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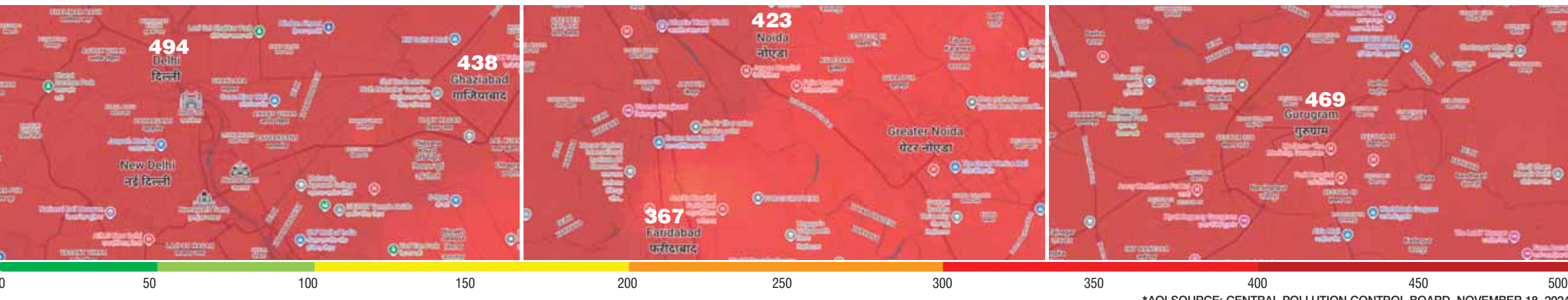
InSIDE

WORLD 8
BIDEN AUTHORISES UKRAINE TO USE US MISSILES FOR STRIKES INSIDE RUSSIA

DEHRADUN, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹ 3

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*AQI SOURCE: CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

What is the real AQI?

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI
Confusion prevails over the accuracy of the Air Quality Index (AQI) as Delhiites gasp for breath. While the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Monday recorded the Delhi AQI at 486 at 6 am marking the worst of the season, another platform, IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company, showed Delhi's AQI around 1,697 at 12.30 pm. It recorded 2,314 AQI at Vivek Vihar C block station, which is beyond severe, in the National Capital. An official statement issued by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) which comes under the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena also cited the AQI at 1000. According to IQAir, the National Capital ranked at the top of the list of most polluted cities in the world. The PM2.5 concentration is recorded at 907.5 µg/m that is 182.5 times the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 guideline value. Another platform, AQICN.Org, shared real time data that showed AQI at 874 in the hazardous category. The India Meteorological Department has issued an Orange Alert due to dense fog in the city. With the city shrouded in dense fog and visibility severely reduced, flight and train operations have been disrupted, leading to delays. As several platforms showing AQI at

hazardous levels beyond the severe, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) issued a communique urging to refer only to the SAMEER App or the CPCB Official Website for accurate and reliable data. "These are the authorised platforms for relaying the air quality index. Please avoid relying on unofficial or unreliable sources to ensure that correct information is alone disseminated to the public," it added. The Air Quality Index, is a numerical scale that measures certain pollutants and their concentration to communicate the quality of air in a specific area. It also provides information on how these numbers can affect human health and the environment. When asked officials say some platforms, like IQAir, provide real-time data, while others, like the CPCB, provide a single reading for a day. One of the reasons why the data collected by different platforms is varied is due to access to air quality monitoring stations. Since IQAir is an aggregator, it uses information from government-run sensors, which are also used by the CPCB. It also uses privately operated sensors, which may provide more localised readings. Platforms such as IQAir update the AQI of a city and its different regions much faster with real-time data, while the CPCB gives one reading which applies to the region for a day.

Enforce GRAP IV strictly: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
Noting the alarming rise in population and delays in implementation of stricter measures, the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday asked the Delhi-NCR States to immediately set up teams to enforce GRAP 4 restrictions, and said it will remain in effect even if the AQI is below 450. The SC also ordered that physical classes for all school students up to Class 12 be suspended in Delhi NCR for the time being. A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said it is the constitutional duty of all States to ensure all citizens live in a pollution-free environment. "We direct restrictions under stage 4 of GRAP to continue even if AQI level falls below 450," the Bench said. The Supreme Court asked all National Capital Region States to immediately take a call on conducting physical classes up to Class 12 and directed the setting up of a mechanism where complaints can be made for violation of restrictions under stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The Bench questioned the Delhi Government and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) over the delay in invoking pollution preventive measures under GRAP stages. "GRAP stages should be implemented immediately the moment the AQI level

touches alarming levels. Some sense of urgency needs to be there," the Bench said, after the counsel for the Delhi Government informed the Bench that stage 4 of GRAP has been implemented from Monday and heavy vehicles have been banned from entering the national Capital. "The moment the AQI reaches between 300 and 400, stage 4 has to be invoked. How can you take risk in these matters by delaying applicability of stage 4 of GRAP," the Bench told the counsel. The Judges said that the CAQM waited for improvement in weather conditions instead of implementing different stages of GRAP over alarming rising pollution levels. Asking the Delhi Government and neighbouring NCR States - Uttar Pradesh and Haryana - to file their compliance affidavit by November 22 on the implementation of preventive measures to check pollution, the Bench said steps may be taken besides those suggested under GRAP.

Delhi facing medical emergency: CM Atishi

RAJESH KUMAR/SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI
Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Monday raised an alarm over the severe air pollution engulfing a large swathe of North India, describing the situation as a "medical emergency" caused by rampant stubble burning in several "Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled" states. Experts have advised citizens to reduce outdoor activities, minimise exposure, wear N95 masks when outside, and decrease vehicular emissions, to minimise the impact of pollution in their day-to-day lives. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning for dense to very dense fog, saying road, train and flight services may get affected. Fifteen flights were diverted, and around 200 were delayed at the Delhi airport on Monday as visibility reduces to 150 metres due to unfavourable weather conditions in the National Capital. Flight operations in Delhi faced disruptions on Monday as thick smog reduced visibility significantly at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). According to Flightradar24, over 200 flights, 118 departures and 43 arrivals, at Delhi Airport experienced delays due to the low visibility till 8.30 am. More than 100 flights have been rescheduled. Out of the 15 flights, 13 were diverted to Jaipur and 1 to Dehradun, the official said and added that the diversions happened



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

between 8.30 am and 3 pm. Some of the pilots were not trained for CAT III operations due to which flights had to be diverted. Complying with the measures enforced under GRAP Stage IV, the Delhi traffic police imposed a total of 4,852 challans and 4,472 challans on the non-possession of Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates on November 15 and 17 respectively. It also imposed 138 and 155 challans on End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) on November 15 and 17 respectively. The police also diverted 423 non-destined trucks on November 15 while the numbers were higher for November 17 as 545 such trucks were diverted in Delhi. In adherence to the measures, the police also imposed challans on 514 Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) (BS III petrol and BS IV diesel) on November 15. The numbers rose about 100 per cent on November 17 as 1,130 such LMVs were issued challans.



People gather outside the emergency ward after a fire broke out in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College, in Jhansi district. File photo: PTI

No FIR filed 72-hours after Jhansi fire tragedy

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ JHANSIA
Even 72-hours after a devastating fire in the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of Rani Laxmibai Medical College claimed the lives of 12 newborns, no FIR has been registered, and accountability remains undetermined. The tragedy, which occurred on Friday night, left 10 newborns dead on the spot, and two more succumbed to their injuries on Sunday, and Monday. While a preliminary investigation by the Divisional Commissioner has been completed and a report submitted to the state government, no concrete action has been taken against any staff member or official. A high-level team led by the Director General of Health Services began its probe on Monday, but legal and disciplinary actions remain pending. The inaction has fueled political outrage, with

Kailash Gahlot goes to BJP, Somesh Shoukeen comes to AAP



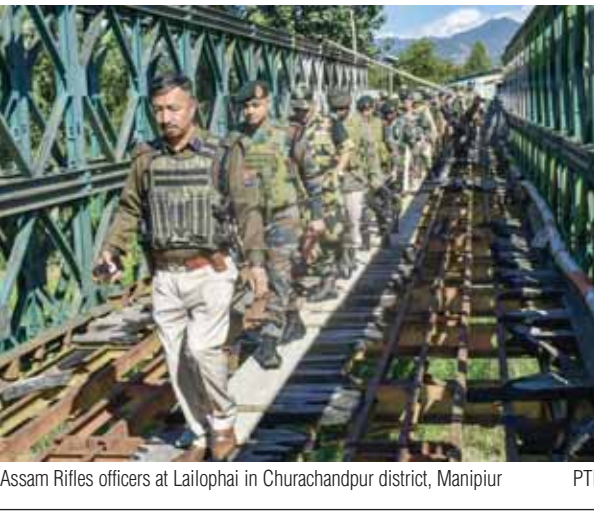
RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's former Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, who called himself Arvind Kejriwal's "Hanuman" till Sunday, and was one of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party's senior-most leaders, jumped the fence on Monday morning to join the rival Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a day after quitting the party. After joining the BJP, Gahlot clarified that he didn't quit Delhi's ruling party because of pressure from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He alleged that efforts are being made to build a false narrative that his decision to quit the AAP was the result of probe agencies pressure while AAP convener said Gahlot was free to make his choice. Speaking to reporters, he said, "He is free; he can go wherever he wants." Similarly, former Congress MLA from Matiala, Somesh Shoukeen joined the AAP in the presence of Arvind Kejriwal. This comes a day after the AAP suffered a blow with its Jat leader Kailash Gahlot resigning from the party.

MHA rushes 5,000 paramilitary troops to Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI / IMPHAL
Union Home Ministry on Monday rushed 5,000 paramilitary troops to Manipur to assist the State Government in handling the current volatile situation. While 35 units will be drawn from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the rest will be from the Border Security Force (BSF). Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the prevailing security situation and deployment of troops for the second consecutive day and directed top officials to focus on

restoring peace and order there as early as possible. A total of 218 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) companies are now present in the State, which has been reeling from ethnic strife since May last year. The Home Minister took stock of the deployment of central forces there and directed the officials to restore peace and order there as early as possible, said officials. The situation in the Northeastern state, which has been reeling from ethnic strife since May last year, has been volatile following protests and violence after the recovery of bodies of women and children.



Assam Rifles officers at Lalipohai in Churachandpur district, Manipur. PTI

Meanwhile, in Imphal, defying curfew orders, a group of people led by members of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) on Monday locked the front doors of several government offices in Imphal West district to protest the recent killing of three women and three children in Jiribam, officials said. The COCOMI is an influential organisation of the Meitei community, the majority ethnic group in the Imphal Valley region that comprises five districts including Imphal West.

Campaigning draws to a close, high-stake polls next

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI/RANCHI/LUCKNOW
Campaigning for the high-stakes single phase Assembly elections in Maharashtra, and second and final phase of Jharkhand Assembly elections ended on Monday evening, for the November 20 elections. Besides intense campaigning for the nine Assembly by-elections in Uttar Pradesh too concluded on Monday evening for the scheduled voting on November 20. Results for the polls scheduled on November 13 and 20 including, Wayanad Lok Sabha are set to be declared on November 23. The election campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly polls ended on Monday, with the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti



alliance vying to retain power and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) combine hoping for a strong comeback. Polling will be held in all the 288 Assembly seats for which the campaign saw prominent leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and many Union ministers crisscrossing the state to garner votes for their candidates. The Mahayuti, comprising

the BJP, Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and the Nationalist Congress Party led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, is banking on its popular schemes like Mahi Ladki Bahin for women helping it retain power. The BJP's use of slogans like "Batenge toh katenge" and "Ek hai toh safe hai" prompted the opposition parties to accuse the Mahayuti of polarising voters along religious lines. The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar), slammed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's use of "Batenge toh katenge" and PM Modi's "Ek hai toh safe hai" slogans.

'One Earth One Family One Future' theme still relevant: PM Modi

PTI ■ RIO DE JANEIRO
The countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertilizer crisis caused by global conflicts and G20 must focus on addressing it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday. In an address at a session at the G20 summit, Modi said India's G20 theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" is as relevant at the ongoing summit as it was last year. "I would like to say that countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertilizer crisis caused by global conflicts," he said. "So our discussions can only be successful when we keep in mind the challenges and priorities of the Global South," he added. The PM made the remarks at the G20 session on 'Social Inclusion and the Fight Against Hunger and Poverty'. Modi also called for reform of the institutions of global governance. "And just as we amplified the voice of the Global South by granting permanent membership of G20 to the African Union during the New Delhi summit, we will reform institutions of global governance," he said. The PM said India supports Brazil's initiative for a global alliance against hunger and poverty. "The people-centric decisions taken at the G20



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva upon his arrival to attend the G20 Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. PTI

India is 'top sender' of students to America

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
With more than 3.3 lakh Indians studying in the United States, it has become the "top sender" of international students for the first time in 15 years, according to the Open Doors Report 2024 released on Monday. In the academic year 2022-23, the leading "source country" for international students in the US was China followed by India. According to the latest Open Doors Report, the number of Indian students studying in the US in the academic year 2023-24 is at an "all-

time high" at 3,31,602, a rise of 23 per cent from 2022-23 when the number stood at 2,68,923. "India is now the leading country of origin for international students in the United States, accounting for 29 per cent of the total international student population," according to a note shared by the US Embassy on the Open Doors Report 2024. According to official data associated with the latest report, the top five source countries for international students in the US for 2023-24 are: India, China (2,77,398), South Korea (43,149), Canada (28,998) and Taiwan



(23,157). "India is the top sender of international students (for the first time since 2008/2009) with over 3,31,602 students studying in the

United States. The number of Indian students is at an all-time high," the US Embassy's note read. Normally, the academic year in the US begins in September and runs through May. India also "remained the largest sender" of international graduate (masters and PhD level) students to the US for the second year. The number of Indian graduate students increased by 19 per cent to reach 1,96,567, it said. The number of undergraduate students from India also increased by 13 per cent to 36,053 while the number of non-degree students experienced a 28 per cent decline

to 1,426 students, according to the report. The release of the Open Doors Report marked the beginning of International Education Week (IEW), which celebrates the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. The report is published by the Institute of International Education. The IIE has been conducting an annual statistical survey on international students in the US since its founding in 1919 and in partnership with the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs since 1972.

Summit in New Delhi have been taken forward during Brazil's Presidency," he said. "It is a matter of great satisfaction that we prioritised SDG (sustainable development goals). We focused on Inclusive development, women-led development, and youth power," he said. "And gave wings to the hopes and aspirations of the Global South. It is clear that One Earth One Family One Future is as relevant at this summit as it was last year," he added. The theme of India's G20 presidency is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of Maha Upanishad.

156 nabbed for drunk driving in Dehradun

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The police arrested 156 people for driving under the influence of alcohol in the last three days and seized all 156 vehicles in Dehradun district in the past three days. The police have started this drive to maintain road safety and public order, particularly during the weekend nights, the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said. He stated that during the campaign, police teams conducted thorough checks on vehicles and drivers using breathalysers to identify those driving under the influence of alcohol. As a result, 156 individuals were arrested for drunk driving and their 156 vehicles were seized under Section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Be-



sides this, 40 more vehicles were impounded for offenses such as rash driving, speeding and other violations of traffic rules. A total of 125 drivers were fined, resulting in a collection of Rs 82,000 in com-

pounding fees. Besides, 23 drivers were issued challans to appear before the court and 26 individuals wandering suspiciously at night were fined under the Police Act, contributing Rs 9,000 in compounding fees, as per SSP. He informed that the campaign also led to the detention of 136 individuals found loitering at night without any valid reason. These individuals were brought to police stations for verification procedures. Singh said that the police will continue to conduct such intensive checks to ensure public safety and adherence to traffic regulations to set a strong precedent for responsible behaviour on the roads.

4-Day DISTF 2024 to start on November 20

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

To promote the exchange of knowledge in the fields of science and technology, the fifth Dehradun International Science and Technology Festival (DISTF) 2024 will be held from November 20 to 23 at Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University (UTU), vice chancellor of the university, Onkar Singh said while addressing the media on Monday. This four-day event is being organised jointly by the Uttarakhand State Council of Science and Technology (UCOST) and the Uttarakhand Science and Education Centre (USERC). Singh informed that the DISTF festival began in 2020 under the guidance of UCOST and has continued annually since then. This year, the festival will have unique elements including workshops, competitions and a food festival, among other activities. Over 25 events are slated to be held during the four-day festival, with 10 events specifically designed for school students. These events include a science quiz, magic of math and match quiz, science poster competition, robotics workshop and others. Singh added that there will also be conclaves on green energy, biotechnology and medical technology. Conferences on science, cybersecurity and intellectual property rights will also take place. A major exhibition showcasing science and technology will feature government, non-government institutions, startups and



companies involved in innovation and technology. Publishers specialised in science, engineering and technology will also be part of the festival, he said. Further, the joint director of UCOST, DP Uniyal highlighted that this year, more than 300 educational institutions will be directly involved in the event, with an expected participation of over 50,000 students and science enthusiasts. "DISTF serves as a platform for school students, educational institutions, research institutions and government departments to showcase their activities and achievements," said USERC director Anita Rawat. She emphasised that USERC has always supported the promotion of innovation in science and technology among young adults. As part of this initiative, they have established 82 scientific labs across the state, providing advanced technology information in 3D.

Selection trials for AICS competitions on November 19 & 20

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

For the formation of the Uttarakhand team, the Dehradun District Sports Office (DSO) will organise district selection trials for players to participate in the All India Civil Services (AICS) competitions on November 19 and 20. According to DSO officials, the selection trials for athletics, weightlifting and volleyball for both men and women will be held

at Maharana Pratap Sports College on November 19 and 20, starting at 8 AM, along with cricket and football, specifically for men.

Additionally, selection trials for judo, badminton, chess and kabaddi will take place on the same dates at the Multipurpose Hall at Parade Ground. Further selection trials for table tennis, hockey

and lawn tennis will be organised at the TT Hall-Parade Ground, Pavilion Ground and Shanti Academy, respectively, they added.

The officials further added that players are required to bring a copy of their Aadhaar card, a medical certificate and other relevant documents during the selection trials.

IN BRIEF

Conference on spiritual neurosciences concludes at SRHU

RISHIKESH: The two-day national conference on Spiritual Neurosciences, organised by the department of Neurology of Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences, Swami Rama Himalayan University concluded with deliberations on various aspects. It brought together experts to explore the connections between spirituality and neurosciences. The keynote presentation was delivered by the head of the department of neurology at AIIMS New Delhi, Dr Manjari Tripathi. She discussed the integration of Yoga Nidra with cognitive behavioural therapy, highlighting its effectiveness in promoting restorative sleep and improving deep sleep for individuals with chronic sleep disorders. The second topic, 'Perspectives on Hypnosis in Current Medical Practice,' was presented by SRHU professor R M Kaushik.

Sex racket busted, 5 nabbed

HALDWANI: Haldwani police's anti-human trafficking unit, under the direction of the Nainital SSP Prahlad Narayan Meena, busted a sex racket operating from a double-storey house located at a housing society in the city's upscale Heeranagar near Pragati Market. Five persons, including three women, were arrested and cases under appropriate sections of the Indian Penal Code have been slapped on them. Among the five arrested was the kingpin of the racket identified as Suman Rajput (50).

