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CANADA ARRESTS NIJJAR ASSOCIATE



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

rshdeep Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, who ⚠was designated a terrorist by India, is likely to have been arrested in Canada's Ontario province following shooting incident, sources claimed here on Sunday. incident occurred October 28 in Milton.

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) had on October 29 said that it had arrested two men on charges of "discharging with intent' following an investigation after the duo had come to a hospital and one of them was treated for a non-lifethreatening gunshot and later discharged. It did not disclose their identity and said both accused "were

held in custody pending a bail hearing". The sources claimed that

one of those arrested is believed to be Arsh Dalla, who is associated with the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) and ran terror modules on behalf of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a designated terrorist who was killed in June last year. "The HRPS was contacted by Guelph Police in the early morning hours of October 28, 2024, after two males attended a hospital in Guelph. One of the males was treated and released for a non-lifethreatening gunshot wound apparently suffered in Halton region. The other

was not injured. "The HRPS Major Crime Bureau is now investigating and both males have been

arrested. A 25-year-old male of Halton Hills and a 28-year-old male of Surrey BC have both been charged with Discharging Firearm with Intent," a Halton police statement said, adding they were actively investigating the incident. Earlier on Sunday, Punjab Police announced the arrest of two shooters of Arsh Dalla's gang, who were allegedly involved in the murder of a Sikh activist last month, from Kharar in Mohali. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the arrest came in a joint operation of the state special operation cell, the Antigangster Task Force and Faridkot Police. The two identified were Anmolpreet Singh alias Vishal, a resident of Bhadorh

in Barnala and Navjot Singh

Nijjar Road in Kharar. Arsh Dalla, who has been accused of involvement in targeted killings, terror financing and extortion in Punjab, was in January last year designated a terrorist by the Indian government. The Union Home Ministry had said in a notification that he was involved in the crossborder smuggling of drugs and weapons on a large scale. He is an accused in various cases registered and investigated by the National Investigation including targeted killing, extorting money for terror funding, attempt to murder, disturbing communa harmony and creating terror among the people in Punjab. The central government believes that Gill is involved in terrorism and hence designated as a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 by the exercising powers conferred by clause (a) of subsection (1) of section 35 of the Act, the notification had said. In September 2024, Dalla publicly claimed responsibility for the murder of Congress leader Baljinder Singh Balli. Balli was shot dead in Moga district of Punjab. Dalla was the acting chief of the Khalistani Tiger Force and was seen as the successor of slain terrorist

Dalla, a wanted person on the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) terrorist list, has been allegedly orchestrating criminal activities in Punjab from his base in Canada for the past three to four years. A native of Moga, Dalla is accused of multiple targeted killings in

Hardeep Singh Nijjar.



Para commando martyred in **counter-terrorist operation**

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

An elite para commando of the Indian army was martyred in the counter-terrorist operation launched in the general area of Bhart Ridge, Kishtwar to flush out terrorists behind the killing of two members of the Village Defence Groups (VDG). Three other critically injured soldiers were airlifted from Kishtwar to a military hospital for advanced treatment. The operation was still in progress at the

The Army identified the brave heart as Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar of 2 Para and saluted his supreme sacrifice. The Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X, "Based on specific intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists, a joint operation was launched by security forces in general area Bhart Ridge, Kishtwar. This is the same group which had abducted and killed 02 (two) innocent villagers (village defence guards). Contact was established and a firefight ensued."

According to ground reports, the encounter took place a few kilometres from the spot where the bullet-riddled bodies of VDGs Nazir Ahmad and Kuldeep Kumar were found on Friday. In Kashmir, the residents living in the vicinity of the Zabarwan forest area woke up to the gunshots of heavy firing between a group of terrorists and the security forces. The highly fortified area

remained under siege as reinforcements were rushed to plug the escape routes. According to police, the gunbattle broke out around nine am in the forest area connecting Dachigam and the upper reaches of the Nishat area, a famous tourist destination. This is the third incident of terrorist violence in Srinagar since November 1. The gunfight which started early Sunday morning reportedly stopped in the afternoon. The terrorists are believed to have fled from the dense forest area. Since November 1, eight terrorists have

been eliminated by the security forces in six anti-terrorist operations in different parts of Kashmir valley. A foreign terrorist was killed during an encounter with security forces in the Rajpora area on the outskirts of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday. A total number of four encounters have

been reported in north Kashmir in the last four days which resulted in the killing of five terrorists.

Two foreign terrorists were killed by security forces during an encounter in the Sagipora area of Sopore on Friday while two local terrorists were killed in Shangus, Anantnag and a foreign LeT commander was killed in Srinagar's Khanyar area on November 2.

A foreign terrorist was killed in Bandipora forests earlier this week while another terrorist was killed during an encounter in Lolab forest.

Bangladesh govt wants Interpol support to repatriate Hasina

PTI ■ DHAKA

angladesh's interim government on Sunday said it will seek D'interpol's assistance repatriating deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India, and other "fugitives", to face trial for alleged crimes against humanity. Hasina and her party leaders face accusations of ordering brutal suppression of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement, resulting in numerous casualties during the July-August protests. The movement later intensified into a large-scale uprising, forcing Hasina to secretly flee to India



on August 5.

According to the interim government led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, at least 753 people were killed and thousands injured during the protests, which it termed crimes against humanity and genocide. Over 60 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide have been filed against Hasina and her party leaders with the ICT and the prosecution team till mid-October.

'A Red Notice will be issued through Interpol very soon. No matter where in the world these fugitive fascists are hiding, they will be brought back and held accountable in court," Law Affairs adviser Asif Nazrul told reporters here after inspecting the status of renovation at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), which is housed in the Old High Court building on the Supreme Court premises.



Justice Sanjiv Khanna takes oath as CJI today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been part of several landmark Supreme Court judgments such as scrapping the Electoral Bonds scheme, sanctity of EVMs and upholding abrogation of Article 370, will be every in as the 51st will be sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Monday. President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath of Office at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in a ceremony scheduled at 10 am. His term will last until May 13,

Hailing from an illustrious Delhi-based family, Justice Khanna is the son of former Delhi High Court judge Justice Dev Raj Khanna and the nephew of renowned judge Justice HR Khanna, who was superseded from Chief Justice post during Indira regime and later became Law Minister. Justice HR Khanna, the uncle of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, hit the headlines by resigning in 1976 after he wrote a dissenting verdict in the infamous ADM Jabalpur case during the Emergency.

The majority verdict of a Constitution Bench, upholding the abrogation of fundamental rights during the Emergency, was considered a "black spot" on the judiciary. Justice HR Khanna declared the move unconstitutional and against the rule of law and paid a price as the then Union government Union government superseded him and made Justice MH Beg the next

Waqf Bill Committee courts controversy again

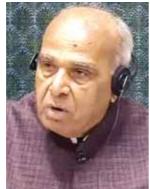
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Waqf (Amendment) parliamentary parliamentary Parliamentarians has now run into another controversy as MPs several Opposition

suggested that the assurance they received after meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has not been met. They accused the panel chairman Jagdambika Pal of going ahead with a tour of states despite his meetings lacking even the quorum. Jagdambika Pal, chairman of the

Joint Committee of Parliament formed to scrutinise the contentious Bill tabled by the government in the last Monsoon Session, rejected Opposition members' contention, asserting that "study tours" of parliamentary panels are an informal exercise and are not bound by formalities like

meeting the quorum.
The Pal-led committee is currently on a tour of five states to speak to various stakeholders, though opposition members have boycotted it. The panel



chairman told PTI on Sunday that he is confident of meeting the deadline of submitting the Committee's report by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, which begins on November 25, adding that he has already prepared its 200-250

Opposition MPs of the committee have, however, joined hands to question his functioning, alleging that Pal, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP, is doing the government's bidding, and they had earlier even threatened to disassociate themselves with its work.

Long beards, orange buildings... What's happening in govt colleges?

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR/BENGALURU

While the controversy over students hailing from Jammu and Kashmir sporting a beard, in Karnataka has been amicably resolved, another issue seems to be brewing in Rajasthan, around the institutions seeking to paint their

buildings orange.
The Rajasthan College
Education Commissionerate
has directed 20 governmentrun colleges to get the facade of their buildings and entry halls painted orange, under the Kayakalp Scheme. the Kayakalp to According Commissionerate, the move is to ensure a positive environment in the education institutes. The scheme is a national initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and

infection control in public

The Opposition Congress

slammed the move as an

healthcare facilities in India



educational Targeting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government over the matter, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) general secretary Swarnim Chaturvedi said that it was an attempt to "politicise" education in colleges. "The BJP government has failed to deliver on promises made to people. The government has nothing to highlight as its achievements and in order to divert attention; it is resorting to such moves," he

Rajasthan government Joint Director (Planning), College Education, Vijendra Kumar Sharma issued the order last month regarding the paint of front facade and entry halls colleges under the

to politicise scheme. In the first phase, a institutions. total of 20 colleges, two colleges in each division level, have to be painted, the order said.

"The colleges are the main centres of higher education. The educational environment and scenario of the college should be such for the students that they feel positive as soon as they enter the college," the order stated. The joint director further said in the order that in the first phase of the scheme, two government colleges of each division have been included and the front facade and entrance hall of the 20 colleges' buildings should be phase painted with "Asian Paints White Gold 8292 and Asian Paints Orange Crown

MASK UP!



Hazard ahead! Delhi woke up to another morning of toxic air on Sunday as the air quality lingered in the "very poor" range for the 10th consecutive day post-Diwali as a dense layer of smoo blanketed parts of the National Capital. The Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 334. Key areas, including Alipur, Anand Vihar, Jahangirpuri, Rohini, and Bawana, remained in the "very poor" AQI category, indicating hazardous pollution levels. PM2.5 concentration is currently 30.6 times the World Health Organization annual PM2.5 guideline value. Mist/Shallow fog reported at Safdarjung airport. Safdarjung airport recorded lowest visibility at 700m at 0700 hours IST. Palam airport recorded lowest visibility 1200m at 0800 hours IST. In many parts of the city. buildings, monuments, offices, flyovers, roads, and bridges were hardly visible as they were covered by a thick layer of smog

Save the date(s)... 48 lakh weddings ahead

Around 48 lakh ceremonies expected, generating business worth Six Lakh Crore

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

 $I^{\text{ndia hosts the highest}}_{\text{number of weddings in the}}$ world each year, and each is nothing less than a festival for the bride and groom, and their friends and families. Weddings are big business the world over, however, in terms of market size, the Indian wedding industry is still smaller than China's, but is almost twice as big as the United States'. Beginning from Dev Uthani Ekadashi on November 12, India's wedding season expects to see 48 lakh marriage ceremonies nationwide generating business worth a whopping Rs six lakh Crore. This is attributed to 18 auspicious wedding muhurats (dates) this

season, as compared to 11 in

According to a study by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), out of these 48 lakh weddings, about 40 lakh will be 'budgetweddings' (that cost between Rs 3 lakh to Rs 15 lakh), while around 50,000 weddings will be 'luxurious' with a spend of Rs 1 crore or more. About seven lakh more. About seven lakh weddings will have a budget of 25 lakh while 50,000 weddings will cost Rs 50 lakh and more.

The study estimated that 4.5 lakh weddings which will be solemnised contribute over Rs 1.5 lakh crore to the economy in Delhi. Last year, 35 lakh weddings during this season created business worth Rs 4.25 lakh crore here. Traders say weddings also help boost several other sectors, like clothing, jewellery, automobiles and consumer durables. These



industries see higher demand during the wedding season, with companies carefully timing their promotions and stock management around wedding dates. More than half of the jewellery industry's revenue comes

from bridal jewellery, while weddings and celebration wear drive 10 per cent of all apparel spending. According to wedding planners, a new trend emerging is the increasing spend on social media services for weddings.

Khandelwal said that while the Indian wedding industry is largely fragmented and unorganised, there's room for

Explaining this, CAIT's General and Secretary Member of Parliament from Chandni Chowk, Praveen Khandelwal said that while

goods and services, with main expenditure areas in goods including clothing, sarees, lehengas, and apparel (10 per cent), jewellery (15 per cent), electronics and appliances (five per cent), dry fruits sweets and spacks dry fruits, sweets, and snacks (five per cent), groceries and vegetables (five per cent), gift items (four per cent), and other goods (six per cent). In the services sector, expenditures will likely go toward banquet halls, hotels, and venues (five per cent), event management (three

per cent), tent decoration (10 per cent), catering services (10 per cent), floral decorations (four per cent), transportation and cab services (three per cent), photography and videography (two per cent),

big players to grow their orchestra and music (three share. He noted that wedding expenses are divided between sound (three per cent), and per cent), lighting and sound (three per cent), and other services (seven per cent). According to the Jefferies

report, an investment banking and capital market firm, the Indian wedding industry is worth US\\$130 billion and is the secondlargest in the world, after food and groceries. The report said an average Indian family spends Rs 12 lakh on a wedding, which is three times their yearly income of Rs four lakh. In contrast, they only spend around Rs 6 lakh on educating their child for 18 years (from preschool to graduation). The largest share of wedding expenses goes to jewellery, at nearly 25%, followed by catering at 20% and events at 15%

Himachal CM Joins RaGa in Criticizing Corporate Monopolies

Calls for Policy Reforms to Protect National Interest

PNS ■ SHIMLA

In a strong endorsement of Congress leader and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's warnings about market monopolization. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Sunday voiced concern over the growing concentration of economic power within a few corporate giants. Sukhu, addressing the issue in Shimla, echoed Rahul Gandhi's recent comments, urging the BJP-led Central Government to initiate urgent reforms to protect the interests of both consumers and the broader economy.

"Rahul Gandhi's stance isn't mere criticism; it's a necessary call for transformative reform, said Sukhu, referencing Rahul Gandhi's comparison of current monopolistic practices to those

of the British East India Company. According to Sukhu, unchecked market monopolies threaten not only the economic framework but also the social fabric of the nation. He emphasized that the Congress party's ideology has long been focused on equitable resource distribution and public welfare, values that he believed are being compromised under the dominance of a few powerful corporations.

Sukhu pointed out the adverse effects monopolies can have on market health, citing risks such as inflated prices, reduced competition, and compromised product quality. "A balanced and competitive market is essential for keeping prices fair and ensuring consumers receive quality goods and services. Monopolies erode these basic protections," he warned. The Chief Minister further urged the Union Government to view this issue through a lens that transcends political affiliations, emphasizing national interest over partisanship.
Calling for a national con-

the count from 3,226 to 3,615.

Confirming the move, Panchayati Raj Minister

Anirudh Singh said: "We have requested proposals

from Deputy Commissioners

for the creation of new Gram

Panchayats. If necessary, in

line with regulations, these

new Panchayats will be estab-

lished to facilitate better gov-

ernance and representation.

The final decision will be

made after a thorough review

of the proposals and applic-

regulations.

Himachal Govt Bans CM Sukhu's photos amid 'samosa' uproar

PNS ■ SHIMLA

versation, Sukhu stressed that

the risks of corporate monop-

olies deserve widespread pub-

lic scrutiny. "This is a matter

that affects every Indian citizen,

and the implications of monop-

clear. We need to foster aware-

ness so that people can under-

stand the importance of a fair

and competitive marketplace,"

Rahul Gandhi's appeal for

reform isn't just about chal-

lenging the current system, but

a vision for a more inclusive

economy. He called on the

Central Government to prior-

itize policy changes that reduce

economic inequality and fos-

ter a level playing field for busi-

nesses of all sizes. "If the gov-

ernment genuinely seeks to act

in the public's best interest,

they must consider Rahul

Gandhi's recommendations

seriously," Sukhu urged, adding

that policies which reduce eco-

nomic disparity and empower

local businesses would ulti-

mately protect India's eco-

nomic sovereignty.

Sukhu reiterated that

he asserted.

olistic control must be made

Tn a twist that's drawing widespread amusement and critique, the Himachal Pradesh Government has clamped down on sharing Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's photos without prior clearance, as an curious 'samosa scandal' brews. The CID is busy investigating the "missing" samosas, sparking a storm on social media and jabs from opposition leaders questioning the gov-

ernment's priorities. The directive, issued by the state's Department of Information and Public Relations, applies to all photos taken at official meetings, events, and public engagements involving the Chief Minister. The order, which was circulated to secretaries and departmental heads, emphasized the potential risks of photos that may "portray inappropriate gestures", which could harm the Chief Minister's image. "Unregulated sharing can distort public perception and damage the reputation of the Chief Minister and the Government," the notice

The unusual move has sparked strong reactions, especially as it coincides with a social media frenzy and scornful remarks from the BJP regarding a peculiar "samośa" incident. BJP chief JP Nadda, during a rally, questioned the Government's focus, quipping, "In Himachal, they promised unemployment benefits and jobs. But today, they're investigating who ate the samosas!" The snack saga began last

month when samosas from Shimla's Radisson Hotel, intended for Chief Minister Sukhu during an official event, ended up being served to staffers by mistake. This sparked a curious internal CID probe, prompting a series of amusing theories and political jabs. While the Chief Minister insisted that the probe pertains to a case of "misbehaviour" and not missing samosas, Deputy CID General Sanjeev Ranjan Ojha clarified, "This is an internal matter, not a samosa investigation. The CM doesn't even

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

We Lost the possession Certificate and Plot Hand Over Letter of Plot no. PP-198. Sector 108 EMAAR Mohali. If Anyone Found These Documents Please send at 176 Sector-4. Panchkula.

BEDAKHLI

मैं पवन कुमार मदान पुत्र लेखराज मदान निवासी 925/1. वार्ड नंबर ७, साँपला ,रोहत्क अप्ने पुत्र कुणाल मदान जो कि मेरे कहने सुनर्ने से बाहर है को अपनी चल अँचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करता हूं। भविष्य में मेरे पुत्र कुणाल से लेनदेन कुरने वाला स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा । मेरे और मेरे परिवार की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी।

में धर्मवीर सिंह पुत्र श्री धारे सिंह् गाँव डोभ, जिला रोहतक अपने हल्फ से ब्यान करता हुं की मेरा पत्रं सतीश को मेरी चल-अंचल संपति का अधिकार होगा।

I, Kusum Lata W/o Madan Lal R/o H.no. 28 Arjun Nagar, Mahesh Nagar Ambala Cantt that my son Sahil and his wife Neha and their son Vinayak are out of my control so I disown them from all my moveable immoveable properties. In future anybody dealing with them at their own risk, me and my family members will not be responsible

I Bhushan Pachar, s/o Shri Neeta Ram, R/o 16, Sundar Nagar, Harmilap Mandir, Machhonda, Ambala declare that my wife Rosy, son Ansuman and daughter Riddhima from my all movable and immovable properties.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, No. 1519486 Abhay Vikram Singh Rank NK S/o Updesh Singh R/o Singhowal, PO. Dagan, Tehsil Mukerian, (Hoshiarpur) Punjab declare that in my Army Record the name of my daughter wrongly recorded as Devika. But the correct name of my daughter is Devika Thakur.

I, Hitherto Known As Arprith W/O Sh. Sudesh Singh Residing At Vill Patial, P.O. Trangalian, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Harpreet Kaur. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In

Connection. It is for general information that I Mohanlal S/o Kashmir Singh R/o House No Uplana(78) Tehsil Assandh District Karnal, Haryana-132039 declares that in my 10th and 12th Class Mark Sheet and Certificates, the name of my Father has been wrongly written as Kashmir Singh Lohar, The actual name of my Father is Kashmir Singh which may be amended accordingly.

I. Amaan S/o Mohammad Affsar # 701/17, Bapu Dham Colony, Sector 26, Chandigarh is hereby declare that my father's name wrongly mentioned as Afsar in my academic certificates but corect name of my father is Mohammad Affsar and my mother name also wrongly mentioned as Phatima instead of Fatma Khatoon which is Correct name.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gurdip Singh Brar Son Nachhttar Singh Resident Of VPO Burj Mehma, Teh & Dist Bathinda have Changed My Name to Gurdip Singh

I, jagtar salam s/o Narata Ram r/o vill. Dedhna, Teh. Patran (patiala) have changed my name to jagtar Singh

I, Gurbinder Singh Brar Son Gurdeep Singh Resident Of VPO Burj Mehma, Teh & Dist Bathinda have Changed My Name to Gurbinder Singh

I, Manisha D/o Titu Sood R/o # 17G, SBI complex Phase-10, Mohali have changed my name from Manisha to Manisha sood

I, Yadvinder Singh Brar Son Gurdeep Singh Resident Of VPO Burj Mehma, Teh & Dist Bathinda have Changed My Name to Yadvinder Singh.

I, Harmesh Kumar S/O Piara Lal R/O 6483, Baba Murad Shah Road, Moh Kamalpura, Nakodar Distt Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Harmesh Kumar To Ramesh Kumar.

I Gurdiayal singh S/O Gursharan singh R/O Plot no 37 sukhdev Nagar Kuliawal Jamalpur Ludhiana Declare That my daughter name is Anmol Shah That my real name is Gurdayal Singh That in my daughter's school records my name is mentioned as Fareed That please correct my name in my daughter's school records as Gurdayal Singh

I Ramesh Chand S/o Sumer Chand R/o 38D, Ram Nagar, Ambala Cantt, Distt. Ambala.have changed my Name from Ramesh Chand Mittal To Ramesh Chand.

I Sudama Devi M/o Service No. 18016361X Rank SPR Praduman Kumar Singh Permanent Resident of Sultanpur, Vaishali, Sultanpur, Bihar 844506.have changed my DOB from 20/02/1966 To 01/01/1955.

I Paramjeet Singh F/o Service No. JC 344696P Rank Nb Sub Name Baltei Singh R/o Turatpur Post Afzalgarh ,Uttar Pradesh 246722.have changed my DOB from 01/07/1957 To 01/02/1960.

I Ravinder Kaur W/O S. Ajmer Singh Riyat R/O h. No. 629 urban Estate phase 2 Chandigarh road Ludhiana Declare That Ravinder Kaur And Ravinder Kaur Riyat Are One And The Same Person.

I, Rajni W/o Manjit Kumar R/o House No.65, Amar Nagar, Malwal Road, Ferozepur City have Changed My Name To Rajni Oberoi.

I, Deepak Masih S/o Raj Kumar R/o Bedi Colony, Dhariwal, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143519 have changed my name and shall hereafter Masih is my surname and Deepak is my given name.

I, Gurdeep Singh S/O Balkar Singh R/O # 267, New Sular Colony, Green Enclave, Sular Patiala Have Changed My Name To Gurdip Singh.

I, Parkash W/O Gurdip Singh R/O # 267, Vpo Sular, Green Enclave, Patiala Have Changed My Name To Pra-

I, Harbans Singh Dhaliwal S/o Lakhwinder Singh Dhaliwal R/o Dr. Komal Street Court Road Patti Teh-Patti (Tarn Taran) have changed my name from Harbans Singh to Harbans Singh Dhaliwal.

I, Hero W/o Harvinder Kumar R/o Vpo. Burj Kandhari Teh-Banga (SBS Nagar) have changed my name Hero Rani and now Rani is my surname.

I Inderjeet Singh S/O Balkar Singh R/O Village Marhana Tehsil & District Tarn Taran Punjab Have Changed My Given Name To Inderjeet And Surname To Singh.

Ĭ Richa W/O Pankai Goyal R/O Satta Bazar, Near Sbi, Kotkapura District Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Richa Goyal.

I, Nasreen W/o Jagdev Khan R/o Village Dandrala, Po. Dhindsa (Patiala) have changed my name to Karmjit Kaur. I, Parveen Kumar S/o

AshokKumar R/o 52, Saduagarhi, Hasanpur, Hodal, Hassanpur (Rural) (Part) (104), Po-Hassanpur, Dist-Palwal, Haryana - 121107, have changed my minor son's name from Singh Randeep Aged 16 Years to Randeep

Singh forever. I Sunaina Kansal D/o Rakesh Kansal and W/o Sanjay Garg R/o 771, Huda, Sector-11, Panipat, Haryana-132103, have changed my

name to Sunaina Garg. I Sanjiv Kumar S/o Subash Chand R/o 771. Huda. Sector-11, Panipat, Haryana-132103, have changed my name to Sanjay Garg.

I, Navjit Singh S/o Saroop Singh R/o Vpo Khojkipur Distt Tarn Taran. Have Changed My Name To Navjit is my given name and Singh is my Surname.

I, Harmesh Kumar S/O Piara Lal R/O 6483, Baba Murad Shah Road, Moh Kamalpura, Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Harmesh Kumar To Ramesh Kumar.

