. Case Ref. No. DIAC/5662 D/11-22

Lily James, Pierce Brosnan to lead 'Cliffhanger' reboot

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES

A reboot of the 1993 action-thriller "Cliffhanger" is in development with Lily James and former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan leading the cast. It was earlier reported that the original film's lead, veteran actor Sylvester Stallone, will be returning for a follow-up to the original movie that would be directed by Ric Roman Waugh of "Greenland" The project has now been

reimagined but will retain the original's high-stakes, mountainous action, while exploring a fresh storyline, according to entertainment news outlet Variety.

The reboot will be directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, who earlier worked with Brosnan on the Dwayne Johnson-led "Black Adam". "Cliffhanger" featured Stallone

as Gabe Walker, a former mountain rescue ranger who becomes embroiled in a high-

stakes heist gone wrong.
The new script is based on a story by Ana Lily Amirpour.
Filming is underway in Austria.
Brosnan will play seasoned mountaineer Ray Cooper, who operates a luxury chalet in the Dolomites with daughter Sydney. During a weekend trip with a billionaire's son, they are targeted by a gang of kidnap-pers. Ray's daughter Naomi (James), still haunted by a past climbing accident, witnesses the attack and escapes. To save her family, she must confront her fears and fight for survival The movie will also feature Nell Tiger Free, Franz Rogowski, Shubham Saraf, Assaad Bouab, Suzy Bemba and Bruno

Gouery in pivotal roles.

In the matter of M/S Mihurisha Global Marketing Pvt. Ltd.

M/s Ohana Creation having Reg. office at 11128, Tower 9A, 11th Floor GH-7 Crossing Republic, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Whereas the above noted case is listed before Sole Arbitrator Mr. K. Venkatraman, the Delhi Arbitrator Mr. K. Venkatraman, the Delhi international Arbitration Centre (DIAC), Delhi High Court, S-Block, New Delhi on 11.11.2024 at 12:00 p.m.. Since despite the service, no one has appeared and represented the Respondent (M/s Ohana Creation) on date fixed i.e., 03.10.2024. Consequently, the Ld. Arbitrator has directed the Claimant (M/s Mihurisha Global Marketing Pvt. Ltd.) to serve the respondent through publication as a precautionary measure before proceeding Ex-Parte against the respondent.

n pursuance to and compliance with the orde dated 03.10.2024, we do hereby serve upon you the dated 3. 10.2024, we do nerely serve upon you the present notice to appear either in person or through your Authorized Representative before the Ld. Arbitrator, DIAC in captioned matter on 11.11.2024 at 12 p.m. please note, in case no one appears on the said date, time and venue before the Ld. Sole Arbitrator, the matter will be heard and determined Ex-Parte in your absence. arte in your absence. For b Mr. K. Venkatraman, (Sole Arbitrato

International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) Delhi High Court, S-Block, New Delhi Tel: 011-23386492



NOTICE Locker Hired by Ms.Neena

Khanna having address at- G-8 1st Flr Lajpat Nagar-3 Behind IDBI Bank New Delhi-- 110024 with Nehru Place Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd - Shop No. 1,2,3,6 & 6A Gr. Floor, Deenar Bhawan, 44 Nehru Place Delhi-110019 remains un operated since past 5 years and the rent is also due for the last 4

All the 3 letters earlier sent to Ms Neena Khanna calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and the aforementioned are not contactable It is hereby informed that despite

this notice, if the said locker is not operated by Ms. Neena Khanna within 90 days from the date of issuance of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done as per the extant process of the bank on February 01, 2025 at

CONVOCATION - 2024 The 19th Convocation of NIT Kurukshetra will be held on 17th November, 2024. Hon'ble

Governor of Haryana Shri Bandaru Dattatreya Ji will be the Chief Guest of the convocation. All eligible degree recipients are invited to attend the convocation. The final list of the degree recipients is uploaded on the Institute website. For registration schedule and other details related to the convocation, please visit the Institute website www.nitkkr.ac.in regularly.

Registrar I/c

OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PARISHAD, PATHARIYA, DIST- DAMOH **Notice Inviting e-Tenders**

(Second Call)

Dated: 30-10-2024

Online lumpsum bids for the following works under "sbm (u) - 2.0" (estimated on uadd issr (w.e.f 02.08.2021) are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling eligibility criteria Earnest Cost of Bid Tender ID Scope of the work Probable Time of amount of Document | Completion including (In Rs) (Rs. In Lacs) (EMD) (In Rs) rainy season 2024_UAD Interception & Diversion for tapping nallah 476.58 238290/-12 months 379735 1 and setup of sewage treatment plant for Used Water Management of PATHARIYA Town

Interested Bidder can view the NIT on website www.mptenders.gov.in and www.mpurban.gov.in

The Bid Document can be purchased only Online from 14:30 Hrs of 30-10-204 to 17:30 Hrs. of 16-11-2024

Amendment to NIT, if any, would be published on web site only, and not in Newspaper.

GST shall be payable extra as per Govt. rules.

CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICER NAGAR PARISHAD PATHARIYA DIST DAMOH



NIT No. 375

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरूक्षेत्र NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KURUKSHETRA (Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) KURUKSHETRA-136119 (HARYANA)

Advt.No.95/2024 Admission to Ph.D. Program in Even Semester of Academic Year 2024-25

National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra invites online applications via Google Form from ndian and Foreign nationals for admission to Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Programmes on Full Time (Institute/CSIR-UGC-NET-JRF, Project), Visvesvaraya Fellowship Scheme, Self-Financed Full Time and Part Time seats for Academic Year 2024-25. Number of Seats, Online Application Form Link, and other relevant details along with Ph.D.