Pantnagar University celebrates 65th foundation day

PANTNAGAR: The country's first agriculture university and the harbinger of Green Revolution, GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar celebrated its 65th foundation day for a week starting from November 11. A host of academic and cultural programmes were presented to mark the occasion. The university's vice chancellor Manmohan Singh Chauhan and ICARDA-Regional Coordinator for South Asia and China SK Agrawal were present on the occasion. In his address, the VC said that the productive thinking and hard work of the students and scientists have kept the institute's reputation alive. He also praised the university's scientists for their continuous efforts in conducting new research and developing new techniques and varieties of different crops. Agrawal highlighted the importance of digitalisation in agriculture and use of AI, Machine Learning and other innovative technologies.

Asian School hosts Children's Day

DEHRADUN: The Asian School hosted the Annual Children's Day Fete at its campus here on Monday with participation of students, their families and teachers. The principal, Ruchi Pradhan Datta inaugurated it. As part of the festivities, eminent eateries from across Dehradun presented an array of culinary items, from cakes and pizzas to pastas and mocktails. There were also game stalls where students competed for prizes. Besides, a lucky draw contest was held in which the first prize was a Honda Activa scooter with the second and third prizes being an electric bicycle and a Voltage air conditioner respectively.

Shoppers reel under irresponsible acts, shopkeepers enjoy free 'publicity' in Paltan Bazaar

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Despite the concerns expressed by shoppers and the general public regarding the filming of reels at Paltan Bazaar, many local shopkeepers remain unconcerned about the situation. The Pioneer has been highlighting the issue of commuters and shoppers being troubled by the traffic congestion caused by social media novices in the area, shedding light on the dissatisfaction among visitors over the disruption and resulting traffic congestion at Paltan Bazaar. The filming of reels in the market area is disrupting the shopping experience of customers, with creators featuring the faces of the public in their content without proper permission. Responding to this, the Doon Valley Mahanagar Udyog Vyapar Mandal (DVMUVM) had earlier stated that it will convene a meeting with the shopkeepers to address the issue. Regarding this, the president of the DVMUVM, Pankaj Masson said that a recent meeting was held with approximately 20 to 25 shopkeepers. During the meeting, the local shopkeepers did not express any concerns regarding the reel making trend in Paltan Bazaar. Therefore, the organisation has decided not to take any immediate action. However, Masson stated that if this issue is raised in the future by the local shopkeepers, the organisation will address it accordingly. Several

local shopkeepers have expressed that the reel making trend by certain influencers at the Paltan Bazaar serves as a form of free indirect marketing and promotion for their businesses. In response to this, many commuters and shoppers have expressed concerns and requested that the relevant authorities take appropriate action. A commute Vanshika Jadaia said that the trend of making reels is causing inconvenience for shoppers and commuters like herself. She added that this trend leads to traffic congestion and often hinders shoppers from shopping freely. Jadaia emphasised the importance of officials concerned not only considering the views of shopkeepers, but also taking into account the concerns raised by commuters and shoppers at the market. Another local resident, Reema Kumari, agreed that making reels is essentially a way for shopkeepers to promote their business through influencers. However, she noted that besides entertainment, negative messages are also being publicised as individuals of all ages visit Paltan Bazaar. Additionally, this trend creates obstacles for shoppers like her to shop conveniently. Kumari urged officials to address this issue with the interests of market visitors, both commuters and shoppers, in mind.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shah Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s. Manna Mama Agency/ Atul Arora/ Neeru Arora/ Manju Arora/ Amit Arora/ Manju Rani/ 160105003266/ 160155000003	Address 1: Residential Property Bearing House No. 66/19/4, Situated at Mohalla Rajwara, Under Nagar Nigam, Tehsil Kashipur, District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand, Address- 2: Residential Property Bearing House No.78/19/15, Situated At Mohalla Rajwara, Under Nagar Nigam, Tehsil Kashipur, District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand/ November 14, 2024	July 09, 2024 Rs. 4,45,82,886.00/-	Udham Singh Nagar

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: November 19, 2024
Place: Udham Singh Nagar

Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून

पत्रांक-22/UNA/NND/2024-25 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक 18.11.2024

नगर निगम, देहरादून क्षेत्रांतर्गत समस्त 100 वार्डों में स्थापित स्ट्रीट लाईट पोल में क्रमवार नम्बरिंग का कार्य किये जाने हेतु निम्नानुसार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

विवरण	आगणन राशि रुपये लाख में	निविदा शुल्क	घरोहर राशि	निविदा डाउनलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक एवं अंतिम तिथि	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा अवधि
नगर निगम, देहरादून क्षेत्रांतर्गत समस्त 100 वार्डों में स्थापित स्ट्रीट लाईट पोल में क्रमवार नम्बरिंग किये जाने का कार्य।	रुपये 45,96,000/- (पैतालीस लाख छियासबे हजार रुपये मात्र)	5000 + 18% (पैतालीस लाख जीएसटीकूल रूप-5900/-)	रु 91,920/- (इक्यानबे हजार नौ सौ बीस रुपये)	दिनांक 19.11.2024 से 03.12.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।	दिनांक 04.12.2024 पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे	03 माह

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड (नगरीय) उपाकालि, 18 ई-सी-0 रोड, देहरादून
E mail: etdurban@yahoo.in

पत्रांक : 4/11 / वि०प०खं. (न०) / दे० दून दिनांक 18/11/24

निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना
एतद्वारा इस खण्ड द्वारा आमंत्रित की गई निविदा सं. 06/वि.प.खं (न.)/दे.दू./2024-25 जोकि दिनांक 19.11.2024 को खोली जानी थी, अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त की जाती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता
विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड (नगरीय)
देहरादून

"राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाए"

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि०
कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत जानपद खण्ड
33/11 के०वी० उपस्थान, श्रीनगर (ग०)

निविदा सूचना
अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित जानपदीय कार्य हेतु केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार/निगमों के अनुमोदी प्रतिष्ठित, आयकर, जी.एस.टी. एवं ई.पी.एफ आदि में पंजीकृत तथा जी.एस.टी. ई.पी.एफ. जमा करने के नवीनतम चालान की प्रतियाँ टीकेदारों से हस्ताक्षरयुक्त मुहूर्तवन्त निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं जो दिनांक 05.12.2024 के पूर्वान् 11.00 बजे तक बेची जायेगी तथा निविदाएं उसी दिन अपरान् 03.00 बजे तक जमा की जायेगी जोकि उसी दिन अपरान् 03.30 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा उपस्थित निविदादाताओं/अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। उक्त तिथि में अवकाश होने पर निविदाएं अगले कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त की व खोली जायेगी। निविदा की वैधता खुलने की तिथि से 03 माह होगी। निविदाएं किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में देखे व निविदा बनराशि बैंक ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चेक/नगद जमा करने पर निविदा प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं किसी भी अथवा सभी निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। डाक से निविदा भेजने पर डाक व्यय रु० 100.00 अतिरिक्त देय होगा तथा डाक से हुए विलम्ब पर विभाग का कोई उत्तरदायित्व नहीं होगा। जिन निविदाकारों पर विभाग द्वारा पेनाल्टी लगाई गई हो अथवा जिनके द्वारा विभागीय कार्य संतोषजनक एवं पूर्ण नहीं किए गए/करिये जा रहे हो, उन्हें एकल अथवा संयुक्त रूप से भी निविदा नहीं बेची जायेगी। शतधारी निविदाएं स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। निविदाकार निविदा प्रपत्र खरीदने से पूर्व निर्माण कार्य स्थल का भू-भौतिक निरीक्षण कर लें। पिछले 03 वित्तीय वर्ष में एक अनुबंध के अन्तर्गत अनुमानित लागत का 80% या दो अनुबंधों के अन्तर्गत प्रत्येक में 60% या तीन अनुबंधों के अन्तर्गत प्रत्येक में 40% तक के जानपदीय कार्य (civil works) का अधिशासी अभियन्ता (जानपद)/उच्च स्तर के अधिकारी द्वारा जारी किया कार्य अनुभव प्रमाण-पत्र प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य है। निविदा माग 01 में, अनुभव प्रमाण-पत्र, आयकर, जी०एस०टी०, ई.पी.एफ. पंजीकरण एवं निविदा वैधता हेतु हस्ताक्षरयुक्त रु० 100.00 के स्टाम्प पेपर पर रु० 01.00 का रसीदी टिकट लगा तथा घरोहर बनराशि, अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पक्ष में प्रतिभूत करते हुए सी.डी.आर./एफ.डी.आर./एन.एस.सी. के रूप में तथा बॉन्डित प्रमाण पत्रों तथा ई.पी.एफ.जी.एस.टी. जमा करने की नवीनतम सत्यापित प्रति सहित प्रस्तुत की जायेगी। घरोहर बनराशि निविदा के निर्णय होने से पूर्व वापस नहीं की जायेगी। निविदा माग 02 में कार्य की दरें प्रस्तुत की जायेगी। निविदा माग 01 में बाँधित घरोहर बनराशि एवं बाँधित प्रपत्रों आदि के नहीं पाये जाने पर निविदा माग 02 नहीं खोला जायेगा। क्रम संख्या- 1. 33/11 के०वी० उपस्थान, सतपुली (शौची) पर एस०जी०आर० की विशेष मरम्मत, विद्युतवाहक दुर्घिण एवं अन्य विविध जानपदीय कार्य। निविदा संख्या 09/विजाखशी/2024-25, घरोहर बनराशि रु० 45000.00, निविदा मूल्य रु० 1180.00 (जी.एस.टी.सहित), कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 2 माह। 3. 33/11 के०वी० उपस्थान, तपोवन (टि०ग०) पर बलित्प्रस्त पुरते की विशेष मरम्मत एवं अन्य विविध जानपदीय कार्य। निविदा संख्या 11/विजाखशी/ 2024-25, घरोहर बनराशि रु० 45000.00, निविदा मूल्य रु० 1180.00 (जी.एस.टी.सहित), कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 3 माह।

पत्रांक सं. : 527/वि०जा०ख०वी०/टी-1/निविदा
दिनांक : 18.11.2024 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचावें"

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

SAI
RECRUITMENT CELL
HEAD OFFICE, GATE-10
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM COMPLEX
LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

File No.: 01-04001(02)/113/2024-HO - Recruitment Cell Date: - 06.11.2024

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ON CONTRACT BASIS
Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, invites online applications from the eligible, qualified, and motivated Indian Citizens for appointment to the 50 post of young Professional on Contract Basis for maximum period of 4 years. The details of the post and other details is available on SAI website i.e. <http://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in>. The schedule for applying online application is given below:-
(i) Date of opening of online registration - 08.11.2024 (10:00 AM)
(ii) Closing date for submission of online application - 30.11.2024 (05:00 PM)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT CELL SAI HEAD OFFICE
CBC-47103/12/0012/2425

SAI
RECRUITMENT CELL
HEAD OFFICE, GATE-10
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM COMPLEX
LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

File No.: 01-04001(02)/115/2024-HO - Personnel Division दिनांक - 06.11.2024

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF JUNIOR CONSULTANT (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY) ON CONTRACT BASIS
Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, invites online applications from the eligible, qualified, and motivated Indian Citizens for appointment to the one post of Junior Consultant (Information Technology) on Contract Basis for maximum period of 4 years. The details of the post and other details is available on SAI website i.e. <http://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in>. The schedule for applying online application is given below:-
(i) Date of opening of online registration - 08.11.2024 (10:00 AM)
(ii) Closing date for submission of online application - 30.11.2024 (05:00 PM)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT CELL SAI HEAD OFFICE
CBC-47103/12/0012/2425

SAI
RECRUITMENT CELL
HEAD OFFICE, GATE-10
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM COMPLEX
LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

File No.: 01-04001(02)/2024-HO - Personnel Division दिनांक - 06.11.2024

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF JUNIOR CONSULTANT (INFRASTRUCTURE) ON CONTRACT BASIS
Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, invites online applications from the eligible, qualified, and motivated Indian Citizens for appointment to the one post of Junior Consultant (Infrastructure) on Contract Basis for maximum period of 4 years. The details of the post and other details is available on SAI website i.e. <http://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in>. The schedule for applying online application is given below:-
(i) Date of opening of online registration - 09.11.2024 (10:00 AM)
(ii) Closing date for submission of online application - 01.12.2024 (05:00 PM)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT CELL SAI HEAD OFFICE
CBC-47103/12/0008/2425

SAI
RECRUITMENT CELL
HEAD OFFICE, GATE-10
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM COMPLEX
LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

File No.: 01-04001(02)/2024-HO - Personnel Division दिनांक - 06.11.2024

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT CELL SAI HEAD OFFICE
CBC-47103/12/0008/2425

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from ANIL KUMAR MANJKHOLA to ANIL MANJKHOLA. In future I shall be known as ANIL MANJKHOLA, 55/104 SBI COLONY, GOVIND GARH, DEHRADUN.

In my Husband service record my name mistakenly recorded as BEENA where as my correct name is BEENA DEVI as mentioned in other all documents. Service no 143641H RANK EX POR (TEL) Name DHANI LAL R/O 105, MATRICHHAYA NIWAS MAHESH WARI VIHAR CHANDRAVANI ROAD SEWLA KALA P.O. MOHOBEWALA. I have changed my correct name in my husband service record vide IN UK57132528695373W Affidavit 18.11.2024 before Dehradun.

The general public is informed that I Have changed my name from ARSHI to ARSHIF PARVEEN and in future I should be known as Arshif Parveen W/O Farid Address: Salempur Mahood, PO- Bahadrabad, Haridwar, UK

मेरे सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरे बेटे का गलत नाम यश बसेड़ा दर्ज है, सही नाम यश सिंह आधार नं. 345320947916 S/o आर्मी नं. 18003522W हवलदार (ऑपरेशियंस) चंदन सिंह, शास्त्रीनगर वार्ड नं. 6 दिनेशपुर, बुक्सौरा, उधम सिंह नगर, उत्तराखंड 263160 है।

मेरे पिता के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम ममता चम्याल के रूप में दर्ज है, सही नाम ममता बसेड़ा आधार नं.607154937721 W/O आर्मी नं.18003522W हवालदार (ऑपरेशियंस) चंदन सिंह, शास्त्रीनगर वार्ड नं. 6 दिनेशपुर, बुक्सौरा, उधम सिंह नगर, उत्तराखंड 263160 है।

मेरे पिता के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम श्रिया चौधरी दर्ज है, सही नाम श्रेया चौधरी आधार नं. 748255779147 D/o आर्मी नं. JC-339412W सूबेदार अरविंद कुमार, चौधरी चरण सिंह कॉलोनी, न्यू मोहनपुरा, डबल फाटक, रुड़की, हरिद्वार, उत्तराखंड-247667 है।

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम बसंती बसन्ती घोष दर्ज है, सही नाम बसंती घोष आधार नं. 581006019303 M/o आर्मी नं. 15348027A हवलदार मिथुन घोष, 2134545वीघर तेलीपारा लैन चतरा बैदवती (एम) चतरा सेरामपुर उत्तरपारा हुगली, पश्चिम बंगाल -712204 है।

PUBLIC NOTICE
Previous Original sale deed in the chain of my property owner of the property bearing Khata Katauni No 704 (Fasli year 1399 to 1404) Khasra No 206771, Area 125.46 sq mt situated at Mauja Arcadia Grant Parwana Centraldoon, Tehsil+Distt Dehradun executed by Sh Jitendra Thakuri S/o Late Khushal Singh Thakuri R/o Mohabbewala, Dehradun in favour of Sh Pura Singh Rawat S/o Sh Satyapal Singh Rawat R/o 1682, J-Block, 1st Floor, Sangam Vihar Delhi and duly registered vide Book No 1, Jild 3660, page 1 to 24 at Sr No 9602 dated 22.11.2010 at Sub Registrar office Dehradun has been actually lost somewhere. Despite searching it could not be found. Its use by any other person shall be illegal. Vinod Kumar, S/o Sh. Satyapal Singh, R/o 08, Chandrabani, Mohabbewala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Mobile 9557700887.

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CM addresses voters in Guptkashi

Appeals people to ensure victory of BJP candidate for development of Kedarnath

PNS ■ GUPTKASHI

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that the government will soon constitute Char Dham Yatra Pradhikaran for better management of the Yatra. He was addressing a public meeting at Guptkashi in support of BJP candidate for Kedarnath Assembly by-election Asha Nautiyal on Monday. Dhami also took out a road show riding a bike.

He said that all the temples of the Kedarnath area will be developed. Dhami accepted that some mistakes occurred during the operation of Yatra this year in the initial stage but added that the government is prepared to rectify all the shortcomings.

In his address, the CM attacked the Congress party for supporting infiltrators and accusing it of promoting and abetting land, love and spit Jihad in Uttarakhand. The CM said that the Congress party engaged in politics of appeasement during its rule in the State due to which infiltrators entered the



State in large numbers which changed the demography. He said that the BJP government will not allow any of the infiltrators to succeed in their nefarious intentions they have towards our daughters and sisters. Dhami said that the BJP government has acted against the land, love and spit Jihad in Uttarakhand

and we will not allow anyone to temper with the faith and aspirations of the State.

He said the government has brought the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State and implemented a strict anti-copying law due which more than 19,000 youngsters have got government jobs in the last

three years. The CM said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an ardent follower of Baba Kedar and he is the first PM to have visited Kedarnath shrine seven times. He also accused the Congress party of spreading lies and dividing the people.

Dhami said that the BJP has always given respect to

women and has provided 30 per cent reservation to women of the State in government jobs. The BJP government is also promoting the Lakhpati Didi scheme in the State and the party has given tickets to late Shaaila Rani Rawat and Asha Nautiyal from the constituency which shows the respect the party has for the women, he said. The CM appealed to people to ensure victory of BJP candidate Nautiyal from Kedarnath.

Addressing the meeting, Nautiyal said the CM has fulfilled his promise of acting as the MLA of the constituency by announcing and releasing GOs of development projects worth Rs 750 crores. She requested the CM to provide licenses to locals for setting up tents in the Yatra route for three years.

Former CM Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, cabinet ministers Ganesh Joshi, Saurabh Bahuguna, MLAs Bharat Chaudhary, Dilip Rawat, Kuldeep Rawat, Aishwarya Rawat and others attended the meeting.

Election campaign ends in high profile Kedarnath constituency

PNS ■ AGASTYAMUNI

The high pitched campaign for the Kedarnath Assembly by-election ended on Monday. The candidates will now focus on door to door visits to woo the voters for the high profile bypoll which has become an issue of prestige for the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and State unit of Congress party.

On the last day of the campaign both BJP and Congress threw their full might in wooing 90,000 voters who will decide the fate of the six candidates who are in the fray on November 20. Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami held a massive road show and addressed a public meeting at Guptkashi on the day to seek public support for BJP candidate Asha Nautiyal while former chief minister Harish Rawat and other senior leaders of Congress held a series of small public meetings in many villages of the constituency.

Considering the importance of the bypoll necessitated due

to the death of the incumbent MLA Shaaila Rani Rawat of BJP, both the political parties had stated their campaign immediately after declaration of the candidates and soon it attained a high degree of intensity.