I, Piara Lal Verma S/O Ram Chand R/O House No. 1388, Sector -20, Part-2, Sirsa-125055 (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Piara Lal Verma To Piare Lal Verma. I, Preet Mittal W/O Sahil

Garg R/O House No. 124, R.S.D. Colony, Sirsa-125055 (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Preet Mittal To I, Ragni Pasi W/o Vikas,

1807, Nirvana Society, Sector 49-B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Ragni Pasi to Ragini. I, Muniyamma D/o Kaliy Prumal # 1001, Vikas Nagar, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh

have Changed my name to

Muniyammal. I, Akashya Kumar S/o Sh. Vijay Kumar R/o H.No. 792 W. No. 4 Vijay Clinic, Narwana Road Jind Tehsil and District Jind Have Changed My Name From Akashya Kumar To with Surname Akashya Kumar.

I, Rekha Devi W/o Sh. Akashya Kumar R/o H.No. 792 W. No. 4 Vijay Clinic, Narwana Road Jind Tehsil and District Jind Have Changed My Name From Rekha Devi To with Surname Rekha Devi. I, Indu Lekha W/o Sh

Vijay Kumar R/o H.No. 792 W. No. 4 Vijay Clinic, Narwana Road Jind Tehsil and District Jind Have Changed My Name From Indu Lekha To with Surname Indu Lekha. I, No. JC-406764H

NB/Sub Vijay Singh Unit 11 GUARDS C/0 56 APO resident of Village- Birohar, Tehsil- Matanhail, District-Jhajjar, State-Haryana, have changed my Mother name from Bhateri Devi to Bhateri Vide affidavit Serial No.5436 before Executive Magistrate

Matanhail (Haryana). I, Nirma Devi spouse of No.15677002P Hav Pramod Kumar resident of Village-Bharatpura, Post- Hanuman Ganj, Tehsil- Ballia, District-Ballia, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin-277001, have changed my name & DOB from Nirma Devi to Nirma Verma and date of birth from 05 Oct 1989 to 12 Jan 1991Vide af-PB76473833224416W dated

No.IN-06 Nov. 2024 before notary public Pathankot. I, Manjit Singh S/o Shiv

Singh R/o Ballo Ki Patti, VPO. Dhaliwal Bet, Distt. Kapurthala have changed my name from Manjit Singh to Singh Maniit (Given name as Maniit & Surname as Singh)

I, Salinder Kaur W/o Manjit Singh R/o Ballo Ki Patti, VPO. Dhaliwal Bet, Kapurthala have changed my name from Salinder Kaur to Kaur Salinder (Given name as Salinder & Surname as Kaur).

I, Naresh Kumar Raghav S/o Roop Ram R/o Vill. & PO. Kot, Teh. Kasauli, Distt. Solan (HP) have changed my name from Naresh Kumar Raghav to Naresh Kumar.

I, Vandna Raghav W/o Naresh Kumar R/o Vill. & PO. Kot, Teh. Kasauli, Distt. Solan (HP) have changed my name from Vandna Raghav to Vandna.

I. Devinder Kumar S/o Geeta Ram R/o Vill. Gawalsar, PO. Deothi, Teh. & Distt. Solan-173211 (HP) changed my minor daughter's name from Bhanu to Bhawna.

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Himachal Gears Up for New Gram Panchayats Ahead of 2025 Elections

been a key pre-election measure in the state, except in 2010 and 2015. The most Himachal Pradesh Government, in a straterecent elections in 2020 saw a gic move leading up to the significant increase with 412 2025 Panchayati Raj new Panchayats proposed, out of which 389 were offi-Institution elections, has cially registered after merging begun the process of creating new Gram Panchayats across several smaller Panchayats the State. With elections set into municipal bodies, raising

Government has sought pro-A formal letter from the Panchayati Raj Directorate posals for both new Panchayats and re-demarcarecently prompted the govtion of existing ones from all ernment to confirm its plans Deputy Commissioners, for new Panchayat formamarking the official start of tions. As proposals are collected and assessed by Deputy pre-election preparations. The hill state currently Commissioners, the governhas 3,615 Gram Panchayats, ment will deliberate based on but this number is likely to the feasibility and alignment with Panchayati Raj rules and

for December next year, the

rise as new divisions are established. Alongside this expansion, boundaries of numerous existing Panchayats will be altered to accommodate the new entities. The re-demarcation process, expected to conclude by April 2025, will also necessitate a revision of the reservation roster for each Panchayat — a critical step to ensure compliance with quotas and fair representation

The formation of new Panchayats has historically

across communities.

able guidelines." बेदखली सूचना मेरे व मेरे परिवार के कहने सुनने से बाहर हैं। इसलिए मैं उसे अपनी चल-अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करता हूं।

भविष्य में उसके द्वारा किए गए अच्छे बुरे कार्यों व लेन देन व किसी प्रकार के कानूनी व गैर कानूनी कार्य के लिए वह स्वयं जिम्मेवार होगी। मेरी व मेरे पेरिवार की कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी।

PUBLIC NOTICE मैं, महावीए सिंह पुत्र श्री राम कर्ण निवासी गांव हिगाना-47, नींद अपने हल्क से ब्यान करता हूं कि मेरी पुत्री आंचल उस 20 वर्ष (07/08/2004) नोंकि No.SRS/B20/3778: Property ID No.3RUNYMU8: No. SRS/BZ0/3778; Property ID No.3RUNYMUS; constructed on Plot measuring 39°5 x 46° i.e. 201.88 sq. Yards i.e. 06 maría 06 sarsai; situated within revenue estate of village Khajakhera, area Preet Nagar, Sirsa vide sale deed no. 10077 dated 28.03.2024 duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar Sirsa. I have lost previous Original Sale deed no. 3903 odded 20.09.2004 some-where which is related to this House. If found please contact no. 94169-53249 and if this deeds found and the plant of the plan

Public Notice

Smt. Sushila Devi Wio Sh. Nafe Singh Sio Sh. Sultan Singh Rio Tersial Pundri and District Kaithal has taken a secured loan of Rs. 6,17.262/- from the staken a secured loan of Rs. 6,17.262/- from the staken a secured loan of Rs. 6,17.262/- from the staken and the staken are staken as the staken are staken as the staken are staken are of Pundri having Old PPID No. 20C24U171/4 and New PPID No. 7RNDF2A2. The loan is under proposal no. LAP-KAITHA-O11-07-2024, taken from branch office lind Floor, Karnal Road, Kaithal Haryana 136027. As per sale deed no. 28391 dt. 6-11-2018, registered at SRO Kaithal, Smt. Sushila Devi is the sole owner of the property, It anyone has any claim, right, title, litigation or interest in the property, they must submit objections within 7 days from this notice to the undersigned. Any claims made fater the expiry of this period shall be deemed false. from this notice to the undersigned. Any claims ma after the expiry of this period shall be deemed fals frivolous, fraudulent, and baseless, and will hold value in the eyes of the law. Exclusive Leasing and Finance Private Limited.

("A State Govt. Undertaking")

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online tenders are hereby invited by the undersigned and on behalf of Managing Director HPSEBL, Shimla-4 from A-class registered contractor for the following work on the prescribed form (Tender Document). The dates of Sale/Receipt and Opening of tender is as per detail given below. The bid document is available online and bid shall be submitted

Tender No.	Description of work		Estimated Cost	Earnest	Price of Tender Document	Eamest Money	
JED-47/2024-25	Tender for Supply of equipment/material, design, erection, esting & commissioning for SOP to Shifting of 11kv HTLine on 11kv Jawali Feeder & Shifting of 3-Ph. LT line from xisting 250 kVA s/stn Bhanei in the complex of Shaheed Surinder singh Govt. ITI Bhanei Jawali in (E) Sec. Jawali JESD Jawali. (TS No.55/2024-25)		Rs. 6,37,980/-	Rs. 6,380/-	590/- only (Including GST)	3 Months	
49/2024-25 JED-48/2024-25	Fender for Supply of equipment/material, design, erection, esting & commissioning for SOP to JSV by prov. 11/0.4kv, s3KV & S/Stn T/Well PC habitation a/w HT Line of CV Sidhpurghar near Sr. Sec. School Guglara in (E) Sec. Sidhatha UESD Jawali. (TS No. 56/2024-25)		Rs. 11,08,679/-	Rs. 11,090/-	590/- only (Including GST)	3 Months	
JED-49/2024-25	Tender for Supply of equipment/material, design, erection, testing & commissioning for SOP to JSV by prov. 11/0.4kv. 63KVA S/Sth T/Well PC habitation a/w HT Line in Vill. Papahan near Bogdeyan Di Pukhar in (E) Sec. Sidhatha UESD Jawali. (TS No. 57/2024-25)		Rs. 9,06,089/-	Rs. 9,060/-	590/- only (Including GST)	3 Months	
Key	Dates:-						
1.	Date of online publication	11.11.20					
2.	Start date and time of bid submission 11.11.2024 (a		-				
3.			_	4 (upto 10:00 AM)			
4.			24 (at 12:00 NOON)				
5.	Date and time of opening of financial bid Later on.						

All the terms and Conditions will be as per Standard Bidding Document available on website

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

Sr. Executive Enginee

Govt fulfilling its promises made in 'Sankalp Patra': Hry Minister PNS ■ JHAJJAR/CHANDIGARH akhand paath of Sant Garibdas' ment of all sections of society,

Haryana Cooperation, Jail, Heritage and Tourism Minister Arvind Kumar Sharma on Sunday said that the State Government is fulfilling its promises made in the Sankalp Patra, including issuing appointment letters to 25,000 youth, which has brought great joy among the

younger generation. The BJP-led Government was formed in the State for the third consecutive time with the blessings of the 36 communities...Steps are taken for the welfare of the people belonging to all the communities and we are dedicated to serve the people," he said, while talking to the media after attending the programme of Amritmayi Vani at Adarsh Nagar in Íhajjar. The Minister said that the

State Government is focused on promoting tourism in Haryana and taking it to new heights. "Development works will be expedited, and the State Government is committed to fulfill the expectations of the people," he stated. "The State Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, has received overwhelming support, as evident from the voting patterns in Haryana," he said.

He said that the state government is already fulfilling its promises made in the Sankalp Patra. "The state government is committed to the develop-

including farmers, agricultural laborers, athletes, women, and youth," he added.

Sharma said that significant improvements have been made to the state's jails. He assured that any deficiencies would be addressed, with strict action taken if necessary. He added that India's culture is the richest in the world, shaped significantly by its saints and sages. "Saints fought against social evils while imparting timeless lessons of compassion and unity to the world," Sharma said, adding, "I am working with a spirit of service, following the path shown by my ancestors, and I am confident that I will continue to receive the blessings of saints and sages," he added.

MRSAFPI celebrates record-breaking success as 20 cadets secure places in NDA, TES merit list

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute (MRSAFPI) marked a historic milestone as 20 of its cadets secured spots in the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Technical Entry Scheme (TES) merit lists, makcessful year to date. A grand felic- among the 10 cadets from Merit List and Cadet Keshav

MRSAFPI campus in SAS Nagar, Mohali, on Sunday to honour the achievements of these outstanding cadets, celebrating their journey to becoming future officers of the Indian Armed Forces.

Cadet Armaanpreet Singh, who topped the All-India Order of Merit for the NDA, and Cadet Karman Singh Talwar, who achieved the second rank in the itation ceremony was held at the MRSAFPI's 12th course recog- Singla taking the 15th position.

nized during the ceremony. In April 2024, the NDA entrance exam saw nearly six lakh students from across India compete for limited spots. After clearing the written exam, the top candidates underwent rigorous assessments at the Services Selection Boards (SSB). MRSAFPI cadets excelled in both stages, with Cadet Armaanpreet Singh securing

Punjab & Sind (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Rama Mandi(R0269) Bank Bazar Rama Mandi, Bhatinda.

[Rule-8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the Puniab & Sind Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to borrower(s)/guarantor(s), on the date mentioned hereunder, calling upon the borrower(s) / guarantor(s), to repay the amount

nentioned in the respective demand notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security nterest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against below accounts.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Punjab & Sind Bank** for the amount specified against each as per details below less amount of recovery if any plus future interest expenses, costs, thereon. The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of timeavailable, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) Guarantor(s)

1. M / s B S Enterprises Prop Beant Singh S/o Mithu Singh Property measuring 0 Kanal 4 marle i.e. 111.11 sq yd. schedule of the land interest thereon Po Kotbakht. Tehsil Talwandi Kanals 03Marla 5.40 Sarsai is equal to 00 Kanal 04 Marlakhewat No. 757. Khatauni no 1221 sabo, Dist Bathinda PIN 151301 Khasra No 581 min (1- 3- 5.40) situated at ward no. 3, Near Kamalu Road, Raman, Tehsi (Reprover) 2. Beant Singh S/o Heera Singh, Village Kishangarh ur Guot Pisto Hatinda, Jamabandi for the year 2016-17, purchased vide sale deed no Mithu Singh S/o Heera Singh, Village Kishangarh ur Manwala. Construction there on belonging to addressees No. 2 to secure the dues of the bank, in Censideration of the above said loan facility to addressee No. 1 & 2. Property bounded as Bathinda PIN 151301 Eloudaries: North: 20' Street, West: 50' Vacant Plot, East: 50' Vacant Plot, South: 20' House (Borrower/ Mortgagor) 3. Jaskaran Singh S /o Mander Singh, house no. 150. Village Ramsara. Tehsil Talwandi Sabo. Distt Bathinda PIN 151301 (Guarantor) 4. Mithu Singh S / o Heera Singh, House no. 147, Village Manwala urf Kishangarh Kotbakhtu. Tehsil Talwandi sabo, Distt Bathinda PIN 151301 (Guarantor) AUTHORISED OFFICER, PUNJAB & SIND BANK

PLACE: RAMA MANDI

PUBLIC NOTICE Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390 007 Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex Mumbai 400051 GOLD E-AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments. ("Facility") availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an E-Auction of pledged gold ornaments on Nov 21, 2024 as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account /change the E-Auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online -https://jewel-auction.procuretiger.com between 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.

ne: Anantnag			
Zubzir Ahmad Pal			
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Branch Name: Srinagar - Jehang 252705001602 Fahmeeda Javak 252705000384 Mushtaq Ahmad Branch Nar 724505000161 Firdor

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Setting 15-day deadline, Randhawa Sends Legal | Khalistani Terrorist Arsh Dalla **Notice to Kejriwal Over Defamatory Remarks**

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Setting 15-day deadline, Punjab's former Deputy Chief Minister and Gurdaspur Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa on Sunday issued a legal notice to Delhi's former Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal demanding a public apology over allegedly defamatory comments made during an election rally in Dera Baba Nanak on Saturday (November 9).

The notice, sent through Randhawa's lawyer Gurmukh Singh Randhawa, accused Kejriwal of making "baseless" and "damaging" statements that have harmed Randhawa's repu-

In his legal communication, Randhawa has demanded that Kejriwal issue an unconditional written apology. The notice warned that failure to comply with this demand will result in legal action. Specifically, Randhawa sought a retraction of the remarks made by Kejriwal, which he claimed were both "defamatory" and "aimed at tarnishing his image in front of his constituents and supporters".

The legal notice alleged that during the AAP rally in Dera Baba Nanak, Kejriwal used terms like "corrupt" and "dishonest" to describe Randhawa, which have been seen as an attempt to malign his character. Randhawa's lawyer stated that these remarks not only harmed his client's personal reputation but also hurt the sentiments of his family, supporters, and the people of his constituency. The notice further stresses that these allegations are baseless and

Randhawa's lawyer clarified that the MP's political career has been marked by transparency and integrity, with no allegations of personal enrichment or misuse of power. Known for his dedication to serve his community and state, Randhawa considered these accusations as an attack on his honour, undermining the trust that his constituents have placed in him.

The notice included three primary demands - unconditional written apology, a public apology in media, and commitment against future defamation. Kejriwal is asked to issue a written apology, retracting his statements, and publicly acknowledging the harm caused

The notice also demanded that Kejriwal issue a public apology through both social media platforms and leading newspapers. This public retracfor the damage done to Randhawa's reputation and

Randhawa also demanded that Kejriwal refrain from making any further defamatory or derogatory statements about him in the future.

The legal notice also specified that Kejriwal has 15 days from the receipt of the notice to comply with these demands. If Keiriwal fails to meet the deadline, Randhawa reserved the right to pursue both civil and criminal defamation charges against him.

The timing of the notice is crucial, coming amid the highstakes by-election in Dera Baba constituencies, where political rivals have been keenly watching every move.

"No concrete evidence, thus far...Investigation ongoing": Gurdaspur DC to ECI on alleged gangster threatening

A controversy has erupted following the serious allegations of voter intimidation by a jailed gangster

Bhagwanpuria. Congress' senior leader and Gurdaspur MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa had filed a formal complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs claiming that the incarcerated gangster was influencing and threatening voters via video calls from his prison cell — the allegations

denied by the Gurdaspur

District Election Officer (DEO),

as of now. The central poll panel, following the Congress' complaint, had instructed the Gurdaspur District Election Officer Uma Shankar Gupta to conduct an immediate investigation. Gupta, submitting an initial report to the Election Commission, submitted that "no concrete evidence" had been uncovered

He confirmed that the investigation was ongoing, and special attention was being paid to the matter. Gupta also stated that the officials at the Kurukshetra jail had been notified and requested to monitor any such activities closely. The allegations centered

around the claim that Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, who is currently held in the Kurukshetra jail in Haryana, was using his mother, Harjeet Kaur, to orchestrate calls to local voters, coercing them into voting for the AAP. The accusations suggest that Harjeet Kaur would visit homes in the area and facilitate video calls between voters and her son in jail, where he allegedly threatened them to vote for the party or face dire consequences.

the allegations have raised significant concerns about the integrity of the election process in the region. In his complaint, MP Randhawa, whose wife latinder Kaur is contesting as Congress candidate from Dera baba Nanak seat, had urged the ECI to take swift action, emphasizing that such actions could severely undermine the fairness of the election and instill

While the District Election Officer has denied a g g u PUNJAB BYPOLLS finding any direct evidence of phone calls or threats during the initial inquiry, the matter remains under close

fear among voters.

Farmers to Campaign **Against AAP-BJP Candidates**

In a major mobilization, the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) on Sunday announced a campaign to oppose the candidates of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Punjab's upcoming assembly by-elections. The farmers' union plans to protest village-to-village November 14 to 19, specifically targeting the constituencies of Gidderbaha and Barnala.

BKU leaders, including president Joginder Singh Ugrahan and general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan, shared that their protest will focus on the unresolved issues of rice procurement and availability of DAP fertilizer. Additionally, the Union has announced a blockade of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Barnala on Monday, while toll plazas across the state will remain free as part of their

union's leaders expressed frustration with the delays and challenges faced by farmers this season. Many farmers have harvested fully mature rice crops and transported them to market, yet have encountered issues due to increased moisture levels in the harvested crops. The leaders attributed the late crop maturation to delayed sowing,

Bittu Supports Traditional Opium; Blames Ban for Rise of Heroin in Punjab

Days after AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal dubbed drugs as Punjab's biggest problems, BJP leader and the Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu on Sunday stirred the controversy with his remarks supporting the traditional substance "choora post" (opium). Bittu, in a recent campaign video going viral, can be seen addressing a public gathering where he pledged to discuss the revival of traditional substances like choora post with the Central Government, claiming that banning such substances had indirectly harmed Punjab by paving the way for "chitta" (heroin) in the state.

Bittu argued that the restrictions on traditional substances like afeem have negatively impacted Punjab's hardworking community. He recalled how these traditional practices allowed Punjab's labour-intensive workforce to work diligently, contributing significantly to the Green Revolution. According to Bittu, the absence of choora post and similar substances left a vacuum that was subsequently filled by chitta, leading to the current drug crisis in Punjab. He assured the crowd that he would advocate for reconsidering this ban with central authorities, emphasizing that a thoughtful decision could benefit Punjab's agricultural sector and its community.

Bittu's comments follow similar remarks made the previous year by Punjab's former Panchayat and Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, who also advocated for reconsidering opium cultivation in the state. Dhaliwal had argued that, if managed properly, allowing controlled cultivation of opium could provide farmers with additional income. He urged the State Government to study the feasibility of such cultivation and its potential economic benefits, particularly for struggling

Bittu's statements have reignited debates over drug policies in Punjab. Advocates of the traditional substance argue that these age-old practices, when used responsibly, can help alleviate the burden on farmers and prevent the spread of harder drugs. Opponents, however, fear that reintroducing such substances might open the door to further complications in the state's ongoing battle against drug addiction.

which, they claimed, was due to postponed electricity supply from the state government. This delay led to prolonged exposure to colder conditions and dew, increasing moisture levels and slowing procurement in the markets. Consequently, farmers have faced payment delays, adding to their grievances.

The BKU (Ekta Ugrahan)

has resolved to strengthen their protests by monitoring procurement operations in markets across Punjab and holding responsible officials accountable for any delays in procurement or payments. Additionally, they criticized the government for failing to provide machinery necessary to manage crop residue without burning, as Tribunal. This lack of equipment has forced farmers to resort to burning crop residue, a practice that continues to contribute to environmental pollution in the This is not the first instance

mandated by the National Green

of direct action by farmers against political parties. Previously, farmers staged extended sit-ins outside the residences of AAP and BJP candidates in both Barnala and Gidderbaha. Farmers have maintained that these actions are taken out of necessity, demanding accountability and support from those in power. They vowed to continue their resistance, with participation expected from neighboring districts to amplify their voices.

likely arrested in Canada

PNS CHANDIGARH

 $\begin{array}{c} R \\ \text{gesting the possible arrest} \\ \text{of Arsh Dalla, a prominent} \end{array}$ Khalistani terrorist and a close associate of the slain pro-Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Canada. Dalla, who has been associated with crossborder terrorism and gangrelated activities, is believed to have been apprehended by the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) following a shooting incident in Ontario on October 28. Although the Punjab Police has not yet confirmed the arrest, sources indicated that one of the two men detained in connection with the incident could be Dalla, who is accused of a range of criminal and terrorist activities.

On October 29, HRPS reported the arrest of two men following a shooting in Milton,

ality and YouTuber.

arrest of Dalla's operatives

in the state. Earlier on Sunday, Punjab Police claimed that two

shooters from Dalla's gang, accused of involvement in the mur-

der of a Sikh activist in Punjab, were arrested in Mohali. The

joint operation, carried out by the Special Operation Cell, Anti-Gangster Task Force, and Faridkot Police, led to the capture

of the suspects identified as Anmolpreet Singh alias Vishal and

Navjot Singh alias Neetu — accused of being involved in the murder of Gurpreet Singh Hari Nau, a social media person-

of at least four potential target killings and the resolution of

three other high-profile crimes, including a murder in

Madhya Pradesh. Faridkot Senior Superintendent of Police

(SSP) Dr Pragya Jain on Sunday confirmed that the arrests fol-

lowed a swift investigation into the October 9 shooting of

Gurpreet Singh Hari Nau. Police recovered two sophisticated

pistols, Rs 27,500 in cash, and a fake Aadhar card from the

and Vishal to target Hari Nau. Dalla provided the shooters with

weapons, a motorcycle, and financial support. Following the

murder, the shooters moved across various cities, including

Amritsar, Chandigarh, and Himachal Pradesh, while main-

taining contact with Dalla, who supplied them with heroin.

The police also uncovered that the accused were involved in

the recent murder of a convicted criminal in Gwalior,

Madhya Pradesh, and a shooting and extortion case in Zirakpur,

Investigations revealed that Arsh Dalla had directed Neetu

suspects, indicating their involvement in organized crime.

The police claimed that their arrest led to the prevention

Who is Arsh Dalla?

A rshdeep Singh Dalla, also known as Arsh Dalla, is a noto-rious gangster and terrorist who has been on India's mostwanted list for several years. Operating out of Canada, Dalla is one of the six top gangsters from Punjab, and his criminal activities extend beyond gang wars to radicalization and terror financing.

Before fleeing Punjab in 2016, Dalla was involved in multiple criminal activities, including extortion and murders. He is also a prime suspect in the 2022 murder of Ripudaman Singh Malik, a key figure in the 1985 Kanishka bombing case. Dalla's escape to Canada was facilitated by a forged police verification report, and he has been linked to several killings, including the targeted murder of a Dera Sacha Sauda follower in

charged with "discharging a firearm with intent" after one of them, treated for a non-lifethreatening gunshot wound at a hospital, was released. The identity of the arrested individuals has not been disclosed, but sources suggested that Arsh Punjab Police thwart

Ontario. Both individuals were Dalla could be among them. The police are continuing to investigate the incident.