Regulation are available on the Institute website: www.nitkkr.ac.in under Admission 2024->

All interested candidates may fill the Google Form latest by November 20, 2024, 03:00 p.m. If the application is incomplete or any information is found misleading/false at any point during or after the admission process, the candidate's candidature/admission will be cancelled and

the application fee will not be refunded in any case. Please visit Institute website regularly for any announcement or updates in this regard.

Registrar I/c



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT BHUBANESWAR

Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022 E-Mail: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 04ML /2024-25

On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha

1. Name of Work: Operation and Maintenance of existing 15 nos. schemes with intake points in Tel Basin having command area between 500 Ha. to 2000 Ha. in Megalift Cluster-XV in the districts of Sonepur, Boudh & Bolangir comprising all electromechanical & instrumentation equipments installed in pump house & MCC room including pumps and motors, switchyard & Transmission lines, intake well, Sump well, Rising main, Distribution chamber, Gravity main, complete distribution network by UGPL covering culturable command area of 20404.69 Ha. with operation of maintenance of all its 15 completed schemes including its power system connectivity, proper distribution of water to the ayacut including watch & ward with testing and calibration of all electromechanical components before the start of each irrigation period in the O & M period of

Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal

O & M Period: 120 (One hundred twenty) calendar months

: 08.11.2024, 10 A.M. : 07.12.2024 up to 5.00 P.M Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal Engineer, Megalift

A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar,

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751022 Chief Engineer, Megalift

Fuelled by festive demand, Indian automobile sales surges in October

In October 2024, the Indian automobile market witnessed a robust increase in across manufacturers, largely driven by festive demand and the

The Hyundai Motor India recorded a 2% increase in total sales, reaching 70,078 units compared to 68,728 units in October 2023. Domestic sales saw a slight uptick to 55,568 units, while exports rose by 6.7% to 14,510 units. The company's SUV portfolio performed exceptionally well, with sales peaking at 37,902 units,

including a record 17,497 units for the Hyundai Creta. JSW MG Motor India reported an impressive 31% year-on-year growth in wholesales, totalling 7,045 units. This surge was significantly bolstered by new vehicles (NEVs), which comprised over 70% of total sales. The newly launched electric crossover utility vehicle, Windsor, contributed 3,116 units in its debut month.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor also enjoyed a substantial 41% increase in total sales,



30,845 units compared to 21,879 units in the same month last year. Domestic sales amounted to 28,138 units, while exports stood at 2,707 units. Strong demand for the company's SUVs and MPVs, along with the introduction of limitededition models for the festive season, fuelled this growth. Maruti Suzuki India achieved its highest-ever monthly sales, reporting 206,434 units-a 4% increase year-on-year. Despite a decline in mini and compact car sales, utility vehicles saw a

significant boost with 70,644 units sold.

automaker experienced a notable increase in exports, which rose to 33,168 units.

Mahindra Mahindra celebrated its best-ever monthly sales with 96,648 units, marking a 20% increase from the previous year. The company's domestic SUV sales reached 54,504 units, a growth of 25%. The Thar ROXX, launched recently, garnered significant attention with 1.7 lakh bookings within the first hour. Additionally Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector reported record tractor sales, driven by favourable agricultural conditions.

The festive season has proven advantageous for multiple automakers, leading to impressive sales figures and positive market sentiment. The strong demand for SUVs and NEVs highlights a robust recovery and growth trajectory for the Indian automobile industry as it moves into the final months of the year.

ATF price hiked three per cent, commercial LPG up



Jet fuel, or ATF, price on Friday was hiked by 3.3 per cent and rate of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants increased by Rs 62 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price

The aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by Rs 2,941.5 per kilolitre, or 3.3 per cent, to Rs 90,538.72 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel

The hike comes after two rounds of reduction that had taken the rates to their lowest this vear.

ATF price on October 1 was cut by 6.3 per cent (Rs 5,883 per kl) and by Rs 4,495.5 per kl, or 4.58 per cent on September 1.

The ATF rate in Mumbai was increased to Rs 84,642.91 per kl on Friday from Rs 81,866.13 previously.

Oil firms also increased the price of commercial LPG by Rs 62 to Rs 1,802 per 19-kg cylinder. This is the fourth straight monthly hike in commercial

LPG prices. Prices were hiked by Rs 48.5 to Rs 1,740 on October 1. Prior to that rates were increased by Rs 6.5 per cylinder on August 1 and by Rs 39 on September 1. The four rounds of increase follow monthly reductions.

In four price reductions, rates were cut by Rs 148 per 19-kg cylinder and now in four rounds of increase, prices have gone up by Rs 156 per bottle.

Commercial LPG now costs Rs 1,754.50 per 19-kg cylinder in Mumbai, Rs 1,911.50 in Kolkata and Rs 1,964.50 in Chennai.

The rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2kg cylinder.

Indian Oil State-owned 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 exchange rate.