Led by CM Dhami, the ministers of his cabinet, BJP pres-

candidate will ensure further development of the area. In the last phase of the campaign the BJP also raised the issues of land, love and spit Jihad.

Congress on the other hand focussed on restoring the pride and prestige of Kedarnath dham. Its leaders led by former CM Harish Rawat and former



ident Mahendra Bhatt and former CMs Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Trivendra Singh Rawat, the BJP focussed its campaign on development of the area. Just ahead of the imposition of the model code of conduct (MCC), CM Dhami had announced a mega package of Rs 750 crore for Kedarnath. In the campaign, the BJP tried to emphasize voters that a win of the party

Pradesh Congress committee (PCC) president Ganesh Godiyal accused the BJP government of ignoring the area which was affected by huge natural disasters in the year 2013 and in August this year. The Congress leaders also targeted the BJP for the gold allegedly missing from Kedarnath temple and allowing outsiders to purchase huge tracts of land in Uttarakhand.

BJP misusing official machinery to influence Kedarnath bypoll result: Rawat

PNS ■ GUPTKASHI

Former chief minister and senior Congress leader Harish Rawat accused the BJP government of trying to influence the outcome of the Kedarnath Assembly bypoll by misusing the official machinery. Addressing a Press conference here on Monday, Rawat said that the CM Pushkar Singh Dhami is also telling lies in the election campaign. He said that the CM is claiming that Congress candidate Manoj Rawat failed to use his MLA local area development fund and Rs six crore of the fund lapsed. Rawat showed some documents and claimed that the CDO has

certified that 90 per cent of the MLA local area development fund was utilised by Manoj Rawat when he was the MLA. Rawat also raised the issue of missing gold from Kedarnath and added that it is a mystery that the gold got converted to brass and the silver panels were sold. He said that the Dhami government is planning to outsource the Char Dham Yatra and it has given the work of registration of pilgrims to a Gujarat based company.

The former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Ganesh Godiyal claimed that the

BJP is putting pressure on the residents of Kedarnath residing in cities such as Delhi and Dehradun to cast their vote in Kedarnath by offering them money which is a violation of the model code of conduct.

He also accused the BJP candidate Asha Nautiyal of remaining quiet on the Ankita Bhandari murder case and the issue of the VIP involved in the heinous crime.

Godiyal claimed that after the victory in Badrinath the Congress is all set to win the Kedarnath bypoll.

BJP rejects Congress' allegations, calls liquor link political conspiracy

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has dismissed allegations made by the Congress claiming that the illicit liquor seized in Chopta near Kedarnath in Rudrapur late on Sunday is linked to the BJP. Instead, the BJP has accused the Congress of orchestrating a conspiracy to tarnish its reputation ahead of the crucial Kedarnath Assembly bypoll.

Speaking at a Press conference in Dehradun on Monday, BJP spokesman Suresh Joshi refuted claims of Congress that the car in which the vehicle was found reportedly belonged to a BJP worker. Joshi averred that the Congress orchestrated the whole thing for its smear campaign against the BJP to propagate its political agenda ahead of the Kedarnath bypoll. Congress is nowhere at the ground level in this bypoll so it is just orchestrating plans and finding ways to malign BJP's image, he said. Referring to Congress' campaign as disorganised, he claimed that many senior Congress leaders had abandoned their election campaign, leaving their candidate without support. The factionalism within Congress and dissatisfaction over ticket distribution are the main reasons for their diminishing influence due to which Congress leaders are conspiring against BJP, Joshi claimed.

the election observer in Kedarnath and added that appropriate legal action will be taken as per the investigation. Besides this, Joshi also targeted Congress' strategy in the election. Joshi alleged that Congress has consistently opposed key initiatives like Uniform Civil Code, anti-conversion laws and anti-riot legislation,

ly at ground level in Kedarnath as they want chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to lose the CM position, Joshi said that every worker is working diligently and these rumours are just part of Congress' smear campaign. He expressed confidence that the voters of Kedarnath will rally behind the BJP's developmental



branding them as anti-people. He accused Congress of spreading falsehoods about Kedarnath's sanctity and manipulating data on pilgrim numbers to mislead the public. Responding to speculations that many BJP workers are not working efficient-

agenda and reject Congress's alleged smear campaign. "With Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CM Dhami's work and Asha Nautiyal's leadership, Kedarnath will witness a record-breaking victory for the BJP," he said.

Bureaucracy must uphold democratic values, respect public representatives: Chamoli

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Dharampur MLA and senior BJP leader Vinod Chamoli said that respect for public representatives, from Gram Pradhans to MLAs is essential as they serve as the voice of the people. Disrespecting them equates to disregarding the public they represent. It is important to remember that bureaucrats in Uttarakhand are not above these elected representatives, he said. Chamoli recently raised concerns over the alleged lack of respect shown by bureaucrats towards public representatives in Uttarakhand. He also wrote to chief secretary Radha Raturi and urged the administration to frame and implement guidelines to ensure proper conduct by government officials during state-organised events and meetings. Highlighting a growing trend, he claimed that many bureaucrats perceive themselves as superior to elected representatives, leading to inappropriate behaviour. Chamoli pointed out that this issue extends beyond personal experience, citing similar complaints from

Gram Pradhans, ward councillors and fellow MLAs. "If senior MLAs are facing such treatment, one can only imag-



ine the plight of public representatives at the grassroots level. The bureaucracy must understand that governance operates through the people's elected representatives, not in isolation," he said. Chamoli also assured that guidelines to address this concern would be issued soon. He expressed hope that such measures will restore mutual respect and uphold the democratic ethos in governance.

CM applauds MCR's strategy to tackle garbage related issues

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Rishikesh (MCR) has recycled over 400 kilograms of plastic collected via plastic banks installed at key locations like ISBT, Triveni Ghat and Veerbhadra. The corporation also developed a Waste-to-Wonder Park within the municipal premises using discarded waste. Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also appreciated the corporation for adopting the principle of reduce, reuse and recycle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to tackle garbage related issues. The Rishikesh municipal commissioner Shailendra Negi said that being a spiritual hub and a prime destination for rafting and camping, Rishikesh witnesses a continuous influx of pilgrims and tourists throughout the year. This constant activity results in the generation of substantial amounts of plastic waste, posing a significant management challenge. Considering this, MCR took some innovative steps to address the issue. He said that plastic banks set up across the city were created using discarded plastic bottles and the corporation encouraged people to deposit empty bottles or other plastic waste into them. So far, this initiative has successfully recycled around 400 kilograms of plastic. The corporation will soon set up more plastic banks in areas such as Natraj Chowk, the transit camp and the railway station. Another standout pro-



ject of MCR is the creation of a Waste-to-Wonder Park within the municipal premises. Negi said that the park is a testament to creative recycling, featuring swings and decorative items made from discarded tires, old street lights, bicycles and scooters. The corporation is also manufacturing benches, tree guards and more plastic bank boxes using recycled plastic, further promoting sustainable practices. He informed that MCR has also involved women self-help groups in its waste collection efforts to enhance efficiency and community engagement. Previously, the door-to-door garbage collection system generated user charges amounting to just Rs three lakh per month.

However, entrusting the collection work to the women SHG called Triveni Sena has significantly boosted revenues to over Rs 13 lakh per month. Out of this, 25 per cent of the revenue is distributed to the women's groups as profit, providing direct employment to approximately 250 women. Appreciating this initiative, Dhami said that he has instructed urban local bodies to adopt robust plastic waste management systems and has encouraged innovative approaches such as using QR codes to facilitate plastic returns. Municipalities demonstrating exceptional work in this field are also being rewarded by the government, he added.

He said that the BJP has lodged a formal complaint with

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank		PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES					
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Mortgagor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Indian Bank (e- Allahabad Bank, Secured Creditor), the possession (Constructive/Physical/Symbolic Mention against accounts) of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank, Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on below mentioned dates, for recovery of under mentioned dues & Future interest, charges and costs etc as detailed below. The reserve price and EMD amount for each property has been furnished below.							
Sl. No.	Name of the Branch Name & Address of the Borrower / Mortgagor	Details of the property		Outstanding dues as per 13(2) notice for which	Date & Time of E-Auction	A) Reserve Price (in Lac) B) EMD (in lac) C) Bid multiplier	Contact Details
		Type of Possession					
1	Branch: Civil Lines Roorkee (5939) Borrower : 1. M/s M/s shri Ultranchal Footwear Industries (Partner Murari Lal Jain & Prem Chand Gupta) Mini Industrial Estate at Pipali (Laksar) District Haridwar. 2. Borrower/Mortgagor: Partner Mr. Murari Lal Jain S/o Late Shri C.L. Jain, 412 Media Times Apartment Abhay Khand 4th Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. 3. Partner- Mr. Prem Chand Gupta S/o Late Shri Raja Ram Gupta, 67-A Gyan Khand 4th, Indrapuram Ghaziabad (U.P.)	All the part and parcel of the landed property consisting of Plot/land number as 1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,8,9,10 & 11 situated within the mini industrial estate at Pipali (Lakar) in the name of Shri M.L.Jain & Shri Prem Chand Gupta (Lease Deed No. 764 Dated 12.03.2004) measuring 1006.70 sq meters be the same of more or less and bounded as under: East: Nine meter wide main road, West: Administ-rative block and Par, North: Agriculture land park. South: Nine meter road between plot. (Physical Possession)		85,45,918.47 + Interest & other charges thereon from 19.02.2008	11.12.2024 from 10 A.M to 04:00 PM 10.12.2024	A) Rs. 27,00,000/- B) Rs. 2,70,000/- C) Rs. 10,000/-	Contact No. Mr. Mohit Rana Mob. 7042655720
For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, please visit: (i) https://www.ibapi.in (ii) https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstccommerce.com) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDISK No. 033-23400020/23400021/23400022 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiop@mstccommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapi@mstccommerce.com . For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://ibapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number 18001025026 and 011-41106131. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://ibapi.in and www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi . Date: 18.11.2024 Place: Roorkee Authorised Officer, Indian Bank							

BJP's 'chota popat' jibe at Rahul after he mocks PM Modi's slogan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After Rahul Gandhi's swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Ek hai toh safe hai' slogan, the BJP hit back at the Congress leader on Monday, calling him "chota popat" which it claimed was coined by Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray to mock him. The party also slammed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over his "poisonous snakes should be killed" barb, saying it shows the party's Emergency mindset which likens rivals to snakes and incites violence against them. Earlier in the day, claiming a link between the BJP's slogan and the Dharavi redevelopment project being given to the Adani Group, Rahul Gandhi pulled out two posters from a safe he had brought to his press conference in Mumbai -- one featuring a picture of industrialist Gautam Adani and



Prime Minister Modi along with the caption "Ek hai toh Safe hai" and another showing a map of the project. "It was a very low-level press conference. Bringing a safe and creating drama around it, holding of this kind of press conference by the so-called top leader of the so-called national party does not suit Rahul Gandhi and the Congress," BJP MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra said reacting to Rahul Gandhi's jibe.

"Today I say this from this platform and in Rahul Gandhi's language that 'Chota popat ne kiya hei Congress ko chauhat' (he has ruined the Congress). His name is Rahul Gandhi," the BJP leader said. "I saw an interview of Bal Thackeray where he referred to Rahul Gandhi as chota popat. From today onwards, Rahul Gandhi's name is going to be 'chota popat'. This name will now be there on every child's lips in Maharashtra," he said.

The BJP also criticised Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. Addressing a rally in Sangli on the penultimate day before the campaigning for the Maharashtra assembly polls concluded, Kharge used the "killing the poisonous snake" analogy in his speech. "If there is anything which is politically the most dangerous in India is the BJP and RSS. They are like poison. If a snake bites, the person (who is bitten) dies. Such a poisonous snake should be killed," said Kharge. Flaying Kharge over his remarks, Patra said, "The BJP condemns it". "It is the mindset of Emergency because of which you liken your rivals with snakes and incite violence by calling for killing them," he said, asserting that Rahul Gandhi and the Congress will get a befitting reply from people on November 23, when election results in Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly polls will be declared.

Farmers' bodies announce Delhi march on December six to press Centre to accept their demands

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha on Monday announced that farmers will march towards Delhi on December six to press the Centre to accept their various demands, including a legal guarantee of MSP for crops. The decision was taken at a meeting of farmer leaders in Chandigarh. The protesting farmers have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13, when their 'Delhi Chalo' march, spearheaded by the SKM (Non-Political) and the KMM, was stopped by security forces. Addressing the media in Chandigarh, KMM leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said after a long wait, they have decided to head towards Delhi. "We will move towards Delhi on December 6," he said. Pandher charged the Centre with not holding any talks with the farmers to discuss



their demands. "We have been left with no option. We waited peacefully for the government (to reach out) for nine months. But now we will head towards Delhi," he added. The farmers will move towards the national capital in batches from the Shambhu border. Tejveer Singh of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) said they have been camping at the two border

points for 280 days and the Centre has not held any talks with them since February 18. Last week, the farmers announced that they would intensify their agitation and start a fast unto death from November 26. Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal will observe the fast. Besides a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops, the farmers

are demanding a farm debt waiver, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.

UK is committed to foster deeper cooperation with India: British Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The UK is committed to foster deeper cooperation with India as it is a "vital" partner and one of the fastest growing economies in the world, British Minister for Indo-Pacific Catherine West said on Monday as she embarked on a two-day visit to the country. West will continue to unlock the full potential of the UK-India partnership and drive forward greater growth for both countries building upon the ambitions set out by Foreign Secretary David Lammy during his visit to New Delhi in July, a British government readout said. She will also reiterate that the UK remains committed to negotiating a mutually beneficial free trade agreement and bilateral investment treaty, it added. "I am delighted to be visiting India for the first time as Minister for the Indo-Pacific," West said. "As one of the fastest growing economies in the



world, India is a vital partner," she said. Minister West's visit will include a meeting at the Ministry of External Affairs where she will reinforce the UK's commitment to a stronger partnership and the importance of the enduring links between people of the two nations, the readout noted. The two sides are expected to review the overall situation in the Indo-Pacific and explore ways to bolster cooperation in the region during West's visit to India. During an education roundtable at the British Council, the Minister will learn more about the unique "living bridge" between the UK and India, rep-

resenting the 1.7 million people in the UK with Indian heritage and connecting our two countries, it said. The British minister is also scheduled to visit the Jama Masjid where she will learn about its history and architecture, it said. West's visit to New Delhi comes nearly four months after India and the UK firmed up a mega technology security initiative that sets out a bold new approach for collaboration in a range of "priority" sectors including telecom, critical minerals, semiconductors and artificial intelligence. The initiative was firmed up during Lammy's trip in July. In 2021, India and the UK adopted the 10-year roadmap to expand ties in the key areas of trade and economy, defence and security, climate change and people-to-people connections among others. West's visit to India follows a two-day trip to Bangladesh, where she reaffirmed UK support for the interim government's work to build a more prosperous and democratic future for the country.

BJP, Congress seek seven days from EC to respond to poll code violation complaints

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and the BJP have sought seven days from the Election Commission (EC) to respond to poll code violation complaints filed by them against each other in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, sources said Monday. In the wake of the BJP and the Congress lodging complaints against each other with the EC for poll code violations, the election panel on Saturday had asked the presidents of the two parties to comment on the charges levelled against their leaders. The EC wrote separate letters to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J P Nadda and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, asking them to comment on the complaint of the other. The Commission exchanged the complaints between the two parties while seeking their responses. The EC has sought formal responses from both the party



presidents by 1 pm on Monday (November 18). Now the two parties have sought from the EC seven more days to send their respective responses. While the Congress had accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of violating the poll code, the BJP had lodged complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. While seeking their com-

ments, the poll panel had reminded them of the Commission's earlier advisory to them during the Lok Sabha election to keep star campaigners and leaders under check so that public decorum is not flouted and the model code is followed in its letter and spirit during campaigning. Top leaders of the two parties are campaigning in Jharkhand and Maharashtra for the ongoing Assembly polls.

SC hold order to President's Secretary on Rajoana mercy plea

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday put on hold its order directing President Droupadi Murmu's Secretary to place before her the mercy petition of death row convict Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of then Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, for consideration. After the order was passed in the morning, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued that it should not be given effect as there are "sensitivities" involved in the issue and that it be heard on Friday. Mehta told the bench that the file is with the Home Ministry and not the President. The bench agreed to the SG's request and posted the matter for hearing on Monday. Earlier in the day, a bench of Justices BR Gavai, PK Mishra and KV Viswanathan requested the President to consider the plea within two weeks. "In spite of the matter being specifically kept today none appeared for Union



of India. The bench assembled only for this case," the bench said, by holding the earlier order directing Secretary to take a decision by President in two weeks. The then Punjab Chief Minister and 16 others were killed in a blast at the entrance of the Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh on August 31, 1995. A special court sentenced Rajoana to death in July 2007. Rajoana has said that a mercy petition under Article 72 of the Constitution was moved by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on his behalf in March 2012. On May 3 last year, the SC had refused to commute his death sentence and said the competent authority could deal with his mercy plea.

RSS urges Govt to resolve Manipur conflict 'sincerely'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has condemned the latest violence in Manipur and demanded the government, both at the Centre and the state, that they "sincerely" resolve the conflict. "It is unfortunate that 19 months old violence in Manipur starting from May 3, 2023 has remained unresolved. Due to the ongoing violence, innocent people have immensely suffered," the Manipur unit of the RSS said in a statement on Sunday. "The RSS Manipur prant' strongly condemns the 'inhuman, brutal and merciless acts of killing of women and children,' the statement said. "The act is cowardly and is against the principles of humanity and co-existence," it said, adding, "The central and state government should sincerely resolve the ongoing conflict at the earliest." The English version of the statement, originally issued in Manipuri, was released by the Manipur unit of the Vishva Samvad Kendra, the RSS' media wing, on Facebook. The Manipur unit of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the RSS' youth wing, also condemned the violence and said both the Centre and the state government have "failed to ensure the safety and normalcy" in the state. "The ongoing violence in Manipur since May 3, 2023 has plummeted to unprecedented depths with the heinous abduction and murder of six innocent civilians, including three women and three children, among them a seven-months-



old infant," it said in a statement on Monday. "The ABVP Manipur vehemently condemns the brutal killings of the six abducted individuals, the burning of houses by armed militants, attacks on police and CRPF personnel in Ziribam," it added. The RSS youth wing further said the destruction of properties belonging to democratically elected leaders by "enraged mobs" was deeply disturbing. "We believe timely intervention could have saved the six lives lost. The concerned authorities have failed in their duties, and both state and central governments have failed to ensure the safety and normalcy in Manipur," it said. "The ABVP Manipur demands immediate action for restoration of peace and order, protection for innocent civilians and accountability for the failed response," it added. The RSS affiliate called for "patience and peace" as it appealed to the people to stand together against violence and work towards building "a harmonious Manipur." "The ABVP Manipur stands in solidarity with the affected families and demands swift action to prevent further unrest," it added.