Dalla, a 31-year-old gangster originally from Dalla village in Punjab, has been a significant figure in the Khalistani movement. He was designated a terrorist by the Indian government in January 2023 due to his involvement in targeted killings, terror financing, and extortion across the state. His terror multiple target killings with activities have drawn the attention of national security agencies, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which has linked him to mul-The development comes at a time when Punjab Police are also making strides in dismantling Dalla's terror network tiple cases involving cross-bor-

> weapons, and terror funding. The Union Home Ministry issued a notification under the Unlawful (Prevention) Act (UAPA), categorizing Dalla as a terrorist. His name was also linked to several high-profile criminal activities in Punjab, including disturbing communal harmony and instilling fear among the local population.

der smuggling of drugs,

Dalla's close association with slain Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in Canada in June 2023, further raises the stakes in the ongoing crackdown on terror networks operating internationally. It is believed that Dalla was heavily involved in the radicalization of youth and the funding of various terror activities within Punjab, including providing logistical and financial support to gangsters and operatives.

Hry CM announces construction of 33 KV sub-station in Ladwa

PNS CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday announced the construction of a 33 KV substation in Kanipla village, located in Ladwa assembly constituency. The Government is committed to ensure uniform developsaid during his thanksgiving tour of Ladwa constituency. A budget of Rs 35 crore has

been allocated for development projects in the Ladwa constituency. Additionally, he granted Rs 21 lakh for various development works in Kanipla village. In response to local demand, the 33 KV sub-station will be constructed in the village at an estimated cost of Rs five crore, he added. The Chief Minister also

addressed the concerns of the villagers. During a conversation with a woman from the village, the Chief Minister directed the SDM to ensure the construction of lanes in front of the

100-square-yard plots in Kanipla. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining high-quality standards in all development works.

'Gurukuls are Shaping Good Citizens for Nation'

Saini, speaking at the closing ceremony of the Arya Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Haryana at Gurukul, Kurukshetra, emphasized the importance of instilling the teachings of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati in the younger generation to pave the way for India's resurgence as a global leader. He called on the youth to embrace education and values as tools for national progress.

"India's future as a world leader lies in the hands of its youth, and to achieve this, we must ensure they are grounded in the values taught by Davanand Maharishi Saraswati," said Saini. He said that the significant role of Gurukul Kurukshetra and

other Arya Samaj institutions in imparting quality education and ethical values to the youth, which is critical for the country's growth. Earlier in the day, the Chief

Minister, along with Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat and former Minister of State Subhash Sudha, visited a round of its indigenous cow shelter. He extended his warm wishes for the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of Arya Samaj founder, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, acknowledging the pivotal role of Arya Samaj in shaping India's educational, social, and cultural landscape.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister highlighted the profound impact of Maharishi Dayanand and the Arya Samaj since its founding in 1875. "Maharishi Dayanand's vision for a progressive society was transformative. Arya Samaj's contributions in promoting education for all, ending caste discrimination, advocating for women's rights, supporting widow remarriage, and protecting cows are unparalleled," said Saini.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government is taking proactive steps to promote yoga and physical fitness in rural areas. These include in villages and establishing a Yoga Commission to encourage the practice of traditional yoga, as well as rural sports like kabaddi and wrestling. Saini emphasized that to

help India regain its ancient position as a spiritual leader, the progressive ideals of Arya Samaj must reach every village and street with unwavering dedication and commitment. "This will help our nation restore its ancient glory as a spiritual guru," he said, adding that the government is also focused on enhancing the quality of education in Haryana.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government is

providing grants to Gurukuls and Sanskrit Pathshalas as part of its commitment to preserving India's cultural heritage. He highlighted the establishment of Maharishi Valmiki Sanskrit Gita, cleanliness, yoga, and moral education have been incorporated into the school curriculum to nurture wellrounded citizens.

Haryana's Foundation Day celebrated in England, Kenya

PNS CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday said that the fame of Haryana is now strongly felt abroad. "Be it sports or culture, the people of Haryana are making a mark in every field...The events organized by Haryanvis residing overseas in Kenya and England to celebrate Haryana's Foundation Day have played a priceless role in showcasing our culture," he said.

During events organized by the Indian Embassy in London and the Haryana Association of Kenya, the glorious history and culture of Haryana were beautifully displayed," said Saini, expressing that the captivating presentations of Haryanvi culture at the celebrations in London and Kenya brought joy to the residents there. He further said that while many Haryanvis live abroad, their love for their roots, culture, and traditions remains strong. They continue to work towards keeping the Haryanvi culture alive even on foreign soil.

The Chief Minister said that Haryana Day was not only celebrated enthusiastically within the state, but it is also commendable that Haryanvis abroad are remembering the state's prosperity, heritage, and pride on this day. The contributions of Haryanvis living abroad are invaluable to Haryana's growth and prosperity.

The Chief Minister also shared that a "Foreign Cooperation Department" has been established by the state government to assist Haryanvi expatriates, ensuring help whenever needed.

at Punjab border in 2024

BSF intercepts 200 drones

PNS CHANDIGARH

 T^{he} Border Security Force (BSF) has intercepted over 200 rogue drones along Punjab's international border in 2024, marking a significant surge in 107 drone recoveries in 2023. These drones, allegedly originating from Pakistan, have been linked to smuggling operations involving drugs, weapons, and other contraband, posing a persistent challenge to Indian border security.

Records indicated that since November 1 alone, BSF teams have shot down or recovered 11 drones near border villages, seizing approximately three kg of narcotics in the process. Covering Punjab's 553-km international border, BSF's vigilance is stretched across challenging terrains, particularly riverine stretches along the Sutlej and Ravi rivers. Despite the BSF's concerted efforts, these vast and vulnerable stretches continue to see infiltration attempts.

The increase in drone interceptions has been a result of BSF's "enhanced anti-drone strategies"

and the deployment of cuttingedge counter-drone technology. "This surge in captures represents a remarkable milestone in our efforts to curb cross-border smuggling," said a senior BSF official. Advanced jamming technology and on-ground intelto neutralize these drones midflight or recover them on Indian

A significant number of the drones intercepted this year have been identified as Chinese-manufactured, a trend the BSF attributes to a growing reliance on technology by Pakistani narcotics groups. These groups allegedly aim to "destabilize" Indian communities by fostering drug addiction, particularly among youth, thereby weakening the societal fabric.

Since the "drone menace" first emerged around 2019-20, it has heavily impacted the border areas of Amritsar and Tarn Taran in Puniab, where nearly all crossborder drug smuggling is now conducted via drones. Previously used methods, such as cross-border pipes or thrown packages, have largely been replaced by drone deliveries.

Haryana Minister felicitates meritorious students, athletes

PNS CHANDIGARH

CInspiration and courage are essential to achieve success in any endeavor," said Haryana's Minister of State for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Rajesh Nagar on Sunday, after honouring the meritorious students, athletes at the annual function of Gujjar Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Chandigarh.

Nagar also urged the people to contribute to the realization of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a developed India. During the event, the Sardar Amrik Singh Memorial Gujjar Gaurav Medals and cash prizes were presented to winners in various fields, including sports and academics. The meritorious students and athletes were recognized for their excellence.

"A promising child has the potential for great success, and the achievements of meritorious students are a reflection of the kind of citizens they will grow to become," he said, adding that the

strength of any society lies in its collective efforts to nurture and uplift each other. "Looking at the remarkable achievements of the Gujjar community today, it is evident that each member is contributing positively to the society," he added.

The Minister said that the Gujjar community is a resilient and hardworking group, with its members serving as strong examples of self-made success. "The people of this community have nurtured their roots with dedication and perseverance," he added, while noting the inspiring achievements of local athletes, who are role models for the broader community. Nagar credited the vision

and tireless efforts of the senior citizens of the Gujjar Samaj for making this progress possible. He highlighted the significant contributions of the community, including donations to schools and educational institutions, as well as scholarships provided to outstanding

Abhivyakti 4.0: A 3-day celebration of literature, resilience, intellectual pursuit concludes balance of fact and fiction, par-

PNS CHANDIGARH

bhivyakti 4.0 — a three-Aday literary festival organized by the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) — concluded on a vibrant note on Sunday, celebrating the resilience, creativity, and intellectual depth that literature brings to society. Held in Chandigarh, this fourth edition of Abhivyakti attracted luminaries from the literary, military, and cultural fields, who engaged audiences with inspiring conversations and thoughtprovoking discussions.

The festival's final day kicked off with an insightful keynote address by renowned author Dr Radhakrishnan Pillai, who highlighted the essential elements of writing and the importance of fostering a reading culture. "Each of us has a story to tell," Dr Pillai shared with the audience, urging aspiring writers to explore beyond textbooks and embrace storytelling in all its forms. "India is a nation of multilin-



gual readers, yet most read only textbooks. We need to inspire people to read more diverse content," he added, underscoring the need to broaden literary horizons across the country

Following this, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar unveiled 'General's Jottings' — a new book by Lieutenant General (retired) Kamaljit Singh. The book reflects on Singh's expe-

riences in the military, offering

and the personal reflections of a decorated officer. One of the highlights of

the day was an engaging dialogue between former diplomat Navtei S Sarna and veteran journálist Vipin Pubby. Sarna, India's former Ambassador to the United States and author of acclaimed novels 'The Exile' and 'Crimson: A Novel', shared his experiences and challenges in iting historical fiction.

Reflecting on his approach, Sarna discussed the delicate

ticularly when weaving narratives around historical figures like Udham Singh and Maharaja Duleep Singh. "Distorting history is a risky endeavour," Sarna noted, adding, "I have been careful to stay true to facts while using fiction only to bridge the unknowns". The event's second half

featured dynamic panel discussions, resonating with the festival's theme of rekindling the love for reading. Journalist Soni Sangwan moderated a discussion titled "Rekindling the Habit of Reading", featuring panelists Ajay Jain, Vandana Palli, and Saguna Jain, who shared insights into the evolving reading habits of the youth and strategies to inspire a generation accustomed to digital media.

Another lively session, "Digital Narratives: Storytelling in the Age of Screens", moderated by Ambreen Zaidi, brought together experts Shikha Akhilesh Saxena, Gunjan Mishra, Amrinder

Maan, and retired Major Nithi CJ. The panel examined the impact of digitalization on storytelling, discussing how writers and creators must adapt to an age where narratives are crafted for screens and often consumed in snippets. Jyoti Malhotra, The

Tribune's Editor-in-Chief, delivered the festival's closing remarks, emphasizing the vital role literature plays in shaping society. Sharing her own journey as a journalist, she spoke passionately about the challenges and rewards of a career in media, especially as a female leader in the field.

The closing ceremony, filled with cultural vibrance, featured a medley of regional dances performed by Patiala's North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), leaving the audience captivated. Shuchi Katiyar, Regional President of AWWA, offered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the speakers, guests, and organizers who made Abhivyakti 4.0 an unforgettable

University in Mundri, Kaithal, as a key step toward promoting Sanskrit education. The Chief Minister also said that values

ST panel urges Centre, states to take policy action for LWE-displaced Gottikoya tribals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Commission I for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has asked the Union Ministry Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha to submit a detailed report on the status of the Gottikoya tribals, who were displaced from Chhattisgarh due to Maoist violence and are now reportedly living in neighbouring states in difficult conditions, and are excluded from social security benefits. commission requested the presence of home ministry's secretary and the chief secretaries of the states concerned at a meeting scheduled on December 9 to discuss the issue, aim recommending a prompt policy decision to provide necessary support to the community.

In a letter sent to the ministry and the states on



Friday, the NCST said it had in their new locations. received a petition in March 2022 stating that members of the Gottikoya community, who had relocated from Chhattisgarh

neighbouring states in 2005 to escape "violence between Maoist guerrillas and Indian security forces", have been facing significant challenges

According to tribal rights activists repeatedly raised the issue with the NCST and the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, an estimated 50,000 tribals were displaced from Chhattisgarh due to LWE.

They now live in 248

settlements in the forests of

Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. According to some reports, the Telangana government has taken back land from Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in at least 75 settlements, jeopardising livelihoods and increasing their vulnerability, the NCST said,

citing the petition. Some reports also allege that forest department officials demolished the homes of the IDPs and destroyed their

On November 7, 2022, the Commission issued a notice to the District Magistrate of Bhadradri Kothagudem in Telangana, seeking an action taken report or compliance report on the matter.

In a report submitted on September 9, 2023, the DM the allegations forest officials, denied against arguing that the Gottikoyas were encroaching on forest impacting forest

"irreparable damage to the environment and ecological balance, which could lead to natural calamities".

The magistrate added that since all the Gottikoyas had migrated from Chhattisgarh, they do not qualify as Scheduled Tribes Telangana and are, therefore, ineligible for forest rights in the state.

The NCST held a meeting with the DM of Bhadradri Kothagudem on September 24 to discuss the matter in detail.

It recommended that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs secretary and the secretaries Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha be requested to attend a session before commission on December 9 provide comprehensive action taken

report on the issue. The director of the Centre

for Economic and Social Studies in Telangana, along with representatives from the Forest Department, has also been asked to present a report on surveys conducted in Gottikoya settlements in the state.

In July, the government informed Parliament that tribal families displaced from Chhattisgarh due to LWE were unwilling to return to the state despite availability rehabilitation schemes and security measures in place through security camps.

Responding to a question by Congress MP Phulo Devi Netam, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey told the Rajya Sabha that the state government had organised teams to conduct surveys in the adjoining districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to identify tribal families displaced from Chhattisgarh due to LWE.

Panchayati Raj Ministry to host webinar on enhancing grassroots Governance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Drioritising citizen-centric interventions to ensure effective and efficient delivery of services and enhancing overall governance at the grassroots level will be the focus of a webinar by the Panchayati Raj Ministry here on Monday.

The webinar seeks emphasise the crucial role that panchayats, as the third tier of local self-government, play in rural governance, particularly in ensuring the timely and effective delivery of essential services to rural citizens.

"Panchayati Raj Institutions, operating at the grassroots level, are at the forefront of governance, ensuring that government schemes, welfare programs, and citizen services reach every corner of rural India. 'These

services, ranging from water sanitation, and healthcare, to digital literacy infrastructure development, are critical in shaping the s o c i o - e c o n o m i c development of rural areas

would never be allowed, and

India would continue with "one flag, one Constitution."

Addressing a crowd alongside BJP leaders and local

leaders and local

and improving the quality of life for millions of citizens, the ministry said in a statement

Government including chief secretaries and IT secretaries, from all states and Union Territories, commissioners district magistrates from aspirational districts, and all national e-governance awardees for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 and their representatives

participate in the seminar. The webinar will provide a platform for states and Union Territories to discuss their current service delivery models and outline their future plans to make governance more citizencentric, the statement added

VP Jagdeep Dhankhar emphasises importance of business and commerce in Society



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said those in commerce and business must not feel "heat of the system" as they are the job and wealth creators and contribute to social harmony, He also said that the principle of "econom-

important than fiscal gains of a few individuals. Addressing an event of Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society, Dhankhar said he has always advocated that "those in trade, commerce, industry must not feel heat of the system. They must have respect in society". The Vice President was of the view that this segment was the job and wealth creator and contributes to social harmony. They are economy drivers They have learned the art in this country to give back to the society. By and large they do

ic nationalism" was more need to follow the principles of economic nationalism, whereby unnecessary imports can be curbed to save foreign exchange and help local industry flourish. He told the students that they should respect various views and should never ignore the other point-of-view to ensure social harmony. Dhankhar also said that divergent views help in course correction. "Tolerance is a virtue. It is an inalienable facet of social harmony," he said. Lauding the newlylaunched internship scheme and National Education Policy it," he said while noting that (NEP). Dhankhar underlined the freedom movement of that NEP evolved after three India is dotted by their decades of intense discussions, contribution. The Vice President also underlined the thousands of inputs. taking into consideration

CM Yogi Adityanath calls SP a haven for criminals **BISWAJEET BANERJEE**

LUCKNOW

hief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday accused the Samajwadi Party (SP) of being a gathering place for criminals and mafia figures. Speaking at a rally at Tilak Inter College in Hanumanganj, Phulpur, to support BJP candidate Deepak Patel, Adityanath alleged that prominent mafia figures like Atiq Ahmed, Mukhtar Ansari, and Khan Mubarak were all associated

with SP. Referring to past

high-profile crimes, he stated,

"daylight murders of leaders

like Krishnanand Rai and

Raju Pal took place during

SP's reign. He added that during previous SP rule, public funds



were funneled to the SP family and their allies, the turning state's administrative bodies into a "production house rioters." He further remarked, 'Today's SP has strayed from the values it was originally founded upon. It has become a refuge for mafia and criminals. Adityanath also questioned

INDIA alliance's stance on Article 370, highlighting a recent Jammu and Kashmir government proposal calling for its reinstatement. He alleged that "Congress and its allies want to reinstate Article 370 to promote terrorism." Adityanath assured voters that under the Modi administration, the move

dignitaries like BJP candidate Deepak Patel, MPs Praveen Patel and Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi and Mayor Ganesh Kesari, Adityanath honored Prayagraj's cultural and spiritual heritage, calling it a land blessed by the Ganga. He mentioned the special significance of 2025, when Prayagraj will host the Mahakumbh, an recently recognised as a cultural heritage UNESCO, thanks to efforts

by PM Modi. Highlighting a decade of progress, Adityanath credited PM Modi's government for transforming the country's image and destiny. He pointed out that UP has also seen "double-engine government."

Éarlier, UP was known for anarchy and riots; women were unsafe, farmers were ignored, and youth couldn't find jobs," he said. Under SP rule, he claimed, "even government jobs were auctioned off beforehand, and farmers and the poor did receive necessary benefits.

The Chief Minister also criticised SP for straying from the principles upheld by leaders such as Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Janeshwar Mishra, stating, "Today's SP has lost those ideals and has become a haven for criminals and

India to stress climate finance and protection for vulnerable communities at COP29 in Baku

s world leaders and climate Anegotiators converge in Baku for COP29, beginning Monday, India is set to bring need for climate finance, accountability and protection for vulnerable communities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not attend the conference, and environment minister Bhupender Yadav may also be absent, with Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh leading the 19member delegation instead.

India's national statement is scheduled for November 18-19. India's key priorities at the conference are likely to focus on ensuring accountability of developed nations on climate finance, strengthening resilience for vulnerable communities, and achieving equitable energy transition, experts anticipate. Dr Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of



the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), emphasised that COP29 must go beyond promises, pushing developed nations to accelerate their paths to net zero and meet their financial commitments. "The climate COPs are about raising ambition, enabling

action, and, most importantly, evervone accountable. While COP28 resulted in many promises, it let developed countries off the hook. COP29 must be about accountability," said Ghosh.
"The largest historical

emitters must move faster and raise their ambition. Climate finance should be

consistent, convenient, catalytic, and credible, and COP29 must ensure it delivers real resources and capacity to protect the most vulnerable?

This year's negotiations are anticipated to tackle the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance, a critical benchmark that could reach trillions of dollars annually, a figure many developing nations insist is essential to combat climate

Mohamed, Kenya's Climate Change Envoy, reinforced the urgency for a "Finance COP" that prioritises financing without nations already struggling to

adapt to climate impacts. "For Africa, it is important that the final goal agreed in Baku should not worsen our debt situation," Mohamed "The Framework on Global Climate Resilience needs to translate into real actions that support agriculture, water, health, biodiversity, infrastructure, and human settlements.

Dr Frances Colan, Senior Director for International Climate Policy at the Center for American Progress, highlighted the conference's importance following the reelection of Donald Trump in the US, who is anticipated to adopt policies favouring oil and gas expansion.

In a departure from past

conferences, India will not host a pavilion at COP29. This absence also comes as

India balances its role as a developing nation with rising energy demands and a focus particularly as the world looks to emerging economies for leadership in reducing emissions.

The release of the Global Carbon Budget on November 13 will provide a detailed assessment of current emission trends and the global trajectory toward meeting the Paris Agreement targets. Linda Kalcher, targets. Director Executive Strategic Perspectives, underscored that the EU must step up its efforts in response to shifting US climate

policies. The EU is one of the most reliable partners on climate for developing finance countries, but it cannot hide from the moment," Kalcher

Jaishankar to co-chair key commission meeting

Russia's Deputy PM Manturov and EAM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Russia's First Deputy Prime and external affairs minister S Jaishankar will jointly hold on Tuesday a key session of the intergovernmental Russian-Indian commission on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural "working visit" to India.

As part of the visit, he will take part in the plenary session of the Russian-Indian Business Forum in Mumbai on November 11, the Russian Embassy said in a statement on Sunday.

The event in Mumbai is aimed at expanding cooperation and ties between aimed the entrepreneurs of the two countries, the statement said. There will be thematic sessions on current areas of including interaction, cooperation, industrial



event

and logistics, transport finance, digital technologies, and interregional ties.

It is being organised by the Business Council Cooperation with India and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

On November 12, in New Delhi, First Deputy Prime Minister Manturov jointly External

Minister Jaishankar will hold the 25th Session of the Intergovernmental Russian-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cooperation, it said.

As part of his visit, the First Deputy Prime Minister also has a number of bilateral meetings planned, embassy said

work of last resort for India's

'As the government's own

Economic Survey (2024) acknowledged, 'private sector GFCF (Gross Fixed Capital

Formation) in machinery and

equipment and intellectual

property products has grown

cumulatively by only 35 per

cent in the four years to FY23.

This is not a healthy mix. It is

about to get worse, with new

project announcements by the

private sector falling by 21 per

cent between FY23 and FY24,

The government must accept

this proposal to kickstart

income growth in rural India

after a decade of stagnation,

poorest.

he said.

Drone seizures along India-Pakistan border double to 200 amid rising security concerns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

 $D^{
m rone}$ seizures along the International Border in Punjab have doubled to 200 as Pakistani syndicates continue to push narcotics and weapons to "destabilise" India by inducing drug addiction in the youth and "disintegrating" social harmony, the Border Security force (BSF) said.

With the recovery of four more drones in the last 24 hours, over 200 Pakistanbased rouge drones have been seized along this border, it said in a statement issued on Saturday The BSF guards the 2,290 km

of this border running on India's western flank, including 553 km of the front along Punjab. The International Border also

runs along Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir (LoC in Kashmir), Rajasthan and The BSF had seized a total of border in 2023.

The BSF said the almost the this year is a "significant landmark" and "remarkable milestone" that "reflects the force's enhanced anti-drone strategies and the deployment of advanced technical counter-measures along the border."

BSF troops, as per the force, implemented "increasingly accurate" anti-drone drills, resulting in a significant setback Pakistani narcotic syndicates attempting to push in drugs and weapons into the Indian territory with an objective to "destabilise" it by inducing drug addiction in the young generation

disintegrating" harmony. A senior BSF officer told PTI that the more than 200 drones seizure this year

107 drones at the Punjab shot down by its troops using rifles, jammed in- flight with The BSF said the almost the use of anti-drone doubled up drones seizure technology and those that were recovered lying on the fields on the basis of intelligence inputs information provided by the locals.

Almost all of these drones are Chinese-made and they carry drugs, small arms and ammunition as payload. However, drugs are the highest sent consignment, the officer said.

The drone menace, which started around 2019-20 along this front, is dominant in the border districts of Amritsar and Tarn Taran in Punjab. BSF officials have said all the

drugs coming from across the Pakistan border into Punjab were now coming through the air route via drones as compared to the earlier land route using pipes pushed from the Pakistan border and includes those unmanned many times by being flung aerial vehicles which were from over the fence.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

ongress on Sunday claimed UIndia was facing a "demand crisis" due to sustained and said

the 'double engine' of private investment and mass consumption that powered the UPA's decade of sustained GDP growth has been "derailed" in the last ten years of the Modi government. Congress general secretary incommunications,

Jairam Ramesh, urged the

government to accept what

the Congress has been

proposing

MGNREGA wages to minimum of Rs 400 per day, guaranteeing MSP and a loan waiver for farmers, and a monthly income support scheme for women - to kickstart income growth in rural India. He said that with each passing

day, the tragedy of India's dying consumption story becomes more evident. Last week, several CEOs from

India Inc raised the alarm over the 'shrinking' middle class and now, new data from

NABARD's All India Rural

Financial Inclusion Survey

(NAFIS) 2021-22 adds to the

evidence that India's demand crisis is a result of sustained income stagnation, he said in a statement. Citing key takeaways from the

Congress claims India faces 'demand crisis' due to income stagnation

survey data, Ramesh said the average monthly household income for Indians is Rs 12,698 to Rs 13,661 for agricultural households and Rs 11,438 in non-agricultural households. average

"Assuming an average household size of 4.4, the per capita income in rural areas is an estimate Rs 2,886 per month - less than Rs 100 a day. The vast majority of Indians therefore have very little money for discretionary consumption beyond that of basic necessities," Ramesh said, citing the data.