Prices of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. Rates had been cut by Rs 2 per litre in mid-March. Petrol costs Rs 94.72 a litre in Delhi while diesel is priced at Rs

SEBI proposes changes to ESG Rating framework



PTI NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has proposed tweaking framework for ESG Rating Providers (ERPs), particularly for those using a subscriberpays model, including an exemption from requirement to disclose ESG ratings to stock exchanges. Additionally, the regulator has suggested that ERPs using

a subscriber-pays model should share ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) rating reports with both subscribers and the rated issuer simultaneously. This policy should be publicly disclosed.

ERPs should ensure that rated entities, their group companies, or associates cannot subscribe to their own ESG ratings, Sebi said in its consultation paper. These proposals are aimed at

transparency, and regulatory alignment of ESG ratings within Sebi's framework. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had

introduced regulations for ERPs in July 2023, but ERPs have sought clarifications on

certain provisions, particularly for those using a subscriber-pays model, and accordingly the regulator issued a consultation paper on Thursday.

on Thursday. In the paper, the regulator proposed that ERPs should allow issuers to respond to the

ESG rating report within a set timeline. Any comments from the issuer should be added to the report as an addendum. If the ERP disagrees with the issuer's perspective, it may respond through remarks or an addendum. Further, ERPs on a subscriber-pays model should be exempted from disclosing ESG ratings to stock exchanges, provided they confirm they have no non-public information

affecting the rating. ERPs can rate unlisted issuers or other products under specific guidelines from relevant regulators. Sebi-registered ERPs should clarify regulatory overseeing any non-Sebi regulated ratings. The regulator has sought public comments on the proposals till November 15.

Apple sets all-time revenue record in India: CEO Tim Cook

PTI ■ NEW DELH

The iPhone maker Apple has set an all-time revenue record in India and observed a double-digit growth in iPad sales in the country in the September 2024 quarter, senior officials company said on Friday.

The company reported an over 6 per cent growth in total net sales to USD 94.93 billion during the reported period from USD 89.49 billion a year

ago. "We also set September quarter segment revenue records in the Americas, Europe, and the rest of Asia Pacific, as well as in a large countries, including the United States, Brazil, Mexico, France, the Malaysia, the UAE, and we continue to be excited by the enthusiasm we're seeing in India, where we set an all-time revenue record," Apple CEO Tim Cook said during the company's earnings call.

Cook said Apple also opened two new stores - one in Mumbai and the other in Delhi - in the country during

the quarter.
"We can't wait to bring four new stores to customers in India," he said. In early October, Apple

announced plans to open four more stores in India, located in Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai. According to a Counterpoint Research report, Apple iPhone sales accounted for

21.6 per cent of market share

in value terms in the

September 2024 quarter in



India. It trailed behind Samsung by a small margin. Apple's revenue from sales of from USD 67.18 billion in the September 2023 quarter with iPhone sales growing by about 5.5 per cent to USD 46.22 billion from USD 43.8 billion on a year-on-year (YoY) basis.

The services sales grew faster than product sales at around 12 per cent on a YoY basis and reached an all-time high at USD 24.97 billion during the quarter from USD 22.31 billion in the September 2023

The iPad sales of the company grew by about 8 per cent to USD 6.95 billion in the September 2024 quarter against USD 6.44 billion.

"iPad generated USD 7 billion in revenue, up 8 per cent yearover-year. In addition to growth in developed markets, also saw strong performance in many

emerging markets, with double-digit growth in Mexico, Brazil, the Middle markets, products grew by 4.12 per East, India, and South Asia, cent during the reported Apple Senior Vice President quarter to USD 69.95 billion and Chief Financial Officer, Luca Maestri said.

Apple's annual revenue grew by about 2 per cent to USD 391 billion in the financial year ended September 28, 2024, from USD 383 billion in the financial year 2023.

The annual product sales of Apple dropped by 2 per cent to USD 185.23 billion in FY24 from USD 189.28 billion in FY23 while services revenue grew marginally to USD 25.11 billion from USD 24.85 billion on a YoY basis.

While Apple recorded sales growth across geographies, its quarterly sales in China were almost flat during the quarter while annual sales declined by 8 per cent on a YoY basis.

In the product segment annual sales of iPad dropped by about 6 per cent to USD 26.69 billion in FY24 from USD 28.3 billion in FY23.

Property registrations in Mumbai surge in October Dussehra

 $R^{
m egistration}$ of properties $R^{
m egistration}$ municipal region rose 22 per cent last month to 12,960 units on higher demand during the festival period, according to Knight Frank.

There were 10,607 properties registered during October

Maharashtra government data, real estate consultant Knight Frank India said the Mumbai city BMC under jurisdiction) saw higher registration of properties during October this year on the back of two major

festive period, beginning with Navratri and

Diwali, are considered auspicious for property purchases, and played a role in this rise in registrations," the consultant said. Additionally, Knight Frank

said, the surge in year-onyear terms can be partly attributed to the base effect. "In October 2023, first 14 days were influenced by the Shradh period, during which buyers generally avoid big ticket investments, whereas

this year, Shradh ended on





embraced the festive season with a remarkable surge in registrations, underscoring strong commitment to high-value

registration by 22 per cent year-on-year is a sign that the sentiments towards home ownership continues to remain strong, he said.