Delhi HC seeks CBI's stand on Chidambaram's plea in INX media case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the stand of the CBI on pleas by former Union Minister P Chidambaram and his son Karti Chidambaram seeking to defer arguments on framing of charges in the INX media case. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri issued notice to the investigating agency on the petitions and said "let response be filed". The Congress leaders argued that the arguments on framing of charges ought not to commence before the trial court as the investigation was still pending. CBI's counsel said there was sufficient material to show

"demand of bribe" and framing of charges should not be stopped on account of any pending investigation. The CBI had registered its case on May 15, 2017, alleging irregularities in a Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance granted to the INX Media group for receiving overseas funds of Rs 305 crore in 2007 during P Chidambaram's tenure as Finance Minister. The accused and bribe give Indrani Mukerjea had already confessed that she had paid bribe to Karti to save from Income Tax notice for illegally bringing FDI in the TV channel. She is already turned as Approver in the case. In the pleas before the high court, Chidambaram and Karti,



who were represented by senior advocate Sidharth Luthra and advocate Akshat Gupta, have accepted a trial court order refusing to defer the arguments of charge. Luthra said the chargesheet filed by the CBI in the case was incomplete and the accused persons were

yet to be given access to all the material collected by the agency as probe on certain aspects was going on. "You have been doing investigation since 2017. If you choose to be lackadaisical, should I proceed to argue on charge? It can't be an unfair battle," he

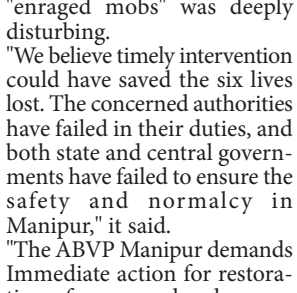
said. Karti, in his plea, said the necessity of further investigation being concluded before consideration of charge impacts his right to fair trial under Article 21 of the Constitution. "The Ld. Special Judge failed to appreciate that the alleged offence pertains to a period of 2007-08, for which, the said FIR was registered by the CBI on 15.05.2017. Thereafter, the chargesheet in relation to the said FIR was filed on 17.10.2019, after investigation for over 2.5 years," the plea stated. It said more than 17 years have lapsed since the period of the alleged offence and about seven years have lapsed since the commencement of investigation. Yet further investigation remains pending even as on

date, it said. "The Ld. Special Judge failed to appreciate that further investigation cannot be a never ending or an endless exercise as it has the effect of delaying the proceedings and, thereby, violating the right to fair and speedy trial, which includes the right to fair and speedy investigation, under Article 21 of the Constitution," added the plea. Chidambaram was arrested by the CBI in the INX Media corruption case on August 21, 2019. On October 16 that year, the ED also arrested him in a related money laundering case. Karti was arrested by the CBI in February 2018 and he was granted bail in March 2018 in the INX Media corruption case.

CJI Khanna recuses himself from hearing pleas in case related to illegal felling of trees in Delhi Ridge area

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna on Monday recused himself from hearing pleas related to the case on illegal felling of several hundred trees in the Delhi Ridge area. Earlier, a bench headed by the then CJI DY Chandrachud, since retired, had sought a personal affidavit of Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena in the case which had also sought initiation of contempt proceedings against certain DDA officials. The CJI, who was sitting on the bench with Justice Sanjay Kumar, said, "One thing I would like to point out that when I was the NALSA chairman, I had gone to Patna and with Delhi LG had toured jails there. So, it will not be appropriate for me to hear the plea...". The bench ordered the listing of the pleas before a bench of which the CJI is not part in the week commencing November 27. A lawyer pointed out that there were orders passed by two other benches. "We know," the CJI responded. On November 7, the top court had asked the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) about the measures undertaken to restore the



Delhi Ridge area, where several hundred trees were allegedly felled illegally, and sought the extent of plantation done by the authorities. The bench had said it would introduce a monitoring system to ensure planted trees were surviving. It had wondered if any independent mechanism was in place to ascertain the number of trees planted. The DDA counsel and the petitioner to inform it about the status of trees felled, consequential actions and the monitoring mechanism. However, he then CJI-led bench did not pass any order on November 8, the last working day of Justice Chandrachud. The ridge is an extension of Aravalli Hill range in Delhi and is a rocky, hilly and forested area.

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ICG to host largest National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise at Kochi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will host the largest National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-24) ever held alongside the 22nd National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board Meeting at Kochi, Kerala for two days starting November 28, ICG said here on Monday. Giving details, officials said here this prestigious event themed "Enhancing SAR Capabilities Through Regional Collaboration," is set to redefine maritime safety standard across the region and beyond. The two-day event will feature largest ever real-time simulations aimed at honing the skills required for effective Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, collaborative efforts among regional and international mar-

itime stakeholders. This gathering of maritime expertise will not only enhance SAR capabilities but also strengthen SAR linkages with the participation of more than 40 international observers from partner nations, the event will underscore the essentials of global cooperation in safeguarding lives at sea and advancing maritime security standards. The exercise highlights India's proactive stance in fostering



stronger regional coordination for maritime safety. This initiative demonstrates India's commitment to not only bolstering its own SAR capabilities but also contributing to global maritime safety standards. The event will showcase India's leadership in enhancing operational readiness and establishing stronger regional coordination in maritime safety. The workshop will serve as a crucial platform for sharing best practices and strengthening ties with friendly nations. This increased engagement in international cooperation is pivotal for addressing the complexities of modern maritime challenges. The event's emphasis on regional collaboration reflects India's strategic approach to ensuring comprehensive maritime security and operational excellence.

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Yogi repeats Bangladeshi infiltrators script in poll bound Jharkhand

PTI ■ RAJMAHAL (SAHIBGANJ)

Yogi Adityanath, chief minister (CM) of Uttar Pradesh (UP), on Monday launched a strong attack on the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led coalition in Jharkhand, alleging that under the latter's patronage pockets of the state were converted into hubs of illegal activities by Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators.

"After the election results on November 23, these infiltrators will be kicked out of Jharkhand, and the JMM-led coalition leaders who looted funds meant for the people will be held accountable," Adityanath said.

He added, "Areas like Rajmahal and Sahibganj have become centres for illegal activities run by Bangladeshi infiltrators and Rohingyas. The JMM-led coalition leaders, who are their rahnuma ('protectors'), will not be spared. Infiltrators will be expelled as soon as the NDA government is formed



in Jharkhand." Addressing a poll rally at Rajmahal in Sahibganj, Adityanath urged the people to be wary of politicians who divide society along caste lines, calling them the enemies of society and the country.

The Uttar UP CM also criticised the JMM-RJD-Congress alliance for undermining the vision of

former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who dreamed of a prosperous Jharkhand.

Despite the state's rich natural resources, he pointed out that the people remain poor. Adityanath promised that, under an NDA government, at least 1.5 lakh youth would be provided jobs.

Referring to India's historical divisions, Adityanath said, "When Hindus were divided, they faced slavery and humiliation in Ayodhya, Kashi, and Mathura. Now, it's time for ek rahenge, safe rahenge, na batenge, na katenge (Safe when united, we will not be wiped out if united)."

He asserted that trends indicated the NDA would form the government in Jharkhand with over a two-thirds majority.

"Only a double-engine government, like in Uttar Pradesh, is the solution to issues like infiltration, cow slaughter, and atrocities against women in Jharkhand," Adityanath added.



Punjab reports 1,251 farm fires in a day

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab on Monday reported 1,251 fresh farm fire cases, the single-day highest this season, taking the state's total count of such cases to 9,655, according to Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data.

On November 8, Punjab reported 730 farm fire incidents, which was the

highest in a day this season till Monday. Muktsar district on Monday reported 247 stubble burning incidents, the most in the state, followed by Moga (149), Ferozepur (130), Bathinda (129), Fazilka (94) and Faridkot (88).

On the same day in 2022 and 2023, the state reported 701 and 637 active farm fire cases, respectively, as per data.

From September 15 till November 18, Punjab witnessed 9,655 stubble burning incidents, registering around 71 per cent dip in burnings in comparison to the figures reported in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Punjab saw 48,489 and 33,719 farm fire cases during the same period in 2022 and 2023,

respectively. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for the rise in air pollution in Delhi-NCR after the harvesting of paddy in October-November. As the window for the Rabi crop -- wheat -- is very short after paddy harvest, some farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear the crop residue for sowing new crop.

15 booked for ragging, death of student in Gujarat college

PTI ■ PATAN

Police have registered an FIR against 15 students of a medical college in Gujarat's Patan district following the death of an 18-year-old student who was allegedly ragged by them, officials said on Monday. The accused, all second-year MBBS students, allegedly made some juniors, including the victim, stand in a hostel room for more than three hours on Saturday night and subjected them to mental and physical torture, as per the FIR. They were booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and other offences. The accused have been suspended from their hostel and college until further orders, said officials from the GMERS Medical College and Hospital in Patan. The victim, Anil Methaniya, a first-year MBBS student, fell unconscious and died allegedly after being made to stand for three hours while being ragged by his seniors in college hostel on Saturday night.

Telangana to acquire 280 acres for Warangal airport

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has issued orders sanctioning Rs 205 crore for acquiring over 280 acres of land for the development of Mamnoon Airport at Warangal, after GMR Group which manages Hyderabad Airport issued No Objection certificate for operation of the aerodrome. According to the GO issued on Sunday, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in July 2022, informed the state government that it is ready to develop Warangal Airport for A-320 type of aircraft for IFR (instrument flight rules) operations and is ready to bear the infrastructure cost, operational and maintenance of the proposed airport. A master plan has been prepared for the operation of A-320 type of aircraft for which an additional land measuring 253 acres is required from the state of Telangana, free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

The AAI also wanted the state government to expedite handing over of the required land to the airports body and no objection certificate from Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. As per the concession agreement between GMR Group, which manages Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation no new or existing airport shall be permitted by the GoI to be developed as, or improved or upgraded into, a domestic or international airport within an aerial distance of 150 km of the Hyderabad Airport before the 25th anniversary of the opening date. Mamnoon is located about 175 km from Hyderabad Airport by road. Telangana Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy held at least half a dozen meetings with GMR officials.

Three elephants electrocuted



PTI ■ SAMBALPUR

Three elephants, including a calf, were electrocuted to death after coming in contact with a power line in Odisha's Sambalpur district, a forest official said on Monday.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Rairakhol division, Arubinda Mohanty told PTI that two female adult elephants and a calf died in the incident that took place on Sunday night in Naktideul

area of Sambalpur district. Prima facie, it seems that the elephants came in contact with a live power line laid by poachers to trap wild boars to protect crops, he said.

A special team of forest officials rushed to the spot for an inquiry. Further details about the incident can be known after completion of the probe, the DFO said. The carcasses have been seized. A team of veterinarians would conduct the post-mortem, he added.

UNESCO honour for Indian agricultural scientist

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Professor Kailash Chander Bansal, a Haryana-born plant biotechnologist and former director of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has been honored by the UNESCO by elevating him as a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences. Prof Bansal is the eighth Indian agricultural scientist who has been accorded this position during the last 45 years.

The fellowship, effective from January 2025, is in recognition of the path breaking work by Prof Bansal in plant biotechnology, including developing genetically modified crops for drought and salt stress tolerance. He has been credited with developing salt resistant paddy variety, which can be grown in arid regions as well as places vulnerable to drought.

Prof Bansal, is expected to advise countries in Africa and

Asia in the promotion of multi-disciplinary sciences for agricultural development and creating policy related issues for sustainable agriculture.

As a plant genetic scientist, Prof Bansal spearheaded the evaluation of 22,000 wheat germplasm accessions at the Indian National Genebank, identifying critical trait-specific reference sets. He also led the National Transgenic Crop Network, advancing India's capabilities in crop improvement.

Prof Bansal earned his doctorate with a gold medal from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and conducted advanced research at the Harvard University under Prof Lawrence Bogorad. He has published over 150 papers in high-impact journals, including Nature Biotechnology and PNAS. One of his unique achievements was the development of genetically modified tomato breed with almost three fold shelf life period.

Campaign ends for high stakes UP Assembly by-poll



BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The campaign for the nine Assembly by-elections in Uttar Pradesh (UP) concluded on Monday. The election, scheduled for November 20 from 7 am to 6 pm, are regarded as a precursor to the 2027 state Assembly election. Results will be declared on November 23. For Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the by polls have turned into a matter of prestige following the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) lackluster performance in the recent Lok Sabha Election in the state.

These elections are seen as an opportunity for the BJP to demonstrate its resilience and rebuild its image ahead of the next Assembly election. The BJP is focusing on countering the narrative propagated by the Opposition regarding the abrogation of constitutional provisions and reservations. The Samajwadi Party (SP) also faces significant pressure in these elections. Having achieved a remarkable performance in the Lok Sabha Election, where it secured 37 seats compared to just five in 2019, the SP now faces the challenge of retaining its momentum. The by-polls are

a crucial test of the party's strategy and its claims of forming the next government in UP. A poor performance could dent the party's credibility and weaken its position in the run-up to the 2027 state elections.

While the INDIA alliance remains intact, its key constituent, the Congress has chosen not to field candidates in the by-polls, instead extending its support to the SP. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has opted to contest all nine seats, despite its recent poor performance in the Lok Sabha Election. The BSP's participation is expected to influence the results by attracting a section of Dalit voters, potentially affecting the prospects of both the BJP and the SP.

Yogi Adityanath has been at the forefront of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign, visiting each constituency at least twice, holding road shows to galvanise voter support. The BJP has intensified its efforts to wrest key SP-held seats such as Karhal and Katehari while also focusing on retaining its strongholds such as Ghaziabad, Khair, and Phulpur. The saffron party is leaving no stone unturned in its bid to reclaim the

Meerapur seat, which was earlier with the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) before the party switched its alliance to the BJP. Similarly, the BJP has fielded a candidate in Majhwan, previously held by its ally Nishad Party, and is aggressively targeting SP-dominated constituencies such as Kundarki in Moradabad and Sisamau in Kanpur.

The SP led by Akhilesh Yadav, has concentrated its campaign efforts on retaining its hold over key constituencies while countering the BJP's push. Of the nine seats, four were held by the SP, three by the BJP, one by the BJP's ally Nishad Party, and one by the RLD. Eight seats fell vacant after their MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha earlier this year. The Sisamau seat is the exception, where a bypoll is being held following the disqualification of SP MLA Irfan Solanki after his conviction in a criminal case. The by-elections have become a crucial test for both major parties. For the BJP, a strong performance would reaffirm its dominance and help it recover from recent electoral setbacks. For the SP, retaining its seats would strengthen its position as a formidable opposition force.

Fertilizer shortage causes Farmer unrest in MP

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

A severe fertilizer shortage in Madhya Pradesh (MP) has led to the harassment of farmers across the state. Farmers are coming on the streets protesting against the growing shortage of fertilizers, while there have been reports of farmers committing suicide in want for fertilizers.

One such incident was reported in Guna district on Sunday, the deceased Bhagwati Kirar from Jhagar village, before taking this extreme step, made a video narrating his ordeal he faced with the shortage of fertilizers

and blackmarketing of fertilizers in the market. Even in this situation, the state government is a mute spectator, instead of taking action towards solving the problem, the government has been busy in the by-polls. At present, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is busy in electioneering in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. The farmers are facing problems due to blackmarketing of fertilizers as sowing has started for wheat, chana, masoor and other crops of Rabi season. The MP Congress has been raising this problems. Leader of the Opposition in the state

Assembly Umang Singhwar wrote a letter to the CM requesting to solve the problem but to no avail. Last month, former CM Digvijay Singh and PCC Chief Jitu Patwari had in a press conference alleged that the state government is doing nothing on the shortage of fertilizers in the State. In a ridiculous statement, MP Agriculture Minister Endal Singh Kansana said that Russia-Ukraine war is the reason behind shortage of fertilizers in the State. However, he had assured that the State government would bit let this problem continue for long.

Kerala replaces school marks with emojis



PTI ■ KOCHI

Gone are the days when progress cards and grades measured student performance. Instead, emojis and stars will now be used to assess students in their early education stages. Emojis and stars have already replaced marks or grades for Pre-KG to Class 2 students in many CBSE schools in Kochi, according to school authorities. Starting this academic year, many schools in Kochi have introduced a system of awarding emojis and stars to students from kindergarten to Class 2.

This new programme focuses on evaluating children based on their activities, moving away from the written exams. Traditionally, students receive

marks or grades for their performance. "Imagine the added excitement if these were replaced with emojis like clapping hands, a star, or even a trophy. Such visual cues can have a strong impact, making the feedback more memorable and motivating for students," said a teacher with a CBSE school in Kochi. She added that the new evaluation system has received positive feedback. "Early intervention can help develop social skills in students while also alleviating the pressure of grades. This is the highlight of the new system," she said. TP Ibrahim Khan, president of the CBSE Management Association, also stated, "This will enhance the students'

skills." According to him, the new system focuses on developing skills such as communication, active learning, and overall health and well-being. "This is part of the New Education Policy (NEP)," Khan claimed. The pre-kindergarten and two kindergartens, Class 1 and Class 2, have been included in the foundation stage in the policy, he added. Hence, a pattern has been stipulated for these classes, he said. According to Khan, the CBSE has not been officially directed to implement the system in all schools so far. To facilitate a smooth transition, schools held meetings for teachers and developed integrated assessments, said school authorities.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

G20: Delhi to Rio

It is yet another crucial opportunity for world leaders to bridge divides and collaborate on creating a better future

Prime Minister is in Rio de Janeiro to attend the G20 Summit, which is one of the biggest platforms for the world leaders to make collective decisions for the betterment of the world and address the issues confronting the humanity. The 19th G20 Summit brings together world leaders to address some of the most pressing global challenges. Hosted by Brazil, this year's Summit builds on India's successful presidency, which left a lasting impact by inducting the African Union as a permanent member and fostering consensus on divisive issues such as the Ukraine conflict. The summit will feature prominent leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping. In Brazil, Modi attends the summit as a member of the G20 Troika, alongside Brazil and South Africa, reflecting India's continued influence in shaping global discourse. The summit's agenda is wide-ranging, reflecting the multifaceted challenges the world faces today. Economic recovery remains a critical priority as nations grapple with the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and global geopolitical tensions. Issues such as inflation, debt crises and financing for sustainable development are likely to dominate discussions. Simultaneously, climate action will take centre stage, with a focus on enhancing climate financing, accelerating the transition to renewable energy, and achieving the commitments of the Paris Agreement. The geopolitical landscape, particularly the ongoing Ukraine conflict is another focal point. While the issue remains divisive, leaders will seek to find common ground on mitigating its impacts on global food and energy security. The summit is also likely to explore the role of technology in bridging development gaps, emphasising responsible use of artificial intelligence and fostering digital cooperation. For India, the summit is an opportunity to reinforce its leadership on the global stage. As part of the G20 Troika, Modi brings India's vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" to the table, advocating for greater inclusivity and collaboration. His interactions with leaders such as Joe Biden and Xi Jinping on sidelines are expected to address key issues like trade, defence partnerships and technology sharing, furthering India's bilateral and multilateral engagements. India's presidency last year emphasised the importance of representing the Global South, a theme that Brazil is expected to continue. This focus on equitable development resonates with nations across Africa, Asia and Latin America, underscoring the need for a more balanced global governance system. For India and Prime Minister Modi, it is a moment to showcase the nation's growing influence and commitment to global solutions, setting the tone for the future of multilateral cooperation. This is one of the big opportunity to bring about meaningful change, hope it is not wasted.