'This is hardly the exception nearly every piece of evidence points to this same damning conclusion: that the average Indian can buy less today than they could 10 years ago. This is the ultimate root cause for India's consumption slowdown," he claimed. Citing Labour Bureau's Wage

real wages for labourers stagnated between 2014 and 2023, and in fact declined between 2019 and 2024. Further, he cited the Ministry of Agriculture's Agricultural Statistics data to state that under Dr Manmohan Singh, real wages for agricultural labourers grew at 6.8 per cent each year, he said. "Under Mr Modi, real wages for agricultural labourers

declined by 1.3 per cent each

year," Ramesh said.

Rate Index data, Ramesh said

Citing Periodic Labour Force Survey Series data, Ramesh said the average real earnings over time have stagnated between 2017 and 2022 across all employment types salaried workers, casual

workers, and self-employed workers. He also cited Centre for Labour Research and Action data to claim that real wages of brick kiln workers have stagnated or declined between

2014 and 2022. He added that

brick kilns involve intensive

labour and are a low-paying

Ramesh said. The Congress last week had alleged that deliberate

destruction of MSMEs through neglectful policymaking, a blundering demonetisation, a botched-up GST rollout, and the unplanned lockdown is partly responsible for the shift away from labour-

MSMEs blundering COVID-19

intensive growth.

Maharashtra Assembly election: It is all within the family

Amid parties accusing dynastic politics, the Maharashtra assembly scheduled election November 20 will see brothers, cousins and fatherchildren in the fray, with members of the same family taking on each other in some

In one constituency, the battle is between husband and wife, while in another seat has an uncle and nephew pitted against each other.

In the high stakes battle of Pawars, debutant Yugendra Pawar, the candidate of the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) (NCP-SP) led by Sharad Pawar, will take on his uncle and Ajit Pawar, representing the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), in the Baramati seat. Ajit Pawar, the deputy chief minister of the state, has won the Baramati Assembly seat seven times and has also bagged the Parliamentary Baramati seat once.

This is the second time that

Baramati, the bastion of Pawars, will see a contest within the family. In the 2024 General Election, Sunetra Pawar, the deputy CM's wife, was defeated by his cousin and NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule in the Baramati Parliamentary seat.

In the neighbouring Karjat-Jamkhed seat, Rohit Pawar, another nephew of the deputy CM is in the fray as the NCP (SP) candidate against Ram Shinde of the BJP. Rohit Pawar is the grand-nephew of Sharad Pawar.

In the Kannad constituency's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar seat, independent candidate Harshwardhan Jadhav is pitted against his estranged wife and Shiv Sena candidate Sanjana Jadhav, the daughter of BJP leader and former Union minister Raosaheb

Sanjana Jadhav's brother, Santosh Danve, is contesting from Bhokardan in Jalna as the BJP candidate.

Amit Deshmukh and Dhirai Deshmukh. Congress candidates and sons of former state chief minister Vilasrao



Deshmukh, are in the poll race from Latur City and the ajoining Latur Rural seats, respectively. Similarly, Nitesh Rane and

Nilesh Rane, sons of BJP MP and former Maharashtra chief minister Narayan Rane, are in the fray from Kudal and constituencies as

nominees for the Shiv Sena and the BIP, respectively. In Mumbai, the Thackeray cousins are in the fray from different seats. While sitting

Aaditya Thackeray, is recontesting from Worli, his maternal cousin Varun Sardesai is contesting from (Bandra) Assembly seat on the party's Aaditya's

cousin, Amit Thackeray, son Maharashtra Navnirman (MNS) head Raj Thackeray, is contesting from neighbouring Mahim seat in

Former Maharashtra minister Ganesh Naik is contesting from Airoli seat as a BJP candidate, while his son Sandeep is in the fray from the neighbouring Belapur constituency as NCP (SP) candidate.

Similarly, Vijaykumar Gavit, Maharashtra minister and his daughter Heena Gavit, a former MP are also in the poll race. While senior Gavit is contesting as the BJP candidate from Nandurbar seat, his daughter is in the fray neighbouring Akkalkuwa constituency as an independent.

In Islampur, Jayant Patil, NCP

while his nephew and former Maharashtra minister, Prajakt Tanpure, is contesting from Rahuri on the party's ticket. NCP minister Chhagan Bhujbal is contesting from Yevala, while his nephew and former MP Sameer Bhujbal is in the fray from Nandgaon seat as an independent.

Ashish Shelar, BJP's Mumbai president, is in the fray from Mumbai's Vandre (Bandra) West, a constituency known to be the home of Bollywood several personalities, while his brother and party candidate Vinod Shelar is contesting from Malad West.

BJP's Santukrao Hambarde is contesting the Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll, while his brother and sitting MLA Mohanrao Hambarde is contesting the Assembly polls from Nanded South Assembly seat as a Congress candidate. The Nanded Lok Sabha byelection, necessitated due to the death of sitting Congress MP Vasantrao Chavan, is also scheduled on

PM Modi attacks Congress in Gumla

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BOKARO / GUMLA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attacked the Congress, accusing that its 'shahi parivar' (royal family) is hell bent on breaking the ST-SC-OBC unity to snatch reservations under an evil Addressing design. Bharatiya Janata Pary (BJP) election rally at Gumla, he accused the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led coalition of looting the state's resources such as minerals, forest, sand and coal and putting 'Roti-Beti-Mati' (bread, land and daughter) at grave threat. He also accused the ruling dispensation of fuelling illegal immigration.

"The Congress knows that if STs, SCs and OBCs are united, they will pose a threat to the party's existence. This is the reason the shahi parivar is hell bent on break their unity. They want to snatch reservations. The Congress is trying to pit one tribal community against another. Munda against Oraon, Lohra against Kharia, Kharwar against Korwa etc. With an agenda to break the tribal society's strength," he said. The Congress cannot tolerate

tribals in higher posts, which is why it opposes Droupadi Murmu's elevation (to the post of President) and continues to insult her, the PM said, adding former Jharkhand chief minister, Champai Soren, was also insulted. The BJP committed to restoring tribal pride and Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh will be celebrated for one year from November 15 across the country to honour tribal icon Birsa Munda, he said. Modi also promised that those who looted Jharkhand's resources and played with the future of its youth will be put behind bars. Earlier addressing BJP rally in Bokaro, the PM accused the Congress-JMM coalition ogf dividing OBCs by pitting subcastes against each other, launching the 'ek rahoge toh safe rahoge' (be united to be

BJP leader murder: father alleges TMC hand, woman accused held

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

A woman has been arrested for her alleged connection with the murder of a local Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader in Usthi village in the Diamond Harbour police district in South 24 Parganas. "We are exploring the angle of the deceased having involved in a relationship and any quarrel with the arrested person," a senior police officer said.

They added, the accused has confessed to having hit the deceased with sharp weapons resulting in his death.

The corpse of Prithviraj Naskar, a district level BJP leader, was discovered inside the local party office at Usthi on Saturday. His clothes were soaked in blood and the office was locked from outside, the police noted. They had to break open the door to recover his body.

The BJP has accused the Trinamool Congress (TMC) for the murder. In a public statement, the victim's father has alleged that local TMC leaders had threatened his son on several occasions for his

political allegiance.
"During the Durga Pujas he had hung placards at various places demanding justice for the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital doctor, who was sexually assaulted and murdered on August 9. TMC leaders threatened him with dire consequences and asked him to take down the placards, which he refused to. His murder is a clear fallout of that controversy," he said and demanded justice for his

The BJP claims a breakdown of law and order in Diamond Harbour.

Sukanto Majumdar, state BJP president said, "This is the same area where lakhs of people are not allowed to vote. It is the same area where the police dance to the tune of the local TMC MP (read Abhishek Banerjee), who wins by a margin of 7.5 lakh votes. So you can expect the consequences a person might suffer for raising his or her

BJP dismisses Abhishek Banerjee as senior TMC leaders fuel succession fire

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

The Bharatiya Janata Pary (BJP) has scoffed at claims made by some senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders projecting Abhishek Banerjee as the next chief minister (CM) of West Bengal "By the time when he comes of age, the TMC will be history and will be cast into the Bay of Bengal by the people of the state," said Sukanto Majumdar, state BJP president. Majumdar said that the TMC would not survive the 2026 Assembly Election. Everyone has a freedom to make his or her suggestions and think freely. TMC leaders are no exception to this. They may nurture dreams but truth be told, the people of West Bengal have made up their

candidature of Abhishek Banerjee, the current party general secretary and nephew of the CM. Supporting Abhishek, Kunal Ghosh, TMC spokesperson said, "Abhishek is not a contender. He is a successor. Ghosh in an online post wrote that Abhishek was his leader and was destined to be the next CM of Bengal. Calling him to be a rising star, who deserved to be nurtured and kept under constant watch, Ghosh wrote, "In the course of time, after Mamata Di, Abhishek will one day become the CM of Bengal," as he was the real "bearer and minds and will throw out the carrier" of the chief minister's TMC in Bay of Bengal in the 2026 elections. There will be

over who will succeed

Mamata Banerjee in the state.

The BJP leader's statement

also came at a time when

number of senior leaders

backed

Even senior leader such as Saugato Roy, who has criticised by many for being a burden on the party and for



cutting short ambitions of leaders, too said, Abhishek is the best person after Mamata Banerjee and is the future leader of the party." Both Roy's and Ghosh's remarks comes at the heels of an observation made by Kalyan Banerjee, another senior leader and MP, who sought to put to rest what many a senior leaders have termed an "uncomfortable debate," hinting at the point

that Mamata Banerjee not going to quit any time soon. He hammered home the point citing the example of the newly elected American president Donald Trump. Age is not a factor. Trump's election has proved that. If at the age of 78 he can get elected then it once again reinforces the point that if a person is capable of working and continues to performs and then age is no bar for

The present debate not only comes amid continuous churning inside the party for the past several months and the wake of a series of controversies, including the rural housing scam, the cash-for-job scam, RG Kar sexual assault and murder case, etc.. The debate reached a fever pitch some months ago forcing the chief minister put it to rest by the CM. "Both younger and older generation will work together to serve the people. The younger people will respect the elders and the elders will encourage the juniors," she said. Referring to the issue the Left leadership said that the

controversy was being created by the TMC to divert attention from the real issues. "It is their internal matter. Who becomes the leader is their problem. They are making this a public issue in order to arrest the gradual alienation," said Sujan Chakraborty, CPI(M) leader.

Railway employee crushed to death due to negligence



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA / NEW DELHI

A lack of coordination between two rail employees during a shunting operation led to one of them getting stuck in the buffers of the engine and a power car, causing his death in the Barauni Junction of Bihar on Saturday. A joint preliminary

investigation report, signed by five rail officials, said the two pointsmen - Amar Kumar and Mohd Suleman failed to properly coordinate with each other, due to which Suleman gave the wrong signal to the locomotive driver, resulting in the death of 25-year-old Kumar. A pointsman's job is to detach train engines from coaches. A train engines from coaches. A clip of the body stuck between the buffers is being widely circulated on social media. The preliminary report has held Suleman responsible for the incident. However, Suleman has defended himself in his written submission and held the locomotive driver responsible for the accident. According to rail officials, another senior-level inquiry had also been ordered.

batenge-katenge slogan

no TMC in Bengal," he said.

His statement came amid the ongoing debate in the TMC

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Mallikarjun Kharge, president Mallikarjun Kharge, president of the Congress pary, tore into Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his as well as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) slogans "batenge toh katenge" and "ek hain toh safe hain" while releasing the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) poll manifesto for the

Vikas Aghadi (MVA) poll manifesto for the Maharashtra Assembly election. He accused the Prime Minister and his party indulging in divisive politics during the campaign.

"Modi claimed that this red book is an urban Naxal book and it is a piece of Marxist literature. Yet, in 2017, Modi himself presented the same book to then-President Ram Nath Kovind. He even said it

had blank pages," Kharge said. Kharge also demanded to know as to what did Yogi Adityanath, chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, and the PM mean when they say "batenge toh katenge" (divided, we die) and 'ek hain toh safe hain' (together we are safe)

respectively.

"What do they mean by this?
Aap kisko kaatangey (who
will you kill)? Indira Gandhi
and Rajiv Gandhi, who
sacrificed themselves to keep
India united. This slogan is by
Yogi Ji. Modi Ji says, 'ek hain
toh safe hain'. I do not know
which of these slogans will
work. The fact remains you work. The fact remains you belong to the group that killed the very person who gave us independence," Kharge said. Listing the salient points in

the three-party front's poll manifesto, Kharge said that the MVA, if elected to power in Maharashtra, would in Maharashtra, would conduct caste census and increase the ceiling of reservation beyond the current 50 per cent in line with what is prevailing in Tamil Nadu. "Through this census, we do not intend to divide people, but try to understand the status of various communities and ensure that they receive more benefits," he added.

"Our guarantees will go a long

"Our guarantees will go a long way the uplifting households and every family will get relief of around Rs 3.5 lakh in a year," the Congress president said while releasing the manifesto with alliance

MVA manifesto highlights caste census, loan waivers and jobs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has promised to provide a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000 under the Mahakshmi scheme, a monthly stipend of Rs 4,000 to the unemployed provide to the unemployed, provide six gas cylinders annually at Rs 500 each and launch of free bus service for men in

Apart from conducting caste census and increasing the reservation limit above the cap of 50 per cent, the MVA -

- in its manifesto Maharashtranama for the State Assembly election -- has promised to waive farm loan up to Rs 3 lakh and give plus a enhance schemes for the Rs 50,000 incentive for those survivors of lakhs of farmers

who clear their loans on time, Rs 25 lakh health insurance scheme and free medicines to people, open up recruitments for 2, 50,000 vacancies in the state government and create 2.50 lakh new jobs every year for the next five years

five years
The MVA has promised to frame a Nirbhay Maharashtra policy and implement the Shakti Laws for security of women and children, provide two days' menstrual leave, Rs. 1 lakh to each girl upon attaining age of 18 and free cervical cancer vaccines to girls between 9-16 years old. Apart from the loan waiver, the MVA, if elected to power, has promised to review and

has promised to review and

who have committed suicide in the past few decades, ensure MSP of agro-produce, simplify the crop insurance schemes, launch 'pink' and 'saffron' agriculture revolutions for the benefit of the onion and tomato growers, build permanent roads linking farmlands, among others.

On the health care front, the MVA has promised to increase the scope of the Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, implement a 'Right To Health' Policy, form a Tribal Health & Nutrition Mission, improve and augment health-care facilities and

infrastructure in mofussil or remote areas and build a 100-bed hospital in each taluka of

Kharge slams PM Modi, BJP's | BJP promises anti-conversion law, increased doles in Maharashtra



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday promised to enact an-anti conversion law enact an-anti conversion law with stringent provisions in Maharashtra, and also assured a skill census for training as per industry needs as well as free ration to low-income families.

Amit Shah, Union Minister for Home Affairs, unveiled in Mumbai a 25-point 'Sankalp Patra 2024', which promises an increase in government's

an increase in government's allowance for women to Rs2,100 per month from Rs1,500 under the Ladki

Rs1,500 under the Ladki Bahin scheme.
The party, in its manifesto for the November 20 state Assembly election, also promised to create 25 lakh job opportunities and assured a stipend of Rs 10,000 every month to 10 lakh students in the state. The ruling Mahayuti comprises the BJP, Shiv Sena of the Eknath Shinde faction and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar, the deputy chief minister of the state.
The BJP's manifesto promises an anti-conversion law and provides for stringent action

conversions. Though the skill census, the ruling party assured to ascertain the needs of the industry and upgrade skill training wherever

skill training wherever necessary.
Under the Akshay Anna Yojana, low-income families will be provided free food items every month through the Public Distribution System (PDS), as per the manifesto. The BJP also plans to develop the state into an advanced robotic and Artificial Intelligence (AI) training hub. training hub.

training hub.
It also promises to create 10 lakh new business leaders through the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Akanksha centres in each district. The party promises to create 50 lakh lakpati didis by 2027, for which an industrial cluster of 500 self-help groups will be created and an initial corpus of Rs1,000 crore will be provided. provided.

provided.
The manifesto promises to develop Nagpur, Pune, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Nashik and Ahilyanagar as modern aeronautical and space manufacturing centres. It also promises that the SGST on the purchase of fertilisers will be returned to farmers as grants. The prices of essential provides for stringent action against forced and deceitful grants. The prices of essential

commodities will be kept stable, according to the manifesto.

Addressing rallies in Raver assembly constituency in Jalgaon and Malkapur seat in Buldhana, Shah pointed out to a recent memorandum submitted by the Ulema Council to the opposition Congress seeking 10 per cent reservation in jobs and education for the Muslim

education for the Muslim community.

"Maharashtra Congress has agreed to end reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs and give it to Muslims as demanded by the Ulema Council," Shah said in Buldhana. The demand for 10 per cent quota for the Muslim community would eat into the benefits of Dalits, tribals and Other Backward Classes, since there is a 50 per cent cap on quota is a 50 per cent cap on quota and any increase will come at the cost of existing ones, he

told the gathering.
"Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders' lust for power has blinded long-term consequences of their actions on marginalised communities. The BJP is firmly committed to welfare

of all communities but is

strictly against any form of reservations for Muslims. As

long as there is even one BJP MP or MLA, we will oppose religion-based reservation. This is our commitment," he asserted. Shah said the BJP's vision for the state aligns with the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Shah also dared Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav (UB1) chief Uddhav
Thackeray to get Congress
leader Rahul Gandhi to hail
Hindutva ideologue VD
Savarkar and Shiv Sena
founder Bal Thackeray. Shah
also pointed out that under
the Uddhav Thackeray-led
MVA dispensation,

MVA dispensation,
Maharashtra lost its
competitive edge in industrial
growth and the state fell to
fourth rank,
Shah also said Thackeray was
siding with the Congress,
whose leaders have insulted
Balasaheb Thackeray and
Hindutva ideologue Veer
Savarkar. After releasing the
manifesto for the November
20 Maharashtra assembly
polls, Shah also said his party polls, Shah also said his party will not allow religion-based reservation in the country. "I want to ask Uddhav Thackeray if he can request Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to say two good words for Veer Savarkar,"

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

A rich legacy

Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's tenure leaves a legacy marked by bold decisions, though not without controversies

s Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's tenure concludes on November 10, his impact-, ful decisions will be closely scrutinised for the lasting mark they have left on India's journey toward progress and development. He became the 50th CJI on November 8, 2022. During his tenure as a judge and as CJI, Chandrachud has been involved in more than 700 judgements including constitution bench judgements, many of which he has authored, dissented and concurred with. His tenure stands as one of the most impactful in recent years, marked by bold judicial reforms, significant rulings, and an enduring commitment to upholding constitutional rights. His time in office was characterised by an effort to reshape the judiciary to make it more accessible, transparent, and technologically adept. However, this legacy was not without its share of controversies, reflecting both the high expectations and challenges that come with the nation's highest judicial role. His approach to jurisprudence was firmly rooted in

constitutional principles and a progressive interpretation of the law.

His tenure is defined by landmark rulings that addressed some of India's most pressing social and political issues. The free speech and right to dissent that are fundamental to any democracy were close to his heart. Under his leadership, the apex court repeatedly affirmed the rights of individuals to dissent and question authority, especially in cases where government overreach was alleged. His rulings in cases challenging sedition laws and other colonialera restrictions reflected a judicial commitment to curbing censorship. Chandrachud introduced signif-

icant technological advancements within the judiciary to make it more accessible and efficient. His commitment to digitalisation and virtual court proceedings made it accessible to all. His efforts to streamline case backlogs, prioritise the rights of underprivileged communities and modernise the judicial system have left a lasting impact. He championed judicial independence and frequently emphasised the need for an apolitical judiciary. These reforms have set a foundation for future chief justices to build on. However, Chandrachud faced criticism over his handling of certain high-profile political cases, especially those involving state surveillance and alleged misuse of power. His reluctance to prioritise some of these cases was interpreted by some as an unwillingness to confront the government, casting a shadow on his otherwise steadfast stance on judicial independence. His attempts to bring transparency to the controversial collegium system were met with mixed reactions. Indeed, Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's tenure will be remembered as one marked by significant contributions to the evolution of Indian jurisprudence and judicial processes. DY Chandrachud commitment to rights-based judgements, technological modernisation and accessibility reforms represents his enduring contributions to the judiciary.



People take part in a boating competition, in Nadia

The business of power and the politics of loyalty



As history has shown, when influential businessmen back controversial leaders, the consequences reach far beyond politics—impacting nations and the global landscape

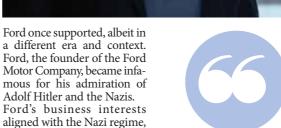
n the world of investment banking, there's an adage: "Insult is an investment." The idea is simple—those who are underestimated and ignored often end up making the most successful moves, purchasing stocks at a lower price before the crowd catches on. In political terms, this strategy mirrors how Donald Trump, after being insulted and sidelined following the 2020 election, has managed to turn his defeat into a powerful comeback.

But Trump's resurgence isn't just a matter of political savvy—it's also about alliances, the kind that transcend national borders and redefine power structures.

One such alliance is his relationship with Vladimir Putin, which, when examined through a historical lens, resembles the complex political alliances of the past. Trump's approach to Putin could be seen as a Trump card of sorts. A new world order under autocratic rule, with Putin at the helm, is a scenario that increasingly seems possible.

Amid these shifting global tides, there's one group that Trump has promised to "save": the Hindus. While India's Prime Minister Modi may claim to be their protector, Trump's Diwali pledge to safeguard Hindus worldwide paints a different picture. For some, this might sound like a lofty promise, but for others, it is seen as a vital lifeline in a world where geopolitical alliances matter more than ever.

Meanwhile, India's relationship with Canada is one of the most sensitive flashpoints in this evolving narrative. Canada, a close ally of the US is already at odds with India over several issues, particularly as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration has taken stances seen as anti-India. As Trudeau's policies potentially fuel Sikh extremism, the instability could escalate, further complicating India's geopolitical position. If Sikh militancy gains traction, it may find unexpected allies in the form of Pakistan, as Islamic extremism and Sikh separatism threaten to form a dangerous use his platform to reshape alliance—a combination that public discourse are strategic could undermine India's internal security. This scenario isn't entirely unlike the world that Henry At the heart of this dynamic is



including lucrative contracts that benefitted Ford's German AMID THESE subsidiary, Ford-Werke. While SHIFTING GLOBAL Ford's connection to Hitler was ideological, it was also finan-TIDES, THERE'S ONE cial, a pragmatic alliance that offered both political and eco-**GROUP THAT TRUMP** nomic rewards. Fast forward to HAS PROMISED TO today, and we see a striking similarity between Ford's sup-"SAVE": THE HINDUS port for Hitler and Musk's WHILE INDIA'S Elon Musk, a tech magnate

PRIME MINISTER with enormous influence, has embraced Trump's populist MODI MAY CLAIM TO message, praising him for his policies on deregulation and BE THEIR free markets. Musk's relation-PROTECTOR. ship with Trump may not be rooted in ideology to the same TRUMP'S DIWALI extent that Ford's was with Hitler, but the political and PLEDGE TO business calculations are eeri-SAFEGUARD ly similar. Like Ford, Musk sees in Trump an opportunity to HINDUS align his business interests with a powerful political figure. WORLDWIDE Musk's recent purchase of PAINTS A Twitter, his vocal support for Trump, and his willingness to DIFFERENT PICTURE

a simple truth: both Ford and Musk, at their respective times, recognised the value of political alignment in securing economic and business power. Ford saw his admiration for Hitler as a path to financial gain in a fractured Europe. Musk, meanwhile, sees his support for Trump as a means to ensure policies favourable to his empire, such as deregulation, low taxes, and the prioritisation of business over social

Just as Ford's relationship with the Nazi regime was instrumental in expanding his company's reach in Europe, Musk's ties to Trump could bolster his business interests in the current global economy.

welfare.