'The onset of festivities has reignited sales momentum, fuelled by stable interest rates and a strong appetite for premium properties," Baijal the festive

progresses, he hoped that robust registration volumes are expected to continue, supported by favourable market conditions, festive offers on property purchase and stable policy interest

Maldives estimates securing MVR 1.6 GST collection grows 9 per cent billion foreign aid from India in 2025

PTI ■ MALE

The Maldivian government has estimated that India will provide MVR 1.6 billion in grant aid to the archipelago nation in 2025, constituting 72 per cent of the total foreign aid it will receive from friendly countries, according to media reports.

The estimates were made in the proposed State Budget 2025 submitted to the Parliament on Thursday, news portal Adhadhu.Com reported.

In the proposed budget, President Mohamed Muizzuled administration projected a total of Maldivian Kufiyaa (MVR) 2.25 billion as international grant aid. Of this, India is expected to



provide 72 per cent, amounting to MVR 1.6 provide billion (approximately USD 104 million)

provide the China will archipelago nation MVR 502 million, 22 per cent of projected free aid, the report

The Maldivian government expects to receive free aid from other friendly nations such as Japan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the Netherlands. According to the proposed budget, around MVR 336

million will be received as free international from organisations.

India has provided "substantial" financial help to India the Maldives this year, the report said.

During Muizzu's state visit to India last month, New Delhi announced a USD 400 million support to the island nation. The two sides also inked a currency swap agreement to the tune of Rs 3.000 crore.

Earlier this year, India came to the assistance of the Maldives by agreeing to rollover the Treasury Bills subscribed by the State Bank of India amounting to USD 100 million in May and September for a further period of one year.

to ₹ 1.87 lakh crore in October



PTI NEW DELHI

ross GST collection grew G9 per cent to over Rs 1.87 lakh crore in October on higher revenues

domestic transactions.

The Central GST collection stood at Rs 33,821 crore, State GST at Rs 41,864 crore, Integrated IGST at Rs 99,111 crore and cess at Rs 12,550

The total gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue grew 8.9 per cent to over Rs 1.87 lakh crore last month. In

October 2023, the mop-up was at Rs 1.72 lakh crore. domestic from transactions grew 10.6 per cent to Rs 1.42 lakh crore, while tax on imports rose about 4 per cent to Rs 45,096 crore during October 2024. Refunds worth Rs 19,306 crore were issued during the month, registering 18.2 per cent growth over the year-ago

After adjusting refunds, net GST collection grew 8 per cent at over Rs 1.68 lakh

SEBI proposes doubling threshold for 'High Value Debt Listed Entities'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has proposed raising the threshold for identifying High Value Debt Listed Entities (HVDLEs) to Rs 1,000 crore from Rs 500 crore at present reduce compliance burdens.

Currently, an entity having outstanding value of listed non-convertible securities of Rs 500 crore and above are referred to as 'High Value Debt Listed Entities'.

In its consultation paper, Sebi has proposed introducing a sunset clause that would end governance obligations if an HVDLE's outstanding debt falls below the threshold for a specified period, providing more flexibility.

It has suggested a dedicated chapter within LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations focused solely on corporate governance norms for HVDLEs distinguishing them from equity-listed entities.



filing of governance reports in format, voluntary Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR), and harmonise HVDLE reporting with reporting equity-listed entities.

Further, Sebi has proposed relaxation for HVDLEs which are not companies as per the Companies Act, 2013, relaxation with regard to the constitution Nomination and

Remuneration Committee (NRC), Risk Management Committee (RMC) and Committee (SRC). To avoid the constitution of

committees by multiple HVDLEs, Sebi has proposed that the board of directors of an HVDLE may either choose to constitute NRC/RMC/SRC or may ensure that the functions of these committees are delegated and discharged by the audit committee.

"It is proposed that the threshold of listed listed outstanding non-convertible securities for identification of a debt listed entity as HVDLE may be increased from Rs 500 crore to Rs 1000 crore," Sebi said in its consultation paper on Thursday

Also, Sebi has proposed setting a cap on the total number of committees a director can serve on whether in equity or debt-listed entities. This would help in preventing overcommitment and ensure they can fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

proposed that It has committee limits for directors should include HVDLEs. along with equity-listed companies, to protect investors and ensure directors companies, to have sufficient time for each

proposals, part of The corporate governance norms, for HVDLEs are aimed at promoting ease of doing business and the interest of investors in such HVDLEs the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought public comments till November 15 on proposals.

India sees growth in iron ore, manganese, and aluminium production in H1 FY25



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The production of iron ore, I manganese ore and primary aluminium increased in the first six months of the ongoing financial year, government data showed. per provisional data, production of iron ore rose 5.5 per cent to 135 million tonne (MT) in April-September FY25 over 128 MT

in the year-ago period.

Output of manganese ore increased by 6.2 per cent to 1.7 MT in April-September from 1.6 MT during the corresponding period of previous fiscal year, the mines ministry said in a statement. In the non-ferrous metal sector, primary aluminium in production September rose by 1.2 per cent to 20.90 lakh tonne (LT) from 20.66 LT in the year-ago period.

"During the comparative period, refined copper production has grown by 4.6 per cent from 2.39 LT to 2.50 LT," the ministry said. Iron ore accounts for about 70 per cent of the total mineral production Production of iron ore was 274 million tonne in 2023-24. Continued growth in production of iron ore in the current financial year reflects the robust demand conditions in the user industry viz. Steel. Coupled with growth in aluminium and copper, these trends point towards continued strong economic activity in user sectors such as energy, infrastructure, construction, automotive and

machinery. India is the second largest aluminium producer, among top ten producers of refined copper and fourth largest iron ore producer in the world.