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PICTALK



Riders take part in the MRF MOGRIP Supercross Championship 2024, in Bengaluru

PTI

Turning missteps and misjudgments into growth

Our capacity for introspection determines the kind of individuals we become. Our personal blunders and societal faux pas can shape us

I believe that we are a sum total of experiences. While most are pleasant, a few leave us red-faced at the very best. It is for us to make the choice to introspect and evolve into a better person. My wife and I gingerly stepped out of the confines of our home after the restrictions imposed during the difficult COVID times had been relatively relaxed.

We thought we had crossed the hurdle. Our optimism was misplaced. We observed many vigilantes hanging out on their balconies to catch the hapless walkers at any time of the day or night and call the PCR. The police would necessarily have to come since a complaint had been raised and then go back, irritated at the complainant. We were still terrified enough to wear a mask. However, a few had to be nudged. My wife would good-naturedly point at her mask as a request to those not wearing one. We encountered a young lady walking with no mask, not even one dangling around her ears. The sensibilities of my wife aroused, she stopped the lady and requested her to comply with the regulations.



My wife was rudely brushed aside. The lady stopped us during the next round, to let us know that she was a doctor who spent long hours in the hospital with a mask on, and her lungs needed fresh air, uninterrupted by a mask. Unaware of a different set of rules for medical professionals, I inquired from a few doctor friends. They were unequivocal in their judgement, the lady in question is an idiot. We have all been guilty of an occasional faux pas at some time or the other. I attended a literature festival at a university, a few days before the lockdown, to speak about my book.

I made a point that communication amongst people should never stop, even if it means communicating on

social media, be it Facebook, Instagram or Tinder. The audience erupted in loud laughter and I preened with pride at my oratory skills. My jubilation was short-lived. I found out over the net during the train back that Tinder was a dating platform. I may choose to call this a blunder, but the simple fact is that it was stupid of me to speak of something about which I did not know.

This foot-in-the-mouth syndrome is nothing new, particularly amongst a certain section of society, who are supposed to be beacons of the good and should be upholding values. A minister in one of the states defended the decision of a medical college to ask the female candidates to declare their virginity in the

admission form because, "Virgin, as per the dictionary, means an unmarried and pure girl. So, all these words are not objectionable." A senior leader observed that electricity must be provided in all villages so that people spend more time watching television than procreating. Another leader mentioned that crimes against women are happening in urban India and not in the villages since we are losing our culture in the cities. The anecdotes narrated above may appear disjointed at a cursory glance. The common thread I detect is the misplaced value system of authority: "My word is supreme."

Nothing gives one the right to dispense half-baked wisdom, not follow the rules, or make discriminatory statements. Our experiences should evolve us. Brazilian educator and philosopher, Paulo Freire, has said aptly, "No one is born fully-formed; it is through self-experience in the world that we become what we are." (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

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New tentacles of international terrorism



SUDHIR HINDWAN

Proactive leadership is crucial for implementing strategic plans, while swift judicial reforms are needed to handle terrorism cases more effectively

The recent wave of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, following the formation of a new state government, has reignited concerns over transnational terrorism. These incidents, marked by escalating violence in vulnerable areas, highlight a disturbing evolution in militant strategies. This resurgence is rooted in multiple factors, each revealing the complexities of the situation.

Firstly, the attacks aim to signal that despite the abrogation of Article 370 and the central government's efforts to stabilise the region, Jammu and Kashmir remain unstable. Secondly, Jammu's expansive forested terrains have become a haven for militants, offering natural cover for guerrilla warfare and hindering security forces. Thirdly, the improved law and order in Kashmir has shifted insurgent focus to Jammu, where vulnerabilities are being exploited. Fourthly, while terrorist activities were temporarily subdued, the resurgence of militancy underscores the persistence of deep-rooted threats.

Lastly, despite the successful Assembly elections and the formation of Omar Abdullah's government, the region continues to grapple with relentless attacks. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir resonates with broader developments in the West Asia. Recent events, such as the targeting of an Israeli ship by Iran-backed Houthi groups in the Red Sea and subsequent retaliatory strikes by Israel, the UK and the US on Houthi positions in Yemen, have heightened regional tensions. The involvement of Hamas and Hezbollah in supporting the Houthis underscores a dangerous convergence of terrorist alliances. The killing of prominent figures like IRGC General Sayyed Razi Mousavi and Hamas Deputy Leader Saleh-al-Arouri has added to the volatility, while Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi's aggressive strategies have intensified attacks.

Adding to these concerns are the January 3, 2024, twin blasts in Karman, southern Iran, which left over 85 dead and hundreds injured. This violence has spread



to Lebanon and Syria, where terror networks have previously used locations like Sana, Yemen, as bases for planting explosives in international airports. These incidents reveal two critical trends: the increasing potential for transnational terrorism and the extension of terror operations into global trade routes and economies. Modern terrorist networks demonstrate an unsettling capacity for precision in choosing targets and timings. The persistence of global terrorism is not new. Tragic events, from the Oklahoma City bombing that claimed over 200 lives to the Tokyo subway gas attack, which killed 12 and hospitalised thousands, reveal its devastating history. Other instances, such as the long-running insurgency of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka, have inflicted severe casualties and losses. Nations worldwide-be it Russia, Spain, the UK, Italy, Israel, or China-face the unrelenting specter of terrorist violence.

Social inequities, global economic disparities and historical grievances contribute to the conditions that foster extremism. The post-Cold War global order, shaped by power dynamics of major nations, has exacerbated these tensions. For instance, the power network established by the US and its allies in West Asia has sparked resistance in

many regions, deepening conflicts and animosities. In an interconnected world, socio-economic conditions in one region influence those in another, creating a fertile ground for transnational grievances. The rapid dissemination of advanced weaponry and transportation networks has further facilitated the expansion of terrorist activities. Suicide squads and other modern militant tactics have left security apparatuses reeling. It is imperative to reject narratives that romanticise terrorists as freedom fighters and foster cooperation between local communities and law enforcement to dismantle these networks. A diversified approach, integrating technical expertise and on-the-ground insights, is essential. Specialised training programmes for security personnel to anticipate and respond to emerging threats are crucial. Countering terrorism requires a multifaceted approach, beginning with detailed analysis of major incidents to formulate actionable strategies. Advanced communication networks must be established to intercept terrorist communications effectively, while enhanced intelligence gathering, supported by strengthened local sources, is essential for generating actionable insights. Investment in cutting-edge technology for maintaining secrecy and secu-

ity, along with training specialists in counter-terrorism tactics, is vital to address evolving threats. Dedicated think tanks should be created to develop innovative solutions, and comprehensive training programs for police, intelligence, and military personnel must be prioritised. Proactive leadership among security officials is crucial for implementing strategic plans, while swift judicial reforms are needed to handle terrorism cases more effectively.

These measures must be accompanied by the political will to enforce them effectively. Public awareness and grassroots support play pivotal roles in countering terrorism. Localised insights should inform security measures to ensure they are contextually appropriate and effective. Ultimately, combating terrorism requires a coordinated global effort. Nations must share intelligence, align strategies, and foster international cooperation to address this pervasive menace. Time is of the essence, as modern terrorists continuously adapt their tactics. Without addressing the underlying socio-political and economic factors that nurture terrorism, efforts will only provide superficial relief.

(Author, a Bharat Gaurav Award recipient, is a professor, HOD, and expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLOUDS OF WAR

Madam — Apropos of the article 'US-Iran tensions: War clouds over West Asia' (November 16), the analysis of the geopolitics, particularly in the West Asian context, shows warmongering in West Asia in a long-distant future. Beyond doubt, US-Iran tensions are extremely deep-rooted, and no solutions are visible in the near future. The advent of Donald Trump in his second tenure may be seen as intolerant of any terrorism-oriented politics of West Asian countries where Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, etc., with hundreds of militia, deep state forces, and terrorist organisations, who have no obligations of following or adhering to any international, UNO, or multilateral treaties, conventions, agreements, norms and regulations. Bangladesh is the new entrant of the explosive block.

Such organisations have tacit financial, army and logistic support from these nations while their regular armies execute and control their plans, attacks, hijacks and other disruptive, destabilising and assassination activities. The USA is not solely to blame for West Asian problems and war-ridden Islamic governments rattling guns and bombs as their mainstream administration and geopolitical politics. Obviously, all these countries are devastated and ruined by the compelling influx of illegal immigration from these countries in all European countries, the US, and also India. While Hamas carried out the most sinister attacks on Israel on Oct 7, 2023, the self-annihilation of Hamas and its supportive Hezbollah was on the cards. But the truth is that such organisations supported by their sponsoring governments will never be extinct. These are the façades of the regular armies. It may be seen in European countries that unrest over illegal immigrants is growing. US-Iran enmity is only one of the factors. The world is smarting under the threats of terrorism



Chaos in Imphal

Manipur's Imphal Valley relapsed into chaos after unconfirmed reports that the bodies of all six persons, believed to be women and children missing since November 11, had been recovered from a river along the State's boundary with Assam. As protesters took to the streets, setting vehicles ablaze and attacking the residences of several MLAs in the State capital, Imphal, the

and fighting against it tooth and nail. Vinod Johri | Delhi

BLAME GAME

Madam — Farmers' issues continue to haunt the Government and the fallout from the UPA government's time continues. Blame games are played just to find an escape route for decades. Instead of punishing farmers, the government should find ways of empowering them so that they can explore alternative ways of destroying stubble. High pollution levels affect the locals. Stubble burning is environmentally hazardous, and it should be prevented.

The Supreme Court seems to think that if stubble-burning is halted, the air quality in Delhi would improve dramatically. It has asked the neighbouring states to take appropriate action to prevent it. True, there are safer ways of disposing of stubble, but they are costly. The farmers do not have the financial capacity to pluck out the stubble and bury it in the fields where it will become part of the soil. Yet, the sad fact is that the poor

government suspended Internet and mobile data services in seven affected districts of the valley, which is dominated by the non-tribal Meiteis and the surrounding hills, where the tribal Kuki-Zos are in a majority. A curfew was clamped in the three valley districts of Imphal East, Imphal West and Bishnupur. Among the houses of the MLAs targeted was that of Rajkumar Imo Singh, the son-in-law of Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, whose personal residence on the outskirts of Imphal was also reportedly attacked by a mob on Saturday night. Large groups of people went about asking MLAs to quit if the government was unable to ensure peace and punish killers of women and children.

Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

farmers of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan are blamed for the poor air quality in Delhi. C K Subramaniam | Chennai

SANJU'S CENTURY STREAK

Madam — Sanju Samson has etched his name in the record books by becoming the first player to score three T20I centuries in a calendar year. This remarkable achievement cements his status as one of the most explosive batters in the shortest format of the game. Samson's stellar run began with his maiden T20I hundred against Bangladesh in Hyderabad on October 12. He reached the century mark in just 40 balls, the second-fastest hundred by an Indian in T20I cricket. His innings was a masterclass in power-hitting, as he smashed 111 off 47 balls, including 11 boundaries and 8 sixes, dismantling the Bangladeshi bowlers.

Jayanthy S Manaiam | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

SEPHORA KIDS SYNDROME

By promoting safe practices, the parents and society can ensure that this trend benefits rather than exploits



SHAINY SHARMA

The beauty industry is continuously evolving, with brands adapting to trends, demographics and consumer behaviour. A notable trend is the rising interest in skincare and beauty among younger audiences, including children and pre-teens, popularly referred to as 'Sephora Kids'. While Sephora does not have a specific kids line, the term reflects a cultural shift as children become active participants in the beauty and skincare market.

The idea of 'Sephora Kids' is tied to the increasing exposure of children to social media, beauty tutorials and influencers. Platforms like TikTok and YouTube have normalised beauty routines for younger audiences, making skincare and makeup accessible and aspirational. Pre-teens, often labelled as "Generation Alpha," are drawn to the beauty industry as a way of self-expression and social connection.

Parents too play a role in this trend, with some encouraging early skincare habits to prevent future issues like acne. Additionally, brands targeting this demographic such as Bubble and Florence by Mills, offer gentle, age-appropriate skincare, further validating the interest of young consumers? Beauty brands have now recognised the buying power of younger audiences and their families.

Marketing campaigns often focus on inclusivity, fun packaging and social media visibility to attract children and pre-teens. For instance, kid influencers and beauty creators promote skincare routines and products, dri-



ving trends among their peers while brands like Bubble and BTWN emphasise safe, dermatologist-approved products for younger skin. Moreover, platforms like TikTok and Instagram amplify the trend by showcasing beauty routines and promoting luxury brands. This has contributed to an increase in spending among tweens and teens on beauty products, with estimates showing annual expenditures ranging from \$119 to \$140 per child for skincare and makeup.

Not only this, but many parents also express concerns about the safety of children using advanced skincare products with potent ingredients like retinol and acids, which may not be suitable for young skin. Dermatologists report an increase in skin issues, such as irritations and allergic reactions, linked to these products. Parents too worry about the psychological impact, such as the pressure to conform to unrealistic beauty standards and premature exposure to consumer culture?

They note that participating in beauty routines can boost their children's confidence and serve as a creative outlet. However, the same comes with the risk of adopting harmful skincare habits, overspending and feeling pressured by societal beauty ideals? The rise of Sephora Kids raises ethical questions about how much influence the beauty industry should exert over children. On one hand, critics argue that marketing beauty products to young audiences exploits their impressionability and perpetuates consumerism while on the other hand, advocates believe that when managed responsibly, it can foster creativity and self-care. Brands and regulators must emphasise transparency, safety and age-appropriate messaging.

Parents, too at times must guide their children in understanding the importance of moderation and self-acceptance. There is no denying that the concept of 'Sephora Kids' symbolises a cultural and generational shift in the beauty industry. While it opens doors to creativity and self-expression for younger audiences, it also demands careful navigation of ethical and developmental implications. By promoting safe practices and fostering positive self-images, the beauty industry, parents and society can ensure that this trend benefits rather than exploits young consumers.

(The write is an educator; views expressed are personal)

Redesigning education for real-world skills

By integrating practical lessons on earning, saving and managing money, education can better prepare students for real-world challenges



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM



It is a truism to state that the world is becoming an increasingly complex proposition to deal with and the methods of coping with it need to be structured and understood. This alone will avoid increasing grief and bewilderment on the way matters are working in the world one is surrounded by. An illustration from the area of finance may illustrate the situation. It is an obvious matter to point out that everyone needs finance to survive and finance has to be obtained if not earned from somewhere. This business of understanding finance or earning requires the ability to understand what finance is and how it can be earned.

Finance comes in many shapes and colours. A common factor in all finance is that it is putting a monetary value to one's effort and it is compensation for what one does to keep a system going. Finance sets the equation between effort and its compensation and finance in turn becomes a tool for both purchasing and obtaining the needs of life beyond purchase. To do so, one needs to understand currency, its equivalence and how currency is measured in effort.

It is one of the enigmas of our prevailing school and college system that these matters are rarely explained through a curriculum or, for that matter, in a formal situation. Much is learned about finance through observation and the domestic environment in which one has grown, that is converted into transactions in operational life and early enough in one's life one learns that one needs to have capabilities to earn money and therefore deal with finance. Each system has its methods of equivalence between efforts and compensation and the forces that determine it are very often referred to as market forces. This by itself is an art that life teaches



FINANCE COMES IN MANY SHAPES AND COLOURS. A COMMON FACTOR IN ALL FINANCE IS THAT IT IS PUTTING A MONETARY VALUE TO ONE'S EFFORT AND IT IS COMPENSATION FOR WHAT ONE DOES TO KEEP A SYSTEM GOING

sometimes simply and frequently through trial and error. Thus, it is that finance is not only tricky, but it leads to comprehend and yet it remains one of the cornerstones of anyone's life. Taking the conversation further, it needs to be realised that finance has some basic constituents like earning, saving, investing, converting into tangible assets and more. Each area has over time become a specialised field of learning and indeed happiness or otherwise of one's existence.

There are forces in finance in the higher classes of the school where certain basic concepts are explained and certain essential foundational ideas on finance are shared. What is needed is giving it a practical orientation and teaching people through fieldwork, the value of finance and its central role in human life. Most classrooms have not graduated to that stage of thinking, or in that way of thinking which means very simply that most people pass through the completion of their schooling without getting the correlation between the essentials of finance and the foundation of living.

A situation becomes more complex when one graduate from the college or university level and then unless one is doing a specific course in finance, one may never learn anything beyond what one has learned in school about finance.

This is a loss because, as enumerated above, what is taught in school about finance does not go very far in the practice of finance. What everyone needs to know is the correlation between one's

worth in handling skills and information and how this is compensated in financial terms by the environment.

This by itself is a tricky proposition and, as suggested earlier, needs fieldwork. Then there are final areas of finance that cannot be learned unless exposed to the practical world and that is not a matter that can be brought into the classroom. Also, in a normal education system, there are again gaps where this learning goes by default and people are left to pay for themselves through trial and error.

This causes not only immense problems but complications of one variety or another. One can be shortchanged or one may not know that services cannot, in many cases, be provided without some type of compensation and that compensation very often has to be in terms of money. It will be a worthwhile approach to explain to people the relationship between money, finance and effort.

Such a perspective will help make the curriculum of not only the schools but also the colleges worthwhile and more practical in one's own life. As matters stand, if one specialises in physics, chemistry, history, psychology, geography, or whatever else, one hardly realises that beyond the so-called specialisation, there is a general education one needs.

This general education can be in behaviour concerning others, management of self, understanding income, understanding expenditure, understanding savings, and so on. Putting it simply, there is a need

to also focus on the range of learning before one crosses into adulthood and becomes a financially viable entity. As indicated earlier, much of this is happening through trial and error, embracing a method; that works in certain cases but not in others. There is a clear need to reduce the treasury for adjustment to actual life through formal inputs before one graduates into adulthood and is thrown into the open sea - as it were to take care of oneself.

The time has come to establish a philosophy of education, self-formation, and teaching that can stand on its feet and be related to the requirements of life.

The time is right for some fundamental thinking on such matters, and the sooner it's done, the better. Similarly, similar reflections are needed in making him a person through his childhood, teenage, and other phases of his life about the nature and content of what is technology.

This is so because technology touches every aspect of our lives, from not just the glasses that one may have to wear to correct one's sight but to everything else that has become such an essential part of one's livelihood and existence. Including and understanding the basic nature of technology in the curriculum of schools and colleges also needs attention. However, that may be a subject matter that needs to be treated separately and independently.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal.)

Cloud seeding, urbanisation, global warming: Where is the world headed?

Amid the climate challenges plaguing urban life, innovative approaches like cloud seeding offer promising solutions for a better future

The impact of global warming and pollution is transforming urban life, turning once vibrant towns into places that are becoming less and less livable.

Across the globe, urban landscapes, particularly in India, are evolving into concrete jungles, where the struggle for survival frequently resembles an arduous challenge. Once viewed as a shining example of culture and a centre for economic pursuits, Delhi and Mumbai now display AQI scores that seem almost staggering. Heavy with contaminants, the noxious air has transformed into an environmental concern, leaving inhabitants struggling to breathe



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

while suffering from respiratory conditions. Have these cities become uninhabitable? In Delhi, pollution levels frequently fall into the "severe" category, with AQI readings often exceeding 400.