Musk's approach to Trump is also a form of personal branding. Both men have cultivated larger-than-life personas, largely through social media, and both understand the power of controversy. Just as Ford was able to influ-

ence public perception through his business prowess and his political affiliations, Musk uses his platform-Twitter, now X—to shape political discourse. Musk's support for Trump also mirrors Ford's early 20th-century nationalist rnetoric. while Ford's nationalism was overt-ly racial, Musk's alignment matic, will shape the world for years to come. with Trump echoes a modern brand of populism, focused on

nationalism, "America First" policies, and anti-establishment rhetoric. However, the ultimate question remains: What happens when business and politics intertwine in such a way that it threatens the very fabric of democratic institu-

Ford's support for Hitler contributed to the global rise of fascism, and Trump's alliances with figures like Putin raised concerns about the future of democracy and global stability. Musk's role in this political theatre could either be a footnote in history or a major chapter in the ongoing struggle between corporate power and political freedom. The rise of populism, the fracturing of traditional alliances, and the unpredictable actions of powerful business figures like Musk and Trump all point to a future where global stabil-

ity could be at risk. The future is uncertain, but one thing is clear: as history has shown when powerful businessmen like Ford or Musk align themselves with controversial political figures, the consequences can be farreaching and transformative. Whether for good or ill, their influence is undeniable, and their alliances, nowever

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

HE EDITOR

Creating a workplace culture that truly supports mental health



In a workplace where mental health is prioritised, employees would feel confident, heard, valued and supported

the theme for Mental Health Day 2024, which was observed on October 10, was "mental health in the workplace". Although a month has passed since then, it is a theme that will remain relevant at all times of the year, given the rising incidents of burnouts and crashes in the professional sphere. The race has never been this fierce to corner the best bargains in life and in the process of touching the finish line first, we are disintegrating as family, workers and society. Our workspaces are turning into ticking time bombs with a multitude of

nerves waiting to snap. The deadlines in front of us are turning into death lines. As someone who has gone through a mental health condition and someone who has been through the trials of having to perform well at work during the ailment, and in the end been let off, I can say this much with certainty: We talk more and walk less. The active discussions that we are having on mental health in offices are not translating into workable actions and responses. Whether we use

the word toxic or hostile, or

politics to describe inclement

work conditions, there is an amount of disquiet hovering over workstations and cabins. Employees still struggle to define their boundaries and raise concerns without fear of judgment or retaliation. This lack of open communi-

cation creates a festering environment where mental wellbeing takes a back seat to competition, productivity, and ambition.

To bridge this gap, I believe every organisation needs a Chief Emotional Intelligence Officer —a dedicated professional to prioritise the mental wellness of employees. This individual would serve as an accessible resource for emotional guidance, creating a safe harbour where employees can speak candidly about their mental and tics. When left unaddressed,

emotional challenges without fear of repercussions. Why is this crucial? Because mental health issues in the workplace are seldom isolated incidents—they are deeply intertwined with how individuals interact, collaborate, and handle the pressures of their roles. The CEIO would not only provide direct support but also foster a culture that values empathy, resilience, and open dialogue. They could organise workshops on emotional intelligence, manage peer support networks, and act as a mediator in times of conflict. By equipping employees with emotional tools and safe channels to address their struggles, companies can create a more harmonious and productive environment. A psychologist or therapist in the workspace would be invaluable in addressing the employees

Think about the quiet suffering: employees with anxiety disorders who fear speaking up during meetings, those with depression who find it challenging to meet deadlines or those enduring chronic stress due to workplace polithese issues don't just impact the individual—they disrupt team dynamics, reduce overall productivity, and lead to

higher attrition. By bringing mental health resources in-house, organisations send a powerful message: We care about you as a whole person, not just as a worker.In workplaces that still stigmatise open communication, a CEIO can lead by example, showing that seeking help is a strength, not a weakness. Imagine an office where an employee overwhelmed by stress could have a confidential conversation with a professional trained to listen and offer support. Or where tensions between coworkers could be resolved through mediation rather than letting resentment fester. This isn't just about providing "quick fix" for mental health—it's about creating a sustainable, nurturing workplace culture. If we genuiney wish to prioritise mental health in the workplace, then it's time to go beyond wellmeaning words and take

actionable steps. (The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai; Views are personal)

CHANDRACHUD'S LANDMARK VERDICTS Madam — Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, overall, an eminent, very

erudite and well-mannered CJI. Even

moves, not just personal con-

victions.

endorsement of Trump.

though he was a woke, liberal, let's give him the credit where he truly deserves. He was completely impartial. He was on the bench for the Ram Mandir verdict which ruled unanimously in favour of the temple. He withheld Article 370, he ruled in the favour of government for demonetisation, granted bail to Arnab Goswami, ruled against MVA in Maharashtra, accepted SEBI report on Adani against Hindenburg allegations, approved Central Vista project, upheld government powers pertaining to ED, CBI and PMLA, left same sex marriage decision on parliament or interpretation of Article on private ownership of resources, Assam Citizenship Amendment Act. Some of the judgements may not align with our preference, but not everything can work in our favour. But my one regret is the Ganapati Aarti he shared with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his house. No doubt Modi Bhakts forgave him for this sole act. Side by side who forget his overlooking Bhima Koregaon undertrials and Umar Khalid's politically motivated jail. Whatsoever, a judge's task is to interpret the law and he did very creditably. Law making is the function of Parliament and not

your Lordship. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

the Supreme Court. We will miss you a lot,

FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT Madam— Apropos of the front page news 'Ruckus continues in J and K Assembly' (Nov 8), CM Omar Abdullah should himself evaluate how development and infrastructure have been made priority by the Union Government in comparison to the other states after the abrogation of Article 370 and security preparedness has been enhanced in the state. Jammu & Kashmir has top priority for the country both from a strategic, economic and social perspective. People of the state responded positively to the repeal of

Article 370 and have voted for the National

Stop political blame game



social crimes continuing since the dawn of 'civilisation' all across the world and which seem to have no end, proving that human beings are still left with several miles to go before turning truly humane. So whenever any such crime happens any-

Conference for peace, development, jobs, growth and security. They want to get rid of terrorism. The Supreme Court has already upheld the validity of the repeal of Article 370 of the Constitution.

The former CM Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Omar Abdullah should recall the darkest ages of the peak of terrorism and Pak-sponsored separatist activities, stone-pelting, and the most dreaded massacre of Hindus in the 1990s in their tenures. There is enough to believe that Article 370 was subservient to the political ecosystem than the

people. The security of the state and the country rests with the security forces. The Union Government has greater responsibility towards the J and K. CM Omar Abdullah and his government should know the Modi government's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism as against the reconciliatory approach of the Congress government. While PoK is crying for re-unification with India, the NC government should not pursue retrograde politics.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

where, the real culprits should be nabbed as early as possible, with the judiciary awarding exemplary punishthe to And if any influential person or persons are found to be protecting the criminals or diluting their crime, he/she/they must also be handed punishment.

But character-assassinating the ruling party or government of the region along with the administrative head of the concerned region wherever such an unpardonable offence takes place is nothing but cheap, heartless politics within which the BJP and its leaders have scandalously immersed themselves, revolving around the Kolkata hospital case since early August. **Kajal Chatterjee** | Kolkata

SAMOSA CONTROVERSY

Madam — It is full of political crises as genteel security staff ate away elitist samosas ordered from a 5-star hotel by the CM of Himachal Pradesh. CID has been called in for investigation as to how these staff could not understand that not all samosas are for everyone. This transgression needs Byomkesh Bakshi, RAW, IB, and CBI to find out how dare some poor guy thought he could get away eating Sukku ke samose. Also, the five-star hotel that supplied those Samose might have to be penalised for not writing a caution note on each samosa by writing, Only for Italians, and those Indians whose income is more than 50 lakh per month, etc.

What Jalebi was to Haryana, Samosas will be to Himachal Pradesh. Also, Maharashtra elections are just 10 days away, and Pappu has not yet talked about the Vada Pav factory. It is concerning for Mahayuti. Congress is a complete mess on edibles. A Subramaniam Krishnan | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

SHARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Only with awareness and proactive choices, parents can create a positive digital experience



n the digital age, social media has become an integral part of everyday life, allowing people to connect, share, and communicate across vast distances. Of recent, in one of the studies, it was estimated that over 90 per cent of American children have a social media presence by the time they reach age 2. Today, many parents feel a sense of pride in their children's achievements and milestones and want to celebrate these moments with friends and family. They believe that social media offers an easy, instant way to share updates and receive supportive feedback.

This practice of parents sharing photos, videos and details about their children on social media is termed 'Sharenting' and is becoming a buzz in town. This practice may include baby photos, milestones, family activities, humorous incidents and personal achievements. Sharenting often begins as early as pregnancy announcements and continues through the child's growth, school events and sometimes even into adolescence.

Practicing sharing offers numerous ways to bridge physical distance and bring family members into the child's life virtually by creating family bonding for families separated by geography and maintaining close relations with extended family members; building online support communities where sharing can bring camaraderie and guidance from other parents experiencing similar challenges and preserve memories that can later be revisited by both the parents and potentially the children themselves but on the contrary, sharing faces substantial criticism, primarily concerning privacy, consent and ethical issues. Studies suggest that children who discover their lives



have been publicly documented without their consent may experience trust issues with their parents and may feel a loss of control over their personal stories.

As children grow up in a digital world, having a documented online presence from a young age can influence their self-perception, social development and relationships. Being exposed to a wide audience might increase the likelihood that children develop feelings of shame or insecurity about how they are portrayed online.

The word 'Sharenting' is a double-edged sword, offering benefits in the form of connection and memory preservation but carrying significant ethical and privacy implications. It becomes of utmost important for the parents to strike a balance and adopt responsible sharing practices such as seeking consent from their child when possible; avoiding sharing sensitive information such as full name, school, location, etc and periodically reviewing and removing older posts, thereby reducing their child's digital footprint and enabling them to control their online presence as they grow.

Only with awareness and proactive choices, parents can create a positive digital experience for their families while protecting their children's future in an increasingly connected world. Today's generation needs to create a new normal and prioritise a child's right to privacy, informed content as well and digital safety over the 'posting dopamine cycle.' Remember, the digital footprint of the child will last a lifetime, and privacy will give them power. Ultimately, responsible sharing will require mindfulness, ethical consideration, and the willingness to prioritise the child's well-being above the immediate gratification of social media validation.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Nutrient-based subsidy: Support and scrutiny balance-



While companies have the flexibility to set their MRP, these prices remain under close government scrutiny, ensuring affordability without undermining competition



ust around the time when the Rabi Crops season (October 2024 - March 2025) has commenced, there was a shortage of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) in many parts of the country. DAP is a widely used complex fertiliser that supplies 46 per cent Phosphate or 'P' nutrients besides 18 per cent Nitrogen or 'N' (a ton of DAP contains 180 kg 'N' and 460 kg 'P'). The annual consumption of DAP is around 10 to 11 million tons. Against this, domestic production is less than half at around 4.5 - 4.8 million tonnes. The deficit is made up of imports from countries such as Russia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and China. According to the Department of Fertilisers (DoF), the require-

ment of DAP during the current Rabi season is assessed to be 5.5 million tonnes. Out MILLION TONNES. of this, 60 per cent or 3.3 million tonnes was to be imported. This much material should have been purchased, transported and placed nearer the consumption areas before the commencement of the season. But, that was not to be. to the Fertiliser Association of

India (FAI), during April-September 2024, DAP imports were 1.96 million tons down from 3.45 million tons during the same period in 2023-24. The domestic production of DAP was 2.15 million tons down from 2.31 million tons during the same period last year. So, there was a reduction in supply of around 1.65 million tons compared to last year. This is the prime reason behind the shortage of

A plausible explanation could be that many countries from where DAP comes are in the middle east and the crisis due to the war involving Israel and others has led to disruption in the normal Red Sea route forcing the re-routing of ships through the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. That involves much longer distance hence, taking additional time of up to 45 days for the consignment to reach Indian ports. But, it isn't simply a case of delay. It has more to do with policy issues. Under the existing policy, the Union Government asks manufacturers or importers to sell fertilisers to farmers at a low maximum retail price (MRP) unrelated to



CONSUMPTION

OF DAP IS **AROUND** 10 TO 11 AGAINST THIS, DOMESTIC PRODUCTION IS LESS THAN HALF AT AROUND 4.5 - 4.8 MILLION TONNES. THE DEFICIT IS MADE UP OF **IMPORTS** FROM **COUNTRIES** SUCH AS RUSSIA, MOROCCO, SAUDI ARABIA,

JORDAN,

AND CHINA

EGYPT

distribution (or cost of supply) which is higher. The excess cost of supply over MRP is reimbursed as a subsidy to the manufacturer/ In the case of urea, MRP is under 'statutory' control and subsidy varies from unit to unit (importer in case of import) depending on the cost. THE ANNUAL

the cost of production/import and

For non-urea fertilisers (there are 25 grades of such fertilisers including DAP) which are de jure decontrolled, the MRP is 'indirectly' controlled. The government gives a 'uniform' subsidy on a per-nutrient basis to all manufacturers and importers under the Nutrient Based Scheme (NBS). Although they are free to fix the MRP, this is subject to scrutiny by the authorities. In an office memorandum dated January 17, 2024,

the DoF has issued detailed guidelines for the evaluation of the "reasonableness of the MKPs for all non-urea fertilisers covered under the NBS. To be effective from April 1, 2023, the guidelines prescribe maximum profit margins that will be allowed for fertiliser companies - 8 per cent for importers, 10 per cent for manufacturers and 12 per cent for integrated manufacturers (those producing finished fertilisers as well as intermediates such as phosphoric acid and ammonia). The admissible profit margins are calculated as a percentage of their "total cost of sales", which covers the cost of production (landed cost in case of import), administrative/selling and distribution overheads, net interest and financing charges. Dealer's margin is allowed to the extent of 2 per cent of the MRP for DAP and muriate of potash (MOP), and 4 per cent for all other fertilisers covered under NBS. Companies

over and above the stipulated per-

centages, in a financial year (April-March) or FY will have to refund the same to the DoF by October 10 of the following FY. If they don't return the money within the said time limit, "an interest @12 per cent per annum is charged on a pro-rata basis on the refund amount from the next day of end of FY (i.e. in case of FY 2023-24, the interest would be charged from April 1, 2024)". The guidelines require fertiliser companies to "self-assess" unreasonable profits, based on the cost auditor's report along with audited cost data approved by their board of directors. This report and data have to be furnished to the DoF by October 10 of the following fiscal year. The DoF will then scrutinise the "reasonability of MRPs", as submitted by the companies, "for each completed previous FY (i.e. for FY 2023-24) by February 28, 2025". Following this scrutiny, the DoF will finalise a report on unreasonable profits

earned, if any, to be recovered from the companies. Such detailed regulations to the point of 'micro-managing' a firm by itself act as a deterrent to smooth and effective conduct of its operations. It is completely out of sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on policy reforms and liberalisation. It makes a mockery of the decontrol of all non-urea fertilisers announced way back in 1992 under the economic reforms unleashed by the then government under PV Narasimha Rao. From the perspective of the manufacturer/ importer, the 'reasonable' MRP allowed to it by the DoF plus the subsidy also fixed by the government (it is notified twice a year before the commencement of each season Kharif and Rabi) should fully cover the cost of supply. If it doesearning "unreasonable profit", i.e. n't, the manufacturer's/importer's

nomically unviable. This is precisely what has happened with importers of DAP during the current year. For the Rabi season, the government has announced a subsidy of Rs 21,911 per ton along with the MRP of Rs 27,000. These two add up to Rs 48,911 per ton. Against this, the current landed cost of DAP in the country is US \$ 645 per ton or around Rs 54,000 per ton. Add to this, the cost of movement from the port to the consumption point and distribution cost, and the cost of supply to the farmer would be more than Rs 60,000 per ton. A firm won't go for such import only to incur a substantial loss of over Rs 10,000 per ton. The crux of the problem is the government doesn't want farmers to pay more. So, it has kept MRP unchanged at the level it was three years ago. At the same time, it is hesitant to increase subsidies as it will upset its fiscal budget. Its subsidy allocation for non-urea fertilisers has gone down from Rs 112,875 crore during 2022-23 to Rs 60,303 crore during2023-24 and further down to Rs 48,894 crore during 2024-25 (it includes Rs 24,474 crore for Rabi season). In the process, it ends up impacting supplies as importers don't find it economical to import. During the previous two years, there wasn't any shortage as during 2022-23, the government was pretty liberal in spending and during 2023-24, the decline in global prices helped. But, during the current FY, none of these reliefs are available. So, there is stress on the supply front. The government can get out of the logjam only when it stops micromanaging the fertiliser business and leaves it to the market forces. As for subsidies, they should be given directly to farmers.

(The writer is a policy analyst;

Israel, Palestine and a divided Africa: Seeking a path forward

African nations, with their unique histories, alliances and economic interests, find themselves divided over the Israel-Palestine issue

¬he ongoing conflict in Gaza between Israel and Palestine, which began on October 7, 2023, marks a significant military engagement in the region, being the largest confrontation since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. This conflict has global ramifications, with the African continent likely to feel its effects profoundly. Africa, with its 55 countries and diverse political landscape, is particularly vulnerable to such geopolitical divides.

Africa's Divided Stance on Israel-Palestine: African countries vary widely in their stance on the Israel-Palestine issue, often shaped by historical, ideological, and economic factors. Pro-Palestinian countries like Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Senegal, Mali,



Libya support Palestine, often viewing the Palestinian struggle through the lens of their anti-colonial histories. In contrast, several nations, including Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Morocco, and Chad, have established close relations with Israel, motivated by economic, technological, and security interests. Additionally, strong support for Palestine,

neutral countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan maintain diplomatic ties with both Israel and Palestine, typically refraining from favoring one side over

At the continental level, the African Union (AU) has traditionally supported Palestine's statehood and criticised Israeli olicies

A Deeper Look at Africa's **Reactions:** African responses to the Gaza conflict highlight the continent's fractured stance on foreign policy issues. In South Africa, for instance, public protests have likened the Palestinian struggle to the country's anti-apartheid movement. Śouth African President Cyril Ramaphosa has voiced lawsuit against Israel at the International Court of Justice. Algeria's Foreign Minister similarly condemned Israeli actions, citing international law, while Comoros President Azali Assoumani labeled Israeli actions as genocidal. On the other hand, several sub-Saharan nations, including South Sudan, Cameroon, Togo, and Cape Verde, chose not to support the recent United Nations resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Even Muslim-majority countries like Morocco, Chad, and Sudan have limited their response to public condemnations without altering diplomatic ties. Malawi and Kenya recently agreed to send laborers to Israel following a halt in work permits for Palestinians,

and his government filed a



further signaling the complexities in Africa's stance. Africa and Israel share a complex, long-standing relationship that dates back to before Israel's founding. Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement, expressed support for African liberation, envisioning solidarity between Jews and Africans in their quests for self-determination. This vision gained trac-

tion in the 1960s, with Israel maintaining a strong presence in Africa, including 33 embassies across the continent. Israel's model of decolonisation and development attracted the admiration of African leaders who saw parallels in their own struggles for indepen-

However, following the 1973 Yom Kippur War, pressure from Arab countries led many African states to sever ties with Israel. This led to a period of estrangement, with African leaders feeling frustrated by unmet promises from Arab allies, particularly in the realm of energy cooperation. Gradually, ties began to thaw, and by the early 21st century, Israel was once again seeking partnerships in Africa, with diplomatic and economic collaborations resuming. In recent years, Israel's outreach has intensified. In 2016, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited East Africa, and a year later, he addressed the Economic Community of West African States. In 2022, Israel and several African nations agreed to expand cooperation in renewable energy, trade, and technology. Kenyas President William Ruto visited Israel in 2023, fur-

rity, and other sectors. These relationships are essential for African nations, many of which aim to modernise infrastructure and boost economic growth through partnerships with technologically advanced countries like Israel. Given the historical context

ther strengthening ties in agri-

culture, climate change, secu-

and current diplomatic landscape, it appears unlikely that the Gaza conflict will irreparably divide Africa. While opinions on the Israel-Palestine issue are undoubtedly polarized, African nations often prioritise pragmatic interests over ideological alignment. The Gaza conflict may not permanently alter Africa's alliances, but it does highlight the need for more cohesive foreign policy coordination on the continent.

Africa's relationships with Israel have historically ebbed and flowed, often dictated by external pressures and internal priorities rather than a single, unified stance.

(The writer is faculty, department of African Studies faculty of social sciences University of Delhi; views are personal)

Biden invites Trump for meeting at White House on November 13

PTI WASHINGTON

Outgoing US President Joe Biden has invited his suc-cessor President-elect Donald Trump for a meeting at the White House on November 13, which would formally begin the presidential transition. "At President Biden's invitation, President Biden and Presidentelect Trump will meet in the Oval Office on Wednesday at 11:00 am," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement. The meeting between the outgoing president and the incoming one is ceremonial and is seeped into decades old tradition. İt is generally held in the Oval Office during which the outgoing president gives the presidentelect a briefing about the key agenda of the country. The president-elect is also given a tour of the White House. It involves a meeting between the First Lady and the incoming First Lady. This is only the second time in American history that a president is re-elected after a gap of four years. In this case, President-elect Donald Trump, who was the 45th president of the United States for four years beginning January 20, 2017, and First Lady Melania Trump are familiar with the workings of the White House and a presidential

administration. The customary meeting between the outgoing and incoming president, which signifies a peaceful transfer of power, was paused in 2020 when Trump had not conceded the election. He also did not attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Joe Biden. A similar meeting between outgoing Vice President Kamala

PTI WASHINGTON

President-elect Donald Trump urged his support-

ers to donate to Democrats to

help them overcome the "finan-

cial strain" in the aftermath of

the general elections. In a social

media post, Trump expressed

his surprise that the Democrats

didn't have lots of dollars left

squeezed by vendors and oth-

ers," he said after reports

emerged that the Harris Campaign is USD 20 million in

"Kamala Harris's campaign

ended with at least USD 20 mil-

familiar. Harris raised over

USD 1 billion and had USD

"Now they are being

'Iranian charged for assassination plot tasked with targeting Israelis in SL'

in Sri Lanka and to plan a

mass shooting event in

October 2024. Ŏn or about

October 23, 2024, the govern-

ments of the United States and

Israel publicly warned trav-

ellers about threats of an

attack targeting tourist loca-

tions in the Arugam Bay area,

and, on or about the follow-

ing day, Sri Lankan authorities

reported having arrested three

individuals in connection

with the threat. On October

28, after the public travel

warnings issued by the gov-

ernments of the United States

and Israel and after CC-2's

arrest by Sri Lankan authori-

ties-Shaker advised the FBI

that he had previously tasked

CC-2 with surveilling the

Israeli consulate in Sri Lanka,

Washington (PTI) An IRGC to target Israeli tourists Iranian national charged by the FBI for plotting assassination on president-elect Donald Trump was tasked by the Iranians to target Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka, the Department of Justice has alleged. Farhad Shakeri, 51, of Iran was charged Friday in a criminal complaint in connection with their alleged involvement in a plot to murder a Trump. Shakeri is an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) asset, remains at large and is believed to reside in Tehran, Iran.

"He was also tasked with targeting Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka," the Department of Justice said. According to documents filed in a federal court, Shakeri was asked by

Harris and her successor J D Vance is also being scheduled.

TRUMP RULES OUT POMPEO, HALEY IN HIS ADMINISTRATION

President-elect Donald Trump ruled out two of his previous Cabinet members — former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and former envoy to the United Nations Nikki Haley to be part of his upcoming administration.

Trump, 78, was elected as the 47th president of the United States. He defeated Vice President Kamala Harris, 60, in the elections held on November 5. In the first term, Trump

record amount of money, did-

n't have lots of dollars left over.

Now they are being squeezed

served as the 45th president from January 20, 2017, to January 20, 2021.

"I will not be inviting former Ambassador Nikki Haley, or former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to join the Trump Administration, which is currently in formation," Trump said in a post on Truth Social. Pompeo served as the CIA Director and Secretary of State in his first term, while Haley served as his ambassador to the United Nations in the first two years of his presidency. Both his cabinet-ranking officials later entered the presidential race against him in the Republican the Department of Justice said. Shaker stated that he and CC-2 had served time in prison together. Shaker informed the FBI that he had provided this surveillance to IRGC Official-I. According to Shaker, after being provided surveillance on the Israeli consulate, IRGC Official I asked him to identify anoth-

After this Shaker then instructed CC-2 to surveil a tourist location in Arugam Bay frequented by Israeli tourists. IRGC Official-I instructed Shaker to orchestrate a mass shooting at the Arugam Bay location. They planned that CC-2 would supply AK-47s and other weapons for the attack, federal prosecutors said.

While Pompeo dropped from the race early, Haley was the last challenger against Trump till February this year. Later on the two endorsed his campaign. Haley announced her support for Trump during the Republican National Convention in Wisconsin in

July this year. However, in his post, Trump thanked his two former Cabinet officials for their service. "I very much enjoyed and appreciated working with them previously, and would like to thank them for their service to our Country. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" Trump said.

SFJ Canada coordinator held in temple violence case

Ottawa (PTI): Canadian police have arrested a 35-year-old Brampton resident on charges of assault with a weapon during a violent demonstration at a Hindu temple in the city, authorities said.

On November 3, a protest occurred at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton and unverified videos circulating on social media appeared to show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan. The videos showed fist fights and people striking each other with poles on what appears to be the grounds surrounding the temple.