Royal Enfield bike sales up in October

PTI NEW DELHI

Eicher Motors Ltd on Friday reported a 31 per cent rise in total sales of its Royal Enfield motorcycles at 1,10,574 units in October. It stood at 84,435 units in the year-ago period, according to a filing. International business sales

were at 8,688 units last month

against 3,477 units in October

last year, Eicher Motors said in the regulatory filing. Sales of models with engine capacity up to 350cc rose 27 per cent to 96,837 units compared to 76,075 units in October last year, it added. Similarly, sales of models with

engine capacity exceeding 350cc grew 64 per cent to 13,737 units from 8,360 units a year ago, the company said.











The International Festival of Indian Dance, a first-of-its-kind event, unites performers from around the world on a single stage to explore the vast possibilities of Indian dance, says ABHI SINGHAL



A GRAND CONFLUENCE OF TRADITION, INNOVATION AND CULTURAL EXCH

Sangeet Academy, esteemed national academy for music, dance, and drama, recently unveiled a landmark event: the inaugural International Festival on Indian Dance (IFID). This pioneering festival drew a global assembly of artists, scholars, critics, and performers to explore the vast and intricate world of Indian dance. Over six days, participants delved into an array of subjects that spanned the historical evolution. contemporary practice, and future direction of dance in India. At the heart of the festival was a focus on artist sustainability and policy support, addressing issues such as pressing sustainable livelihoods for dancers, dance education, and the impact of technology on the arts. In a series of discussions, attendees examined how funding, including through corporate social responsibility, could foster stability in the artistic community. conversations aimed to chart new directions for the preservation and propagation of Indian dance, touching on the balance between

> festival inaugurated by the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, at the A.P. Shinde Symposium A.P. Shilide Symposium Hall, setting the tone for a vibrant lineup of performances. The program celebrated the diversity of Indian classical dance forms, captivating showcases of Kathak, Kuchipudi, Bharatanatyam and more. The presence of luminaries such as Shri Kalyanasundaram Pillai, Raja Reddy, and Radha added distinguished touch to the proceedings.

One of the key objectives of the IFID was to illuminate the vital role that festivals and forums play in shaping the future of dance and art. Sessions



IN CONVERSATION WITH SANDHYA PURECHA

Dr. Sandhya Purecha is a prominent figure in the world of Indian classical dance, known for her contributions as a performer, choreographer, and educator. As an exponent of Bharatanatyam, she has dedicated decades to mastering and popularizing this ancient dance form, blending traditional techniques with innovative choreography. Dr. Purecha's work extends beyond performance; she is a respected scholar who has made significant contributions to dance research, helping to preserve and propagate India's cultural heritage. Her leadership roles, including serving on various cultural committees, underscore her commitment to fostering the growth of Indian classical arts at national and international levels. She talked about her journey, International Festival of Indian Dance and art with ABHI SINGHAL. Excerpts

Your background is incredibly diverse, spanning from law to dance. What inspired your journey into the performing arts?

As a young girl, my exposure to the arts came from my father, who was very open-minded and passionate about art. He encouraged my mother, despite the societal norms of the 1930s, to ensure that I learned dance. We couldn't afford classes, so he would walk miles with me to attend them. Dance became a part of my life, not just as an extracurricular activity but as an essential experience. Meeting my guru, Acharya Parvati Kumar Ji, was a turning point. He challenged me to reflect on my reasons for learning dance, and I realized I wanted to become like him and open a college for dance. That encounter ignited a lifelong dedication to

What are the biggest challenges facing the Indian performing arts scene today?

As the principal of the College of Fine Art and Culture, I've attended to th

performing arts as merely extracurricular seminars. The openness at these events activities. Our ancient Sanskrit literature, to discuss the challenges facing dance including the Puranas, recognizes 64 art forms inspired me to create a platform for as vital disciplines, placing them on par with collective dialogue. The festival subjects like mathematics. However, colonial aims to bring together artists, influences have marginalized these art forms. Unless performing arts are treated as explore and celebrate the mainstream education from the school level, we depth of Indian dance.



won't be able to inspire future generations.

What is your vision for the future of Indian classical dance?

Since taking over the Sangeet Natak Akademi, my goal as chairperson has been to foster an inclusive and collaborative dialogue. For instance, at the G20 summit, we showcased 85 rare musical instruments in a three-hour non-stop performance. Initiatives like these help connect people to our cultural heritage. My vision includes expanding the Republic Day celebrations to involve thousands of artists performing tribal and classical dance, covering the entire Kartavya Path. This reflects the collaborative spirit needed to promote Indian dance on a global stage.

What inspired the idea for the firstever International Festival of Indian Dance, and what do you hope to achieve?

Fine Art and Culture, I've attended The primary challenge is the perception of many national and international

emphasized the potential of technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to transform artistic expression, with a spirited debate on whether these advancements enhance or dilute the authentic experience of traditional dance forms. The festival sought to redefine how dance is perceived, taught, and preserved, fostering a dialogue that bridges the gap between the past and the future.

The Kamani Auditorium served as the stage for a series of enthralling performances that brought the beauty and depth of Indian dance to life. Audiences were enraptured by Dr. Sonal Mansingh's evocative presentation, while Ramli *Ibrahim*'s artistry captivated with its profound elegance. The performance of "Prakriti," choreographed by Mamata Shankar, stood out as a highlight.