The outcomes are dire: children attending school only part-time; elderly individuals confined indoors; and hospitals inundated with

cases of asthma, bronchitis and various other respiratory ailments. In Mumbai, the oppressive humidity intensifies the situation, transforming the already polluted air into a dangerous mix for its 20-million-strong populace. Economic growth challenges the conventional use of various facilities and personal vehicles: although development fosters prosperity, it comes with significant expenses. Alongside factories and vehicles, construction sites contribute to the GDP; however, they also transform cities into perilous environments. The alarming rise in disease cases compels us to confront a difficult reality: does the cost of progress come at the expense of the health and

wellbeing of the populace? Now, comes cloud seeding, a game changer in this catastrophic scenario. The practice of introducing particles like silver iodide or salt into the atmosphere to encourage rainfall can be celebrated for its potential to cleanse the air and replenish water resources through cloud seeding.

Thus, it could indeed be the virtue that aids in easing the challenges faced by cities: pollution and water scarcity. Countries such as China and the United Arab Emirates have been exploring this technology, while India has intermittently implemented it during severe droughts. Nonetheless, its use as a means to reduce pollution



remains largely uncharted. Is cloud seeding the answer to the escalating air quality crisis in India? Some argue that cloud seeding is not an extraordinary solution. It comes with a hefty price tag, and the long-term effects on the environ-

ment remain uncertain. What truly matters is that addressing pollution at its source—minimising industrial emissions, promoting sustainable urban growth, and shifting to clean energy—continues to be the primary goal. As cities like

Delhi struggle and suffocate under the weight of toxic air, these short-term measures, like cloud seeding, may provide a fleeting but vital relief. The entire conversation regarding urban development requires a complete transformation.

Advancement must not jeopardise the wellbeing of the local population. It is essential for those in positions of authority to champion sustainable practices and enforce rigorous pollution controls to achieve a harmonious relationship between advancement and environmental stewardship. The stakes have never been higher.

The choice before us is stark: continue on a path that suffocates our cities or embrace

innovation and sustainability to breathe life back into urban spaces. The future of millions depends on the decisions we make today.

Conclusion: The intersection of urbanisation, global warming, and pollution demands urgent action. Short-term fixes like cloud seeding can offer relief, but true progress requires systemic change—curbing emissions, adopting clean energy, and prioritising sustainable urban growth. The future of our cities and the well-being of millions depend on decisive, forward-thinking measures taken today.

(The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views expressed are personal.)

Biden authorises Ukraine to use US missiles for strikes inside Russia

AP ■ MANAUS (BRAZIL)

President Joe Biden has authorised Ukraine to use US-supplied missiles to strike deeper inside Russia, easing limitations on the longer range weapons as Russia deploys thousands of North Korean troops to reinforce its war, according to a US official and three other people familiar with the matter.

The decision allowing Kyiv to use the Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS, for attacks farther inside Russia comes as President Vladimir Putin positions North Korean troops along Ukraine's northern border to try to reclaim hundreds of miles of territory seized by Ukrainian forces.

Biden's move also follows the presidential election victory of Donald Trump, who has said he would bring about a swift end to the war and raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the United States' vital military support for Ukraine.

The official and the others knowledgeable about the matter were not authorized to discuss the US decision publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's reaction Sunday was notably restrained.

"Strikes are not made with words," he said during his

nightly video address. "Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for themselves."

Zelenskyy and many of his Western supporters have been pressing Biden for months to allow Ukraine to strike military targets deeper inside Russia with Western-supplied missiles, saying the US ban had made it impossible for Ukraine to try to stop Russian attacks on its cities and electrical grids.

Zelenskyy's statement came shortly after he posted a message of condolence on Telegram following a Russian attack on a nine-story building that killed at least eight people in the northern city of Sumy, 40 kilometers (24 miles) from the border with Russia.

Russia also launched a massive drone and missile attack, described by officials as the largest in recent months, targeting energy infrastructure and killing civilians. The attack came as fears are mounting about Moscow's intentions to devastate Ukraine's power generation capacity before the winter.

"And this is the answer to everyone who tried to achieve something with Putin through talks, phone calls, hugs and appeasement," Zelenskyy said. The comment appeared to be a dig at German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who spoke Friday with Putin in the first such call with a sitting head of a major

Western power in nearly two years.

Some supporters have argued that the limitation and other U.S. constraints could cost Ukraine the war. The debate has become a source of disagreement among Ukraine's NATO allies.

Biden had remained opposed, determined to hold the line against any escalation that he felt could draw the US and other NATO members into direct conflict with nuclear-armed Russia.

Putin has warned that Moscow could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets if NATO allies allow Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory.

News of Biden's decision followed meetings over the last two days with the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China. The addition of North Korean troops was central to the talks, which took place on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru.

Biden did not mention the decision during a speech at a stop in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil on his way to the Group of 20 summit.

Asked about the decision, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters that the UN position is "to avoid a permanent deterioration of the war in Ukraine."

"We want peace, we want fair peace," Guterres said Sunday before the summit in Rio de Janeiro. He didn't elaborate.

The longer-range missiles are likely to be used in response to North Korea's decision to support Putin's invasion of Ukraine, according to one of the people familiar with the development.

The overall supply of ATACMS missiles is short, so US officials in the past have questioned whether they could give Ukraine enough to make a difference. Some supporters of Ukraine say that even a few strikes deeper inside Russia would force its military to change deployments and expend more of its resources.

North Korea has provided thousands of troops to Russia to help Moscow try to claw back land in the Kursk border region that Ukraine seized this year. The introduction of North Korean troops to the conflict comes as Moscow has seen a favorable shift in momentum.

Trump has signaled that he could push Ukraine to agree to give up some land seized by Russia to find an end to the conflict.

As many as 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, according to US, South Korean and Ukrainian assessments. US and South Korean intelligence officials say North Korea also has provided Russia with significant

amounts of munitions to replenish its dwindling weapons stockpiles.

Trump, who takes office in January, spoke for months as a candidate about wanting Russia's war in Ukraine to be over, but he mostly ducked questions about whether he wanted U.S. ally Ukraine to win.

He also repeatedly slammed the Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars in aid. His victory has Ukraine's international backers worrying that any rushed settlement would mostly benefit Putin.

America is Ukraine's most valuable ally in the war, providing more than \$56.2 billion in security assistance since Russian forces invaded in February 2022.

Worried about Russia's response, however, the Biden administration repeatedly has delayed providing some specific advanced weapons sought by Ukraine, agreeing only under pressure from Kyiv, its supporters and in consultation with allies.

That includes initially refusing Zelenskyy's pleas for advanced tanks, Patriot air defense systems and F-16 fighter jets, among other systems.

The White House agreed in May to allow Ukraine to use US-provided weaponry for limited strikes just across the border with Russia.

Russia chides US over nod to hit its soil with long-range weapons

AP ■ MANAUS (BRAZIL)

President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with US-supplied long-range missiles was met with ominous warnings from Moscow, a hint of menace from Kyiv and nods of approval from some Western allies.

Biden's shift in policy added an uncertain and potentially crucial new factor to the war on the eve of its 1,000-day milestone. News of Biden's change came on the day a Russian ballistic missile with cluster munitions struck a residential area of Sumy, a city in northern Ukraine, killing 11 people, including two children, and injuring 84 others.

On Monday, another Russian missile attack started fires in two apartment blocks in Odesa, in southern Ukraine. At least eight people were killed and many more were injured, Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksii Honcharenko said in a video he posted on Telegram from the site of the attack.

Washington is easing limits on what Ukraine can strike with US-made weaponry, US officials told The Associated Press on Sunday, after months of ruling out such a move over fears of escalating the conflict and bringing about a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO.

The scope of the new firing guidelines isn't clear. But the

change came after the US, South Korea and NATO said recently that North Korean troops are in Russia and apparently are being deployed to help the Russian army drive Ukrainian troops out of Russia's Kursk border region.

Russia is also slowly pushing Ukraine's outnumbered army backward in the eastern Donetsk region. It has also conducted a devastating and deadly aerial campaign against civilian areas in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday referred journalists to a statement made by Russian President Vladimir Putin in September, in which he said allowing Ukraine to target Russia would significantly raise the stakes in the conflict.

It would change "the very nature of the conflict dramatically," Putin said at the time. "This will mean that NATO countries - the United States and European countries - are at war with Russia."

Peskov claimed that Western countries supplying long-range weapons also provide targeting services to Kyiv. "This fundamentally changes the modality of their involvement in the conflict," Peskov said.

Last June, Putin warned that Russia could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets in response to NATO allies allowing Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory. He also reaffirmed Moscow's

readiness to use nuclear weapons if it sees a threat to its sovereignty.

President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office in about two months' time, has raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the United States' vital military support for Ukraine. He has also vowed to quickly end the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy gave a muted response to the approval that he and his government have been requesting of Biden for more than a year. "Today, much is being said in the media about us receiving permission for the relevant actions," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Sunday.

"But strikes are not made with words. Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for themselves," he said. The foreign minister of NATO member Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, said he's not "opening the champagne" yet as it remains unclear exactly what restrictions have been lifted and whether Ukraine has enough of the US weapons to make a difference.

Margus Tsahkna, the foreign minister of Estonia which is another Baltic country that fears a military threat from Russia, said easing restrictions on Ukraine was "a good thing."

Children, parents among 8 killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza, officials say

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip killed eight people, including two children aged 7 and 9 and their parents, Palestinian officials said Monday.

A third child, 10 years old, was wounded in an overnight strike on a tent where displaced people were sheltering in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to the Civil Defence, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government. An Associated Press reporter saw the children's bodies at nearby Nasser Hospital.

A separate strike early Monday killed four people, including a woman and a child, in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp, according to nearby Al-Aqsa

Martyrs Hospital.

The Israeli military blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing militants of hiding among civilians and fighting from residential areas. It rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

The war began when Hamas stormed into Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 43,800 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. They do not distinguish between militants and civilians but say most of those killed are women and children.

The fighting has left some 76 people dead in Israel, including 31 soldiers.

Meanwhile, a government minister close to Hezbollah says Lebanon will convey its "positive position" on a United States-backed cease-fire proposal this week.

The Biden administration is trying to halt the war between Israel and the militant group after months of sputtering cease-fire efforts.

Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally who is mediating for the militants, is expected to meet with US envoy Amos Hochstein in the Lebanese capital on Tuesday.

Labour Minister Mostafa Bayram, who met with Berri on Monday, said Hezbollah's func-

tion "is to make sure the (Israeli) aggression fails to achieve its goals, while negotiation is for the state and the government".

A Western diplomat familiar with the talks told The Associated Press there is a sense of "cautious optimism".

"Diplomatic efforts are converging towards a cease-fire, but it's still in the hands and heads of key players to decide if it's in their interest or not to stop things right now," said the diplomat, who was not authorized to brief media and so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The efforts are aimed at reestablishing a UN buffer zone in southern Lebanon established after the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war.



Lebanese policemen stand in front of destroyed shops that were hit Sunday evening in an Israeli airstrike in central Beirut, Lebanon on Monday. AP/PTI

N Korean leader calls for expanding N-forces in face of alleged US threats

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un renewed his call for a "limitless" expansion of his military nuclear program to counter US-led threats in comments reported Monday that were his first direct criticism toward Washington since Donald Trump's win in the US presidential election.

At a conference with army officials on Friday, Kim condemned the United States for updating its nuclear deterrence strategies with South Korea and solidifying three-way military cooperation involving Japan, which he portrayed as an "Asian NATO" that was escalating tensions and instability in the region.

Kim also criticized the

United States over its support of Ukraine against a prolonged Russian invasion. He insisted that Washington and its Western allies were using Ukraine as their "shock troops" to wage a war against Moscow and expand the scope of US military influence, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim has prioritized his country's ties to Russia in recent months, embracing the idea of a "new Cold War" and displaying a united front in Russian President Vladimir Putin's broader conflicts with the West.

He has used Russia's war on Ukraine as a distraction to accelerate the development of his nuclear-armed military, which now has various nuclear-

capable systems targeting South Korea and intercontinental ballistic missiles that can potentially reach the US mainland.

Kim has yet to directly acknowledge that he has been providing military equipment and troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine and the KCNA's report didn't mention whether Kim made any comments toward Trump, whose election win has yet to be reported in the North's state media.

Kim met Trump three times in 2018 and 2019 in Trump's first presidency, but their diplomacy quickly collapsed over disagreements in exchanging the release of US-led sanctions and North Korean steps to wind down its nuclear and missile program.

North Korea has since suspended any meaningful talks with Washington and Seoul as Kim ramped up his testing activity and military demonstrations in the face of what he portrayed as "gangster-like US threats." There's concern in Seoul that Kim in exchange for his military support of Russia would receive Russian technology in return to further develop his arsenal.

Trump's election win has touched off speculation about a resumption of a summit-driven diplomacy with Kim, which was described by critics as a "bromance." But some experts say a quick return to 2018 is highly unlikely, as too much has changed about the regional security situation and broader geopolitics since then.

Trial to begin in human smuggling case after deaths of Indian family at Canada-US border

AP ■ FERGUS FALLS (US)

A criminal network stretching from India to Canada made money smuggling families seeking better lives in the United States, including a man who died holding his 3-year-old son in gusting snow and bone-chilling temperatures two years ago, federal prosecutors plan to argue at a trial starting Monday in Minnesota.

Prosecutors have accused Indian national Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel, 29, of running the scheme and Steve Shand, 50, of Florida of waiting in a truck for 11 migrants, including the couple and two children who died after they tried to walk across the border to the US. Prosecutors say Patel

recruited Shand at a casino near their homes in Deltona, Florida, just north of Orlando. Jagdish Patel, 39, died along with his wife, Vaishaliben, who was in her mid-30s, and with their 11-year-old daughter, Vihangi and their 3-year-old son Dharmik. Patel is a common Indian surname and the victims were not related to Harshkumar Patel, who has pleaded not guilty, as has Shand.

The family, from the village of Dingucha in Gujarat state, is believed to have spent hours wandering fields in blizzard conditions as the wind chill reached minus 36 Fahrenheit (minus 38 Celsius). Canadian authorities found the Patels' frozen bodies on the morning of Jan. 19, 2022. Jagdish Patel

was holding Dharmik, who was wrapped in a blanket. Federal prosecutors say Patel and Shand were part of an operation that scouted clients in India, got them Canadian student visas, arranged transportation and smuggled them into the US, mostly through Washington state or Minnesota.

The US Border Patrol arrested more than 14,000 Indians on the Canadian border in the year ending Sept. 30. By 2022, the Pew Research Center estimates there were more than 725,000 Indians living illegally in the US, behind only Mexicans and El Salvadorans. Harshkumar Patel's attorney, Thomas Leinenweber, told The Associated Press that his client came to America to escape

poverty and build a better life for himself and now "stands unjustly accused of participating in this horrible crime. He has faith in the justice system of his adopted country and believes that the truth will come out at the trial." Attorneys for Shand did not return messages. Court documents filed by prosecutors show Patel was in the US illegally after being refused a US visa at least five times. Over a five-week period, court documents say, Patel and Shand often communicated about the bitter cold as they smuggled five groups of Indians over a quiet stretch of border. One night in December 2021, Shand messaged Patel that it was "cold as hell" while waiting to pick up one group, the documents say.

Canadian PM admits his govt made 'mistakes' in immigration policy

PTI ■ OTTAWA

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has admitted that his government made "mistakes" in its immigration policy which led to "bad actors" like "fake colleges" and big corporations exploiting the system for their vested interests.

Trudeau's statement on Sunday came amidst his Liberal Party's denting popularity ahead of the 2025 general election in Canada. The prime minister is facing intense public criticism due to his policies leading to housing shortage, inflation, and deteriorating health and transport systems in the country.

The opposition Conservative Party has also been accusing his government of mismanagement and failure to prioritise Canadian citizens'

needs. In a video message posted on his YouTube channel, Trudeau said, "In the last two years, our population has grown really fast, like a baby boom...Increasingly bad actors like fake colleges and big chain corporations have been exploiting our immigration system for their own interests."

To combat this, "we are reducing the number of immigrants who are coming to Canada for the next three years," he said. "We made some mistakes and that's why we are taking this big turn," he said, justifying his government's action.

Outlining the government's latest immigration strategy, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said last month that Canada will admit approximately 3,95,000 permanent res-

idents in 2025, marking a drop of nearly 20 per cent from the 4,85,000 expected this year.

The plan also sets a target for temporary immigrants, including international students and foreign workers. Their numbers are expected to drop to about 4,46,000 in 2025 and 2026, down from roughly 8,00,000 this year.

By 2027, Canada will accept just 17,400 new non-permanent residents, the new policy suggested.

Canada also ended the popular fast track study visa programme, SDS, a major policy decision that is likely to impact scores of international students, including from India.

According to the Indian High Commission here, India is the largest source country of for-

ign students with an estimated 4,27,000 Indian students studying in Canada.

Trudeau said for years, Canada's immigration system only focussed on Permanent Immigration where people come with family to settle in Canada and the government decides the number of permanent residents that it wants to admit each year. However, in doing so, it missed "the other pathway — the temporary immigration", which involves international students, temporary workers and so on.

"After the (coronavirus) pandemic, our economy came roaring back quickly. We wanted more workers fast. We were in the midst of a huge labour shortage. Temporary foreign workers became such a signif-

icant part of our workforce...So, we brought in more workers," he said. And it was the right choice and it worked, Trudeau emphasised.

"Our economy grew. Restaurants and stores reopened, businesses kept running, but most importantly, in spite of lots of economists' predictions, we avoided the worst-case scenario — a recession," he said.

However, the prime minister said, some saw that as an opportunity to profit, to game the system.

"We have seen way too many large corporations doing this. Far too many colleges and universities used international students to raise their bottom line, because they could charge these students tens of thou-

sands of dollars more for the same degree.

"And then there are really bad actors who outright exploit people who target vulnerable immigrants with promises of jobs, diplomas and easy pathways to citizenship promises that would never come true," he said. "Looking back when the post pandemic boom cooled and the businesses no longer needed the additional workforce, as a federal team, we could have acted quicker and turned off the taps faster," Trudeau admitted.

Canada's new immigration plan is "straightforward — lower the number of immigrants — both permanent and temporary," he said, adding that the government is prioritising permanent residents with the skills it

needs like healthcare and construction workers.

Trudeau said the cut on the cap on immigrants coming to Canada was necessary to address its housing crisis and cost-of-living issues.

"The goal is to help stabilise population growth while housing stocks catch up, and then to consider gradually increasing immigration rates once again," he said, adding that this pause is going to "give our economy and our communities the chance to catch up with things like our plan to build more homes."

"Some temporary residents may turn to our asylum system when their visa expires...Those claims will be analysed and processed, and if their claim fails, they'll be sent home,"

Trudeau said.

India-Canada ties remain deeply troubled over the North American country's alleged support to Khalistani separatists and its accusation of India's involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen who has been designated a terrorist by India.

India rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd" and expelled six Canadian diplomats. India also withdrew its High Commissioner in Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma after dismissing Ottawa's allegations.

India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das urges banks to strengthen governance to curb unethical practices

PTI ■ MUMBAI
RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday asked bank boards to strengthen internal governance framework to curb unethical practices, such as mis-selling of products or opening of accounts without proper KYC verification. Das also said that the incentives for bank staff should be carefully structured so as not to encourage them to indulge in unethical practices. "While such practices may yield short-term gains, they ultimately expose the bank to significant long-term risks, including reputational damage, supervisory scrutiny



and financial penalties," he said in a keynote address at the Conference of Directors of Private Sector Banks here. Das further said that the Indian banking sector is

transitioning through a time which is replete with opportunities as well as risks and challenges. "The banking sector remains strong and stable. All the financial indicators have improved since we met in May last year, reflecting the efforts of the various participants of the banking sector, including their management and boards," he said. To keep the resilience of the banking system intact, the governor emphasised that strong fundamentals ought to be leveraged to reinforce and fortify the defences. "Good times, after all, are the best times to reinforce resilience and grow sustainably," he added. Das also said that in the rapidly evolving and technology-driven environment, organisations face significant challenges and risks. Factors like technological advancements, the rise of new-age fintech entities, third-party dependencies and climate change are reshaping the economic landscape, he added. Amid these shifting tides, bank boards should serve as a lighthouse for lenders and provide steady guidance to help navigate these challenges and steer towards safe and prosperous shores, he said.

SC issues notice to Centre over vacancies in 11 Debt Recovery Tribunals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Ministry of Finance on a PIL highlighting critical vacancies in 11 Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) across India. The DRTs are set up under the Recovery of Dues to Banks and Financial Institutions Act of 1993 to enable banks and financial institutions recover bad debts from borrowers. "Eleven DRTs remain unmanned which is creating issues. In view of the grant of additional charges and also the complications, notice be served including 'dasti', counter affidavits (reply) be filed in five weeks and the rejoinder to be filed within three weeks after the response," said a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar. The PIL, filed by Ghaziabad resident Nishchay Chaudhary, was argued by senior advocate K B Sounder Rajan along with lawyer Sudarshan Rajan. According to the PIL, as of September 30, 2024, 11 DRTs are without presiding officers, severely impacting their ability to resolve cases efficiently. The PIL raised concerns that nearly one-third of the 39 DRTs in the country are currently non-functional due to the absence of presiding officers, undermining their core objective of expediting debt recovery for banks and financial institutions. The petitioner argues that

this inaction frustrates the purpose of the 1993 law, which was enacted to ensure timely adjudication and recovery of debts. The plea said various DRTs at Jaipur, Chennai, Mumbai, Aurangabad, Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Ranchi, Bengaluru and Lucknow have vacancies. The PIL also emphasises that speedy justice is a fundamental right under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, as recognised by the Supreme Court in the case of District Bar Association Dehradun vs Ishwar Shandilya in 2020. The PIL sought a direction to the Ministry of Finance to produce records relating to the selection and appointment of presiding officers in DRTs to evaluate the government's seriousness in addressing these vacancies. It also sought a direction to the Centre to mandate the timely filling up of existing vacancies and establish mechanisms to prevent delays in future appointments. As interim measures, it sought a direction that the powers of non-functional DRTs are vested in other tribunals to prevent

Rupee recovers from all-time low to settle six paise higher at 84.40 against US Dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled with a gain of 6 paise at 84.40 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, backed by a retreating American currency. Forex traders said, the recovery in the local unit was capped by the unabated withdrawal of foreign funds amid lacklustre sentiment in the domestic equity markets as well as an upward movement in crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.42 and touched the intra-day high of 84.37 against the greenback during the session. It finally settled at 84.40 (provisional) against the dollar, up 6 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee fell 7 paise to settle at its all-time low of 84.46 against the US dollar. The Forex market was closed on Friday on account of Guru Nanak Jayanti. "This minor support for the rupee was further aided by a reduction in FII selling activity in recent days, with expectations that sell-off pressure will remain limited

due to the upcoming state elections in Maharashtra. "The rupee is expected to find support in the 84.45-84.52 range, while resistance is projected around 84.25-84.30," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.06 per cent at 106.55. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose by 0.79 per cent to USD 71.60 per barrel in futures trade. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 241.30 points, or 0.31 per cent, to close at 77,339.01 points, while Nifty fell 78.90 points, or 0.34 per cent, to settle at 23,453.80 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,849.87 crore, according to exchange data. On the domestic macroeconomic front, India's merchandise exports in October rose by an impressive 17.25 per cent year-on-year, highest in over two years, to USD 39.2 billion, while the trade deficit widened to USD 27.14 billion on a sequential basis, according to the latest government data released on Thursday. Meanwhile, the country's forex reserves dropped by USD 6.477 billion to USD 675.653 billion for the week ended November 8, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

SBI to open 500 more branches in FY25, take overall network to 23,000: Finance Minister

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said SBI will open another 500 branches to take its overall network to 23,000 by the end of FY25. Speaking at an event to mark the 100th anniversary of the state-owned lender's main branch in Mumbai, Sitharaman recalled that the size of the bank has increased substantially since 1921 when three presidency banks merged to form the Imperial Bank of India (IBI). The government passed an Act of Parliament to form SBI in 1955 out of what used to be

customers. Sitharaman said the digital investments are "robust" at the bank, and it can handle up to 20 crore UPI transactions a day. This is a long way from the objective of the merger of three presidency banks in 1921, Sitharaman said, pointing out that one of the stated aims of the century-old consolidation move was to extend banking services to people. The Mumbai main branch is housed in a heritage building inaugurated in 1924 and currently handles nearly a fourth of all the deposits in the country. IBI, and what was a network of 250 branches in 1921 has grown to 22,500 now, she said. "SBI today has grown to become 22,500 branches, and I understand that another 500 branches are going to be opened in FY25. So, 23,000 branches," Sitharaman said. The finance minister said this growth of SBI should be a "global record", particularly in the context of India being repeatedly "taunted" for income disparities. She said SBI commands a 22.4 per cent share in the overall deposits in the country, nearly one-fifth in advance and serves over 50 crore

Gold and silver prices rebound because of ongoing wedding season buying, global cues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Gold and silver prices rebounded on Monday in the national capital mainly on the back of ongoing wedding season buying by jewellers and retailers as well as strong global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Snapping a four-day losing streak, gold of 99.9 per cent purity rose by Rs 400 to Rs 77,450 per 10 grams in the local markets. The precious metal had closed at Rs 77,050 per 10 grams on Thursday. Silver also climbed Rs 1,810 to reclaim the Rs 92,000 per kg-mark against the previous close of Rs 90,190 per kg on Thursday. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent

purity jumped Rs 400 to Rs 77,050 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had settled at Rs 76,650 per 10 grams. Traders said besides wedding season demand from jewellers and retailers, a strong global trend for gold influenced the precious metal prices. On Friday, the local bullion markets were closed on account of Guru Nanak Jayanti. In futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for

December delivery jumped Rs 621 or 0.84 per cent to trade at Rs 74,567 per 10 grams. During the day, the precious metal had climbed Rs 732 or 0.99 per cent to Rs 74,678 per 10 grams on the exchange. "Gold traded strongly positive due to heightened geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine. This geopolitical risk bolstered gold prices as investors turned to safe-haven assets," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said. Silver contracts for December delivery also bounced by Rs 879 or 0.99 per cent to Rs 89,300 per kg

on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). In the Asian trading hours, Comex gold futures rose USD 25.20 per ounce or 0.98 per cent to USD 2,595.30 per ounce. "Geopolitical developments over the weekend fuelled some haven flows, allowing the precious metal to start trading on a positive note," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities, HDFC Securities, said. Meanwhile, retail demand in India is likely to improve due to the ongoing wedding season, Gandhi said. According to Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd, last week, gold and silver prices extended their decline, reaching two-month lows in international markets. This sharp drop was primarily driven by the strong performance of Bitcoin and the US dollar following Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election, reducing the safe-haven appeal of precious metals, Kalantri said. Silver traded 1.23 per cent higher at USD 30.81 per ounce in the international markets. "Focus this week will be on the preliminary Manufacturing and Services PMI data from major economies along with Fed officials comments," Manav Modi, analyst, Commodity Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. The commentary from the officials will chart a path for the policy interest rates.

Sensex down 241 points, Nifty falls for seventh day as FPI selling spree



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty continued their decline on Monday owing to unabated foreign fund outflows, selling in IT stocks and weak leads from the US markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 241.30 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 77,339.01 and registering its fourth day of decline. During the day, it fell 615.25 points or 0.79 per cent to 76,965.06. Falling for the seventh day in a row, the NSE Nifty dipped 78.90 points or 0.34 per cent to 23,453.80. From the 30-share Sensex pack, the Tata Consultancy

Services, Infosys, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and Reliance Industries were the major laggards. Tata Steel, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Nestle and State Bank of India were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,849.87 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Foreign investors have pulled out Rs 22,420 crore from the Indian equity markets so far this month, owing to high domestic stock valuations, increasing allocations to China, and

the rising US dollar as well as Treasury yields. With this sell-off, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have recorded a total outflow of Rs 15,827 crore in 2024 so far. Equity markets were closed on Friday for Guru Nanak Jayanti. "Consolidation continued in the market, a slowdown in earnings growth and a weak rupee due to inflation impacted the sentiment. IT stocks reacted negatively today due to a reduced expectation of a Fed rate cut in December, which may pose a delay in spending in the BFSI segment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong settled higher while Tokyo and Shanghai ended lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended lower on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.49 per cent to USD 71.39 a barrel. The BSE benchmark Sensex dropped 110.64 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 77,580.31 on Thursday. The Nifty declined by 26.35 points or 0.11 per cent to 23,532.70.

Bajaj Finance FD book rises 21 per cent to ₹ 66,131 Crore

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH



Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL), part of Bajaj Finserv Ltd, has reported a growth of 21 per cent in its Fixed Deposit (FD) book to Rs 66,131 crore as on September 30, 2024, a senior company official has said. The company's total customer franchise stood at 92.09 million as of September 30, 2024 and net users on its App platform stood at 61.67 million. "The Bajaj Group's century-old legacy of trust resonates across generations of Indian

families. Bajaj Finserv is founded on the business philosophy of the Bajaj Group, which has encouraged people across

demographics to choose its FDs," Sachin Sikka, Executive Vice President Deposits, Investments, Rewards and EMI Cards, Bajaj Finance,

is driving us to continuously transform savers' experience through digital journeys, competitive interest rates and a safe investing platform," Sikka said. Bajaj Finance has emerged as India's largest deposit-taking NBFC. It presents an opportunity for savers to secure stable and better returns in prevailing market conditions. Bajaj Finance Ltd maintains the highest domestic credit rating of AAA/Stable from CRISIL and ICRA for its Fixed Deposit program.

Emerging India Focus Funds settles FPIs violation case with Sebi, pays ₹ 64.35 Lakh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Emerging India Focus Funds on Monday settled a case concerning the alleged violations of Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) rules with markets regulator Sebi on payment of Rs 64.35 lakh towards settlement charges. This came after the applicant filed an application with Sebi proposing to settle the proceedings initiated against it, "without admitting or denying the findings of facts and conclusions of law" through a settlement order. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) initiated adjudication proceedings against the applicant and issued a

showcause notice in February for the alleged violations of FPI Regulations and Intermediaries Regulations. Pending adjudication proceedings, Emerging India Focus Funds filed an application with Sebi and shelled out Rs 64.35 lakh on November 13 to settle the

alleged violations. "In view of the acceptance of the settlement terms and the receipt of settlement amount by Sebi, the instant adjudication proceedings initiated against applicant vide SCN (showcause notice) dated February 29, 2024, is disposed of," Sebi said in its order.

INBRIEF

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY POSTPONES EXAMS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 20

GURUGRAM: Guru Nanak Dev University has announced the postponement of all annual and semester (theory) examinations initially set to take place on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. Prof. Shalini Bahel, Professor Incharge (Examinations) said that the exams will now be rescheduled for Sunday, December 1, 2024, at their originally designated times and examination centers.

SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CELEBRATES 20TH (SPECIAL) CONVOCATION.

KATTANKULATHUR: The 20th (special) Convocation of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) was held on 15th November 2024 at the Kattankulathur campus. A total of 10,848 students including undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG), and doctoral (PhD) programs in Science and Humanities, Medicine and Health Sciences, Management, Law, and Agricultural Sciences, were awarded their degrees.



India look to play to their strength, start as favourites against Japan

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

Confident and unbeaten India will back their strategy of attack and defense at appropriate times when they take on Japan in the semifinal of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Tuesday.

Hosts and defending champions India will undoubtedly enter the semifinal as clear favourites against a side which they trounced 3-0 in their final league game.

World number nine India have registered five wins from as many games, including 3-0 victory over Olympic silver medallist and world number six China.

India's chief coach Harendra Singh also emphasised on the need to continue in the same vein in the tournament.

"We know what are their strengths and weaknesses. For us, this tournament is about working on our strengths and build a formidable style of play for Indian women's hockey team. It's a mixture of attacking and defensive," Harendra said.

"So far the girls have executed really well. I am satisfied with their decision making but semifinal will be a different ball game."

The Indians must guard against complacency, as a single mistake could shatter their dreams of retaining the crown.

The top four sides qualified for the semifinals of the six-team continental tournament. In the other



semifinal China will be up against Malaysia.

The Indians might have defeated Japan hands down in the league stage, but Harendra is in no mood to take their opponents lightly in the knock-out match.

"Of course we are expecting a tough fight from Japan because the training game and pool matches are different. It's a semifinal and every team prepares according to their plans.

"We are going to face some resistance from Japan for sure. They have a good side but we have to do our homework. We need to focus on how we want to play rather than focussing on the opponent," he said.

After a cagey start, India quickly found their rhythm, elevating their performance dramatically and excelling in every aspect of the game.

One of the most encouraging aspects of India's success here has been the stellar performance of their backbone, led brilliantly by Udit, Sushila Chanu, and Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke.

The Indian defense has been so solid that goalkeepers Savita Punia and Bichu Devi Karibam have hardly been tested in the tournament thus far.

In the first part of the tournament,

the Indians were guilty of rushing the play and failing to identify the right options inside the opposition circle, a shortcoming acknowledged by Harendra.

But it seems the hosts have gotten over that bad habit in the last few matches. Not only have they managed to play full press hockey, but they've also displayed improved decision-making inside the circle, resulting in some fine field goals.

Penalty corner conversion was also an area of concern but over the last few games, the likes of Deepika and Manisha Chauhan have risen to the occasion on that front.

India have got a fine striker and a fierce dragflicker in young Deepika. Her exploits in the tournament can be gauged from the fact that she is leading the goal scorers chart with 10 strike which includes four field goals, five penalty corner conversions and one from the spot.

Other Indian forwards like Sharmila Devi, Sangita Kumari Preeti Dubey and Lalaremsiami have also contributed immensely in the home team's campaign so far.

Skipper Salima Tete has been the centre point of the Indian midfield in the company of Neha Goyal, vice-captain Navneet Kaur and Beauty Dung Dung.

The only concern going into the business end of the tournament for chief coach Harendra would be the lack of action of his goalkeepers Savita and Bichu as they hardly were seen in action, given the performance of the defenders.



Nelly Korda rallies in Florida for her seventh LPGA win of the year

AP ■ BELLEAIR (US)

Nelly Korda was back to competition for the first time in nearly two months and didn't miss a beat. She ran off five straight birdies on the back nine to stage another comeback, closing with a 3-under 67 to win The Annika for her seventh LPGA Tour title this year.

Korda had a rough start and said she didn't have many happy thoughts when she made the turn at 2 over for the day, two shots behind Charley Hull. Starting with a birdie on No. 11, she made five in a row on her way to a three-shot victory.

The only big surprise was seeing her younger brother, Sebastian, who has been charting his own career in tennis that kept him from seeing his sister win until Sunday at Pelican Golf Club.

Korda, who earlier this year tied an LPGA record with five straight victories, became the first player to win seven times in a season since Yani Tseng in 2011. No other American had won seven times in a season since Beth Daniel in 1990.

Korda now has won four times this year when trailing going into the final round.

Hull, going for a wire-to-wire win, simply couldn't keep up with Korda's birdie blitz. Coming off her first

win worldwide two weeks ago in Saudi Arabia, Hull closed with a 1-over 71 and tied for second with LPGA rookie Jin Hee Im (68) and Weiwei Zhang (70).

Zhang moved up 24 spots to No. 82 in the Race to CME Globe to keep her card for next year. The top 60 advance to the CME Group Tour Championship next week in Naples, where the winner gets \$4 million.

Carlotta Ciganda moved up three places to secure the final spot.

Korda last played Sept. 22 in Ohio. She was planning to play twice during the Asian swing until a minor neck injury kept her at home. She was eager to get back in time to play Pelican, where she had won two of the previous three years.

"After taking some time off with an injury, it feels great to be back out here," Korda said. "Nothing like being in the hunt, the adrenaline feeling on the back nine, and being in contention. I love it so much."

The victory puts her over \$4 million for the year, and she can nearly match that with a win next week at Tiburon Golf Club. The ranking does not matter for the season finale — all 60 players have the same shot at one of the biggest prizes in women's sports.



Omkar Salvi named RCB's bowling coach

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday announced the appointment of Omkar Salvi as the IPL franchise's bowling coach, a reward for guiding Mumbai to Ranji Trophy and Irani Trophy titles last season.

A well-known name on the domestic circuit, Omkar has in the past worked as assistant coach with Kolkata Knight Riders.

"Omkar Salvi, current Head Coach of Mumbai, has been appointed as RCB's Bowling Coach," the franchise tweeted.

"Omkar, who has won the Ranji Trophy, Irani Trophy and the IPL in the last 8 months, is excited to join us in time for #IPL2025, after completion of his Indian domestic season duties."

He is expected to join RCB after the end of the ongoing Ranji season, which will resume on January 23.

In between, he will also oversee Mumbai's campaign in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament.

Omkar, who is the younger brother of former India player Avishkar Salvi, has played just one List-A game for Railways in 2005. He is contracted with the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) until March 2025.

This will be Salvi's second IPL stint after his tenure at KKR.

RCB have never won an IPL title despite participating in it since the tournament's inaugural edition way back in 2008.

Britain knocks out defending champion Canada to advance to Billie Jean King Cup semifinals against Slovakia

AP ■ MALAGA (SPAIN)

Britain kept alive its hopes of winning the Billie Jean King Cup for the first time by defeating defending champion Canada in the quarterfinals in Malaga.

Katie Boulter clinched the 2-0 victory with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Leylah Fernandez after Emma Raducanu defeated Rebecca Marino 6-0, 7-5 in the first singles match of the tie.

"I think we have got a great team. We've always got a great chance," Boulter said. "I think every single day anything can happen. We're just going to keep believing, keep trusting it, and just keep enjoying it. I think that's really important. It's worked so well for us so far."

Four-time finalist Britain is yet to win the title, though it's the second time in three years that it has made it to the last four. Canada clinched its first title last year.