The Peel Regional Police responded to the altercation during the demonstration at the Mandir. As tensions between opposing sides increased, the demonstrations became physical and assaultive, a statement said on Saturday. Police began investigating several offences that occurred during the demonstration, many of which were captured on video; including individuals using flags and sticks to assault people, it said.

Investigators from the 21 Division Criminal Division Investigations Bureau and Strategic Investigation Team (SIT) have arrested and charged Inderjeet Gosal of Brampton, the Peel Police statement said.

Gosal, is Sikhs for Justice coordinator for Canada, Toronto Star reported.

The US-based SFJ is banned in India.

On November 8, 2024, he was arrested and charged with assault with a weapon. He was released on conditions and is to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton at a later

"The 2024 election highlight-

Lebanon's Health Ministry says an Israeli airstrike on Sunday killed at least 20 people in the village of Aalmat — north of Beirut and far from the areas in the south and east where the Hezbollah militant group has a major presence. Israeli forces have encircled and largely isolated Jabaliya and the nearby towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun for the past month, allowing in only a trickle of humanitarian aid. Hundreds of people have been killed since the offensive began on Oct 6, and tens of thousands of peo-ple have fled to nearby Gaza

PTI DEIR AL-BALAH

n Israeli strike early Sunday

people, according to the direc-

Naim, director of the Al-Ahly

Hospital in Gaza City, said the

dead include nine women, and

that the toll was likely to rise as

rescue efforts continue. He

said they were killed in a strike

on a home in the urban refugee

camp of Jabaliya, where Israel

has been carrying out an offen-

sive for over a month. The mil-

itary said it targeted a site

where militants were operating,

without providing evidence. It

said the details of the strike are

under review. Separately,

on northern Gaza On Friday, experts from a panel that monitors food secu-An Israeli strike early ourself, on a home sheltering displaced people in the northern Gaza Strip killed at least 17 rity said famine is imminent in the north or may already be happening. The growing desperation comes as the deadline approaches for an ultimatum tor of a nearby hospital that the Biden administration gave received the bodies.Dr Fadel Israel to raise the level of humanitarian assistance

17 killed in Israeli strike

funding. The northern third of Gaza, including Gaza City, was the first target of Israel's ground invasion and has suffered the heaviest destruction of the 13month-old war, which was triggered by Hamas' attack into southern Israel. As in other areas of Gaza, Israel has sent forces back in after repeated operations, saying Hamas has regrouped.

allowed into Gaza or risk pos-

sible restrictions on US military

The military says it only targets militants, whom it accuses of hiding among civilians in homes and shelters. Israeli strikes often kill women and children. The war began when Hamas-led militants blew holes in the border fence and stormed into southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023. They killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, about a third of whom are believed to be dead.Israel's offensive has killed over 43,000 Palestinians, according to local health

authorities who do not distinguish between civilians and militants in their count but say over half the fatalities were women and children.Israeli bombardment and ground invasions have left vast areas of Gaza in ruins and displaced around 90% of the population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands of people are living in crowded tent camps with few if any public services and no idea of when they might return their homes or rebuild.Cease-fire talks mediated by the United States, Qatar and Egypt have repeatedly stalled since the start of the year. Qatar, which has served as a key mediator with Hamas, said over the weekend that it had suspended its efforts and would only resume them when "the parties show their willingness and seriousness to end the brutal war and the ongoing suffering of civilians".

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE Ki<u>l</u>ls 20 People in **NORTHERN LEBANON**

Lebanon's Health Ministry says an Israeli airstrike has killed at least 20 people.

It says the strike on Sunday occurred in the village of Aalmat, north of Beirut and far from the areas in the south and east of the country where the Hezbollah militant group has a major presence.

Qatar suspends mediation between Gaza and Israel

AP DEIR AL-BALAH

Qatar has suspended its key mediation efforts between Hamas and Israel, it said Saturday, after growing frustration with the lack of progress on a cease-fire deal for Gaza. It wasn't immediately clear whether the remaining Hamas leadership hosted by Qatar must leave, or where it would go. Hamas has good relations with Iran and Turkiye, and some of its leaders are now in Lebanon.

However, Qatar is highly likely to return to mediation efforts if both sides show "serious political willingness" to reach a deal, according to an official with Egypt, the other key mediator. Qatar told Israel and Hamas it can't continue to mediate "as long as there is a refusal to negotiate a deal in good faith" and "as a conseoffice no longer serves its purpose" in Qatar, a diplomatic source briefed on the matter said. Oatar told Hamas it will have to leave if it isn't ready to engage in serious negotiations, the source said.

In Washington, a US official said the Biden administration that the Hamas office's continued operation in Doha was no longer useful and the Hamas delegation should be expelled. A senior US official said that after Hamas rejected the last proposal for a cease-fire, Qatar accepted the advice and informed the Hamas delegation of the decision 10 days ago. A senior Hamas official said

informed Oatar two weeks ago

they were aware of Qatar's decision to suspend mediation efforts, "but no one told us to leave." Hamas has repeatedly called for an end to the war and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza as a condition for any cease-fire deal. Israel seeks the return of all hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel and insists on a presence in Gaza. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. The Israeli comment. Late Saturday, the state-run Qatar News Agency published comments attributed to Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, confirming that Doha informed parties in the talks 10 days ago that it "would

stall its efforts to mediate

between Hamas and Israel if an agreement was not reached in that round." "Oatar will resume those efforts

with its partners when the parties show their willingness and seriousness to end the brutal war and the ongoing suffering of civilians," the report said. There continued to be no end in sight to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and the Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon, where Israel's military said it struck command centers and other militant infrastructure in Beirut's southern suburbs and elsewhere. An Israeli airstrike on the southern port city of Tyre late Friday killed at least seven, officials and a res-

ident said. Hezbollah "should continue (the fight) and we will continue to back them up even if we lose our families, our homes, and end up in the dirt," said one Mekdad, as people searched the smoking rubble. In Gaza, Israeli strikes killed at least 16 people on Saturday, Palestinian medical officials said, while Israel announced the first delivery of humanitarian aid in weeks to the territory's hungry, devastat-

118 million in the bank as of Oct 16," said Christopher Cadelago, the California bureau chief of Politico. "I am very surprised that the Democrats, who fought a hard and valiant fight in the 2020

non-veg, alcohol served

Insight UK questioned the "appalling lack of understanding" of the spiritual aspect of the out that greater dialogue is required ahead of such religious for festivity, but also holds a sacred festival emphasises purity and devotion and hence traditionally involves vegetarian post on X. "The choice of menu at the Diwali celebration hosted by the PM himself displays an or respect for the religious traditions associated with the festival of Diwali. It also raises the pertinent question of whether Hindu community organisations and religious leaders were consulted for greater cultural sensitivity and inclusivity," it consideration" at future celebrations intended to promote multiculturalism and inclusivity, mindful of the "cultural and reli-

by vendors and others," he said. "Whatever we can do to help them during this difficult period, I would strongly recommend we, as a Party and for the sake of desperately needed UNITY, do. We have a lot of money left over in that our biggest asset in the campaign was "Earned Media," and that doesn't cost very much. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" Trump said. Vice President Kamala Harris,

60, was the Democratic Party's elections held on November 5. Harris, who lost to Trump, shattered all fund-raising records. According to figures available from the Federal Election Commission, the Harris campaign and its Super PACS raised USD 2.3 billion and spent USD 1.9 billion. On

Presidential Election, raising a the other hand, the Trump campaign raised over USD 1.8 billion and spent USD 1.6 billion. "Despite raising and spending over USD 1 billion in fundraising, Kamala Harris' 2014 election bid failed to resonate with the voters who mattered most. The heavy reliance on celebrity endorsements, starstudded concerts, and backing from elite political figures couldn't bridge the growing gap between the party and middleclass Americans struggling with rising costs for groceries, rent, and healthcare," Ajay Jain Bhutoria, a major fundraiser for the Harris Campaign told PTI

Irump urges supporters to donate to Dems

"While the Democrats garnered support from wealthy donors and Hollywood, they lost the backing of key voter groups," he said.Moreover, Harris' campaign also saw significant shifts among key ethnic communities. Indian Americans, Asian Americans,

and Muslim and Arab Americans, particularly in battleground states like Pennsylvania, and Michigan, became more disillusioned with the direction of the party, he said. "Indian American communities, who had previously been strong supporters of the Democrats, expressed growing concerns about issues like immigration reform, job opportunities, US India rélationship, attack on Hindu Temples, attack on Hindus in Bangladesh and Canada and rising living costs," Bhutoria

"In Michigan, home to signif-Muslim populations, many voters felt their concerns were sidelined in favour of more nationalized political debates. As a result, these communities increasingly moved toward Trump, feeling that their issues were better addressed by his platform," he said.

ed the deep disconnection between elite fundraising and the concerns of everyday Americans, especially on critical issues like the economy immigration, rising crime, and costly foreign wars. The results are a stark reminder that flashy campaigns and big-money donors aren't enough when the needs of working-class families are left behind," Bhutoria said. Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said the Democrats were not able to clearly state to enough voters how our party would materially improve their out there, and we need to take time to really learn from this, but one thing is clear: Democrats were not able to clearly state to enough voters how our party would materially improve their lives," she said in a social media post on Saturday.

Soldier with Yemen's exiled govt kills 2 Saudi troops, hurts another

PTI DUBAI

A soldier for Yemen's exiled government opened fire on Saudi troops as they exercised in eastern Yemen, killing two of them and wounding another in a rare insider attack during the kingdom's nearly decadelong war there, officials said Saturday. The assault in eastern

Hadramawt province comes as a yearslong cease-fire between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthi rebels largely has held despite the militants' ongoing attacks against shipping in the Red Sea corridor. While the Houthis did not claim the attack, at least one Houthi official praised it as being "the beginning and an indication of a harsh future awaiting the invaders.

Meanwhile, US warplanes carried out new strikes targeting Houthi positions that lasted into early Sunday morning, the American military said. The strikes come after the militants likely shot down yet-another American reconnaissance drone over the country.

The attack on the Saudi troops took place Friday night in Seiyun, a city some 500 kilometers (310 miles) east of Sanaa. As troops worked out at a Saudi-led base there, the soldier opened fire, killing an officer and a noncommissioned officer, the state-run Saudi Press Agency said, citing a military statement.

"The Joint Forces Command underscores that this Lone Wolf' cowardly attack does not represent the honorable members of the Yemeni Ministry of Defense," the statement added. The dead and the other wounded Saudi solider have been brought back to the kingdom,

of Yemen's successionist Southern Transitional Council, identified the soldier who carried out the attack as belonging to the First Military Region, Police in the area published pictures of the soldier, saying there was a 30-million-Yemeni-rial reward for information leading to the soldier's arrest. That's

for the attack. Al-Qaida in the praised the attack in a message on the social platform X, claim-

beginning and an indication of a harsh future awaiting the invaders," Rizq wrote. Yemen has been mired in a decadelong war since the Houthis swept into Sanaa from their northern strongholds in September 2014. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war on behalf of Yemen's exiled government in 2015. The war further internationalized, with Iran backing the Houthis with weapons and support that cemented the conflict into a yearslong stalemate. The war has killed more than 150,000 people, including fighters and civilians, and created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters, killing tens of thousands more. A cease-fire that expired in October 2022 largely has held in the time since, however, even as the Houthis have seized on the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

On Saturday night, Houthirun media reported U.S. airstrikes targeting areas around Sanaa. The airstrikes continued into Sunday morning and also included sites in Amran province just outside of the capital, the Houthis said. The rebels offered no immediate damage assessment from the strikes

The US military later told The Associated Press on Sunday it conducted airstrikes "on numerous Iran-backed Houthi weapons storage facilities within Houthi-controlled areas of

Resignation of Valencia leader demanded for bungling flood response

AP VALENCIA

 $T^{ens} \ \ \text{of thousands of } \\ Spaniards \ \ \text{marched in the } \\ eastern \ \ \text{city of Valencia on } \\$ Saturday to demand the resignation of the regional president in charge of the emergency response to last week's catastrophic floods that left more than 200 dead and others missing. A group of protestors clashed with riot police in front of Valencia's city hall, where the protestors started their march to the seat of the regional government. Police used batons to beat them back. Regional leader Carlos Mazón is under immense pressure after his administration failed to issue flood alerts to citizens' cell phones until hours after the flooding started on the night of October 29.

Many marchers held up homemade signs or chanted "Mazón Resign!" Others carried signs with messages like "You Killed Us!" Upon arrival at the regional government seat, some protesters slung mud on the building and left handprints of the muck on its facade.

Earlier on Saturday, Mazón told regional broadcaster À Punt that "there will be time to hold officials accountable," but that now "is time to keep cleaning our streets, helping people and rebuilding." He said that he "respected" the march. Mazón, of the conservative Popular Party, is also being criticized for what people perceive as the slow and chaotic response to the natural disaster. Thousands of volunteers were the first boots on the ground in many of the hardest-hit areas on Valencia's southern outskirts. It took days for officials to mobilize the thousands of police reinforcements and soldiers that the regional government asked central authorities to send in. In Spain, regional governments are charged with handling civil protection and can ask the

national government in Madrid, led by the Socialists, for extra resources. Mazón has defended his handling of the crisis saying that its magnitude was unforeseeable and that his administration didn't receive sufficient warnings from central authorities. But Spain's weather agency issued a red alert, the highest level of warning, for bad weather as early as 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning as the disaster loomed. Some communities were flooded by 6 p.m. It took until after 8 p.m. for Mazón's administration to send out alerts to people's cellphones. Mazón was with Spain's royals and Socialist prime minister when they were pelted with mud by enraged residents during their first visit to a devastated area last weekend.

British Hindus object to at Downing Street Diwali reception

London (PTI): Some British Hindus have taken to social media to voice their objections over a lack of proper consultation ahead of a Diwali reception hosted by Prime Minister Keir Stramer at 10 Downing Street in London, where reportedly nonvegetarian snacks and alcohol were included on the menu. While community organisation

Hindu festival, others pointed events. "Diwali is not just a time deeply religious meaning. The meals and strict avoidance of alcohol," Insight UK stated in a appalling lack of understanding said. The group urged "greater gious practices of the communities they seek to honour".

Man accused of stabbing at least 5 people in Seattle ordered held on \$2M bail

AP SEATTLE

37-year-old man who Apolice say stabbed five people in Seattle in broad daylight Friday and possibly four others the day before made his first court appearance Saturday where a judge ordered him held on \$2 million bail.

"People who live in and travel to the Chinatown-International District deserve to feel safe and be safe," said King County Prosecuting Attorney Leesa Manion after the judge found probable cause to hold him on five counts of first-degree assault. In setting the high bail amount, the judge noted that the man had a warrant out for his arrest. He also has nine felony convictions in Washington state that include four car thefts, possession of stolen property, robbery and attempted burglary, according to the probable cause report. The case is still under investigation and has not been referred to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for a charging decision, Casey spokesperson McNerthney said Saturday. They expect to receive the case

by Thursday, he said. Messages sent to the King County Department of Public Defense seeking comment were not immediately

returned Saturday afternoon. Four of the five victims were taken to Harborview Medical Center on Friday. One man who was in critical condition was upgraded to serious, while two others remain in serious condition in the Intensive Care Unit, Susan Gregg, spokesperson for the hospital, said Saturday. Another male patient was in satisfactory condition, she said.

Police said they recovered two knives soiled with what appeared to be blood in the parking lot where the man was arrested. A third knife was lodged in a victim's back when he was taken to the hospital, court records said

Seattle police said they believe the man was also involved in at least four other stabbings in the same area on Thursday. He fit the descriptions of the suspect and the attacks were also random, like Friday's assaults. Police continue to investigate the case and more charges may be added, they The Thursday stabbings in

Chinatown started when a 52-year-old woman was found with multiple stab wounds, police said. On Thursday afternoon, a 32-year-old man was found after being stabbed multiple times and at about 8 p.m., a 37-year-old man was stabbed multiple times in the back, police said.

it added. Aidarous al-Zubaidi, the leader which is based out of Seivun.

worth around \$15,000 on the black market. Authorities offered no motive

Arabian Peninsula, the militant group's Yemen branch, long has operated around Hadramawt. However, the group did not immediately claim the attack. A recent United Nations expert report has said that the al-Qaida group and the Houthis have been to "coordinate open". have begun to "coordinate operations directly with each other." The Houthis meanwhile did not claim the attack either. However, Houthi official Hamid Rizq

ing it came from "the feeling of oppression" over Saudi troops being stationed in the area. 'The heroic operation is the

Russian forces encircle Kurakhove, civilians stay in front-line city

AP KURAKHOVE

Set on Ukraine's eastern front, Kurakhove is surrounded on three sides, with Russian forces just under 2 miles from the devastated city centre.

Yet between 700 and 1,000 local residents remain, most of them living in the basements of apartment buildings, without running water, heating or electricity. The only place to charge phones is in the basement of the building now housing the city administration. The exact number of people is impossible to determine because, since mid-October, no humanitarian volunteers have come to Kurakhove.

Under attack from artillery, multiple rocket launchers, aerial bombs and drones, Kurakhove has become the new Bakhmut, as Russia continues its drive westward to capture all of the Donbas region. On Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the situation in Kurakhove, as well as the key city of Pokrovsk, "the most challenging." The hospital, schools, kindergartens, water treatment plant, refugee centre, post office, technical school and cultural centre have all been destroyed. Smoke hangs in the air as bombed-out apartment buildings burn against a backdrop of artillery fire and drones.

Artillerymen of the 33rd Brigade say they are firing around 50 shells per day on the Kurakhove front indicating artifact activities. front, indicating critical activity in the Russian army's offensive operations and the brigade's desperate attempts to stop Russian forces from encircling

Local authorities remain in the city, as well as representatives of the police and local Territorial Defence Forces.

Defence Forces.
For Artem Shchus, head of police in Kurakhove, there is little hope of defending the city if it becomes surrounded.

"I don't think it is possible, considering the reality of modern war and modern technologies. In that case, the logistics could be performed only by drones," he says. Shchus calls the road to Kurakhove, which is lined with burned-out civilian vehicles, the "road of death," due to persistent Russian drone attacks. Five civilians have been killed while trying to leave. No supplies would

enter the city without the "White Angels" evacuation group, made up of local police officers and volunteers. They provide first aid to the wounded and remove the bodies of those killed in shelling, all while operating the city's only functioning food store. The White Angels bring in vital supplies in an armoured vehicle kitted out with electronic warfare equipment - the only way to enter the city, and still a journey fraught with risk.

Without REB (jammers) it is just a lottery. With it, you might still have a chance to survive," Shchus savs

The only way to escape the city is to travel with the White Angels. Each day, they risk their lives to evacuate between six and 12 people from different parts of the city and surrounding vil-

Although children are meant to have been evacuated, parents often hide them, both from the bombs and from law enforcement officers. Among the White Angels' key missions is to find children and persuade their parents to evacuate. When this mission is successful

and children are removed from

the basements, many are shocked by the state of the destroyed city, suggesting that they have been hiding underground for quite some time. After dressing the children in

bulletproof vests and helmets, the White Angels take them to the nearby city of Kostyantynopil, from where

other volunteers transport them to refugee registration points in the regional centers of Dnipro or Zaporizhzhia. "We evacuate people every day without stopping. We just dropped people off in Kostyantynopil, and we still have addresses to go through today," Shchus explains.

Asked about adapting to work in such challenging and dangerous conditions, the police chief wor-ries about the impact on his team. I think everyone has already adapted. I wouldn't even call it adaptation.' It's more like an unhealthy state of mind. I don't know how this will influence them socially in the future," he says. "These people are living in inhumane conditions, and they're surviving on adrenaline. The war is their life. These are hard conditions to work in, but everyone is working."



A central streets covered in debris from destroyed residential buildings after Russian bombing in Kurakhove, Donetsk region, Ukraine

China delimits contested SCS shoal in dispute with Philippines

hina has published base-Clines for a contested shoal in the South China Sea it had seized from the Philippines, a move that's likely to increase tensions over overlapping territorial claims.

The Foreign Ministry on Sunday posted online geographic coordinates for the baselines Scarborough Shoal. A

nation's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone are typically defined as the distance from the base-

China and the ppines claim Philippines Scarborough Shoal and other outcroppings in the South China Sea. China seized the shoal, which lies west of the main Philippine island of Luzon, in 2012 and has since restricted

access to Filipino fisher-fully strengthen marine men there. A 2016 ruling by management and is consisan international arbitration court found that most Chinese claims in the South China Sea were invalid but Beijing refuses to abide by

Ships from China and the Philippines have collided several times as part of increased confrontations, and the Chinese coast guard has blasted Philippine vessels with water cannons.

China's move came two days after Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed two laws demarcating the government's claims in the disputed waters.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said that the delimiting of the baselines was in accordance with a U.N. agreement and Chinese 'This is a natural step by the

Chinese government to law-

management and is consistent with international law and common practices," it

The statement added that one of the laws signed by Marcos, the Philippine Maritime Zones Act, violates China's sovereignty in the South China Sea.

"China firmly opposes it and will continue to do everything necessary in accordance with law to firmly defend its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests," the Foreign Ministry said. China stakes claim to almost the entirety of the South China Sea. It has a series of disputes with several Southeast Asian nations including the Philippines and Vietnam over territory in the waters, which are part of a key shipping route

China to display new fighter jet, drone ship at its airshow

Beijing (PTI): The Chinese military will unveil some of its latest warplanes, including a new fighter jet and a large drone ship known as the "Killer Whale", at its upcoming annual air show in Zhuhai city. The 15th Airshow of China is to be held in Zhuhai at South China's Guangdong province from November 12 to 17. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) every year displays its capabilities at the air show. The PLA Navy will display J-15T jet designed to be operated from the 3rd aircraft carrier, the Fujian, which is equipped with an electromagnetic catapult unlike the other two carriers, Liaoning and Shandong, which are fitted with ski-jump take-off ramps. The design of the J-15T is based on the baseline type of the J-15 and was modified to allow it to be launched by an aircraft carrier's catapult system, official media here reported. Wang Yanan, chief editor of Aerospace

Knowledge magazine told the state-run China Daily that the J-15T can also be deployed on Liaoning and Shandong, both of which have a ski jump method for launching fixed-wing aircraft. The navy also unveiled a large drone ship known as the "Killer Whale" to be displayed at the air show. The trimaran is capable of "operating on open sea for a long time", according to Hong Kongbased South China Morning Post. It said the "Killer Whale" has a dual diesel and electric propulsion system, which allows it to reach a maximum speed of more than 40 knots (74km/h) with a range of more than 4,000 nautical miles (7,400km). The Post described the vessel as an "all-round warrior" that can carry a range of weapons – including rockets, anti-ship missiles and ship-to-air missiles – and is equipped with a take-off and landing pad for helicopters

UN nuclear head to visit Iran for talks on country's nuclear programme

The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog said Sunday he will travel to Iran in the coming days to hold talks regarding the country's nuclear program. The visit comes amid wider tensions gripping the Mideast over the Israel-Hamas war and uncertainty over how U.S. Presidentelect Donald Trump will approach Iran after his inauguration in January.
Specifically, the Director

General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mariano Grossi, will have high level meetings with the Iranian government and will hold technical discussions on all aspects related to the joint statement agreed with Iran in March

It is intended as a path forward for cooperation between the IAEA and Iran on how to expand inspections of the Islamic Republic's rapidly advancing atomic program. The 2023 statement included a pledge by Iran to resolve issues around sites where inspectors have questions about possible undeclared nuclear activity, and to allow the IAEA to "implement further appropriate verification and monitoring activities.

The meetings in Tehran will build on Grossi's discussions with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly September, a statement by the IAEA said. "It is essential that we make

substantive progress in the implementation of the joint statement agreed with Iran in March 2023," Grossi said. "My visit to Tehran will be very important in that regard." Iran is rapidly advancing its atomic program and continues to increase its stockpile of ura-

nium enriched to near weapons-grade levels in defi-

ance of international demands, according to recent reports by the IAEA.

Grossi, has warned that Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to do so. He has acknowledged the U.N. agency cannot guarantee that none of Iran's centrifuges may have been peeled away for clandes-

tine enrichment. Iran's 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers had put limits on its nuclear program – which the West fears could be used for making nuclear weapons although Tehran insists is only for peaceful pur-poses — while lifting punitive economic sanctions imposed on Iran. But the deal collapsed after the Trump administration in 2018 pulled the United States out of the agreement, leading Iran to abandon all limits the deal had put on its program and enrich uranium to up

Taliban to attend **UN** climate conference for first time

Kabul (AP): The Taliban will attend a U.N. climate conference for the first time since their takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 the country's national environment agency said Sunday.