Other notable performances included Shantha Ratii's Kuchipudi from Singapore, Sunanda Nair's Mohiniattam from the USA, and a riveting

Kathak performance by Archana Joglekar and her group. The festival concluded on a grand note, with a

ceremony attended

by dignitaries such as Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar, Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Mathura's Lok Sabha Hema Malini. In his closing address, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat lauded the event as a "Sanskritik Mahakumbh" monumental confluence of knowledge,

The IFID emerged as a resounding success, not only as a celebration of artistic excellence but also as a platform for fostering sustainable careers in the arts. The festival's impact extended beyond its six days, leaving a legacy that promises to

shape the future of Indian dance

for years to come.

introspection.

SILENT STRENGTH

Pranaita Gusain's exhibition "Whispers of the Unveiled" at the Open Palm, India Habitat Centre celebrates the complexity of femininity, exploring strength and vulnerability through powerful imagery. Each piece invites viewers to connect with their own stories and emotions, says SAKSHI PRIYA

n an era where female narratives often go unheard, 'Whispers of Lthe Unveiled' invites viewers to explore the intricate layers of femininity. Pranaita Gusain's powerful exhibition challenges societal perceptions, celebrating the strength and vulnerability inherent in womanhood. Each painting resonates with deep emotional truths, encouraging us to connect with our own stories and embrace the beauty of being unapologetically ourselves.

Art reveals the silent stories that dwell beneath the surface, offering us a glimpse into the profound emotions we often cannot express." This sentiment captures the essence of Gusain's exhibition, 'Whispers of the Unveiled. Through her evocative work, Gusain explores the delicate balance of strength and vulnerability within the female form, inviting viewers to see beyond the surface and into the emotional depths of each piece.

The exhibition is deeply personal for Gusain, as she reflected on her journey with art and womanhood. One of the standout pieces, 'Woman balancing a ball in various positions, symbolising the challenges and pressures women face in life. The ball represents these









to handle it gracefully illustrates resilience and adaptability. It speaks not only of physical balance but of emotional and mental equilibrium that women must often master. In 'Awakening of the Self', Gusain portrays a woman holding a Holding a Ball', depicts a woman lotus, a symbol of spiritual enlightenment and inner strength. This piece conveys the woman's battle to not only navigate external challenges but to seek inner peace struggles, while the woman's ability and understanding. The painting



radiates tranquillity, reminding us that true strength often comes from

'The Invincible Warrior' is a powerful depiction of feminine courage. With a bow in hand, the woman is shown ready to fight her battles with confidence and power. This piece highlights not just physical strength but the emotional and mental resilience that is vital to overcoming life's struggles. It's a tribute to the everyday warrior

within each woman. Perhaps the most poetic of all, 'Female as Butterfly', represents transformation and rebirth. The butterfly symbolises a woman's evolving spirit, ready to break free and soar. Gusain beautifully captures the contrast between the butterfly's delicate appearance and the strength it symbolises, a reminder that women, too, are always growing, changing, and uncovering new facets of themselves.

Pranaita Gusain's 'Whispers of the Unveiled', is an introspective journey through the many layers of femininity. It blends modern and traditional imagery to capture the complexities of the female experience, challenging societal perceptions and inviting viewers to look deeper. Each painting is a story, a reflection, and an unveiling of the inner strength and beauty that women carry within
Photos: Pankaj Kumar

India hand New Zealand control after batting flop show on Day 1

ndia's batters lost the plot in a matter of 20 minutes, leaving the side at a jittery 86/4 after Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar gave the hosts the early bragging rights by dismissing New Zealand for 235 on an eventful day one of the third and final Test here on

Jadeja (5/65) and Sundar (4/81) did their job to perfection but India's batting continued to be a weak link as the side lost three wickets in the space of eight balls, starting with Yashasvi Jaiswal's (30) inexplicable reverse slog

sweep. With his 14th five-for in Tests, Jadeja also moved ahead of former pace bowling teammates Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma to climb to the fifth spot in the list of highest wicket-takers for India in the

With 314 wickets so far, Jadeja is now behind Harbhajan Singh (417 wickets) in the all-

India, who lost by eight wickets in Bengaluru and by 113 runs in Pune, are in a desperate position to remain alive in the race to the World Test Championship final but the contest seems to be slipping

If Virat Kohli (4) missed an innocuous full toss to be cleaned up in first innings at Pune was an aberration, the batting maestro ran himself out in ending stages of the first day's play which left India



staring at a mountain to climb. India's rapid fall displayed their fast eroding confidence with the bat as Rohit Sharma (18) too was among those who fell without making a significant dent. In between the loss of the team's batting pillars, Jaiswal and Shubman Gill (31 not out) forged a 53-run stand for the second wicket before the closing stage collapse.

Rohit, playing only his second Test on his home turf of the Wankhede Stadium, dazzled with a few attractive strokes to get off the blocks quickly but failed to make the most of a reprieve. William O'Rourke spilled a tough chance at fine leg off Henry when Rohit pulled one towards his left with the fielder also covering fair distance to get to the ball in the fifth over.

In the seventh, Rohit played awkwardly at a back of a length ball, looking to work it on the leg side, the Indian skipper was perhaps surprised with the

bounce as he closed the face of the bat but the ball flew to his counterpart Tom Latham in the second slip. Rohit's fall had Gill joining Jaiswal and the two did try to rebuild before the latter's dismissal.