"You know what? We can't win them all, and I think credit to Team Great Britain, because I

China Masters: Satwik-Chirag return to action in BWF World Tour

PTI ■ SHENZHEN (CHINA)

India's premier men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will make a highly-anticipated return to action at the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament, starting here on Tuesday, following a disappointing Paris Olympics campaign.

The former world number one duo had been sidelined from competitive action post the Paris Olympics due to Satwik's shoulder injury.

Their absence from the circuit led them to miss several high-profile tournaments, including the Arctic Open, Denmark Open, and China Open.

Fresh off a lengthy recovery, Satwik and his Asian Games gold medal-winning partner Chirag will aim to regain their momentum, despite having

without a coach since Mathias Boe's departure in August.

Satwik and Chirag, who finished runner-up in the last editions, will start their campaign against Chinese Taipei's Yang Po-Hsuan and Lee Jhe-Huei in the opening round.

Elsewhere, P V Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will look to overcome their recent struggles and aim for improved performances as they continue their quest for consistency and form.

Both the players, who took a long break after their campaign at the Paris Games ended in early August without a medal, have struggled to regain their best form since the Olympics.

Since his semifinal loss in Paris, Lakshya has endured

early exits at the Arctic Open Super 500 and Denmark Open, and the trend continued last week, with the young shuttler making another first-round exit from the Kumamoto Masters Japan. He will kick off his campaign against seventh-seeded Malaysian Lee Zii Jia.

The 23-year-old possesses the ability to beat any opponent, but his mental toughness has been questioned following his agonising near-miss at the Tokyo Olympics, where he slipped from a medal position in a heartbreaking loss.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu bounced back from her shock opening-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li in Finland, reaching the quarterfinals in Odense. However, Li proved to be a hurdle once again, defeating Sindhu in the round of 16 last week.

The unseeded Indian begins her campaign against Thailand's Supanida Katethong, whom she leads 5-4 on head-to-head record.

Also competing in the women's singles event will be promising young talents Aakarshi Kashyap and Malvika Bansod.

Aakarsi will face Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan in her opener while Malvika will take on Line Højmark Kjaersfeldt in the first round.

The women's doubles team of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, that made a first round exit from the Kumamoto Masters Japan, will also be in action. The Indian duo will square up against the second seeded Chinese combination of Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning.

B Sumeeth Reddy will partner Sikki Reddy in the mixed doubles event.



Sinner opens up about his doping case after winning ATP Finals trophy before his home fans

AP ■ TURIN (ITALY)

Sleepless nights. Constant thoughts of what went wrong — and how it could have been prevented.

Jannik Sinner opened up about his ongoing doping case after beating U.S. Open runner-up Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday for the ATP Finals trophy before his home fans.

Sinner tested positive in two separate drug tests in March and a decision to clear him of wrongdoing was appealed by the World Anti-Doping Agency in September. A final ruling is expected from the Court of Arbitration for Sport early next year.

Sinner's explanation was that the banned performance-enhancer entered his system unintentionally through a massage from his physiotherapist, who had used a spray containing the steroid to treat his own cut finger.

"I've kept on thinking about where we went wrong and what we could have done

better," Sinner said in Italian. "I had days where I wasn't feeling great; nights when I didn't sleep well.

"But when I put my hat on, I don't think about what's going on beyond the court," Sinner added. "I'm fortunate to have people around me who keep me stable. Thanks to them we've continued to work hard every day like there's no tomorrow and we've even improved in this period."

SINNER'S PERFORMANCE HAS APPROACHED DOMINATION LATELY

Sinner's victory in Turin was the latest big achievement in a year full of them following his first two Grand Slam titles at the Australian Open and U.S. Open and clinching the year-end No. 1 ranking.

Sinner has won 26 of his last 27 matches and ends the ATP season with eight titles and an overall record of 70-6.

"The work will never stop. We know we still have room for improvement," Sinner said. "But it's been an incredible season and there's



no better place to finish the season than here."

SINNER ALSO BEAT FRITZ IN THE US OPEN FINAL AND THE GROUP STAGE

Sinner maintained his recent mastery over Fritz, having also beaten the American in the U.S. Open final in September and in the group stage this week at the elite event for the year's top eight players.

By sweeping all five of his matches en route to the trophy, Sinner earned \$4.8 million — the largest winner's prize on the men's tour.

Sinner became the first Italian to win the finals and he went one step further than last year, when he lost the championship match to Novak Djokovic, who withdrew this time. And he did so without dropping a set — which was last accomplished by Ivan Lendl in 1986.

"I just tried to understand whatever works best for each opponent," Sinner said. "It was a very high-level tournament from my side. At

times, I couldn't play better."

THE CROWD WAS DECKED OUT IN ORANGE — SINNER'S THEME COLOR

The crowd inside Inalpi Arena included multiple clusters of fans wearing orange — a tribute to Sinner's red- and orange-colored hair,

and how he once ate carrots during a match. There were orange carrot costumes, orange wigs, orange hats, jackets and plenty of other orange items, too.

Some fans even had carrots in their mouths.

The crowd broke into its customary chant of "Ole, Ole, Ole; Sin-ner, Sin-ner" when Sinner produced a drop-shot winner to break for a 4-3 lead in the first set.

Sinner faced a break point while serving for the first set but saved it with a big serve out wide that Fritz couldn't return. Then he served an ace — his 10th of the set — to

close it out.

Another break by Sinner early in the second and the match was virtually over.

SINNER LED 14-8 IN ACES AND GAVE FRITZ HARDLY ANY CHANCES

Sinner served better than he had all week, leading 14-8 in aces without any double-faults.

"He served absolutely lights out. So many lines," Fritz said. "He placed the serve great. He took a lot of risk on the second serve as well. I think that was probably one of his main game plans, to not let me attack his second serve."

FRITZ WILL STILL RISE TO A CAREER-HIGH NO. 4

Fritz was attempting to become the event's first American champion since Pete Sampras beat Andre Agassi in the title match 25 years ago.

Still, Fritz will rise to a career-high No. 4 in the rankings on Monday after beating No. 2 Alexander Zverev in a third-set tiebreaker in the semifinals on Saturday. That

will make him the highest-ranked American man since Andy Roddick was No. 4 in August 2007.

It's the latest in a series of achievements for Fritz, whose run in New York made him the first American man to reach a Grand Slam singles final since Roddick lost to Roger Federer at Wimbledon in 2009.

"I feel like I've gone up a level and I'm much more confident in my game," Fritz said.

At the start of the week, Fritz told The Associated Press that his "career has always been a very steady progression and just improving a little bit each year."

DAVIS CUP AND NADAL'S RETIREMENT ARE NEXT

Both Sinner and Fritz will conclude their seasons representing defending champion Italy and the United States, respectively, in the Davis Cup finals, which start Tuesday in Malaga, Spain, and which will also mark Rafael Nadal's retirement.

'Hungry' Virat's record in Australia will give him confidence: Gavaskar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli will be "very, very hungry" for runs following his lean patch against New Zealand, according to former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, who feels the veteran batter's strong track record Down Under will boost his confidence heading into the upcoming Test series against Australia.

Kohli has faced a challenging patch in all formats over the past few months. In his last 60 Test innings, he has managed just two centuries and 11 half-centuries.

This year, he has averaged only 22.72 across six Tests, and in the three games against New Zealand, he could manage only 93 runs.

"Because he hasn't scored runs against New Zealand, he'll be very, very hungry," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

"Even in that Adelaide Test, where India was bowled out for 36 in the second innings, Kohli scored 70-plus runs in the first innings before being run out," he added.

Despite these recent struggles, Kohli has an outstanding record in Australia. The right-hander, who has been part of four tours Down Under, averages a stellar 54.08.



Gavaskar believes these stats will provide a significant confidence boost as Kohli prepares for the upcoming five-match series, starting with the first Test in Perth on Friday. "He has consistently performed in Adelaide, a ground he knows well. Before Adelaide, it's Perth, where Kohli played one of his finest Test centuries in the 2018-19 series — a terrific hundred."

"Having performed on these grounds, he'll feel an extra bit of confidence. Of course, you need a bit of luck at the start, but if he gets off to a good beginning, he will score big runs," Gavaskar added.

As the series approaches, all eyes will be on Kohli, who will look to bounce back with his trademark resilience and continue his fine record in Australia.

Kohli knows what's coming: Manjrekar.

Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar also weighed in on how Australia might target Kohli. "I think Virat knows exactly what's coming," Manjrekar said.

"They'll start with a line outside the off stump to assess his mindset. These days, he often leaves balls outside off and looks to drive anything pitched up. Australia may try to cramp him for room and attack his body, especially since he likes to get forward. New Zealand used this tactic effectively."

Manjrekar continued, "If he's focused on balls outside off stump, bowlers like Josh Hazlewood could target the middle-stump line, much like Vernon Philander used to do. Australia will experiment with different strategies, and Virat Kohli is well aware of that."



Sri Lanka beats New Zealand in 2nd ODI to win another home series

AP ■ PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA)

Kusal Mendis hit a patient 74 not out as Sri Lanka beat New Zealand by three wickets under the DLS method with six balls remaining in the rain-hit second ODI.

Sri Lanka took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series with the final game also at Pallekele on Tuesday. Sri Lanka won the first one-day international by 45 runs — also by DLS — after rain disrupted that game at Dambulla.

It was Sri Lanka's fifth ODI series win at home in 2024 after it had beaten Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, India and West Indies. Sri Lanka couldn't qualify for next year's Champions Trophy after finishing ninth at last year's 50-over World Cup in India, but has since then lost just one ODI series in Bangladesh while winning five at home.

"It is really tough for batters to score runs here," Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka said. "This is just another series. As a team, we are moving towards a big goal and we have to achieve that, this is a process."

Mendis followed his career-best 143 in the series opener with a determined 102-ball knock as Sri Lanka reached 210-7 in 46 overs.

The match was cut to 47 overs-a-side after two rain interruptions when New Zealand batted and was bowled out for 209 in 45.1 overs. Sri Lanka was set a target of 210.

Michael Bracewell's first four-wicket ODI haul (4-36) gave New Zealand a sniff when Sri Lanka slipped to 163-7 before Maheesh Theekshana (27 not out) shared a match-winning 47-run stand with Mendis and carried the team home.

Earlier, Sri Lanka grassed a few hard chances but Avishka Fernando took three spectacular catches after Asalanka won the toss and elected to field.

Mark Chapman ended his struggling batting form with 76 off 81 balls, but his dismissal in the 37th over would see New Zealand lose its last six wickets for 36 runs. Mitchell Hay made a well composed 49 off 62 balls and shared a 75-run stand with Chapman. Hay was the last man to be dismissed.

New Zealand struggled against a four-pronged spin attack with Theekshana (3-31) and Jeffrey Vandersay (3-46) sharing six wickets. Left-arm spinner Dunieth Wellalage, the only change Sri Lanka made from the team which won the first game, and Asalanka took one wicket each.

Bracewell mopped up the top order but Mendis stood firm as he completed his half century off 84 balls with four boundaries. He added 39 runs with Janith Liyanage and another 31 with Wellalage, who struck three successive boundaries in his 18-run knock against Nathan Smith before holing out at mid-on to give Bracewell his fourth wicket.

But Theekshana showed some aggression against pace, slicing fast bowler Jacob Duffy for the only six in the Sri Lanka chase and also struck two boundaries.

"It is always a challenge when you are defending a low score," New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner said. "Kusal played the situation very well ... that partnership (between Kusal and Theekshana) at the end took it away, but we also left a few runs out there."



Vaughan shocked by India's call to skip warm-up matches ahead of Australia series

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Baffled by India's decision to head into the high-profile Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia without a proper warm-up game, former England captain Michael Vaughan has raised concerns about how the tourists would get into a "competitive mindset" without match practice.

India decided against playing a match against an Australian domestic side in the run up to the five-match Test series, starting in Perth from November 22, marking a departure from their approach on the previous two tours of Australia.

"I can't get my head around a team like India only wanting to play an intra-squad game leading into a series against Australia in their own backyard," Vaughan told Fox Cricket.

"I just can't see how you get yourself in that competitive mindset of consequence by playing an intra-squad game. Time will tell."

But India have also called off their scheduled three-day intra-squad match with their 'A' team. They have instead opted to focus on centre-wicket training at the WACA in Perth. The Indian think tank believed that the bounce of the WACA centre strip closely mirrors that of



the Perth Stadium pitch. As a result, they felt it would be beneficial for all top-order batters to spend more time in the middle.

"I'm surprised that this Indian side didn't want at least one game of cricket, and the WACA's the perfect venue because it's a similar pitch to Optus (Stadium), so you get used to the bounce," Vaughan said.

Australia had also skipped warm-up matches before last year's Test tours of India and England, citing issues with scheduling and a lack of trust in local curators as contributing factors.

"These players have a different kind of mindset to what we had, whereas we probably needed more games," Vaughan continued.

"They're playing 12 months of the year and get straight into it, but it'll be intriguing to see how both sets of players settle on that first day when they're playing the longer form."

"The modern player maybe believes that they don't need (tour matches). They think they get enough cricket throughout the year and they can react and just adapt. I just like to see teams win and stick a marker down," he added.

India name 20-member team for men's Junior Asia Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defender Amir Ali will lead a 20-member Indian squad in the men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament starting in Muscat from November 26.

India have won this tournament for a record four times, including 2004, 2008, 2015 and 2023. They beat nemesis Pakistan 2-1 in the final last year to lift the title.

This year, the event will have 10 teams from the continent divided into two pools with India, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea and Thailand clubbed in pool A.

Bangladesh, Malaysia, China, Oman and Pakistan are in Pool B.

The tournament is also a qualifying event for next year's FIH Junior World Cup and India have automatically qualified for it by virtue of being hosts.

However under the guidance of coach PR Sreejesh, the team will be looking to build on its recent success at the Sultan of Johor Cup.

Rohit will serve as Amir Ali's deputy.

"The Sultan of Johor Cup was a first-time experience for

many of the players, yet they showed great spirit in doing well and I am quite pleased with how they performed," Sreejesh said in a media release.

The team will be taking confidence from that performance and will be working towards a successful outing in the Junior Asia Cup.

"The players have been putting in a lot of hard work at the ongoing national camp in SAI, Bengaluru and we have made certain changes to our game to be more effective in defence and efficient in converting goals," he added.

Squad:
Goalkeepers: Prinedeep Singh, Bikramjit Singh
Defenders: Amir Ali (C), Talem Priyobarta, Shardanand Tiwari, Yogember Rawat, Anmol Ekka, Rohit(WC).
Midfielders: Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Mukesh Toppo, Thokchom Kingson Singh.
Forwards: Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh and Arajiet Singh Hundal.
Iternate Players: Sukhvinder and Chandan Yadav.

IOA gets involved as India host first Kho Kho World Cup from January 13-19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday confirmed its partnership with the Kho Kho Federation of India as the country gets to ready to host the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup, to be held here from January 13 to 19.

The IOA has pledged its "unwavering support" for the event to be organised at the IGI Stadium.

In a statement to KKFI chief Sudhanshu Mittal, IOA president PT Usha expressed the association's strong commitment to elevating indigenous sports like Kho Kho.

Usha said, "We recognise the

significance of this event in celebrating our cultural heritage and promoting traditional sports, and we look forward to collaborating with Kho Kho Federation of India to ensure the success of the tournament.

"Together, we aim to make this event memorable and impactful, encouraging the spirit of sportsmanship among participants and fostering a deeper appreciation for Kho Kho worldwide."

Mittal said the partnership between IOA and KKFI will be a "game-changer" for Kho Kho.

"The support of the IOA, led by President PT Usha, is a game-changer for Kho Kho. This



collaboration is pivotal in putting Kho Kho on the global map, and we're thrilled to be hosting the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup, a truly historic event for the sport," Mittal said.

The World Cup will feature both men's and women's teams, with 25 countries from six continents set to compete.

Teams from Asia, including hosts India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, will face off alongside competitors from Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Oceania.

Nations like Ghana, Kenya, England, Germany, Brazil and Australia will be among the participants.

Ashwin, an incredibly smart bowler, has taught me a lot: Nathan Lyon

PTI ■ PERTH

Veteran Australian spinner Nathan Lyon believes that rival players often serve as the "best coaches", acknowledging that his Indian counterpart Ravichandran Ashwin has "taught" him a great deal through their faceoffs since 2011-12.

Having made their Test debuts in the same year, Lyon and Ashwin will face each other for the eighth time in the longest format during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy five-Test series beginning in Perth on November 22.

"Ash (Ashwin) is an incredible bowler. I've gone head-to-head with him for basically my whole career, so I've learned a lot from Ash," Lyon told Fox Cricket.

"He's an incredibly smart bowler, and he's able to learn and adapt very quickly, and I think the best bowlers in the world are able to do that. He used his skills to benefit himself and his team.

"So, you've got to give credit where

credit's due, he was the best bowler (in 2020/21), as he usually is. So, hats off to Ash."

It will be Ashwin's fifth Test tour of Australia, where he has claimed 39 wickets in 10 Tests at an average of 42.15.

Lyon further admitted to having studied Ashwin's bowling closely, especially before Australia toured India in the last few years.

"He's taught me a lot," Lyon said. "I'm a big believer in the players that you play against are your best coaches that you eventually come across."

"I've watched a lot of his footage heading over to India, the way he goes about it here in Australia, see if I can pick up anything.

"The way I look at cricket is that I've never met anyone who has conquered the game, never played against or with anyone who's conquered the game.

"There's so much to learn in this great game, and there's so much for me to learn from Ash. He's a world-class bowler. He's taken over



500 Test match wickets, and he should be extremely proud of that."

Ashwin (21.76) outshines Lyon (30.81) in terms of having the best Test bowling average in Asia.

However, the Australian has better bowling figures outside Asia -- Lyon: 30.09, Ashwin: 33.14.

Asked if they could face again post this tour, Lyon reckoned, "Spin bowling is a craft that the older

couple of years' time. So, who knows?"

Asked the secret of his success on non-spinning tracks, Lyon quipped: "I know Jadeja reads all of this stuff, so I can't really share all my secrets."

"My big thing is spinning up the back of the ball and getting bounce, but it's a hard craft to be able to do that in Australia. Your size for error is extremely small," he said. They may not have won a Test series against India in nearly a decade, but Lyon feels their World Test Championship final triumph last year would give them the edge.

"India's got the wood over us in the past few series, but if you're looking at the World Test Championship (final) in England, we were able to beat them there, and I know that should give us a bit of confidence heading into (this summer)," Lyon said.

"We understand that we're coming up against a world-class side, but we can take a lot of confidence out of where we are at as an Australian cricket team.

"I feel like we're on the journey to becoming a great team. We're not there yet. There's a bit of work to do, but we have the opportunity to do something pretty special this summer."

India are reeling from an unprecedented 0-3 home defeat against New Zealand, a result Lyon believes will make the second-ranked team even more determined.

"I think they're extremely dangerous. They're a class outfit, and they know their best preparation and how to come out here and perform. It's going to be a cracking Test series.

"It's been a long ten years since Australia's held the trophy. There's only a few of us that would probably be in the squad that's actually held the trophy, so it's time to bring it home," he concluded.