The conference, known as COP29, begins Monday in Azerbaijan and is one of the most important multilateral talks to include the Taliban, who do not have official recognition as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan.

The National Environmental Protection Agency posted on social media platform X that a technical delegation had gone to Baku to participate.

Matiul Haq Khalis, the agency's head, said the delegation would use the conference to strength en cooperation with the international community on environmental protection and climate change, share Afghanistan's needs regarding access to existing financial mechanisms related to climate change, and discuss adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Experts told The Associated Press that climate change has led to numerous and negative impacts on Afghanistan, creating serious challenges because of the country's geographical location and weak climate policies. 'Climate change has resulted in higher temperatures, which reduce water sources and cause droughts, significantly affecting agricultural activities," said Hayatullah Mashwani, professor of environmental science at Kabul University. "The reduction in water availability and frequent droughts pose severe threats to agriculture, leading to food insecurity and challenges to

livelihoods. In August, the international aid agency Save the Children published a report saying that Afghanistan is the sixth most vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change and that 25 of its 34 provinces face severe or catastrophic drought conditions, affecting more than half the population.

Report: IMF to assess Pak's external financing needs during performance review discussions

PTI ISLAMABAD

he IMF's unscheduled per-The IMF's unscreening formance review discussive week will sions in Pakistan next week will primarily focus on the materialisation of new foreign loans to the country to fill nearly USD 2.5 billion in external financing gap for this fiscal year, according to a media

The International Monetary Fund will assess Pakistan's external financing needs during these discussions, as some planned loans have not yet been secured, according to government sources.

According to The Express Tribune newspaper, led by Nathan Porter, the IMF Mission Chief, the talks will formally begin on Tuesday, with an opening session also planned with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb.

The mission's arrival in Pakistan is unscheduled, as the first formal review for the release of the second USD 1.1 billion tranche is slated for March 2025.

Pakistan faces delays in obtaining loans from bilateral credi-

tors, complicating efforts to bridge_its external financing gap. The Washington-based global lender previously esti-mated a total USD 5 billion external financing gap for the 2024-2027 period, of which USD 2.5 billion is estimated for this fiscal year.

However, Pakistani authorities claim that the gap will be smaller than projected five months ago, due to improved performance of the external

Pakistan's exports and foreign remittances have been performing better, reducing pressure on the external account. Nevertheless, loans are still needed to repay existing debts, primarily owed to Western financial institutions.

After the IMF approved the USD 7 billion package for Pakistan in September, the country had anticipated raising USD 3.2 billion against the USD 2.5 billion in debt needs. This included a USD 1.2 billion Saudi oil facility. Five months into the fiscal

year, no agreement has been reached on the Saudi oil facility, sources indicate.

Each month of delay reduces the available funds by USD 100 million within the fiscal year. Pakistani authorities remain hopeful of persuading Riyadh to extend the facility. Finance Ministry Spokesperson Qumar Abbasi did not respond to inquiries about the USD 1.2 billion Saudi oil facility's status. Pakistan is also pursuing a USD 1 billion loan from Dubai Islamic Bank. Additionally, Pakistan has requested China to reschedule USD 3.4 billion in debt extended by China's Export-Import (Exim) Bank Of this, roughly USD 750 million is due in the current fiscal year; the rescheduling is factored into the external financing calculations, sources said. Due to its weakened financial position and certain implicit restrictions under the IMF agreement, Pakistan lacks the flexibility to repay Chinese debt.Out of the total USD 6.5 billion Chinese commercial debt, about USD 3.9 billion is due this fiscal year. The government has managed to roll over a USD 200 million debt that matured in September, but the

March 2025, with no progress on securing another rollover, according to sources. The government's USD 3.2 billion plan also included Pakistan's most expensive loan in history, a USD 600 million facility from Standard Chartered Bank. However, following an article in The Express Tribune, the finance minister indicated that this facility would not be utilised, and the IMF distanced itself from this loan arrangement.The IMF's unexpected visit comes just six weeks after the loan's approval and four months before the planned review, to assess performance on July-September targets and progress in the second quarter from October-December 2024.Official figures indicate a tax collection shortfall of Rs190 billion over the past four months, with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) collecting Rs3.440 trillion against a target of Rs3.632 trillion, despite record-high taxes this year.Sources say the IMF intends to scrutinise Pakistan's macroeconomic framework projections closely, according to

Students foil Awami League rally faced any challenge as a

PTI DHAKA

Members of an influential Bangladeshi students' group that played a key role in toppling Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government prevented Awami League supporters from staging a planned rally here on Sunday, chasing and assaulting the party activists.

The development came a day after the interim government-led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Saturday said it will not permit Hasina's party to hold the planned rally.

Eyewitnesses said activists of

Movement and several other political groups assembled at Noor Hossain Chattar, or Zero Point, near the Awami League's central office.

The Awami league's rally was set to be the party's first such demonstration since the ouster of the Hasina government on August 5.

Despite a visible police presence, demonstrators reportedly assaulted at least seven people believed to be Awami League activists. Police attempted to calm the situation and detained some alleged supporters of the ousted regime, the eyewit-

nesses said. Anti-Discrimination Student Television footage showed There is no way this fascist

members of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement rallying at the scene with chants against "fascist Hasina" and her party, demanding their trial for alleged mass killings.

next USD 1 billion is due in

The counter-protest at the Zero Point caused significant traffic disruptions in the area. Chief Adviser Yunus' press secretary Shafiqul Alam in a Facebook post on Saturday said that the interim government won't tolerate any violence or any attempt to break the law and order situation in the country. "The Awami League in its current form is a fascist party.

party will be allowed to hold protests in Bangladesh," he

Alam further cautioned that "anyone who would try to hold rally, gathering and processions by taking orders from the mass murderer and dictator Sheikh Hasina will face full force of the law enforcing agencies".

The protest venue, Shaheed Noor Hossain Chattar, holds historical significance, as it was where Awami League youth leader Noor Hossain was killed on November 10, 1987 during a demonstration against the autocratic rule of the then military dictator General HM Ershad

Hyderabadi woman loco pilot to ply Riyadh Metro

Riyadh (PTI): Hyderabad's Indira Eegalapati is among the few women loco pilots associated with the Rivadh Metro, currently running trial trains and raring to go as the rapid transit system nears completion."It is really a proud moment for me to be a part of this world-class and prestigious project, especially being an expatriate," 33-year-old Eegalapati, who has been employed as a train pilot and station operations master for five years, said. She was working with the Hyderabad Metro when she came to know about the openings here and applied. Eegalapati and two others from India joined in 2019 but soon Covid struck and they had to undergo the initial training virtually. Currently, trial runs are going on and according to reports, the Rivadh Metro service is likely to become operational from early 2025."It has been a really good experience so far. The people of Saudi Arabia are very friendly and have a great culture. I can't imagine that I have already completed five years here," Eegalapati, one of the first women recruits, told PTI.She also said she has never

woman. 'We have equal opportunities here and there is no gender bias," she asserted. Eegalapati hails from Dhullipalla in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh but settled in Hyderabad in 2006.

Her father was a mechanic but never compromised in the education of his three children."I come from a lower middle-class family and education was a nightmare. But our father ensured that we get our education. Being a girl, marriage was an important thing to our families but for our father, education came first," she said.Eegalapati completed her engineering, her elder sister is a teacher and youngest is working with Hyderabad Metro as a train pilot. Her husband also works here in the maintenance department of Metro. Eegalapati was also sent to Doha during the 2022 Football World Cup for crowd management support.

to 60% purity.

dealing with Rinki Shukla will do so at his/her/the aeainig with rithia Shaka with do so at hisyner/the own risk and responsibilities and My clients sha not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Rinki Shukla

Ground Floor Jangpura Extension New Delhi-110014, Mob No: +91-8750119197

CHANGE OF NAME

for general that information I. Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Jitendra Singh, C/o C-32 /6 /232, Guru Nanak Pura, Laxmi Nagar Delhi-110092, declare that name of mine in my Adhar Card No 9822-1859-9007 have been wrongly written Sukhvinder Kaur. actual name of mine and its spellings are as Sukhwinder Kaur respectively, which be amended may accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. PD(896)A

I. krishan R/o H No 9340, Katra Ganga Bishan Gaushala Marg, Kishan Ganj, North Delhi-110006 declare that I am changing the name of my minor daughter from Kirti to KANAK for all future purposes. PD(897)C

I, Manik Rao, Father of

No.15787872P Hav (GNR) Mukande Tanaji, H.No. 7-255, Vill+Post Echoda, Subhash Nagar, Dist Adilabad, Telangana-504307, have changed my name from Manik Rao to Mukande Manik Rao, vide affidavit dated 09/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(898)C

Mukande Mother of No.15787872P Hav (GNR) Mukande Tanaji, R/o H.No. 7-255, Vill+Post Echoda, Subhash Nagar, Dist Adilabad, 504307, have changed my name from Mukande Ranjana to Ranjana Bai, vide affidavit dated 09/11/2024 before

Notary Public Delhi. PD(899)C I, Kanchan Pandit Shinde W/o No.14684353W HMT Chavan Subhash Dinkar, R/o Chavanwadi Teh Phaltan, Dist Satara, Maharashtra- 415521, have changed my name from Kanchan Pandit Shinde to Kanchan Subhash Chavan, affidavit 09/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(900)C Rupanjali W/o No. NB/Tech 14643551M Sunil Comn. Kumar Gautam, Vill/Post R/o Padari, Via Chak Ghat, Teh Teonthar, Dist Rewa, M.P.-486226, have changed my name from Rupanjali to Rupanjali Gautam, vide affidavit dated 09/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

I, No. 14684353W HMT Chavan Subhash Dinkar, R/o Chavanwadi Teh Phaltan, Dist Satara, Maharashtra- 415521, have changed my daughter's name from Aditi Chavan to Aditi Subhash Chavan, vide affidavit dated 09/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi PD(902)C

Air India stands alone, five Indian full service carriers exited in 17 years

PTI MUMBAI/ NEW DELHI

When Vistara folds up into the Air India Group on Monday, the number of full service carriers in the fast growing Indian aviation space will come down to just one from five in a span of over 17

Also, the merger that will see Vistara's 49 per cent owner Singapore Airlines holding 25.1 per cent stake in Ai India post the merger will mark the sunset of another Indian airline jointly owned by an overseas carrier after the liberalisation of foreign direct investment norms.

In 2012, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh-led UPA government allowed foreign airlines to buy up to 49 per cent in a domestic carrier, which later resulted in the now defunct Jet Airways



securing 24 per cent stake 2007, at least five FSCs dotted from Gulf carrier Etihad the Indian skies. besides the birth of AirAsia India and Vistara.

Vistara is also the only fullservice carrier to start operations in the last 10 years. Since the merger of fullservice carrier (FSC) Indian Airlines with Air India in

As years passed by, Kingfisher and Air Sahara faded away while Vistara took flight in January 2015. Kingfisher went belly up in 2012 while Air Sahara, which was acquired by Jet Airways and renamed as JetLite, sank with Jet

Airways in 2019 dominant carrier is IndiGo. FSC Jet Airways that flew for 25 years before getting grounded in April 2019 due to official. the financial turbulence is set to be liquidated. somewhat blurred.

From November 12, the For instance, some of the budget airlines also offer enlarged Air India will remain the country's lone full-service

Coming to Indian carriers with foreign ownership, the first was Jet Airways where Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways snapped up 24 per cent stake. Then came AirAsia India, 49 per cent owned by Malaysia's AirAsia and the rest was with Tatas followed by Vistara where Singapore Airlines holds 49 per cent stake and 51 per cent is with Tata Group. With rising air traffic and

changing travel patterns,

many no-frills airlines are

the

skies

dominating

According to a senior airline differentiating a full service and a low-cost carrier is

business class seats. Among others, FSCs strive to provide more comfort to passengers during travel and the services, including meals,

Also, they mostly operate different types of aircraft and broadly, these airlines focus more on overall network

are included in the ticket

profitability. In the case of low-cost carriers route-specific profitability, ancillary revenues and mostly single type of planes are among the key elements that help in ensuring cost-effective

SEBI considers broadening unpublished price-sensitive information scope

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To enhance transparency in market disclosures, SEBI is looking to broaden the scope of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI) including proposed fundraising activities, restructuring plans, and onetime bank settlements.

In its consultation paper, SEBI has proposed that only agreements, including shareholder, joint venture and family settlement, that affect the management and control of the firm and are known to the firm should be considered price-sensitive and included in the illustrative list of events under the definition of UPSI. Additionally,

developments in corporate insolvency proceedings, such as initiation or approval of resolution plans by the tribunal, should be disclosed as potentially price-sensitive. If a forensic audit is launched or concluded for issues like fund misappropriation or

financial misstatements, it



sensitive.

The proposed changes to SEBI's definition of UPSI are aimed at increasing clarity regulatory consistency.

In the constitution paper, SEBI suggested including fundraising proposed to be undertaken in the definition of UPSI.

Currently, fundraising concerning proposed to be undertaken is not included in the definition at present. The regulator has proposed

the inclusion of restructuring plans, one-time settlements other financial significant restructurings as UPSI. SEBI has also proposed that

judicial bodies against a company or its key personnel if involving significant enforcement, fines, penalties, or other sanctions, should be considered price-sensitive and classified as UPSI. Among others, the regulator

actions by regulatory or

suggested that outcomes of major litigations or disputes that could affect a company's operations or finances, along with any major contracts or orders awarded to the company (or significant amendments or terminations) outside regular business activities, should be disclosed as UPSI due to their potential impact performance.

Further, the granting, withdrawal, or suspension of essential licenses or approvals should be disclosed, as such events could significantly affect company operations. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has

sought public comments on the proposals by November

India, a promising market for Sony's gaming business, says India MD Nayyar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is emerging as a "good Lopportunity market" in the gaming business for the consumer electronic major Sony, its India Managing Director Sunil Nayyar said. The company has reported

"phenomenal growth" in the gaming business in FY24, with the robust performance of PlayStation 5 and its software peripherals. Sony India's PlayStation

dominates the console operating gaming system market here with around 95 per cent market share and has almost doubled its revenue in FY 2023-24 from the segment. However, now, it expects a moderation in the growth rates because of the high base, Nayyar said.

"Now, the base is very high because we almost achieved the double business last year. So this year, we intend to have modest growth, but we are the gaming



business market in the country, including software development and peripherals etc," the Sony India MD told

Sony India last week filed its annual returns to report over 50.1 per cent growth from its 'other business' segment at Rs 1,363.54 crore, which houses its gaming and B2B business. "This is largely led by the gaming business. It gave us a phenomenal growth. There is no doubt about it. PlayStation 5 and our

software peripherals, everything did very well. "So, India is now becoming a

good opportunity market for gaming for Sony... We have 95 per cent in the

market today as far as PS5 is concerned. We have a very strong brand here for the

segment increased 15.7 per 2023-24 against Rs

Nayyar said the over 20 per cent growth in the topline is because of the strategy of premiumisation on which it has been working for the last few years in all product zones, including TV and audio

price has gone up," he said, adding that "now, we do not rely on selling entry-level or price point models'

diesel to the European

Union jumped 58 per cent in

the first three quarters of 2024, with a bulk of them

likely coming from refining discounted Russian oil,

according to a monthly

The EU/G7 countries in December 2022 introduced a

price cap and an embargo on

the imports of Russian crude

oil in a bid to cripple Kremlin's revenue and create

a vacuum in its funding for

However, a lack of a policy on

refined oil produced from

Russian crude meant that

countries not imposing

sanctions could import large volumes of Russian crude,

refine them into oil products

the invasion of Ukraine.

tracker report.

Now, in India, everything is being upgraded in the market content on OTT platforms to everything in the market, he said.

"This is our ongoing journey for selling premium products in the country. So, this strategy, you can say philosophy, is working well for Sony.

We have upgraded, and evolved the customer into the premium segments, especially in our television lineup, home theatres and cameras," said Nayyar.

Sony India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Japan's tech major Sony Corporation, expects to surpass its historic Rs 11,000 crore revenue, which it recorded in FY15, in the coming years.

especially

Fraud detection system saves ₹2,500 Crore in public assets: Jyotiraditya Scindia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The tecnnical system deployed by the government technical is blocking 1.35 crore fraud calls daily and has helped save people's assets worth Rs 2,500 crore till date, Union Minister Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia said.

The minister, in an interview with PTI, said most of the spam calls originate from servers outside the country, and the systems have been able to block the majority of such fraudulent

"In terms of the number of marketing calls you get in your phone, the number of fraud calls that come in, we have put in place a full system to be able to tackle that. Our DoT fraud detection network has saved close to about Rs 2,500 crore of people's assets today, as we speak, through Sanchar Sathi and Chakshu," Scindia said. The systems have led to the

disconnection of close to about 2.9 lakh phones and blocked close to about 1.8 million



sending out messages, he added. 'Along with that, (there) was another vicarious method through which people would use servers outside India, which would masquerade themselves as a +91 number (Indian number). We have put into place software that stops these calls that are blocking an average of 1.35 crore such calls per day," the minister said.

The government has put in new software where it is integrating law enforcement agencies as well as banks, he said, adding that "520 agencies have been onboarded'

While charting out priorities, Scindia said that rolling out of Atmanirbhar (selfreliant) BSNL 5G by May and 4G for all under the saturation scheme by April is among his

notifying all rules left under the Telecommunications Act 2023 by December. He said that a plan to roll out 1 lakh base stations for BSNL 4G is underway, of which roll out of which 50,000 towers have been completed.

"By April-May next year, we will roll out 1 lakh BTSs, which means we will have our own publicly-owned domestic company rolling out 4G. The move from 4G to 5G then, is only tweaking the core a little bit, as well as adding an additional BTS. By April-May next year, hopefully, some sites December. will become 5G enabled as well within the BSNL system. So, that's the alacrity with which we are working. That's my first

The minister said his second priority is to ensure 4G saturation across the country. "We have close to about 37,000 villages that are left with connectivity on 4G in the country. A lot of them are in very distant areas. We are

priority," Scindia said.

have 100 per cent saturation on 4G by March-April, next year, he said. Scindia said that out of about 27,000 BTS required, 10,000

looking at making sure that we

have already been installed. The 4G saturation will provide coverage to roughly 1.6 crore population.

The minister also said that after assuming office, he issued notification of the Telecom Act, passed in Parliament last November, and now he has to mandatorily issue all rules by

The first thing I did when I assumed office was I issued the notification of the Telecom Act. Why is that important? That's important because the minute you do that, then your 180-day counter starts, and within six months, mandatorily, you have to issue all the rules. So by the end of December, the total of those 31 rules, we have done almost about 14 or 15, and the balance we hope to have done

by the end of December," he

India's coal import rises eight per cent in April to September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's coal import rose by 7.8 per cent to 140.60 million tonne (MT) in the April-September period of the ongoing financial year. The country's coal import was 130.34 MT in the yearago period, according to data compiled by B2B e-

commerce company mjunction services ltd. Overall, coal import demand is likely to remain modest due to the healthy stock position and high volumes

being offered through spot eauctions in the domestic market, mjunction MD and CEO Vinaya Varma said. Coal import in September dropped by 10.09 per cent to 19.42 MT from 21.60 MT in

the corresponding month of previous fiscal. Of the total imports in

September, non-coking coal volume was 13.24 MT, against 14.88 MT in the year-

ago month.
Coking coal import stood at 3.39 MT, against 4.59 MT a

During the April-September period, non-coking coal import was at 91.92 MT, higher than 83.45 MT imported during the same period last year.
Coking coal import was at 28.18 MT as against 29.44

"There was a slight increase in non-coking coal import in September (over previous month), ahead of the festive

season. However, However, coking coal imports fell, in line with the softness in steel demand and prices," Varma said. The country's domestic coal

production rose 6 per cent to 453 MT in the April-September period of FY25, over 428 MT in the year-ago period.

. Coal minister G Kishan Reddy had recently said Coal India's priorities should be to ramp up production of coal and scale up supplies to reduce imports. Coal India Ltd accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output. | ICICI Bank slumped Rs The mcap of Infosys soared

gaming business," Nayyar Sony India's revenue from Consumer Audio and Visuals

cent to Rs 6,300.20 crore in 5,445.73 crore a year ago. Its overall profit rose 22.18 per cent to Rs 167 crore, while revenue from operations surged 20.6 per cent to Rs 7,663.74 crore.

products. This is the primary cause because of the sales growth because our average sales

On Sony India's ongoing business in the current fiscal, Nayyar said all the categories are showing very positive momentum, television, sound bars, and home theatres.

and legally export them to the

price-cap coalition countries.

biggest buyer of Russian

crude oil since the invasion,

with purchases rising from

less than one per cent of the total oil imported in the pre-

Ukraine war period to almost

40 per cent of the country's

because Russian crude oil was

available at a discount to

other internationally traded

oil due to the price cap and

of oil products to the EU. In

the first three quarters of

2024, exports to the EU from

European nations shunning purchases from Moscow. Fuel exports were,

primarily

total oil purchases.

The rise was

however, at full price.

Russian oil reaches Europe via India, making India biggest exporter of fuel to Europe: Report

Gujarat) and new Mangalore which refinery increasingly reliant Russian crude - saw a 58 per cent year-on-year rise further," the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) said its latest report.

"Capitalising on the refining loophole, India has now become the biggest exporter Europe typically imported an average of 1,54,000 barrels per day (bpd) of diesel and jet fuel from India before Russia's

the Jamnagar, Vadinar (in invasion of Ukraine. This has

almost doubled. While CREA did not give an absolute number for imports, the European think tank had in a previous report stated that Euro 8.5 billion of price cap coalition countries' imports of oil products in 13 months to December 2023 were made from Russian crude.

PTI GUWAHATI

providing

(IGX) said.

These imports in 13 months were equivalent to 68 per cent

commitment to aid Ukraine limiting Moscow's revenue. "In the 13 months since the oil

price cap took effect (in December 2022), over onethird of India's exports of oil products to sanctioning countries was derived from Russian crude (EUR 6.16 billion or USD 6.65 billion)," the Finland-based CREA had said in the previous report. there are no While

restrictions or sanctions on buying/using Russian crude oil and exporting fuels like diesel derived from it, the Group of Seven (G7) rich nations, the European Union and Australia - called the price cap coalition countries first set a crude price cap of USD 60 per barrel starting December 5, 2022, and later on products like diesel to keep

of the EU's annual the market supplied while the latest re India, the world's third largest oil-consuming and importing nation, in October bought Euro 2 billion worth of crude oil from Russia, down from Euro 2.4 billion in the previous month.

China has bought 47 per cent of Russia's crude exports (in October), followed by India (37 per cent), the EU (6 per cent), and Turkey (6 per cent). cent)," it said.

"India was the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in October, contributing 19 per cent (EUR 2.6 billion) to Russia's monthly export earnings from its top five importers. An estimated 77 per cent of India's imports per cent of India's imports (valued at EUR 2 billion) comprised crude oil.'

and trade opportunities, he

expected to thrive in the

region," Mediratta added. The

rejuvenated gas distribution network with the Northeast Gas Grid will also improve

Mcap of 6 of top-10 most-valued firms erodes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he combined market}}_{\text{valuation of six of the top-}} \\ \text{10 most-valued firms eroded}$ Rs 1,55,721.12 crore last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest laggard, in line with an overall weak trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark declined 237.8 points, or 0.29 per cent. While Reliance Industries,

Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) suffered erosion in their market valuation, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, and the State Bank of India were the gainers.

The valuation of Reliance Industries fell Rs 74,563.37 crore to Rs 17,37,556.68 crore. Bharti Airtel's valuation dropped Rs 26,274.75 crore to Rs 8,94,024.60 crore. The market valuation of

LIC's market capitalisation (mcap) declined Rs 9,930.25 crore to Rs 5,78,579.16 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever went lower Rs 7,248.49 crore to 5,89,160.01 crore. However, the valuation of TCS jumped Rs 57,744.68 crore to Rs 14,99,697.28

to Rs 5,98,213.49 crore.

22,254.79 crore to Rs

8,88,432.06 crore and that of

ITC tanked Rs 15,449.47 crore

Rs 28,838.95 crore to Rs 7,60,281.13 crore and that of State Bank of India climbed Rs 19,812.65 crore to Rs 7,52,568.58 crore. HDFC Bank added Rs

Reliance Industries Limited

Growth is Life

14,678.09 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 13,40,754.74 Reliance Industries remained

Hindustan Unilever, and LIC.