Earlier, spinners ruled the roost as Jadeja (5/65) and Washington (4/81) shared nine wickets between them to keep New Zealand to 235 after the visitors opted to bat.

Washington sparkled with a crucial two-wicket burst

claiming key wickets of New Zealand captain Tom Latham (28) and the in-form Rachin Ravindra (5). Even though Will Young (71) and Daryl Mitchell (82) played played outstanding knocks, on a spinfriendly track, humidity and heat tested the Kiwis' resolve

counter India's spin threat. Young and Mitchell put New Zealand on track for a big first innings score but Jadeja played a decisive role in pegging them

while they pushed full tilt to

back and handing the advantage to India with his mastery over the pitch and the conditions, picking wickets along the way.

R Ashwin, deployed first among the Indian spinners, remained wicket-less despite his variations but his bowling partners exploited the pitch perfectly, particularly left-arm Jadeja who bowled comparatively quicker and attacked the wickets.

New Zealand, who crumbled from 159 for three to 235 all out predominantly against Jadeja, did deserve credit for braving the conditions which had their highest scorer in the innings, Mitchell, really

struggling in the middle.
The burly batting all-rounder consumed liquids frequently and kept dropping to his haunches and even lay flat on his back as he made a fighting 82 off 129 balls, laced with three fours and as many sixes. Mitchell felt the heat more than anyone else also because he dealt a lot in singles and doubles until he brought up his maiden fifty of the tour. Each of this three sixes came towards the end

Like Mitchell, Young too looked set for a century but Jadeja's brilliance ended his knock. Getting one to turn away against Young's front-foot defence, Jadeja had the ball kissing the shoulder of the bat and Rohit did the rest at first slip, bringing an end to a fine knock in which Young scored 71 off 138 balls with four fours

Kolkata Anish three years old becomes youngest rated chess prodigy



PTI ■ KOLKATA

While most children of his age are absorbed in cartoons like Peppa Pig or Chhota Bheem, or simply playing with toys, young Anish Sarkar found his fascination in the quiet strategy of chess pieces, sparking a journey few could fathom.

At just three years, eight months, and 19 days, the kid from Kaikhali in north Kolkata on Friday became the youngest rated chess player in history.

Born on January 26, 2021, Anish made his debut in competitive chess with the West Bengal state Under-9 Open in October, securing an impressive 5.5 out of 8 points and finishing 24th overall defeating two rated players --Arav Chatterjee and Ahilaan Baishya.

He was also fortunate to get an opportunity to play against India No. 1 and World No. 4 Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi in a simultaneous exhibition match during the Bengal Rapid Rating Open.
Just a week later, Anish tested his skills again in the West Bengal state Under-13 Open, when the bengal state Under-13 Open, which is the bengal state Under-13 Open, which is the bengal state Under-13 Open, which is the bengal state U

where he faced older, experienced players.
Though the event was

challenging, it became a vital step in his journey, meeting the requirement of facing five rated players, ultimately earning him an initial FIDE

rating of 1555, which was updated on Thursday. In doing so, he surpassed the previous record set by Tejas Tiwari, who had become the youngest FIDE-rated player at five years, India's second GM

and his coach Dibyendu Barua said "He reminds me of Mitrabha Guha (who became GM at 20 years). Anish definitely has potential but he has a long,

long way to go," Barua, the director Dhunseri Dibyendu Barua Chess Academy, told PTI. Anish's emergence comes as India witnesses an exciting era in chess, with young talents like Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa, and D

Gukesh internationally. prodigies have shattered inspired fans records, worldwide, and recently, India celebrated a historic double-gold victory at the Chess Olympiad in both the open and women's categories. Their success has not only put India on the global chess map but has sparked a nationwide interest in nurturing young talents like Anish.

In most videos of Anish at chess tournaments, he is seen sitting on a stack of chairs just to reach the chessboard, making it an endearing sight. In one video, Anish plays against three GMs, including Barua and Surya Sekhar Ganguly, while balancing on the chairs as his coach Barua, playfully pinches his cheek. We've put him in a special group, where he trains for seven to eight hours," said

'Sometimes, he even comes to my home to play, and once he sits down at the board, he simply won't get up. His focus is truly astounding."

Born into a lower-middleclass family with parents who had "zero knowledge of chess,

Anish's journey began just a year ago when he was a toddler.

Humbert knocks out Alcaraz to join Zverev and Tsitsipas in Paris Masters quarterfinals Eighth-seeded **AP** ■ PARIS He next plays 10th-seeded In other

 $F^{\text{renchman}}_{\text{harnessed the energy of the}}$ home crowd and produced one of his best career performances in beating Carlos Alcaraz 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 to reach the quarterfinals of the Paris Masters

A flurry of forehand and backhand winners had Alcaraz 5-0 down in a first set so one-sided that Alcaraz - a four-time Grand Slam winner and grinned to the crowd after

holding in the sixth game. "There were some incredible points, I think I have just experienced one of my greatest moments on a tennis court," Humbert said. "I don't want it to end here."

The second-seeded Alcaraz controlled the second set but, after missing chances during the third set, served to stay in the match. The crowd jeered a replayed point but Alcaraz was unperturbed and held comfortably for 5-5

Sensing a big upset, Humbert got the Bercy Arena crowd going in the next game. The 26-year-old left-hander

looked like he was about to do a lap of honor after a brilliant forehand pass down the line at full stretch and earned ovations following a superb angled volley and a booming winner that flew past his Spanish opponent. "I have to congratulate Ugo.

His performance has been really high," Alcaraz said. "The way he hits the ball is unbelievable Alcaraz said Hubert deserved

victory, but added that the unusually high speed of the court made it more difficult for him - especially with the low trajectory of Humbert's shots.

"The stats came out that this is the fastest court in the Masters 1000, probably on the tour," the 21-year-old Spaniard said "For example, the Davis Cup indoor court (was) way slower.

A rattled-looking Alcaraz trailed 0-30 in the 12th game. Ŭaigh Umpire Richard intervened to calm the crowd, urging them not to cheer when Alcaraz made a fault on serve and then said in English "Guys, you're affecting both players.

Serving again to stay in the match at 15-40, Alcaraz saved one match point but returned long on the next as the 15thseeded Humbert set up a lasteight contest with Australian Jordan Thompson.

Grigor Dimitrov beat Arthur Rinderknech 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (5) to have an outside chance of reaching the season-ending ATP Finals. Dimitrov, who served 17 aces, needs to reach Sunday's final and next faces champion Khachanov Earlier, Alexander Zverev

silenced the raucous home crowd, beating French prospect Arthur Fils 6-4, 3-6, crowd,

compiled 16 aces compared to nine for the 20-year-old Fils in their first indoor meeting.

"I am happy I hung in there today," Zverev said. "He is a great player and has improved a lot this year. I am looking forward to the next few battles we are going to have." Zverev, the French Open

runner-up, saved three break points in serving for the match at 5-3.

'The atmosphere here is a lot louder than at Roland Garros. the 27-year-old Zverev said. "The crowd is on top of you."



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Stefanos Tsitsipas in their 16th career meeting, with Tsitsipas

The big-serving Greek earlier rallied to beat Francisco Cerundolo 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-2 to stay in contention to qualify for next month's Finals in year-end tournament gathering the season's top eight players.

Although Tsitsipas hit nine aces and saved all three break points, he converted only his career by beating veteran

matches, ninth-seeded Alex De Minaur kept up his chances of reaching the Finals with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 victory against Britain's Jack Draper, the U.S. Open semifinalist, and 2022 champion Holger Rune edged out lucky loser Arthur Cazaux 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Khachanov won 7-6 (5), 6-4 against Alexei Popyrin and Thompson advanced to the first Masters quarterfinal of

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Format C-1

(For Candidates to publish in newspapers, TV) Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

(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 of the Candidate: S. Manpreet Badal Name of Political Party: Bharatiya Janata Party

Name of Election: Bye-election to 48 Assembly Constituencies and 2 Parliamentary Constituencies of 15 States. Name of Constituency: AC-84: Gidderbaha

I, S. Manpreet Badal, a candidate for the abovementioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

S No	Pending Criminal Cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences		
	Name of Court/Police Station	Case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date (s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	
1.	District Court at Bathinda	FIR No. 21 of 24.09.2023, PS Vigilance Bureau Bathinda, District Bathinda.	U/s 13(1) a & 13(2), PC Act, Sec. 420, 409, 467, 468, 471, 120-b of IPC 1860 & Sec 66c & 66d of IT Act, 2000.	N/A	N/A	

As per the requirement of Government of India, Vigilance Awareness Week is being celebrated in UCO Bank Chandigarh. As per the instructions of the Head Office, various vigilance and anti-corruption activities were organised in the zonal office and zonal branches during the Vigilance Awareness Week.

यूको बैंक 💮 UCO BANK

UCO Bank organizes walk and street play

during Vigilance Awareness Week

Cyclothon at Sukhna Lake - 26th October at 6:00 AM by staff members Cyclothon was organized at the famous Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh. Bank logo A large number of staff members wearing yellow T-shirts and caps and riding cycles easily Attracting the attention of morning walkers. Staff members are raising awareness about vigilance and corruption carrying banners saying 'Protest against corruption', 'Stay dedicated to the nation' and placards with other anti-corruption slogans Padyatra and street play in Sector 17 Chandigarh - On 28th October, during the vigilance awareness week, a padyatra was taken out in the afternoon in Sector 17, one of the busiest areas of Chandigarh, by the staff members of the zonal office of UCO Bank and the nearby branches.



The cyclists across the country converge at fifth edition of Tour De Sanawar on Nov 3

Shimla: The Lawrence School, Sanawar, in collaboration with Hero Cycles and the Old Sanawarian Society, announces the 5th Edition of the Tour De Sanawar, India's largest Inter-School Cycling Competition, scheduled to be held on November 3, 2024 at its 177 year old school campus situated at the height of 1750 metres. This year's competition aims to take cycling to every school in India, with plans to establish a national league. Over 175 participants from 16 schools and more than 20 cities, including Bangalore, Pune, and Guwahati, will converge for this exciting race. Vivek Bhatia (IAS), the Director Youth Services and Sports & Principal Private Secretary-cum-Special Secretary to CM Himachal Pradesh, an enthusiastic and avid cyclist himself will grace the occasion as the chief guest. The competition featured four categories in an MTB XCO style, with routes ranging from 11 km for those under 14 years to 15 km with a 600-meter elevation gain for the elite category. Riders will navigate a challenging mix of steep ascents, thrilling descents, and sharp turns, testing the skills of the best