Northeast 'The tremendous potential in the production of natural gas. the country's most-valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel,

As the Northeast Gas Grid is likely to become operational by 2026, the deposit of 6 million MMSCMD of natural ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Rank of India, ITC, gas can be monetised by the existing producers," Mediratta

significant revenue.

benefit Northeast: Indian Gas Exchange Official

Exploration, monetisation of natural gas will

 $E_{\text{monetisation of natural gas}}^{\text{xploration}} \quad \text{and} \quad$ deposits in the northeastern region can help cut down its import, while also boosting the local economy and providing more trade "This will add to the country's energy security as IGX will help gas producers sell the opportunities, a top official of the Indian Gas Exchange

surplus gas to the other regions," he said, while speaking at a seminar on 'Gas Market Development for Rajesh K Mediratta, Managing Director and CEO of IGX, the country's first automated national level gas exchange, maintained that the region can North East' here on Friday. Highlighting the potential of natural gas from the Northeast in support to India's energy supply the surplus gas not only to other parts of the country,

security, the official said, but also to neighbouring Bangladesh and earn "India is currently importing about 50 per cent of its consumption, around 100 MMSCMD to meet the total demand of 200 MMSCMD.

With the effective gas pipelines in the region, the

existing petroleum companies can unearth 6 MMSCMD." This will save approximately Rs 14,000 crores, apart from allowing backward linkages in the local economy with job

supply to tea estates, allowing them to switch back to natural gas from the traditional energy sources like coal, he claimed. He also highlighted that natural gas is a cheaper and cleaner option as compared to LPG, which makes case for households to switch to gas. On the market potential for export of natural gas from the Mediratta said, region, "Bangladesh has tremendous market potential as the country has been using natural gas. The natural gas producers can definitely look at this scope with potential," he added.

The access to gas network also opens up doors to newer industries such as ceramic and glass which run exclusively on natural gas. Given the natural resources, these industries are

maintained.



MEDITATION THE PATH TO BETTER SLEEP AND DAILY WELLNESS

Practicing meditation not only improves health but also life as a whole, leading to a balanced and fulfilling life, writes P N ARORA

n today's fast-paced world, many people struggle with stress, anxiety, and sleep disturbances. As a result, meditation has gained popularity as a powerful tool for improving the quality of life. Not only does meditation help in calming the mind, but it also promotes better sleep.

Meditation is a practice that encourages focused attention and mindfulness, leading to a deep state of relaxation. Practising regularly can significantly lower cortisol levels, our body's primary stress hormone. High cortisol levels are often associated with sleep problems. With mindful eating, regular exercise, and meditation, one may find it easier to

Research indicates that meditation can improve sleep quality. A study found that meditation can reduce insomnia symptoms and improve sleep quality in older adults. By cultivating awareness of thoughts and emotions, meditation allows individuals to manage racing

thoughts that often disrupt sleep.

Many meditation practices help significantly improve the quality of sleep. One of these techniques involves focusing on the present and letting go of the intruding thoughts by allowing one to focus on the sensations of breathing. Further, guided imagery helps by equipping the practitioners with the ability to

visualise soothing scenes, often guided through a meditation guide, which helps soothe the mind and prepare it for rest. The body scan technique also helps by checking different parts of the body to identify stress and release tension. This helps facilitate both physical relaxation and mental calmness. Lastly, loving-kindness meditation cultivates feelings of love and compassion, improving emotional well-being and reducing stress, making it easier to drift into a peaceful slumber. Together, these techniques offer powerful tools for anyone seeking to improve their sleep through mindful

Meditation has a host of benefits far beyond just sleep improvement. It decreases stress and anxiety because it gives one the feeling of calmness within, reducing anxiety levels and building the strength to stand up again after every fall that comes with obstacles. Additionally, mindfulness practices improve concentration and attention significantly, which positively relates to improved cognitive functions and productivity at work throughout the day. This sensitivity increases emotional balance and propels the practice of awareness toward selfconsciousness. It also makes one respond much better to everyday



MEDITATION IS A PRACTICE THAT **ENCOURAGES FOCUSED** ATTENTION AND MINDFULNESS, LEADING TO A DEEP STATE OF RELAXATION. PRACTISING REGULARLY CAN SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER CORTISOL LEVELS, OUR **BODY'S PRIMARY STRESS**

HORMONE

possible to have a compassionate understanding towards others; many even describe that the relationships they maintain with other people become far more profound and richer after meditation practice begins. It is also reported on the physical level by

through

The impact of meditation on

relationships is that it makes it

conscious

situations

linking the reduction in stress levels with many kinds of health improvements, including lowering blood pressure, better function of the immune systems, and even lowering chronic pain to attain good physical health. Adding meditation into activities would surely bring some much-needed transformation from mental to even physiological status.

Meditation is a great tool to sleep better and have more holistic wellness. By reducing stress levels, meditation creates a peaceful mental condition that allows for rejuvenation and improves the everyday flow of life, in which people can navigate through the tasks of their day more smoothly and peacefully. Not just that; practising this ancient practice not only improves health but also life as a whole, leading to a better-balanced and fulfilling life.

The author is the MD of Yashoda

Super Speciality Hospitals, Ghaziabad, healthcare provider and Philanthropist; the views are personal



INDULGE IN GUILT

season and even after is inevitable. However, for those with diabetes or managing their diabetes, it can feel like a challenge. But here's the good news: you don't have to give up dessert. It's about making mindful choices—picking better options and exploring new diabetes-friendly ingredients. By doing so, you keep your blood sugar levels in check and discover a world of healthier, delicious cuisines to

MANAGING DIABETES

It's not just sugar intake that impacts your blood sugar levels. It's important to manage your overall carbohydrate intake as well. Carbohydrates, including sugars, complex carbs, and fiber can significantly affect blood sugar levels. Desserts often contain high levels of simple sugars such as dextrose, fructose, and glucose, which can cause blood sugar spikes. However, there's more to consider than just avoiding sugar.

EAT YOUR WAY TO BETTER HEALTH

Understanding glycaemic index (GI) of foods helps with your food choices. The GI index is a scoring system for foods that tells you how much a food will spike your sugar level. So, the lower the GI index, the healthier the food. Examples of foods with a high GI index that you should eat occasionally and in moderation are simple carbs like ice creams, chocolates, refined flours, sweets etc. These major sources of glucose can do the most

harm to your sugar balance. "Managing diabetes isn't about depriving yourself—it's about making smart, informed choices," said *Dr Irfan Shaikh*, Associate Medical Director, Abbott's Nutrition business. He further added that the key to

managing blood sugar is finding the right nutrient balance that lowers the glycemic index (GI) of your meals. By thoughtfully combining ingredients in the right proportions, you can control the GI of your meals and manage your glucose levels more effectively.

It's good to include plenty of high fibre (bajra, jowar and ragi), whole-wheat bread, fruits, vegetables and whole legumes (daals). These are must-haves for diabetics, as they balance out your simple carbohydrate intake and help you maintain a normal blood sugar level. Dr Rajeev Bansal, MD Medicine, Consultant & director East Delhi

cardiac & diabetes centre, Krishna Nagar Moong Dal Paysam: Slow-cook moong dal nutrition (DSN) helps regulate blood sugar lacking in daily meals. Incorporating specialised nutrition drinks can fill critical gaps, ensuring sustained energy and better post-meal glucose control, allowing you to enjoy the festivities without worrying about blood sugar spikes."

SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH SMARTLY

Diabetes-Specific Nutrition offers a way for diabetics to enjoy sweets without the guilt. DSN products are formulated to be low in glycemic impact, making them ideal for

replacing high-carb, sugar-laden desserts. Here are some tips for incorporating DSN and other diabetes-friendly ingredients into your festive treats: DSN shakes: Instead of sugary milkshakes

or smoothies, use a DSN shake mix as a base and blend in diabetes-friendly fruits like berries or figs

Sugar substitutes: Swap out refined sugar for alternatives like jaggery or dates based sweeteners in moderate amounts Homemade sweets: When making

traditional sweets, replace high-carb ingredients with DSN powder or low-GI flours such as almond or oat flour Low-GI foods: Replace high-GI foods like basmati rice with brown rice and swap out regular wheat chapati for options like ragi, bajra or jowar bhakri to keep your meals diabetes-friendly

DIABETES-FRIENDLY DESSERT

Transforming popular festive desserts into diabetes-friendly versions is easier than you think. By incorporating Diabetes-Specific Nutrition (DSN) products, and lowglycemic ingredients, you can keep the festive spirit alive without affecting your blood sugar control:

Gajar Halwa: Gently simmer grated carrots in milk infused with fragrant cardamom and roasted almonds. Cook until the liquid evaporates, leaving behind a rich, creamy mixture.

Garnish with a final sprinkling of toasted almonds for that perfect nutty crunch Shir Sewain: Toast golden

semiya in ghee, then simmer in milk and khoya until it thickens. Add a touch of saffron for color and flavor, and top with nuts for the perfect festive indulgence

opines, "Good nutrition is significant to and rice together to create a creamy base. managing diabetes. Diabetes-specific Enhance with ghee for richness, and finish with a generous mix of toasted nuts and and provides essential nutrients at times, warm milk for a comforting and nutrientpacked treat

Nuts Shrikhand: Transform thickened curd into a cooling treat by mixing in cardamom and a medley of almonds and pistachios. Serve chilled for a nutty, refreshing delight Enjoying sweets that make you happy doesn't have to come at the cost of your health.

By making mindful choices, managing your carbohydrate intake, and incorporating Diabetes-Specific Nutrition, you can indulge in sweet treats without guilt.

OR SENIOR CITIZENS

As individuals age, reduced flexibility impacts daily life. So, while introducing yoga to seniors, it's essential to select gentle postures

BY JYOTI SINGH

ging gracefully is a common aspiration, and yoga offers senior citizens a holistic approach to wellness that supports both physical and mental health. Here are some insights on how yoga can profoundly benefit older adults. With gentle, adaptable practices, yoga is an ideal exercise form for seniors, focusing on mobility, flexibility, strength, and mental tranquility.

ESSENTIALITY FOR SENIORS

As individuals age, natural reduced like changes flexibility, weaker muscles, and increased risk of chronic ailments can impact daily living. Yoga provides an effective way to address age-related these challenges. For seniors, yoga offers a wellrounded path to stay active and maintain mobility.

Physical Mental Benefits: helps Yoga maintain flexibility, strength, and balance, which are

crucial for older adults. Practicing yoga supports joint health and relieves stiffness. With regular practice, seniors can improve balance and coordination, significantly lowering their fall risk. Additionally, yoga's controlled breathing and stretching exercises benefit cardiovascular health, helping reduce blood pressure and manage cholesterol levels.

Mental Well-being: Yoga is a powerful stress reliever, fostering emotional balance and mental clarity. Many seniors face feelings of loneliness or anxiety, particularly those living independently. Mindfulness and breathing exercises in yoga calm the mind, helping manage stress. The deep breathing in yoga stimulates the nervous system, promoting relaxation and enhancing mood.

POSES FOR SENIORS

When introducing yoga to seniors, it's essential to select gentle, accessible postures. Some beginner-friendly poses that the seniors can safely practice at home to enhance flexibility, strength, and balance.

TADASANA (MOUNTAIN POSE)

This foundational standing posture helps improve balance and posture.



Seniors can stand with feet together, stretching arms upward, taking slow, deep breaths. Tadasana strengthens leg muscles and increases engagement, supporting stability.

VRIKSHASANA (TREE POSE)

A great pose for balance, Vrikshasana improves leg strength and stability. By placing one foot on the opposite thigh and balancing with arms lifted, seniors can focus on coordination. Practicing near a wall can offer additional support.

ANULOM VILOM (ALTERNATE NOSTRIL BREATHING)

Anulom Vilom is a simple yet powerful breathing exercise that promotes mental clarity and emotional stability. Seniors can sit comfortably, close one nostril with a finger, inhale through the open nostril, and then alternate. Anulom Vilom helps balance the mind,

reduces stress, and improves lung function making it especially beneficial for seniors seeking calm and

BHUJANGASANA (COBRA POSE)

Ideal for spinal flexibility and relieving back tension, Bhujangasana involves lying on the stomach and gently lifting the chest. This pose opens the chest and improves breathing, supporting respiratory health.

SHAVASANA (CORPSE POSE)

A restorative pose, Shavasana allows for deep relaxation and mindfulness. Seniors lie flat on their back with arms at their sides, focusing on breathing deeply. Ending each session with Shavasana is recommended to bring a sense of calm.

In conclusion, yoga offers a gentle yet powerful approach to support seniors in maintaining a healthy, balanced lifestyle.

With expert guidance from practitioners, older adults can experience the transformative benefits of yoga, embracing it as a tool for both strength and serenity.

The author is the, Founder and CEO of Sparsh Yog; the views are

Indian women's hockey team resets, targets World Cup 2026, Olympics 2028

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

ndian women's hockey team has overcome recent ▲ setbacks and is set to start a new journey with World Cup and Olympics in mind, chief coach Harendra Singh asserted on Sunday, saying that the performance in Asian Champions Trophy will serve as base for future. The Indian women's team has endured a very rough and long patch since its historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Games. It could not qualify for the Paris Olympics and lost 13 of the 16 FIH Pro League matches. Coach Harendra said his team has worked hard to shrug off the lean run and is preparing for a good show at the 2026 World Cup in Netherlands and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

'This tournament is a base for our future planning. ACT as on our calendar, what we want to achieve in terms of results. It will be start of journey for mission 2026 World Cup and 2028 Harendra said Olympics," ahead of India's ACT Malaysia on Monday.

We have overcome all the setbacks, worked on our mistakes. Everyone realised their role and know their role and understands that. ACT is one of the biggest platforms for the girls to showcase their skill and excel and show that the team is on the right path." Harendra reiterated that fitness is an area which impacted the women's team adversely. "Whatever has happened in

the Pro League is a past, we can't keep crying on that. Yes, we know we lost 13 games but there are reasons behind. reasons are not technical, but tactical, it's about fitness and that's why I took them to Indian Naval

"I am looking at the results, I am looking at the progress they are making day after day," he said.

Harendra said together with

fitness, mental aspect of the game is also very important. "Modern hockey doesn't compromise on fitness, if you slightly stray you are going to pay the price. Once you are fit you are mentally strong because you know if you lose



the ball you know you have said.

the gas to regain the ball," he "I am not willing to look at me. Always live in the that

the past, that is history for present and the present is Champions Trophy to defend

we have

country out of that setback." "Deepika and Manisha Chauhan I am working their dragflicks and I am confident about them. I am confident they will deliver."

The coach said he his pinning his eyes on young dragflickers Deepika and Manisha Chauhan to deliver the goods in the tournament. "Deepika and Manisha Chauhan, I am working their

dragflicks and I am confident

about them. I am confident they will deliver," Hraendra

India captain Salima Tete said Olympic silver medallist China is the biggest threat in their title defence.

"China is the biggest threat for us but we are not underestimating any side. Every team can upset another on the given day," she said.

Salima said leading the side at such a young age of 22 is definitely a challenge but she is up for it.

"It's a challenge for me and I accept that, very few people get that honour. But my focus is on my own performance which will definitely motivate others," she said.

Palak-Amit pair strikes air pistol mixed team gold in World University Championship

The air pistol mixed team of Palak Gulia and Amit Sharma struck gold with a commanding performance against their compatriots as India won five medals, including three silver, on day 2 of the World University Shooting Championship here on

The duo of Palak and Amit defeated the pair of Sainyam and Samrat Rana 16-12 as India grabbed the top-two podium spots in the event at the Karni Singh Range. The Hungarian pair of Sara Rahel Fabian and Redecsi Mate took the bronze defeating Chinese-Taipei 16-12.

Earlier, in the qualification round, Sainyam (289) and Samrat (290) had emerged toppers with an aggregate score of 579, while Palak (285) and



Amit (293) were placed second with a combined score of 578.

In women's trap, Neeru and Kirti Gupta clinched silver and bronze respectively shooting 43 and 32

respectively in the final. The Czech Republic's Zina Hrdlickova won the gold with a score of 45.

Kirti had earlier topped the qualification round with a superb 118

six-shooter final with a score of 115. Olympian and winner of three gold medals at the 2021 World University Games in China, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar added another silver to India's tally in 50m rifle 3-positions with a score of 458.2 in the final. Czech Republic's Jiri Privratsky secured the gold medal with a score of

out of 125, while Neeru entered the

Aishwary, who could not make an impact at the Paris Olympics, earlier shot a superb 592 in the qualification

to be placed third going into the eightshooter final. As many as 220 shooters from across 23 countries are competing in the championship. The event is being hosted Manav International Institute of Research

McSweeney to open, Inglis also handed maiden Test call up for BGT opener

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Uncapped Nathan McSweeney won the race to open the batting alongside Usman Khawaja in the first Test against India while Australia also handed a maiden Test call up to Josh Inglis on Sunday.

These two are the new faces in an otherwise expected 13member squad announced by Cricket Australia just for the series opener starting in

The South Australian had a strong emerged as contender for the opener's spot, earning backing from the likes of David Warner and Ricky Ponting. He has been picked ahead of specialist openers Marcus Harris, Cameron Bancroft and Sam Konstas for the spot.

'We are just really thrilled with Nathan's game. I think over the last 12 to 15 months, we have seen a player whose growth is on a great trajectory," Chairman of selectors George Bailey said. "He is a very organised, composed player at the crease and he's got a game that will really suit Test cricket. He can probably speak more to that but I don't think it's a huge adjustment to go from three to opening," Bailey said. "I think in the 15 or so games

that he's been batting three for South Australia, he's been in before the 10th over about 20 times, so he's had plenty of experience. And as I said, his game and the way he plays, I don't think the adjustment will be too much." The 25-year-old has been

rewarded for his consistent performances in the Sheffield Shield over the past couple of years, as well as his role as cantain and hatter during the recently concluded A tour matches against India.

"Nathan has displayed the attributes we believe will equip him well for Test cricket along with a strong recent record in domestic cricket."

"His performances for South Australia and Australia A weighed in his favour and supports our view he is ready for the opportunity at Test level." Inglis, whose family emigrated to Perth from Leeds at the age of 14, has been named as backup keeper to Alex Carrey.

The in-form wicketkeeper batter, who is leading Australia for the first time in the third ODI against Pakistan, has also been rewarded for a fine domestic

season that included two hundreds in the Sheffield Shield."Similarly, Josh has been in great touch in the Sheffield Shield competition and deserves his place in his first Test squad," Bailey added.

The pace unit will be led by skipper Pat Cummins Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood and Scot Boland takes up the reserve quick's spot, while Nathan Lyon is the lone specialist spin

Australia squad for 1st Test: Pat Cummins (capt), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Nathan McSweeney, Steven Smith, and Mitchell

ANOTHER BAD INJURY A tearful Ilias Akhomach also had to be taken off on a stretcher after he hurt his right leg following his opening goal in Villarreal's 3-

0 win over Alaves.
Villarreal, which is in the northern part of the Valencia region, honored the flood victims by having players from both teams wear Tshirts saying "Stay Strong Valencia" before kickoff.

Former top polo player HS Sodhi dies

Lplayer and Awardee Harinder Singh Sodhi, who during his peak achieved a handicap of plusfive, has died due to age-related illnesses. He was 86 and is survived by

his wife and two daughters. Popular in polo circles as 'Billy' Sodhi, he died here late on Śaturday.

Sodhi played polo alongside the likes of Hanut Singh, Sawai Man Singh (Maharaja of Jaipur) and later with his son Bhawani Singh. brother,

His younger renowned polo player Ravinder Singh Sodhi, is also an Arjuna Award recipient. Harinder was the manager of the Indian equestrian team during the 1980 Moscow

Coco Gauff wins WTA Finals for the first time by rallying to beat Zheng Qinwen couple of important points,"

Finals for the first time by rallying to beat Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2) in the final.

The 20-year-old American came from 2-0 and 5-3 down in the final set and was two points from defeat at one stage. Yet she took the set to a tiebreaker and won the first six points. Zheng threatened a comeback but Gauff took the victory off her third match point with a forehand winner as she came into the net.

She is the first American to win the Finals since Serena Williams in 2014, and received \$4.8 million in prize money. She also is the youngest player win it since Maria Sharapova in 2004, the year Gauff was born.



players - Aryna Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek - on her run to the final at the season-ending event in Riyadh.

She felt vindicated after that and appeared to take a swipe at observers who wrote her off. 'I just love to say I'm right. Specifically today, I got comments about how I was going to lose badly, so I was just like, 'OK, we'll see," Gauff Gauff beat the world's top two explained. "It's honestly just

liking the idea of just proving people wrong and, and letting your racket do the talking. And so, yeah, I use it as motivation?

Zheng was looking

complete a season in which she reached a grand slam final for the first time at the Australian Open and delivered China's first Olympic tennis singles gold medal. "The match today, it's just a

only previous meeting, in the Rome quarterfinals on clay in Gauff beat Sabalenka at age 19

Gauff edged the three-hour

final which included 26 break

points. Gauff also won their

in last year's U.S. Open final to win her only major in singles to date. She teamed with Katerina Siniakova to win the French Open doubles this Ín the WTA doubles final,

Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada and Erin Routliffe of New Zealand beat Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic and Taylor Townsend of the United States 7-5, 6-3. They are the first players from Canada and New Zealand to win the doubles

Messi and Inter Miami ousted from MLS playoffs by Atlanta United payroll, and Inter Miami spent a record \$41.7 million on payroll AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (US) Orlando City, then a wild-card match at Montreal, Game 2 of this series at home and then Saturday's It got Inter Miami the Supporters' stunner. Shield, the best regular-season record in MLS history and an And the East is suddenly wide Ninth-seeded Atlanta United will invitation to next year's Club World Cup, which came as no surprise. But it didn't even get the club into Round 2 of the playoffs, play No. 4 Orlando City in the Eastern Conference semifinal, earlier than anyone imagined. Jamal Thiaré scored twice, while sixth-seeded New York City FC will face the seventh-seeded New York Red Bulls in the other which will be remembered as a massive flop. And Atlanta fully believed it was going to pull this off. East semifinal. No. 2 Columbus was already For whatever reason, Atlanta was gone. No. 3 Cincinnati was ousted Saturday. And then came the a matchup nightmare for Inter biggest surprise of all - No. 1 Inter Miami this season. It beat Inter



Miami three times, all of them with Messi in the lineup; every other MLS team combined to get three wins over Inter Miami. A five-minute, three-goal barrage

in the first half set the tone. Inter Miami opened the scoring and Atlanta United punched right back - twice.

Thiaré was denied by the goalpost 14 minutes into the contest, when his deflection of a flick into the box narrowly missed opening the scoring. And Inter Miami grabbed a 1-0 lead about two by a diving Guzan, but Diego Gómez was there to lift the rebound into the net from a tight angle near the right post. The lead didn't last long. Thiaré saw to

that. He took a pass and was completely unmarked, firing into the upper right corner to beat Inter Miami goalkeeper Drake Callender - who had no chance to tie the match in the 19th minute. And not even two minutes later, Alexey Miranchuk tapped a pass to Thiaré who went over Callender for a 2-1 Atlanta lead. Just like that, the best team in MLS regular-season history - and the best player in the sport's history - was in big, big trouble. Inter Miami thought it tied the match in the 25th minute, only for Gómez to be called offside. And the hosts argued wildly for a penalty kick later in the half, arguing that there was a handball in the box (replay suggested they had a case), but they still went into the half down 2-1.

Messi tied it, one last hurrah on

the season. But it ended about a half-hour later, leaving the Inter minutes later - Messi was stopped Miami side in stunned disbelief.

There will be no MLS Cup for Lionel Messi and Inter Miami this year. Atlanta United saw to that with a massive upset, sending the game's most decorated player and biggest-spending team home

Bartosz Slisz's header in the 76th minute was the winner, and Atlanta United stunned Inter Miami 3-2 on Saturday night to win their best-of-three first round MLS Cup playoff series in three games.

Two free kicks by Messi in the final minutes hit the wall of Atlanta defenders, and time eventually ran out. Messi's header - yes, header - in the 65th minute tied the match at 2-2, but the hosts never reclaimed the lead and Brad Guzan stopped almost everything that came his way in the Atlanta net to seal the upset. It was the fifth win-or-else victory for Atlanta United this season starting with two must-win matches to keep hope alive at the end of the regular season against Miami's season is over.

The team with the best record won the MLS Cup four times in the league's first seven seasons. In the 22 seasons since, the top overall seed has gone on to win the title only four more times. And on paper, there may never

have been a bigger upset than this one - a No. 9 seed vs. A No. 1 seed, and not just that, a No. 1 seed with Messi in the lineup Messi's \$20,446,667 in total compensation from Inter Miami this season was about \$5 million the New York Red Bulls and more than the entire Atlanta